

**STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
BOARD MEETING SESSION – DIVISION OF WATER QUALITY
DECEMBER 6, 2022**

ITEM 2

SUBJECT

CONSIDERATION OF A PROPOSED RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, CHIEF DEPUTY DIRECTOR, OR DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES TO EXECUTE AN INTERAGENCY AGREEMENT WITH THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF TECHNOLOGY TO MEET THE MIDDLE-MILE BROADBAND NETWORK INITIATIVE PERMIT SCHEDULE.

DISCUSSION

In July 2021, Governor Newsom signed Senate Bill 156 to create an open-access middle-mile network to bring equitable high-speed broadband service to all Californians. The Middle-Mile Broadband Network (MMBN) initiative includes: 10,000 miles of broadband installation, a mandate for state agencies to work in cooperation to expedite the delivery and permitting of the statewide MMBN, and a close-out date of December 21, 2026.

The 401 Certification Program at the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) regulates discharges of dredged and fill material to all waters of the state under the authorities of both the Clean Water Act and the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act. The California Department of Technology (CDT) is responsible for oversight of MMBN initiative implementation.

The State Water Board and the CDT have drafted an interagency agreement to fund permitting staff required to support the expedited MMBN schedule. With approval of this updated agreement, the State Water Board will have sufficient resources to review the environmental documents and develop the permits needed to support the CDT's requested development schedule.

POLICY ISSUE

Should the State Water Resources Control Board authorize the Executive Director, Chief Deputy Director, or Deputy Director of the Division of Administrative Services to enter into an interagency agreement with CDT for funding for 401 Certification Program staff?

FISCAL IMPACT

Staff work associated with or resulting from the action can be accomplished within the agreement budgeted resources.

REGIONAL BOARD IMPACT

None.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Adopt the resolution to authorize the Executive Director, Chief Deputy Director, or Deputy Director of the Division of Administrative Services to execute an interagency agreement with CDT to meet the MMBN requested permit schedule.