

**STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
BOARD MEETING SESSION – DIVISION OF WATER QUALITY
AUGUST 15, 2023**

ITEM 4

SUBJECT

CONSIDERATION OF A PROPOSED RESOLUTION TO ADOPT THE 2024 NONPOINT SOURCE GRANT PROGRAM GUIDELINES, TO AUTHORIZE STAFF TO SOLICIT AND RECOMMEND PROJECTS, AND TO AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OR DESIGNEE TO AWARD AND EXECUTE FINANCE AGREEMENTS FOR THE 2024 NONPOINT SOURCE GRANT PROGRAM.

DISCUSSION

The 2024 Nonpoint Source Grant Program includes funds from Clean Water Act section 319 (CWA 319) grant. The CWA 319 grant, awarded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA), provides funding to states to implement their nonpoint source pollution control programs. A portion of these funds may be used for subawards to implement total maximum daily loads (TMDLs) (watershed plans to restore water bodies impaired by nonpoint sources of pollution) and annually report the resulting pollutant load reductions. The amount that California receives from U.S. EPA each year varies, but in recent years has been around \$9,000,000, with approximately \$4,500,000 allocated for subawards. The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) is authorized by U.S. EPA to administer the CWA 319 grant.

State Water Board staff proposes to solicit projects for the 2024 Nonpoint Source Grant Program according to the 2024 Nonpoint Source Grant Program Guidelines (Guidelines). The Guidelines were developed by staff of the State Water Board, the Regional Water Quality Control Boards (Regional Water Boards), and U.S. EPA. The Guidelines, which include the 2024 Nonpoint Source Program Preferences, are consistent with the 2020-2025 Nonpoint Source Program Implementation Plan.

In addition to adopting these Guidelines, the resolution authorizes staff to solicit and recommend projects for funding, and authorizes the Executive Director, or designee, to award and execute finance agreements for the 2024 Nonpoint Source Grant Program, to perform all acts and to do all things necessary and convenient to implement such agreements.

POLICY ISSUE

Should the State Water Board:

1. Adopt the proposed 2024 Nonpoint Source Grant Program Guidelines, and deem projects that comply with the Guidelines eligible to compete for funding from the 2024 Nonpoint Source Grant Program?

2. Authorize staff to solicit and recommend projects to the Executive Director for funding?
3. Authorize the Executive Director, or designee, to award and execute finance agreements and amendments to implement projects recommended for funding by the 2024 Nonpoint Source Grant Program, and to perform all things necessary and convenient to implement such agreements?

FISCAL IMPACT

State appropriations authorized for federal funding are expected to be adequate to fund the recommended projects. Staff resources to conduct the solicitation and manage the selected projects are provided through the CWA 319 grant.

REGIONAL BOARD IMPACT

If the Review Panel recommends projects in Regional Water Board boundaries, Regional Water Board staff are responsible for assisting in project selection and managing the projects.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the State Water Board adopt the proposed resolution.