

**STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
BOARD MEETING SESSION – DIVISION OF WATER RIGHTS
DECEMBER 5, 2023**

ITEM 2

SUBJECT

CONSIDERATION OF A PROPOSED RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OR DESIGNEE TO ENTER INTO OR AMEND CONTRACTS USING DROUGHT AND CLEAR LAKE HITCH CONTRACT ALLOCATIONS.

DISCUSSION

California has recently experienced a significant drought that included the driest three-month period on record (January-March 2022) and occurred on the heels of the record-setting drought of 2012-2016. While conditions have improved in many parts of the state, it will take communities across California many years to recover from the impacts of successive multi-year droughts. Continued action by the state is necessary to address impacts of the drought emergency and to plan for future droughts.

The Governor's Budget proposal in January 2022 approved the Drought Resilience and Response Package Budget Change Proposal (BCP), which included investments to support directives in the Governor's drought proclamations and executive orders from April 2021 and beyond. The Division of Water Rights and Office of Public Participation are proposing to allocate \$3.2 million of the BCP funds for facilitation services to address drought and long-term water resilience. In 2023, the State Water Board received \$1 million to support data collection, monitoring, and modeling efforts in the Clear Lake watershed to address the Clear Lake hitch drought emergency.

The proposed resolution would provide the Executive Director or designee authority to enter into and amend contracts for work to address the Clear Lake hitch drought emergency and to support facilitation services to address current impacts of the drought emergency and future drought planning statewide up to allocated amounts and specified terms without pursuing individual resolutions for each contract entered into with this funding. This delegation resolution seeks to increase contracting authority for efforts focused on building a sound foundation for how water use is managed in response to the extreme wet and dry conditions California is experiencing under changed climate conditions. The Executive Director or designee plans to leverage existing provisions of the Governor's Drought [Executive Order N-5-23](#), which eased state contracting requirements for contracts responding to recent drought conditions and planning for future drought scenarios.

POLICY ISSUE

Should the State Water Board authorize the Executive Director or designee to execute or amend various contracts (not to exceed a total sum of \$4.2 million for terms of four years) to assist the State Water Board with water rights drought planning and response efforts in the Clear Lake watershed and statewide?

FISCAL IMPACT

Funding used for this work was allocated to the State Water Board's Division of Water Rights via approval of the Drought Resilience and Response Package Budget Change Proposal in fiscal year 21/22 and the Clear Lake hitch monitoring and gaging allocations in fiscal year 23/24. This resolution does not commit any funds.

REGIONAL BOARD IMPACT

None

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

The State Water Board should adopt the proposed Resolution.