

**STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
BOARD MEETING SESSION – DIVISION OF WATER QUALITY
FEBRUARY 22, 2023**

ITEM 2

SUBJECT

CONSIDERATION OF A PROPOSED RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ACCEPTANCE OF FUNDS FROM THE UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (U.S. EPA) TO RESUME CONTAMINANT SOURCE INVESTIGATION ACTIVITIES IN THE SAN GABRIEL VALLEY GROUNDWATER BASIN.

DISCUSSION

Since the 1980s, the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (Los Angeles Regional Water Board) staff have been investigating sources of groundwater contamination in the San Gabriel Valley Groundwater Basin (San Gabriel Basin). The San Gabriel Basin has been impacted with chemicals such as volatile organic compounds, heavy metals including hexavalent chromium, and chemicals of emerging concern such as 1,4-dioxane and N-nitrosodimethylamine (NDMA). The primary role of the Los Angeles Regional Water Board as a groundwater regulatory agency in the San Gabriel Valley Superfund area. Los Angeles Regional Water Board leads efforts to identify sources of contamination and assess and clean up source sites while the U.S. EPA, water purveyors, and the responsible parties (RPs) address the regional groundwater cleanup. To date, the Los Angeles Regional Water Board, with the support of the U.S. EPA, San Gabriel Basin Water Quality Authority, Golden State Water Company, City of El Monte, and City of South El Monte, have identified hundreds of impacted sites in the San Gabriel Basin. The Los Angeles Regional Water Board has also issued numerous orders requiring technical reports, inspections, soil and groundwater assessments, and cleanups or abatement of wastes.

Historically, to support the efforts to identify potential RPs, the U.S. EPA implemented cooperative agreements with the Los Angeles Regional Water Board and funded research and investigative activities in the San Gabriel Basin. U.S. EPA intends to provide grant funds of approximately \$600,000 to fund a full-time limited-term position for 24 months. These resources will address backlog sites and identify potential contaminant sources in San Gabriel Basin. The Los Angeles Regional Water Board is requesting the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) adopt a resolution to authorize receiving approximately \$600,000 from the U.S. EPA to fund the Los Angeles Regional Water Board's contaminant source investigation activities in the San Gabriel Basin.

POLICY ISSUE

Should the State Water Board authorize the Executive Director or designee to accept approximately \$600,000 of funds from the U.S. EPA to fund contaminant source investigation activities by Los Angeles Regional Water Board staff in the San Gabriel Basin?

FISCAL IMPACT

Yes, there would be a fiscal impact. Specifically, the proposed cooperative agreement would augment the State Water Board's budget. The State Water Board's Fiscal Year 2023-24 through Fiscal Year 2024-25 budget has adequate expenditure authority to expend these funds.

REGIONAL BOARD IMPACT

Yes, the proposed funding would impact the Los Angeles Regional Water Board. The proposed federal grant would allow the Los Angeles Regional Water Board to augment its contaminant source investigation activities in the San Gabriel Basin.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

That the State Water Board authorize the Executive Director or designee to accept approximately \$600,000 from the U.S. EPA for Fiscal Year 2023-24 through Fiscal Year 2024-25 for contaminant source identification activities in the San Gabriel Basin.