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STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD RESOLUTION NO. 2023-

PROPOSED RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OR DESIGNEE TO ENTER INTO OR AMEND CONTRACTS UTILIZING DROUGHT RESILIENCE AND RESPONSE CONTRACT ALLOCATIONS

WHEREAS:

1. California experienced one of the driest periods on record, driven by climate change and characterized by extreme fluctuations in hydrologic conditions from 2020-2023. While recent rain and snowfall have dramatically changed conditions in many parts of the state, climate change continues to intensify the impacts of drought on California communities, the environment, and economy. Continued action by the State is needed to address long-term impacts of the recent drought emergency and planning for future droughts;
2. In April 2021, Governor Newsom issued a Proclamation of State of Emergency to address a record-breaking lack of precipitation as drought conditions permeated throughout California. The Governor's Proclamation directed State agencies to take immediate action to bolster drought resilience and prepare for impacts to communities, businesses, and ecosystems. The Governor issued subsequent Proclamations on May 10, 2021, July 8, 2021, and October 19, 2021, and Executive Orders N-10-21 on July 8, 2021, N-7-22 on March 28, 2022, N-3-23 on February 13, 2023, and N-4-23 on March 10, 2023, to continue facilitating drought response efforts by the State. In light of improved water conditions, the Governor issued Executive Order N-5-23 on March 24, 2023, which rescinded some drought emergency provisions that are no longer needed, maintained other measures that support regions and communities still facing water supply challenges, and emphasized the need to continue building up long-term water resilience;
3. The Governor's Budget proposal in January 2022 included the approval of the Drought Resilience and Response Package Budget Change Proposal (BCP) that included additional investments needed to support directives identified in the Governor's Drought Proclamations and Executive Orders issued in April 2021 and beyond. The State Water Resources Control Board's (State Water Board) Division of Water Rights received funds to bolster drought preparedness and long-term resilience, including contract funding to improve administration of water rights, develop and implement drought tools and actions, enforce those actions, and permit habitat restoration projects; and

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4. A delegation of contracting authority specifically for this Drought Resilience and Response Package funding up to budgeted amounts would provide the needed flexibility to address the dynamic nature of contracting needs associated with drought. The Division of Administrative Services continues to ensure that the State Water Board conducts its contracting activities in compliance with state contracting laws, regulations, policies, and procedures.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The State Water Board:

1. Authorizes the Executive Director or designee to enter into or amend contracts using Drought Resilience and Response Package funding allocations up to budgeted amounts and durations in accordance with state contracting laws, regulations, policies, and procedures.
2. This authorization shall remain in full force and effect until modified or revoked by the State Water Board.

CERTIFICATION

The undersigned Clerk to the Board does hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of a resolution duly and regularly adopted at a meeting of the State Water Resources Control Board held on June 6, 2023.

Courtney Tyler
Clerk to the Board