

**STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD  
BOARD MEETING SESSION – DIVISION OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE  
MARCH 8, 2023**

**ITEM 7**

**SUBJECT**

CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION TO ADOPT THE GUIDELINES FOR THE EXPEDITED DRINKING WATER GRANT (EDWG) FUNDING PROGRAM (GUIDELINES).

**DISCUSSION**

Division of Financial Assistance (DFA) staff are proposing to implement the Guidelines to provide an expedited process by which qualifying high priority drinking water projects can receive State grant funding. The EDWG funding program would be available to a subset of the projects that are currently funded consistent with Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) processes, and will utilize a variety of state funding sources for drinking water infrastructure projects, including but not limited to: Proposition 1, Proposition 68, the Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund, and the Budget Act of 2021.

EDWG application forms, reviews, procedures, and requirements will vary from the existing DWSRF funding program processes to support the reduction of processing times and information submittal requirements for projects eligible under the Guidelines. By establishing this program, it is expected that critical drinking water infrastructure projects will be constructed on a shorter timeline, resulting in many small communities gaining access to safe, clean, affordable, and accessible water much sooner than would occur without this program.

The draft Guidelines were posted for public review and comment from January 6, 2023 through February 10, 2023. Interested parties were notified of the availability of the draft Guidelines via the State Water Board's e-mail lists. DFA staff also held public workshops in Riverside (February 6, 2023), Sacramento (February 7, 2023), and Visalia (February 8, 2023).

**POLICY ISSUE**

Should the State Water Board:

1. Adopt the Guidelines and authorize the Deputy Director of DFA to make non-substantive changes to the Guidelines?
2. Authorize the Deputy Director of DFA or designee to award grants and execute grant agreements and amendments for routine, non-controversial projects consistent with the Guidelines?

3. Authorize the Deputy Director of DFA to withdraw a preliminary funding award if the applicant is non-responsive or DFA has exhausted reasonable efforts to resolve issues that prevent the execution of a grant agreement?
4. Authorize the Deputy Director of DFA to terminate a grant agreement where there is a violation of a material provision of the agreement by the recipient?

#### **FISCAL IMPACT**

None.

#### **DISTRICT OFFICE IMPACT**

Eligible projects are funded on a statewide basis. These projects require collaboration and engagement between DFA and the Division of Drinking Water District Offices.

#### **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

DFA staff recommends adoption of the proposed resolution.