

**STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
BOARD MEETING SESSION – DIVISION OF WATER QUALITY
SEPTEMBER 6, 2023**

ITEM 4

SUBJECT

WASTEWATER NEEDS ASSESSMENT INFORMATIONAL ITEM.

DISCUSSION

On June 7, 2022, the State Water Board adopted [Resolution No. 2022-0019](#) authorizing \$4,000,000 for a statewide wastewater needs assessment (WNA) contract. Contract implementation began July 2023 to investigate California communities' access to adequate wastewater sanitation system infrastructure and services (sanitation system) and to provide the State Water Board recommendations for potential priorities and projects that support equitable access to sanitation for all communities. The contract spans four years over two phases. Phase 1 focuses on determining what sanitation system data is currently available or needs to be developed; framing sanitation system risk definitions and inequities; drafting a model for evaluating sanitation systems of concern for solutions and costs; developing work plans; and processes for outreach to interested persons. Phase 2 will focus on developing the final risk assessment results; identifying sanitation systems of concern with the associated solutions; affordability, and potential existing funding sources; and providing the State Water Board a roadmap for ongoing WNA implementation.

POLICY ISSUE

No policy issues are directly related to the WNA but the findings may be the basis for future State Water Board decisions related to sanitation system infrastructure priorities, funding mechanisms, and applicable policies.

FISCAL IMPACT

Sufficient funds have been allocated for the contract. No additional fiscal impact to currently budgeted program resources.

REGIONAL BOARD IMPACT

The WNA contract supports the regional water quality control boards by collecting information and developing criteria to create a statewide risk framework to prioritize funding for California's sanitation systems to effectively utilize infrastructure investments, particularly for disadvantaged, severely disadvantaged, and other vulnerable communities.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

This is an informational item. No staff recommendation will be presented.