



Media Release

State Water Board Approves School Stormwater Program

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In response to the Governor's Emergency Drought Proclamation, the State Water Resources Control Board today approved guidelines for the Drought Response Outreach Program for Schools (DROPS).

DROPS will provide approximately \$25.5 million to local educational agencies to complete projects at K-12 schools that reduce stormwater runoff and pollution by capturing stormwater for groundwater recharge or for use to offset other water sources.

Every project will include a student education component to explain the function of the stormwater capture installation along with the water quality and water supply benefits.

"Every drop of water is precious at any time, but especially during a drought," said State Water Board Chair Felicia Marcus. "Schools are an important part of every community and the DROPS program gives them the opportunity to be great environmental stewards. The program instructs and guides young people on the importance of water, and empowers them to make a difference in their own communities."

DROPS will focus on projects that provide multiple benefits, including water quality improvement, water conservation, water supply augmentation, greenhouse gas reduction, energy savings and an increased awareness of water resource sustainability.

Examples of projects that would qualify for DROPS include rain gardens, vegetated swales, tree stormwater capture boxes, permeable pavement, and rainwater catchment systems. In addition, the replacement of irrigated turf with drought-tolerant landscaping; updating irrigation systems with smart timers; and replacing showerheads, toilets and faucets with more efficient products will be eligible components of DROPS projects.

The funding for DROPS comes from unallocated grant funds from previously approved water bond issues, including Proposition 13, the *Safe Drinking Water, Clean Water, Watershed Protection, and Flood Protection Act of 2000*; and Proposition 40, the *California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks, and Coastal Protection Act of 2002*.

The program will be administered by the State Water Board, Division of Financial Assistance. For additional information on DROPS, visit: <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drops/>





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Governor Brown has called on all Californians to reduce their water use by 20 percent and prevent water waste – visit SaveOurH2O.org to find out how everyone can do their part, and visit Drought.CA.Gov to learn more about how California is dealing with the effects of the drought.