

Contribution to Minutes for RWQCB Meeting of 10 October 2012

Item 8 Process and Prioritization for Cleanup and Abatement Account Funds

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I have prepared this set of questions and a set of suggestions for how the San Diego RWQCB, and perhaps the State Board, should deal with CAA funds.

Questions:

- On the matter of goals of the CAA, p.1 Does this broad statement of goals include, for example, the ability of the City of Poway to apply for CAA funds to install recycled water piping (purple pipes) to appropriate locations within its jurisdiction? How about the County of San Diego.
I pick purple pipes, as Item 5 on this meeting's agenda identifies recycled water use as important to a sustainable water supply in this region, and indicates the environmental damage in this region as well. The City of SD project would store up to 15,000 AF per year. What is the total amount of recycled water produced in the region by the City of SD or others.
- In the list of uses of CAA funds, it identifies (p. 2, item 7) the possibility for non-profits to apply for CAA funds in conjunction with the Regional Water Board. These are often not public agencies themselves, though the RWB is. What non-profits qualify? Sierra Club, SDSU, Environmental Health Coalition, ... ?
- For applications under \$100,000 does the EO of the RWB decide, or does she make a recommendation to the Deputy Director of the DFA? Who has final say? Does the applicant have the ability to go directly to the DFA, bypassing the RWB?

Outline of suggested procedure (draft):

0. Prepare a short application form, available to the public, for CAA funds. Make it clear that whether the application is for \$100K or more, each must satisfy the same criteria. Each must have a budget suited to the proposed project, and each must identify the contribution to beneficial uses in the region. 1. Identify specific dates for application to EO of the SDRWQCB for CAA funds--say 1 February and 1 August each calendar year. If the project is, in fact, an emergency, the applicant should apply at any time directly to the EO and the Board.
2. EO and staff review all applications (< \$100K and > \$100K) and make a suggested priority order of the applications.
3. Bring the applications to the RWB within two months (by 1 April and 1 October) for approval of the individual applications and discussion and approval of a priority order.