
STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD CEQA AND STATE WATER BOARD GRANTS

Environmental Requirements for State Water Board Grants

The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) distributes funding through various grants, including Propositions 13, 40, 50, Water Recycling, Small Community Grants and others. Applicants seeking funds are required to comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), and provide documents for the State Water Board's environmental review process.

GRANT FUNDING

State Water Board grants are subject to CEQA. The State Revolving Fund Loan program has additional federal requirements described in the *SRF & CEQA-Plus* pamphlet.

LEAD AGENCY

The applicant is usually the **Lead Agency** and must prepare and circulate an environmental document before approving a project. Only a public agency, such as a local, regional or state government, may be the Lead Agency under CEQA. If a project will be completed by a non-governmental organization, Lead Agency responsibility goes to the first public agency providing discretionary approval for the project.

RESPONSIBLE AGENCY

The State Water Board is a **Responsible Agency** and must review and consider the environmental document prior to providing funding to any portion of a project.

As the Responsible Agency, the State Water Board must make findings based on information provided by the Lead Agency before granting "environmental clearance" for the project. The Lead Agency must adhere to the CEQA process and provide detailed information about any potential adverse or beneficial environmental impacts resulting from the project.

STATE WATER BOARD RESPONSIBILITIES

The State Water Board's mission is to preserve, enhance and restore the quality of California's water resources, and ensure their proper allocation and efficient use for the benefit of present and future generations. To fulfill this responsibility, and to carry out obligations as a Responsible Agency under CEQA, the State Water Board must consider the Lead Agency's environmental document before providing funding.

ENVIRONMENTAL CLEARANCE

Environmental clearance must be done before a project can be funded. For Small Community Wastewater grants and Water Recycling Funding Program grants, environmental clearance must be received before a Facilities Plan Approval is issued by the State Water Board for a project.

DOCUMENT REVIEW

The State Water Board would like to review documents as early in the process as possible. Send environmental documents to the State Water Board, Regional Programs Unit during the CEQA public review period. Be sure to identify yourself as a grant applicant. This way, any environmental concerns the State Water Board has about the project can be addressed early in the process.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

The Regional Programs Unit must have the documents listed below to provide environmental clearance.

1. **Draft and Final Environmental Documents** – Environmental Impact Reports, Negative Declarations, CEQA exemptions;
2. **Resolution** approving the project, adopting the environmental document and making CEQA findings;
3. **All comments** received during the public review period and your responses to those comments;
4. **Adopted Mitigation Monitoring Plan**, if applicable; and
5. **Notice of Determination** filed with the Governor's Office of Planning and Research.

Once the State Water Board has received all documents, considered them and found them adequate, environmental clearance for the funding can be granted.

CONTACT INFORMATION

For more information, please contact the Division of Financial Assistance, Loans and Grants at (916) 341-5700.

