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California Environmental Protection Agency

NEWS RELEASE

State Water Resources Control Board

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STATE WATER BOARD REQUESTS PROPOSALS TO FUND \$20 MILLION IN BATTLE AGAINST POLLUTED RUNOFF, LOCAL WATER PROBLEMS

The State Water Resources Control Board is now accepting applications to fund approximately \$20 million in projects to help combat polluted runoff and to fight water pollution in California communities.

Municipalities, local government agencies and non-profit organizations need to complete a "Request for Proposal" to outline the scope and cost of their water pollution prevention projects. These RFP's must be postmarked by February 1, and are available by calling the State Water Board, or accessing the Board's Proposition 13 website at

<http://swrcb.ca.gov/prop13/index.html>.

Money is being provided through the 2000 Water Bond Program, which will provide nearly \$2 billion in funds for water quality and recycling programs.

This year, the State Water Board received \$257.5 million for 10 bond programs. These funds are part of a \$695 million allocation to the State Water Board under Proposition 13, passed by voters in March. Coupled with previous bond money, the State Board will have \$763.9 million to spend on water quality improvement efforts over the next several years.

Below is a brief description of the three grant programs currently providing needed funds:

- Nonpoint Source Pollution Control: Nonpoint source pollution is the largest source of water pollution in the state. In general nonpoint source pollution is polluted runoff that comes from a variety of sources, including construction sites, urban parking lots and

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lawns, or agricultural fields and animal feeding facilities. The current year's budget will provide \$9.2 million to public agencies and nonprofit organizations to fund nonpoint source pollution control projects next year. Overall, \$100 million is provided in this category over the next several years.

- Coastal Nonpoint Source Control Program: This fiscal year, the State Water Board will allocate \$2.2 million for nonpoint source pollution that affects coastal communities. This pollution is responsible for beach closures that total in the hundreds of days each year. The Bond Program provides \$90 million for this program.
- Watershed Program: This year's budget provides \$8.4 million for grants to local watershed organizations or public agencies to develop and implement local watershed management plans next year. These funds will help to control erosion, improve water quality, improve land and water species habitats, restore groundwater recharge systems and restore native plants and water flows. Overall, this program will provide \$90 million in grant money over the next several years.

The State Water Board is managing seven other bond programs that are providing funds for a variety of water quality control projects. Others include water recycling, small community grants, seawater intrusion and specific bond programs for high-priority water management projects throughout the state. For more information on any of these programs, interested parties may call or visit the web site mentioned above.

For more information on these programs, please call Tom Mays, Webmaster, at (916) 651-6633. After December 13, please call (916) 341-5263.

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