

STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
BOARD MEETING SESSION – DIVISION OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
JANUARY 4, 2006

ITEM 6

SUBJECT

ADOPTION OF THE 2005-06 CONSOLIDATED GRANTS PROGRAM GUIDELINES
(GUIDELINES)

DISCUSSION

The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) is consolidating and making available up to \$143.55 million in grant funds from six interrelated programs administered by the Division of Financial Assistance. Consolidation allows staff to identify the appropriate grant program(s) for a multitude of project types, reduce application efforts, and better integrate State Water Board program goals with those of our partner agencies. These programs are funded from Proposition 40¹, Proposition 50², and federal appropriations. The six consolidated programs are as follows:

- 1) Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Program (*Proposition 40, Chapter 4*) - \$19 million
- 2) Coastal Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Program (*Proposition 50, Chapter 5*) - \$43.1 million
- 3) Nonpoint Source Implementation Program (*Federal Clean Water Act, Section 319 [h]*) - \$4.5 million
- 4) Agricultural Water Quality Grant Program (*Propositions 40 and 50, Chapters 4 and 5*) - \$15.2 million
- 5) Urban Stormwater Program (*Proposition 40, Chapter 4*) - \$14.25 million
- 6) Integrated Watershed Management Program (*Proposition 40, Chapter 4*) - \$47.5 million

Additional funds amounting to approximately \$8.1 million are also available from Proposition 13³. These are remaining funds from the Watershed Protection Program (\$1 million), Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Program (\$4.6 million), and Coastal Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Program (\$2.5 million). These funds will be used to fund additional projects submitted for the above six programs that meet the Proposition 13 eligibility requirements.

State Water Board staff have engaged stakeholders in the development of these Guidelines through several venues. Staff held or participated in the following workshops and meetings to obtain stakeholder input:

- ❖ California Bay Delta Authority Watershed Subcommittee meeting on May 20 and October 21, 2005.
- ❖ Inter-Tribal Council of California meeting on July 18, 2005.

¹ Proposition 40 – California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks, and Coastal Protection Act of 2002.

² Proposition 50 – Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Act of 2002.

³ Proposition 13 – Safe Drinking Water, Clean Water, Watershed Protection, and Flood Protection Act of 2000.

- ❖ California Bay Delta Authority Drinking Water Subcommittee meeting on July 22, 2005.
- ❖ Stakeholder scoping workshops in Sacramento, Oakland, and Riverside in July 2005.
- ❖ Public workshops to solicit comments on the draft Guidelines in San Diego, Sacramento, and Oakland in November and December 2005.

In addition, significant input was received through the State Water Board website, which has been updated frequently to include draft program information and to provide staff-level documents for public review and feedback.

The Guidelines contain an overview of the grant process, including the details of the grant program requirements, project selection process, priorities, evaluation criteria, and the information that will be required for submittal. The main topics covered by the Guidelines are summarized below:

A. Grant Process

The 2005-06 Consolidated Grants Program solicitation will be a two-step process. In the first step, applicants submit brief Concept Proposals (CPs). CPs will be submitted through the State Water Board's on-line Financial Assistance Application Submittal Tool. Applicants with the high scoring CPs will be invited to submit a Full Proposal for a specific program. Recommended funding lists will be developed and presented at State Water Board meetings for public comment and State Water Board adoption.

Proposal solicitations will be issued to solicit applications for grants after adoption of the Guidelines. The information contained in the proposal solicitation will be logistical, such as when, where, and how to submit applications, and additional detail on the required documentation.

B. Priorities

During the development of the Guidelines, staff from the State Water Board, Regional Water Quality Control Boards (Regional Water Boards), United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), and other partner agencies developed a list of priorities. The priorities were developed so that the 2005-06 Consolidated Grants Program focuses on funding projects that address the most important water quality and environmental needs of California.

C. Review and Selection Process

All complete and eligible full proposals will be evaluated and scored by technical review teams. Technical review teams will be comprised of subject matter experts from the State Water Board, Regional Water Boards, partner agencies, and outside experts. Each proposal will receive multiple independent technical reviews, in accordance with the evaluation criteria presented in the Guidelines.

The State Water Board will then convene a selection panel to review the preliminary ranking list, technical scores, and comments. In addition to the State Water Board, staff from the following agencies will be invited to participate on the selection panel: Coastal Commission, Coastal Conservancy, Department of Food and Agricultural, Department of

Pesticide Regulation, Resources Agency, and the USEPA. If a technical review team cannot reach a consensus score on any criteria, the selection panel will determine a final score for that criteria based on individual reviewer comments. The selection panels will determine the final recommended funding list, which will be presented to the State Water Board for adoption.

POLICY ISSUE

Should the State Water Board adopt the 2005-06 Consolidated Grants Program Guidelines?

FISCAL IMPACT

The Propositions 40 and 50 local assistance funds have been appropriated to the State Water Board. The State Water Board and Regional Water Boards have been provided with state operations funds from Propositions 40 and 50 to administer the programs. Funding for the Clean Water Act, Section 319 projects and staff is contingent upon federal fiscal year budget appropriations in 2006.

Additional funds amounting to approximately \$8.1 million are also available from Proposition 13⁴. These are remaining funds from the Watershed Protection Program (\$1 million), Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Program (\$4.6 million), and Coastal Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Program (\$2.5 million). These funds will be used to fund additional projects submitted for the above six programs that meet the Proposition 13 eligibility requirements.

REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARDS IMPACT

Yes, all Regional Water Boards.

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

That the State Water Board adopt the 2005-06 Consolidated Grants Program Guidelines [\(Attachment 1\) \(Appendix G\)](#)

⁴ Proposition 13 – Safe Drinking Water, Clean Water, Watershed Protection, and Flood Protection Act of 2000.

STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
RESOLUTION NO. 2006 -
ADOPTION OF THE 2005-06 CONSOLIDATED GRANTS
PROGRAM GUIDELINES (GUIDELINES)

WHEREAS:

1. The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board), Division of Financial Assistance is authorized to administer approximately \$143.55 million in bond funds from Proposition 40, Proposition 50, and federal appropriations for the 2005-06 Consolidated Grants Program;
2. The State Water Board consolidated these grants to simplify the grant application process, provide significant coordination with our partner agencies, and allow broader statewide funding needs to be addressed;
3. The State Water Board along with staff from the Regional Water Quality Control Boards (Regional Water Boards), United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), and other partner agencies worked together to develop a list of priorities;
4. The Guidelines establish the evaluation criteria and the review and selection process for the 2005-06 Consolidated Grants Program's two step process;
5. The State Water Board has considered input from the Regional Water Boards, USEPA, partner agencies, a broad spectrum of stakeholders, and the public regarding the development and implementation of the 2005-06 Consolidated Grants Program through public scoping workshops held in July 2005, associated meetings, and input received through the State Water Board website; and
6. The draft Guidelines have been distributed for public comment through the State Water Board's website and public workshops were held in November and December 2005 to discuss the major concepts of the Guidelines and to solicit comments on the draft Guidelines, which have been taken into consideration in the final Guidelines.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The State Water Resources Control Board adopts the 2005-06 Consolidated Grants Program Guidelines [\(Attachment 1\)](#) [\(Appendix G\)](#).

CERTIFICATION

The undersigned, Acting Clerk to the Board, does hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of a resolution duly and regularly adopted at a meeting of the State Water Resources Control Board held on January 4, 2006.

Selica Potter
Acting Clerk to the Board