

**STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
BOARD MEETING SESSION – DIVISION OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
MARCH 18, 2008**

ITEM 6

SUBJECT

CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE \$3 MILLION IN CLEANUP AND ABATEMENT FUNDS (CAA) TO THE SANTA ANA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD (REGIONAL WATER BOARD) FOR A LONG-TERM REMEDIATION PLAN AND REGIONAL GROUNDWATER STUDY IN THE RIALTO AREA

DISCUSSION

The Regional Water Board requests \$3,000,000 from CAA to complete assessment, develop a perchlorate and volatile organic compound (VOC) remediation plan for soil and groundwater, and perform a regional groundwater study that may include the installation of three multi-port monitoring wells and three nested monitoring wells located in the Rialto-Colton Groundwater Basin and related work. The details of these activities will be included in a scope of work to be submitted to the Regional Water Board by the City of Rialto (City) and the West Valley Water District (WVWD).

Local water purveyors have been dealing with perchlorate and VOC contamination of the northern portion of the Rialto-Colton Groundwater Basin for more than ten years. Migration rates of the perchlorate contamination have been estimated as high as seven (7) feet per day making it one of the fastest moving plumes in Southern California.

The CAA funds in the amount of \$3,000,000 will enable the Regional Water Board to lead in the investigation of the perchlorate and VOC contamination and carry out other related work. The City and WVWD will complete assessment and remediation activities that will aid in determining subsurface conditions and developing a long-term remedy independent of any potentially responsible parties. The long-term plan will include guaranteed cost estimates and crucial information for the long-term perchlorate and VOC remediation plan. It will provide for control of spreading contaminants, recovery of perchlorate and VOC mass from the subsurface soils and aquifer, and stop the continued leaching of these chemicals into the regional groundwater supply. The funds will also be used to perform a regional groundwater study which may include the installation of three multi-port monitoring wells and drilling three nested monitoring wells at high probability source locations.

The requested allocation is consistent with the purposes of Water Code §13442. Water Code §13442 provides that the State Water Board may order moneys to be paid from CAA to a public agency with authority to cleanup or abate the effects of a waste in order “to assist in cleaning up the waste or abating its effects on waters of the state.”

POLICY ISSUES

Should the State Water Board approve \$3,000,000 from CAA for a long-term remediation plan and regional groundwater study in the Rialto Area?

FISCAL IMPACT

Approving \$3,000,000 for this Project will leave approximately an uncommitted balance of \$5.8 million in CAA.

REGIONAL BOARD IMPACT:

Yes, the Santa Ana Regional Water Board

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends adoption of this item, given the provision that CAA funds cannot be expended until the State Water Board receives a detailed scope of work that is acceptable to the Deputy Director of the Division of Financial Assistance.

DRAFT

STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD RESOLUTION NO. 2008-

APPROVAL OF \$3 MILLION IN CLEANUP AND ABATEMENT FUNDS (CAA) FOR THE SANTA ANA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD (REGIONAL WATER BOARD) FOR A LONG-TERM REMEDIATION PLAN AND REGIONAL GROUNDWATER STUDY IN THE RIALTO AREA

WHEREAS:

1. The Regional Water Board requests \$3,000,000 for work to perform a regional groundwater study of the Rialto-Colton Groundwater Basin and other related work. The details of these activities will be included in a scope of work to be submitted to the Regional Water Board by the City of Rialto and the West Valley Water District.

Perchlorate and volatile organic compound (VOC) contamination impacts the Rialto-Colton Groundwater Basin and numerous water supply wells have been shut down as a result of this contamination. Perchlorate continues to spread underground and action is necessary to reduce water quality impacts.

2. The funds will be used to complete assessment and remediation activities that will aid in determining subsurface conditions, and to develop a long-term perchlorate and VOC remediation plan, and guaranteed cost estimates to implement the remediation plan over 30 years. The remediation plan will provide for control of contaminant spreading and recovery of perchlorate and VOC mass from the subsurface soils and aquifer, and stop the continued leaching of these chemicals into the regional groundwater supply. The cost estimate for these tasks is \$200,000.
3. A Regional groundwater study will be performed and may include the installation of three (3) multi-port monitoring wells and three nested monitoring wells. The estimated cost is \$2,800,000. These activities will also include the development of a groundwater fate and transport model, which will be critical for the development of a water supply pumping plan for the basin and for locating optimum placement of a plume capture system down gradient of the 160-acre site.
4. The requested allocation is consistent with the purposes of Water Code section 13442. Water Code section 13442 provides that the State Water Board may order moneys to be paid from the CAA to a public agency with authority to cleanup or abate the effects of a waste in order "to assist in cleaning up the waste or abating its effects on waters of the state."

D R A F T

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) approves \$ 3,000,000 from the CAA to the Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board to develop a long-term remediation plan and complete a regional groundwater study in the Rialto area, provided that no money shall be expended until the State Water Board Deputy Director of the Division of Financial Assistance (Division) approves a detailed scope of work for these activities.
2. The State Water Board authorizes the Division Deputy Director to negotiate, execute, and amend contracts for this purpose.

The funds will be available until March 31, 2011. Any unexpended funds as of March 31, 2011, shall revert to CAA, unless the Division Deputy Director authorizes an extension.

CERTIFICATION

The undersigned, 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 Board held on March 18, 2008.

Jeanine Townsend
Clerk to the Board