

**STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD  
BOARD MEETING SESSION – OFFICE OF RESEARCH, PLANNING, AND PERFORMANCE  
SEPTEMBER 2, 2008**

**ITEM 12**

**SUBJECT**

CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION TO ADOPT THE STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE:  
2008-2012

**DISCUSSION**

In early 2007, the Water Boards established a process to update the 2001 Strategic Plan. This collaborative process included staff and stakeholders, and was designed to identify key areas of focus and move the Water Boards toward becoming performance-based organizations.

To guide the Water Boards through this collaborative process, the State Water Board contracted with the Center for Collaborative Policy at the California State University, Sacramento. The Water Boards held two statewide forums – one for staff and the other for stakeholders – to receive input on what our priorities should be for the upcoming years and on the various trends that have been observed as affecting water quality and water rights programs. Each Regional Water Board also held a stakeholder outreach session in their region to solicit additional comments and ideas that would help steer the direction of the Strategic Plan Update. Staff analyzed the input received and extracted the common themes to begin development of the draft Strategic Plan Update.

Three versions of the draft Strategic Plan Update have been released for public comment, with two versions formally noticed with comment deadlines. Each version that has been released builds upon the previous draft using comments received from Board Members, staff, stakeholders, and the public. All of the information related to the development of the Strategic Plan Update can be found on the State Water Board's website at:  
[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/hot\\_topics/strategic\\_plan/2007update.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/hot_topics/strategic_plan/2007update.shtml).

At its July 1, 2008 board meeting, the State Water Board directed that modifications to several of the priorities be made for consideration at the September 2, 2008 State Water Board meeting. The current draft Strategic Plan Update includes the requested revisions, provides for semi-annual progress reports to the State Water Board, and includes an annual, informal review to evaluate the appropriateness and effectiveness of the proposed objectives and actions to keep the plan current.

**POLICY ISSUE**

The Strategic Plan Update does not set any specific policy. The Strategic Plan Update establishes the priorities of the Water Boards and identifies the actions that will be taken to implement these priorities. The Strategic Plan Update also highlights a series of strategies to enhance achievement of all of our organizational responsibilities.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

None. At the present time, the Water Boards should be working within their given resource level to perform the specific actions in the Strategic Plan Update.

**REGIONAL BOARD IMPACT**

Yes. The Regional Water Boards will be expected to participate in the strategies set forth in the Strategic Plan Update to help the Water Boards meet their overall mission. Many of the identified actions will contain some dedication of resources by the Regional Water Boards to reach the priorities established in the Strategic Plan Update.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

The State Water Board should adopt the proposed resolution to finalize the draft Strategic Plan Update: 2008-2012 as presented.

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## STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD RESOLUTION NO. 2008-

### ADOPTION OF THE STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE: 2008-2012

#### WHEREAS:

1. The State Water Resources Control Board and the Regional Water Quality Control Boards (the Water Boards) established a collaborative, public process to update the 2001 Strategic Plan that broadly solicited input from Board Members, staff, stakeholders, and the public;
2. No single document, including this Strategic Plan Update, comprehensively reflects all of the Water Boards' efforts. The Strategic Plan Update is one of several key current and developing Water Board planning documents, such as the Policy for Maintaining Instream Flows in Northern California Coastal Streams, the Strategic Workplan for the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, the resolution for Promoting Strategies to Assist Small and/or Disadvantaged Communities with Wastewater Needs, the Water Recycling Policy, the Water Quality Enforcement Policy, and water-related elements of the Air Resources Board's Climate Change Draft Scoping Plan. The Water Boards' planning documents collectively comprise an integrated planning framework to guide their work;
3. The Water Boards released three versions of the draft Strategic Plan Update: 2008-2012 for public comment, with two versions released for a formal comment period;
4. The draft Strategic Plan Update: 2008-2012 establishes the priorities, goals, objectives, and actions for the Water Boards to help achieve their mission;
5. The actions contained in the draft Strategic Plan Update: 2008-2012 may result in future regulatory actions by the Water Boards, but the Strategic Plan Update does not regulate any person or establish policies;
6. The draft Strategic Plan Update: 2008-2012 provides for an annual review to evaluate the appropriateness and effectiveness of the identified objectives and actions to keep the plan current; and
7. The draft Strategic Plan Update: 2008-2012 continues to move the Water Boards toward becoming performance-based organizations.

#### THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The State Water Resources Control Board adopts the Strategic Plan Update: 2008-2012, with the following priority goal statements:
  - Goal 1. Implement strategies to fully support the beneficial uses for all 2006-listed water bodies by 2030.
  - Goal 2. Improve and protect groundwater quality in high use basins by 2030.

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- Goal 3. Increase sustainable local water supplies available for meeting existing and future beneficial uses by 1,725,000 acre-feet per year, in excess of 2002 levels, by 2015, and ensure adequate flows for fish and wildlife habitat.
- Goal 4. Comprehensively address water quality protection and restoration, and the relationship between water supply and water quality, and describe the connections between water quality, water quantity, and climate change, throughout California's water planning processes.
- Goal 5. Improve transparency and accountability by ensuring that Water Board goals and actions are clear and accessible, by demonstrating and explaining results achieved with respect to the goals and resources available, by enhancing and improving accessibility of data and information, and by encouraging the creation of organizations or cooperative agreements that advance this goal, such as establishment of a statewide water data institute.
- Goal 6. Enhance consistency across the Water Boards, on an ongoing basis, to ensure our processes are effective, efficient, and predictable, and to promote fair and equitable application of laws, regulations, policies, and procedures.
- Goal 7. Ensure that the Water Boards have access to information and expertise, including employees with appropriate knowledge and skills, needed to effectively and efficiently carry out the Water Boards' mission.
2. The State Water Board directs the staff to develop workplans to implement the actions contained in the Strategic Plan Update that include measures to track performance. The development of workplans shall lead to a review of Water Board budgets and resource allocations to ensure alignment with the Strategic Plan Update and other related planning documents.
  3. Staff will report semi-annually to the State Water Board on the status of implementation of the priorities and actions contained in the Strategic Plan Update: 2008-2012 beginning in March 2009.
  4. During the first annual update of the Strategic Plan, Water Board staff will focus on the development of a measurable goal for groundwater.

## 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 Resources Control Board held on September 2, 2008.

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Jeanine Townsend  
Clerk to the Board