

State Water Resources Control Board

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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STATE WATER BOARD AWARDS \$17 MILLION FOR AGRICULTURAL WATER QUALITY PROJECTS

SACRAMENTO – The State Water Resources Control Board has awarded more than \$17 million in grants to improve agricultural water quality. The projects proposed locally for sites throughout the state focus on reducing pollutants in agricultural drainage water through research, monitoring, treatment, reuse, and drainage improvements.

The competitively awarded grants are funded by the state through bonds approved by California voters in 2002 in Propositions 40 and 50. In all, 23 grants were awarded, totaling a little more than \$17.5 million. Nine of those grants are in the million dollar range (\$999,000 or more).

“Projects funded by the grants will improve agricultural runoff from Imperial County to Siskiyou County, from the California coast to the Central Valley,” observed Water Board Chair Tam Doduc following the board vote to approve the awards. “In addition to funding projects throughout the state, a variety of agricultural practices that can be duplicated by other farmers are expected to be developed and refined to improve water quality.”

Among the goals of the projects awarded grants are restoring a portion of the Napa River; reducing nutrients, sediment, and pathogens draining from livestock facilities; demonstrating the compatibility of water quality and food safety; reducing pesticides and herbicides that run off of orchards; and establishing best water quality management practices for rice growers. A complete list of projects is attached below.

The State Water Board administers a number of grant and loan programs that help protect human health and the environment by guarding water bodies, improving drinking water and wastewater treatment and cleaning up California’s beaches, shores, and ocean.

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2-2-2 Agriculture

Agricultural Water Quality Grant Program (AWQGP) Funding list

| PIN | Project | Funding Amount |
|------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 9012 | Implement projects at livestock facilities to reduce nutrient, sediment and pathogen pollution (multiple counties) | \$999,900 |
| 9314 | Napa River Restoration project, Rutherford (Napa County) | \$1,000,000 |
| 9300 | Integrated, regional dairy management plan, implementing best management practices in the San Jacinto watershed (Riverside County) | \$739,069 |
| 9531 | Strategy to resolve methylmercury and low dissolved oxygen events in the northern Suisun Marsh (Solano County) | \$795,000 |
| 8978 | Coordinate permit and agricultural water quality implementation program in the Pajaro watershed (Santa Cruz County) | \$999,660 |
| 8939 | Demonstrate compatibility of water quality and food safety through research and implementation (Santa Cruz County) | \$1,000,000 |
| 9374 | Monitor Salton Sea ecosystem (Imperial County) | \$810,000 |
| 9492 | Agricultural operator voluntary program for the San Jacinto watershed (Riverside County) | \$273,000 |
| 9234 | Implement best management practices for water quality for Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta rice production (San Joaquin County) | \$999,981 |
| 9161 | Reduce unexplained toxicity to protect sediment quality associated with irrigated agriculture (multiple counties) | \$532,000 |
| 8925 | Implement agricultural clean water fish-friendly farming program (multiple counties) | \$750,000 |
| 9399 | Restore Hedrick Ranch Nature Area wetland and riparian sites (Ventura County) | \$605,456 |
| 9176 | Establish best management practices to reduce sediment and pesticides in runoff from almond orchards (Colusa County) | \$1,000,000 |
| 8853 | Improve distribution facilities for Westside Regional Drainage Plan (multiple counties) | \$1,000,000 |
| 9308 | Monitor and reduce nutrients in Santa Margarita watershed (multiple counties) | \$600,000 |
| 9395 | Cycle and export methylmercury from agricultural and natural wetlands in the Yolo Bypass (Yolo County) | \$999,881 |
| 8986 | Shasta River tailwater reduction: demonstration and implementation project (Siskiyou County) | \$735,490 |
| 8850 | Selby Creek Stream Habitat Restoration and Riparian Re-vegetation project (Napa County) | \$475,000 |
| 8952 | Implement integrated pest management best management practices to reduce pesticide runoff from agricultural land in the San Joaquin Watershed (multiple counties) | \$744,175 |
| 9445 | Orange County nurseries water quality improvement project | \$372,000 |
| 9243 | Research and implement best management practices to protect water quality from central coast vineyards (San Luis Obispo County) | \$680,000 |
| 9123 | Central valley water quality improvement (Merced County) | \$999,997 |
| 9435 | Study transport processes of Pyrethroid insecticides in streams and rivers of the San Joaquin basin (multiple counties) | \$400,000 |

A full list of projects, including the Regional Water Boards in whose territory each project is located, is available at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/agendas/2006/october/1011_04.pdf

For a county-by-county view of the funded projects, please navigate to the map at:

<http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/press/awqgp.html>