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NEWS RELEASE

State Water Resources Control Board

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Gray Davis
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State Budget Provides Much-Needed Resources For Protecting, Improving California Water Quality

SACRAMENTO -- The new state budget sets into motion the availability of much-needed resources for protecting and improving the quality of California's waters. In the budget, signed by Governor Gray Davis June 30, the State Water Resources Control Board received \$257.5 million to expand and improve a variety of water quality and recycling programs throughout California this fiscal year.

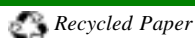
These funds are part of a \$695 million allocation to the State Water Board under Proposition 13, passed by voters in March. Coupled with previous bond money, the State Board will have \$763.9 million to spend on water quality improvement efforts over the next several years.

Other agencies, including the Department of Water Resources, will also participate in allocating money under the nearly \$2 billion in bond funds approved by voters.

Expenditures under what is collectively known as the 2000 Water Bond Program are as follows:

Southern California Integrated Watershed Program: The lion's share of water bond money this year will be used to fund this watershed program, located in Santa Ana. The budget authorizes the State Water Board to provide approximately \$133 million to the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority (SAWPA) for a variety of water quality activities, including basin water

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banking; contaminant and salt removal processes; water conservation; stormwater management; flood control; and wastewater discharge abatement.

Overall, the watershed authority will receive \$235 million in bond allocations over the next several years.

Watershed Program: This year's budget provides \$20 million for grants to local watershed organizations or public agencies to develop and implement local watershed management plans. 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. Half of this year's allotment will go to cover projects for the Pajaro River Watershed Flood Prevention Authority; the Russian River; the Clover Creek project in Redding; and Clear Lake in Lake County. The remaining approximately \$10 million will be part of a competitive process open to interested parties this fall. Overall, this program will provide \$90 million in grant money over the next several years.

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 lawns, or agricultural fields and animal feeding facilities. The current year's budget will provide approximately \$10 million to public agencies and nonprofit organizations to fund nonpoint source pollution control projects. Overall, \$100 million is provided in this category over the next several years.

Clean Water Program: Nearly \$100 million will be provided to this program. Allocations for this fiscal year are as follows: \$6.5 million for the State Revolving Loan Program, \$30 million for the Wastewater Construction Grant program and \$15 million for the Small Communities Grant

Program. These three programs provide grants and low-cost loans for capital improvement and upgrades to wastewater treatment facilities throughout the state.

Water Recycling Program: In this year's budget, the State Water Board will allocate \$25 million in loans and grants for the design and construction of water recycling projects. This will be accomplished through a competitive process this fall. Overall, the project will be infused with \$100 million -- \$40 million from Proposition 13, and \$60 million from existing bond money. A priority list of potential projects to fund will be developed this fall.

Coastal Nonpoint Source Control Program: This fiscal year, the State Water Board will allocate \$10 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. Seven million dollars have already been earmarked for projects in San Diego and Huntington Beach, leaving approximately \$3 million for competitive projects. The Bond Act provides \$90 million for this program.

Lake Elsinore/San Jacinto Watershed Bond Program: This is a new program that will provide local assistance to a joint powers agency for watershed management and flood control. This year, the State Water Board will provide approximately \$8 million to help protect agricultural land and wildlife habitats; protect and enhance recreational resources; and improve lake water quality. Another \$7 million will be available for subsequent fiscal years.

Seawater Intrusion Control Plan: In several areas, seawater has intruded into fresh water supplies because too much water is being pumped from these sources before it can be recharged with fresh water. While no additional monies were made available in this year's state budget, the State Water Board will allocate \$10 million available from the 1996 Bond Law to help control this seawater

intrusion. Proposition 13 calls for an additional expenditure of \$25 million over the next several years to supplement this program.

To publicize the availability of money and technical support, the Board has created a Web page for updated information (<http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/prop13/index.html>). Through the Web site, interested parties may also sign-up to receive e-mail notices of important program updates. The State Water Board will also offer hard-copy notifications for those entities without computer access.

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