

**STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
BOARD MEETING SESSION – DIVISION OF WATER QUALITY
MARCH 8, 2006**

ITEM 5

SUBJECT

CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION OF INTENT TO EXPEND THE REMAINING PROPOSITION 50 FUNDS IDENTIFIED FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF STATEWIDE COMPREHENSIVE GROUNDWATER QUALITY MONITORING IN THE GROUNDWATER AMBIENT MONITORING ASSESSMENT (GAMA) PROGRAM

DISCUSSION

GAMA Program Status

In January 2002, Assembly Bill 599 (AB 599) established the Groundwater Quality Monitoring Act of 2001. AB 599 required that the State Water Board, in coordination with an Interagency Task Force and Public Advisory Committee, establish a statewide comprehensive groundwater quality monitoring program that:

- o integrates existing monitoring programs (GAMA program) and new program elements,
- o prioritizes groundwater basins,
- o assesses each priority groundwater basin through direct and other statistically reliable sampling approaches including groundwater age-dating and low-level constituents,
- o provides water quality information to the public, and
- o expands the State Water Board's Geotracker (now part of "CIWQS") as the database for housing, managing, and assessing groundwater information.

In response, the State Water Board developed a plan for implementing a program to comprehensively monitor and assess the quality of all groundwater basins in the state on a 10-year cycle. The program is detailed in the 2003 AB 599 Report to the Governor and Legislature. The required assessments of prioritized basins include status of water quality, trend identification, and evaluation of emerging contaminants. Thirty-five study units each comprised of several priority groundwater basins have been identified. Prior to sampling each study unit there is a public outreach effort including a kick-off meeting with stakeholders (public supply well owners, groundwater agencies, and other members of the public; staff from the Interagency Task Force, including the Department of Water Resources, Department of Health Services, and California Water Boards; and scientists from the United States Geological Survey [USGS] and Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory [LLNL]). Following sampling and collection of analytical results, there is a wrap-up meeting with the stakeholders to present preliminary findings that are published soon thereafter. A final interpretive report is published about a year

following sampling. So far, sampling has occurred at nine study units and wrap-up meetings have occurred at three study units. The scheduled completion of assessments for all 35 study units is 2011.

Funding

The statewide comprehensive groundwater quality monitoring program is estimated to cost \$50 million every 10-year cycle. The Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Act of 2002 (2002 Bond Law-Proposition 50) provides up to \$50 million in funding for implementation of the statewide groundwater quality monitoring program established pursuant to AB 599 (i.e., GAMA Program). A spending plan was developed as shown in the table below. So far \$30 million has been appropriated and \$20 million is expected to be appropriated during both Fiscal Year (FY) 2006-07 (\$10 million) and FY 2007-08 (\$10 million). The GAMA Program first encumbered Proposition 50 in FY 2003-04. Proposition 50 bond funds are used to contract with the USGS and LLNL to conduct the monitoring and assessments.

| Proposition 50 GAMA Appropriations | | | | | | |
|---|--------------|----------|----------|--------------------|-----------|------------|
| | Appropriated | | | To Be Appropriated | | Total |
| Proposition 50 | FY 03-04 | FY 04-05 | FY 05-06 | FY 06-07 | FY 07-08 | |
| Contracts | \$6.5 M | \$10 M | \$10 M | \$10 M\$ | \$9.250 M | \$45.750 M |
| Bond costs (3.5%), Administration (5%) | \$3.5 M | 0 | 0 | 0 | \$0.750 M | \$4.250 M |
| Total | \$10 M | \$10 M | \$10 M | \$10 M | \$10 M | \$50 M |

POLICY ISSUE

Should the State Water Board adopt a resolution of intent to expend the remaining Proposition 50 funds identified for implementation of statewide comprehensive groundwater quality monitoring in the Groundwater Ambient Monitoring and Assessment program?

FISCAL IMPACT

Proposition 50 provides a total of \$50 million for implementation of the statewide groundwater quality monitoring program. The State Water Board spending plan provides \$45.75 million for contracts and \$4.25 million for bond costs and administration. California Water Board staff work associated with or resulting from this action can be accomplished within budgeted resources.

REGIONAL BOARD IMPACT

None

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

That the State Water Board adopts a resolution of intent to expend the remaining Proposition 50 funds identified for implementation of statewide comprehensive groundwater quality monitoring in the GAMA program.

STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
RESOLUTION NO. 2006 - ____

CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION OF INTENT TO EXPEND THE REMAINING
PROPOSITION 50 FUNDS IDENTIFIED FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF STATEWIDE
COMPREHENSIVE GROUNDWATER QUALITY MONITORING IN THE
GROUNDWATER AMBIENT MONITORING ASSESSMENT (GAMA) PROGRAM

WHEREAS:

1. The mission of the State Water Board is to preserve and enhance the quality of California's water resources, and ensure their proper allocation and efficient use for the benefit of present and future generations;
2. Ambient water quality monitoring provides valuable information to assess the potential impacts of pollutants on the beneficial uses of water;
3. Assembly Bill 599 requires the State Water Board to develop a statewide groundwater quality monitoring program that builds on State Water Board's GAMA program and designs new elements to establish a program capable of assessing each groundwater basin through direct and other statistically reliable sampling approaches;
4. The State Water Board submitted a report to the Governor and Legislature detailing the plan for implementing a program to comprehensively monitor and assess the quality of all groundwater basins in the state on a 10-year cycle;
5. Proposition 50 provides for a total of \$50 million for implementation of the statewide groundwater quality monitoring program, of which \$30 million has been appropriated and \$20 million is expected to be appropriated during both Fiscal Year (FY) 2006-07 (\$10 million) and FY 2007-08 (\$10 million);

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The State Water Board intends to expend the remaining Proposition 50 funds to be appropriated in both FY 2006-07 (\$10 million) and FY 2007-08 (\$10 million) identified for implementation of statewide comprehensive groundwater quality monitoring in the Groundwater Ambient Monitoring and Assessment program.

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 March 8, 2006.

Song Her
Clerk to the Board