

State Water Resources Control Board

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**STATE WATER BOARD APPROVES MORE THAN \$40 MILLION
 FOR WATER QUALITY PROJECTS THROUGHOUT CALIFORNIA**

SACRAMENTO — The State Water Resources Control Board today approved the expenditure of more than \$40 million in Proposition 13 money to fund a range of water quality projects statewide. Projects cover everything from stormwater management and urban runoff to wetlands restoration and wastewater treatment.

This money is part of a \$695 million bond package approved by voters in March 2000. With its expertise in water quality management, the Board was granted authority to award this money over the next several years to cities, water and agricultural districts and other parties. (Review funded awards at <http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/agendas/2001/may/0517mtg.htm>)

This money is used in part to build new sewage treatment plants and repair older ones; capture dairy and livestock wastes; plant trees to stem riverfront erosion; clean trash from polluted rivers; develop stormwater retention programs; and start grassroots citizen involvement efforts.

“The voters continue to stress the importance of keeping our waterways clean from pollution,” said Board Chairman Arthur G. Baggett, Jr. “and the bond program affords us the ability to carry out this important environmental mandate from every conceivable angle.”

More than half of the money awarded today will pay for \$22 million in projects that combat polluted runoff, and prevent pollution in watersheds, or drainage basins.

A committee of Regional and State Water Board staff, and a representative of the California Coastal Commission reviewed 374 applications requesting \$222 million. The final list features 63 “of the most environmentally critical water quality projects in California,” Baggett added.

Topping the lists were the Bull Creek Watershed Rehabilitation Project of Eureka, which received \$511,000 to remove 12 miles of old logging roads and stream crossings that had caused sediment pollution in local waterways; the Mono Basin and Upper Owens Watershed Management Plan, which received \$198,000 to assess water quality conditions in the watersheds near Mammoth Lakes; and the Wetland Capture Treatment Network, which received \$153,750 to curb urban runoff, build wetlands and remove pollutants from Aliso Creek in Laguna Niguel.

In other action, the Board today:

- Authorized \$7.85 million to help protect the Santa Ana River Watershed – \$7.4 million to provide non-potable water to farmers near Rancho El Sobrante, and \$450,000 to boost, by 600 percent, water treatment capabilities in the Rubidoux Community Services District.
- Authorized more than \$9.6 million in Small Communities Grants to pay for wastewater capital improvement projects for the Linda County Water District, the Garberville Sanitary District, the Calaveras County Water District, Saticoy Sanitary District, the City of Live Oak and the Markleeville Public Utilities District.
- Authorized \$1 million to help fund a joint water recycling research program between the country’s preeminent recycling research organization and the federal government.
- Funded a \$2.1 million loan for the McCloud Community Services District to refurbish an old wastewater collection system. A portion of this money comes from Proposition 13.

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