

**STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
RESOLUTION NO. 2008-0011**

CONSIDERATION OF CLIMATE CHANGE ACTIVITIES

WHEREAS:

1. Assembly Bill 32, The California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006, signed by the Governor on September 27, 2006, states that all state agencies shall consider and implement strategies to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions.
2. On August 23, 2007, the State Water Board and the Department of Water Resources (DWR) held a joint workshop soliciting suggestions to reduce Green House Gas emissions and identify adaptations to accommodate changing climatic conditions.
3. Suggestions presented at the joint workshop were extensive, including but not limited to, water-energy relationships, water recycling and conservation, water quality regulation, basin planning, Best Management Practices, and land use policies.
4. On September 18, 2007, the State Water Board adopted [Resolution 2007-0059](#) directing staff to proceed with an evaluation of the recommendations for action provided by panelists and the public at the August 23, 2007 joint workshop.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. Staff is directed to proceed with the development of the suggested measures, listed in Attachment 1, that are recommended for further evaluation by the Water Board and Water Board/DWR jointly. Further evaluation can include an assessment of the technical feasibility, potential costs, potential GHG emission reductions, and adaptation potential, along with measures required for implementation, estimation of resources required, and a preliminary implementation schedule for each action. This evaluation will also include an assessment of the Water Board's implementation of its commitments to the state's Bio-Energy Action Plan as described in [Resolution Number 2007-0059](#). The March Executive Director's report shall include an update on the status of these evaluations.
2. Staff is directed to present, at the State Water Board's April 15, 2008 meeting, an update to [Resolution Number 2005-0006](#), Adopting the Concept of Sustainability as a Core Value for State Water Board Programs and Directing its Incorporation into Future State Water Board Actions, to include climate change as a key consideration into what constitutes sustainable practices.

3. Staff is also directed to present to the State Water Board at the May 6, 2008 meeting, the strategies and measures proposed for inclusion by the Water-Energy subteam of the Climate Action Team, into the Scoping Plan currently under development by the California Air Resources Board.

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 February 19, 2008.

AYE: Tam M. Doduc
Gary Wolff, P.E., Ph.D.
Arthur G. Baggett, Jr.
Frances Spivy-Weber
Charles R. Hoppin

NO: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None



Jeanine Townsend
Clerk to the Board

MEASURES RECOMMENDED FOR FURTHER EVALUATION
(based on suggestions received at the August 23, 2007 joint workshop)

MEASURES RECOMMENDED FOR FURTHER EVALUATION BY THE WATER BOARD

1. Consider GHG emissions that could be produced in the development of water quality standards.
2. Promote, incentivize, and/or require the use of sustainable energy sources (bioenergy, methane, solar, wind) at water and wastewater treatment facilities.
3. Develop partnerships (pilots) with local entities to evaluate strategies and measures on the local level before recommending for statewide consideration.
4. Increase research and adopt standards that address potential (emerging) contaminants and public concerns of recycled water and storm water, such as of xenobiotics, in order to ensure a safe supply and increase public confidence and acceptance.
5. Review internal processes and organizational structure that impairs the Water Boards' ability to consider the impacts of climate change in decision-making. Establish an internal training program to educate staff in the subject of climate change and the significant role of water and energy.
6. Address climate change in Basin Plans in order to reduce energy use, enhance local water supply. Incentivize water conservation, storm water reuse and recycling through the setting of policy.
7. Promote research to identify ways to reduce GHG emissions from septic tanks and increase regulation to limit those emissions accordingly.

**MEASURES CURRENTLY UNDER EVALUATION BY THE
CAT SUBTEAMS THAT ARE WATER BOARD RELATED**

8. The Water Boards should improve Best Management Practices BMPs and ensure that they are implemented (make them mandatory).
9. Review and revise regulations to facilitate increased use of groundwater for municipal drinking water storage and supply, including injection of potable water into groundwater for storage and subsequent withdrawal.
10. Promote LID and storm water reuse approaches that can reduce wasteful discharge and contribute to local groundwater supplies. Look at opportunities to reduce water use for landscape irrigation in the urban sector. Promote the use of permeable surfaces, rain gardens, etc.
11. Exercise existing water rights authority to ensure protection of beneficial uses during periods of water shortage. The Water Boards should mandate water conservation measures through water rights. Review water rights allocations to account for climate change implications.

**MEASURES RECOMMENDED FOR FURTHER EVALUATION BY THE WATER BOARD
IN COLLABORATION WITH DWR**

1. Promote partnerships with energy providers to create the connection in the public's mind that by saving water they also save energy and reduce carbon emissions. As an example, promote a "flex your water" campaign.
2. Modify grant selection criteria to prioritize water quality improvement projects that incorporate water conservation, water recycling, storm water reuse, energy efficiency and other measures that reduce GHG emissions.

MEASURES IDENTIFIED BY DWR FOR FURTHER EVALUATION

The Department of Water Resources has identified the following four suggestions from the workshop for consideration. After further evaluation by DWR, these suggestions may be incorporated into DWR climate change activities and CAT strategies as determined appropriate.

1. Promote IRWMPs. Consider the inclusion of objectives for:
 - energy efficiency;
 - GHG emissions reduction; and
 - resource sustainability.
2. Consider modeling of climate change impacts at regional and local scales to assess impacts in local watersheds.
3. Obtain direction to define the balance between the State Water Contractors' interest in minimizing the cost of water and the State's interest in meeting its climate and water conservation goals.
4. As part of the Water Plan Update, emphasize flood control designs that provide for groundwater recharge.