

**STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
RESOLUTION NO. 2025-0001**

AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO ACCEPT GRANT FUNDS FROM, AND EXECUTE AND AMEND RELATED AGREEMENTS WITH, THE UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY FOR TWO SAN FRANCISCO BAY WATER BOARD STAFF POSITIONS FOR THE CLIMATE RESILIENCE FOR A HEALTHY EQUITABLE SAN FRANCISCO BAY PROJECT

WHEREAS:

1. The mission of the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board (San Francisco Bay Water Board) is to preserve, protect, enhance, and restore water quality within the San Francisco Bay region through its authority under the Clean Water Act (CWA) and Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act. Among other things, the San Francisco Bay develops and implements water quality standards and Total Maximum Daily Loads, issues National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permits, issues CWA section 401 certifications and waste discharge requirements for stream or wetland fill permits, monitors and assesses the quality of waters, and manages nonpoint sources through regulatory mechanisms.
2. The San Francisco Bay Water Board has been leading efforts to address nutrients and harmful algal blooms (HABs) in the San Francisco Bay, participating in efforts to increase beneficial reuse of sediment and soil for habitat restoration and climate adaptation, and providing technical and regulatory support for climate adaptation in the San Francisco Bay Region.
3. The United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) manages a competitive grant program to support projects to protect and restore San Francisco Bay. This grant program, known as the San Francisco Bay Water Quality Improvement Fund, began in 2008. Thus far, U.S. EPA has awarded over \$128 million to 91 grants under this program. These grants funded projects that collectively include over 100 partners who are contributing an additional \$248 million to restore wetlands and watersheds and reduce polluted runoff. In 2024, the U.S. EPA launched a new San Francisco Bay

Program Office with an annual program budget of approximately \$50 million in grant funds.

4. On November 25, 2024, U.S. EPA asked the San Francisco Bay Water Board to submit a grant application for up to \$4,000,000 to fund the Climate Resilience for a Healthy Equitable San Francisco Bay Project. If awarded, this project will fund two San Francisco Bay Water Board staff positions for six years to implement actions to address nutrients and HABs in the San Francisco Bay, increase beneficial reuse of sediment and soil for habitat restoration and climate adaptation, and provide technical and regulatory support for climate adaptation. Specific activities addressing nutrients and HABs include participating in a collaborative science effort to address nutrients and HABs in the San Francisco Bay, developing a nutrient regulatory strategy, coordinating nutrient-related activities across San Francisco Bay Water Board program areas, and engaging with interested parties, other agencies, and the public. Specific activities to increase beneficial reuse of sediment include revising guidance on beneficial reuse of sediment for tidal marsh restoration projects and assessing and implementing policy revisions to incentivize beneficial reuse of dredged sediment. Specific actions to support climate adaptation projects include chairing the technical advisory committee of the San Francisco Estuary Wetlands Regional Monitoring Program and providing technical and regulatory support for local climate adaptation efforts with a focus on supporting disadvantaged communities to develop inclusive community-driven climate adaptation plans that accelerate sea level rise adaptation projects and improve water quality in an equitable manner. U.S. EPA has stated that it intends to approve the San Francisco Bay Water Board's grant application and award a six-year grant for up to \$4,000,000.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The State Water Board:

1. Authorizes the Executive Director or his designee to accept up to approximately \$4,000,000 in grant funds from U.S. EPA for Fiscal Year (FY) 2025–26 to FY 2030–31 to fund two San Francisco Bay Water Board staff positions to implement the Climate Resilience for a Healthy

Equitable San Francisco Bay Project and to execute and amend any necessary agreements with U.S. EPA for this purpose.

2. This authorization shall remain in full force and effect until modified or revoked by the State Water 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 January 7, 2025.

AYE: Chair E. Joaquin Esquivel
Vice Chair Dorene D'Adamo
Board Member Sean Maguire
Board Member Laurel Firestone
Board Member Nichole Morgan

NAY: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None



Courtney Tyler
Clerk to the Board