

**STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD  
RESOLUTION NO. 2025-0030**

AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, CHIEF DEPUTY DIRECTOR,  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES, OR  
DESIGNEE TO ENTER INTO AND AMEND CONTRACTS AND INTERAGENCY  
AGREEMENTS FOR MANDATED SCIENTIFIC PEER REVIEW AND OTHER  
EXPERT REVIEW

WHEREAS:

1. Health and Safety Code section 57004 sets minimum requirements for external scientific peer review. Section 57004 requires California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA) boards, departments, and office (collectively, CalEPA agencies) to submit for external scientific peer review the “scientific basis” and “scientific portions” of proposed rules, consistent with the statutory definition of these two terms. For rules subject to this requirement, the scientific findings, conclusions, and assumptions on which the scientific portions of the proposed rule are based and the supporting scientific data, studies, and other appropriate materials, must be submitted for peer review.
2. Section 57004 further specifies that the CalEPA agencies must enter into one or more agreements with the National Academy of Sciences, the University of California, the California State University, or any similar scientific institution of higher learning to conduct external scientific peer review of the scientific basis for any rule proposed for adoption by any CalEPA agency.
3. In addition to the work products for which external scientific peer review is statutorily required, the CalEPA agencies may seek peer review of the scientific or economic basis and scientific or economic portions of other work products—for example, major or controversial new initiatives that are not otherwise subject to statutory peer review requirements—as each CalEPA agency deems prudent.
4. The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) manages the External Scientific Peer Review Program for the CalEPA agencies.
5. On behalf of the CalEPA agencies, the State Water Board intends to continue to enter into a series of contracts with the National Academy of Sciences, the University of California, the California State University, or a

similar scientific institution of higher learning to ensure that mandated scientific peer review and other types of reviews will be performed by qualified reviewers in a manner consistent with state law. In addition, the State Water Board intends to enter into a series of corresponding interagency agreements with each of the CalEPA agencies to pay the State Water Board for each of the CalEPA agencies' share of the costs associated with the peer review contract.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The State Water Board:

1. Authorizes the Executive Director, Chief Deputy Director, Deputy Director of the Division of Administrative Services, or designee, to enter into, execute, and to perform all acts and to do all things necessary and convenient for the implementation of any contracts, including interagency agreements, for a series of new and amended peer review contracts with a scientific institution of higher learning. Each such contract shall not exceed five years in length and the total amount of each contract or interagency agreement shall not exceed \$5,000,000.
2. Authorizes the Executive Director, Chief Deputy Director, Deputy Director of the Division of Administrative Services, or designee to enter into, execute, and to perform all acts and to do all things necessary and convenient for the implementation of any interagency agreements, for a series of new and amended interagency agreements with each of the CalEPA agencies to pay their share of the costs associated with the peer review contract. Each such interagency agreement shall not exceed five years in length and the total amount of each such interagency agreement shall not exceed \$5,000,000.
3. Directs the Executive Director, Chief Deputy Director, or the Deputy Director of the Division of Administrative Services, in exercising the authority vested in them by this resolution, without restricting the authority specified, to bring to the attention of the Board Members by appropriate communication any contracts that are of a unique, controversial, or unusual nature or that appear to depart from the policies of the State Water Board.

4. Except as otherwise specifically provided by the State Water Board, authorizes the Executive Director, Chief Deputy Director, or the Deputy Director of the Division of Administrative Services to represent the State Water Board for the purpose of making a final determination of any dispute arising under or relating to the performance of any peer review contracts or interagency agreements to which the State Water Board is a party.

### **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 October 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