

**STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD  
RESOLUTION NO. 2026-0020**

AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, CHIEF DEPUTY DIRECTOR,  
AND DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE  
SERVICES TO EXECUTE AND AMEND CONTRACTS FOR EXTERNAL  
HELICOPTER SERVICES FOR UP TO \$50,000 PER YEAR FOR UP TO FIVE  
YEARS IN DURATION TO CONDUCT AERIAL WATERSHED SURVEILLANCE,  
OBSERVATION, AND MONITORING

WHEREAS:

1. The Division of Administrative Services administers routine contracts, including interagency agreements, with both public and private entities in support of the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) and the Regional Water Quality Control Boards. The contracts are for non-controversial activities, involve the transaction of routine State business, and do not involve significant policy decisions that would require the consideration of the State Water Board during publicly held Board meetings.
2. The State Water Board delegated authority to the Executive Director, Chief Deputy Director, and Deputy Director of the Division of Administrative Services to execute non-controversial contracts for no more than \$1,500,000 or three years in duration per State Water Board [Resolution No. 2025-0003](#).
3. In Fiscal Year 2019/2020, the California Legislature approved the Wildfire Prevention and Recovery Legislation (SB-901) Budget Change Proposal (BCP). The SB-901 BCP allocates \$80,000 per Fiscal Year (FY) to develop contracts for external helicopter services to conduct aerial watershed surveillance, observation, and monitoring, of which \$40,000 per FY is allocated to the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (North Coast Water Board).
4. In 2022, the State Water Board, on behalf of the North Coast Water Board, entered into a contract for helicopter services for \$50,000 per FY (\$40,000 in SB-901 BCP designated funds, plus \$10,000 of ongoing operating funds) utilizing the contracting authority delegated to State Water Board Executive Staff under [Resolution No. 2015-0022](#).

5. The North Coast Water Board is working with the Division of Administrative Services to develop the next iteration of a helicopter contract. That contract is planned as a three (3) -year contract starting in FY 2027/2028, with the option to extend it for up to two (2) additional years. Each additional year would encumber the designated funding for that FY. Resolution No. 2025-0003 does not currently allow for these extensions, as it allows extensions beyond three years only in instances where “no cost to the state will be incurred as a result of a longer extension.”
  
6. The North Coast Water Board seeks to streamline the contract process by authorizing the Executive Director, Chief Deputy Director, or the Deputy Director of the Division of Administrative Services to execute contracts and amendments for Helicopter Services of up to \$50,000 per year for up to five (5) years.
  
7. The Division of Administrative Services ensures that the State Water Board conducts its contracting activities in compliance with State contracting laws, regulations, policies, and procedures.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The State Water Board:

1. The State Water Board authorizes the Executive Director, the Chief Deputy Director, the Deputy Director of the Division of Administrative Services, or designee, to execute and amend, for and on behalf of the North Coast Water Board, contracts for external helicopter services to conduct aerial watershed surveillance, observation, and monitoring of up to \$50,000 per year for up to five (5) years, totaling up to \$250,000.
  
2. The State Water Board authorizes the Executive Director, Chief Deputy Director, or the Deputy Director of the Division of Administrative Services to act, to the greatest extent provided by law, to perform all things necessary and convenient to implement such contracts and amendments.

3. This authorization shall remain in full force and effect until modified or revoked by the State 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 June 16, 2026.

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

  
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Courtney Tyler  
Clerk to the Board