

**STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
BOARD MEETING SESSION – DIVISION OF WATER QUALITY
APRIL 3, 2012**

ITEM 4

SUBJECT

CONSIDERATION OF A PROPOSED RESOLUTION APPROVING AN AMENDMENT TO ADD FUNDING TO CLEAN WATER ACT SECTION (CWA) 319(h) NONPOINT SOURCE GRANT AGREEMENT NO. 10-434-555 WITH THE U.S. BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT (GRANTEE) ENTITLED WETLAND MANAGEMENT AND AGRICULTURAL ORGANIC MATTER REDUCTION TO DECREASE METHYLMERCURY LOADS FROM THE COSUMNES RIVER PRESERVE (PROJECT)

DISCUSSION

The Project is important for the implementation of the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board Delta Methylmercury Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL), because it is evaluating management practices (MPs) to reduce or minimize the production of methylmercury in managed wetland and rice fields. Currently, no scientifically valid MPs exist for wetland managers for this purpose. TMDL requires that entities that discharge methylmercury to the Delta conduct studies to develop and validate methylmercury MPs. TMDL staff appreciates the Grantee's proactive efforts to obtain the grant before the TMDL effective date of October 2011. The results of the Project will be very valuable to TMDL staff statewide in determining what additional methylmercury control information is necessary.

The need for this additional funding is twofold. First, the Grantee has already incurred excess expenses that were not possible to anticipate when the grant was funded, and second, the grantee needs to purchase several devices to obtain better estimates of important water quality parameters. The costs of pumping water to maintain (1) flow through the wetland ponds and (2) a minimum water depth in the rice field for the mosquitofish that were deployed for the methylmercury bioaccumulation portion of the Project were higher than originally estimated. Additional funds are also needed to purchase a dissolved oxygen (DO) meter and water meter to improve the understanding of the mercury to methylmercury conversion and methylmercury load reduction at the site.

These costs are outlined below:

1. Wetland pumping costs exceeding original budget estimate 2011-12: \$10,000
2. Rice grower pumping costs exceeding original budget estimate 2011-2012: \$8,000
3. Wetland rehabilitation (*133 acres @ 600 hrs @ \$40/hr*): \$24,000
4. DO meter and other wetland supplies to measure and maintain DO at levels necessary to maintain beneficial uses: \$3,000
5. Mace Agri-flo Series 3 water meter to track pumping and flow through the rice fields and estimate mercury loads and load reductions: one water meter at: \$5,000

TOTAL: \$50,000

POLICY ISSUE

Should the State Water Board:

1. Approve adding \$50,000 to the Project for increased costs resulting from excess expenses that were not possible to anticipate, and the need to purchase several devices to obtain better estimates of important water quality parameters?
2. Authorize the Deputy Director of the Division of Financial Assistance to execute the amendment and add these funds to the Project, as they are available from the CWA Section 319(h) Grant Program?

FISCAL IMPACT

Existing CWA Section 319(h) funds from the NPS Program budget are available to accommodate the increased funding for the Project.

REGIONAL BOARD IMPACT

None

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

The State Water Board should:

1. Approve adding \$50,000 to the Project for increased costs resulting from excess expenses that were not possible to anticipate, and the need to purchase several devices to obtain better estimates of important water quality parameters.
2. Authorize the Deputy Director of the Division of Financial Assistance to execute the amendment and add these funds to the Project, as they are available from the CWA Section 319(h) Grant Program.

State Water Board action on this item will assist the Water Boards in implementing Priority 1 of the Strategic Plan Update: 2008-2012 to protect and restore surface water quality. In particular, approval of this item will assist in fulfilling Objective 1.1 by supporting implementation of total maximum daily loads for water bodies contained on the 2006 CWA Section 303(d) list and Objective 1.3 by supporting appropriate enforcement actions and innovative approaches as needed to protect and restore surface waters.

DRAFT

STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD RESOLUTION NO. 2012-

APPROVAL OF AN AMENDMENT TO ADD FUNDING TO CLEAN WATER ACT SECTION (CWA) 319(h) NONPOINT SOURCE GRANT AGREEMENT NO. 10-434-555 WITH THE U.S. BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT ENTITLED WETLAND MANAGEMENT AND AGRICULTURAL ORGANIC MATTER REDUCTION TO DECREASE METHYLMERCURY LOADS FROM THE COSUMNES RIVER PRESERVE (PROJECT)

WHEREAS:

1. The CWA Section 319(h) Nonpoint Source Program approved and funded Grant Agreement No. 10-434-555 on May 18, 2010 for \$782,789.
2. The U.S. Bureau of Land Management is requesting \$50,000 in additional funds due to incurred excess expenses that were not possible to anticipate when the grant was funded, and the need to purchase several devices to obtain better estimates of important water quality parameters.
3. The results of the Project will be very valuable to TMDL staff statewide in determining what additional methylmercury control information is necessary.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The State Water Board:

1. Approves adding \$50,000 to the Project for increased costs resulting from excess expenses that were not possible to anticipate, and the need to purchase several devices to obtain better estimates of important water quality parameters, and
2. Authorizes the Deputy Director of the Division of Financial Assistance to execute an amendment to add these funds to the Project.

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 April 3, 2012.

Jeanine Townsend
Clerk to the Board