

**STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
BOARD MEETING SESSION – DIVISION OF WATER QUALITY
SEPTEMBER 19, 2012**

ITEM 9

SUBJECT

CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSED RESOLUTION TO APPROVE AN INITIAL STUDY/MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION AND ADOPT PROPOSED GENERAL WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS FOR AQUIFER STORAGE AND RECOVERY PROJECTS THAT INJECT DRINKING WATER INTO GROUNDWATER

DISCUSSION

Some water agencies treat water to meet drinking water standards at an existing water treatment plant and then pump the treated water through one or more injection wells into an aquifer. The stored water is later extracted from the aquifer as needed, treated again if necessary, and conveyed to water users through the agency's distribution system. The purpose of the proposed [General Waste Discharge Requirements for Aquifer Storage and Recovery Projects that Inject Drinking Water into Groundwater](#) (General Order) is to achieve consistent regulation of these aquifer storage and recovery projects and to streamline their water quality permitting.

Adoption of the General Order is a project as defined by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and is subject to CEQA environmental review requirements. The State Water Board is the lead agency for this review and has completed a draft [Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration](#) finding that implementation of the General Order as mitigated by its requirements will not have a significant effect on the environment.

The draft General Order and draft Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration were posted for public review on August 13, 2012. Written comments are due on September 13, 2012 by 12 noon.

Staff has prepared a draft Resolution approving the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration and adopting the General Order.

POLICY ISSUE

Should the State Water Resources Control Board approve the proposed Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration and adopt the proposed General Order?

FISCAL IMPACT

None.

REGIONAL BOARD IMPACT

If adopted, the General Order will be available to the Regional Water Quality Control Boards to use for aquifer storage and recovery projects that meet the eligibility criteria in the General Order.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the State Water Board approve the resolution approving an Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration and adopting the General Waste Discharge Requirements.

State Water Board action on this item will assist the Water Boards in reaching Goals 2, 3, and 6 of the Strategic Plan Update: 2008-2012. In particular, approval of this item will assist in fulfilling Objective 2.3 to ensure the viability of high quality groundwater basins, where appropriate, through waste discharge requirements and cleanup of contamination.

DRAFT

STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD RESOLUTION NO. 2012-

APPROVE AN INITIAL STUDY/MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION AND ADOPT PROPOSED GENERAL WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS FOR AQUIFER STORAGE AND RECOVERY PROJECTS THAT INJECT DRINKING WATER INTO GROUNDWATER

WHEREAS:

1. The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) prepared and circulated draft General Waste Discharge Requirements for Aquifer Storage and Recovery Projects that Inject Drinking Water into Groundwater (General Order).
2. The State Water Board considered comments received on the draft General Order.
3. The State Water Board prepared an Initial Study and Notice of Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration (State Clearing House No. 2012082055 and circulated these for public review on August 13, 2012, pursuant to the California Code of Regulations, title 14, sections 15072 and 15073.
4. After considering comments received on the Initial Study, the State Water Board determined based on the reasons specified in the Initial Study that the proposed project, the adoption of the General Order, will have a less than significant effect on the environment and will not result in significant cumulative impact; and that specific requirements in the General Order will mitigate any potential adverse impacts.
5. The documents and other material that constitute the record for the project are located in files held by the State Water Board.
6. The State Water Board will file a Notice of Determination for this project with the Governor's Office of Planning and Research within five days from issuance of this resolution in accordance with the California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15075.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The State Water Board:

1. Approves the [Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration](#) for the General Order; and
2. Adopts the [General Order](#).

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 September 19, 2012.

Jeanine Townsend
Clerk to the Board