

**STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD  
BOARD MEETING SESSION – DIVISION OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE  
AUGUST 19, 2014**

**ITEM 5**

**SUBJECT**

CONSIDERATION OF A PROPOSED RESOLUTION TO ADOPT THE DROUGHT RESPONSE OUTREACH PROGRAM FOR SCHOOLS (DROPS) GUIDELINES (GUIDELINES)

**DISCUSSION**

To comply with the Governor's declaration of a Drought State of Emergency, the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) is proposing to repurpose approximately \$26 million of unallocated grant funds from Proposition 13<sup>1</sup> and Proposition 40<sup>2</sup> for DROPS. Additional funds from Propositions 13, 40, 50<sup>3</sup>, and 84<sup>4</sup> may be used if made available. DROPS is specifically focused on projects that reduce stormwater pollution and provide multiple benefits. [Draft guidelines](#) were developed to establish the process and criteria that the Division of Financial Assistance (Division) will use to solicit applications, evaluate and rank proposals, and recommend projects for DROPS. These Guidelines include the information and documentation that applicants will be required to submit when applying for grant funding.

Division staff engaged stakeholders in the development of these Guidelines through several venues between April and July 2014. Staff held or participated in the following workshops and meetings to obtain stakeholder input:

- ❖ Meeting with the Division of the State Architect (April 23, 2014).
- ❖ Meeting with California Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools Program staff (April 28, 2014).
- ❖ Meeting with California Department of Public Health staff regarding the Improving Access to Water in Schools Initiative (April 29, 2014).
- ❖ Conference call with Russian RiverKeeper regarding the Clean Campus, Clean Creeks Program (May 6, 2014).
- ❖ Meeting with selected school facility and agency stakeholders (May 7, 2014).
- ❖ Meeting with Los Angeles Environmental Action Network (coalition of Environmental Justice (EJ) representatives) and Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) (May 13, 2014).
- ❖ Presentation to California Environmental Education Information Network (CEEIN) (May 15, 2014).

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<sup>1</sup> Proposition 13 – Safe Drinking Water, Clean Water, Watershed Protection, and Flood Protection Act of 2000.

<sup>2</sup> Proposition 40 - California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks, and Coastal Protection Act of 2002.

<sup>3</sup> Proposition 50 – Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Act of 2002.

<sup>4</sup> Proposition 84 – Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2006

- ❖ Presentation to Coalition for Adequate School Housing (CASH) (April 23, 2014). Workshop with CASH (May 27, 2014). Presentation to CASH in Sacramento (June 24, 2014) and in Ontario (June 27, 2014).
- ❖ Conference call with LAUSD (June 4, 2014).
- ❖ Conference call with EJ and Disadvantaged Community (DAC) representatives from the Central and Salinas Valley areas (June 5, 2014).
- ❖ Draft Guidelines workshops and webinars in Sacramento (June 24, 2014) and San Diego (July 8, 2014)

Throughout these events, Division staff solicited input in areas such as: eligible applicants, eligible projects, required match amounts, minimum and maximum grant amounts, funding set-asides, project preferences, grant solicitation process, and scoring criteria. Staff also discussed providing technical/planning assistance for disadvantaged schools and set-asides.

In addition, interested parties were notified of the availability of the draft Guidelines via the State Water Board's LYRIS e-mail lists, and the draft Guidelines were posted on the State Water Board website for public review and feedback.

The Guidelines establish a one-step proposal solicitation process. Applicants will submit their proposal through the State Water Board's on-line Financial Assistance Application Submittal Tool. Technical staff will review the submitted proposals and rank the projects based on the scoring criteria in the Guidelines. Division staff will develop a Recommended Funding List and forward it to the Executive Director for approval.

The Guidelines propose specific set-asides for Disadvantaged Schools, the Los Angeles Unified School District and for technical assistance for DROPS applicants.

## **POLICY ISSUE**

Should the State Water Board:

1. Adopt the DROPS Guidelines?
2. Authorize the Deputy Director of the Division to approve proposed projects, and execute grant agreements and amendments to implement the proposed projects?
3. Authorize the Deputy Director of the Division to utilize funds from projects which are withdrawn or completed under budget to fund additional projects, or augment the scope of and budget of projects previously awarded, consistent with the amounts established by the Guidelines?
4. Authorize the Deputy Director of the Division to utilize additional funds from Propositions 13, 40, 50, and 84 that become available from new appropriations or projects that withdraw or do not utilize all of their funds, for additional DROPS projects?
5. Authorize the Deputy Director of the Division to withdraw grant awards if applicants are non-responsive?

## **FISCAL IMPACT**

Approximately \$26 million are available from unallocated Propositions 13 and Proposition 40 funds. These are remaining Proposition 13 funds from the Watershed Protection Program (approximately \$6.9 million), Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Program (approximately \$18.4 million), and remaining Proposition 40 funds (approximately \$1.1 million). Additional funds from Propositions 13, 40, 50, and 84 may be used if made available due to new appropriations, projects withdrawal, or projects completed under budget.

## **REGIONAL BOARD IMPACT**

Yes, all Regional Water Boards. Regional Board staff will assist in the review and scoring process to the extent they can, using existing resources.

## **HUMAN RIGHT TO WATER ANALYSIS**

Staff has considered Section 106.3 of the Water Code (added by Assembly Bill 685 [Stats. 2012, ch. 524]). This proposed action indirectly supports the Human Right to Water because it will assist schools in disadvantaged areas with reducing stormwater pollution, and capturing stormwater for reuse or infiltration, thereby potentially reducing demand on potable water supplies.

## **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

That the State Water Board:

1. Adopt the DROPS Guidelines;
2. Authorize the Deputy Director of the Division to approve proposed projects, and execute grant agreements and amendments to implement the proposed projects;
3. Authorize the Deputy Director of the Division to utilize funds from projects which are withdrawn or completed under budget to fund additional projects, or augment the scope of and budget of projects previously awarded, consistent with the amounts established by the Guidelines;
4. Authorize the Deputy Director of the Division to utilize additional funds from Propositions 13, 40, 50, and 84 that become available from new appropriations or projects that withdraw or do not utilize all of their funds, for additional DROPS projects; and
5. Authorize the Deputy Director of the Division to withdraw grant awards if applicants are non-responsive.

<p>State Water Board action on this item will assist the Water Boards in reaching Goal 1 of the Strategic Plan Update: 2008-2012 to implement strategies to fully support the beneficial uses for all 2006-listed water bodies by 2030. In particular, approval of this item will manage urban runoff to reduce pollutants loadings.</p>
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# DRAFT

## STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD RESOLUTION NO. 2014-

### ADOPTION OF THE DROUGHT RESPONSE OUTREACH PROGRAM FOR SCHOOLS (DROPS) GUIDELINES (GUIDELINES)

#### WHEREAS:

1. The Governor issued a Drought State of Emergency on January 17, 2014 directing the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) to repurpose any existing unspent funds to enable near-term water conservation projects;
2. The State Water Board is authorized to administer approximately \$26 million in unallocated bond funds from Proposition 13 (approximately \$25 million) and Proposition 40 (approximately \$1.1 million) for implementation projects;
3. The State Water Board is also authorized to administer funds from Propositions 50 and 84. All funds have been awarded, but some funds may become available due to projects that withdraw or to projects completed under budget;
4. The State Water Board has considered input from partner agencies, a broad spectrum of stakeholders, and the public regarding the development and implementation of the DROPS through public scoping workshops held in June and July 2014, associated meetings, input received through the State Water Board website, and posting of the draft Guidelines on the State Water Board's website for public comment;
5. Implementation of Low Impact Development techniques is a desired outcome outlined in the State Water Board's Strategic Plan Update: 2008-2012; and
6. The Guidelines establish the DROPS criteria, and the review and selection process for obtaining DROPS grant funds.

#### THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

#### The State Water Board:

1. Adopts the [DROPS Guidelines](#);
2. Authorizes the Deputy Director of the Division of Financial Assistance (Division) to approve proposed projects, and execute grant agreements and amendments to implement the proposed projects;
3. Authorizes the Deputy Director of the Division to utilize funds from projects which are withdrawn or completed under budget to fund additional projects, or augment the scope of and budget of projects previously awarded, consistent with the amounts established by the Guidelines;

# **D R A F T**

4. Authorizes the Deputy Director of the Division to augment project budgets, consistent with the amounts established by the Guidelines, if funds are available;
5. Authorizes the Deputy Director of the Division to utilize additional funds from Propositions 13, 40, 50, and 84 that become available from new appropriations or projects that withdraw or do not utilize all of their funds, for additional DROPS projects; and
6. Authorizes the Deputy Director of the Division to withdraw grant awards if applicants are non-responsive.

## **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 August 19, 2014.

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Jeanine Townsend  
Clerk to the Board