

**STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD  
BOARD MEETING SESSION – DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES  
DECEMBER 2, 2014**

**ITEM 7**

**SUBJECT**

PRESENTATION ON WATER QUALITY FEES STAKEHOLDER PROCESS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015-16.

**DISCUSSION**

At the September 23, 2014 meeting, Board members requested that staff work to improve the stakeholder process for water quality fees. Stakeholders and Board members raised concerns about the timing and number of meetings and the lack of communication and collaboration with stakeholders. Similar concerns have also been raised in regards to the water rights fees stakeholder process. Staff has developed a draft plan ([Attachment 1](#)) to address these issues and ensure that the improved process is a true collaboration with the stakeholders. Staff is planning to review the current process water rights fees stakeholder process and implement the proposed changes as appropriate.

The improved process will incorporate an increased number of stakeholder meetings to take place throughout the year and staff will strive to be as transparent as possible while working within the constraints of the confidential budget process. At the direction of the Board Members, staff plans to meet separately with dairy stakeholders to get feedback and address their program-specific fee issues. Staff will use the dairy stakeholder process as a template for developing similar groups for the other Waste Discharge Permit Fund programs. The program-specific groups will require participation from program, and possibly Regional Board, staff to address stakeholder questions and to provide pertinent program data.

In the coming months, staff will be requesting feedback from stakeholders to better develop and refine the State Board's process. Staff will also be reaching out to other state agencies to obtain information on their stakeholder processes to evaluate ways to improve the State Board's process.

**POLICY ISSUE**

This is an information item only.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

This is an information item only.

**REGIONAL BOARD IMPACT**

Regional Board staff may be required to participate in the stakeholder process as needed.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

None (information item only).