

**STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
BOARD MEETING SESSION – DIVISION OF WATER QUALITY
NOVEMBER 4, 2014**

ITEM 4

SUBJECT

CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OR DESIGNEE TO ENTER INTO CONTRACTS TO CONTINUE AND ENHANCE THE GROUNDWATER AMBIENT MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT PROGRAM

DISCUSSION

The Groundwater Quality Monitoring Act of 2001 (Water Code section 10780 et seq.) resulted in development of a statewide comprehensive groundwater quality monitoring program to establish baseline groundwater quality information and groundwater quality trends, and to increase the availability of groundwater quality information to the public.

The Groundwater Ambient Monitoring and Assessment (GAMA) Program includes priority basin assessments, domestic well sampling, the GeoTracker GAMA groundwater information system, and special groundwater quality studies such as shallow groundwater assessments. The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) implements the GAMA Program through contract agreements with the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) and Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL), as well as contract agreements for GeoTracker GAMA maintenance and enhancement, and domestic well laboratory analyses.

The GAMA Program is funded by waste discharge permit fees as authorized by the California Code of Regulations, title 23, section 2200. Initially, contract funding for Fiscal Year 2013-14 was \$1,322,690 from the Waste Discharge Permit Fund (WDPF). However, on March 1, 2014, the Governor signed emergency drought relief legislation which identified additional GAMA Program funding of \$1,200,000 for Fiscal Year 2013-14 and \$1,800,000 for Fiscal Year 2014-15. Based on the Budget Act of 2014, the authorized expenditure authority for GAMA Program contracts from the WDPF is \$3,102,690 for Fiscal Year 2014-15.

The 2014-2015 Fiscal Year funding will be used to continue and enhance the GAMA Program by: (1) supporting the Priority Basin Project through contracts with USGS and LLNL to provide a comprehensive assessment of groundwater quality in aquifers used for public drinking water, as identified in the Water Action Plan of the Governor's Budget Summary 2014-15, (2) coordinating with Regional Water Boards to identify and perform essential special groundwater quality projects, and (3) working with agencies and stakeholder entities to make more groundwater information available to the public for use in groundwater protection efforts such as salt/nutrient management planning and antidegradation analyses.

POLICY ISSUE

Should the State Water Board adopt a resolution authorizing the Executive Director or designee to enter into contracts and any amendments thereto, not to exceed \$3,102,690 to continue to implement and enhance the GAMA Program?

FISCAL IMPACT

The funds available from the WDPF are \$3,102,690. State Water Board staff work associated with this action can be accomplished within budgeted resources.

REGIONAL BOARD IMPACT

None.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

That the State Water Board adopt a resolution authorizing the Executive Director or designee to enter into contracts and any amendments thereto, not to exceed \$3,102,690 to continue and enhance the GAMA Program.

<p>State Water Board action on this item will assist the Water Boards in reaching Goal 5 of the Strategic Plan Update: 2008-2012 to enhance and improve accessibility of groundwater quality information. Approval of this item will assist in fulfilling Objective/Action 5.2.2 to advance the Groundwater Quality Monitoring Act of 2001 and develop online public reports and query tools.</p>

D R A F T

STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD RESOLUTION NO. 2014-

**AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OR DESIGNEE TO ENTER INTO CONTRACTS
TO CONTINUE AND ENHANCE THE GROUNDWATER AMBIENT MONITORING AND
ASSESSMENT PROGRAM**

WHEREAS:

1. The Groundwater Quality Monitoring Act of 2001 (Water Code section 10780 et seq.) required the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) to develop a statewide comprehensive groundwater quality monitoring program as part of its Groundwater Ambient Monitoring and Assessment (GAMA) Program.
2. Expenditure authority for GAMA Program contracts included in the Fiscal Year 2014-15 budget totals \$3,102,690 from the Waste Discharge Permit Fund. This total includes funding based the emergency drought relief legislation signed by the Governor on March 1, 2014, and the Budget Act of 2014.
3. The GAMA Program proposes to use these funds to continue and enhance the GAMA Program by: (1) supporting the Priority Basin Project to provide a comprehensive assessment of groundwater quality in drinking water aquifers, (2) coordinating with Regional Water Boards to identify and perform essential special groundwater quality projects, and (3) working with agencies and stakeholder entities to make more groundwater information available to the public. The State Water Board implements GAMA Program projects through collaboration with the U.S. Geological Survey and Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in contract agreements, as well as contracts for GeoTracker GAMA information system maintenance and enhancement, and domestic well laboratory analyses.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The State Water Board authorizes the Executive Director or designee to enter into contracts and any amendments thereto, not to exceed \$3,102,690 to continue and enhance the GAMA Program.

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 November 4, 2014.

Jeanine Townsend
Clerk to the Board