

**STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
BOARD MEETING SESSION – DIVISION OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
OCTOBER 7, 2014**

ITEM 5

SUBJECT

CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION TO COMMIT \$250,000 FROM THE DROUGHT RESPONSE OUTREACH PROGRAM FOR SCHOOLS (DROPS) PROGRAM FUNDS FOR A TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROJECT (PROJECT)

DISCUSSION

To comply with the Governor's declaration of a Drought State of Emergency, the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) has repurposed approximately \$26 million of unallocated grant funds from Proposition 13¹ and Proposition 40² for DROPS. DROPS is specifically focused on projects that reduce stormwater pollution with an emphasis on projects that capture, treat, infiltrate and manage stormwater while providing multiple benefits.

Guidelines for the DROPS program were adopted by the State Water Board on August 19, 2014 ([Resolution 2014-0044](#)). The guidelines established a Technical Assistance Set-Aside grant for the purpose of providing assistance to applicants, especially applicants from disadvantaged schools (DASs), to develop conceptual project designs. The technical assistance may consist of, but is not limited to, the following: 1) develop uniform planning specifications, 2) conduct a training webinar, and/or 3) provide application assistance to qualified DASs.

The Council for Watershed Health, a non-profit organization, has agreed to be the Project grant recipient and partner with the Low Impact Development Initiative (LIDI) to provide the services outlined in the Technical Assistance Set-Aside section of the guidelines. The total cost of the Project is estimated to be \$250,000, with no required matching funds. Any funds not used by the Project will be made available to other DROPS projects.

POLICY ISSUE

Should the State Water Board:

1. Approve up to \$250,000 with no match requirement in DROPS Program funds for the proposed DROPS Technical Assistance Project?
2. Authorize the Deputy Director of the Division of Financial Assistance (Division) to execute the grant agreement and amendments to implement the Project?
3. Authorize the Deputy Director of the Division to withdraw grant awards if the applicant is non-responsive?

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

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

FISCAL IMPACT

Approximately \$26 million are available for the DROPS program from unallocated Propositions 13 and Proposition 40 funds.

REGIONAL BOARD IMPACT

No. Division staff will manage the Project.

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 provide technical assistance with reducing stormwater pollution, and capturing stormwater for reuse or infiltration, thereby potentially reducing demand on potable water supplies to schools in disadvantaged areas.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

That the State Water Board:

1. Approve up to \$250,000 with no match requirement in DROPS Program funds for the proposed DROPS Technical Assistance Project.
2. Authorize the Deputy Director of the Division to execute the grant agreement and amendments to implement the Project; and
3. Authorize the Deputy Director of the Division to withdraw grant awards if the applicant is 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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STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD RESOLUTION NO. 2014-

TO COMMIT \$250,000 FROM DROUGHT RESPONSE OUTREACH PROGRAM
FOR SCHOOLS (DROPS) PROGRAM FUNDS FOR A TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE
PROJECT (PROJECT)

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 DROPS Projects;
3. The adopted DROPS Guidelines establish the DROPS criteria, and designate a Technical Assistance Set-Aside of up to \$250,000 to be awarded as a grant to provide technical assistance to DROPS applicants;
4. The Council for Watershed Health, a non-profit organization, has agreed to be the Project grant recipient and partner with the Low Impact Development Initiative (LIDI) to provide the services outlined in the Technical Assistance Set-aside section of the Guidelines. The total cost of the Project is estimated to be \$250,000, with no required matching funds. Any funds not used by the Project will be made available to other DROPS projects.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The State Water Board:

1. Approves up to \$250,000 with no match requirement in DROPS Program grant funds for the proposed DROPS Technical Assistance Project.
2. Authorizes the Deputy Director of the Division of Financial Assistance (Division) to execute the grant agreement and amendments to implement the Project; and
3. Authorizes the Deputy Director of the Division to withdraw grant awards if the applicant is 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 October 7, 2014.

Jeanine Townsend
Clerk to the Board