

**STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
BOARD MEETING SESSION – DIVISION OF DRINKING WATER
SEPTEMBER 23, 2014**

ITEM 3

SUBJECT

CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OR DESIGNEE TO APPLY FOR, ACCEPT, AND/OR AMEND A FEDERAL SAFE DRINKING WATER ACT SECTION 1443(a) GRANT

DISCUSSION

Section 1443(a) of the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) authorizes the appropriation of monies for federal grants to assist states in administering their Public Water System Supervision (PWSS) programs. Prior to the transition of the drinking water program to the State Water Board, the California Department of Public Health annually filed an application with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) for a continuing annual grant under the SDWA section 1443(a) to support implementation of California's PWSS program to enforce the requirements of the SDWA and ensure that public water systems comply with the National Primary Drinking Water Regulations. As of July 1, 2014, the State Water Board is responsible for administering the PWSS program.

The U.S. EPA has indicated that a preliminary grant total of \$7,061,000 in SDWA Section 1443(a) grant funds will be available in Federal FY 2015 for the State Water Board's PWSS program. Funds will be used for activities including adopting regulations to meet Federal Rules, implement a capacity development and operator certification program to ensure public water systems comply with drinking water regulations, maintain a quality assurance management plan and lab certification program, conduct inspections and issue enforcement actions for non-compliant systems, and maintain an emergency plan for providing safe drinking water under emergency circumstances. Staff and contract resources from the section 1443(a) grant will contribute significantly to meeting these needs.

POLICY ISSUE

Should the State Water Board authorize the Executive Director or his designee to apply for and accept a FY2015/16 SDWA 1443(a) PWSS grant funds and to negotiate, approve, and/or amend the grants and associated workplans?

FISCAL IMPACT

None. Existing Division of Drinking Water budget authority is sufficient to accommodate the anticipated grant.

REGIONAL BOARD IMPACT

None.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

The State Water Board should adopt the proposed resolution.

Goal 4 of the State Water Board's strategic plan is to, "Comprehensively address water quality protection and restoration, and the relationship between water supply and water quality..." A key implementation element to achieving this goal is to develop comprehensive regulations, update regulations in a timely fashion to keep them current, and incorporate stakeholder interests as an integral part of the regulation development process. Funding from this grant will help achieve this goal.

D R A F T

STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD RESOLUTION NO. 2014-

AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OR DESIGNEE TO APPLY FOR, ACCEPT, AND/OR AMEND A FEDERAL SAFE DRINKING WATER ACT SECTION 1443(a) GRANT

WHEREAS:

1. Section 1443(a) of the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) authorizes the appropriation of funds for federal grants to assist states in administering their Public Water System Supervision (PWSS) programs.
2. A total grant not to exceed \$7,100,000 will be available in FY 2015/16 for funding the State Water Board's PWSS program.
3. The SDWA grant assists the State Water Board in adopting regulations to meet Federal Rules, implement a capacity development and operator certification program to ensure public water systems comply with drinking water regulations, maintain a quality assurance management plan and lab certification program, conduct inspections and issue enforcement actions for non-compliant systems, and maintain an emergency plan for providing safe drinking water under emergency circumstances.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The State Water Board:

Authorizes the Executive Director to:

1. Apply for and accept a Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2015 SDWA section 1443(a) grant for an amount not to exceed \$7,100,000; and
2. Negotiate, approve, and/or amend the grant and the workplan.

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 23, 2014.

Jeanine Townsend
Clerk to the Board