STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
BOARD MEETING SESSION – DIVISION OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
NOVEMBER 4, 2015

ITEM 5

SUBJECT

REPORT ON THE PREDICTIVE MODELS OF BEACH WATER QUALITY PROJECT

DISCUSSION

The State Water Resources Control Board provided $586,600 in Proposition 50 funding through its Clean Beaches Initiative Grant Program to Heal the Bay for the Predictive Models of Beach Water Quality Project (Project). The Project is to design and test predictive models for public notification of water quality conditions at California beaches. Phase I of the Project developed and tested predictive models using data on fecal indicator bacteria concentrations, and oceanic and atmospheric conditions. The Project then developed simple models for 25 different California beaches that predict when beaches are in and out of compliance with water quality standards. The results of Phase I clearly showed that models can improve public notification at California beaches.

Phase II of the Project is on-going, and includes piloting water quality forecasting models at Doheny State Beach in Orange County, the Santa Monica Municipal Pier in Los Angeles County, and Arroyo Burro Beach in Santa Barbara County. The Project team worked with local beach managers to develop protocols for using forecast models, create a public notification program, and then test the capability of the models. It will also include public outreach and recommendations for implementing forecasting models throughout California.

Representatives of the University of California, Los Angeles and Stanford University will present an overview of the Project, the status of the Phase II work, and potential applications for future use.

POLICY ISSUE

N/A – Informational Item only

FISCAL IMPACT

N/A – Informational Item only

REGIONAL BOARD IMPACT

N/A – Informational Item only