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**STATE WATER BOARD COMMITS A PORTION OF \$270 MILLION IN
ECONOMIC STIMULUS FUNDS TO HALTED WATER BOND PROJECTS**
Jobs are created as water quality is protected

(Sacramento, CA) The State Water Board has notified local governments, non profits, University of California campuses and Resource Conservation Districts that approximately \$70 million in federal economic stimulus funds have been earmarked for many water quality projects that were halted due to the suspension of water bond funding.

The State Water Board expects to start distributing the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds in May. It has offered the money to approximately 75 projects that include (but are not limited to), storm water diversion, wetland and creek restoration, and septic system replacement. In order to be eligible for the funding, projects must be ready to restart by May 17, 2009. The State Water Board will start distributing funding to projects in May. It is estimated that more than 1,000 jobs will be created this year as a result of the restarted projects.

“The State Water Board identified these shovel-ready projects so we can both get people back to work and protect water quality,” said Dorothy Rice, Executive Director of the State Water Board. “Even in routine years, we handle a quarter-billion dollars in loans for these important purposes. This year, the need is more urgent and our staff started early to identify potential recipients so that we can distribute the federal money quickly and responsibly.”

In addition to economic stimulus funds being spent on halted water bond projects, another \$70 million in grants will be distributed to disadvantaged communities (median household incomes of \$46,731, which is less than 80% of the statewide median household income.)

State Water Board staff is finalizing the eligibility list for infrastructure projects that will include building and repairing wastewater (sewage) treatment systems. Construction on the first projects is expected to begin this May, Staff is also in the process of identifying other eligible projects for possible funding from the remaining \$130 million dollars in federal economic stimulus funds that the State Water Board will receive for projects to protect water quality and to increase employment.

The State Water Board, which conducted eight statewide workshops in anticipation of receiving the federal funds, has been providing low interest loans from the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) for qualified projects since 1987, with funding from the state and federal governments. The purpose of the CWSRF is to implement the Clean

Water Act and various state laws by providing financial assistance to address water quality problems and to prevent pollution in California waterways.

For more information on projects that are on the priority list, go to:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/grants_loans/srf/docs/listpotential_arra_fundedprojects4.pdf.

and to:

<https://faast.waterboards.ca.gov/PublicProposalsDetails.asp> and insert the stopped grant agreement number in the field "Agreement #" located at the bottom of the page and press the "Search" button.