STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
RESOLUTION NO. 2007-0059

APPROVAL TO DEVELOP ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND CONSIDER ACTIONS PERTAINING TO CLIMATE CHANGE AND WATER RESOURCES

WHEREAS:

1. Climate change is predicted to alter water availability with consequential adverse impacts to water quality, water temperature, and the ability to meet water right allocations.

2. The Water Boards recognize that their actions and the programs that they administer may contribute to future Greenhouse Gas emissions and/or may require adaptations to accommodate climate change.

3. The Water Boards are committed to careful consideration of climate change strategies to further our ability to preserve, enhance, and restore the quality of California's water resources, and to ensure their proper allocation and efficient use for the benefit of present and future generations.

4. Assembly Bill 32, The California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006, signed by the Governor on September 27, 2006, states that all state agencies shall consider and implement strategies to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions.

5. On August 23, 2007, the State Water Board and the Department of Water Resources held a joint workshop soliciting suggestions to reduce Greenhouse Gas emissions and identify adaptations to accommodate changing climatic conditions.

6. Suggestions presented at the joint workshop were extensive, including but not limited to, water-energy relationships, water recycling and conservation, water quality regulation, basin planning, Best Management Practices, and land use policies.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. In partnership with the Department of Water Resources, State Water Board staff shall evaluate the input received from the August 23, 2007 joint meeting on Climate Change to identify.

    - Which specific strategies are primarily the responsibility of either the Water Boards or the Department of Water Resources for independent consideration;

- Which specific strategies are the responsibility of both agencies or cannot be considered without the input of both agencies.

For those strategies that are within the responsibilities of both agencies, staff shall jointly analyze the suggested strategies and determine their appropriateness for consideration as Climate Action Team initiatives.

2. Regional Water Boards are encouraged to work with local stakeholders to refine local actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and the impacts of climate change.

3. The State Water Board's Office of Research, Planning & Performance will convene an internal working group of staff participating on the Climate Action Team subgroups to facilitate communication and collaboration on climate action strategies being considered by the Water Board's programs.

4. State Water Board staff will develop approaches for evaluating the potential contribution of Greenhouse Gas emissions and potential adaptation strategies that should be considered as a component of the Water Boards' decisions or actions.

5. The Water Boards' Training Academy will develop, in consultation with the Air Resources Board and the Department of Water Resources, training on the potential impacts that climate change will have on Water Board programs and approaches for taking these impacts into consideration.

6. The State Water Board supports and encourages the development and implementation of regional pilot projects to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and demonstrate adaptation strategies that can be replicated statewide. To the extent practical, these projects should take advantage of initiatives where significant progress is already being made.

7. The State Water Board supports implementation of the Bio-energy Action Plan for California dated July 2006 and renews its commitments in this plan to:

   - Identify clear and consistent procedures that are used to protect water quality from the harvesting of biomass harvesting and biomass facilities.
   - Conduct prompt reviews of planning documents, environmental documents prepared under the California Environmental Quality Act, and monitoring proposals for biomass harvesting and biomass facilities.
   - Work in cooperation with the Department of Forestry and Department of Food and Agriculture to ensure that adequate criteria for water protection and water quality are put in place on agricultural and forest lands in California.

8. State Water Board staff shall provide a status report in January 2008, summarizing progress in implementing the actions contained in this resolution. The status report shall provide recommendations for near-term actions the State Water Board could take to address greenhouse gas emissions.

9. The State Water Board recognizes the importance of the 2008 Strategic Plan update and directs staff, as part of the update process, to review and recommend modification of actions under this resolution as appropriate to ensure that climate change and other board priorities are appropriately balanced and integrated.

10. Directs staff to continue work with Cal/EPA, the Climate Action Team, and the Air Resources Board too assist on early actions and AB32 scoping plan.

CERTIFICATION

The undersigned, Acting 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 18, 2007.

AYE: Tam M. Doduc
Gary Wolff, P.E., Ph.D.
Arthur G. Baggett, Jr.
Frances Spivy-Weber
Charles R. Hoppin

NO: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

Jeanine Townsend
Acting Clerk to the Board