

STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
BOARD MEETING – DIVISION OF WATER QUALITY
JULY 21, 2005

ITEM 5

SUBJECT

CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF CONTRACTS AND AMENDMENTS TO IMPLEMENT STATEWIDE COMPREHENSIVE GROUNDWATER QUALITY MONITORING IN THE GROUNDWATER AMBIENT MONITORING ASSESSMENT (GAMA) PROGRAM

DISCUSSION

Assembly Bill 599 (AB 599) established the Groundwater Quality Monitoring Act of 2001 which required that the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board), in coordination with an Interagency Task Force (ITF) and Public Advisory Committee (PAC), to integrate existing monitoring programs and design new program elements, as necessary, to establish a statewide comprehensive groundwater quality monitoring program. In response, the State Water Board has developed a plan for implementing a program to comprehensively monitor and assess the quality of all groundwater basins in the State. As required by AB 599, the groundwater quality monitoring program builds on State Water Board's GAMA program. The program is detailed in the AB 599 Report to the Governor and Legislature, released by the Governor in November 2003. The key elements of the program include:

1. Accelerating the GAMA Program established by the State Water Board pursuant to the Budget Act of 1999. The program assesses each groundwater basin through direct and other statistically reliable sampling approaches and enhances the water quality information currently collected from public supply wells through the additional testing of those wells for groundwater age-dating and low-level constituents (including volatile organic compounds). This information is then used as the basis for developing consistent hydrogeologic assessments for each basin or basin groups.
2. Conducting the monitoring and assessment program in accordance with the prioritization of basins set forth in the AB 599 Report to the Governor and Legislature. A water use criterion places those basins most heavily used for drinking water in first priority.
3. Expanding the State Water Board's Geotracker as the database for housing, managing, and assessing groundwater information for the statewide comprehensive groundwater quality monitoring program and providing useful access to monitoring and assessment information to the public.

The statewide comprehensive groundwater quality monitoring program is estimated to cost \$50 million over a 10-year time frame. Two fund sources, Proposition 50 bond funds and Waste

Discharge Permit Fund, totaling \$12,165,000 (Fiscal Year (FY) 2004 – 05: \$835,000; FY 2005-06: \$11,330,000), have been identified for statewide groundwater quality monitoring:

Proposition 50	The Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Act of 2002 (2002 Bond Law) provides for implementation of the statewide groundwater quality monitoring program.	\$ 835,000 \$10,000,000	FY 04-05 FY 05-06
Title 23, Section 2200 (waste discharge permit fees)	Includes an Ambient Water Monitoring Surcharge and has been allocated to replace General Fund contracts to implement the GAMA program.	\$1,330,000	Annually

POLICY ISSUE

Should the State Water Board adopt a resolution authorizing the Executive Director to enter into a contract(s) and any amendments thereto, not to exceed \$12,165,000, to implement statewide comprehensive groundwater quality monitoring in the GAMA program?

FISCAL IMPACT

Proposition 50 provides for \$10,835,000 for implementation of the statewide groundwater quality monitoring program. In addition, Title 23, Section 2200 (waste discharge fees) has been amended to include an Ambient Water Monitoring Surcharge and \$1,330,000 annually has been allocated to replace General Fund contracts to implement the GAMA program.

California Water Board staff work associated with or resulting from this action can be accomplished within budgeted resources.

REGIONAL WATER BOARD IMPACT

None.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

That the State Water Board adopt a resolution authorizing the Executive Director to enter into a contract(s) and any amendments thereto, not to exceed \$12,165,000, to implement the Statewide Comprehensive Groundwater Quality Monitoring Program.

STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
RESOLUTION NO. 2005 -

CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF CONTRACTS
AND AMENDMENTS TO IMPLEMENT STATEWIDE COMPREHENSIVE
GROUNDWATER QUALITY MONITORING IN THE GROUNDWATER AMBIENT
MONITORING ASSESSMENT (GAMA) PROGRAM

WHEREAS:

1. The mission of the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) is to preserve and enhance the quality of California's water resources, and ensure their proper allocation and efficient use for the benefit of present and future generations;
2. Ambient water quality monitoring provides valuable information to assess the potential impacts of pollutants on the beneficial uses of water;
3. Assembly Bill 599 required the State Water Board to develop a statewide groundwater quality monitoring program that builds on State Water Board's GAMA program and designs new elements to establish a program capable of assessing each groundwater basin through direct and other statistically reliable sampling approaches;
4. Proposition 50 provides for \$10,835,000 for implementation of the statewide groundwater quality monitoring program. In addition, Title 23, Section 2200 (waste discharge fees) has been amended to include an Ambient Water Monitoring Surcharge and \$1,330,000 annually has been allocated to replace General Fund contracts to implement the GAMA program; and
5. Expenditure authority for this agreement is included in the budget.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The State Water Resources Control Board authorizes the Executive Director to enter into a contract(s) and any amendments thereto, not to exceed \$12,165,000, to implement the statewide groundwater quality monitoring program.

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 July 21, 2005.

Debbie Irvin
Clerk to the Board