

**STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
BOARD MEETING SESSION – DIVISION OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
JANUARY 15, 2008**

ITEM 3

SUBJECT

CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION FOR AUTHORIZATION TO ALLOCATE AN ADDITIONAL \$287,000 FROM THE CLEANUP AND ABATEMENT ACCOUNT (CAA) TO THE LAHONTAN REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD (REGIONAL WATER BOARD) FOR THE LAKE TAHOE RUNOFF TREATMENT AND MONITORING PROJECT

DISCUSSION

The Regional Water Board is requesting \$287,000 for emergency work to treat and monitor turbid runoff from the Angora Fire in South Lake Tahoe that burned 3,100 acres of forest and destroyed 254 homes. This request will supplement a previous CAA allocation of \$93,000 to treat and monitor the first three months of the water year.

The U.S. Forest Service Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit put together a Burn Area Emergency Response (BAER) Team to evaluate threats to human life and the natural ecosystem posed by the Angora fire. The BAER teams found that within the burn area 76 percent of soils were hydrophobic. There is a high probability that post-fire flows from the first runoff producing rain events will see ash discharged from the burn area downstream toward the Upper Truckee River and South Lake Tahoe. Surface runoff of sediment and nutrient can be significant in lands disturbed by wildfire and may exacerbate Lake Tahoe's extraordinary clarity loss.

Many agencies are implementing erosion control and infrastructure protection within the area. The Forest Service has completed hydromulching and soil protection within portions of the burn area. El Dorado County, with support from the California Tahoe Conservancy, California Conservation Corps, Natural Resource Conservation District, and California Integrated Waste Management Board, have completed structural debris removal, installation of some erosion control measures, some tree removal, and some visual water quality monitoring within the subdivision area affected by the fire. The Forest Service and the California Tahoe Conservancy have completed tree removal, erosion control and restoration on its urban lots. El Dorado County and the City of South Lake Tahoe, with State and Local funds, plan to enlarge storm water retention basins and retrofit stormwater infrastructure. In addition, the county will install a temporary dam structure on Angora Creek.

The funds will be used to mobilize and operate a portable sand filter designed to treat metals and fine sediment from Angora Creek at Lake Tahoe Boulevard and will cover increased maintenance needed to keep stormwater infrastructure below the burn area functioning effectively. Additional funds will be used to assess water quality and treatment effectiveness of the sand filter.

The requested allocation is consistent with the purposes of Water Code section 13442. Water Code section 13442 provides that the State Water Board may order moneys to be paid from the CAA to a public agency with authority to cleanup or abate the effects of a waste in order "to assist in cleaning up the waste or abating its effects on waters of the state."

POLICY ISSUES

Should the State Water Board approve the additional funds, \$287,000, from the CAA for the Lake Tahoe Runoff Treatment and Monitoring Project?

FISCAL IMPACT

Approving \$287,000 for this Project will leave approximately an uncommitted balance of \$2,746,064 in the CAA.

REGIONAL BOARD IMPACT

This item has the support of the Regional Water Board.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

The State Water Board should approve the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board's request for \$287,000 to treat and monitor watershed and lake effects from the Angora burn area.

D R A F T
STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
RESOLUTION NO. 2008-

AUTHORIZATION TO ALLOCATE AN ADDITIONAL \$287,000 FROM THE CLEANUP AND
ABATEMENT ACCOUNT (CAA) TO THE LAHONTAN REGIONAL WATER QUALITY
CONTROL BOARD (REGIONAL WATER BOARD) FOR THE LAKE TAHOE RUNOFF
TREATMENT AND MONITORING PROJECT

WHEREAS:

1. The Regional Water Board requests \$287,000 for work to treat and monitor turbid runoff resulting from the Angora Fire in South Lake Tahoe that burned 3,100 acres of forest and destroyed 254 homes. This request will supplement a previous CAA allocation of \$93,000 to treat and monitor for the initial three months.
2. The Burn Area Emergency Response (BAER) Team found that within the burn area 76 percent of soils were hydrophobic and there is a high probability that post-fire flows from the first runoff producing rain events will see ash discharged from the burn area downstream toward the Upper Truckee River and South Lake Tahoe. Surface runoff of sediment and nutrients can be significant in lands disturbed by wildfire and may exacerbate Lake Tahoe's extraordinary clarity loss.
3. The Regional Water Board and many agencies support the project. The Forest Service, the California Tahoe Conservancy, the El Dorado County, the California Tahoe Conservancy, the California Conservation Corps, the Natural Resource Conservation District, the California Integrated Waste Management Board, and the City of South Lake Tahoe, with State and Local funds, plan to enlarge storm water retention basins and retrofit stormwater infrastructure. In addition, the county will install a temporary dam structure on Angora Creek.
4. The funds will be used to mobilize and operate a portable sand filter designed to treat metals and fine sediment from Angora Creek at Lake Tahoe Boulevard. The funds will be used to cover increased maintenance needed to keep stormwater infrastructure below the burn area functioning effectively. Additional funds will be used to assess water quality and treatment effectiveness of the sand filter.
5. The requested allocation is consistent with the purposes of Water Code section 13442. Water Code section 13442 provides that the State Water Board may order money to be paid from the CAA to a public agency with authority to cleanup or abate the effects of a waste in order "to assist in cleaning up the waste or abating its effects on waters of the state."

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The State Water Resources Control Board approves the allocation of additional funds of \$287,000 from the CAA to the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board for the Lake Tahoe Runoff Treatment and Monitoring Project, and authorizes the Executive Director to negotiate, execute, and amend contracts for this purpose.

D R A F T

The funds will be available until March 31, 2009. Any unexpended funds as of March 31, 2009, shall revert to the CAA, unless the Executive Director authorizes an extension.

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 January 15, 2008.

Jeanine Townsend
Acting Clerk to the Board