

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

**ITEM 6**

**SUBJECT**

CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION TO ALLOCATE \$355,000 FROM THE CLEANUP AND ABATEMENT ACCOUNT (CAA) FOR THE BIG SPRINGS CREEK RESTORATION ASSESSMENT TO IMPROVE THE SALMONID REARING HABITAT IN THE SHASTA RIVER IN SISKIYOU COUNTY

**DISCUSSION**

Big Springs Creek is located in the middle reaches of the Shasta River. This spring-fed river was once one of the most prolific salmonid-producers in the Klamath watershed. However, the salmonid stocks of the Shasta River are now well below historic numbers, including the federal and state-listed coho salmon. This creek used to provide more than half of the annual average runoff for the basin and provided critical year-round baseflow, providing cold-water contributions during the summer and warm contributions during winter. The flows from Big Springs Creek were also rich in geologically-derived nitrogen and phosphorous, fueling unusually productive food webs. The salmonid decline is due, in part, to the discharge of high-temperature irrigation return flows into Big Springs Creek, resulting from poor irrigation and land use practices on adjoining lands.

The subject funds will support an intensive, nine-month investigation of Big Springs Creek to document baseline conditions and guide the design and implementation of restoration strategies including measures to abate the water quality effects of high-temperature irrigation return flows. The Project will consist of conducting a suite of baseline assessments and feasibility studies to determine how to achieve the restoration goals. These studies will include the characterization and quantification of flow and salmonid habitat within Big Springs Creek, water temperature, water quality and its influence on the habitat, habitat usage, aquatic food web dynamics, and fish assemblages. The studies will also identify alternatives for future restoration efforts.

The requested allocation is consistent with the purposes of California Water Code §13442. Section 13442 provides that the State Water Board may order moneys to be paid from 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 ISSUE**

Should the State Water Board:

1. Approve funds in the amount of \$355,000 from the CAA for the Big Springs Creek Restoration Assessment to support salmonids in the Shasta River in Siskiyou County?
2. Authorize the Executive Director or designee to negotiate, execute, and amend contracts in support of the Big Springs Creek Restoration Assessment?

**FISCAL IMPACT**

Approving \$355,000 will leave an uncommitted balance of \$7,714,580 in CAA as of June 30, 2008.

**REGIONAL WATER BOARD IMPACT**

Yes. North Coast Regional Water Board.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

The State Water Board should:

Approve \$355,000, from the CAA for the Big Springs Creek Restoration Assessment to improve the salmonid rearing habitat in the Shasta River.

# DRAFT

## STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD RESOLUTION NO. 2008-

ALLOCATE \$355,000 FROM THE CLEANUP AND ABATEMENT ACCOUNT (CAA) FOR THE BIG SPRINGS CREEK RESTORATION ASSESSMENT TO IMPROVE THE SALMONID REARING HABITAT IN THE SHASTA RIVER IN SISKIYOU COUNTY

### WHEREAS:

1. Funds in the amount of \$ 355,000 are needed for the Big Springs Creek Restoration Assessment to support an intensive, nine-month investigation of Big Springs Creek that will document baseline conditions and guide the design and the implementation of restoration strategies;
2. Big Springs Creek is located in the middle reaches of the Shasta River. This spring-fed river was once one of the most prolific salmonid-producers in the Klamath watershed. However, the salmonid stocks of the Shasta River are now well below historic numbers, including the federal and state-listed coho salmon. This creek used to provide more than half of the annual average runoff for the basin and provided critical year-round base flow: providing cold water contributions during the summer and warm contributions during winter. The flows from Big Springs Creek were also rich in geologically-derived nitrogen and phosphorous, fueling unusually productive food webs. The salmonid decline is due, in part, to the discharge of high-temperature irrigation return flows into Big Springs Creek, resulting from poor irrigation and land use practices on adjoining lands;
3. The funds will support an intensive, nine-month investigation of Big Springs Creek that will document baseline conditions and guide the design and implementation of restoration strategies including measures to abate the water quality effects of high-temperature irrigation return flows. The work will consist of a suite of baseline assessments and feasibility studies to determine how to achieve their restoration goals. These studies will include the characterization and quantification of flow and salmonid habitat within Big Springs Creek, water temperature, water quality and its influence on the habitat, habitat usage, aquatic food web dynamics, and fish assemblages. The studies will also identify alternatives for future restoration efforts; and
4. The requested allocation is consistent with the purposes of California Water Code §13442. Section 13442 provides that the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) may order moneys to be paid from 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."

# **D R A F T**

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The State Water Board:

1. Approves the allocation of funds of \$355,000 from the CAA the Big Springs Creek Restoration Assessment to support salmonids in the Shasta River in Siskiyou County;
2. Authorizes the Executive Director or designee to negotiate, execute, and amend contracts for the Big Springs Creek Restoration Assessment; and
3. Approves the funds for use until June 30, 2010. Any unexpended funds, as of June 30, 2010, shall revert to CAA, unless the Executive Director or designee authorizes an extension.

## **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 Board held on July 15, 2008.

---

Jeanine Townsend  
Clerk to the Board