

**STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
BOARD MEETING SESSION – OFFICE OF RESEARCH PLANNING AND PERFORMANCE
AUGUST 21, 2012**

ITEM 5

SUBJECT

PROPOSED WORKPLAN FOR ASSESSING COSTS OF COMPLIANCE AND FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS RELATED TO THE APRIL 2012 RESOURCE ALIGNMENT REPORT.

DISCUSSION

On October 18, 2011 the State Water Board adopted [Resolution No. 2011-0052](#), directing staff to carry out a proposed workplan for preparation of a [Resource Alignment Report](#), which was completed and posted to the State Water Board's website in April 2012. The State Water Board, during its April 17, 2012 meeting, directed staff to prepare a workplan for future efforts to follow up on the information and actions described in the April 2012 Resource Alignment Report. This informational item presents a proposed workplan for follow-up actions related to the Resource Alignment Report. The proposed workplan focuses on assessing opportunities for reducing the costs of compliance for dischargers subject to Water Board oversight under the NPDES wastewater, stormwater, irrigated lands, and waste discharge requirement programs. The overall workplan goals are to identify and implement opportunities to reduce the costs of compliance in these programs where feasible and to maximize the utility/benefit arising from discharger compliance actions, including benefits to the regulated community and to the environment at large.

Information and participation from the regulated community will be needed to successfully assess costs of compliance and identify potential options for reducing these costs. Likewise the feasibility of potential cost saving options will need to be evaluated by the Water Boards. Accordingly, the proposed workplan lays out a set of tasks to be carried out jointly by both the Water Boards and cooperating stakeholders. The proposed workplan was developed with input from a small group of stakeholder primarily representing wastewater and stormwater interests; however, the workplan calls for broader stakeholder participation moving forward.

POLICY ISSUE

None. Implementation of the proposed workplan and development of a draft report, including staff recommendations for reducing costs of compliance, will not set any specific policy.

FISCAL IMPACT

None. At the present time, the Water Boards should be working within their given resource levels to provide the data and information needed for implementation of the proposed workplan, which could eventually lead to reduced costs for the regulated community.

REGIONAL BOARD IMPACT

Regional Board's will need to provide input on the feasibility of options to reduce costs of compliance and the potential implications to Water Board programs.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Proceed with implementation of [draft workplan](#) and development of a report assessing opportunities to reduce costs of compliance.

This information item assists the Water Boards in reaching Goal 5 of the Strategic Plan Update: 2008-2012 to improve transparency and accountability. Conducting an assessment of costs compliance, as called for in the proposed workplan, would support Goal 6 of the Strategic Plan by providing opportunities for increased regulatory consistency, efficiency, and predictability.