

**STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD  
BOARD MEETING SESSION – DIVISION OF WATER QUALITY  
SEPTEMBER 16, 2015**

**ITEM 5**

**SUBJECT**

UPDATE ON LEAN 6-SIGMA PROCESS IMPROVEMENT EFFORTS

**DISCUSSION**

Lean 6-Sigma is a data-driven process improvement method developed in private industry to help businesses become more efficient. In state government, the Lean 6-Sigma program is organized by the Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development (GO-Biz). Through a six month certification program, state employees are trained in complex analytical and statistical tools that identify waste and inefficiencies in processes. These tools are applied within current processes, such as developing Waste Discharge Requirement General Orders, culminating in significant and measured process improvements.

Within the last two years, the State Water Board had four projects participate in the GO-Biz Lean 6-Sigma program. The first pilot project was completed by the Division of Financial Assistance last year. This year, two projects were undertaken by the Division of Water Quality and one was undertaken by the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board. All projects focused on eliminating delays and inefficiencies to drastically improve processing times in their respective areas. Staff will present the results on these individual Lean 6-Sigma projects.

**POLICY ISSUE**

None. This is an information item.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

None. This is an information item.

**REGIONAL BOARD IMPACT**

None. This is an information item.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

None. This is an information item.

<p>State Water Board action on this item will assist the Water Boards in reaching 6 of the Strategic Plan Update: 2008-2012. Enhance consistency across the Water Boards, on an ongoing basis, to ensure our processes are effective, efficient, and predictable, and to promote fair and equitable application of laws, regulations, policies, and procedures.</p>
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