

**STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
BOARD MEETING SESSION – DIVISION OF WATER QUALITY
AUGUST 16, 2016**

ITEM 8

SUBJECT

NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (NPDES) COST OF COMPLIANCE EFFORT - PHASE I UPDATE

DISCUSSION

State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) [Resolution No. 2013-0029](#) directs staff to take actions to reduce the cost of compliance for dischargers subject to Water Board permitting while maintaining water quality protection. In accordance with Resolve Item 4 of Resolution No. 2013-0029, State Water Board staff worked with the NPDES Roundtable forum and stakeholders to develop recommendations for NPDES permitting that address the cost of compliance. At the July 7, 2015 State Water Board meeting, staff presented the draft Phase I Plan describing: (1) the proposed tangible products that will implement the short term recommendations to reduce the cost to comply with NPDES permits, and (2) a timeline for developing those products. After the July 2015 meeting, the NPDES Cost of Compliance workgroup developed the tangible products in accordance with the Phase I Plan. The workgroup incorporated these products into a checklist to guide permit writers in considering the cost of compliance when developing NPDES permits. To further assist permit writers in using the checklist, the workgroup developed a companion document that provides background information for each section of the checklist. During this Information Item, staff will present the checklist and companion document, and will provide a final update on further pending Phase I Plan tasks.

POLICY ISSUE -

None. This is an informational item.

FISCAL IMPACT

None. This is an informational item.

WATER BOARD IMPACT

None.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the State Water Board directs State and Regional Water Board staff to implement the developed tools and recommendations resulting from the Phase I Cost of Compliance effort, when developing individual, region-wide, and statewide NPDES permits.

<p>Implementation of the recommendations in the Phase I Cost of Compliance Effort will assist the Water Boards in reaching Goal 6 of the Strategic Plan Update: 2008-2012 to 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. In particular, implementation of State Water Board feedback on this item will assist in fulfilling Objective 6.2 to target consistency improvements in program delivery identified through past input, and solicit input to identify consistency issues as they arise.</p>
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