

**STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD  
BOARD MEETING SESSION – DIVISION OF WATER QUALITY  
JANUARY 6, 2016**

**ITEM 10**

**SUBJECT**

CONSIDERATION OF A PROPOSED RESOLUTION TO ADOPT A STRATEGY TO OPTIMIZE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT OF STORM WATER

**DISCUSSION**

State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) staff developed the Storm Water Strategic Initiative to advance the State Water Board's Storm Water Program by reevaluating management of storm water discharges. State Water Board staff conducted outreach and collected stakeholder input on current storm water-related issues and suggestions to improve management of regulatory and funding programs. Based on stakeholder input, staff produced the Proposal to Develop a Storm Water Program Workplan and Implementation Strategy (Proposal). The Proposal attempts to address stakeholder concerns and identifies methods to integrate watershed management, multiple-benefit solutions, source control, and regulatory efficiencies.

Staff released the Proposal on June 25, 2015 for a four-week public comment period. On August 19, 2015, the State Water Board held a Board Public Workshop to provide information and allow the public to comment on the Proposal. State Water Board direction and public comments made at the workshop led to the development of a Strategy to Optimize Resource Management of Storm Water (Storm Water Strategy), which consolidates the projects introduced in the Proposal, and provides a detailed implementation plan.

At the December 15, 2015 Board meeting, State Water Board staff will present the Storm Water Strategy for the State Water Board's consideration.

**POLICY ISSUE**

Should the Board adopt the Resolution establishing the Storm Water Strategy?

**FISCAL IMPACT**

No Fiscal Impact. Resources in the new Storm Water Planning Unit have been redirected from other programs in the Division of Water Quality, because no new resources were authorized in the 2015-2016 fiscal year budget. The redirection of existing resources will potentially cause delays or postponement of other work at the Water Boards.

**REGIONAL BOARD IMPACT**

The team formed to work on this project includes staff and managers from the State and Regional Water Boards. The workload will not impact any single Regional Water Board disproportionately. The cumulative resources required are estimated at two to three person-years annually from the collective Regional Water Boards (a person-year is equivalent to the yearlong workload of one full-time staff).

## **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

Adopt the Resolution and commit to supporting the next phase of this Storm Water Strategy effort with the recommended projects, schedules, and reporting to the public and all interested parties.

State Water Board action on this item will assist the Water Boards in reaching Goals 1, 3, 4, 5 and 6 of the Strategic Plan Update: 2008-2012. Work on this Strategy to Optimize Resource Management of Storm Water will assist the Water Boards by focusing the goals and objectives in the Strategic Plan Update on the challenges and opportunities presented in the storm water program. If fulfilled, the result will be more sustainable local water supplies, better support of beneficial uses, improved transparency and accountability, and more consistency.

# DRAFT

## STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD RESOLUTION NO. 2016-

### STRATEGIC PLANNING FOR STORM WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AND PROGRAM IMPROVEMENT

#### WHEREAS:

1. Sustainable water resources management is vital to California's future. The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) adopted a resolution confirming its continued commitment to sustainability in 2008 (State Water Board [Resolution No. 2008-0030](#)).
2. Impacts from growth and development, land use activities, disruption of native ecosystems, changes to in-stream flows, effects of climate change including drought and sea level rise, and the cumulative effects of human impacts continue to threaten and degrade many of California's aquatic ecosystems and water resources.
3. Storm water runoff from municipal separate storm sewer systems, construction sites, and industrial facilities continues to be a major source of water quality impairment throughout California. Increases in impervious surfaces due to urbanization, and the use of traditional infrastructure designed primarily for flood control, have further contributed to the water quality impact of storm water runoff.
4. Across the state, storm water programs have evolved over time from programs that were, in some cases, largely focused on public outreach, education, and general control measures, to ones with specific control measures and water quality-based requirements. Additionally, in the last several years some storm water programs have started to include implementation of Total Maximum Daily Load requirements, low impact development practices, and watershed management plans that have one or multiple benefits.
5. In April 2014, the State Water Board and the Regional Water Quality Control Boards (hereinafter referred to as the Water Boards) commenced a Storm Water Strategic Initiative (Initiative) and formed a team of staff. In September 2014, the State Water Board identified the Initiative as a Board priority directing staff to work on a strategic plan for a statewide storm water program that incorporates the principle of treating storm water as a valuable resource. Concurrently, the California Environmental Dialog developed a vision for managing storm water as a resource, wherein water quality improvement and water supply enhancement are complementary goals. Building on those steps, the Initiative team released a concept paper and met extensively with stakeholders. The resulting feedback and options for proceeding were presented in the Proposal to Develop a Storm Water Program Workplan and Implementation Strategy (Proposal).
6. The Proposal identified four guiding principles:
  - a. Treat storm water as a valuable water resource;
  - b. Preserve watershed processes to achieve desired water quality outcomes;
  - c. Implement efficient and effective regulatory programs; and
  - d. Collaborate to solve water quality and pollutant problems utilizing an array of regulatory and non-regulatory approaches.

7. The Proposal identified the issues that could affect attainment of each guiding principle as well as actions and projects designed to resolve these issues.
8. The State Water Board released the Proposal for a four-week public review and comment period from June 25, 2015 to July 24, 2015. The Division of Water Quality (Division) received twenty-three timely comment letters from stakeholders, including non-governmental organizations, municipalities, and the general public in response to the Proposal.
9. On August 19, 2015, the State Water Board held a public workshop to present the Initiative and receive oral comments on the Proposal.
10. Following the public workshop, the Division prepared the Strategy to Optimize Resource Management of Storm Water (Strategy) in response to comments from the State Water Board members and the public. The Strategy consolidates the projects introduced in the Proposal, incorporates a ten-year vision and implementation strategy, and describes the relationship to other strategic plans and policies.
11. The Strategy anticipates that staff may consult an Implementation Committee composed of stakeholders to advise staff and guide and evaluate the Storm Water Program.
12. The Storm Water Strategy Team recognizes the need to use data and information to evaluate progress of the projects proposed in the Strategy.
13. The Strategy is not regulatory and does not constitute guidelines for project funding. It is intended to be a living document guiding the State and Regional Water Board's programs related to storm water resource management, and is subject to updates and modifications. Accordingly, an interactive website will be created to display the Storm Water Strategy's goals, objectives, associated projects, and how the strategies in this document relate to other Water Board plans, policies, funding activities and regulatory efforts that share the same vision. Over the next year the State Water Board will provide further details on how this web-based format will integrate new stakeholder input and deliver routine project status updates and deliverables.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The State Water Board:

1. Concurs with the [Strategy](#) and supports moving forward with committed resources for storm water management and program development.
2. Directs staff to move forward with the following Phase I Projects as recommended in the Strategy:
  - a. Project 1a: Promote Storm Water Capture and Use
  - b. Project 1b: Identify and Eliminate Barriers to Storm Water Capture and Use
  - c. Project 3a: Develop Guidance for Alternative Compliance Approaches for Municipal Storm Water Permit Receiving Water Limitations
  - d. Project 3b: Develop Watershed-Based Compliance and Management Guidelines and Tools
  - e. Project 4a: Implement Senate Bill 985 – Incorporate Requirements of Storm Water Resource Plans into Storm Water Programs

- f. Project 4b: Eliminate Barriers to Funding Storm Water Programs and Identify Funding for Storm Water Capture and Use Projects
  - g. Project 5a: Create Storm Water Program Data and Information “Open Data”
  - h. Project 6a: Establish Statewide Framework for Urban Pesticide Reduction
  - i. Project 6b: Identify Opportunities for Source Control and Pollution Prevention
3. Directs staff, in conjunction with the Implementation Committee described in finding 11 above, to develop specific data-driven performance measures and targets, and measure progress toward the targets with periodic updates provided to the State Water Board.

### **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 Resources Control Board held on January 6, 2016.

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Jeanine Townsend  
Clerk to the Board