

# State Water Resources Control Board

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

October 18, 2006  
SWRCB 06-029

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## **STATE WATER BOARD ADDS LEGISLATIVE SEARCH FEATURES TO ON-LINE PROPOSAL INFORMATION TOOL**

SACRAMENTO — In an effort to make information more accessible to the public, the State Water Resources Control Board has added a new search feature to the Division of Financial Assistance (Division) web page at:

<https://faast.waterboards.ca.gov/PublicProposalsSearch.asp>. The proposal information search tool allows the public to view and download applications submitted for loan and grant programs. The same technology that allows applicants to upload information to submit applications is being used to allow the public to find and download information directly to their computer.

Since the search tool was released to the public in February 2006, it has reduced public records requests for grant and loan information by approximately 80%, because that information is easier to obtain. The new tool allows the public to access information at their convenience, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and makes more efficient use of State Water Board staff resources and time by reducing the staff needed to complete public records requests.

### **WHAT INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE USING THE PROPOSAL INFORMATION SEARCH TOOL?**

The search tool allows the public to view loan and grant applications submitted to the Division using the Financial Assistance Application Submittal Tool (FAAST) online system. The legislative search feature added to the tool allows users to search for proposals in FAAST by County, Regional Board, Assembly, Senate and Congressional Districts.

Information on the status of applications will be added soon. Members of the public who wish to see the current status of a grant or loan program, or view the lists of recently funded proposals, should continue to use the main Division webpage. The Division is soliciting input on how to incorporate the current status of proposals into the search tool. Please email suggestions to [FAAST\\_ADMIN@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:FAAST_ADMIN@waterboards.ca.gov) by Nov. 21, 2006.

Not every loan and grant program administered by the Division currently uses FAAST as its method of application submittal. To request applications submitted outside the FAAST system or submitted prior to the August 2004 release of FAAST, please call the Division at (916) 341-5700.

For questions about how to use the new search tool, please contact the FAAST administrative team at [FAAST\\_ADMIN@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:FAAST_ADMIN@waterboards.ca.gov) or by calling the hotline at 1-866-434-1083 Monday through Friday, 8 A.M. to 5 P.M.

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