

San Andreas Sanitary District Awarded \$ 10.5 Million in Stimulus Money for Clean Water Project

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SACRAMENTO -- The State Water Board has delivered \$10.575 million in federal stimulus money to the San Andreas Sanitary District in Calaveras County to protect public health, downstream users, the environment and create jobs for Californians. The money is allocated to California for clean water projects under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

The grant and loan to San Andreas are the second awarded under the new stimulus package. The State Water Board expects dozens more during the next few months.

The money is in the form of a \$5,840,314 grant and a \$4,735,182 one-percent loan and is for the upgrade of the existing San Andreas wastewater treatment plant. When it is completed it will provide ammonia removal and tertiary treatment of the wastewater stream to meet the compliance requirements of the state and federal EPA.

“The State Water Board identified these shovel-ready projects so we can both get people back to work and protect water quality,” said Charlie Hoppin, Chair of the State Water Board. “Even in routine years, we handle \$200 million dollars in loans for these important purposes. This year, the need is more urgent and our staff started early to identify potential recipients so that we can distribute the federal money quickly and responsibly. California has a verified need and we have validated applications for more dollars than are currently available. We will put any additional funds to good use quickly and efficiently.”

Under the stimulus program the State Water Board is handling \$270.5 million in addition to more than \$200 million normally loaned by the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (SRF) each year. The stimulus money is available for projects in communities that might not normally be able to qualify for an SRF loan. The stimulus money is being granted or loaned at rates even lower than normally available from the SRF.

Steve Schimp, San Andreas District Manager said, “The San Andreas Sanitary District and the citizens of San Andreas wish to thank the State Water Board and especially the staff of the State Revolving Fund for their hard work, dedication and thorough application process.”

The Recovery Act money was made available to the State Water Board by the U.S. EPA. At least 20% of the funds provided under the Recovery Act are to be

used for green infrastructure, water and energy efficiency improvements and other environmentally innovative projects.

The State Water Board received the stimulus money on May 21, 2009 and made its first award under the program on the same day. It has been working with local governments and others to make sure their clean water projects were ready to begin work and qualify for stimulus money as quickly as possible.

The State Water Board assists local communities in preventing and cleaning up water pollution. Its financial assistance, through the Clean Water State Revolving Fund, concentrates on wastewater (sewer) projects and treatment plants. The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) regulates drinking water quality and operates the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund, which provides low interest loans and grants to public water systems for infrastructure improvements.