

Agenda Item: 9-11B

Meeting Dates: February 9 and 10, 2005

JOINT MEETING WITH BAY-DELTA PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION RECOMMENDING THAT THE STATE
WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD ADOPT THE PROPOSITION 50
AGRICULTURAL WATER QUALITY GRANT PROGRAM PROPOSED
RECOMMENDED PROJECT LIST**

Summary: This resolution would recommend that the State Water Resources Control Board adopt the proposed Recommended Project List for its Proposition 50 Program in accordance with the Guidelines.

Recommended Action: Staff recommends that the Authority adopt the attached Resolution 05-02-03, which recommends that the State Water Resources Control Board adopt the Proposition 50 Agricultural Water Quality Grant Program proposed Recommended Project List.

Background

The State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) has \$29.5 million available from Proposition 50, Chapter 5, Section 79540 to fund implementation projects that reduce or eliminate polluted runoff from irrigated agricultural lands. The Authority adopted a resolution recommending SWRCB approval of the Guidelines for administering the Proposition 50 Agricultural Water Quality Grant Program (AWQGP) at its August 11 and 12, 2004 meeting; and the SWRCB adopted the Guidelines on August 26, 2004.

SWRCB solicited proposals on September 8, 2004 and held workshops to assist applicants in developing their project proposals. Applicants used SWRCB's new Web-based Financial Assistance Application Submittal Tool (FAAST) to submit proposals. All information for the project proposals was submitted electronically through FAAST.

Seventy-one proposals were submitted to SWRCB by the deadline of November 10, 2004; 69 were eligible. Each of the proposals was assigned to at least three independent technical reviewers from a pool of eight Regional Water Quality Control Boards (RWQCBs) and nine outside organizations (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9; California Bay-Delta Authority (Authority); Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA); U.S. Geological Survey, California Association of Resource Conservation Districts, Department of Pesticide Regulation; Wetlands Subcommittee of the Interagency Coordinating Committee; University of California, Davis, Department of Entomology; and University of California, Sustainable Agricultural Research and

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Education Program). Authority staff reviewed proposals for projects within the solution area for consistency with the Programmatic Record of Decision. For consistency, the CDFA reviewed all 69 proposals. The technical reviews were completed January 7, 2005, and the AWQGP Selection Panel will meet on January 26 and 27, 2005 to develop the proposed Recommended Project List (RPL). The Selection Panel will recommend for funding those projects that appear most likely to reduce or eliminate pollution from irrigated agricultural lands. Authority staff will participate as members of the Selection Panel. The proposed RPL will be provided to the Authority following the Selection Panel meeting.

The proposed RPL will identify the projects that the Selection Panel recommends the SWRCB fund, and are technically and administratively ready to be implemented. SWRCB will prepare grant agreements for those projects on the adopted RPL. The Proposed RPL must be presented to SWRCB for adoption at its March meeting because \$9.5 of the \$29.5 million available from Proposition 50 must be encumbered before June 30, 2005.

A second RPL will be developed if the Selection Panel recommends modifications to some proposals, or additional information is needed to execute a grant agreement. The Selection Panel may also recommend not committing all of the available funds at this time and conducting another solicitation in the future.

Fiscal Information

Funding Source: (Proposition 50) Water Code, Division 26.5, Chapter 5, Section 79540

Term: July 1, 2004 – June 30, 2005 (\$9,500,000); July 1, 2004 – June 30, 2007 (\$20,000,000)

Total Amount: \$29,500,000 appropriated, but uncommitted to projects.

List of Attachments

Attachment 1 – Agricultural Water Quality Grant Program Proposition 50 Proposed Recommended Project List, to be considered for adoption at the March 17, 2005 SWRCB meeting (to be provided separately)
Resolution 05-02-03

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**CALIFORNIA BAY-DELTA AUTHORITY
RESOLUTION 05-02-03**

**CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION RECOMMENDING THAT THE STATE
WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD ADOPT THE AGRICULTURAL WATER
QUALITY GRANT PROGRAM PROPOSED RECOMMENDED PROJECT LIST**

WHEREAS, nonpoint source (NPS) pollution is the leading cause of water quality impairments in California and the nation, and agriculture is a leading contributor of NPS pollution in California; and

WHEREAS, the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) was appropriated \$29.5 million for the Agricultural Water Quality Grant Program (AWQGP) from the *Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Act of 2002* (Proposition 50); and

WHEREAS, the California Bay-Delta Authority adopted a resolution at its August 11 and 12, 2004 meeting recommending that the SWRCB adopt the Guidelines for administration of the AWQGP; and

WHEREAS, SWRCB adopted the Guidelines on August 26, 2004; and

WHEREAS, the Guidelines provide for the development and adoption of a Recommended Project List to determine which proposals are eligible for funding; and

WHEREAS, California Bay-Delta Authority staff reviewed projects for consistency with the Programmatic Record of Decision and participated on the Selection Panel; and

WHEREAS, the SWRCB will consider the proposed RPL for adoption at its regular meeting on March 17, 2005.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Authority recommends that the SWRCB adopt the AWQGP Proposed RPL.

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CERTIFICATION The undersigned Assistant to the California Bay-Delta Authority 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 California Bay-Delta Authority held on February 9 and 10, 2005.

Dated: _____

Jamie Cameron-Harley
Assistant to the California Bay-Delta Authority