

Agenda Item: 7B
Meeting Date: December 14, 2006

CALIFORNIA BAY-DELTA AUTHORITY

INTEGRATED REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT GRANT PROGRAM UPDATE

Summary: The State Water Resources Control Board and the Department of Water Resources will be adopting/approving the Final Funding Recommendations for the Integrated Regional Water Management Implementation Grant Program in January 2007.

Recommended Action: This is an information item only.

The State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) and the Department of Water Resources (DWR) are jointly implementing the Proposition 50 Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Grant Program. Information about the IRWM Grant Program is available on the SWRCB and DWR websites at:

- SWRCB: <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/funding/irwmgp/index.html>
- DWR: <http://www.grantsloans.water.ca.gov/grants/integregio.cfm>

Background

Proposition 50, the Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Act of 2002, was passed by California voters in November 2002. It amended the California Water Code (CWC) to add, among other articles, Section 79560 *et seq.*, authorizing the Legislature to appropriate funding for IRWM projects. The intent of the IRWM Grant Program is to provide funding via competitive grants for projects to protect communities from drought, protect and improve water quality, and improve local water security by reducing dependence on imported water while encouraging water management on a regional level. Approximately \$380 million was made available for IRWM grants, which will be distributed over two funding cycles.

SWRCB and DWR adopted the IRWM Program Guidelines in November 2004. The IRWM Guidelines established the process by which SWRCB and DWR jointly solicit applications, evaluate proposals, and award grants.

The IRWM Implementation Grant Program used a two-step application process. On July 14, 2005, a total of 50 proposals were submitted. Of the 50 proposals, 16 were invited back for the Step 2 application process, including six regions that were asked to consolidate with other applicants. On June 28, 2006, all 16 applicants submitted proposals requesting a total of approximately \$382 million in grant funds.

SWRCB and DWR coordinated the technical review process for both the Step 1 and Step 2 proposals based on criteria outlined in the IRWM Implementation Grant Proposal Solicitation Packages (PSPs). The technical reviews were performed by staff from the SWRCB, DWR Headquarters, Regional Water Quality Control Boards, DWR Districts, Department of Fish and Game, and the California Bay-Delta Authority.

On November 13, 2006, SWRCB and DWR posted, on the aforementioned websites, the Draft Funding Recommendations for the IRWM Implementation Grant Program (first funding cycle), and evaluation summaries for each proposal. On November 16, 2006, SWRCB and DWR held an Open House and Public Meeting to discuss the Draft Funding Recommendations and to accept public comments on those recommendations. The public comment period will close on December 8, 2006. Following consideration of the public comments, SWRCB and DWR will develop the Final Funding Recommendations.

The IRWM Implementation Grant Draft Funding Recommendations contain grants totaling \$175 million (Attachment 1). Three of the implementation grants are proposed to be funded by SWRCB (\$75 million) and four are proposed to be funded by DWR (\$100 million).

SWRCB anticipates adoption of the Final Funding Recommendations at its January 18, 2007 meeting. DWR anticipates approval from the DWR Director in January 2007. The California Bay-Delta Authority may review and comment on the proposed grants pursuant to CWC Section 79509.6 (b). Please submit any comments on the Draft Funding Recommendations to the contacts listed below prior to 5 p.m. on January 3, 2007.

Fiscal Information

Funding Source: Proposition 50, Chapter 8; Water Code Section 79560 *et seq.*
A total of \$175 million is recommended for award.

List of Attachments

Attachment 1 – IRWM Implementation Grant Draft Funding Recommendations – First Funding Cycle

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**Integrated Regional Water Management
Implementation Grant Program
Draft Funding Recommendations – First Funding Cycle**

Applicant	Funding Amount	Funding Agency
County of Orange	\$25,000,000	SWRCB
Humboldt County (North Coast IRWM)	\$25,000,000	SWRCB
Watershed Coalition of Ventura County	\$25,000,000	SWRCB
Los Angeles Flood Control District	\$25,000,000	DWR
Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency	\$25,000,000	DWR
Sacramento Regional Water Authority	\$25,000,000	DWR
San Luis and Delta Mendota Water Authority	\$25,000,000	DWR