

**STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
RESOLUTION NO. 2009-0001**

ADOPTING A STATEMENT OF OVERRIDING CONSIDERATIONS REGARDING THE SANTA BARBARA COUNTYWIDE INTEGRATED REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT (IRWM) IMPLEMENTATION GRANT, CITY OF SANTA MARIA (CITY) WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT (WWTP) PHASE 2 PROJECT (COMPONENT 7)

WHEREAS:

1. The Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Act of 2002 authorizes approximately \$360 million to implement projects that 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;
2. The IRWM Grant Program is administered jointly by the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) and the Department of Water Resources (DWR);
3. The IRWM Program Guidelines for Round 2 were adopted by the State Water Board and approved by DWR in July 2007;
4. On June 3, 2008, the State Water Board adopted an IRWM Implementation Grant Funding list with grants totaling \$31.1 million ([Resolution No. 2008-0039](#));
5. The Santa Barbara Countywide IRWM Implementation Project was on the June 3, 2008, IRWM Implementation Grant Funding List approved by the State Water Board;
6. Component 7 is part of the Santa Barbara Countywide IRWM Project;
7. The City prepared a final Environmental Impact Report (EIR) that addresses Component 7 (State Clearinghouse No. 2005121171);
8. The City certified the final EIR, adopted the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program and a Statement of Overriding Considerations (SOC), and approved Component 7 on September 19, 2006;
9. The City filed a Notice of Determination with the Governor's Office of Planning and Research on September 25, 2006, and the City Clerk on September 27, 2006;
10. The State Water Board has not made findings regarding Component 7 of the Santa Barbara Countywide IRWM Implementation Project pursuant to California Environmental Quality Act (Pub. Resources Code, § 21000 et seq.);

11. The City adopted an SOC to substantiate its decision to approve Component 7 despite the following significant unavoidable impacts:
 - a. Cumulative impacts to aesthetics by changing the visual character of the site and industrial elements.
 - b. Permanent impacts to farmland due to the loss of a total of 40 acres of Prime Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance, and Williamson Act Land for construction of percolation ponds.
 - b. Cumulative impacts to farmland because Component 7 will incrementally contribute to the gradual conversion of agricultural land to non-agricultural use.
12. The State Water Board finds that the following specific economic, social, technological, and environmental benefits of the Component 7 outweigh these unavoidable adverse environmental impacts:
 - a. The City's primary source of water is groundwater. Water from the State Water Project is blended with groundwater to make groundwater acceptable for use. Component 7 includes construction of percolation ponds for disposal of treated wastewater. Effluent treated at a tertiary level will be filtered through the proposed percolation ponds into the groundwater basin to supplement existing groundwater levels. Component 7 will improve groundwater quality and increase groundwater levels in the basin, thus reducing demand on the State Water Project and positively augmenting the State's water supply.
 - b. Component 7 will provide efficient and cost-effective wastewater treatment consistent with Central Coast Regional Water Board requirements.
 - c. The land acquired for Component 7 lies between two non-contiguous parcels of City property, and will connect them. This will allow for the expansion of the WWTP onto that connecting property, as well future inclusion of the Police Impound Yard, Humane Society Animal Shelter, and City Corporation Yard at the same locale to improve a variety of community services.
13. State Water Board reviewed and considered the EIR and applicable environmental documents, and determined that Component 7 will not result in any adverse impacts to water quality.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The State Water Board:

Adopts a Statement of Overriding Considerations regarding the Santa Barbara Countywide IRWM Implementation Grant for Component 7.

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 Board held on January 6, 2009.

AYE: Chair Tam M. Doduc
Vice Chair Gary Wolff, P.E., Ph.D
Arthur G. Baggett, Jr.
Charles R. Hoppin
Frances Spivy-Weber

NAY: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None



Jeanine Townsend
Clerk to the Board