

**STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
RESOLUTION NO. 2019-0016**

TO ALLOCATE UP TO AN ADDITIONAL \$800,000 FROM THE
CLEANUP AND ABATEMENT ACCOUNT FOR THE LEVIATHAN MINE EMERGENCY ACID
MINE DRAINAGE TREATMENT PROJECT

WHEREAS:

1. Leviathan Mine is a former sulfur mine the State of California acquired in the early 1980s to address water quality problems caused by historic mining;
2. The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) has delegated jurisdiction over pollution abatement activities to the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board (Lahontan Water Board);
3. During normal water years, the Lahontan Water Board mobilizes in-place treatment when the site becomes accessible after spring rains, to treat acid mine drainage (AMD) for discharge to Leviathan Creek and maximize the capacity of the ponds to receive AMD through the next winter/spring seasons;
4. During some water years, the capacity of the ponds can be exceeded, which requires the Lahontan Water Board to initiate emergency winter/spring treatment operations to treat AMD for discharge. This creates adequate capacity to hold all incoming AMD until regular operations begin in the summer;
5. On February 20, 2019, Lahontan Water Board staff informed Division of Financial Assistance (DFA) staff that based on recent high precipitation, the Lahontan Water Board will likely need to move forward with emergency treatment this spring;
6. On December 11, 2018, in [Resolution No. 2018-0056](#), the State Water Board adopted the CAA Funding Program Guidelines (Guidelines), and authorized the Deputy Director of DFA to approve CAA funding up to \$500,000;
7. On February 26, 2019, the Deputy Director of DFA approved \$500,000, the maximum amount delegated by the State Water Board, in CAA funding to the Lahontan Water Board to implement emergency treatment work at Leviathan Mine, and determined that the Project is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act under statutory exemptions for emergency projects (Public Resources Code Section 21080(b)(4); California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Section 15269, Subdivision (c));
8. The approved funding may not be sufficient to cover all costs for this spring and would not be sufficient to also cover emergency treatment in future years; therefore the Lahontan Water Board is requesting \$800,000 in additional CAA funding to supplement the recent \$500,000 approval;
9. If the State Water Board approves this request, a total of \$1.3 million will be available for the next five years. This will allow Lahontan Water Board staff to initiate emergency contracting quickly when emergency winter and spring treatment needs arise;

10. The requested allocation is consistent with the purposes of Water Code section 13442, which provides that the State Water Board may approve the payment of moneys from the CAA to a public agency, including a Regional Water Board, to assist in cleaning up a waste or abating the effects of a waste on waters of the state; and
11. Consistent with the [Guidelines](#), this Project is categorized as a Tier 1 emergency project that requires immediate action to mitigate a significant threat to the environmental or public health and safety.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The State Water Board:

1. Approves the allocation of up to \$800,000 additional CAA funds, for a total of \$1.3 million, to the Project. The funds will be available until June 30, 2024. Any unexpended funds, as of December 30, 2024, shall revert to CAA, unless the Deputy Director or Assistant Deputy Director of DFA authorizes an extension.

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 May 6, 2019.

AYE: Chair E. Joaquin Esquivel
Vice Chair Dorene D'Adamo
Board Member Sean Maguire
Board Member Laurel Firestone

NAY: None

ABSENT: Board Member Tam M. Doduc

ABSTAIN: None



Jeanine Townsend
Clerk to the Board