

**STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
BOARD MEETING SESSION – DIVISION OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
MARCH 8, 2006**

ITEM 6

SUBJECT

CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING FUNDING FROM THE STATE WATER POLLUTION CLEANUP AND ABATEMENT ACCOUNT (CAA) FOR ASSESSMENT OF BLUE-GREEN ALGAE (CYANOBACTERIA)

DISCUSSION

Toxins released from some blue-green algae blooms can pose risks to humans, pets, livestock, and wildlife. During recent years, there have been several reported dog deaths in Humboldt County with suspected linkage to algae toxins. In September 2005, the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) and United States Environmental Protection Agency issued a public advisory in response to a blue-green algae bloom on the Klamath River, which had resulted in elevated readings of algae toxins. Risks to people can occur when recreating in water or drinking water from a surface supply with algae blooms. Other beneficial uses may also be affected.

The State Water Board is in need of additional information to fully evaluate the occurrence and risk of this pollutant. This work would include collection of field data and performing a risk assessment based on collected data.

POLICY ISSUE

Should the State Water Board approve funding of \$750,000 from the CAA to support blue-green algae data collection and risk assessment?

FISCAL IMPACT

The CAA has an uncommitted balance of \$3,783,246 as of January 20, 2006.

REGIONAL WATER BOARD IMPACT

Yes, All Regions.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

That the State Water Board approve funding of \$750,000 for blue-green algae data collection and risk assessment.

**STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
RESOLUTION NO. 2006 -**

AUTHORIZING FUNDING FROM THE STATE WATER POLLUTION CLEANUP AND
ABATEMENT ACCOUNT (CAA) FOR ASSESSMENT OF BLUE-GREEN ALGAE
(CYANOBACTERIA)

WHEREAS:

1. Toxins released from some blue-green algae blooms can pose risks to humans, pets, livestock, and wildlife;
2. Risks to people can occur when recreating in water or drinking water from a surface supply with algae blooms. Other beneficial uses may also be affected;
3. During recent years there has been increasing concern about environmental and health risks associated with this pollutant in California;
4. Additional information is needed to fully evaluate the occurrence and risk of blue-green algae toxins; and
5. It is appropriate to use funds from the CAA to remedy the effects of a significant unforeseen pollutant.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) approves funding of \$750,000 from the CAA for blue-green algae data collection and risk assessment.

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 March 8, 2006.

Song Her
Clerk to the Board