

Media Release

State Water Board Approves Guidelines for Proposition 1 Groundwater Grant Program

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE May 18, 2016 **Contact:** Andrew DiLuccia andrew.diluccia@waterboards.ca.gov

SACRAMENTO – Today the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) approved <u>funding guidelines</u> for issuing \$800 million through its Groundwater Grant Program, part of the <u>Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014</u> (Proposition 1) passed by voters in November 2014.

This is the first time bond funds have been specifically provided to help prevent, or cleanup, contamination in groundwater that can be used for drinking water.

The new guidelines establish the process and criteria that the State Water Board will use to solicit applications; evaluate and select proposals; and award grants for projects funded by the <u>Proposition 1 Groundwater Grant Program</u>.

After administrative and bond costs there will be approximately \$744 million available to fund projects through the Groundwater Grant Program. Of that total, the State Water Board is setting aside \$160 million specifically for projects that will serve disadvantaged and economically distressed communities. At least \$80 million of those funds will go toward projects that will benefit severely disadvantaged communities.

With the guidelines approved, the State Water Board's Division of Financial Assistance will soon begin accepting applications for funding through the Groundwater Grant Program. As projects are approved they will be made available on the State Water Board website.

Potential applicants are encouraged to attend one of the six upcoming workshops to be held in mid-June. To receive information about the workshops, and to keep informed about Groundwater Quality funding assistance, subscribe to the <u>Groundwater Quality Funding</u> <u>Assistance e-mail list</u>.

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