STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD,

DIVISION OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

California Environmental Quality Act Requirements

The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) Division of Financial Assistance (DFA) funds wastewater, recycled water, and drinking water infrastructure projects as well as water quality improvement projects using resources from various state grant programs. All applicants seeking grant funds must comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and provide appropriate documents to the State Water Board so that it can fulfill its CEQA responsibilities.

LEAD AGENCY

The applicant is usually the **Lead Agency** and must prepare and circulate an environmental document before approving a project. Only a public agency, such as a local, regional or state government, may be the Lead Agency under CEQA. If a project will be completed by a non-governmental organization, Lead Agency responsibility goes to the first public agency providing discretionary approval for the project. In this situation, the State Water Board may serve as Lead Agency.

RESPONSIBLE AGENCY

Typically, the State Water Board is a **Responsible Agency**. As a Responsible Agency, the State Water Board must make its own findings using information provided by the Lead Agency before funding a project.

STATE WATER BOARD RESPONSIBILITIES

The State Water Board's mission is to preserve, enhance, and restore the quality of California's water resources and drinking water for the protection of the environment, public health, and all beneficial uses, and to ensure their proper allocation and efficient use for the benefit of present and future generations. To fulfill this responsibility, and to carry out obligations as a Responsible Agency under CEQA, the State Water Board must consider the Lead Agency's environmental document before funding a project.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

The State Water Board's environmental review process must be completed before the State Water Board can approve a project for funding and the project can begin construction.

DOCUMENT REVIEW

The State Water Board would like to review CEQA documents as early as possible. Applicants are encouraged to consult with agency staff during development of CEQA documents if considering applying for funding from DFA. Potential applicants should consider sending their environmental documents to DFA, Environmental Section during the CEQA public review period. This way, any environmental concerns the State Water Board has about the project can be addressed early in the process.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

The Environmental Section within DFA requires the documents listed below to complete the environmental review:

1. Draft and Final Environmental Documents – Environmental Impact Reports, Negative Declarations, Mitigated Negative Declarations, Notice of Exemptions, as appropriate for the project;

2. All comments – that were received during the public review period and the Lead Agency's responses to those comments;

3. Adopted Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan – this is separate from, and in addition to, the identification of mitigation measures in the CEQA document;

4. Resolution/Minutes – these document that the applicant adopted or certified the CEQA document, made CEQA findings, and approved the project;

5. Date-stamped copy of the Notice of Determination or Notice of Exemption – these result after filing of the document with the County Clerk and the Governor's Office of Planning and Research; and

6. Completed Environmental Package – this is a component of the Funding Application.

Once the State Water Board receives all the required documents and determines them to be adequate to make its own findings, the environmental review for the funding application will be completed.

CONTACT INFORMATION

For more information about the State Water Board's environmental review process, please visit our website: *https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/grants_loans/environmental_requirements.html*

CALIFORNIA
Water Boards
STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARDS