

Desalination Public Benefit Investments

XXXX1. The sum of six hundred million dollars (\$600,000,000) shall be available, upon appropriation by the Legislature, for capital investments in brackish desalination, seawater desalination, contaminant and salt removal, and salinity management projects to improve California water and drought resilience.

(a) Of the funds made available pursuant to Section XXXX1, four hundred million dollars (\$400,000,000) shall be available, upon appropriation by the Legislature, for grants for advanced treatment technology projects, as follows:

(1) One hundred fifty million dollars (\$150,000,000) shall be available for the following types of projects:

(A) Brackish surface and groundwater desalination infrastructure and associated treatment, storage, conveyance, and distribution facilities.

(B) Contaminant and salt removal projects and associated treatment, storage, conveyance, and distribution facilities.

(C) Pilot or demonstration projects for new brackish groundwater and surface water salt and contaminant removal technologies, including, but not limited to, electrostatic deionization and brine remediation strategies.

(D) Competitive research and development grants.

(E) Cost share to access federal and other funding opportunities to advance low-cost, decarbonized brackish desalination and water treatment technologies and systems.

(F) Technical assistance and grant writing assistance for disadvantaged communities.

(2) Two hundred fifty million dollars (\$250,000,000) shall be available for the following types of projects:

(A) Seawater desalination infrastructure and associated treatment, storage, conveyance, and distribution facilities.

(B) Pilot or demonstration projects for new seawater salt and contaminant removal technologies, including, but not limited to, land-based desalination, offshore desalination, and subsea desalination.

(C) Competitive research and development grants.

(D) Cost share to access federal and other funding opportunities to advance low-cost, decarbonized seawater desalination and water treatment technologies and systems.

(E) Technical assistance and grant writing assistance for disadvantaged communities.

(b) Of the funds made available pursuant to Section XXXX1, two hundred million dollars (\$200,000,000) shall be available, upon appropriation by the Legislature, for research and development and grants and direct expenditures for brine disposal solutions, including but not limited to, brine lines or brine disposal or remediation technologies, particularly focused in inland regions experiencing salinity and brine management challenges related to facilitating groundwater desalination.

(c) At least a 50 percent local cost share shall be required for projects funded pursuant to this section. That cost share may be suspended or reduced for disadvantaged communities and economically distressed areas.

(d) Projects funded pursuant to this section shall be selected on a competitive basis, considering all of the following criteria:

(1) Water supply reliability improvement.

(2) Water quality and ecosystem benefits related to decreased reliance on diversions from the Delta or instream flows.

(3) Public health benefits from improved drinking water quality or supply.

(4) Cost-effectiveness.

(5) Energy efficiency and greenhouse gas emission impacts.

(6) Reasonable geographic allocation to eligible projects throughout the state, including both northern and southern California and coastal and inland regions.

(e) Preference may be given to projects that demonstrate substantial use of renewable or zero-carbon energy resources or grid-responsiveness in water supply production.