

**CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD  
 LAHONTAN REGION  
 MEETING OF APRIL 19-20, 2017  
 BARSTOW**

<b>ITEM 6</b>
<b>EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT</b>

<b>ENCLOSURE</b>	<b>ITEM</b>	<b>BATES NUMBER</b>
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# **ENCLOSURE 1**



**CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY  
CONTROL BOARD  
LAHONTAN REGION**

**APRIL 2017 STANDING ITEMS**

The Water Board has requested that it be kept informed of the status of a number of issues. The following table lists the items, the reporting frequency and the dates the items are due.

ISSUE	FREQUENCY	DUE DATE
Lake Tahoe Nearshore	Semi-Annual	July January
Status of Basin Plan Amendments	Annually	August
Status of Grants	Annually	April –Item #2
Caltrans Statewide General Permit/Tahoe Basin	Annually	September
Tahoe Municipal Permit	Annually	July
County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles – District. No. 14, Lancaster	Annually	March
County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles – District No. 20, Palmdale	Annually	September
Status of Dairies	Annual	February
City of Barstow Nitrate/Orphan Perchlorate	Semi-Annual	September March - Item #11 Item #13
Pacific Gas & Electric Company	Quarterly	Feb, May, Aug, Nov
Leviathan Mine	Semi-Annual	January July
Salt & Nutrient Management Plans	Annually	May
Onsite Septic Systems	Semi-Annual	March, September
Grazing Update	Annually	July
Bacteria Water Quality Objectives Project	Semi-Annual	May November
Quarterly Violations Report	Quarterly	Mar, June, Sept, Dec



# **ENCLOSURE 2**







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*State and Regional*

**1. Personnel Report – *Eric Shay***

**New Hires**

- Gina Gennaro, Seasonal Clerk, South Lake Tahoe. This position provides basic administrative support, such as typing and reception. [Start date was 2/15/2017.]
- Jeff Brooks, Engineering Geologist, North Basin Regulatory Unit, South Lake Tahoe. This position focuses on permitting, inspections, and oversight of Caltrans, ski areas, and other construction and activities.

- Shelby Barker, Engineering Geologist, Land Disposal Unit, Victorville. Duties include project manager oversight for all active and closed San Bernardino County landfills; Molycorp Minerals LLC bankruptcy (continued permit compliance/bankruptcy oversight); cement plants; and CEQA review and comment. Shelby is replacing Christy Hunter, who is retiring in June.

### **Promotions**

- Patrice Copeland, Supervising Engineering Geologist (Division Manager), Victorville. This position oversees all staff and supervisors in the three units located in the Victorville office: 1) Land Disposal/Site Cleanup and Dredge and Fill; 2) Waste Water, Stormwater & Dairies; and 3) Department of Defense. The previous incumbent was Mike Plaziak.

**Vacancies** – We are currently recruiting for the following positions:

- Senior Environmental Scientist (Specialist), Regional Monitoring Coordinator, South Lake Tahoe. Duties are divided between coordinating monitoring efforts with external entities and providing monitoring expertise to internal clients, climate change lead, and special investigation design and implementation. The previous incumbent was Tom Suk, Senior Engineering Geologist
- Senior Engineering Geologist, Unit Chief for the Department of Defense & Site Cleanup Program Unit, Victorville. The previous incumbent was Cindi Mitton.
- Water Resource Control Engineer, North Basin Regulatory Unit, South Lake Tahoe. This position will focus on National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permitting activity and oversight for aquatic pesticides applied to waters, fish hatchery discharges, NPDES permits other than for domestic wastewater, and also on permitting dredge and fill activities. The previous incumbent was Tobi Tyler.
- Senior Engineering Geologist, Unit Chief for the Land Disposal Unit, Victorville. The previous incumbent was Patrice Copeland.
- Environmental Scientist, TMDL & Basin Planning Unit, South Lake Tahoe. Duties are split evenly between development of TMDLs and TMDL alternatives, Integrated Report, and Basin Plan amendments. The previous incumbent was Kelly Huck, who has transferred to an Environmental Scientist position in the Surface Water and Ambient Monitoring Program in the South Lake Tahoe office.
- Engineering Geologist, Land Disposal Unit, Victorville. This position develops waste discharge requirements and provides oversight of land disposal facilities, including landfills, mines, surface impoundments, and compost facilities. The previous incumbent was Brianna St. Pierre.

### **Departures**

- Tobi Tyler, Water Resource Control Engineer, North Basin Regulatory Unit, South Lake Tahoe - retired.
- Brianna St. Pierre, Engineering Geologist, Land Disposal Unit, Victorville. Brianna is transferring to the Division of Water Quality (DWQ) at State Board in Sacramento where she is being promoted to Senior Engineering Geologist. Brianna is the new statewide coordinator for the Land Disposal Program and will be supervising DWQ's Land Disposal Unit.

## **2. “Standing Item” - Status of Grant Activities from March 2016 to March 2017 – *Cindy Wise***

This is an update on the main grant and loan program activities in our Region, followed by a table of the local technical assistance projects that are currently managed by Regional Board staff. The Board has requested an annual update of these activities.

Regional and State Water Board staff coordinate to implement the Water Boards' financial assistance programs to help local agencies prevent or clean up pollution of the state's water and provide safe drinking water. Low-interest loan and grant funding is available for watershed protection projects,

nonpoint source pollution control projects, and construction of facilities for municipal sewage treatment, water recycling and public water supply.

### **Proposition 1 Water Quality, Supply and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014 (Prop 1)**

Prop 1 ([Assembly Bill 1471, Rendon](#)) authorized \$7.545 billion in general obligation bonds for water projects including surface and groundwater storage, ecosystem/watershed protection and restoration, and drinking water protection. The State Water Board will administer some of the Prop 1 funds for five programs with a rollout of the bond funds over a ten year period that started in FY 15/16. The five programs are:

Small Community Wastewater (\$260M)

Water Recycling (\$625M)

Drinking Water (\$260M)

Storm water (\$200M)

Groundwater Sustainability (\$800M)

Regional Board staff coordinates with State Water Board staff in the administration of the bond funds by participating in the development of grant solicitation guidelines and providing input to inform the project funding decisions. More information on Prop 1 can be found at:

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/grants\\_loans/proposition1.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/grants_loans/proposition1.shtml)

### **Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) Program**

The CWSRF program provides low-interest loans for the construction of wastewater and water recycling facilities, municipal landfill treatment systems, implementation of nonpoint source projects and programs; and storm water treatment projects. It is funded by federal grants, state bond funds, local match funds, repayments, and revenue bonds. The CWSRF Program accepts project applications on a continuous basis and the project priority list included in the annual business plan can be amended as necessary. The current annual business plan (Intended Use Plan) can be found at:

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board\\_decisions/adopted\\_orders/resolutions/2016/final\\_2016\\_cwsrf\\_iup\\_report\\_with\\_cover.pdf](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_decisions/adopted_orders/resolutions/2016/final_2016_cwsrf_iup_report_with_cover.pdf)

### **Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) Program**

The DWSRF program provides low-interest loans to assist public water systems in financing the cost of drinking water infrastructure projects needed to achieve or maintain compliance with the federal Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) requirements and to further the public health objectives of the SDWA. The DWSRF Program accepts project applications on a continuous basis and the project priority list included in the IUP can be amended as necessary. The current annual business plan (Intended Use Plan) can be found at:

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board\\_decisions/adopted\\_orders/resolutions/2016/final\\_dwsrf\\_iup\\_report\\_062116\\_with\\_cover.pdf](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_decisions/adopted_orders/resolutions/2016/final_dwsrf_iup_report_062116_with_cover.pdf)

### **Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Grant Program**

The IRWM Grant Program provides grants for projects intended to promote and practice integrated regional management of water for both quality and supply. To be eligible for IRWM grant funds, IRWM geographic regions must be approved by CA Department of Water Resources (DWR.) In coordination with Regional Board staff, DWR has approved six IRWM groups in Lahontan - Lahontan Basins, Tahoe-Sierra, Inyo Mono, Fremont, Antelope Valley and Mojave. Since the inception of the IRWM program, over \$72M in IRWM grants have been awarded in the Lahontan Region with the latest award in June 2016 of \$841,030 to support the development of an IRWM plan for the Fremont Basin.

Prop 1 includes \$510M for water conservation, water-use efficiency and storm water management projects statewide that implement an approved IRWM. Of that amount, \$24.5M is earmarked for future

IRWM projects in the Lahontan Region. Regional Board staff continues to participate in IRWM groups and may coordinate with DWR staff on project review and selection. DWR staff will manage all IRWM project grants. For more information, see: <http://www.water.ca.gov/irwm>

### **319 Nonpoint Source Implementation Grant Program**

This is the federal grant program for nonpoint source pollution control projects. As shown in the table below, our staff currently manages six 319 Nonpoint Source grants totaling \$1,901,678. In February 2017, two additional projects totaling \$1,307,094 have been selected for potential funding in the Region with a final funding decision pending possible reductions in federal funding. The next statewide solicitation to award approximately \$4M in implementation projects is scheduled to begin in August 2017 (this amount is also subject to possible reductions in federal funding). Projects selected for funding from this solicitation will also be managed by Regional Board staff. For more information on the grant program, please see: [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/nps/grant\\_program.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/nps/grant_program.shtml)

### **OTHER GRANT INFORMATION**

#### **Grants Roundtable Meetings**

This forum has now been combined with the Nonpoint Source Program Roundtable and meets as necessary to discuss issues with, and develop improvements to, the 319 Nonpoint Source Grant solicitation process. It includes at least one representative from each Regional Board and staff from the State Water Board. This roundtable last met in March 2017 and is planning to next meet in April 2017.

#### **Funding Fairs**

The California Financing Coordinating Committee (CFCC) is made up of several state and federal funding agencies including the State Water Board. The CFCC conducts free Funding Fairs statewide each year to educate the public and potential customers about the different member agencies, and the financial and technical resources available. The 2017 Funding Fairs are scheduled during April to August at six locations throughout the state with a webcast option offered at the April event. To promote the next 319 Nonpoint Source project solicitation and to inform staff about a broad array of project funding opportunities, Regional Board staff has been asked to assist State Board staff to work the Water Boards' booth at one or more of the fairs. For specific information regarding the Funding Fairs, including the schedule, please visit: [www.cfcc.ca.gov](http://www.cfcc.ca.gov)

#### **Web Site and Electronic Mailing List**

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/grants\\_loans/](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/grants_loans/) is the link from the State Water Board's web page for information on current and upcoming grants.

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/email\\_subscriptions/swrcb\\_subscribe.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/email_subscriptions/swrcb_subscribe.shtml) is the link to subscribe electronically to receive notification of new grant information by selected program.

## GRANT PROJECTS CURRENTLY MANAGED BY REGIONAL BOARD STAFF

Fund	Title	Recipient	Amount
319 Nonpoint Source	Lake Forest Water Quality Improvement Project	Placer County	\$750,000
319 Nonpoint Source	Truckee River Voluntary BMP Retrofit Program	Truckee River Watershed Council	\$295,183
319 Nonpoint Source	Accelerated Best Management Practice Implementation in the Lake Tahoe Basin	Tahoe Regional Planning Agency	\$300,000
319 Nonpoint Source	Truckee River Tributaries Sediment Source Assessment	Truckee River Watershed Council	\$101,560
319 Nonpoint Source	Upper Truckee River and Marsh Restoration Project Water Quality Assessment	California Tahoe Conservancy	\$154,935
319 Nonpoint Source	Main Stem Truckee River Sediment Reduction	Truckee River Watershed Council	\$300,000
<b>Total of Current Projects:</b>			<b>\$1,901,678</b>

### North Lahontan Region

#### 3. 100 Percent Compliance with the Fall Implementation Timber Waiver Monitoring Report Requirements – *Jim Carolan*

The semi-annual monitoring compliance report and 2016 operational status for Lahontan Region Timber Waiver enrolled projects showed a 100% compliance rate. Fall Implementation Monitoring Reports, which describe activities conducted on Timber Waiver enrolled projects during that year's non-winter operating season, are due January 15 for the duration of project activities; Forensic, Effectiveness, and Winter Implementation (if applicable) Monitoring Reports are due to the Lahontan Water Board by June 15 for the duration of project activities. All Fall Implementation Monitoring Reports, representing 72 projects, were submitted on time. No water quality violations were noted in any of the monitoring reports. Enrollees may also report non-operation/suspension of monitoring if no operations were conducted during the year. Water Board staff's regular communication and friendly reminders likely helped the project implementers achieve the successful compliance.

Fall implementation monitoring is a visual monitoring of timber harvest and vegetation management areas, roads, stream crossings, log landings, etc. to ensure all management practices designed to prevent sediment delivery and protect water quality (such as erosion control measures, activities within riparian buffers, and limitations on wet weather operations) are in place and secure prior to the winter period.

The Timber Waiver requires project implementers to submit a statement of non-operation and suspension of monitoring if their project has not been operated on during the prior year. For the January 15, 2017 reporting period, 35 of the 72 Timber Waiver projects were not in operation for the 2016 operations season. As reported in previous Executive Officer Reports, and based on Water Board staff discussions with project implementers, the high number of projects not in operation is largely because harvesting and processing of salvage logs from burned areas in California has become a top priority. This change in priority has reduced the demand for green logs from unburned areas. Salvage logs from burned areas must be harvested within the first two years of the fire for the logs to have merchantable value. After two years the logs lose value because of deterioration and insect infestation. Lumber mills in California are currently processing the significant supply of salvage logs from large wildfires such as the Rim Fire (near Yosemite) and King Fire (west of Lake Tahoe basin). Although Water Board staff

continues to process new Timber Waiver applications for fuel reduction and forest restoration in unburned areas, the number of applications is slightly less than usual. Water Board timber staff is focused on improving administrative processes and conducting outreach with project implementers to ensure water quality is being protected. This focus is partly responsible for the 100% compliance with the Timber Waiver monitoring requirements.

**4. Recent Tahoe Keys Property Owners Association Submittals, El Dorado County – Bruce Warden**

Under provisions of the 2014 Waste Discharge Requirements, the Tahoe Keys Property Owners Association (TKPOA) is required to submit annual updates of two plans and two reports: Aquatic invasive plant species (AIS) control Implementation Management Plan (IMP); NonPoint Source Plan (NPS Plan); Aquatic Macrophyte Survey Report, and Bottom Barrier Report. TKPOA submitted all four documents on time. Details of the various reports are outlined below.

**IMP**

The 2017 updates to the IMP include information on the 2016 accomplishments:

- A summary of water quality, sediment, and benthic macroinvertebrate sampling.
- Plant fragment control, new equipment trials and weed harvester improvements.
- Two rhodamine water tracing dye studies to characterize flow paths within lagoons under differing lake elevations.
- A Mesocosm study of three herbicides’ effects on AIS and native species (done in a controlled environment not connected to surface waters).
- A summary of monitoring results from the boat back-up station for removal of plant fragments from boat propellers prior to boats entering Lake Tahoe.
- Literature study of biological controls for AIS.
- Feasibility study of using existing circulation system and water treatment plant for weed fragment collection.
- Ongoing monitoring efforts are focused on water quality parameters, benthic organisms, and nutrient loading from lagoon bottom sediments.

Following is a summary of Planned TKPOA AIS Control Activities for 2017 and 2018

	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>
<b>IMP proposed field activities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Baseline water quality and sediment sampling (reduced scale; once per month)</li> <li>• Bottom barrier program</li> <li>• Weed harvesting using new equipment</li> <li>• Monitoring compliance with boat back-up station protocols</li> <li>• Improved fragment collection approaches</li> <li>• Acquire and deploy new Omni Cat skimmer boat</li> <li>• Study efficacy of combining rotovating and bottom barrier control methods (year 1)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Herbicide demonstration project (pending Water Board application approval)</li> <li>• Water quality and sediment sampling</li> <li>• Bottom barrier program</li> <li>• Boat back-up station with monitoring</li> <li>• Continued improved weed harvesting and fragment collection</li> <li>• Study efficacy of combining rotovating and bottom barrier control methods (year 2)</li> </ul>
<b>IMP proposed research activities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ongoing water circulation/treatment system assessment for fragment collection</li> <li>• Options for Impermeable barrier design to disconnect Keys lagoon from Lake Tahoe during potential herbicide demonstration project</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Non-herbicide controls for 2019</li> <li>• Review UV light Lakeside Marina pilot-scale test</li> <li>• Review Big Bear Lake plant nutrient-AIS TMDL program</li> </ul>

## NPS Plan

The TKPOA has taken a number of steps to reduce runoff pollution and to improve Lake Tahoe waters, including adopting and enforcing rules regarding fertilizer use and water conservation, and educating the membership about the impacts of nutrient pollution. In 2016, the TKPOA adopted rules to minimize sources of nutrients and to prevent nutrient loading and runoff into the waterways, such as banning use of phosphorus in fertilizers, and adopting water use restrictions.

## Aquatic Macrophyte Survey Report

*West Basin (Main Lagoon):* Aquatic plant composition continues to be dominated by AIS Eurasian watermilfoil and native coontail, but curlyleaf pondweed was observed at a greater frequency than during previous years-- 31.3% in 2016 and 3.1 % in 2015.

*East Basin (Marina Lagoon):* Aquatic plant composition likewise continues to be dominated by AIS Eurasian watermilfoil and native coontail. Curlyleaf pondweed increased from 2% in 2015 to 12.2% in 2016. A large new population of curlyleaf pondweed was found in the navigation channel leading out into Lake Tahoe, indicating curlyleaf fragments and/or turion vegetative propagules may have been mobilized from populations in the Tahoe Keys Marina by boat traffic, the recent dredging project, or other mechanisms.

*Lake Tallac Lagoon:* AIS curlyleaf pondweed increased from non-detect in 2015 to 21.2 % occurrence in 2016.

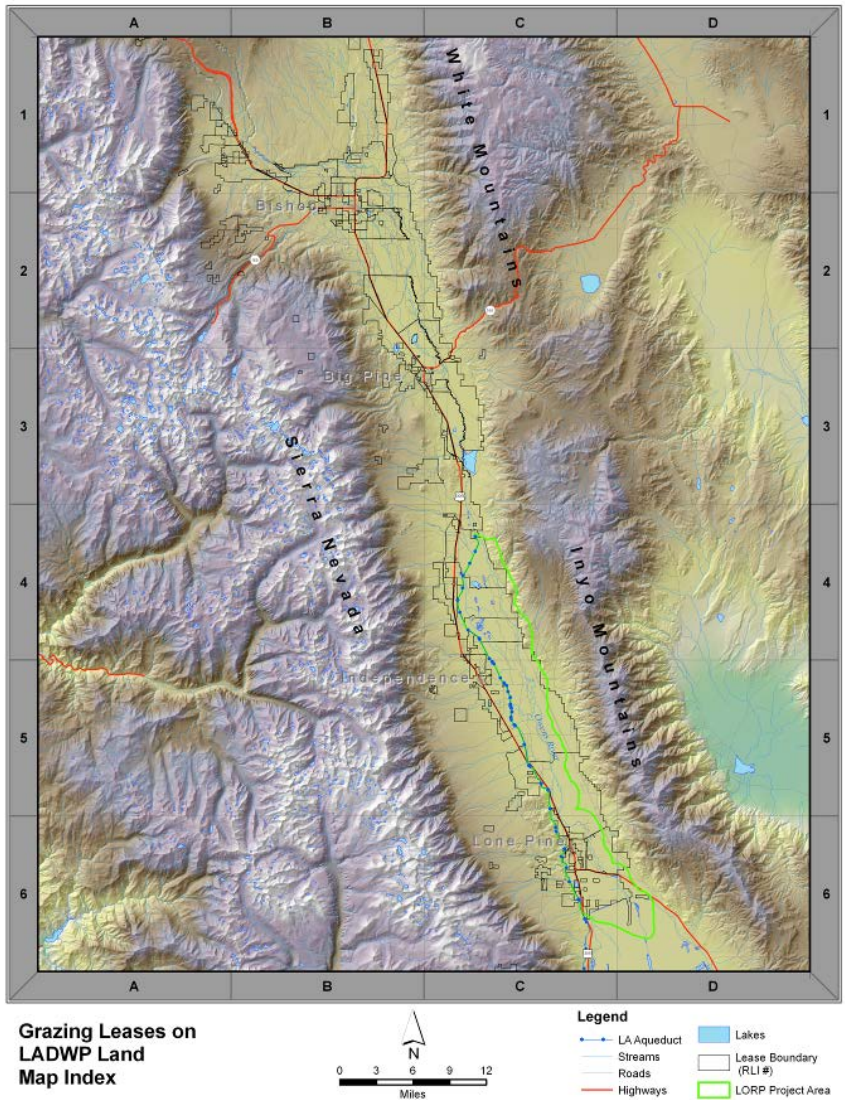
## Bottom Barrier Monitoring Report

Eighteen homeowners installed bottom barriers around their docks. The Tahoe Resource Conservation District (TRCD) provided many of the barriers, while some homeowners provided their own. Typical installations were about 200 square feet (total of less than 0.1 acres installed) with duration of installation about 4-5 months. Homeowner demand for bottom barriers exceeds supply, so TRCD plans to purchase more for next year.

## Proposed Herbicide Pilot-Scale Study

In addition to these reports, TKPOA submitted an “*Application for Exemption to the Basin Plan Prohibition on the Use of Pesticides for the Tahoe Keys West Lagoon Integrated Control Methods Test*” in mid-January 2017. Water Board staff reviewed the application and found it to be incomplete for several elements of the Basin Plan Pesticide Amendment, as well as needing improvements in study design related to statistical analysis of treatment effectiveness. Proposed project implementation is late May-early June of 2018 pending regulatory agency approvals.

**5. Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) Grazing Program, Mono/Inyo Counties**  
 – Brian Judge



**Figure 1 – LADWP map showing grazing leases in the Owens Valley from Lone Pine to Bishop**

The LADWP owns large portions of the Owens Valley and leases 50 separate areas to ranchers for livestock grazing (Figure 1.). Several hundred water quality monitoring samples collected over eight years by Water Board staff and contractors indicate that livestock are the predominant source of bacteria in the area’s surface waters, and high levels were present in Bishop, Horton, and Lower Pine Creeks. High levels of bacteria are defined as over 200 fecal colony forming units per 100 milliliters or 100 hundred colonies of e-coli per 100 milliliters.

In September 2015, the State Water Resources Control Board adopted Resolution Number 2015-0062, which directs the Regional Boards to work collaboratively with property owners, grazing operators, and other interested stakeholders to protect water quality from grazing related impacts. To comply with State Board direction, the Water Board has engaged with LADWP to determine the source of contamination in surface waters that flow through their lands in

order to prescribe the most effective solutions to reduce or eliminate the public health risks associated with certain bacteria.

Water Board and LADWP staff met several times in 2015 and 2016 to share and discuss information regarding sampling, bacteria contamination, and microbial source tracking data for streams near active grazing allotments. LADWP shared two comprehensive management plans published in 2010 and 2015 respectively. The plans contained valuable information, and to help the Water Board determine future prescriptions, staff sent a letter requesting existing and additional information in a more useful format.

On February 9, 2017, LADWP submitted the requested information and Water Board staff is reviewing the report and continue to collaborate with LADWP to improve range land management practices and reduce bacteria pollution.



## 6. Truckee River Watershed Council's Middle Martis Creek Restoration Project Status: "The Work Horse of Martis Valley" – Eric Taxer

Water Board staff attended the Truckee River Watershed Council's January 31, 2017 presentation to its members on the status of the Middle Martis Creek Restoration project. The project was funded, in part, with over \$400,000 from the Water Board's SEP Program Pilot Project effort.

Multiple channel impairments occurred from the construction of Brockway Road (now Highway 267) in the 1800's. Middle Martis was confined to a single channel, resulting in:

- Channel instability, erosion, and headcutting;
- Meadow degradation;
- Flooding of Highway 267 even in moderate flows;
- Impacts to recreation and access infrastructure.

The impacts occurred on multiple land parcels now owned and managed by Cal Trans, Northstar at Tahoe, Northstar Community Services District, Truckee Donner Land Trust, Truckee Tahoe Airport District, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Each land owner has been attempting to address the channel issues separately, but the problem was much too large for any single entity to address independently.

The Watershed Council identified the root cause of the channel instability through the Martis Creek Watershed Assessment, and brought all landowners together to cooperatively implement a solution. The project was designed to restore flows in Middle Martis Creek on the north side of Highway 267 while maintaining a base flow on the south side to sustain existing wetlands and riparian habitat. Reactivation of the historic stream channel north side of the highway is intended to increase wetland

habit and improve water quality through increased filtration.

The restoration effort consisted of:

- Channel realignment and reconfiguration at the Highway 267 crossing;
- Removal of abandoned road fill to restore flow paths;
- Placements of logs and willows in the actively incising channel to promote aggradation;
- Improving drainage across access roads to eliminate erosion;
- Gully repair and riffle construction to halt erosion and promote fish passage;
- Project monitoring; and
- Stakeholder coordination and communication.



Photo 1: Restored creek bed, October 2016. (Photo courtesy of Truckee River Watershed Council)



Photo 2: Restored creek bed, December 2016. (Photo courtesy of Truckee River Watershed Council)



Photo 3: Functional Check dams after October 2016 storm event. (Photo courtesy of Truckee River Watershed Council)

The project resulted in the restoration of over 40 acres of wetlands, improved one mile of stream habitat and two acres of riparian habitat, reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, improvements to water quality, enhancement of fish and wildlife habitat, and a reduction of infrastructure impacts.

The Project was completed in October, 2016 – just before the intense rainstorm event of October 19, 2016. The Project worked as designed to sustain base flows on the south side of Highway 267 and to divert flood flows to the meadow on the north side of the highway. The project also worked as intended during the flood flows of December 2016 and January 2017. This is the first time in approximately 150 years that flood flows have been returned to the meadow. The project has been described as a “true work horse” by Jen Mader from Northstar at Tahoe.

Water Board and Truckee River Watershed Council staff hope to provide a more complete presentation to the Water Board in November 2017 of the entire SEP Program Pilot Project once monitoring data has been collected and reviewed for all four projects.

## 7. Leviathan Mine Emergency Spring Treatment Operations – Scott C. Ferguson

Water Board staff provided Board members with an update regarding the State's Leviathan Mine Superfund site during its March 8-9, 2017 meeting in South Lake Tahoe. Staff shared with Board members that emergency spring treatment operations had been initiated at the mine site in early March in response to the exceptionally wet weather conditions California has been experiencing. Staff also explained that this is the earliest that emergency spring treatment operations have been initiated by approximately five weeks, and that site conditions were extremely challenging. In spite of the challenging site conditions, the Water Board's contractor has prevented a discharge of untreated acid mine drainage (AMD) from the State's holding pond system to Leviathan Creek. Staff discussed how it would continue to be touch and go for the foreseeable future regarding staff's and its contractor's ability to prevent such a discharge from occurring. Staff further explained that in the event that the holding pond system's capacity (approximately 13 million gallons) was exceeded, that the incoming AMD would still receive a substantial level of treatment prior to being discharged to Leviathan Creek, resulting in a discharge of partially treated AMD.

Water Board staff and its contractor have been conducting emergency spring treatment operations non-stop since March 3, 2017, except for a 2-day interruption following a snowstorm (March 5-6) that prevented access to the mine site. AMD from Pond 2 South and Pond 2 North is being treated with lime in Pond 3. Treated AMD is discharged from Pond 3 to Leviathan Creek once the pH is within USEPA discharge criteria (6.0 – 9.0). During the time period of March 20 to March 27, 2017, the Water Board's contractor was able to treat and discharge approximately 300,000 to 400,000 gallons every two days. Approximately 5 million gallons of AMD have been successfully treated and discharged under very challenging conditions.



Pond 2 South and Pond 2 North (March 16, 2017)



Pond 3 (March 20, 2017)

The AMD inflow rate from the Pit Underdrain and Adit into the holding pond system continues to increase. The inflow rate when emergency spring treatment operations began in early March was approximately 40 gallons per minute (gpm), which quickly increased to approximately 70 gpm over the next seven to ten days. As of March 27, 2017, the inflow rate was approximately 80 gpm, the highest Water Board staff has ever observed for this time of year. The maximum AMD inflow rate for the holding pond system ever observed is approximately 90 gpm. Treatment operations are basically keeping pace with inflow rates with less than four inches of capacity remaining in the pond system.

USEPA, in close coordination with Water Board staff, released a notice to external stakeholders on March 24, 2017, notifying them of the potential for a release of partially treated AMD (does not satisfy USEPA pH criteria) from the Water Board's holding pond system to Leviathan Creek. The notice

informed stakeholders that should such a discharge occur, impacts to the creek are expected to be minimal due to existing high creek flows at the point of discharge (est. 100 to 1 dilution rate), and the effect of discharges of untreated AMD from the Channel Underdrain and Delta Seep AMD sources, that are only seasonally (late spring to early fall) captured and treated by Atlantic Richfield Company. The notice also informed stakeholders that they would be notified if and when a discharge of partially treated AMD from the Water Board holding pond system began to occur. In addition to this notice, Water Board staff provides USEPA with written weekly updates each Tuesday morning. USEPA distributes the weekly updates both internally and to external stakeholders.

#### **8. Civil Action Testimony for Swiss Mart Gasoline Station, El Dorado County - Lisa Dernbach**

The Water Board received two subpoenas in February for testimony by Lisa Dernbach related to a civil action for the Swiss Mart Gas Station in South Lake Tahoe. The current site owner, Ramos Oil Company, acquired the gas station in bankruptcy from the Amiri Oil Company. The lawsuit claims that Azad Amiri fraudulently transferred the property in February 2009 to a relative's shell corporation called Tahoe Blue Properties in an attempt to reduce liability prior to the Water Board's issuance of administrative civil liabilities in July 2009. At the time of the property transfer, Amiri was required to settle multiple liens placed on the property but didn't. Those liens were still attached to the property when Ramos Oil acquired it in 2016.

The Assistant Executive Officer requested assistance by the Attorney General's office which had been overseeing the Amiri bankruptcy matter for the state for settlement of ACLs by multiple regional boards. Deputy Attorney General Even Eickmeyer provided assistance to Ms. Dernbach.

The first subpoena by attorneys for Mr. Amiri, requested a deposition by Ms. Dernbach on February 14 regarding the release history, investigations, and cleanup actions. Questions were specific to compliance with Board orders and estimate cleanup costs remaining to achieve site closure. Mr. Eickmeyer attended the deposition.

The second subpoena by attorneys for Ramos Oil, requested Ms. Dernbach's testimony at the March 6 trial in South Lake Tahoe. Questions at the trial concerned Mr. Amiri's and Kang Properties, Incorporated's non-compliance history at the site, petroleum impacts to water supply wells, the Water Board's issuance of three ACL orders, and remaining corrective actions in 2009. Some of the liens on the property were from contractors and consultants who claimed they had not been paid for investigation work, monitoring and reporting, and excavation activities. Ms. Dernbach provided testimony these corrective actions were required in a 2007 cleanup and abatement order (CAO) issued following a new release. Because the parties did not meet CAO deadlines, they were issued an ACL order for \$222,000. Upon completion of other outstanding corrective actions, a No Further Action letter was eventually issued by the Water Board in September 2010. Mr. Eickmeyer did not attend the trial but discussed Ms. Dernbach's testimony with her ahead of time.

#### **9. Bridgeport Public Utility District Sanitary Sewer Discharge – Robert Tucker**

On March 14, 2017, the Bridgeport Public Utility District (District) had a small sewage spill from a manhole on Highway 182. The District, with assistance from June Lake Utility District personnel, was able to clear a blockage within the sewer main and restore normal flow conditions. On March 17, 2017, District personnel observed sewage seeping again from the same manhole. June Lake Utility District personnel assisted the District in responding to the sewage spill; however, this time crews were unable to clear the sewer main blockage they encountered. The sewage discharge was observed entering an unnamed ephemeral drainage and flowing into the East Walker River near the Bridgeport Airport, upstream of Bridgeport Reservoir.

Upon further investigation, the District discovered an area where high spring runoff flows had exposed and broken the District's sewer main. The District subsequently determined that a significant portion of the damaged sewer main was inundated with mud and/or had collapsed. The District took action to

redirect the sewage discharge, stopping the discharge from continuing to enter the East Walker River. The District also isolated the damaged sewer main section and established a pumper truck bypass system. On March 19, 2017, the pumper truck bypass system was replaced with a pump-based bypass system using rented equipment. The District estimates that approximately 300,000 gallons of sewage was discharged from the sewer system, with an unknown amount reaching the East Walker River.

On March 21, 2017, the District's contractor, Con Spec, began replacing the damaged sewer main section and by March 29, 2017, had replaced approximately 500 liner feet of damaged sewer main. An additional 400 linear feet still needed to be replaced before normal flow conditions could be reestablished and bypass operations terminated.

During this time period, the District has identified two additional areas of concern regarding its sewer collection system. The first area is a 1,500-foot section near the repaired sewer main section. Mud has been observed in this 1,500-foot section, and attempts to remove the mud have resulted in additional sewer main deterioration (i.e., pieces of sewer pipe material were recovered with the mud). The second area of concern is located on Stock Drive and has unusually high flow rates, which could be indicative of high groundwater infiltrating into the sewer and/or a possible failing sewer line.

This District has spent an estimated \$250,000 dollars responding to the March 17, 2017 sewer spill and on subsequent repair work. This has created a substantial financial strain for the District. The Mono County Board of Supervisors has declared the high spring runoff conditions, believed to have caused the District's sewer system failure, as an emergency. Water Board staff has reached out to the State Water Resources Control Board to identify financial assistance options for the District, and has provided the District links to the State Water Resources Control Board's FFAST application process for loans and grants. Staff has also provided some additional information regarding potential federal financial assistance. Staff will continue working with the District in assessing the District's system, identifying needs, and facilitating corrective actions.

## South Lahontan Region

### 10. 2017 High Desert Water Summit – *Caren Patterson*

Water Board staff attended the 2017 High Desert Water Summit (Summit) on March 8, 2017. The Summit was hosted by the Mojave Water Agency (MWA) and the Hesperia Chamber of Commerce. It was also an opportunity for local high school students to submit essays or videos highlighting water-related topics, with winners receiving scholarships which can be applied toward their college educations. The objective was for students to understand the importance of water and its complex issues both here in the High Desert and throughout California.

It was encouraging to hear the ideas of the contestants and their different approaches to water issues. They brought forward some great ideas, such as a recent industrial processing change at the Nutro Dog Food plant in Victorville. Through a manufacturing process change, the plant is saving millions of gallons of water annually and obtained the investment return in only two years. The presenter showed how if more facilities in the state implemented these kinds of changes; there would be a tremendous conservation effect in California's water demand.

There were also three guest speakers. Nick Schneider of MWA spoke about career opportunities in the water industry. Joel Greene of the television series *Curiosity Quest* spoke on the ability of individuals to make changes, both in their own lives and within their communities. Robin Kobaly gave a presentation on the Power of Plants. Ms. Kobaly is the President and co-founder of the Power of Plants and the Executive Director of the Summer Tree Institute in Morongo Valley. This presentation proved to dovetail nicely into work by Tom Browne of the Water Board's stormwater program regarding soil erosion at new solar photovoltaic power installations. The Power of Plants presentation demonstrated how the native desert plants have more going on under the soil than on top of it. Some individual native plants have

survived in the desert for hundreds of years or more and are best adapted to deal with the climate. These plants have the ability to take carbon dioxide out of the air and hold it within their roots, thus lowering greenhouse gases. Living plants will also reduce the blowing sand and erosion issues as they provide a natural wind break. By scraping the land of all native vegetation and then grading it flat to build solar farms, all of these advantages are lost and not easily regained. This speaker provided convincing information that helps Water Board staff educate solar power companies regarding protecting native vegetation.

## **11. “Standing Item” - Update on Barstow Perchlorate – *William Muir***

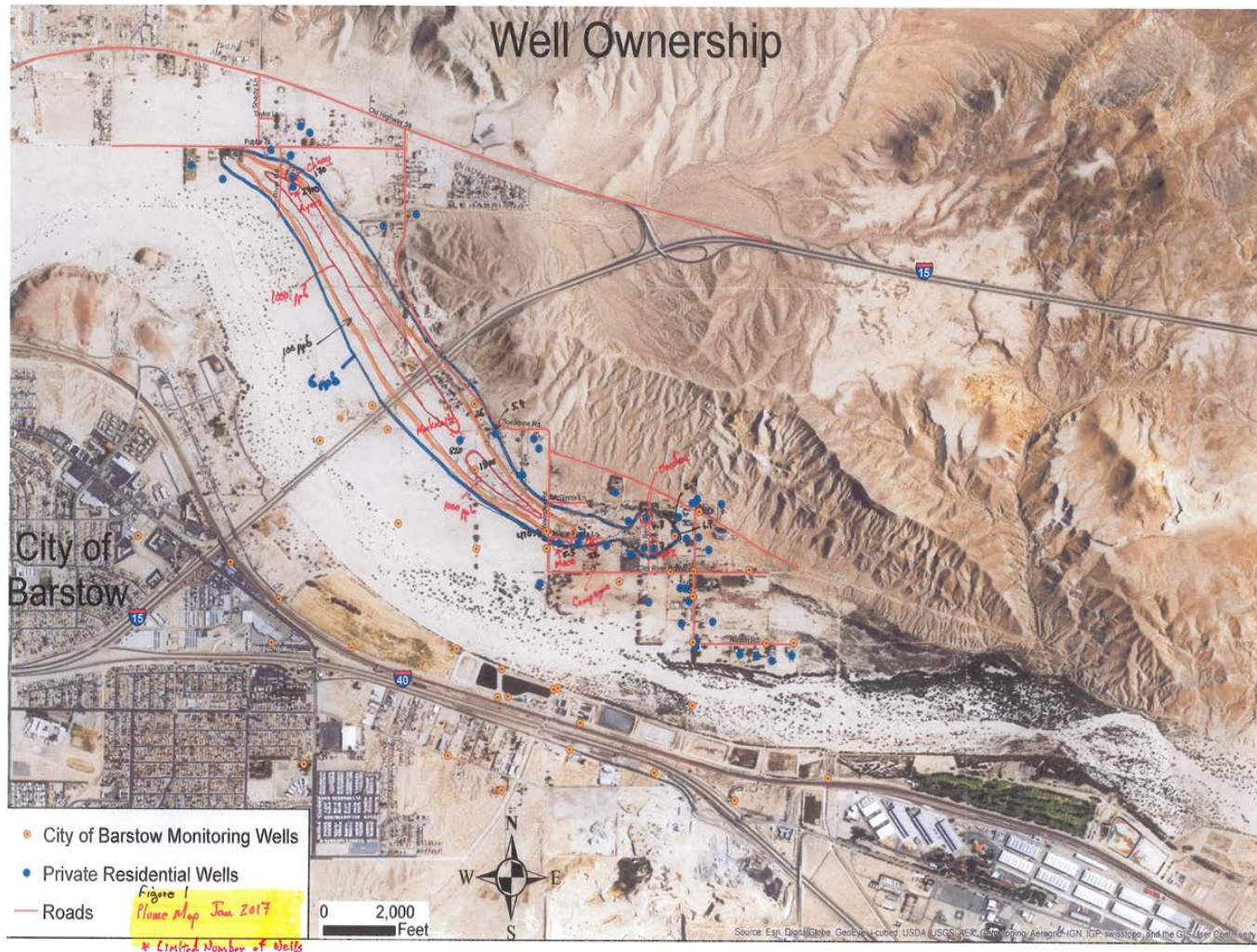
### **Status of Grant Application**

Lahontan Water Board staff submitted a detailed grant application for a pilot scale treatability study to clean up the source of perchlorate at 30433 Poplar Road in Barstow. On December 29, 2016, \$2.67 million was awarded to the Water Board for the cleanup project. Currently, the Department of General Services is working with Water Board staff on the contracting process. The cleanup project includes a pilot scale soil flushing system in the source area and up to three groundwater extraction wells to capture perchlorate released to the aquifer during the soil flushing process. The extracted groundwater will be treated onsite. Data collected during the operation of the pilot scale system will be used to evaluate the effectiveness and feasibility of the soil flushing and groundwater treatment technologies. Water Board staff and the consultant will use this data to design a full-scale system for the treatment of perchlorate in the source area soil and groundwater. Aquifer data will be used to evaluate groundwater remediation technologies for that portion of the perchlorate groundwater plume that has migrated downgradient of the source area.

### **Status of Barstow Perchlorate Plume**

Water Board staff collected quarterly groundwater samples in January 2017 from 11 private residential wells and from 8 groundwater monitoring wells owned by the city of Barstow. The results from these samples help define the extent of the plume both horizontally and vertically. Based on the analytical results from the January quarterly sampling event, the plume continues to move southeast in the residential area south and east of Interstate 15 (Figure 1). Generally, concentrations of perchlorate above 500 parts per billion are located west of Webster Road. However, perchlorate is now observed over 2000 feet east of Webster Road at the maximum contaminant level of 6 parts per billion. Based on a limited number of monitoring wells that monitor deeper portions of the aquifer, the perchlorate plume appears to be isolated to the shallow part of the aquifer. The next quarterly sampling event will occur during April 2017.

Figure 1



## 12. Water Board Staff Meet with Antelope Valley Air Quality Management District and City of Palmdale Staff to Discuss How to Minimize Erosion Problems at Solar Facilities – Tom Browne

On Wednesday, February 23, 2017, Water Board staff from the Victorville office met with representatives of the City of Palmdale and the Antelope Valley Air Quality Management District (AVAQMD) to discuss soil erosion problems at solar facilities in the Antelope Valley. Photovoltaic (PV) solar facilities are the largest growth industry in the Lahontan Region, covering over 60 square miles of desert and fallow farm land. Though much of the Antelope Valley is not regarded as having waters of the United States, most solar builders have been enrolling voluntarily under the construction general permit. Water Board staff enforce permit conditions for all enrollees that apply. Water Board staff has noticed a wide range of methods of site preparation: some build right on top of native vegetation (good), mowing it as needed, and some have been blading sites flat (bad). PV solar sites that have been bladed flat become infested with tumbleweeds; tumbleweeds do little to control wind and water erosion, die in one year, then pile up against fences. Re-vegetation efforts at denuded sites are costly and have had little success. Denuded sites cause wind-blown dust, and the Antelope Valley Air Quality Management District (AVAQMD) has received numerous complaints. The AVAQMD said it is impossible to suppress dust on windy days in the Antelope Valley using just water trucks, once the site has been denuded Lahontan Water Board staff learned from one of the PV solar builders that the City of Palmdale and Los Angeles County have very different site design requirements. During one staff inspection, one builder claimed he submitted grading plans to the City of Palmdale showing they would blade the site flat, in order to get their building permit faster. Members of the AVAQMD were very pleased that Lahontan Water Board staff reached out to

them to meet with the City of Palmdale to see how we could work together to persuade the solar builders to leave more native vegetation in place, and to implement permanent erosion control measures during construction, where water trucks alone don't suffice.

Water Board staff shared many photos from previous site inspections, including sites that have been bladed flat, and sites where solar arrays were built right on top of native vegetation. Michael Mischel, Director of Public Works for the City, said that ideologically, the City agrees with the goals of both agencies. He added that construction practices that control wind erosion will most likely control water erosion as well. Brett Banks of the AVAQMD said "our program had early checkered success, but it has evolved over the years, just as the solar industry has evolved." Mr. Banks said the AVAQMD is very interested in what we have observed of solar facilities in San Bernardino County, where their sister agency, the Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District (MDAQMD) has been receiving complaints of wind-blown dust in San Bernardino County. Both air districts now require solar builders to submit an erosion control plan, and the requirements for these plans have become more stringent due to increased public attention to this problem.

Water Board staff in the Stormwater program pledged to work with the AVAQMD and the MDAQMD in the future to improve designs of solar facilities to minimize wind and water erosion from their facilities, and to have effective permanent post-construction stormwater controls.



Photo 5: View south along the fence line of a completely denuded lot owned by Spower; east Palmdale, salted for construction. Note the accumulated sand drifts on the leeward side of the shrubs, and the blowing sand in the background. Photo by Tom Browne



Photo 6: Ground up palm fronds imported from Los Angeles County landfills have been ordered by the AVAQMD as mitigation for wind-blown erosion; shown is a 160-acre PV solar facility owned by SPower in east Palmdale. Photo by Tom Browne



### **13. “Standing Item” - City of Barstow Wastewater Treatment Plant Compliance with Enforcement Orders – *Ghasem Pour-ghasemi***

#### **Plant Upgrades Completed**

The City of Barstow (City) completed Phase I improvement projects upgrading its wastewater treatment plant and disposal percolation ponds in July 2015. Phase II is not yet scheduled, but will address additional improvements. Currently, one aeration basin, one primary clarifier and two secondary clarifiers are in use. The remainder of the plant is idle due to lack of inflow. The City rotates aeration basins, primary clarifiers, and secondary clarifiers annually for maintenance and cleanup. Both digesters are operating most of the time and one only down when they need to be cleaned. The treated effluent is discharged to percolation ponds 3, 5 and 6 as well as the Southern Irrigation Field. Ponds 1 and 2 are being dried up for maintenance.

#### **Nitrate Pollution Groundwater Cleanup**

Cleanup and Abatement Order (CAO) No. R6V-2013-0045 required the City to design and construct a system to capture and treat nitrate polluted groundwater downgradient of the northern irrigation field in the Soapmine Road neighborhood. Three additional amendments to this CAO were made due to the presence of perchlorate that is migrating from a contaminated site about three miles upgradient of the City’s nitrate source area (formerly used Northern Irrigation Field). The two plumes of perchlorate and nitrate are now co-mingled. Water Board and City staff agreed that the perchlorate and nitrate groundwater pollution should be addressed simultaneously.

The City’s consultant, BKT has applied for and received a \$1.7 million grant from the California Energy Commission (CEC) to conduct a small amount of groundwater extraction (0.175 to 0.35 million gallons per day) to treat and remove both nitrate and perchlorate. The project is being designed and the pump and treat system should be up and running in third quarter 2017. On three occasions since November 2016, Water Board staff met with the City to discuss details of the proposed construction and disposal site for the treated water. Based on these discussions, Water Board staff will develop a revised CAO.

#### **Residential Well Sampling in the Soapmine Road Area**

The City continues to conduct residential well sampling of drinking water wells in the Soapmine Road area, as required by CAO No. R6V-2007-0017. In first quarter 2017, the City sampled 32 residential wells. Only one residential well exceeded the drinking water maximum contaminant level (MCL) for nitrate as nitrogen 10 mg/L. A total of seven private wells showed nitrate as nitrogen concentrations exceeding 5 mg/L (the level at which the CAO requires replacement water). The nitrate concentrations are trending downward in some wells and upwards in others. The City has been providing 10 residents within the required study area with uninterrupted replacement water service (bottled water). The City has requested to reduce the frequency of the sampling of the number of residential wells that have not exceeded nitrate as nitrogen of concentrations of 5 mg/L for the last several years. Water Board staff intends to recommend allowing reduced sampling provided triggers are established to resume sampling if groundwater elevations increase.



# **ENCLOSURE 3**



**EXECUTIVE OFFICER ACTION ITEMS**  
**APRIL 2017 EO REPORT - February 16, 2017 to March 15, 2017**  
**Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board**

DOCUMENT	DATE SIGNED
<b>NO FURTHER ACTION REQUIRED *</b>	
Los Angeles County, Former USA Service Station, 38821 N 10 <sup>th</sup> Street West, Palmdale	02/16/17
Inyo County, Chevron 9-3271, 109 South Main Street, Big Pine	02/16/17
Inyo County, Board Order No. R6V-0009, For Clean Water Section 401 Water Quality Certification, Horton Creek Weir Replacement Project, Bishop	02/22/17
San Bernardino County, Former DJ's Market, 72352 Baker Blvd., Baker	03/03/17
<b>401 WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION</b>	
Los Angeles County, Saddleback Center, 17051 East Avenue O, Palmdale	03/02/17
San Bernardino County, Board Order No. R6V-2017-0011, For Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification, Puesta Del Sol Culvert Project, Victorville	03/09/17
Placer County, Board Order No. R6T-2017-2012, Clean Water Act Section 401 Quality Certification for Truckee River Interceptor MH 81 to MH 83 Improvements Project	03/16/17
<b>AGREEMENTS AND CONTRACTS</b>	
El Dorado County, Adoption of Settlement Agreement for Entry of Administrative Civil Liability Order No R6T-2016-0063, Action Motorsports of Tahoe, Inc. Meeks Bay Marina	03/03/17
Late Justification of Contract No. 16-076-160, University of California, Davis	03/15/17
<b>ACCEPTANCE OF PROPOSAL</b>	
San Bernardino County, Acceptance of Proposal for Source Area In-SITU Reactive Zone (IRZ) 2017 Expansion Basis of Design, PG&E Compressor Station, Hinkley	03/03/17
<b>EXEMPTIONS</b>	
Placer County, Exemption to the Discharge Prohibition within the Truckee River Hydrologic Unit for the Truckee River Interceptor MH 81 to MH 83 Improvements project, WDID No 6A311607004	03/03/17
<b>REPORTS</b>	
TMDL 2016 Findings and Recommendations Memo	03/01/17
TMDL 2017 Annual Strategy	03/01/17

\* The Executive Officer finds the release of petroleum products at the following sites poses a low threat to human health, safety, and the environment. Therefore, these cases were closed in accordance with the Water Quality Control Policy for Low-Threat Underground Storage Tank Case Closure (Resolution 2012-016). The Policy recognizes contaminant mass often remains after the investment of reasonable remedial effort and this mass may be difficult to remove regardless of the level of additional effort and resources invested. The establishment of the Policy is an effort to maximize the benefits to the people of the State of California through the judicious application of available resources.

**Additional links:**

General Policy information: [http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/ust/lt\\_cls\\_plcy.shtml#policy081712](http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/ust/lt_cls_plcy.shtml#policy081712)

Copy of Policy: [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board\\_decisions/adopted\\_orders/resolutions/2012/rs2012\\_0016atta.pdf](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_decisions/adopted_orders/resolutions/2012/rs2012_0016atta.pdf)

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board\\_decisions/adopted\\_orders/resolutions/2012/110612\\_6\\_final\\_ltcp%20imp%20plan.pdf](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_decisions/adopted_orders/resolutions/2012/110612_6_final_ltcp%20imp%20plan.pdf)



# **ENCLOSURE 4**





**Monthly Enforcement Action Report  
February 16, 2017 - March 15, 2017**

Facility	County	Enforcement Action	Current Status	Next Step
<b>Water Board Actions</b>				
None at this time				
<b>Executive Officer Actions</b>				
Meeks Bay Marina	El Dorado	<b>Executed Settlement Agreement</b>	Discharger and Prosecution Team arrived at proposed settlement of \$15,000 to resolve effluent limit violations and sampling errors. No comments received during public comment period and Discharger has submitted payment.	Executive Officer signed the Settlement Agreement March 1, 2017
Desert View Dairy	San Bernardino	<b>Proposed Amended CAO</b> expanding area for replacement water and monitoring and establishes TDS thresholds to address nitrate and TDS groundwater pollution.	Advisory Team second request for information. Prosecution Team provided a response to Advisory Team. Advisory Team held meeting in January with the parties.	Advisory Team will, recommend EO to sign, reject or revise CAO.
Lake Tahoe Laundry Works CAO for additional cleanup and investigation.	El Dorado	<b>Proposed CAO</b> to conduct additional ground water investigation and remediation activities for PCE groundwater pollution.	Prosecution Team issued Response to Comments and Revised CAO. Advisory Team is reviewing all the information received.	Advisory Team will, recommend EO to sign, reject or revise CAO.
<b>Prosecution Team Actions</b>				
City of Victorville	San Bernardino	<b>ACL Complaint</b> issued 7/1/2016	Settlement Negotiations underway. Prosecution Team reviewing latest City submittal.	Prosecution Team will issue a response to the City's latest submittal.
Tahoe Keys Marina	El Dorado	<b>Expedited Payment Letter/</b> Mandatory Minimum Penalty re-issued 10/27/2016.	Discharger submitted request on 11/16/2016 to dismiss all penalties. Prosecution Team reviewed Discharger's request.	Prosecution Team will issue a response to the Discharger's request.
Lakeside Marina	El Dorado	<b>Expedited Payment Letter/</b> Mandatory Minimum Penalty issued 12/15/2016.	Discharger had two serious effluent limit violations resulting in mandatory minimum penalties of \$6,000. Discharger accepted penalty.	Proposed settlement was publicly noticed for 30-day comment period on March 8, 2017.



# **ENCLOSURE 5**



**EO's Monthly Report February 16, 2017 - March 15, 2017**  
**Unauthorized Waste Discharges\***

Discharger/Facility	Location	Basin	Regulated Facility?	Discharge Date	Discharge Volume	Description of Failure	Additional Details	Status
<b>COUNTY: EL DORADO</b>								
South Tahoe Public Utility District/Collection System	Manhole #UT253, Lake Tahoe Golf Course	North	Yes	2/22/2017	Unknown	Stormwater infiltration caused an unknown volume of raw sewage to discharge to the golf course. Surface water affected.	Stormwater infiltration exceeded the capacity of the manhole causing raw sewage to discharge to Upper Truckee River.	Cleanup was conducted by the Golf Course.
<b>COUNTY: KERN</b>								
Rio Tinto Minerals	14486 Borax Rd, BAP #3	South	Yes	2/20/2017	2,400 gallons	Excessive leakage rates overwhelmed pump causing spill of leachate to unpaved surface. No surface water.	Pond BAP #3 leachate pump was overwhelmed and caused leachate to discharge.	New pump is operational and keeping up with flows. Area cleaned up.
<b>COUNTY: LOS ANGELES</b>								
City of Lancaster/Collection System	Manhole at 60th West and Avenue L-8	South	Yes	3/6/2017	1,050 gallons	Sand blocked flow in manhole caused discharge to paved and unpaved surface. No surface water affected.	Recent storms caused infiltration of sand into manhole cover causing the release of raw sewage to paved and unpaved surface.	Flow was restored, returned portions of spill to system, cleaned area.

\*All discharges to surface waters are included in the report.  
Discharges to land of less than 100 gallons are not included in the report.



# **ENCLOSURE 6**





# 2017 City of Los Angeles Snowpack Runoff Emergency Declaration

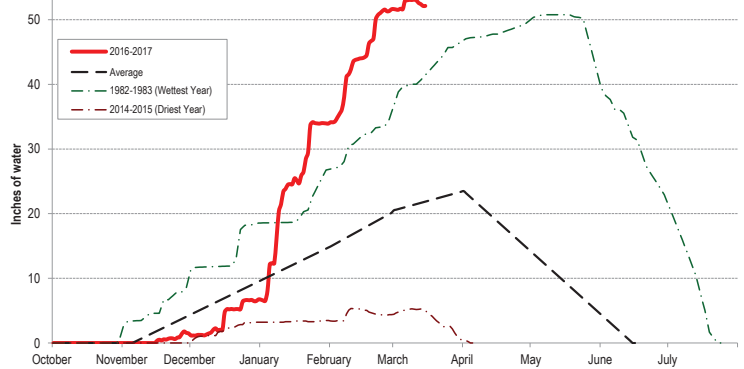
## Fact Sheet

With snowpack levels in the Eastern Sierra registering at 241 percent of normal, the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) is expecting one of the largest snowpack runoffs from the Eastern Sierra watershed in the over 100-year history of the Los Angeles Aqueduct. Up to 1 million acre feet (AF) of water – or about twice the amount of water Angelenos consume in one year – is expected to flow through the aqueduct system this spring and summer. This massive amount of water exceeds the storage capacity of the entire LA Aqueduct System and has prompted the Mayor of the City of Los Angeles to issue an Emergency Declaration to allow LADWP to take immediate steps to protect infrastructure and aid in managing flood waters. The declaration is expected to assist the City in response to the threat posed by this excessive runoff to the health and safety of the public as well as to protect infrastructure and the environment.

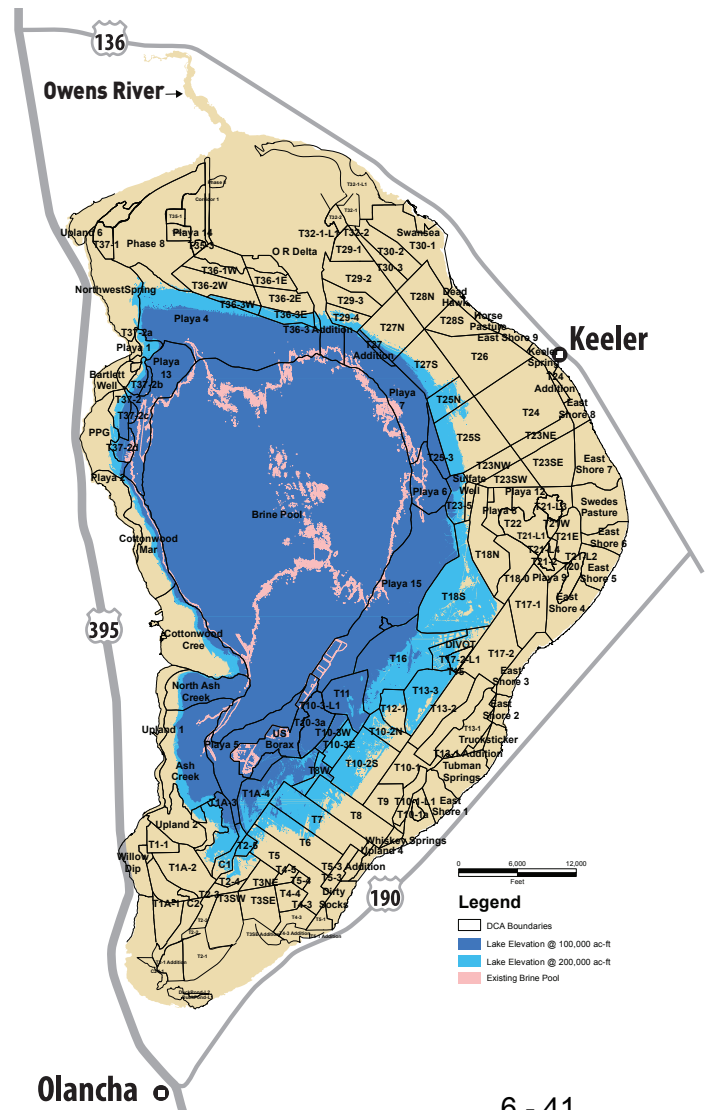
To maximize the beneficial use of this water to the fullest extent, LADWP is spreading water throughout the aqueduct system to replenish local groundwater aquifers, maximizing flows in the LA Aqueduct by emptying reservoirs to create more storage space for runoff waters, and supplying Los Angeles with aqueduct water in place of purchased water and pumped water wherever possible to manage excess flows. After all of these steps are taken, LADWP expects there to be up to 200,000 AF of flood water that will naturally flow to Owens Lake, located near Lone Pine, CA.

Just as the Pacific Ocean is the natural terminus for flood waters from the western side of the Sierra Nevada Mountain Range, Owens Lake is the natural end point for rain and snowmelt flowing down the Owens River through the Owens Valley. Water that exceeds what can be spread to recharge local aquifers and which does not make it into the LA Aqueduct system will end up on the Owens Lakebed. Once there, it will add to the existing 30 sq. miles of saline brine pools and is expected to cause significant flood damage to dust control infrastructure managed and constructed by LADWP over the past 17 years. These measures spread over nearly 50 sq. miles of dried lake playa have effectively reduced dust pollution in the area by 96 percent.

### Weighted Average of Owens Valley Snow Courses



### Owens Lake Dust Mitigation Program



## Los Angeles Aqueduct System

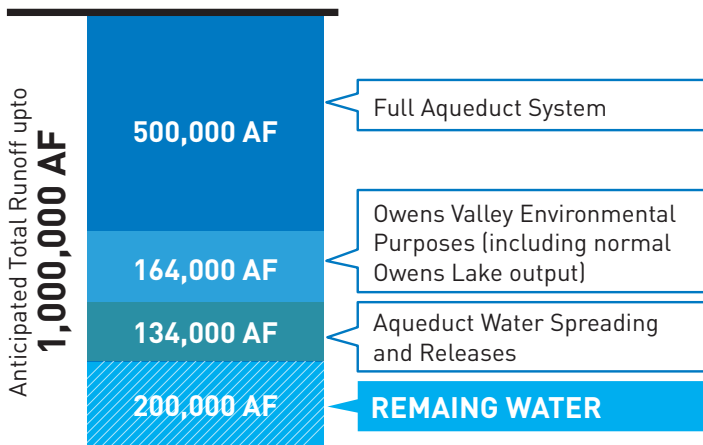
Since 2000, the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power has invested over \$1.1 billion in dust mitigation infrastructure on Owens Lake. The excess runoff threatens to destroy significant elements or portions of LADWP’s dust control areas and interrupt dust mitigation operations, possibly altering the ecosystem in a way that would generate excess air pollution that could threaten the health of the public after the runoff evaporates over the next 12 to 18 months.

Therefore, the City of Los Angeles must take immediate steps, including constructing infrastructure on and near Owens Lake to manage the flow of water onto the lake playa in a manner that avoids additional air quality problems. LADWP must also take subsequent steps to repair, replace and remediate damaged dust mitigation infrastructure at Owens Lake to ensure air quality is maintained throughout the Owens Valley Planning Area. These immediate and prospective measures will be done to fulfill the City’s dust mitigation commitments on Owens’s Lake despite this emergency situation.

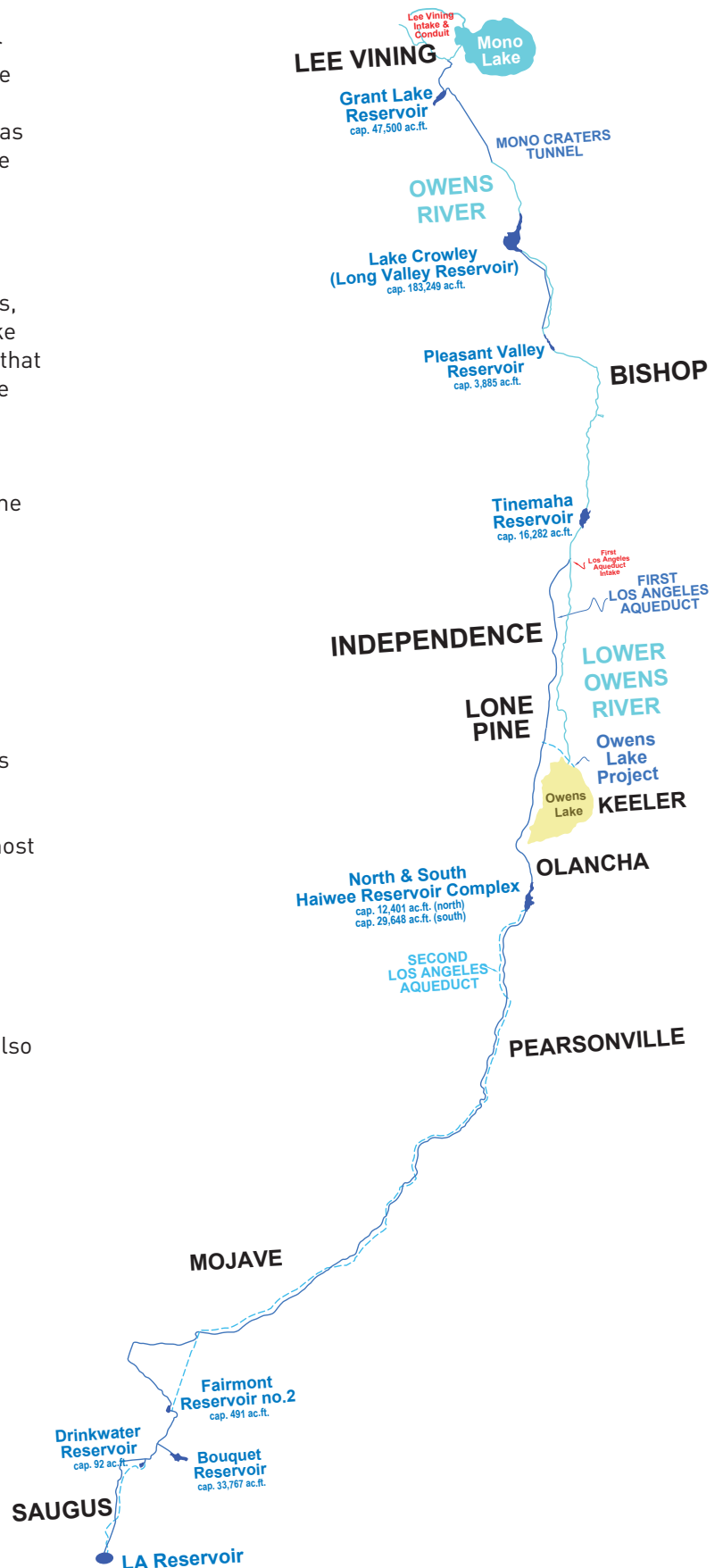
In addition to emergency measures required at Owens Lake, LADWP must also take action to armor and repair certain LA Aqueduct facilities from floodwater impacts, clean out water conveyance and delivery facilities of debris, increase water storage at certain locations, increase water flows in certain controlled waterways, construct flood control projects throughout the Aqueduct system to mitigate potential harm and maximize the amount of water delivered to Los Angeles while ensuring all water available is put to the highest and most beneficial use.

This Emergency Declaration issued by the Mayor triggers City rules allowing LADWP to contract for the goods and services necessary to respond to the threat and rebuild any infrastructure that may be damaged. It is effective for seven days and may be extended further by the LA City Council. It also allows the City to request all necessary assistance from the state in order to respond to the flooding and proactively take necessary precautions to prepare for possible damages.

### By The Numbers:\*



\*Note: All numbers are estimates



# Questions and Answers

## About the City of Los Angeles Emergency Declaration to Respond to the Snowpack Runoff



### What is LADWP doing to manage the excess water?

LADWP crews are working right now to lower reservoir levels in the upper aqueduct system in order to make room for the runoff when the snow begins to melt. We are also maximizing the benefits of this water while we have it by replenishing the groundwater table in the Owens Valley watershed as much as possible through spreading and supplying as much water as we can to our environmental projects in the Owens Valley.

The total amount available to be delivered to Southern California is limited by the size of the Aqueduct. There is a maximum amount of the snowpack that can ultimately make it to Los Angeles. The excess will remain in Owens Valley and flow to Owens Lake.

LADWP is also reducing purchased water and increasing the use of LA Aqueduct water by making operational adjustments in the City water distribution system.

### Given this abundance of runoff, is LA still in a drought?

The high snowpack level in the Eastern Sierra this year is good news, but we have no idea what next year has in store for our water system. Climatologists predict that climate change will result in more extreme weather patterns. That means we need to prepare for wetter wet years and also drier and hotter dry years. Because of this we continue to encourage all Angelenos to maintain their water efficient lifestyle. We need to plan for the long-term and not feel any false sense of security from one extremely wet year after five years of severe, record-setting drought.

### How much could this potentially cost the City of Los Angeles?

LADWP has invested of over \$1.1 billion in dust mitigation infrastructure at Owens Lake and reduced dust levels in the Owens Valley by 96 percent. Some of this investment may be significantly damaged by flood waters that are expected to raise the level of Owens Lake up to seven feet. The water is expected to damage and/or destroy some of the dust control areas that have been planted with managed vegetation, others that have been tilled and contoured to mitigate dust, and damage or destroy other infrastructure. The extent of damage is not possible to fully assess or estimate at this time. However, LADWP has insurance and will seek federal and state disaster relief assistance. LADWP also has funding for additional dust control infrastructure that will be completed in the future. These sources are expected to cover some, if not all, of the costs to repair damage.

### Why not just refill Owens Lake and keep it full?

The flood water that will naturally flow to Owens Lake in this extreme year will eventually evaporate over the next 12 to 18 months. In future years, LADWP expects to divert water to the LA Aqueduct according to established water rights and environmental agreements. Our priority is protecting the environment in Owens Valley, while also providing a reliable source of water for the City of Los Angeles.

## Has an emergency declaration been issued before for a situation like this?

This is the first emergency declaration the City of Los Angeles has ever issued for excess snowpack runoff. In past record years (1969 and 1983) excess runoff would naturally flow to Owens Lake where it would evaporate over time. This year is different because the water that will naturally flow to Owens Lake can do significant damage to dust mitigation measures and infrastructure constructed by LADWP over the past 17 years that was not in place during previous record wet winters.

## Besides infrastructure on Owens Lake, what is threatened by this influx of water?

Public safety, roads, homes and erosion of land are all at risk by this vast amount of water flowing through the Owens Valley this year along with sensitive environmental areas. We will work closely with Inyo County officials and other water agencies to assist in managing these flood waters while taking steps to minimize the damage that we expect to occur to dust control measures at Owens Lake, where possible.

## Does this flooding pose the risk of dam failure similar to that experienced recently by the Oroville Reservoir?

We are taking every precaution to ensure dam safety during this period of high runoff. Spillways will be used at some dams along the Aqueduct system. However, we are working to avoid spilling Long Valley Dam due to environmental concerns, specifically protecting the habitat for the Owens Tui Chub that live just below Long Valley Dam.

## Is LADWP managing flood waters for Inyo and Mono Counties?

The multiple atmospheric river systems that have inundated California created conditions that will result in possible flooding that can place the safety of the public, property, infrastructure and the environment in peril. All of LADWP's efforts to manage water this runoff season will aid in preventing harm and damage to the public, environment, and the communities of Mono and Inyo County. LADWP's management of these flood waters will assist the counties with their flood control efforts.

## If Owens Lake floods to the levels we expect, how long would it take to recede? And then how long before that damaged portion becomes emissive?

We expect water to evaporate from the Owens Lakebed between 12 and 18 months after the high level of flows cease. It is important that LADWP manages the increased flow as to not disturb the ecosystem restoration and dust mitigation measures to the greatest extent possible. LADWP will work to repair any damage to the dust mitigation infrastructure and ensure that future investments allow for surge capacity in extreme wet years.