EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT • June 2020

Covers April 16, 2020 – May 15, 2020

Contents

State and Regional

1. Personnel Report – *Eric Shay*

New Hires

- Mike Plaziak, C.E.A. (Career Executive Assignment) to serve as the Region's Assistant Executive Officer.
- Anna Garcia, Senior Engineering Geologist (Specialist), South Regulatory Division, Victorville. This position serves as the Regional Groundwater Specialist, Regional Policies Representative and Lead, and Regional Specialist for Investigations and Studies. The position will provide lead responsibility for making policy recommendations; provide technical expertise; evaluate and draft geological reports, staff reports, other technical documents; and perform analyses on technically complex and potentially politically sensitive assignments related to water quality.

Vacancies:

- Senior Environmental Scientist (Specialist), Compliance & Planning Division, South Lake Tahoe. This position serves as the Regional Monitoring Coordinator; lead for coordinating implementation of the Region's Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Strategy; and regional specialist for monitoring related special studies, investigations, and projects. The position will provide the lead responsibility for making policy recommendations, providing technical expertise orally and in written documents, evaluating and drafting environmental documents, and performing

analysis on technically complex and politically sensitive assignments related to water quality monitoring and Water Board response to climate change in the Lahontan Region.

- Engineering Geologist, Department of Defense / Site Cleanup Program Unit, Victorville. This position analyzes threat of pollutants to groundwater and surface waters, reviews technical reports for cleanup strategies, reviews site investigation results, reviews proposed cleanup alternatives to ensure compliance with water quality objectives, prepares enforcement orders, investigates spills, and conducts inspections of cleanup sites and facilities.
- Water Resource Control Engineer, Wastewater & Agricultural Operations Unit, Victorville. This position provides regulatory oversight of projects involving discharges to ground or surface waters and projects intended to restore and/or enhance water quality.
- Scientific Aid, Cleanup/Site Investigation & Enforcement Unit, South Lake Tahoe. This position assists staff with administering the site cleanup, underground storage tank, land disposal, and enforcement programs; reviewing reports, and maintaining databases; reviews self-monitoring reports for cases, permits and enforcement actions; reviews project files and water quality data to prepare for field inspections and permit updates; assists with field inspections; and reviews California Environmental Quality Act documents.

Departures – None

North Lahontan Region

2. [illegible] *Anne Holden*

Figure 2.1. Failed culvert crossing, South Fork Prosser Creek. TRWC.

The State Water Board's Nonpoint Source Grant Program is supported by funds from the USEPA provided under Clean Water Act (CWA) section 319. Annually, funding to reduce nonpoint source pollution is awarded in a competitive statewide grant solicitation and review process. During the 2020 CWA 319 grant cycle, the Truckee River Watershed Council (TRWC) submitted a proposal to reduce erosion and sedimentation to the south fork of Prosser Creek in the Euer Valley,

which was selected for funding by the statewide review panel. The total project cost is $939,435; the 319h grant award is $589,835. Matching funds and services totaling 37 percent of the total project cost were contributed by the TRWC and the landowner, the Tahoe Donner Association.

The Euer Valley restoration project is in a headwater meadow complex approximately 1.75 miles northwest of the Tahoe Donner subdivision in Nevada County. Historic land uses such as dirt roads, logging, and grazing have degraded conditions in the meadow and stream channel. Current land uses are year-round recreational open space, with legacy, unplanned trails in the meadow. The need for restoration in the area was identified during development of the 2013 Tahoe Donner Trails Master Plan. The project will restore 10 acres of riparian mountain meadow complex in the Euer Valley by stabilizing 2,400 feet of eroding streambanks and replacing a failed culvert crossing (see figure 2.1). Approximately 1,200 feet of eroded trail will be improved to provide sustainable recreation access. Project construction will take place in late summer 2022.

The project has a strong nexus to the Middle Truckee River Watershed Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL), which identifies controlling sediment from dirt roads and legacy sources as high priorities to achieve TMDL sediment reduction targets. The TMDL identifies Prosser Creek as one the largest contributors of sediment in the watershed. It also identifies restoration of wetlands, meadows and streambanks as important sediment control measures. The TRWC is developing a watershed assessment for the larger Prosser Creek sub-basin, which will be completed summer 2021. Additional phases of work in Euer Valley will be prioritized through that effort.

Water Board staff strongly advocated for the project during the 2020 CWA 319 grant review and selection process. Staff will continue to support the project by processing grant invoices and work products, reviewing final design plans, and issuing CWA section 401 water quality certification and Basin Plan prohibition exemptions.

3. **Standing Item - Status of Grant Activities from April 2019 to May 2020 –** *Cindy Wise*

This is the annual update on key grant and loan program activities in our Region. Low-interest loan and grant funding is available for watershed protection projects, nonpoint source pollution control projects, infrastructure improvements, construction of facilities for municipal sewage treatment, water recycling, public water supply, and local climate adaptation/resilience projects. Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board (Lahontan Water Board) and State Water Board staff coordinate to implement the Water Boards' financial assistance programs to administer loan and grant funds to help local agencies and California Native American Tribes prevent or clean up pollution of the state's water, and provide safe drinking water. State Water Board staff manages most of the grants with input from Lahontan Water Board staff as needed. The main exception is with the Nonpoint Source Grant Program where Regional Water Board staff generally manage the grants located within their respective Regional Board boundaries. The Nonpoint Source Clean Water Act section 319h grants currently managed by Lahontan Water Board staff are show in a table near the end of this document.

Proposition 68 - California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection and Outdoor Access for All Act of 2018 (Prop 68)

On June 5, 2018, California voters passed a general obligation bond in the amount of $4 billion to finance drought, water, parks, climate, coastal protection, and outdoor access

programs. These programs will be administered by several state agencies including the California Tahoe Conservancy, the Sierra Nevada Conservancy, and the State Water Board.

The initial efforts of the State Water Board under Prop 68 will be to administer $80 million in grants for treatment and remediation activities that prevent or reduce the contamination of groundwater that serves as a source of drinking water. Solicitation closed in January 2020 and awards are planned for summer 2020. Approximately $16 million is set-aside for projects serving Severely Disadvantaged Communities (SDACs). State Board staff has just released a new streamlined solicitation for SDACs. This solicitation will close July 17, 2020 at 5:00 pm. More information is available at Proposition 68 Groundwater Treatment and Remediation Grant Program website. As with past grant programs funded from water bonds, Lahontan Water Board staff may be asked to help develop grant guidelines or recommend projects for funding.

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

Prop 1 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 administers some of the Prop 1 funds for five programs with a rollout of the bond funds over a ten-year period that started in Fiscal Year 15/16. Lahontan Water 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:
https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/grants_loans/proposition1/
A new data visualization of the overall Prop 1 program to date is at:
https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/grants_loans/proposition1/

The five Prop 1 programs administered by State Water Board staff are: Groundwater Sustainability, Stormwater, Small Community Wastewater, Water Recycling, and Drinking Water.

Groundwater Sustainability: For the Prop 1 Groundwater Sustainability Program, preliminary project awards for Round 2 were announced in November 2019. Execution of final grant agreements is planned for later in 2020. More information on Prop 1 Groundwater Sustainability Grants can be found at:
https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/grants_loans/proposition1/groundwater_sustainability.html.

A new data visualization tool displaying information about the 28 Prop 1 Groundwater Sustainability projects funded to date is at:
https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/grants_loans/proposition1/groundwater_proj_locations.shtml

Stormwater Implementation: Prop 1 Stormwater Implementation (Round 2) grant solicitation is now open with $100 million available. A webinar for Round 2 applicants was held on Tuesday May 12, 2020. The solicitation will close on July 2, 2020. For more information, please see:
https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/grants_loans/swgp/prop1/

A new data visualization tool displaying information about the 47 Prop 1 Stormwater Implementation projects funded to date is at:

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/grants_loans/proposition1/stormwater_proj_locations.shtml

Small Community Wastewater: Prop 1 allocates $260 million to the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) Small Community Grant (SCG) Fund. The State Water Board has an annual SCG appropriation of $8 million dollars, which is administered consistent with the CWSRF Intended Use Plan (IUP), and the CWSRF. The Prop 1 funds will supplement existing SCG authority. Also see the CWSRF information below. A new data visualization tool displaying information about the 95 Prop 1 Small Community Wastewater Implementation projects funded to date is at: https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/grants_loans/proposition1/small_community_proj_locations.shtml

Water Recycling: The purpose of the Prop 1 Water Recycling Funding Program (WRFP) is to promote the beneficial use of treated municipal wastewater (water recycling) in order to augment fresh water supplies in California by providing technical and financial assistance to agencies and other stakeholders in support of water recycling projects and research. The Guidelines for the Water Recycling Program were amended in October 2019. Availability of WRFP funds remaining for water recycling projects are included in the CWSRF IUP. Also see the CWSRF information below. A new data visualization tool displaying information about the 53 Prop 1 Water Recycling projects funded to date is at: https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/grants_loans/proposition1/water_recycling_proj_locations.shtml

Drinking Water Prop: Allocates $260 million for drinking water grants and loans for public water system infrastructure improvements and related actions to meet safe drinking water standards ensure affordable drinking water, or both. These funds will be administered consistent with the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Intended Use Plan (DWSRF IUP). Administering these funds as a part of the DWSRF Program allows grant funds to be easily leveraged with low-interest financing available through the DWSRF Program. Also see the DWSRF information below. A new data visualization tool displaying information about the 159 Prop 1 Drinking Water projects funded to date is at: https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/grants_loans/proposition1/drinking_water_proj_locations.shtml

The Site Cleanup Subaccount Program (SCAP)

SCAP was established by Senate Bill 445 (Hill, 2014) as a non-competitive grant program authorizing the State Water Board to fund grants for projects to investigate sources of surface water and groundwater contamination, and to remediate the harm to human health, safety, or the environment caused by existing or threatened surface or groundwater contamination of human origin. The project site must be subject to a regulatory directive, order, or notification, unless it is infeasible to issue such regulatory items. Under SCAP, the Water Board, in March 2019, received a $4.6 million grant to investigate regional perchloroethylene (PCE) groundwater contamination in South Lake Tahoe affecting drinking water wells. This is the second SCAP grant award the Water Board has received. The first award (January 2017) was a $2.67 million grant for cleaning up perchlorate groundwater contamination in the Barstow area. SCAP currently uses a continuous Pre-Application process. For more information, please go to: https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/grants_loans/scap/.

Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) Program and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) 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. 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. Both programs are funded by federal grants, state bond funds, local match funds, repayments, and revenue bonds. Both programs accept project applications on a continuous basis and the project priority lists included in the annual business plans (Intended Use Plans or IUPs) can be amended, as necessary.

On May 20, 2020, the State Water Board will be conducting a public workshop (remote participation only) to discuss the Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2020 CWSRF and DWSRF IUPs. A webcast will be available at: https://video.calepa.ca.gov/. For more information, please go to: https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/grants_loans/srf/.

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. The IRWM story began in 2002 when the Regional Water Management Planning Act (SB 1672) was passed by the Legislature. Since then, various bond acts approved by California voters have provided funding to support and advance integrated, multi-benefit regional projects. To be eligible for IRWM grant funds, IRWM geographic regions must be approved by California Department of Water Resources (DWR). In coordination with Water Board staff, DWR has approved six IRWM groups in the Lahontan Region - Lahontan Basins, Tahoe Sierra, Inyo Mono, Fremont, Antelope Valley, and Mojave. For additional general IRWM information, see: https://www.water.ca.gov/Programs/Integrated-Regional-Water-Management

Prop 1 IRWM Awards for Lahontan Region: Prop 1 includes $510 million for water conservation, water-use efficiency, and storm water management projects statewide that implement an approved IRWM.]Of that amount, $24.5 million is earmarked for future IRWM projects in the Lahontan Region. Lahontan Water 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. Solicitation and awards of Round 1 Prop 1 IRWM Implementation Grants started in 2018 with release of final grant guidelines in December 2019. Pre-application Workshops for Round 1 were held in 2019. Preliminary Round 1 funding for the Lahontan Region was announced in April 2020 with a list of projects at: https://water.ca.gov/-/media/DWR-Website/Web-Pages/Work-With-Us/Grants-And-Loans/IRWM-Grants/Files/LAH-Recommended-Funding-List_a_y20.pdf.

Tribal Regional Water Management and IRWM: The CA Department of Water Resources, Office of Tribal Policy Advisor and Division of Regional Assistance is hosting a three-part series on Tribal Regional Water Management that will take place on May 19, May 26, and June 2, 2020. This three-part series will discuss IRWM funding and technical assistance opportunities for Tribes; improving and strengthening regional water funding coordination; identifying regional needs and reviewing needs assessment; and effective

Tribal guidance of Integrated Regional Water Management. Also see: https://water.ca.gov/About/Tribal-Policy.

Clean Water Act Section 319h Nonpoint Source Grant Program

This is the federal grant program for nonpoint source pollution control projects. As shown in the table, below, Water Board staff currently manage five 319 Nonpoint Source grants totaling $2,863,835. The next project solicitation cycle will likely start in fall 2020. For more information on the grant program, please see: https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/nps/

TITLE	RECIPIENT	AMOUNT
Main Stem Truckee River Sediment Reduction	Truckee River Watershed Council	$300,000
Reducing Sediment in Squaw Creek through Meadow Restoration	Trout Unlimited	$782,454
Truckee River Tributaries Sediment Reduction	Truckee River Watershed Council	$542,640
Coldstream Canyon Sediment Reduction and Wetland Rehabilitation Project	Truckee River Watershed Council	$648,906
Euer Valley Restoration Project (Phase 1)	Truckee River Watershed Council	$589,835
Total of Current Projects:		**$2,863,835**

Other Grant Information

Regional and State Water Board Staff Grants Roundtable Meetings: This grants 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 is planning its next meeting for May 2020.

Funding Opportunities for Climate Adaptation and Resilience Projects: Many of the strategies for local climate adaptation and resilience projects come with a price tag. Lahontan staff maintains a list of potential funding opportunities that may help the public and the regulated community better position themselves for funding to implement climate change adaptation efforts. This list can be found at: https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/lahontan/water_issues/programs/climate_change_adaptation/.

Funding Opportunities for California Native American Tribes: The State Water Resources Control Board, through its Office of Public Participation Tribal Affairs website at: https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/about_us/public_participation/tribal_affairs/ maintains a list of several financial programs to assist California Indian Tribes in protecting and improving California's waters. This list and other related information are also captured in a brochure: https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/about_us/public_participation/tribal_affairs/docs/fundingcalifornianativeamericantribes_webbrochure_022119final.pdf.

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. For the 2020 Funding Fairs, the CFCC Committee is carefully monitoring the current CoVid19 situation and, for now, is postponing the funding fairs until later in the year. For specific information regarding the Funding Fairs, including updates to the schedule and registration, please visit: http://www.cfcc.ca.gov/funding-fairs/.

Web Site and Electronic Mailing List: The link from the State Water Board's web page for information on current and upcoming grants is: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/grants_loans/.

The link to subscribe electronically to receive notification of new grant information by selected program is: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/email_subscriptions/swrcb_subscribe.shtml.

4. **Susanville Sanitary District's Pending Wastewater Permitting and Technical Assistance –** *Trevor Miller*

Susanville Sanitary District (SSD) is currently overdue for a renewal of its National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Order. The SSD discharges recycled water into SSD's irrigation channel for agricultural reuse and eventual discharges into Jensen slough, a tributary to the Susan River. In drafting an updated permit, it was determined that the SSD discharge has a reasonable potential to cause an exceedance of Water Quality Objectives (WQO) in the Susan River. The SSD effluent quality itself currently does not meet the stringent Water Quality Objectives (WQOs) for the Susan River, which also apply to Jensen Slough. There is insufficient dilution in Jensen Slough and Susan River, making compliance with WQOs difficult for SSD's wastewater treatment plant. In general, the WQOs are more stringent than drinking water standards:

Parameter	Units	SSD Effluent Data		Select WQOs (Susan River at Litchfield)		Drinking Water Standards	
		Maximum Observed Annual Average Value	Maximum Observed 90th Percentile Value	Annual Mean	Maximum	Primary MCL	Secondary MCL
Total Dissolved Solids	mg/L	337	404	185	250	-	500
Chloride	mg/L	36	49	8	-	-	250
Total Nitrogen	mg/L	20	26	0.65	0.80	[c]	[c]
Total Phosphorus	mg/L	4	6.3	0.25	0.30	-	-
Sulfate	mg/L	35	58	25	40	500[a]	250
Boron	mg/L	0.313	0.52	0.1	0.2	1[b]	10[2]

1 EPA MCL Goal.
2 CA Department of Drinking Water (DDW) Notification Level.
3 No STANDARDS for Total Nitrogen exists; however, standards of 45 mg/L and 10 mg/L exist for nitrate as nitrate, nitrate as nitrogen, respectively. Note that Nitrate is only a fraction of Total Nitrogen, yet the WQO for Total Nitrogen is significantly lower than the standard for nitrate.

Water Board staff, Rob Tucker and Trevor Miller, met with the SSD Board in their open Board meeting once in December 2019 and again in March 2020. The first meeting was used to inform SSD Board members that a new permit is being drafted and of the issues surrounding the permit. At the second meeting, SSD's Board retained Pace Engineering to review Water Board staff concerns. Water Board staff answered questions on different discharge alternatives and options that could be available. Discussions revolved around the potential new requirements for a surface water discharge under an NPDES permit, which is currently being drafted, or changing the current surface water discharge practice to be a discharge to land under Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs). Both Pace Engineering and Water Board staff pointed out that the Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) WQO of 185 mg/L would be difficult for the SSD surface water discharge to meet, or for any wastewater treatment system to meet without reverse osmosis or other TDS removal technology.

Another challenge with addressing SSD's discharge are the water rights to SSD's discharge held by the famers/ranchers immediately downstream of the discharge famers/ranchers need to be placed under waste reclamation requirements or SSD needs to administer the recycled water use and cover the farmers/ranchers recycled water use under State-wide General Water Reclamation Requirements. Bringing the recycled water use under regulation will also require SSD to develop a California Code of Regulations Title 22 Report for Division of Drinking Water review and acceptance. The State Water Board's Recycle Water Policy also requires that SSD's discharge be evaluated as part of a local Salt and Nutrient Management Plan. Given the nature and extent of the issues discussed, above, Pace Engineering recommended SSD apply for technical assistance from the State Water Board to aid in engineering analysis and design. The SSD Board agreed with Pace Engineering's recommendation.

Pace Engineering prepared an application for funding, Water Board staff worked with State Water Board staff to review the scope of work for the State Water Board contract. Some of the issues the technical assistance contractor may address are the following; 1) Review the existing data to confirm SSD's treated wastewater discharge has a reasonable potential to exceed WQOs applicable to the Susan River and Jensen Slough; 2) Determine if current recycled water users should be regulated either under individual water reclamation requirements or if SSD should act as an administrator; 3) Prepare a report on the use and distribution of recycled water as required by California Code of Regulation, Title 22, including potential impacts to groundwater quality; 4) Prepare a Salt and Nutrient Management Plan to determine how the SSD fits into the existing Integrated Regional Management Agency Salt and Nutrient Management Plan; 5) Develop alternatives and associated cost of improvements to the existing wastewater treatment facilities to meet new effluent limits; 6) Develop alternatives and associated cost estimates to eliminate the existing NPDES permit through wet weather storage and properly controlled discharge to land; and 7) Prepare 30 percent plans and submit a CWSRF Construction Funding Application for the recommended improvement.

SSD's funding application was accepted and will receive technical assistance through the State Water Board's technical assistance program. Water Board staff participated in the project's "kick off" meeting on May 14, 2020. The primary purpose of the meeting was to discuss roles and responsibilities moving forward.

5. **White Paper Discussion on Economic Feasibility Analysis in Consideration of a Hexavalent Chromium Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) Public Workshop, Division of Drinking Water –** *Amanda Lopez*

On April 27, 2020, the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) held a public workshop to solicit comments and feedback on the *White Paper Discussion on Economic Feasibility Analysis in Consideration of a Hexavalent Chromium MCL*. Due to the COVID-19 emergency, this workshop was held as a webcast in place of the scheduled physical meeting locations.

The workshop began with a presentation from Division of Drinking Water staff, Mark Bartson, Chief of Technical Operations Section, Robert Brownwood, Branch Chief of Program Management Branch, and Melissa Hall, Senior Engineer of the Regulatory Development Unit. Their presentation provided a brief overview of the history of the previous MCL adoption process, the pitfalls that lead to the judgement against the previously established MCL, and the purpose of the current workshop in the development of the new MCL.

In 2011, the Office of Environmental Health Hazards Assessment (OEHHA) released the final public health goal (PHG) of 0.02 micrograms per liter (ug/L) based on the theoretical lifetime cancer risk of one in a million. This was the first step in the process to developing the MCL; however, the PHG, is not a regulatory standard.. Total chromium has a state MCL of 50 ug/L, and a federal MCL of 100 ug/L. The state and federal MCLs are the current means for regulating hexavalent chromium in drinking water, rather than a specific MCL for hexavalent chromium. Because there is no federal MCL for hexavalent chromium, California can establish an MCL that adheres to the California Safe Drinking Water Act (California Health & Safety Code §116270 et seq.) with the goal for the MCL to be as close to the PHG as feasible.

In 2013, California Department of Public Health (CDPH) proposed an MCL for hexavalent chromium at 10 ug/L. In 2014, CDPH submitted the regulation package to the Office of Administrative Law, and the MCL became effective in July 2014. In May 2017, the Superior Court of Sacramento County issued a judgment invalidating the MCL on the basis that CDPH did not follow the requirements of California Health and Safety Code, section 116365, while developing the MCL and did not properly consider economic feasibility of MCL compliance. Just after the MCL was issued, CDPH was transferred to the jurisdiction of the State Water Board as the Division of Drinking Water (DDW). DDW is now putting together a new regulatory package to reissue an MCL for hexavalent chromium.

At the conclusion of the presentation, the workshop was opened for public comment, and 31 participants provided comments and feedback on the white paper. These participants were from across the state and represented water agencies, water purveyors, schools, and individuals from the community. As part of the next steps in reissuing an MCL for hexavalent chromium, the DDW will be evaluating economic feasibility for use of best available technologies such as ion exchange or reduction-coagulation-filtration to treat hexavalent chromium in drinking water. Additionally, they will address concerns that have been raised by small water systems in areas considered to be disadvantaged communities on how the cost of technologies and treatment will be distributed to the

customer through increased water rates. DDW proposes to have the MCL process complete and a new MCL for hexavalent chromium in place by spring 2021.

6. Rosamond CSD Water Reclamation Plant Upgrade Progress – *Sergio Alonso*

Water Board staff, Sergio Alonso, conducted a compliance inspection of Rosamond Community Services District's (District's) Water Reclamation Plant on May 13, 2020 to observe the progress of the treatment plant's upgrade project. The District is in the process of upgrading the treatment plant to produce denitrified undisinfected secondary treated effluent wastewater that will be disposed into onsite percolation ponds. The upgrades to the treatment plant are scheduled to be completed and operational by

June 2021 in accordance with the time schedule required in the facility's waste discharge requirements, Board Order No. R6V-2019-0251.

The upgrades to the treatment plant will allow a treatment capacity of 1.27 million gallons per day (MGD). Upgrades to the plant include the installation of a Biolac® aeration basin and the renovation of an existing, although smaller, Biolac® aeration basin. The Biolac® basins allow for a computer-controlled delivery of air and oxygen creating aerobic and anoxic zones to first nitrify and then denitrify effluent. An additional secondary clarifier will be installed, doubling the number of secondary clarifiers. The construction of the secondary clarifier resulted in the removal of one of the six existing sludge drying beds. However, six new additional sludge drying beds are under construction. The plant upgrades also include three new percolation ponds that are intended to be used in rotation and an emergency storage holding pond.

At this point in the construction process, the new sludge drying beds and the emergency storage pond are being lined with synthetic plastic material to prevent leakage. The new Biolac® aeration basin and secondary clarifier are currently under excavation and no construction material has been placed onsite. The percolation ponds have a synthetic material called Geoweb® geocells installed along the slopes of the percolation ponds. The geocells will have rock aggregate placed in the webbing voids. This allows for efficient drainage of water from the slopes to the base of the percolation ponds. It also prevents soil erosion on the banks of the percolation ponds from wave action created by high winds.

The impacts of COVID-19 emergency on the existing wastewater treatment plant and construction for the new plant have been minor. The District staff mentioned that there were some minor time delays in product shipping and manufacturing as a result of COVID-19 emergency. Despite these minor setbacks, the upgrades are still on track to be completed by their intended completion dates. Photographs of current construction are shown in Figure 6.1.

Figure 6.1 – Rosamond Water Reclamation Plant, May 13, 2020. Top Left: Excavation area of Biolac® aeration pond. Top Right: Excavation area for circular secondary clarifier. Bottom Left: Liner installation of emergency storage pond. Bottom Right: Geoweb® geocell installation on percolation pond side-slopes.

7. **Remedial Action for Soil Vapor and Monitored Natural Attenuation at Operable Unit 7 (OU 7), Marine Corps Logistics Base (MCLB) Barstow -** *Christopher Avalos*

   The Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) Area of Concern (CAOC) 7 Stratum 1, Operable Unit (OU) 7 is a former waste disposal and drum storage area (Site) in the southern portion of Nebo Main Base at MCLB Barstow. The waste disposal area was operated from the early 1950s until 1964. The Site consists of an approximately 9-acre, L-shaped, capped landfill with each "leg" measuring approximately 50 by 750 feet. Buried wastes are estimated to be 15 to 20 feet below the armored cap surface. On December 12, 2014, a Record of Decision (ROD) was signed that outlined remedies for OU 7, including CAOC 7 Stratum 1. The ROD identified trichloroethene (TCE) as a contaminant of concern (COC) in groundwater and TCE and tetrachloroethene (PCE) as COCs in soil vapor. In the OU 7 ROD, soil vapor extraction (SVE) was selected as the remedy for soil vapor and monitored natural attenuation (MNA) was selected as the remedy for groundwater. The remedial action objective for the selected remedy for soil vapor is the protection of groundwater at the site.

   Two SVE pilot tests were conducted in late 2015/early 2016 to support the full-scale implementation and design of the SVE system. In October 2018, the Navy finalized a

remedial action work plan for CAOC 7 Stratum 1 to implement the full-scale remedial action at the Site. In March 2019, the full-scale SVE system at the Site was started and was in operation for 12 months before it was shut down in February 2020. After approximately one year of operation, the SVE system has extracted 431.3 pounds of TCE and 388.2 pounds of PCE from the subsurface. Soil gas concentrations of TCE and PCE are generally decreasing in the vadose zone, indicating that the SVE system has been successful. The SVE system was proposed to run for only a year; however, the Navy indicated that it has funding to run the system longer with the hope of removing contamination to the maximum extend feasible with existing funds. The Navy restarted the SVE system on May 14, 2020 and will continue operation for at least five additional months. Following the completion of the SVE system operations, the Navy will prepare a report that will not only summarize the results of the SVE system but will also provide recommendations on the future operation of the SVE system.

8. **Virtual Reporting of a Potential Spill at the Yermo Annex, Marine Corps Logistics Base (MCLB) Barstow -** C*hristopher Avalos*

   On April 8, 2020, the Industrial Wastewater Treatment and Recycling Facility (IWTRF) Manager at the Yermo Annex, Marine Corps Logistics Base, Barstow, contacted Water Board staff to discuss a potential spill. Both the IWTRF Manager and Water Board staff were working from home at the time due to the COVID-19 emergency stay at home directive from Governor Newsom. The IWTRF Manager received a phone call that morning from a base contact to discuss a potential spill associated with one of the steam racks used to wash and decontaminate military equipment. Each wash rack is surrounded by a 2- to 4-inch tall berm designed to contain IWTRF wastewater from overflowing onto surrounding concrete. Typical contaminants removed during steam washing of military equipment include oil, grease, and solvents. In this steam rack configuration, wastewater generated during steam cleaning activities flows to the center of the steam rack, where it collects in sumps. Pumps located in the sumps are designed to automatically turn on when wastewater levels rise to a certain point. Wastewater is then automatically pumped out of the sumps and routed to a central collection point before being routed to the IWTRF for treatment. After several days of rain, the MCLB contact observed that one of the uncovered steam racks was flooded, and the concrete surface adjacent to this steam rack exhibited pond water in low areas.

   The IWTRF Manager contacted Water Board staff and explained the situation. Based on the information available, the IWTRF Manager and Water Board staff determined the need for additional information. As a result, the IWTRF Manager offered to personally visit the potential spill area to evaluate what had occurred. While there, the IWTRF Manager recorded a video of the steam rack and surrounding area and forwarded the video to Water Board staff. In the video, ponded water was observed to be flowing into the steam rack through a low-lying area in one corner; however, oily water (water with a sheen) was not observed in the area surrounding the steam rack. A shiny-oily surface around the steam rack would have been a good indicator of a spill.

   Because of the use of video technology and with the cooperation of the IWTRF Manager, Water Board staff was able to virtually observe that no spill had occurred at the steam rack, and no spill report was necessary. To minimize any further flooding at the steam rack, the IWTRF Manager placed sandbags around the low-lying area where ponded rainwater was observed near the steam rack during this inspection.

9. Mono County Collaborative Planning Team Meeting – *Jeff Fitzsimmons*

Water Board staff virtually attended the Mono County Collaborative Planning Team (CPT) quarterly meeting on April 30, 2020. The CPT meetings provide an opportunity for representatives from Mono County, federal, state, and local agencies, along with tribal representatives and private citizens to share information, voice concerns, and provides a forum for discussion and collaboration of efforts to meet the challenges facing Mono County. The meeting focused on the participating agencies' responses to the COVID-19 emergency.

The United States National Park Service, Forest Service, and Bureau of Land Management indicated access roads and campgrounds will remain closed through June 1, 2020, and that closures may be extended as warranted. Seasonal firefighting staff are entering a pre-deployment quarantine process prior to duty assignments; it is anticipated that other seasonal staff may be reduced up to 75 percent (%); concession staff have been reduced up to 90%; and federal staff - other than law enforcement - are teleworking. Attendees were informed that the Water Board offices in South Lake Tahoe and Victorville remain open but are minimally staffed, with most staff teleworking. Water Board staff assured the participants that we will continue to follow-up on spills or complaints and respond as soon as possible to emails and voicemails.

Staff members of the Town of Mammoth Lakes and Mono County are teleworking. The Town of Mammoth Lakes anticipates holding their annual Fourth of July Celebration, which will accommodate social distancing, and is currently pursuing ways to support local businesses. The concluding comments were made by a member of the public, expressing the value of partnership, along with their appreciation of all agencies represented at the meeting, and the combined efforts to serve in the best interests of the public.