

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

**MEETING OF OCTOBER 7 AND 8, 2008
SOUTH LAKE TAHOE**

ITEM: 9

SUBJECT: **STATUS REPORT ON THE TRUCKEE RIVER WATER
QUALITY MONITORING PROGRAM, PLACER COUNTY
AND TOWN OF TRUCKEE**

CHRONOLOGY: This is a new item before the Water Board.

BACKGROUND: The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) approved the Squaw Creek Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) regulatory program for sediment control in July 2007, and the Water Board approved the TMDL for sediment control in the Middle Truckee River watershed in May 2008. The latter has been forwarded to the California Office of Administrative Law, the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) and the USEPA for approval.

In 2003, Placer County (County) adopted the Martis Valley Community Plan for development that committed the County to develop and implement a cumulative effects water quality monitoring plan for the Martis Valley. As development was proceeding rapidly in portions of the Truckee River watershed, in 2007 the Water Board designated the County and the Town of Truckee (Town) as subject to National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) requirements for pollutant discharges in stormwater associated with municipal separate storm sewer systems. The County and the Town (collectively, Dischargers) have developed their respective Stormwater Management Plans (SWMPs), as required and accepted by the Water Board, and are now covered under the State Water Board's Water Quality Order No. 2003-0005-DWQ, an NPDES general permit regulating stormwater discharges from small municipal separate storm sewer systems. In addition, the Executive Officer issued California Water Code section 13267 Orders to the Dischargers requiring the development of water quality monitoring programs linked to their respective SWMPs.

DISCUSSION: To meet the section 13267 Order requirements, the Dischargers have designed a single, integrated,

09-0001

comprehensive watershed-wide monitoring program for the portions of the Truckee River hydrologic unit in their respective jurisdictions. The Dischargers, working together with a consultant, 2nd Nature, LLC, began work to develop a monitoring program in January 2008. The Water Board staff has since been participating in the monitoring program development through a series of meetings with the Dischargers and by reviewing and commenting on draft portions of the monitoring program.

The Dischargers hosted a public workshop on the draft program on August 18, 2008, to share information and give the public an opportunity to participate in a discussion about the program. The final proposed program was provided to the Executive Officer by each Discharger on September 15, 2008, for acceptance (pending). See transmittal letters, Enclosures 1 and 2, which describe the Discharger's intentions and concerns regarding the program.

The comprehensive water quality monitoring program will aid in assessing the performance effectiveness of the SWMPs. Inspections, Source Area Evaluations, Sampling, and Reporting are principal components that will inform the Water Board, the Dischargers, and stakeholders on the following questions: 1) Are water quality objectives being met downstream of potential source areas? 2) What is the relative water quality condition of selected subwatersheds? 3) Is the water quality of the Truckee River and streams in its tributary subwatersheds in these local jurisdictions changing over time?

Monitoring program elements include:

- water quality characteristics of stormwater discharges, pollutant loading, and the effects of municipal stormwater discharges on water quality.
- geographic information systems to track land uses, storm drainage systems and discharge points.
- source area management monitoring that includes near continuous (autoprobosc/dataloggers) to capture turbidity, pH, EC, temperature, and stage at selected tributaries that represent conditions associated with major developments.
- grab sampling for key numeric water quality objectives (WQO) applicable to the Truckee River Hydrologic Unit.
- bioassessment sampling in selected subwatersheds.

- physical habitat assessments using established protocols and indicators.
- cumulative effects assessments.

The proposed monitoring program incorporates sediment monitoring associated with the Truckee River TMDL and sediment and bioassessment monitoring associated with the Squaw Creek TMDL. It is a far more comprehensive program, however, for monitoring the cumulative water quality effects of development throughout the Truckee River watershed. Funding needs are corresponding in scale: The consultant estimated costs of up to \$738,000 to set up the program in the first year, with annual costs up to \$464,000 to fully maintain and operate all elements identified for the first three-year phase of the program. Program costs would increase over a 15-year timeline until fully funded as described in the program (estimated costs of \$1,048,000, annually). (Costs are not shared equally, as costs and tributary areas are greater in the County portions of the watershed.)

The Dischargers have developed a comprehensive, prioritized phase-in plan outlining timelines to obtain the needed funding and accomplish the work described in the program. They recently applied to the newly-formed California Sierra Nevada Conservancy for a grant in the amount of \$950,000 to get the first phase of the program set up and managed for up to four years. This would provide time to explore and develop additional funding programs. If said grant is not received, implementation will begin at a reduced level. State Water Resources Control Board grant funds (from Proposition 50) have been previously provided to assist the Town in mapping storm drainage networks, stream restoration on Trout Creek, and stormwater improvements in the Donner lake area.

Private developers are currently implementing some program elements (under various monitoring programs established by the Water Board or the County). The long-term goal of the program, broadly stated, is to use the program as an opportunity to fully integrate the existing stormwater and TMDL-related surface water monitoring programs in the watershed with the new program over time. This could involve other entities that discharge stormwater affecting water quality in the jurisdictions of the Dischargers, and the Dischargers have requested that the Water Board consider requiring participation by others in the monitoring program they have developed. Examples include the California Department of Transportation,

the California Department of Parks and Recreation, the United States Forest Service, and various private entities including railroad owners, and certain land developers (associated with large residential subdivisions, commercial, and recreational developments).

Water Board staff commend the Dischargers for their commitment to water quality and for the excellent scientific monitoring program they and their consultant, 2nd Nature, have developed. Water Board staff will continue to work with the Dischargers as the program is implemented, assisting them to obtain funding, as feasible and appropriate, and to integrate other dischargers into the program as directed by the Water Board and/or the Executive Officer. To make the program binding on the Dischargers, the Executive Officer must incorporate the proposed program, or specified program elements, as additional requirements to those established in the monitoring and reporting program under Water Quality Order No. 2003-0005-DWQ. Staff concurs with the Dischargers' suggestion to revise annual monitoring report submittal dates from September 15 (for the monitoring period from July 1 – June 30) to January 15 (for the monitoring period from October 1 – September 30). (See Enclosures 1 and 2, item no. 3).

**RECOMMEND-
ATION:**

Information only. No action necessary.

Enclosures:

1. September 15, 2008 transmittal letter from Town of Truckee
2. September 15, 2008 transmittal letter from Placer County

ENCLOSURE 1

09-0005

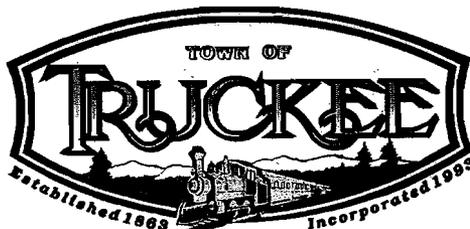
ENCLOSURE 2

09-0009

Barbara Green, Mayor

Dr. Mark Brown, Vice Mayor

Richard Anderson, Councilmember
Joshua J. Susman, Councilmember
Carolyn Wallace Dee, Councilmember



Tony Lashbrook, Town Manager
Scott Berry, Chief of Police
J. Dennis Crabb, Town Attorney
John McLaughlin, Community Development Director
Kim Szczurek, Administrative Services Director
Judy Price, Town Clerk
Alex Terrazas, Assistant to the Town Manager
Daniel Wilkins, Public Works Director/Town Engineer

September 15, 2008

ENCLOSURE 1

Harold J. Singer, P.E.
Executive Officer
Lahontan Region and Water Quality Control Board
2501 Lake Tahoe Blvd.
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150

Subject: Truckee River Water Quality Monitoring Plan and 2007/2008 Storm Water Management Program Update

Dear Mr. Singer,

On June 23, 2008, the Town of Truckee received a letter from the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board for the extension of the order for submittal of a technical report in accordance with Section 13267 of the California Water Code. Please find enclosed the Truckee River Water Quality Monitoring Plan (in digital format) per the order.

This plan has been prepared through extensive collaboration with your staff and many stakeholders to meet the goals and objectives described in your correspondence. Placer County and the Town of Truckee have partnered to prepare this single, comprehensive, water quality monitoring plan to insure that there will be consistency, compatibility, and resource efficiencies in our implementation of required monitoring. A hard copy of this plan will be delivered within two weeks.

While keeping our waters clean has been and will continue to be a priority for the Town, funding for monitoring will always be a hurdle. The Town has and continues to do significant in the ground projects that improve water quality, such as the Donner Pass Road BMP retrofit project and restoration of Trout Creek.

A phased approach is described in the plan, and the Town intends to begin implementation of portions of the first phase as quickly as practical. Specific implementation activities for the coming year include the following;

- a) The Town has taken a proactive approach in implementation of the plan by applying for a grant, in partnership with Placer County, to help fund initial implementation efforts. The grant request is for approximately \$950,000 to

10183 Truckee Airport Road, Truckee, CA 96161-3306

www.townoftruckee.com

Administration: 530-582-7700 / Fax: 530-582-7710 / email: truckee@townoftruckee.com

Community Development: 530-582-7820 / Fax: 530-582-7889 / email: cdd@townoftruckee.com

Animal Services/Vehicle Abatement: 530-582-7830 / Fax: 530-582-7889 / email: animalservices@townoftruckee.com

Police Department: 530-550-2328 / Fax: 530-550-2326 / email: policedepartment@townoftruckee.com

Printed on recycled paper.

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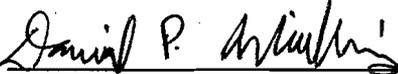
set up the program management, purchase and install equipment, and begin monitoring and reporting for up to 4 years. The grant is requested from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy. Should the grant not be approved, initial implementation of the monitoring may be limited to 2 of the community monitoring stations as described in b), until other sources of funds are secured.

- b) The Town is proposing to take responsibility for monitoring 2 sampling stations within the Town boundaries annually as described in the plan. These stations are located in high priority areas and include an outfall into Donner Lake and monitoring at Trout Creek. The funding for Donner Lake and Trout Creek is currently from Proposition 50 funds until March 1, 2012. Additional sources such as cost sharing, sharing responsibility with others, grants, land development funds, etc., will be required to fund the remaining portions of the plan. If additional funding is not available, it may be necessary to suspend monitoring at the Donner Lake and Trout Creek locations after the Proposition 50 funding is no longer available. Also, the locations of these stations may change over time if determined appropriate through the adaptive management strategies identified in this plan.
 - c) Over the next three months, the Town Council will be evaluating the availability of local funding sources to assist in plan implementation. At this time, the Town has no local funding budgeted for implementation of this plan. The Town would respectfully request a letter from your office that documents what, if any, resources your office intends to dedicate towards the implementation of this regional monitoring plan.
- 2) Please find attached a brief one page description of tasks the Town has started or completed as part of the Storm Water Management Program. While an annual report was not required by Lahontan this year due to the short time frame, an annual report will be provided September 15th 2009 that will include the start of the program through June 30, 2009.
 - 3) The Town of Truckee respectfully requests a change of reporting schedule for the Truckee River Water Quality Monitoring Plan. The schedule from your directive requires reporting on a fiscal year basis. The Town feels a more appropriate and meaningful reporting basis would be for a water year with the TRWQMP report being submitted January 15th. The Storm Water Management Plan (SWMP) schedule for the same geographic area (see #2 above) should remain, as is, with a September 15 reporting date. This scheduling would allow for response time to the TRWQMP report. This response time would allow for plans to be adjusted and comments to be generated for inclusion into the following SWMP report.

Should you have any questions, please contact Jessica Thompson at (530) 582-2938.

Sincerely,

Town of Truckee



Dan Wilkins, P.E.
Town Engineer

cc: Bob Costa, Placer County

09-0007

Storm Water Management Program Update March 26 to June 30, 2008

Since the start of the Storm Water Management Program in March 2008, the Town has combined the other environmental programs under an 'umbrella' program called KEEP TRUCKEE GREEN. This program now has the Clean Water Program as well as continuing the Solid Waste Programs such as Recycling, Household Hazardous Waste. We felt the combination of these programs was a good match and would encourage a sustainability approach in the future.

Public Events:

1. Truckee Thursdays—booths in downtown Truckee every Thursday
2. Truckee Day June 7- booth in Regional park for annual Town clean up day
3. Earth Day April 26

Education/Public Meetings

1. Storm Water Citizens Advisory Committee (Feb, Mar, April, May, July)
2. Monitoring Plan subcommittee (3 meetings)
3. Truckee River Water Quality Monitoring Plan Public meeting, August 18

Print Items

1. Storm Water Newsletter handout
2. Talk of the Town -2 articles--(Employee newsletter)
3. Article in Town Newsletter to all residents
4. BMP for home owners brochure
5. BMP for contractors brochure

Regulatory Items

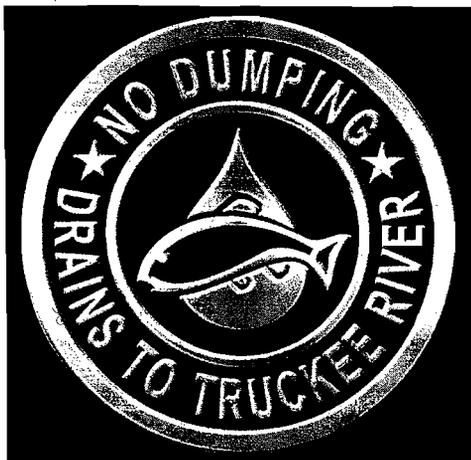
1. Draft Storm Water ordinance developed and 1st reading scheduled at October Council meeting

Illicit Discharge Tasks

1. Equipment/software purchased for GIS mapping and database design started
2. Storm drain markers have been ordered and pilot project (30-50 markers) scheduled to be installed October 2008

Pre and Post Construction

All construction projects over 20 yd³ of disturbance require temporary BMPs and are inspected in the beginning and end of the project. All new construction is required to install permanent BMPs in the form of retention infrastructure for the 20 year 1 hr storm on site.



09-0008



PLACER COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Ken Grehm, Director
Robert Blaser, Assistant Director
Peter Kraatz, Deputy Director

September 15, 2008

Harold J. Singer, P.E.
Executive Officer
Lahontan Region and Water Quality Control Board
2501 Lake Tahoe Blvd.
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150

ENCLOSURE 2

**Subject: Truckee River Water Quality Monitoring Plan and
2007/2008 Stormwater Management Program Annual Report for the Truckee River Basin.**

Dear Mr. Singer,

As required by your June 23, 2008 correspondence to Placer County requiring submittal of a Technical Report in accordance with Section 13267 of the California Water Code, please find attached the Truckee River Water Quality Monitoring Plan (TRWQMP). This plan has been prepared through extensive collaboration with your staff and many stakeholders to meet the goals and objectives described in your correspondence. Placer County and the Town of Truckee have partnered to prepare this single, comprehensive, water quality monitoring plan to insure that there will be consistency, compatibility, and resource efficiencies in our implementation of required monitoring. A hard copy of this plan will be delivered to you in the near future.

- 1) While we understand the value of fully implementing this monitoring plan as soon as possible, there is a considerable cost and effort involved that will necessitate an incremental approach. A phased approach is described in the plan, and the County intends to begin implementation of portions of the first phase as quickly as practical. Specific implementation activities for the coming year include the following:
 - a) The County has taken a proactive approach in implementation of the plan by applying for a grant, in partnership with the Town of Truckee, to help fund initial implementation efforts. The grant request is for approximately \$950,000 to set up the program management, purchase and install equipment, and begin monitoring and reporting for up to 4 years. The grant is requested from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy. Should the grant not be approved, initial implementation of the monitoring may be limited to portions of the Martis Creek watershed and Squaw Creek as described below, until other sources of funds are secured.
 - b) The County will evaluate the personnel requirements necessary to manage implementation and subsequent data assessment and reporting requirements. The successful implementation and administration of the TRWQMP is dependent on qualified personnel who have the science knowledge and management skills to effectively implement the monitoring program. Implementation should not begin until qualified personnel are in position to manage the plan. The County will be considering the option of retaining professional

consultants or establishing such a position internally. We anticipate this decision being made, and efforts commenced to fill this need within the first year, subject to the availability of necessary funding.

- c) Funds are currently being generated through a County Service Area that will be used to implement monitoring within the Martis Creek watershed area. The plan identifies a number of existing monitoring efforts in that area that will continue, though operational changes may be required for compatibility. Placer County will begin coordination and communication activities, though actual data gathering, equipment modifications, equipment purchases and property access agreements will not begin until a qualified plan manager or consultant is available. It is anticipated that those currently conducting monitoring will continue to do so as they have been, until the County is prepared to assume some coordination/implementation role.
 - d) Placer County has met with, and has begun the process of setting up an agreement with other water quality permittees in Squaw Valley to cooperate on implementation of the Squaw Creek TMDL monitoring, beginning in 2009. We anticipate hiring a consultant to conduct this monitoring and preparing the required reports on schedule.
 - e) The County will begin contacting stakeholders, research groups, and other agencies regarding possible participation in monitoring implementation. This could involve provisions of funding, volunteers, data collection/management, coordination opportunities, or any other type of program implementation support.
- 2) As required under the Municipal Permit, Order Number 2003-0005-DWQ, NPDES No. CAS000004, please find attached the first annual Monitoring and Reporting Program Annual Report for the reporting period of March 26, 2008 through June 30, 2008 for the Truckee River Basin. Please note the report discusses progress in outfall inventory as well as anticipated activities for the Truckee River Water Quality Monitoring Plan for the upcoming 12 months.
 - 3) Placer County respectfully requests a change of reporting schedule for the Truckee River Water Quality Monitoring Plan and the Annual Report for the Truckee River Basin (discussed above in #2). The schedule from your directive requires reporting on a fiscal year basis. The County feels a more appropriate and meaningful reporting basis would be for a water year with both reports being submitted January 15. This method of reporting should allow for information obtained in the TRWQMP to be included in and commented on in the Annual Report, including any recommended changes in SWMP activities or the SWMP itself. The County notes that the LRWQCB has apparent authority under Section F.1 of the permit to make such a change to the Annual Report.

Should you have any questions, please contact Mary Keller, Stormwater Program Coordinator, at (530) 745-7503.

Respectfully submitted,
County of Placer Department of Public Works



Robert Costa
Public Works Manager

cc: Jessica Thompson, Town of Truckee
Dan Wilkins, Town of Truckee

09-0011