



California Regional Water Quality Control Board Lahontan Region



Linda S. Adams
Secretary of
Environmental Protection

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Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor

MINUTES December 11, 2008

Special Meeting

Lake Tahoe Community College
Board Room
One College Drive
South Lake Tahoe, CA

Mr. Clarke, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. on December 11, 2008.

Board Members Present

Jack Clarke, Apple Valley
Mike Dispenza, Palmdale
Keith Dyas, Rosamond
Amy Horne, Ph.D., Truckee
Don Jardine, Markleeville
Eric Sandel, Truckee

Board Member Absent

None

Legal Counsel

David Coupe, State Water Resources Control Board

Staff Present

Harold Singer, Executive Officer
Lauri Kemper, Supervising WRCE
Laurie Applegate, Executive Assistant

Doug Cushman, Senior WRCE
Katie Everett, Management Services Tech
Anne Holden, Engineering Geologist
Kathleen Minsky, Administrative Officer

Addressing the Board

Garry Bowen
Ernie Claudio
Christy Daugherty, CAL FIRE
Martin Goldberg, Lake Valley Fire District
Gloria Harootunian
Mary Huggins, CAL FIRE
Joanne Marchetta, Tahoe Regional Planning Agency
John Pang, Meeks Bay Fire District
Jennifer Quashnick, Sierra Forest Legacy
John Singlaub, Tahoe Regional Planning Agency
Flavio Sordelet, League to Save Lake Tahoe

California Environmental Protection Agency

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INTRODUCTIONS

Chairman Clarke introduced the Board members and announced that the Board would adjourn to closed session to discuss Item 4a.

4. CLOSED SESSION

The Board met in closed session from 9:05 a.m. to 9:25 a.m. to discuss Item 4a. The Board reconvened in open session at 9:26 a.m.

1. PUBLIC FORUM

Ernie Claudio handed out and discussed information regarding sustainability.

Gloria Harootunian, resident of South Lake Tahoe, discussed concerns regarding the deterioration of Barton Meadow and the Truckee Marsh. She asked the Board for assistance in conserving the meadows located in the City of South Lake Tahoe.

WAIVER OF WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS

2. Resolution Waiving Waste Discharge Requirements for Vegetation Management Activities Regulated by the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) and Authorizing the Executive Officer to Enter Into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the TRPA

Chairman Clarke read an opening statement.

Lauri Kemper gave an overview of the material the Board would be considering. Anne Holden gave the staff presentation. She responded to public comments and drew the Board's attention to late revisions to the Resolution and MOU. Ms. Holden recommended the Board adopt the Resolution waiving filing of a report of waste discharge or waste discharge requirements for vegetation management projects regulated by the TRPA, authorizing the Executive Officer to sign the MOU with TRPA, and certifying the Negative Declaration. Staff answered questions from the Board.

Addressing the Board: John Singlaub, Executive Director, Tahoe Regional Planning Agency; Jennifer Quashnick, Sierra Forest Legacy and Tahoe Group of the Sierra Club; Flavio Sordelet, League to Save Lake Tahoe; Garry Bowen; Ernie Claudio; Martin Goldberg, Lake Valley Fire District; Mary Huggins, CAL FIRE; and Joanne Marchette, Tahoe Regional Planning Agency.

Chairman Clarke closed the public hearing and asked for Board discussion.



Dr. Horne noted the Fire Commission clearly stated the need to strike a better balance between protection of life, property and the environment when managing fuels in the Tahoe basin. She noted the improved communication and understanding among all parties and the need for mutual trust to reach the goal of fuel reduction in the Tahoe basin. Dr. Horne encouraged the Tahoe Fire and Fuels Team to continue to find ways to expand the circle of participants. Dr. Horne asked staff to give a report at a Board meeting in the north in July or October 2009 to provide an opportunity for everyone to discuss how the process is working and make adjustments if needed. She also asked staff to give an annual report to review the process to ensure that the Board's water quality protection goals are being met and that the process is working for the Tahoe community as a whole.

Mr. Singer commented that staff could provide the initial status report at the July or October 2009 meeting and suggested that the first annual report be given after the end of the field season, or early in 2010. Board members concurred.

Board members voiced support for the proposed Resolution. Mr. Jardine noted the importance of understanding that although the process is being streamlined, the safeguards remain in place. Mr. Dispenza thanked the public for participating and noted their participation assisted the Board in making decisions.

Mr. Dyas commented that the proposed Resolution would reduce staff's workload, allowing them to focus on other water quality issues and therefore improving water quality. Mr. Sandel stated that he was encouraged to see a higher level of monitoring on the ground by the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency, ensuring that environmental standards are maintained. Mr. Clarke encouraged Mr. Singer to ensure that the lines of communication remain open.

- **Motion:** Moved by Dr. Horne, seconded by Mr. Sandel and **unanimously carried** to adopt the Resolution to waive the filing of the report of waste discharge or waste discharge requirements for vegetation management projects regulated by the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency; authorizing the Executive Officer to sign the Memorandum of Understanding with the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency with the late revisions; and certifying the Negative Declaration.

STATUS REPORT

3. **Status Report on Lahontan Water Board Progress in Response to a Proclamation Issued by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger Strongly Encouraging the Lahontan Water Board to Implement the Recommendations of the California-Nevada Tahoe Basin Fire Commission**

Lauri Kemper gave the status report. She recommended the Board accept the progress report and transmit it to the Chair of the State Water Resources Control Board and the Secretary for Environmental Protection.

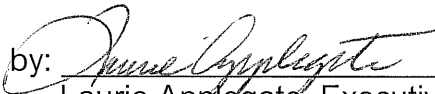


Addressing the Board: Christy Daugherty, CAL FIRE; Garry Bowen; Martin Goldberg, Lake Valley Fire District; and John Pang, Meeks Bay Fire District.

- **Motion:** Moved by Dr. Horne, seconded by Mr. Dispenza and **unanimously carried** to accept the progress report and transmit it to the Chair of the State Water Resources Control Board and the Secretary for Environmental Protection in response to the Governor's Executive Order.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at noon on December 11, 2008.

Prepared by:  Adopted: January 14, 2009
Laurie Applegate, Executive Assistant

