

Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Water Board Members

**FROM:**

  
Patty Kouyoumdjian  
Executive Officer

**LAHONTAN REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD**

**DATE:**

**JUN 29 2012**

**SUBJECT: EXEMPTION TO THE 100-YEAR FLOOD PLAIN WASTE DISCHARGE PROHIBITION WITHIN THE TRUCKEE RIVER HYDROLOGIC UNIT FOR THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TAHOE CITY MAINTENANCE STATION INFILTRATION FACILITY, PLACER COUNTY**

In ten days, I intend to sign the enclosed memorandum granting an exemption to the above-cited discharge prohibition specified in the *Water Quality Control Plan for the Lahontan Region* (Basin Plan). The exemption will allow the project proponent to implement a water quality improvement project at the Tahoe City Maintenance Station.

The project meets requirements for an exemption to the discharge prohibition. A public notice soliciting comments on the proposed Project will be posted on the Water Board's website for 10 days.

Please contact me at (530) 542-5412, or Bud Amorfini at (530) 542-5463, if you have any questions or comments regarding this matter.

Enclosure: Draft Flood Plain Exemption

BA/adw/T: Tahoe City Maint Stn Infiltration FPE Board Notice

Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board

# MEMORANDUM

To: Darrell Naruto, District 3 NPDES Coordinator  
Caltrans District 3  
703 B Street  
Marysville, CA 95901

FROM: PATTY Z. KOUYOUMDJIAN  
Executive Officer  
**LAHONTAN REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD**

DATE:

**SUBJECT: EXEMPTION TO THE 100-YEAR FLOODPLAIN WASTE DISCHARGE PROHIBITION WITHIN THE TRUCKEE RIVER HYDROLOGIC UNIT, TAHOE CITY MAINTENANCE STATION STORM WATER INFILTRATION FACILITY, PLACER COUNTY, W DID NO. 6A03CT736F1**

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Lahontan Region (Water Board) received project information California Department of Transportation - District 3 (Applicant) to request a floodplain discharge prohibition exemption for the Tahoe City Maintenance Station storm water infiltration facility (Project) in Tahoe City, Placer County. This exemption is based upon the information provided by the applicant.

Any person aggrieved by this action of the Water Board may petition the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) to review the action in accordance with Water Code section 13320 and California Code of Regulations, title 23, sections 2050 and following. The State Water Board must receive the petition by 5:00 p.m., 30 days after the date of this Order, except that if the thirtieth day following the date of this Order falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or state holiday, the petition must be received by the State Water Board by 5:00 p.m. on the next business day. Copies of the law and regulations applicable to filing petitions may be found on the Internet at: [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/public\\_notices/petitions/water\\_quality](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/public_notices/petitions/water_quality) or will be provided upon request.

## **PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The Tahoe City Maintenance Station currently is equipped with a network of sand traps and clarifier vaults designed to treat storm water runoff from the paved areas of the yard and minor amounts of water from rinsing the exterior of snow plows during winter operations. There is a large treatment vault (reported to have a capacity of 16,000 gallons) under the paved area of the maintenance station that provides initial treatment of sediment and other particles. After the vault, effluent discharges into a four-stage clarifier that provides additional treatment and removes potential floating hydrocarbon layers. The clarifier is set up with weep holes in final clarifier stages that allow water to infiltrate into the soil. Any discharges after treatment through the clarifier enter a final infiltration basin that is undersized, and, if not infiltrated, are then conveyed in an open ditch to the Truckee River.

The Applicant proposes to improve the infiltration capacity of the undersized basin by installing a 100-foot long, 18-inch diameter perforated steel culvert in a trench backfilled with permeable drain rock along the southern edge of the paved area. The infiltration trench would accept any effluent from the four-stage clarifier. The existing basin would be filled and graded to match the pre-existing ground elevation. The locations of the proposed infiltration line and the existing infiltration basin have been determined to be within the 100-year floodplain of the Truckee River. A description of the project and aerial photographs of the maintenance station, are provided in a letter dated June 8, 2012, which is enclosed with this memorandum.

## **100-YEAR FLOODPLAIN PROHIBITION**

The Water Quality Control Plan for the Lahontan Region (Basin Plan) contains certain waste discharge prohibitions that apply to the Truckee River Hydrologic Unit (HU No. 635), including prohibition 4(c), which states:

*"The discharge or threatened discharge, attributable to human activities, of solid or liquid waste materials, including soil, silt, clay, sand, and other organic and earthen materials to lands within the 100-year floodplain of the Truckee River or any tributary to the Truckee River is prohibited."*

Installing the proposed infiltration trench and regrading the existing basin would discharge or threaten to discharge earthen materials to the 100-year floodplain of the Truckee River.

## **PROHIBITION EXEMPTION**

In accordance with provisions in the Basin Plan, the Water Board may grant exemptions to prohibition 4(c) when the project involves:

*"...the repair or replacement of existing structures, provided that the repair or replacement does not involve the loss of additional floodplain area or volume."*

Prior to granting an exemption, the Applicant must demonstrate *"that all applicable Best Management Practices (BMPs) and mitigation measures have been incorporated into the project to minimize any potential soil erosion and/or surface runoff problems."*

The Project is for the repair and improvement of an existing water quality protection facility (the undersized basin and open ditch). No loss of floodplain area or volume is proposed. Appropriate BMPs and mitigation measures will be incorporated into the project to minimize potential soil erosion and sediment discharge from the project area. BMPs include constructing the project within an estimated five days during dry weather in accordance with Caltrans' Storm Water Management Program, which requires the use of appropriate sediment controls to prevent and reduce sediment discharges to surface waters. Other BMPs to control non-storm water discharges and leaks from equipment must also be incorporated into the Project. The practices will ensure that any surface runoff problems will be avoided. Additionally, the project will provide long-term water quality benefits after construction is completed.

### **EXEMPTION AUTHORITY**

In accordance with Resolution No. R6T-2008-0031, the Lahontan Water Board has delegated authority to the Executive Officer to grant exemptions to prohibition 4(c) where the Executive Officer has the authority to authorize the project under an existing permit and the project is intended to reduce water pollution.

### **EXEMPTION GRANTED**

Lahontan Water Board staff has notified the Applicant and interested parties of its intent to adopt this prohibition exemption by posting a notice of the Project on its website and sending notices through its email notification system (lyris list). Water Board staff has determined that the project satisfies the exemption criteria listed above. Therefore, an exemption to Basin Plan prohibition 4(c) is hereby granted.

### **CEQA COMPLIANCE**

The Project is categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), according to the California Code of Regulations (CCR) title 14, section 15301, minor alteration of existing public or private facilities involving negligible or no expansion of use beyond that existing at the time of the lead agency's determination. The Water Board has filed a Notice of Exemption with the State Clearinghouse concurrently with this Order.

We look forward to working with you in your efforts to protect water quality. If you have questions, please contact Bud Amorfini, Engineering Geologist, at (530) 542-5463, or Alan Miller, Chief, North Basin Regulatory Unit, at (530) 542-5430. Please use the WDID in the subject line for future correspondence concerning this project.

Enclosure: Caltrans District 3 letter dated June 8, 2012

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

DISTRICT 3  
703 B STREET  
MARYSVILLE, CA 95901  
PHONE (530) 741-4239  
FAX (530) 741-4457  
TTY 711



*Flex your power!  
Be energy efficient!*

June 8, 2012

Mr. Bud Amorfini, Environmental Scientist  
California Regional Water Quality Control Board,  
Lahontan Region  
2501 Lake Tahoe Blvd  
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150

Dear Mr. Amorfini:

This letter requests an exemption to the 100-Year floodplain within the Truckee River Hydrologic Unit; as defined in Chapter 4.1, Waste Discharge Prohibition, of the Water Quality Control Plan for the Lahontan Region (Basin Plan). The request is being made for the California Department of Transportation's (Caltrans) Tahoe City Maintenance Station on State Route 89, in Placer County. A description of the scope of work is provided below.

The Tahoe City Maintenance Station proposes to install a single stormwater infiltration gallery (Low Impact Design) to provide additional water quality treatment for a portion of its yard, after treatment through an existing stormwater interceptor/treatment vault. The installation consist of approximately 100 feet of 18-inch diameter perforated steel pipe, placed adjacent to the chain link fence bordering the southern portion of the maintenance station.

The scope of work includes: trenching to install the 18-inch diameter perforated steel pipe culvert with a terminal riser for sampling and monitoring, and backfilling the trench with permeable material. The infiltration gallery will terminate at an existing rock lined ditch that discharges to the Truckee River, along the westerly property line. The current outfall swale that conveys flows from the stormwater interceptor/treatment vault will be backfilled once the infiltration gallery becomes operational.

This work will be completed by Caltrans Maintenance staff this summer, and completed within five (5) working days. All work is anticipated to take place within the State right of way.

Accompanying this request is a PDF that depicts the location and sketch of the proposed infiltration gallery; and a PDF of the Tahoe City Maintenance Station, Sand House project (Contract No. 03-2F280), which depicts the 100-year floodplain boundary.

If you have any questions or require further assistance, please contact me at (530) 741-4239.

Mr. Bud Amorfini  
CA Regional Water Quality Control Board, Lahontan Region  
June 8, 2012  
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Sincerely,



DARRELL S. NARUTO  
NR Office Environmental Engineering – South  
District 3 NPDES Coordinator

Attachments

c: Doug Coleman, NR Office Environmental Engineering - South  
Byron Pierce, District 3 Maintenance Stormwater Coordinator

DSN/dsn



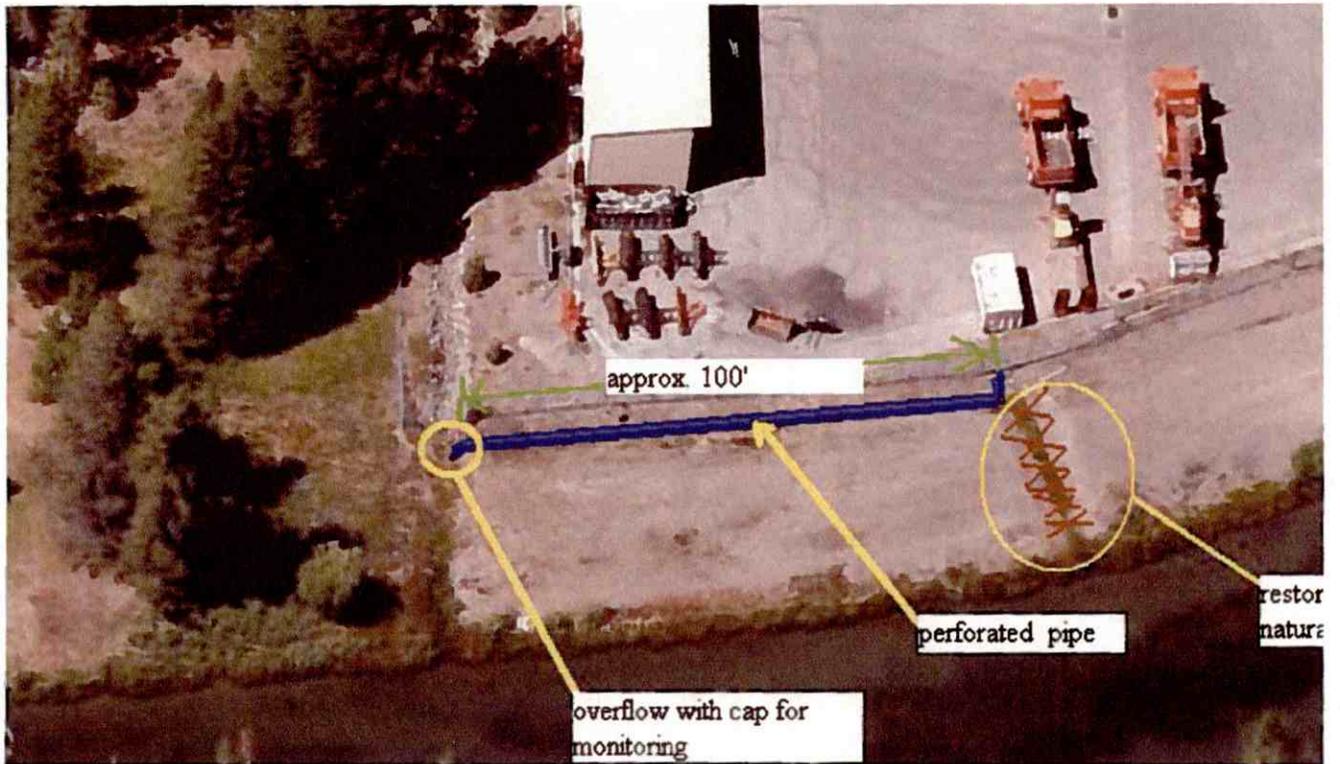


Byron G  
Pierce/D03/Caltrans/CAGov  
05/04/2012 10:40 AM

To Darrell Naruto/D03/Caltrans/CAGov@DOT  
cc Douglas Coleman/D03/Caltrans/CAGov@DOT  
bcc  
Subject Lahontan 100 year flood plane exemption, Tahoe City Yard

Hi Darrell,

Below are the environmental protection improvements that we would like get done this spring in the Tahoe City Yard. This should be done prior to the planting of willows that is scheduled for this fall. Can you research the 100 year flood plane exemption requirements so that we might get this started soon? Thank you Darrell.



Byron G. Pierce  
Maintenance Area Superintendent,  
D-03 Storm Water Coordinator  
office (530)741-5364  
FAX (530)740-4896  
cell (530)701-4645