



EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

July 2003

NORTH BASIN

1. *Status of Caltrans Interstate-80 Rehabilitation Boca/Floriston Project – Eric Taxer*

The 2003 construction season for the Interstate-80 Rehabilitation Boca/Floriston project is off to a good start. Regional Board staff inspected the project in January 2003, and again in May 2003. The inspections noted that all personnel working on the project had made a significant shift toward protecting water quality. The few minor deficiencies that were observed were addressed immediately by Caltrans and/or by contractor personnel.

Caltrans and its contractors have completed the drainage elements associated with the project, and all retaining wall structures will be completely installed by the end of June 2003. Caltrans predicts that all paving will be at least 95 percent complete by October 15, 2003, and Caltrans remains hopeful that construction and permanent site stabilization for the entire project will also be completed by this date.

Finally, Caltrans is in the process of installing the flood plain and wetland mitigation project during this season. The mitigation for both the Boca/Floriston and for the Highway 267 Truckee Bypass projects is combined in this single project. The Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements and 401 Certification that was issued for the Boca/Floriston project required the mitigation project to have been completed by October 15, 2001.

2. *THP 4-02-052-ALP-1 Post Harvest Inspection Update – George Cella*

On June 10, 2003, Regional Board staff participated in a post-harvest inspection of the above-mentioned Timber Harvest Plan (THP),

located just outside Markleville, in Alpine County. Staff did not participate in a pre-harvest inspection due to time constraints, but did discuss concerns about the THP with California Department of Fire and Forestry Protection (CDF) personnel before the start of operations. CDF Inspector Steve Harcourt had noticed some problems with the timber harvest operation during his routine inspections and requested that we observe the site following the operation.

Two of the three watercourse crossings installed were not proposed in the THP and were therefore not discussed prior to operations. In addition to not being disclosed, there were problems found with each of the three crossings.

Another problem was noted at an area where the THP indicated that a few trees would be felled across a Class II watercourse to avoid the need for additional watercourse crossings and skid trails. Care was to have been taken to avoid deposition of sediment into the watercourse during removal, and all excess slash dropped into the watercourse was to be removed immediately following the operation. Inspection found areas of bare soil on the stream banks caused by the removal of the bridged trees, and several large pieces of harvest-generated slash were noted in the watercourse.

Staff also noted that the skid trails (not required to be revealed in the THP) appeared to be excessively wide and more numerous than necessary. One of these trails crossed a broad ephemeral draw and intercepted the lower edge of a wet area, which created a spring across the skid trail. Neither of these areas had been stabilized to prevent soil erosion following the harvest.

Inspector Harcourt and staff discussed these problems and required corrective actions with Bruce Huff, the site caretaker and part-time assistant to the timber harvest operations. A *staff enforcement letter* will be sent to the landowner, the licensed timber operator, and the Registered Professional Forester who authored the THP, with copies to CDF, and the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG). Staff will continue to work with CDF to monitor the landowner's progress at this site.

3. *Squaw Valley Ski Corporation – Scott Ferguson*

On December 18, 2001, the Regional Board issued Cleanup and Abatement Order (CAO) R6-2001-0074 to Squaw Valley Ski Corporation (SVSC), et al. The CAO required SVSC to identify and evaluate existing sources of pollutants at the Squaw Valley Ski Area. The CAO also requires SVSC to develop and submit a Facility Assessment Report describing the results of the above-referenced evaluation, develop and submit Water Quality Improvement Plans (WQIPs) intended to address sites identified in the assessment, and implement the WQIPs. SVSC is also required to develop and submit project proposal(s) to address storm water runoff pollution from its parking areas associated with the ski area. The CAO establishes a time schedule for each of these activities.

Due to the complexity of some of these issues and progress being made, I believe extension of certain CAO compliance dates are warranted and will be by amending the CAO. I believe that these extensions will not adversely impact the schedule for implementing measures or operational procedures that are intended to address existing adverse water quality conditions. SVSC is still on schedule for implementing all elements identified in the initial CWQIP submittal, which will result in temporarily and/or permanently addressing immediate sources of sedimentation to Squaw Creek and its tributaries.

SVSC recently submitted additional information to supplement its initial CWQIP submittal for staff's review. Implementation of the CWQIP is still required to be completed by October 15, 2003. SVSC is also working on an addendum to

the Facility Assessment report, which will in turn, be used to develop a more comprehensive WQIP, due April 1, 2004.

SVSC is also working towards implementing a parking lot runoff plan, which is required to be completed by October 15, 2003. SVSC has encountered some delay with implementing its parking lot plan mostly due to concerns over potential impacts to ground water quality related to proposed snow disposal/snow melt disposal measures.

4. *Status of Approved Basin Plan Amendments - Judith Unsicker*

The phosphorus Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for Indian Creek Reservoir (Alpine County) received final approval from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in June 2003 and is now in effect. The North Lahontan Rural Watersheds Unit will coordinate implementation of the TMDL. An updated version of the Basin Plan is currently under preparation that will incorporate this TMDL and other plan amendments approved since 1995 into the Basin Plan text. The revised plan will be posted on the Regional Board's Internet web page (www.swrcb.ca.gov/rwqcb6/), and paper copies of revised pages will be made available to the public on request.

5. *PRPs Identified in Tahoe South "Y" PCE Contamination - Lisa Dernbach*

Regional Board staff hosted a meeting on May 21 for individuals and entities identified as potential responsible parties (PRPs) for tetrachloroethene (PCE) contamination of groundwater in the South "Y" area of South Lake Tahoe. The purpose of the meeting was to share the results of over ten years of PCE investigations and to explain Board staff's expectation for site cleanup.

The PRPs were informed that investigation reports submitted to the Regional Board showed PCE in concentrations of thousands of micrograms per liter in groundwater beneath two sites: the Big O Tire Store and the Lakeside Napa Auto Store. PCE was also detected in concentrations of hundreds of micrograms per

liter in groundwater beneath the former Norma's Dry Cleaners. The state primary drinking water standard for PCE is 5 micrograms per liter.

Board staff explained that each of the identified sites is considered to be a potential source for PCE contamination and would be issued directives for conducting additional investigations and proposing cleanup actions. The PRPs were encouraged to work cooperatively with each other and were offered suggestions on how to reduce corrective action costs.

6. *Use of Constructed Wetlands for Water Quality Management - Mary Fiore-Wagner*

Considering that many projects in our region are now incorporating wetlands into storm water treatment, it is crucial to have an understanding about the use of constructed wetlands for water quality management. Monitoring and research continues to indicate that wetlands provide effective removal of nutrients and fine sediments from urban runoff. Staff often encourages project proponents to explore and implement storm water treatment systems that utilize on-site infiltration and shallow dispersion across dense vegetation (i.e., treatment within stream environment zones (SEZs) and wetlands).

The Basin Plan encourages the use of SEZs not only for storm water treatment but also for improving urban hydrology:

“In addition to removing nutrients from stormwater, naturally functioning SEZs can reduce flood peaks, diffuse flow, increase evapotranspiration, and increase retention time of surface water. SEZs also have many other values related to water quality, such as scenic, wildlife, fishery, and vegetation values.”

To gain more working knowledge of the use of constructed wetlands for water quality management, several staff attended a week-long training at Humboldt State University (HSU) that focused on the biological, chemical, hydrological, and ecological fundamentals of constructed wetlands. The workshop covered the use of constructed wetlands for treatment of municipal waste water and non-point source pollution.

Presenters included Dr. Robert Gearheart of HSU and Erik Strecker of GeoSyntec in Portland, OR. Dr. Robert Gearheart, who instructed several of Region 6's HSU alumni, presented information about wetland planning and design criteria. Erik Strecker, who is currently under contract with Region 6 to complete a BMP Effectiveness Study for the Lake Tahoe TMDL, shared his knowledge about non-point source wetlands and his experience in wetlands design.

The workshop also included daily field trips that demonstrated the effective use of wetlands in municipal waste water treatment (Arcata Treatment Marsh and Wildlife Sanctuary and Manila Wastewater Treatment Wetland) and stormwater treatment for communities, subdivisions, and commercial runoff (Potawot Indian Community, Sorenson Property, and Larrapin Wetland System).

The knowledge gained from the wetlands workshop will allow staff to more effectively participate in the review, design, permitting, and implementation of projects that include the use of wetlands and SEZs for storm water treatment.

SOUTH BASIN

7. **Update on the Bark Beetle Infestation in San Bernardino County - Greg Cash**

On May 15, 2003, Board staff attended a field review meeting with the California Division of Forestry and Fire Protection, the U.S. Forest Service, Southern California Pest Committee, and the Insect and Disease Committee. The review trip consisted of a field tour of the Lake Arrowhead and Lake Gregory area of the San Bernardino National Forest. Specific topics included the discussion of the Mountain Area Safety Task Force, information on bark beetles and other insects, root pathogens, chaparral mortality, use of pesticides, and wildland fire potential.

One stop on the field trip included a pine tree killed by annosus root disease. A fungus grows into stumps and out roots where it can spread to adjacent tree roots, and it creates a "disease center". The Southern California Pest Committee discussed the prevention of this disease, which includes the treatment of freshly cut conifer stumps with a borate compound to prevent infection. A tree fungus can weaken the tree thus providing access for insects such as the bark beetle to come along and kill the tree.

Observations were made at several locations around Lake Arrowhead, where logging operations were being conducted. A staging area has been set up to the east of the Lake Arrowhead Hospital, where logs are separated prior to delivery to a mill approximately 250 miles northwest of the San Bernardino National Forest. At the time of the field trip, approximately 10-15 logging trucks a day were transporting the logs off of the mountain.

Governor Gray Davis conducted an aerial tour of the areas affected by the bark beetle on Wednesday, May 28, 2003, and issued a press release with the following information: *"More than 415,000 acres of forest and private lands have been impacted. Infected acreage, exacerbated by Santa Ana winds, high winter temperatures, and a continuing drought, has doubled since October 2002 and continues to increase. The situation now threatens more than 75,000 mountain*

community residents as well as nearby densely populated urban areas. The three counties have already spent more than \$6 million on eradication efforts and an estimated \$125 million will be needed for additional dead and infested tree removal costs."

Board staff will continue to be available for consultation with the California Department of Forestry, and the U.S. Forest Service, during these logging operations, to help minimize the impact to the affected watersheds.

8. **Town of Mammoth Lakes – Cindi Mitton**

Town of Mammoth Lakes staff continues to oversee construction projects within the Town according to the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Board. Periodic inspections this spring showed Best Management Practices (BMPs) were appropriately installed. Some areas were found needing maintenance work that was subsequently completed. Staff is currently working with the Town regarding BMPs at the Main St. Road improvement project. Also Mono County staff has been checking for stormwater construction BMPs during their inspections for building permit compliance.

9. **Molycorp Cleanup and Abatement Order Compliance Status Update - Curt Shifrer**

Molycorp hopes to complete permitting and construction of a New Tailings Disposal Facility and restart its Mill by the first quarter of 2004. The County is preparing an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) that addresses the New Facility. The County issued the Draft EIR for public review on April 14, 2003. It evaluates two alternatives for tailings disposal. Both alternatives involve lined disposal facilities that would meet or exceed the performance standards for liner leakage, which are promulgated in State regulations. On May 22, 2003, Board staff sent written comments to the County on the Draft EIR. Scheduling for consideration of Waste Discharge Requirements for the New Facility is pending the certification of the Final EIR, which

is expected to occur before the end of this calendar year.

Molycorp has still not obtained necessary approvals for the proposed Offsite Investigation required by the above-referenced Cleanup and Abatement Order (CAO). The Offsite Investigation includes drilling of monitoring wells to delineate the extent of Mine Site groundwater plumes. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has not granted Molycorp a Right-of-Way Permit (ROW Permit) to conduct the Investigation. As discussed in previous Executive Officer Reports, Molycorp initially sent a ROW Application (including a Biological Evaluation) to BLM on August 1, 1998 (more than four years ago). Delays in obtaining the ROW Permit are due to concerns of some federal agencies about the impacts to biological resources (Desert Tortoise, an endangered species). The federal agencies are the BLM, National Park Service, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS).

After several amendments to the Biological Evaluation, the BLM staff (on December 31, 2001) considered it complete and sent it to the USFWS for review and issuance of a Biological Opinion. I met with the BLM District Manager on June 17, 2003 to discuss this lack of action on the application for a ROW Permit. I was advised that the biological opinion should be released within 30 days and that BLM would expedite the ROW permit based on information in the opinion.

10. Intention to Sign Explanation of Significant Differences (ESD) to the Record of Decision (ROD) for Former George Air Force Base (GAFB) Site LF-35 - Jehiel Cass

The Air Force is proposing an ESD to the ROD for site LF-35. An ESD is the mechanism to make minor changes in a previously approved remedy documented in a ROD. I signed a ROD for former GAFB Operable Unit Three (OU-3) in 1998. The OU-3 ROD established cleanup standards for a number of sites, including landfill Site LF-35. This was a disposal area with no buried waste present. Wood and other construction/demolition type wastes were spread on the ground surface in the LF-35 area. The Remedial Investigation and

Feasibility Study concluded that there was no threat to human health, the environment or to ground water. Because asbestos-containing material (ACM) was present in ceiling and floor tile disposed of at this site, the ROD required Long-Term Deed Restrictions as institutional controls. In 2002, the City of Victorville (Local Reuse Agency) entered into a development agreement with General Electric to construct a large aircraft hanger over Site LF-35. The regulatory agencies approved a workplan that resulted in complete clean-closure of Site LF-35 by removing and properly disposing offsite all ACM along with other non-hazardous solid waste and debris. The aircraft hanger is now built over the location of former Site LF-35. I intend to sign an ESD to the OU-3 ROD indicating that deed restrictions are no longer required because the site is properly clean closed.

11. Mojave River/El Mirage Dairy Issues – Greg Cash

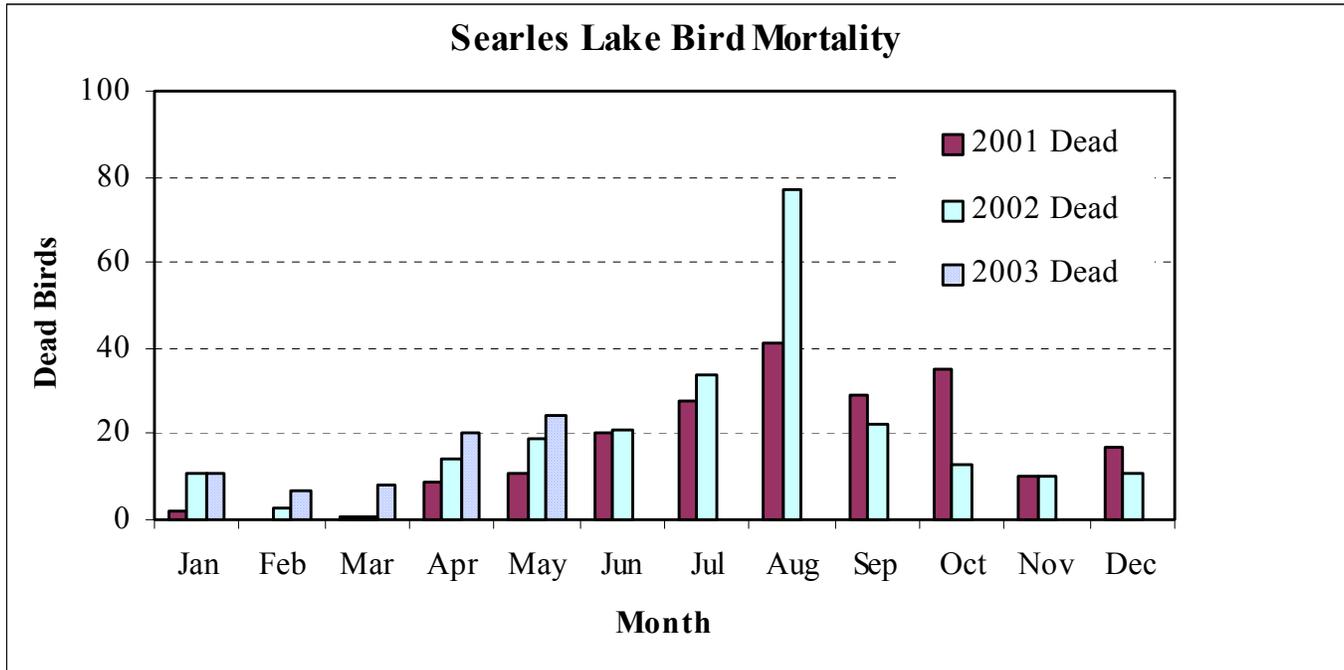
Desert View Dairy (Hinkley) has recently submitted lab results for the sampling of four newly-installed groundwater-monitoring wells. Groundwater sampling data revealed concentrations of Nitrate as N at concentrations of 11.3 to 53.6 mg/L in three of the four wells. Board staff is requesting a Work Plan for investigating the extent (lateral and vertical) of this nitrate contamination. Following the submittal of the Work Plan, and the results of the additional soil and groundwater investigation, a Corrective Action Plan will be requested to restore groundwater quality.

12. IMC Chemicals Inc. (IMCC) – Kai Dunn

Compliance Status

The Argus plant injection brine exceeded the interim effluent limit for total recoverable petroleum hydrocarbons seven times during the month of May 2003. According to IMCC's preliminary investigation, the causes were unidentified. The plant was under a normal operation and BMPs were in place. IMCC continues to investigate the cause for the excursions and will report its findings to staff. Twenty-four bird deaths were reported during

the same period. This was five more than occurred in May of last year and over twice the number in May 2001. The total birds found up to this year through the month of May were 107, with 70 dead and 37 alive. The dead birds reported in the years 2001, 2002, and 2003 are shown in the figure below:



In accordance with the Administrative Civil Liability settlement, IMCC has paid two payments in May 2003 for: 1) the State Cleanup and Abatement Account, and 2) the escrow account for the off-site bird mitigation project. The next payment is due on May 13, 2004. Work on the new Argus Skimmer is proceeding satisfactorily and is on schedule.

New Argus Skimmer Status

All inlet piping to the skimmer and the skimmer lining are complete. Work continues on the pump tank outlet piping. Electrical/instrumentation work has also started. New Argus skimmer operations are expected to be initiated July 2003.

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

**REPORT ON STATUS OF STANDING ITEMS
July 2003**

The Regional 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 where the report can be found.

ISSUE	REPORT FREQUENCY	STATUS/COMMENT
IMC Chemicals - Compliance Status	Monthly	Item No. 12 of July 2003 EO's Report
Mojave River/El Mirage Dairy Issues	Quarterly	Item No. 11 of July 2003 EO's Report
Progress of Cleanup at Molycorp	Quarterly	Item No. 9 of July 2003 EO's Report
Town of Mammoth Lakes	Quarterly	Item No. 8 of July 2003 EO's Report
Caltrans-General Permit	Annually	Due September 2003 Board Meeting
Eagle Lake Spalding	Semi-Annual	Due September 2003 Board Meeting
Los Angeles CSD #14	Semi-Annual	Due September 2003 Board Meeting
Vulnerability of Wells in Squaw Valley to Contamination from USTs	Semi-Annual	Due September 2003 Board Meeting
Meyers Beacon UST Site	Quarterly	Due October 2003 Board Meeting
Caltrans-Tahoe Basin	Annually	Due November 2003 Board Meeting
Tahoe Municipal Permit	Annually	Due November 2003 Board Meeting
Wetland Restoration Progress in Mono County	Annually	Due November 2003 Board Meeting

<u>Frequency</u>	<u>Board Meeting Month</u>
<i>Quarterly</i>	July, October, January & April.
<i>Semi-Annual</i>	September & March
<i>Annually</i>	Varied

UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK/SLIC CLOSURE REPORT

State of California
Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board

Date "No Further Action Required" Letter Issued	Site Name	Site Address	Case Number	Case Type	Remaining Groundwater Concentrations above Water Quality Objectives (in micrograms per liter)	Remaining Soil Concentrations (in milligrams per kilogram)	Distance from Site to Nearest Receptor	Remedial Methods Used
June 12, 2003	Former Rental Services Corporation	44110 Yucca Avenue Lancaster	6B1900993T	UST (gasoline and diesel]	None	TPHd*: 22,000 Benzene: 0.2 Toluene: 1.4 Kerosene; 17,000	First groundwater > 90 feet deep Municipal well 1/4 mile from site	Natural attenuation approx. 60 gallons remain in soil at 25 feet bgs
June 12, 2003	Former Circle K Store No. 1017	82710 Trona Road Trona	6B3600051T	UST (gasoline)	Benzene: 1.4 Xylene: 1,050 TBA*: 110	TPHg*: 1,800 Xylene: 73	First groundwater at 15 feet bgs. High TDS* > 20,000 milligrams per liter	Removed free product natural attenuation
June 19, 2003	Tahoe Donner Association	14514 Northwoods Blvd. Truckee	6T0112A	UST (gasoline)	TPHg*: 2,400 MTBE*: 1.8 Benzene: 170 Xylene: 65	TPHg*: 6,400 TPHd*: 4,700 Xylene: 600	Domestic well - 4,000 feet away Municipal well- 5,000 feet away	Excavated 2,000 cubic yards of soil. Vapor and groundwater extraction 1991-2002

***Notes:**

UST = underground storage tank program
 TPHd = total petroleum hydrocarbons as diesel
 TPHg = total petroleum hydrocarbons as gasoline
 MTBE = Methyl Tertiary-Butyl Ether (a gasoline oxygenate)
 bgs = below ground surface
 TBA = Tertiary Butyl Alcohol
 TDS= total dissolved solids

EO'S MONTHLY REPORT FOR UNAUTHORIZED WASTE DISCHARGES

DISCHARGER	FACILITY	LOCATION	BASIN	REGULATED FACILITY	SUBSTANCE DISCHARGED	HAZAR -DOUS	DATE REPORTED	DISCHARGE VOLUME	DESCRIPTION OF FAILURE	DISCHARGE TO	PROP 65	STATUS
**COUNTY - Nevada												
Caltrans District 3	Caltrans District 3	Bridge 13, I-80 Boca Floriston Phase I	<input type="checkbox"/> N	<input type="checkbox"/> Y	Sediment-laden water	<input type="checkbox"/> N	2003/05/16	Minor	Malcolm Drilling Company was setting a casing & a small amount of turbid water was discharged beneath K-rail. The operation was shut down upon the observation of the discharge. The plume dissipated within 10 mins.	Truckee River	<input type="checkbox"/> N	Caltrans & Malcolm will halt work if sediment discharge occurs again. No Futher Action Required.
Unknown	Unknown	End of East Alder Creek Road, Past Poppy Lane	<input type="checkbox"/> N	<input type="checkbox"/> N	Raw sewage	<input type="checkbox"/> N	2003/05/23	Unknown	House at end of East Alder Creek Road has a failing septic system. Toilet paper & sewage draining into an un-named creek & into Prosser Reservoir. Fish have sores on scales. Condition existing for ~2 years. Alleged Nevada Co. Health contacted in 12/02.	Creek, tributary to Prosser Creek	<input type="checkbox"/> N	Regional Board staff inspected site. Did not observe evidence of a dishcharge. Complaints of odor & algae may be the result of Prosser Lake turning over. Staff is continuing to work with Nevada County Health Dept. to resolve the situation.
**COUNTY - San Bernardino												
Barstow, City of	Sewage Treatment Plant	Barstow STP	<input type="checkbox"/> S	<input type="checkbox"/> Y	Secondary effluent	<input type="checkbox"/> N	2003/05/16	130,000 gals	Release occurred from a brokent pipeling. Approximately 100,000 gallons was recovered & disposed to authorized location (percolation ponds).	Ground	<input type="checkbox"/> N	Pipe repaired. Area disinfected. Enforcement action options being evaluated. Additional information being requested from the Discharger regarding the spill.