



EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

September 2004

NORTH BASIN

1. ***Semiannual Report on Status of Basin Plan Amendments – Judith Unsicker***

The following is a summary of staff activities and other events related to Basin Plan amendments since the March 2004 Executive Officer's Report.

Mojave River Watershed Waste Discharge Prohibition Amendments. The amendments approved by the Regional Board in September 2003 received final approval from the California Office of Administrative Law (OAL) in March 2004 and are now in effect.

Squaw Creek Sediment TMDL. The proposed amendments would incorporate a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for sediment and a TMDL implementation program into the Basin Plan. Preliminary draft amendments and supporting documents have been completed and sent to two scientific peer reviewers, and one set of comments has been received. Arrangements are being made for a California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) scoping meeting. Public draft amendments are tentatively planned to be released this fall, for Regional Board consideration at a winter 2005 meeting.

Surface Water Standards, Antelope Hydrologic Unit (including Paiute Ponds). This topic combines two items on the Board's October 2003 Triennial Review priority list: revised beneficial use designations and site-specific water quality objectives for total ammonia for certain waters affected by the Los Angeles County Sanitation District No.14

(Lancaster) discharge. Preliminary drafts of plan amendments and a technical staff report were sent to two scientific peer reviewers in May, and comments have been received. A CEQA scoping meeting was held in Lancaster in June. Public draft amendments and supporting documents may be released this fall for consideration at the Board's January 2005 meeting.

Lake Tahoe Shorezone Amendments. The Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Lake Tahoe Shorezone Ordinances (Shorezone EIS) for a July 1-September 28, 2004 public review period. Regional Board staff provided comments on an administrative draft of the Shorezone EIS, and will submit more comprehensive comments on the public draft document. Regional Board staff plan to notice a CEQA scoping meeting for the proposed Basin Plan amendments in South Lake Tahoe in October or November 2004. However, staff do not plan to circulate public draft Basin Plan amendments and supporting documents until the TRPA's Governing Board certifies its Shorezone EIS. Certification is currently expected to occur during the spring of 2005.

Removal of MUN Beneficial Use from Owens Lake. In July, staff began evaluation of available background information and data for plan amendments to remove the potential Municipal and Domestic Supply (MUN) beneficial use designation from the ephemeral surface waters of Owens Lake. Removal could be justified due to high concentrations

of total dissolved solids and toxic substances such as arsenic that exceed the thresholds in the State Board's Sources of Drinking Water Policy. Removal of the MUN use would allow the Regional Board to consider permitting U.S. Borax to discharge wastes from its brine mining/washing operations below the ordinary high water mark of Owens Lake. These amendments may come before the Board by mid-2005.

Authorization for NPDES Compliance Schedules. (This item was originally part of the October 2003 Triennial Review priority item involving a comprehensive update of the Basin Plan.) The Regional Board currently cannot issue compliance schedules for NPDES permits because there is no language in the Basin Plan explicitly authorizing such schedules. In July, staff reviewed compliance schedule language adopted by other Regional Boards and compiled a summary of issues for discussion.

Water Quality Objectives for Pesticides. Staff research and discussions have begun on the scope of potential changes to the regionwide surface water quality objective for pesticides in relation to the newly adopted statewide general NPDES permits for aquatic weed and vector control. Staff time has also been allocated during this fiscal year to update the regionwide narrative objective for rotenone use in fisheries management, and rotenone policy language in the Basin Plan's implementation chapter.

Nutrient Objectives for Surface Waters. The state/federal process for development of new California water quality objectives for nutrients and related parameters on an "ecoregion" basis has been delayed due to contract funding problems. In May, Regional Board staff participated in a conference call to discuss the contractors' progress on a pilot study of lakes and streams of the "oak-

chaparral ecoregion" in coastal Southern California and the Central Valley foothills. Modeling results to date indicate that standards development may need to focus on smaller geographic areas.

Truckee River Waste Discharge Prohibitions. (This is a new amendment topic not included in the 2003 Triennial Review priority list.) Staff time has been allocated during FY 04-05 for revision of the exemption criteria for waste discharge prohibitions affecting the Truckee River and Little Truckee River watersheds.

Basin Planning Program. State Board staff have decided to consider Basin Planning a formal statewide "program" with annual workplans and periodic roundtable meetings of State and Regional Board staff. For workplan purposes, Lahontan Region Basin Planning funds for this fiscal year have been divided among nine projects, including the non-TMDL topics summarized above, with a small additional amount for program management. Due to limited funding and staff resources, some of these topics will not come before the Board as public draft plan amendments until the next fiscal year.

The Basin Planning Roundtable group has developed a priority list of planning topics of statewide interest to be addressed through workgroup and Roundtable discussions, and (in some cases) through contract funding. High priority issues include potential revisions to the statewide list of beneficial use definitions, development of statewide narrative objectives involving biocriteria, and protection of wetlands and riparian areas, including isolated wetlands that are no longer considered "waters of the United States." Some of the potential statewide plan changes (e.g., biocriteria objectives) could be adopted directly by the State Board, eliminating the

need for separate amendments to the Lahontan Basin Plan.

2. ***Donner Lake Fish Bioaccumulation Study - Tom Suk***

In July, State Board staff approved funding for a proposal submitted by Regional Board staff for a fish bioaccumulation study at Donner Lake. Donner Lake is 303(d)-listed as being impaired by "priority organics," including PCBs and chlordane. The listing was based on limited fish tissue sampling conducted in the mid-1990s that showed elevated levels of these priority organics in some fish. The new \$51,000 study is designed to provide data sufficient to develop a fish consumption advisory, if warranted, based on current health criteria. If so, the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) will work with the county health departments to develop and disseminate a fish consumption advisory. If the data indicate no significant health threats due to bioaccumulation, it may be possible to de-list Donner Lake based on the study results. Fish will be captured and tested for metals (including mercury) in addition to organics. Sampling will probably occur during the summer of 2005. Funding for the State Board's bioaccumulation program has been reduced substantially in recent years. Only \$300,000 is available statewide; our proposal for Donner Lake is one of only five projects to be funded this year.

3. ***Update on Lake Tahoe Basin Fuels Management Planning - Erika Lovejoy***

Last March Senator Diane Feinstein held a conference in South Lake Tahoe to address wildfire risk due to fire suppression and fuels accumulation in the Tahoe Basin. Senator Feinstein asked to have Fire Management Plans for Lake Tahoe communities by August 2004.

As of mid-August, two Nevada fire districts and the California fire districts submitted draft plans, but those plans did not provide a complete analysis or recommendations. The Lake Tahoe Firesafe Council and the City of South Lake Tahoe are working with their contractors to revise the reports and hope to have acceptable drafts by early October. Because the plans also address fuels management in stream environment zones, Staff will continue to actively participate in the planning meetings and will provide comments on the draft plans.

4. ***Spalding Community Service District, Eagle Lake, Lassen County - T. Jerrold Peacock***

On July 20, Spalding property owners overwhelmingly approved the formation of an assessment district to generate the necessary capital costs for their proposed wastewater collection and disposal system. 83% of the property owners voting supported forming the assessment district, which required at least 50% for approval. As approved, property owners may be obligated for up to \$7,256 per parcel (or \$356.66/yr for 40 years). Property owners will be required to incur costs for hooking up their septic tanks to the new system, and will be charged an additional monthly operations and maintenance charge.

Spalding CSD has applied for funding under the SWRCB Small Community Wastewater Grant Program. It is expected the project will rank near the top of the statewide competitive project list and will be eligible for the maximum available grant of \$2 million. The SWRCB will consider approval of the statewide competitive project list in October, after which SWRCB grants team can start to issue and prepare contracts for SCWG grants.

All design and environmental certification are complete. The CSD anticipates the financing package can be completed during the winter,

and the project could be ready to bid by spring 2005.

5. **Status of Caltrans' Statewide Permit Update- Eric Taxer**

The statewide NPDES Permit for Storm Water Discharges from Caltrans Properties, Facilities, and Activities (State Board Order No. 99-06-DWQ) "expired" on July 15, 2004, however, the terms and conditions of the expired permit will remain in effect. State Board staff is working to update the permit.

Over a year ago, at an August 26, 2003 State Board and Regional Board/Caltrans Coordinator's meeting, State Board staff committed to generate a draft permit to distribute to Regional Board staff for first review and comment. State Board staff did not meet this commitment, but we still submitted a list of requested permit changes to State Board staff for discussion at the November 20, 2003 State Board Regional Board/Caltrans Coordinators Meeting. That list included:

1. Establishing requirements for ongoing monitoring/maintenance of temporary and permanent BMPs
2. Requiring Regional Board acceptance of Notices of Completion
3. Requiring Caltrans to demonstrate that runoff volume and sediment loads are no more than pre-project conditions
4. Requiring storm water runoff monitoring and reporting from maintenance yards and snow storage facilities
5. Re-affirming numerical effluent limits and requiring early project design submittals for the Tahoe Basin
6. Requiring Caltrans to deviate from their approved BMP list for sensitive areas
7. Requiring project inspections to occur within 24 hours of a storm event and

subsequent maintenance/repairs to occur quickly thereafter

8. Requiring Regional Board acceptance of a SWPPP prior to commencing construction activities in the Truckee River Hydrologic Unit
9. Establishing additional monitoring and reporting requirements for nutrients, abrasives, and deicers, and
10. Requiring rainy-season BMPs to be implemented year-round in certain Hydrologic Units.

In lieu of developing a draft statewide permit for peer review, State Board staff requested that the regional boards submit proposed draft permit changes by January 31, 2004. We submitted draft changes consistent with the topics noted above.

On January 15, 2004, Caltrans submitted to State Board its Report of Waste Discharge for the permit update. The application was in the form of a revised Storm Water Management Plan (SWMP). State Board staff indicated that an acceptable revised SWMP would, in large part, become the final permit.

State Board staff developed a schedule for State and Regional Board staffs to review and comment on the 15 sections and six appendices of the SWMP. The schedule also included elements for State Board staff to review the Regional Board comments with Caltrans, negotiate language changes, and to complete the review process by June 2004. That review process is still occurring. To date, State Board staff has only been able to work through three sections and one appendix of the SWMP with Caltrans, and all unresolved issues have been placed on hold until the end of the entire review process. State Board staff has yet to solicit Regional Board staff comments on two sections and four appendices of the SWMP. Region 6 staff continues to review the SWMP, submit

comments to State Board staff, and review changes made by State Board staff, review negotiated changes made by State Board and Caltrans staff to keep track of our identified concerns. Regional Board staff plans to remain fully engaged in the permit revision process and has allocated significant resources for this fiscal year.

6. *Status Report on USFS Removal Action at Colorado Hill, Alpine County – John Steude*

When I last reported on this project in July 2004, the design work for the Zaca Mine infiltration gallery and basin and stream restoration work in Monitor Creek (remediation of Zaca and Lovedstedt tailings piles) were complete and the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) was ready to solicit bids for the construction work to be done in the fall of 2004.

Information recently provided by the USFS (personal communications with Steve Brooks, USFS On-Scene Coordinator) indicates that the construction work planned for the fall of 2004 will be postponed for one year due to the lack of competitive bids to conduct the project. The USFS believes that the project scope is reasonable, but the timing of requesting bids may have been too late in the construction season to obtain appropriate bids. The USFS intends to be more active in soliciting bids and begin the bidding process earlier for next year's construction season. The postponement does not result in an automatic loss of funding, but does make the project more vulnerable to budget cuts if the USFS determines that other projects are a higher priority.

7. *Update on USFS Big Meadow Violation – Erika Lovejoy*

I earlier reported to you that in June 2003 Regional Board staff received a citizen's

complaint regarding trail work that had been done in Big Meadow. New fill was placed within a jurisdictional wetland without public notice or obtaining a permit. The U. S. Forest Service Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit (LTBMU) was contacted and admitted responsibility, noting that there was insufficient communication with a local volunteer group who was doing the work and permits were not obtained for the project. Regional Board and LTBMU staff went to the site and mutually agreed that the newly constructed path was an improvement over the previous condition where trail users were causing erosion by crossing directly over the meadow.

A Notice of Violation (NOV) was sent to the LTBMU requesting a description of current site conditions, an alternatives analysis, and monitoring for water quality problems and vegetative health in the meadow. The LTBMU provided a response in October 2003, and an alternatives analysis in February 2004 as required by the NOV. The October report noted no negative changes in the meadow health. The last monitoring report was due August 1, 2004. Staff is reviewing the report and will be meeting with LTBMU staff at the site before September 1, 2004 to evaluate the trail's impacts to meadow health and discuss project alternatives. At that point Staff will determine whether the fill should be removed, or if other actions should be pursued.

8. *Lake Tahoe Restoration Forum; Tahoe Center for Environmental Sciences Site Dedication - Chuck Curtis*

Lake Tahoe Restoration Forum

On August 5, 2004, Nevada Senators Harry Reid and John Ensign sponsored the eighth annual forum on Lake Tahoe. This year's forum focused on transportation, fire

prevention and restoration of the Tahoe Basin's resources, most importantly the clarity of Lake Tahoe. In July of 1977, the first Lake Tahoe Presidential Forum was conducted to call attention to the Lake Tahoe Basin. Since then, much progress has been made, and much work remains. Regional Board staff attended the forum and presented a poster on the Lake Tahoe TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Load), a water quality restoration plan.

One of the speakers at the forum was Gale Norton, Secretary of the US Department of Interior. Secretary Norton announced approval of \$37 million dollars to restore and improve the water quality at Lake Tahoe. The funds for the restoration will come from the sale of public land under the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act of 1998 (SNPLMA). The Act was passed into law in October 1998. It allows the Interior Department's Bureau of Land Management to sell public land within a specific boundary around Las Vegas, Nevada. Proceeds from those sales are then made available for certain types of projects. In November 2003, the Act was amended to direct \$37.5 million to Lake Tahoe each year to implement the Lake Tahoe Restoration Act (Federal Environmental Improvement Program responsibilities). Regional Board staff submitted a proposal to the US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) for \$1.5 million dollars from these SNPLMA funds to help complete the Lake Tahoe sediment and nutrient TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Load), a water quality restoration plan. The USEPA approved the proposal in June, and TMDL Unit staff are developing a detailed application for the funds.

Also at this year's forum, USEPA Region IX administrator, Wayne Nastri, announced a \$1.14 million dollar watershed grant to the Lahontan Regional Board for continued work

developing the Lake Tahoe sediment and nutrient TMDL. This grant to the Regional Board for Lake Tahoe is the only one ever given to a watershed west of the Mississippi River. The winning grant proposal was one of 14 approved out of over 100 submitted.

Tahoe Center for Environmental Sciences Site Dedication

Also on August 5, 2004, Regional Board staff attended the site dedication of the new Tahoe Center for Environmental Sciences, a partnership of the University of California at Davis and the private Sierra Nevada College. The Center will be located at Sierra Nevada College's Incline Village, Nevada campus. The new facility will expand on the work currently performed out of UC Davis's Tahoe Research Group facilities, which are currently located in an old fish hatchery building in Tahoe City. Other partners in the new Center include the University of Nevada's Desert Research Institute, Carnegie Mellon University, and the Rand Corporation. The Tahoe Center for Environmental Sciences promises to facilitate cooperative research on Lake Tahoe and other similar watersheds.

9. *Martis Valley/Town of Truckee Monitoring Program Development - Scott Ferguson*

Staff is continuing to work with the Town of Truckee, Placer County and the Truckee River Watershed Council in an effort to develop an interim project-level monitoring program template, and eventually a watershed-based monitoring program. Currently, this group has been focusing on developing the interim project-level monitoring program, which will be implemented by dischargers whose projects are to be developed prior to the watershed-based monitoring program being fully developed and implemented.

Several issues that were discussed at the group's most recent meeting (July 1, 2004) included: what monitoring components (water chemistry for surface and ground water, bioassessment, and potentially physical habitat assessment) should be included, resources for developing consistent monitoring and analysis protocols, mechanisms for drafting/developing the actual monitoring program template, peer review of a draft template, potential funding mechanisms/sources, and our next steps. To date, the discussions have typically been general and conceptual in nature.

One of the next steps that Regional Board staff anticipates occurring in September 2004 is for the group to meet with Lisa Beutler of the Center for Collaborative Policy to discuss effective methods to engage the stakeholders that are interested in this process. One of our goals is to share information regarding how the monitoring program template is being developed, the principles behind the monitoring program template, how it will be implemented, and how the data will be managed and evaluated. Engaging the stakeholders will also provide the community with opportunities to provide information and/or feedback on important issues that have been raised or that may not have been thought of to date. Staff is hopeful that this process will result in a project-level monitoring program template that people understand and that produces data the various stakeholder groups will accept.

Staff believes that peer review of any monitoring program proposal will be

important. To date, the Town of Truckee has established a mechanism for evaluating the proposed monitoring program associated with the Gray's Crossing development. Regional Board staff has recently worked with the Siller Ranch project proponents to have their monitoring program proposal peer reviewed. There is the possibility that these monitoring program proposals or components of the proposals could become part of the project-level monitoring program template, depending upon the peer review results.

Staff had originally indicated that it anticipated having a project-level monitoring program template developed by August 2004. Obviously, this has not occurred, but progress is being made. The Town of Truckee and Placer County have committed resources and are in the process of contracting to assist in developing monitoring program criteria and conducting peer review of existing monitoring progress. I have committed staff resources to continue our involvement with developing an effective, science-based monitoring program that will produce data that can evaluate if water quality is being affected by recently started development or development that is scheduled to begin within the next two years. I am hopeful that the project-level monitoring program will be available for use prior to next year's construction season. Once the project-level monitoring program template has been developed, staff anticipates turning its attention to developing the watershed-based monitoring program for the Martis Valley-Town of Truckee area.

SOUTH BASIN

10. *Molycorp Cleanup and Abatement Order Compliance Status Update - Christy Hunter*

Off-Site Ground Water Investigation - Federal Right-of-Way Access

The interim well drilling/development phase of the off-site investigation project at the Molycorp Mine and Mill has been completed. Ground water from these three new wells has been sampled and laboratory results submitted. Preliminary results indicate that the ground water in Wheaton Wash, the farthest downgradient well drilled to date in the eastern drainage, has a total dissolved solids concentration (TDS) of about 950 mg/L. The wells drilled in the western drainage show that ground water encountered has TDS levels of 3,100 to 3,700 mg/L. The chemistry of these ground waters will be evaluated to determine the contribution, if any, from mining contamination. These analyses suggest that the western-most wells are in impacted ground water. The well in Wheaton Wash may or may not be impacted.

Status of Pipeline Removal

Efforts are ongoing to process Molycorp's request to remove/clean-up the wastewater pipeline on Federal land. The Biological Opinion (BO), being prepared by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, has not been completed for Bureau of Land Management (BLM) staff review. However, BLM staff has indicated that the draft BO is nearing completion. When finalized the BO will be incorporated into a Biological Assessment, which will require Molycorp to adhere to certain restrictions for clean-up activity on BLM land.

11. *Containment Zone Proposal for Site 37, Edwards Air Force Base - Elizabeth Lafferty*

Edwards Air Force Base (Edwards) completed feasibility studies evaluating long-term cleanup of sites at the base. One of the sites, Site 37, is located in the rocket test area, an area with heavy historic solvent and other chemical use. High concentrations of solvents have been detected in the ground water beneath the site.

The solvent tetrachloroethylene (PCE) has been detected at concentrations as high as 180,000 parts per billion (ppb) in ground water 300 feet deep beneath Site 37. The maximum contaminant level for PCE is 5 ppb.

The site is situated on a granitic ridge. The geology beneath the area consists of a thin layer of topsoil over weathered and fractured bedrock. Contaminant concentrations of the magnitude found at Site 37 are near saturation concentrations and imply a free product source in the aquifer.

Interim cleanup equipment has been installed and is pumping from the ground water plume "hot spot". Data from the interim action, as well as other site data is being used to evaluate feasible options for cleaning up the site. Ground water transport modeling is being used to evaluate the behavior of the contaminant plume using various cleanup scenarios. However, under all scenarios cleanup would take very long and cost an extremely large amount of money. It is uncertain if technology could ever completely clean up the site.

EAFB has requested that U.S. EPA grant a waiver of certain cleanup requirements for Site 37 as part of the final cleanup decision that will be made in the Record of Decision for the site. U.S. EPA has indicated that such a waiver is appropriate for the site due to the technical

infeasibility of cleaning up the site. The Board is signatory to the agreement with the military, U.S. EPA, and the State concerning cleanup at the base. Board staff provided the Air Force with a list of requirements needed to comply with water quality laws, regulations and policy for each cleanup site. Because some contaminants may not be feasibly cleaned up for decades, Edwards AFB has requested that the Board consider a containment zone as part of the Record of Decision for Site 37. Staff has provided comments to the Air Force regarding the conditions under which the Board may consider a containment zone. The Air Force has provided its draft proposal to Board staff for review.

Under SWRCB Resolution 92-49, the Board may consider a containment zone for areas where cleanup is technically and economically infeasible. A containment zone designates an area of polluted ground water that will not be usable as long as the containment zone is in place. Conditions such as control measures and monitoring must be implemented as long as the area is designated a containment zone.

This item is scheduled to be on your October meeting agenda.

12. *Town of Mammoth Lakes - Doug Feay*

Due to an approximate 50 percent increase in building permits this year, the Town has made two changes in the way the inspections are done for stormwater enforcement. The Town has trained building inspectors to review construction sites for stormwater compliance and assigned the building inspectors the task of inspecting all the single-family construction sites. The Town's engineering department has been given the task of inspecting all other projects such as multi-family construction and businesses. Town inspectors report that the building contractors are aware of the stormwater requirements and that only minor infractions

have been noted during inspection of the construction sites. Town staff requires correction of problems noted. Board staff has scheduled a joint inspection of the Town's progress in September.

Based on comments from Board staff, one project within the Town of Mammoth Lakes has proposed to create 3.08 acres of wetlands and riparian open space as mitigation for disturbance of 0.3 acres of wetlands. The project was modified to consolidate housing areas, keeping more open space and preserving and enhancing wetlands.

13. *Searles Valley Minerals - Elizabeth Lafferty*

Compliance Status

Searles Valley Minerals (SVM) is proceeding with its off-site bird mitigation project. A new project was selected that will create additional water fowl habitat at the Koehn Lake Duck Club. Copies of Phase I site evaluation reports have been prepared for the new Koehn Lake project and provided to Department of Fish and Game (DFG) and the Regional Board. DFG and Regional Board staff have agreed to the new mitigation project and SVM will perform a Phase II report that will include project design and cost proposals.

The Koehn Lake Duck Club is located on privately owned farmland above and adjacent to the lakebed surface. Well water appears plentiful, but new wells would be required. The existing well pump test shows 800 gallons per minute at 120 feet below ground surface.

The construction would involve consolidation of existing and new duck ponds, expansion into an undeveloped area, excavation and berm construction. Existing native and non-native vegetation thrives in the area. The long-term costs are primarily for water pumping at approximately \$10,000 per year.

Compliance with Waste Discharge Requirements

Elevated concentrations of total petroleum hydrocarbons were detected July 6 (17.5 mg/L) and July 10 (5.6 mg/L) at the Argus and Trona facilities respectively. The interim effluent limit for both facilities is 4.5 mg/L. The causes of the elevated concentrations were investigated and cleaned up as soon as they were discovered. The elevated concentration of July 6 may have been related to operator error and improper handling of lubrication oil in the facility.

SVM experienced four spills due to pipeline failure during July. SVM has evaluated solutions to the pipeline spills such as 1) installing more effective pipe support to eliminate tearing and splitting pipe due to stress, 2) reducing stretching of the HDPE piping due to heating (due to environmental or process temperatures) or 3) replacement of the piping with stainless steel pipe covered inside and outside with HDPE applied directly to the steel.

Compliance Status

Several improvements have been undertaken to eliminate or reduce the number and volume of spills at SVM. These include the following actions:

1. Installation of a "pressure drop alarm" system on the Mixed Layer injection system. The alarm notifies Plant Security when there is a pressure drop on the system. Quick response results in fewer

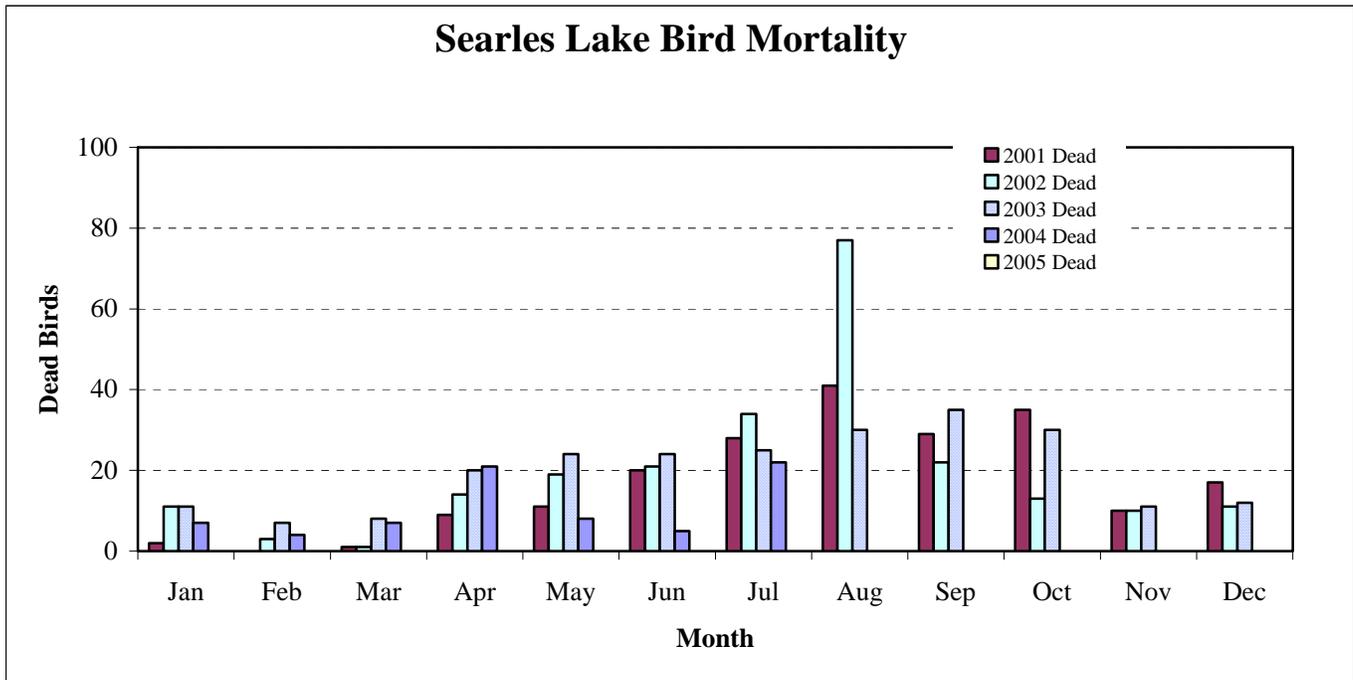
spills and less volume of spills when they do occur.

2. All Lake maintenance personnel and contractors were trained on the proper technique for forming a proper pipeline joint.
3. Purchase of a data-logger to continuously record data and information on the condition of the weld on the pipeline during connection. It provides an indication when the joint is made whether or not the fusion was done correctly. If a joint does not meet specifications then it is cut out and re-fused.
4. Replacement of a 200-foot section of the Carbonate Liquor Line.

Documentation of Dead or Affected Wildlife

Thirty-four total birds were collected at Searles Dry Lake during the month of July. Twenty-nine of those were dead. Species of dead birds found were: One Green Heron, one Canvasback, six Mallards, one Wigeon, one California Gull, one Double Crested Cormorant, four Blue Winged Teals, two green winged Teals, eight Cinnamon Teals, two Pied Billed Grebes and three songbirds.

Live birds found were: One Blue Winged Teal, an American Coot, and three Pied Billed Grebes.



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

REPORT ON STATUS OF STANDING ITEMS

September 2004

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
Caltrans-General Permit	Annually	Item No. 5 of September 2004 EO's Report
Los Angeles County Sanitation District No.14	Monthly	Status Report mailed August 27, 2004
Los Angeles County Sanitation District No. 20	Monthly	Status Report mailed August 27, 2004
Searles Valley Minerals Operations - Compliance Status	Monthly	Item No. 13 of September 2004 EO's Report
Eagle Lake Spalding	Semi-Annual	Item No. 9 of September 2004 EO's Report
Status of Basin Plan Amendments	Semi-Annual	Item No. 1 of September 2004 EO's Report
Town of Mammoth Lakes - Erosion Control	Semi-Annual	Item No. 12 of September 2004 EO's Report
Meyers Beacon UST Site	Quarterly	Due October 2004 Board Meeting
Mojave River/El Mirage Dairy Issues	Quarterly	Due October 2004 Board Meeting
Progress of Cleanup at Molycorp	Quarterly	Due October 2004 Board Meeting
Caltrans-Tahoe Basin	Annually	Due November 2004 Board Meeting
Tahoe Municipal Permit	Annually	Due November 2004 Board Meeting
Wetland Restoration Progress in Mono County	Annually	Due November 2004 Board Meeting

Frequency **Board Meeting Month**

Quarterly January, April, July, & October.
Semi-Annual March & September
Annually Varied

CASE CLOSURE REPORT

State of California
Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board

Date Closure 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 30, 2004	Tallac Village Cottages	531 Emerald Bay South Lake Tahoe	6T0348A	UST (heating oil)	none	TPHd:26,000 (at 8 ft bgs)	First groundwater 20 feet bgs; Municipal well 300 feet up gradient	Excavated 2 cubic yards of soil
July 6, 2004	Oasis Aviation	1841 Airport Road South Lake Tahoe	6T0147A	UST (aviation gas, Jet A fuel)	none	TPHg: 540 TPHd-Fuel A: 330	First groundwater 6 feet bgs; Municipal well 2,000 feet cross gradient	Excavated 300 cubic yards soil;
July 7, 2004	Ski Homewood	5145 West Lake Blvd. Homewood	6T0296A	UST (diesel)	TPHd: 69 MTBE: 94 (from different source)	TPHd:< 1	First groundwater 4 feet bgs; Supply well 350 feet cross gradient	Excavated 230 cubic yards soil; soil vapor extraction system 1995-1997
August 9, 2004	North Tahoe Public Utility District	875 National Ave. Tahoe Vista	6T0179A	UST (gasoline, diesel)	TPHg: 91 TPHd: 180 MTBE: 0.9 Xylene: 1.9	TPHg: 3,600 TPHd: 1,100 Ethylbenzene: 5 Xylene: 14	First groundwater 3 ft bgs, Supply well 1,700 ft cross gradient	Excavated 3,200 cubic yards soil,
August 10, 2004	Burton Creek Administration Center	2501 N. Lake Blvd. Tahoe City	6T0227A	UST (gasoline, diesel)	TPHd: 180 MTBE: 27	TPHd: 515 Benzene: 92 Entylbenzene: 200 Xylene: 1,500	First groundwater 10 ft bgs Supply well 1/2 mile cross gradient	Excavated 206 cubic yards soil, pumped out pumped 3,500 gallons of excavation water

Notes:

UST = Underground storage tank program
 TPHd = Total petroleum hydrocarbons quantified as diesel
 TPHg = Total petroleum hydrocarbons quantified as gasoline
 MTBE = Methyl tert-Butyl Ether
 bgs = below ground surface
 ug/L = micrograms per liter
 mg/Kg = milligrams per kilogram

**EO'S MONTHLY REPORT FOR
SEPTEMBER 2004
UNAUTHORIZED WASTE DISCHARGES**

****COUNTY -** El Dorado

DISCHARGER	FACILITY	LOCATION	BASIN	REGULATED FACILITY	SUBSTANCE DISCHARGED	HAZAR -DOUS	DATE REPORTED	DISCHARGE VOLUME	DESCRIPTION OF FAILURE	DISCHARGE TO	PRO P	STATUS
SBC California	South Tahoe PUD	Al Tahoe/Johnson Way, SLT	N	N	Sewage	N	7/2/2004	~27,000 gals	SBC's Contractor, Underground Construction, drilled through a 12" force main. Sewage flowed to a nearby drop inlet that discharges to a rock lined ditch near College Ave.	Land	N	All surface sewage was cleared by Vactor Truck. Storm drain was flushed & disinfected. Pipe repaired. No Further Action Recommended.
Unknown	Embassy Vacation Resort	901 Ski Run Blvd., SLT	N	N	Oil/Antifreeze	Y	8/3/2004	~4 gals	Spill reached a drain inlet, but did not appear to overflow to an outlet to the marina. Spill apparently from an unidentified source.	Street/storm drain	N	SLT FD used 20 absorbent pads on the street to absorb oil in sump drain inlet. Later used additional pads for antifreeze & remaining oil. No Further Action Recommended.

****COUNTY -** Nevada

DISCHARGER	FACILITY	LOCATION	BASIN	REGULATED FACILITY	SUBSTANCE DISCHARGED	HAZAR -DOUS	DATE REPORTED	DISCHARGE VOLUME	DESCRIPTION OF FAILURE	DISCHARGE TO	PRO P	STATUS
Tahoe-Truckee Sanitation Agency	STP	Overflow pipe from Anoxic Phosphorus releas tank	N	Y	Secondary treated effluent	N	7/7/2004	~500 gals	Contractor punched a hole in line with backhoe.	Land	N	To be repaired. Review of Spill Report to determined if Further Action needed.

****COUNTY -** San Bernardino

DISCHARGER	FACILITY	LOCATION	BASIN	REGULATED FACILITY	SUBSTANCE DISCHARGED	HAZAR -DOUS	DATE REPORTED	DISCHARGE VOLUME	DESCRIPTION OF FAILURE	DISCHARGE TO	PRO P	STATUS
Searles Valley Minerals SVM	AIF Skimmer	Argus plant & lakebed at Argus	S	Y	Brine	N	6/18/2004	210,000 gals	Skimmer overflow during maintenance. Failure of HDPE pipeline. Brine did not pond. Bird monitoring conducted. Pipe repaired. Written report received.	Dry lakebed	N	Maintainence procedures modified to prevent recurrence. Staff reviewing need for Further Action for other spills related to HDPE pipeline failures.
Searles Valley Minerals SVM	HDPE Pipeline	Parson's Parkway on lakebed	S	Y	Brine	N	6/23/2004	5700 gals	Failure of HDPE pipeline. Brine did not pond. Bird monitoring conducted. Pipe repaired. Written report received.	Dry lakebed	N	SVM Evaluating feasibility of additional measures to minimize spills.Spill response plan rec'd. Staff reviewing plan & need for further action.

Lake Arrowhead CSD	Sewer	26978 State Hwy., Blue Jay	<input type="checkbox"/> S	<input type="checkbox"/> Y	Raw sewage	<input type="checkbox"/> N	6/26/2004	5400 gals	During eradication of bark-beetle infested trees, lid knocked off manhole. Debris entered. Overflow occurred. Sewer unclogged. Soil cleanup complete.	Ground	<input type="checkbox"/> N	Plan received to reduce spills from bark beetle eradication. District implementing plan. No Further Action Recommended.
Lake Arrowhead CSD	Pump Station	Grass Valley area	<input type="checkbox"/> S	<input type="checkbox"/> Y	Raw sewage	<input type="checkbox"/> N	7/3/2004	24,000 gals	Electric failure at pump sta. operation restored. Written report rec'd. 12,000 gals return to sewer. Evaluated need for syst modif to prev recurrence.	Ground	<input type="checkbox"/> N	Soil cleanup complete. Board Staff Requested followup report. District modifying system. No Further Action Recommended.
Searles Valley Minerals SVM	HDPE Pipeline	Lakebed near Pacific Salt	<input type="checkbox"/> S	<input type="checkbox"/> Y	Brine	<input type="checkbox"/> N	7/6/2004	3000 gals	Failure of HDPE pipeline. Brine did not pond. Bird monitoring conducted. Pipe repaired. Written report received.	Dry lakebed	<input type="checkbox"/> N	SVM Evaluating feasibility of additional measures to minimize spills. Spill response plan rec'd. Staff reviewing plan & need for further action.
Searles Valley Minerals SVM	HDPE Pipeline	Cement plant road on lakebed	<input type="checkbox"/> S	<input type="checkbox"/> Y	Brine	<input type="checkbox"/> N	7/13/2004	3000 gals	Failure of HDPE pipeline. Brine did not pond. Bird monitoring conducted. Pipe repaired. Written report received.	Dry lakebed	<input type="checkbox"/> N	SVM Evaluating feasibility of additional measures to minimize spills. Spill response plan rec'd. Staff reviewing plan & need for further action.
Searles Valley Minerals SVM	HDPE pipeline	Parson's Parkway on lakebed	<input type="checkbox"/> S	<input type="checkbox"/> Y	Brine	<input type="checkbox"/> N	7/16/2004	1500 gals	Failure of HDPE pipeline. Brine did not pond. Brine monitoring conducted. Pipe repaired. Written report rec'd.	Dry Lakebed	<input type="checkbox"/> N	SVM evaluating feasibility of additional measures to minimize spills. Spill response plan rec'd. Staff reviewing plan & need for Further Action.
Adelanto PUA	Sewer	Aster & Violet St., Adelanto	<input type="checkbox"/> S	<input type="checkbox"/> Y	Raw Sewage	<input type="checkbox"/> N	7/20/2004	7000 gals	Manhole overflow due to clogged grease trap. Trap unclogged.	Ground	<input type="checkbox"/> N	Written report received. Soil cleanup complete. No Further Action Recommend.
Adelanto PUA	Pump station	El Mirage Road, Adelanto	<input type="checkbox"/> S	<input type="checkbox"/> Y	Raw Sewage	<input type="checkbox"/> N	7/20/2004	7500 gals	Pump station overflow. Pumps clogged w/rags. Pumps unclogged. Telemetry alarms to be added to prevent recurrence.	Ground	<input type="checkbox"/> N	Written report received. Soil cleanup complete. No Further Action Recommend.
Searles Valley Minerals SVM	HDPE pipeline	Cement plant road	<input type="checkbox"/> S	<input type="checkbox"/> Y	Brine	<input type="checkbox"/> N	7/27/2004	1500 gals	Failure of HDPE pipeline. Brine did not pond. Brine monitoring conducted. Pipe repaired. Written report rec'd.	Dry Lakebed	<input type="checkbox"/> N	SVM evaluating feasibility of additional measures to minimize spills. Spill response plan rec'd. Staff reviewing plan & need for Further Action.
AFG Industries	Three Above Ground Tanks	Silica Drive, Victorville	<input type="checkbox"/> S	<input type="checkbox"/> N	Diesel, H2SO4, Hypochlorite	<input type="checkbox"/> Y	8/8/2004	630 gals	Stormwater inundated ASTs. 1700 gals recovered from diesel AST. Gals released: diesel=300, H2SO4 SOL=200, OCl-SOL=130. Horseshoe lake sampled.	Stormwater	<input type="checkbox"/> N	Absorbant pads installed. Board staff sampled. Written report requested. Further action pending receipt of written report & sample results.