

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

**MEETING OF JULY 8-9, 2015  
SOUTH LAKE TAHOE**

**ITEM:** 4

**SUBJECT:** EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

**DISCUSSION:** The Executive Officer's report includes the following:

<b>ENCLOSURE:</b>	<b>ITEM:</b>	<b>BATES NUMBER:</b>
<b>1</b>	Executive Officer's Written Report	<b>4-5</b>
<b>2</b>	Discussion of Standing Items	<b>4-27</b>
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# **ENCLOSURE 1**

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## Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board



# EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

July 2015

## STATE AND REGIONAL

### 1. Caltrans Storm Water Program – *Bud Amorfini*

The Caltrans construction storm water program continues to be effective in maintaining compliance with applicable permits for its road projects. These permits include the State Water Resources Control Board's Construction General Permit (CGP) and the Lahontan Water Board's Lake Tahoe CGP. A brief summary of the program is provided followed by a status report of projects undertaken to comply with the Lake Tahoe TMDL and other notable projects.

#### Caltrans Construction Storm Water Program

The construction storm water program has been implemented on a state-wide basis for several years and continues to be improved. The program continues to be very active in District 3, which includes the Tahoe/Truckee areas, where extensive road construction and drainage rehabilitation has been occurring during the past few years. While District 3 is one of the more active districts in the Lahontan region, Water Board staff also works with other Caltrans districts working towards consistent program

implementation and water quality protection.

Several levels of oversight help maintain compliance with construction storm water requirements. Each project is overseen by the Caltrans contractor, Water Pollution Control Manager, a Caltrans Storm Water Inspector, and a Caltrans Resident Engineer. Additionally, periodic site reviews (a minimum of every six weeks) are completed by a Caltrans District Construction Storm Water Coordinator, which typically includes attendance by Water Board staff. Caltrans Headquarters staff conducts further internal audits of sites overseen by each District's Construction Storm Water Coordinator to assess whether the program is being implemented consistently across the state. Results of the site reviews and internal audits are used to continually improve specifications and processes that implement the program.

It should be noted that each inspection identifies any best management practice (BMP) deficiencies that are not in compliance with applicable specifications. Due to the dynamic nature of road construction projects, almost every construction project will have some sort of BMP deficiency and Water Board staff

identifies such deficiencies as violations to be corrected. While such violations are almost always noted during site inspections, they are typically minor implementation or maintenance issues with BMPs that are corrected in a timely fashion. Each inspection, violation, enforcement action, and completed corrective action is documented in the State Water Board's Storm Water Multi-Application Reporting and Tracking System (SMARTS) database and are reflected in the quarterly violations reports provided to the Lahontan Water Board.

#### Lake Tahoe Storm Water Control Projects

The status of various Caltrans' water quality improvement projects follows:

- **Completed Projects**  
Highway 28-Tahoe City to Kings Beach, Highway 267-Stewart Way to Highway 28 junction, Highway 89-Tahoe City to Squaw Valley (drains to Truckee River), Highway 50-Trout Creek to Ski Run, Highway 50-West of Ski Run to Wildwood, Highway 50-Airport to South Lake Tahoe (SLT) Y, Highway 50-Echo Summit to Meyers, and Bijou Commercial Core Pump and Treat (funding partner with City of South Lake Tahoe).
- **Continuing Projects (anticipated completion date)**  
Highway 89-Tahoma to Tahoe City (2016), Highway 89-Meeks Bay to Tahoma (2016), Highway 89-Emerald Bay to Meeks Bay (2015), and Highway 89-SLT Y to Cascade Road (2016).

- **Projects Not Yet Started (anticipated completion date)**  
Highway 89-Cascade Road to Emerald Bay (2017), and Highway 50-SLT Y to Trout Creek (2019).

#### Other Notable Projects

- The Lee Vining Rockfall Project on Highway 395 adjacent to Mono Lake has started. Concerns expressed by the Mono Lake Committee were addressed and the project should be completed in two years. One inspection has been conducted to date and the project appears to be well-managed.
- Project planning has started for relocating the Floriston Sand House, which is located immediately adjacent to the Truckee River in Floriston (Interstate 80, east of Truckee). Materials (sand and salt) from the facility will be removed and the building will be demolished. A new facility with appropriate BMPs will be constructed near the CHP Inspection Station (east of Truckee), and the facility will present a significantly reduced threat to Truckee River water quality.

Staff will request Caltrans to perform a subsurface groundwater assessment at the Sierra Boulevard Snow Storage Facility in South Lake Tahoe to evaluate potential effects from salt collected from Highway 50 and disposed of at the site. The site is an important part of the load reduction program in Lake Tahoe, but we have no information about possible adverse effects to groundwater. However, Caltrans has transitioned from rock salt applications to brine as a de-icing agent and the brine applications offer significant reductions in the mass of salt applied to roadways. Staff expects

this will help mitigate any potential effects at the snow storage facility.

## 2. Water Board Staff Helped Judge California Science Fair Finals – Tom Browne

Dr. Tom Browne of your Victorville office volunteered to judge for the California State Science Fair finals held at the California Science Center in Los Angeles on May 19, 2015. A total of 860 entries from 425 junior and senior high schools were accepted to State finals this year in 22 categories. These entries had already won a first or second place prize at three levels of competition (school, district, and county) prior to the state finals.

Therefore, every project entered was of high caliber and quality. Over \$50,000 of prize money was awarded to the various winners. In addition, the Science Fair also makes a \$2,000 cash award to one junior and one senior category advisor based on their efforts mentoring students. This year the junior category winner was Wendi Rodriguez, a science teacher at Heritage School in Phelan, a school located in the southern Lahontan Region.

Several of the science fair categories relate to our work here at the Water Board including earth and atmospheric science, environmental engineering, environmental science, mammalian biology, microbiology, plant biology, toxicology, and zoology. Dr. Browne helped judge projects in environmental science and environmental engineering.

The first place winner in environmental science was *Use of Thamnocephalus to Analyze Water Quality of the Santa Ana River*. This student found the water quality of the Santa Ana River caused a significant die-off of this fresh water crustacean compared to a control

population raised in commercial spring water under the same conditions. This fresh water crustacean could potentially be used as a rapid test of stormwater runoff effects on water quality.

The first place winner in environmental engineering went to *A Healthier Filter: the Effect of Different Natural Materials on Purity of Water*. In this experiment, the student compared the effectiveness of water filtration using terracotta clay, used tea leaves, old coffee grounds, rice husks, and charcoal, against a control filter of sand and gravel. The test water was contaminated with cow manure. The student measured removal of turbidity, nitrate, and coliform, and found that the best filter was a mixture of terracotta and tea leaves.

The first place winner in the environmental engineering (senior) division was *Using Starch and Biopolymer Aqueous Solutions to Reduce Soil Erosion*. In this experiment, the student mixed corn starch, wheat starch, and potato starch with a mixture of xanthan gum and glucan biopolymer in pots with the same initial mass of soil and a live pea plant. The student watered the soil pots over two weeks and found the mixture of wheat starch with xanthan gum and glucan had the best effect on reducing soil loss. This experiment could have notable applications to soil and erosion control best management practices.

Other noteworthy experiments in environmental engineering included ways of producing methane from anaerobic digestion to power generators and several experiments regarding methods of desalinating water using alternative energies including solar and microbial fuel cell.

**3. June 2015 Status of the 2012  
Triennial Review Projects –  
Richard Booth**

The Water Board adopted the current Triennial Review priorities on January 17, 2013 which is guiding Water Board staff time in the Basin Planning Program. State and federal laws require periodic review and revision of Basin Plans. The federal process is called "Triennial Review." Due to resource limitations and the complexity of California's Basin Plan amendment process, Triennial Review in California is generally limited to identification of the highest priority planning projects to be addressed over the three years between one Triennial Review cycle and the next.

Table 1 (attached) lists the 25 projects the Water Board prioritized for its 2012 Triennial Review project list.

As Table 1 indicates, priority projects related to the septic system policy and to Lake Tahoe were combined as part of the Basin Plan prohibition project (known informally as the "Basin Plan cleanup"). On October 1, 2014, the Office of Administrative Law approved the Water Board Basin Plan amendments. Certain parts of these amendments are considered "standards" under the Clean Water Act, which are awaiting approval by USEPA. Standards changes include those to beneficial uses and water quality objectives.

The Antelope Valley Salt & Nutrient Management Plan was adopted by the Water Board during its November 2014 Board meeting in Barstow. Staff presented an update on the Mojave Basin Salt & Nutrient Management Plan at the June 2015 Board meeting. (anticipated approval scheduled for September 2015)

Project #2 (revise water quality objectives for bacteria) is a high priority Basin Planning project with the largest resource allocation for the current Triennial Review period. Staff presented the project status to the Board during the November 2014 Board meeting in Barstow. Staff is coordinating with State Board staff on the state-wide bacteria objective project.

Staff is planning to draft the 2015 Triennial Review project list later this calendar year, circulate it for public review, and bring a proposal for adoption to the Water Board in November 2015.

**4. Controlling Trash Entering  
California Waterways -  
Robert Larsen**

Trash in surface water is a prevalent issue in California that can threaten aquatic and marine life, cause habitat degradation, jeopardize public health and safety, and hinder recreational, navigational, and commercial activities. To address the problem of trash in California water ways, the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) recently adopted amendments to the Water Quality Control Plan for the Ocean Waters of California and the Water Quality Control Plan for Inland Surface Waters, Enclosed Bays, and Estuaries in California (Trash Amendments) to set trash control policies.

The Trash Amendments establish a narrative water quality objective for trash, prohibit trash discharges, and provide implementation requirements for permitted storm water dischargers. The amendments also set compliance time schedules and provide a monitoring and reporting framework. The Trash Amendment provisions will be

incorporated into National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permits, waste discharge requirements, and applicable waivers - affected permit categories include municipal Storm Water systems, Caltrans, industrial sites, and construction sites. Municipal and Caltrans dischargers must demonstrate full compliance with the Trash Amendments within ten years of the first implementing permit and fifteen years after the effective date of the amendments.

The Trash Amendments emphasize a land-use based compliance approach to target high trash generating areas such as high density residential, commercial, and public transportation land uses. Within this structure the permitted entity can choose two alternative compliance tracks. Track 1 requires municipalities to install a network of trash control systems in priority areas to achieve full trash capture and requires industrial and construction site dischargers to ensure facility-wide trash control. Track 2 provides the flexibility to implement both structural and institutional controls and demonstrate alternative controls are effective through comprehensive monitoring.

The State Water Board adopted the Trash Amendments on April 7, 2015 and has now submitted to the California Office of Administrative Law and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for approval. Once approved, the State and Regional Boards will have an 18-month window to incorporate the amendments into relevant permits.

Water Board staff will be evaluating existing permits to determine how the Trash Amendments will be applied in

the Lahontan region. Staff expect to include amendment requirements in the municipal and storm water permits at Lake Tahoe.

For more information, visit the State Water Board website at [www.waterboards.ca.gov/trash](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/trash)

## 5. Composting General Order Update – Brianna St. Pierre

A statewide conditional waiver for “green-waste only” was in effect from 1994 to 2003; however, on October 10, 1999, Senate Bill 390 amended California Water Code (CWC) sections 13269 and 13350, which required these waivers to be either renewed or replaced with waste discharge requirements (WDRs). As this conditional waiver is no longer in effect, composting facilities may be issued individual WDRs, such as were adopted by this Board for Nursery Products’ Hawes Composting Facility (March 2010).

Currently, State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) staff are developing substantive conditions for a Draft *Statewide General Waste Discharge Requirements for Composting Operations* (General Order) that would apply water quality protection measures at composting facilities that currently exist or may be constructed. The Department of Resources, Recycling and Recovery (Cal Recycle) has an ‘Organics Policy Roadmap’ that identifies the need to compost more organic materials and reduce what is disposed in landfills annually (reduce the amount of organics being landfilled by 50 percent by 2020). State Water Board staff recognize these needs and prepared the draft General Order to: 1)

streamline the permitting process, 2) implement consistent regulation of qualifying compost facilities throughout the State, and 3) protect water quality while reducing disposal of organic materials in landfills.

On June 16, 2015, the State Water Board held a Workshop as part of the regularly scheduled Board Meeting to discuss the requirements of the General Order and Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Report (Draft PEIR). The discussion included staff and representatives from the State and Regional Water Boards, CalRecycle, California Department of Food and Agriculture, the composting industry, and local governments. During this Workshop, appropriate siting requirements, definitions, and economic considerations were the main points of discussion.

The General Order will be an alternate permitting mechanism for composting operations that may pose a lower threat to water quality than those that would need to comply with the requirements of California Code of Regulations, title 27. The State Water Board directed State Water Board staff to clarify the economic analysis and siting requirements for the General Order and asked that a revised General Order be brought back to the State Water Board for adoption in August 2015.

## NORTH

### 6. Lake Tahoe Municipal NPDES Permit Update – Robert Larsen

In December 2011 the Water Board adopted the Lake Tahoe Municipal NPDES Stormwater Permit to facilitate Lake Tahoe TMDL implementation. The permit requires the City of South Lake Tahoe, El Dorado County and Placer County to use the Lake Clarity Crediting Program to track and account for required pollutant load reductions and implement broad-based storm water management programs. The past calendar year saw important progress in program tracking, fiscal planning, and initial preparation for the next permit term.

The co-permittees continue to implement storm water treatment retrofit projects, maintain existing infrastructure, and develop traction abrasive and deicing management strategies to reduce storm water pollutants. As the first five-year load reduction requirement approaches in September 2016, the co-permittees have also been working cooperatively with Water Board and Nevada Division of Environmental Protection staff to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of load reduction tracking tools. The effort to streamline and enhance Lake Clarity Crediting Program tools is now complete, and the Water Board's local government partners are well-positioned to document the efficacy of their pollutant load reduction efforts.

In August 2014, I asked the co-permittees to prepare a detailed fiscal analysis plan that would prepare local

government for future program resource needs. In response, the three co-permittees have partnered with the Tahoe Resource Conservation District, the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency, and the United States Environmental Protection Agency to craft and implement a targeted plan to address program funding needs. There are other local ballot measures, statewide initiatives, and regional political concerns that must be considered. There is also a need to educate the local voting population and local decision making bodies regarding the need and value associated with storm water management. The partnership represents the most concrete progress toward dedicated local storm water program funding, and Water Board staff are encouraged by the steps taken and looking forward to continued participation.

Finally, Water Board staff has initiated discussion with co-permittee staff about the 2016 permit update. The permit will include the next 5-year load reduction target as specified in the Lake Tahoe TMDL, and I plan to meet with the local elected officials and interested public over the coming calendar year to discuss the permit update to get feedback on future requirements. The current permit requires the co-permittees to prepare and submit an updated Pollutant Load Reduction Plan by June 8, 2016 and work is underway to assess options to meet the pollutant load reduction requirements anticipated in the next permit term. Staff has also begun talks about future monitoring needs and necessary alignment with the

## Regional Storm Water Monitoring Program.

The Water Board and co-permittees continue to be strong partners in the effort to restore Lake Tahoe's clarity. We expect great progress in the coming year and look forward to further reports to the Water Board regarding pollutant load tracking results, the effort to secure dedicated stormwater funding sources, and the steps taken toward updating the Lake Tahoe municipal storm water permit.

### **7. Lake Tahoe Nearshore –** *Daniel Sussman*

In February 2014 staff presented the Draft Lake Tahoe Nearshore Water Quality Protection Plan (Plan). Staff finalized the Plan in June 2014 and posted it to the Water Board website. This report updates the Water Board on progress implementing the Plan, including the recommended monitoring program and hotspots investigations.

In 2015 the Water Board, TRPA and Nevada funded pilot implementation of the nearshore status and trends monitoring program. The Water Board funded monitoring of the biological metrics (fish, macroinvertebrates, and aquatic plants) and staff expects reports on these surveys in spring 2016. The Nevada contractor will complete a pilot survey of the clarity metrics (turbidity, transmissivity, chlorophyll) consisting of four circumnavigations of the nearshore with continuous measurements by December 2015.

On April 30, 2015, the Department of General Services approved the contract with the United States Geological Survey to investigate the causes behind

increased periphyton growth near the community of Pineland. This study will investigate such factors as influence from Ward Creek, groundwater seepage, spring runoff, periphyton productivity rates and nutrient limitation. The USGS and its sub-contractor, University of Nevada, will install monitoring instruments in early fall for the study. The USGS will submit the final report in March 2017.

The Water Board is expecting \$150,000 from the Lake Tahoe Science and Lake Improvement Account for FY 15-16. Implementing the recommended annual nearshore monitoring program would cost about \$450,000. Staff are meeting with researchers and other agencies (i.e. USGS, UC Davis, UNR, TRPA, NV Division of Environmental Protection, USEPA) combine funds, request funding, and determine the priorities for using the level of funding.

### **8. Leviathan Mine, Alpine County –** *Doug Carey and Taylor Zentner*

In early June, staff attended two USEPA-hosted community meetings for the Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California. The USEPA hosted the meetings in an effort to update tribal members with the ongoing Remedial Investigation and Feasibility (RI/FS) work being done at the Leviathan Mine site. The meetings took place in Dresslerville, NV and Woodfords, CA.

In June, staff also hosted a site tour for the Carson Water Subconservancy District (CWSD). During this tour, the CWSD collected video footage to update a short documentary, produced in conjunction with the USEPA that provides the history of Leviathan Mine and the current status of remediation efforts.

Water Board staff have begun an introduction to Atlantic Richfield's High Density Sludge (HDS) treatment system at Leviathan Mine. The Leviathan Mine Site Work and Cost Allocation Settlement Agreement establishes that the Water Board will begin operating the HDS system on June 1, 2017, if the HDS treatment system is demonstrated to be effective at treating combined acid mine drainage (AMD) sources at reasonably expected flow rates. Water Board staff's introduction to the HDS system is being done, in part, so staff can prepare contract documents during 2016 and provide oversight of HDS operations in 2017, provided the HDS system is demonstrated to be effective at treating reasonably expected combined AMD source flows.

## SOUTH

### **9. Site 86 Remedial Action Status Report, Operable Unit (OU) 2, Edwards Air Force Base** – *Christina Guerra*

Edwards Air Force base has been operating its full scale remedy to treat groundwater at OU 2 Site 86 for almost two years. The primary components of the Site 86 groundwater remedy are aerobic biological degradation to treat groundwater contaminated by chlorinated solvents consisting primarily of trichloroethene (TCE) and carbon tetrachloride, groundwater monitoring, and land use controls.

The Air Force implemented the remedy in a two-phased approach. Sampling results during the first phase of the operations indicated that TCE concentrations in the portion of the plume underlying the biosparging system decreased to maximum concentration levels (MCLs) in both the shallow and intermediate depth zones. Information from the first phase was used to further design the full scale project. Initial analytical results after the full-scale project startup are also showing positive effects with both TCE and carbon tetrachloride concentrations generally decreasing throughout the groundwater plume.

The source of contamination at Site 86 was a former engine test cell that was active from the 1940s until the mid-1950s. Cooling water contaminated with fuels, solvents, and oils may have been flushed through the engines, and discharged to the surrounding soil via drainage channels, creating a

groundwater solvent plume covering approximately 35 acres.

The Site 86 remedy is contained in the OU 2 Record of Decision signed in 2009. After designing the remedy, the first phase began operating in October 2011 and the second phase, consisting of the full-scale remedy, began operating in October 2013. The full-scale remedy consists of 79 biosparging wells and 60 groundwater monitoring wells. The biosparging wells are tied into a gas mixing system which delivers air mixed with methane, triethyl phosphate, and nitrous oxide via injection through vertical wells.

Analytical results show the technology to be effective. Prior to the full-scale start up, carbon tetrachloride concentrations showed no decreasing concentration trends. However, after the full-scale startup, decreases in carbon tetrachloride concentrations were documented in several monitoring wells. Continued monitoring and evaluation of contaminant concentration trends will be provided by the Air Force in periodic Remedial Action Status Reports.

### **11. City of Bishop and Eastern Sierra Community Services District Wastewater Treatment Plants** – *Jehiel Cass*

Staff reviewed the City of Bishop and the Eastern Sierra Community Services District report recommendations for upgrading their wastewater treatment plants. A joint treatment facility is recommended to accommodate a flow of 2.08 million gallons per day, expandable to 2.25 mgd. An effluent treatment level of 10 mg/L total nitrogen

was recommended to ensure future groundwater pollution does not occur.

In a June letter and meeting, staff told the entities that we preliminarily accepted the recommendations. Both entities plan to submit a Feasibility Study by December 2015 and will separately identify a funding source and project milestones for plant upgrades.

The City is partnering with the Owens Valley Integrated Regional Water Management Plan group as recommended by staff at an earlier meeting. That group is preparing a Salt and Nutrient Management Plan for the Owens Valley.

We informed both entities that they may combine effluent flow in order to achieve more efficient irrigation practices, instead of the current practice of separating flows.

**12. Victor Valley Wastewater Reclamation Authority – Sludge Lagoon Lining Project – John Morales**

The Victor Valley Wastewater Reclamation Authority (VWRA) began its operation in 1981, initially treating up

to 4 million gallons a day (MGD) of wastewater. The plant currently treats roughly 13 MGD and is expanding to increase its capacity up to 18 MGD to account for the continued growth expected throughout the Victor Valley.

Part of the plant expansion includes the lining of two existing sludge lagoons that have contributed to nitrate groundwater degradation beneath the site. Both lagoons were recently lined with a Geomembrane impregnated with bentonite clay and topped with steel reinforced concrete. The deep lagoons act as sludge thickeners. Liquid is returned to the plant for treatment and thickened sludge is placed in shallow sludge drying beds that cover a total of about 28 acres. The liquid phase sludge has a very high strength in terms of nitrogen and salt. When dry, the sludge, now called biosolids, is applied offsite as a soil amendment for agricultural use.

The project of lining the lagoons was completed in April 2015 and both lagoons are now in operation. Completion of this project complies with a milestone requirement included in Board Order No. R6V-2012-0058.



Sludge Lagoon 1 & Sludge Lagoon 2

**Table 1 - JUNE 2015 STATUS of 2012 TRIENNIAL REVIEW PRIORITY PROJECTS**

<b>Projects with Available Resources</b>	<b>Description and Estimated Completion Date</b>	<b>Status in mid-June 2015</b>
#1 Prohibition amendments (Basin Plan cleanup)	<p>This project will amend Basin Plan Chapters 4 and 5 to make editorial revisions to remove inconsistencies regarding waste discharge prohibitions and exemption criteria affecting the entire Lahontan Region, add or clarify exemption criteria, and would include some unrelated changes to other parts of the plan.</p> <p>Other proposed changes to the Basin Plan include incorporating State Board policies such as authorizing use of compliance schedules in NPDES permits, mixing zones for NPDES permits, and the 2012 State Board policy on onsite wastewater treatment systems.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lahontan Water Board approval on April 9, 2014</li> <li>• State Board approval on July 2, 2014</li> <li>• Office of Administrative Law approval on October 1, 2014</li> </ul> <p>Certain amendments that are considered “standards” under the Clean Water Act still need approval by USEPA.</p>
#2 Revise water quality objectives for bacteria	<p>Based on the results of ongoing field sampling in the Lahontan Region, revisions to federal criteria for recreational waters, and a proposed State Water Board policy (anticipated in 2014), revisions will be proposed to the current regionwide objectives for “Bacteria, Coliform” specific to our region to incorporate new information including the use of E. coli as an indicator. Water Board contractors are collecting, and Water Board staff are analyzing, data to determine whether bacteria site specific objectives for certain waterbodies are warranted. Staff is evaluating the State Board and USEPA’s E. Coli and enterococci standard setting process. Staff is evaluating options for modernizing bacteria standards.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Field sampling for bacteria analyses are complete (for now)</li> <li>• Producing maps with features pertinent to water quality objective revision decisions</li> <li>• Preparing for public comment meetings and coordination with State Board</li> </ul>

<b>Projects with Available Resources</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Status in mid-June 2015</b>
#3 Remove the MUN beneficial use designation from select groundwater basins at China Lake Naval Air Weapons Center (NAWS)	Water Board staff has reviewed technical information provided by the U.S. Navy and recommends amending the Basin Plan to remove the MUN use designation for one groundwater basin and the shallow hydrologic zone of another groundwater basin beneath the China Lake NAWS.	This item was adopted at the February 2015 Board meeting in Apple Valley.
#4 Incorporate State Water Board onsite wastewater treatment system (OWTS) policy into the Basin Plan and revise existing language and associated changes if needed.	<p>The State Water Board adopted a policy including statewide control measures for onsite wastewater treatment systems (septic systems) on June 19, 2012. The policy directs Regional Water Boards to incorporate it into their Basin Plans within 12 months of its effective date.</p> <p>Revisions to Chapters 4, 6, and the appendices of the Lahontan Basin Plan may also be necessary for compatibility. Staff will not recommend provisions outside the OWTS Policy for systems covered by the Policy, except our prohibitions that are currently in place.</p>	The Policy was adopted at the Water Board's April 2014 as part of the Basin Plan cleanup project (Project #1, above.)
#5 Program Manager	The Basin Planning Program Manager participates in State/Regional Water Board Roundtable activities, and workplan development, provides information to the public, etc.	The Program Manager's duties are ongoing.
#6 2015 Triennial Review	Prepare the 2015 Triennial Review staff report and priority list. Host scoping meetings and hearings, as necessary, for Water Board consideration.	Work on the 2015 Triennial Review process has begun, primarily related to task planning and prioritization.

<b>Projects with Available Resources</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Status in mid-June 2015</b>
#7 Miscellaneous work that will not directly result in Basin Plan amendments	Staff resources are needed for work such as: coordination with other states, other agencies, and Native American tribes regarding water quality standards; development and management of contracts related to planning; staff training, coordination with stakeholders involved with aquatic invasive species, etc.	Miscellaneous planning related work is ongoing.
#8 Review new scientific information to consider changes to the water quality objectives for nearshore areas of Lake Tahoe.	Evaluate research findings in 2013 and propose next steps to set nearshore assessment indicators as a first step to developing new nearshore water quality standards. Resource needs listed here only include staff evaluation of research findings, interagency coordination, public meetings, stakeholder outreach, and development of a workplan.	In June 2014, staff finalized a plan for implementing a monitoring plan and performing a hotspot causal assessment.

<b>Projects with Available Resources</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Status in mid-June 2015</b>
#9 Incorporate Antelope Valley Salt and Nutrient Management Plan into the Basin Plan	The State Water Board's Recycled Water Policy directs Regional Water Boards to incorporate Salt and Nutrient Management Plans (SNMPs) completed by stakeholder groups into the Basin Plan.	The Antelope Valley SNMP was accepted by the Lahontan Water Board at their November 2014 Board meeting. No Basin Plan amendment is required.
#10 Incorporate Mojave Basin Salt and Nutrient Management Plan into the Basin Plan	The State Water Board's Recycled Water Policy directs Regional Water Boards to incorporate SNMPs completed by stakeholder groups into the Basin Plans. Consider revising water quality objectives for Mojave groundwater and river to account for expected changes in salt and nutrients.	Staff will present an update on the Salt & Nutrient Management Plan for the Mojave Basin at the June 2015 Board meeting.
#11 Update Chapter 5 of the Basin Plan to reflect pending revisions to the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency's (TRPA's) regional land use and water quality plans.	Chapter 5 of the Lahontan Basin Plan incorporates the regulatory provisions of TRPA's 1988 Water Quality Management Plan for the Lake Tahoe Region ("208 Plan").  TRPA adopted revisions to its regional land use plan on December 12, 2012, and is beginning revisions to the 208 Plan. Staff resources are needed to coordinate with TRPA to ensure consistency with the Lake Tahoe TMDL. Changes to Basin Plan Chapter 5 may be necessary to reflect the TRPA plan revisions as finally adopted.	The updates were adopted at the Water Board's April 2014 as part of the Basin Plan cleanup project (Project #1, above.)

**[Projects #12 through #25, listed below, require additional resources to complete]**

<b>Projects Requiring Additional Resources</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Status in mid-June 2015</b>
#12 Hydromodification  (Riparian Protection Policy)	Revise Basin Plan to include specific implementation measures to protect all beneficial uses of ground and surface waters from the effects of development and hydromodification. Specific emphasis is needed on protecting desert surface waters, including measures to control or prevent excessive erosion of soft soils and subsequent down stream sediment deposition, adversely impacting Aquatic and Wildlife Habitats.	No staff work performed specific to a Basin Plan amendment.
#13 Biological indicators	Revise existing narrative water quality objective for protection of aquatic communities (nondegradation of aquatic communities objective).	No staff work performed specific to a Basin Plan amendment.
#14 Squaw Valley groundwater withdrawal	Evaluate the effects of potential increased groundwater withdrawal in Squaw Valley on the water quality of Squaw Creek and its tributaries. In particular, examine the interplay of water supply and water quality influencing biological conditions and a consideration of flow requirements for Squaw Creek.	A consultant for Squaw Valley Public Services District submitted a Squaw Creek/Aquifer interaction study in November 2014. The Executive summary states, "The study added to understanding the Valley's hydrology and provided guidance on how to avoid negative impacts to Squaw Creek."  Staff is evaluating the study.
#15 Revised Hot Creek water quality objectives	Develop revised objectives for Hot Creek (Owens River HU) based on changes in water quality related to increased constituent levels emanating from the natural groundwater flows entering the creek.	No staff work performed specific to a Basin Plan amendment.

<b>Projects Requiring Additional Resources</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Status in mid-June 2015</b>
#16 Adopt or revise site-specific water quality objectives for Fish Springs in the Owens Valley to facilitate NPDES permitting for a state fish hatchery.	The Department of Fish and Wildlife operates Fish Springs hatchery in the Owens Valley where source water is ground water and the discharge from the hatchery forms Fish Springs Creek. The Basin Plan currently has an objective for Fish Springs Creek above the hatchery; however, water no longer exists at that location. Water Board proposes removing this objective from the Basin Plan and setting an objective for Fish Springs creek below the hatchery. This effort may involve gathering additional water quality information from LADWP.	No staff work performed specific to a Basin Plan amendment.
#17 Susan River site specific objectives	Develop revised objectives for section of the Susan River and its tributaries downstream of Susanville’s Community Services District (District). Consider lowering water quality while ensuring continued protection of beneficial uses. Staff will need to involve the District, current downstream agricultural users, and the Department of Fish and Wildlife in evaluating alternatives including: increased treatment, increased land disposal capacity, and establishing or ensuring minimum flows in Susan River and its tributaries.)	No staff work performed specific to a Basin Plan amendment.
#18 Revise Chapter 3 language on determining compliance with water quality objectives.	The proposed revisions would change water quality objectives expressed as “means of monthly means” to annual means and define minimum sample numbers and sampling frequencies for determining compliance with objectives. This could avoid the need for new Clean Water Act Section 303(d) listings based on very small sample numbers, and facilitate delisting.	No staff work performed specific to a Basin Plan amendment.
#19 Dairies Strategy	Revise the Basin Plan, Section 4.10, to include an updated Dairy Regulatory Strategy to address groundwater pollution from dairies. (It may be possible to implement an appropriate strategy without a Basin Plan amendment.)	No staff work performed specific to a Basin Plan amendment. Staff continues to implement the 2010 Dairies Strategy.

<b>Projects Requiring Additional Resources</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Status in mid-June 2015</b>
#20 BIOLOGICAL Beneficial Use for Mojave River	Add the Biological Use (BIOL) for specific reaches of the Mojave River with remaining viable habitat, specifically from Bear Valley Road to Helendale.	No staff work to date specific to a Basin Plan amendment.
#21  Clarify Table 2-1, for Hydrologic Unit 628 (Mojave River)	Correct duplicative features of list of beneficial uses between the major and sub-watershed of the Mojave River Hydrologic Unit.	The Policy was adopted at the Water Board's April 2014 as part of the Basin Plan cleanup project (Project #1, above.)
#22 Eagle Lake "building moratorium"	Amend the Basin Plan to lessen restrictions on building density for septic systems. This project may be addressed by incorporating State Board's new Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems Policy.	No staff work to date specific to a Basin Plan amendment.
#23 Biotic Ligand Model for copper	Incorporate the USEPA national criteria for copper into water quality standards program using the Biotic Ligand Model.	No staff work to date specific to a Basin Plan amendment.
#24 Revise PCPs water quality objectives	The USEPA recommends a revision of water quality objectives for pentachlorophenol (PCPs), where appropriate. The USEPA believes existing objectives are not sufficiently protective of early life stages of salmonids.	No staff work to date specific to a Basin Plan amendment.

<b>Projects Requiring Additional Resources</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Status in mid-June 2015</b>
#25 Remove two beneficial uses from Piute Ponds wetlands	This project would involve removal of Groundwater Recharge (GWR) and Agricultural Supply (AGR) beneficial uses from the Piute (also known as Paiute) Ponds and wetlands in the Amargosa Creek watershed eastern Los Angeles County. The ponds and wetlands are maintained with effluent from the Los Angeles County Sanitation District No. 14 (Lancaster) wastewater treatment facilities.	No staff work to date specific to a Basin Plan amendment. Staff is considering whether to recommend removal of the two beneficial uses.

# **ENCLOSURE 2**

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

**JULY 2015 STANDING ITEMS**

The Water 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 the dates the items are due.

<b>ENTIRE BASIN</b>		
<b>ISSUE</b>	<b>FREQUENCY</b>	<b>DUE DATE</b>
Lake Tahoe Nearshore	Semi-Annual	July 2015 (EO Report Item 7) January 2016
Status of Basin Plan Amendments	Semi-Annual	July 2015 (EO Report Item 3) January 2016
Status of Grants	Annually	March 2016
Caltrans Statewide General Permit/Tahoe Basin	Annually	July 2015 (EO Report Item 1)
Tahoe Municipal Permit	Annually	July 2015 (EO Report Item 6)
County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles - District No. 14	Annually	January 2016
County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles - District No. 20	Annually	January 2016
Status of Dairies	Semi-Annual	August 2015 January 2016
City of Barstow	Annually	September 2015
Pacific Gas & Electric Company	Each Southern Board Meeting	September 2015
Leviathan Mine	Semi-Annual	July 2015 (EO Report Item 8) January 2016
Salt & Nutrient Management Plans	Semi-Annual	November 2015 May 2016
Onsite Septic Tanks	Annually	June 2016
Bridgeport Grazing Waiver	Annually	June 2016
Bacteria Water Quality Objectives Project	Semi-Annual	November 2015 May 2016

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# **ENCLOSURE 3**

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**EO's Monthly Report**  
**May 16, 2015 to June 15, 2015**

**COUNTY: LASSEN COUNTY**

<b>Discharger/Facility</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Basin</b>	<b>Regulated Facility?</b>	<b>Discharge Date</b>	<b>Discharge Volume</b>	<b>Description of Failure</b>	<b>Additional Details</b>	<b>Status</b>
Susan Hill Water Company	698-325 Susan Hills Road Water Tank	North	No	5/27/2015	Unknown	Water system controls failed resulting in tank overflows of potable water. Unknown quantity discharged.	Phone lines to the water system had a short requiring the system to be run on manual. Volunteer operators failed to turn pumps off when tank was full. No surface water body affected. Referred to Drinking Water Program.	Phone lines repaired, system returned to automatic operation.

**COUNTY: MONO COUNTY**

<b>Discharger/Facility</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Basin</b>	<b>Regulated Facility?</b>	<b>Discharge Date</b>	<b>Discharge Volume</b>	<b>Description of Failure</b>	<b>Additional Details</b>	<b>Status</b>
USMC Mountain Warfare Training Center	Hwy 108 north of Bridgeport	North	Yes	5/21/2015	2 gallons	Tactical vehicle fuel line failure resulted in 2 gallon diesel fuel discharge to soil and Silver Creek.	1 gallon of diesel fuel entered Silver Creek.	Deployed adsorbent booms around storm drain inlets, recovered one gallon of diesel fuel, removed contaminated soil.

\*All discharges to surface waters are included in the report.  
 Discharges to land of less than 100 gallons are not included in the report.

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# **ENCLOSURE 4**

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**Summary of  
No Further Action Required Letters Issued  
May 16 - June 15, 2015  
July 2015 EO Report  
State of California  
Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board**

The Executive Officer finds the unauthorized releases at the following sites pose a low threat to human health, safety, and the environment. The petroleum cases were closed in accordance with the Water Quality Control Policy for Low-Threat Underground Storage Tank Case Closure (Resolution 2012-016). The Policy recognizes contaminant mass often remains after the investment of reasonable remedial effort and this mass may be difficult to remove regardless of the level of additional effort and resources invested. The establishment of the Policy is an effort to maximize the benefits to the people of the State of California through the judicious application of available resources.

Date Closure Issued	Site Name	Site Address	Case Number	Additional Information
May 21, 2015	Former Taylor's Tires <sup>1</sup>	11464 Donner Pass Road Truckee, Nevada County	6T0065A	<a href="http://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/profile_report.asp?global_id=T0605700149">http://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/profile_report.asp?global_id=T0605700149</a>
June 3, 2015	SIAD Building 640 <sup>1</sup>	Sierra Army Depot Herlong, Lassen County	6T0298A	<a href="http://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/profile_report.asp?global_id=T0603500027">http://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/profile_report.asp?global_id=T0603500027</a>
June 3, 2015	Former Kings Beach Swiss Mart <sup>1</sup>	8797 North Lake Boulevard Kings Beach, Placer County	6T0069A	<a href="http://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/profile_report.asp?global_id=T0606100324">http://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/profile_report.asp?global_id=T0606100324</a>

**Additional links:**

Low-threat UST Case Closure Policy information: [http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/ust/lt\\_cls\\_plcy.shtml#policy081712](http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/ust/lt_cls_plcy.shtml#policy081712)

Low-threat UST Case Closure Policy: [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board\\_decisions/adopted\\_orders/resolutions/2012/rs2012\\_0016atta.pdf](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_decisions/adopted_orders/resolutions/2012/rs2012_0016atta.pdf)

Low-threat UST Case Closure Implementation Plan: [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board\\_decisions/adopted\\_orders/resolutions/2012/110612\\_6\\_final\\_ltcp%20imp%20plan.pdf](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_decisions/adopted_orders/resolutions/2012/110612_6_final_ltcp%20imp%20plan.pdf)

**Notes:**

1. petroleum constituents of concern