



California Regional Water Quality Control Board
Lahontan Region

SLT FILE



Linda S. Adams
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Protection

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Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor

MEMORANDUM

TO: Harold Singer
Executive Officer

FROM: Bruce Warden
Environmental Scientist
LAHONTAN REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD

DATE: JUN 30 2006

SUBJECT: RECEIPT OF ACCEPTABLE PRODUCT FOR RESOLUTION R6T-2003-0015

The Resolution authorizing funding used rather broad language to describe the expectation products from the project: "...to fund analysis of Lake Tahoe Stream Channel Sediment samples taken by the USDA-ARS National Sedimentation Laboratory in their Fall, 2002 Stream Channel Erosion study. The Tahoe Research Group (TRG) has agreed to handle processing of the samples for NSL if funding for chemical analysis can be obtained."

We left it to the scientists at TRG to determine what were the best metrics to quantify nutrient loading to Lake Tahoe from stream channel erosion, and how many samples would yield scientifically valid results. The most commonly determined loading parameters for Lake Tahoe are total phosphorus (TP) and total nitrogen (TN). If some additional measure of direct nutrient availability is desired, then analysis of soluble reactive phosphorus is common. The Division of Agricultural and Natural Resources (DANR) laboratory at UC Davis was capable of doing these analyses, if required. However, the researchers decided to focus on phosphorus as the key nutrient in Lake Tahoe phytoplankton growth, and do a much more sophisticated analysis of biologically available phosphorus (BAP) through the University of Nevada, Reno, that links more directly to growth of algae from erodable stream bank sediments.

There was no specific requirement for either type of analysis or number of samples to be analyzed, only that "The data will be used to quantify nutrient loading to Lake Tahoe from stream channel erosion." Data from this study is of exceptional quality, and as such, is being used now in the Lake Tahoe Clarity Model. As such, it meets the intent and letter of what was required as a product arising from funding this project under the Resolution.

cc: Lauri Kemper