

Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board

**MINUTES**

**April 11-12, 2012**

**Regular Meeting**

**Regional Water Quality Control Board, Lahontan Region Annex  
971 Silver Dollar Ave, Board Room  
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150**

**Board Members Present**

Don Jardine, Chair, Markleeville  
Amy Horne, Ph.D., Truckee  
Peter C. Pumphrey, Vice Chair, Bishop  
Eric Sandel, Truckee  
Keith Dyas, Rosamond

**Board Member Absent**

Jack Clarke, Apple Valley

**Legal Counsel**

Kimberly Niemeyer, Office of Chief Counsel, State Water Resources Control Board

**Staff Present**

Harold Singer, Executive Officer  
Lauri Kemper, Assistant Executive Officer  
Charles Curtis, Supervising WRCE  
Doug Smith, Supervising Eng. Geologist  
Doug Cushman, Senior WRCE  
George Cella, Engineering Geologist  
Bruce Warden, Environmental Scientist

Eric Taxer, WRCE  
Richard Booth, Senior Engineering Geologist  
Mike Plaziak, Supervising. Engineering Geologist  
Emily Miller, Student Assistant  
Sue Genera, Executive Assistant

**Tour: South Shore Fuel Reduction and Healthy Forest Restoration Project**

Water Board members; Dr. Amy Horne, Eric Sandel, and Don Jardine, along with Water Board Staff, representatives for the US Forest Service, and members of the public toured selected areas in the US Forest Service, Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit's South Shore Fuel Reduction and Healthy Forest Restoration Project. The tour began at 1:30 p.m. at the Lahontan Water Board Annex in South Lake Tahoe and concluded at approximately 4:00 p.m.

**Regular Meeting, April 11, 2012, 7:00 p.m.****Addressing the Board**

Barry Hill, **US Forest Service**  
Nancy Gibson, **Forest Supervisor, US Forest Service**  
Jack Landy, **US Environmental Protection Agency**  
Martin Goldberg, **Lake Valley Fire Protection District**  
Jeff Holland, **C & L Forest Management Inc.**

**INTRODUCTIONS**

Chairman Jardine called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. on April 11, 2012, and introduced Board members.

Mr. Singer introduced Legal Counsel and Water Board staff.

**1. PUBLIC FORUM**

None.

**2. MINUTES**

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 14-16, 2012 in Barstow, CA.

Dr. Horne requested two corrections to the March Minutes:

**Item 7:** "...on the subject and the impact it may have on groundwater recharge areas [of solar and wind projects and the impact they may have on water quality]." "... report or presentation at the April 2012 Board Meeting [a future Board Meeting]."

**Item 9:** ~~EYE~~ AYE: Dyas, Pumphrey, Jardine

- **Motion:** Moved by Mr. Dyas, seconded by Mr. Pumphrey, and **unanimously carried** to adopt the March 14-16, 2012 minutes as amended.

Click here to view the adopted [March Minutes](#).

**REPORTS****3. Forest Research Informational Item**

Mr. Doug Smith, Supervising Engineering Geologist, addressed the Board and introduced Mr. Michael Hogan, Soil Scientist, Researcher, Integrated Environmental Restoration Services and Ms. Susan Norman, Hydrologist, United States Forest Service Lake Tahoe Basin. Mr. Hogan addressed the Board and gave a brief power point presentation discussing "*Research and Handbook for Forest Vegetation Management*". Mr. Hogan highlighted that this handbook offers a context, process, and guidance to help users attain compliance not only with the letter of the regulations but with the intention of those regulatory tools. Ms. Norman addressed the Board and spoke to current and historical data regarding Total Maximum Daily Load tracking and reporting protocols and monitoring programs being used by the US Forest Service. Mr. Smith presented a brief summary of the [DRAFT Modeling Report: Lake Tahoe Fuels Reduction Strategy](#) prepared for the Lahontan Region Water Quality Control Board and the US Environmental Protection Agency.

Note: the Board took a break from 8:59 p.m. to 9:11 p.m.

**PERMITS - REVISIONS, UPDATES, AMENDMENTS OR RESCISSIONS****4. United States Forest Service, Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit, Mitigated Negative Declaration Environmental Document and Proposed Waste Discharge Requirements for the South Shore Fuel Reduction and Healthy Forest Restoration Project, El Dorado County**

Mr. George Cella, Engineering Geologist, addressed the Board and gave a power point presentation covering the Mitigated Negative Declaration Environmental Document and Proposed Waste Discharge Requirements (WDR) for the South Shore Fuel Reduction and Healthy Forest Restoration Project. Mr. Cella highlighted a total project size > 85,000 acres and the need to mitigate susceptibility to wildfires in this area while reducing the environment impacts of a project of this magnitude.

**Public Comments**

- Mr. Barry Hill, US Forest Service addressed the Board and quoted excerpts from the [Angora Creek Water Quality Analysis After the 2007 Angora Fire](#). Dr. Horne asked Mr. Hill if the permit could reach the goals of the US Forest Service. Mr. Hill deferred to Ms. Nancy Gibson who responded yes.
- Ms. Nancy Gibson, Forest Supervisor, US Forest Service, addressed the Board in support of the South Shore Fuel Reduction and Healthy Forest Restoration Project. Ms. Gibson urged the Board to approve the negative declaration and WDR. However, Ms. Gibson asked that the Board remove the bio assessment monitoring requirement which she felt would add costs to the project and reduce the number of acres which could be treated.
- Mr. Jack Lundy, Lake Tahoe Basin Coordinator, US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), addressed the Board and stated that the EPA recommends that TMDL monitoring and load estimation should be included in the WDR until such a time as the requirement for basin wide load estimation and reporting for the forest upland source category, after which this provision can be removed from the WDR.

- Mr. Martin Goldberg, Lake Valley Fire Protection District, addressed the Board in favor of permit. He was concerned about the amount of time from project development to approval as its implementation is important to the District.
- Mr. Jeff Holland, C & L Forest Management Inc., addressed the Board in favor of the permit. Mr. Holland requested the following modifications to the WDR:
  1. Attachment F, 13) d), "...CTL Forwarder, [or other low ground pressure method,] shall remove..."
  2. Attachment F, 42), "...plus competent rock, [or equivalent method,] for a distance..."

The Board and Water Board Staff agreed to adopt Mr. Holland's modifications.

**Motion:** Moved by Dr. Horne, seconded by Mr. Sandel, and **unanimously carried** to adopt the Mitigated Negative Declaration Environmental Document and Proposed Waste Discharge Requirements as amended

Click here to view the adopted [Board Order No. R6T-2012-0015](#)

## **7. CLOSED SESSION**

The Board recessed into closed session at 10:20 p.m. to discuss matters related to current Litigation and Personnel (Item 7: J, K, and L). The Board reconvened into open session at 10:40 p.m. The Chair announced that there were no reportable actions.

The Board recessed at 10:40 p.m.

## **Regular Meeting, continued, April 12, 2012**

Board members present: Don Jardine, Dr. Amy Horne, and Eric Sandel

With a subcommittee of the Water Board Present the Chair called the meeting to order at 8:32 a.m. Dr. Horne was pleased to announce that [Patty Z. Kouyoumdjian](#) has been appointed by the Board as the new Executive Officer for the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

### **5. Executive Officer's Report**

Mr. Harold Singer addressed the Board and discussed items from the [April written Report](#) and answered Water Board Member questions. Mr. Singer presented a status update on whole house replacement water triggers and replacement water options proposed for eligible residents in Hinkley, CA. The current trigger for whole house replacement water is a well detection of hexavalent chromium greater than 3.1 ppb within a mile of the plume boundary. The other trigger is still being developed for homes that may not reach the 3.1 ppb trigger but whose wells may still be affected by PG&E's discharge. There are 15 residents currently receiving whole house replacement water and PG&E is voluntarily providing approximately 250 other Hinkley residents with bottled water. PG&E recently issued a [REPORT](#) outlining options for obtaining water for whole house replacement. Six options were identified; connecting to an existing community water system, develop a new community water system utilizing ground water near the Mojave River, develop a new community water system utilizing local groundwater as part of

the chromium remediation program, point of entry whole house treatment, replace wells with deeper wells, and, truck water from a community water system. Also in this report, PG&E has identified three options for the 15 homes (and potentially more residents not currently eligible) receiving whole house replacement water, those being: replace wells with deeper wells, point of entry whole house treatment, and to buy the residents property. Mr. Singer touched on the Executive Summary of 2012 Resource Alignment Report provided for the upcoming April 17<sup>th</sup> State Water Board Meeting.

#### 6. Reports by Water Board Chair and Board Members

The Chair reported that there was a Chair/EO meeting in Sacramento on March 26, 2012. Topics discussed at this meeting were:

- The next Water Quality Meeting is scheduled for November 1-2, 2012.
- Water Plan of 2013
- Legislation regarding exparte communication
- Well testing at the time of sale

The Chair asked Ms. Kemper when Staff will provide a report on the subject of solar and wind projects and the impact they may have on water quality. Ms. Kemper stated that Staff is preparing to present in September.

#### ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 9:20 a.m. on April 12, 2012.

Prepared by: \_\_\_\_\_

Sue Genera, Executive Assistant

Adopted: \_\_\_\_\_

July 11, 2012