

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

MEETING OF NOVEMBER 18-19, 2020

ITEM 5
EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

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ENCLOSURE 1



EXECUTIVE OFFICER’S REPORT • October 2020
 Covers August 16, 2020 – September 15, 2020

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State and Regional

1. Personnel Report – Eric Shay

New Hires – None

Transfers

- Timothy Middlemis-Clark, Water Resource Control Engineer, transferring from Cannabis Regulatory Unit, South Lake Tahoe, to Wastewater & Agricultural Operations Unit, Victorville. This position provides regulatory oversight of projects involving discharges to ground or surface waters and projects intended to restore and/or enhance water quality.
- Emily Cushman, Engineering Geologist, transferring from Cannabis Regulatory Unity, South Lake Tahoe, to Department of Defense / Site Cleanup Program Unit, Victorville. This position analyzes threat of pollutants to groundwater and surface waters, reviews technical reports for cleanup strategies, reviews site investigation results, reviews proposed cleanup alternatives to ensure compliance with water quality objectives, prepares enforcement orders, investigates spills, and conducts inspections of cleanup sites and facilities.
- Carly Nilson, Environmental Scientist, transferring from Cannabis Regulatory Unit, South Lake Tahoe, to Non-Point Source Unit, South Lake Tahoe. This position provides scientific and regulatory agency review and comment focusing on compliance with California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirements of projects for potential impacts to water resources from non-point sources of pollution, especially those associated with grazing and agricultural activities. Position drafts waste discharge requirements or waivers; conducts project reviews; and performs inspections of project areas to ensure activities do not result in increased sediment, nutrient, and/or pathogen loading to surface waters.

Vacancies

- Executive Officer for the Lahontan Region.
- Senior Environmental Scientist (Specialist), Compliance & Planning Division, South Lake Tahoe. This position serves as the Regional Monitoring Coordinator; lead for coordinating implementation of the Region's Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Strategy; and regional specialist for monitoring related special studies, investigations, and projects. The position will provide the lead responsibility for making policy recommendations, providing technical expertise orally and in written documents, evaluating and drafting environmental documents, and performing analysis on technically complex and politically sensitive assignments related to water quality monitoring and Water Board response to climate change in the Lahontan Region.
- Scientific Aid, Cleanup/Site Investigation & Enforcement Unit, South Lake Tahoe. This position assists staff with administering the site cleanup, underground storage tank, land disposal, and enforcement programs; reviewing reports, and maintaining databases; reviews self-monitoring reports for cases, permits and enforcement actions; reviews project files and water quality data to prepare for field inspections and permit updates; assists with field inspections; and reviews California Environmental Quality Act documents.
- Scientific Aid, Planning & Assessment Unit, South Lake Tahoe. This position helps the SWAMP program collect and process water quality samples and ensure data quality. The position supports the TMDL and Basin Planning programs through mapping and data analysis, outreach, and reporting.
- Scientific Aid, Wastewater & Agricultural Operations Unit, Victorville. This position supports the unit in evaluating submitted self-monitoring reports for compliance with waste discharge requirements. Other duties include supporting staff in conducting project-specific data analysis.

Departures

- Patty Kouyoumdjian, Executive Officer

North Lahontan Region

2. The Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program Website Update – Alanna Misico

Staff recently worked with State Board to redesign the Region 6 Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program (SWAMP) website. The new website has been reformatted with a user-friendly interface to reduce long scrolling pages and to help provide information to the public. The previous SWAMP website had not been updated in over a decade.

The information has been organized into 6 categories:

- Water Quality Data
- Available Reports
- Resources and Data Management
- Harmful Algal Blooms
- Bioassessment Data
- Fish Tissue Information

The categories are designed to quickly access relevant information.

The updated website includes the Lahontan Region Water Quality Dashboard and the most current Lahontan Region Bioassessment Scores Map, both of which are consistent

with the SWAMP Program Review recommendation 3: Maximize data access and uses of analytical tools through the use of new technology. Current Quality Assurance Project Plans and Standard Operating Procedures are easy for Water Board employees and members of the public to locate. The new format also provides quick links to the State Board Harmful Algal Bloom reporting page and The California Environmental Data Exchange Network.

This redesign effort will make accessing available data easier and provide a better understanding of the SWAMP mission. The website is designed to display well on mobile devices and can be found at:

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/lahtontan/water_issues/programs/swamp/.

3. Over 50 Years of Collaboration Continues to Promote Lake Tahoe’s Resiliency – *Laura Korman*

Senator Catherine Cortez Masto of Nevada held the first-ever virtual The Lake Tahoe Summit on August 25, 2020. The Summit provides the opportunity for the region’s congressional representatives to show their support and commitment toward collaborative efforts to restore Lake Tahoe’s environment. The Summit was recorded where it can be watched at: <https://vimeo.com/451626475>. Senator Cortez Masto was joined by members of California and Nevada congressional delegations, governors, local scientists, and agency partners.

The theme of the 2020 Summit was “Resilient Tahoe.” In the face of a global pandemic, many have relied on recreating in the outdoors as a source of refuge; as such, there has been an influx of visitation into the Lake Tahoe Basin. The Basin experiences around 15



Figure 3.1 Poster for the Virtual Lake Tahoe Summit

million visitors a year and efforts are focused on how to sustain such high levels of visitation and preserve Lake Tahoe’s pristine environment. As Senator Masto stated, “This year, Tahoe had more visitors in April than it usually has in the high season in July...The COVID-19 crisis has helped remind us how valuable the outdoors is to our health — emotional, physical and spiritual, and that is exactly why we need to work even more diligently to protect open spaces and those who work to maintain them.”

A common thread of the Summit was discussing how Lake Tahoe remains resilient in the face of climate change and the associated challenges it presents. Emerging areas of focus include investigating new threats—such as microplastics in Lake Tahoe’s water, eradicating aquatic invasive species, managing forests for wildfire

resilience, and preserving the Lake’s clarity. In response to the Lake’s 8-foot decline in clarity, Senator Feinstein commented, “For every step we take forward, climate change threatens to make us take two steps back. This is a call to action. We’ve got to respond with urgency and science-based solutions.”

The Water Board is one of many key partners that remains committed to the collaborative efforts aimed toward improving Lake Tahoe’s water quality and long-term resilience. The Water Board continues to support science-based management thorough the implementation of the Lake Tahoe TMDL. Within the last year, the Water Board’s

collaborative efforts have prevented over 477,000 pounds of sediment from entering Lake Tahoe's waters. The Water Board also supports science-based solutions; our agency has invested over \$793,000 in research contracts to investigate the implications of climate change on Lake Tahoe's nearshore. These investments will help guide best management practices in the face of a changing climate. Additionally, working with the Tahoe Science Advisory Council the Water Board has aided in the development of a work order to further investigate what impacts climate change has on Lake Tahoe's famed clarity. Water Board staff sit on the Lake Tahoe Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinating Committee, working to support and implement invasive species control projects. Beyond the waters of the Lake, the Water Board has also invested resources in protecting the Tahoe Basin. Our agency is working to reduce forest fuels, increase defensible space, and develop communication protection plans to improve the resiliency of the Basin from the increasing threat of wildlife. With collaboration from our partners, nearly 85,000 acres of forest have been treated to reduce hazardous fuels. These investments demonstrate the Water Board's ongoing efforts being taken to mitigate the challenges associated with climate change and bolster the Basin's resiliency.

In summary, the words of Governor Gavin Newsom expressed the value of the collaborative efforts that have and will continue to take place in the Lake Tahoe Basin, "We can protect this basin and this lake for generations to come. It's decisions not conditions that will determine that fate and our collective future." Since its inception in 1997, the Lake Tahoe Summit has exemplified an unprecedented public and private partnership to preserve Lake Tahoe's environment, including the Lake's famed clarity. Our agency continues to work with our partners in the Basin to restore the Lake's clarity, preserve the Basin's environment, and adaptatively manage for our changing climate.

4. Quarterly Violation Report – 2nd Quarter 2020 – Rob Tucker

The Quarterly Violation Report for April 1, 2020 to June 30, 2020 includes (1) a brief summary of violations that occurred during the reporting period, and (2) an update on pending enforcement actions (see Pending Enforcement Cases Table).

Synopsis of 2nd Quarter 2020 Violations

Twenty-eight (28) violations have been recorded for the 2nd quarter 2020 reporting period (see 2nd Quarter 2020 Violations Table), much less than the 153 violations recorded for the same quarter a year ago. There are several key differences between the two quarters. First, there were nearly 30 violations during the 2nd quarter 2019 for failing to respond to 13267 Investigative Orders requiring recipients to provide information regarding use/storage of PCE or PCE-containing products in the South Y area of South Lake Tahoe. These violations are associated with a focused effort to obtain information associated with the Water Board's South Y Regional PCE Groundwater Contamination Investigation. There were also 46 violations associated with wastewater facilities in 2019 compared to 13 violations in 2020, and 31 violations associated with the Land Disposal Program (landfills, mines, surface impoundments) in 2019 compared to four (4) in 2020. Another key difference between the two quarters was the 18 violations associated with the Cannabis Program in 2019 compared to no such violations in 2020. It is also interesting to compare violations by facility type/program as a percentage of the total violations. Wastewater facilities accounted for 30 percent of the violations in 2019 compared to 46 percent in 2020. Violations associated with the Land Disposal Program dropped from 20 percent in 2019 to 14 percent in 2020. It is currently unclear why these changes are occurring, but evaluating such information will help staff identify where staff efforts are being effective and where to direct resources.

The violations during the 2nd quarter 2020 were also down from the 40 violations recorded during the previous quarter. The 2nd quarter violations were distributed over several counties with wastewater treatment facilities continuing to be the dominant facility type experiencing violations. There were seven (7) wastewater treatment facilities with a total of 13 violations evenly split between effluent quality violations (6 violations) and monitoring and reporting violations (6 violations).

Attachments:

A - 2nd Quarter 2020 Violations Table

B - Pending Enforcement Cases

South Lahontan Region

5. Post July 2019 Earthquake Evaluation Update for a Portion of Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake – Omar Pacheco

The Department of Navy (Navy) conducted field work in August 2020 to evaluate damage caused by the July 4 and 5, 2019 Ridgecrest earthquakes to a select number of groundwater monitoring wells on base and the landfill cover at Installation Restoration Program (IRP) Site 6, Area 4. The scope of work involved the following:

- Inspecting the condition of existing groundwater monitoring wells near the actual ground rupture, including 40 active installation restoration sites, to determine if monitoring wells were physically damaged by the earthquakes. In addition, the inspections were used to confirm well construction information (a downhole camera survey was conducted if no information was previously available).
- Physically inspecting the landfill cover condition at IRP Site 6, Area 4, followed by a subsurface investigation of the landfill using a geophysical survey to confirm any damage caused by the earthquakes.
- Preparing a Technical Memorandum summarizing the results of the evaluation.

The Navy evaluated the condition of 164 groundwater monitoring wells and conducted video surveys at 43 groundwater monitoring wells. The geophysical survey conducted at the landfill, IRP Site 6, Area 4, consisted of a combination of surface geophysical methods, including ground penetrating radar, dipole-dipole electrical resistivity, and electromagnetics, to assess the potential damage to the alternative final cover. The preliminary results of this geophysical survey noted changes in the surface elevations on the landfill cover and four distinct fractures with noticeable offset and three hairline fractures.

The preliminary results of the monitoring well evaluation recommended 44 groundwater monitoring wells for redevelopment. During this investigation, it was observed that several monitoring wells contained obstructions (e.g. roots), biofouling (dark slime) and biofilm, and bowed well casings. The Navy recommends repairing 24 groundwater monitoring wells and decommissioning at least three monitoring wells and recommends resurveying the entire groundwater monitoring well network (ground surface elevations and top of casing and/or measuring point elevations).

The Navy is developing a scope of work in collaboration with the regulatory agencies for re-surveying monitoring wells and repairing the landfill cover. The results of the inspections and recommendations are anticipated to be in the forthcoming Technical Memorandum, which is expected to be submitted by the end of the calendar year.

Violation Category	Priority	County	Responsible Party	Facility	Violation Description	Corrective Action	Enforcement Action
Wastewater Treatment Facilities	B	Multiple	Multiple (6) representing small private to large municipal wastewater treatment facility owners/operators.	Multiple (7) facilities located throughout the region.	Effluent Limits (6 violations) Monitoring and Reporting (6 violations) Pretreatment (1 violation)	Two (2) Dischargers proposed/took corrective actions addressing 4 of the 13 violations.	WB staff resolved 4 of the 13 violations with informal enforcement actions (Staff Verbal Communications, Staff Enforcement Letter, and/or Notice of Violation).
Sanitary Sewer Overflow	B	Inyo	Rolling Green Utilities, Inc.	Rolling Green Terrace Wastewater Treatment Facility	Unauthorized discharge of raw sewage from collection system to a surface water.	Discharger cleared blockage and cleaned up spill site.	Staff Verbal Communication Staff Enforcement Letter
Land Disposal	B	Lassen	U.S.Army	Sierra Army Depot	Deficient Report (1 violation)	None	Staff Enforcement Letter
		San Bernardino	MP Mine Operations, LLC	MP Mine - Onsite Evaporation Ponds	Unauthorized discharge of reclaimed water to storm water pond. (1 violation)	Recovered most of water and placed in evaporation pond.	
		Inyo	Inyo County IWM	Bishop (Sunland) Class III Landfill	Groundwater Receiving Water Limits (1 Violation/Multiple Constituents)	Discharger and WB staff evaluating effectiveness of current corrective actions.	
NPDES Permitted Facility/ Non-wastewater	B	Mono	California Dept. of Fish and Wildlife	Hot Creek Fish Hatchery	Effluent Limits (4 violations) Deficient Report (1 violation)	None	Permit Renewal in Progress
NPDES Stormwater	B	Nevada	Multiple (3)	Construction Projects (3)	Defficient BMP Implementation (3 violations)	Corrected BMP deficiencies.	Staff Enforcement Letters (3)
	B	San Bernardino	City of Adelanto	City of Adelanto	Failure to apply for Industrial NPDES Stormwater Permit		Notice of Non-Compliance
	B	Nevada	Basile Management Practice	The Elements at Cold Stream	Failure to obtain coverage under Construction NPDES Stormwater Permit prior to initiating construction activities.	Obtained permit coverage on June 10, 2020.	Notice to Comply

Pending Enforcement Cases
September 23, 2020

Facility	County	Enforcement Action	Current Status	Next Step
Executive Officer				
Ramiro Villa Avila/ APN 3060-020-043 Pearblossom	Los Angeles	CAO	Public comment period for the Proposed CAO closed.	Advisory Team to review Prosecution Team's response to Advisory Team questions, and make final recommendation. [3rd/4th Quarter 2020]
Prosecution Team				
Ramiro Villa Avila APN 3060-020-043 Pearblossom	Los Angeles	ACL Complaint	Preparing to issue ACL Complaint in response to waste discharges associated with unpermitted cannabis cultivation site.	Issue ACL Complaint. [4th Quarter 2020]
VVWRA	San Bernardino	ACL - Settlement (Mandatory Minimum Penalties)	Staff currently engaged in settlement negotiations.	Complete settlement negotiations and release Proposed Settlement for public comment. [4th Quarter 2020]
Susanville CSD	Lassen	ACL - Settlement (Mandatory Minimum Penalties)	Proposed Settlement available for public comment through October 5, 2020.	Advisory Team to review public comments and make final recommendation. [4th Quarter 2020]

Pending Enforcement Cases
September 23, 2020

Facility	County	Enforcement Action	Current Status	Next Step
Prosecution Team				
Tahoe Keys Marina	El Dorado	Expedited Payment Letter - Mandatory Minimum Penalty re-issued on October 27,2016.	Preparing Notice of Violation/Record of Violation with updated violations through 2020.	Issue Notice of Violation/Record of Violation. [4th Quarter 2020/1st Quarter 2021]
Bijou Marketplace	El Dorado	ACL-Settlement	Preparing to re-establish settlement negotiations.	Complete settlement negotiations and release Proposed Settlement for public comment. [4th Quarter 2020/1st Quarter 2021]
West Walker River near Coleville	Mono	ACL Complaint	Preparing to issue ACL Complaint in response to unauthorized discharge of fill to West Walker River.	Issue ACL Complaint. [4th Quarter 2020/1st Quarter 2021]

**UNAUTHORIZED DISCHARGE REPORT
AUGUST 16, 2020 TO SEPTEMBER 15, 2020**

Responsible Party	Location of Occurrence	Regulated Facility	Basin (N/S)	Date of Occurrence	Volume of Occurrence	Violation Description	Comments	Status
COUNTY: NEVADA								
Town of Truckee	Coldstream Road and Donner Creek	Yes	North	9/3/2020	Unspecified	Construction site dewatering system was discharging directly to Donner Creek in violation of NPDES Stormwater Construction General Permit.	Unauthorized discharge to Donner Creek was stopped immediately upon discovery during WB staff inspection.	Discharger submitted and is implementing revised dewatering plan with upland discharge location in response to WB Staff Enforcement Letter.
COUNTY: SAN BERNARDINO								
Mountain Pass Mine	67750 Bailey Road, Mountain Pass	Yes	South	8/20/2020	1,000 gallons	The 204-thickener line connection failed on its own near Frosty's Pond. Approximately 1,000 gallons of reclaimed water was released to unpaved roadway.	Berms were constructed and the release was contained entirely on the road. The release quickly percolated into the ground. Impacted soils will be excavated and disposed of in the Northwest Tailings Disposal Facility. The cause appeared to be related to a HDPE weld failure.	Review 10-day spill report to determine that the cause of release was fully investigated and that measures will be put in place to prevent similar releases from occurring in the future.

*All discharges to surface waters are to be included in this report.

**Discharges of less than 100 gallons to land are not to be included in this report.

**UNAUTHORIZED DISCHARGE REPORT
AUGUST 16, 2020 TO SEPTEMBER 15, 2020**

Responsible Party	Location of Occurrence	Regulated Facility	Basin (N/S)	Date of Occurrence	Volume of Occurrence	Violation Description	Comments	Status
Silverwood Lake State Recreational Area	Silverwood Lake, Hesperia, CA	No	South	9/9/2020	8 gallons	A boat sank to the bottom of Silverwood Lake due to operator error. The boat contained fuel (gasoline), motor oil, and coolant.	No sheen or release observed. Report of 1 gallon coolant, 0.125 gallons motor oil, and 6 gallons fuel on boat. Silverwood Lake waterbody affected.	E-mail correspondence with Ryann Gill (California State Parks) - Mr. Gill stated that the boat will not be removed because it is 88 feet below water and is unrecoverable. No further action required.

*All discharges to surface waters are to be included in this report.

**Discharges of less than 100 gallons to land are not to be included in this report.

EXECUTIVE OFFICER ACTION ITEMS

OCTOBER 2020 EO REPORT - AUGUST 16, 2020 TO SEPTEMBER 15, 2020

Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board

DOCUMENT	DATE SIGNED
NO FURTHER ACTION REQUIRED *	
No Further Action Required for Haddad 76 (Former Mobil), 505 W Avenue J, Lancaster, Los Angeles County, Cleanup Fund Claim No: 19404, GeoTracker Global ID: T10000000321	9/8/2020
401 WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION	
Board Order No. R6T-2020-0045, Granting Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification, Jeske New Pier Construction Project, Placer County	8/19/2020
Board Order R6T2020-0047, Granting Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification, Legallet Pier Project, Placer County	8/19/2020
Board Order No. R6V-2020-0050, Granting Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification, Walker Lake Outlet Slide Gate Replacement Project, Mono County	8/24/2020
Board Order R6T-2020-0052, Granting Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification and Basin Plan Prohibition Exemption, Vikingsholm Wildfire Prevention Project, El Dorado County	9/15/2020
WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS	
Notice of Applicability of General Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges to Land with a Low Threat to Water Quality – Water Supply Well Test, Squaw Valley Ski Holdings, LLC, Placer County (Water Quality Order No. 2003-0003-DWQ)	9/10/2020
Notice of Applicability – Conditional Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements, St George Enterprise LLC, San Bernardino County — APN 0460-171-18-0000	9/10/2020
EXEMPTIONS	
Board Order No. R6T-2020-XXXX, Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification and Basin Plan Prohibition Exemption for West Lake Tahoe Regional Water Treatment Plant Project, Placer County	8/17/2020
Board Order No. R6T-2020-0051, Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification and Basin Plan Prohibition Exemption for West Lake Tahoe Regional Water Treatment Plant Project, Placer County	8/28/2020
Pending Action for Small Construction Projects, Including Utility, Public Works, and Minor Streambed/Lakebed Alteration Projects, Board Order No. R6T-2003-0004, and Basin Plan Prohibition Exemption, for Lakeview Canyon Vehicle Bridges Replacement Project, Placer County	8/28/2020

Pending Action for Board Order No. R6T-2020-XXXX, Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification and Exemption to Waste Discharge Prohibition for the Vikingsholm Wildfire Prevention Project, El Dorado County	9/01/2020
Notice of Applicability for Small Construction Projects, Including Utility, Public Works, and Minor Streambed/Lakebed Alteration Projects, Board Order No. R6T-2003-0004, and Basin Plan Prohibition Exemption, for Lakeview Canyon Vehicle Bridges Replacement Project, Placer County	9/10/2020
EXTENSIONS	
Amended Investigative Order No. R6T-2020-0049-A1, Granting the Tahoe Donner Association a Time Extension for Technical Report Submission, Town of Truckee, Nevada County	8/31/2020
Lake Arrowhead CSD Tracer Study Extension Approval CVD19	9/8/2020
MISCELLANEOUS DOCUMENTS	
Senator Brian Dahle Letter - Early Final Remedial Action for Leviathan Mine Superfund Site, Alpine County	8/19/2020
Authorization for Los Angeles Department of Water and Power's Emergency Use of Copper Sulfate within the Los Angeles Aqueduct at Alabama Gates and within North and South Haiwee Reservoirs, Inyo Cty	8/21/2020
Los Angeles Department of Water and Power letter to the Lahontan Water Board, dated August 5, 2020, Regarding Haiwee Reservoir 303(d) Listing for Copper	8/21/2020
U.S. Borax, Inc., 2020 Toxic Pits Cleanup Act Exemption Renewal Reclamation Ponds R-4 and R-5, U.S. Borax Mine, Kern County	8/21/2020
Board Order R6T-2020-0048 for Rescission of Cleanup and Abatement Order R6T-2007-0015, and Board Order R6T-2020-0049 Requiring a Technical Report, Tahoe Donner Adventure Center, Nevada County	8/21/2020
Nomination for The Emergency, Abandoned, and Recalcitrant (EAR) Account Fiscal Year 2020-2021	8/24/2020
Investigative Order No. R6T-2019-0261-A1 for Former Angels Truck Stop, 2001 Highway 58, Mojave, Kern County, LUST Case 6B1500024T	9/9/2020
Authorization for Additional Recycled Water Uses – Southern California Logistics Airport, City of Victorville, San Bernardino County	9/10/2020
Notice of Applicability – Conditional Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements, HDO Holdings LLC, San Bernardino County — APNS 0459-851-12-0000	9/15/2020
Formal Notice to Landowner for Coverage under State Water Board's Cannabis Cultivation General Order, HDO Holdings LLC, San Bernardino County — APNs 0459-851-12-0000	9/15/2020

Tribal Cultural Resources under the California Environmental Quality Act AB 52 (Gatto, 2014); Notification of Consultation Opportunity Pursuant to Public Resources Code § 21080.3.1; Lacey Meadows Restoration Project, Sierra County	9/15/2020
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* The Executive Officer finds the release of petroleum products at the following sites poses a low threat to human health, safety, and the environment. Therefore, these 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.

Additional links:

General Policy information:

http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/ust/lt_cls_plcy.shtml#policy081712

Copy of Policy:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_decisions/adopted_orders/resolutions/2012/rs2012_0016atta.pdf

Implementation Plan:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_decisions/adopted_orders/resolutions/2012/110612_6

ENCLOSURE 2



EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT • November 2020
Covers September 16, 2020 – October 15, 2020

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State and Regional

1. Personnel Report – *Eric Shay*

New Hires

- Molina Hauv, Scientific Aid, Wastewater & Agricultural Operations Unit, Victorville. This position supports the unit in evaluating submitted self-monitoring reports for compliance with waste discharge requirements. Other duties include supporting staff in conducting project-specific data analysis.

Promotions

- Laurie Scribe, Senior Environmental Scientist (Specialist), Compliance & Planning Division, South Lake Tahoe. This position serves as the Regional Monitoring Coordinator; lead for coordinating implementation of the Region’s Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Strategy; and regional specialist for monitoring related special studies, investigations, and projects. The position will provide the lead responsibility for making policy recommendations, providing technical expertise orally and in written documents, evaluating and drafting environmental documents, and performing analysis on technically complex and

politically sensitive assignments related to water quality monitoring and Water Board response to climate change in the Lahontan Region.

Vacancies

- Executive Officer for the Lahontan Region.
- Scientific Aid, Cleanup/Site Investigation & Enforcement Unit, South Lake Tahoe. This position assists staff with administering the site cleanup, underground storage tank, land disposal, and enforcement programs; reviewing reports, and maintaining databases; reviews self-monitoring reports for cases, permits and enforcement actions; reviews project files and water quality data to prepare for field inspections and permit updates; assists with field inspections; and reviews California Environmental Quality Act documents.
- Scientific Aid, Planning & Assessment Unit, South Lake Tahoe. This position helps the SWAMP program collect and process water quality samples and ensure data quality. The position supports the TMDL and Basin Planning programs through mapping and data analysis, outreach, and reporting.

Departures

- Dale Payne, Environmental Scientist, Regulatory & Enforcement Unit, South Lake Tahoe.

North Lahontan Region

2. Update on Regional Tetrachloroethene (PCE) Groundwater Contamination in South “Y” Area of South Lake Tahoe, October 2020 – Abby Cazier

Introduction

The purpose of this Executive Officer’s (EO) Report is to provide you with information about the regional PCE groundwater contamination in the South “Y” area of South Lake Tahoe and describe the investigation activities that are being conducted by the Lahontan Water Board using state-provided funding. Regional PCE contamination in the South “Y” area was first discovered over 30 years ago and the extent of the regional PCE contamination has remained undefined despite numerous general and site-specific investigations. Understanding the contaminant plume geometry and subsurface lithology have been identified as critical needs to adequately evaluate the impacts to threatened and impaired receptors (e.g., municipal, private, and small-community water supply wells), identify transport pathways contributing to contaminant migration, and assess cleanup alternatives. The Lahontan Water Board was awarded a grant for \$4.6 million from the State Water Resources Control Board’s Site Cleanup Subaccount Program (SCAP) to further characterize the regional PCE groundwater contamination and conduct additional actions between 2019 and 2023 with a state-contracted environmental consulting firm. The primary objectives of the SCAP contract tasks are to:

- Define the lateral and vertical extent of the PCE groundwater contamination,
- Review and compile historic records to identify potential contaminant sources,

- Identify transport pathways contributing to plume migration (utility backfill, sewer, storm drainage systems, etc.),
- Identify municipal, private, and small community water supply wells impacted or threatened due to groundwater contamination,
- Evaluate potential human health risks associated with PCE via soil gas,
- Eliminate supply wells and monitoring wells that have been identified as vertical conduits,
- Install sentry groundwater monitoring wells upgradient of priority municipal water supply wells to monitor contaminant migration; and
- Assess groundwater and subsurface lithologic data to support cleanup and receptor protection options and to restore beneficial uses (e.g. use as a public drinking water source) of the groundwater.

History of PCE Contamination

PCE was first detected in the municipal water supply wells in the South “Y” area at concentrations that exceeded the 5 microgram per liter (ug/L) maximum contaminant level (MCL) in 1989 when testing for volatile organic compounds was first required. Multiple municipal, private, and small community water supply wells have been taken off-line, destroyed, or require wellhead treatment to remove PCE from the groundwater prior to distribution. Other water supply wells in the South “Y” area remain threatened by PCE contamination. The regional PCE groundwater contamination has impacted drinking water systems operated by three water purveyors: Lukins Brother Water Company (Lukins), South Tahoe Public Utility District (South Tahoe PUD), and Tahoe Keys Property Owners Association (Tahoe Keys). The contamination has impaired four of five water supply wells operated by Lukins (last operational water supply well is threatened) and one of the three water supply wells operated by Tahoe Keys (one water supply well is threatened and other PCE contamination has been detected but not above the MCL). South Tahoe PUD’s affected wells in the South “Y” area have been taken out of service or have been destroyed; South Tahoe PUD water supply is provided from wells located outside of the contamination area.

SCAP Investigation Tasks Completed

The regional groundwater investigation activities in the South “Y” were initiated in June 2019 and completed in August 2020 by state contractor AECOM and included the advancement of 79 cone-penetration test (CPT) and sonic borings. Borings were advanced to depths of up to approximately 300 feet below ground surface (bgs). Up to eight depth-discrete groundwater samples were collected from each boring to assess the lateral and vertical extent of PCE contamination. The boring locations and the approximate lateral extent of PCE concentrations exceeding the drinking water standard are shown on Figure 2.1. Please note this figure has not been updated to include investigation data collected during the 2020 field season. PCE was detected at a maximum concentration of 570 ug/L from 49 to 51 feet bgs at the boring located near the intersection of 5th Street and Roger Avenue. PCE concentrations exceeding the drinking water standard were also reported at depths up to 185 feet bgs. The estimated area of PCE contamination exceeding the drinking water standard of 5 ug/L is approximately 400 acres.

A private and small-community water well survey and well sampling event was initiated in the South “Y” area during 2019. Lahontan Water Board staff identified properties with wells (or suspected to have wells) and requested the property owners to provide information on the well status (e.g., active, inactive, destroyed, unknown). Water samples were collected from seven private and small community wells where the property owners allowed access. PCE was not detected above the reporting limit of 0.5 ug/L in six of the wells sampled and was detected in one well at a concentration of 0.5 ug/L. The well where PCE was detected is inactive and the property has a municipal water connection with Lukins.

An inactive municipal supply well owned by Lukins was identified as a vertical conduit during the 2019 groundwater investigation activities. This well was destroyed in accordance with state and county standards in June 2020. The vertical conduit evaluation and well destruction methods were described in the August 2020 EO Report.

The Lahontan Water Board issued 213 Investigative Orders requiring potential responsible parties who may have used and/or disposed of PCE in the South “Y” area to complete a Chemical Use and History Questionnaire. In response to the Investigative Orders issued, we received responses from 114 potential responsible parties. The Chemical Use and History Questionnaire responses are being reviewed in conjunction with the SCAP field investigation data to identify potential properties that may be contributing to the regional PCE groundwater contamination.

Anticipated SCAP Tasks for 2021

The anticipated SCAP field tasks that will be completed during the 2021 field season include:

- Continue to develop a private and small-community water supply well inventory to identify additional wells to be sampled to ensure such water supply wells are providing water that is safe for consumption.
- Conduct a soil gas investigation to evaluate the potential human health risks associated with potential soil vapor intrusion resulting from the PCE contamination. Soil gas samples will be collected downgradient from suspected source areas in locations where elevated concentrations of PCE have been detected in shallow groundwater. A Tier I human health risk evaluation will be conducted using the soil gas analytical data.
- Properly destroy priority municipal, private, and small-community water supply wells that have been identified as a vertical conduit(s) (e.g., responsible for the vertical migration of PCE in groundwater impacting deeper water-bearing unit[s]). Inactive wells that have not been properly destroyed pose a potential threat to water quality.
- Install sentry wells for active threatened and impaired municipal supply wells. The sentry wells will be designed to target significant water bearing units that correspond to water supply well intake depths and depths where contamination has been observed. The purpose of sentry well monitoring is to provide water purveyors advanced warning of potential PCE migration upgradient from water supply wells.

Interested in More Information?

Information on the Regional PCE groundwater contamination and investigation activities (by the Lahontan Water Board and other stakeholders) can be found on the State Water Resources Control Board GeoTracker Website, South Y Regional Contamination, GeoTracker Global ID #: T10000007984 at

https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/profile_report?global_id=T10000007984

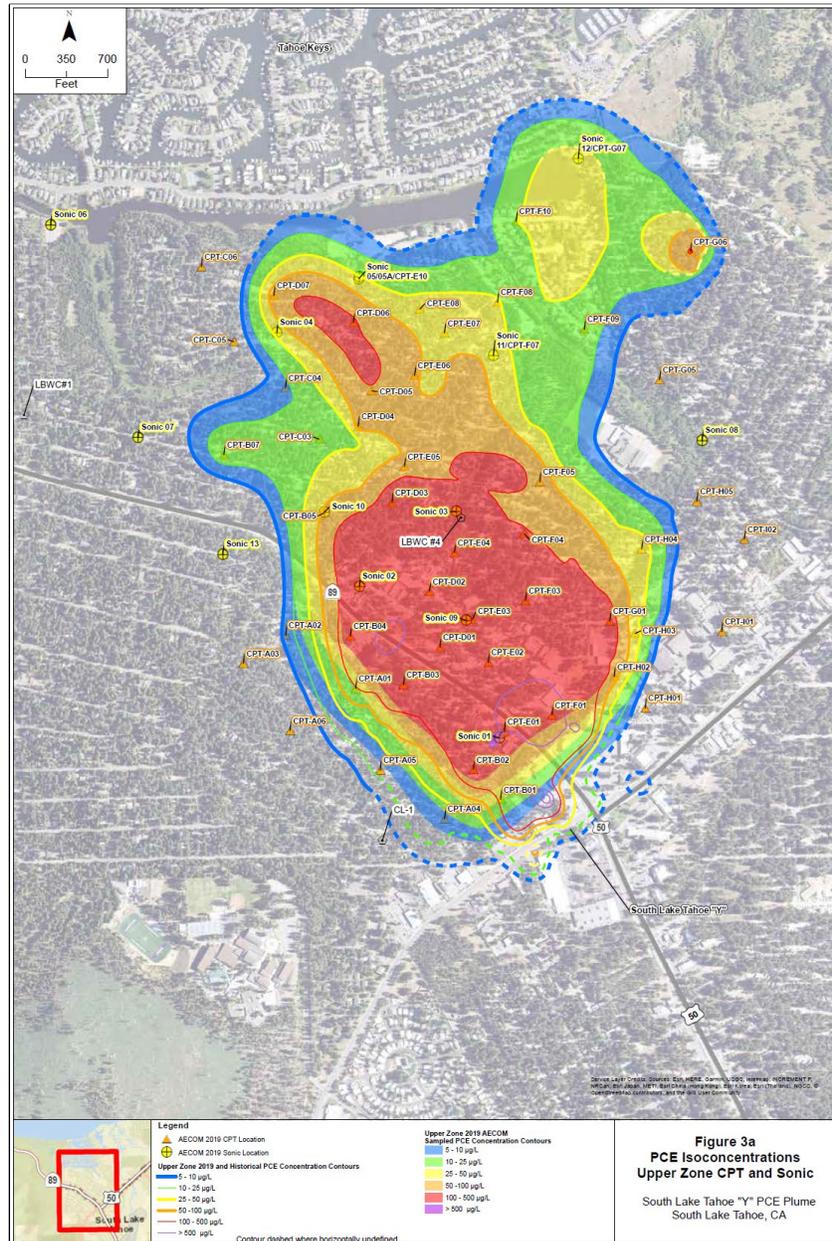


Figure 2.1: PCE Isoconcentrations in Upper Zone, Source: AECOM, 2020

3. Regional Harmful Algal Bloom Program Update - Mary Fiore-Wagner, Alanna Misico, and Sabrina Rice

Milestone HAB Legislation. In September 2019, Governor Newsom approved [Assembly Bill 834](#) (AB 834): Milestone legislation that created the Freshwater and Estuarine Harmful Algal Bloom Program. With the passage of AB 834, the State and Regional Water Boards now have a legislative mandate to protect water quality and public health from harmful algal blooms (HABs) with the creation and implementation of a formal HAB program throughout the Water Boards.

The bill mandates that the Water Boards coordinate immediate and long-term HAB incident response including efforts to conduct and support HAB site investigations; and ambient monitoring at the state, regional, watershed, and site-specific waterbody scales. Prior to the passage of this legislation, the Lahontan Water Board had been engaging actively with regional partners to build a collaborative and efficient process to respond to HABs. Additionally, staff had prepared and been awarded state funding to help investigate non-chemical control measures to abate HABs and to monitor suspected HABs at recreational waters throughout the region.

State Board's Freshwater Harmful Algal Bloom Monitoring Strategy. To help satisfy its mandate, the State Water Board collaborated with the Southern California Coastal Water Research Project Authority (SCCWRP) to develop a Draft Freshwater Harmful Algal Bloom (FHAB) Monitoring Strategy (Strategy). The Water Board's Regional Monitoring Coordinator participated on the project's Technical Advisory Committee, which played an important role in developing the content and crafting the recommendations in the Strategy. Water Board staff are participating in the technical review of the document, which upon completion will undergo State Board executive management review in the coming months.

The Strategy articulates the vision and programmatic elements and recommends the priority options for how FHAB monitoring and assessment can be used to inform management decisions to protect public health and the environment and improve water quality. The Strategy provides a roadmap and guidance to support agencies and organizations, so they can address FHABs in an efficient and coordinated way.

New HAB Position Dedicated to the Lahontan Region. To support implementation of AB 834, the State Board prepared and received approval for a Budget Change Proposal (BCP) that funds five staff positions statewide to handle HAB related program, planning, and response needs. Recently, the Water Board learned the Lahontan Region was awarded one of the five HAB positions. Management is actively working on the vacancy announcement and application package for the new HAB position, which will fall within the Non-Point Source Unit. The BCP also provides \$750K in contracting funds, which though managed by the State Board's Office of Information Management and Analysis, will benefit all Regional Water Boards through various programs and projects.

Linkages between Wildfire Impact and HAB Incidents. Regional climate science indicates the Lahontan Region will experience climate related changes including warming temperatures and extended periods of drought that increase wildfire risk. As wildfires erupt, ash and smoke deposition can contribute nutrients to surface waters. Additionally, excessive sediment and nutrient delivery to watercourses can result when

soil erodes from bare, fire-impacted landscapes. Since increases in water temperature (associated with loss of riparian canopy cover) and nutrients are drivers of harmful algal blooms, it is possible that fire-impacted watersheds may experience an increase in HAB events during and following wildfires. As such, staff see value in an outreach effort (general correspondence, news advisory) to alert county health officers and waterbody operators about the potential of HAB events in the coming year. To better prepare for the 2021 growing season, staff are considering a mapping exercise to help identify which watersheds may experience an increase in HAB events due to post-fire water quality impacts (initial peak flow increases in runoff, increased delivery of sediment and nutrients.) Proximity of wildfires to waterbodies, beneficial use designations (water contact recreation, commercial and sport fishing, cold freshwater habitat), and intensity of burn could be used during the mapping exercise to help prioritize outreach efforts. *Vulnerable watersheds in the Lahontan Region may include the areas surrounding the (1) Susan River (above the confluence of Willard Creek) which may have been impacted by the Hog Fire and (2) Mill Creek (above the town of Walker) which may have been affected by the Slink Fire.*

Participation in Statewide Pre-Holiday (Labor Day) HAB Assessment. Staff collaborated with the State Board's FHAB Co-leads and regional partners to investigate the conditions at select recreational water bodies throughout CA. The sampling involved testing for harmful algal blooms at popular lakes and streams throughout CA in time for the latest data to be posted ahead of the busy Labor Day weekend. The State Board issued a News Advisory regarding the Pre-Holiday Assessment results on September 3, 2020, in time to inform many Californians and recreators about which waterways offer safe and healthy recreation options, and which ones required caution.

Lahontan Region Specifics. Water Board staff collaborated with the following regional partners for sampling and/or posting health advisories at affected surface waters: U.S. Forest Service, Bishop Paiute Tribe, Mono & Inyo County Environmental Health Departments, Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, San Bernardino County Parks Department, the Tahoe Keys Property Owners Association, Alpine Watershed Group, and the South Tahoe Public Utility District. The outcome of the pre-holiday HAB assessment, including any recommended health advisories, is included in Tables 1 and 2 presented below.

2020 HAB Response to Date. Figure 3.1 and Tables 3.1 and 3.2 below summarize the Water Board's HAB response efforts thus far during 2020. The information shared includes our involvement with three separate efforts that comprise the elements of our regional HAB response program which includes: 1) response to new bloom reports, 2) coordination with the Statewide pre-holiday HAB assessment, and 3) collaboration with partner agencies for on-going HAB related special investigations. All efforts rely on synergies with regional partners (county health departments, the U.S. Forest Service, utility districts, watershed groups, Tribes, and homeowners associations) to support, develop, and refine their own HAB surveillance programs.

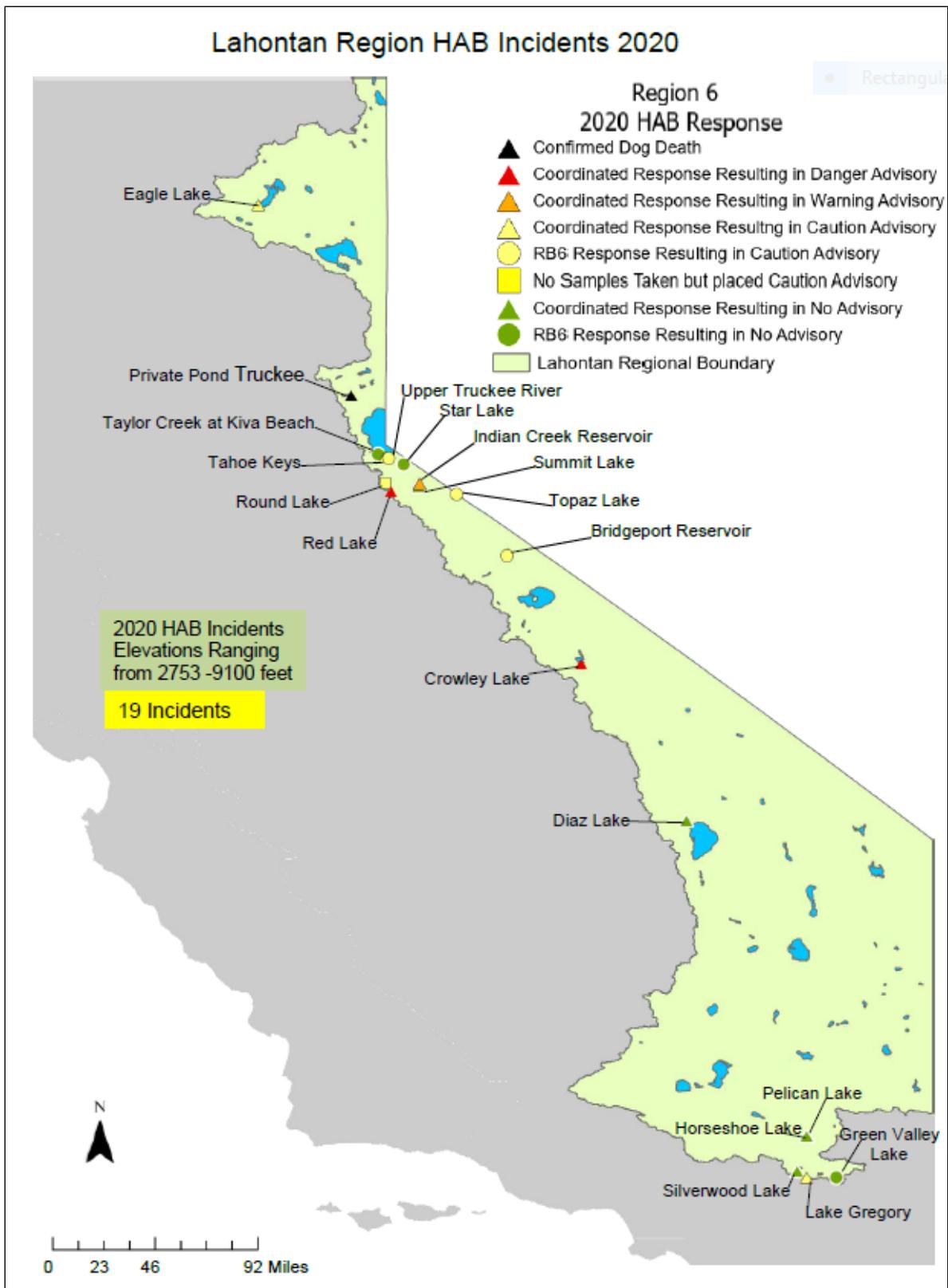


Figure 3.1: Map of Harmful Algal Bloom Incident Response throughout the Lahontan Region during 2020

Table 3.1: 2020 HAB Affected Waters in our Southern Region

Waterbody (samples collected by RB6 staff unless otherwise noted)	Month of HAB Incident	County	Advisory Level Recommended
Lake Gregory (San Bernardino County Parks)	Jul - Aug	San Bernardino	Caution
Horseshoe Lake (San Bernardino County Parks)	Jul - Aug	San Bernardino	No Advisory
Pelican Lake (San Bernardino County Parks)	Jul - Aug	San Bernardino	No Advisory
Silverwood Lake (DWR)	Ongoing	San Bernardino	No Advisory
Green Valley Lake	Jul	San Bernardino	No Advisory
Diaz Lake (Inyo County EHD)	Aug	Inyo	No Advisory

Table 3.2: 2020 HAB Affected Waters in our Northern Region

Waterbody (samples collected by RB6 staff unless otherwise noted)	Month of HAB Incident	County	Advisory Level Recommended
Eagle Lake (Lassen National Forest Service)	Aug	Lassen	Caution
Tahoe Keys Lagoons (Tahoe Keys POA)	Jul - Sept	El Dorado	Caution
Red Lake (Alpine Watershed Group)	Sept	Alpine	Danger
Indian Creek Reservoir (South Tahoe Public Utility District)	Aug - Sept	Alpine	Warning
Bridgeport Reservoir	Aug	Mono	Caution
Crowley Lake (Bishop Paiute Tribe/Mono Co EHD)	Aug	Mono	Danger
Star Lake	Jul	El Dorado	No Advisory
Topaz Lake	Aug	Mono	Caution / No Advisory
Taylor Creek, Pond at Kiva Beach	Oct	El Dorado	No Advisory
Round Lake	Sept	El Dorado	Caution since samples were not collected due to National Forest closures during wildfires
Summit Lake (Alpine Watershed Group)	Jul	Alpine	No Advisory
Upper Truckee River	Oct	El Dorado	No Advisory

Table 3.3: Comparison of Harmful Algal Bloom Frequency, Intensity, and Geographic Range throughout the Lahontan Region for the Period of 2017-2020

	2017	2018	2019	2020
<p>Number of HAB Incidents</p> 	10	13	19	19
<p>Advisory Intensity</p> 	2 Danger	1 Danger	2 Danger 2 Warning	2 Danger 1 Warning
<p>Animal Impact</p> 	0 Reported	0 Reported	3 suspected HAB-related dog deaths reported	1 suspected HAB-related dog death reported 1 suspected HAB-related dog illness
<p>Outcome of Animal Investigation</p>  <p>(Outcome determined through toxin analysis of water samples and necropsy and/or analysis of stomach contents if performed)</p>	Not applicable	Not applicable	0 confirmed HAB-related dog death	1 confirmed dog death 0 confirmed HAB-related dog illness
<p>Elevation Affected</p> 	3200 – 7200 feet	2700 – 8000 feet	2753 – 9100 feet	2753 – 9100 feet

4. Climate Change Adaptation Strategy Update – Ben Letton and Mary Fiore-Wagner

The Lahontan Water Board's role in protecting water quality and beneficial uses within the context of California's climate change efforts was formalized with the development of the Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Strategy (Strategy) and adoption of [Resolution No. R6T-2019-0277](#) (Resolution).

As resources allow, the Resolution directs staff to focus its efforts to address the impacts of climate change on the following key resource areas, where water quality and beneficial use protection strategies and actions will be most effective in the face of climate change: (1) Protection of Wetlands, Floodplains and Headwaters, (2) Protection of Infrastructure, (3) Protection of Groundwater Quality & Supply, and (4) Protection of Headwater Forests and Promoting Fire Resiliency.

The Resolution also requires the Water Board to develop an Action Plan to provide a detailed list of expected timelines and tasks to be implemented to protect the key resource areas. The Action Plan is intended to define the specific work priorities, efforts, and actions that will be integrated into our regulatory and planning efforts to facilitate climate mitigation and adaptation outcomes.

Status of the Action Plan. Though several staff contributed to development of the Strategy, the Regional Monitoring Coordinator played the lead role in coordinating efforts to develop and present the Strategy to the Board. Developing and finalizing the Action Plan is also a responsibility that falls largely on the Regional Monitoring Coordinator.

The Action Plan was scheduled for presentation at the Water Board's March 2020 meeting but was postponed to May 2020 when the Covid-19 pandemic emerged. Further delay resulted when the State Water Board issued a hiring freeze that hindered the ability to backfill the Regional Monitoring Coordinator position, which had become vacant in March 2020 due to an internal promotion. Given these unique circumstances, development of the Action Plan has not advanced beyond what was being considered by the Regional Monitoring Coordinator and management for the March 2020 Board meeting. This EO article represents the first effort by staff since March 2020 to further develop the Action Plan through a brief conceptual framework that is described below.

Proposed Framework. The framework lays out the basic elements that could be part of the Action Plan and how those elements are intended to interact with other efforts such as Priorities & Accomplishments, core program reviews, and other work planning. This framework will serve as a road map for the new Regional Monitoring Coordinator for further preparation and development of a detailed Action Plan that we anticipate bringing before the Water Board in March 2020.

Static and Dynamic Elements- The framework may include elements that are both *static and dynamic*. *Static* elements are those actions that are integrated into routine procedures such as preparation of material for Board agenda items, and updates/renewals or development of new permits. *Dynamic* elements are those that will be revisited on an annual basis as part of the Annual Priorities & Accomplishments Report, generally in March of each year.

Development of a section in the Green Sheet and permit requirements or conditions related to Climate Change Adaptation are *static* elements that may serve as a way for

staff, stakeholders, partner agency, and the Board to measure progress toward achieving the goals of our Strategy and ensure that the Policy Statements identified in the Strategy are being considered in development of all new permits, updates, renewals, and policies. Staff has already developed a Green Sheet procedure, which was recently utilized for the agenda packets prepared for the March 2020 General Waste Discharge Requirements for both the Limited Domestic, and the Small Industrial, Wastewater Treatment Systems.

Another element for the framework that may be considered *static*, involves a process for incorporating a climate change component into each core regulatory program review that is prepared. This element will also suggest a schedule to complete core program reviews by prioritizing reviews for programs where associated permits and policies have greater overall potential to enhance the condition and resiliency of wetlands and floodplains, infrastructure, groundwater, and forested landscapes. The climate change component that is incorporated in a program review should identify the following activities (1) Water Board, interagency, and external partnerships that are underway or planned, and (2) long-term resource intensive actions.

The Action Plan will be re-examined annually and recommended updates to the Action Plan will be reported through the preparation and presentation of an update to the Water Board at a public meeting. During these annual updates, the Water Board will have an opportunity to comment and provide direction in setting priorities and direction.

The annual updates will present progress on the *dynamic* portions of the core *static* elements of the Action Plan including a catalogue of all adopted permits and policies that incorporated climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies.

The climate change components that are built into core regulatory program reviews include interagency, stakeholder, and Water Board lead activities and long-term actions are *dynamic* in nature based on changing priorities or shifting of resources. As such, the Water Board will hear annual updates on the progress of these activities. These annual updates to the Water Board will provide an opportunity to re-examine and re-prioritize which select actions within the Water Board's authority and those supported by existing partnerships can be effectively implemented with limited resources.

5. Meeks Bay Restoration Project – Brian Judge

The United States Forest Service (USFS), Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit is planning to restore Meeks Bay and Meeks Creek on the west shore of Lake Tahoe to a more natural condition. The Water Board is the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) lead and an integral member of the project development team and is participating in a multi-year planning process that will result in a triple environmental document. The triple document will include an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) analysis for the USFS, an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Water Board, and an EIS for the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA).

Background

The purpose of this project is to move the Meeks Creek stream channel and wetland/lagoon below State Route 89 (SR89) to a more natural condition where geomorphic and hydrologic processes support a functioning ecosystem while continuing

to support sustainable recreation opportunities. The deteriorating condition of the existing marina infrastructure, concerns over aquatic invasive species, and degraded habitat for native species, have prompted the need for action in Meeks Bay. Additional benefits of the project will be improving educational and interpretive opportunities, enhancing species of value to the Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California, and promoting the federally protected species Tahoe yellowcress (*Rorippa subumbellata*) and Lahontan cutthroat trout (*Oncorhynchus clarki henshawi*).

Schedule



Stakeholder Forums and Project Alternative Development

The USFS is using Ascent Environmental and the Consensus Building Institute to facilitate project alternatives formulation through a series of stakeholder forums and public workshops. As part of the project development team, Water Board staff helps to plan and participates in every stakeholder forum and public workshop. The 13 forum members represent a wide variety of diverse interests including several local homeowners associations, the Lake Tahoe Marina Association, Meeks Bay Fire District, conservation interests, local home owners, motorized and non-motorized recreational interests, and the Washoe Tribe. These representatives are providing valuable input for the project alternatives. At this point in the planning process, three conceptual project alternatives are under development.



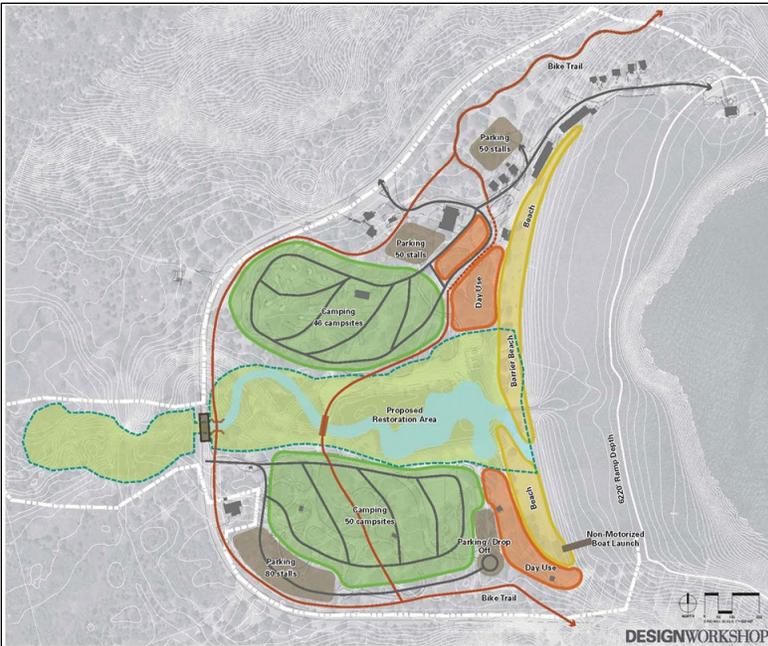
Conceptual Theme 1

Conceptual Theme 1 is a modified version of the proposed action released during scoping in 2018 and includes full restoration of the marina area into a functioning creek, lagoon and barrier beach system, a central pier with motorized watercraft access, no boat ramp, relocate cabins to extend and restore beach area, additional campsites, additional parking, and reconfigured day use on south side.



Conceptual Theme 2

Conceptual Theme 2 is a hybrid alternative that retains part of the marina and includes a reduced restoration area shifted south, a boat ramp and/or small marina separated from the creek, lagoon, barrier beach system, a day use area slightly reduced to accommodate the lagoon, marina, and boat parking, additional campsites, and additional parking at the resort.



Conceptual Theme 3

Conceptual Theme 3 emphasizes non-motorized recreation and includes full restoration of the creek, lagoon, barrier beach system, accessible nonmotorized launch ramp at south end, campgrounds reconfigured and expanded, day use areas expanded, and day use parking expanded and relocated.

The project alternative will continue to be developed through upcoming stakeholder forums, public workshops, input from the general public, and governing bodies.

More information on the project and upcoming workshops can be found at www.meeksbayproject.org

South Lahontan Region

6. Boron Area Dischargers – Mark Lemus

Water Board staff have recommended that three domestic wastewater dischargers, all within a mile of each other in the Boron area, consider consolidation of wastewater treatment services for each of their communities served. Each of these entities discharge raw sewage to unlined groundwater percolation ponds. None of these facilities have groundwater monitoring wells to evaluate the impact of wastewater discharges. (see figure 6.1)

Water Board staff recently inspected the wastewater treatment facilities for Boron Community Services District, Desert Lake Community Services District and Park Knolls Homeowners Subdivision. The Boron area is considered an economically disadvantaged community because the median household income is less than 80% of the statewide median household income.

Following the *Water Quality Control Plan for the Lahontan Region* (Basin Plan's) recommended control actions to address unlined sewage ponds, Water Board staff sent letters to each of these three dischargers indicating that revised waste discharge requirements would require installation of a minimum of three groundwater monitoring wells around each percolation disposal ponds. Water Board staff's experience is that these

types of facilities impact groundwater requiring eventual wastewater treatment plant upgrades.

Naturally occurring groundwater in the Boron area contains elevated arsenic above the drinking water standard of 0.01 mg/L. The primary drinking water supply for the Boron area is State Water Project water delivered through the Antelope Valley – East Kern Water Agency pipeline that parallels State Highway 58. The backup drinking water supply is groundwater. One standby (inactive) drinking water well close to a wastewater percolation pond now contains nitrate at one-half the nitrate drinking water standard of 10 mg/L. Because naturally occurring groundwater typically contains less than 1 to 2 mg/L, this well may be subject to nitrate pollution should it be placed into production further drawing pollutants into the well. The addition of organic constituents, nitrates, and other pollutants in discharged wastewater exacerbates groundwater degradation and/or pollution.

Water Board staff believe the best path forward is encouraging the entities to consider forming a Joint Powers Authority to cooperatively address long-term sewerage needs and reducing the financial hardship in the larger community. Conceptually, such an entity would first install and sample groundwater monitoring wells to determine the regional impact of discharger sources, rather than each entity independently installing three sets of three monitoring wells. Engineering feasibility studies could then be pursued to consider consolidating wastewater delivery for treatment to a single location. This would be followed by considering future treatment plant upgrades. A result would be eliminating the discharge of untreated wastewater and obtaining regional groundwater monitoring to satisfy the Basin Plan. These actions would help to protect the receiving groundwater for future beneficial uses.

Water Board staff have recommended that each of the dischargers contact the Division of Financial Assistance to pursue available grant funding and participate in the Antelope Valley Integrated Regional Water Management group to seek funding opportunities for eligible projects. Water Board staff have also contacted Kern County staff seeking their support for this effort.



Figure 6.1 – Map of Boron Area with Dischargers identified

7. Floating Islands Installed at Spring Valley Lake – Jehiel Cass

The Spring Valley Lake Homeowners Association has recently launched a series of “floating islands” that they hope will help reduce nutrients to control algae growth and improve water quality (clarity) in the community’s 200-acre manmade lake. The community of about 7,700 residents was opened in 1973. (see figure 7.1)



Figure 7.1 – Spring Valley Lake, west of the Mojave River is filled with groundwater pumped from 13 wells around the lake using about 2,200 acre-feet of water per year. In addition, the effluent from the CA DFW Mojave Fish Hatchery, containing elevated nutrients, irrigates the golf course before entering the southern end of the lake. At the northern end of the lake, an overflow weir discharges to the San Bernardino County Mojave Narrows Regional Park before returning to the Mojave River.

Maintaining lake water quality has been a major concern to control algae blooms. The association has a volunteer Lake Committee that helps guide projects to improve water quality. The lake supports recreational contact, sport fishing and boating opportunities.

In August 2020, the floating islands were laid out onshore and planted with six species of water tolerant plants suitable for the environment. While some plants will go dormant during the winter, this lake does not freeze over. During spring 2021, the floating islands will be deployed to various locations around the lake to remove nutrients and support fish habitat. It will take at least one growing season before the plants become established extending their roots into water (see figures 7.2 – 5).



Figure 7.2 – Photographs of floating islands installation in August 2020.



Figure 7.3 – An electric fence keeps birds away until plants are established.



Figure 7.4 – A total of 22, 5- by 15-foot mats were installed to be distributed around the lake in spring 2021.



Figure 7.5 – The floating islands material is a synthetic, ultraviolet light resistant, mesh supporting plants.

8. Discontent Still Reigns at the Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority Meetings, Kern County (October 15, 2020) – Tom Browne

Since the last meeting of the Indian Wells Valley (I WV) Groundwater Sustainability Authority (GSA) (June 2020), attorney Derek Hoffman who represents the pistachio farmers (Eddie Imsand and Joshua F Nugent) has indicated that litigation may be pursued against the I WV-GSA under the California Environmental Quality Act. In addition, the price per acre-foot (AF) for all pumpers in I WV has risen from \$235 to \$2,130 to implement the groundwater sustainability plan (GSP). The I WV-GSA is leaning toward importing water from the Antelope Valley East Kern Water Bank (AVEKWB) to recharge it into the I WV groundwater basin. The cost for the infrastructure is estimated to be over \$3.1 million.

Searles Valley Minerals (SVM), a user of I WV water since 1920, has an attorney to represent SVM's interests in the I WV-GSA, and they too have indicated that litigation may be in the offing. SVM believe it's unfair that the Navy at China Lake do not have to pay to support GSP implementation, and SVM is also opposed to a land-fallowing program (more information below). SVM is the third largest user in the I WV at 2,300 acre-feet per year (AF/year) and the Navy is the fourth largest user at 1,600 AF/year. Pistachio farmers collectively use about 14,500 AF/year and the I WV Water District pumps about 6,800 AF/year. All other small pumpers add up to about 1,000 AF/year, for a total of 26,200 AF/year being pumped from the I WV groundwater basin (2015 pumping rates). The I WV-GSA's technical experts say that the basin's sustainable yield is only 7,650 AF/year. The goal of the I WV-GSA is to reduce total pumping from the entire basin to just 12,000 AF/year. That means 4,350 AF/year must come from other sources – reclamation of wastewater or purchase from AVEKWB – to balance the long-term water budget by 2035.

In addition, all *non-deminimus* pumpers (greater than 2 AF/year) also must pay \$2,130 per acre-foot. Andy Zdon, certified engineering geologist and hydrogeologist, and I WV-GSA member, said there are 36 pumpers just barely over that threshold, many of whom are over age 70 living in rural areas, or are small water purveyors. These small pumpers are pleading with the I WV-GSA to lighten their bill and to give them a variance.

Mike Neill, a retired China Lake engineer, gathered over 2,900 signatures from I WV residents asking for the disbandment of the GSA on the grounds that they are "unelected officials." These signatures were mailed to the I WV-GSA in early September. The counsel for the I WV-GSA says a referendum of signatures is not legally binding and the California Water Code gives the I WV-GSA the authority to collect fees from all pumpers.

The I WV-GSA debated the details of the land-fallowing program. The basic concept is that farmers will get paid to fallow their fields, and they will get financial support for re-vegetation back to native desert plants. That hypothetical water no-longer-pumped would be put up for sale. The I WV-GSA proposed to limit the fallowing volume to 1,000 AF per purchaser. Both SVM and the pistachio farmers want no limit to be placed on purchases from the land-fallowing program.

The next I WV-GA meeting is scheduled for November 19, 2020. Those interested in viewing previous meetings and agendas can visit the I WV-GA web site at <https://iwwga.org/iwwga-meetings>.

9. U.S. Air Force Request for Revision of Waste Discharge Requirements (WDR) No. R6V-2013-0058, City of Adelanto Wastewater Treatment Facility Discharges
– Linda Stone

In a September 21, 2020 letter, Water Board staff informed the U.S. Air Force (Air Force) that staff will not propose a revision of WDR No. R6V-2013-0058 as requested in the Air Force's July 21, 2020 letter. The WDR pertains to the City of Adelanto (City) Wastewater Treatment Facility's (WWTF) discharges to its percolation ponds, which are adjacent to the former George Air Force Base (AFB). The Air Force requested that the Water Board revise the WDR to restrict the WWTF discharges to 1 million gallons per day (mgd). The WWTF's current discharge rate is approximately 2.6 mgd and the WDR permits a maximum discharge rate of 4 mgd. The Air Force's request was based on its claim that it was an affected person under California Water Code section 13263(e) because the WWTF discharges "have damaged, and are continuing to damage, the remedies for three restoration sites" at the former George AFB, specifically, that the City's "discharge is submerging and spreading contamination to previously uncontaminated areas."

Staff is not proposing revision of waste discharge requirements. Specifically:

1. The Air Force has not implemented regulatory approved remedies at two of the sites (jet fuel release sites SS030 and ST067b) or implemented active remediation at the third site (OT069e), where monitored natural attenuation (MNA) has repeatedly failed to meet remedial objectives for a trichloroethene groundwater plume since MNA was selected in a 1998 Record of Decision.
2. The Air Force did not provide adequate technical support of its claim that the City's WWTF discharges have caused adverse impacts to the three sites. The Air Force's claim was based solely on a computer simulated modeling effort using data from an inadequate groundwater monitoring network. The groundwater system underlying George AFB is complex and poorly understood. A computer model alone is inadequate to demonstrate that any observed affects can be attributed to a single source, i.e., the City's WWTF discharges.

On October 20, 2020, the Air Force sent a petition to the State Water Resources Control Board for review of the Regional Board's response to the Air Force's request for revision of the waste discharge requirements and to request that the matter be held in abeyance, pursuant to Water Code Section 13320 and California Code of Regulations, title 23, section 2050.5 *et. seq.*

UNAUTHORIZED DISCHARGE REPORT
 SEPTEMBER 16, 2020 TO OCTOBER 15, 2020

Responsible Party	Location of Occurrence	Regulated Facility	Basin N/S?	Date of Occurrence	Volume of Occurrence	Violation Description	Comments	Status
COUNTY: EL DORADO COUNTY								
South Tahoe PUD	703 Anita Dr., South Lake Tahoe	Yes	North	9/23/2020	400 gallons	Debris-rags created a blockage causing 400 gallons of sewage to spill from manhole to a storm drain.	Blockage removed and discharge site cleaned up and disinfected. No surface water was affected.	No further action required.
Tahoe Keys Marina	2435 Venice Dr., South Lake Tahoe	Yes	North	9/19/2020	Unknown	A sunken vessel in the Tahoe Keys Marina showed visible sheen on the water surface originating from the sunken vessel.	Tahoe Keys Marina staff setup booms surrounding the sunken vessel.	Sunken vessel and booms were removed. No further action required.
COUNTY: INYO								
Unknown	Rawson Canal downstream of Schober Lane, Bishop	No	South	9/25/2020	Less than one (1) gallon	Car driven into Rawson Canal resulting in a motor oil release to waters flowing through the canal.	LADWP crew deployed two absorbent booms to contain and collect the motor oil release. All visible oil contained by the first boom.	The car was removed from the canal within 1.5 hours of LADWP being notified of the incident. Booms were subsequently removed. No further action required.

*All discharges to surface waters are to be included in this report.

**Discharges of less than 100 gallons to land are not to be included in this report.

UNAUTHORIZED DISCHARGE REPORT
 SEPTEMBER 16, 2020 TO OCTOBER 15, 2020

Responsible Party	Location of Occurrence	Regulated Facility	Basin N/S?	Date of Occurrence	Volume of Occurrence	Violation Description	Comments	Status
COUNTY: LOS ANGELES								
Ca. Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation	California State Prison 44750 60th Street, Lancaster	Yes	South	10/11/2020	1,350 gallons	Debris from lateral created a blockage within the sewer main causing 1,350 gallons of sewage to spill from a manhole at the California State Prison, Lancaster.	Discharge entered stormwater conveyance system, but did not reach any surface waters. Blockage was cleared and discharge site cleaned up and disinfected.	No further action required.
COUNTY: SAN BERNARDINO								
Adelanto Public Utility Authority	Near the intersection of Auburn & Verbena, Adelanto	Yes	South	10/11/2020	103,000 gallons	Grease deposition created a blockage causing 103,000 gallons of sewage to spill from three manholes to unpaved surface.	Blockage removed, approx. 18,000 gallons recovered, and discharge site cleaned up and disinfected. No surface water body affected.	No further action required.

*All discharges to surface waters are to be included in this report.

**Discharges of less than 100 gallons to land are not to be included in this report.

EXECUTIVE OFFICER ACTION ITEMS
NOVEMBER 2020 EO REPORT - SEPTEMBER 16, 2020 TO OCTOBER 15, 2020
Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board

DOCUMENT	DATE SIGNED
NO FURTHER ACTION REQUIRED *	
No Further Action Required for Doyle Property, 508480 Stoney Lane, Susanville, Lassen County	10/05/2020
401 WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION	
Board Order No. R6T-2020-0053, Granting Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification, Allison-Lockwood New Multiple Use Pier Project, Placer County	9/29/2020
WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS	
Notice of Applicability – Conditional Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements, HDO Holdings LLC, San Bernardino County — APNS 0459-851-12-0000	9/17/2020
Order to Submit a Report of Waste Discharge Pursuant to Water Code Section 13260 for Sorensen’s Resort, Alpine County	9/21/2020
Notice of Applicability for General Waste Discharge Requirements for Small Construction, Including Utility, Public Works, and Minor Streambed/Lakebed Alteration Projects, Board Order R6T-2003-0004, BigBeau Solar Project, Kern County	9/21/2020
Response to Air Force Request for Revision of Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) No. R6V-2013-0058, City of Adelanto Wastewater Treatment Facility Discharges	9/21/2020
Revised Notice of Applicability – Conditional Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements, HDO3 Holdings LLC, San Bernardino County — APN 0459-851-03-0000	9/28/2020
Revised Notice of Applicability – Conditional Waiver Of Waste Discharge Requirements, Essential Co. LLC, San Bernardino County — APN 0459-851-02-0000	9/28/2020
Notice of Applicability for General Waste Discharge Requirements for Small Construction, Including Utility, Public Works, and Minor Streambed/Lakebed Alteration Projects, Board Order R6T-2003-0004, Roosevelt Road Reconstruction Project, Los Angeles County	10/01/2020
Notice of Applicability for General Waste Discharge Requirements for Small Construction, Including Utility, Public Works, and Minor Streambed/Lakebed Alteration Projects, Three Points Grid Resiliency Project (TD1557090), Los Angeles County	10/05/2020
Notice of Applicability for General Waste Discharge Requirements for Small Construction, Including Utility, Public Works, and Minor Streambed/Lakebed Alteration Projects, Board Order R6T-2003-0004, Sanborn Solar Project, Kern County	10/05/2020
Notice of Applicability – Conditional Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements, Canna Distribution & Transit, Inc., San Bernardino County	10/8/2020

	Notice of Applicability – Conditional Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements, Zanna USA, LLC, San Bernardino County	10/9/2020
	Notice of Applicability – Conditional Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements, 818 Brands Adelanto, San Bernardino County	10/9/2020
	Notice of Applicability for General Waste Discharge Requirements for Small Construction, Including Utility, Public Works, and Minor Streambed/Lakebed Alteration Projects, Board Order R6T-2003-0004, Likar New Recreational Pier Project, Nevada County	10/9/2020
EXEMPTIONS		
	COVID Exemption for Third Quarter 2020 Residential Well Sampling – Stipulated Agreement for Replacement Water Supply, Green Valley Foods Products, Inc., Barstow, San Bernardino County	9/22/2020
	Pending Action for Board Order, Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification and Exemption to Waste Discharge Prohibition for the Bow Bay CA LLC Pier Project, El Dorado County	9/23/2020
	Board Order No. R6T-2020-0054, Granting Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification and Basin Plan Prohibition Exemption, Bow Bay CA LLC Pier Project, El Dorado County	10/06/2020
	Pending Action for Board Order, Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification and Exemption to Waste Discharge Prohibitions for the Jellin Retaining Wall Repair Project, Nevada County	10/07/2020
	Pending Action for Board Order No. R6T-2020-XXXX, Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification and Exemption to Waste Discharge Prohibitions for the Dollar Edgewater Sewer Repair Phase 2 Project, Placer County	10/08/2020
EXTENSIONS		
	NONE	
MISCELLANEOUS DOCUMENTS		
	Request for Temporary Non-Accessible Internet Posting (Avila)	9/17/2020
	Amendment to May 10, 2019 Order to Submit Technical Report in Accordance with Section 13267 of the California Water Code, Former Big O Tire Store, 1961 Lake Tahoe Boulevard, South Lake Tahoe, El Dorado County	9/28/2020
	Transmittal of Notice of Decision for an Amendment to the Water Quality Control Plan for the Lahontan Region to Revise Beneficial Uses for the Mojave River	9/29/2020
	Filing of Notice of Decision in compliance with section 21080.5 of the Public Resources Code Amendment to the Water Quality Control Plan for the Lahontan Region to Revise Beneficial Uses for the Mojave River and Other Minor Revisions	9/29/2020
	Variance – Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board Soil Disturbance Prohibitions	10/01/2020
	Response to Request for Regulatory Relief from Compliance Requirements Due to Coronavirus 2019 Impacts, Lassen Regional Solid Waste Management Authority, Lassen County	10/08/2020

Formal Notice to Landowner for Coverage under State Water Board's Cannabis Cultivation General Order, Canna Distribution & Transit, Inc., San Bernardino County	10/08/2020
Formal Notice to Landowner for Coverage under State Water Board's Cannabis Cultivation General Order, Zanna USA, LLC, San Bernardino County	10/09/2020
Formal Notice to Landowner for Coverage under State Water Board's Cannabis Cultivation General Order, 818 Brands Adelanto, San Bernardino County	10/09/2020
Authorization to Allow Temporary Contractor Staging Overtop a Portion of Closed North Tailings Pond P-16, Mountain Pass Mine, MP Mine Operations LLC (MPMO), San Bernardino County	10/14/2020

* The Executive Officer finds the release of petroleum products at the following sites poses a low threat to human health, safety, and the environment. Therefore, these 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.

Additional links:

General Policy information:

http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/ust/lt_cls_plcy.shtml#policy081712

Copy of Policy:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_decisions/adopted_orders/resolutions/2012/rs2012_0016atta.pdf

Implementation Plan:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_decisions/adopted_orders/resolutions/2012/110612_6

ENCLOSURE 3

Enclosure 3

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD LAHONTAN REGION

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER 2020 STANDING ITEMS

The Water Board has requested regular reports on a number of programs and projects. The following table lists these standing reports, the reporting frequency and the dates the items are due.

ISSUE	FREQUENCY	DUE DATE
Cannabis Update	Annual	September
Climate Change Adaptation Strategy Update	Annual	May
County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles – District No. 20, Palmdale	Annual	September
Grazing Update	Annual	July
Onsite Septic Systems	Annual	April
Salt & Nutrient Management Plans	Annual	May
Status of Triennial Review Projects	Annual	August
Status of Dairies	Annual	February
Status of Grants	Annual	June
City of Barstow Nitrate	Annual	March
City of Barstow Orphan Perchlorate	Semi-Annual	March September
Lake Tahoe Water Quality	Annual	December
Leviathan Mine	Semi-Annual	January July
Harmful Algal Blooms	Annual	November – Article #3
Pacific Gas & Electric Company	Semi-Annual	June December
Quarterly Violations Report	Quarterly	January (3 rd quarter) April (4 th quarter) July (1 st quarter) October (2 nd quarter) – Article #4

*Water Board staff presentation

ENCLOSURE 4



2021
LAHONTAN REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
PROPOSED MEETING SCHEDULE

DATE	DAYS	LOCATION
January 6-7	Wednesday/Thursday	Video/Teleconference
February	<i>No Meeting Scheduled</i>	<i>No Meeting Scheduled</i>
March 10-11	Wednesday/Thursday	Video/Teleconference
April	<i>No Meeting Scheduled</i>	<i>No Meeting Scheduled</i>
May 12-13	Wednesday/Thursday	Video/Teleconference only
June	<i>No Meeting Scheduled</i>	<i>No Meeting Scheduled</i>
July 14-15	Wednesday/Thursday	Video/Teleconference
August	<i>No Meeting Scheduled</i>	<i>No Meeting Scheduled</i>
September 8-9	Wednesday/Thursday	Video/Teleconference
October	<i>No Meeting Scheduled</i>	<i>No Meeting Scheduled</i>
November 10	Wednesday	Video/Teleconference
December	<i>No Meeting Scheduled</i>	<i>No Meeting Scheduled</i>

NOTE:

The Water Board may convert the 2020 two-day Board Meetings to one day, if needed.

***May be held via teleconference in two locations**

PETER C. PUMPHREY, CHAIR | PATTY Z. KOUYOUMDJIAN, EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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