

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

**MEETING OF AUGUST 30, 2023
APPLE VALLEY, CA**

ITEM 4

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

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ENCLOSURE 1



EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

Covers May 1, 2023 – May 31, 2023

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1. Personnel Report – *Sandra Lopez*

Promotions

- Jan Zimmerman, Supervising Engineering Geologist, Victorville. This position will manage the South Lahontan Basin office, and will plan, organize, manage, coordinate, and report the work of the South Division.

New Hires

- Kristin Tokheim, Water Resource Control Engineer, Regulatory and Enforcement Unit, South Lake Tahoe. This position will be the lead contact on several facilities under state Waste Discharge Requirements to land, discharges to surface water such as wastewater treatment facilities, and stormwater on industrial and construction sites.
- Cristina Sedano, Environmental Scientist, Land Disposal Unit, Victorville. This position will provide regulatory oversight of dredge and fill permitting and compliance of Caltrans projects regionwide.

- Ariel Lafarga, Staff Services Analyst (General), Victorville. This position will provide support to technical and administrative staff, ensure documents comply with accessibility standards, assist with process improvements, prepare agenda items, and staff documents for distribution, and provide administrative support at regional board meetings held throughout the region.
- Cynthia Benato, Staff Services Analyst (General), South Lake Tahoe. This position will provide support to technical and administrative staff, ensure documents comply with accessibility standards, assist with process improvements, prepare agenda items, and staff documents for distribution, and provide administrative support at regional board meetings held throughout the region.

Vacancies

- Water Resource Control Engineer, Wastewater & Agricultural Unit, Victorville. This position provides regulatory oversight of projects involving discharges to groundwater or surface waters and projects intended to restore and/or enhance water quality in the Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs), National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES), and Site Cleanup Programs.
- Water Resource Control Engineer, Cleanup/Site Investigation & Enforcement Unit, South Lake Tahoe. This position will oversee/direct site investigation and cleanup activities at various sites, such as underground storage tank sites, dry cleaner sites, mines, landfills, and Department of Defense sites.
- Senior Water Resource Control Engineer, Wastewater & Agricultural Unit, Victorville. This position will assign and direct the work of the unit; provide daily supervision and review work products. Prepare annual work plans and track budget expenditures.
- Senior Engineering Geologist, Land Disposal Unit, Victorville. This position will assign and direct the work of the unit; provide daily supervision and review work products. Prepare annual work plans and track budget expenditures.
- Senior Engineering Geologist, Department of Defense Unit, Victorville. This position will assign and direct the work of the unit; supervise staff performing tasks related to department of defense and site cleanup program sites; prepare annual work plans and track budget expenditures.

Departures

- William Muir, Senior Engineering Geologist, Victorville

2. Eastern California Cannabis Team: Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board Unit staff attend the California Hazardous Materials Investigators Association (CHMIA) 36th Annual Training Conference – *Ed Hancock*

Technical staff from the Water Board's Eastern California Cannabis team attended the 36th Annual Training Conference for the California Hazardous Materials Investigators Association (CHMIA). The conference was held in Pismo Beach, California on April 26 through April 29, 2023, and brought professionals from a range of government and nongovernment organizations together to share experiences and challenges related to tackling illegal cannabis cultivation in the State. The meeting provided an excellent venue for attendees to learn from and network with colleagues working in a variety of environmental, state, and local government, law enforcement, and research-focused organizations. Cannabis team staff travelled to the annual conference because this installment was a focused, multi-day training on the environmental and societal harms illegal cannabis cultivation is causing in California.

The first day of the conference provided an overview of the statewide effort to combat illegal cannabis cultivation. Participants heard about the legal instruments targeting responsible corporate officers and/or orchestrators behind illegal cannabis cultivation activities, and how the California Dept. of Tax and Fee Administration (CDTFA) can be effective against illegal cannabis cultivation operations. Other presentations focused on the environmental and criminal laws that apply to illegal cultivation activities. The last formal presentation summarized agency-specific enforcement tools that are applicable to illegal cannabis cultivation. During the evening of the first day, conference participants were invited to the Conference Dinner which proved an excellent venue to socialize and network with other professionals working on illegal cannabis issues in the State.

The second day of the conference comprised of detailed discussions of illegal cultivation case studies, many of which are directly related to the work of the Eastern California Cannabis team. Conference participants heard a case study about an underground bunker grow in San Bernardino County within the jurisdiction of the Lahontan Water Board. A criminal enterprise buried approximately one dozen shipping containers in an unincorporated part of the county and were using the structure as a self-contained cultivation, processing, and manufacturing facility. The facility was only discovered by law enforcement after a tip off from the local community. There was no formal water quality nexus in this case and Water Board staff were not involved in it. However, this type of facility is illustrative of the lengths that criminal enterprises will go to cultivate cannabis in the Lahontan Region.

Other case studies illustrated illegal cultivation issues from around the state that continue to create issues for local communities. These included cases from Yolo County where trespass grows caused extensive water diversions and land disturbance on public lands. Additionally, sites in San Diego County contained illegal dumping of hazardous wastes from cannabis processing and manufacturing processes. Specifically, one site in San Diego County related to an indoor grow resulting in enforcement action

from the Water Boards South Coast Cannabis Unit and led to the subsequent clean-up of the affected site.



Photo 2.1: Water Board staff from the South Coast Cannabis Unit presenting to the conference

The afternoon of day two opened with a joint presentation from Riverside County District Attorney and Code Enforcement Departments regarding the countywide Cannabis Regulation Task Force (CRTF). The CRTF has successfully targeted illegal cannabis cultivation operations masquerading as hemp farms. Much of Riverside County falls within the jurisdiction of the Colorado River Basin Water Board where the team has a support presence, and Water Board staff were able to meet their Riverside County colleagues in person during the conference.

The second presentation during the afternoon of day two was a technical training regarding the Water Board's cannabis enforcement mechanisms given by Water Board colleagues from the South Coast Cannabis Unit, which covers Water Board Regions 4, 8, and 9. The presentation covered the types of Water Code violations commonly observed in relation to illegal cannabis cultivation activities, and the enforcement tools the Water Board has at their disposal to target illegal cultivation. Staff provided information regarding how the Water Board can assist other agencies to prosecute

those responsible for environmental crimes related to illegal cultivation activities. Following this presentation, colleagues from the California Dept. of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) provided a similar technical presentation focused on the enforcement tools and administrative authority that CDFW has to combat illegal cannabis activities.

The final morning of the conference was dedicated to the Integral Ecology Research Center's (IERC) (<https://www.iercecolology.org>) Cannabis and Ecology Program. Dr. Greta Wengert, IERC's Executive Director, provided a fascinating technical overview of the work the organization does to study ecotoxicology related to contaminants from illegal cannabis cultivation sites. Pesticides banned in the United States, such as the carbamate insecticide carbofuran and the organophosphate insecticide methamidophos, are commonly found at illegal cultivation sites, including in the Lahontan and Colorado River Basin Regions. These types of chemicals have detrimental impacts to the surrounding terrestrial and aquatic environments. IERC's work has focused on the toxicology of the Pacific fisher and the northern spotted owl in the northern and central coast areas of California. Both species have been greatly impacted by chemical waste and land disturbance related to illegal cannabis cultivation in these areas. Through their work investigating and cleaning up illegal cultivation sites, IERC has developed a wealth of toxicology and land disturbance data and is working on a predictive model to help agencies, such as the Water Boards, identify and prioritize areas of the state which are most at risk from illegal cultivation activities.

The Eastern California Cannabis team found the training conference to be greatly beneficial to the illegal cannabis site work the team is charged with undertaking. Meeting similar professionals from around the State for an in-person conference provided excellent relationship-building and networking opportunities and provided staff with highly specialized and technical training. Illegal cannabis cultivation continues to be highly impactful throughout the State, including in the Lahontan and Colorado River Basin Regions, and unit staff are now better placed to participate in the multi-agency effort to tackle this type of environmental crime.

3. 1st Quarter of 2023 Violations – *Shelby Barker*

There were 18 violations documented for the first quarter of 2023. Violations consisted of 1 groundwater constituent exceeding primary and secondary maximum contaminant level (MCLs), 2 failures to obtain an industrial general permit, 2 wastewater order exceedance (1 dairy and 1 wastewater treatment facility), 3 Landfill Board Order violations, 5 late reports, and 5 exceedances of effluent limit concentration. The exceedances were all self-reported by dischargers as part of permit compliance monitoring and reporting.

Enforcement actions beyond those listed in the attached table may be taken as needed to protect water quality and environmental health within the region.

First Quarter 2023 Violations Report

Program Category	Priority Violation	County	Responsible Party	Facility	WDID	Violation Description	Corrective Action	Enforcement Action
Industrial Stormwater	B	Alpine	Tahoe Asphalt Inc	Fredericksburg Gravel Pit	6A02I030161	Conducted operations without an IGP enrollment; waste discharge (sediment) in violation of R6 Basin Plan.	Conduct work properly under an Industrial Permit	Notice of Violation
				Tahoe Asphalt Inc Quarry	6A02IN607705	Failure to obtain permit (IGP); waste (sediment) discharge in violation of R6 Basin Plan.	Conduct work properly under an Industrial Permit	Notice of Violation
NPDES Wastewater	B	Lassen	Amedee Geothermal Venture I	Amedee Geothermal Power Plant	6A188410000	Annual monitoring report for 2023 was due on January 1, 2023	Submit reports on time or request to terminate permit if not operating	Oral Communication
		Mono	California Department of Fish and Wildlife	Hot Creek Hatchery NPDES	6B260801001	Total Suspended Solids (TSS) Monthly Average limit is 6 mg/L and reported value was 11 mg/L at EFF-001.	Take measures to address TSS in effluent	Staff Enforcement Letter
WDR - Dairies	B	San Bernardino	Dutch Dairy Mike Devries	Dutch Dairy	6B368010001	During a site inspection on 1/19/23, ponding was observed in some corrals, as well as elevated levels of manure in corrals following a storm event. Muddy tracks with ponding were observed and not following best management practices after a storm event.	Discharger must remove manure from the corrals and take measures to ensure best management practices are followed.	Oral Communication
Wastewater Treatment Facilities	B	San Bernardino	Victor Valley Wastewater Reclamation Authority	Victor Valley Wastewater Reclamation Authority WTP	6B360109001	Copper, Total Recoverable Maximum Daily (MDEL) limit is 12.9 ug/L and reported value was 25 ug/L at EFF-001.	VWVRA is planning to perform significant source identification monitoring and analysis using composite samples from each potential source area (to better characterize each source area over a 24 hr period), to identify any preventable sources of copper in the collection system.	Pending
						Copper, Total Recoverable Monthly Average (Mean) limit is 0.76 lb/day and reported value was 1.2 lb/day at EFF-001.		
						Copper, Total Recoverable Monthly Average (Mean) limit is 6.5 ug/L and reported value was 25 ug/L at EFF-001.		
		Inyo	USDI National Park Service Death Valley SW Village	Stovepipe Wells Village	6B140704001	Annual data is due on January 15th of the following year. The 3rd and 4th quarter 2022 data was due by January 15, 2023, but was submitted to GeoTracker 15 days late.	Discharger to submit monitoring reports on time by the due date specified in the Board Order.	Oral Communication
			USDI National Park Service Death Valley	DVNM HDQ Furnace Creek WWTF	6B140706001	This report was due on 10/15/2022 but was not submitted until 1/30/2023.	Discharger to submit monitoring reports on time by the due date specified in the Board Order.	Staff Enforcement Letter
		Kern	Rosamond CSD	Rosamond WTF (Ponds)		This report was due on 1/15/2023 but was not submitted until 1/30/2023.		
				6B150112001	Freeboard at aeration basins were below the freeboard limit of 24 inches.	On April 3, 2023, District staff discussed potential solutions to address the freeboard issue at the aeration ponds. One of the potential solutions includes the adjustment of weirs in flow to the aeration ponds, which District staff believes may solve the freeboard issue.	Oral Communication	
		Mono	US Marine Corps Coleville	USMC MWTC Coleville Housing WWTF	6A268512900	Total Suspended Solids Instantaneous Maximum limit is 45 mg/L and reported value was 56 mg/L.	To be determined	Pending

First Quarter 2023 Violations Report

Program Category	Priority Violation	County	Responsible Party	Facility	WDID	Violation Description	Corrective Action	Enforcement Action
Land Disposal	B	Lassen	Lassen Cnty	Bass Hill Sanitary Landfill (Lassen County Class III Landfill)	6A180013000	Failed to submit the second semi-annual monitoring report by February 15, 2023.	Discharger to submit monitoring reports on time by the due date specified in the Board Order.	Staff Enforcement Letter
		Los Angeles	Waste Management of California	Lancaster Sanitary LF & Recycling Center	6B190343001	While conducting inspection a significant amount of windblown trash was piling up along fence line and was blowing to adjacent properties.	Photo documentation was provided to Waterboard staff via email on Monday March 13, 2023.	Oral Communication
						Palm trees observed growing in Landfill cover in January 3, 2023 and on March 10th, 2023. Water Board staff commented that trees should not be growing in interim cover. During March 2023 inspection, palm trees were observed to concentrate storm water flow and runoff and resulted in erosion of interim cover.	Photographs of Palm Tree removal shall be submitted to water board staff by March 15, 2023.	Oral Communication
						Ponding on the southern and western roadways and site boundaries of the site is inconsistent with the site drainage plan and Stormwater Pollution and Prevention Plan. Observations of ponding water were observed on January 3, 2023 and March 10, 2023.	WM is provide an updated SWPPP drainage plan by March 30, 2023.	Oral Communication
DOD	B	Kern	US Air Force Edwards Air Force Base	Main Base Class III Landfill	6B150316001	Groundwater sample data exceeded MCLs and SMCLs for the arsenic, total chromium, chloride, nickel, nitrate (as N), selenium, sulfate, total dissolved solids, and iron	Continued monitoring	Oral Communication

ATTACHMENT A

Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board

EXECUTIVE OFFICER ACTION ITEMS

May 1, 2023, to May 31, 2023
Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board

DOCUMENT

DATE

NO FURTHER ACTION REQUIRED¹

N/A	N/A
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EXEMPTIONS

Pending Action for Board Order No. 6-91-31, Notice of Applicability and Exemption to Waste Discharge Prohibition for the Meyers Stream Environment Zone Erosion Control Project	5/12/2023
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BOARD ORDERS

N/A	N/A
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401 WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATIONS

Pending Action for Board Order No. R6T-2023-XXXX, Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification and Exemption to Waste Discharge Prohibitions for the Upper Truckee River Lahontan Cutthroat Trout Restoration Project	5/02/2023
Board Order No. R6V-2023-0015, Granting Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification, Middle Mile Broadband Network (MMBBN) #29 Project,	5/05/2023
Board Order No. R6V-2023-0016, Granting Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification, Ottawa Business Center Project, San Bernardino County	5/11/2023
Notice of Applicability: Order for Clean Water Act Section 401 General Water Quality Certification for Small Habitat Restoration Projects File Number SB12006GN, Elysian Creek Restoration Project, Lassen County	5/12/2023

¹ 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.

DOCUMENT**DATE****401 WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATIONS (Cont.)**

Pending Action for R6T-2023-XXXX, Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification and Exemption to Waste Discharge Prohibitions, Hoke Valley Meadow Restoration Project, Phase 1, Sierra County	5/12/2023
Pending Action for Notice of Applicability: General 401 Water Quality Certification for Small Habitat Restoration Projects (File Number: SB12006GN, and Basin Plan Prohibition Exemption for the Snow Crest Restoration Project, Placer County	5/16/2023
Board Order No. R6T-2023-0017, Granting Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification and Exemption to Waste Discharge Prohibitions, Upper Truckee River Lahontan Cutthroat Trout Restoration Project	6/17/2023
Board Order No. R6T-2023-0018, Granting Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification and Exemption to Waste Discharge Prohibitions, Hoke Valley Meadow Restoration Project, Phase 1, Sierra County	5/23/2023
Pending Action for Board Order No. R6T-2023-XXXX, Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification and Exemption to Waste Discharge Prohibitions for the Lake-wide Control of Aquatic Invasive Plants Project, Placer and El Dorado Counties	5/24/2023

WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS

Notice of Applicability for General Waste Discharge Requirements for Small Construction, Including Utility, Public Works, and Minor Streambed/Lakebed Alteration Projects, Board Order No. R6T-2003-0004, Palmdale Warehouse	5/05/2023
Rescission of Master Water Recycling Requirements and Waste Discharge Requirements, Disinfected Tertiary Recycled Water, Board Order No. R6v-2009-0035 For Mammoth Community Water District	5/31/2023

MISCELLANEOUS DOCUMENTS

N/A	N/A
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Additional links:

[General Policy information](#)

[Copy of Policy](#)

[Implementation Plan](#)

ATTACHMENT B

UNAUTHORIZED DISCHARGE REPORT
MAY 1, 2023 TO MAY 31, 2023

Responsible Party	Location of Occurrence	Regulated Facility	Basin N/S?	Date of Occurrence	Volume of Occurrence	Violation Description	Comments	Status
COUNTY: EL DORADO								
Unknown	20008 Marconi Way, South Lake Tahoe	No	N	5/4/2023	Unknown	Caller stated that they discovered a vessel that sank in Lake Tahoe, which has the potential to release an unknown oil.	The cause of the vessel sinking is unknown to the caller. The caller was unaware of any actions being taken to address this incident.	Follow up with TRPA to ensure the vessel has been removed.
Resident at TKPOA	2060 Aloha Drive, South Lake Tahoe	Yes	N	5/3/2023	1 gallon	Reporting party noticed the partially submerged vessel. The cause is a valve failure.	Vessel is being floated and towed to the marina. The release was contained with booms and absorbent pad by TKPOA. Surface water body affected; Lake Tahoe.	Called responsible party to ensure the spill has been remediated and the vessel has been removed. Spoke with RP on 05/04 and he indicated the fuel has been removed from the vessel, the boat is floating, and it will be towed to the marina tomorrow. He will contact the Water Board if site conditions change.
Motel 6	Meadow behind 2375 Lake Tahoe Boulevard, South Lake Tahoe, CA 96050	No	N	5/12/2023	Unknown	Parking lot was flooded from washing. Drains and BMPS were clogged, so Motel 6 pumped waste water to the meadow behind the motel.	Brian Judge, Lahontan Water Board inspected the site and found all drop inlets at the rear of the property were clogged.	Contacted TRPA, Steve Sweet. They inspected the site and wrote a Cease and Desist order to stop pumping and to clean the stormwater BMPs.

*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
MAY 1, 2023 TO MAY 31, 2023

Responsible Party	Location of Occurrence	Regulated Facility	Basin N/S?	Date of Occurrence	Volume of Occurrence	Violation Description	Comments	Status
COUNTY: LASSEN								
Unknown	Mile post 71.1, Highway 395, Standish, CA	No	N	5/20/2023	Unknown	Reporting party states an F150 truck drove off the roadway and went into Dill Slough. The vehicle is on its side three quarter of the way submerged.	Surface water body affected.	Revised spill report currently being prepared. Review revised report to determine if follow-up action needed.
COUNTY: NEVADA								
Unknown	Eastbound I-80 at the Hirschdale Exit at the East bound offramp	No	N	5/18/2023	Approx. 30 gallons	Semi truck overturned causing truck to release approximately 30 gallons of diesel to roadway.	Per caller, no waterways were impacted by incident.	Follow-up to confirm corrective actions taken.
Unknown	14742 S Shore Drive, Donner Lake	No	N	5/30/2023	Unknown	A Duckboat vessel is leaking for an unknown reason which is causing the release. Constructing a dock using the leaking vessel, there are yellow pylons and buoys in the construction area.	No mitigation devices for the vessel in case of a release. Surface water body affected. Spill contained, but unknown who is handling the containment and clean up.	Follow-up with Nevada County Environmental Health after their site visit (Maryanne Bailey responding).

*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
MAY 1, 2023 TO MAY 31, 2023

Responsible Party	Location of Occurrence	Regulated Facility	Basin N/S?	Date of Occurrence	Volume of Occurrence	Violation Description	Comments	Status
COUNTY: PLACER								
North Tahoe PUD	4465 North Ridge RD. Carnelian Bay CA.	Yes	N	5/20/2023	320 gallons	Grease and roots caused 320 gallons of sewage to spill from Lower Lateral (Public) to the Property Line Clean Out at 4465 North Ridge RD., to an unpaved surface.	No surface water was affected.	Staff to follow-up.

*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.

ENCLOSURE 2



EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT June 1, 2023 – June 30, 2023

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1. Personnel Report – *Sandra Lopez*

New Hires

- David Ryan, Water Resource Control Engineer, Cleanup/Site Investigation & Enforcement Unit, South Lake Tahoe. This position will oversee/direct site investigation and cleanup activities at various sites, such as underground storage tank sites, dry cleaner sites, mines, landfills, and Department of Defense sites.

Vacancies

- Water Resource Control Engineer, Wastewater & Agricultural Unit, Victorville. This position provides regulatory oversight of projects involving discharges to groundwater or surface waters and projects intended to restore and/or enhance water quality in the Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs), National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES), and Site Cleanup Programs.
- Senior Water Resource Control Engineer, Wastewater & Agricultural Unit, Victorville. This position will assign and direct the work of the unit; provide daily supervision and review work products. Prepare annual work plans and track budget expenditures.

- Senior Engineering Geologist, Land Disposal Unit, Victorville. This position will assign and direct the work of the unit; provide daily supervision and review work products. Prepare annual work plans and track budget expenditures.
- Senior Engineering Geologist, Department of Defense Unit, Victorville. This position will assign and direct the work of the unit; supervise staff performing tasks related to department of defense and site cleanup program sites; prepare annual work plans and track budget expenditures.

Departures

- Doug Carey, Senior Engineering Geologist (Specialist) (retired annuitant), South Lake Tahoe

2. **Racial Equity Working Group (REWG): August 2023 Water Board Update – Ed Hancock**

Beginning in September 2022, staff from both Lahontan Water Board offices across a range of technical classifications and career stages formed an internal group called the *Racial Equity Working Group* (REWG). The mission of the REWG is to advance racial equity at the Lahontan Water Board, both internally for staff, and externally for the communities the Board serves.

The workgroup is comprised of approximately fifteen Lahontan staff members, about half of whom serve as the core team. The core team is supported by the remaining participants who provide auxiliary support when they are able. The REWG has an open-door policy to participation and encourages staff members to join if they are interested and able to do so. The REWG also understands that existing members may have to step away from workgroup commitments as dictated by the operational needs of their technical or programmatic work at the Water Board. Within the REWG, staff participate in smaller subcommittees including Communications, which focus on messaging and outreach to internal and external parties, Resolution Development to draft the Racial Equity Resolution which the Water Board will consider early in 2024, and Action Plan Development to craft the Racial Equity Action Plan tailored to the Lahontan Region.

The work of the REWG builds upon the State Water Resources Control Board's (State Water Board) Racial Equity Resolution and Action Plan, which were adopted in November 2021 and heard as an informational item in January 2023, respectively. While the overarching goals of the State Board's resolution and action plan are to advance racial equity within Water Boards operations, the goals of Lahontan Water Board's resolution and action plan are to recognize region-specific issues around racial equity and to develop an action plan to address those issues. To begin the process, the REWG has reviewed the State Board's racial equity work, participated in trainings around the subject of racial equity, and met with similar workgroups from other Regional Boards to learn and information share around the subject of advancing racial equity.

The Lahontan Water Board Racial Equity Resolution is intended to formally recognize that racial equity considerations are a foundational component to all public processes

that the Water Board undertakes. The resolution recognizes that, in the past, the work of the Water Board has not always adequately considered topics of race and equity in decisions that have affected regional communities. While the Lahontan Water Board has been proactive in the topic area of environmental justice over recent years¹, the Racial Equity Resolution seeks to formalize the concepts of race and equity into the public participation processes which staff use to complete their technical work. Additionally, the Resolution will recognize that, internally, the organization can be more proactive in advancing racial equity at staff level through provision of staff trainings and forums, and by providing better employment information and opportunities to historically underserved and underrepresented communities.

While the Racial Equity Resolution is an important step toward advancing racial equity in the Lahontan Region, the subsequent Action Plan will detail the steps of how this will be achieved. Action Plan development is in its early stages, and REWG staff are scheduled to present the Plan to the Board in summer 2024. To support development of the Plan, REWG members are working on two strands of communications with affected communities. The first is internally focused and seeks to educate and solicit feedback from Lahontan Water Board staff around topics of racial equity. The REWG recognizes that staff participation is crucial to identify issue areas that should be considered in 6Lahontan Water Board's racial equity work. As the technical experts in their program areas, Water Board staff are well placed to identify groups and communities that intersect with the work of the Water Board and who may want to contribute to Lahontan Water Board's racial equity discussion. The REWG encourages Water Board staff to contribute their own perspectives and experiences around racial equity issues with a view to advancing racial equity at the staff level as well as in the communities they serve.

The second communication strand of the REWG focuses on external communities, including disadvantaged communities (DACs), historically under-represented groups, environmental justice communities, and partner organizations. These regional communities will be invited to share their experiences and contribute to Action Plan development in the latter half of 2023. External community perspectives are essential to ensure the Action Plan correctly recognizes the diversity of the Lahontan Region and identifies key topic areas for the Plan to focus on. By connecting with external communities on the subject, the REWG will be better placed to develop an Action Plan that ensures racial equity is advanced and realized in the Lahontan Region.

The REWG looks forward to working with staff, regional communities, and the Lahontan Water Board to advance racial equity in the Lahontan Region. More information and resources related to the racial equity work of the Water Boards are available at the State Water Board's [Racial Equity website](#) and at the Lahontan Region's [Environmental](#)

¹ In January 2015 Lahontan Water Board heard an informational item from staff called the [Lahontan Environmental Justice Report](#). The report laid out eleven recommendations to the Board to further environmental justice in the Lahontan Region. To date staff have implemented, or are actively implementing, all of the recommendations in this report.

[Justice webpage](#). Parties who are interested in receiving communications from the REWG are encouraged to sign up for the *Racial Equity and Environmental Justice* email subscription service, available at the Water Boards [subscription page](#).

3. Hinkley Community Breakfast with Dr. John Izbicki Presenting on the USGS Background Study – Amanda Lopez

Lahontan Water Board staff, Amanda Lopez, Engineering Geologist, attended the Hinkley Community Breakfast on June 10, 2023, at the Hinkley Community and Senior Center. Dr. John Izbicki with the United States Geological Survey provided a short presentation with approximately 15 community members in attendance (Figure 3.1). Dr. Raudel Sanchez, Anand Helekar, Lorena Barahona, and Margaret DeAngelis of the Independent Review Panel (IRP) were in attendance, as well as Jessica Bails with Pacific Gas and Electric Company.



Figure 3.1: Dr. Izbicki giving a presentation to the Hinkley community members

Dr. Izbicki's presentation began with a brief background of concentrations of hexavalent chromium in the Hinkley and Water Valleys. He described the summative scale analysis, anthropogenic chromium plume boundary, and the background numbers. At the end of the presentation, Dr. Izbicki provided an opportunity for community members to ask questions. Dr. Izbicki, Amanda Lopez, and IRP responded to various questions from the community. Community members were most interested in how this study will be used for the Cleanup and Abatement Order (CAO) revision. Water Board staff highlighted the importance of participation in future meetings and providing input on the upcoming CAO revision. The first Technical Working Group meeting is tentatively scheduled for the afternoon of Tuesday July 18, 2023.

4. Standing Item – City of Barstow Nitrate – *Omid Bozorg-Haddad*

This standing item describes the compliance status for the City of Barstow (City) with waste discharge requirements (WDRs) and various compliance orders issued by the Water Board regarding historical disposal practices from its wastewater treatment plant.

Waste Discharge Requirements

Discharge from the Barstow Wastewater Treatment Plant is currently regulated by waste discharge requirements, Board Order No. R6V-2019-0252 (Board Order). This Board Order requires monitoring and reporting of nitrate effluent and groundwater monitoring well sampling results. Submitted monitoring reports must include maps and graphs to show nitrate trends in groundwater. Additionally, the Board Order established an effluent limit for total nitrogen of 10 milligrams per liter (mg/L) and a receiving water limitation for nitrate as nitrogen of 10 mg/L.

According to self-monitoring reports submitted by the City (2022 fourth quarter report), the monthly total nitrogen concentrations in effluent samples averaged 6.23 mg/L and concentrations of nitrate as nitrogen averaged 4.04 mg/L for the year 2022.

Groundwater sample data results, in conjunction with groundwater flow patterns, indicate the nitrate concentrations predominantly increase from upgradient to downgradient in the Soapmine area north of the Mojave River as the mass of nitrate in groundwater diffuses and migrates eastward, as illustrated in Figure 4.1.

Nitrate Pollution Groundwater Cleanup

The Water Board adopted Cleanup and Abatement Order (CAO) No. R6V-2013-0045 requiring the City to address nitrate polluted groundwater on the north side of the Mojave River. The cleanup status remains on hold until a comingled perchlorate plume, not the City's responsibility, is addressed.

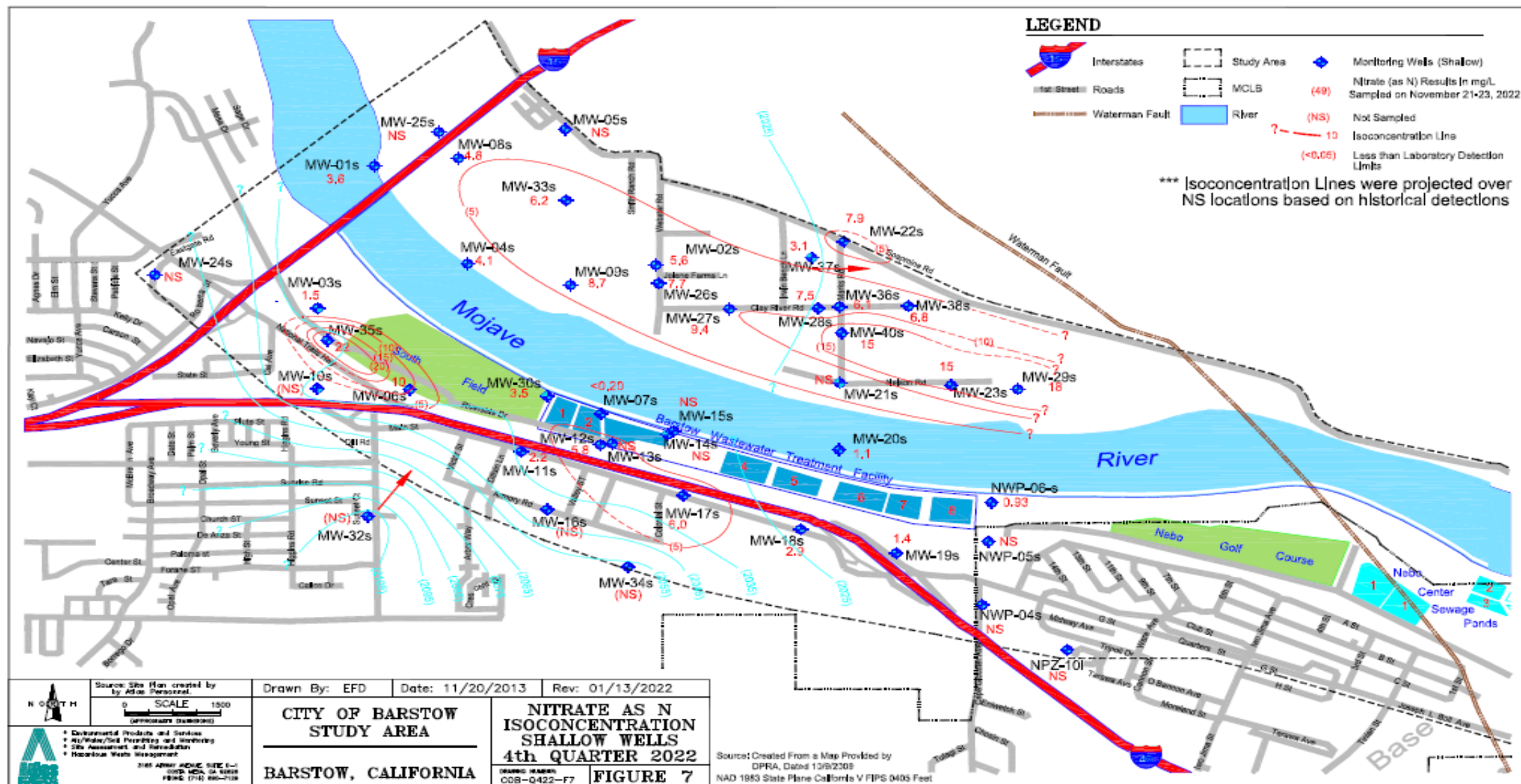


Figure 4.1: Map illustrating groundwater gradient and sampled nitrate concentrations based on shallow groundwater monitoring wells from the City's 4th Quarter 2022 monitoring event.

Residential Well Sampling and Replacement Water in the Soapmine Road Area

The City continues to conduct quarterly sampling of residential drinking water wells to measure nitrate concentrations in groundwater, as required by CAO No. R6V-2007-0017. If a residential well sample contains a nitrate as nitrogen concentration equal to or greater than 5 mg/L, then the City must provide that residence with uninterrupted replacement water in the Soapmine Road area. For the first quarter of 2023, the City sampled 32 out of 42 residential wells. This count can vary based on the number of occupied residences in the Soapmine Road study area at the time of sampling.

In aggregate, the nitrate concentration trends have become relatively stable, with a decreasing trend in residential wells sampled since quarterly monitoring began (illustrated in Figure 4.2). According to the City's submitted first quarter 2023 report, seven wells sampled contained nitrate as nitrogen concentrations exceeding the replacement water threshold concentration (5 mg/L). However, the City is providing 16 residences within the required study area with uninterrupted replacement water service (bottled water).

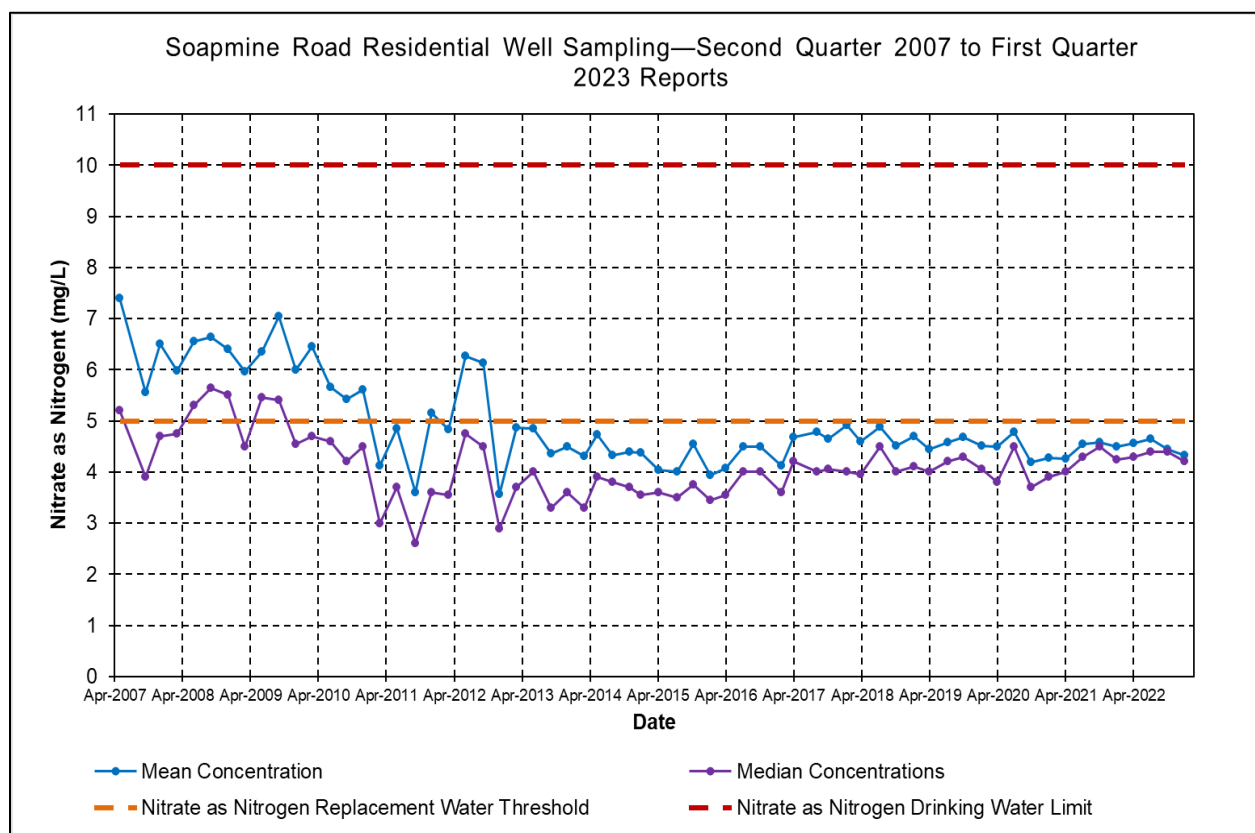


Figure 4.2: Chart illustrating sampled nitrate as nitrogen concentrations from residential wells reported on a quarterly basis compared to the replacement water threshold concentration contained in the CAO and the drinking water limit.

Based on the difference between the historical groundwater impact and current sampling data, the City has requested that the Water Board modify residential well sampling and replacement water requirements in CAO No. R6V-2007-0017, as follows.

1. Reduce sampling frequency for some residences from quarterly to either semi-annually or annually based on nitrate as nitrogen sample concentrations consistently measuring less than 5 mg/L.
2. Increase nitrate (as nitrogen) trigger threshold concentration from 5 mg/L to 10 mg/L.
3. Amend CAO No. R6V-2001-0017 to provide a methodology that would allow the City to propose cessation of the requirement to provide replacement water to Soapmine Road area residents if certain criteria are met.

Water Board staff plan to address the City's request to revise CAO No. R6V-2007-0017 during this fiscal year.

5. Standing Item: Annual Barstow Perchlorate Update, July 2023 – *Alonzo Poach*

SB445 Remediation Update

In May 2021, APTIM, Inc. (APTIM) finalized a Focused Feasibility Study, Remedy Conceptual Design, and Full-Scale Work Plan (FS/work plan) for the Barstow Perchlorate remediation project which is funded by Senate Bill 445 (SB445). The FS portion of the document evaluated various remediation options based on expected effectiveness, ability to implement, and cost. Based on the FS analysis, in-situ bioremediation using a dilute carbon substrate and nutrient amendment was selected as the remedy for the perchlorate source areas and the full-scale work plan was developed. In June 2022, the contract for the full-scale implementation of remediation work was awarded and APTIM began with bench scale testing to select the carbon substrate. Both emulsified vegetable oil (EVO) and lactate were carbon substrates evaluated during bench scale testing. EVO was selected utilizing diammonium phosphate (DAP) because it degraded perchlorate faster than lactate and EVO functioned better at varying soil moisture levels. DAP is a nutrient amendment utilized as a nitrogen and phosphorus source for the microorganisms degrading the perchlorate. The bench scale testing indicated that perchlorate was degraded within 30 days by the EVO at various soil moisture content levels indicating EVO would be the more suitable substrate.

APTIM mobilized to the site in mid-March 2023 to begin in situ remediation. From March 29, 2023, through June 20, 2023, approximately 16,400 pounds of EVO was injected into the subsurface utilizing 118 injection points advanced using a direct push drill rig. The treatment areas are shown on Figure 5.1 below. The next steps are soil verification sampling at various time intervals at 30, 60, 90 days postinjection to measure effectiveness and evaluate if additional soil moisture needs to be added to the subsurface. If additional moisture is needed, APTIM will irrigate the treatment area(s) using soaker hoses similar to those used on drip irrigation systems.

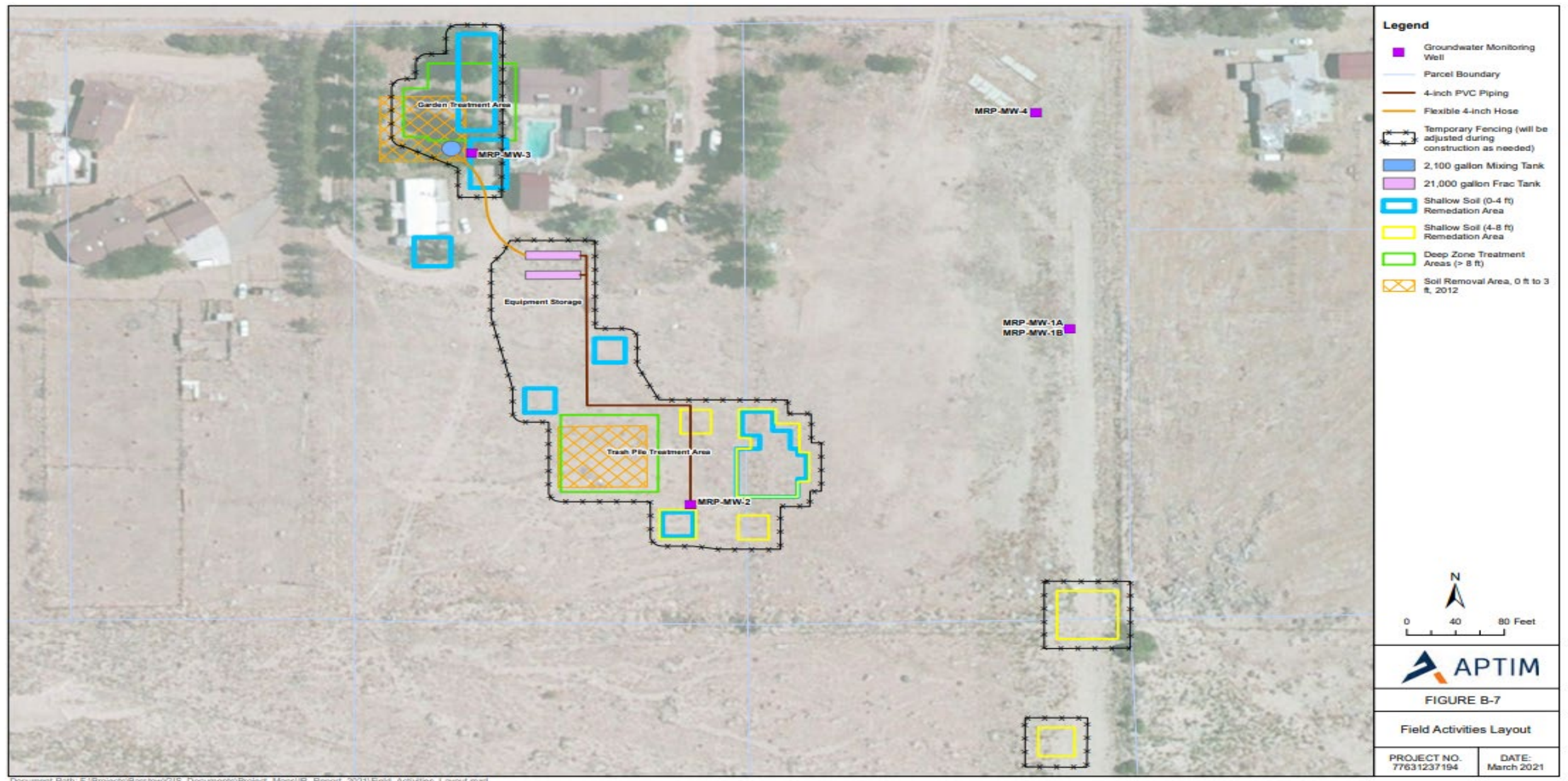


Figure 5.1: from the Full-Scale work plan showing the various treatment areas. The 118 injection points are within the treatment areas shown above.

Below are photos of the field efforts showing the injection setup.



Photo 5.2: The EVO mixing in a 55-gallon steel drum prior to injection



Photo 5.3: The pressure and flow manifold. Up to 10 borings were injected simultaneously.



Photo 5.4: The 5-foot-long injection rod. EVO was injected into the subsurface at pressures as high as 150 pounds per square inch.



Photo 5.5: The “garden area” source zone, injection borings, and the direct push drill rig. Photo facing north.



Photo 5.6: Water tank holding water used to mix with the EVO and mobile office for field operations located in roughly in the center of the treatment areas. The field office was also used to store field materials. Photo facing north.



Photo 5.7: Field technician checking connections and making note of injection operations in the “garden area.” Photo facing northeast.

Status of Plume Monitoring

Water Board staff conducts quarterly groundwater monitoring of private residential wells and groundwater monitoring wells owned by the City of Barstow. In addition, APTIM conducts groundwater monitoring of four groundwater monitoring wells installed under the SB445 contract. In fiscal year (FY) 22/23, Water Board staff collected approximately 110 groundwater samples to track plume movement over four quarters. Overall, the plume footprint has not changed drastically since April 2019, but the most downgradient portion of the plume is undefined beyond monitoring well MW-38 (see Figure 5.8 below). Concentrations of perchlorate are generally increasing south of Interstate 15. As part of the SB445 contract with APTIM, a groundwater investigation is planned for mid-July to better define the plume north and south of Interstate 15 with the goal of understanding where targeted treatment of the groundwater plume would be most effective. Grab groundwater samples will be collected from temporary wells and up to 4 groundwater monitoring wells will be installed based on the results of the grab groundwater samples.

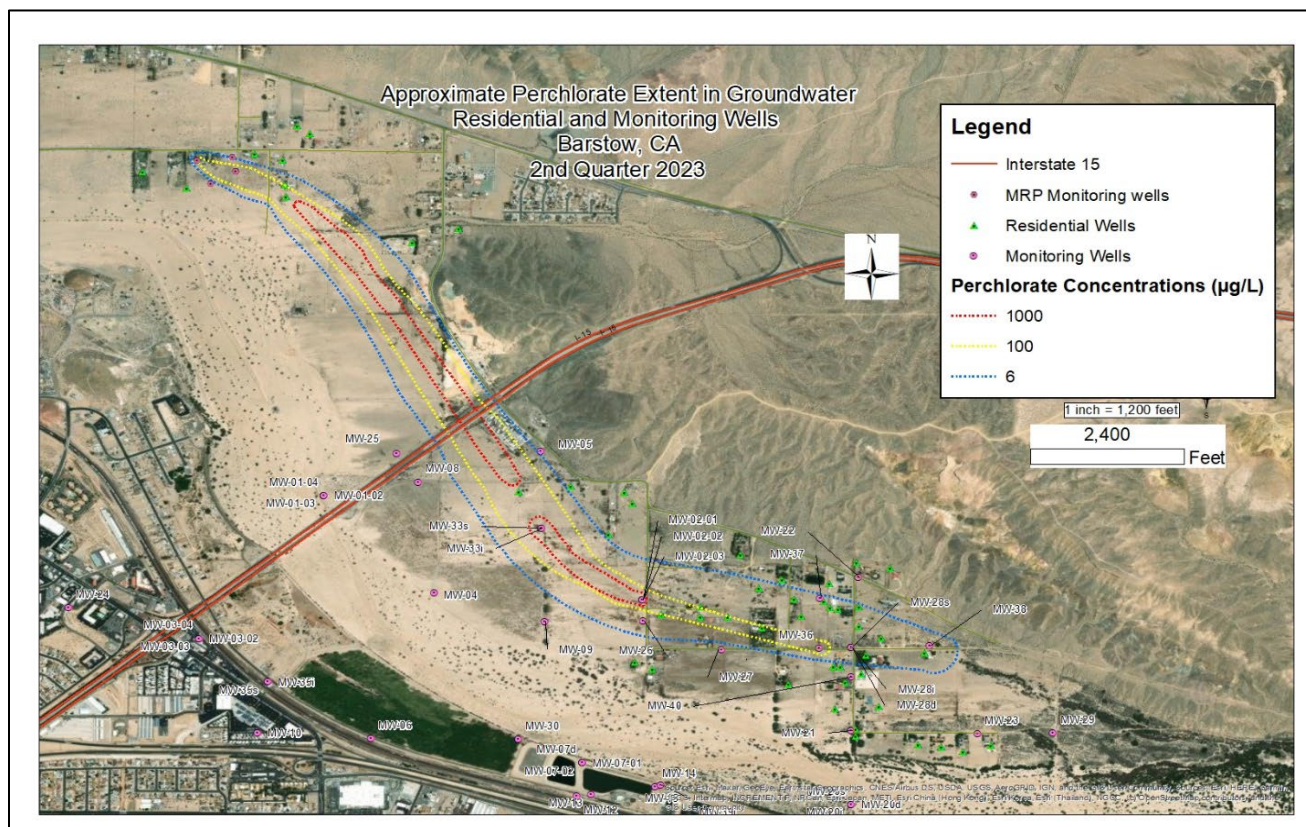


Figure 5.8: Approximate extent of perchlorate plume in groundwater based on sampling results from residential and monitoring wells, Soapmine Road area of Barstow, CA, for second quarter 2023.

Bottled Water Update

Replacement bottled water has been provided for eligible residents since 2011. Bottled water funding was set to expire June 30, 2022, but has been extended to June 30, 2026 through the State Board Division of Financial Assistance cleanup and abatement account. With the extension of funding, Lahontan staff requested a new contract to supply bottled water to residents and it was put into effect July 1, 2023, and will be in place until June 30, 2026. Under the terms of the funding, Lahontan Water Board can provide bottled water to residents that meet income eligibility criteria. The contract currently provides bottled water to 4 of the 18 affected residents. This is down from 5 residents because of a property being sold and currently being vacant.

ATTACHMENT A

Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board

EXECUTIVE OFFICER ACTION ITEMS

June 1, 2023, to June 30, 2023
Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board

DOCUMENT

DATE

NO FURTHER ACTION REQUIRED¹

N/A	N/A
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BOARD ORDERS

N/A	N/A
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EXEMPTIONS

N/A	N/A
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401 WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATIONS

Pending Action for Board Order No. R6T-2023-XXXX, Granting Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification, Stannard/Tahoe Belleview Pier Extension Project, Placer County	6/01/2023
Pending Action for Board Order No. R6T-2023-XXXX, Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification and Exemption to Waste Discharge Prohibitions for the Euer Valley Restoration Phase I Project	6/01/2023
Pending Action for Notice of Applicability: Order for Clean Water Act Section 401 General Water Quality Certification for Small Habitat Restoration Projects File Number: SB12006GN, and Exemption to Waste Discharge Prohibitions for the Slinkard Creek Fish Barrier Improvement Project	6/01/2023
Notice of Applicability: Order for Clean Water Act Section 401 General Water Quality Certification for Small Habitat Restoration Projects File Number: SB12006GN, and Exemption to Waste Discharge Prohibitions for the Snow Crest Restoration Project, Placer County	6/01/2023

¹ 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.

DOCUMENT**DATE****401 WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATIONS (Cont.)**

Pending Action for Board Order No. R6T-2023-XXXX, Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification and Exemption to Waste Discharge Prohibitions for the CA FLAP SR 89(4) Fanny Bridge Project, Placer County	6/02/2023
Pending Action for Board Order No. R6T-2023-XXXX, Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification and Exemption to Waste Discharge Prohibitions for the Al Tahoe Seawall Reconstruction Project, El Dorado County	6/06/2023
Revised Board Order No. R6V-2022-0065A1, Granting Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification, Lenwood Facility Maintenance Project, San Bernardino County	6/07/2023
Board Order No. R6T-2023-0023, Granting Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification and Basin Plan Prohibition Exemption, Euer Valley Restoration Phase 1 Project, N	6/16/2023

WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS

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, Oro Grande Quarries Revised Reclamation Plan, San Bernardino County	6/07/2023
Notice Of Termination, State Water Board General Order Wq-2019-0001-Dwq, Conditional Waiver Of Waste Discharge Equirements, CFCG Properties, Kern County	6/19/2023

MISCELLANEOUS DOCUMENTS

Monitoring And Reporting Program No. R6-2022-0020 WDID No. 6B362301006 for City of Victorville Former Nuway Dry Cleaners 15595 8th Street Victorville, Ca	6/08/2023
Amendment No. 2 To the Petersen Ranch Mitigation Bank Enabling Instrument	6/08/2023
Notification of Tribal Consultation Opportunity - Reissuance of NPDES Order for Mojave River Fish Hatchery, Victorville, California (Lynn Valbuena, Chairwoman San Manuel Band of Mission Indians)	6/12/2023
Notification of Tribal Consultation Opportunity - Reissuance of NPDES Order for Mojave River Fish Hatchery, Victorville, California (Charles Martin, Chairman, Morongo Band of Mission Indians)	6/12/2023
LADWP Exemption Request for Emergency Repair and Protection Activities in disaster-stricken areas	6/19/2023

Additional links:

[General Policy information](#)

[Copy of Policy](#)

[Implementation Plan](#)

ATTACHMENT B

UNAUTHORIZED DISCHARGE REPORT
JUNE 1, 2023 TO JUNE 30, 2023

Responsible Party	Location of Occurrence	Regulated Facility	Basin N/S?	Date of Occurrence	Volume of Occurrence	Violation Description	Comments	Status
COUNTY: EL DORADO								
Unknown	901 Lake Tahoe Blvd, South Lake Tahoe	No	N	6/4/2023	estimated amount several gallons	Complainant reported a portajohn was laying on its side adjacent to Lake Tahoe Blvd adjacent to a stream environment zone (SEZ) spilling human waste.	Called Sani-Hut to come clean up the site. Sani-Hut said only water and blue tablets were cleaned up. No surface water body affected.	Also reported to Karen Bender w/ El Dorado Co Environmental Health.
COUNTY: LASSEN								
Unknown	Susanville	No	N	6/5/2023	255 gallons	255 gallons of ferric chloride solution spilled from a tote being shipped on a box truck due to a traffic accident.	No surface water body affected.	Graymar Environmental Services cleaned up the spill.
COUNTY: SAN BERNARDINO								
Unknown	18438 Readiness Street, Victorville, CA. 92394	N	S	6/26/2023	100 gallons	Caller stated a fork lift exploded resulting in the material impacting the concrete, absorbents deployed.	RP will conduct cleanup. No surface water body affected.	Cleanup has been completed and recovered.

*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.

ENCLOSURE 3

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

**EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT
MAY AND JUNE 2023 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	EO REPORT
Cannabis Update	Annual	September
Grazing Update	Annual	November
Onsite Septic Systems	Annual	April
Salt & Nutrient Management Plans	Annual	April
Status of Triennial Review Projects	Annual	August
Status of Dairies	Annual	February
Status of Grants	Annual	June
City of Barstow Nitrate	Annual	June – Article #4
City of Barstow Orphan Perchlorate	Annual	June – Article #5
Lake Tahoe Water Quality	Annual	July
Leviathan Mine	Annual	April
Harmful Algal Blooms	Annual	November
Pacific Gas & Electric Company	Annual	June (informational item) – Agenda presentation
Quarterly Violations Report	Quarterly	May (1 st quarter) – Article #3 August (2 nd quarter) November (3 rd quarter) February (4 th quarter)

*Water Board staff presentation

ENCLOSURE 4



2024
LAHONTAN REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
PROPOSED MEETING SCHEDULE

DATE	DAYS	LOCATION
January	<i>No Meeting Scheduled</i>	<i>No Meeting Scheduled</i>
February 28-29	Wednesday/Thursday	Barstow
March	<i>No Meeting Scheduled</i>	<i>No Meeting Scheduled</i>
April 17-18	Wednesday/Thursday	Lee Vining or Bishop
May	<i>No Meeting Scheduled</i>	<i>No Meeting Scheduled</i>
June 26-27	Wednesday/Thursday	S. Lake Tahoe
July	<i>No Meeting Scheduled</i>	<i>No Meeting Scheduled</i>
August 21-22	Wednesday/Thursday	Bishop
September	<i>No Meeting Scheduled</i>	<i>No Meeting Scheduled</i>
October 2-3	Wednesday/Thursday	Mammoth
November 13-14	Wednesday/Thursday	Barstow
December	<i>No Meeting Scheduled</i>	<i>No Meeting Scheduled</i>

NOTE:

The Water Board may reduce the 2024 two-day Board Meetings to one day, if needed.

PETER C. PUMPHREY, CHAIR | MICHAEL R. PLAZIAK, EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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www.waterboards.ca.gov/lahontan