

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

**MEETING OF MARCH 1, 2023
SOUTH LAKE TAHOE, CA**

ITEM 4

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

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ENCLOSURE 1



EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

October 1, 2022 – October 31, 2022

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1. Personnel Report – *Sandra Lopez*

New Hires – None

Transfers

- Molina Hauv, Engineering Geologist, Department of Defense Site Cleanup Unit, Victorville. This position will oversee site investigations and cleanups at Department of Defense sites in the South Lahontan area as well as various types of regulated and unregulated facilities including landfills, mines, and site cleanup 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.
- Engineering Geologist, Land Disposal Unit, Victorville. This position will oversee waste discharges and site investigation/cleanup at various types of regulated and unregulated facilities including landfills, mines, and site cleanup sites.

- Environmental Scientist, Land Disposal Unit, Victorville. This position will provide regulatory oversight of dredge and fill permitting and compliance of Caltrans projects regionwide.
- Office Technician (Typing), Victorville. This position will assist in proofreading and editing staff documents, engage with staff and the public at the front office desk, provide support to technical and administrative staff, ensure documents comply with accessibility standards, and provide administrative support at regional board meetings held throughout the region.
- Office Technician (Typing), South Lake Tahoe. This position will assist in proofreading and editing staff documents, engage with staff and the public at the front office desk, provide support to technical and administrative staff, ensure documents comply with accessibility standards, and provide administrative support at regional board meetings held throughout the region.
- Water Resource Control Engineer, Cannabis Unit, South Lake Tahoe. This position provides regulatory oversight of cannabis cultivation projects under the statewide Cannabis General order.
- Water Resource Control Engineer, Regulatory and Enforcement Unit, South Lake Tahoe. This position will backfill a vacancy within the North Basin Regulatory Unit.
- Senior Water Resource Control Engineer, Leviathan Mine Unit, South Lake Tahoe. This position will supervise the unit containing Leviathan Mine and Cannabis programmatic technical staff by establishing priorities, work plans, hiring technical staff, and collaborating with state and local agencies.
- Senior Water Resource Control Engineer, Forestry/Dredge & Fill Unit, South Lake Tahoe. This position will perform Senior level activities and provide engineering expertise associated with managing the activities of the Forestry/Dredge & Fill Unit. The incumbent will supervise and direct the work of five professional technical staff, oversee staff development, perform recruitment of new staff, conduct performance evaluations, and track program budgets, as well as a variety of other duties.
- Engineering Geologist, Forestry/Dredge & Fill Unit, South Lake Tahoe. This position will provide geologic and hydrogeologic expertise for the Forestry Dredge and Fill Unit. The incumbent will evaluate and regulate the impacts of logging operations and other forest practices on the quality and beneficial uses of water. They will also review and regulate proposed projects that may affect water quality of waters of the state to ensure compliance with the requirements of the Water Quality Control Plan for the Lahontan Region (Basin Plan), Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act, the Federal Clean Water Act (CWA), and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

- Engineering Geologist, Cleanup/Site Investigation & Enforcement Unit, South Lake Tahoe. This position will oversee and 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.
- Environmental Scientist, Planning & Assessment Unit, South Lake Tahoe. This position will work on Basin Plan amendments, help assess waters as part of the Integrated Report, and work to develop TMDLs or alternative restoration plans.
- Scientific Aid, Regulatory & Enforcement Unit, South Lake Tahoe. This position supports staff primarily through review of submitted self-monitoring reports, along with other special projects.
- Scientific Aid, Forestry/Dredge & Fill and Non-Point Source Units, South Lake Tahoe. This position will evaluate water quality data and assess compliance with water quality orders and permits associated with grazing, restoration, timber, and forestry activities.

Departures – None

2. Per - and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS), the State of What We Know and What We Don't Know, Presented to the Mojave Water Agency Technical Advisory Committee, October 2022 – Jan Zimmerman

The Mojave Water Agency (MWA) Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) invited Water Board staff to present “PFAS, the State of What We Know and What We Don't Know” at the regularly scheduled TAC meeting on October 6, 2022. The presentation was substantively the same as the presentation that staff made at the regularly scheduled Lahontan Board Meeting in May 2022. An electronic copy of our staff report was also made available as part of the TAC agenda. Following the presentation, TAC members had several clarifying questions including questions regarding the former George Air Force Base in Victorville and the potentially affected public supply wells in Oro Grande. Board staff did a great job explaining the issues and MWA TAC members were appreciative of the information.

3. 2nd Quarter 2022 Violations Report (April 1 to June 30) – Rob Tucker and Shelby Barker

There were 31 violations documented for the second quarter of 2022. No violations during this quarter required formal enforcement at this time. Violations consisted of 12 unpermitted cannabis operations, 6 unauthorized discharges, 5 deficient reporting or implementation, 3 constituent concentrations greater than receiving water limits, 3 late reports, and 2 effluent limit concentration exceedances. The unauthorized discharges included 2 small discharges and 2 from cannabis operations. Additionally, the largest discharge was caused by vandalism to one of Victor Valley Wastewater Reclamation Authority's secured manholes. Details for each violation are provided in the attached table.

2nd Quarter 2022 Violations Table (April 1 to June 30)

Program Category	Priority	County	Responsible Party	Facility	Violation Description	Corrective Action	Enforcement Action
Wastewater Treatment Facilities	B		Ridgecrest City	Ridgecrest WTF	Effluent exceeded BOD limit	The Discharger made correction to operation	None
		Mono	USDA Forest Service	Convict Lake	Deficient implementation - Fencing around area irrigated with reclaimed wastewater not present	Inform Forest Service to install fencing	Staff letter
		Mono	Mammoth Mountain Ski Area	Mammoth Mountain Ski Area	Late Report	Discharger to submit reports on time.	Staff Verbal
		San Bernardino	Man Pyo Hong(2)	Downtown Burger	Effluent limit for BOD	Evaluating if they can be connected to a nearby wastewater system	Staff Verbal
					Deficient Reporting failed to collect several monitoring parameters		Staff Verbal
		San Bernardino	Helendale CSD	Helendale Silverlakes Wastewater Treatment	Late Report	Informed Discharger on when reports are due	Staff Verbal
NPDES	B	Eldorado County	Tahoe Keys Property Owners association	Tahoe Key	Receiving Water Limits exceeded (2)	Made improvement to Turbidity screens and installed additional Turbidity Screens	Staff Verbal
					Late reporting - Lanthanum modified Clay action plan not submitted as required	Lanthanum Modified Clay not used	
Stormwater - Construction	B	Mono	California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery	Lee Vining Burn Dump	Deficient BMP Implementation	To be determined: Staff working with CalRecycle to address concerns	Staff Verbal
		San Bernardino	Frontier communication	Diamond Ridge IV	Deficient BMP Implementation	Implement missing BMPs	Staff Verbal
Sanitary Sewer Overflow	B	San Bernardino	Victor Valley Wastewater Reclamation Authority	VVWRA Collection system	Unauthorized discharge Sewage spill due to vandalism	County Sheriff arrested homeless for the vandalism to the secure manhole	Notice of Violation
			Victorville City	Victorville Sanitary District collection system	Unauthorized discharge Air Relief Valve failed	Replaced the Air Valve	None

2nd Quarter 2022 Violations Table (April 1 to June 30)

Program Category	Priority	County	Responsible Party	Facility	Violation Description	Corrective Action	Enforcement Action
Land Disposal	B	Kern	U.S. Borax	Boron Mine Facility	Order condition	High concentration of Arsenic detected above order condition	Staff Verbal
		Kern	Golden Queen Mining Co	Soledad Mountain Project	Unauthorized Discharge	25 gallons unauthorized discharge	Staff Verbal
		Inyo	DV Natural Resources	Briggs Mine Project	Deficient Report	Ground water elevation data not provided	Staff Verbal
		Lassen	Lassen County	Basshill Sanitary Landfill	Detection of volatile organic compounds in groundwater	To be determined: Requested verification sampling in 3Q22	Staff Verbal
		Mono County	Mono County	Chalfant Class III Landfill	Deficient Report Receiving Water violation	Soil Gas not tested Detection of Tetrachloroethene and Trichlorofluoromethane	Staff Verbal
		San Bernardino	MP Mine Operations LLC	Onsite Evaporation Pond	Unauthorized Discharge	Impacted soil removed. Tank valve addressed. 10-day spill report submitted.	Staff Verbal
Cannabis Cultivation	B	San Bernardino	Mark King Jesus Diaz	King Adventure Farms Diaz Property	Unpermitted cannabis cultivation site	Cease cannabis cultivation Submit a Corrective Action Plan	Notice of Violations (2)
		Los Angeles	Israel Torres Rebollar WPL Holding LLC	Rebollar Property WPL Holding LLC	Unpermitted cannabis cultivation site	Cease cannabis cultivation Submit a Corrective Action Plan	Notice of Violations (2)
			Ramiro Villa Avila Mario A Villa Rosendo Caldera Farahmand Shamouil Sigifredo Diaz PNW Holding LLC (2) Cruz D Urrutia Trudream Properties LLC Juan Garcia	Avila and Coronada Prop Mario Villa Property Caldera Property Farahmand Shamouil Sigifredo Diaz Property PNW holding LLC (2) Cruz Urrutia Property Trudream Properties LLC Juan Gracia Property	Unpermitted cannabis cultivation site	Cease cannabis cultivation Submit a Corrective Action Plan	Notice of Violations (9)

Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board

ATTACHMENT "A"

EXECUTIVE OFFICER ACTION ITEMS

October 1, 2022, to October 31, 2022
Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board

DOCUMENT

DATE

NO FURTHER ACTION REQUIRED¹

No Further Action Required for Beck Oil, 1109 South Brown Road, Inyokern	10/07/2022
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EXEMPTIONS

10-day Board Notice-Notice of Applicability and Exemption to Waste Discharge Prohibitions for The Burns Property Dock Project	10/10/2022
Transmittal of Amendment to 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, Post-Caldor Fire Stream Aggradation using Beaver Dam Analogues: Saxon and Trout Creeks	10/14/2022
Amended 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, Post-Caldor Fire Stream Aggradation using Beaver Dam Analogues: Saxon and Trout Creeks	10/14/2022
Pending Action for Board Order No. R6T-2022-XXXX, Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification and Exemption to Waste Discharge Prohibitions for the Peters Shore zone Revetment Project	10/26/2022
Pending Action for Board Order No. R6T-20XX-XXXX, Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification Exemption to Waste Discharge Prohibitions for the 8770 and 8774 Brockway Vista Pier Modification/Expansion Project,	10/26/2022
Pending Action for Board Order No. R6T-2022-XXXX, Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification and Exemption to Waste Discharge Prohibitions for the Tahoe Keys Marina 2022 East Channel Dredging Project	10/28/2022

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****EXTENSIONS**

NONE	N/A
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BOARD ORDERS

Board Order No. R6T-2022-0051, Granting Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification, AT&T A020LET Cable Removal Project	10/25/2022
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401 WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATIONS

NONE	N/A
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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, Burns Property Dock	10/21/2022
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MISCELLANEOUS DOCUMENTS

Acceptance of Access Bridge Removal Plan submitted in Compliance with Cleanup and Abatement Order R6T-2022-0044 North Tahoe Prop, LLC, 1615 River Road, Tahoe City	10/10/2022
EO Variance – Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board Soil Disturbance Prohibitions	10/11/2022
Tribal Strategy Update - Update on Tribal Beneficial Uses Designation Project	10/20/2022
Tribal Cultural Resources Under the California Environmental Quality Act, Ab 52 (Gatto, 2014). Formal Notification of Decision to Undertake A Project, And Notification Of Consultation Opportunity, Pursuant To Public Resources Code § 21080.3.1	10/26/2022

Additional links:

[General Policy information](#)

[Copy of Policy](#)

[Implementation Plan](#)

UNAUTHORIZED DISCHARGE REPORT
OCTOBER 1, 2022 TO OCTOBER 31, 2022

ATTACHMENT "B"

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
1	Responsible Party	Location of Occurrence	Regulated Facility	Basin N/S?	Date of Occurrence	Volume of Occurrence	Violation Description	Comments	Status
2	COUNTY: PLACER								
3	Tahoe City Public Utility Dist CS,6895 WLB	6895 WLB, Tahoma, CA 96142	YES	N	10/10/2022	300 Gallons	Spill was caused by contractor while compacting trench on top of force main during a previous excavation. Causing 300 gallons of sewage to spill from Force Main at 6393 Chambers Lodge Rd.	Sewer Force Main was visibly leaking once material was excavated around pipe. The sewer Force Main was 4 feet below surface. No surface water body affected.	Spill occurred in trench. Excavated trench that spill occurred in. Sewage was contained in soil. Soil/sewage mix was hauled to T-TSA. Reexcavated soil to repair force mail. Pipe was replaced in-kind.
4	COUNTY: SAN BERNARDINO								
5	Ashley Furniture	Southbound 15 at Sizzix Road	NO	S	10/1/2022	150 Gallons	Ashley furniture truck went off the side of the road leaking 150 gallons of diesel onto the soil.	Cleanup was performed by Mojave Blue. No surface water was affected.	No further action.

*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
November 1, 2022 – November 30, 2022

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1. Personnel Report – *Sandra Lopez*

New Hires

- Ashley Taylor, Engineering Geologist, Land Disposal Unit, Victorville. This position will oversee waste discharges and site investigation/cleanup at various types of regulated and unregulated facilities including landfills, mines, and site cleanup 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.
- Engineering Geologist, Wastewater & Agricultural Unit, Victorville. This is a new position authorized under SB 1215 (Hertzberg) legislation passed in 2018. The incumbent will work with economically disadvantaged communities that have onsite wastewater treatment systems (OWTS, or septic systems) that could be connected to a sewer system if they are within three miles of a system. The incumbent will also work with other small rural communities in need of upgrading their wastewater treatment systems.
- Environmental Scientist, Land Disposal Unit, Victorville. This position will provide regulatory oversight of dredge and fill permitting and compliance of Caltrans projects regionwide.

- Engineering Geologist, Land Disposal Unit, Victorville. This position will oversee waste discharges to land and site investigation/cleanup at various types of regulated and unregulated facilities including landfills, mines, composting facilities, cement plants, and site clean up sites.
- Office Technician (Typing), Victorville. This position will assist in proofreading and editing staff documents, engage with staff and the public at the front office desk, provide support to technical and administrative staff, ensure documents comply with accessibility standards, and provide administrative support at regional board meetings held throughout the region.
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- Engineering Geologist, 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
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- Scientific Aid, Forestry/Dredge & Fill and Non-Point Source Units, South Lake Tahoe. This position will evaluate water quality data and assess compliance with water quality orders and permits associated with grazing, restoration, timber, and forestry activities.

Departures

- Catherine Pool, Senior Water Resource Control Engineer, South Lake Tahoe
- Emily Cushman, Engineering Geologist, Victorville

2. Standing Item - Regional Harmful Algal Bloom Program Update – *Sabrina Rice*

Legislative Mandated Report and Gap Assessment

The Freshwater and Estuarine Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB) Bill, Assembly Bill 834 (AB 834) requires a report be posted on the State Board's website prior to July 1, 2021, regarding the State's efforts towards implementing AB 834 and Staff recommendations to protect water quality and public health from HABs. State Board completed the report in two phases and has now published the final [Legislative Mandated Report: 2022 Water Code Section 13182 \(a\) Comprehensive Report \(Report\)](#). The two parts include (1) 2021 Legislative Report and (2) comprehensive report to highlight progress made after one full fiscal year of work supported by the program funds and permanent staff hired to assist with program implementation.

The 2021 Legislative Report details how the Water Boards addressed HABs since the onset of the FHAB Program in 2016. The report thoroughly outlines the different requirements of AB 834 and identifies the Water Boards' actions, infrastructure, and partnerships to meet those requirements. The 2022 Legislative Report highlights the incidence of freshwater and estuarine HABs in the state during the previous three years, and actions taken since June 2021 in meeting the requirements of California Water Code (CWC) Section 13182 (a) 1 & 2, and recommendations for additional actions that should be taken to protect water quality and public health (CWC Section 13182(a)3). The State and Regional Water Boards recognized early on that adequate staffing and

funding for equipment, laboratory, and research services would be a key priority for successful implementation. To assess the needs for full implementation throughout the state, the State Board FHAB Program staff conducted and posted results of a resource gap assessment ([Gap Assessment](#)). Each of the Regional Boards and staff from key statewide programs were interviewed to determine the needs to implement a holistic FHAB Program across the State. A few examples of program needs include funding and staff for sample analysis, data interpretation, and TMDL development. Region 6 participated in the assessment and identified specific resources the region would need to address HABs.

Pre-Holiday Assessment

This year we continued our efforts across the State to monitor popular waterbodies for HABs prior to Memorial Day, Independence Day, and Labor Day. This year's laboratory contract budget allowed for additional monitoring to evaluate HAB conditions beyond those during typical high-recreational use holiday weekends. As such, a fourth "post-holiday" assessment sample event was added that captured HAB conditions in late October, early November of 2022. During each assessment about 25 waterbodies are sampled in Region 6.

To more efficiently implement and widely distribute our regional FHAB program, we rely heavily on developing partnerships with organizations throughout the Lahontan region that help us conduct holiday assessments and respond to new bloom reports. This year Region 6 formed two new sampling partnerships with Truckee River Watershed Council and Lake Arrowhead Association. To date, our sampling partners include Lassen National Forest, Truckee River Watershed Council, Tahoe Keys Property Owners Association, Tahoe Paradise Park, Alpine Watershed Group, South Tahoe Public Utility District, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Walker River Irrigation District, Friends of Inyo, Inyo County of Environmental Health, Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, California Department of Water Resources, San Bernardino County Parks, and Lake Arrowhead Association totaling 14 monitoring partners. The pre-holiday assessments would not be possible without these great partnerships.

Region 6 Monitoring Summary

This year our monitoring season spanned from February – November. Over \$100,000 in regional and state contract laboratory funds supported analyses of 302 samples collected throughout the Lahontan region from as far north as Eagle Lake and as far south as Lake Arrowhead. Additionally, five human and dog illness reports were investigated with 1 dog illness considered HAB related by the Interagency HAB Related Illness Workgroup (Illness Workgroup) comprised of staff from the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment, the State Board, the California Department of Public Health, and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. The report involved two dogs becoming ill after playing in the water at Lake Tahoe's Kiva Beach in late August. The Illness Workgroup determined that the incident was HAB related due to water sample results containing cyanotoxins, illness symptoms, and veterinary records.

Table 2.1: Number of waterbodies reaching each corresponding HAB advisory level.

Advisory Level	Caution	Warning	Danger
Number of Waterbodies	15	1	6

HAB Advisories within North Lahontan Water Board 2022

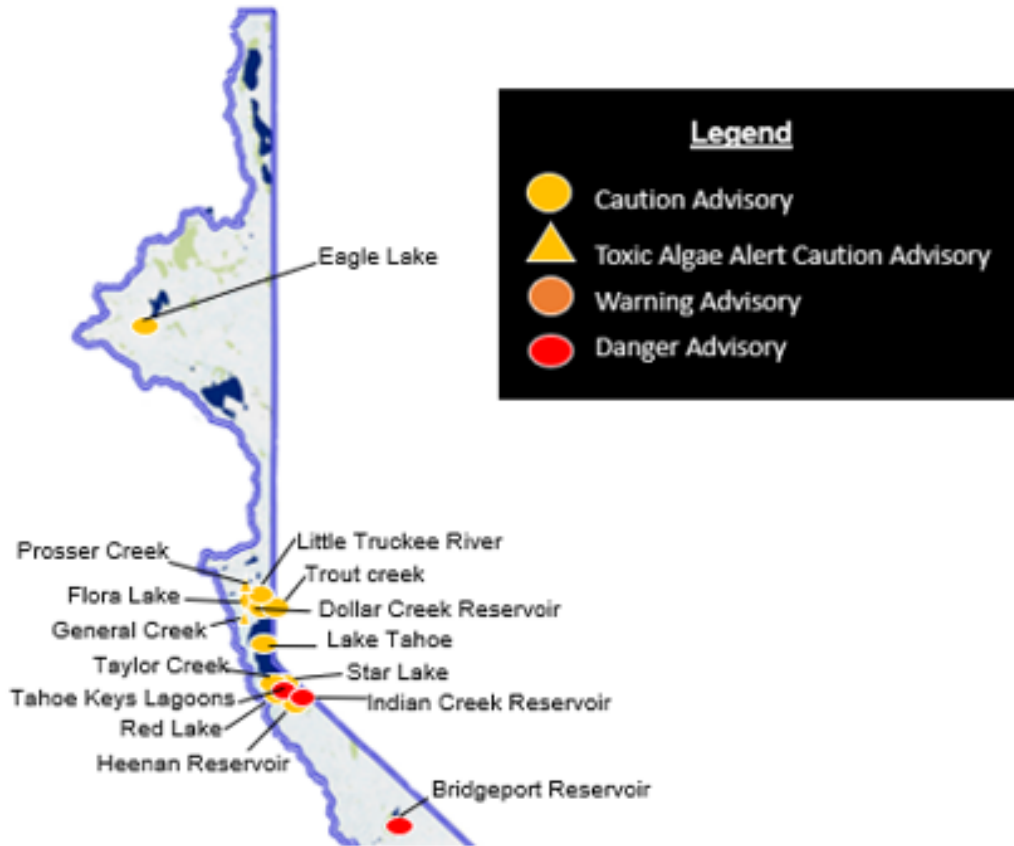


Figure 2.1: A map showing waterbodies in the North Lahontan Region that were sampled during 2022 and the corresponding advisory levels recommended for the protection of human and animal health.

HAB Advisories within South Lahontan Water Board 2022

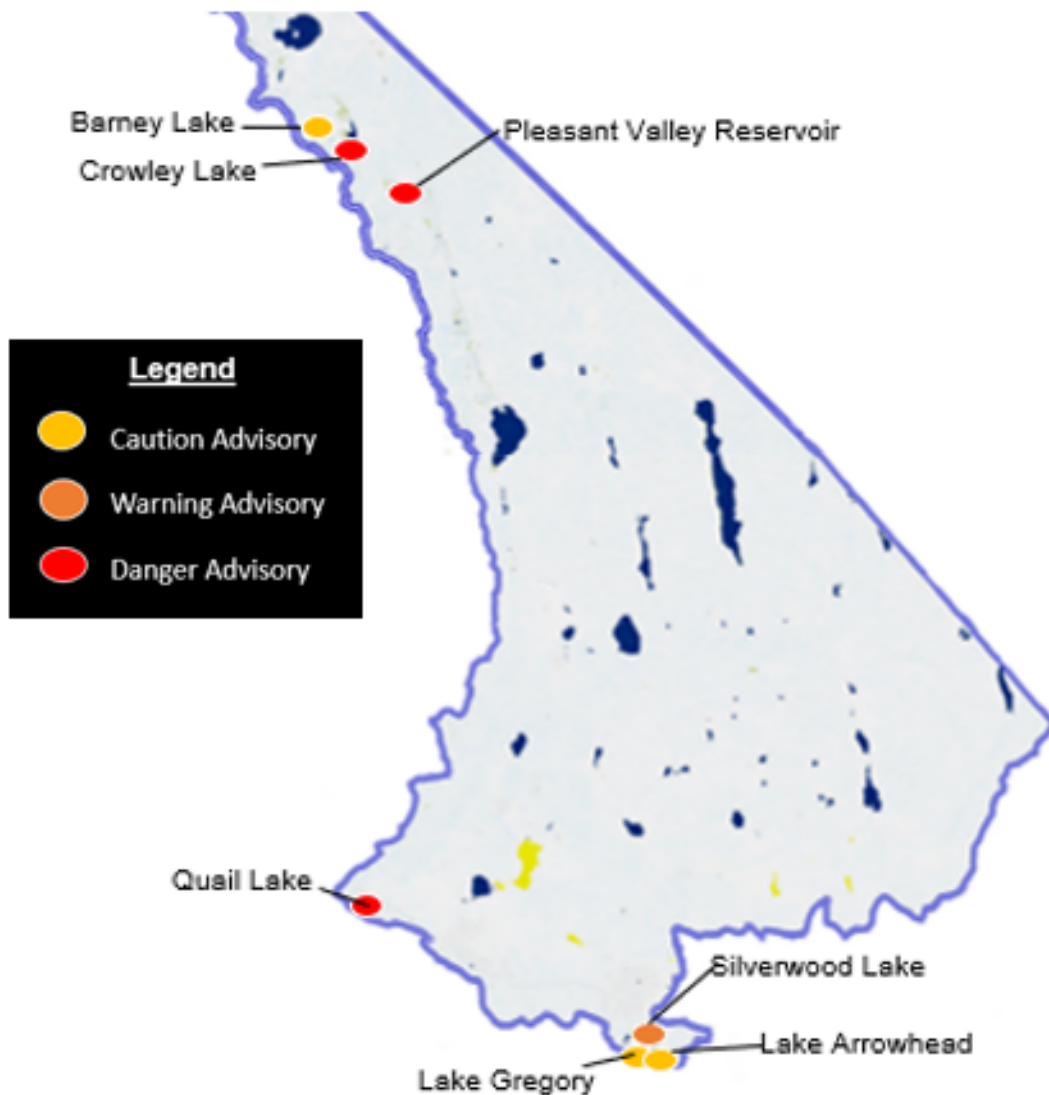


Figure 2.2: A map showing waterbodies in the South Lahontan Region that were sampled during 2022 and the corresponding advisory levels recommended for the protection of human and animal health

League to Save Lake Tahoe Partnership

In response to multiple public inquiries and an increase in community awareness regarding HABs, the Water Board partnered with the League to Save Lake Tahoe (LTSLT) to increase HAB media outputs within the Tahoe Basin. The goal of this partnership is to increase public knowledge of HABs within the Tahoe Basin and release consistent messaging to the public. Compared to previous years, the LTSLT received an increase of public inquiries regarding HABs and algae along the shoreline of Lake Tahoe. To ensure they were sharing consistent and accurate messages with the public,

the LTSLT re-shared general HAB awareness posts that went out through our State Board Communications Office. Additionally, Water Board staff worked closely with the LTSLT to release a social media post prior to Labor Day about HAB advisories within Tahoe and the Tahoe Keys. To more specifically target the public's questions, staff from the Water Board and LTSLT collaborated on [an article](#) describing HABs; the different level of precautions associated with HAB advisory levels (Caution, Warning, Danger); and information about the sample sites within Lake Tahoe and the Tahoe Keys that were monitored during the 2022 season. Next summer, the Water Board and the LTSLT plan to continue releasing HAB updates (news releases, social media posts) to keep the public aware and informed.

Tahoe Basin Story Map

To further assist in public awareness on HABs in the Tahoe Basin, Staff are creating an ArcGIS Story Map (story map). A story map is an application that allows you to share your maps in the context of narrative text and other multimedia content. The idea is to add information and photos about Lake Tahoe HABs to give the public a general awareness of what is happening along the shoreline of the lake. This will also be a tool that we can quickly direct the public to when they have questions or concerns about the conditions around the shoreline. The public will be able to access the story map on our [regional HAB website](#).

3. Standing Item - Regional Grazing Status, 2022 Update – *Mo Loden*

This is an annual standing item report to present an update regarding on-going and planned efforts, including some led by the State Board, which aim to address water quality impacts associated with grazing operations in the Lahontan Region. Grazing lands comprise 76% of the 407,802 agricultural acres in the Lahontan Region. Updates are provided for targeted efforts that are underway in Bridgeport Valley, Eagle Lake, Bishop Creek, and the West Fork Carson River. These efforts, each in a different stage of development or implementation, utilize different strategies to address grazing-related water quality impacts.

Bridgeport Valley: Water Board staff, as well as the University of California Cooperative Extension (UCCE) and Bridgeport Rancher's Organization (BRO) guest presenters, provided updates pertaining to the Bridgeport Grazing Waiver at a March 2022 Informational Item. Elements of the presentation included a summary of the following topics.

- **Bacteria Trend Analysis:** UCCE Professor Dr. Ken Tate provided a statistical analysis summary of the BRO's 2006-2017 bacteria data that showed a 73% improvement in fecal coliform levels since 2006; however, levels were still above the 200 cfu/100ml interim target.
- **Best Management Practices (BMPs):** BRO member Emily Fulstone provided updates and photos regarding progress on a variety of rancher implemented BMPs since the Waiver's inception such as riparian fencing, off-stream drinking

water systems, salt licks, strategic pasture rotations, improved irrigation control structures, and hardened water crossings.

- Ranch Survey Summary: UCCE Associate Professor Dr. Tina Saitone presented on BMP investments, and pesticide and nitrogen use data she gathered from individual rancher surveys. The 2006-2021 BMP investment costs were estimated at \$4,172,928 in total using standardized Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) service rates for materials and standardized Bureau of Labor rates for California workers in animal agriculture. The pesticide and nitrogen survey questions posed to the BRO members were originally developed by the Central Valley Water Board staff for a similar project in the Goose Lake watershed. Survey results summarized that no synthetic or organic nitrogen is applied to irrigated pastures, and it was further emphasized that based on historic data and published literature that the Bridgeport Valley irrigated pastures are a sink for nitrogen and phosphorus. Some targeted pesticide use is applied as needed to treat noxious weeds, but no broadcast pesticide application is done.
- End-of-Valley Project: BRO President Steven Fulstone explained that in 2017 watershed-based approaches to address bacteria issues were discussed and led to the NRCS and Walker River Irrigation District (WRID) working with the BRO to develop plans for a bottom-of-valley water treatment. Since then, Waiver enrollees have pivoted away from the End-of-Valley project due to the excessive project cost, lack of organizational capacity to plan for/implement/provide maintenance on the project in future years, and issues with site access.
- Water Board staff graphically presented conclusions from bacteria data collected between 2017-2021. Though the dataset was limited where geomean calculations were possible, the data showed promising results towards compliance. Buckeye and Robinson Creeks were very close to or achieving the State Board *E. coli* objective of 100 colony forming units per 100 milliliters (cfu/ml). The East Walker River's geomeans were elevated slightly in comparison at approximately 200cfu/100ml and therefore that sub-watershed may benefit the most from a focused BMP effort.
- Other updates: Approximately 75% of the 20,000 acres in Bridgeport Valley have been dedicated to conservation easements by the landowners. These conservation easements will help protect these parcels from development indefinitely and the preserved open spaces are ideal habitat for various wildlife.

Since the March 2022 Board meeting, the BRO members and Water Board staff collaborated in a series of productive stakeholder meetings toward developing an improved and renewed waiver. Once adopted, and if properly implemented, the waiver requirements should lend progress towards compliance with interim targets and ultimately bacteria water quality objectives established for the protection of surface waters throughout the Bridgeport Valley.

The 2017 waiver expired in July 2022. Due to limited staff resources and last-minute unforeseen information regarding the State Board Irrigated Land fees, a gap of coverage existed for approximately seven months. The renewed waiver is planned for consideration at the Water Board's March 2023 Board hearing.

The 2022 annual ranch inspections were scheduled for mid-November but were postponed to 2023 due to snow accumulation which would present access and observation challenges during site visits.

Eagle Lake: Lakefront property managers and owners, who maintain livestock on their land, are required to submit annual grazing plans to the Water Board by May 15 before the start of grazing operations each year. For the third year, the Water Board has received adequate plans. Federal land managers submit Annual Operation Instructions (AOI) for each allotment while private property owners submit Rangeland Water Quality Management Plans each season. The grazing management plans should demonstrate an overall reduction of animal waste to the shore of Eagle Lake through application of management techniques. For 2022, the U.S. Forest Service, Lassen National Forest, the Bureau of Land Management, Five-Dot Ranch, Mapes Ranch and McClelland Ranch all submitted compliant plans. In general, grazing was reduced again this season compared to 2021.

The Water Board received one complaint/inquiry from a concerned citizen seeking information about livestock operations adjacent to Eagle Lake that were potentially not following guidance contained in the submitted grazing management plans. The complainant had concerns regarding ~80 cattle that were in contact with Eagle Lake in the Lassen National Forest, South Eagle Lake Allotment. The Lassen National Forest continues to seek alternative water sources for the South Allotment.

Overall, complaints and reports of cattle in unauthorized areas and in contact with Eagle Lake were fewer this season than last season and past seasons.

Water Board staff did not inspect any Eagle Lake grazing land this past season due to the on-set of inclement weather that precluded travel to scheduled field visits. Next season staff plan to meet with land managers in the field.

Bishop Creek: The Bishop Creek Vision Plan (BCVP) aims to address 303(d) listings for *E. coli* fecal indicator bacteria (FIB) affecting Bishop Creek in Inyo County. The draft BCVP was circulated for stakeholder review during summer 2022. In September 2022, Board Members approved the BCVP. The BCVP, an alternative restoration plan and 9-Element Watershed Plan, provides a source assessment of FIB impacting creek waters and outlines multiple voluntary approaches to reduce anthropogenic sources of FIB. The BCVP includes an implementation timeline and outline for adaptive management that will be carried out by the Bishop Creek ranchers with guidance from Nonpoint Source Unit staff, Senior Environmental Scientist - Supervisor Mary Fiore-Wagner and Environmental Scientist Mo Loden. Previously, the project fell under the Planning & Assessment Unit with lead staff, Senior Environmental Scientist - Supervisor Dan Sussman and Environmental Scientist Ed Hancock.

In March 2022, first drafts of the Rangeland Water Quality Plans (RWQPs), developed by Water Board and UCCE staff, were shared with the Bishop Creek Tier 1 ranchers. Tier 1 properties are those which are directly adjacent and hydrologically connected to Bishop Creek. The Tier 1 RWQPs are expected to be finalized early in 2023, during which time staff will begin outreach to Tier 2 ranches. Tier 2 properties are those which are not directly adjacent to Bishop Creek but share some form of hydrological connection because of irrigation practices. Tier 2 ranch outreach will follow a similar approach to outreach conducted to the Tier 1 ranchers including introductions of the project, relationship building, and planning efforts towards on-ranch site visits to collaboratively identify management practices for improving water quality.

West Fork Carson River: Water Board staff continues to work with stakeholders and agencies on the development of the West Fork Carson River Vision Plan (WFCVP). The WFCVP is an alternative restoration approach to address Clean Water Act 303(d) listings on the river by addressing multiple potential sources of pollution, including recreational impacts, roads and highways, and grazing.

In March 2022, Alpine Watershed Group (AWG) held a Vision Project Stakeholder Forum on Ranching for Improved Water Quality. Recordings from the March forum, as well as all the previous Vision Project Stakeholder forums are available on the [AWG website](#). On October 31, staff in cooperation with the Alpine Watershed Group followed up on the stakeholder forum with a tour and discussion at Ace Hereford Ranch. The tour and discussion were focused on ranching practices that reduce potential impacts to water quality and improve hydrologic function and soil health. During the site tour, the Ace Hereford ranchers explained the BMP improvements they have implemented thus far which include installing a significant hardened crossing bridge, riparian exclusion fencing, water gap, check dams, irrigation ditches, improved desirable and diversified forage, planting trees and vegetation to decrease wind erosion, and wetland enhancements. Through ongoing BMP installation and maintenance, the Ace Hereford Ranch demonstrated they are an environmentally focused business dedicated to ongoing improvements and education aimed at achieving high water quality standards.

Water Board staff will continue to work with ranchers and other stakeholders in the watershed to encourage the development and implementation of plans to assess potential grazing water quality impacts and implement practices to reduce those impacts. The WFCVP will include a description and timeline for that process. Water Board staff plan to release a draft WFCVP for public review in spring 2023 and then bring a revised draft before the Water Board for its consideration at a Board Meeting in summer 2023.

Regional Grazing Strategy: In 2015, State Board directed Water Board staff to work with stakeholders on a regional level for best approaches of addressing water quality impacts from grazing. Since then, staff have worked periodically to develop a more holistic approach for our region. However, efforts have been hampered by staffing changes and higher priority work. Additionally, State Board resources such as the “Managing Water Quality on Grazed Lands” guidance document and an “Analysis of Grazing Regulatory Actions of the California Water Boards” document, both of which will

inform the Regional Grazing Strategy, were not made available until fall 2022. More details on both State Board resources are provided below.

The Regional Grazing Strategy efforts are anticipated to increase in 2023 with the development of a plan to map private and federal grazing operations within the region and make recommended approaches to address grazing-related impacts based on threat to water quality. Staff are exploring different options, including a tiered decision-making process, to determine the appropriate level of regulation to address grazing related impacts through one of the following: Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs), Waivers of Waste Discharge Requirements (Waivers), water quality prohibitions, or a voluntary approach such as a Vision Plan.

State Board Efforts: State Board staff are actively working on a statewide grazing guidance document which will update the 1995 California Rangeland Water Quality Management Plan. The guidance document is intended to promote effective grazing management practices through a non-regulatory approach focused on education and outreach on potential impacts to water quality from grazing. The document previously referred to as the “Statewide Grazing Guidance” has been retitled “Managing Water Quality on Grazed Lands” to more clearly communicate that this is a voluntary guidance document. The draft document has undergone State Board managerial review and was released for Regional Water Board review in mid-November.

State Board was awarded a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency National Non-Point Source Agricultural Technical Support grant to support efforts to compile different grazing programs that individual regional boards have in place to address grazing through regulatory, TMDL, and/or voluntary approaches. The final report was completed by Tetra Tech in August and was released to the Regions in October 2022.

Staying Current: Staff attended the following events to enhance the Region’s knowledge and experiences related to managing grazing impacts on water quality.

The “Sierra Meadows Wetland and Riparian Area Monitoring Plan (SM-WRAMP) Training” was hosted by the Sierra Fund back in late June 2022 in Clover Valley. The training was a hands-on event where staff learned how to apply the [SM-WRAMP Protocols and Guidance Document](#) in real-life experiences. The guidance document provides a standardized framework for assessing and monitoring meadows in the Sierra Nevada so projects can be more easily compared to one another. The training covered soil carbon, general vegetation, grazing impacts, wildlife monitoring, eDNA, surface water flow, and groundwater protocols. It was emphasized that the guidance document may need to be adapted to a project and is not considered a stringent set of protocols. Protocol revisions may be done annually with ongoing input from field practitioners. The grazing impacts protocol demonstrated how to identify bank alteration and lack of key forage species caused by livestock.

The Central Coast Rangelands Coalition’s “Importance of Livestock Pond Restoration Workshop” took place in Sunol, CA in mid-October. The event provided an overview of wild-life friendly livestock ponds and the multiple benefits they provide not only as an

off-stream water source for livestock but also as essential habitat and breeding grounds for aquatic amphibians, turtles, and invertebrates. Often, the ponds support critical species such as the California Red-legged frog and Tiger Salamander. Ponds may be built or restored to retain water and therefore increase the potential to hold water in a field for livestock use. Improvements to livestock ponds may also improve inadequate stock water issues, which provide more opportunity for a land manager to properly utilize and manage forage while providing essential habitat for wildlife. This restoration technique may be applied to grazing communities throughout the Lahontan Region in the future as a means to support livestock and wildlife and treat tailwater for nutrients and bacteria before reentering surface waters.

As often as possible, Water Board staff routinely participate in meetings, usually scheduled monthly, which are hosted by the Range Management Advisory Committee (RMAC). The RMAC was statutorily created by Section 741 of the Public Resources Code of the State of California to advise the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection, the Resources Agency, the California Environmental Protection Agency, and the California Department of Food and Agriculture on rangeland resource issues. The RMAC is responsible for advising on matters affecting the conservation, management, and use of grassland, oak woodland/savannah, brushland, and other grazed ecosystems in the State. As mandated by Section 741, Water Board staff shall notify the advisory committee of, and is encouraged to consult with the advisory committee on, rangeland resource issues that are under consideration. Water Board staff shared the [Bridgeport Grazing Waiver Tentatives](#) with the RMAC Coordinator who then distributed the tentative order to the RMAC members and stakeholder listserv in November 2022.

Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board

ATTACHMENT "A"

EXECUTIVE OFFICER ACTION ITEMS

November 1, 2022, to November 30, 2022
Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board

DOCUMENT

DATE

NO FURTHER ACTION REQUIRED¹

NONE	N/A
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EXEMPTIONS

Board Order No. R6T-2022-0054, Granting Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification and Basin Plan Prohibition Exemption, Tahoe Keys Marina 2022 East Channel Dredging Project	11/16/2022
Pending Action for Board Order No. R6T-20XX-XXXX, Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification and Exemption to Waste Discharge Prohibitions for the Pond Shoreline Stabilization Project	11/15/2022

EXTENSIONS

Time Extension Granted for City of Victorville, Old Town Septic to Sewer Conversion Supplemental Environmental Project, Settlement Agreement and Stipulation For Entry Of Order, Order No. R6v-2020-0001	11/17/2022
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BOARD ORDERS

NONE	N/A
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401 WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATIONS

NONE	N/A
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WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS

NONE	N/A
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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**

MISCELLANEOUS DOCUMENTS

Tribal Cultural Resources under the California Environmental Quality Act, AB 52 (Gatto, 2014). Formal Notification of Decision to Undertake a Project, and Notification of Consultation Opportunity, pursuant to Public Resources Code § 21080.3.1	11/21/2022
Notification of Consultation Opportunity: Mono Basin Tribal Beneficial Uses Designation Project	11/21/2022
Tribal Cultural Resources under the California Environmental Quality Act, AB 52 (Gatto, 2014), Formal Notification of Decision to Undertake a Project and Notification of Consultation Opportunity, Pursuant to Public Resources Code § 21080.3.1	11/30/2022
Formal Notification of Decision to Undertake A Project, And Notification of Consultation Opportunity	11/30/2022

Additional links:

[General Policy information](#)

[Copy of Policy](#)

[Implementation Plan](#)

UNAUTHORIZED DISCHARGE REPORT
NOVEMBER 1, 2022 TO NOVEMBER 30, 2022

ATTACHMENT "B"

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
1	Responsible Party	Location of Occurrence	Regulated Facility	Basin N/S?	Date of Occurrence	Volume of Occurrence	Violation Description	Comments	Status
2	COUNTY: KERN								
3	Golden Queen Mine	2818 Silver Queen Rd, Mojave, Ca 93501	YES	S	11/10/2022	1,000 gallons	A filter gasket failed on a solution pump causing approximately 1,000 gallons of sodium cyanide of .025% (250 ppm) concentration to release to the ground.	The valve was shut off immediately stopping the flow of solution and the upstream valve was closed withing seconds.	Cleanup commenced immediately. No ponding/pooling of solutions was noted. Visually observable impacted material was excavated and discharged to the lined heap leach pad. Confirmation soil sampling was conducted.
4	COUNTY: SAN BERNARDINO								
5	Town of Apple Valley Wastewater Department Collection System	12990 Clallam Road, Apple Valley, CA 92308	YES	S	11/5/2022	700 gallons	The spill cause was due to root intrusion and FOG. Causing 700 gallons of sewage to spill from Lateral Clean Out (Private) at 12990 Clallam Road to Unpaved surface.	All sewer was contained on-site in the front yard of the residence. 250 gallons of the spill was vacuumed and the rest spread over soil.	Disinfectant lime was applied over the spill area as part of the clean-up efforts. No further action is 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
NOVEMBER 1, 2022 TO NOVEMBER 30, 2022

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
6	COUNTY: SAN BERNARDINO								
7	Lake Arrowhead CSD CS.	Hwy 173 just North of Shooting range	Yes	S	11/9/2022	21,000 gallons	Air Relief Valve (ARV)/Blow-Off Valve (BOV) failure caused 21,000 gallons of sewage to spill from sewer system structure to an unpaved surface.	Flow was restored and a portion of the spill was returned to the sanitary sewer system.	Agencies were notified and area was cleaned up. A Notice of Violation will be sent to the discharger.

*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



EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT
December 1, 2022 – December 31, 2022

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5. PFAS Remediation Within the Fire Protection Water Distribution System at Air Force Plant 42, Palmdale, Los Angeles County – <i>Todd Battey</i>	12

1. Personnel Report – *Sandra Lopez*

New Hires – none

Promotions

- Abby Cazier, Senior Water Resource Control Engineer, Leviathan Mine Unit, South Lake Tahoe. This position will supervise the unit containing Leviathan Mine and Cannabis programmatic technical staff by establishing priorities, work plans, hiring technical staff, and collaborating with state and local agencies.

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.
- Engineering Geologist, Wastewater & Agricultural Unit, Victorville. This is a new position authorized under SB 1215 (Hertzberg) legislation passed in 2018. The incumbent will work with economically disadvantaged communities that have onsite wastewater treatment systems (OWTS, or septic systems) that could be

connected to a sewer system if they are within three miles of a system. The incumbent will also work with other small rural communities in need of upgrading their wastewater treatment systems.

- Environmental Scientist, Land Disposal Unit, Victorville. This position will provide regulatory oversight of dredge and fill permitting and compliance of Caltrans projects regionwide.
- Engineering Geologist, Land Disposal Unit, Victorville. This position will oversee waste discharges to land and site investigation/cleanup at various types of regulated and unregulated facilities including landfills, mines, composting facilities, cement plants, and site clean up sites.
- Office Technician (Typing), Victorville. This position will assist in proofreading and editing staff documents, engage with staff and the public at the front office desk, provide support to technical and administrative staff, ensure documents comply with accessibility standards, and provide administrative support at regional board meetings held throughout the region.
- Office Technician (Typing), South Lake Tahoe. This position will assist in proofreading and editing staff documents, engage with staff and the public at the front office desk, provide support to technical and administrative staff, ensure documents comply with accessibility standards, and provide administrative support at regional board meetings held throughout the region.
- Water Resource Control Engineer, Cannabis Unit, South Lake Tahoe. This position provides regulatory oversight of cannabis cultivation projects under the statewide Cannabis General order.
- Water Resource Control Engineer, Regulatory and Enforcement Unit, South Lake Tahoe. This position will backfill a vacancy within the North Basin Regulatory Unit.
- Senior Water Resource Control Engineer, Forestry/Dredge & Fill Unit, South Lake Tahoe. This position will perform Senior level activities and provide engineering expertise associated with managing the activities of the Forestry/Dredge & Fill Unit. The incumbent will supervise and direct the work of five professional technical staff, oversee staff development, perform recruitment of new staff, conduct performance evaluations, and track program budgets, as well as a variety of other duties.
- Engineering Geologist, Forestry/Dredge & Fill Unit, South Lake Tahoe. This position will provide geologic and hydrogeologic expertise for the Forestry Dredge and Fill Unit. The incumbent will evaluate and regulate the impacts of logging operations and other forest practices on the quality and beneficial uses of water. They will also review and regulate proposed projects that may affect water quality of waters of the state to ensure compliance with the requirements of the Water Quality Control Plan for the Lahontan Region (Basin Plan), Porter-Cologne

Water Quality Control Act, the Federal Clean Water Act (CWA), and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

- Engineering Geologist, 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.
- Environmental Scientist, Planning & Assessment Unit, South Lake Tahoe. This position will work on Basin Plan amendments, help assess waters as part of the Integrated Report, and work to develop TMDLs or alternative restoration plans.
- Scientific Aid, Regulatory & Enforcement Unit, South Lake Tahoe. This position supports staff primarily through review of submitted self-monitoring reports, along with other special projects.
- Scientific Aid, Forestry/Dredge & Fill and Non-Point Source Units, South Lake Tahoe. This position will evaluate water quality data and assess compliance with water quality orders and permits associated with grazing, restoration, timber, and forestry activities.

Departures

- Douglas Cushman, Senior Water Resource Control Engineer, South Lake Tahoe

2. Update on Regional Tetrachloroethylene (PCE) Groundwater Contamination in South “Y” Area of South Lake Tahoe, December 2022 – *Brian Grey*

The purpose of this article is to provide an update on the Site Cleanup Subaccount Program (SCAP) South Y Regional Tetrachloroethylene (PCE) Plume Investigation (Regional PCE Plume Investigation) activities and Lahontan Water Board staff's enforcement efforts that have occurred since the last Executive Officer's Report (EO Report) update from January 2022. SCAP Regional PCE Plume Investigation contract tasks, first implemented in July 2018, have largely been completed and have generated data to support the issuance of a new proposed Cleanup and Abatement Order (CAO) for the Lake Tahoe Laundry Works (LTLW) site.

The new proposed CAO for Lake Tahoe Laundry Works requires further investigation and cleanup and abatement of the regional PCE plume which extends from the South Y area to the Tahoe Keys. In addition, proposed CAOs have been issued to the Former Norma's Cleaners and Big O Tires sites to follow-up on previous directives requiring further evaluation of past discharges and potential contribution to the regional PCE plume. Lahontan Water Board staff have received public comments on the three proposed CAOs and are in the process of preparing response to comment documents prior to finalizing the proposed CAOs.

Regional PCE Plume Investigation

Regional PCE Plume Investigation contract tasks are almost concluded. A summary of completed work in 2022 and anticipated tasks for the 2023 field season is provided below. Figure 2.1 (at the end of this article) shows groundwater investigation locations from 2019 and 2020; the figure showing soil gas investigation locations from 2022 has not been finalized and is not included in this EO Report. The Regional PCE Plume Investigation contract included 4.6 million dollars to aid with the investigation and mitigation of the regional PCE plume with a contract term extending from July 2018 to July 2023. The Regional PCE Plume Investigation activities are being performed by the State Water Resources Control Board's contractor, AECOM, and AECOM's subcontractors with oversight from Lahontan Water Board staff. The SCAP Regional PCE Plume Investigation activities completed during 2022 included the following:

- Soil Gas Investigation: Installed and sampled 25 passive soil gas samplers to evaluate potential threats to human health via the vapor intrusion to indoor air pathway in areas where the highest shallow groundwater contaminant concentrations were reported during the 2019 and 2020 field investigation. Preparing to distribute the *Soil Gas Investigation Summary Report, August 2022: South "Y" PCE Plume* to stakeholders and interested parties.
- Semi-annual sentry well sampling: Collected groundwater samples from the nine newly installed sentry wells in 2021 utilizing SCAP funds (see Figure 2.2 at the end of this article). Distributed the *August 2022 Semi-annual Sentry Well Groundwater Monitoring Report, Event 2: South "Y" PCE* to stakeholders and interested parties.
- Non-municipal well sampling: Conducted groundwater sampling of seven domestic and small community supply wells where property owners allowed site access. Distributed the *October 2022 Non-Municipal Water Supply Well Sampling Summary Report, July 2022: South "Y" PCE Plume* to stakeholders and interested parties.
- Vertical Conduit Inventory and Destruction: Finalized vertical conduit inventory and in the process of developing a vertical conduit destruction workplan, including the criteria to be used to identify and prioritize potential vertical conduits for destruction, using remaining SCAP grant funds.
- Reporting: Finalized and distributed the *June 2022 Regional Plume Characterization Summary Report: South "Y" PCE Plume 2019-2020 Field Season* report to stakeholders and interested parties. The report provided a summary of the data collection activities and results, including discrete depth groundwater sampling, for the 2019 and 2020 field investigation.

The anticipated SCAP field tasks that will be completed during the 2023 field season include:

- Vertical Conduit Destruction: 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, including monitoring wells installed for site-specific investigations, which have not been properly destroyed are included in the evaluation.

Lahontan Water Board Enforcement Efforts

Lahontan Water Board staff issued three proposed CAOs related to PCE discharges for public comment. The proposed CAOs were issued to the LTLW, Former Norma's Cleaners, and Big O Tires sites on June 16, 2022. All three sites have been investigating chlorinated hydrocarbon discharges since the early 2000s and are located within the regional PCE plume footprint. The Former's Norma's Cleaners case was previously closed in 2008 and was reopened in 2019.

Lake Tahoe Laundry Works

In 2017, the Lahontan Water Board issued a CAO to the LTLW site which required delineation of the lateral and vertical extent of contamination originating from the site. At this time, data were not available to evaluate the full extent of contamination originating from the site and if the contamination reported at the site was connected to contamination being reported in down-gradient receptors (i.e., municipal supply wells). Since issuance of the 2017 CAO, groundwater quality data collected by LTLW dischargers and by AECOM (i.e., during the Regional PCE Plume Investigation), showed the regional PCE plume originates at the site and extends without interruption to the affected receptors. Based on this updated information, the new proposed CAO issued to LTLW requires further investigation and cleanup and abatement of the regional PCE plume.

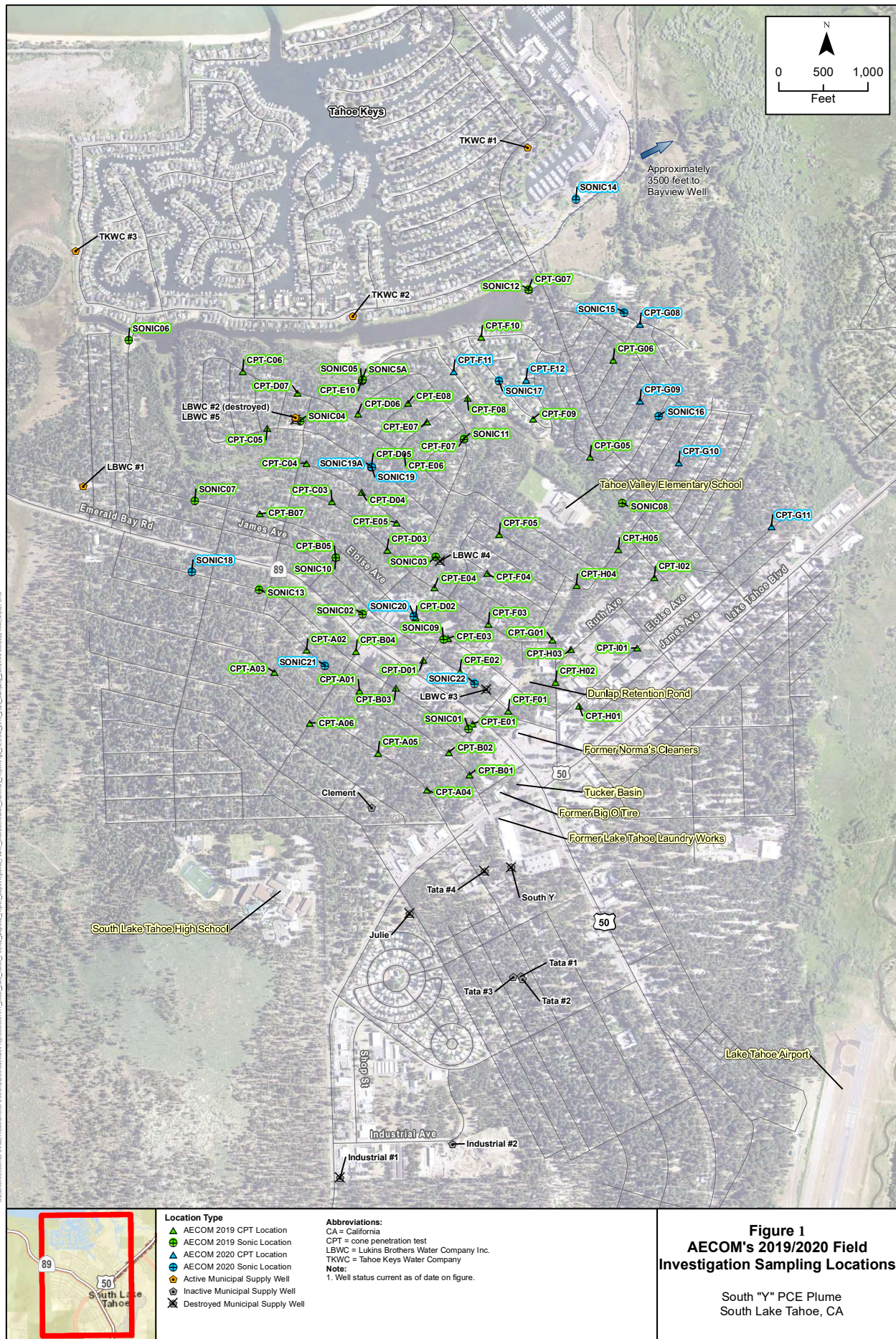
Big O Tires and Former Norma's Cleaners

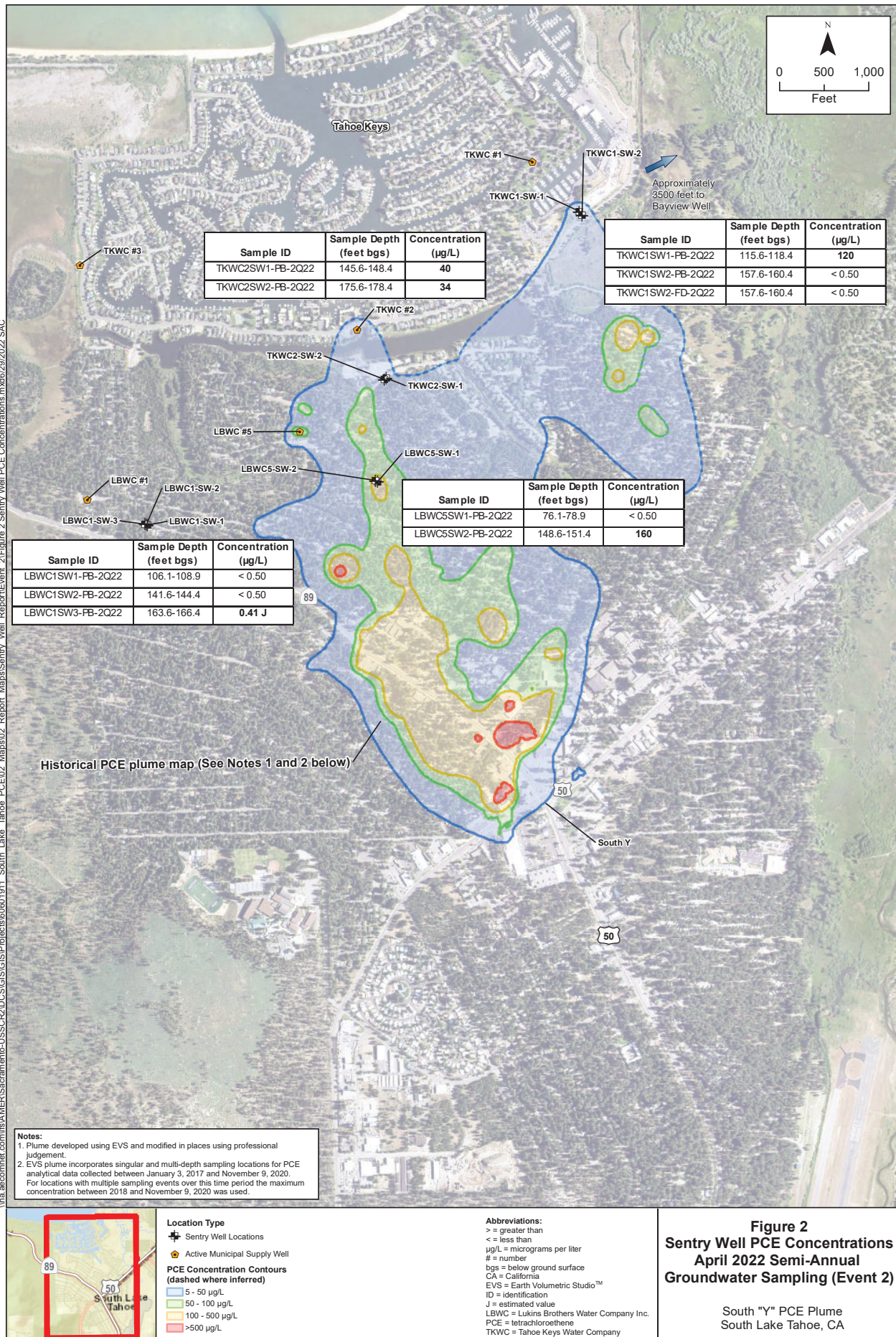
In 2019, Lahontan Water Board issued Water Code section 13267 orders to both sites, which required additional investigation to resolve identified data gaps from past investigations. At this time, available data indicated unauthorized discharges had occurred at each respective site, but the extent of contamination had never been delineated. Since issuance of the 2019 orders, both sites have performed an initial passive soil gas investigation which showed PCE contamination remains at both sites, but neither site has implemented any subsequent soil, soil gas, or groundwater investigations to delineate the extent of contamination as required. Lahontan Water Board staff is currently considering pursuing Administrative Civil Liability Complaints regarding violations of the 2019 13267 orders at both sites and is considering public comments received on the proposed CAOs. The proposed CAOs follow up on 2019 13267 order requirements and require the lateral and vertical extent of contamination originating from the sites and evaluation of potential contribution to the regional PCE plume. The Proposed CAOs are similar to the 2017 CAO issued to LTLW in that they require delineation of contamination originating from the sites in order to evaluate the sites' potential contribution to the regional PCE plume.

Additional Information

Additional information on the Regional PCE Plume Investigation activities and Lahontan Water Board staff' site-specific enforcement efforts can be found on GeoTracker using the following links:

- South Y Regional Contamination
https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/profile_report?global_id=T10000007984.
- Lake Tahoe Laundry Works
https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/profile_report.asp?global_id=SL0601754315
- Big O Tires
https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/profile_report.asp?global_id=SL0601729739
- Former Norma's Cleaners
https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/profile_report.asp?global_id=SL0601790916





3. Monopine Update – *Brian Judge and Melissa Thaw*

Monopine Background

The Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) issues permits that authorize the construction of cell phone towers, including monopines, which are cell phone towers camouflaged to look like pine trees. There are approximately 15 monopines within the Lake Tahoe Watershed including Nevada and California. If the location of the proposed tower is visible from a TRPA defined scenic corridor, or they have to make community character findings, the permit will require the cell phone tower to blend with the surrounding environment. TRPA is required to make Special Use Findings, specifically so that the project, to which the use pertains, will not change the character of the neighborhood. Constructing the cell tower to look like the surrounding forest is the method chosen in most instances by cell tower projects in the Tahoe Basin. The tower is often constructed using Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC) plastic to mimic bark, branches, and pine needles (faux needles).

Public Comment to Water Board about proposed Ski Run monopine

In the spring of 2022, the Lahontan Water Board received public comments voicing concerns that plastic branches and needles from monopines shed over time and may impact water quality. A group of citizens spoke at the May 2022 Lahontan Water Board meeting emphasizing the concern and highlighted possible negative impacts caused by monopine shedding.

A new monopine on Ski Run Boulevard was approved by TRPA in October 2021. TRPA set conditions to mitigate potential impacts from shedding faux needles. In summary, the permittee is required to use the best technology available to prevent shedding, keep the surrounding site clean of shed and dislodged faux needle material, inspect the surrounding area twice a year, and pay TRPA to conduct inspections twice per year. The condition to inspect twice per year continues for twenty years after passing final inspection.

Both the City of South Lake Tahoe and TRPA have recently been sued by Ski Run Monopine opponents for approving the project.

Inspections in coordination with TRPA

In response to the concerns received, Water Board staff coordinated with TRPA staff to inspect five monopine sites on the California side of the Tahoe Basin in July 2022. All five towers inspected exhibited a similar amount of shedding with most faux needles and branches observed within 50 feet of each tower. At each site, staff did not observe any branch pieces or individual needles in adjacent roadways, gutters, or public stormwater systems. No direct discharges to, or clear paths to, surface waters were observed.

Requests for Report of Waste Discharge (ROWD) to six separate monopine sites

In September 2022, pursuant to Section 13260 of the Water Code, the Water Board sent a Request for Report of Waste Discharge (ROWD) to property owners of six separate monopine sites. The ROWD requires a complete characterization of the materials used for the faux needle materials and any potential discharges. To date, we have received three formal responses and are anticipating receipt of the other three in the near future. One response was deemed complete and two incompletes, with follow-up letters sent to request additional information.

Science and Adaptive Management

The study of microplastics in our environment is an emerging field. In 2022, UC Davis concluded research on microplastic in Lake Tahoe and their Final Report (release is imminent) will provide more information on movement and types of microplastic in Lake Tahoe. Preliminary findings conclude that the majority of particles collected from the surface of the lake were identified as polypropylene (41%), polyethylene (39%), and polyesters (15%). Water was sampled for microplastics from depths of 0 meters (surface), 15 meters, 30 meters, 50 meters, 250 meters and 450 meters. PVC was identified only at depths of 50 and 450 meters.

Tahoe Water Suppliers Association has been engaged with other agencies, educational institutions, businesses, and UC Davis to reduce sources of plastic pollution, implement education and outreach programs, and support research into microplastic. Efforts to reduce plastic pollution are focused on eliminating litter and single use plastic and include efforts by the City of South Lake Tahoe (CSLT) to ban single-use plastic water bottles as approved at the CSLT's Council meeting on October 4, 2022. Actions that will evaluate microplastics include the State Water Board's implementation of a pilot program to monitor microplastic in drinking water in order to develop and refine methods and training protocols for future microplastic monitoring. North Tahoe Public Utility District will be participating in the State Board's pilot monitoring program. Additionally, the Water Board is planning to dedicate a portion of its discretionary contract funding to support research focused on the extent, magnitude, composition, and potential sources of microplastics found in Lake Tahoe and select tributary streams.

Conclusion

Monopine faux needles and branches are usually made of PVC plastic which has been shown to be durable and to not easily degrade. Though current scientific studies of Lake Tahoe and other water bodies find many types of plastic present in surface water, PVC has not been detected as a dominant microplastic material.

If monopine faux needle and branch waste makes its way to roadways, the Lake Tahoe National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Municipal Storm Water Permit requires stormwater treatment of particles less than 16 microns, which would catch that monopine waste before reaching Lake Tahoe. The newly adopted Tahoe Municipal

Stormwater Permit includes new Trash Provisions that require the municipalities to capture trash greater than 5 millimeters diameter.

The Water Board will continue to review the ROWDs and latest scientific studies on microplastics to determine whether further action is needed.

4. Mojave Basin One Water Concept and Legislative Update from MWA TAC – *Anna Garcia*

The purpose of this article is to provide the Lahontan Water Board with information presented at the Mojave Water Agency (MWA) Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting on December 15, 2022. Items covered at the MWA TAC meeting included a Mojave Basin One Water Concept, a Legislative Update, and presentations by staff from the United States Geological Survey (USGS) on the Lucerne Valley Groundwater Basin of Region 7.

Victor Valley Wastewater Reclamation Authority (VWVRA) General Manager, Darron Poulsen, provided a presentation on the Mojave Basin One Water Concept, which supports management of stormwater, groundwater, surface water, recycled water, and imported water together to successfully obtain grant funding and provide a greater impact for the basin. Efforts to address VWVRA plant operation issues caused by rising groundwater, primarily attributable to VWVRA discharge, led Mr. Poulsen to reach out to the City of Victorville, Town of Apple Valley, City of Hesperia, San Bernardino County, and MWA to collaborate on ways to create more yield and benefit for the Mojave Basin. One potential project described included transferring recycled water from VWVRA and the City of Victorville, via MWA's underutilized Mojave River Pipeline, to the area of Barstow currently experiencing significant water level declines. Another potential project described consisted of VWVRA working in partnership with the federal government to build a treatment facility to address existing volatile organic compound (VOC) plumes and PFAS associated with the former George Air Force Base. VWVRA is also collaborating with MWA to consider the development of an optimum basin management plan. Mr. Adnan Anabtawi, MWA Assistant General Manager, noted that the Mojave Basin One Water Concept could be considered through the Mojave Integrated Regional Water Management Planning process that will kick-off in early 2023.

Yvonne Cox, MWA Director of Organizational Development, provided a presentation on the Legislative Priority Policy (LPP) being developed to support the MWA's mission and Strategic Plan. The LPP will focus on supporting legislation for seven key priorities: drought, water management and reliability, imported water supply, disadvantaged communities, conservation, water quality, and development. Several of the priorities support local supply and operations, groundwater storage, and the State Water Project. Also highlighted are financial support and technical assistance for disadvantaged communities, small water systems, and communities with water quality issues. The priorities also include support for legislation that minimizes cost impacts of new or expanded regulations and alternate affordable mitigation pathways for development that requires removal of Joshua Trees. MWA is currently receiving input for the LPP from

stakeholders including the MWA Executive TAC, state and federal advocates, and the business community.

USGS staff provided presentations on recently completed studies of the [hydrogeology](#) and [groundwater quality](#) of the Lucerne Valley Groundwater Basin, located in Region 7. The studies documented water level declines of up to 135 feet and the loss of over 460,000-acre feet of groundwater from the basin between 1942 and 2016. Groundwater was primarily used for irrigated agriculture. Water quality samples, collected to examine subsurface transport of applied treated wastewater, were not conclusive and indicated that discharge from the Big Bear Area Regional Wastewater Agency (BBARWA) facility, located in the Lucerne Valley basin, likely remains confined to the upper aquifer.

Other business was also discussed. The next MWA TAC meeting is scheduled for February 2, 2023.

5. PFAS Remediation Within the Fire Protection Water Distribution System at Air Force Plant 42, Palmdale, Los Angeles County – Todd Battey

Air Force Plant 42 (AFP42) was originally built in the early 1930s and then established as an emergency landing strip by the Civil Aeronautics Administration in 1935. In 1940, it was activated by the U.S. Army Air Corps and was known as Palmdale Army Airfield. The Army Air Corps used the base as an emergency landing strip and for bomber support training during WW II. Following World War II and a series of expansions and ownership changes, the facility became known as Air Force Plant 42. Currently, the facility is a government-owned, contractor-operated facility used primarily for production engineering, final assembly, and flight testing of high-performance aircraft by commercial aerospace companies, while the facilities themselves are owned by the U.S. Air Force. The facility infrastructure includes a fire protection water distribution system (FPWDS), which includes over 28 miles of conveyance piping, two 1-million-gallon ASTs, and two fire protection water production wells.

Per- and polyfluoralkyl substances (PFAS) have been detected in the water from the FPWDS in the northern portion of AFP42 where Plant Sites 1 (Boeing), 2 (Lockheed Martin), 3 and 4 (Northrop Grumman Corporation) are located (Figure 5.1, labeled 'Figure 4' inside the map). PFOS and PFOA impacts to the fire protection water are apparently the result of backflow prevention failures of aqueous film forming foam (AFFF) storage. The malfunctioning backflow devices have been replaced to prevent further AFFF leakage into the system. Numerous spills of PFAS-impacted fire protection water, up to 2-million gallons each, have leaked from the aging FPWDS, which led the Air Force to develop a strategy to remediate the water within the FPWDS. The remediation strategy consists of isolating individual components of the system (e.g., a water main, a lateral line, or an above-ground storage tank), using hose to create a loop, and pumping the water through activated carbon vessels and back into the loop. The treatment equipment is shown in Photo 5.1.

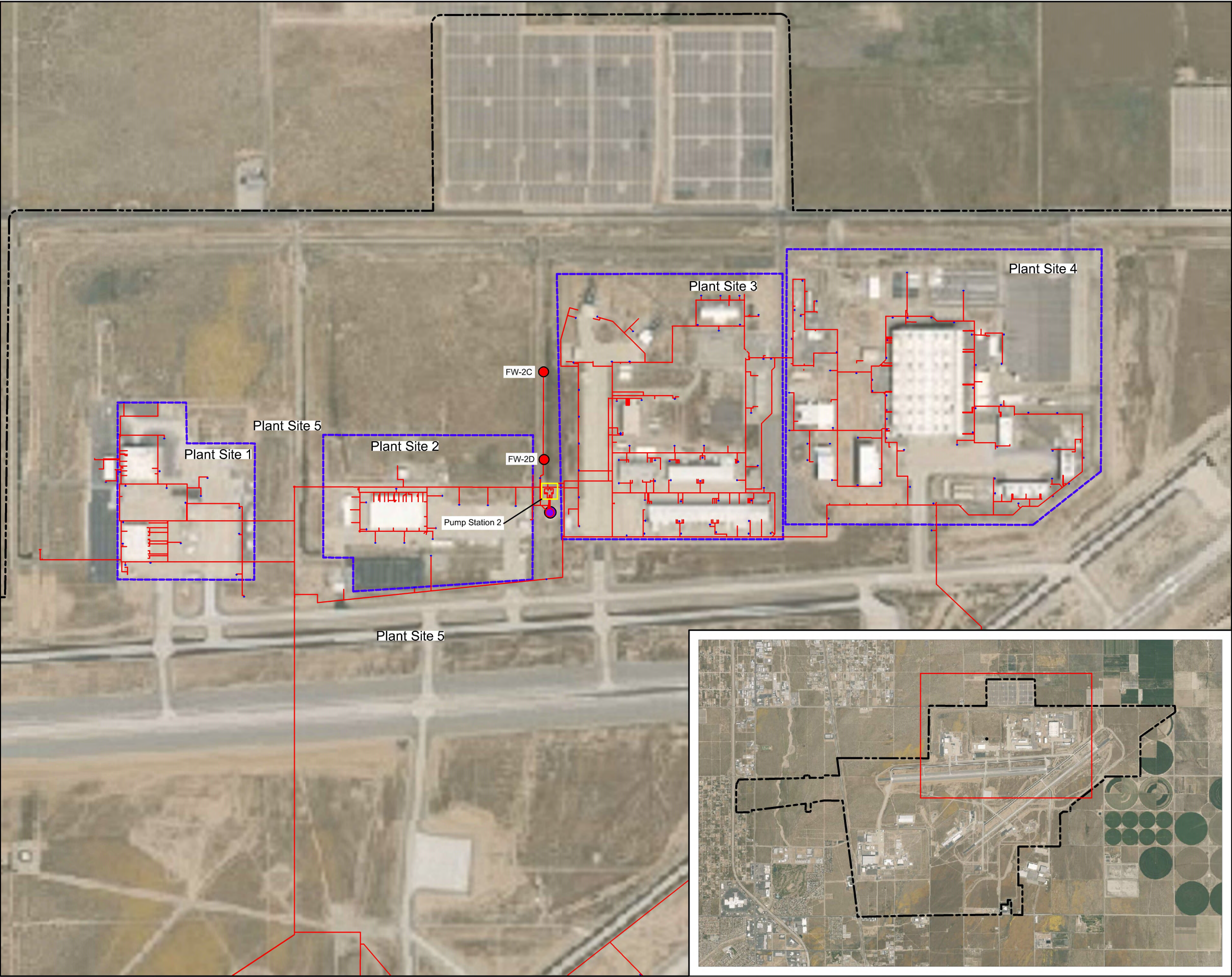
Treatment of water for PFAS using granular activated carbon vessels is being used to remove PFAS from the fire suppression system. Remediation of the water in the

FPWDS began December 19, 2022, and is expected to continue until December 2023, progressing from water mains to laterals and then one plant site to another. Process and confirmation sampling from the remediation system sampling ports is being conducted to ensure that the remediated water has met the remediation goals of 40 ppt for PFOS, PFOA, and PFOS+PFOA. These goals were specified in a revised memorandum (Assistant Secretary of the Defense, September 2021) that updated Department of Defense screening levels for these constituents based on tap water Regional Screening Levels (RSLs) that were calculated using the USEPA's online RSL calculator. Other earlier reference criteria for these PFAS include the following:

- Lifetime Health Advisory of 70 ppt for PFOS, PFOA, and PFOS+PFOA (USEPA, 2016);
- Drinking water notification levels (NLs) of 13 and 14 ppt for PFOS and PFOA, respectively (SWRCB Division of Drinking Water, 2018); and
- Lower NLs of 6.5 and 5.1 ppt for PFOS and PFOA, respectively (SWRCB Division of Drinking Water, 2019).

Water Board staff have recommended the Air Force consider the recent spills from the FPWDS as new PFAS sites in the ongoing AFFF investigations that are following the CERCLA process to address these release areas in a consistent manner.

See below for Figure 5.1 – Map showing the various plants located at Air Force Plant 42, Palmdale, CA and associated fire protection water distribution systems.



Legend

- Air Force Plant 42 Boundary
- - - Plant Site Boundary
- Fire Protection Water Distribution System
- Fire hydrant
- 1 million gallon aboveground storage tank (AST)
- Fire Protection Well
- Pump Station

Figure 5.1

North Campus Fire Protection Water Distribution System Layout
Air Force Plant 42
Palmdale, California

Feet

0 1000 2000

North Campus Fire Protection Water Distribution System Layout
Air Force Plant 42
Palmdale, California

PFAS Remediation within the Fire Protection Water Distribution System

ONEIDA
Sustainment and Restoration Services

Date: 12/6/2021
File: Figure 4



Photo 5.1 – Hose leading to black pump (center), treatment cannisters (bright red on left), and to equalization tanks (light red on right).

Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board

ATTACHMENT "A"

EXECUTIVE OFFICER ACTION ITEMS

December 1, 2022, to December 31, 2022
Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board

DOCUMENT

DATE

NO FURTHER ACTION REQUIRED¹

Notice of No Further Action Required for Former Angels Truck Stop, 2001 Highway 58, Mojave, Kern County, Assessor Parcel Number: 236-280-02-00-7	12/06/2022
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EXEMPTIONS

Board Order No. R6T-2022-0055, Granting Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification and Basin Plan Prohibition Exemption, Pond Shoreline Stabilization Project	12/06/2022
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BOARD ORDERS

NONE	N/A
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401 WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATIONS

Board Order No. R6T-2022-0058 Granting Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification, 28 Moana Circle Single-Use Pier Expansion Project	12/19/2022
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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, Aratina Solar	12/13/2022
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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**

MISCELLANEOUS DOCUMENTS

Proposed Inclusion of Mammoth Stamp Mill, Mammoth Lakes, California, Mono County on the National Priorities List of Hazardous Waste Sites	12/22/2025
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Additional links:

[General Policy information](#)

[Copy of Policy](#)

[Implementation Plan](#)

UNAUTHORIZED DISCHARGE REPORT
DECEMBER 1, 2022 TO DECEMBER 31, 2022

ATTACHMENT "B"

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
1	Responsible Party	Location of Occurrence	Regulated Facility	Basin N/S?	Date of Occurrence	Volume of Occurrence	Violation Description	Comments	Status
2	COUNTY: LOS ANGELES								
3	Closed Industrial Plant	45761 Division Street, Lancaster, CA 93535	NO	S	12/14/2022	300 Gallons	An attempted wire theft from three pad mounted transformers caused the release and material flowed onto concrete and soil.	No surface water body was affected.	Patriot Environmental performed excavation of the contaminated soil. This non-hazardous soil is scheduled to be transported to Clean Harbors in Buttonwillow for disposal on Dec 20, 2022 and finished Dec 22, 2022.
4	COUNTY: NEVADA								
5	Alder Creek Lift Station 13797 Alder Creek	13797 Alder Creek	YES	N	12/3/2022	34,381 Gallons	Debris-Wipes caused 34,381 gallons of sewage to spill from Manhole to unpaved surface including unpaved wooded area. Main spill appearance point was a manhole next to the lift station, the second appearance point was a manhole on the lift station overflow vault.	The manhole on the overflow vault stopped spilling when the manhole lid next to the lift station was removed to try to clear stoppage. at Alder Creek Lift Station 13797 Alder Creek . No surface water body affected.	Spill was contained and flow was restored. The Facility bypassed the Grinder and ordered a new part to repair the grinder. A float alarm system will be connected to alert th district off an issue. A Notice of Violation was issued on Janaury 6, 2023.

*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
DECEMBER 1, 2022 TO DECEMBER 31, 2022

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
6	SAN BERNARDINO								
7	Lake Arrowhead	336 Sunset Drive, Lake Arrowhead	YES	S	12/25/2022	250 Gallons	Debris-Rags caused 250 gallons of sewage to spill from Manhole at 336 Sunset Dr., to paved surface.	Staff discussed the spill event with discharger and confirmed that the spill did not reach surface water or soil. The spill was contained and the area cleaned.	The spill was contained and the area was cleaned. No further action.

*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 4

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

**EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT
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	DUE DATE
Cannabis Update	Annual	September
Grazing Update	Annual	November – Article #3
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
City of Barstow Orphan Perchlorate	Annual	June
Lake Tahoe Water Quality	Annual	July
Leviathan Mine	Annual	April
Harmful Algal Blooms	Annual	November – Article #2
Pacific Gas & Electric Company	Annual	June (informational item)
Quarterly Violations Report	Quarterly	January (3 rd quarter) April (4 th quarter) July (1 st quarter) October (2 nd quarter) – Article #3

*Water Board staff presentation