

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

**MEETING OF APRIL 17-18, 2024
SOUTH LAKE TAHOE, CA**

ITEM 4

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

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ENCLOSURE 1



EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT
October 1, 2023 – October 31, 2023

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1. Personnel Report – *Sandra Lopez*

Promotions

- Amber Wike, Associate Governmental Program Analyst, Administrative Unit, South Lake Tahoe. This position serves as the region's Document Accessibility Project Lead, overseeing various accessibility projects as well as managing and resolving difficult ADA document compliance issues. This position also serves as the California Integrated Water Quality System (CIWQS) Coordinator, Fee Coordinator, Records Management Coordinator, and Fleet Coordinator.

New Hires – none

Vacancies

- 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.
- Engineering Geologist, Department of Defense Unit, Victorville. This position will oversee site investigations and cleanups at Department of Defense sites in the South Lahontan area and respond to spills and complaints, as necessary.

- Senior Water Resource Control Engineer (Supervisor), South Lake Tahoe. This position will oversee the Regulatory and Enforcement unit. The unit is responsible for implementing the Water Board's regulatory and compliance programs within the North Lahontan Region and, under certain circumstances, throughout the Lahontan Region (e.g., National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Program for Fish Hatcheries, Aquatic Pesticides application).

2. Highlights from Geology Symposium (GeoSym) – Fall 2023 – Anna Garcia

The purpose of this article is to provide the Lahontan Water Board with highlights from the GeoSym – Fall 2023 virtual symposium held on October 25, 2023. The Geology Symposium Mission is to improve communication and consistency in the application of geologic and hydrogeologic data by providing state geologists opportunities to share experiences, information, and resources. This symposium was hosted by the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) and the Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Francisco Bay.

Rick Cramer, of [Burns & McDonnell](#), presented on Environmental Sequence Stratigraphy (ESS): Geology-Focused Conceptual Site Models as a New State-Of-The-Science Best Practice for Groundwater and Geotechnical Projects. Mr. Cramer noted that the most challenging element of any groundwater or geotechnical project is the geologic uncertainty of the subsurface and that this heterogeneity has confounded the progress, delayed remediation goals, and caused project-budget overruns for many remediation efforts at contaminated-soil and -groundwater sites worldwide. Applying the concepts of ESS, or stratigraphic analysis, to a Conceptual Site Model (CSM) is key for resolving the challenges of geologic heterogeneity. ESS methods are described in the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's 2017 [Best Practices for Environmental Site Management: A Practical Guide for Applying Environmental Sequence Stratigraphy to Improve Conceptual Site Models](#).

Noah Heller, President of [BESST, Inc.](#), a groundwater technology and services company that specializes in groundwater wells and exploratory boreholes, presented on Tracing the Path: Profiling Long-Screened Test Wells to Unearth Naturally Occurring and Anthropogenic Contaminants to Develop New Groundwater Supplies. The Long-Screened Test Well (LSTW) method developed by BESST, Inc. includes the installation of a temporary fiberglass well casing to collect zone specific water quality samples using a well packer system and well pump sampling equipment. Mr. Heller noted that the LSTW method provides flexibility to efficiently query the chemistry close to permeability boundaries such as clays and sands where elevated concentrations of metals, semimetals, radionuclides, salts, and volatile organic compounds (VOCs) are commonly detected. The data can then be used to improve well design and the temporary fiberglass is removed by over drilling the borehole during the well installation and construction phase.

Jeanine Jones, Interstate Resources Manager for the California Department of Water Resources (DWR), presented on California Hydrology: Drought and Floods. Ms. Jones noted that California's hydrology is defined by high variability, which is now being intensified by global climate warming, and that skillfully predicting precipitation beyond a 7-day weather forecast is beyond present scientific ability. Ms. Jones indicated "this isn't your grandparents' climate but we're still using our grandparents' forecasting technology" and that funding to improve longer-lead precipitation prediction and forecasting would support water agencies' current operations and provide a climate change adaptation tool. As indicated in [Water Year 2023: Weather Whiplash, From Drought To Deluge \(ca.gov\)](https://www.water.ca.gov/newsroom/press-releases/2023/06/2023-06-20-water-year-2023-weather-whiplash-from-drought-to-deluge), improving the ability to make seasonal precipitation predictions is critically needed to support more efficient water management.

Sea level and groundwater rise are set to disproportionately affect the San Francisco Bay Area and the communities and cleanup sites that surround the Bay in Region 2. Staff from Region 2, Alyx Karpowicz, EG in the Groundwater Protection Division, and Rachel Lim, EG in the Toxic Cleanup Division presented their Sea Level Rise / Ground Water Rise Vulnerability Assessment Framework. Region 2 convened a cross-divisional team to identify areas potentially vulnerable to sea level and groundwater rise and develop an internal framework for caseworkers to use when evaluating sites in these areas. The framework lays out site-specific considerations to help in determining when a vulnerability assessment is warranted. A Vulnerability Assessment (VA) evaluates the potential risk of adverse effects at cleanup sites caused by sea level and/or groundwater rise, such as increased leaching and mobilization of pollutants and increased vapor intrusion potential. Development of a vulnerability assessment process to consider impacts to infrastructure associated with groundwater level rise could potentially be considered in relation to our Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Action Plan for the Lahontan Region.

3. Fall 2023 Soil Disturbance Prohibition Variances – *Jim Carolan*

The Water Board grants variances to the soil disturbance prohibition for projects and activities occurring between October 15 and May 1 in the Lake Tahoe Basin, provided adequate controls are in place to protect water quality. The soil disturbance prohibition was established by the Water Quality Control Plan for the Lahontan Region and is included in the Lake Tahoe Basin NPDES Storm Water Construction General Permit. The soil disturbance prohibition has also been added to other Water Board Orders for some projects outside of the Lake Tahoe Basin in similarly high elevations (e.g., Truckee, Mammoth Lakes). The following represents a progress report of projects that received soil disturbance prohibition variances in October 2023 (the first two weeks of the approximately 28 week soil disturbance prohibition period). Additional soil disturbance variances may be granted through April 2024:

Infrastructure/Maintenance Projects

- Caltrans District 9, Conway Ranch Shoulders (09-36640). Issued for October 16 – October 26.
- Caltrans, Mountain County Bridge Rails Project. Issued for October 16 – October 22.
- El Dorado County Department of Transportation, San Bernardino Class I Bike Path. Three (3) variances were issued for October 16 – November 3.
- City of South Lake Tahoe, Tahoe Valley Stormwater and Greenbelt Improvement Project, Phase 1. Two (2) variances were issued for October 16 – October 27.
- Tahoe City Public Utility District, West Lake Tahoe Regional Water Treatment Plant. Issued for October 16 – October 20.
- Meyers Stream Environment Zone Erosion Control Project, El Dorado County Department of Transportation. Two (2) variances were issued for October 16 – October 31.

Construction Projects

- Lake Tahoe Community College, Lake Tahoe Community College Bond Projects. Two (2) variances were issued for October 16 – October 21 and October 27 – November 5.
- Sugar Pine Housing Partners LP, Sugar Pine Village Phase 1. Two (2) variances were issued for October 17 – October 27.
- Golden Range LLC, 2340 & 2360 Sunnyside. Issued for October 16 – November 3.

Site Cleanup Projects

- Azad Amiri and Sarbjit Singh Kang, Swiss Mart. Issued for October 16 – October 23.

Ski Resorts

- Tahoe Palisades at Alpine Meadows, Alpine Meadows Ski Resort WDRs. Two (2) variances were issued for October 16 – October 30.
- Northstar California Resort, Northstar California Resort Minor Earth Disturbance. Issued for October 19 – October 25.
- Tahoe Palisades, Squaw Valley Resort, LLC WDRs. Issued for October 16 – October 23.
- Alterra Mountain Company, Squaw Valley to Alpine Meadows Base to Base Gondola. Two (2) variances were issued for October 16 – October 30.

401 Certification Order Projects

- Truckee River Watershed Council, Boca Unit Restoration. Issued for October 16 – October 23.
- Heavenly Mountain Resort, Heavenly Mountain Resort Winter Preparedness Vegetation Removal. Issued for October 27 – November 1.
- Town of Truckee, Truckee Legacy Trail Phase 4a. Three (3) variances were issued for October 16 – November 1.
- Al Tahoe Lakeview Townhouses HOA, Al Tahoe Seawall Reconstruction Project, Issued for October 18 – October 30.
- Echo Conduit Emergency Replacement Project, El Dorado Irrigation District. Two (2) variances were issued for October 16 – November 4.

Timber Harvest

- U.S. Forest Service Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit, Carnelian Fuels Reduction. Three (3) variances were issued for October 16 – November 3.
- U.S. Forest Service Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit, Liberty 625 Line Whole Tree Project. Three (3) variances were issued for October 16 – November 3.
- U.S. Forest Service Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit, South Shore Fuels Reduction and Healthy Forest Restoration project. Issued for October 31 – November 3.

4. Kelso Wash Train Derailment Cleanup Response Actions Complete

– Tiara Crucius

The Kelso Train Derailment occurred on March 23, 2023. Two locomotives and 55 hopper cars carrying iron ore derailed and landed in Kelso Wash, located within both Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) right of way and the National Park Service (NPS) Mojave National Preserve wilderness area boundaries. According to the initial California Office of Emergency Services spill report, the derailment resulted in the release of 5,700 gallons of diesel fuel and hydraulic oil in Kelso Wash. Diesel and hydraulic oil were carried approximately 1800 yards northwest-west within Kelso Wash after one of the locomotives severed an irrigation line used to maintain a row of tamarisk that line the railroad boundary. Water Board staff coordinated with the Unified Command consisting of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's Office of Spill Prevention and Response (OSPR), NPS, and UPRR for status updates on cleanup efforts.

Site cleanup conformed to the ***Guidelines for Emergency Response Phase Cleanup Endpoints and Inspection Procedures***, prepared, and approved by the UC. Removal of diesel impacted soil was conducted in accordance with the *Excavation Plan* and the *Endpoint Plan*, signed and approved by the UC. Excavators and railcars were brought in to remove iron ore and oil-stained soil from the site. Diesel contaminated soil and iron-

ore impacted soil was loaded and transported to ECDC Landfill in East Carbon, Utah. OSPR completed the emergency response and sent out the final liaison update on April 25, 2023. The *Incident Response Summary Report* prepared by Arcadis was submitted to Water Board staff on August 30, 2023.

The *Incident Response Summary Report*, submitted by UPPR, reported approximately 1,976.6 gallons (gal) of TPH was recovered from Kelso Wash. Soil samples were collected at depths ranging from 2 feet to 5 feet below ground surface (bgs), from 13 different locations, collected at 100-foot intervals along the wash. A photoionizing detector (PID) was used at the top of the boreholes to take a field measurement of the vapor concentrations and determine the need for sample collection. When PID field readings were greater than 50 parts per million (ppm), samples were collected and sent to the lab to be analyzed for total petroleum hydrocarbons (TPH) (diesel range organics and oil range organics).

Soil analytical data for samples collected were compared to the 50 mg/kg TPH cleanup concentration approved by OSPR, NPS, and UPRR. Soil with TPH concentrations greater than 50 mg/kg (Figure 3.1) was excavated 1 to 5 feet bgs in accordance with the *Excavation Plan*. The *Excavation Plan* states onsite soil is classified as Class “C” and is subject to immediate collapse. Shoring, not permitted onsite by NPS and OSPR to minimize disturbance, would have been required for excavations deeper than 5 feet bgs; therefore, for safety and permitting reasons excavation and additional soil sampling could not occur at depths greater than 5 to 6 feet bgs. PID measurements were taken along the sidewalls and bottoms of each excavated area, with most results not exceeding 50 ppm.

Water Board staff inspected the site on multiple occasions prior to, during, and after the cleanup response. Based on Water Board staffs’ final site inspection on August 10, 2023, and review of the *Incident Response Summary Report*, TPH removal has been performed to the extent practicable. It is unknown what soil concentrations are at depths below 5 to 6 feet bgs due to excavation limitations for the cleanup response; however, it is expected that any remaining TPH will naturally attenuate in the environment. Any additional cleanup would create a further disturbance to the surrounding area and environment. The closest supply well is an NPS well approximately 2 miles upgradient from the site and depth to groundwater in the area is estimated to be approximately 700-feet bgs. It has been reported that no wildlife has been impacted by this incident. At this time, Water Board staff are not requiring any additional cleanup investigations or actions beyond what was required by the Unified Command.

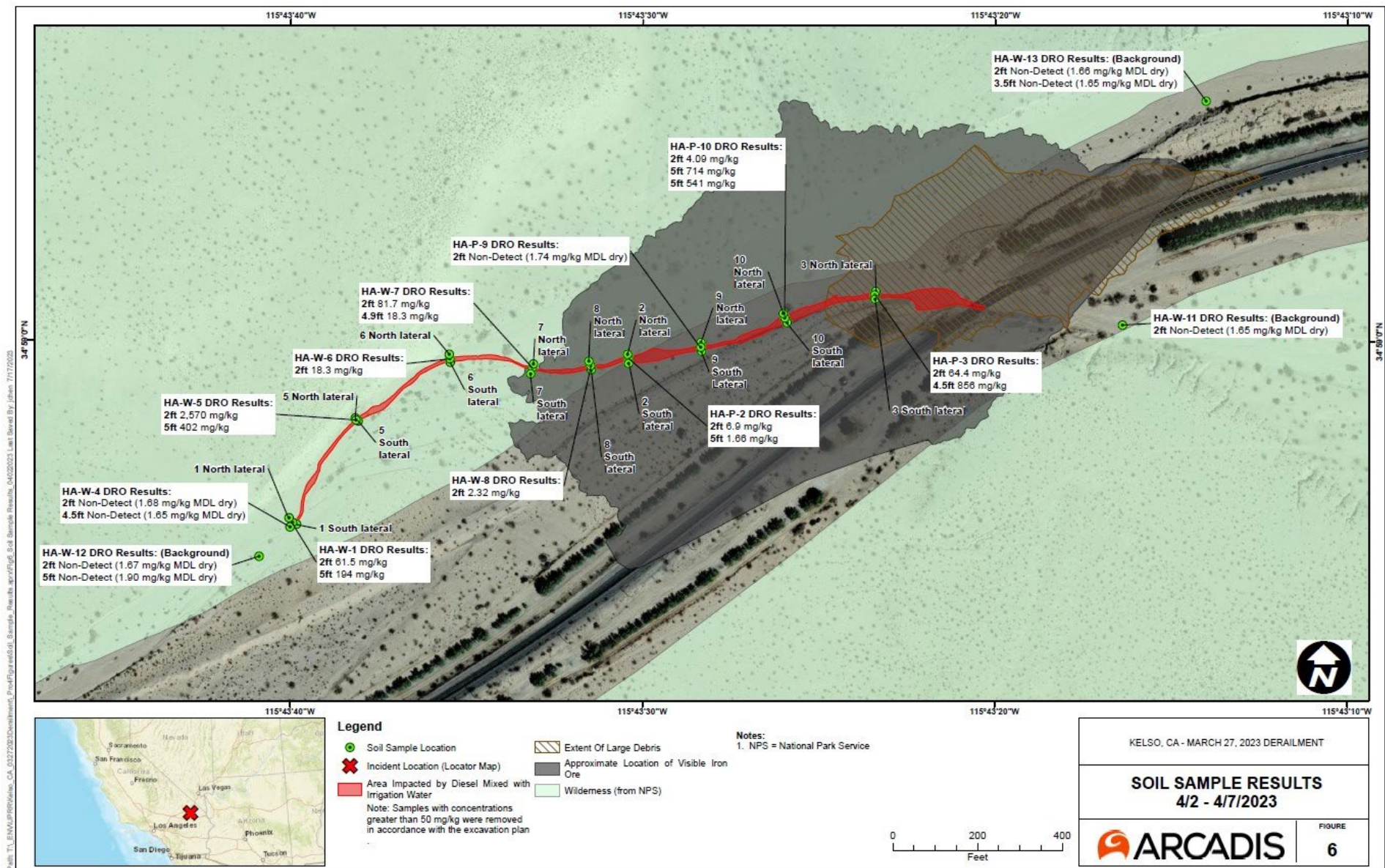


Figure 3.1: Soil sample results along Kelso Wash. Arcadis, 2023.

ATTACHMENT A

Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board

EXECUTIVE OFFICER ACTION ITEMS

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

DOCUMENT

DATE

NO FURTHER ACTION REQUIRED¹

No Further Action Required For 37120 47 th Street East USTS, Palmdale	10/02/2023
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EXEMPTION

Pending Action for Exemption to Waste Discharge Prohibition 4.1-20 4(b)(2) for 2105 S. Lake Road, Bishop, California	10/04/2023
Pending Action for Notice of Applicability And Exemption To Waste Discharge Prohibitions For The Echo Conduit Emergency Replacement Project	10/18/2023
Amended Board Order No. R6V-2022-0028A1, Granting Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification and Basin Plan Prohibition Exemption, EA# 09-36640 Conway Ranch Shoulders Project, Mono County	10/18/2023
Pending Action for Board Order No. R6T-202X-XXXX, Granting Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification and Basin Plan Prohibition Exemption, Poipao Pier Repair Project, El Dorado County	10/24/2023
EXTENSION	
N/A	N/A

401 WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATIONS

Board Order No. R6t-2023-0035, Granting Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification, Truckee Donner Public Utility District's 14964 Donner Pass Road Water Service Lateral Maintenance Project	10/02/2023
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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****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, Sanborn Solar 2.0	10/04/2023
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MISCELLANEOUS DOCUMENTS

Acceptance of Revised Hydraulic Capture Metrics, Pacific Gas and Electric Company, Hinkley Compressor Station, Hinkley	10/02/2023
Variance – Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board Soil Disturbance Prohibitions	10/06/2023
Second Release of 'Waters of the State Credits,' Mojave River Watershed Mitigation Bank	10/13/2023
Onsite Disposal System at 2105 South Lake Road, Bishop, Inyo County, CA 93514	10/24/2023
Clarification of the Basin-Wide Approach to Mitigate Potential Groundwater Impacts for Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) and Nitrate Associated with the Agricultural Treatment Units (ATUs), Pacific Gas & Electric Company (PG&E) Hinkley Compressor Station, San Bernardino County	10/26/2023

Additional links:

[General Policy information](#)

[Copy of Policy](#)

[Implementation Plan](#)

ATTACHMENT B

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

Responsible Party	Location of Occurrence	Regulated Facility	Basin N/S?	Date of Occurrence	Volume of Occurrence	Violation Description	Comments	Status
COUNTY: KERN								
NASA Facility	4800 Lilly Ave, Edwards, CA 93523	No	S	10/15/2023	5,000 gallons	Mechanical failure of pull station on west side of hanger activated and set off fire suppression system causing 5,000 gallons of Water/Chemguard C2 mix to be released. Flush overhead spray system was used to push water from hanger floor to floor drains which connect to a retention pond. Unknown if pond is lined.	Water sample collected from retention pond were submitd for chemical analysis. No cleanup proposed due to non-hazardous porerties of fire suppression water/chemguard C2 mix.	Corrective action include fire suppression system being evaluated for excess corrosion.
COUNTY: LOS ANGELES								
City of Palmdale	38202 Delacour Dr., Palmdale, CA	No	S	10/2/2023	3,420 gallons	The City of Palmdale was notified of a Manhole overflowing. Upon inspection in was determined that a contractor left a pipe plug connected to the city sewer after a new development was connected to an existing City of Palmdale sewer mainline. Causing 3,420 gallons of sewage to spill to ground.	The pipe plug was removed and flow was restored. Spill was cleaned up and the area was sprayed with Vanguard Sani-Solution (disinfectant).	Spill report received 10/17/2023. 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.

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

Responsible Party	Location of Occurrence	Regulated Facility	Basin N/S?	Date of Occurrence	Volume of Occurrence	Violation Description	Comments	Status
COUNTY: NEVADA								
Unknown	14964 Donner Pass Road, Truckee, CA	No	N	10/12/2023	Unknown	Sediment discharge to Donner Lake, observed by complainant in kayak on 10/12/23, confirmed by WB staff 10/13/23. Subsequent inspection by Town of Truckee staff, identified construction excavation dewatering fluids at 14964 Donner Pass Road that were being discharged to Town's MS4 and Donner Lake.	Surface water affected, Donner Lake.	Town of Truckee issued a Stop Work Order to property owner. AND Lahontan to issue a Notice of Violation.

*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, 2023 – November 30, 2023

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1. Personnel Report – *Sandra Lopez, Ben Letton*

New Hires

- Luis Gomez, 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.

Vacancies

- Engineering Geologist, Department of Defense Unit, Victorville. This position will oversee site investigations and cleanups at Department of Defense sites in the South Lahontan area and respond to spills and complaints, as necessary.
- Senior Water Resource Control Engineer (Supervisor), South Lake Tahoe. This position will oversee the Regulatory and Enforcement unit. The unit is responsible for implementing the Water Board's regulatory and compliance programs within the North Lahontan Region and, under certain circumstances, throughout the Lahontan

Region (e.g., National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Program for Fish Hatcheries, Aquatic Pesticides application).

Superior Accomplishment Awards

A Sustained Superior Accomplishment award is given to an individual or a team that has shown the following within a 24-month period:

- Outstanding and superior achievement
- An important contribution to science or research
- An unequaled personal effort in over-coming unusual circumstances
- Completion of a complicated task in a significant shorter period of time
- Major improvement in methods, organization, procedures, or products

Adam Henriques, Environmental Scientist, Forestry Dredge & Fill Unit

The Lahontan Water Board's South Lake Tahoe office management team is pleased to award Adam Henriques with a Superior Accomplishment Award. Adam is an Environmental Scientist who has been recognized for his outstanding performance both by his supervisor and his peers. He joined Lahontan in 2020 and is a key member of the Compliance and Planning Division's Forestry/Dredge & Fill Unit.

During the majority of 2022, the Forestry/Dredge & Fill Unit was undergoing leadership change at the supervisor level, Adam stepped up to the task of being de-facto Unit lead as a technical staff member. Through his efforts as the interim lead, he demonstrated exemplary leadership/communication skills, smoothed out a potentially rough leadership transition, and helped the new supervisor hit the ground running.

Adam has been the Forestry Program Manager and lead technical staff for more than a year and has been instrumental in leading the coordination effort with our federal land management agencies, CALFIRE, private timber companies and other stakeholders. By carefully strategizing and executing an informal enforcement strategy, Adam has quickly fostered excellent working relationships with and brought our historically recalcitrant federal partners back into compliance with our Basin Plan and water quality standards.

In August 2022, Adam led the efforts to complete the Forestry Strategy—a regional internal policy level document that will continue to influence Forestry staff's workplan prioritization for many years to come.

Adam is recognized by his colleagues as a go-to person to answer technical questions about forestry and dredge/fill related questions, as well as answer anything water quality related. His attention to detail and collaborative efforts are unmatched. Additionally, external stakeholders federal partners enjoy his professionalism and dedication to protecting water quality and beneficial uses.



Photo 1:1: Adam Henriques (center) presented with the Superior Accomplishment award from Supervisor, Trevor Miller, Sr. WRCE (rt) and Board Member, Dr. Amy Horne (left).

Eric Shay, Staff Services Manager I, Administrative Unit

The Lahontan Water Board's South Lake Tahoe office management team is pleased to award Eric Shay with a Superior Accomplishment Award. Eric is a Staff Services Manager I and the Administrative Officer at the Lahontan Water Board. Eric was nominated and received this award for two huge efforts that he made within the past year.

The first effort was a series of reclassifications and in place promotions that he was able to execute for a large portion of our administrative staff: three Office Technician positions to Staff Service Analysts (SSA), one SSA to Associate Governmental Program Analyst (AGPA), and one Executive Assistant to AGPA. All of these reclassification and promotions have been needed for some time due to the higher-level technical work that are required from these staff (e.g., ADA remediation). These promotions have resulted in higher wages,

increased morale among staff, improved accuracy and quality of work, improvement to organizational efficiencies, as well as process and procedures.

The second major accomplishment by Eric that is deserving of this award is related to the work that he has done over the past year to respond to issues and work needed for our South Lake Tahoe office facilities. He has regularly communicated with the DAS facilities contact, property manager, and numerous vendors on construction and repair projects that were needed, due largely to damage sustained during the 2022-2023 record winter. He met with DGS contacts to provide timely investigation, documentation, and feedback on work progress. This work also involved routinely meeting with vendors to discuss project scope, progress, and issues, and to provide clarification where needed. Eric also coordinated and communicated directly with our staff to help facilitate removing personal items and equipment from cubicles during construction activities and also provided weekly updates to staff on construction/repair status and projected timelines for completing repairs.

Thank you, Eric, for your amazing work and dedication to the entire Lahontan Team!!



Photo 1:2: Eric Shay (center) presented with the Superior Accomplishment award from Supervisor, Ben Letton, Assistant Executive Officer, and Board Member, Dr. Amy Horne (left).

2. Highlights from the Fall 2023 Groundwater Sustainability Agency Forum

– Anna Garcia

The purpose of this article is to provide the Lahontan Water Board with highlights from the Fall 2023 Groundwater Sustainability Agency Forum (GSA Forum), a virtual event hosted by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) on November 9, 2023. The GSA Forum series was established by DWR to help Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) engage and exchange ideas related to implementation of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). The theme of the Fall 2023 GSA Forum was *Well Management Approaches: from Enhancing Local Understanding to Leveraging Local Coordination* and topics discussed included well permitting efforts, development of well registration processes, and streamlining of well inventory programs.

Ben Brezing, of DWR's Sustainable Groundwater Management Office (SGMO) Data Unit, noted that well inventories are fundamental to groundwater management and reported that current well inventories identify over 300,000 production wells statewide, including domestic wells, agricultural wells, and public supply wells. DWR hosts online well data systems that track well data, including the Online System for Well Completion Reports ([OSWCR](#)), the California Statewide Groundwater Elevation Monitoring System ([CASGEM](#)), the [SGMA Portal](#), and the [Dry Well Reporting System](#). Although the current inventory is the most complete, it does have data gaps, for example, OSWCR does not contain Well Completion Reports (WCRs) for every well in the state and OSWCR does not track the operational status of wells aside from the original construction and reported modifications or destructions. To improve well inventories and the quality of data collected, DWR has been collaborating with the State Water Board and the California Water Data Consortium on developing minimum data quality standards, streamlining existing workflows to maintain the data inventories, and physically labeling wells with a well identification number to minimize confusion when accessing the well in the field for measurements or monitoring.

Steven Springhorn, leader of DWR's SGMO Technical Assistance Section, reported that DWR identifies 515 groundwater basins in the state that cover 40% of the land area of California. Over 80% of Californians live in these groundwater basins, 94% of all groundwater pumped in California comes from these basins, and almost all irrigated agricultural lands in California are located within these basins. Groundwater does exist outside of the 515 groundwater basins in areas designated as non-basin areas. These non-basin areas cover 60% of the state, account for 6% of the groundwater pumped in California, contain 53% of the domestic wells in California, and include 60% of the State's Disadvantaged Communities (DACs) and Severely Disadvantaged Communities (SDACs). So far, water level and water quality monitoring associated with SGMA has focused on groundwater basins identified as high- or medium-priority, but focus will shift to expanding monitoring networks into low- and very-low priority basins and the non-basin areas. DWR will increase monitoring efforts and provide support to build a community monitoring presence by working with non-governmental organizations (NGOs), community members, well owners, and others.

To streamline monitoring data collection, DWR reconfigured the CASGEM System to be compatible with the SGMA Portal and now, data are gathered into DWR's Enterprise Water

Management (EWM) Database, a centralized statewide data system. Data are made available through the California Natural Resources Agency Open Data Platform ([CNRA Open Data](#)). Data are updated daily and shared through online applications like California's Groundwater Live ([CalGW Live](#)) and the [SGMA Data Viewer](#).

Matt Hurley, Plan Manager for the McMullin Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency ([MAGSA](#)), described outreach efforts to develop and implement a well registration program for a portion of the San Joaquin Valley - Kings Subbasin in Region 5. MAGSA outreach efforts included working with local Environmental Justice (EJ) advocates to train multi-lingual graduate students from California State University, Fresno (Fresno State) to implement a door knocking campaign to inform local landowners about the well registration program. Recognizing that sometimes, these types of outreach efforts can be dangerous, the training provided practical survival skills like how to approach people, what to wear, and even what kind of stick to carry. Ultimately, their outreach program got landowners interested in MAGSA's efforts and even got some folks to join their stakeholder groups.

The online well data systems that DWR maintains serve as valuable resources for water quality data, well construction information, and groundwater level data. Staff will support and track DWR efforts to extend monitoring networks into the low- and very-low priority basins and non-basin areas of Region 6. Staff will also seek opportunities to work with EJ and other local advocacy groups when preparing for outreach events and possible future door knocking campaigns.

3. Upper Owens River Watershed Mercury Investigation Update – *Dan Sussman*

Concentrations of mercury (Hg) exceeding the relevant water quality and fish tissue objectives set to protect human health and the environment have been found in several surface waters in the Upper Owens River Watershed (UORW), Mono County. Crowley Lake Reservoir and its tributaries are a premier trout fishing and recreational boating destination in Mono County. Table 3.1 lists five surface waters that are 303(d) listed as impaired because mercury contamination prevents the attainment of beneficial uses.

To better understand the nature and extent of Hg contamination in the UORW, Water Board staff deployed a sampling program to collect stream sediment, fish tissue, and water quality samples in 2021 and 2022 from tributaries and the Crowley Lake Reservoir. The samples were analyzed for elemental Hg and Methyl Mercury (MeHg) to determine: 1) the source of the contamination, 2) if tributaries are transporting Hg laden sediments to the reservoir, and 3) to what extent the reservoir fishery is impacted by Hg and MeHg.

During the 2021 field season staff collected stream sediment samples from the Owens River and tributary sites, Mammoth Creek, Mill City Tributary and Hot Creek, and the Crowley Lake Reservoir. Based on the 2021 results, staff collected additional samples located in the Mammoth Creek, Hot Creek, and Upper Owens River sub-watersheds in 2022. No additional samples were needed in Crowley Lake Reservoir due to the low Hg levels detected during the 2021 sampling event. A limited number of Arsenic and Lead sediment samples were added as part of the 2022 sampling event due to the known source of these contaminants from the Old Mammoth Stamp Mill site (an abandoned mine and mill site on

US Forest Service land). Sample locations for 2021 and 2022 are shown in Figures 3.1. All samples were sent to Moss Landing Marine Laboratories (MPSL/MLML) for analysis.

Field Investigation Results in Detail

2021 Sampling Event

Results from 2021 field season indicate Hg concentrations in sediment within Mammoth Creek and Hot Creek below the Old Mammoth Stamp Mill exceed the sediment criteria. Consultation with Hg experts in other Water Board regions highlights that the concentrations of Hg detected are indicative of mine tailings in the creek channels. In addition, while there are Hg impacts in Crowley Lake Reservoir, presently they do not rise to a level which impairs COMM beneficial uses. COMM was originally included for Crowley Lake out of an abundance of caution given the use of the Lake for recreational fishing. Regional Board Staff consulted with the Office of Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) which confirmed that a fish advisory for Crowley Lake Reservoir was not needed. The 2026 Integrated Report will assess the 2021 Hg data collected from Crowley Lake Reservoir and the 303(d) list will be updated likely removing impairment of the COMM beneficial use.

2022 Sampling Event

Analysis of the 2022 data is consistent with the 2021 data and indicates the source of Hg is the Old Mammoth Stamp Mill, illustrated by high concentrations of Hg and MeHg within the tributary downgradient of the Mill in comparison with upstream locations. Staff in the Site Cleanup Unit are currently discussing source removal options with the US Forest Service to address the Hg contamination at the Old Mammoth Stamp Mill. Additional updates regarding the status of this action will be provided at a future date.

Next steps

No additional sampling is recommended, given the source of the impairments is likely the Old Mammoth Stamp Mill which will be addressed by the Regional Board Site Cleanup Unit. Under the Clean Water Act (CWA), U.S. EPA regulations recognize that alternative pollution control requirements may obviate the need for a TMDL if the contamination is being adequately addressed through another regulatory program. Specifically, segments are not required to be included on the Section 303(d) list if “[o]ther pollution control requirements (e.g., best management practices) required by local, State, or Federal authority” are stringent enough to implement applicable water quality standards (WQS) (see 40 CFR 130.7(b)(1)) within a reasonable time period. These alternatives to TMDLs are commonly referred to as Category 4b waters. Regional Board staff will prepare a 4b request to U.S. EPA in advance of the 2026 Integrated Report package that demonstrates how cleanup actions by the USFS will remediate the Hg contaminant source and ultimately achieve compliance with water quality and tissue objectives for the water bodies listed within the UORW. Post cleanup tributary sampling downgradient of the Old Stamp Mill site will inform whether Hg concentrations are indeed trending below the regulatory criteria for human health and ecological protection. Should those data indicate that Hg concentrations are not trending downward, additional data collection should be evaluated. Further, Crowley Lake

Reservoir will remain listed for WILD beneficial use because cleanup of the Mill site will not remove existing contamination in the reservoir. To address Crowley Lake's listing, would require development of a separate water quality implementation.

Table 3.1: 303(d) listings for mercury in the UORW

Waterbody Name	Waterbody Identification Number (WBID)	Year 303(d) Listed	Beneficial Use (BU) Impaired	Max Sampled Hg.: water ug/L; tissue mg/Kg	CTR Water Quality Objective Hg water ug/L; COMM Water Quality Objective tissue mg/Kg
Mammoth Creek (Twin Lakes Outlet to Old Mammoth Rd)	CAR6031005120080816102743	2006	MUN COMM WILD	H ₂ O: 0.08 Tissue: 0.29	H ₂ O: 0.05 Tissue: 0.20
Mammoth Creek (Old Mammoth Rd to HWY 395)	CAR6031005320080816102036	2006	MUN COMM WILD	H ₂ O: 0.14 Tissue: 0.42	H ₂ O: 0.05 Tissue: 0.20
Mill City Tributary	CAR603100512-0080630162428	2010	MUN	H ₂ O: 0.30	H ₂ O: 0.05 Tissue: 0.20
Hot Creek (Mono County)	CAR603100402-0170721056270	2018	MUN COMM WILD	H ₂ O: 0.13 Tissue: 0.20	H ₂ O: 0.05 Tissue: 0.20
Crowley Lake Reservoir	CAL6031009019980806103521	2018	COMM WILD	Tissue: 0.62	H ₂ O: 0.05 Tissue: 0.20



Figure 3.1: Investigation Sampling locations

4. Former George Air Force Base, Victorville, San Bernardino County, CERCLA Five-Year Review - Remedies Not Protective, Base Tour, Path-Forward Meeting
 – Alonzo Poach, Lorien Sanders, Molina Hauv

During the most recent Five-Year Review at former George Air Force Base (AFB), Air Force and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) determined that several of the existing remedies are not protective of human health and the environment including the Operable Unit (OU) 1 CG070 trichloroethylene (TCE) and the OU3 OT069 TCE groundwater plumes (see Figure 4.1, Extent of Groundwater Plumes 2021). Protectiveness is generally defined in the National Contingency Plan (NCP) by the risk range for carcinogens and the hazard index (HI) for non-cancer effects. A Five-Year Review is required at George AFB by the Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA). The purpose of the Five-Year Review process is to evaluate the performance and protectiveness of remedies formally adopted in CERCLA decision documents (e.g., Records of Decision). With EPA's findings that several of the remedies were not protective a meeting

was requested to begin working on a schedule to select or restart protective remedies for the site.

The meeting requested by EPA was held on November 7 and 8, 2023. Air Force, EPA, the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), and Lahontan Water Board staff met via Microsoft Teams and in-person at former George AFB for a tour of the former base and to discuss a path forward for basewide remediation (i.e., protective cleanup). Photos from the site tour are below.

The majority of former George AFB has been transferred from Air Force and operates as Southern California Logistics Airport. Other former George AFB property uses include a federal prison, commercial and industrial, two schools, and one church. Air Force is in the process of awarding contracts for continued assessment, feasibility studies, and remediation work. The status of remaining property transfer from Air Force, the Air Force's petition regarding City of Adelanto Wastewater Treatment Plant, and general redevelopment at former George AFB were also discussed. Post-meeting follow-up items include non-urgent administrative and document-related tasks. Notably, Air Force, EPA, DTSC and Lahontan Water Board staff agreed to meet routinely for status updates and continue regular meetings to discuss site progress and document submittals.

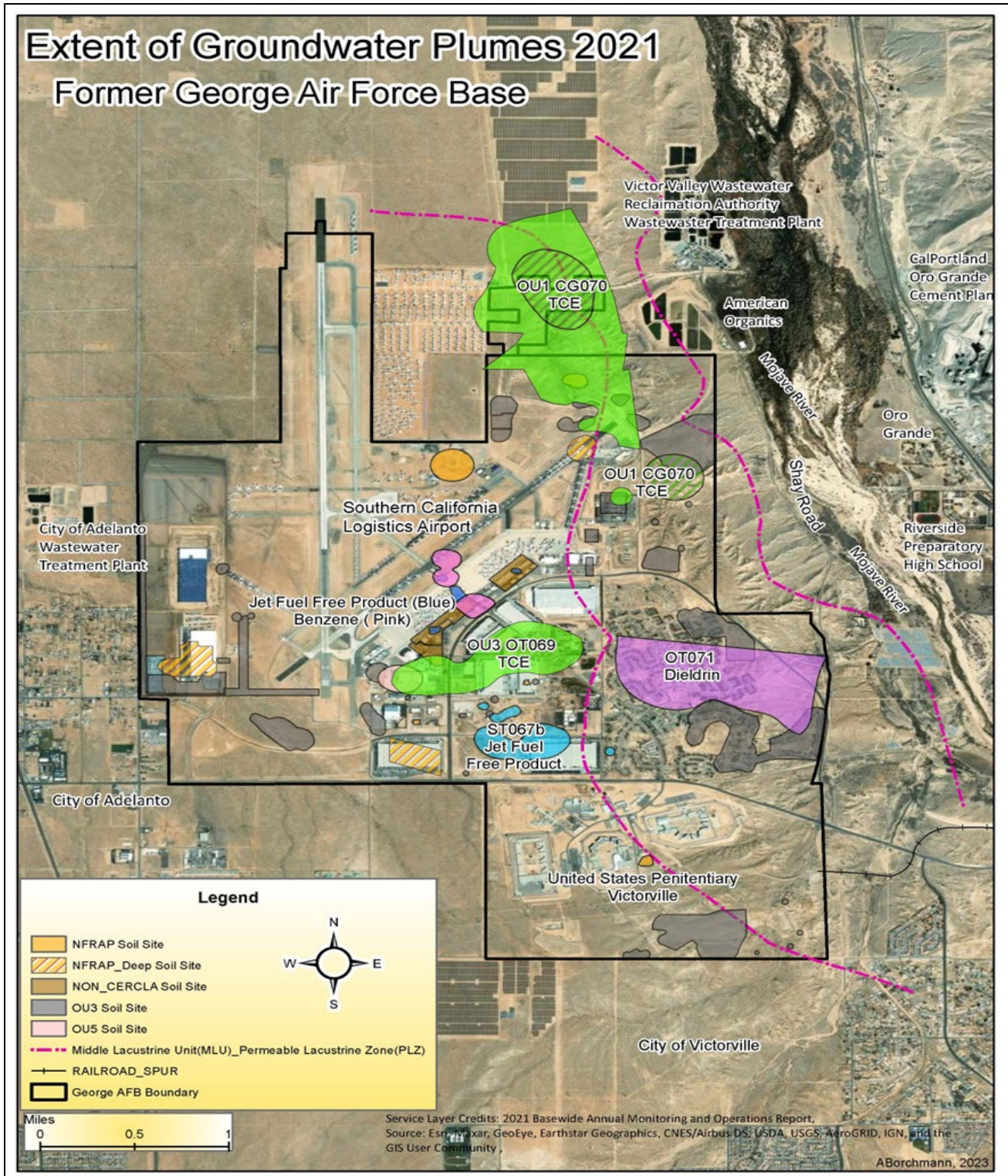


Figure 4.1: Extent of Groundwater Plumes 2021. Aerial map illustrating the groundwater plumes located on Former George Air Force Base.



Photo 4.1: A portion of the airfield of Former George AFB, currently Southern California Logistics Airport.



Photo 4.2: Transferred property, owned by Federal Bureau of Prisons: former munitions site.



Photo 4.3: Transferred property, owned by a private developer: former housing area slated for warehouse redevelopment.



Photo 4.4: Air Force, EPA, and Lahontan Water Board staff during basewide tour. This picture is taken at the site of a remediation treatability study using in-situ carbon (Plume Stop by Regenesis). Names and association of those pictures from left to right: Joe Reyna (Air Force), Ana Nieves (Air Force), Calvin Cox (Air Force Contract support), Alonzo Poach (Water Board), Omer Shalev (EPA), Christiana Hewitt (Air Force), Molina Hauv (Water Board), Lorien Sanders (Water Board), John Hopkins (EPA).

5. Regional Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB) Program Update – *Sabrina Rice*

Legislative Mandated Report and Program Needs

The Freshwater and Estuarine Harmful Algal Bloom (FHAB) Bill, [Assembly Bill 834](#) (AB 834), mandates an annual report to be posted on the State Board's website before July 1. This report outlines the State's efforts in implementing AB 834, along with staff recommendations aimed at protecting water quality and public health from HABs. The State Board is currently in the process of finalizing the report, which will provide additional insights into program needs identified during the [Gap Assessment](#) conducted last year. For reference, you can access the full report from the previous year here: [Legislative Mandated](#)

[Report: 2022 Water Code Section 13182 \(a\) Comprehensive Report](#). The upcoming report will be available on the [State Water Board HAB Website](#).

Currently, there are no water quality objectives in place to address HABs. In February 2019, [Assembly Bill 835](#), which aimed to mandate the Water Boards, in consultation with other agencies, partners, and tribes, to develop minimum standards for HABs to ensure the safety of recreational water bodies, was not approved. This bill has yet to be reconsidered. The Water Boards' Division of Water Quality is currently in the process of developing policies to address [biostimulatory conditions](#) by considering statewide water quality objectives for nutrients, other biostimulatory substances, and cyanotoxins, and a program of implementation under the Biostimulation, Cyanotoxins, and Biological Condition Provisions (Provisions). The Provisions could include statewide numeric or narrative water quality objectives and regulatory control options for point and non-point sources in California's freshwater wadeable streams and rivers, non-wadeable streams and rivers, lakes, and reservoirs. These policies are intended to be incorporated into Water Quality Control Plans and permits. However, it remains uncertain whether water quality thresholds for cyanotoxins will be included in the provisions or if there is a specific timeline for completion. The absence of water quality thresholds for evaluating surface water quality across the state of California poses a challenge in assessing and incorporating monitoring requirements into permits and other regulatory measures.

Region 6 Monitoring Efforts and Results Summary

This year, the Region 6 monitoring season spanned from May to November. Due to the heavy snowfall this year, the monitoring season did not begin as early as the previous year, which started in February. A total of 157 samples were collected and funded for analysis to detect the presence of harmful algal blooms from 41 different water bodies in the region. The increase in monitoring that occurred in 2022 was due to additional sampling conducted to evaluate the high levels of toxins present in the Tahoe Keys and an excess in the state level FHAB program lab contract. The figures and tables below provide information regarding the results and health advisories associated with our regional FHAB monitoring conducted during the 2023 season. The tables also provide a snapshot of how the HAB program has evolved over the past 5 years and gives a comparison of occurrence and intensity of FHAB incidents.

Region 6 collaborated with fifteen partners for monitoring during the field season, which included the Eagle Lake Guardians, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Truckee River Watershed Council, Tahoe Paradise Park, Tahoe Keys Property Owners Association, Alpine Watershed Group, South Tahoe Public Utility District, Walker River Irrigation District, Friends of the Inyo, Inyo County Environmental Health Department, Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP), Department of Water Resources, San Bernardino County Parks Department, Spring Valley Lake Association, and Green Valley Lake Association. This year we gained a new partner with Spring Valley Lake Association. Region 6 also expanded our partnership with LADWP to include data sharing that will continue in the coming year.

HAB Advisories within Lahontan Water Board 2023

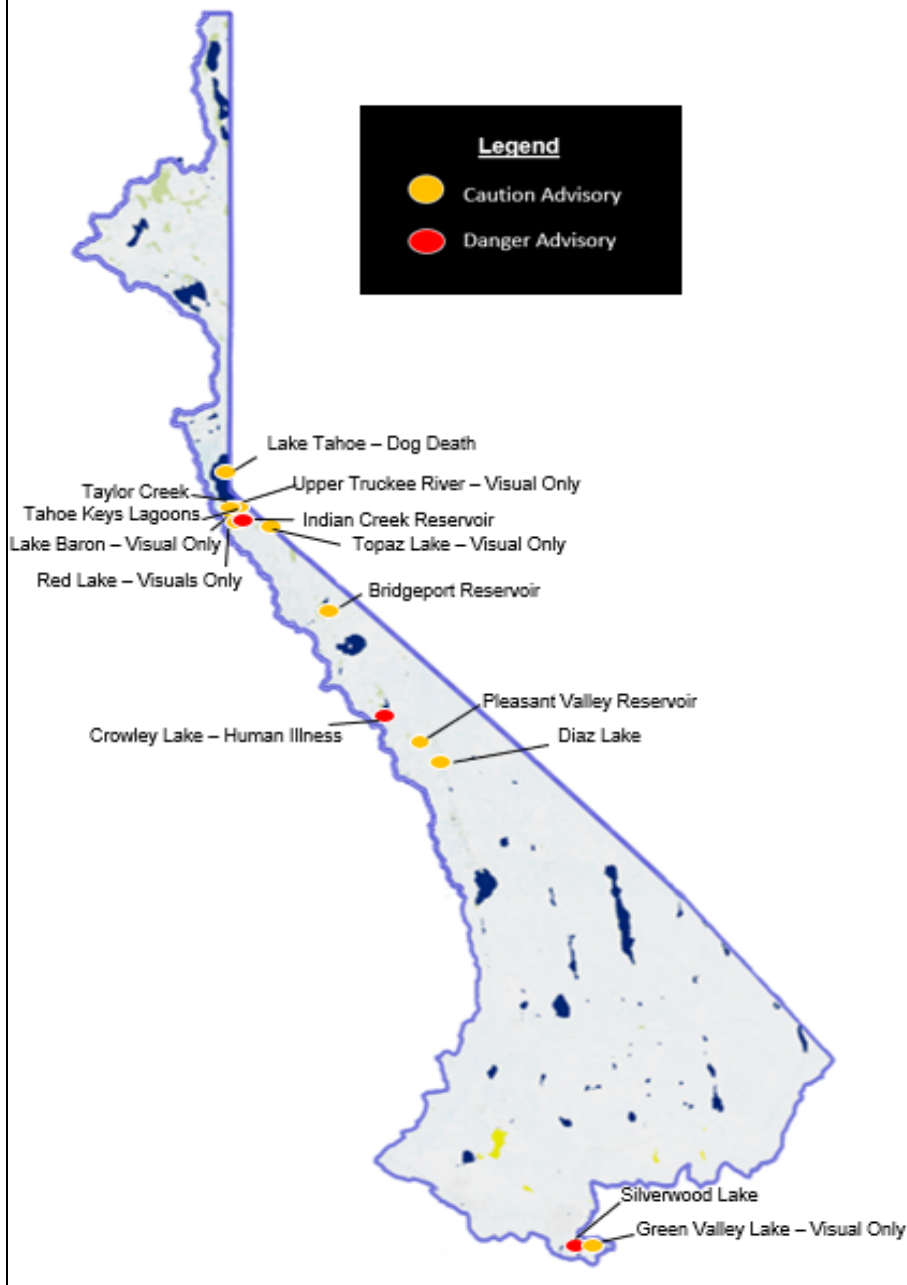


Figure 5.1: Map of waterbodies in the Lahontan region that experienced a HAB advisory in 2023. The map displays the highest advisory level each waterbody reached.

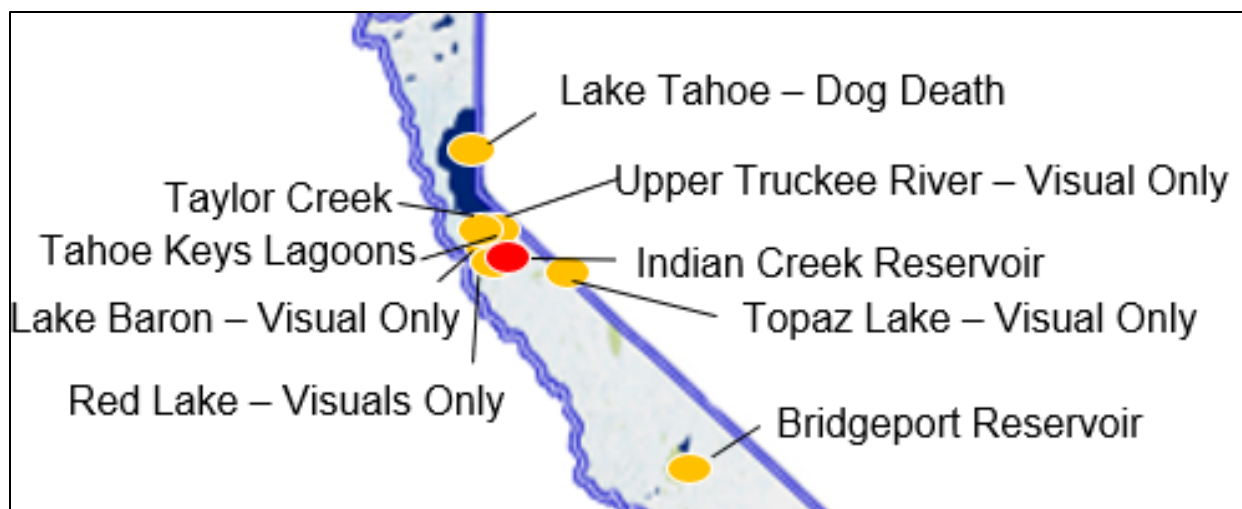


Figure 5.2: Zoomed in portion of the same map shown in Figure 5.1.

Table 5.1: Table comparing HAB advisory recommendations since 2017 and human and animal illness reported and confirmed since 2017.

FHAB Topic	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Number of samples collected for HAB analysis in the Region	36	189	143	182	302	171
Number of waterbodies a Caution advisory was recommended	5	7	16	17	15	11
Number of waterbodies a Warning advisory was recommended	0	2	1	1	1	0
Number of waterbodies a Danger advisory was recommended	1	2	2	3	6	3 - (Indian Creek Reservoir, Crowley Lake, Silverwood Lake)
Number of Illnesses Reported that were suspected to be HAB related (human and animal)	0	3 dog deaths	1 dog death 1 dog illness	3 dog illnesses 1 human illness	3 dog illness 2 human illnesses	4 fish kills 1 dog death 2 human illness
Number of Illnesses confirmed to be HAB related by the HAB Illness Workgroup	NA	0	1 dog death 0 dog illnesses	1 dog illness 0 human illness	1 dog illness 0 human illnesses	0 fish kills 1 dog death 1 human illness

This year we continued our efforts across the State to monitor popular waterbodies for HABs prior to Memorial Day, Independence Day, and Labor Day. In the previous season, a larger laboratory budget allowed for a fourth round of holiday assessment sampling, termed the 'post-holiday assessment'. The outcome of the monitoring for the pre- and post-holiday assessment is outlined in Table 5.2.

Table 5.2: A table outlining the number of waterbodies sampled for the pre- and post-holiday assessments in 2023 along with the number of recommended advisories during each assessment.

	Memorial Day	Fourth of July	Labor Day	Post-Holiday
Number of waterbodies sampled	9	25	29	18
No advisory recommended	8	22	20	11
Caution advisory recommended	1	3	6	5
Warning advisory recommended	0	0	1	1
Danger advisory recommended	0	0	2	1



Photo 5.1: Two photos of HABs present this season. The photo on the left is of a danger advisory at Crowley Lake. The photo on the right is at Pleasant Valley Reservoir which resulted in a caution advisory due to visual indicators alone.

HAB Illness Workgroup

Humans and animals can become sick after ingesting or contacting HABs, water contaminated with cyanotoxins, or algal mats. Cyanotoxins may also accumulate in fish and shellfish. Signs and symptoms may occur within minutes or days following exposure and may include irritation of skin, ears, eyes, nose, or throat, abnormal breathing (coughing, wheezing, asthma-like symptoms), vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal pain, headaches, agitation, weakness, seizures and death (in animals). Due to illnesses reported that are suspected of being HAB related an interagency workgroup has been put together to investigate and tract potential HAB-related illnesses in humans and animals throughout California. The workgroup includes staff from the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA), the State Water Resources Control Board, the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW). All potential illness reports submitted to the workgroup undergo an evaluation of the available environmental and health-related information, and those considered HAB-related are included in final summaries. More information on the workgroup can be found on the [Freshwater Harmful Algal Bloom-related Illness Tracking in California website](#). The illness related information provided above in Table 5.1 shows the results of the investigations performed by the HAB Illness Group after receiving illness reports for our region.

USEPA Benthic Study

While HABs are caused by algae or cyanobacteria that grow suspended in the water column (planktonic), some algae grow attached to the bottom (benthic) and can form algal mats. Benthic harmful cyanobacterial blooms (HCBs) and their toxins pose a significant

environmental threat to domestic animals, wildlife, and humans, and have impacted drinking water treatment operations in recent years. State, tribal, and local agencies have expressed a need for a greater understanding of the role of benthic versus planktonic blooms in cyanotoxin production and tools for identification and quantification of HCBs. Limited work has been done to review and evaluate appropriate collection and analysis methods for benthic HCBs. While the Interstate Technology and Regulatory Council (ITRC) has developed valuable technical review that discussed multiple sampling approaches and alternatives to consider (ITRC 2022b), it does not make specific recommendations for benthic HCB assessment, monitoring, or effective risk characterization. Due to this EPA put together a plan to research benthic HCB sampling and assessment strategies at eight study sites across the country during the late summer of 2023. Lessons learned from the procedures tested in 2023 will be used to refine the methodology and possibly expand the sites sampled in 2024. Results from the sampling and subsequent analytical work will be used to propose a more specific benthic HCB sampling and monitoring protocol to support the decisions and considerations regarding benthic HCB monitoring made by state and tribal partners. Staff assisted in testing a site known to have benthic HCBs on the American River as part of this study and may assist again next season. Lessons learned from this monitoring effort will be utilized in developing benthic monitoring efforts in the State.

Lake Tahoe Nearshore Algal Bloom and Toxin Survey

The United States Geological Survey (USGS) met with Region 6 Staff this year to discuss the possibility of conducting a study of HABs within Lake Tahoe. The goal of the project would be to identify conditions where occurrence, fate, transport, and exposure pathways coincide to understand when adverse health risks will or will not occur. There are four main areas of interest in that goal including the following:

1. Toxin Exposure and Effects - understanding exposure pathways and adverse health impacts.
2. Cause, Control and Fate of Toxins - understanding the variability of toxin occurrence and concentrations in the environment and factors that may lead to toxin production and exposure.
3. Advancing Methods - continued development of methods for the detection, identification, and understanding of algal toxins and algae/cyanobacteria.
4. Decision Support Tools - development of tools for prediction and evaluation of socio-economic costs to support management decisions.

USGS enlisted Region 6 Staff to help guide them on regional knowledge and areas to focus the study. This project is still in the development phase, and it is unknown when it will begin but it shows promise in answering some important questions.

6. 3rd Quarter of 2023 Violations – *Shelby Barker*

There were 35 violations documented for the third quarter of 2023. Violations consisted of: 15 cannabis-related violations including unauthorized/unpermitted facilities and order violations; 7 deficient monitoring violations in the Wastewater, Land Disposal, and NPDES Programs; 3 late or unsubmitted reports in the Wastewater and Industrial Stormwater Programs; 4 stormwater violations associated with deficient best management practices (BMPs) and failure to provide a SWPPP; 3 violations of order conditions in the Land Disposal and Wastewater Programs; 2 deficient reporting in the Wastewater Program; and one unauthorized discharge at an inactive Mine site that is undergoing remediation¹.

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

¹ The unauthorized discharge of acid mine drainage occurred at the Zaca Mine Remediation Maintenance Site through a CalTrans culverts from an unknown source. Staff issued a Notice Violation to which United States Forest Service personnel quickly responded to by installing limestone rock BMPs to neutralize the acid mine drainage prior to reaching East Fork Carson River.

**Third Quarter 2023 Violations Report
July 1, 2023 - September 30, 2023**

Program Category	Priority Violation	County	Responsible Party	Facility	WDID	Violation Description	Corrective Action	Enforcement Action
Cannabis	B	San Bernardino	98 Leaf LLC	98 Leaf LLC	6V36CC427828	Inspectors observed three points of discharge of industrial cannabis wastewater coming from the indoor facility not discharged into the sewer (permitted for sewer discharge) including wastewater discharging to an onsite loading dock concrete pad that is not fully contained, to the street gutter along Beaver Rd, and a wastewater hose leak.	Permittee will develop and implement a corrective action plan (CAP) to properly dispose of cannabis industrial wastewater to sewer.	Staff Enforcement Letter
		Los Angeles	Juan Pablo Perez	Juan Pablo Perez APN 3040-028-041	6B192307003	Water Code section 13260 violations observed from threatened and actual discharges of wastes to waters of the State (WOTS) from activities associated with cannabis cultivation at the site. The property owner has not filed a Report of Waste Discharge (ROWD) for these activities.	Immediately cease unauthorized cannabis cultivation and associated activities. Implement mitigation measures to remove cultivation related infrastructure and waste, restore disturbed areas, and prevent the discharge and threatened discharge of waste that could affect the quality of the WOTS.	Notice of Violation
						Water Code sections 13260 and 13264 violations observed from threatened and actual discharges of wastes to WOTS from activities associated with cannabis cultivation at the site. Domestic wastewater discharged directly to land. The ground around two generators and a collection of petroleum product containers was stained by some type of liquid. Staff conclude this liquid was petroleum based. The property owner has not filed a ROWD for these activities.		
			Magdalena Garcia	Magdalena Garcia APN 3040-013-009	6B192307001	Water Code section 13260 violations observed from threatened discharges of wastes to WOTS from activities associated with cannabis cultivation at the site. Unauthorized releases of water from two unpermitted storage ponds could result in a discharge of waste to groundwater. The property owner has not filed a ROWD for these activities.	Immediately cease unauthorized cannabis cultivation and associated activities. Implement mitigation measures to remove cultivation related infrastructure and waste, restore disturbed areas, and prevent the discharge and threatened discharge of waste that could affect the quality of the WOTS.	Notice of Violation
						Water Code sections 13260 and 13264 violations observed from threatened and actual discharges of wastes to WOTS from activities associated with cannabis cultivation at the site. Domestic wastewater discharged directly to land. The property owner has not filed a ROWD for these activities.		

Program Category	Priority Violation	County	Responsible Party	Facility	WDID	Violation Description	Corrective Action	Enforcement Action
Cannabis (Continued)	B	Los Angeles	Raul Vega	Raul Vega APN 3040-013-022	6B192307002	Water Code sections 13260 and 13264 violations observed from threatened and actual discharges of wastes to WOTS from activities associated with cannabis cultivation at the site. The property owner has not filed a ROWD for these activities. Water Code sections 13260 and 13264 violations observed from threatened and actual discharges of wastes to WOTS from activities associated with cannabis cultivation at the site. Domestic wastewater discharged from the shower/lavrine area directly to land. Trash and other cultivation-related debris placed directly in the ephemeral stream channel present at the subject property. The property owner has not filed a ROWD for these activities.	Immediately cease unauthorized cannabis cultivation and associated activities. Implement mitigation measures to remove cultivation related infrastructure and waste, restore disturbed areas, and prevent the discharge and threatened discharge of waste that could affect the quality of the WOTS.	Notice of Violation
			Fatma and Jacqueline Louderman	Louderman Property	6B192307004	Water Code sections 13260 and 13264 violations observed from threatened and actual discharges of wastes to WOTS from activities associated with cannabis cultivation at the site include: Application of irrigation water likely containing pesticides and fertilizers, excavation and grading of the ephemeral stream course to establish the cultivation area and filling an ephemeral stream course to establish an access road. The property owner has not filed a ROWD for these activities.	Immediately cease unauthorized cannabis cultivation and associated activities. Implement mitigation measures to remove cultivation related infrastructure and waste, restore disturbed areas, and prevent the discharge and threatened discharge of waste that could affect the quality of the WOTS.	Notice of Violation
			Erick Joel Sandoval	Sandoval Property	6B192307005	Water Code sections 13260 and 13264 violations observed from threatened and actual discharges of wastes to WOTS from activities associated with cannabis cultivation at the site include: Application of irrigation water, likely containing pesticides and fertilizers, is evidence of an actual discharge of waste that could affect the quality of the WOTS. The property owner has not filed a ROWD for these activities.	Immediately cease unauthorized cannabis cultivation and associated activities. Implement mitigation measures to remove cultivation related infrastructure and waste, restore disturbed areas, and prevent the discharge and threatened discharge of waste that could affect the quality of the WOTS.	Notice of Violation
			Irene Calderon Gonzalez	Gonzalez Property	6B192307006	Water Code sections 13260 and 13264 violations observed from threatened and actual discharges of wastes to WOTS from activities associated with cannabis cultivation at the site. The property owner has not filed a ROWD for these activities.	Immediately cease unauthorized cannabis cultivation and associated activities. Implement mitigation measures to remove cultivation related infrastructure and waste, restore disturbed areas, and prevent the discharge and threatened discharge of waste that could affect the quality of the WOTS.	Notice of Violation
			Oskar Alfredo Cortez Cruz	Oskar Alfredo Cortez Cruz	6B192307009	Water Code sections 13260 and 13264 violations observed from threatened and actual discharges of wastes to WOTS from activities associated with cannabis cultivation at the site. The property owner has not filed a ROWD for these activities.	Immediately cease unauthorized cannabis cultivation and associated activities. Implement mitigation measures to remove cultivation related infrastructure and waste, restore disturbed areas, and prevent the discharge and threatened discharge of waste that could affect the quality of the WOTS.	Notice of Violation

Program Category	Priority Violation	County	Responsible Party	Facility	WDID	Violation Description	Corrective Action	Enforcement Action
Cannabis (Continued)	B	Los Angeles	Diosenia Valencia	Diosenia Valencia Property	6B192307008	Water Code sections 13260 and 13264 violations observed from threatened and actual discharges of wastes to WOTS from activities associated with cannabis cultivation at the site. The property owner has not filed a ROWD for these activities.	Immediately cease unauthorized cannabis cultivation and associated activities. Implement mitigation measures to remove cultivation related infrastructure and waste, restore disturbed areas, and prevent the discharge and threatened discharge of waste that could affect the quality of the WOTS.	Notice of Violation
			Diego Romo	Diego Romo Property	6B192307007	Water Code section 13260 violations observed from threatened discharges of wastes to WOTS from activities associated with cannabis cultivation at the site. The property owner has not filed a ROWD for these activities.	Immediately cease unauthorized cannabis cultivation and associated activities. Implement mitigation measures to remove cultivation related infrastructure and waste, restore disturbed areas, and prevent the discharge and threatened discharge of waste that could affect the quality of the WOTS.	Notice of Violation
		Riverside	LMG Indoor Facilities	LMG Indoor Facilities	7_33CC403305	Discharge of cannabis wastewater to a stormwater retention basin violates Cannabis Cultivation Policy Attachment A, Section 1, #26 and #27.	Prepare a CAP to collect and haul the wastewater to a permitted facility that accepts cannabis wastewater. No discharge to land is permitted.	Staff Enforcement Letter
			NEW GREEN ACRES, LLC	New Green Acres, LLC	7_33CC400816	The RO-treated cannabis cultivation wastewater is currently being used for landscape irrigation around the building and untreated cannabis cultivation wastewater is suspected to have been discharged to the ground likely from cannabis wastewater holding tank overflow. The property owner has not filed a ROWD for these activities.	Permittee must provide hauling records for wastewater, construction plumbing plans, and treated cultivation wastewater analytical laboratory report(s) to inspection staff prior to implementing the CAP.	Staff Enforcement Letter
Discharge to Land	A	Alpine	USDA Forest Service Humboldt-Toiyabe NF Sparks	Zaca Mine Remediation Maintenance Site	6A022007001	Unauthorized discharge of acid mine drainage (AMD) to the East Fork Carson River from unknown discharge location. Discharge occurring through CalTrans culverts.	Install BMPs to mitigate AMD. Discharger installed limestone rock to neutralize AMD.	Notice of Violation
Land Disposal	B	Lassen	US Army Sierra Army Depot	Sierra Army Depot SWDS	6A180019000	Unsuccessful design and construction of the landfill to maintain a stormwater control system. Violation of Board Order 6-93-102, WDR section I.C.g.	Water Board staff are working with the discharger on corrective action measures including an evaluation of the landfill design and interim cover. The discharger is currently in evaluation monitoring and is in the process of preparing a CAP.	Staff Enforcement Letter
				Sierra Army Depot Sewage Treatment Plant	6A180020000	Violations of MRP No.01-25 I.A. The Discharger failed to submit the total influent flow for each day to the lagoons.	Discharger provided updated logs via GeoTracker on 12/2/23. No further action is required.	Staff Enforcement Letter
						Violation of MRP No. 01-25 I.B. The discharger failed to report effluent sample data for September from the outflow of the lagoons prior to its discharge to the constructed wetlands.	Discharger provided clarification via a Change of Custody form that the lagoon was dry in September 2023. No further action is required. It has been requested that Discharger provide this information in future reports.	
NPDES	B	Lassen	Susanville Consol SD	Susanville CSD	6A181554001	09/2023 SMR: Annual laboratory proficiency tests for ELAP failed two consecutive times for Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) and Electrical Conductivity in August 2023. Reported results are invalid for the September 2023 Monthly SMR for INF-001, EFF-001, RSW-001, and RSW-002.	District's lab on suspension for TDS and Electrical Conductivity. District using outside laboratory until Proficiency Test is passed for each parameter and suspension is removed.	Staff Enforcement Letter

Program Category	Priority Violation	County	Responsible Party	Facility	WDID	Violation Description	Corrective Action	Enforcement Action
Construction Stormwater	B	Alpine	Caltrans District 10	1P0604 and 1Q4904 Route 89 Emergency	6A02C398985	Sediment control BMP violations.	Documentation of corrective actions made in the field was uploaded to SMARTS as requested.	Staff Enforcement Letter
		Nevada	Greys Crossing Investments LLC	Village at Grays	6A29C393780	Deficient project information uploaded to SMARTS.	Discharger uploaded documents to SMARTS.	Staff Enforcement Letter
Industrial Stormwater	B	San Bernardino	BETOS TRUCK & AUTO DISMANTLERS	BETOS TRUCK & AUTO DISMANTLERS	6B36I027488	Staff were unable to produce SWPPP when requested.	Discharger will have the SWPPP available on site.	Verbal Communication
						Visible oil staining in the soil beneath some vehicles.	Vehicles have been removed and soil has been dug up.	
		Lassen	CPCR	California Correctional Center	6A18I021563	Annual report for 2022-2023 is missing.	Requested Discharger to provide the missing report by October 31, 2023	Staff Enforcement Letter
Sanitary Sewer Overflow	B	Alpine	Markleeville PUD	Markleeville Wstwr Trtmt Sys CS	6SSO11109	The temporary bypass system is in violation of Sanitary Sewer Systems General Order No. 2022-0103-DWQ, Section 5.19 Operation and Maintenance.	Discharger has been requested to submit a response letter to the Water Board detailing proposed corrective actions and timelines.	Notice of Violation
WDR - Municipal Wastewater	B	Inyo	USDI National Park Service Death Valley	DVNM HDQ Furnace Creek WWTF	6B140706001	2nd Quarter 2023 Report due on July 15, 2023. The report was received on September 26, 2023.	Staff has notified the Discharger of the late submittal and advised to upload future reports on time.	Oral Communication
		Lassen	Ca Dept of Corrections & Rehabilitation	CCC @ Susanville, CSP-LC WTF	6A186000500	Violation of MRP No. 2008-0024 I.E.2.i. Groundwater samples must be collected only after at least three well volumes have been removed. Did not purge a sufficient amount.	Discharger was informed that they need to ensure sufficient volume of water is purged for each well in future reports.	Staff Enforcement Letter
						Violation of MRP No. 2008-0024 I.E.2.ii. Did not provide static water elevation and well bottom elevation for each well.	Discharger has been directed to add static water elevation and well bottom elevation to all future reports.	
			Leavitt Lake CSD	Leavitt Lake Sewage Treatment Ponds	6A180004501	Not uploading reports to GeoTracker. Violates Board Order 96-018 Amendment dated 10/9/2019.	Discharger to submit all future reports via GeoTracker.	Staff Enforcement Letter
			USDA Forest Service Lassen National Forest, Eagle Lake District	Eagle Lake Ranger Station	6A189203010	Semi-annual report due on 7/15/2023, submitted 10/11/2023 . Violates Board Order No. 92-032.	The Discharger was informed that future reports need to be submitted complete and on-time in the future.	Staff Enforcement Letter
						Did not take leak detection samples. Violates Board Order 6-92-32, MRP section I.B.2.	The Discharger was informed that future reports need to be submitted complete with sampling data.	
				Eagle Lake Rec Area	6A188505700	Missing sampling data for ponds, lysimeters and leak detection for June 2023. Violates Board Order No. R6T 2010 0056, MRP II.B. and II.C.	Requested Discharger identify missing or deficient data in self-monitoring reports.	Staff Enforcement Letter
WDR - Non-Municipal Wastewater	B	Nevada	Tahoe Donner Association	Tahoe Donner Downhill Ski Area	6A290009500	MRP No. 6-00-45 II.B.3.d. Missing note of the presence or absence of algal growth for Site #1.	Discharger to provide missing information for current report. Discharger to include missing information in future reports.	Staff Enforcement Letter

ATTACHMENT A

Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board

EXECUTIVE OFFICER ACTION ITEMS

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

DOCUMENT

DATE

NO FURTHER ACTION REQUIRED¹

No Further Remedial Actions Required Under Cleanup and Abatement Order R6V-2015-0068 Sections V.C.2.c and V.C.2.d Northern Disputed Plumes Area, Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E) Company Hinkley Compressor Station, Hinkley, San Bernardino County	11/07/2023
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EXEMPTION

Pending Action for Notice of Applicability and Exemption to Waste Discharge Prohibitions for the Bellevue Pump Station Emergency, El Dorado County	11/06/2023
Board Order No. R6T-2023-0037, Granting Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification and Basin Plan Prohibition Exemption, Poipao Pier Repair Project, El Dorado County	11/06/2023
Exemption To Waste Discharge Prohibition for Discharge Of Waste To Surface Waters Of Mono Hydrologic Unit For The SCE Multi TD Reversed Creek Deteriorated Pole Replacement Project, Mono County	11/22/2023
EXTENSION	
N/A	N/A

401 WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATIONS

Board Order No. R6V-2023-0038, Granting Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification, Meadow Farms ADA 90-36680 Project	11/08/2023
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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****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, Rock Creek Pavement 09-37880	11/13/2023
Acceptance of Boric Acid Plant Pond 8B Detailed Design, Revision 2, Board Order No. R6V-2015-0057, Waste Discharge Requirements, U.S. Borax Mine, U.S. Borax Inc., Rio Tinto Minerals, Kern County	11/15/2023

MISCELLANEOUS DOCUMENTS

Acceptance of Request to Modify the Plan for Enhancement of the Lower Aquifer Remedy, Pacific Gas & Electric Company (PG&E) Hinkley Compressor Station, San Bernardino County	11/01/2023
Acceptance of the Request to Modify Western Action Plan to Remove Northwest Freshwater Injection System Operation, Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) Company, Hinkley Compressor Station, Hinkley, San Bernardino County	11/02/2023
Key Issue Summary for Hot Creek SSO Project	11/02/2023

Additional links:

[General Policy information](#)

[Copy of Policy](#)

[Implementation Plan](#)

ATTACHMENT B

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

Responsible Party	Location of Occurrence	Regulated Facility	Basin N/S?	Date of Occurrence	Volume of Occurrence	Violation Description	Comments	Status
COUNTY: SAN BERNARDINO								
Unknown	I-15 Southbound, Mile Marker 131, Baker, CA	No	S	11/8/2023	100 gallons	A semi rolled over causing 100 gallons of diesel fuel to spill from a saddle tank onto asphalt and soil.	No surface water was affected.	Premium Environmental Services will excavate within a week, but the area has been contained. Samples will be collected.
MP Mine Operations, LLC (Mountain Pass Mine)	67750 Bailey Road, HC1 224, Mountain Pass, CA	Yes	S	11/14/23	500 gallons	A pipeline adjacent to west overburden stockpile ruptured and approximately 500 gallons of process water in route to the evaporation ponds discharged to soil.	No surface water was affected.	Impacted soil was excavated and disposed of properly. The pipe was been shut off to address necessary repairs.

*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, 2023 TO NOVEMBER 30, 2023

Responsible Party	Location of Occurrence	Regulated Facility	Basin N/S?	Date of Occurrence	Volume of Occurrence	Violation Description	Comments	Status
Unknown	4005 Alvord Drive, Fort Irwin, CA	No	S	11/27/2023	10,000 gallons	The reporting party, Jacobs' Sewer Collections, responded to a sewer overflow in the housing area at 4005 Alvord Drive, Fort Irwin, CA between Unit 5026 and Unit 4003. The overflow released approximately 10,000 gallons of sewage to the ground. Upon further investigation, it was determined that foreign debris such as toys, shoes, rocks, and a tricycle caused a sewer backup and overflow.	Crews removed the foreign debris and restored flow to the sewer system. Vactor trucks were used to remove standing sewage and neutralize sewage on the ground by applying lime. Affected soil will be disposed of at on-site landfill. Additionally, management will secure two manholes to prevent future occurrences. No surface water was affected.	Water Board requested a cleanup report and a report noting disposal of contaminated waste at the local landfill.

*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, 2023 – December 31, 2023

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1. Personnel Report – Sandra Lopez

Vacancies

- Environmental Scientist, Planning & Assessment Unit. The position is advertised with placement in either the South Lake Tahoe or Victorville office. This position will assess water quality data to help develop the 303(d) Impaired Waters List, work to restore impaired waters, and also work on Basin Planning priorities. The position requires work based in science, policy, and public process.
- Senior Water Resource Control Engineer (Supervisor), South Lake Tahoe. This position will oversee the Regulatory and Enforcement unit. The unit is responsible for implementing the Water Board's regulatory and compliance programs within the North Lahontan Region and, under certain circumstances, throughout the Lahontan Region (e.g., National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Program for Fish Hatcheries, Aquatic Pesticides application).

Departures

- Sheryl Bilbrey, Environmental Scientist, Planning & Assessment Unit, South Lake Tahoe

2. 2023 CWA NPDES National Technical Workshop – Jose Valle de Leon, Kristin Tokheim, and Lauder Fairchok

Water Board Staff attended the NPDES National Technical Inspector Workshop from November 27 through November 30, 2023 in Berkeley, CA to enhance their permit oversight and inspection skills. The workshop provided an important, multi-day classroom and field training opportunity for USEPA and state staff from across the country. This year's training was attended by Jose Valle de Leon from the Victorville office and NPDES program staff, Kristin Tokheim and Lauder Fairchok, from the Tahoe office.

The training included daily sessions with tracks for specific permit interests and skill levels. EPA staff from various states provided presentations and interactive discussions on wastewater, industrial, stormwater (industrial/construction/municipal), and pretreatment topics. Jose, Kristin, and Lauder, as new staff to Lahontan, attended beginner training sessions to receive foundational knowledge for conducting effective inspections.

The workshop also included a field demonstration day with a few different options for site visits to local facilities regulated under NPDES permits. For this portion of the workshop, Jose selected a field exercise focused on pretreatment. The site visit was to a local metal plating shop which had an onsite treatment system to remove metals from the wastewater before being discharged to the municipal collection system. During the site visit, EPA Staff demonstrated how to prepare prior to the inspection, how to conduct an initial interview, file review, and closing conference.

Kristin attended a site visit to the Central Contra Costa Sanitary District Wastewater Treatment Plant which is a large-scale facility designed to treat an average of 54 million gallons per day of wastewater from the community. The site visit included demonstrations by EPA staff and plant operators on several topics including sampling procedures, laboratory inspections, and discharge monitoring report reviews. The field outing was valuable in highlighting the various types of treatment processes and compliance issues which may be encountered at a wastewater plant during an inspection.

Lauder, who regulates sites enrolled in the Statewide (CGP) and Tahoe Construction General Permit and Industrial General Permit, opted for the stormwater field exercise to further hone her understanding of stormwater systems and best practices for conducting inspections. This included a tour around the UC Berkeley campus to discuss aspects of a Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) inspection, and how this interfaces with other stormwater permits. This was followed by a group mock inspection of an academic building construction site, allowing an important opportunity to bring to the field what was learned in the classroom sessions and knowledge-share from other inspectors' professional experiences.

Beyond the training sessions and field visits, the workshop also provided numerous networking events and Q&A sessions. Engaging in these events provided a platform for

Lahontan staff to expand their learning and effectiveness in their job role. Staff were able to exchange helpful technical concepts learned over time and create professional relationships with USEPA Region 9 liaisons.



Photo 2.1: Group Photo of NPDES National Technical Workshop Attendees on November 27, 2023 (Photo Courtesy of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance)

3. Advancing Restoration Interagency Summit – *Liz van Diepen*

The Asilomar State Beach and Conference Grounds provided an ideal setting for California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) and State and Regional Water Board staff to gather for the first-ever Advancing Restoration Interagency Summit (summit) hosted by the California Landscape Stewardship Network. Attendees of the December 12-13, 2023 summit were Lahontan Water Board dredge and fill/401 water quality certification program staff Jan Zimmerman, Tiffany Steinert, and Liz van Diepen. The general purpose of the summit was to explore opportunities to reduce the regulatory burden, or “red tape,” for beneficial habitat restoration projects, commonly referred to as “cutting the green tape.” Themes of the summit included: 1) increasing the pace and scale of restoration work while protecting resources and species, 2) strengthening connections between agency staff to facilitate coordinated efforts, and 3) emphasizing common purpose to advance regulatory efficiencies.

State Water Board Vice Chair Dedi D’Adamo and CDFW Director Chuck Bonham kicked off the summit by speaking about the existential threat of climate change on habitat and the species they support, and the urgent need to increase the pace and scale of restoration. Next, attendees heard from a panel of Regional Water Board and CDFW staff on successes they’ve had with facilitating restoration projects. The

remainder of the Summit consisted primarily of focused small group intra- and inter-agency discussions and report-outs to the larger group of attendees, with topics ranging from perceived staff and agency roles for advancing restoration; benefits of utilizing general orders; barriers associated with existing general orders; and staff needs for reducing barriers to restoration permitting and grant funding.

The summit highlighted the current shift in mindset from avoiding project impacts at all costs to considering project effects to beneficial uses overall. Due to the inherent nature of dredge/fill program work, this involves a degree of risk; however, it's important to acknowledge the risk involved with no action and maintaining the status quo which is reflected by the fact that most California water bodies are impaired. Lahontan Water Board staff left the summit with a number of tasks that can be implemented immediately, in addition to some longer-term efforts permitting staff could take on to help “cut the green tape.” One key takeaway was to improve communication with other agency permitting staff such as CDFW and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; another was to proactively go the extra mile to help push along ecologically beneficial projects. Lahontan Water Board staff look forward to reducing regulatory hurdles in the region for restoration projects, which is directly in line with our [2019 Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Strategy](#).



Photo 3.1: attendees from the Advancing Restoration Interagency Summit

4. Update on Closure Activities at the Former Coolwater Generating Station Presented at the Technical Advisory Committee Meeting of the Mojave Water Agency – Jan Zimmerman

Lahontan Water Board staff (Andrew Robinson, Christina Guerra, and Jan Zimmerman) attended the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Meeting of the Mojave Water Agency (MWA) on December 7, 2023. As part of the regular meeting agenda, Mr. Robinson provided an update on the closure activities occurring at the former Coolwater Generating Station in Daggett, San Bernardino County.

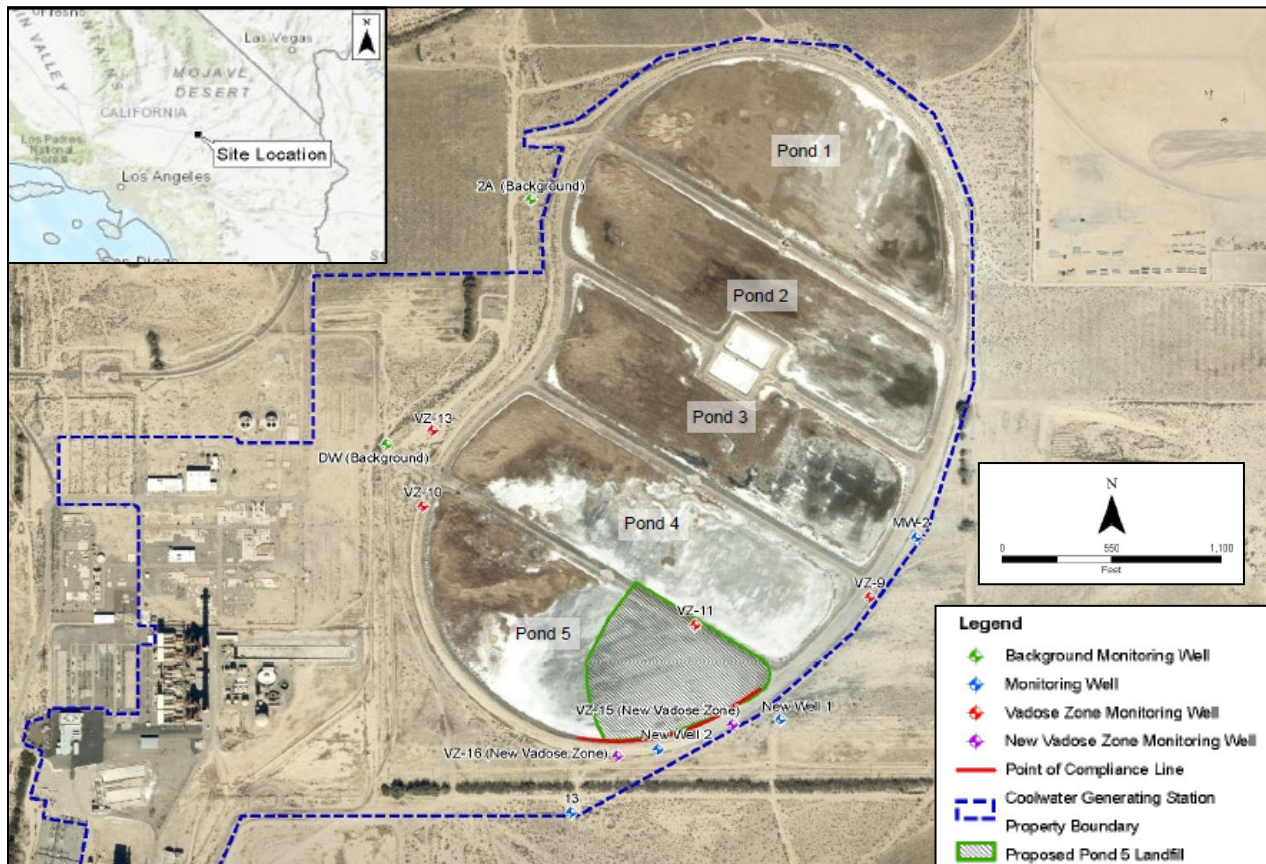


Figure 4.1: Site layout for surface impoundments and proposed landfill for closure

The Closure and Post-Closure Waste Discharge Requirements for the Coolwater Generating Station were adopted by the Board in May 2022. The plan is to clean-close the surface impoundments (Ponds 1, 2, 3, 4, and a portion of Pond 5) by removing all waste and consolidating that waste material in the eastern portion of Pond 5 (Figure 1). The consolidated waste in Pond 5 will then be closed as a landfill pursuant to California Code of Regulations, Title 27. Following clean-closure of the surface impoundments any liner materials that are found to be unimpacted by waste may be reused onsite or left in place, and any berms not used as part of the Pond 5 Landfill containment will be removed (regraded onsite). Additionally, windblown wastes deposited on the ground

surface outside of the surface impoundments (primarily north and east in the direction of prevailing winds) will be collected and consolidated in the landfill as part of the closure.

Between May 2022 and July 2023, the discharger finalized engineering plans, obtained materials and equipment, and secured a contractor to do the work. Closure activities onsite began in summer 2023 and consolidation of the waste into the onsite landfill was completed by December 2023. Samples of the clay liners and subsurface have been collected to verify clean closure. Consolidation of offsite windblow waste is pending an Incidental Take Permit that the discharger is currently obtaining from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife for desert tortoise. In the interim, an interim soil cover has been placed over the landfill, and the final cover will be constructed once all waste is consolidated in the landfill.

The presentation was well received by TAC members. Several comments were made by TAC members including the concern for groundwater contamination from the consolidated waste landfill and the process by which Water Board staff informed the community of the pending adoption of the Coolwater Generating Station Closure and Post-Closure Board Order. Mr. Robinson assured the TAC members that long-term groundwater monitoring has occurred at this site since the 1980's and that the monitoring will continue through the post-closure period; to date there is no indication that there has been a release to groundwater from this site. Mr. Robinson also explained the process by which Water Board staff inform local communities, interested persons, and other local and state agencies when a new or revised Board Order goes before the Water Board for adoption. It seems that some TAC members felt our notification process for adopting the Coolwater Generating Station Closure and Post-Closure Board Order fell short of their expectations as they were unaware of it at the time. To address this, Water Board staff are committed to informing TAC members of pending Water Board actions within the jurisdiction of the Mojave Water Agency at future TAC meetings.

Other business related to the TAC was also discussed. The next TAC meeting is scheduled for February 1, 2024.

5. Former George Air Force Base, Victorville, San Bernardino County, CERCLA Five-Year Review - Remedies Not Protective, Base Tour, Path-Forward Meeting –
Alonzo Poach, Lorien Sanders, Molina Hauv

During the most recent Five-Year Review at former George Air Force Base (AFB), Air Force and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) determined that several of the existing remedies are not protective of human health and the environment including the Operable Unit (OU) 1 CG070 trichloroethylene (TCE) and the OU3 OT069 TCE groundwater plumes (see figure 1, Extent of Groundwater Plumes 2021). Protectiveness is generally defined in the National Contingency Plan (NCP) by the risk range for carcinogens and the hazard index (HI) for non-cancer effects. A Five-Year Review is required at George AFB by the Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA). The purpose of the Five-Year Review process is to evaluate the performance and protectiveness of remedies formally

adopted in CERCLA decision documents (e.g., Records of Decision). With EPA's findings that several of the remedies were not protective a meeting was requested to begin working on a schedule to select or restart protective remedies for the site.

The meeting requested by EPA was held on November 7 and 8, 2023. Air Force, EPA, the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), and Lahontan Water Board staff met via Microsoft Teams and in-person at former George AFB for a tour of the former base and to discuss a path forward for basewide remediation (i.e. protective cleanup). Photos from the site tour are below. The majority of former George AFB has been transferred from Air Force and operates as Southern California Logistics Airport. Other former George AFB property uses include a federal prison, commercial and industrial, two schools, and one church. Air Force is in the process awarding contracts for continued assessment, feasibility studies, and remediation work. The status of remaining property transfer from Air Force, the Air Force's petition regarding City of Adelanto Wastewater Treatment Plant, and general redevelopment at former George AFB were also discussed. Post-meeting follow-up items include non-urgent administrative and document-related tasks. Notably, Air Force, EPA, DTSC and Lahontan Water Board staff agreed to meet routinely for status updates and continue regular meetings to discuss site progress and document submittals.

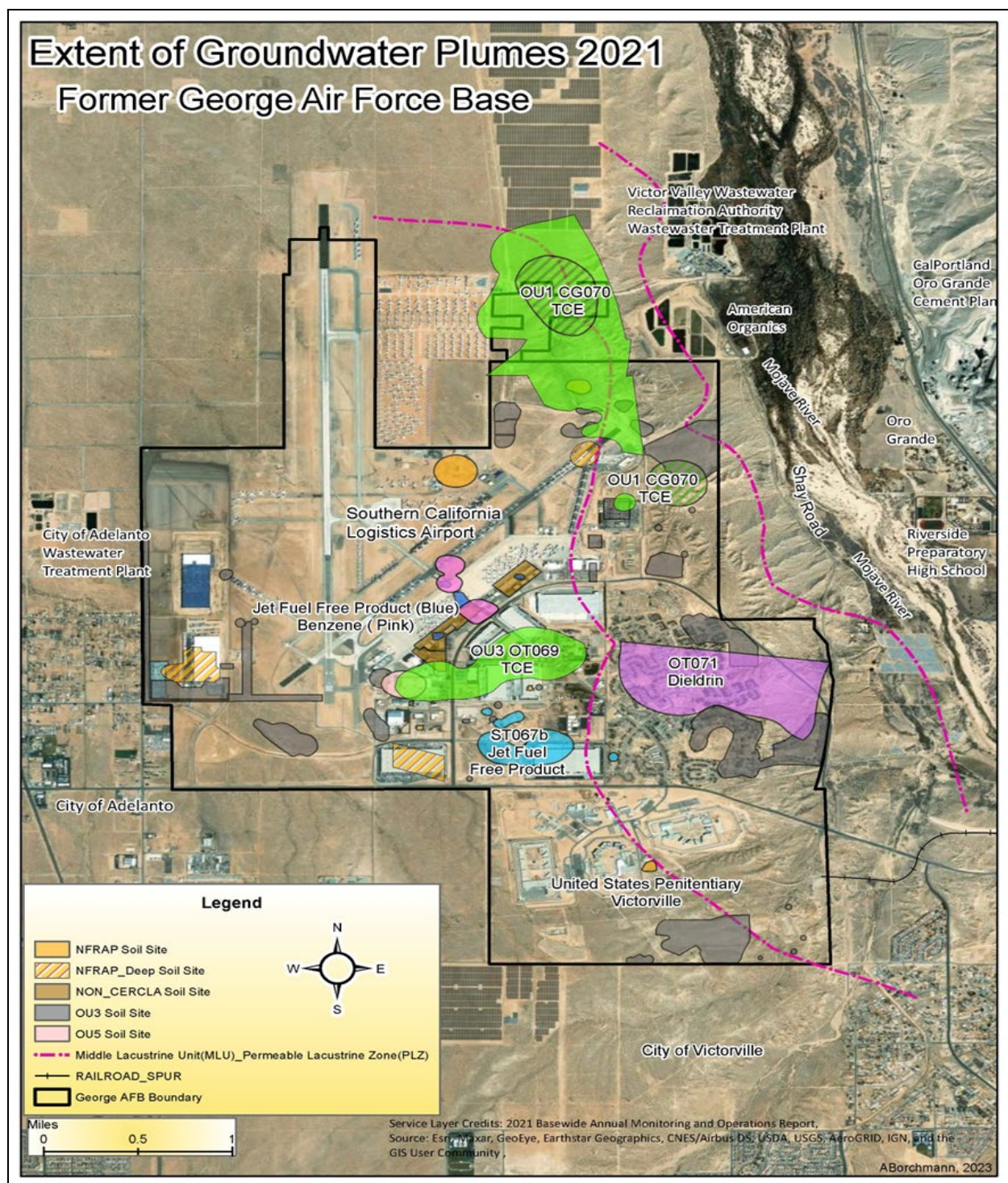


Figure 5.1: Extent of Groundwater Plumes 2021. Aerial map illustrating the groundwater plumes located on Former George Air Force Base.



Photo 5.2: A portion of the airfield of Former George AFB, currently Southern California Logistics Airport.



Photo 5.3: Transferred property, owned by Federal Bureau of Prisons: former munitions site.



Photo 5.4: Transferred property, owned by a private developer: former housing area slated for warehouse redevelopment.



Photo 5.5: Air Force, EPA, and Lahontan Water Board staff during basewide tour. This picture is taken at the site of a remediation treatability study using in-situ carbon (Plume Stop by Regenesis). Names and association of those pictures from left to right: Joe Reyna (Air Force), Ana Nieves (Air Force), Calvin Cox (Air Force Contract support), Alonzo Poach (Water Board), Omer Shalev (EPA), Christiana Hewitt (Air Force), Molina Hauv (Water Board), Lorien Sanders (Water Board), John Hopkins (EPA).

6. Update on Confined Animal Facility Strategy – John Morales

On August 15, 2015, the previous Executive Officer instructed staff to draft a regional General Order for Confined Animal Facilities (CAFs) after receiving approval by the Board. Since then, staff had worked diligently with external and internal stakeholders to draft a General Order and to bring it to the Board for adoption in April 2023. However, due to the multitude of challenges that were faced in writing a General Order and to better address the threat to water quality that each CAF poses based on site-specific conditions, we are pivoting our strategy to regulate the CAFs with individual orders instead of a regionwide General Order.

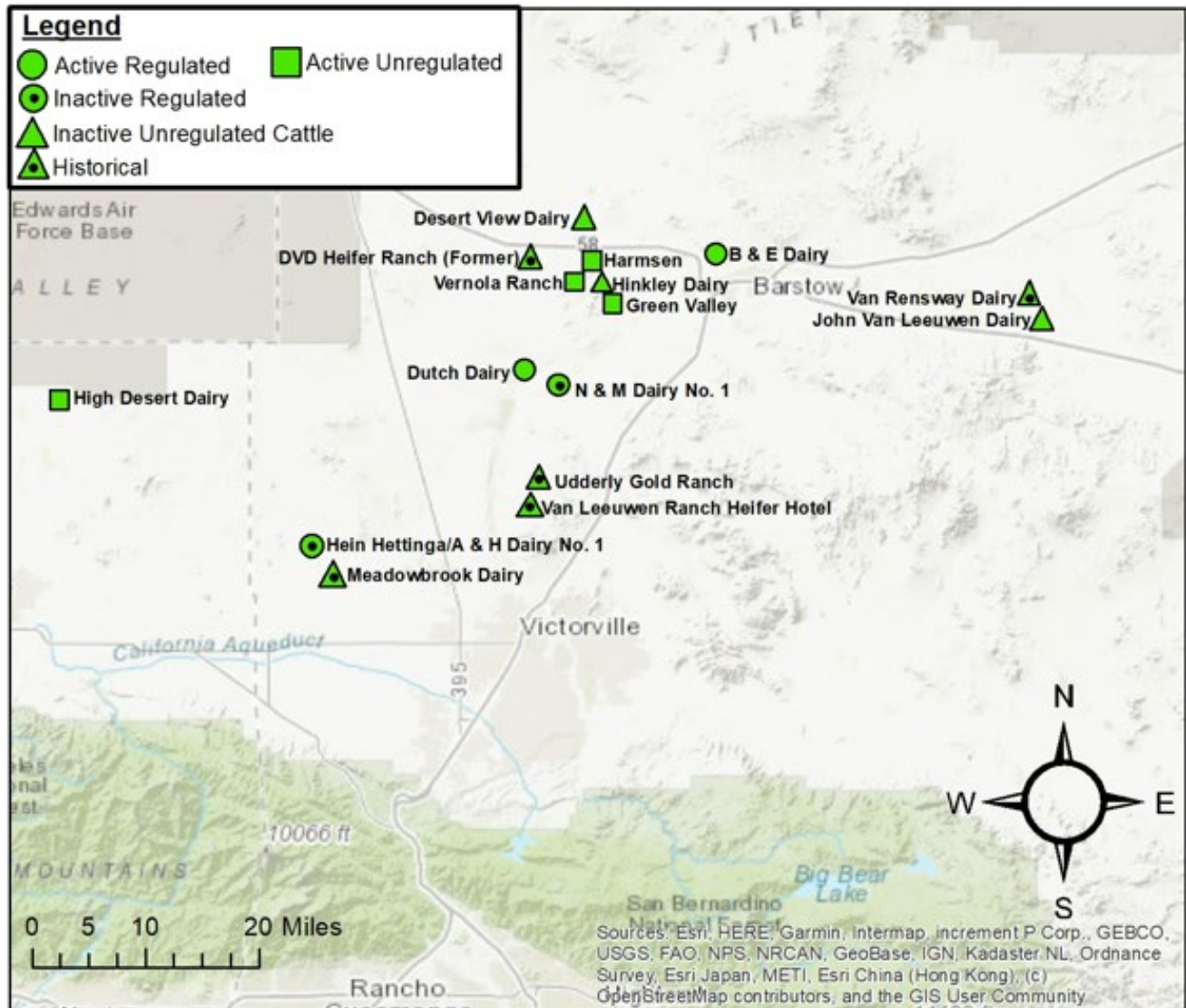


Figure 6.1: Map showing CAFs in and around the Victorville, Hinkley, and Barstow areas

There are a number of CAFs in the region, with most located in the southern part of the region (Figure 1). Each varies substantially by farm management practices, the number of animals onsite, milking cows versus feed lots only, and active and closed facilities that require a varied level of cleanup. Also, a generic one-size fits all monitoring and reporting program, such as what would be included in a General Order, may not be protective of water quality. Some CAFs require a greater extent of parameters to monitor due to a greater threat to water quality based on the quantity of on-site animals, and whether the facility includes wash water from milking activities. CAFs also have a variation in the amount and location for manure disposal. Some dispose of the manure in on-site crop fields, sell the manure as fertilizer to be used for agricultural uses, or haul it to golf courses for composting and use on green landscapes. Additionally, there are CAFs in the region that do not have wash pens to wash the cows; instead, these CAFs use Iodine to clean and disinfect the milking cows, a water saving alternative. Because

of these differences in CAFs within the region, staff determined that it would be more beneficial to write individual orders tailored to the needs of each site.

Individual orders for each facility would still address the same concerns as was included in the General Order. These concerns include:

1. unlined wash water disposal ponds,
2. over application of manure and wash water to land,
3. storm water run-off from corrals and dairy sites, and
4. prevention of further groundwater pollution caused by the CAF operation.

Staff have been in discussions with several dairymen and their consultants regarding this change in strategy, and there has been a better reception of the individual order rather than the General Order by most dairymen that we have spoken to.

Six CAFs are regulated under a Cleanup and Abatement Order (CAO) requiring delivery of replacement water for drinking and cooking to residents whose supply wells are affected by groundwater pollution from CAF discharges. Replacement drinking water must be provided to any resident within the affected area having nitrate and total dissolved solids concentrations close to and/or over the primary and secondary drinking water standards. Approximately 30 residents currently receive replacement drinking water from five dairies and one heifer ranch that have polluted down gradient residential supply wells. The individual orders would not address cleanup of groundwater pollution or replace existing CAOs, a CAO or other enforcement order/action would remain separate and in addition to an individual order.

We have developed a prioritization scheme to help identify for which CAFs individual orders will be prepared first. Considerations include number of animals, proximity to the Mojave River or other surface water, and quality of best management practices implemented. Staff are currently drafting the first individual order with a target of bringing that first order to the Board for adoption in Fall 2024.

Staff will be presenting an informational item on the updated CAF strategy to the Board during the regularly scheduled April 2024 Board meeting. The presentation will provide a more detailed review of the benefits of an individual order and why we are pivoting our strategy to regulate CAFs with individual orders instead of a regionwide General Order.

ATTACHMENT A

Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board

EXECUTIVE OFFICER ACTION ITEMS

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

DOCUMENT

DATE

NO FURTHER ACTION REQUIRED¹

No Further Remedial Activities Required Cleanup and Abatement Order R6V-2015-0068 Section V.C.1.a, Western Finger, Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E) Company Hinkley Compressor Station, Hinkley, San Bernardino County	12/05/2023
No Further Action Required for Searles Valley Minerals Trona Plant Former Underground Storage Tank Site, Trona, San Bernardino County, Site Cleanup Program Case	12/20/2023

EXEMPTION

Basin Plan Prohibition Exemption for the SCE Multi TD Reversed Creek Deteriorated Pole Replacement Project	12/05/2023
EXTENSION	
N/A	N/A

401 WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATIONS

Board Order No. R6T-2023-0040, Granting Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification, Degnan/Struck/Hachman Pier Project, Placer County	12/02/2023
Board Order No. R6T-2023-0041, Granting Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification, Oliver, Pond and Howard New Pier Project	12/07/2023

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****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, Milepost 628.8 Pipeline Lowering	12/12/2023
Approval for the Bridgeport Ranchers Organization (Bro) To Serve As A Group To Manage Fee Collection And Payment For Annual Fees Associated With The Waiver Of Waste Discharge Requirements	12/18/2023
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, Site Plan Review	12/20/2023

MISCELLANEOUS DOCUMENTS

2023 Water Board acceptance letter for TRPA to release TKPOA Mitigation Funds	12/05/2023
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Additional links:

[General Policy information](#)

[Copy of Policy](#)

[Implementation Plan](#)

ATTACHMENT B

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

Responsible Party	Location of Occurrence	Regulated Facility	Basin N/S?	Date of Occurrence	Volume of Occurrence	Violation Description	Comments	Status
COUNTY: INYO								
Briggs Gold and Silver Mine	Briggs Gold and Silver Mine	Yes	S	12/7/2023	500 gallons	An underground 3-inch metal pipe transporting diesel fuel from a storage tank to a generator corroded and caused a release into the soil that seeped up to the surface where it was discovered by employees. The pipe is buried about 2-3 feet underground. The pipe flow was shut off; the release was stopped.	Reporting party was not aware of any ground water sources in the area; no surface waterways impacted.	Crews have dug up all containment soil and placed it on a plastic liner. Crews are repairing the pipe.
COUNTY: LASSEN								
Spalding CSD	Across the street from 501-275 The Strand, Susanville, CA 96130.	Yes	N	12/18/2023	200 gallons	Incorrect heat tape was used on piping causing a failure. Once the emergency pipe became insulated, it trapped the heat and created the 90-degree elbow to become detached. This created an opening for the sewage to seep out and onto the ground when sewage would flow into the Pump Station.	Water Board directed Spalding CSD to stop pumping immediately, immediately start the cleanup process, fix the cause of the spill, and take actions to prevent a future spill. No surface water was affected.	Spalding CSD staff repaired the 90-degree elbow and disconnected the heat tape. The following day, a contractor replaced and installed emergency piping, heat tape, and replaced insulation. Big Valley Sanitation cleaned up the release.

*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, 2023 TO DECEMBER 31, 2023

Responsible Party	Location of Occurrence	Regulated Facility	Basin N/S?	Date of Occurrence	Volume of Occurrence	Violation Description	Comments	Status
COUNTY: LOS ANGELES								
Unknown	175th St E & Avenue J, Los Angeles County	No	S	12/12/2023	10 55-gallon barrels	(15) 55-gallon barrels of ethyl acetate were found in the middle of the desert near Lancaster. 10 barrels were found empty and the remaining five were full. There was residual oil and saturated soil found on the dirt in the area of the barrels.	The release has been stopped and contained. No surface water was affected.	LA County Health Hazmat was on scene to perform the cleanup.
COUNTY: NEVADA								
Unknown	WB I-80 east of Donnor rest area Truckee	No	N	12/19/2023	220 gallons	A semi-truck crashed, disconnecting the cab from the trailer and causing a release of 200 gallons of diesel fuel from the gas tank and 20 gallons of sulfuric acid.	Initial response: Straw waddles placed off shoulder near drainage. Spill covered with plastic sheeting.	Pending cleanup response by RP. Nevada County will forward the CHP report when available to obtain RP information. Cleanup may include excavation, dispose, backfill, regrade/recompact.
COUNTY: SAN BERNARDINO								
Mountain Pass Mine and Mill	67750 Bailey Rd, HC1, Box 224 Mountain Pass, CA	Yes	S	12/1/2023	<750 gallons	A valve failed on a tank causing an overflow resulting in the Chemtron 5052 reagent spilling onto soil.	No waterways were impacted.	MP Mine Operations did cleanup of impacted soil.

*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



EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT
January 1, 2024 – January 31, 2024

Contents

1. Personnel Report – <i>Sandra Lopez</i>	1
2. Standing Item - Grazing Status, 2024 Update – <i>Mo Loden</i>	2

1. Personnel Report – *Sandra Lopez*

New Hires

- Mark Allen, Engineering Geologist, Department of Defense (DOD) Unit, Victorville. This position will oversee site investigation and cleanup at DOD and private sites in the South Lahontan area. This position will also respond to spills and complaints, as necessary.

Vacancies

- Environmental Scientist, Planning & Assessment Unit. The position is advertised with placement in either the South Lake Tahoe or Victorville office. This position will assess water quality data to help develop the 303(d) Impaired Waters List, work to restore impaired waters, and work on Basin Planning priorities. The position requires work based in science, policy, and public process.
- Senior Water Resource Control Engineer, as the Supervisor overseeing the Forestry/Dredge and Fill Unit (FDF). The position is advertised with placement in the South Lake Tahoe office. This position will manage a team of two Environmental Scientists, two Engineering Geologists, a Water Resource Control Engineer, and a Scientific Aid. The FDF is responsible for implementing the Forestry Activities Program and the Dredge and Fill Program throughout the Lahontan region. The position requires work based in science, policy, and public process.
- Water Resource Control Engineering, Wastewater & Agricultural Unit, Victorville. This position will provide 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, National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System, and Site Cleanup Programs. The individual will conduct field

inspections related to permit compliance, spills, and complaints. Informal and formal enforcement actions such as Notice of Violations, Cleanup and Abatement Orders, Cease and Desist Orders, and Administrative Civil Liability Complaints will also be prepared by the staff if the discharger is out of compliance with their permit.

Departures

- Kathleen Bindl, Environmental Scientist, Cannabis Unit, South Lake Tahoe

2. Standing Item - Grazing Status, 2024 Update – *Mo Loden*

This Executive Officer's report is a standing item, prepared annually to present an update on projects addressing water quality impacts associated with grazing operations in the Lahontan Region. Grazing activities can adversely impact water quality and impair beneficial uses by contributing sediment, nutrients, and pathogens. Grazed lands comprise 76% of the 407,802 agricultural acres in the Lahontan Region. The following updates pertain to efforts underway in Bridgeport Valley, Eagle Lake, Bishop Creek, and West Fork Carson River. These efforts, each in a different stage of development or implementation, utilize different strategies to address grazing-related impacts, as seen in Table 2.1 below.

Grazing Community (County)	Strategy Approach
Bridgeport Valley (Mono County)	Regulatory: General Conditional Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirement R6-2023-0006
Eagle Lake (Lassen County)	Investigative: 13267 Letters for USFS and private lands adjacent to Eagle Lake
Bishop Creek (Inyo County)	Non-regulatory: Bishop Creek Vision Plan
West Fork Carson (Alpine County)	Non-regulatory: West Fork Carson River Vision Plan

Table 2.1: Region 6 Grazing Summary

Bridgeport Valley: The Bridgeport Grazing Waiver aims to track and improve water quality impacts caused by private grazing operations within Bridgeport Valley. In 2007, the Lahontan Water Board adopted the first Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements (Waiver) for the Bridgeport Valley and has since renewed it in 2012, 2017, and 2023. The Water Board adopted the 2023 Waiver on March 1, 2023, expiring on March 1,

2028. All of the enrollees are currently in compliance with the 2023 Waiver requirements.

The monitoring plan in this Waiver was refined to remove fecal monitoring and exclusively rely on *E. coli* data. Per the 2023 Waiver, water quality data collections were required in 2023 and again in 2026 from June through September, which is the timeframe when grazing and field irrigation most likely overlap. Sampling years were planned strategically so the 2023 data would provide a baseline for bacteria levels near the beginning of the 2023 Waiver's term and the 2026 data would gauge progress toward the interim goal of 150 colony-forming units (cfu) per 100 milliliters (ml), near the end of the Waiver term.

Sampling frequency for the 2023 Waiver was increased to allow for the calculation of geomeans, which provide a more representational value for bacteria. Bacteria is a highly variable environmental parameter whose concentrations can change rapidly in time and space. Geomeans are a type of average that can help smooth data as it indicates the central tendency of a set of numbers. In 2023, all three end-of-valley compliance sites met the interim goal of 150 from June to August. Bridgeport Ranchers Organization (BRO) Site 10, Robinson Creek, remained under the interim threshold throughout the season until the last sampling date on Oct 4. Progress has been made in the Bridgeport Valley; however, all subbasins may benefit from additional attention to best management practices (BMPs) to meet and maintain the current interim goal of 150 cfu/100 ml and, eventually, meet the State Water Board's *E. coli* objective of 100 cfu/100 ml.

Site inspections were conducted in June and November 2023 at three ranches. On June 6, Water Board staff visited the Wood Family Livestock and Hunewill ranches. The Wood Family Ranch operator led Water Board staff on a tour that highlighted a variety of BMPs, such as exclusion fencing along 100% of the natural streams within the ranch boundary (does not include irrigation ditches), two off-water drinking systems with a solar-powered well, and rotational grazing implementations. The rotational grazing conversations explained how the ranch utilizes the riparian pasture located along Robinson Creek less intensely than the pastures not adjacent to streams (see Figure 2.1); however, staff noted sparse riparian vegetation within the stream corridor. The Hunewill Ranch owner showed staff a headgate that also serves as a hardened crossing. Both ranchers expressed

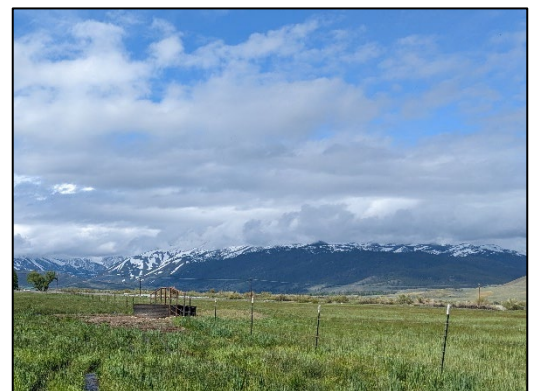


Figure 2.1: Based on Wood Family Livestock's June 2023 field conditions, the riparian pasture (on the right) appears to have more vegetation at the water tank, indicating less use.

their challenges with the aftermath of the historic 2022-23 winter and, consequently, too much water. The ranchers reported that water flows and heavy snow made for a challenging season that compromised some BMPs and required ranch repairs.

Staff toured the Lacey Livestock ranch on November 7, 2023, and observed water control structures and inadequate bank stabilization methods on the East Fork Walker River. Lacey Livestock landowner indicated they are working with Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to assess the feasibility of adding off-water drinking water systems as well as other BMPs within the East Fork Walker River basin.

Eagle Lake: In 2019, the Lahontan Water Board sent Water Code Section 13267 letters to owners of grazed lands adjacent to Eagle Lake. Since then, 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 fourth year, the Water Board has received adequate plans.

Federal land managers submit Annual Operation Instructions 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 Eagle Lake's shore through management techniques. For 2023, both federal and private landowners covered under the investigative order submitted compliant plans. More information about ranch operations, water quality monitoring, and restoration efforts within the Eagle Lake watershed can be viewed in the 2024 addition of the Eagle Lake Newsletter. To receive this annual publication, subscribe to the Eagle Lake Watershed Livestock Grazing and Water Quality Issues Topic [here](#).



Figure 2.2: Staff viewed two upland grazing water troughs that draw cattle away from the Eagle Lake shoreline at Five Dot Ranch.

Vision Plans: [Vision Plans](#) are water quality restoration plans developed and implemented to resolve water quality impairments in lieu of the development and implementation of a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL), which may include regulatory actions (i.e. permits) to compel compliance with water quality objectives, Implementation of a Vision Plan does not remove the requirement to complete a TMDL unless water quality improvements support the removal of the waterbody – or waterbody segments - from the 303(d) list, in this case being either Bishop Creek or the West Fork Carson River.

Bishop Creek: In 2010, the Bishop Paiute Tribe communicated to Water Board staff that bacteria levels in Bishop Creek had been detected above thresholds set to protect human health. That notification prompted years of data collection and evaluation, watershed assessment, stakeholder engagement, and outreach that ultimately lead to development and adoption of the Bishop Creek Vision Plan (BCVP) at the September 2022 Board hearing. The BCVP was the first Vision Plan developed in the Lahontan Region.

Since adoption, the Plan has transitioned to the implementation phase, which includes four key strategies to reduce bacteria inputs associated with controllable sources from commercial cattle operations, transient/dispersed camping, small-scale hobby ranching, and residential uses (pets, residential water).

Available data shows that ruminant fecal pollution is the predominant source of fecal material in Bishop Creek, and given cattle grazing is one of the largest land uses in the project area, staff have prioritized work toward implementation efforts within this source category. Cattle grazed properties in the BCVP have been divided into Tier 1 (T1) and Tier 2 (T2). T1 properties are directly adjacent and hydrologically connected to Bishop Creek. T2 properties are not directly adjacent to Bishop Creek but share some form of hydrological connection because of irrigation practices. All Tier 1 & 2 ranchers lease grazing allotments on land owned by Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP).

Throughout 2023, for the implementation phase of the BCVP, staff interacted with T1/T2 ranchers & LADWP through a series of virtual meetings, in-person meetings, and ranch tours. Water Board staff were accompanied by representatives from the University of California Cooperative Extension, NRCS, and LADWP for the ranch tours.

Thus far, three out of five T1 ranches are on track with milestones prescribed in the BCVP in that ranchers have successfully submitted their RWQPs and their annual BMP Implementation Reports. Staff continue to work with the two delinquent ranchers.

The success of the BCVP will be determined, in part, through a robust water quality monitoring program conducted and funded by LADWP. LADWP submitted the 2023 *E. coli* data associated with the BCVP, and staff are working on water quality data analyses with an anticipated stakeholder meeting to discuss trends with ranchers, LADWP, and the Bishop Paiute Tribe in March.

West Fork Carson River: The [West Fork Carson River Vision Plan \(WFCRVP\)](#) is the second Vision Plan to be developed in the region. A resolution supporting implementation of the WFCRVP was adopted at the October 2023 Board hearing and USEPA accepted the plan in December 2023. Like the BCVP, the WFCRVP is an

advanced restoration plan that outlines present and future actions that can be taken to restore and protect water quality in the West Fork Carson River. Starting near Woodfords, several private grazing operations within the WFCRVP project area are located along the river. The WFCRVP asks ranchers in the watershed to develop and implement Ranch Water Quality Plans by the end of 2025.

In mid-October, staff attended a Carson Water Subconservancy District-led tour of two ranches within the WFCVP project area: the Woollystar Ranch and Ace Hereford Ranch. The ranch operators provided an overview of each ranch's BMPs (i.e. desired stubble height & native species, rotational grazing, and rest periods). Furthermore, Ace Hereford Ranch showcased a wetland area established to filter rangeland runoff and a corral area adjacent to the river now converted into a vegetative buffer area.

Regional Grazing Strategy

In 2015, the State Water Board discontinued its efforts toward developing a statewide grazing strategy and directed Water Board staff to work with stakeholders on a regional level for best approaches to addressing water quality impacts from grazing. Since then, Lahontan Region staff have worked to develop a more holistic approach for our region. However, as noted from the above content, current efforts are being implemented as priorities are identified. Work toward the development of the Regional Grazing Strategy has been postponed consistent with recommendations realized during work prioritization and planning efforts. Additionally, staff capacity is limited with the two approved Vision Plans which require significant staff involvement to shepherd implementation of non-regulatory approaches toward water quality improvement.

As resources allow, staff plan to make progress on developing an inventory and map of private and federal grazing operations within the region; such tools will greatly assist with the initial steps of developing a future regional strategy,

State Water Board Efforts

Grazing Guidance: The State Water Board prepared a statewide grazing guidance document that 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. The document previously referred to as the "Statewide Grazing Guidance" has been retitled "Managing Water Quality on Grazed Lands" to more clearly communicate that it is a voluntary guidance document. Water Board staff have been actively involved in the development of the State Water Board's draft document and plan to provide a second review and comment on the draft in 2024.

Informational Item: At the July 18, 2023 Board Meeting, the State Water Board presented an [informational item](#) on the status of livestock grazing management in California since 2015, the year in which statewide grazing efforts were discontinued and regions were directed to pursue more region specific approaches (see Regional Grazing Strategy above). The presentation provided summaries on grazing in CA, the history of CA grazing regulation, recent State Water Board efforts, emerging trends in grazing regulation, and specific Regional Water Board approaches to regulating grazing and comparisons between the approaches.

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

A 'Proper Functioning Condition (PFC) Assessment for Integrated Riparian Management' training was sponsored by the Central Coast Rangelands Coalition in Alturas from July 18 to 21, 2023. The event provided a combination of classroom days and in-the-field training where staff learned how to apply the PFC [Lentic](#) & [Lotic](#) assessments in real-life grazing-related circumstances.

As often as possible, Water Board staff routinely participate in the Range Management Advisory Committee (RMAC) meetings, occurring approximately every two months. 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 advises 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 and consult on rangeland resource issues under consideration.

ATTACHMENT A

Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board

EXECUTIVE OFFICER ACTION ITEMS

January 1, 2024, to January 31, 2024
Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board

DOCUMENT

DATE

NO FURTHER ACTION REQUIRED¹

No Further Action Required For El Campo Solar Project, 10455 West Avenue B, Lancaster, Los Angeles County, Ust Case No. T6s096	1/18/2024
No Further Action Required for Aratina Solar Plant (APN 244-040-15), Twenty Mule Team Road, Boron	1/31/2024

EXEMPTION

Pending Action for Exemption to Waste Discharge Prohibition 4.1-20 4(b)(2) for 226 Canyon Drive, Mountain View Estates	1/9/2024
Pending Action for Notice Of Applicability And Exemption To Waste Discharge Prohibitions For The Merk Creek Restoration Project, Alpine County	1/19/2024
Pending Action for Board Order No. R6T-2024-XXXX, Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification and Exemption to Waste Discharge Prohibitions for the Hembrow-Ochsner Shoreline Protective Structure Repair Project, El Dorado County	1/19/2024
Pending Action for Board Order No. R6V-2024-XXXX, Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification and Exemption to Waste Discharge Prohibitions: Chapter 5.2, for the 03-0J010 PLA-28 Rehab Project	1/29/2024
Board Order No. R6T-2024-0002, Granting Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification and Basin Plan Prohibition Exemptions, Hembrow-Ochsner Shoreline Protective Structure Repair Project	1/30/2024

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**

EXTENSION	
N/A	N/A

401 WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATIONS

N/A	N/A
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WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS

N/A	N/A
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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
JANUARY 1, 2024 TO JANUARY 31, 2024

Responsible Party	Location of Occurrence	Regulated Facility	Basin N/S?	Date of Occurrence	Volume of Occurrence	Violation Description	Comments	Status
COUNTY: INYO								
DVNM Furnace	HWY 190 Death Valley, CA 92328	Yes	S	1/27/2024	Unknown	National Parks Service staff informed Water Board staff of a controlled discharge of reverse osmosis (RO) reject water from the Furnace Creek and Cow Creek RO plants. Approximately 15,800 gallons per day of RO reject water is being discharged from Cow Creek to an adjacent wash. 73,600 gallons per day of RO reject water from the Furnace Creek RO plant are being discharged to an adjacent wash. This controlled discharge is a result of the percolation pond being at capacity and having low percolation rates.	No surface water was affected.	Obtain a full and detailed description of the events that led to the controlled discharge. We will have to take this event into consideration when determining how to permit the new discharge locations for the two RO plants in Death Valley.

*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 5



EXECUTIVE OFFICER’S REPORT
February 1, 2024 – February 29, 2024

Contents

1. Personnel Report – <i>Sandra Lopez</i>	1
2. The Reemergence of Lake Manly in Badwater Basin, Death Valley – <i>Anna Garcia</i>	2
3. 4th Quarter of 2023 Violations – <i>Shelby Barker</i>	5

1. Personnel Report – *Sandra Lopez*

Lateral Transfer

- Trevor Miller, Senior Water Resource Control Engineer (Supervisor), South Lake Tahoe. This position will oversee the Regulatory and Enforcement unit. The unit is responsible for implementing the Water Board's regulatory and compliance programs within the North Lahontan Region and, under certain circumstances, throughout the Lahontan Region (e.g., National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Program for Fish Hatcheries, Aquatic Pesticides application).

Vacancies

- Environmental Scientist, Planning & Assessment Unit. The position is advertised with placement in either the South Lake Tahoe or Victorville office. This position will assess water quality data to help develop the 303(d) Impaired Waters List, work to restore impaired waters, and work on Basin Planning priorities. The position requires work based in science, policy, and public process.
- Senior Water Resource Control Engineer, as the Supervisor overseeing the Forestry/Dredge and Fill Unit (FDF). The position is advertised with placement in the South Lake Tahoe office. This position will manage a team of two Environmental Scientists, two Engineering Geologists, a Water Resource Control Engineer, and a Scientific Aid. The FDF is responsible for implementing the

Forestry Activities Program and the Dredge and Fill Program throughout the Lahontan region. The position requires work based in science, policy, and public process.

- Water Resource Control Engineering, Wastewater & Agricultural Unit, Victorville. This position will provide 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, National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System, and Site Cleanup Programs. The individual will conduct field inspections related to permit compliance, spills, and complaints. Informal and formal enforcement actions such as Notice of Violations, Cleanup and Abatement Orders, Cease and Desist Orders, and Administrative Civil Liability Complaints will also be prepared by the staff if the discharger is out of compliance with their permit.

Departures

- Robert Tucker, Senior Water Resources Control Engineer, South Lake Tahoe Retiring after 30 years of state service.

2. The Reemergence of Lake Manly in Badwater Basin, Death Valley – *Anna Garcia*

The purpose of this article is to provide the Lahontan Water Board with information on the recent reemergence of ephemeral Lake Manly from the normally dry salt flats of Badwater Basin in the southern portion of our Region.

Death Valley National Park includes [Badwater Basin](#), which at 282 feet below sea level is the lowest point in North America. Badwater Basin is a closed basin that was once the site of pluvial Lake Manly, a large ancient inland lake that had no outlet. Data from the Badwater geologic core, drilled through the salt flat in 1993, showed that Lake Manly was a freshwater lake around 140,000 to 180,000 years ago and by 20,000 years ago was shallow and saline ([Knott et. al., 2013, pp. 228-229](#)).

Over time, cycles of filling and evaporation of Lake Manly has led to the accumulation of sediments and salt in the basin. The National Park Service notes that the salt flats of [Badwater Basin](#) extend for nearly 200 square miles and are composed mostly of sodium chloride (table salt), along with calcite, gypsum, and borax. Recently, Lake Many reemerged from the salt flats thanks to precipitation from Hurricane Hillary in August 2023 and the atmospheric rivers of February 2024. Satellite imagery from NASA documents the reemergence of Lake Manly (Figure 1).

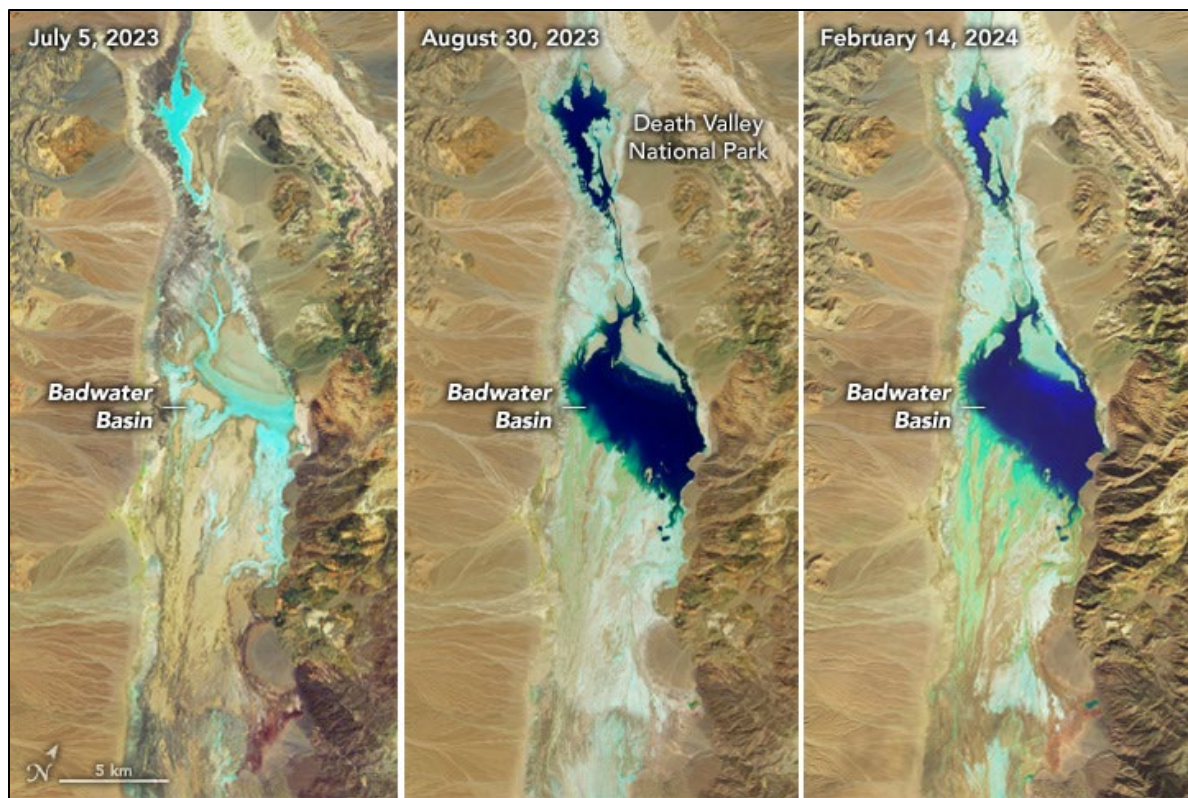


Figure 2.1: False Color Satellite Imagery Released By NASA Documenting Conditions In Badwater Basin From July 2023 Through Mid-February 2024 ([NASA, 2024](#)).

The series of images shown in Figure 2.1 are false color to emphasize the presence of water, which appears in shades of blue ([NASA, 2024](#)). The July 2023 image on the left shows the normally dry basin, while the middle image from late August 2023 highlights the effects of precipitation from Hurricane Hillary. The February 2024 image on the right shows the temporary lake that the National Park Service reports is about six miles long, 3 miles wide and one foot deep ([National Park Service, 2024](#)).

South Lahontan Basin staff Engineering Geologist Amanda Lopez captured a photo of Lake Manly on February 24, 2024 (Figure 2.2). Lake Manly is currently accessible for kayaking, but this rare opportunity will likely only be available for a couple of weeks. Although, the National Park Service anticipates the ephemeral lake will provide “beautiful reflections through April” (Figure 2.3).



Figure 2.2: A view of Lake Manly from Dantes View. Photo taken February 24, 2024 by Amanda Lopez.

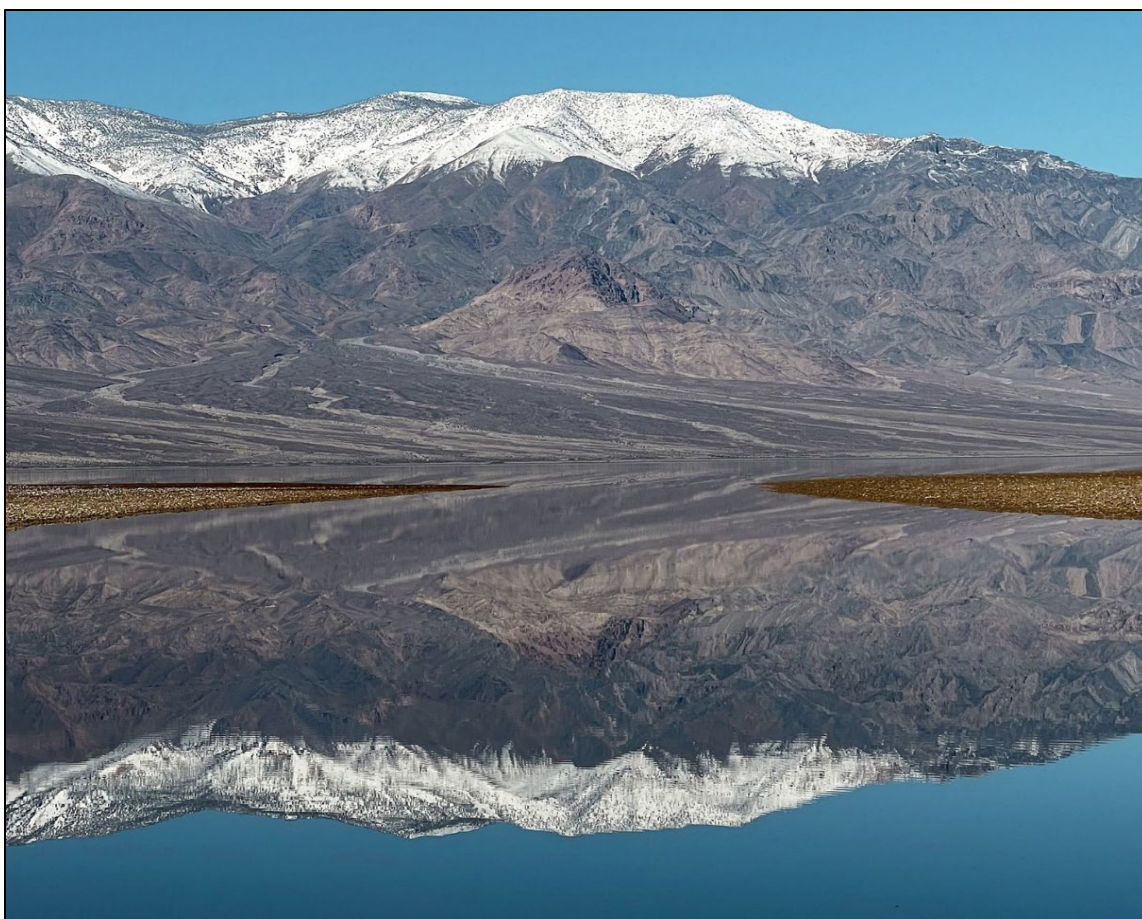


Figure 2.3: Photo of reflection in ephemeral Lake Manly by K. Skilling of the National Park Service ([NASA, 2024](#)).

3. 4th Quarter of 2023 Violations – *Shelby Barker*

There were 13 violations documented for the fourth quarter of 2023. Violations consisted of 1 insufficient best management practices (BMP) implementation, 1 deficient reporting of required information, 1 land disposal Board Order violation for exceedance of water quality protection standards in groundwater, 2 unauthorized discharges, 2 deficient monitoring violations, 2 exceedances of effluent limit concentration, and 4 cannabis-related order condition violations. The unauthorized discharges were for stormwater discharge violation for sediment to MS4 and Donner Lake from excavation dewatering and for approximately 200 gallons of raw sewage spilled due to a failure in the piping system.

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

Fourth Quarter 2023 Violations Report October 1, 2023 - December 31, 2023								
Program Category	Priority Violation	County	Responsible Party	Facility	WDID	Violation Description	Corrective Action	Enforcement Action
Cannabis	B	Inyo	Nanofarms Group Inc.	SANDY VALLEY 048-350-15	6V14CC416256	Improper storage and use of fertilizers and pesticides (Cannabis Cultivation Policy Attachment A, Section 2, #'s 104, 105).	Develop Corrective Action Plan (CAP) by January 12, 2024. Implement CAP by March 12, 2024.	Notice of Violation
						Improper storage of petroleum fluids and petroleum-based machinery (Cannabis Cultivation Policy Attachment A, Section 2, #'s 105, 108, 117).		
						Improper storage of spent soil, cultivation-related waste, and trash (Cannabis Cultivation Policy Attachment A, Section 2, #'s 113, 119, 120)		
						Improper maintenance of fertigation equipment to prevent leaking or spillage of fertigation liquids (Cannabis Cultivation Policy Attachment A, Section 2, #95).		
Construction Stormwater	B	Nevada	Stonebridge Properties LLC	Coldstream Planned Community 1 Development	6A29C384432	Additional minor sediment control Best Management Practices (BMPs) and/or mulch applications are required along sections of the bike path (near the bridge) and on the perimeter of the staging/stockpile area.	Discharger to install adequate BMPs	Oral Communication
Land Disposal	B	San Bernardino	American Organics	Victor Valley Regional Compost	6B369912001	(1) Wind direction is not recorded in the third quarter 2023 monitoring report. Violates Board Order Monitoring and Reporting Program (MRP) II.D. (2) Time-series do not include the applicable maximum contaminant level (MCL) or water quality protection standard (WQPS) limits for each respective constituent or monitoring parameter. Violates Board Order MRP III.B.2.	Discharger is working with Waterboard staff on next steps.	Oral Communication
						Exceeded WQPS of Fecal Coliform, Iron, and Manganese during the fourth quarter 2023 monitoring period. Violates Board Order MRP II.G.2.a.	Discharger reported in the self-monitoring report (SMR) that verification resampling will be conducted as a part of the routine first quarter 2024 sampling event.	
MS4 Stormwater	B	Nevada	Town of Truckee	Phase II Small MS4	6A29M2000013	Sediment discharge to MS4 and Donner Lake from excavation dewatering. Town of Truckee issued stop work order.	Property owner deployed BMPs to winterize the site; Water Board permit is required to resume discharge of excavation dewatering fluids to either land or to Donner Lake.	Notice of Violation
NPDES Wastewater	B	Lassen	Susanville Consol SD	Susanville CSD	6A181554001	10/2023 SMR: Annual laboratory proficiency tests for Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program (ELAP) failed two consecutive times for Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) and Electrical Conductivity in August 2023. Reported results are invalid for October 2023 Monthly SMRs for INF-001, EFF-001, RSW-001, and RSW-002.	District's lab on suspension for TDS and Electrical Conductivity. District using outside laboratory until Proficiency Test is passed for each parameter and suspension is removed.	Staff Enforcement Letter

**Fourth Quarter 2023 Violations Report
October 1, 2023 - December 31, 2023**

Program Category	Priority Violation	County	Responsible Party	Facility	WDID	Violation Description	Corrective Action	Enforcement Action
Wastewater Treatment Facilities	B	Lassen	USDA Forest Service Lassen National Forest, Eagle Lake District	Eagle Lake Ranger Station	6A189203010	Leak detection samples not taken every two months in July 1, 2023 - Nov 1, 2023 monitoring window. Violates MRP 92-32 Section I.B.2.	Discharger responded that future samples will be taken every two months and that locations that are not accessible due to winter weather will also be noted on future reports.	Staff Enforcement Letter
			Spalding Community Service District	Spalding Tract Sewer System	6A180506011	A spill occurred at the pipe connection between the wet well and the pump station. A 90 degree elbow piece of the piping system became detached. 1,200 gallons was collected by vactor truck and water. The estimated volume of raw sewage collected is less than 200 gallons. the spill may have been caused by malfunctioning equipment. The Spalding CSD responded quickly and correctly to control and stop the spill.	Spalding CSD repaired the broken pipe and replaced the heat tape that may have caused the pipe to break.	Staff Enforcement Letter
		San Bernardino	US Navy Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake	Salt Wells Propul. Labs	6B360703021	Flow Daily Discharge limit is 0.021 million gallons per day (MGD) and reported value was 0.0212 MGD.	Construction management was flushing new waterlines. Construction Management was informed on Salt Wells WWTF permit requirements on effluent discharge limitations.	Oral Communication
			US Marine Corps Barstow Logistic Base	Nebo Domestic WTF	6B360702004	TDS Single Sample Maximum limit is 500 mg/L and reported value was 680 mg/L. Groundwater shall not exceed the SMCL of 500 mg/L for TDS. Violating Board order 0601-42 WDR MRP I.B.1.b.	The TDS in local groundwater has been elevated above the SMCL since 2003. TDS levels remain high during the months that the DWTF do not discharge to the percolation ponds. This is an on going situation.	Oral Communication

ATTACHMENT A

Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board

EXECUTIVE OFFICER ACTION ITEMS

February 1, 2024, to February 29, 2024
Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board

DOCUMENT

DATE

NO FURTHER ACTION REQUIRED¹

No Further Action Required for Terrible Herbst, 10162 Yates Well Road, Nipton	2/22/2024
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EXEMPTION

Basin Plan Prohibition Exemption for the Hunewell Ranch Twin Lakes Deteriorated Pole Replacement Project	2/8/2024
Pending Action for Board Order No. R6T-2024-XXXX, Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification and Exemption to Waste Discharge Prohibitions for the Brien Pier Project, Placer County	2/9/2024
Basin Plan Prohibition Exemption for the Hunewell Ranch Twin Lakes Deteriorated Pole Replacement Project	2/17/2024
EXTENSION	
N/A	N/A

401 WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATIONS

Board Order No. R6T-2024-0006, Granting Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification, West Shore Investors, LP/Stone Trusts Pier Project	2/13/2024
Board Order No. R6T-2024-0008, Granting Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification, Brien Pier Project	2/28/2024

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****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, Line 235 P2 Validation Digs Project	2/13/2024
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MISCELLANEOUS DOCUMENTS

Acceptance of Annual Report, Independent Review Panel Manager Budget, and Scope of Work, Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) Hinkley Compressor Station, Cleanup and Abatement Order No. R6V-2015-0068	2/7/2024
Amended Groundwater Monitoring and Reporting Program, Cleanup and Abatement Order No. R6V-2015-0068, Requiring Pacific Gas and Electric Company to Clean Up and Abate Waste Discharges of Total and Hexavalent Chromium to the Groundwaters of the Mojave Hydrologic Unit	2/26/2024

Additional links:

[General Policy information](#)

[Copy of Policy](#)

[Implementation Plan](#)

ATTACHMENT B

UNAUTHORIZED DISCHARGE REPORT
FEBRUARY 1, 2024 TO FEBRUARY 29, 2024

Responsible Party	Location of Occurrence	Regulated Facility	Basin N/S?	Date of Occurrence	Volume of Occurrence	Violation Description	Comments	Status
COUNTY: KERN								
Mojave 345	7021 Oak Creek Rd., Mojave, CA., 93501	No	S	2/2/2024	212 gallons	A minor explosion occurred after a pad mounted transformer caught on fire. 212-gallons of non-PCB mineral oil was released onto the nearby soil.	No waterways have been impacted. Spill was contained with spill socks.	Contractors believe they have excavated all impacted soil near the transformer. Soil was placed in 55-gallon drums and moved to the hazardous waste accumulation area. Drums will be picked up from Safety Clean and disposed of properly. Plastic tarp was placed around the transformer (approx. 10 ft.) in preparation for the forecasted storm. Once the storm ends, contractors will return to site, to verify all contaminated soil has been removed.
COUNTY: LASSEN								
Unknown	US395 & Dry Creek Rd	No	S	2/8/2024	75 gallons	Per reporting party, a big rig slid off the road due to black ice causing diesel to spill from the saddle tank onto the underlying dirt and into Dry Creek. The diesel drained into the creek for approximately two hours before containment.	Dry Creek was affected (Madeline Plains Hydrologic Unit).	According to Cal Trans, the spill is being diverted to a meadow, there are booms to help contain the spill; Contractor was hired to assess, excavate, cleanup, and collect soil and water samples. Cal Trans sent pictures that show diesel in the creek.

*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
FEBRUARY 1, 2024 TO FEBRUARY 29, 2024

Responsible Party	Location of Occurrence	Regulated Facility	Basin N/S?	Date of Occurrence	Volume of Occurrence	Violation Description	Comments	Status
COUNTY: SAN BERNARDINO								
CalPortland Oro Grande Cement Plant	19409 National Trails Hwy, Oro Grande, San Bernardino County, CA 92368	Yes	S	2/7/2024	5,324 lbs	The caller states an above ground storage tank overflowed and released diethylene glycol, due to power outage.	The released material was in a containment area that is surrounded by berms; no waterways are affected.	Impacted soil was excavated and placed in disposal bins. Waste characterization was received and discharger will be coordinating the waste disposal of the bins to the proper facility.
Marine Corps Logistics Base (MCLB), Yermo Annex	MCLB, Yermo Annex	Yes	S	2/6/2024	500-1000 gallons	Domestic wastewater was tied into abandoned industrial line that eventually ends in UST. Storm event caused overflow of approximately 500-1000 gallons. Marine Corps plans to tie into correct domestic line within 3-6 mos.		Wastewater was containerized and transported to the treatment plant (IWTP). Report Closure. Marine Corps plans to tie domestic wastewater line into correct wastewater line within 3-6 months.
George Air Force Base	George Air Force Base	No	S	2/8/2024	350 gallons	An employee was transferring contaminated water from a tank to a treatment system at George Air Force Base. The transfer was pumped too fast, and resulted in the release of 350 gallons onto concrete and soil.	This release was stopped and contained. No water ways were impacted.	Contractor was contacted for cleanup. Water Board to follow up on provided corrective action plan for excavation and sampling results.

*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 6

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

**EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT
OCTOBER, NOVEMBER & DECEMBER 2023, AND JANUARY & FEBRUARY 2024
STANDING ITEMS**

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

ISSUE	FREQUENCY	EO REPORT
Grazing Update	Annual	January – Article #2
Status of Dairies	Annual	February – Agenda Item #6
Onsite Septic Systems	Annual	April
Salt & Nutrient Management Plans	Annual	April
Status of Grants	Annual	June
City of Barstow Nitrate	Annual	June
City of Barstow Orphan Perchlorate	Annual	June
Leviathan Mine	Annual	August
Lake Tahoe Water Quality	Annual	August
Status of Triennial Review Projects	Annual	August
Cannabis Update	Annual	September
Pacific Gas & Electric Company**	Annual	November (Information item in November)
Harmful Algal Blooms	Annual	November - Article #5
Quarterly Violations Report	Quarterly	May (1 st quarter) August (2 nd quarter) November (3 rd quarter) – Article #6 February (4 th quarter) – Article #3

**Water Board staff presentation