



Terry Tamminen
Secretary for
Environmental
Protection

California Regional Water Quality Control Board

Lahontan Region



Arnold Schwarzenegger
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MINUTES

March 10-11, 2004

Regular Meeting

Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board
Inn By The Lake
3300 Lake Tahoe Boulevard
South Lake Tahoe, CA

Chair Eric Sandel called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

1. CLOSED SESSION

Board members met in closed session on March 10, 2004 from 1:31 p.m. to 5:04 p.m. to discuss items h, i, j, k, p. and q. Authority: Government Code Section 11126(e)(a).

The Board reconvened in open session at 5:05 p.m. and the afternoon session of the meeting adjourned.

Chair Eric Sandel called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

William Betterley, Hesperia
John Brissenden, Hope Valley
Jack Clarke, Apple Valley
Amy Horne, Ph.D., Truckee
Eugene Nebeker, Ph.D., Lancaster
Eric Sandel, Truckee

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

None

LEGAL COUNSEL

Steven H. Blum, State Water Resources Control Board

STAFF PRESENT

Harold J. Singer, Executive Officer
Robert S. Dodds, Assistant Executive Officer
Hisam Baqai, Supervising WRCE
Lauri Kemper, Supervising WRCE, Northern Lahontan Watersheds Division
Chuck Curtis, Supervising WRCE, Planning and Toxics Division
George Cella, Engineering Geologist, Truckee River Watershed
Cadie Olsen, Engineering Geologist, Truckee River Watershed
Doug Smith, Senior Engineering Geologist, Lake Tahoe Watershed
Scott Ferguson, Senior WRCE, Truckee River Watershed

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Robert Larsen, Environmental Scientist, Lake Tahoe Watershed
Alan Miller, Senior WRCE, Northern Lahontan Rural Watersheds
Carrie Granados, Office Technician
Pamela Walker, Administrative Officer

ADDRESSING THE BOARD

Lisa Wallace, Truckee River Water Council
Duane Hall, Town of Truckee Planning Department
Martyn Hoffmann, DMB Highlands Group
Steve Maguin, Los Angeles County Sanitation District (LACSD)
Raymond Tremblay, LACSD

3. PUBLIC FORUM

No one addressed the Board during Public Forum.

5. ADOPTION OF UNCONTESTED CALENDAR

- **Motion:** Moved by Jack Clarke, seconded by William Betterley and **unanimously carried** to adopt Items 9 and 10 of the Uncontested Calendar as proposed and **carried** to adopt Item 11 of the Uncontested Calendar as proposed.
John Brissenden abstained from voting on Item 11.

OTHER BUSINESS

7. Workshop – Strategies to Mitigate Potential Water Quality Impacts Associated with New Development in the Truckee River Watershed

Scott Ferguson, Senior WRCE, made the staff presentation and discussed the following:

- Increasing Rate and Nature of Development in Truckee and Martis Valley
- Primary Pollutants and Pathways
- Beneficial Uses of Waters in this Watershed
- Regional Board strategy elements to preclude water quality impacts include the following: Basin Plan, CEQA/NEPA Review, Regulatory/Enforcement Program, Monitoring, and Outreach/Education

Mr. Ferguson highlighted Placer County's strategy (Placer County staff unavailable) as follows:

- Development of County General Plan and Community Plans
- CEQA Process
- Environmental Assessment
- Implementation of Plans through Building Codes/Ordinances/Permitting
- Coordination with the Regional Board, Other Agencies, and Interested Parties

Duane Hall, Town of Truckee Planning Department, related some of the issues (including water quality) that have arisen as a result of new subdivisions and more commercial and industrial development on undisturbed land. His presentation included the following:

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- Purpose of the General Plan
- Accomplishments under the General Plan since 1993
- Development of code regulations that are protective of water quality and are consistent with Regional Board guidelines for the Truckee River Hydrologic Unit and the State of California BMP Handbook.
- Coordination and communication between the Town of Truckee and Regional Board staff
- Opportunities for water quality improvement

Martyn Hoffmann, DMB Highlands Group, discussed the developer's strategy to mitigate potential water quality impacts associated with new development in the Truckee River watershed area as follows:

- Project Design (including golf course)
- Implementation (construction and post construction)
- Long-term Monitoring and Maintenance
- Outreach Efforts directed toward Architects and Contractors

Mr. Hoffmann answered questions from Board members.

Mr. Ferguson concluded by reviewing the strengths and weaknesses of Regional Board strategy elements discussed previously.

Board members asked Mr. Ferguson and Mr. Hoffmann questions. Steven Blum asked Mr. Ferguson questions.

Lauri Kemper, Supervising WRCE, discussed Placer County's EIR (under appeal) for the Martis Valley Community Plan, that includes plans to develop a comprehensive watershed monitoring program.

Lisa Wallace, Truckee River Watershed Council, related that watersheds in Sierra and Nevada Counties are facing the same land use changes and development pressures as Placer County and that adopting the same water quality monitoring program for all three counties would be advantageous.

She noted that the Town of Truckee and Martis Valley Community Plan policies reflect the community's concern about a water quality monitoring plan, and urged the Board to encourage development of a plan to obtain baseline data.

Discussion between Board members, Mr. Singer and Regional Board staff followed.

The Board directed staff to schedule a future agenda item for further discussion of progress made towards development and implementation of a program that could identify long-term impacts to the area.



8. Report by the Regional Board Subcommittee on the Status of Compliance by Los Angeles County Sanitation District (LACSD) No. 20 Palmdale Water Reclamation Plant and the City of Los Angeles World Airports (LAWA) with Clean Up and Abatement Order No. R6V-2003-056 Addressing Waste Discharges of Nitrate to the Groundwaters of the Antelope Hydrologic Unit, and Los Angeles County Sanitation District No. 14 Lancaster Water Reclamation Plant with Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. R6V-2002-053

Dr. Nebeker excused himself from this item.

Hisam Baqai, Supervising WRCE, made the staff presentation regarding LACSD No. 20 as follows:

- Revised Monitoring Reporting Program for LACSD No. 20 that will provide nitrogen loading information was discussed.
- Two reports submitted by the District (and due) in February were reviewed.
- The Board was briefed on a letter from LAWA regarding extraction of groundwater.
- A Waste Discharge Requirement amendment allowing the use of recycled water in Section 15 will come before the Board in April.

Mr. Baqai's comments on LACSD No. 14 were as follows:

- EIR evaluating the long-term plan is expected April 1, 2004
- Public comment letters regarding the use of recycled water on agricultural lands are still being received and a lawsuit may be filed. Since the District has not proposed a contingency plan, compliance schedule deadlines could be missed.

Steve Maguin, LACSD, answered John Brissenden's questions.

Jack Clarke commented on the March 2, 2004 subcommittee meeting.

Steve Maguin discussed the lack of review time allowing discussion between District and Board staff because of the compressed CAO schedule. He noted that the District first heard comments on its February 16, 2004 report at the March 2, 2004 subcommittee meeting.

Mr. Baqai related that a comment letter on the February 16, 2004 report would be mailed within three to four days.

Raymond Tremblay, LACSD, discussed the District's iteration process and that a meeting with Board staff was scheduled for March 19.

Mr. Maguin commented on the letter from LAWA and discussed the two pilot projects for Palmdale being evaluated as interim steps to reduce nitrogen in the effluent. He also related that, as part of their Outreach Program for the Lancaster project, the District has had several meetings with the Farm Bureau.



Regarding District 14, Mr. Maguin noted that the Board and staff recommended secondary treatment with nitrogen removal, but that at the last Board meeting, the majority of the Board recommended tertiary treatment.

Mr. Sandel noted the Board's concern over air spraying crops and human exposure to secondary effluent that had not been disinfected. He pointed out that full disinfection cannot be achieved unless it is tertiary treated because of large particulates in secondary treated effluent.

Mr. Maguin assured the Board that the best possible project, from an environmental standpoint and that best responds to the Board Order, is what will be proposed. He stated that a range of projects (from activated sludge with nitrogen removal to full tertiary treatment) are under consideration and are included in the "draft" EIR.

Mr. Maguin and Mr. Tremblay responded to questions from Board members and Mr. Singer.

Mr. Singer related Dr. Gerba's (microbiologist) comments regarding spraying undisinfecting secondary effluent, including methods of quantifying the risk.

Mr. Singer responded to Board member questions.

2. Executive Officer's Report

Mr. Singer discussed the following:

- Letter from Spalding CSD regarding grant delays
- Latest "draft" MOU between the Regional Board, Mojave Water Agency and High Desert Power Plant which will be on the April agenda
- A letter from Mr. Portan, Tahoe Keys Marina, provided an independent review of a PAH study, about which he had concerns.
- TRPA's recent amendment to its 208 Water Quality Plan
- There will be a forum Saturday called by Senator Feinstein and Assembly member Leslie that that will motivate local governments to develop fire safe plans in the Tahoe Basin as required by the Healthy Forest Initiative of 2002 and the Healthy Forest Restoration Act of 2003. The two federal initiatives also provide for forest health operations and the protection of water quality. The Regional Board will be represented at the forum.
- Tentative WQCC date is April 19, 2004.

12. Reports by Chair and Board Members

Mr. Brissenden, in his capacity as an innkeeper, testified before a Congressional Committee about water quality.

With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 10:44 p.m.

Prepared by: _____ Adopted: May 12, 2004
Pam Walker, Administrative Officer

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