



Lahontan Regional Water Quality
Control Board



EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

February 2005

NORTH BASIN

1. **Section 303(d) Listing Policy and 2004 List Update- Judith Unsicker**

The Clean Water Act Section 303(d) list is used to identify impaired surface waters needing Total Maximum Daily Loads, (TMDLs), and is generally updated every two years. In September 2004, the State Water Resources Control Board (State Board) approved a policy containing criteria for placing waters on the Section 303(d) list ("listing), and for removing them ("delisting"). The policy specifies allowable numbers of exceedances of water quality standards for listing and delisting. The California Office of Administrative Law approved the policy in December 2004, and it took effect at that time. The final policy is available online at: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/tmdl/docs/ffed_303d_listingpolicy093004.pdf. The current (2002) Section 303(d) list is online at: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/tmdl/303d_lists.html

As a result of focusing its staff resources on completion of the policy, the State Board has not yet developed a revised Section 303(d) list to meet the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's goal for state list updates in 2004. The next update of the statewide Section 303(d) list will be handled by the State Board, without separate Regional Board actions on recommendations for changes. The State Board's draft recommendations will be based on evaluation of available information and data using the new policy criteria. Regional Boards will have the opportunity to review and comment on the recommendations before they are released for public review. The State Board's tentative schedule calls for circulation of draft recommendations in March and State Board action on the 2004 list in May 2005.

2. **South Tahoe Public Utility District Angora Creek Sewage Spill - Robert Larsen**

On December 14, 2004 the South Tahoe Public Utility District (District) notified Regional Board Staff (Staff) of a sewage spill to Angora Creek, tributary to the Upper Truckee River and Lake Tahoe. An abandoned sewage lateral beneath the creek bed had been exposed by stream erosion and had cracked. Backflow from a blockage in the nearby main line was discharging from the crack directly to the creek.

Once the blockage was clear, sewage stopped discharging from the broken lateral. The District excavated the lateral near the main line and plugged the lateral at the main to prevent future problems.

Regional Board staff will work with the District to identify other abandoned laterals near streams that could cause similar discharges. Although many sewage lines are located in stream environment zones and meadows, laterals crossing active stream channels are relatively uncommon. Once identified, these sewage laterals that are at a higher risk for discharge to surface waters can be put on a more frequent inspection and maintenance program to prevent future spills. No enforcement related to this spill is planned.

3. **Notice of Violation and Information Request For California Department of Corrections, Lassen County - Robert Tucker**

The California Department of Corrections' (CDC) wastewater treatment facility (Facility) treats the sewage and wastewater flow from both the California Correctional Center and the High Desert Prison. The two prisons combined house approximately 8,000 inmates and 2,000 prison staff. Sewage is treated by mechanical

aeration and discharged to lined oxidation /storage ponds. The treated sewage is then chlorinated and disposed of by spray irrigation for fodder crop production during the growing season (March – October).

Staff has noted influent flow rates that are generally exceeding Facility design capacity. The excess flows are contributing to problems in the disposal fields, where too much water is applied to maintain typical agronomic wastewater application rates, as required by Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs). Preliminary indications are that the amount of water applied to the spray fields averages 6.75 feet or more per year, and that the application rates are flushing salts, including nitrate, from the soils into the groundwater. Reporting deficiencies, and deficiencies in the current monitoring program are confounding adequate review by staff of the status of Facility compliance with WDRs.

CDC management is apparently aware of these problems, as facility upgrades are planned to decrease flows by interim water conservation management measures, such as installing low-flow water fixtures until facility expansion can be accomplished. Facility expansion plans currently call for adding more aeration cells, larger oxidation/sedimentation ponds, more storage ponds, and increasing the size of irrigation disposal fields by land acquisition.

These upgrades are anticipated to take several years to complete if funded in future State budgets.

Staff is currently preparing an overall assessment of Facility compliance. A Notice of Violation is being prepared to inform the CDC of WDRs violations and to request additional information needed to complete a full assessment of Facility compliance and determine if the planned Facility upgrades are adequate to protect water quality.

4. ***Status Update on Sewerage Facilities Grant Funding for (1) Spalding Tract (Eagle Lake) and (2) Susanville Consolidated Sanitary District, Lassen County - Alan Miller***

As last reported in the September 2004 Executive Officer's Report, a treatment and collection system is planned for the Spalding tract to comply with prohibitions and orders of the Board. The Susanville CSD has proposed upgrades to expand an existing facility to treat increased flows. Managers for both of these facilities have submitted timely applications to the State Board for Small Community Wastewater Grant Program funding to initiate these improvements. The proposed improvements are expected to receive funding approval by the State Board. Thereafter, the State Board staff can start to issue and prepare agreements to disburse the grants.

SOUTH BASIN

5. ***Kinder-Morgan, Energy Partners, L.P. Petroleum Pipeline Spill–Update - Christy Hunter***

Kinder-Morgan employees and consultants continue cleanup operations at the site of the petroleum pipeline spill 20 miles south of Baker in San Bernardino County. Over 5,000 cubic yards of contaminated soil have been trucked off-site to a thermal treatment plant in Adelanto. Due to the heavy rains that occurred during the first week of January, access roads were either washed out or too saturated to allow heavy equipment to pass, therefore operations were called off for a period of about 5 days.

Groundwater at the site is found at about 100 feet below ground surface. Groundwater samples were taken during the week of January 10th and indicate very low levels of benzene (1.7 µ/L) and toluene (0.64 µg/L) in one of the three-groundwater wells installed at the site. Groundwater monitoring will continue.

Kinder-Morgan has also replaced the soil vapor extraction system with a larger capacity unit that will enable them to extract a larger volume of hydrocarbon vapors from the soil. Contamination has been detected in soil to a

depth of 50 feet in a portion of the spill area closest to the pipeline rupture point. Kinder-Morgan is developing a confirmation soil sampling plan for Regional Board review and continues to operate the soil vapor extraction system until acceptable cleanup levels are reached.

6. Searles Valley Minerals, (SVM) Compliance Status - Doug Feay

Compliance Status

Daily reporting data from SVM shows that the interim effluent limits set forth in the Waste Discharge Requirements were exceeded five times during the month of December 2004. On December 25, 2004 the Trona Plant discharge brine sample had concentrations of 13.4 mg/L total petroleum hydrocarbons (TPH) (limit is 6.1 mg/L) and 18.50 mg/L total recoverable petroleum hydrocarbons (TRPH) (limit is 8.6 mg/L). Laboratory contamination is suspected for the high values. On December 28, 2004 the Argus injection brine sample showed 7.8 mg/L TRPH (limit of 4.5 mg/L TRPH). This discharge may have been the result of a power failure coupled with a rain event. On December 30, 2004 the Trona Plant effluent brine sample tested 8.68 mg/L TPH (limit of 6.1 mg/L of

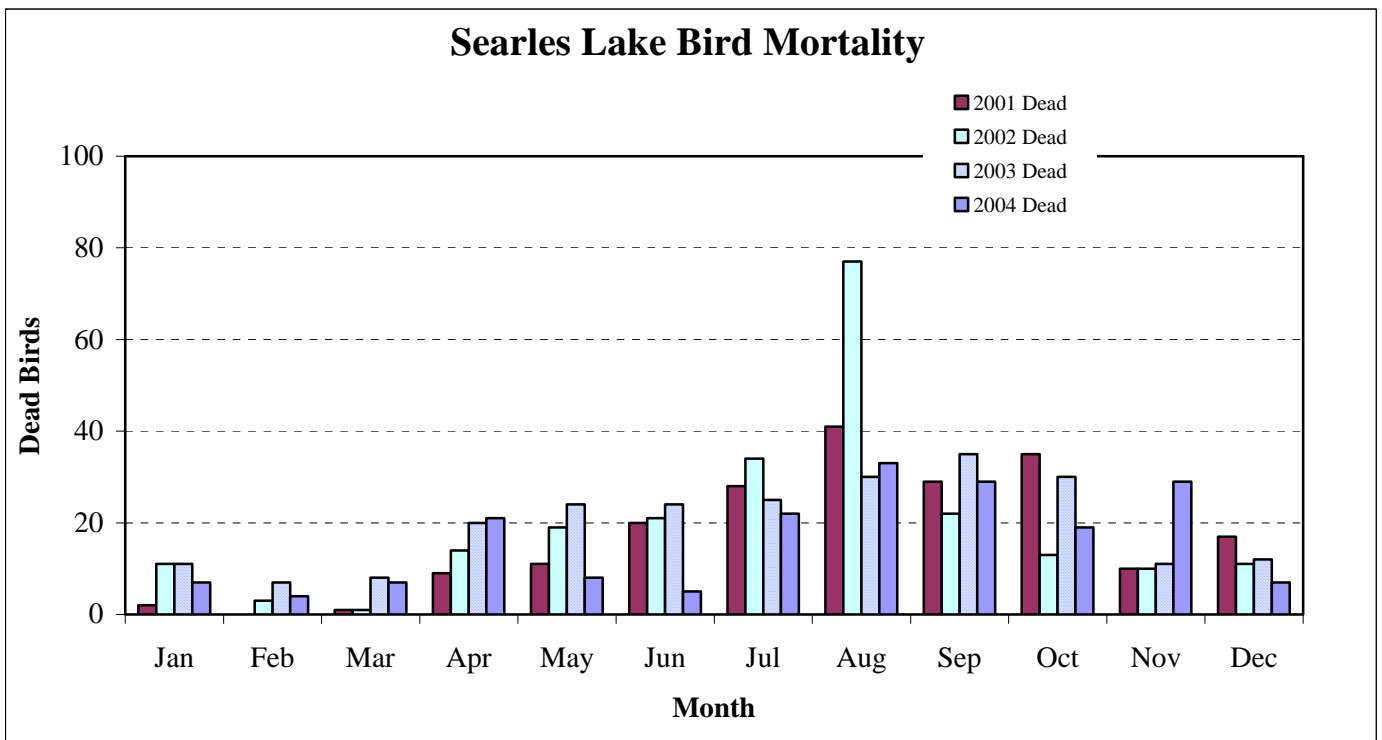
TPH) and 10.7 mg/L TRPH (limit of 8.6 TRPH). All violations for December 30, 2004 were suspected to be the result of a power failure and rain event.

Bird Report

For the month of December a total of 18 birds were collected. Of those, seven were dead or died in care. All birds found at Searles Dry Lake are sent to the International Bird Research Rescue Center Trona site staff. The staff treats live birds immediately and then transfers well birds to a rehabilitation facility in San Pedro, near the Los Angeles Port for release.

Brine Cleanup is on Schedule

A vacuum truck is used daily at the Trona and Argus Lake Skimmers and the Dredge Pond. A second vacuum truck removes hydrocarbon material from the Trona and Argus in-plant skimmers every weekday. Hydrocarbons removed at the Argus in-plant skimmer and settling basin are stored in an above ground tank until pickup by Demenno/Kerdoon Environmental.



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

REPORT ON STATUS OF STANDING ITEMS

February 2005

The Regional Board has requested that it be kept informed of the status of a number of issues. The following table lists the items, the reporting frequency and where the report can be found.

ISSUE	REPORT FREQUENCY	STATUS/COMMENT
Los Angeles County Sanitation District No. 14	Monthly	See February Agenda Item No. 11
Los Angeles County Sanitation District No. 20	Monthly	See February Agenda Item No. 12
Searles Valley Minerals Operations - Compliance Status	Monthly	Item No. 6 of February 2005 EO Report
Caltrans-General Permit	Annually	Due September 2005 Board Meeting
Eagle Lake Spalding	Semi-Annual	Due March 2005 Board Meeting
Status of Basin Plan Amendments	Semi-Annual	Due March 2005 Board Meeting
Town of Mammoth Lakes - Erosion Control	Semi-Annual	Due March 2005 Board Meeting
Meyers Beacon UST Site	Quarterly	Due March 2005 Board Meeting
Mojave River/El Mirage Dairy Issues	Quarterly	Due March 2005 Board Meeting
Molycorp Status Update	Quarterly	Due March 2005 Board Meeting
Caltrans-Tahoe Basin	Annually	Due November 2005 Board Meeting
Tahoe Municipal Permit	Annually	Due November 2005 Board Meeting
Wetland Restoration Progress in Mono County	Annually	Due November 2005 Board Meeting

Frequency Board Meeting Month

Quarterly January, April, July, & October.
Semi-Annual March & September
Annually Varied

CASE CLOSURE REPORT FEBRUARY 2005

State of California
Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board

Date Closure Issued	Site Name	Site Address	Case Number	Case Type	Remaining Groundwater Concentrations above Water Quality Objectives (in ug/L)	Remaining Soil Concentrations (in mg/Kg)	Distance from Site to Nearest Receptor	Remedial Methods Used
January 5, 2005	House of Carpet	2280 Lake Tahoe Blvd. South Lake Tahoe	6T0340A	UST (heating oil)	none	TPHd: 3.9 TPHmo: 29	Helen Well 700 feet cross-gradient	Excavated an unknown amount of contaminated soil
January 7, 2005	National Car Rental	1101 Emerald Bay Road South Lake Tahoe	6T0246A	UST (gasoline)	TPHg: 83	<u>1996 values:</u> TPHg: 1,300 benzene: 0.89 toluene: 10 ethylbenzene: 15 xylenes: 110	Airport Well 3/4 mile SSE (inactive)	Excavation Air sparging Soil vapor extraction

Notes:

TPHg = Total petroleum hydrocarbons quantified as gasoline

TPHd = Total petroleum hydrocarbons quantified as diesel

TPHmo = Total petroleum hydrocarbons quantified as motor oil

WQOs = Water Quality Objectives

ug/L = micrograms per liter

mg/Kg = milligrams per kilogram

**EO'S MONTHLY REPORT FOR
FEBRUARY 2005
UNAUTHORIZED WASTE DISCHARGES**

DISCHARGER	FACILITY	LOCATION	BASIN	REGULATED FACILITY	SUBSTANCE DISCHARGED	HAZARDOUS	DATE REPORTED	DISCHARGE VOLUME	DESCRIPTION OF FAILURE	DISCHARGE TO	PROP 65	STATUS
Lassen - County												
Susanville CSD	Susanville CSD	North Street, Susanville	N	N	Raw sewage	N	12/27/2004	~990 gal.	Clogged 6" collection line, surfaced at manhole & flowed along the ground to a storm drain.	Ground & storm drain	N	A Vac truck was used to remove sewage from storm drain & manhole. 50/50 bleach solution sprayed in the affected areas. Requested written report on spill. Action Pending Report findings.
Unknown	Unknown	Hwy 395	N	N	Diesel	N	1/7/2005	125 gal.	Diesel fuel released from a truck's tank by accident. Fuel absorbed and contained by snow and road.	Road	N	Caltrans removed polluted snow by placing snow in barrels and removed it from the area. No Further Action Recommended.
Mono - County												
Trucking Company	18-Wheel Tractor Trailer	Hwy 6, Benton	S	N	Diesel	Y	12/28/2004	50 gal.	Truck overturned releasing Diesel from fuel tanks.	Ground	N	Waste & contaminated soil cleaned up under direction of County Health. Disposed at legal location.
Nevada - County												
Jeanette Twist	Residence	14683 Northwoods Blvd., Truckee	N	N	Gasoline	Y	12/29/2004	5 gal.	Gasoline leaked from garbage at a private residence.	Land	N	Cleanup Contractor removed the material & cleaned the site. No impact to waterways. No Further Action Recommended.
San Bernardino - County												
Searles Valley Minerals	Argus Plant	Parson's Parkway	S	Y	Injection Brine	N	12/20/2004	5,700 gal.	Failure of HDPE pipeline at weld. Bird monitoring conducted. Pipe repaired. Written report received.	Dry Lakebed	N	Board staff met with SVM on 11/19. Discussed plan, & schedule for implementation of plan to minimize spills & monitor birds.

DISCHARGER	FACILITY	LOCATION	BASIN	REGULATED FACILITY	SUBSTANCE DISCHARGED	HAZARDOUS	DATE REPORTED	DISCHARGE VOLUME	DESCRIPTION OF FAILURE	DISCHARGE TO	PROP 65	STATUS
Snow Valley Ski Area	Sewer Trunk Line	Running Springs Area	S	N	Raw Sewage	N	12/22/2004	40 gal.	Overflow from sewer to deep creek.	Deep Creek	N	Cleanup complete. NOV issued requiring plan to prevent recurrence. Recommendation for Further Action pending receipt of written report.
Searles Valley Minerals	Argus Plant	South Westend Road & Whimpy Road	S	Y	Injection Brine	N	12/24/2004	10,500 gal.	Failure of HDPE pipeline at weld. Bird monitoring conducted. Pipe repaired. Written report received.	Brine Pool	N	Board staff met with SVM on 11/19. Discussed schedule for implementation of plan, to minimize spills & ensure no bird contact.
Snow Valley Ski Area	Sewer Trunk Line	Running Springs Area	S	N	Raw Sewage	N	12/26/2004	400 gal.	Overflow from sewer to ground.	Ground	N	Cleanup complete. NOV issued requiring plan to prevent recurrence. Recommendation for Further Action pending receipt of written report.
Snow Valley Ski Area	Sewer Trunk Line	Running Springs Area	S	N	Raw Sewage	N	12/27/2004	740 gal.	Overflow from sewer to deep creek.	Deep Creek	N	Cleanup complete. NOV issued requiring plan to prevent recurrence. Recommendation for Further Action pending receipt of written report.
VVWRA	Sewer Trunk Line	Avenue I, Hesperia	S	N	Raw Sewage	N	12/28/2004	10,000 gal.	Overflow from sewer to ground.	Ground	N	Cleanup complete. Recommendation for Further Action Pending receipt fo written report.
Lake Arrowhead CSD	Outfall Pipeline	Hillside Ponds	S	Y	Treated Effluent (disinfected)	N	12/29/2004	~5 M gal.	Inflow exceeded outfall capacity. Disinfected treated effluent released at emergency discharge point to hillside ponds.	Ponds	N	Discharge due to high intensity rainstorm. District proceeding with plan to get permit for discharges to GV Creek during emergencies.
VVWRA	Interceptor	Hesperia	S	Y	Raw Sewage	N	1/4/2005	10,000 gal.	Vandals placed debris in manhole causing an overflow.	Ground	N	Debris removed. Cleanup complete. No Further Action Recommended.
Searles Valley Minerals	HDPE Pipeline	Oscar Johnson Road	S	Y	Brine	N	1/4/2005	25,000 gal.	Failure of HDPE pipeline at weld. Bird monitoring conducted. Pipe repaired.	Brine pool	N	Searls Valley Minerals submitted plan & schedule for implementation of plan to minimize spills & monitor birds. Written report received.

DISCHARGER	FACILITY	LOCATION	BASIN	REGULATED FACILITY	SUBSTANCE DISCHARGED	HAZARDOUS	DATE REPORTED	DISCHARGE VOLUME	DESCRIPTION OF FAILURE	DISCHARGE TO	PROP 65	STATUS
Lake Arrowhead CSD	Grass Valley STP	Lake Arrowhead	<input type="checkbox"/> S <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Treated Effluent (disinfected)	<input type="checkbox"/> N <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1/8/2005	21.5 M gal.	High intensity rain. Inflow exceeded capacity of outfall pipeline.	Grass Valley Creek	<input type="checkbox"/> N <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	To reduce inflow, investigating (smoke testing, etc.) new inflow sources not present during previous investigations.
Crestline SD	Seeley Creek Outfall Pipeline	Burnt Mill Creek Area	<input type="checkbox"/> S <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Treated Effluent (disinfected)	<input type="checkbox"/> N <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1/9/2005	~5 M gal.	High intensity rain. Inflow exceeded capacity of outfall pipeline.	Burnt Mill Creek	<input type="checkbox"/> N <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Discharge due to high intensity rainstorm. Further action pending receipt of written report & sampling results before end of January 2005.
Crestline SD	Main Outfall Pipeline	Silverwood Lake Area	<input type="checkbox"/> S <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Treated Effluent (disinfected)	<input type="checkbox"/> N <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1/9/2005	~12 M gal.	High intensity rain. Inflow exceeded capacity of outfall pipeline.	Silverwood Lake	<input type="checkbox"/> N <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Discharge due to high intensity rainstorm. Further action pending receipt of written report & sampling results before end of January 2005.
San Bernardino CSA 79	Lift Station	Arrowbear	<input type="checkbox"/> S <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Raw Sewage	<input type="checkbox"/> N <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1/10/2005	1,750 gal.	High intensity rain. Inflow exceeded capacity of lift station pumps.	Deep Creek tributary	<input type="checkbox"/> N <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Area Posted. Samples collected. Further action pending receipt of written report & sampling results before end of January 2005.
Crestline SD	Forest Shade Lift Station	Lake Gregory Area	<input type="checkbox"/> S <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Raw Sewage	<input type="checkbox"/> N <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1/10/2005	1,000 gal.	High intensity rain. Inflow exceeded capacity of lift station pumps.	Lake Gregory	<input type="checkbox"/> N <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Area Posted. Samples collected. Further action pending receipt of written report & sampling results before end of January 2005.
Apple Valley, Town of	Sewer	13980 Riverside Drive	<input type="checkbox"/> S <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Raw Sewage	<input type="checkbox"/> N <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1/11/2005	13,000 gal.	Flood flow damaged sewer allowing inflow to sewer. Inflow exceeded capacity of lift station pumps.	Mojave River	<input type="checkbox"/> N <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Area Posted. Samples collected. Further action pending receipt of written report & sampling results before end of January 2005.