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*State and Regional*

1. Personnel Report – *Eric Shay*

**New Hires**

- Alicia Borchmann, Scientific Aid, Department of Defense / Site Cleanup Program Unit, Victorville. This position reviews, compiles, and organizes scientific data from water quality investigations, dischargers’ self-monitoring reports, quarterly monitoring reports, and groundwater sampling information collected by Water Board staff; and assists technical staff with the collection of groundwater samples, data entry, and data presentation. The previous incumbent was Sandra Lopez. (The position was reclassified from Seasonal Clerk.)
- Ben Letton, Supervising Engineering Geologist, South Lake Tahoe. This position serves as the Division Manager for the North Lahontan Regulatory Division, overseeing the North Basin Regulatory Unit, Cannabis Regulatory Unit, and Non-Point Source Unit. The previous incumbent was Doug Smith.

**Vacancies** – We are currently recruiting for the following positions:

- Water Resource Control Engineer, Waste Water & Agricultural Operations Unit, Victorville. This position provides regulatory oversight of projects involving discharges to groundwater or surface waters and projects intended to restore and/or enhance water quality in the Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs), National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES), and Site Cleanup Programs. The previous incumbent was Cephas Hurr.
- Water Resource Control Engineer, North Basin Regulatory Unit, South Lake Tahoe. This position is the office's primary contact for domestic wastewater treatment facilities and domestic wastewater issues north of Conway Summit, in addition to being responsible for several industrial discharges. The position involves conducting field inspections, interacting with County health offices, reviewing design reports, determining compliance permits, and writing Waste Discharge Requirements and National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permits. The previous incumbent was Rob Tucker. Vacancy announcement has not yet posted.

**Departures** – None

### *North Lahontan Region*

#### **2. In-Lieu Fee Program for Mitigating Wetland Impacts - Elizabeth van Diepen**

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's In-Lieu Fee (ILF) Program provides a mitigation option that permittees can use for Clean Water Act dredge and fill permits in certain portions of the Lahontan Region to compensate for impacts to surface waters, including wetlands. This program was developed in compliance with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' 2008 Final Rule on Compensatory Mitigation for Losses of Aquatic Resources and approved for use by the State Water Board, the Central Valley Water Board, and the Lahontan Water Board in 2014. The purpose of the ILF Program is to pool compensatory mitigation funds, and make them available for mitigating impacts in designated Aquatic Resource Service Areas. The ILF Program covers three Areas in the Lahontan Region: Carson and Walker River watersheds, Lake Tahoe Area (covering the Truckee River watershed), and Modoc Area, which covers Lassen and Modoc Counties. These Areas cover the entirety of the Lahontan region's North Basin, which is north of Conway Summit. The ILF Program periodically releases funding for eligible projects in the Areas on a competitive basis following review by a multi-agency review team, including the Water Board staff. That funding allows for larger and more robust restoration projects that are prioritized by knowledgeable staff at the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), reducing Water Board staff oversight for proposed mitigation projects to offset wetland impacts.

The Water Quality Control Plan for the Lahontan Region (Basin Plan) provides that in-kind, on-site mitigation is generally the preferred compensatory mitigation. The Basin Plan also allows for payment to a mitigation bank or other entity that will provide the required mitigation, such as the NFWF. Historically, holding permittees responsible for in-kind, onsite mitigation has proven to offer little guarantee of long-term success without substantial oversight. Success of a given project can be difficult to track, and such mitigation areas are generally small compared to projects funded by combined ILF funding. The NFWF helps to guarantee restoration project success through selecting the best projects, providing conservation easements, grazing limitations, and other agreements with landowners, in addition to rigorous monitoring programs and adaptive management. Payments to the NFWF are implemented by conditions in 401 Water Quality Certifications and can help streamline the permitting process. ILF payments for impacts of the North Basin projects have been approved in several instances, and these funds will be applied to restoration projects in the cited Areas. The Truckee River Watershed Council is currently developing the Truckee Meadows Restoration In-Lieu Fee Project, which will result in 6.56 acres of rehabilitated surface waters and the release of 2.9 credits. This project will be

the first in the Lahontan Region to utilize In-Lieu Fee funds. Eighty-nine percent of the total funding will be provided by the In-Lieu Fee program.

### **3. Standing Item - Status of Grant Activities from March 2017 to March 2018 – Cindy Wise**

This is the annual update on the primary grant and loan program activities in our Region, followed by a table of the local technical assistance projects that are currently managed by Water Board staff. Low-interest loan and grant funding is available for watershed protection projects, nonpoint source pollution control projects, and construction of facilities for municipal sewage treatment, water recycling, and public water supply. Regional and State Water Board staff coordinate to implement the Water Boards' financial assistance programs to administer loan and grant funds to help local agencies prevent or clean up pollution of the state's water and provide safe drinking water.

#### **Proposition 1 Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014 (Prop 1)**

Prop 1 (Assembly Bill 1471, Rendon) authorized \$7.545 billion in general obligation bonds for water projects including surface and groundwater storage, ecosystem/watershed protection and restoration, and drinking water protection. The State Water Board will administer a portion of the Prop 1 funds for five programs over a ten-year period that started in FY 15/16. The five Prop 1 programs administered by State Water Board staff are:

- Small Community Wastewater (\$260M)
- Water Recycling (\$625M)
- Drinking Water (\$260M)
- Storm water (\$200M)
- Groundwater Sustainability (\$800M)

More information on Prop 1 can be found at:

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/grants\\_loans/proposition1.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/grants_loans/proposition1.shtml).

This link displays a table with estimated implementation schedules for each of the five programs, lists of projects funded to date, and links to individual web pages for each program. Prop 1 Groundwater Sustainability-Round 2 solicitation is tentatively planned for early in 2018, with Prop 1 Stormwater Implementation-Round 2 grant solicitation tentatively planned for early 2019.

#### **Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) Program**

The CWSRF Program provides low-interest loans for the construction of wastewater and water recycling facilities, municipal landfill treatment systems, implementation of nonpoint source projects and programs; and storm water treatment projects. It is funded by federal grants, state bond funds, local match funds, repayments, and revenue bonds. The CWSRF Program accepts project applications on a continuous basis and the project priority list included in the annual business plan can be amended as necessary. The current annual business plan (Intended Use Plan) for FY 2017-18 can be found at:

[https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board\\_decisions/adopted\\_orders/resolutions/2017/cwsrf\\_iup\\_sf\\_y2017\\_18\\_final.pdf](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_decisions/adopted_orders/resolutions/2017/cwsrf_iup_sf_y2017_18_final.pdf)

#### **Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) Program**

The DWSRF Program provides low-interest loans to assist public water systems in financing the cost of drinking water infrastructure projects needed to achieve or maintain compliance with the federal Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) requirements and to further the public health objectives of the SDWA. The DWSRF Program accepts project applications on a continuous basis and the project priority list included in the Intended Use Plan (IUP) can be amended as necessary. The current annual business plan (IUP) for FY 2017-18 can be found at:

[https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board\\_decisions/adopted\\_orders/resolutions/2017/dwsrf\\_iup\\_sf\\_y2017\\_18\\_final.pdf](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_decisions/adopted_orders/resolutions/2017/dwsrf_iup_sf_y2017_18_final.pdf)

## **Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Grant Program**

The IRWM Grant Program provides grants for projects intended to promote and practice integrated regional management of water for both quality and supply. The IRWM story began in 2002 when the Regional Water Management Planning Act (SB 1672) was passed by the Legislature. Since then, various bond acts approved by California voters have provided over \$1.5 billion in state funding to support and advance integrated, multi-benefit regional projects. Since the inception of the IRWM program, over \$72M in IRWM grants have been awarded in the Lahontan Region. To be eligible for IRWM grant funds, IRWM geographic regions must be approved by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR). In coordination with Regional Board staff, DWR has approved six IRWM groups in the Lahontan Region- Lahontan Basins, Tahoe Sierra, Inyo Mono, Fremont, Antelope Valley, and Mojave.

Prop 1 includes \$510M (administered by DWR) to implement water conservation, water-use efficiency, and stormwater management projects statewide that are identified in an approved IRWM plan. Of that amount, \$24.5M is earmarked for future IRWM projects in the Lahontan Region. Lahontan Water Board staff continues to participate in IRWM groups and may coordinate with DWR staff on project review and selection. DWR staff will manage all IRWM project grants. Solicitation and awards of Round 1 Prop 1 IRWM Implementation Grants will start later in 2018 and continue into 2019, with Round 2 planned to begin in 2020. In May 2018, DWR is planning three related Public Meetings (in Northern, Central, and Southern California) with specific dates and locations to be determined. For more information, see: <https://www.water.ca.gov/Programs/Integrated-Regional-Water-Management>

## **319 Nonpoint Source Implementation Grant Program**

This is the federal grant program for nonpoint source pollution control projects. As shown in the table below, our staff currently manages five 319 Nonpoint Source grants totaling \$2,675,094. During the last year, three projects were successfully completed and two additional projects were selected for funding in the region. The next statewide solicitation to award approximately \$4M in implementation projects is currently underway. This year, approximately half of the available funds will be awarded for post-fire recovery projects in those counties impacted by the severe 2017 fires where a State of Emergency was declared by the Governor. For more information on the grant program, please see: [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/nps/grant\\_program.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/nps/grant_program.shtml)

## **Other Grant Information**

### **Regional and State Water Board Staff Grants Roundtable Meetings**

This forum has now been combined with the Nonpoint Source Program Roundtable and meets as necessary to discuss issues with, and develop improvements to, the 319 Nonpoint Source Grant solicitation process. It includes at least one representative from each Regional Board and staff from the State Water Board. This roundtable last met in February 2018 and is planning to meet again in April 2018 to evaluate the recently concluded 319 Nonpoint Source Grant solicitation process.

### **Funding Fairs**

The California Financing Coordinating Committee (CFCC) is made up of several state and federal funding agencies including the State Water Board. The CFCC conducts free Funding Fairs statewide each year to educate the public and potential customers about the different member agencies, and their available financial and technical resources. The 2018 Funding Fairs are scheduled from April to August at six locations throughout the state (Sacramento, Red Bluff, Merced, Santa Rosa, Perris, and Alhambra). For specific information regarding the Funding Fairs, including the schedule, please visit: [www.cfcc.ca.gov](http://www.cfcc.ca.gov).

## Web Site and Electronic Mailing List

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/grants\\_loans/](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/grants_loans/) is the link from the State Water Board's web page for information on current and upcoming grants.

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/email\\_subscriptions/swrcb\\_subscribe.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/email_subscriptions/swrcb_subscribe.shtml) is the link to subscribe electronically to receive notification of new grant information by selected program.

## 319H NONPOINT SOURCE GRANT PROJECTS CURRENTLY MANAGED BY REGIONAL BOARD STAFF

Title	Recipient	Amount
Truckee River Voluntary BMP Retrofit Program	Truckee River Watershed Council	\$750,000
Accelerated Best Management Practice Implementation in the Lake Tahoe Basin	Tahoe Regional Planning Agency	\$300,000
Main Stem Truckee River Sediment Reduction	Truckee River Watershed Council	\$300,000
Reducing Sediment in Squaw Creek through Meadow Restoration	Trout Unlimited	\$782,454
Truckee River Tributaries Sediment Reduction	Truckee River Watershed Council	\$542,640
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$2,675,094</b>

### 4. Tahoe Keys Property Owners Association WDR Permit Submittals and Project Status – El Dorado County - Bruce Warden

The Tahoe Keys Property Owners Association (TKPOA) is required, under its 2014 Waste Discharge Requirements (WDR) permit, to pursue improvements in plant fragment control from aquatic invasive species weed harvesting operations in the Tahoe Keys Lagoons, and to submit annual updates of four items:

- a. Integrated Management Plan (IMP) for control of aquatic invasive species;
- b. NonPoint Source Water Quality Management Plan (NPS Plan);
- c. Aquatic Macrophyte Monitoring Report; and
- d. Bottom Barrier Project Summary and Water Quality Certification status.

TKPOA submitted all these deliverables on time on January 31, 2018, and is therefore in full compliance with the conditions of the WDR. Following is a summary of key features of the submitted documents:

#### **a. Integrated Management Plan (IMP)**

The annual IMP update uses an adaptive management approach to assess and improve project implementation. Projects are vetted through the TKPOA Water Quality Committee and the IMP public stakeholders group. Proposed projects can be changed, added, or dropped based on feedback from these groups. Following is the status of 2017 project implementation and proposed 2018 projects:

#### **Major 2017 Outcomes:**

Rotovation Project: Rotovation involves the use of a semi-truck sized tilling device that operates underwater to cut the roots of AIS plants through subsurface tillage. The rotovation trial was infeasible because of turbidity, benthic macroinvertebrate disturbance, and permitting concerns raised by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW).



## **Major 2018 Outcomes:**

Herbicide Demonstration Project: A joint (Water Board and TRPA) environmental checklist/initial study identified potentially significant environmental impacts and data gaps associated with the proposal. The herbicide demonstration project will require preparation an EIR/EIS document, so the proposed herbicide demonstration project has been delayed pending completion of the environmental document.

### **2018 Pending Projects**

- Water quality and sediment sampling
- Bottom barrier program administration
- Boat back-up station monitoring
- Continued improvements to weed harvesting and fragment collection activities

### **b. NPS Plan**

Continued implementation of TKPOA rules adopted in 2016 to minimize sources of nutrients and to prevent nutrient loading and runoff into the waterways. This includes:

- Use of phosphorous-free fertilizers in the Tahoe Keys
- Enforcement of irrigation efficiency requirements for homeowners and landscapers
- Meeting goal of 100% TRPA BMP implementation by 2020

### **c. Aquatic Macrophyte Survey Report**

*West Basin (Main Lagoon):* Most notable in the 2017 report was a marked increase in the observed concentration of AIS curlyleaf pondweed, relative to other aquatic plants, from prior years.

*East Basin (Marina Lagoon):* A similar trend exists in this basin with the report indicating that AIS curlyleaf pondweed concentration increased from 2% in 2015 to 21.3% in 2017.

*Lake Tallac Lagoon:* AIS curlyleaf pondweed concentration increased from non-detect in 2015 to 28.9% in 2017.

### **d. Bottom Barrier Monitoring Report and Water Quality Certification status**

Three homeowners installed bottom barriers in 2017, compared to 20 in 2016. The reduction in number of bottom barriers installed was reportedly due to difficulty of bottom barrier installation with high water in 2017. There was also uncertainty regarding the effectiveness of bottom barriers based on the results of the 2016 season. Boat traffic stirred up sediment, which then settled on top of the barriers and allowed the aquatic invasive weeds to regrow.

## **Proposed Actions that exceed WDR requirements**

TKPOA voluntarily established an Adaptive Management Committee to:

- Identify and evaluate additional new and novel methods for aquatic plant control
- Investigate aquatic control methods proposed by the public
- Gather information to answer questions posed by the public

The Committee identified the following promising control methods:

- Using UV light as a non-chemical control method to kill AIS plants using short-wave radiation. This innovative approach has been applied in a laboratory setting and is being evaluated for use at a project scale in larger aquatic environments that have docks.
- Laminar flow to aerate sediments and the water column which reduces nutrients available for AIS growth.
- Bubble curtain which injects a wall of air across an area to prevent AIS plant fragments present in the Keys from migrating to Lake Tahoe.

## 5. Proposition 1 and Workload Impacts – Laurie Scribe

Proposition 1 Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014, was approved by the California voters in November 2014 and authorized \$7.12 billion in bond funds. Proposition 1 provides funding to meet the California Water Action Plan objectives of more reliable water supplies, restoration of important species and habitat, and more resilient, sustainably managed water resources systems that can better withstand inevitable and unforeseen pressures in the coming decades. Funds from Proposition are distributed by many different California agencies, boards, and departments across the State through grant programs. There have been three rounds of funding since Proposition 1 passed, and seven more funding cycles are projected.

The Nonpoint Source (NPS) unit has seen a significant increase in workload this fiscal year related to entities seeking Proposition 1 funding to plan or implement watershed restoration projects. The workload increase has included issuance of 401 Water Quality Certifications (WQCs) and taking on the role of lead agency pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). In FY 2016-2017 the NPS unit did not prepare any 401 WQCs or act as CEQA lead for projects seeking Proposition 1 funding; however, this fiscal year NPS unit staff have six projects that will eventually obtain 401 WQC where we are being asked to take on the lead agency role under CEQA. Applicants seeking funding must comply with CEQA to be eligible and competitive in their grant applications. Grant applicants are asking the Lahontan Region Water Board to be the CEQA lead agency rather than have the funding agency be the lead agency.

Although acting as a CEQA lead agency is not a new role for the Water Board, the typical process, timing, and frequency has been altered by Proposition 1 funding processes. The Water Board role of CEQA lead agency is typically triggered by applicants submitting a complete application and our issuance of a permit. Currently, the request to be lead agency is coming in advance of a proposed project's completed application and the issuance of a permit so that applicants can then apply for funding to complete project design, permitting, and implementation. The workload associated with the role of CEQA lead agency varies depending on the size and potential impacts of a project, but it can include evaluation of potential environmental impacts, notification and consultation with tribal governments, consultation with other State agencies, circulation and submission of documents to the State Clearinghouse, and preparation of CEQA mitigated negative declarations or notices of exemption. NPS Unit staff have worked with our legal counsel to craft a resolution that can be signed by the Executive Officer to adopt a CEQA document in advance of issuing a permit. The Executive Officer, using Water Board delegated authority, has signed two such resolutions, and NPS unit staff expect to bring several more similar Resolutions to the Executive Officer this fiscal year.

## 6. Bacteria Water Quality Objectives Project – Semi-Annual Update - Dan Sussman

The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) staff intends to bring the proposed REC-1 ([Water Contact Recreation](#)) bacteria objectives to the State Water Board for consideration in early summer 2018. Most recently scheduled for February 2018, State Board consideration was postponed to allow staff additional time to address public concerns associated with the development of the saltwater REC-1 bacteria objectives.

Water Board staff expects the provisions and staff report for the freshwater bacteria standard to be considered unchanged with the most recent version currently posted on the project's website ([www.waterboards.ca.gov/bacterialobjectives/](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/bacterialobjectives/)). The provisions include an *E. coli* standard of 100 colony forming units (cfu)/100 milliliter (mL). While the provisions include no exception previously proposed for Lake Tahoe or any other waters, the standard applies only for protection of the REC-1 beneficial use. The proposed provisions would not supersede the Lahontan Basin Plan's current fecal coliform bacteria standard of 20 cfu/100 mL, with the exception of the REC-1 beneficial use. This means Regional Board regulatory programs can continue to incorporate the existing water quality objective into their work products.

The 2015 Triennial Review Priority list includes revisions of the Lahontan bacteria water quality objective as priority four. The State Board adoption of the REC-1 objective does not complete the Triennial Review bacteria item. Water Board direction included a change of the current fecal coliform-based standard to a comparable standard based on *E. coli*. The item also directs the evaluation of the standard itself and for staff to determine if site specific objectives for certain waterbodies are warranted. The draft resolution on the State Board project website includes language requesting the Water Board to prioritize this evaluation in the 2018 Triennial Review. For more information on the proposed REC-1 bacteria standard and its consequences for the Lahontan region, see the October 2017 Executive Officer's [report](#) Standing Items.

## South Lahontan Region

### **7. Fremont Basin Regional Water Management Group Meets in Mojave to Discuss the Drafting of the Integrated Regional Water Management Plan – Tiffany Steinert**

Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) began in 2002 when the Regional Water Management Planning Act (SB 1672) was passed by the Legislature. Since then, various bond acts approved by California voters have provided over \$1.5 billion in State funding to support and advance integrated, multi-benefit regional projects. The local match on the State resources has often been on the order of 4 to 1. Cities, counties, water districts, community/environmental groups and other stakeholders across the State have worked collaboratively to organize and establish 48 regional water management groups, covering over 87 percent of the State's area and 99 percent of its population.

The Fremont Basin IRWM region occupies an enclosed watershed in the southern Lahontan Hydrologic Basin, and is adjacent to the following IRWM regions: Inyo-Mono to the north; Kern County to the west; Antelope Valley to the south; and Mojave to the east-southeast. The Fremont Basin IRWM group held a meeting in Mojave on February 15, 2018, to present to the stakeholders a progress report on the efforts related to development of the IRWM Plan. Members of the Fremont Basin IRWM group, as well as Water Board staff, Tiffany Steinert, attended the meeting.

Currently, portions of the Fremont groundwater basin are included in the Kern County and in the Antelope Valley IRWM regions. The consultants drafting the plans propose including the entire whole of the Fremont groundwater basin in the Fremont IRWM region. This will require the adjacent IRWM groups to either surrender that portion of their region that includes the Fremont groundwater basin or agree to manage these portions jointly, between the respective IRWM groups. The Kern County IRWM group has agreed to joint management, but the Antelope Valley IRWM group is against the idea thus far.

The discussion included the volume of water available and projected water demand in the Fremont Basin. Fremont Basin IRWM stakeholders felt the numbers presented by the consultants were too high and would put the basin into overdraft. Several members voiced the need to be conservative to avoid overdraft conditions and their desire to move towards adjudication like Antelope Valley and Mojave. During this discussion, California City representatives stated they had lifted the limit on the number of marijuana growers they would allow within the city, which caused many of the stakeholders to voice concern about water demands of marijuana growers as being a big unknown.

The meeting concluded with discussion over the current project list, which primarily consists of drinking water projects, and how those projects will be ranked.



## 8. Arson Fire at Barstow Pilot Project and Other Sites – Ghasem Pour-ghasemi

On February 25, 2018, an arsonist set fire to several locations in the Soapmine Road area of Barstow. One fire was at the Bio-Filtration System pilot project that was newly installed on the west side of Webster Road. The system was installed to treat groundwater nitrate and perchlorate in the Soapmine Road area east of Barstow. The money (\$1.8 million) for construction and operation of the treatment system was obtained from the California Energy Commission as a grant by the Tomorrow Water Company, doing business as BKT, in cooperation with the City of Barstow. The grant money will cover treatment costs for only 18 months once treatment starts. The system was more than 90 percent complete at the time of the fire.



Photograph 1 - Damaged backwash tank (photo from a resident from Soapmine Road)

The fire damage was extensive and damaged two filtration equipment skids, two backwash tanks, intermediary piping, and electrical work. The preliminary estimate of damage is over \$100,000. There was no damage to the treatment vessels (photo below). The San Bernardino County Sheriff's office is investigating the arson.



Photograph 2 - Two damaged backwash tanks on the left side. In lower foreground is the destroyed drinking water filtration system. At the right center is an undamaged treated water storage tank (black color). At the far right in a tan color is one of the

BKT, on its own initiative, will cover all costs of damage resulting from fire, including equipment replacement and all repairs. BKT assured Water Board staff that they will make every effort to minimize the inevitable delay that is caused by the fire. Since the vessels are not damaged, the biological treatment acclimation process will not be affected. The propagation of vessels with bacteria and acclimation will take about a month before treatment can start. BKT is working simultaneously on the repairs of damaged equipment, which would take approximately the same amount of time as propagation and acclimation will. According to BKT, the treatment process will still be on time or be delayed at most by couple of weeks.

## 9. Los Angeles County Local Agency Management Program – Jehiel Cass

The Los Angeles Regional Water Board requires cities relying on Los Angeles County to approve Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems (OWTS) within its jurisdiction to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU, or contract) with the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health.

In March 2018, the Los Angeles Regional Water Board will release the revised draft Local Agency Management Program (LAMP) for a 30-day public comment period and hold a public hearing on April 12, 2018. After receiving public input, the Los Angeles Regional Water Board may direct its Executive Officer to approve the Los Angeles County LAMP. After approval, the Los Angeles County Public Health staff will prepare a draft ordinance for its Board of Supervisors for consideration in the July 2018 timeframe. The Los Angeles Regional Water Board requires that Los Angeles County enter into a MOU with each of the 41 incorporated cities within the county designating Los Angeles County as the Qualified Local Agency to review OWTS issues within a city jurisdiction. However, the MOUs may not be completed, reviewed, and signed until the end of 2018. The Cities of Palmdale and Lancaster are the only two incorporated Los Angeles County cities in the Lahontan Region.

What this means is that there will be a period of time when OWTS reviews must be conducted according to Tier 1 of the OWTS Policy. The OWTS Policy indicates that all local agencies must use Tier 1 by May 13, 2018, or whenever a LAMP is approved, whichever is earlier. From May 13, 2018, until about December 2018 all OWTS applications in unincorporated Los Angeles County must be according to the OWTS Policy Tier 1. It is unknown what, if any, effect this will have on Water Board staff work load.

Water Board jurisdiction of Los Angeles County is shared between the Los Angeles and Lahontan Water Boards as shown on Figure 1 on the following page. The Antelope Valley portion of the county, subject to Lahontan Water Board jurisdiction, is a hydrologically closed, adjudicated groundwater basin. Limiting inorganic salt and nutrient loading from all sources, including OWTS, is necessary for sustainable groundwater resource management.

The State Board's OWTS policy designates the Los Angeles Regional Water Board for approval of the Los Angeles County LAMP. The county's draft LAMP was submitted on May 13, 2016, and Lahontan Water Board staff comments were made on January 12, 2017. Following consultation and LAMP revisions, staff from both Water Boards met with Los Angeles County Department of Public Health staff on January 24, 2018, and with county and local city staff on March 6, 2018. On February 20, 2018, Lahontan Water Board staff informed Los Angeles Regional Water Board staff that we accepted the county's LAMP.

#### **10. San Bernardino County Environmental Task Crimes Strike Force Meeting – *Jeff Fitzsimmons***

On February 15, 2018, Water Board staff, Jeff Fitzsimmons, attended the San Bernardino County Environmental Crimes Strike Force Meeting (Strike Force) at the offices of Community Safety and Hazardous Materials Division of the San Bernardino County Fire Department. The Strike Force meetings serve to provide a singular forum so that representatives of city, county, state, and federal governments can be briefed regarding new and pending environmental crimes cases within the county, network, share thoughts and ideas, strategize, and partner in efforts to successfully protect the environment. Other attendees of the February 2018 meeting included representatives from the County of San Bernardino Office of the District Attorney, San Bernardino County Fire Department, Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board, and California Department of Fish and Wildlife. Nearly all of the cases discussed have been ongoing for several months or longer and pertain to individual or multiple locations within the county and, in some instances, are part of a larger statewide investigation. As with previous meetings, the environmental threats anticipated from the cultivation, processing, waste handling, and distribution of commercial cannabis were also discussed. The next Strike Force meeting is scheduled for April 12, 2018. Water Board staff are planning to present an informational workshop about our new cannabis regulatory program at the July Board meeting in Bishop.

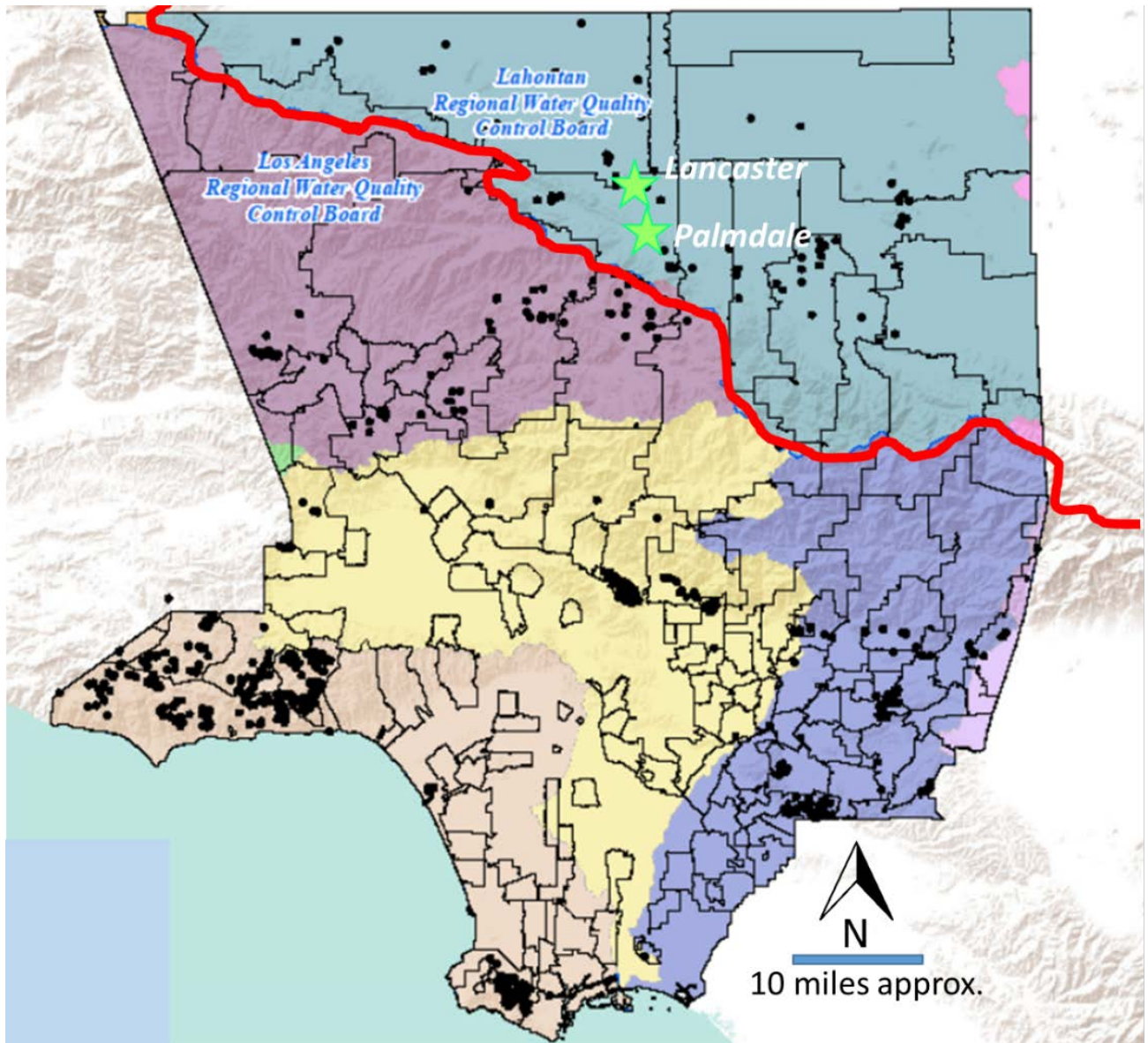


Figure 1 - Los Angeles County Major Watersheds – Non-conventional Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems that are currently permitted by Los Angeles County Department of Public Health are indicated by a black dot. Base Map taken from Los Angeles County LAMP