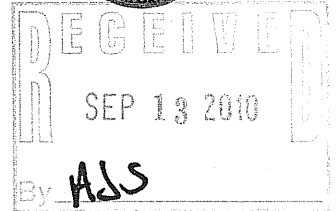




DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION

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September 8, 2010

Harold Singer
Executive Officer
Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board
2501 Lake Tahoe Boulevard
South Lake Tahoe, California 96150

RE: Comments on Proposed Amendments to the Water Quality Control Plan of the
Lahontan Region: Lake Tahoe Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) and the draft
Final Lake Tahoe TMDL Report

Dear Mr. Singer:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the proposed Amendments to the Water Quality Control Plan (Plan amendments) of the Lahontan Region: Lake Tahoe Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) and the draft Final Lake Tahoe TMDL Report (Report). We support updating the Plan and adopting the Report with some minor changes addressed below.

Page 12-10 of the Report states: "Wildfire has the potential to affect loading of the target pollutants to Lake Tahoe." The Report goes on to discuss some recent case studies, including the Angora Fire and Gondola Fire. The proposed Plan amendment for page 5-6, column 2, paragraph 1, states in part: "Additional controls of fine sediment particles and nutrient loading may need to be developed in the future to offset the impacts of unforeseen factors such as wildfire and climate change." However, neither the Report nor the Plan amendment document referenced "The Emergency California-Nevada Tahoe Basin Fire Commission Report (May 2008)," which contains ninety fire-related recommendations, many of which are intended to address both short- and long-term needs and environmental practices related to Lake Tahoe's vulnerability to wildfire. As an example, one of the recommendations focuses specifically on the need to facilitate forest thinning practices and biomass processing as means to reduce the intensity of future wildfires and resulting pollution to air and water resources. The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) recommends that both the Report and Plan amendments reference "The Emergency California-Nevada Tahoe Basin Fire Commission Report (May 2008)" and its recommendations.

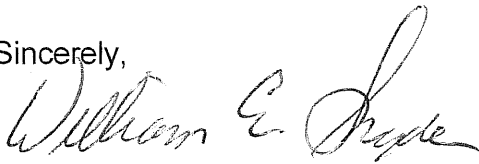
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Page 11-9 of the Report lists four agencies responsible for management activities on public forest lands that may affect water quality in the Tahoe Basin. The Report should also state that the CAL FIRE is responsible for regulating forest practices on private forest lands, and works with your Regional Board staff to minimize the affect on water quality on the California side of the Tahoe Basin.

Page 16-12 of the Report states: "The Water Board regulates other stormwater discharges in the Basin, including surface discharges from timber harvesting and grazing activities, through waste discharge requirements and waivers of waste discharge requirements for individual dischargers." CAL FIRE acknowledges this as an accurate statement; but to avoid confusion, this should be coupled with a statement that CAL FIRE regulates forest practices on private forest lands in California and is designated lead agency.

If you have questions, please contact Clay Brandow at (916) 653-0719 or email clay.brandow@fire.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



William E. Snyder
Deputy Director
Resource Management

cc: Crawford Tuttle
Duane Shintaku
Dennis Hall
Bill Holmes
Mary Huggins
Clay Brandow
Thomas Tinsley
Christy Daugherty
Kris Timberlake