LAHONTAN WATER BOARD PROSECUTION TEAM RELEASES SETTLEMENT PROPOSAL IN LAKE TAHOE SEWAGE SPILL CASE

Public Review and Comments Encouraged

SOUTH LAKE TAHOE – The Lahontan Water Board’s Prosecution Team is releasing a proposal for settling the July 19, 2005 complaint stemming from the discharge of 56,000 gallons of raw sewage to Lake Tahoe.

The complaint was issued after a contractor hit a sewer force main while building a pier for two adjacent property owners.

The settlement proposal, if accepted by the Water Board, would be part of a global settlement between the Water Board and North Tahoe Public Utility District actions against the property owners and their contractor. The value of the settlement proposal is $325,000, which is the liability recommended in the revised Administrative Civil Liability Complaint No. R6T-2005-0029.

The settlement proposal includes a payment of $26,840 to the State Water Resources Control Board’s Cleanup and Abatement Account, and a Supplemental Environmental Project (SEP) of $298,160. The SEP consists of payment of $298,160 to the North Tahoe Public Utility District, which will purchase an emergency bypass hose reel system that can be used during emergencies requiring a temporary bypass of sewer facilities in the Lake Tahoe Basin and Truckee areas. The SEP includes a requirement that local sewer agency staffs be trained in how to use the bypass equipment.

Comments on the settlement proposal should be submitted to the Water Board’s Prosecution by October 11, 2006 to be considered by the Water Board. This allows for a 30-day comment period. The Water Board will consider the settlement proposal during its regularly schedule meeting on October 11 and 12, 2006, in Kings Beach, Ca. Copies of the settlement proposal can be reviewed at the Water Board’s South Lake Tahoe office, or by calling (530) 542-5400.

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