



Enforcement News

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Lahontan Water Board Reaches Settlement Agreement With LADWP Over Water Quality Violations

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Oct. 9, 2015

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SOUTH LAKE TAHOE – The Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board (Lahontan Water Board) announced today that it has reached a settlement agreement with the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) over alleged water quality violations at its Lee Vining Creek water diversion facility in Mono County.

LADWP has agreed to a \$95,000 penalty and a Supplemental Environmental Project (SEP) for allegedly discharging rock rip-rap, concrete, and earthen materials into Lee Vining Creek without obtaining the proper Lahontan Water Board permit. The unpermitted discharges violate Water Code Section 13376, Clean Water Act section 301, and the Water Quality Control Plan for the Lahontan Region

Of the \$95,000 penalty, \$43,000 will go to the State Water Board's Cleanup and Abatement Account, while the remaining \$52,000 will fund the SEP. The SEP includes LADWP contributing \$52,000 to the United States Forest Service to complete four restoration projects in the Owens River Watershed. Those projects include the Witcher Creek Stabilization Project; Round Valley Fire Area Seed Collection and Planting Project; Mammoth Creek Parking Area Vegetation Restoration Project; and the Mammoth Creek Road Re-Route and Stream Stabilization Project. These projects will be started this fall and completed in September 2016, improving Mammoth Creek habitat and portions of the Lower Rock Creek watershed that was burned over in February 2015.

LADWP operates and maintains its water diversion structure on Lee Vining Creek, located approximately 30 miles north of Mammoth Lakes on the eastern slope of the Sierra Nevada. The structure diverts creek flows to the Los Angeles Aqueduct System, while maintaining instream flows necessary to protect Lee Vining Creek's downstream fishery. LADWP was required by the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) to modify its

diversion structure to allow sediment to more naturally pass through, rather than accumulate upstream of the structure. In August 2014 LADWP crews began staging equipment and started working on the diversion structure to satisfy the State Water Board's requirements without obtaining the appropriate permits.

To learn more and to view the settlement agreement, visit the Lahontan Water Board's enforcement [webpage](#).

The Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board is a California state agency responsible for the preservation and enhancement of the quality of California's water resources in eastern California. For more information about the Lahontan Water Board visit its [webpage](#).

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