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## Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board

December 27, 2017

To Interested Parties

### **Notice of Intent to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration and Opportunity to Provide Comments on the Proposed Sardine Meadow Restoration Project, Sierra County, State Clearinghouse #2017112062**

The Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board (Water Board) is the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) lead agency for the Sardine Meadow Restoration Project (Project). A mitigated negative declaration, describing potential adverse environmental impacts and associated mitigation measures, has been prepared by the Water Board in connection with this Project. This request for comments is intended to provide interested individuals, organizations, and agencies the opportunity to comment on the environmental effects of the Project as described in the mitigated negative declaration (MND). A copy of the MND can be downloaded at: [www.waterboards.ca.gov/lahontan](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/lahontan). To request a compact disc of the MND, please call the Water Board's South Lake Tahoe office at (530) 542-5400.

**Project Location:** The Project area is in the south-eastern portion of Sierra County, six miles west of the Nevada border in the Sardine Valley. Sardine Valley is located in the Davies Creek watershed, just north of Stampede Reservoir.

**Project Description:** Within Sardine Valley, portions of Davies Creek have been diverted from historic flow patterns due to past logging, railroad building, and grazing practices. These influences have caused Davies Creek to divert from its course on the southern side of the meadow within Sardine Valley to the northern side where it is currently flowing in eroded and incised channels. The Project would return flow to approximately three miles of historic stream channel, and restore up to 300 acres of meadow habitat. The Project would improve habitat for a range of mammals, raptors, and other important bird species, including willow flycatcher. The Project would also provide hydrologic benefits such as reduced sedimentation, improved late season base flow, and elevated groundwater tables.

Specifically, the Project involves:

- 1) Filling the current degraded channels on the northern and southern sides of the meadow, and removing and re-contouring the railroad grade that crosses the meadow to restore natural hydrologic function and return flows to their historic channels.

- 2) Placing approximately 50,000 cubic yards of fill using borrow material stockpiled at Boca Reservoir.
- 3) Preparing all sites by installing appropriate best management practices and undertaking vegetation salvaging efforts.
- 4) Revegetating and stabilizing the disturbed areas with native and local plant species to stabilize the site and ensure long term success.

The Project will be carried out by the Truckee River Watershed Council, consistent with its *Coordinated Watershed Management Strategy for the Middle Truckee River*. Short-term construction impacts would occur to approximately 25 acres, which would be restored with native vegetation. Construction is anticipated in the late summer/early fall of 2019 and would last approximately six to eight weeks.

**Regulatory Process:** Project implementation will require the Water Board to take regulatory actions such as issuance of a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System storm water construction permit; Water Quality Certification pursuant to Clean Water Act section 401; and Lahontan Basin Plan Prohibition Exemptions. This notice serves as a notice of intent to adopt a mitigated negative declaration for this project pursuant to the CEQA Guidelines section 15072.

**Comment Deadline and How to Submit Comments:** Please submit your comments on the MND via email to [Lahontan@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Lahontan@waterboards.ca.gov) with the subject line "Sardine Meadow, attention Anne Holden" no later than close of business on **January 29, 2018.**

For questions or additional information, please contact Anne Holden, Lahontan Water Board staff, at (530) 542-5450 ([anne.holden@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:anne.holden@waterboards.ca.gov)).

cc: Interested Parties Mailing List

Lyris lists:

- Basin Plan Prohibition Exemptions – Truckee only
- TMDLs – Truckee River Sediment

AH/ma/T: NOI (Sardine Meadow Project SCH 2017112062)

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