



EXECUTIVE OFFICER’S REPORT
June 1, 2021 – June 30, 2021

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State and Regional

1. Personnel Report – *Sandra Lopez*

New Hires

- John Yu, Water Resource Control Engineer, Wastewater & Agricultural Operations Unit, Victorville. This position provides regulatory compliance oversight to dairies and wastewater treatment plants located in the South Lahontan Basin.

Promotions

- Amber Wike, Staff Service Analyst, Administration Unit, South Lake Tahoe. This position will serve as CIWQS Coordinator and Fee Coordinator for the North Lahontan Region and as Document Accessibility Liaison for the North and South Lahontan Region.

Vacancies

- Supervising Engineering Geologist, Compliance and Planning Division, South Lake Tahoe. The incumbent manages the Division consisting of the following technical programs: Basin Planning & Assessment, Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program, Non-Point Source, Forestry/Dredge & Fill, Lake Tahoe Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL), and Regional Monitoring/Climate Change coordination. This position may be reclassified to Environmental Program Manager I (Supervisor).
- Water Resource Control Engineer, Planning and Assessment Unit, South Lake Tahoe. This position will be responsible for conducting investigations to determine the cause of water quality impairments and developing implementation plans to address these impairments. The position will also work on Basin Plan amendments.
- Water Resource Control Engineer, Regulatory and Enforcement Unit, South Lake Tahoe. The position will provide support for Wastewater and NPDES permitting work.
- Environmental Scientist, Non-Point Source Unit, South Lake Tahoe. The position involves case-handling and permitting associated with private and federal grazing allotments, golf courses, and restoration projects. Additionally, the position will involve Non-Point Source Program Management, CWA 319 Grant Selection and Management, and tribal coordination.
- Environmental Scientist, Land Disposal Unit, Victorville. This position will provide regulatory oversight of dredge and fill permitting and compliance of Caltrans projects regionwide.
- Environmental Scientist, Non-Point Source Unit, South Lake Tahoe. This position will coordinate closely with interagency partners and the Tahoe Science Advisory Council to assess Lake Tahoe nearshore conditions and other factors influencing Lake Tahoe water quality and clarity, and aquatic invasive species. The incumbent will also help identify outstanding information needs for future work and coordinate applicable implementation actions, including those associated with implementation of the Lake Tahoe TMDL.

Departures

- Laura Korman, Environmental Scientist, Non-Point Source Unit, South Lake Tahoe.

2. Standing Item – Status of Grant Activities from June 2020 to May 2021 – Cindy Wise

This is the annual update on key grant and loan program activities in our Region. Low-interest loan and grant funding is available for watershed protection projects, nonpoint source pollution control projects, infrastructure improvements, construction of facilities for municipal sewage treatment, water recycling, public water supply, and local climate adaptation/resilience projects. Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board (Lahontan Water Board) and State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) staff coordinate to implement the Water Boards' financial assistance programs to

administer loan and grant funds to help local agencies and California Native American Tribes to prevent or clean up pollution of the state's water, and provide safe drinking water. State Water Board staff manages most of the grants with input from Lahontan Water Board staff as needed. The main exception is with the Nonpoint Source Grant Program where Regional Water Board staff generally manage the grants located within their respective Regional Board boundaries. The Nonpoint Source Clean Water Act section 319h grants, currently managed by Lahontan Water Board staff, are shown in a table near the end of this item.

Proposition 68 - California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection and Outdoor Access for All Act of 2018 (Prop 68)

Proposition 68 was passed by voters in June 2018. Under this Proposition, the State Water Board is administering \$74 million for grants for treatment and remediation activities that prevent or reduce the contamination of groundwater that serves as a source of drinking water. Two solicitations have been completed: one general solicitation, and another targeted to projects serving severely disadvantaged communities (SDAC). After completing the two solicitations, approximately \$28 million remains uncommitted.

To utilize these remaining funds, the State Water Board adopted a resolution on August 20, 2020 making these funds available for DAC drinking water projects that treat groundwater for direct potable use. State Water Board staff will direct these funds to eligible projects. Also eligible are operations and maintenance for drinking water systems that are treating contaminated groundwater. Entities such as public agencies, public water systems, or nonprofits that are interested in receiving a grant to run a program that provides operations and maintenance, need to submit a Letter of Interest to the State Water Board by July 12, 2021.

As with past grant programs funded from water bonds, Lahontan Water Board staff may be asked to help recommend or review projects for funding. For more information, please see:

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/grants_loans/propositions/prop68.html.

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

Prop 1 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 administers some of the Prop 1 funds for five programs with a rollout of the bond funds over a ten-year period that started in Fiscal Year 15/16. Lahontan Water Board staff coordinates with State Water Board staff in the administration of the bond funds by participating in the development of grant solicitation guidelines and providing input to inform the project funding decisions. More information on Prop 1 can be found at:

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/grants_loans/proposition1/.

This link includes a data visualization of the overall Prop 1 program to date.

The five Prop 1 programs administered by State Water Board staff are: Groundwater Sustainability, Stormwater, Small Community Wastewater, Water Recycling, and Drinking Water.

Groundwater Sustainability - Guidelines for the Prop 1 Groundwater Sustainability Program were amended in February 2021. Solicitation for concept proposals for Round 3 implementation projects starts in July 2021. More information is at:

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/grants_loans/proposition1/groundwater_sustainability.html. A data visualization tool displaying information about the Prop 1 Groundwater Sustainability projects is at:

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/grants_loans/proposition1/groundwater_proj_locations.shtml.

Stormwater Implementation - Prop 1 Stormwater Implementation (Round 2) grant solicitation closed July 2020 with projects awarded in February 2021. Approximately \$190 million were awarded in three rounds of funding for stormwater planning and implementation. No additional rounds of funding have been announced. For more information, please see:

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/grants_loans/swgp/prop1/.

A data visualization tool displaying information about the Prop 1 Stormwater Implementation projects is at:

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/grants_loans/proposition1/stormwater_proj_locations.shtml.

Small Community Wastewater - Prop 1 allocates \$260 million to the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) Small Community Grant (SCG) Fund. (Also see the CWSRF information below). The State Water Board has an annual SCG appropriation of \$8 million dollars, which is administered consistent with the CWSRF Intended Use Plan (IUP), and the CWSRF. The Prop 1 funds will supplement existing SCG authority. A new data visualization tool displaying information about the Prop 1 Small Community Wastewater Implementation projects is at:

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/grants_loans/proposition1/small_community_proj_locations.shtml.

Water Recycling - The purpose of the Prop 1 Water Recycling Funding Program (WRFP) is to promote the beneficial use of treated municipal wastewater (water recycling) in order to augment fresh water supplies in California by providing technical and financial assistance to agencies and other stakeholders in support of water recycling projects and research. Availability of WRFP funds remaining for water recycling projects are included in the CWSRF IUP. Also see the CWSRF information below. A new data visualization tool displaying information about the Prop 1 Water Recycling projects is at:

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/grants_loans/proposition1/water_recycling_proj_locations.shtml.

Drinking Water - Prop 1 allocates \$260 million for drinking water grants and loans for public water system infrastructure improvements and related actions to meet safe drinking water standards, ensure affordable drinking water, or both. These funds will be administered consistent with the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Intended Use

Plan (DWSRF IUP). Administering these funds as a part of the DWSRF Program allows grant funds to be easily leveraged with low-interest financing available through the DWSRF Program. Also see the DWSRF information below. A new data visualization tool displaying information about the Prop 1 Drinking Water projects is at: https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/grants_loans/proposition1/drinking_water_proj_locations.shtml.

The Site Cleanup Subaccount Program (SCAP)

SCAP is a non-competitive grant program authorizing the State Water Board to fund grants for projects to investigate sources of surface water and groundwater contamination, and to remediate the harm to human health, safety, or the environment caused by existing or threatened surface or groundwater contamination of human origin. The project site must be subject to a regulatory directive, order, or notification, unless it is infeasible to issue such regulatory items. Since SCAP was first established in 2014, the Lahontan Water Board has received two awards: \$4.6 million grant to investigate regional perchloroethylene (PCE) groundwater contamination in South Lake Tahoe affecting drinking water wells; and \$2.67 million grant for cleaning up perchlorate groundwater contamination in the Barstow area. SCAP currently uses a continuous Pre-Application process and has an annual appropriation of \$19.75 million through 2025. For more information, please go to: https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/grants_loans/scap/.

Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) Program and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) 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. 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. Both programs are funded by federal grants, state bond funds, local match funds, repayments, and revenue bonds. Both programs accept project applications on a continuous basis and the project priority lists included in the annual business plans (Intended Use Plans or IUPs) can be amended as necessary.

In April 2021, the State Water Board conducted a public workshop to discuss the Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2021-22 CWSRF and DWSRF IUPs. A recording of the workshop, workshop materials, and public review draft IUPs, are available at: https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/grants_loans/srf/. Public comments on the draft IUPS are due by 12:00 noon on June 1, 2021.

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 funding to support and advance integrated, multi-benefit regional projects. To be eligible for IRWM grant funds, IRWM geographic regions must be approved by California Department of Water Resources (DWR). In coordination with Lahontan Water Board staff, DWR has approved six IRWM groups in the Lahontan Region - Lahontan Basins, Tahoe Sierra, Inyo Mono, Fremont, Antelope Valley, and Mojave. For additional general IRWM information, see:

<https://www.water.ca.gov/Programs/Integrated-Regional-Water-Management>.

Prop 1 IRWM Awards for Lahontan Region - Prop 1 includes \$510 million for water conservation, water-use efficiency, and storm water management projects statewide that implement an approved IRWM. Of that amount, \$24.5 million 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 for Round 1 Prop 1 IRWM Implementation Grants started in 2018 with awards announced in 2020. The final awards in the Lahontan Region are listed at this DWR link: [Lahontan Final Awards List – Round 1 Integrated Regional Water Management Implementation Grant Solicitation \(ca.gov\)](#). The Round 2 solicitation will award the remaining funds in a second implementation funding round. DWR anticipates releasing the Draft Prop 1 - Round 2 IRWM Implementation Grant Proposal Solicitation Package (PSP) in summer 2021 and the Final PSP by the end of 2021.

IRWM and Tribal Regional Water Management - Tribes interested in participating in IRWM in anticipation of the Prop 1 Round 2 funding can review DWR's Fact Sheet at: [How Native American Tribes Can Engage in Integrated Regional Water Management \(IRWM\)](#).

Environmental Justice Small Grants Program

The California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA) Environmental Justice Small Grants Program is open to nonprofit organizations and tribal governments, and is focused on supporting environmental justice projects across California. The maximum grant amount available is \$50,000 and the grant term is 18 months. Projects selected for the grants can address a variety of environmental and public health objectives, including:

- Disseminating information about environmental challenges and decision-making processes
- Enhancing local capacity to respond, adapt and prepare for climate change impacts
- Ensuring safe drinking water
- Guarding against toxic exposures and increasing resource conservation locally
- Designing and implementing collaborative efforts to preserve the State's natural and cultural resources with an emphasis on traditional ecological knowledge and tribal sciences

These projects may also entail regional and local capacity-building efforts to improve access to state program benefits. Grants under this program are awarded on a

competitive basis and are contingent on available funds. CalEPA is now accepting applications for its Environmental Justice Grants Program. Application must be received by June 30, 2021. To obtain an application package, check eligibility requirements, or get additional information, go to: <https://calepa.ca.gov/envjustice/funding/>.

Clean Water Act Section 319h Nonpoint Source Grant Program

This is the federal grant program for nonpoint source pollution control projects. As shown in the table below, Regional Board staff currently manages six 319 Nonpoint Source grants totaling \$3,656,056. The next project solicitation cycle will likely start in fall 2021. For more information on the grant program, please see: https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/nps/.

Title	Recipient	Amount
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
Coldstream Canyon Sediment Reduction and Wetland Rehabilitation Project	Truckee River Watershed Council	\$648,906
Euer Valley Restoration Project (Phase 1)	Truckee River Watershed Council	\$589,835
Coldstream Canyon Upper Valley Streambank Restoration (grant agreement development and execution underway)	Truckee River Watershed Council	\$792,221
Total of Current Projects:		\$3,656,056

Other Grant Information

Regional and State Water Board Staff Grants Roundtable Meetings - This grants 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 is planning its next meeting for June 2021.

Funding Opportunities for Climate Adaptation and Resilience Projects - Many of the strategies for local climate adaptation and resilience projects come with a price tag. Lahontan staff maintains a list of potential funding opportunities that may help the public and the regulated community better position themselves for funding to implement climate change adaptation efforts. This list can be found at: https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/lahontan/water_issues/programs/climate_change_adaptation/.

Funding Opportunities for California Native American Tribes - The State Water Resources Control Board, through its Office of Public Participation Tribal Affairs website at: https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/about_us/public_participation/tribal_affairs/, maintains a list of several financial programs to assist California Indian Tribes in protecting and improving California's waters. This list and other related information are also captured in a brochure:

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/about_us/public_participation/tribal_affairs/docs/funding_californianativeamericantribes_webbrochure_022119final.pdf.

California Grants Portal - In July 2020, the California State Library launched its new Grants Portal intended as a one-stop destination to find all grants and loans offered on a competitive or first-come basis by California state agencies. The Portal allows users to search funding opportunities by topic or by relevance. To use the Portal, go to:

<https://www.grants.ca.gov/>. To subscribe to the Portal Newsletter to be notified of new opportunities, go to: <https://www.grants.ca.gov/subscribe-to-updates/>.

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 the financial and technical resources available. The 2021 Funding Fairs will be virtual events on May 20 and 27. **For** specific information regarding the Funding Fairs, including updates to the schedule and registration, please visit: <http://www.cfcc.ca.gov/funding-fairs/>.

Web Site and Electronic Mailing List - The link from the State Water Board's web page for information on current and upcoming grants is:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/grants_loans/.

The link to subscribe electronically to receive notification of new grant information by selected program is:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/email_subscriptions/swrcb_subscribe.shtml.

North Lahontan Region

3. An Ecological Assessment of Streams and Rivers in the Lahontan Region (2008-2018) – Kelly Huck

Water Board staff collaborated with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to summarize and assess stream bioassessment surveys from 2008-2018. Findings will help inform future bioassessment monitoring efforts by the Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program. The report indicates that overall waters in the Lahontan Region are in very good ecological health. It also recommends follow up monitoring in areas that scored poorly or have incomplete data. The report also suggests supporting the advancement of tools that will better assess areas where current monitoring techniques are not applicable.

Biological and habitat data were analyzed from eleven different statewide and regional surveys. Analysis methods determined whether, and to what degree, the ecology of a stream is altered from a healthy state. Waterbody conditions were scored on a range indicating very likely altered, likely altered, possibly altered, or likely intact.

Key Findings:

- Biological data showed that 75% of stream length in the Central Lahontan Region are likely intact. Likely intact is the highest rank of stream health. The Central Lahontan Region has better biological condition than any other region in the state.
- Habitat data showed that around 50% of stream length in the Central Lahontan Region are likely intact.
- Stream condition showed no consistent directional change in the Central Lahontan over the 11-year time frame assessed.
- A comparison of sites that are known to have human disturbance versus relatively undisturbed sites shows that undisturbed sites have higher biological condition scores; lower total nitrogen, ammonia, and alkalinity concentrations; and less riparian disturbance.

Recommendations:

- Given that the broader Sierra Nevada ecoregion provides over a quarter of the surface water available for agriculture, recreation and municipal water supplies in California, protection of surface waters is paramount to sustaining both water quality and aquatic ecological integrity and should be a continued priority for the Lahontan Board.
- Sites that are considered “Likely Altered” or “Very Likely Altered” (i.e., poor ecological health) should be prioritized for follow-up sampling to confirm that biological degradation has occurred.
- Where possible, the Lahontan Board should leverage regional partner agencies to collect a standardized set of water chemistry analytes and physical habitat measurements at all bioassessment sites. Also, make this a requirement for all permittees that are collecting bioassessment data. This would make future datasets and assessments more consistent.
- This assessment heavily emphasized the Central Lahontan Region, due to limited streams that flow year-round in the Desert-Modoc region. More resources should be invested in sampling non perennial streams. Staff could therefore determine whether existing indices can be applied to the Lahontan Region or whether new tools need to be developed. With appropriate tools the Desert-Modoc region can be better represented in future analyses.

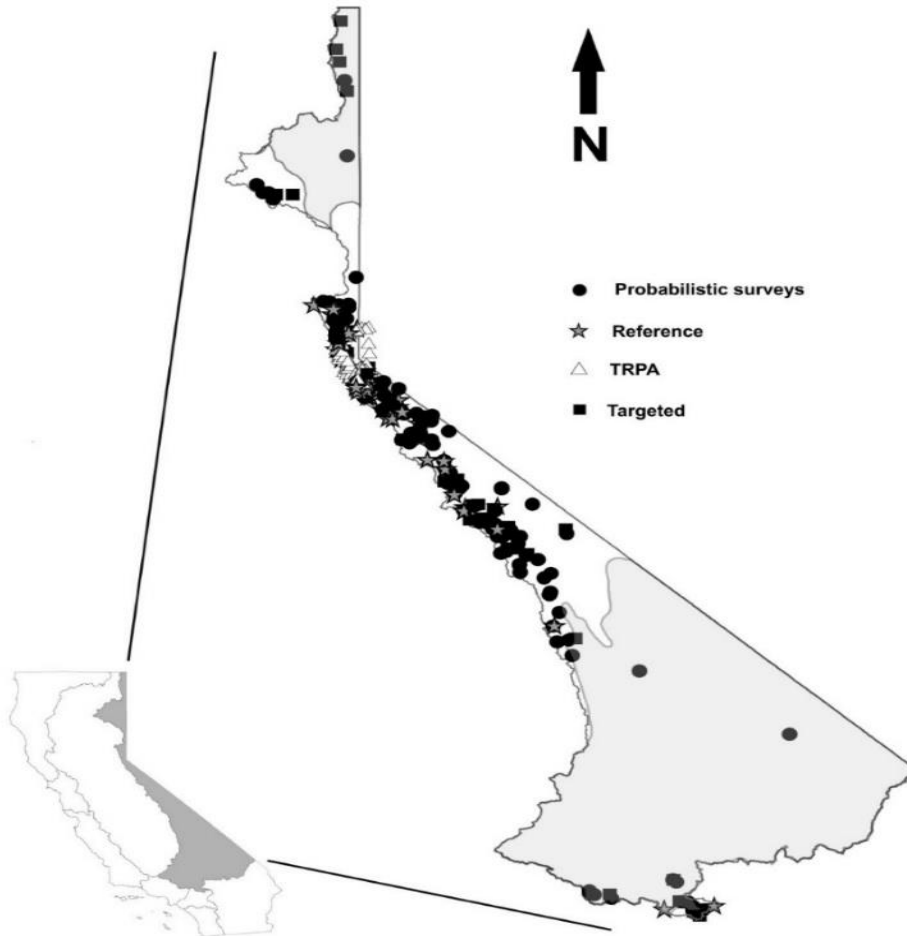


Figure 3.1. Map of 367 unique sites sampled by probabilistic surveys, reference site surveys and regional programs that targeted bioassessment sites in the Lahontan Region from 2008-2018. Shaded areas indicate where the Lahontan Region overlaps the Desert-Modoc ecoregion.

South Lahontan Region

4. Signing of the South Air Force Research Laboratory, Explanation of Significant Differences, Edwards Air Force Base – *Alonzo Poach*

The Final South Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL) Explanation of Significant Differences (ESD) is being routed for final signatures as of late June 2021. Signatory agencies include Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board, United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), Department of Toxic Substances Control, and United States Air Force. Under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) and our Federal Facilities Agreement, the Air Force is the lead agency with concurrence from the EPA and the two state agencies.

The South AFRL ESD was subject to dispute due to varying toxicity criteria between the State of California and federal toxicity criteria. The dispute was settled in May 2019 by USEPA Administrator Wheeler in favor of the State of California retaining California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) PCE toxicity value in the 2007 South AFRL Record of Decision (ROD). After the dispute settlement, the Air Force drafted a revised Draft Final ESD for agency review. The Air Force has adequately addressed all the agencies comments and concerns on the document, and it is expected to be finalized with signatures by August 2021.

The final remedy selected in the 2007 Final South AFRL Record of Decision selected a technical impracticability waiver/containment zone (TIW/CZ) for groundwater. This remedy does not consist of any active remediation of groundwater contaminants because groundwater contaminants exist in fractured granitic bedrock and remediation is infeasible through known remediation technologies. The TIW/CZ remedy focuses on preventing contaminated groundwater from migrating outside of the TIW/CZ.

The South AFRL ESD modifies the 2007 Final South AFRL Record of Decision with updated USEPA Integrated Risk Information System toxicity criteria for trichloroethylene (TCE), modifies the cleanup goal to the California maximum contaminant level for perchlorate of 6 micrograms per liter, and modifies the trigger for active containment of contaminants within the TIW/CZ established for the South AFRL to include sentinel monitoring well locations.

5. Proposed Modification to Kern County Local Agency Management Program (LAMP) – *Molina Hauv*

The Central Valley Regional Water Board is the lead water board that approved the Kern County Local Agency Management Plan (LAMP) on June 9, 2017, authorizing Kern County to approve Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems (OWTS) within the county. A portion of eastern Kern County is within Region 6. In March of 2021, the Kern County Environmental Health Department proposed a modification to its current LAMP. This modification alters the LAMP, which outlines the minimum qualifications for OWTS professionals, contractors, and maintenance providers and related OWTS work. This slight change to the current LAMP will now allow Class B general contractors as a minimum qualification to perform work as described under the “system installation” section of the Kern County LAMP, Table 4-2.

Kern County Environmental Health Department determined that training and qualifications for a Class B General Contractors license is similar to other contractors authorized in the LAMP to install OWTS systems. Class B contractors often perform two building trades or crafts; thus, they would legally be able to perform an OWTS installation. The LAMP modification allows Class B contractors to install OWTS in Kern County.

The Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board concurred with Kern County’s proposed LAMP modification after consulting with the Central Coast Regional Water Board (Region 3), the Los Angeles Regional Water Board (Region 4), and the Lahontan Regional Water Board (Region 6). Kern County will incorporate this change to their LAMP as part of their Five-Year Water Quality Assessment.

6. Updates on Challenges and Projects Underway from MWA TAC – Anna Garcia

The purpose of this article is to provide the Lahontan Water Board with information presented at the Mojave Water Agency (MWA) Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Meeting on June 3, 2021. Items covered at the MWA TAC meeting included an update on the MWA Small Water Systems Assistance Program and an update on challenges associated with illicit cannabis cultivation in the MWA Service Area.

Dustin Hardwick, Deputy Director of the California Rural Water Association (CRWA), provided an update on the work CRWA has done with the MWA Small Water Systems Assistance Program. CRWA is working with local communities to develop Business Continuity Plans and Pandemic Plans. Business Continuity Plans enable small water systems to maintain essential business functions and Pandemic Plans provide information and action steps for dealing with pandemic emergencies. CRWA will also relaunch the Household Water Well Program in fall/winter 2021. This program assists residents in disadvantaged communities (DACs) through replacement of domestic wells that have gone dry or are experiencing significant water level declines due to drought conditions. In the past, the Household Water Well Program has replaced 11 domestic wells in the MWA region. For the relaunch of the program, CRWA has secured additional funding to assist with 20 more domestic water wells. In the Hinkley region, CRWA is working with PG&E to pursue grant funding from the State Water Board to construct a potable water kiosk and install 150 point of use treatment units in homes of DAC applicants.

Marina West, MWA TAC Chairperson, and Allison Febbo, MWA Assistant General Manager, provided an update on challenges posed by illicit cannabis cultivation in the Mojave region. San Bernardino County Sheriffs are conducting six to eight raids per week and estimate over 1,000 illicit cannabis cultivation sites in the region. Potential impacts from illicit cannabis cultivation sites include impacts to riparian habitats and protected species; waste, trash, and sewage discharges to land; light pollution; increased rural road use by water haulers; theft of water from fire hydrants, wells and the aqueduct; impacts to water quality along the river and to groundwater; and Joshua tree destruction. Concerns were also raised over increased groundwater pumping for cannabis cultivation and the potential impacts to planned land use for housing developments. The TAC also reported difficulties in collecting fees to replenish groundwater basins and that water agencies are limited on restricting how water is used after the water is sold. The Mojave Basin Area (MBA) Watermaster has initiated analyses to better understand the water use and potential water demand associated with cannabis grows in the region. Based on a 56-day growth cycle for cannabis with four harvests per year, the current water use estimate is 4 acre-feet per acre per year. The TAC also noted that water use may be highly variable based on the sophistication, or lack thereof, for any given grow site. The MBA Watermaster is in the process of completing quantitative water demand analyses for the Este and Oeste Subareas of the MWA Service Area and expects to complete the analyses in the June-July 2021 timeframe.

7. Bear Valley Cleaners Status Update – Todd Battey

Bear Valley Cleaners is a commercial dry-cleaning facility located at 16200 Bear Valley Road within the Renaissance Shopping Center located in Victorville. Tetrachloroethene (PCE) has been released at the site to a depth of at least 250 feet below grade and has been detected in soil vapor at adjacent businesses located in the shopping center and in the residential neighborhood to the north.

The Woodmont Company entered into a cost recovery agreement with the Lahontan Water Board in April 2020. The property that includes the Bear Valley Cleaners is in receivership and the agreement was signed by the Receiver, Fredrick Meno. Previous unregulated phases of work date back to at least 2017. A deep borehole was advanced to 300 feet below grade immediately north of the Bear Valley Cleaners facility. Soil-gas samples were collected to the total depth of the borehole, and PCE soil gas concentrations generally diminished with depth. PCE was not detected in soil-gas samples collected at 280 and 300 feet below grade. Groundwater was not encountered during the drilling of this borehole (total depth 300 feet below grade). A groundwater monitoring well was installed and developed in April 2021 and sampled on April 29, 2021. Analytical results from samples collected from the groundwater well showed that PCE was not detected during this round of sampling.

Based on the permeable soils at the site, soil vapor extraction (SVE) has been recommended to address the PCE in soil gas by multiple consultants including EBI Consulting (EBI), who conducted an SVE pilot test in 2020. EBI Consulting submitted an SVE Remedial Action Plan to Water Board Staff on April 26, 2021.

Due to concerns about indoor air exposure from PCE vapors, a fact sheet for the public was prepared in coordination with the Office of Public Participation (OPP) and the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) for distribution in both English and Spanish. The fact sheet was mailed April 23, 2021 to businesses near the Bear Valley Cleaners and to residences of Tokay Street located north of the cleaners. The fact sheet provided the businesses and residents with basic information concerning this site and with contact information for Water Board staff. Members of the public have expressed interest in learning more about the Bear Valley Cleaners cleanup site; Water Board staff and the State Water Board's OPP staff plan to conduct a public workshop in the near future.

Additional public outreach efforts were completed in June 2021. A letter was mailed to residences on Tokay Street notifying them of plans for Water Board staff to visit the residents to answer questions about the environmental investigation being conducted in their neighborhood by EBI Consulting. That notification letter included the planned dates and times of the door-to-door outreach effort, which occurred June 14 and June 21, 2021. All 33 residences were visited and, in cases where Water Board staff were able to make contact with the residents, information was communicated to the residents and contact information was collected. In each case where Water Board staff were unable to speak to a resident, a copy of the fact sheet was left hanging on the front door, locked gate, garage door, car windshield, or other location that appeared most appropriate along with a note that explained the outreach effort, the investigation, and potential

cleanup activities planned by EBI Consulting. Indoor air sampling is planned for select residences located immediately north of Bear Valley Cleaners.

On June 14, 2021, Water Board staff also visited the businesses in the same shopping center where the Bear Valley Cleaners is located. The purpose was to provide the same public outreach efforts for the business managers that was provided to the nearby residents. Water Board staff explained to the managers of each business the plans for EBI Consulting to collect indoor air samples and sub-slab vapor samples to test for dry cleaning chemicals at some of the businesses. Water Board staff visited all 13 tenant spaces at the Renaissance Shopping Center and the adjacent Food 4 Less grocery store. Four of the tenant spaces were vacant. In some cases, Water Board staff were referred to offsite management to explain the fact sheet.

Water Board staff who completed the public outreach effort in June included Alicia Borchmann, Scientific Aid; Todd Battey, Engineering Geologist; and William Muir, Senior Engineering Geologist, from the Victorville Office. Alicia Borchmann, who is fluent in Spanish, was able to communicate with Spanish-speaking individuals. Water Board staff also encountered business managers and one resident that require translation of the fact sheet into Korean and Vietnamese to understand the environmental investigation.