

**Item 12 LATE ADDITION**

**CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD  
LAHONTAN REGION  
MEETING OF MARCH 9-10, 2016  
SOUTH LAKE TAHOE**

**ITEM 12**

**DISCUSSION OF LAHONTAN WATER BOARD PRIORITIES AND  
ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

**LATE ADDITION**

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# 2015 Accomplishments

## **Nitrate and Salts in groundwater**

- Ensured compliance with Drinking Water Replacement Water Orders (dairies and Barstow wastewater treatment plant);
- Adopted revised permit for Rosamond CSD to facilitate recycled water use

## **Chromium in groundwater**

- Issued new Cleanup Order to Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) Hinkley Compressor Station cleanup, and began background study

## **Petroleum in groundwater**

- Completed UST Program Review and presented approach to Water Board:
  - Closed cleanup sites that are a low-threat to public health and the environment
  - Identified recalcitrant sites and require priority sites to clean up groundwater

## **Other pollution problems in groundwater**

- Applied appropriate remedies (active, monitored natural attenuation, or combination)
- Completed Hinkley nitrate investigation in private supply wells
- Produced Monitored Natural Attenuation Guidance
- Completed PCE investigation in South Lake Tahoe: required replacement water
- Conducted public workshop on Barstow perchlorate

## **Bacteria in surface waters**

- Completed Bacteria Source Tracking Study - Phase 1 completed; Phase 2 underway (Bishop Creek, other waters)

## **Acidic Drainage at Leviathan Mine**

- Continued Water Board efforts to prevent discharge of untreated acid mine drainage into Leviathan Creek.
- Completed Leviathan El Nino Contingency Plan

## **Protect Aquatic Life and Surface Water Quality**

- Developed partnership agreements with Mojave IRWM for supplemental environmental projects
- Required avoidance and mitigation for 92 construction projects to protect wetlands and riparian areas
- Conducted Tahoe Nearshore Study to determine causes of increased algae
- Conducted workshop on proposed renewed Tahoe Construction General Permit
- Conducted workshop/field trips on stream and wetland restoration
- Provided comments on over 100 CEQA documents; served as Lead Agency on a few restoration/maintenance projects
- Prepared TMDL priority guidance documents

## **Environmental Justice**

- Participated in Integrated Regional Water Management projects involving disadvantaged communities (e.g. identify drinking water and community sewer needs)
- Worked with USEPA to ensure Leviathan Mine final remedy that is protective of Washoe Tribe cultural resources and tribal community health

## **Climate Change**

- Compiled workshop input into report and presented recommendations for adaptation
- Conducted nearshore monitoring in Lake Tahoe to assess whether water quality changes are related to climate change

## **Other**

- Completed Triennial Review to set Basin Plan priorities
- Took enforcement actions and completed follow-up actions for many violations

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## FY 2016-17

### Priority General Orders, Plans and Strategies

#### *Underway*

- Federal Lands General Order – This Spring, Water Board staff is working in partnership with the U.S. Forest Service (Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit -LTBMU as lead) to adopt a comprehensive General Order to cover many activities and practices affecting water quality on federal lands. The LTBMU will act as liaison to the other federal agencies and is dedicating a full-time position to this effort. While still under discussion, the types of activities that could be covered under this order include: easement management, roads/trailhead maintenance, campgrounds, OHV use, timber/vegetative management, livestock grazing, post-fire erosion control, major road work/new road construction, stream/meadow restoration, etc. This project is intended to extend to other federal agencies and their lands, such as BLM and U.S Park Service. This order could result in water quality improvements, cover a wider range of projects and activities than currently regulated by the Water Board, and improve efficiency for both state and federal staff.
- Lahontan Stormwater Strategy – Beginning this Spring, Water Board staff are working internally to develop the framework of a strategy, based on the recently adopted SWRCB Stormwater Strategy, that is tailored to the unique hydrology in our region. This Strategy is intended to improve compliance of all stormwater facilities (industrial, construction and local government) through local government/stakeholder collaboration, focused enforcement, and policy guidance on waters of the state and waters of the U.S. Over the next fiscal year, staff will collaborate with stakeholders and host workshops to improve stormwater management and develop regulatory mechanisms to address discharges of stormwater from industrial and construction activities in areas of the region that do not contain waters of the US. Stormwater management and water quality protection is expected to improve through strategic watershed and locally focused approaches.
- Lahontan Climate Change Plan – Beginning in early 2016, Water Board staff formed three working groups (infrastructure, wetlands/floodplains, and stormwater management) that are beginning to engage with external agencies and stakeholders. These three working groups will present preliminary plans to the Water Board in June 2016 on developing potential ranges of options for Water Board adaptation to climate change. An example of the range of options for wetland/floodplains would be 1) adopting prohibitions for all wetlands and floodplains in the region to 2) issuing a letter supporting local implementing agencies to preserve and enhance wetlands and floodplains.
- Long-Term Maintenance Permits – Staff have been working with several dischargers towards crafting individual long-term maintenance permits to cover routine maintenance work in waters of the U.S. and waters of the State in the Lahontan Region. To date, we are working with the Arrowhead Lake Association for a dredging permit for bays in Lake Arrowhead, the San Bernardino County Parks Department for dredging in Lake Gregory, the San Bernardino County Flood Control District for dredge and fill activities along waterways within our portion of San Bernardino County, and the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) for dredge and fill activities throughout the interconnected waterways in Inyo and Mono Counties. Draft CEQA documents for Lake Gregory and LADWP are anticipated to be submitted to the State Clearinghouse in FY16/17. Staff will continue to coordinate this spring and into next fiscal year with stakeholders, such as the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (for waters of the U.S.) and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

- Confined Animal General Order – Staff began work late 2015 to develop a general order covering about 10 large Confined Animal Facilities. The order would address source reduction and require improved site management to prevent groundwater pollution. A stakeholder listening session was held during the fall with about 40 people attending. The group expressed interest in forming a Technical Advisory Committee to answer technical questions and guide order development. Water Board staff expect to convene a TAC this spring with a narrow focus on suitable compliance monitoring actions that will be technically defensible, implementable and economically feasible for the regulated community. A draft general order is expected to be circulated in 2017.

### *Under Consideration*

- Assessment of Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program – Program has limited resources devoted to sampling ambient water quality conditions in a limited number of streams. The program has identified several water quality challenges to be considered such as constituents of emerging concern, harmful algal blooms, decreased flows and changes in water quality. Staff may evaluate options for restructuring current sampling program to re-distribute limited funds to answer new monitoring questions.
- Mitigation Guidance – The Water Board in many of its actions must determine if impacts to water quality have been adequately mitigated. In the case of dredge and fill activities, staff follows guidance prepared by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for impacts to waters of the U.S. Staff is considering requesting Board's acceptance of this federal guidance for use on projects involving direct impacts to waters of the state. Additional guidance may be needed to address direct and indirect effects to surface water and ground water quality and to other aquatic resources and water-dependent resources.
- Wetlands Protection/Restoration – Water Board staff is supporting State Water Board's efforts to increase protection for riparian zones beyond what is currently in federal regulations. The Lahontan Water Board as part of its climate change working group may recommend taking specific steps sooner or in addition to State Water Board's actions to facilitate increased wetland restoration efforts and ensure protection of existing wetlands and significant aquatic resources such as groundwater recharge zones.

### *Already Completed*

- Monitored Natural Attenuation – Water Board completed a guidance document providing staff and the regulated community with expectations, criteria and guidelines to follow before the Board will consider use of monitored natural attenuation as a remedy for groundwater cleanup.
- Economic Justice – Water Board completed a report outlining activities occurring and recommended in the Lahontan Region to increase communication and provide technical assistance to disadvantaged communities.
- Enforcement Program Review – Water Board subcommittee developed recommendations to improve public participation and transparency, and to guide staff in consistent enforcement approaches to similar violations.
- Climate Change Workshops and Conceptual Model – Water Board held two informational public workshops and identified three main focus areas for further consideration by the Water Board: improved stormwater management, wetlands/floodplains protection/restoration, and infrastructure protection.

FY 2015-16 Unaddressed Needs Program Summary		Human Health/ Aquatic Life	Aquatic Res./ Surface Water Quality	DACs	Climate Change	State Water Action Plan	Required Actions
<b>Basin Planning (1.4 PYs existing program funding)</b>							
	Revised SSO for Hot Creek						
	Biological Objectives		X				
	Removing Tahoe Pier Prohibition						
<b>DOD Sites (6.6 PYs existing program funding)</b>							
	Non-CERCLA site report review	X					
	PFC investigation at EAFB	X					X
<b>§401 Certification (2.1 PYs existing program funding)</b>							
<b>P</b>	Outreach and education						
<b>P</b>	Regulation of impacts to waters of the state		X			X	X
<b>P</b>	Resources to ensure mitigation projects are successful		X			X	
<b>P</b>	Prioritize functions and values of waters in region and focus efforts		X			X	
	El Nino Preparedness Projects			X	X	X	X
<b>P</b>	Rapid assessment tools for episodic streams		X				
<b>P</b>	BP prohibitions/policies to protect floodplains/riparian areas		X	X	X	X	
<b>Enforcement (1.9 PYs existing program funding)</b>							
	Address all violations		X				
	Regulated facilities inspections		X				
	Unpermitted facilities and construction projects	X	X				
<b>Land Disposal (3.2 PYs existing program funding)</b>							
	Low threat landfill/facility report review	X					
	Revised monitoring programs or permits					X	X
	Water quality impacts from abandoned mines/industries	X	X				
<b>Leviathan (5.1 PYs existing program funding)</b>							
	Damage Assessment negotiations with Washoe Tribe	X	X	X			X
	Inspect/oversee conveyance systems/Interim Combined Treatment		X		X	X	X
	Invoice Reviews and expedited report reviews						X
<b>NPDES (1.2 PYs existing program funding)</b>							
	Permit renewal for Hot Creek Hatchery						X
	Collaborate Susanville CSD non-surface water discharge options		X				
	Enforcement Actions for SSOs/Report Review		X				
	Aquatic pesticide use - prepare resolutions and permits	X	X				
	Fireworks permit - Trash policy implementation		X				
<b>Nonpoint Source (1.9 PYs existing program funding)</b>							
<b>P</b>	Annual outreach efforts with each National Forest in R6		X				
<b>P</b>	Regulatory mechanism for grazing activities	X	X				X
<b>P</b>	Inspections for timber and stream restoration projects	X	X		X		
<b>P</b>	Develop permit for non-point source activities on federal lands	X	X		X		X
<b>Site Cleanup Programs (4.5 PYs existing program funding)</b>							
	One position annually of unaddressed work to hasten cleanup	X		X			
	Closure criteria/evaluations/public noticing for NFARs	X					

FY 2015-16 Unaddressed Needs Program Summary		Human Health/ Aquatic Life	Aquatic Res./ Surface Water Quality	DACs	Climate Change	State Water Action Plan	Required Actions
<b>Storm water (3.0 PYs existing program funding)</b>							
	Over 85% of the sites in the program go un-inspected	X				X	
	Penalties for lack of reports or late reports are not assessed						X
	Deficient reporting is unaddressed						
<b>P</b>	Unknown number of facilities are not enrolled in the permits						
<b>P</b>	Identification of waters of the U.S. subject to NPDES permitting		X				
<b>P</b>	Education of municipal public works and planning staff		X		X	X	
<b>P</b>	Coordination and collaboration with municipalities		X		X		
<b>P</b>	Over 80% of SW Management/Pollution Prevention not reviewed					X	
<b>SWAMP (1.0 PYs existing program funding)</b>							
	Programs limited by insufficient and inconsistent funding						
	Sampling harmful algal blooms, pending SWRCB protocols in 2017	X	X	X	X		
	Regular assessments needed for 25% of our major surface waters		X		X		
	Dedicated watershed coordinator, including citizen monitoring		X				
<b>P</b>	Focused data collection to determine effects of climate change				X	X	
<b>P</b>	Assess minimum flows needed to maintain beneficial uses				X	X	
<b>P</b>	Monitoring of constituents of emerging concerns	X			X		
<b>Timber Harvest (3.5 PYs existing program funding)</b>							
	Active and completion inspection of regulated projects						
	Annual outreach visits with all National Forests in the region		X				
	Activities under "no notification" Timber Waiver categories		X	X	X		
	Inspect sites exempt from dead and dying tree removal permits		X		X		
<b>TMDL (4.1 PYs existing program funding)</b>							
	Bioassessment monitoring protocols for Squaw Creek		X				
	Eagle Lake nitrogen and phosphorus listings		X				
	Truckee River TMDL target assessment and potential revision		X				
	Additional fish tissue analyses for mercury impairment verification	X		X			
	Investigating mercury sources at water bodies with impairments	X		X			
<b>Underground Storage (2.5 PYs existing program funding)</b>							
	Investigation and cleanup at approximately nine EAR sites	X		X			
<b>Waste Discharge to Land (7.7 PYs existing program funding)</b>							
	RV parks OWTS need to be regulated by the Water Board	X					X
	114 individual WDRs that need to be reviewed		X				
	15 reclamation WDRs that should be reviewed/updated						
	New recycled water projects being proposed				X	X	X
	Irrigated lands – 220,000 acres unregulated	X	X	X			X
<b>Organizational Improvement (0 PYs existing program funding)</b>							
	Update both our public and internal webpages						
	Protocols to improve communication			X			
	Internal processes to complete work efficiently and effectively						
	Improved organization of electronic documents						





## ***Accomplishments & Priorities***

FY 2015-2016

### **Item 12**

**Patty Kouyoumdjian and Lauri Kemper**



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## ***Accomplishments & Priorities***

FY 2015-2016

### **Outline**

- Overview and Purpose
- Budget
- Accomplishments and Performance Targets
- Key Efforts and Challenges
  
- Next Steps:** Input from the Board



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## Accomplishments & Priorities

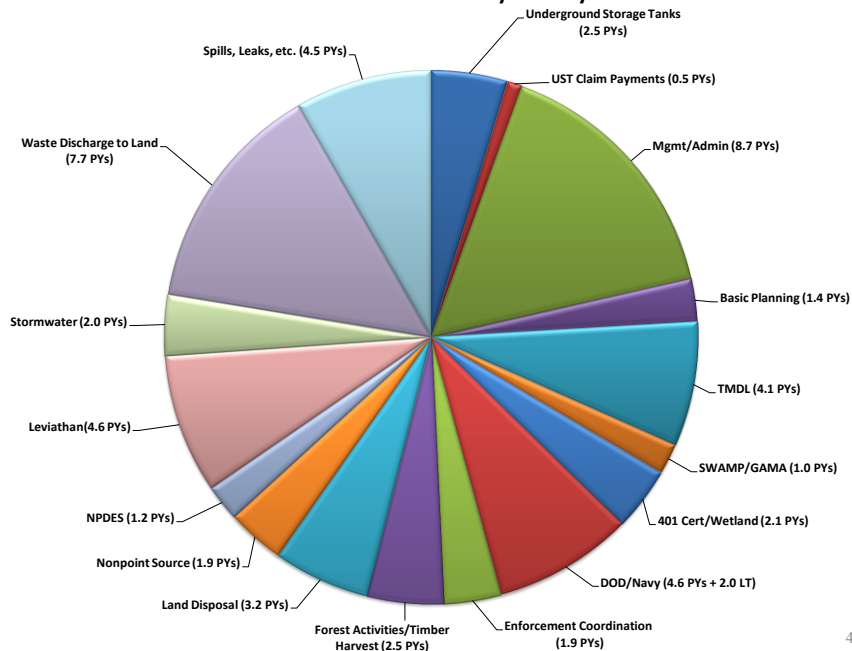
FY 2015-2016

### Unique Facts about Lahontan Region

- 570 miles long
- 24% of the state
- 700 lakes
- 3,170 miles of streams
- 345 groundwater basins
- 2 ONRWs – Mono and Tahoe
- 50 disadvantaged communities
- 10 Tribes
- 85% public land
- 12 counties
- Small rural cities with population growth in south
- < 2% of state pop.

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### 71 Staff Allocated by Activity



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## ***Accomplishments & Priorities***

FY 2015-2016

### **FY 15-16 Budget - New Resources**

- Timber Harvest – 1 position - LT
- DOD – Conversion of 2 LTs to permanent positions
- UST/Site Cleanup – Conversion of 0.7 position from cost recovery sites to work on orphan cases



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## ***Accomplishments & Priorities***

FY 2015-2016

### **Key Accomplishments**

Core Regulatory- CEQA, inspections, permits, enforcement

Triennial Review

PG&E Hinkley Cleanup and Abatement Order

Hinkley Nitrate Investigation

Mojave Salt and Nutrient Management Plan

Monitored Natural Attenuation Guidance

Tahoe Nearshore Studies

Bacteria Source Tracking

Leviathan El Nino Contingency Plan

PCE Investigation in South Lake Tahoe



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## ***Accomplishments & Priorities***

FY 2015-2016

### **Performance Targets**

FY 14-15, met or exceeded most targets

- 271 inspections of 209 targeted
  - ✓ 8 NPDES (of 9 sites)
  - ✓ 67 Waste Discharge to Land (of 185 sites)
  - ✓ 51 Land Disposal (of 92 sites)
  - ✓ 34 Timber (of 77 sites)
  - ✓ 88 SW Construction (of 350 sites)
  - ✓ 16 SW Industrial (of 264 sites)
- 9 permits of 13 targeted
- 26 UST cases closed of 32 targeted

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## ***Accomplishments & Priorities***

FY 2015-2016

### **Workplanning Considerations**

- Available Funding in Each Program
- Required Actions (e.g. laws, policies)
- Permit Applications and Environmental Documents
- Staff Input – Identification of Needs

#### **Prioritization**

- ✓ Emergencies
- ✓ Public Health
- ✓ Aquatic Life and Surface Water Protection
- ✓ Groundwater Protection
- ✓ Environmental Justice
- ✓ Climate Change

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## ***Accomplishments & Priorities***

FY 2015-2016

### **Challenges**

#### Core Regulatory Program

- Existing Sites
- New Development
- Unregulated

#### New Laws and Policies/Programs

- Salt and Nutrient Management
- Environmental Justice
- Climate Change
- Wetland Restoration
- Local Agency Management Plans
- Sustainable Groundwater Management Plan
- Human Right to Water
- Tribal Policy

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## ***Accomplishments & Priorities***

FY 2015-2016

### **Priority General Orders, Plans, and Strategies Underway**

Climate Change Plans  
General Order for Federal Lands  
Stormwater Strategy  
Long Term Maintenance Permits  
Dairy General Order  
Bacteria Standards

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## ***Accomplishments & Priorities***

FY 2015-2016

### **Priority General Orders, Plans, and Strategies Under Consideration**

Re-assessment of SWAMP Priorities  
Mitigation Guidance  
Wetlands Protection/Restoration



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## ***Accomplishments & Priorities***

FY 2015-2016

### **Next Steps**

- Feedback or New Ideas from Board
  - ❖ Does Board concur with General Orders, Plans and Strategies?
  - ❖ Which of the unaddressed work is of highest priority?
  - ❖ Are there other priorities?
  - ❖ Does Board agree with list of workshops (informational and policy)?
- Staff Develop Workplans & Targets in March



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