



EXECUTIVE OFFICER’S REPORT
Covers March 1, 2024 – March 31, 2024

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1. Personnel Report – *Sandra Lopez*

Vacancies

- Environmental Scientist, Planning & Assessment Unit. The position is advertised with placement in either the South Lake Tahoe or Victorville office. This position will assess water quality data to help develop the 303(d) Impaired Waters List, work to restore impaired waters, and work on Basin Planning priorities. The position requires work based in science, policy, and public process.
- Senior Water Resource Control Engineer, as the Supervisor overseeing the Forestry/Dredge and Fill Unit (FDF). The position is advertised with placement in the South Lake Tahoe office. This position will manage a team of two Environmental Scientists, two Engineering Geologists, a Water Resource Control Engineer, and a Scientific Aid. The FDF is responsible for implementing the Forestry Activities Program and the Dredge and Fill Program throughout the Lahontan region. The position requires work based in science, policy, and public process.
- Water Resource Control Engineering, Wastewater & Agricultural Unit, Victorville. This position will provide regulatory oversight of projects involving discharges to groundwater or surface waters and projects intended to restore and/or enhance water quality in the Waste Discharge Requirements, National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System, and Site Cleanup Programs. The individual will conduct field inspections related to permit compliance, spills, and complaints. Informal and formal enforcement actions such as Notice of Violations, Cleanup and Abatement Orders, Cease and Desist Orders, and Administrative Civil Liability Complaints will also be prepared by the staff if the discharger is out of compliance with their permit.

2. California State University San Bernardino, College of Social and Behavioral Sciences Spring 2024 Career Fair – Ashley Taylor

On March 6, 2024, I volunteered and was privileged to represent the Lahontan Water Board at the California State University San Bernardino (CSUSB) College of Social and Behavioral Sciences Spring 2024 Career Fair. State Water Resources Control Board representative Connie Bi-on, Talent Acquisition and Outreach Coordinator, with the Division of Administration (DAS) services coordinated our participation at the event. In addition to myself, also representing the Water Boards were Amanda Chapman, Water Resources Control Engineer with the Division of Drinking Water – San Bernardino, and SueAnn Neal, Environmental Scientist with the Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board, Region 8 (Figure 2.1).



Figure 2.1: Water Board Representation at the CSUSB Spring 2024 Career Fair. Pictured from left to right: Amanda Chapman, Water Resources Control Engineer with the Division of Drinking Water – San Bernardino, SueAnn Neal, Environmental Scientist with the Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board (Region 8), and Ashley Taylor, Engineering Geologist with the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board (Region 6).

The Career Fair was a success! Approximately 80 college students stopped by our booth to discuss career opportunities with the Water Boards. The college students' majors included Environmental Studies, Informational Technology, Tribal Anthropology, Psychology, Criminal Justice, Business, Administration, Economics, Computer Science, Cyber Security, Child Development, Sociology, Political Science, Law, English, and Geology. We showed the students how to access Cal Careers and the application process and shared information on the benefits of state service employment and our experiences of what state service at the Water Boards is all about. The students were polite, curious, and generally interested in state service employment. One student, an Environmental Studies major, outwardly expressed their interest to work in and around Lake Tahoe. The use of a quick response (QR) scan code was a big hit, allowing students to quickly provide contact information directly to DAS, and a follow-up email to those that provided their contact information through the QR code was sent on March 11, 2024. We are hopeful that our participation in the event sparked interest and that students will create a Cal Careers account and apply for one of the many rewarding career opportunities available with the Water Boards.

3. Owens Valley Groundwater Authority Board Meeting – Anna Garcia

The purpose of this article is to provide the Lahontan Water Board with information presented at the March 14, 2024, Owens Valley Groundwater Authority (OVGA) Board Meeting. Items discussed at the meeting included an update on their Well Registration Program and preparation of the OVGA annual report.

The OVGA is a Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) that formed in 2018 under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) to manage the Owens Valley Groundwater Basin (6-012, groundwater basin), comprised of the [Owens Valley Subbasin \(6-012.01\)](#) and the [Fish Slough Subbasin \(6-012.02\)](#). Through the 2019 SGMA Basin Prioritization process, the Department of Water Resources (DWR) designated the [Owens Valley Subbasin \(6-012.01\)](#) and the [Fish Slough Subbasin \(6-012.02\)](#) as low-priority and very low-priority, respectively. The OVGA voluntarily developed a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) for the subbasins and submitted the [Owens Valley Groundwater Basin Final GSP](#) to DWR in January 2022.

During the March 14, 2024, Board Meeting, Tim Moore, OVGA Hydrogeologist and GSP Manager, discussed the Well Registration Program established by OVGA [Ordinance 2022-01](#), adopted in 2022. The ordinance requires an accurate declaration of the annual groundwater production figures and the agricultural acreage in production, if applicable, for years with extant data be provided annually to the OVGA before April 1 of each year. The program is necessary to complete and maintain a current database of pumping locations and amounts that will provide a more accurate and complete database and ready access to groundwater information to all beneficial users in the groundwater basin. According to the [OVGA Well Registration and Reporting System Frequently Asked Questions](#) sheet, [Ordinance 2022-01](#) does not regulate or restrict pumping or uses and completion of the [Well Registration & Reporting Form](#) is voluntary for extractors that meet the definition of a de minimis extractor which means a person who extracts, for domestic purposes only, two acre-feet or less per year.

Tim Moore and Dr. Holly Alpert, OVGA Executive Manager, also discussed preparation of the [Owens Valley and Fish Slough Subbasins GSP Annual Report for Water Year 2022](#) (Annual Report for WY 2022). The report includes analysis of data that has been collected since the GSP was submitted to DWR in January 2022. Total water use in the subbasins during WY 2022 was estimated to be 129,200 acre-feet (AF) and total change of groundwater in storage is estimated at -4,575 AF. The OVGA continues to gather data from its monitoring network and the data are imported periodically into the publicly accessible [OVGA Data Management System](#). Data from the [OVGA Data Management System could potentially be used to evaluate the subbasins and support salt and nutrient management planning](#). OVGA staff recommended the OVGA Board open a 30-day public comment period for the Annual Report for WY 2022 prior to submitting the report to DWR. The public comment period opened March 25, 2024, and closes April 26, 2024.