

Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Contact: Chuck Curtis
(530) 542-5460

**LAHONTAN WATER BOARD PROSECUTION TEAM RELEASES
SETTLEMENT PROPOSAL IN LAKE TAHOE SEWAGE SPILL CASE**
Public Review and Comments Encouraged

SOUTH LAKE TAHOE –The Lahontan Water Board's Prosecution Team is releasing a proposal for settling the July 19, 2005 complaint stemming from the discharge of 56,000 gallons of raw sewage to Lake Tahoe.

The complaint was issued after a contractor hit a sewer force main while building a pier for two adjacent property owners.

The settlement proposal, if accepted by the Water Board, would be part of a global settlement between the Water Board and North Tahoe Public Utility District actions against the property owners and their contractor. The value of the settlement proposal is \$325,000, which is the liability recommended in the revised Administrative Civil Liability Complaint No. R6T-2005-0029.

The settlement proposal includes a payment of \$26,840 to the State Water Resources Control Board's Cleanup and Abatement Account, and a Supplemental Environmental Project (SEP) of \$298,160. The SEP consists of payment of \$298,160 to the North Tahoe Public Utility District, which will purchase an emergency bypass hose reel system that can be used during emergencies requiring a temporary bypass of sewer facilities in the Lake Tahoe Basin and Truckee areas. The SEP includes a requirement that local sewer agency staffs be trained in how to use the bypass equipment.

Comments on the settlement proposal should be submitted to the Water Board's Prosecution by **October 11, 2006** to be considered by the Water Board. This allows for a 30-day comment period. The Water Board will consider the settlement proposal during its regularly schedule meeting on **October 11 and 12, 2006**, in Kings Beach, Ca. Copies of the settlement proposal can be reviewed at the Water Board's South Lake Tahoe office, or by calling (530) 542-5400.

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