



Lahontan Regional Water Quality  
Control Board



# EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

May and June 2005

## NORTH BASIN

**1. *Lake Tahoe Drinking Water Forum –  
May 5, 2005 – Lauri Kemper***

On May 5, 2005 in Incline Village, USEPA, the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) and the Nevada Tahoe Water Suppliers Association hosted a Drinking Water Forum. The purpose of the Drinking Water Forum was to educate participants on implementation of federal safe drinking water regulations and to identify the challenges and opportunities associated with protection of drinking water in the Lake Tahoe Basin.

Attending the Forum were approximately 100 professionals in the source water protection field from the federal, state, regional and local levels. Presenters included Wayne Nastri (US EPA Region 9), Leah Walker (CA Department of Health Services), Allen Biaggi (NV Department of Conservation & Natural Resources), and Elise Holland (Trust for Public Land). Regional Board staff assisted in facilitating afternoon sessions involving small groups where concerns and ideas about drinking water protection were solicited.

Regional Board staff, along with the Lake Tahoe Pathway 2007 collaborating agencies updating the two states' Basin Plans, the TRPA Regional Plan and Forest Plan, intend

to consider and incorporate ideas gathered from the event into the programs and policies protecting drinking water. USEPA selected Lake Tahoe for this Forum to highlight the success to-date of efforts to implement provisions of the Safe Drinking Water Act in connection with implementation of the Clean Water Act.

**2. *Tahoe Keys Property Owners Association  
Fulfills Commitments in Settlement  
Agreement – Mary Fiore-Wagner***

The Tahoe Keys Property Owners Association (TKPOA) operated its water treatment facility during the summer of 1998, and excessive alum use resulted in discharges of aluminum in violation of the limits in TKPOA's permit. In lieu of an Administrative Civil Liability, TKPOA and the Regional Board entered into a Settlement Agreement. TKPOA committed to expend \$198,000 to perform water quality mitigation projects that included: 1) installing storm drain drop inlet sand filters, 2) conducting a bioassessment of the Tahoe Keys waterways, 3) performing additional treatment of lagoon waters, and 4) increasing weed removal and funding research on Eurasian Water Milfoil. The Settlement Agreement allotted specific expenditure amounts for each project and

required TKPOA to complete the projects by December of 2004.

During the period the Settlement Agreement was in effect, TKPOA's treatment plant was not operated and did not treat lagoon waters to decrease nutrients, contaminants, and suspended solids in the lagoons. The Settlement Agreement recognized the possibility of the treatment plant not operating and allowed the funding for that portion of the settlement to be redirected to other projects identified in the Settlement Agreement or to new mitigation projects mutually agreed upon by both parties.

A portion of the funds allocated to water treatment was credited to TKPOA for implementing an outreach project that promoted source control of sediments and nutrients by educating homeowners and landscape contractors about proper fertilizer, irrigation, and turf management. The remaining funds were redirected to credit for additional costs incurred for storm drain sand filter installation and weed removal.

After one time extension, TKPOA completed the mitigation projects by March 2005 and TKPOA was credited the full \$198,000 expenditure amount in the Settlement Agreement. Final deliverables included:

- A) installation of sand filters throughout the Tahoe Keys development,
- B) three bioassessment reports prepared by California Department of Fish and Game,
- C) a report on Eurasian Water Milfoil prepared by Tahoe Research Group,

D) an additional 4,464 cubic yards of Milfoil removed from the Tahoe Keys lagoons, and

E) completion of nine landscape management workshops for TKPOA homeowners.

**3. *State Revolving Fund Loan Program  
Priority List, Fiscal Year 2005-2006 –  
Scott Ferguson***

The State Revolving Fund Loan Program provides low-interest loans to local agencies with qualifying projects and programs. Qualifying projects and programs include construction of publicly-owned wastewater treatment and water recycling facilities, implementation of nonpoint source and storm drainage pollution control management programs, and development and implementation of estuary conservation and management programs. The State Revolving Fund Loan Program is funded in part with federal funding and by the sale of leverage bonds. Currently, the State Board's Division of Financial Assistance is not making any new loan commitments until future bond sales occur, tentatively scheduled for May 2005.

In January 2005, the Division of Financial Assistance requested that the Regional Boards begin updating information for the State Revolving Fund Loan Program Priority List (SRF List) to document current funding needs and to ensure that the Division is prepared to make new loan commitments once funding is restored. On February 9, 2005, Board staff mailed out materials necessary for parties on the current SRF List to update their information and to request new project listings. Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts, Truckee Sanitary District, the City of Lancaster, and

San Bernardino County submitted updated information. On April 1, 2005, I forwarded Region 6's Update Package to the Division of Financial Assistance. State Board staff is currently preparing the 2005-2006 SRF List for State Board's consideration during its June 16, 2005 meeting.

**4. *Variance Requests for the October 15 – May 1 Soil Disturbance Prohibition Period***  
– *Scott Ferguson*

The Regional Board's Basin Plan prohibits soil disturbance activities in the Lake Tahoe watershed between October 15 and May 1. Projects in the Truckee River watershed operating under the Regional Board's "Small Construction" General Permit or the Statewide NPDES Storm Water Construction General Permit also are not allowed to conduct soil disturbance activities during this period. There are exceptions to this prohibition and project proponents can conduct soil-disturbing activities during this period if the Executive Officer provides written authorization in the form of a variance.

Staff received approximately 30 requests for such variances in the fall, and I provided the Regional Board with an Executive Officer's Report item on those variances in the Board's November 2004 agenda package. This winter, I granted two variances for minor grading/backfilling necessary for projects to proceed with non-soil-disturbing construction activities. Both variances limited soil-disturbing activities to dry-weather conditions and have since expired. This spring, staff received approximately five requests for variances, all in the Truckee River watershed. Staff notified the dischargers making the requests that their requests were going to be held in abeyance until stable, dry-weather conditions were

forecasted. Such conditions did not develop prior to May 1; and therefore, no variances were granted for the requests received this spring.

Since May 1, project proponents may initiate soil-disturbing activities without the above-referenced variance, even though soil conditions in many areas remain wet due to melting snow and persistent spring rain and snow storms. Staff will be inspecting project sites to ensure that project proponents are complying with the Basin Plan and permit conditions.

**5. *California Forest Practice Rules—Fire Prevention Exemptions*** – *Tom Suk*

The California Board of Forestry (BOF) is in the process of promulgating emergency regulations (that will apply to all of California) to exempt certain timber harvest activities aimed at reducing fire hazards from the requirement to file a timber harvesting plan (THP). Exemptions from the THP process would save time and money for nonfederal landowners who seek to implement fuel reduction activities.

Two "fire prevention" exemptions are currently being considered by the BOF on a fast track. The first allows specified fuel reduction treatments on parcels of up to 300 acres in size; the second allows similar treatments within 500 feet of buildings, roads, and power lines, with no acreage limitation. Among other things, the exemptions limit cutting to trees less than 24 inches diameter, and require substantial cleanup of logging slash to reduce fire hazards.

Over the past two months, staff has been working closely with the BOF and the California Department of Forestry (CDF) to

incorporate adequate restrictions into the BOF's exemptions to ensure that water quality is adequately protected. To date, the BOF and the CDF have been receptive to our staff's comments. One specific area of concern is the Lake Tahoe Basin, and staff has been very active in helping the BOF/CDF to craft appropriate limits for BOF-exempt projects at Lake Tahoe. For example, staff has requested that the Basin Plan's restrictions on logging methods at Lake Tahoe be incorporated into all of the BOF's exemption language.

One specific issue being addressed is the buildup of fuels in streamside areas. Fire prevention experts have concluded that some tree thinning is needed in streamside areas at Lake Tahoe to reduce fire hazards to acceptable levels. However, the BOF exemption currently in effect for Lake Tahoe does not allow any cutting of live vegetation in stream zones. Staff has been working with the BOF to develop a process that would allow for some limited cutting of live vegetation in stream zones where needed to address acute fire hazard concerns.

**6. Mono County Watershed Grants –**  
*Alan Miller*

In collaboration with the Mono County Collaborative Planning Team (CPT), Mono County has received two grants through the Costa-Machado Water Act of 2000. The grants, each of which is for \$198,000, are to perform watershed assessments and write watershed plans for the Upper Owens River watershed (from Sherwin Grade to the beginning of the Mono Basin), the Mono Lake watershed (June Lake Loop and Mono Lake Basin), and the West Walker River watershed (from Sonora Pass to Topaz Lake).

Regional Board staff assisted in obtaining the grants for Mono County and now manages the grant contracts between the SWRCB and the County.

Over the past year, a series of watershed meetings have been held in each affected community of the county. Stakeholder outreach included local radio, newspaper and over 4,000 mailers to every property owner address in the watershed areas, along with US Forest Service and US Bureau of Land Management permittee lists. Watershed councils and stakeholder groups have been formed. Meetings concerning the watershed plans are scheduled to continue on a regular basis under the direction of Mono County planning staff.

The grants include assisting and working closely with the Eastern Sierra Land Trust. The Land Trust has been working diligently on developing a conservation easement on large land holdings of the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power in Mono County. This work has included a draft conservation agreement, meetings with Los Angeles Mayor Hahn, preparation of maps, and presentations to all communities in Mono County.

The grantee has made considerable headway in the last nine months. Mono County has completed GIS mapping of each watershed. These maps along with other information are available on the newly created Mono County Watershed web page: <http://www.monocounty.ca.gov/departments.html>.

Mono County has contracted with a lead hydrologist for the project and is the process of contracting for a fishery biologist, specialty hydrologist, and a technical writer. The draft watershed plans are scheduled for

completion by March 2006, following a series of local public meetings.

**7. *California Tahoe Conservancy Science Design Series Workshop #1 – Fine Sediment* – Robert Larsen**

The California Tahoe Conservancy (CTC), in collaboration with the Nevada Tahoe Conservation District and the United States Forest Service Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit, has launched a series of Water Quality Design Workshops to maintain an open dialogue between project implementation agencies and Lake Tahoe's scientific research community. The CTC intends to hold these workshops annually to discuss how research findings can better inform storm water treatment project design.

The first workshop, focused on fine sediment design issues, was held at the North Tahoe Conference Center on April 28, 2005. Studies investigating lake transparency loss have found that very fine inorganic sediment particles have a significant effect on the clarity decline. Consequently, it is important for runoff and erosion control projects to emphasize control and treatment of such material. This workshop offered the opportunity for researchers to share their most recent findings and for project implementers to express their information needs to the scientists.

Dr. John Reuter, scientist with the University of California Davis Tahoe Research Group, discussed the target particle size (less than 5 micrometers) and the effect these particles have on scattering light within the water column. Other researchers presented information on erosion processes, source control methods, and treatment opportunities related specifically

to fine sediment. Local agency representatives offered presentations on current design challenges and outlined their vision of how science should inform project design. To wrap up the morning session, workshop panelists presented the status of current research, discussed current maintenance practices targeting fine sediments, and explored alternative treatment options.

For the afternoon session, workshop participants broke out into eight smaller subgroups to tackle specific questions regarding source control, enhanced storm water treatment technologies, monitoring program design and implementation, and facilities maintenance.

The workshop successfully brought research scientists and project implementers together for constructive discourse on how to improve storm water treatment in the Lake Tahoe Basin. Regional Board staff look forward to attending future workshops to further develop adaptive management strategies that pair the latest scientific understanding with on-the-ground project efforts.

**8. *Meyers Beacon Gas Station, El Dorado County* – Lisa Dernbach**

Thick snow accumulation during the past winter made it necessary for the Regional Board's consultant, Secor, to postpone the first quarter 2005 groundwater monitoring event at the site. Most of the monitoring wells were sampled in March and the remaining wells were sampled in April. The groundwater sampling shows MTBE and other hydrocarbons at concentrations less than the drinking water standard at all points sampled. This marked the fourth consecutive quarter that drinking water

standards were achieved following cessation of active remediation.

The site now meets the Board's criteria for case closure. Monitoring indicates that petroleum constituents in groundwater are at levels that no longer threaten beneficial uses. Based upon these results, Secor has been directed to initiate actions to remove remediation equipment from the site. These actions will use up the remaining funds allocated from the Emergency, Abandoned, and Recalcitrant (EAR) Account.

Board staff calculates that about \$84,000 is needed to destroy the remaining 32 monitoring and extraction wells on and off site. Fortunately, I have been able to secure these funds from the State Board's Cleanup and Abatement Account. Secor will submit a workplan by the end of May for destroying the wells, with the task planned for completion in July.

**9. *Contractors Association of Truckee Tahoe Best Management Practices Workshop – Eric Taxer***

Regional Board staff, in conjunction with local developers, agencies, and organizations, participated in a Residential Construction Best Management Practices (BMPs) Workshop geared specifically toward development within the Town of Truckee. The Contractors Association of Truckee Tahoe (CATT) sponsored the workshop, held on May 18, 2005. The Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Town of Truckee, the Truckee River Watershed Council, contractors who provide BMP installation services, and Regional Board staff presented information regarding their respective roles in protecting water quality.

The Town of Truckee's Building Division is requiring erosion protection plans for all new building (commercial and residential) construction and grading activity within the Town limits. Building plans must show required temporary and permanent erosion protection prior to the commencement of any construction or grading activity. The Town of Truckee is also requiring the installation of final erosion protection prior to occupancy of any kind.

The workshop provided a forum for local contractors and developers to discuss and gather information about water quality protection regulations, BMP techniques, and products that are available. Staff from the Regional Board and from the Town of Truckee provided the regulatory background behind the need to implement BMPs. The workshop was effective in communicating the need for protecting water quality and the regulatory consequences for failing to implement appropriate water quality protection.

Staff has also participated in two other BMP workshops this year in the Truckee area. The first one was sponsored by the Truckee Donner Public Utility District and held on April 21, 2005. It was well attended by District staff, Southwest Gas staff, and Truckee Sanitary District staff. The workshop was focused on utility (water, sewer, electrical, natural gas, etc.) construction activities in the Truckee area. Truckee Donner Public Utility District management, its environmental consultant, and Regional Board staff provided information explaining why protecting water quality is important, how to protect water quality and what to consider when developing BMP plans, and the consequences of failing to adequately protect water quality.

The second workshop was sponsored by East-West Partners and was held on April 28-29, 2005. It was well attended by East-West Partners staff, and the primary contractors for Northstar-at-Tahoe Village Project. East-West Partners' environmental consultant led the two-day workshop that combined in-class instruction and field demonstrations focusing on the importance of water quality protection, and what is necessary to adequately protect water quality at the Northstar-at-Tahoe Village project. Regional Board staff concentrated its presentation on the reasons why protecting water quality is important, the regulatory programs/requirements that apply to the project, and the consequences (adversely affecting beneficial uses and Regional Board, third-party, criminal enforcement action) of failing to protect water quality.

**10. *Leviathan Mine* – *Chris Stetler***

Above normal rain/snowfall and high ground water conditions are causing containment ponds at Leviathan Mine to fill up. The pond system contains acidic mine drainage (AMD) emanating from a remnant mining tunnel. AMD in the ponds has an approximate pH of 2.5 and contains elevated concentrations of dissolved metals. Once filled, the ponds overflow to Leviathan Creek. Based on current pond inflow, Regional Board staff predict that pond overflow might occur by the end of May 2005 (assuming no change in current inflow, no additional rain/snow, and no losses to evaporation). To prevent the discharge of untreated AMD from the pond system, Board staff entered into an emergency contract to have an emergency system set up at the site to add lime to one of the evaporation ponds. The lime will provide a source of alkalinity to the acidic drainage in the pond and will raise the pH. As the pH

increases, dissolved metals in the acidic drainage will precipitate into a solid form. The treated drainage will then be discharged from the pond to Leviathan Creek. Board staff obtained funding for the emergency project through the Cleanup and Abatement Account. Additional details regarding this work effort are presented in the *Work Plan for Emergency Pond Water Treatment* which can be viewed on the Regional Board's Internet page: ([www.waterboards.ca.gov/lahontan/Leviathan/LEVI\\_Index.htm](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/lahontan/Leviathan/LEVI_Index.htm)).

## SOUTH BASIN

### 11. *Los Angeles County Sanitation District No. 14 – Lancaster Water Reclamation Plant, Compliance Status – Kai Dunn*

[See Attachment 1 for Schedule of Required Tasks.]

#### *Cease and Desist Order (CDO) Requirements*

Board staff has reviewed the District's April 2005 quarterly status report summarizing all actions the District has taken to comply with Interim Standard I.A. in the CDO to divert 24 million gallons (MG) of effluent to an alternative point of disposal other than Paiute Ponds between November 1, 2004 and March 31, 2005. To comply with the CDO requirement, the District started to operate the Antelope Valley Tertiary Treatment Plant in the winter season to provide recycled water to Apollo Park. During the period, a total of 5.5 MG was diverted to Apollo Park or other recycled water users. The District also began to install additional landscaping and expanded the irrigation system within the treatment plant in order to maximize on-site use of recycled water. The estimated irrigation demand within the plant was about 1.5 MG during the same period.

In total, the District only diverted approximately 7 MG of effluent and did not meet Interim Standard I.A. The District reported that there were circumstances that were beyond its control: (1) heavy rainfall in 2004/2005 winter season, and (2) limited legal points of discharge. The 2004/2005 winter was the second wettest period in the records of southern California precipitation. Board staff is still evaluating the District's non-compliance status and will recommend

any appropriate enforcement action to the Board at a future meeting.

#### *Waste Discharge Requirements (WDR)*

The WDR require the District to eliminate (by August 25, 2005) free residual chlorine in the effluent discharged to Paiute Ponds and the Ducks Unlimited Impoundment. The District intends to meet this requirement by constructing a facility for dechlorination of all effluent discharged to the ponds. The dechlorination facility is under construction and is on schedule to achieve compliance.

#### *Recycled Water for Dust Control at Construction Projects*

Staff received two reports of waste discharge submitted by the District requesting that the Regional Board issue a permit allowing for the reuse of tertiary treated effluent from the Lancaster Water Reclamation Plant (Plant) for dust control at (1) the recycled water transmission line construction project, and (2) three additional sanitary sewer construction projects. Staff is reviewing these reports.

#### *Groundwater Monitoring*

The District continues its effort to obtain permission from the Air Force to drill monitoring wells on Rosamond Dry Lake. The Air Force reportedly intends to grant permission to access the dry lake by the end of May 2005.

#### *Other Issues*

The District has purchased approximately 1,958 acres of land in the East Agricultural Area, and is now focusing its efforts on acquiring more land by August 2005 that will provide large, contiguous areas for



irrigation at agronomic rates during the winter of 2005/2006.

After the State Water Board dismissed the District's petition, the District challenged the Cease and Desist Order in Superior Court. The Regional Board received a copy of the lawsuit in early April 2005.

**12. Los Angeles County Sanitation District No. 20 & City of Los Angeles World Airports, Palmdale Water Reclamation Plant, Compliance Status – Jehiel Cass**  
[See Attachment 2 for Schedule of Regional Tasks]

This item discusses the Dischargers' compliance status with Regional Board Orders for the Palmdale Water Reclamation Plant since the April 13, 2005 Regional Board meeting.

Cease and Desist Order R6V-2004-039 Requirements

*Lawsuit Filed* – After the State Water Board dismissed the District's petition, the District challenged the Cease and Desist Order in Superior Court. The Regional Board received a copy of the lawsuit in early April 2005.

*Interim Nitrogen Reductions Less than Expected* – The Cease and Desist Order requires the District to achieve, beginning November 1, 2004, an annual average total nitrogen concentration in the effluent of less than 28/mg/L. This requirement was based on the District implementing two interim treatment measures, or some other equally effective method, to reduce effluent total nitrogen by 5 mg/L. Compliance will be based on effluent samples collected for the period November 1, 2004 to October 31, 2005. Total effluent nitrogen concentrations

averaged 33.6 mg/L in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter 2005, over 5 mg/L higher than the 28 mg/L limit.

*2005 Nitrogen Over Application* – The Cease and Desist Order required the District to limit the amount of nitrogen that is disposed above the agronomic rate to less than or equal to 99 tons in calendar year 2005. As discussed in the April Board meeting, the 2004 limit of 188 tons was exceeded by 27 tons. The District expects to exceed the 2005 limit of 99 tons. During the first Quarter 2005 alone, over half of the annual limit (48 tons of nitrogen) was disposed above agronomic levels. In a May 27, 2005 letter, the Executive Officer requested the District to evaluate the expected nitrogen loading to groundwater for the year 2005 and its ability to comply with the Cease and Desist Order.

*Draft CEQA Document Released* – The Draft 2025 Facilities Plan Environmental Impact Report was released on May 2, 2005. The District expects to certify this environmental document by September 30, 2005. Two stages of construction are proposed: Stages V and VI. Completion of Stage V storage reservoirs in the fall of 2008 and the Stage V tertiary treatment plant (with nitrification and denitrification capability) in the fall of 2009 will allow the District to comply with the Cease and Desist Order. Regional Board staff is reviewing the draft EIR and will prepare comments, which are due by June 17, 2005.

The project evaluated by the District includes taking the existing secondary oxidation ponds at the 30<sup>th</sup> and 40<sup>th</sup> Street facilities out of service and replace them with a conventional activated sludge treatment system with nitrification/denitrification capability followed by disinfection facilities.

Approximately 420 surface acres of new winter effluent storage reservoirs would be constructed on Airport property five miles northeast of the existing 40<sup>th</sup> St. facility. In addition to the existing 2,680 acres of farmland currently leased to the District from the Airports, 2,460 acres of Airport farmland east of Little Rock Creek would be acquired for agricultural reuse. The new plant will be capable of supplying municipal re-use projects, although none are proposed at this time. New facilities are scheduled to come online between October 2008 and October 2009.

Cleanup and Abatement Order No R6V-2003-056 & Resolution No. R6V-2005-0010

*Groundwater Cleanup by Spring 2006* – In April 2005, the Board adopted a resolution stating that the District should initiate a cleanup project to reduce nitrate concentrations in groundwater to less than 10 mg/L in the shortest time possible. The District's plan is to complete additional computer groundwater modeling in June 2005 and finalize well locations and a pipeline design in September 2005. New extraction wells will be installed in January 2006 and be available for use by May 2006 after the extracted water delivery pipeline is installed. Water will be discharged into the unlined secondary oxidation ponds and commingled with effluent for disposal onto agricultural fields during the summer of 2006 using the existing wastewater delivery system. In the meantime, Board staff will be requesting the Dischargers to provide a revised cleanup plan by April 2006.

The District and Airport continue to negotiate the issue of pumping polluted groundwater beneath Airport land. As stated above, the extracted water would be disposed on the existing agricultural land to

irrigate crops during the summer growing season. The Airport is close to approving an agreement with the District to allow the District to install groundwater extraction and monitoring wells. However, this agreement does not give the District the right to pump groundwater. The unresolved issue is the value of extracted groundwater and how the two dischargers will compensate each other for the installation and operation of the treatment system.

*Air Force Plant 42 Groundwater Sampling* – Board staff identified a data gap in the delineation of the nitrate plume in the vicinity of Air Force Plant 42. Groundwater data were unavailable due to access restrictions to Air Force Plant 42 monitoring wells. The Air Force and District have resolved this issue and sampled eight Air Force wells in May 2005.

Waste Discharge Requirements 6-00-057 & Associated Monitoring and Reporting Programs

*Disposal Above Agronomic Rates In Section 15* – The District reports that in March 2005 effluent was applied above agronomic rates in Section 15. The reason stated is that the heavy rains during the winter of 2004/2005 saturated soils in the Section 9 land spreading areas. As a result, the continued land spreading in Section 9 would have caused effluent to leave Section 9 causing an illegal discharge off the authorized disposal site. Disposal of water above agronomic rates in Section 15 is a violation of waste discharge requirements.. In a May 27, 2005 letter, the Executive Officer requested the District to provide further information by June 30, 2005 regarding these violations and the District's planned actions to address them.

*Re-use to Sections 14 & 16* – The District submitted a Report of Waste Discharge and a Report of Recycled Water Use to use recycled effluent for crop irrigation in Sections 14 and 16. Staff previously indicated the District intends to expand agricultural re-use into these areas. The Dischargers requested the Board adopt requirements by July 2005 to allow recycled water to be used for dust control and compaction during installation of the center pivot irrigation system. Board staff is circulating draft requirements for review and comment before the Board's consideration at the July meeting.

**13. Mammoth Community Water District  
Recycled Water Use Project, Notice of  
Preparation of an Environmental Impact  
Report (EIR) - Curt Shifrer**

The District has circulated a Notice of Preparation of an EIR for a project to supply recycled water to users within the Town of Mammoth Lakes. The EIR will be prepared as a tiered document linked to the October 1998 EIR and Environmental Assessment (EA) completed by the District for its overall recycled water program.

The District proposes to supply recycled water to the existing Sierra Star and Snowcreek Golf Courses. Other potential sites for use of recycled water will also be evaluated in the EIR. As required pursuant to a mitigation measure in the 1998 EIR/EA, the District will continue to supply recycled water to the existing Laurel Pond in an amount sufficient to maintain a pond surface area of no less than 18 acres.

Under the first phase of the project, the District would construct a pipeline from the treatment plant to serve both the Sierra Star and Snow Creek Golf Courses.

Construction of facilities to accommodate recycled water use at the Snowcreek Golf Course would occur as part of the planned golf course expansion from nine to 18 holes. The owner has indicated he may also construct improvements to allow recycled water use at the existing nine-hole course.

To facilitate implementation of the proposed project, Board staff also commented that the District should consider application for a master reclamation permit. The draft EIR is expected late summer.

**14. Searles Valley Minerals, (SVM)  
Compliance Status - Doug Feay**

**Compliance Status**

Daily reporting data from SVM shows that the interim effluent limits set forth in the Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) were not exceeded during the month of March 2005 for all three of its plants. Interim effluent limits were exceeded three times in April. On April 11, 24 and 27, 2005 the Argus injection brine sample was found to contain 6.8, 4.7 and 4.6 mg/L total recoverable petroleum hydrocarbons (TRPH). The interim limit is 4.5 mg/L. SVM investigated the occurrences, and no specific cause was found for the April 11<sup>th</sup> event. The samples collected April 11<sup>th</sup> of the Argus surface effluent were below the interim limit for TRPH. The April 24<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> occurrences were due to plant washing activities and a power outage, respectively.

SVM and Board staff met during the month of April to discuss performance data for the plants. SVM submitted a Revised Report of Waste Discharge for the Argus Plant in May 2005, proposing final (rather than interim) effluent limits. Upon review of the data, staff may propose revised WDRs establishing final effluent limits based on

plant performance data and other relevant factors.

### **Bird Report**

Three dead birds were found in March 2005. The birds were sent to the International Bird Research Rescue Center facility in Trona. A chart showing bird mortality is included at the end of this report.

### **Brine and Lakebed Cleanup**

A vacuum truck is used daily at the Trona and Argus Lake Skimmers and the Dredge Pond. A second vacuum truck removes hydrocarbon material from the Trona and Argus in-plant skimmers every weekday. Hydrocarbons removed at the Argus in-plant skimmer and settling basin are stored in an above ground tank until transported for off-site disposal.

Board staff met with SVM staff in April to discuss continued cleanup of sites under the CAO. SVM has submitted site investigation and closure plans for two waste piles on the Lakebed. The sites will be closed this summer.

### **Unauthorized Discharges**

SVM had two unauthorized discharges during the month of March at the Argus Plant. On March 11, a 12-inch brine injection pipeline leaked 1,440 gallons of injection brine to the lakebed surface. On March 31, a 24-inch injection header failed at a cold fusion joint discharging 25,700 gallons of injection brine. The injection header was repaired. The resultant brine pools percolated into the lake. No wildlife were affected.

SVM had three unauthorized discharges during the month of April at the Argus Plant. On April 10, a 12-inch brine injection pipeline leaked 36,000 gallons of injection brine to the lakebed surface. On April 11, a 12-inch injection pipeline leaked 600 gallons of injection brine to the lakebed. The injection line was repaired. On April 15, a 16-inch injection pipeline leaked 900 gallons of injection brine to the lakebed. The injection line was repaired. To address the unauthorized discharges, SVM has submitted standard management practices that are implemented to control impacts to wildlife and other resources during pipeline breaks. Monitoring is conducted and has shown no impacts to wildlife from the unauthorized discharges. SVM has filed a revised Report of Waste Discharge requesting to discharge to the lakebed in the area of the injection pipelines.

### **Administrative Civil Liability (ACL) Payments**

On April 14, 2005, SVM submitted a check for \$20,000 to the State Cleanup and Abatement Account as required by the ACL issued by the Board in April of 2002. This is the fourth payment in a series of six payments to the State Cleanup and Abatement Account.

