



EXECUTIVE OFFICER’S REPORT
February 1, 2024 – February 29, 2024

Contents

1. Personnel Report – *Sandra Lopez*..... 1

2. The Reemergence of Lake Manly in Badwater Basin, Death Valley –
Anna Garcia..... 2

3. 4th Quarter of 2023 Violations – *Shelby Barker*..... 5

1. Personnel Report – Sandra Lopez

Lateral Transfer

- Trevor Miller, Senior Water Resource Control Engineer (Supervisor), South Lake Tahoe. This position will oversee the Regulatory and Enforcement unit. The unit is responsible for implementing the Water Board's regulatory and compliance programs within the North Lahontan Region and, under certain circumstances, throughout the Lahontan Region (e.g., National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Program for Fish Hatcheries, Aquatic Pesticides application).

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.

Departures

- Robert Tucker, Senior Water Resources Control Engineer, South Lake Tahoe Retiring after 30 years of state service.

2. **The Reemergence of Lake Manly in Badwater Basin, Death Valley** – *Anna Garcia*

The purpose of this article is to provide the Lahontan Water Board with information on the recent reemergence of ephemeral Lake Manly from the normally dry salt flats of Badwater Basin in the southern portion of our Region.

Death Valley National Park includes [Badwater Basin](#), which at 282 feet below sea level is the lowest point in North America. Badwater Basin is a closed basin that was once the site of pluvial Lake Manly, a large ancient inland lake that had no outlet. Data from the Badwater geologic core, drilled through the salt flat in 1993, showed that Lake Manly was a freshwater lake around 140,000 to 180,000 years ago and by 20,000 years ago was shallow and saline ([Knott et. al., 2013, pp. 228-229](#)).

Over time, cycles of filling and evaporation of Lake Manly has led to the accumulation of sediments and salt in the basin. The National Park Service notes that the salt flats of [Badwater Basin](#) extend for nearly 200 square miles and are composed mostly of sodium chloride (table salt), along with calcite, gypsum, and borax. Recently, Lake Many reemerged from the salt flats thanks to precipitation from Hurricane Hillary in August 2023 and the atmospheric rivers of February 2024. Satellite imagery from NASA documents the reemergence of Lake Manly (Figure 1).

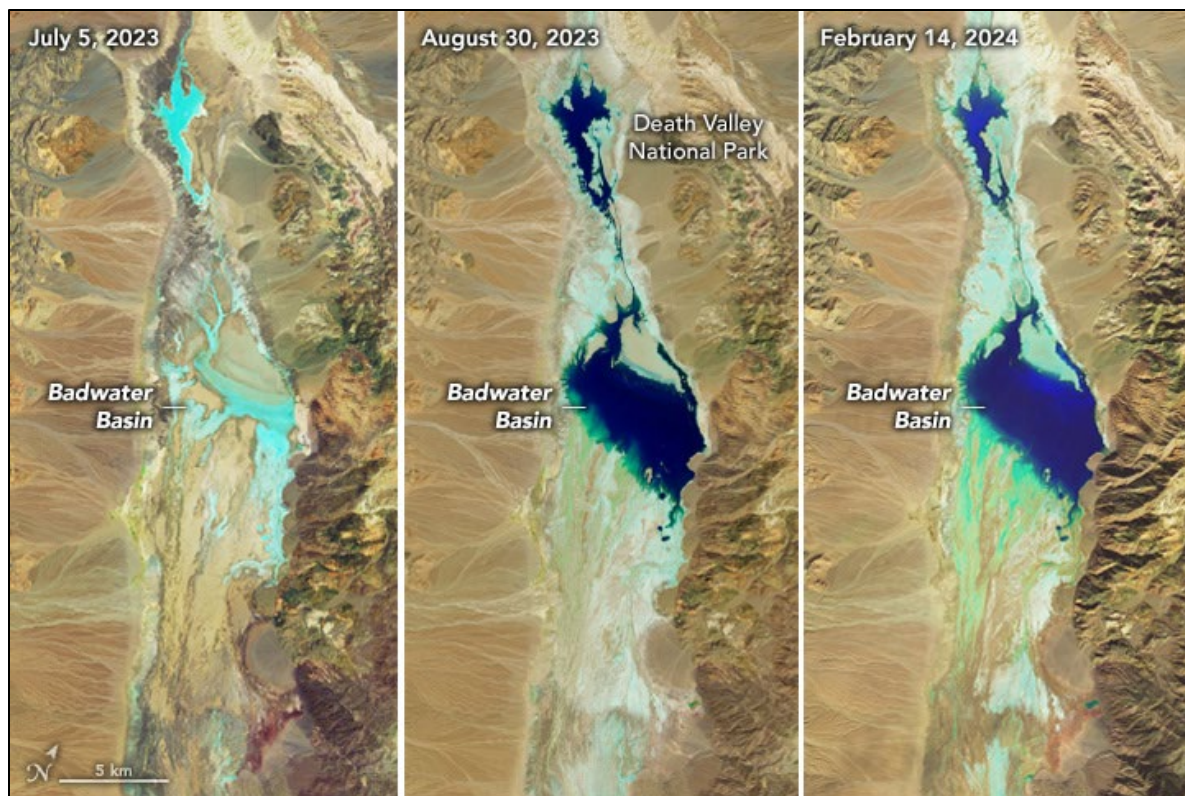


Figure 2.1: False Color Satellite Imagery Released By NASA Documenting Conditions In Badwater Basin From July 2023 Through Mid-February 2024 ([NASA, 2024](#)).

The series of images shown in Figure 2.1 are false color to emphasize the presence of water, which appears in shades of blue ([NASA, 2024](#)). The July 2023 image on the left shows the normally dry basin, while the middle image from late August 2023 highlights the effects of precipitation from Hurricane Hillary. The February 2024 image on the right shows the temporary lake that the National Park Service reports is about six miles long, 3 miles wide and one foot deep ([National Park Service, 2024](#)).

South Lahontan Basin staff Engineering Geologist Amanda Lopez captured a photo of Lake Manly on February 24, 2024 (Figure 2.2). Lake Manly is currently accessible for kayaking, but this rare opportunity will likely only be available for a couple of weeks. Although, the National Park Service anticipates the ephemeral lake will provide “beautiful reflections through April” (Figure 2.3).



Figure 2.2: A view of Lake Manly from Dantes View. Photo taken February 24, 2024 by Amanda Lopez.



Figure 2.3: Photo of reflection in ephemeral Lake Manly by K. Skilling of the National Park Service ([NASA, 2024](#)).

3. 4th Quarter of 2023 Violations – *Shelby Barker*

There were 13 violations documented for the fourth quarter of 2023. Violations consisted of 1 insufficient best management practices (BMP) implementation, 1 deficient reporting of required information, 1 land disposal Board Order violation for exceedance of water quality protection standards in groundwater, 2 unauthorized discharges, 2 deficient monitoring violations, 2 exceedances of effluent limit concentration, and 4 cannabis-related order condition violations. The unauthorized discharges were for stormwater discharge violation for sediment to MS4 and Donner Lake from excavation dewatering and for approximately 200 gallons of raw sewage spilled due to a failure in the piping system.

Enforcement actions beyond those listed in the attached table may be taken as needed to protect water quality and environmental health within the region.

**Fourth Quarter 2023 Violations Report
October 1, 2023 - December 31, 2023**

Program Category	Priority Violation	County	Responsible Party	Facility	WDID	Violation Description	Corrective Action	Enforcement Action
Cannabis	B	Inyo	Nanofarms Group Inc.	SANDY VALLEY 048-350-15	6V14CC416256	Improper storage and use of fertilizers and pesticides (Cannabis Cultivation Policy Attachment A, Section 2, #s 104, 105).	Develop Corrective Action Plan (CAP) by January 12, 2024. Implement CAP by March 12, 2024.	Notice of Violation
						Improper storage of petroleum fluids and petroleum-based machinery (Cannabis Cultivation Policy Attachment A, Section 2, #s 105, 108, 117).		
						Improper storage of spent soil, cultivation-related waste, and trash (Cannabis Cultivation Policy Attachment A, Section 2, #s 113, 119, 120)		
						Improper maintenance of fertigation equipment to prevent leaking or spillage of fertigation liquids (Cannabis Cultivation Policy Attachment A, Section 2, #95).		
Construction Stormwater	B	Nevada	Stonebridge Properties LLC	Coldstream Planned Community 1 Development	6A29C384432	Additional minor sediment control Best Management Practices (BMPs) and/or mulch applications are required along sections of the bike path (near the bridge) and on the perimeter of the staging/stockpile area.	Discharger to install adequate BMPs	Oral Communication
Land Disposal	B	San Bernardino	American Organics	Victor Valley Regional Compost	6B369912001	(1) Wind direction is not recorded in the third quarter 2023 monitoring report. Violates Board Order Monitoring and Reporting Program (MRP) II.D. (2) Time-series do not include the applicable maximum contaminant level (MCL) or water quality protection standard (WQPS) limits for each respective constituent or monitoring parameter. Violates Board Order MRP III.B.2.	Discharger is working with Waterboard staff on next steps.	Oral Communication
						Exceeded WQPS of Fecal Coliform, Iron, and Manganese during the fourth quarter 2023 monitoring period. Violates Board Order MRP II.G.2.a.		
MS4 Stormwater	B	Nevada	Town of Truckee	Phase II Small MS4	6A29M200013	Sediment discharge to MS4 and Donner Lake from excavation dewatering. Town of Truckee issued stop work order.	Property owner deployed BMPs to winterize the site; Water Board permit is required to resume discharge of excavation dewatering fluids to either land or to Donner Lake.	Notice of Violation
NPDES Wastewater	B	Lassen	Susanville Consol SD	Susanville CSD	6A181554001	10/2023 SMR: Annual laboratory proficiency tests for Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program (ELAP) failed two consecutive times for Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) and Electrical Conductivity in August 2023. Reported results are invalid for October 2023 Monthly SMRs for INF-001, EFF-001, RSW-001, and RSW-002.	District's lab on suspension for TDS and Electrical Conductivity. District using outside laboratory until Proficiency Test is passed for each parameter and suspension is removed.	Staff Enforcement Letter

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Wastewater Treatment Facilities	B	Lassen	USDA Forest Service Lassen National Forest, Eagle Lake District	Eagle Lake Ranger Station	6A189203010	Leak detection samples not taken every two months in July 1, 2023 - Nov 1, 2023 monitoring window. Violates MRP 92-32 Section I.B.2.	Discharger responded that future samples will be taken every two months and that locations that are not accessible due to winter weather will also be noted on future reports.	Staff Enforcement Letter
			Spalding Community Service District	Spalding Tract Sewer System	6A180506011	A spill occurred at the pipe connection between the wet well and the pump station. A 90 degree elbow piece of the piping system became detached. 1,200 gallons was collected by vactor truck and water. The estimated volume of raw sewage collected is less than 200 gallons. the spill may have been caused by malfunctioning equipment. The Spalding CSD responded quickly and correctly to control and stop the spill.	Spalding CSD repaired the broken pipe and replaced the heat tape that may have caused the pipe to break.	Staff Enforcement Letter
		San Bernardino	US Navy Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake	Salt Wells Propul. Labs	6B360703021	Flow Daily Discharge limit is 0.021 million gallons per day (MGD) and reported value was 0.0212 MGD.	Construction management was flushing new waterlines. Construction Management was informed on Salt Wells WWTF permit requirements on effluent discharge limitations.	Oral Communication
			US Marine Corps Barstow Logistic Base	Nebo Domestic WTF	6B360702004	TDS Single Sample Maximum limit is 500 mg/L and reported value was 680 mg/L. Groundwater shall not exceed the SMCL of 500 mg/L for TDS. Violating Board order 0601-42 WDR MRP I.B.1.b.	The TDS in local groundwater has been elevated above the SMCL since 2003. TDS levels remain high during the months that the DWTF do not discharge to the percolation ponds. This is an on going situation.	Oral Communication