Lahontan Regional Water Quality
Control Board

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

February 2000

GENERAL

1. ***Tahoe Tom's Gas Station, El Dorado County*** - *Lisa Dernbach*

   On January 24, 2000, the South Tahoe Public Utility District ordered Board staff to cease and desist disposal of treated ground water from the pump and treat system to the sanitary sewer. The reason for this action was that the District had not received a signed copy of their Special Discharge Permit Agreement. The District recently modified language in the Agreement to say that dischargers agree to fully indemnify the District should treated effluent contain detectable concentrations of hydrocarbons, including MTBE. The pump and treat system at Tahoe Tom's discharged 2.0 ppb MTBE during one event in December, and 0.68 ppb MTBE during another event in January. I was advised by legal counsel to not sign the Agreement because the State can not offer full indemnification to any party. The recalcitrant owner of the gas station is also unwilling to sign the Agreement. Despite many discussions and meetings on the subject, the District Board is unwilling to remove the indemnification language from the Agreement. The district action halted the cleanup of the contaminated groundwater at the site.

   Board staff is now looking at alternate disposal methods for treated ground water from the Tahoe Tom's Gas Station. The carbon vessels have been changed out, which should prevent future discharges containing MTBE. One alternative being considered is transporting the treated water to the infiltration gallery at the Beacon Station in Meyers, the other EAR site being remediated by the Regional Board. Such daily transportation would increase disposal costs by five times over what the Board was paying for disposal to the sanitary sewer. Another possible option is disposing the treated water to the City of South Lake Tahoe's storm water retention ponds, three blocks from the Tahoe Tom's Gas Station. While this alternative is cost effective, it may require extensive negotiations with the City. Whichever alternative is chosen, Board staff will have to amend the contract with the consultant for the site. More updated information on this issue will be provided at the Board meeting.

2. ***USA Gas Station, El Dorado County*** - *Lisa Dernbach*

   In early December 1999, USA Petroleum withdrew its proposal to remediate on-site contamination using dual vapor extraction and in-situ oxidation. The controversial proposal consisted of injecting large volumes of highly concentrated hydrogen peroxide that could pose a threat to public health, safety, and the environment.

   Two weeks later, USA submitted a proposal to remediate on-site contamination using dual vapor extraction (DVE) which combines ground water extraction and soil

vapor extraction. The proposal was a revision incorporating Board staff comments of an original DVE plan from March 1999. USA plans to dewater the site to 33 feet below ground surface using nine DVE wells. This action will expose hydrocarbons currently in the saturated zone to soil vapor extraction. Treated ground water from the DVE system will be disposed to the sanitary sewer. Treated ground water from off-site extraction wells, now sent to the sewer, will be diverted to a proposed injection well field, 400 feet from the gas station. I approved this plan in January. DVE and injection wells are being installed, as are the new treatment systems for extracted ground water and soil vapors. The DVE system should be fully operational by the first week of April 2000.

USA has also submitted to the Regional Board a fate and transport model and a ground water modeling report. The report discusses the MTBE ground water plume, now 2,300 feet long, the current off-site ground water extraction program, and the threat of future impacts to drinking water wells.. Board staff plans to comment on the model and report in mid-February, after receiving comments from the U.S. EPA. The South Tahoe Public Utility District has closed seven municipal wells in the Y area of South Lake Tahoe due to the plume

3. ***South Tahoe Public Utility District Wastewater Irrigation Sites***- *Bud Amorfini*

Regional Board staff have been reviewing wastewater reclamation requirements (WRRs) for six Alpine County irrigation sites (reclaimers) that use secondary-treated and disinfected reclaimed wastewater seasonally from South Tahoe Public Utility District's (STPUD) Harvey Place Reservoir. The purpose of the WRRs is to ensure that reclaimed wastewater use is managed properly and that tailwater does not enter the West Fork Carson River by surface flow. As part of the review, site inspections were conducted in December 1999 to assess the facilities and irrigation practices. Board staff toured the facilities with the reclamation operations manager for STPUD, and met with two of the ranch owners that operate the irrigation sites. Results of the review indicate that reclaimed wastewater has been used for beneficial purposes in a manner consistent with the WRRs.

During the review, compliance with administrative requirements for annual reporting and change of ownership notification were noted to be deficient. Requirements were addressed with the reclaimers during follow-up correspondence and at their regular monthly meeting on January 19, 2000. Copies of the existing WRRs were distributed to the reclaimers during the monthly meeting. Regional Board files are being updated to reflect the current owners and operators of sites subject to the WRRs. Based on the review, Regional Board staff will recommend to continue the existing WRRs without the necessity for Board action.

4. ***Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification – New Regulation***- *Scott Ferguson*

State Board staff has been working with the Regional Board for some time now on drafting new regulations for the Section 401 Water Quality Certification Program. The Section 401 Water Quality Certification Program regulates projects that require a federal license/permit to discharge dredged or fill, materials to waters of the United

States. Projects that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers regulate under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act usually require Section 401 Water Quality Certification within California. Projects requiring Section 401 Water Quality Certification include, but are not limited to, streambank stabilization projects involving rock-slope protection, bridge projects that require fill material to be placed temporarily or permanently within waters of the United States, and projects that fill jurisdictional wetlands, etc.
The new regulations will implement several significant changes:

- The new regulations will delegate the authority to grant or deny Section 401 Water Quality Certification from the State Board to the Regional Board Executive Officers.
- Section 401 Water Quality Certification will no longer be waived. Section 401 Water Quality Certification will either be granted through a "standard" certification or a conditional certification, or denied.
- The standard certification will have only three standard conditions. Those standard conditions address the 1) administrative and/or judicial review of certification actions, 2) certifications associated with FERC facilities, and 3) payment of fees prior to the certification becoming effective.
- The current regulations require the Regional Boards and State Board to rely upon the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to enforce any conditions specified in a Section 401 Water Quality Certification. With the new regulations, Section 401 Water Quality Certifications will become orders of the Regional Board and/or State Board and are subject to enforcement action by the Regional Board and/or State Board.
- The current regulations allow only the project proponent to petition a Section 401 Water Quality Certification action. The new regulation will allow **any** aggrieved party to petition a Section 401 Water Quality Certification action.
- The new regulations clearly define what constitutes a complete application for Section 401 Water Quality Certification.

The current schedule for adopting and implementing the new regulations is as follows:

- State Board considers adoption of the new regulations-February 16/17, 2000
- New regulations sent to OAL for review-March 15, 2000
- OAL completes review and approves new regulations-April 15, 2000
- New regulations become effective-May 15, 2000

This is a **tentative schedule** and delays have occurred in the past and could occur again. State Board staff is cautiously optimistic that the schedule will be followed. There has been relatively little public feedback on the draft regulations.

5. ***Local Nonpoint Source Workshops Planned-****Cindy Wise*

Funds to provide local financial assistance in addressing nonpoint source pollution are available under the authority of the Federal Clean Water Act Section 319 (h). As part of the project solicitation process, the Request for Proposals (RFP) will be mailed to stakeholders throughout the Region in March 2000. A series of related workshops presented by the State Board in coordination with the Regional Boards are planned throughout the State in late March. These workshops will assist both new Regional Board staff and local stakeholders by

presenting information about the Nonpoint Source Program, project eligibility requirements, and the project selection process. The workshops will provide the opportunity to stakeholders to discuss potential projects for which they may wish to pursue CWA 319 (h) grant funding. One workshop will be held in South Lake Tahoe. Southern California workshop locations include Los Angeles and San Diego.

6. ***TMDL Activities***- *Judith Unsicker*

See the attached table for information on the status of TMDL projects.

7. ***Status of the Shorezone EIS***-*Mary Fiore*

During the summer of 1999, the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) circulated the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Shorezone Development. This EIS identified that a level of degradation from boat emissions will result from increased boating as a result of allowing increased pier construction. Further, the proposed ordinances will allow piers in significant spawning areas, construction that is now prohibited. This change was recommended because of findings in a scientific study that showed no impact to fish spawning behavior when piers or boats are present. However, recent research in Lake Tahoe identifies polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), combustion by-products found in boat emissions, in concentrations that are harmful to fish larvae and zooplankton. The EIS recommends further study to quantify the impacts and to recommend future policy changes. In the meantime, the EIS recommends a 'go-slow' approach that places a cap on the number of piers that can be constructed in each year. If further studies conclude a detrimental impact is occurring, no additional piers would be allowed.

Regional Board staff submitted extensive comments on the EIS. Staff raised concerns regarding PAH toxicity and allowing degradation in Lake Tahoe, an Outstanding National Resource Water (ONRW). TRPA may decide to go forward with the EIS and a new ordinance without ensuring compliance with CEQA. Since the Regional Board will have to consider amending its Basin Plan to allow pier construction in significant spawning areas, the Regional Board must certify a functional equivalent environmental document that complies with CEQA and the federal regulations concerning ONRW. The Regional Board may need to consider additional mitigation measures or a revised project description.

Regional Board staff plans to meet with TRPA staff in late February 2000 and will continue to work to better understand the regulations and find a solution. TRPA is proposing circulation of a Response to Comments document this summer and adoption in Fall 2000. The Regional Board may hear an informational item on this matter this summer, but would not be considering an action until late 2000 or 2001.

8. ***Lake Tahoe's Environmental Improvement Program (EIP) Update-****Laurie Kemper*

The Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) is planning to complete an update of the Environmental Improvement Program (EIP) by June 2000. The EIP is the 10- year $900 million dollar package of projects originally proposed by TRPA prior to the 1997 Presidential Forum at Lake Tahoe. The

list of projects are aimed at meeting all of TRPA thresholds for water quality, air quality, soil conservation, vegetation, fisheries, wildlife, scenic resources/community design, recreation and noise. Goals of the update consist of creating a more user-friendly set of databases and reports, more detailed description of projects, prioritization of projects, addition of new projects, a research and monitoring plan, a finance plan, an implementation plan and a progress report. Staff is participating on various working groups that are assisting TRPA in this effort including the EIP Integration Team, the Lake Tahoe Interagency Monitoring Program (LTIMP), and the Water Quality Working Group. The working groups are providing prioritization criteria based on existing information (e.g. proximity to a water body, land use, soils, etc). Additional data on pollutant loading from urban runoff is needed to prioritize EIP Projects based on quantifiable water quality benefits.

9. ***Lake Tahoe Coordinating Group-*** *Laurie Kemper*

   The California agencies involved at Lake Tahoe have agreed to coordinate activities concerning the implementation of the Environmental Improvement Program (EIP). The Lake Tahoe Coordinating Group consists of California Environmental Protection Agency (Cal-EPA), Resources Agency and Business, Transportation and Housing Agency (BT&H). The Group has decided to form three subcommittees: Research and Monitoring, Capital Improvement Program, and Management/Support (operation and maintenance needs). The Regional Board and the Air Resources Board (ARB) are co-chairing the Research and Monitoring Subcommittee. By June 2000, Regional Board staff anticipates completion of a comprehensive Research and Monitoring Plan for Lake Tahoe. Development of this plan will be coordinated with the recently established Science Advisory Group for the EIP (a basin-wide group). Once the Plan is developed, responsibilities will be allocated among state and federal agencies. The Regional Board anticipates submitting a budget proposal for fiscal years 2001-2007 to address the State of California's role in research and monitoring at Lake Tahoe. Regional Board staff will also participate on the other working groups primarily to identify our ongoing resource needs as it relates to EIP project construction and operations.

10. ***Status of Caltrans Lake Tahoe Basin Snow Removal Practices-*** *Robert Erlich*

    In response to water quality monitoring and subsequent enforcement action by the Regional Board, and an order from Governor Davis for Caltrans to stop "slushing", Caltrans has agreed to end this practice of spreading snow across the highway to increase melting. After large snowfalls, Caltrans uses rotary snowplows and haul trucks to remove snow which had been plowed into the center lane of multi-lane sections of the highway. In the past, Caltrans reduced these hauling costs by plowing much of the compacted snow from the windrows in the center lane into the inner travel lanes to accelerate snowmelt. However, spreading large amounts of dirty snow on the highway on warm days increased the peak flows and decreased the water quality of runoff from Caltrans roadways.

While larger snowfalls continue to be hauled to Caltrans disposal sites, Caltrans now has to use methods other than slushing to remove the smaller accumulations of snow from the center lane. By removing these smaller windrows, Caltrans can reduce the risk of melting snow refreezing on the travel lanes, and can have more opportunities to use their new vacuum-sweeper to remove sand, which operates most effectively on dry roadways. Two Tahoe Basin residents phoned the Regional Board in January and February with complaints about Caltrans snow removal practices. One complainant noted Caltrans spraying salt brine solution on snow, and the other reported a fresh untracked layer of snow spread onto a travel lane, though he did not observe slushing by Caltrans equipment. Board staff also observed Caltrans equipment driving in the center lane to break up the snow in the windrows to facilitate snowmelt.

Regional Board staff discussed these complaints with Caltrans Maintenance supervisors in Marysville and South Lake Tahoe. Caltrans managers reiterated that slushing is not an allowed practice in the Tahoe Basin. Hauling snow to disposal sites is an effective way to keep sediment and pollutants in the windrows out of the storm water conveyances that drain to streams and SEZs. In the past, Caltrans has not hauled snow from the center lane to disposal sites when the windrows are less than two feet high and two feet wide. Regional Board staff suggested that Caltrans consider hauling snow from smaller windrows to disposal sites. Regional Board staff will be meeting with Caltrans officials on March 9 to discuss the implementation of the ban on slushing, and other changes to Caltrans winter operations.

11. ***Status of Proposed IPES Changes-*** *Robert Erlich*

TRPA is considering modifying their Individual Parcel Evaluation System (IPES) incentive program that allows construction on a number of vacant parcels that are currently not eligible for single family residential construction. The IPES rating system, which has governed development of single family residential parcels since 1988, ranks vacant parcels on their environmental sensitivity to development. The most important elements to the IPES ranking are relative erosion hazard, runoff potential, and Stream Environment Zones (SEZs). Parcels on gentle slopes, where dry, deep, coarse soils could retain runoff from impermeable surfaces received high scores (1150 points maximum). Parcels with potential building sites on steep, shallow, or wet soils received lower scores, and if the entire parcel was a SEZ, the IPES score was 0. Since 1998, parcels with scores above 725 have been eligible for the 300 allocations for single family residences available annually throughout the Tahoe Basin. Parcels with scores below, but within 10% of the initial IPES line (725), have been able to obtain eligibility for allocations through an incentive program that allows owners to "buy points" by putting money into TRPA's Water Quality Mitigation Fund.

The IPES ordinance language anticipated that the eligibility line could drop (separately in each county) if several criteria were met. One criteria required an 80% reduction in the inventory of vacant, environmentally sensitive parcels in the counties in California. The eligibility line has dropped in Douglas and Washoe Counties in Nevada (where only a 67% reduction in the inventory was required), but the line has not dropped in El Dorado and

Placer Counties. TRPA now faces a lawsuit from owners of vacant property, alleging that, since the IPES line has not lowered at all in California, property rights have been taken without compensation. In response to the lawsuit, TRPA is looking at changes to IPES that would broaden the incentive program, by allowing construction on some otherwise ineligible parcels, if parcel owners obtain additional mitigation credits. The main method proposed to obtain the needed mitigation credits would be for owners to purchase and retire development rights on other vacant environmentally sensitive parcels.

TRPA staff, with input from Regional Board staff and the Attorney General's Office, is running models to assess the environmental impacts of proposed changes. TRPA staff has presented their conceptual changes to their Advisory Planning Committee, and TRPA has convened a technical advisory group which includes Regional Board staff. Changes to the TRPA ordinance may require recertification of TRPA's 208 Plan and changes to the Water Quality Plan for the Lahontan Region.

12. ***MTBE-*** *Bob Dodds*

On January 18, Cal/EPA's California Environmental Policy Council, at its first meeting, heard public testimony on the proposed use of ethanol as a fuel oxygenate. The Governor's Executive Order for MTBE requires the Council to consider the environmental effects of ethanol, proposed as a substitute for MTBE in "Phase 3" California Reformulated Gasoline. The Council received reports from the Air Board, the State Board, and the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA). The Air Board's report concludes that using ethanol in "Phase 3" gasoline will allow California to meet the air quality standards now achieved using MTBE. The State Board report analyzes the fate and transport of ethanol in groundwater and surface water, concluding that it is much less mobile and persistent than MTBE. The OEHHA report states that the human health risk of ethanol is minor compared to that posed by MTBE.

13. ***Lower Barton Meadows Notice of Violation of Fecal Coliform Standard and Illegal Outhouse in the Tahoe Basin, South Lake Tahoe -*** *Bruce Warden*

More than100 cow-calf pairs are usually grazed during the summer on about 560 acres of meadow near the confluence of the Upper Truckee River, Trout Creek, and Lake Tahoe. This meadow is privately owned by the Barton Trust. Regional Board staff received complaints of cattle breaking through the fence line, standing and defecating directly in Lake Tahoe, polluting the South Upper Truckee River and its high water overflow on Barton Meadows. Staff also received complaints regarding the use of an outhouse for human waste disposal near the corral at lower Barton Meadows.

Lahontan staff responded to the complaints, took water samples for fecal coliform analysis (1) directly adjacent to cattle and (2) in the middle of the inundated meadow (background), an area primarily inhabited by waterfowl. The location of the samples and proximity of cattle to waters of the State was documented photographically. Water quality objectives for coliform bacteria in the Water Quality Control Plan for the Lahontan Region state that: "Waters shall not contain concentrations of coliform organisms attributable to anthropogenic sources,

including human and livestock wastes." The grazing operation at Lower Barton Meadows constituted a violation of Water Quality Objectives, since visual observation and laboratory analysis showed fecal coliform concentrations attributable to livestock wastes. Additionally, cattle grazing is associated with increased streambank soil erosion, and loading of biostimulatory substances (i.e. nitrogen and phosphorus) into waters of the State. Staff also inspected the outhouse near the corral facility and found it to be an open pit underneath a wooden outhouse structure. Open pit outhouses and related facilities for sewage disposal are considered a public nuisance and have been prohibited in the Tahoe Basin since January 1, 1972.

The Notice of Violation, issued February 10, 2000, required the discharger to implement appropriate water quality BMPs under an acceptable California Rangeland Water Quality Management Plan. A similar plan was recently implemented at the adjacent Upper Barton Meadows. This involved exclusion fencing of the river, and rotation of cattle between paddocks to minimize impacts to riparian vegetation. The only direct contact of cattle with water is at rock-lined stream crossings. Additionally, the outhouse facility was required to be properly closed. If the discharger does not take corrective actions, future enforcement actions will be taken such as adoption of Waste Discharge Requirements, Cease and Desist Orders, or imposition of Administrative Civil Liabilities.

14. ***Mammoth Mountain Ski Area (MMSA) Ground Water Remediation System Start-up***- *Kai Dunn*

MMSA started up its ground water treatment system in February to clean up the gasoline spill at the MMSA Mobile Equipment Maintenance Facility. The impacted ground water is treated to remove petroleum hydrocarbons and related constituents discharged to Dry Creek drainage. Remediation of the impacted ground water will be accomplished using four existing wells. The proposed treatment facility will remove petroleum hydrocarbons to non-detectable level using a combination system consisting of: 1) a Bio-granular activated carbon (Bio-GAC) system, 2) an air stripping system and 3) an additional activated carbon treatment system. The average flow generated by the facility is 50 gallons per minutes (gpm). The discharge is being regulated under the Regional Board's general NPDES permit for discharge of treated ground water. The cleanup project will be monitored for effectiveness and additional extraction wells may be needed.

15. ***Mojave River Restoration Memorandum*** *of* ***Understanding (MOU)****, Jehiel Cass*

The Lahontan Region has been asked to be a signatory to an MOU on a cooperative effort to restore the Mojave River riparian habitat. The MOU will demonstrate a cooperative approach among the signatory parties as grant funds are requested to implement specific natural resource restoration projects yet to be identified. The agencies who will be signatory to the MOU are:

1. United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Conservation Service Resources.
2. The United States Department of the Interior (USDI), Bureau of Land Management
3. The United States (US) Army Corps of Engineers

4. California Department of Fish and Game
5. Regional Water Quality Control Board, Lahonton Region
6. San Bernardino County Flood Control District
7. Mojave Water Agency
8. Mojave Desert Resource Conservation District
9. The Mojave Desert-Mountain Resource Conservation and Development (RCD) Group. (Consortium of multiple RCDs)

As a result of this cooperative effort, it is envisioned that there would be specific future projects proposed to protect and enhance the natural Mojave River riparian habitat for the benefit of indigenous wildlife, protection of water quality and improvement of local quality of life. A major emphasis will be to remove and replace non-native invasive plants such as salt-cedar. I intend to sign this MOU within thirty days unless I receive alternative direction from the Regional Board at which time I intend to agendaize the MOU for your consideration for a future meeting.

16. Aboveground Petroleum Storage Act (APSA) *Diana Ventura*

The Aboveground Petroleum Storage Act (APSA) became effective January 1, 1990. In general, APSA requires owners or operators of aboveground petroleum storage tanks to file a storage statement, pay a fee, and implement measures to prevent spills. A Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasure (SPCC) plan is to be prepared in accordance with the guidelines contained in the US EPA's regulations on oil pollution prevention (40 CFR 112). The local Certified Unified Program Agency (CUPA) may check to verify whether a SPCC plan is in place at an aboveground storage tank facility. The CUPA will then refer their findings to the Regional Board for follow up. This month, Board staff contacted all CUPAs within the South Lahontan Basin and offered a referral form to be used when inspecting aboveground tank facilities. Board staff mailed out the referral forms in mid-January.

17. ***National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit Writers' Course-****Stephen Niou*

The State Water Resource Control Board coordinated with the U.S. EPA to provide a training course on the writing of NPDES permits. It was held in the City of Riverside on January 24 through 28, 2000. Approximately 80 staff from different Regional Board's and the State Water Resources Control Board attended the training course. Four staff members from the Board's Victorville office attended the training.

The course focused on the development of effluent limits including technology based and water quality based limitations. The training was very well done and should be valuable for Board staff.

18. ***Mammoth Lakes Airport Expansion Project-*** *Cindi Mitton*

Board staff reviewed the Notice of Intent to prepare an Environmental Assessment for expansion of the Airport located near Mammoth Lakes. The project proposes to strengthen and expand the existing runway by 50 feet in width and 1,200 feet in length, to accommodate commercial aircraft such as the B-757. Additionally, improved

passenger terminal facilities and related infrastructure are planned. The project proponent is the Town of Mammoth Lakes. Several issues with the potential to impact water quality have been identified. Issues that must be addressed as the environmental assessment is developed include wetlands protection, stormwater and other wastewater management and hazardous materials management.

19. Murphy Gulch Storm Water Retention Basin Project Status- *Michele Ochs*

The Town of Mammoth Lakes circulated the Notice of Completion of the Initial Study and proposed a Negative Declaration for its Murphy Gulch Siltation Basin #2. The basin is part of an overall drainage system collecting about two-thirds of the runoff from urbanized areas of the Town of Mammoth Lakes. The basin is designed to reduce peak flows of storm drainage to tributary waters, including Mammoth Creek and the Upper Owens River. Regional Board staff provided comments regarding the proposed project and notified the proponent of requirements for the project. The project is funded in part by a State grant. Construction is planned for late summer 2000. Board staff was involved in the project proposal and will review project status reports and visit the site during implementation of the project.

20. ***Lower Owens River Project (LORP)*** *- Joe Kenny*

The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) was mandated in the Los Angeles / Inyo County ground water pumping Environmental Impact Report (EIR) completed in 1991 to implement the LORP. The project is part of an agreement between Inyo County and the City of Los Angeles to provide environmental protection of the Owens Valley from the effects of ground water pumping and water export.

The LADWP have notified the Regional Board of their intent to develop an EIR for the LORP. The project involves the re-watering of a 60 mile stretch of the Lower Owens River with the goal of ultimately establishing a healthy, functioning Lower Owens River riverine-riparian ecosystem, attaining the beneficial uses for that portion of the waterbody, while sustaining uses of recreation, livestock grazing and other uses. LADWP lists potential adverse impacts that include fish kills and a delay in the attainment of water quality objectives during the donor period of rewatering.

Board staff has commented on the Notice of Preparation of the EIR which includes the plan to commence the re-watering process in 2000. Board staff attended a public meeting regarding this project on February 16, 2000. Additional information regarding proposed alternatives will be provided to the Regional Board as developed.

ENFORCEMENT

21. ***Tahoe City Public Utility District, Supplemental Environmental Project-****Mary Fiore*

On August 23, 1999, the Tahoe City Public Utility District (District) was responsible for a sewage spill at the Park Terrace Pump Station. As part of a settlement between the District and the California Regional Water Quality Control Board-Lahontan Region (Regional Board), the District proposed a supplemental environmental project (SEP) in lieu of an Administrative Civil Liability.

The SEP the District proposed consisted of a shoreline stabilization project to protect a sewer line located on Edgewater Drive, Dollar Point that was exposed during the 1997 flood. Besides the possibility of off-site impacts from this project, the Regional Board did not accept this SEP because the proposed project involves protecting the sewer line to ensure that there is no discharge of sewage to Lake Tahoe. Regional Board staff determined that the proposed project is part of the District's existing responsibility as identified in Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs), Board Order No. 6-83-50.

Regional Board staff encouraged the District to pursue an alternative mitigation project and suggested the District fund a portion of a proposed Placer County water quality improvement project or fund the USGS's comprehensive data analysis project (Lake and tributary monitoring from the last ten years). As of February 15, 2000, the District has not yet proposed an alternate project. The District's response may be delayed due to the loss of its General Manager. If no proposal is received by March 1, 2000, Regional Board staff intends to prepare an Administrative Civil Liability Complaint for the spill. The Regional Board may hear the matter at its April 2000 Board Meeting.

CASE CLOSURES

22. Closure of Clock Tower, Olympic Valley, Placer County, LUSTIS No. 6T0301A- *Tammy Lundquist*

In September 1998, one 500-gallon underground storage tank (UST) formerly containing heating oil was closed in-place. The UST was filled with concrete slurry. One soil sample was collected from beneath the UST by hand auger. Analytical results of the soil sampled showed 800 mg/kg total petroleum hydrocarbons (TPH) as diesel. No excavation activities could be performed to remove the contaminated soil because over half of the UST is underneath the existing building. Several geoprobe points were advanced to evaluate any impacts to water quality from the former UST. No BTEX or TPH as diesel were detected in any of the ground water geoprobe samples. However, one geoprobe ground water sample contained an MTBE concentration of 8.4 ppb. Therefore, additional geoprobe points were requested to evaluate the lateral extent of the MTBE contamination. The advancement of the additional geoprobe points showed no detectable concentrations of BTEX or MTBE in ground water, although laboratory analytical results reported a maximum detectable concentration of TPH as diesel at 69 ppb in ground water.

Residual soil contamination remains in the vicinity of the former UST. TPH as diesel concentrations in ground water are below the taste and odor threshold of 100 ppb. Site conditions are protective of water quality and beneficial uses and human health and the environment.

Before case closure was issued for the site, the Squaw Valley Public Services District was contacted to address any water quality concerns. The case closure was issued on January 19, 2000.

23. Closure of Tahoe City Maintenance Station, Placer County, LUSTIS No. 6T0315A- Tammy Lundquist

In July 1997, four underground storage tanks (one 8,000-gallon gasoline, one 8,000-

gallon diesel, one 3,000-gallon diesel, and one 1,500-gallon diesel) were removed from the Tahoe City Maintenance Station. This site is located within several hundred feet of the Truckee River. Soil and grab ground water samples were collected as part of tank removal activities. Since petroleum hydrocarbons and MTBE were detected in soil and ground water samples the tank site was subsequently overexcavated. Approximately 360 cubic yards of contaminated soil was removed and the excavation was backfilled with clean, compacted native material. In November 1998, a site investigation was performed to assess the presence of residual soil and ground water contamination. Twelve soil borings were drilled and soil and grab ground water samples were collected from each boring. Laboratory analysis of all soil and ground water samples showed non-detect levels of all contaminants of concern. Therefore, site conditions are protective of water quality and beneficial uses and human health and the environment. The case was officially closed on January 28, 2000.

24. Closure of Orozco Property, Placer County, LUSTIS No. 6T0229A-
Tammy Lundquist

A 1,000-gallon underground storage tank (UST) is utilized for heating oil storage at this residential site. During construction activities in July 1994, a backhoe bucket excavating a utility trench, damaged the lines that transferred the heating oil from the UST to the residence causing a release. The area around the heating oil lines was excavated for inspection in August 1995. Approximately 1,015 cubic yards of contaminated soil was removed. However, up to 27,000-mg/kg residual heating oil soil contamination was detected in the crawl space underneath the main structure at 0.5 feet below surface grade. This soil could not be removed due to structural concerns. Seven ground water wells (MW-1 through MW-7) were installed at the site between 1995 and January 1996 as part of a subsurface investigation. Magnesium peroxide was placed in select wells to enhance biological activity. Laboratory analysis of ground water samples showed non-detect levels for all constituents of concern for four or more consecutive quarters of ground water monitoring. MTBE was analyzed for but not detected at the site. Therefore, site conditions are protective of water quality, beneficial uses, human health, and the environment.
The case was officially closed on February 4, 2000.

25. ***Caltrans Shoshone Maintenance Station, Underground Storage Tank (UST), Case Closure – Lustis No. 6B1400277T****- Kai Dunn*

Four USTs were removed from this site. Laboratory analysis of soil samples collected from the tank excavation indicated contamination of site soils by diesel-range petroleum hydrocarbons. Approximately 80 cubic yards of contaminated soil was removed from below and around the tank excavation site. The final soil samples indicated non-detectable concentrations in all directions except for a localized area beneath the building. Three ground water monitoring wells were installed. Total petroleum hydrocarbons (diesel) were detected in one well, however, ground water monitoring has demonstrated that remediation by natural attenuation has reduced contaminant concentration to non-detectable concentrations. Caltrans plans to remove the building in the future and may

remove additional contaminated soil if feasible.

26. ***Camp Manzanar, UST Case Closure - Lustis No. 6B1400942T***- *Elizabeth Lafferty*

Camp Manzanar is a Formerly Used Defense Site (FUDS) and the site of the Former Japanese Internment Camp located at Manzanar, near Independence in Inyo County. The Facility consists of remnants of the camp including building foundations, former landfill areas (including hospital waste) remnants of a laundry area, housing areas, and other facilities associated with the Camp.

There are three USTs associated with the site that have been closed in place. The USTs were in use from 1943 to 1945 when they were abandoned. The Defense Department conducted a site investigation and analyzed soil and ground water samples. Samples detected what appeared to be heavily weathered petroleum hydrocarbons. Verification ground water samples collected by hydropunch were non-detectable (detection limit=53ppb) for petroleum hydrocarbons. Other petroleum related constituents (BTEX) were not detected in any soil or ground water samples from the site.

NEW HIRES

Wendy Stewart – Joined the Board's Victorville office on 12-29-99 as an Office Assistant. Wendy has approximately three years of experience working in the private sector. She resides in Hesperia with her husband and three children. She enjoys outdoor activities with her family.

Robin Coale – Joined the Board's Victorville office on February 1, 2000 as an Office Assistant. Robin has a number of years of experience. She transferred from the California Unemployment Insurance Appeals Board in Rancho Cucamonga where she worked for 1 ½ years. Robin resides in Phelan along with her husband and two children. Robin enjoys antiques, riding bikes and camping.

27. ***SWRCB Staff Retirements-*** *Bob Dodds*

Walt Pettit**,** the State Board's long-time Executive Director, has announced his retirement in mid-May. State Board Chief Counsel, Bill Attwater has also announced his retirement for the same time frame. Both of these people are widely respected, and will be very much missed.

28. ***Region 6's Outreach Efforts, September 15- December 31, 1999***- *Pam Walker*
Please see attached table outlining activities.