

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

June 2001

NORTH BASIN

**1. \$1.5 Million In Proposition 13 Funds
Awarded to Lahontan RWQCB
Cindy Wise**

Five projects in the Lahontan Region have been awarded funding under Proposition 13 (Costa-Machado Water Act of 2000). Proposition 13 authorized the sale of \$1.97 billion in general obligation bonds to support safe drinking water quality, flood protection and water reliability projects throughout the state. The State Board and Departments of Health Services, Water Resources, and Fish and Game are responsible for administering the bond funds. Under a recent Request for Proposals (RFP), the State Board released \$19.8 million to support projects eligible for Proposition 13 funds. A portion of the funds (\$2.2 million) can only be used for projects in coastal waters, and 60% of the overall bond funds must be used for projects in six southern California counties (including Los Angeles and San Bernardino counties). Under the recent RFP, \$1.5 million were awarded to five projects in the Lahontan Region. These five projects, project proponents and amounts awarded are:

- Education and Best Management Practice Implementation in the Lake Tahoe Basin
(Tahoe Regional Planning Agency \$616,665)

- Adopt-A-Watershed Education Leadership Development in Truckee River and Lake Tahoe
(Adopt-A-Watershed \$286,400)
- Mono-Owens Watershed Management Plan
(Mono County \$198,000)
- West Walker River Watershed Management Plan
(Mono County \$198,000)
- Carson River Plan, Assessment and GIS
(Alpine County Resource Conservation District \$200,000)

2. Regional Board staff attends Wetland Field Training course– Jason Churchill

Regional wetland coordinator Cindy Wise organized a Wetland Field Training Course from June 4-6 at U.C. Santa Cruz's Sierra Nevada Aquatic Research Laboratory near Mammoth Lakes. Approximately 18 staff members attended along with several persons representing the California Department of Fish and Game, and Mono County. The course involved both lectures and fieldwork and was presented by wetland experts from U.C. Santa Cruz. Attendees learned how to identify and delineate wetlands in the field on the basis of vegetation, soil characteristics, and hydrology, and how to critically review wetland delineation reports. Northern Watersheds Unit Chief Scott Ferguson gave

a presentation defining the role of the Regional Board in regulation of wetlands and other waters, and on recent court rulings affecting the Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification Program.

This training will greatly help staff in evaluating reports and mitigation proposals submitted by dischargers or project proponents, and in assessing potential threats to wetlands, and will help to prevent further loss of these valuable water resources.

3. *Development of Nutrient Criteria-Judith Unsicker*

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) has directed all states to adopt criteria (equivalent to California's water quality objectives) for nutrients for surface waters which do not already have them by 2004. Criteria are to include total phosphorus, total nitrogen, and measures of algal productivity and turbidity. The USEPA has issued nationwide guidance for developing nutrient criteria, and suggested numerical criteria for "ecoregions" across the country. There are three ecoregions in California, and two ("Western Forested Mountains" and "Xeric West") in the Lahontan Region. Each ecoregion is divided into several subcoregions; for example the dry ("xeric") areas of Region 6 include parts of the northern and southern Great Basin subcoregions, and of a subcoregion which corresponds to the Mojave Desert. States may adopt the USEPA's broad ecoregion criteria, or they may develop more specific numbers using the USEPA's suggested procedures on a subcoregion basis, or other scientifically defensible methods. If states decide to accept the USEPA's broad ecoregion based criteria, they may still develop site-specific criteria later when better data are available. According to

USEPA staff, Region 6's current numerical nutrient objectives would not need to be revised as part of this process. (Region 6 has nitrogen and/or phosphorus objectives for most of the waters in forested parts of the region, but not for all waters in drier areas.) More information on the USEPA's recommended methods and nutrient criteria numbers is available on the Internet at <http://www.epa.gov/ost/standards/nutrient.html>.

Region 6 staff is participating in two advisory groups concerned with development of nutrient criteria for California. One group, convened by the USEPA Region IX, includes representatives of other western states, stakeholder groups, and university researchers. The other, convened by the State Board's Division of Water Quality, consists of State and Regional Board staff. The groups are interacting with each other, and are currently evaluating the potential geographic basis for California criteria, procedures for developing criteria, and the feasibility of meeting the USEPA's deadlines given the limited monitoring data and staff resources available.

4. *Water Quality Assessment Section 303(d) List-Judith Unsicker*

Several comment letters and sets of data were received from the public in response to the March 2001 solicitation of information for use in the Section 303(d) list update. Staff will use this and other readily available sources of information to prepare recommendations for changes in the list. A report summarizing the rationale for the recommendations will be circulated for public review and responses to written public comments will be prepared. The Board will be asked to approve recommendations to the State Water Resources Control Board for

changes in the list at its regular November 2001 meeting. The State Board will hold its own public participation process, and consider final recommendations to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, in early 2002.

5. ***Update Regarding John F. Bosta and Gregory and Heather Babb-Scott Ferguson***

The Regional Board, during its October 2000 meeting, referred further enforcement against John F. Bosta and Gregory and Heather Babb to the California Attorney General. The referral was the Regional Board's response to the continued operation of septic systems in the Stones-Bengard subdivision, located in the Eagle Lake Basin north of Susanville. The continued operation of the septic systems in the Stones-Bengard subdivision violates Basin Plan prohibitions, Cease and Desist Orders, and Cleanup and Abatement Orders. These orders have required the dischargers to cease discharge to their septic systems, and to connect to the community sewer system or to an alternative system approved by the Regional Board and Lassen County.

Since referring the matter to the California Attorney General, Regional Board staff has been in contact with the Attorney General's staff attempting to have a staff member assigned to these two cases. A Deputy Attorney General was recently assigned to the two cases and I anticipate that the Attorney General's investigation of these two cases will begin in the next few weeks. I will continue to keep the Regional Board updated on any developments with these two cases through quarterly reports.

6. ***Spalding Community Services District-Scott Ferguson***

The Spalding Community Services District (District) continues to make progress towards designing and constructing a community wastewater system for the Spalding Tract subdivision located on the west shore of Eagle Lake, north of Susanville. The District recently awarded the design contract to Lampe Associates, who will begin field reconnaissance activities this summer, and then begin to work towards developing the final project design. The District anticipates beginning construction summer 2003. Construction has been delayed for one year due to complications with land acquisition and funding. The District staff has and continues to put forth a significant effort to keep this project moving forward, despite several setbacks that the District has had to overcome.

Regional Board staff attended a District Board meeting on June 19, 2001. The purpose of Regional Board staff's attendance was to provide the community with an update regarding Regional Board staff's current policy on enforcing the Cease and Desist Orders that were issued several years ago. Board staff stated that they will take no further enforcement action provided the District and community continue to make measurable progress towards achieving compliance with the Basin Plan prohibitions that require the community to cease discharges from their existing septic systems. Regional Board staff also informed the community that staff was ready to take additional enforcement action if there is any indication that the District or the community is faltering in their effort to move forward with the community sewer system.

Community members expressed concern over the studies that were conducted and were the basis for the Regional Board adopting the Basin Plan prohibitions in 1984.

Board staff explained that the studies have to date held up to review by the Regional Board, and the State Board through several public hearings. Some community members are interested in testing individual water wells again..

I believe that the District has continued to make slow, but steady progress toward implementing a solution that will comply with the Basin Plan prohibitions regarding septic system discharges at the Spalding Tract subdivision. I recommend that no further enforcement action be taken at this time. Board staff will work closely with the District to provide any assistance that staff can in an effort to achieve compliance with the Basin Plan prohibitions.

7. *Regional Board staff Outreach Activities with Caltrans - Bud Amorfini*

Caltrans is subject to requirements in a Clean Water Act National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit developed by the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) to regulate storm water discharges from Caltrans facilities and construction activities statewide. Regional Board staff recently made two presentations to Caltrans staff from several different Districts to increase their awareness of storm water management issues. The presentations discussed elements of the new statewide Caltrans Storm Water Management Program (SWMP, recently approved by the SWRCB) to develop a better understanding of Regional Board staff expectations of Caltrans. Doug Feay and Gene Rondash gave a presentation at Mammoth Lakes to storm water coordinators for Caltrans maintenance staff, and Bud Amorfini and Scott Ferguson gave a presentation at Lake Tahoe to storm water coordinators for Caltrans construction staff. The

presentations focused on a range of issues and requirements covered by the SWMP along with specific implementation issues associated with various Caltrans activities.

The presentations were well received and the outreach activity appears to be stimulating better communication and understanding between agencies. Staff will continue to take advantage of opportunities to educate Caltrans personnel on water quality issues in a constructive manner. For instance, staff is currently involved in a coordination process with Caltrans initiated by the CalEPA. This effort involves staff from the Resources Agency, SWRCB and Regional Boards, Caltrans, and other State agencies, and is intended to assist Caltrans to better integrate environmental resources issues into project planning processes.

8. *Watershed Citizen Monitoring- Jill Wilson*

On June 2, 2001 the first watershed-wide citizen monitoring effort was conducted in the Lake Tahoe Basin and Truckee River Watershed. Over 100 people participated in this event, most of which were community volunteers. This type of monitoring event is termed a "snapshot" in that it is used to capture watershed conditions on one day. Photos, visual observations, water quality measurements and samples were collected from over 40 locations by the citizen monitors. Samples were then analyzed for nutrients, bacteria, and turbidity. This was the first time that a basin wide monitoring effort was performed, in both Nevada and California, which was made possible by the many volunteers who participated. The Tahoe /Truckee Snapshot 2001 was truly a partnership between agencies and the community volunteers. This effort was coordinated as part of the SWRCB's Clean Water Team citizen monitoring program.

Dominic Gregorio, SWRCB Regional Citizen Monitoring Coordinator, and Jill Wilson of Regional Board Staff worked with the Lake Tahoe Environmental Education Committee (LTEEC) citizen monitoring committee to plan and coordinate this event. The LTEEC committee also includes representatives from the League to Save Lake Tahoe, Truckee River Aquatic Monitors, Tahoe Regional Planning Agency, California Tahoe Conservancy, the U. S. Forest Service, U.C. Davis Tahoe Research Group, Incline Village General Improvement District, Lake Tahoe Community College, and University of Nevada Reno. The U.S.G.S., Sierra Nevada College, and the High Sierra Research Lab also provided instruments and lab services. Erick Burres from the SWRCB staff and Lahontan staff members Lauri Kemper, Robert Erlich, Michelle Bovard, and Abby O'Keefe also participated in this event.

9. ***Update on Squaw Valley Public Service District, Water Supply Well No. 3 and the Opera House UST Diesel Contamination, Placer County – Tammy Lundquist***

Squaw Valley Ski Corporation (Ski Corp) installed a mid-level groundwater monitoring well in March 2001 to check potential migration of a diesel contamination plume into a deeper zone. Plume migration into the deeper zone concerns staff because the Squaw Valley Public Service District (SVPSD) Supply Well No. 3 is screened in the deeper zone. First quarter groundwater monitoring analytical results were non-detect in 7 of the 9-onsite wells. MW- 3, in the vicinity of the former tank excavation, showed a total petroleum hydrocarbon concentration (TPH) of 220 parts per billion (ppb). MW-9, the newly installed deep well, was sampled in March and April and showed TPH concentrations of 120 ppb and 91 ppb,

respectively. The taste and odor threshold for TPH as diesel is 100 ppb. In May 2001, SVPSD had their consultant collect groundwater samples from all the Opera House monitoring wells. Analytical results showed no detectable concentrations of TPH-diesel in any wells except MW-3 (61 ppb). This TPH-diesel concentration is an order of magnitude less than the analytical results from the First Quarter monitoring event. TPH-diesel concentrations decreased in MW-9 from 120 ppb in March to 91ppb in April to non-detect in May. Staff has contacted the SVPSD to discuss the TPH concentrations and address concerns that the District may have. Based on these discussions, Staff has decided to evaluate if corrective action is needed after the June 2001 analytical results are submitted.

10. ***Update from Bioremediation Symposium – Tom Gavigan***

Staff attended the Sixth International Symposium “In Situ and On-Site Bioremediation”, sponsored by Battelle, in San Diego from June 4 through 7, 2001. Over 1000 people (consultants, regulators, researchers, property owners, etc.) attended the conference. The Symposium included presentations on advancements in the bioremediation of MTBE and chlorinated solvents, such as PCE and TCE, and the use of ethanol in lieu of MTBE in gasoline.

Field studies have successfully demonstrated in-situ bioremediation of MTBE-affected groundwater under aerobic conditions. The successful field studies often involve the addition of MTBE-degrading bacteria (bioaugmentation) as well as addition of dissolved oxygen and / or nutrients (biostimulation). Before approving an in-situ remedial strategy of an MTBE plume, the subsurface should be evaluated for the

presence of naturally occurring MTBE degrading bacteria to help determine if a bioaugmentation or biostimulation approach could be used.

Advances have been made in biostimulation and bioaugmentation approaches to solvent remediation. Researchers have had success by enhancing reductive dechlorination of chemicals like PCE and TCE through the addition of various electron donors including vegetable oil, polylactate ester, and dilute molasses (biostimulation). They have also identified that, without a specific bacteria (*Dehalococcoides ethenogenes*), reductive dechlorination stops at the daughter product, DCE, which poses a significant water quality problem. Therefore, as with MTBE, the distribution of the appropriate organisms may be quite heterogeneous and bioaugmentation should be an important consideration in evaluating remedial strategies.

It is likely that ethanol will replace MTBE as a fuel oxygenate. Ethanol can be readily biodegraded through a number of metabolic pathways, but ethanol may inhibit degradation of petroleum hydrocarbon compounds (including BTEX) as naturally occurring microorganisms selectively degrade the ethanol. Because gasohol (gasoline containing ethanol) can not be transported in pipelines as is often done with gasoline, truckloads and trainloads of neat ethanol will enter California daily. The ethanol be stored in bulk at refineries, and mixed with gasoline just prior to truck transport to gas stations. Therefore, releases of neat ethanol are a significant possibility. A spill of ethanol to surface water or groundwater would likely result in rapid biodegradation of the ethanol along with a depletion of oxygen and other electron acceptors (sulfate, iron III, nitrate), and a

lowering of pH (along with a possible mobilization of metals). In surface water, oxygen depletion and acidification may kill fish and other aquatic organisms.

SOUTH BASIN

11. Caltrans Fish Springs Project – Doug Feay

Caltrans is constructing two additional lanes on Highway 395. The Fish Springs Project involves the widening of Highway 395 just below Lone Pine. There are three stream channel diversions at the project site. The Caltrans contractor has been using a large rubber bladder system to block the stream channel as part of the stream diversion. The system offers a faster and cleaner method of diversion. The rubber bladder is inflated in-place with water and has less impact on sediments within the stream channel than other methods. During the inspection of Fish Springs, Board staff noted that one of the rubber bladders had moved toward the middle of the stream. A second bladder was put into place and the original bladder was removed. During the inspection, staff observed that Caltrans' contractor is making conscientious efforts to protect water quality by implementing appropriate Best Management Practices. The highway widening at Fish Springs should be completed by 2002.

12. IMC Chemicals (IMCC) – Michele Ochs

Searles Lake Beneficial Uses - IMCC has requested site-specific designations of Beneficial Uses for the waters of Searles Lake. In an effort to collect data in support of their request, IMCC and their consultants proposed to study the various ephemeral waters on Searles Lake. They have finished the sampling and results of this study are due to Board staff in mid-June.

Additionally, Board staff has approved a Workplan for a proposed study to categorize and study naturally occurring waters in the Searles Valley and surrounding mountains. This work is scheduled for June and July of 2001.

Gem-O-Rama - The issue of Beneficial Uses, in particular the recreation uses, has caused concern over the future of the annual Gem-O-Rama that is put on by the Searles Lake Gem and Mineral Society. Some of the activities are hosted by IMCC on Searles Lake. Board staff has received numerous letters and petitions asking for consideration of the event that is now in its' 60th year. IMCC and Board staff has been working with event organizers to provide assurance that the annual Gem-O-Rama will happen again in October of this year. The topic of recreational use designations will be part of the on-going discussion of site-specific Beneficial Uses.

Compliance - In accordance with their amended Board Orders, IMCC reports daily effluent sampling twice a month. IMCC continues to be in compliance with the Interim Effluent Limits the amended Waste Discharge Requirements.

Bird fatalities have increased slightly during the month of June. The exact cause of death is not known. IMCC has agreed with Department of Fish and Game staff to conduct necropsies of collected birds. IMCC attributes the rise to increased numbers of birds due to seasonal migration. The waterfowl resting pool is in operation. The one-acre pool is filled with water from a nearby brackish water pipeline and duck decoys are used to attract waterfowl. On a recent site visit, Board staff witnessed waterfowl using the new pool.

13. Mammoth Airport California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Issues - Doug Feay

The Town of Mammoth Lakes has decided to revise and re-circulate CEQA documents for the Mammoth Airport. The CEQA documents address proposed changes at the airport, which include runway expansion, increased number of flights and passenger enplanements. Board staff responded to the Notice of Preparation and provided comments. The comments emphasized the need to evaluate cumulative impacts as well as other issues raised in previous written comments to the Town. The "other issues" were, wetland delineation, septic system impacts, potential ground water overdraft, hazardous materials storage and spill prevention, and stormwater runoff management. Board staff has twice met with the Town regarding these issues.

14. Yucca Mountain Public Hearing - Tim Post

On June 5, 2001, the Department of Energy (DOE) held a Public Hearing in Las Vegas, Nevada, on their recently published *Supplement to the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for a Geologic Repository for Disposal of Spent Nuclear Fuel and High-Level Radioactive Waste*. The stated purpose of this document was to provide the public with the latest design information and other operational considerations that have been added since the Draft EIS was released in 1999. The State of California submitted comments on the 1999 EIS in February 2000.

The Supplement follows National Environmental Policy Act format and examines 13 different environmental

indicators for both short-term and long-term performance, and impacts. There are some greater impacts in the short-term. For example, with the "cooler" repository design, the tunnels must be placed farther apart which increases the amount of tunneling required. The Draft EIS found no basis to reject the site due to environmental impacts. The Supplement compares the impacts from the new design and finds no substantial worsening of impacts. There are still some design alternatives that have yet to be decided which DOE refers to as "flexibility in design." The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has not released their final radiological standards and the Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board is pressing DOE to "reduce performance uncertainty." DOE is trying to keep their options open by evaluating both a higher temperature design and a cooler design. For the cooler design, there will be aging of spent fuel onsite to help reduce the temperature of the fuel before emplacement in the repository. To accommodate that, the cooler design alternative has a pool storage facility onsite and procures some storage casks, but not until 2010. Nevada thinks pool storage is unsafe in a seismically active area. The National Regulatory Commission would have to approve the storage facility and the repository. This site is projected to start accepting waste by year 2010.

15. Los Angeles County District No. 40 Aquifer Storage and Recovery Demonstration - Tim Post

Los Angeles County has issued a Notice of Preparation (NOP) for a Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) Demonstration within the Lancaster Subbasin in Antelope Valley. All five sites are east of Highway 14 and northwest of Air

Force Plant 42. The ASR wells will be installed in five different locations and will be used for both injection and extraction of water. The purpose of the project is to use California Aqueduct water to decrease the current severe overdraft condition of the aquifer underlying Lancaster.

The Regional Board permitted the ASR pilot project in 1996 under Board Order No.6-96-007. A summary report submitted to the Regional Board stated that, although the project was feasible, chlorination of the water before injection was introducing trihalomethanes into the ground water. The checklist issued with the NOP recognizes that water quality is an issue associated with the proposed project. The NOP also notes that this issue will be evaluated in the Draft EIR.

16. Drinking Water Sampling at Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E), Hinkley - Joe Koutsky

The Regional Board, in cooperation with the California Department of Health Services - Environmental Health Investigation Branch (CDHS EHIB) is investigating the occurrence of chromium in drinking water wells in Hinkley. CDHS EHIB selected some private drinking water wells, to be sampled at the request of community members concerned with health effects of consuming water from private wells along the perimeter of PG&E's chromium-contaminated ground water plume.

In January 1999, CDHS EHIB held a public meeting attended by Hinkley residents. Many community members did not think that the assessment adequately captured the extent of chromium exposure, and were upset that the available data had been collected by PG&E and contractors. As a result of the

community's concerns and the recommendations in a January 2001 Public Health Assessment (PHA), CDHS EHIB requested the Board staff to sample drinking water wells of area residents.

While the maximum contaminant level (MCL) for total chromium is 50 parts per-billion (ppb), there is no MCL established for hexavalent chromium. CDHS EHIB promulgated a new Public Health Goal (PHG) for total and hexavalent chromium last year at 2.5 and 0.2 ppb, respectively.

Domestic well sampling will begin in the middle of July 2001. Staff will collect a water sample from faucets of selected private residences that elect to participate in this Public Health Assessment. CDHS EHIB has requested Board staff forward the data collected in the survey to them for their evaluation.

17. High Desert Power Plant and Victor Valley Water District's Ground Water Banking Project - Jehiel Cass

The High Desert Power Plant (HDPP) is a nominal 720 megawatt natural gas-fired power plant that is to be constructed at the Southern California Logistics Airport (formerly George AFB) in Victorville. The project includes a 25-acre power plant site, a 32-mile natural gas pipeline from Kramer Junction along Highway 395, a power transmission line, two water pipelines, and seven ground water injection/extraction wells. Site construction has begun and full-scale operation is expected early 2003. The power plant will require approximately 4,000 acre-feet per year of State Water Project (SWP) water supplied from the Mojave Water Agency's Mojave River pipeline. To supply power plant needs when the aqueduct is down for annual maintenance

and during dry water years when SWP water is unavailable, a ground water "bank" will be used. Following treatment at the power plant site, water will be stored in a reservoir and delivered through a 6.5-mile pipeline to seven injection/extraction wells. The water treatment system will be owned and operated by the HDPP and the reservoir, pipeline and wells will be owned and operated by the Victor Valley Water District (VVWD).

The California Energy Commission (CEC) certified the project in May 2000. The CEC Site Certification process satisfies the requirements of the CEQA and, therefore, a complete certification is considered a functionally equivalent CEQA document. The final CEC Certification included a number of environmental conditions that must be satisfied as part of the project.

Since the project was first proposed in 1998, it has undergone several modifications. The original project proposal called for treating SWP water with conventional treatment (floculation, sedimentation, filtration) to remove suspended and settleable particles followed by reverse osmosis on a portion of the treated water to remove total dissolved solids prior to banking to a level which would "comply with local ground water quality concentrations for total dissolved solids (TDS), sulfate, chloride, THM Formation Potential, and turbidity." In May 2001 the HDPP and VVWD proposed a final water treatment plant design that would treat SWP water with conventional treatment followed by ultrafiltration of the entire injected water portion to remove pathogens followed by disinfection using chloramine to meet California Department of Health Services standards for drinking water systems. As a result of this change, total dissolved solids would not be removed resulting in an estimated 83-mg/L increase in

ground water at the point of injection. The applicant has provided a ground water anti-degradation analysis that Board staff is evaluating.

The CEC certification required the applicant to propose a water treatment plant that would result in SWP water being treated to "levels approaching background". Board staff has asked the CEC to evaluate the final water treatment plant design and determine whether an amendment to the CEC Certification is required to comply with CEQA.

18. *Florida Power Light and Energy (FPLE), owners of the Solar Electric Generating Stations VIII and IX – Joe Koutsky*

On January 17, 2001, Governor Gray Davis proclaimed "a State of Emergency to exist within the State due to [an] existing energy shortage in the State of California." In May 2001, the California Energy Commission approached Florida Power Light and Energy (FPLE), owners of the Solar Electric Generating Stations VIII and IX located in Harper Lake, San Bernardino County, to produce extra power beyond its current contractual agreements for the purpose of assisting California with its energy emergency. The facility is operating at full capacity of its solar generation 65 Megawatts (MW). The maximum load capacity of the facility is expected to increase to 80 MW with the additional electrical generation using its "heater operations," i.e., the fossil fuel burners. Typically, the heater unit is not operated concurrent with solar operations. This increase in electrical generation will, in turn, result in an increase in boiler blowdown water, which will exceed the capacity of the facilities surface impoundments. The Regional Board regulates discharges of cooling tower

blowdown water to surface impoundment's with WDRs. The facility currently generates up to 6.85 million gallons per month in the summer months between June and September. The estimated volumetric rate of extra water is 240,000 gallons per day (gpd) to 290,000 gpd.

FPLE asked the Regional Board to grant a temporary conditional waiver of WDRs to land-apply an increased volume of cooling tower blowdown water. The land application of the blowdown water would be for dust control of its 270-acre facility. In August 1993, the Regional Board Executive Officer issued a conditional (and temporary) waiver of WDRs for the use of cooling tower water discharge for dust control.

The conditional waiver will accommodate land application of the extra water for twelve months (June 1, 2002), although, if it is expected to go longer, then the operators will consider another more comprehensive plan than land application.

19. *Mojave Watershed Dairy Issues, Status Report - Mike Plaziak*

Board staff met with representatives from the Milk Producers Council and El Mirage area dairymen on May 22, 2001 to discuss the regulation of dairies in the area. Ground water data collected by Board staff indicate that domestic drinking water wells screened in the upper aquifer adjacent dairy wash water disposal areas contain elevated nitrate levels above normal background but below drinking water standards. As a result, Board staff is requesting a Report of Waste Discharge from three dairy facilities in the area (two operated by the same dairyman). Staff will be recommending that the Regional Board adopt WDRs for these facilities to require the use of Best Management

Practices in disposing of manure and wash water. Ground water monitoring wells will be required similar to the WDRs for the N&M Dairy along the Mojave River adopted in June 2001. Prior to well installation, the El Mirage dairymen will provide Staff the opportunity to review proposed monitoring well locations and construction specifications.