



Lahontan Regional Water Quality  
Control Board



# EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

October 2015

## NORTH

### 1. Leviathan Mine, Alpine County – *Hannah Schembri*

Water Board Staff continues coordinating with United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and Atlantic Richfield (AR) for the completion of current and proposed site work.

#### Settlement Agreement Activities

Staff is in the process of reviewing AR's first cost documentation submittal of Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) costs. The Water Board is responsible for paying 40 of RI/FS costs once the combined total of RI costs paid by AR after January 1, 2013 and FS costs paid by AR after January 1, 2014 exceeds \$11 million.

#### Site Maintenance Activities

The Water Board's contractor continues to conduct routine site maintenance activities at Leviathan Mine involving site infrastructure and installing or maintaining temporary best management practices.

#### Review and Comment Activities

Staff has reviewed or commented on the following documents submitted by USEPA:

- On-Property Focused RI Work Plan Amendment 10, Revision 2 – Stream Sediment and Floodplain Soil Characterization in Beaver Dam/Pond Complex in On-Property Reach of Leviathan Creek and Transmittal of Final Amendment No. 10 – Revision 2
- Draft Final Reference Area FRI Work Plan and Technical Memorandum – Preliminary Investigations in Reference Study Areas
- Revised Data Quality Objectives for the On-Property and Reference Study Areas and Updated Cross-Reference Matrix Table
- Proposed RI/FS Schedule Administrative Order for RI/FS, CERCLA Docket No. 2008-18
- Rationale for Proposed 2015 Modifications to RI/FS Drilling Program
- Draft Technical Review of January 2015, East Fork Carson River Sediment Quality Triad Investigation and Response to Request for Sediment Quality Triad Memorandum

## **2. Lake Clarity Crediting Program Update – Robert Larsen**

In July 2004 the Water Board received a United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) Targeted Watershed Grant to evaluate market-based pollutant trading opportunities in the Lake Tahoe basin. The project paralleled the development of the Lake Tahoe TMDL, and ultimately provided an important method to link on-the-ground actions to quantified pollutant load reductions. The product, known as the Lake Clarity Crediting Program (Crediting Program), couples numeric modeling tools with field inspection methods to consistently account for activities taken to reduce pollutants in urban stormwater.

The 2011 NPDES stormwater permit relies on the Crediting Program to demonstrate compliance with the Lake Tahoe TMDL. The permit, which regulates runoff discharges from the City of South Lake Tahoe, El Dorado County, and Placer County, requires a ten percent fine sediment particle load reduction by the end of the permit term in 2016 and references the Crediting Program as the compliance assessment method.

Load reduction and condition assessment tools were developed independently, and initial users identified a number of possible enhancements to streamline administrative processes and improve the user experience. The identified stormwater tool improvement and integration opportunities were selected for funding through the Southern Nevada Public Lands Management Act in 2011. Contractors were hired in 2013, and following substantial stakeholder

involvement the improvement project was completed in August 2015. This improvement and integration effort was paired with Crediting Program refinement work under the Lake Tahoe TMDL adaptive management effort, and shared with our partners on August 26, 2015.

The meeting highlighted the effective partnership between the Water Board, Nevada Division of Environmental Protection, the consultant team, and the California and Nevada implementing agencies. El Dorado County and Nevada Department of Transportation representatives, acting on behalf of the implementing community, provided meaningful and productive feedback to guide the stormwater tool improvements and make decisions regarding project direction. The strong relationship between the representatives and the regulatory agencies provided for honest and productive dialogue that led to broad Crediting Program support.

In the coming months, local government partners will begin implementing the Crediting Program by registering water quality improvement actions into the online data base and setting expected conditions for roadways and treatment facilities. Water Board and permittee staff have also starting discussing the upcoming permit renewal, currently scheduled for late fall 2016. Staff will meet with elected officials, USEPA, and other stakeholders during permit development and will present an informational item to the Water Board in spring 2016 to review permit update status.

**3. Status of PCE Groundwater Investigation, South Lake Tahoe, El Dorado County – Lisa Dernbach**

The Water Board received \$125,000 Cleanup and Abatement Account fund to conduct a tetrachloroethene or PCE groundwater investigation north of the 'Y' area in South Lake Tahoe. The contract is now in place. Staff is coordinating with the contractor to complete the workplan and implement the investigation, anticipated in late October.

The investigation is expected to collect soil and groundwater samples from approximately 21 locations in the western portion of the city. Results of last year's private domestic well sampling have narrowed the area of likely PCE discharge(s) to a nine block area. Areas surrounding businesses that use or may have used the solvent will be targeted. Most sampling should occur along city street right-of-way. Where sampling on private property is needed to avoid boring along Highway 89 (Emerald Bay Road), letters requesting access will be issued to those property owners.

The Lukins Brother Water Company was able to meet water supply demands for nearly 1,000 customers this summer using a tie-in it has with the South Tahoe Public Utility District. However, costs for this water supply are high and Lukins has made getting its two affected municipal wells operating again, a priority. During this past summer, Lukins was able to obtain a grant from the Division of Drinking Water for pilot testing a wellhead treatment method for the two municipal wells affected by PCE. The results of pilot testing are expected to be released late fall.

**4. Washington Fire Burn Area Emergency Response, Markleeville, Alpine County – Brian Judge**

On June 19, 2015, a lightning strike caused the Washington Fire that spread rapidly for several days and burned roughly 18,000 acres of mixed vegetation types south and east of Markleeville. The Fire was 100 percent contained on July 31, 2015. Subsequent high intensity thunderstorms caused massive amounts of soil to erode, with significant discharge to Monitor Creek and the East Fork Carson River. Large debris flows in steep canyons caused road closures, clogged culverts, and new eroding watercourses all within the East Carson River Watershed and its tributaries.

Caltrans has completed treatment along State Routes 4 and 89 that included removing debris, clearing culverts, and reestablishing road-side swales.



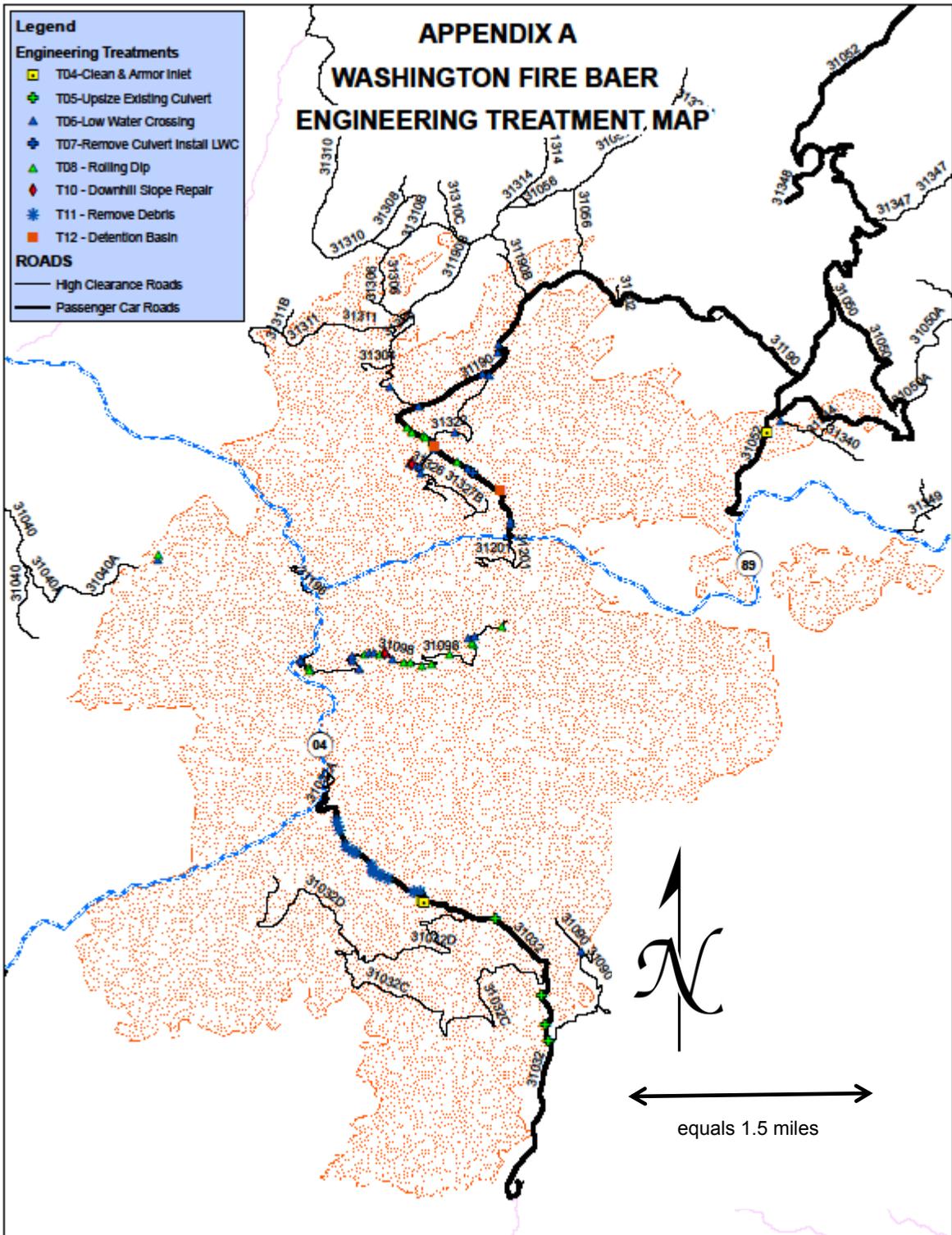
*Culvert under Wolf Creek Road which was buried by the debris flow and subsequently caused flooding and erosion of the road bank and road shoulders*

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*Accumulated debris along Wolf Creek Road piled in preparation for hauling*

The Forest Service has prepared a BAER report that addresses forest visitor safety and water quality protection for the Washington fire area. Water Board staff reviewed the report, and visited the site on August 27, 2015. The fire resulted in a high risk to road infrastructure due to an increased threat of damage from flooding, debris flows, erosion and deposition. The Forest Service will protect water quality through construction of numerous surface stabilization and drainage improvements along existing Forest Service Roads (see map) that will reduce further erosion and water quality impacts associated with stormwater runoff. The treatments include armored low water ford crossings, rolling dips, detention basins, clear and armor culvert inlets, install larger culverts, and remove accumulated debris. The attached map shows areas of specific treatments prescribed for Forest Service roads within the burn area.



equals 1.5 miles

## SOUTH

### **5. Ducommun Aerostructures – Interim Measures Cleanup Plan, El Mirage, San Bernardino County** – *Thomas Browne*

Water Board staff attended a September 17, 2015 public meeting in El Mirage, hosted by the Department of Toxic Substance Control (DTSC). The purpose of the meeting was to announce the public comment period on the CEQA document for an Interim Measures Remediation Workplan (Workplan) to partially address groundwater contamination at Ducommun Aerostructures. The environmental document is available for public comment until October 4.

Ducommun manufactures aircraft parts for military and commercial use by a process of chemical milling. Parts made from aluminum, titanium, or steel alloys are spray-coated with a masking material and then dipped into large tanks of either sodium hydroxide (aluminum alloys) or mixed acids (titanium and steel alloys). The acids used have included hydrofluoric, hydrochloric, and nitric. Chemical milling of aircraft parts has been on-going since 1967 at this location. The Water Board and the DTSC are lead agencies overseeing cleanup.

The Water Board issued post-closure Waste Discharge Requirements in 1996 for the two closed waste impoundments a 1994 Cleanup and Abatement Order was issued to investigate the extent of contamination, perform a corrective

action pilot study, and propose water quality protection standards for all constituents of concern. Later investigations found chlorinated solvents and chromium contamination coming from the processing building southeast of the impoundments. Elevated nitrate in groundwater is also present near the closed surface impoundments. With the DTSC as the lead agency for the federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, most of the regulatory focus has been on containing the groundwater plume on site, removing chlorinated solvents in the vadose zone beneath the building, and investigating the extent of chlorinated solvent contamination off-site to the north. On two sides of the facility's former irrigated alfalfa fields are now dormant. An agricultural supply well located .33 of a mile north of the center of the chlorinated solvent plume was found this July to have trichloroethene at 2.7 ug/L; with a maximum concentration of 4.1 ug/L, seen since 2002.

The Workplan's latest revision dates back to 2007. The Workplan examines the geology of the site, describes the upper two groundwater zones, reports the lateral extent of contamination, compares the advantages and disadvantages of several in situ cleanup technologies, and recommends interim cleanup using hydraulic control and soil vapor extraction. The Workplan directs Ducommun to install one additional groundwater extraction well and continue groundwater extraction with

offsite disposal of extracted water. Nine new monitoring wells will be installed in the upper and lower groundwater zones. Bottled water deliveries will continue to two households to the east. Based on finding total chromium concentrations above the MCL (50 ug/L) in the wells in year 2000. It is not certain that elevated chromium levels are attributable to Ducommun. The El Mirage area is known to have naturally occurring total chromium above the MCL.

Both agencies and Ducommun acknowledge the need for further soil and groundwater investigations to establish the full nature and extent of contaminants at the site and develop and implement a final cleanup plan. As land uses have changed over time, the hydrogeological site conceptual model should be updated. The Workplan does not address remaining nitrate or fluoride contamination, and it does not ask for a feasibility study for in-situ groundwater remediation, which may be more cost-effective than plume containment by pumping. The survey for potential impacts to nearby private wells should be updated. Staff will work with the DTSC, the Phelan-Pinon Hills Community Service District, and Ducommun to ensure the effect of future groundwater pumping on the facility's contaminant plumes are understood.

**6. United States Fish and Wildlife Service Awards \$16 Million in Grants to California, Including \$1.3 Million to Acquire the Palisades Ranch in San Bernardino County –**  
*Jan M. Zimmerman*

The United States Fish and Wildlife Service announced the 2015 fiscal year awards for the Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund (CESCF) on August 13, 2015. These grants are highly competitive and enable states to work with private landowners, conservation groups, and other government agencies to initiate conservation planning efforts and acquire and conserve habitat of threatened and endangered species. This year, \$37.2 million in grants has been awarded to 20 states to support conservation planning and acquisition of vital habitat. Of that, \$16 million was awarded to California for various projects across the state, including \$1.3 million to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to fund the acquisition of the Palisades Ranch south of Helendale.

The Palisades Ranch encompasses approximately 2,000 acres, including nearly 3.5 miles of the Mojave River, and falls within a unique 15.2-mile stretch of the Mojave River where perennial water flows support a lush riparian ecosystem. Protection of these lands along this stretch of river is critical to at least 15 different federal- and state- listed species, including the federally endangered southwestern willow flycatcher and least Bell's vireo. Upland areas adjacent to the riparian habitat are

home to the federally threatened desert tortoise.

These acquisitions will maintain important habitat connectivity and support native species dispersal in the only major riparian habitat corridor in the western Mojave Desert region.

## **7. Los Angeles Department of Water and Power Facilities, Owens Hydrologic Unit –**

*Jan M. Zimmerman*

Water Board staff have been working with staff from the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) towards development of a multi-year maintenance permit for their water conveyance facilities in the Owens Hydrologic Unit. As part of this process, LADWP is preparing an environmental document in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). In addition, LADWP is identifying facility locations, describing and categorizing “routine” maintenance activities, and developing mitigations to avoid and minimize impacts to environmental resources. The Water Board, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and other permitting agencies will use this CEQA document as the basis for taking a discretionary action. In the interim and until a long-term permit for maintenance is in place, staff continues to work with LADWP regarding their maintenance needs on a project-by-project basis.

LADWP manages several different types of waters (streams, canals, ditches, ponds, and reservoirs) in the Owens watershed, some are natural

and others are man-made. These waters may be jurisdictional waters of the United States or waters of the state and are subject to regulation under Porter-Cologne and/or the Clean Water Act. Structures associated with these waters include measuring stations and flumes, intake and diversion structures, sand traps, spreading basins, spill gates, and culverts. LADWP’s typical maintenance activities include excavation, clearing obstructions, reconstruction and replacement, and vegetation management to maintain water conveyance function.

To evaluate potential water quality effects associated with LADWP’s activities, our staff has been observing demonstrations of various techniques for maintenance. On September 8, 2015, LADWP demonstrated vegetation management techniques in the Rawson Ponds and Rawson Canal in Bishop using two different boats, each equipped with a different cutting apparatus. The Harvester boat (scissor-type) cuts vegetation at or just below the water surface and is ideal for open water areas. The cut vegetation is drawn into and accumulates on the boat and is then transported to the shore for dewatering via a conveyor belt. The Swamp Devil boat (rotating-type) is smaller than the Harvester and best utilized in canals and shallower water. The Swamp Devil removes the majority of the vegetation by cutting and/or pulling the plants by the root-ball. The cut/pulled vegetation is then allowed to accumulate downstream and is removed from the water manually using an excavator or backhoe

equipped with a bucket strainer. Based on staff's observations, the benefits of the boats outweigh the short-term impacts, which appear to be a localized and temporary increase in turbidity. Staff intends to observe demonstrations of other techniques as the CEQA review progresses and as LADWP's maintenance needs allow.

**8. Mojave River Watershed Group**  
– *Jehiel Cass*

Staff meet periodically with the Mojave River Watershed Group, comprised of four Victor Valley entities (City of Hesperia, City of Victorville, Town of Apple Valley, and County of San Bernardino) covered under the statewide general Small MS4 (Separate Storm Sewer System) permit.

The Small MS4 permit requires receiving water monitoring to evaluate the effects of municipal stormwater runoff. An upstream sampling location was selected at the Mojave Forks Dam, southeast of Hesperia. Permission is sought from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for access to the sampling location. A downstream sampling location was selected at the Mojave Lower Narrows, northwest of Victorville. The group plans an October 2015 meeting with local architects, developers, engineers, and City staff to discuss high desert appropriate Low Impact Development practices and post-construction best management practices.

The group contracts with a consulting firm that conducts a public outreach program to local school assemblies, participates in local events, and maintains an active social media network.

Staff provided the group and the City of Barstow with the Proposition 1 grant funding guidelines and recommended they develop a Stormwater Resources Plan in order to request funding to address stormwater project needs.

Staff recommended to the California Stormwater Quality Association that the Cities of Barstow and Hesperia partner with the association which provides support in developing local ordinances to implement the Small MS4 permit under a Proposition 84 grant.

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**Summary of  
No Further Action Required Letters Issued  
August 16 - September 15, 2015  
October 2015 EO Report  
State of California  
Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board**

The Executive Officer finds the release of petroleum products at the following sites poses a low threat to human health, safety, and the environment. Therefore, these cases were closed in accordance with the Water Quality Control Policy for Low-Threat Underground Storage Tank Case Closure (Resolution 2012-016). The Policy recognizes contaminant mass often remains after the investment of reasonable remedial effort and this mass may be difficult to remove regardless of the level of additional effort and resources invested. The establishment of the Policy is an effort to maximize the benefits to the people of the State of California through the judicious application of available resources.

Date Closure Issued	Site Name	Site Address	Case Number	Additional Information
August 21, 2015	B-52 Market	3000 North Sierra Highway Rosamond, Kern County	6B1500996T	<a href="http://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/profile_report.asp?global_id=T0602999270">http://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/profile_report.asp?global_id=T0602999270</a>
September 1, 2015	Chevron Service Station No. 9-0071	310 River Road Tahoe City, Placer County	6T0021A	<a href="http://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/profile_report.asp?global_id=T0606100320">http://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/profile_report.asp?global_id=T0606100320</a>
August 31, 2015	Former Meadowbrook Dairy, Parcel 3	3890 El Mirage Road El Mirage, San Bernardino County	6B3620004T	<a href="http://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/profile_report.asp?global_id=T10000006094">http://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/profile_report.asp?global_id=T10000006094</a>
September 3, 2015	Former Western Petroleum Bulk Plant	474-540 Commercial Road Susanville, Lassen County	T6S008	<a href="http://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/profile_report.asp?global_id=SL0603561155">http://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/profile_report.asp?global_id=SL0603561155</a>
September 3, 2015	Former Shell Station	2425 Main Street Susanville, Lassen County	6T0260A	<a href="http://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/profile_report.asp?global_id=T0603500023">http://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/profile_report.asp?global_id=T0603500023</a>
September 4, 2015	Private Residence	1502 North Street Susanville, Lassen County	T6S077	<a href="http://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/profile_report.asp?global_id=T10000006391">http://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/profile_report.asp?global_id=T10000006391</a>
September 15, 2015	Former Black Gold Service Station	8157 Pearblossom Hwy East Littlerock, Los Angeles County	6B1900089T	<a href="http://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/profile_report.asp?global_id=T0603700235">http://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/profile_report.asp?global_id=T0603700235</a>
September 15, 2015	CRM 76 Station	10041 Doner Pass Road Truckee, Nevada County	6T0406A	<a href="http://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/profile_report.asp?global_id=T10000007046">http://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/profile_report.asp?global_id=T10000007046</a>

**Additional links:**

General Policy information: [http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/ust/lt\\_cls\\_plcy.shtml#policy081712](http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/ust/lt_cls_plcy.shtml#policy081712)

Copy of Policy: [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board\\_decisions/adopted\\_orders/resolutions/2012/rs2012\\_0016atta.pdf](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_decisions/adopted_orders/resolutions/2012/rs2012_0016atta.pdf)

Implementation Plan: [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board\\_decisions/adopted\\_orders/resolutions/2012/110612\\_6\\_final\\_ltcp%20imp%20plan.pdf](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_decisions/adopted_orders/resolutions/2012/110612_6_final_ltcp%20imp%20plan.pdf)

**EO's Monthly Report**  
**August 16, 2015 - September 15, 2015**  
**Unauthorized Waste Discharges\***

**COUNTY: LASSEN**

Discharger/Facility	Location	Basin	Regulated Facility?	Discharge Date	Discharge Volume	Description of Failure	Additional Details	Status
Lassen County Road Dept.	Cottage Street and Hwy 36, Susanville	North	No	8/27/2015	250 gallons	Paint tote slid off truck resulting in 250-gallon discharge of water-based traffic paint to paved surface.	Paint tote tie down straps became loosened during transit allowing the tote to slide off the truck. No surface water affected.	The spill was contained, adsorbent applied, and spill was cleaned up.

**COUNTY: NEVADA**

Discharger/Facility	Location	Basin	Regulated Facility?	Discharge Date	Discharge Volume	Description of Failure	Additional Details	Status
Big Rig/I-80	Westbound I-80 at Overland Trail	North	No	9/8/2015	100 gallons	Big rig hit debris in the road on I-80 resulting in 100-gallon discharge of diesel fuel to paved surface.	No surface water affected.	Caltrans spill-response contractor applied adsorbent and clean up spill.

**COUNTY: PLACER**

Discharger/Facility	Location	Basin	Regulated Facility?	Discharge Date	Discharge Volume	Description of Failure	Additional Details	Status
Northstar Golf Course	Hole 12	North	No	9/1/2015	1 cup	Golf cart tipped over discharging less than 1 cup of battery acid to West Martis Creek.	Golfer attempted to cross West Martis Creek in golf cart. Golf cart tipped over releasing battery acid into West Martis Creek. Surface water affected.	Adsorbent booms deployed within the creek during the spill clean up.

\*All discharges to surface waters are included in the report.  
 Discharges to land of less than 100 gallons are not included in the report.

**EO's Monthly Report**  
**August 16, 2015 - September 15, 2015**  
**Unauthorized Waste Discharges\***

**COUNTY: SAN BERNARDINO**

Discharger/Facility	Location	Basin	Regulated Facility?	Discharge Date	Discharge Volume	Description of Failure	Additional Details	Status
Victor Valley Wastewater Reclamation Authority/Victor Valley Wastewater CS	VVWRA Upper Narrows Temporary Pump Station Site#2	South	Yes	8/19/2015	1001 gallons	Sewer main blockage resulted in 1001-gallon raw sewage discharge to drainage channel.	Debris-Rags caused pumps to loose prime and 1001 gallons of sewage to spill from pump station wet well at Upper Narrows Effluent Site #2. Surface water body affected (Desert Knolls Wash).	Spill contained and wash cleaned up.
Lake Arrowhead Community Service/ Lake Arrowhead CSD/CS	27820 Greenway Dr., Lake Arrowhead	South	Yes	8/16/2015	100 gallons	Lateral line blockage resulted in 100-gallon raw sewage discharge to unpaved surface.	Root Intrusion in lateral line caused 100 gallons of sewage to spill from Lateral Clean Out (Public) at 27820 Greenway. No surface water body affected.	Spill cleaned up, area disinfected.
Lake Arrowhead Community Service/ Lake Arrowhead CSD/CS LUZ Solar Partners VIII and IX/SEGS 8&9 Three Surface Impoundments & Land Treatment Unit	1026 Brentwood Dr., Lake Arrowhead	South	Yes	8/28/2015	500 gallons	Sewer main blockage resulted in 500-gallon raw sewage discharge to unpaved surface.	Root intrusion in sewer main caused 500 gallons of sewage to spill from Manhole at 1026 Brentwood Dr to unpaved surface. No surface water body affected.	Spill cleaned up, area disinfected.
	4388 Harper Lake Rd, Hinkley	South	Yes	9/10/2015	100 gallons	Equipment failure resulted in the release of 100 gallons of heat transfer fluid to soil.	Failure of the double flex hose assembly resulted in the release of 100 gallons of heat transfer fluid to soil. No surface water affected.	Spill was contained, 20 yards of contaminated soil removed. Confirmation sampling results will be submitted.

\*All discharges to surface waters are included in the report.  
Discharges to land of less than 100 gallons are not included in the report.