



**EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT**  
Covers February 1, 2023 – February 28, 2023

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

**New Hires**

- Jeremy Feinberg, Engineering Geologist, Forestry/Dredge & Fill Unit, South Lake Tahoe. This position will provide geologic and hydrogeologic expertise for the Forestry Dredge and Fill Unit. The incumbent will evaluate and regulate the impacts of logging operations and other forest practices on the quality and beneficial uses of water. Start date February 21, 2023.
- Sheryl Bilbery, Environmental Scientist, Planning & Assessment Unit, South Lake Tahoe. This position will work on Basin Plan amendments, help assess waters as part of the Integrated Report, and work to develop TMDLs or alternative restoration plans. Start date March 2, 2023.
- Tiara Crucius, Engineering Geologist, Land Disposal Unit, Victorville. This position will oversee waste discharges to land and site investigation/cleanup at various types of regulated and unregulated facilities including landfills, mines, composting facilities, cement plants, and site clean-up sites. Start date March 2, 2023.

**Vacancies**

- Water Resource Control Engineer, Wastewater & Agricultural Unit, Victorville. This position provides regulatory oversight of projects involving discharges to groundwater or surface waters and projects intended to restore and/or enhance water quality in the Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs), National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES), and Site Cleanup Programs.

- Environmental Scientist, Land Disposal Unit, Victorville. This position will provide regulatory oversight of dredge and fill permitting and compliance of Caltrans projects regionwide.
- Staff Services Analyst (General), Victorville. This position will provide support to technical and administrative staff, ensure documents comply with accessibility standards, assist with process improvements, prepare agenda items and staff documents for distribution, and provide administrative support at regional board meetings held throughout the region.
- Staff Services Analyst (General), South Lake Tahoe. This position will provide support to technical and administrative staff, ensure documents comply with accessibility standards, assist with process improvements, prepare agenda items and staff documents for distribution, and provide administrative support at regional board meetings held throughout the region.
- Water Resource Control Engineer, Cannabis Unit, Victorville. This position provides regulatory oversight of cannabis cultivation projects under the statewide Cannabis General order.
- Scientific Aids (two positions), Regulatory & Enforcement Unit, South Lake Tahoe. This position supports staff primarily through review of submitted self-monitoring reports, along with other special projects.
- Engineering Geologist, Department of Defense Site Cleanup Unit, Victorville. This position will oversee site investigations and cleanups at Department of Defense sites in the South Lahontan area and respond to spills and complaints, as necessary.
- Water Resource Control Engineer, Cleanup/Site Investigation & Enforcement Unit, South Lake Tahoe. This position will oversee/direct site investigation and cleanup activities at various sites, such as underground storage tank sites, dry cleaner sites, mines, landfills, and Department of Defense sites.
- Water Resource Control Engineer, Regulatory and Enforcement Unit, South Lake Tahoe. This position will be the lead contact for several facilities under state Waste Discharge Requirements for discharges to land and surface water. This includes wastewater treatment facilities, stormwater, industrial, and construction sites.

## **2. California Abandoned Mine Lands Regulators – *Christina Guerra***

In November 2021, the National Hardrock Abandoned Mine Lands Program (NHAML) was created with the passage of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. In response to the NHAML, the California Department of Conservation, Division of Mine Reclamation (DMR) began coordinating with the State Water Resources Control Board, the Regional Water Quality Control Boards, and the Department of Toxic Substances Control to initiate the California Abandoned Mine Lands Regulators (Group) in 2022. The purpose and goals of the Group are to

establish coordination and collaboration for information sharing, inform and influence legislation and NHAML, develop a prioritization approach that meets the agencies' short- and long-term goals for abandoned mine lands (AML), assists with municipalities and non-responsible party landowners in addressing AML, and assists agencies that don't have an AML program.

To guide NHAML development, the Interstate Mining Compact Commission (IMCC) reached out and began coordinating with states and tribes, through the National Association of Abandoned Mine Lands Programs (NAAML) organization, to which DMR is the coordinating contact agency for California. Two initial opportunities were identified for the Group to efficiently influence the development of NHAML and advocate for funding through IMCC. The Department of Interior requested general input from California AML regulators to inform a federal Interagency Working Group that is considering changes to the mining regulations, laws, and permitting process, and the United States Geological Survey (USGS) requested input on the development of a national hard rock database. The Group provided input to the USGS and IMCC in August and September 2022, respectively. The Group currently is working to update lists of California AML that would represent the agencies' assessment of priority sites for environmental, human health, and safety hazards, and will be provided to the California State Legislature. Also, federal funding is expected to remain the same for the current federal fiscal year, with most funding going toward developing the federal program for AML. Some funding will be available to states and tribes in 2023 through grant application. To that end, the Group is also working to identify projects in the state that may be ready for physical hazard remediation in order to seek grant funding.

Lahontan Water Board staff Jan Zimmerman, Senior Engineering Geologist, and Christina Guerra, Engineering Geologist, participate with the Group along with staff from the State Water Board and the Central Valley Regional Board. Based on AML databases developed by other agencies, Water Board staff are aware that many AML sites are located within the Lahontan Region. However, the Region lacks the resources to locate and investigate the potential environmental hazards these sites may pose to human health and water resources. With continued participation in the Group, we anticipate acquiring a better understanding of AML sites within the Region and of potential funding sources that may be available in the future.