

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

November 1, 2024 – November 30, 2024

Contents

1.	Personnel Report – Sandra Lopez	. 1
2.	Approach to Phase-In Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances Monitoring for Landfills – Ashley Taylor	. 2
3.	2024 Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program Update – Laurie Scribe, Kelly Huck, Alanna Misico	. 3
4.	3rd Quarter of 2024 Violations and Other Enforcement Actions – Shelby Barker	. 5

1. Personnel Report – Sandra Lopez

Vacancies

- Environmental Scientist, Forestry-Dredge & Fill Unit. The position will apply scientific methods and principles necessary for the protection of water quality within the Lahontan Region. Responsibilities will include such activities as field work, drafting permits, providing technical expertise, evaluating and assisting in the drafting of environmental documents, making policy recommendations, and performing sensitive assignments throughout the Lahontan Region.
- Water Resource Control Engineer, Forestry-Dredge & Fill Unit. This position will coordinate with the federal land management agencies and the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection in reviewing timber harvest plans (THPs), Working Forest Management Plans (WFMPs), Non-industrial Timber Management Plans (NTMPs), utility corridor vegetation management plans, and timber harvest exemptions to evaluate the impact of logging operations and other forest practices on the quality and beneficial uses of water. Review projects that may affect waters of the US and state to ensure compliance with the requirements of the Water Quality Control Plan for the Lahontan Region (Basin Plan). Prepare Clean Water Action Section 401 water quality certifications and/or waste discharge requirements (WDRs) for project compliance with all regulatory

requirements. Due to budgetary constraints, this vacancy will not be posted at this time.

- Environmental Scientist, Cannabis Unit. This position provides regulatory oversight of cannabis cultivation projects under the statewide Cannabis General order. Due to budgetary constraints, this vacancy will not be posted at this time.
- Scientific Aid, Regulatory and Enforcement Unit. This position will be reviewing Self-Monitoring Reports submitted from facilities under permit. The reports will be associated with discharges to land, and surface water. The facilities vary from construction sites to wastewater treatment plants. Due to budgetary constraints, Water Boards hiring is on pause.
- Scientific Aid, Non-Point Source and Forestry/Dredge & Fill Units, South Lake Tahoe. This position will evaluate water quality data, assist with harmful algal bloom response, and assess compliance with water quality orders and permits associated with grazing, restoration, timber, and forestry activities. Due to budgetary constraints, this vacancy will not be posted at this time.

Departures

- Andrew Jensen, Environmental Program Manager I (Supervisory) South Lake Tahoe. Retired after almost 25 years of service.
- Melissa Thaw, Environmental Scientist, South Lake Tahoe

2. Approach to Phase-In Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances Monitoring for Landfills – Ashley Taylor

In March 2019, the State Water Resources Control Board (State Board) issued a statewide order for determination of the presence of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) at select landfills (Investigative Order WQ 2019-0006-DWQ). Twenty-six landfills were issued in the investigative order in the Lahontan Region. The Order required landfills to sample groundwater, leachate, and/or gas condensate and report laboratory analytical results to GeoTracker. The Order required sampling and reporting, however, many of the regions have lacked the resources needed to evaluate data and identify the next steps. Staff Report, "Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) the State of What We Know and What We Don't Know" (May 2022) is available for additional information on PFAS in the Lahontan Region.

At the November 2024 Land Disposal Program Roundtable, State Board, Division of Water Quality, Materials Management Unit, introduced draft prioritization criteria for landfills, an approach to phase in routine compliance monitoring and reporting for PFAS. The draft criteria has been distributed to the regional board for review and comment. Several factors were considered in the development of the PFAS draft prioritization criteria, including concentrations, specific PFAS compounds, potential

downgradient receptors, and environmental/community screenings. Generally, landfills will be prioritized based on PFAS concentration detections. Those landfills with concentrations greater than laboratory reporting limits, and above federal maximum contaminant levels (MCL) in groundwater, will have the highest priority. If PFAS concentrations are lower than federal MCLs, they would be ranked low priority. If there are no downgradient public or private drinking water wells within one mile of the landfill, the priority would be ranked medium. Also factored in are environmental and community considerations, such as disadvantaged communities, water quality risk zones, California Communities Environmental Health Screening Tool (CalEnviroScreen), and PFAS detections in downgradient drinking water wells. Also proposed are potential sampling frequencies, PFAS compound monitoring parameters, and preferred laboratory EPA Methods to include in monitoring and reporting program amendments.

For Region 6, utilizing the draft prioritization criteria results in the identification of one high priority, eight medium priority, and 13 low priority landfills. Pending further discussion with State Board and the regions, we expect the PFAS draft prioritization criteria to be finalized early 2025 with implementation to begin next fiscal year.

3. 2024 Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program Update – Laurie Scribe, Kelly Huck, Alanna Misico

This article provides an update on activities conducted by the regional Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program (SWAMP) during 2024. The SWAMP program implemented multiple types of monitoring, including long-term status and trends water quality monitoring, additional upper Owens River watershed mercury monitoring, bioassessment monitoring, fish tissue collection, and aquatic invasive species monitoring. This monitoring was accomplished through a combination of Lahontan Water Board staff field work and funding to contractors.

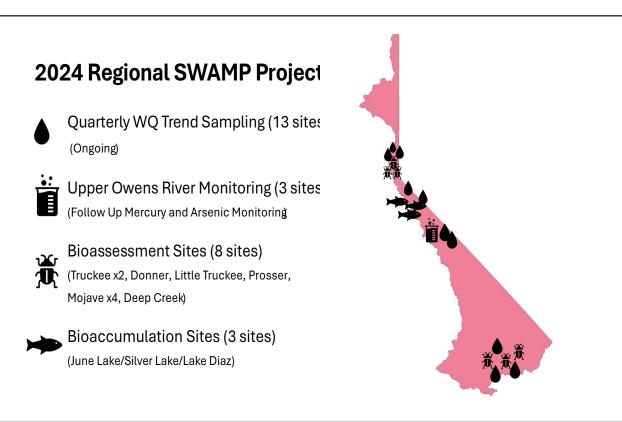
This calendar year the program conducted over 70 sample events. Water quality monitoring included 22 different analytes to assess the status and trends of water quality in the region's largest rivers. In addition to water chemistry samples analyzed by contracted laboratories, Lahontan Water Board staff collect field measurements and samples for in-house analysis of E. coli bacteria. This year Lahontan Water Board staff successfully transitioned in-house bacteria analysis from a membrane filtration process to the IDEXX method. This change results in improved lab safety, reductions in procurement challenges, and reduced staff time. SWAMP staff also assisted with harmful algal bloom (HAB) monitoring during the pre-holiday assessment at Lake Crowley and ongoing HAB monitoring in the Truckee watershed.

Lahontan Water Board staff conducted one follow-up sample event at three locations in the Upper Owens River watershed to determine Mercury (total and Methyl), Arsenic, and Lead concentrations during the 2024 peak spring runoff flow period. This data will be used by the Lahontan Water Board's Total Maximum Daily Load and Site Cleanup Programs in their work to address contamination in the watershed. For more details about the Upper Owens River mercury investigation please see the May 2022 Executive Officer Report.

In addition to staff-lead water quality monitoring, eight bioassessment sites were monitored via a contract with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW). These sites were chosen because CDFW had previously reported poor biological condition scores at the locations. A 2021 review of regional bioassessment data by CDFW staff recommended that sites with poor biological condition scores be prioritized for follow-up sampling to confirm that biological degradation has in fact occurred over time. Bioassessment monitoring includes the collection of water chemistry samples, field water quality measurements, physical habitat assessments, benthic macroinvertebrate collection and identification, and algae collection.

The regional SWAMP program funded the collection and analysis of fish tissue for bioaccumulation monitoring at Diaz Lake, Silver Lake, and June Lake through contracts managed by the State Water Board. These locations were chosen in coordination with staff at the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA), who will use the tissue data to develop fish consumption advisories for the lakes.

SWAMP staff also assisted the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) in collecting environmental DNA (eDNA) samples at six sites in the Lake Tahoe watershed. This effort is related to a larger study that includes approximately 30 sample locations, designed to characterize the presence/absence of aquatic invasive species in the tributaries of Lake Tahoe, including the newly discovered New Zealand Mudsnail. eDNA analysis can monitor the presence of a broad range of organisms by identifying the DNA that organisms shed into their environment.



Water quality information collected by SWAMP is uploaded to the California Environmental Data Exchange Network and used for assessment of waterbodies as required by the Clean Water Act. SWAMP staff worked on the Integrated Report team to develop and analyze approximately 3,000 lines of evidence and determine if waterbodies should be placed on the list of impaired waters.

4. 3rd Quarter of 2024 Violations and Other Enforcement Actions – Shelby Barker

There were 31 violations documented for the third quarter of 2024. Violations consisted of 1 unauthorized discharge of soil, 2 insufficient/deficient best management practices (BMPs), 3 late reports, 4 violations of waste discharge requirements, 5 sanitary sewer overflow discharges, 6 deficient monitoring, and 10 exceedances of effluent limit concentration. The unauthorized discharge of soil is for unpermitted land application of soil in dirt roads that cross washes (requiring a 401 permit). Two of the sanitary sewer overflow discharge violations are associated with CalTrans construction activities, causing a 125,000 gallon release of raw sewage discharged from a sewer force main owned by North Tahoe Public Utility District (NTPUD). Of those 125,000 gallons released, 85,000 gallons flowed overland to Lake Tahoe. NTPUD responded to stop the release and began cleanup activities in a coordinated effort with other local entities.

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

In addition to quarterly violations, one proposed and one finalized formal enforcement action were posted to the <u>Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board's</u>

<u>Enforcement</u> website for public notice during the third quarter 2024 reporting period:

- 1) A notice of Public Hearing was posted regarding proposed Administrative Civil Liability (ACL) Complaint No. R6T-2023-0027 (Complaint) issued to David Park and Park Livestock Co. The Complaint proposed that the Water Board impose a civil liability of \$3,053,026.42 for alleged violations of California Water Code and Federal Clean Water Act regarding sediment discharge to the West Walker River. The hearing was held August 19, 2024 to receive evidence and testimony regarding the alleged violations. A final decision on the matter was postponed until a later Board Meeting.
- 2) In September 2024, a settlement agreement for ACL No. R6T-2024-0004 associated with the Sugar Pine Village Project was signed by the Executive Officer on behalf of the Lahontan Water Board. The ACL is for violations of the construction general permit from the third and fourth quarter of 2023. The proposed ACL imposes a liability of \$79,690 to settle the alleged violations. Of the total liability, \$4,690 will be paid to the State Water Pollution Cleanup and Abatement Account and the remaining \$75,000 will be permanently suspended upon completion of the Tahoe Valley Stormwater and Greenbelt improvement Project Phase 2 Barton Avenue/4th Street Water Quality Basin Excavation

Supplemental Environmental Project (SEP). The SEP is located within and will benefit a disadvantaged community. For more information on the Tahoe Valley Stormwater and Greenbelt Improvement Project in its entirety, please visit the City of South Lake Tahoe's website here.

Program Category	Priority Violation	County	Responsible Party	Facility	WDID	Violation Description	Corrective Action	Initial Enforcement Action
401/Dredge and Fill	В	Placer	Ca Dept of Parks & Rec Tahoma	Coldstream Canyon Restoration	6A312301004	Violation of Board Order No. R6T-2023-0010, Additional Conditions #3 and 5.	Discharger needs to return to compliance with the permit as detailed in the staff enforcement letter.	Staff Enforcement Letter
		San Bernardino	Soil Safe of California, Inc.	Mojave Drive, west of Fremontia Road	Not Applicable	state. Should any additional work to be performed, the landowners will be required to inquire on 401	Meeting with the County and Soil Safe, it was explained any additional work to occur on these roadways will require a 401 certification and potential Construction Storm Water Permit from the Water Boards.	Oral Communication
Construction Stormwater	В	El Dorado	California State Parks	DL Bliss State Park	6A09LT000129	Deficient Best Management Practices (BMPs) implementation (perimeters sediment control and track out BMPs).	Implement adequate BMPs	Staff Enforcement Letter
Land Disposal	В	Lassen	Lassen Cnty	Herlong Solid WDS	6A180010000	Failed to submit the 2024 First Semi-Annual groundwater monitoring report. Violation of Board Order 6-86-032, Waste Discharge Requirements (WDR) section II.2. Report was submitted 50 days late.	Lahontan Water Board staff are working with the County to bring the site into compliance with the permit.	Pending
	A			Madeline SWDS	6A180016000	Failed to conduct groundwater monitoring and visible inspections of the landfill during the first semi-annual 2024 monitoring period. Violation of Board Order 6-89. 81 WDR section II.2, and Board Order 6-93-100-03, Monitoring and Reporting Program (MRP) section 13. No groundwater wells have been installed at the Site.	not been implemented. Discharger	Pending
				Ravendale SWDS	6A180018000	Failed to conduct groundwater monitoring and visible inspections of the landfill. Violation of Board Order 6-89-82 WDR section II.2, and Board Order 6-93-100-04, MRP section 13. No groundwater wells have been installed at the Site.	The workplan to install a groundwater monitoring network was approved on January 5, 2021. No work has been implemented at the Site. Water Board staff are working on coordinating the next steps to return the site to compliance.	Pending
	В	San Bernardino	Soil Safe of California, Inc.	Soil Safe-Adelanto Soil Recycling Center	6B369107002	Violation of Board Order 6-91-95 Section, I.D.1	Soils to be moved by 9/13/24. Photographic documentation was provided on 9/13/2024. No further action required.	Oral Communication
NPDES Municipal Wastewater	В	Lassen	Baseload Power Wendel, LLC	Wendel Geothermal Power Plant	6A180045901	Submitted semi-annual SMR 15 days late. Violates Board Order No. R6T-2022-0057, MRP 10.2.3.	Discharger to submit reports as required by the permit.	Staff Enforcement Letter

Program Category	Priority Violation	County	Responsible Party	Facility	WDID	Violation Description	Corrective Action	Initial Enforcement Action
			Susanville Consol SD	Susanville Sanitary District WWTP	6A181554001	Fecal Coliform Not to exceed a specific limit more than once within any 30-day period. limit is 40.0 CFU/100 mL and reported value was 86.0 CFU/100 mL at EFF-002.	Discharger suspects issues with the outside lab and that the detections are in error. ELAP Lab assessment for an in-house lab was scheduled for mid-October. Discharger anticipates starting up the in-house lab soon.	Oral Communication
NPDES Municipal Wastewater (continued)	В	Lassen	Susanville Consol SD	Susanville Sanitary District WWTP	6A181554001	Total Coliform 7-Day Median limit is 23.0 CFU/100 mL and reported value was 340.0 CFU/100 mL at EFF-002. Total Coliform 7-Day Median limit is 23.0 CFU/100 mL and reported value was 28.0 CFU/100 mL at EFF-002. Total Coliform 7-Day Median limit is 23.0 CFU/100	Discharger suspects issues with the outside lab and that the detections are in error. ELAP Lab assessment for an in-house lab was scheduled fo mid-October. Discharger anticipates starting up the in-house lab soon.	Oral Communication
						mL and reported value was 36.0 CFU/100 mL at EFF- 002. Total Coliform 7-Day Median limit is 23.0 CFU/100 mL and reported value was 24.0 CFU/100 mL at EFF- 002.	_	
						Total Coliform 7-Day Median limit is 23.0 CFU/100 mL and reported value was 110.0 CFU/100 mL at EFF-002.		
						Total Coliform 7-Day Median limit is 23.0 CFU/100 mL and reported value was 76.0 CFU/100 mL at EFF-002.		
						Total Coliform 7-Day Median limit is 23.0 CFU/100 mL and reported value was 40.0 CFU/100 mL at EFF-002.		
NPDES Non- Municipal Wastewater	В	Kern	National Cement Company(+)	Plant GW Treatment System - National Cement	6B150009004	Arsenic, Total Recoverable Monthly Maximum limit is 10.0 ug/L and reported value was 12.0 ug/L. Arsenic, Total Recoverable Monthly Maximum limit is	Discharger needs to identify corrective measures to address effluent exceedances to return to	Pending
						10.0 ug/L and reported value was 13 ug/L.	compliance with the permit.	
Sanitary Sewer Overflow (SSO)	A	El Dorado	South Tahoe PUD	So. Tahoe Public Utility Dist. CS	6SSO11113	Pump Station Failure - Mechanical caused 50 gallons of sewage to spill from Manhole at 544 Fallen Leaf Lake RD to surface.	Discharger replaced the broken valve to return the system to comliance.	No Enforcement
		Mono	June Lake PUD	June Lake PUD CS	6SSO11151	Damage by Others Not Related to Collection System Construction/Maintenance, Debris from Construction caused 5,130 gallons of sewage to spill from Manhole, Gravity Mainline at 19 Willow to Surface Water	Repaired Facilities or Replaced Defect. Unforeseeable event caused by a homeowner's contractor/construction activities. Broken pipe was repaired and inspected. Vactoring spill to cleanup.	To Be Determined
		Placer	North Tahoe PUD	North Tahoe Public Utility Dst CS	6SSO11110	CalTrans was doing construction in the roadway. Subsurface activities caused 125,000 gallons of sewage to spill from Force Main into surface/paved and unpaved areas, detention basin, and into Lake Tahoe.	Discharger was notified and responded immediately to stop the spill and clean up the spill, as applicable.	Notice of Violation

Program Category	Priority Violation	County	Responsible Party	Facility	WDID	Violation Description	Corrective Action	Initial Enforcement Action
			B&M Builders, Inc.(+)	Carnelian Bay Sewage Spill July 2024	6A312410006	During construction activities, contractor hit an NTPUD Force Main resulting in 125,000 gallons of raw sewage discharged. Of those 125,000 gallons, an unauthorized discharge of 85,000 gallons of untreated wastewater entered Waters of the United States.		Notice of Violation
	В	San Bernardino	Barstow City	Barstow CS	6SSO11126	Root Intrusion caused 457 gallons of sewage to spill from Gravity Mainline, Manhole at Dill Apartment Spill to Drainage Conveyance System. No discharge to surface water.	Discharger address spill area with disinfectant and video of the sewer line for repairs. Spill response completed 8/28/2024.	No Enforcement
WDR - Confined Animals	A	San Bernardino	Desert Oasis Dairy	Desert Oasis Dairy	6B368010002	Wastewater surrounding sump pump #2. Staff observed water pondage around the sump pump-tank equipment that receives wash water from the wash pen prior to entering the milking parlor. This saturated grass-weed area poses a threat to groundwater quality as it percolates to the ground since the liquid waste contains urine, and organic solids. The area requires maintenance to assess the integrity of the tank. During the inspection, staff observed a possible broken tank or broken piping, within overgrown and saturated grass, in standing water. Board Order No. 696-9, section No. I.C.1., states that "Surface flow or visible discharge of manure at, or from, the authorized disposal site to adjacent land areas or surface waters is prohibited."	appurtenances compatible to the equipment.	Oral Communication
						Water Board staff observed standing water in a corral flowing from a drinking water trough. The observed water stream did not flow towards the concrete channel that allows storm water and liquid manure to flow to the storm water impoundment; rather, the stream flowed away from the channel and towards the inside of the corral. This standing water threatens the potential to percolate to groundwater. Board Order No. 6-96-9, section No. I.C.6., states that, "Manured areas shall be managed to minimize infiltration of water into underlying soils."	Discharger that standing water in the corrals are prohibited and that liquid waste from the corrals must flow to the concrete channel that leads to the	
WDR - Municipal Wastewater	В	Lassen	US Army Sierra Army Depot	Sierra Army Depot Sewage Treatment Plant	6A180020000	Quarter 1 (Q1) 2024 & Quarter 2 (Q2) 2024 submitted late on August 22, 2024. Q1 report submitted 129 days late and Q2 report submitted 38 days late.	Discharger was notified and is aware of the late reports and expectation to return to compliance.	Staff Enforcement Letter

Program Category	Priority Violation	County	Responsible Party	Facility	WDID	Violation Description	Corrective Action	Initial Enforcement Action
			Spalding Community Service District	Spalding Tract Sewer System	6A180506011	Incorrect number for IV.B.6. The total number of service connections and the number of new service connections during the monitoring period. Missing pH measurements for Ponds #2 and #3. for IV.C. Evaporation Pond Water Quality Monitoring. Groundwater gradient and flow direction are not labeled on the provided map. required by IV.D.3. Each quarter, the Discharger shall determine and report the groundwater gradient and flow direction based on the groundwater elevations within the monitoring wells just prior to purging at the time of sampling.	Discharger was notified and is aware of the deficient monitoring and necessary steps to return to compliance.	Staff Enforcement Letter
		Mono	US Marine Corps Coleville	USMC-MWTC WWTC	6A260154101	Missing requirement I.A.4. the maximum instantaneous flow rate, in millions gallons per day (MGD), of wastewater to the treatment facility that occurs each day and Requirement I.C. the two pH values for Plant Effluent Monitoring	Discharger was notified and is aware of the deficient monitoring and necessary steps to return to compliance.	Staff Enforcement Letter
WDR - Non-Municipal	В	Placer	Squaw Valley Resort LLC	Squaw Valley Ski Area	6A310118070	Missing lab results from water samples collected, only sample receipts provided. Requirement Section 3: Surface Water Monitoring Requirements. "During the spring snowmelt period (approximately April through the end of June), the Discharger shall collect grab samples from all monitoring stations on a weekly basis whenever the observed flow in the South Fork Squaw Creek immediately above its confluence with the North Fork Squaw Creek is above 20 cfs."	Discharger was notified via a SEL e- mail and is aware of the deficient monitoring and necessary steps to return to compliance.	Staff Enforcement Letter
			Alpine Meadows Ski Resort, LLC	Alpine Meadows & Deer Park	6A310003000	The deficient sediment control (e.g. drop inlet protection) BMPs and general housekeeping BMPs (e.g. sweeping) in and around the base lodge and Lot 2 need to be corrected. 2) The native surface road system is in good condition but effective tracking control BMPs need to be installed and maintained at native surfaced road/paved surface road interfaces.	Implement adequate BMPs	To Be Determined
		San Bernardino	Victorville City	NuWay Former Dry Cleaners	6B362301006	3rd Quarter 2024 sampling was not performed.	This is related to Site Cleanup Subaccount Program (SCAP) grant not being executed and misdirection without checking with Lahontan regarding WDR Sampling Requirements. Continue with 4th Quarter sampling.	No Enforcement