EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT
December 1, 2025 – December 31, 2025

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1. Personnel Report — *Sandra Lopez*

Promotion

- Alonzo Poach, Supervising Engineering Geologist, Victorville. This position will manage the Victorville office. It will plan, organize, manage, coordinate, and report the work of the Protection, Restoration, and Sustainability Division (former South Lahontan Basin Division).

Vacancies

- Water Resource Control Engineer, Cannabis Unit, Victorville. This position will provide oversight of cannabis cultivation projects under the statewide Cannabis General order, will assist in the review of engineering and technical reports, and will assist others in the Unit.

- Environmental Scientist, Cannabis Unit, Victorville. This position will provide oversight of cannabis cultivation projects under the statewide Cannabis General order and will assist the Unit in conducting correlations between cannabis discharges and impacts to water quality and/or the environment.

- Environmental Scientist, Planning and Assessment Unit, South Lake Tahoe. This position will work in the Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program (SWAMP) to design, prepare, and carry out field investigations. Work duties will also include management and analysis of environmental data to support development of the Integrated Report and projects associated with the TMDL and Basin Planning Programs.

- Water Resource Control Engineer, Regulatory and Enforcement Unit, South Lake Tahoe. This position will help protect water quality in the Lahontan Region by regulating waste discharges to Waters of the State via National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) and Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) permits resultant from wastewater and stormwater.

- Engineering Geologist, South Lake Tahoe. This position is housed within the Nonpoint Source Unit and will provide oversight of Lake Tahoe Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) implementation. This includes coordination with multiple Lake Tahoe agencies and partners and oversight of Lake Tahoe focused permits.

- Senior Engineering Geologist, Department of Defense Unit, Victorville. This position will assign and direct the work of the unit, supervise staff performing tasks related to department of defense and site cleanup program sites, prepare annual work plans, and track budget expenditures.

- Analyst I, Administrative Unit, 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.

- Analyst I, Administrative Unit, 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.

2. Great Lakes 2025 PFAS Summit — *Anna Garcia and Mark Allen*

Regional Groundwater Specialist Anna Garcia and Mark Allen with the Department of Defense/Site Cleanup Unit attended the Great Lakes 2025 PFAS Summit hosted by the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE). This virtual event was hosted online from December 2nd through December 4th, 2025.

The summit included more than 25 technical sessions and was well attended, with over 2,500 attendees from all over the world, including representatives from all 50 states, plus Puerto Rico and Guam. The following summaries highlight presentations relevant to key Water Board programs.

PFAS in Septic Systems

Dr. Jennifer Harfmann, with the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES), provided a presentation on PFAS in septic systems. Dr. Harfmann noted that the state of New Hampshire relies heavily on septic systems for the discharge of wastewater. Domestic sources of wastewater include individual homes and residential communities, while non-domestic sources include businesses such as cleaning and

restoration services, schools, grocery stores, hospitals, clinics, and salons. Sources of PFAS in wastewater include detergents, cleaning products, soaps, shampoos, cosmetics, toilet paper, fabrics, and textiles. The NHDES sampled wastewater from individual and residential domestic septic systems, as well as septic systems associated with carpet cleaning operations and schools, which generally implement annual floor stripping and refinishing. Sampling efforts found that wastewater generated from floor stripping and carpet cleaning is highly concentrated with PFAS from products used to clean and the surfaces being cleaned. Dr. Harfmann also reported that PFAS concentrations in domestic wastewater ranged from 10 to 100 nanograms per liter (ng/L) and estimated up to 14 micrograms of PFAS is discharged per person per day. Ultimately, concentrations and composition of PFAS in wastewater are likely dependent on population density, product use, and any secondary treatment prior to discharge.

Exploring Light Non-Aqueous Phase Liquids' (LNAPL's) Role in PFAS Fate and Transport

Ph.D. candidate Mireia Roig-Pual, of Oregon State University, and Jeff Ford from Jacobs Environmental Services, gave a presentation on Exploring Light Non-Aqueous Phase Liquids' (LNAPL's) Role in PFAS Fate and Transport. The presentation explored how LNAPL influences the behavior of PFAS at contaminated sites, particularly those impacted by aqueous film-forming foams (AFFF). The presentation compared 14 pairs of LNAPL and groundwater datasets from landfills, fuel storage areas, and firefighting training areas where both media were analyzed for terminal and precursor PFAS. The presenters discussed key PFAS transport and transformation pathways influenced by LNAPL, including: PFAS storage within LNAPL, transformation in bioactive vadose zones above LNAPL, and diffusion into groundwater. The session emphasized the importance of considering co-contaminant dynamics in PFAS site management and highlighted critical research needs for addressing PFAS at petroleum-impacted sites.

Land Application of Biosolids: PFAS Trends in Fate and Transport

Dr. Linda Lee, of Purdue University, gave a presentation on the Land Application of Biosolids: PFAS Trends in Fate and Transport. Dr. Lee noted that wastewater treatment plants (WWTPs) receive a significant load of PFAS from domestic wastewater. The PFAS can either remain in the effluent that eventually gets discharged from the WWTP or get sorbed onto sludge that can be converted to biosolids and applied to land. PFAS in land applied biosolids can transform, sorb onto carbon particles or other sorption sites in the soil matrix, leach through the soil and migrate to groundwater, or they can be taken up by plants. Dr. Lee discussed several field studies and gave an update on a model being developed to understand the long-term fate of PFAS in land applied biosolids. The model will consider climate patterns, evapotranspiration, prior PFAS loading, and water table fluctuations over time.

A Surface Testing Method to Assess Residual PFAS in Firefighting Suppression Systems

Dr. Ian Ross, of CDM Smith, discussed his work on PFAS decontamination in fire suppression systems. PFAS stick to surfaces. Excessive and prolonged retention of PFAS originating from AFFF has been observed on the interior walls of fire suppression systems. Even after a fire suppression system has been transitioned to using a newer Fluorine-Free Foam (F3), significant rebound of PFAS has been documented following repeated flushing of the system. Dr. Ross noted that mild heating enhances PFAS desorption but that PFAS concentrations in rinsate don't reflect the PFAS mass remaining on surfaces. Reportedly, scrubbing and long-term methanol sonication were the only means to minimize PFAS rebounds.

Our understanding of PFAS is rapidly evolving and the Great Lakes 2025 PFAS Summit offered many new insights on PFAS fate and transport. Lahontan staff are currently working with staff from the State Water Board to provide a deeper dive into PFAS through an informational item that will be presented at an upcoming Lahontan Water Board Meeting in 2026.