



EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT
February 1, 2025 – February 28, 2025

Contents

1. Personnel Report — *Sandra Lopez* 1

2. Pilot Travel Center #200 at Kramer Junction, San Bernardino County —
Aileen Chea 3

3. The End of an Energy Era – The Closure of the Coolwater Generating Station,
March 2025 — *Andrew Robinson* 5

4. Colorado Hill Mining District and the East Fork Carson River — *Kerri O’Keefe* 6

5. Air Force Presentation to Mojave Water Agency Technical Advisory Committee:
Impacts of Adelanto Publicly Owned Treatment Works Discharge on Former
George Air Force Base, Victorville, San Bernardino County — *Alonzo Poach,*
Lorien Sanders, Molina Hauv 8

6. Budget Reductions Impact the Regional Surface Water Ambient Monitoring
Program – *Laurie Scribe* 10

7. Truckee River Watershed Enforcement Strategy Team Work Diligently to
Address Water Quality Concerns in the Area – *Shelby Barker* 11

8. Groundwater Quality, Forestry and Wildfire Legislative Update – *Ben Letton* 14

9. Projected List of Future Regional Water Board Agenda Items – *Ben Letton* 18

10. 4th Quarter of 2024 Violations and Unauthorized Discharge Report and Other
Enforcement Actions – *Shelby Barker* 19

1. Personnel Report — *Sandra Lopez*

Vacancies

- Senior Environmental Scientist (Sup), Non-Point Source Unit, South Lake Tahoe. This position will provide Senior level responsibility and oversight of NPS Unit staff in making policy recommendations, providing technical expertise, evaluating and drafting environmental documents, and performing sensitive assignments

related to NPS water quality issues throughout the Lahontan region and the Lake Tahoe Basin. Project specific work in the Lake Tahoe Basin includes oversight of the implementation of the Lake Tahoe Total Maximum Daily Load and Lake Tahoe's nearshore water quality.

- Senior Water Resource Control Engineer (Specialist), Leviathan Mine Cleanup, South Lake Tahoe. This position provides senior level technical responsibility within the Leviathan Mine Cleanup Program. The position focuses on the following tasks:
 - ensure compliance with the USEPA requirements for the Water Board
 - lead engineering activities
 - develop and direct cleanup and maintenance contracts for the project
 - provide expert review of Superfund documents
 - support the legal staff on technical topics
 - advise supervisors on project cleanup and regulatory compliance
 - update Water Board management, Water Board members, and other high-level officials
- Senior Water Resource Control Engineer Specialist (Eastern California Cannabis Specialist), Victorville. This position will be responsible for implementing the Water Board's Cannabis Cultivation Regulatory Program in the Lahontan and Colorado River Regions, with a focus on enforcement related to illicit cannabis. The Eastern California Cannabis Specialist will provide the lead responsibility for making policy recommendations, providing technical expertise orally and in written documents, evaluating and drafting engineering reports, staff reports, other technical documents, and performing analysis on technically complex and politically sensitive assignments related to cannabis in the Lahontan and Colorado River regions.
- 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.
- Scientific Aid, Non-Point Source and Forestry/Dredge & Fill Units, South Lake Tahoe. This position will review and 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.

Departures

- Chris Stetler, Senior Water Resource Control Engineer (Specialist), South Lake Tahoe. Retired.

2. Pilot Travel Center #200 at Kramer Junction, San Bernardino County —

Aileen Chea

The purpose of this article is to provide information on an unregulated discharge that was initially brought up to Water Board staff in May 2024. The Discharger, Pilot Travel Center #200 in Kramer Junction, is remodeling their convenience store which would have an effect on their onsite wastewater treatment system (OWTS). San Bernardino County required that the Discharger obtain approval from the Water Board before they would approve commencement of renovations. At the time, it was determined that the Water Board would regulate the facility and discharge to the existing evapotranspiration (ET) beds. A conditional approval was submitted by the Water Board to allow renovations to proceed, but the final building permit would not be issued by the County until a permit for the wastewater treatment and disposal system was issued by the Water Board.

The Discharger completed renovations and reached out to Water Board staff in January 2025 to complete the permitting process. As part of the permitting process, Water Board staff conducted an inspection with the property owners (James and Dennis Darr) to view the ET beds and discuss the history of the disposal system. The Darr brothers informed us that they discussed the design of the ET beds with Water Board staff in the early 2000's. At that time, Water Board staff determined that the OWTS would be regulated under the County as long as the disposal system was entirely subsurface. Since then, the State Water Board adopted the OWTS Policy in 2007 and the San Bernardino County published their Local Agency Management Program (LAMP) in 2017, which places regulations of OWTS on San Bernardino County.

During the inspection, staff viewed the ET beds and determined that the disposal occurs completely in the subsurface as originally designed. The effluent is directed into the ET beds through a series of pipes, and percolation is inhibited beyond a clay layer below the ET beds approximately 3 feet below ground surface. The large surface area (approximately 2.4 acres) of the ET beds combined with the dry climate allows the wastewater to evaporate before it can pool on the surface (Photo 2.1). Though the ET beds system shares some design similarity to conventional leach field system, the ET beds system differs from the conventional leach field system in a way that the wastewater is designed to be evaporated once they are in the ET beds, whereas leach fields are designed for the wastewater to be percolated into the ground. The highest water level within the ET beds observed during the visit on February 10, 2025, was approximately 1.5 inches (Photo 2.1 and Photo 2.2).



Photo 2.1: A view of the evapotranspiration beds during Water Board visit on February 10, 2025.



Photo 2.2: The highest water level (approximately 1.5 inches) in the evapotranspiration bed during Water Board visit on February 10, 2025.

Discussions are taking place between Water Board staff and San Bernardino County to confirm which agency will oversee the facility's discharge. San Bernardino County LAMP representatives advised Water Board staff that there is currently a permit in their system for an Alternative Treatment System, but it may not meet the requirements to be covered in the LAMP. Further discussion and evaluation of the system is needed to determine permitting requirements.

3. The End of an Energy Era – The Closure of the Coolwater Generating Station, March 2025 — *Andrew Robinson*

The Coolwater Generating Station was constructed by the Southern California Edison Company in the early 1970s and had undergone several iterations and improvements over the decades as energy technology advanced. The facility accepted power generation wastes from steam power, combined cycle power plant, coal gasification, and solar power plants. Located in Daggett, San Bernardino County and adjacent to the Mojave River, the station was first regulated by the Lahontan Water Board in 1972, with percolation and leach fields managing the waste. In 1981, requirements were revised to include the design and construction of a five-cell, 130-acre, bentonite-lined surface impoundments (waste management units). The surface impoundments accepted waste from every power plant iteration for the remaining operational life of the facility.

Coolwater served as a proof of concept for a coal gasification plant design, creating additional power from waste heat, and generating "slag," from the various process generated wastewaters, then discharged to the permitted surface impoundments. Over time, the facility expanded on power generation waste and was able to accept cooling tower blowdown, boiler blowdown, wastewater, clarifier sludge, and stormwater. The slag produced was comprised mostly of aluminum, calcium, iron, magnesium, moisture, potassium, silicon, sodium, and titanium; with chromium and lead concentrations approximately 244 parts per million (ppm) and 33 ppm, respectively.

Over the years, regulatory updates incorporated new requirements, including the California Code of Regulations, Title 23 and Title 27, and for post-closure maintenance and groundwater monitoring. In 2015, the plant was decommissioned while the surface impoundments continued to be managed to mitigate pond waste mobilization as dust while the closure order was developed. In 2022, Board Order R6V-2022-0014 was adopted by the Water Board establishing the final closure and post-closure waste discharge requirements, to consolidate waste and reclaim the site.

Closure activities are almost complete. Photograph 3.1 details the change that has taken place in the ponds. Waste, characterized by a distinct color change, has been removed from four of the five former surface impoundments and consolidated into the southeast corner of former Pond 5. Strong regional winds blew waste to the east and deposited the dust along the property fence line and leeward of vegetation. Multiple site inspections were conducted to document and verify the closure and removal of windblown waste as required by the waste discharge requirements. Former Pond 5, closed as a landfill, has an evapotranspiration final cover. Landfill and groundwater monitoring will continue after over five decades of active operation.



Photo 3.1: Before and after photographs taken from the southeastern side of the Facility looking northwest. On the left, salt and materials impacted from the Facility operations are visible. On the right, unimpacted materials are remaining after removal and consolidation.

4. Colorado Hill Mining District and the East Fork Carson River — *Kerri O'Keefe*

The following article focuses on acidic water discharge observed near the Colorado Hill Mines area. Lahontan Water Board staff are investigating the acidic water source. Additionally, staff are determining the potential impacts to the East Fork Carson River. Current sample results show a possible risk to human and aquatic health.

The United States Forest Service (USFS) manages the Colorado Hill Mines area (Figure 4.1), owns the land, and has responsibility for cleaning up former mining activities. Records show mines operated in the area from 1866 to the 1970s. The site is currently inactive but contains waste materials.

Staff identified a source of acidic water near Colorado Hill Mine Area. The acidic water contains elevated concentrations of metals and sulfate (referred to as waste). Staff are investigating the source of the waste. The acidic water discharges to the East Fork Carson River.

Staff issued a Notice of Violation on October 20, 2023. The notice went to the USFS based on the proximity to Colorado Hill. Staff requested the following from the USFS:

- determine the extent of impacts to the river
- identify the source of the waste
- measure the flow rate of waste entering the river
- post signage to inform the public of the hazards associated with contact with the waste
- submit a plan to stop waste from entering the river

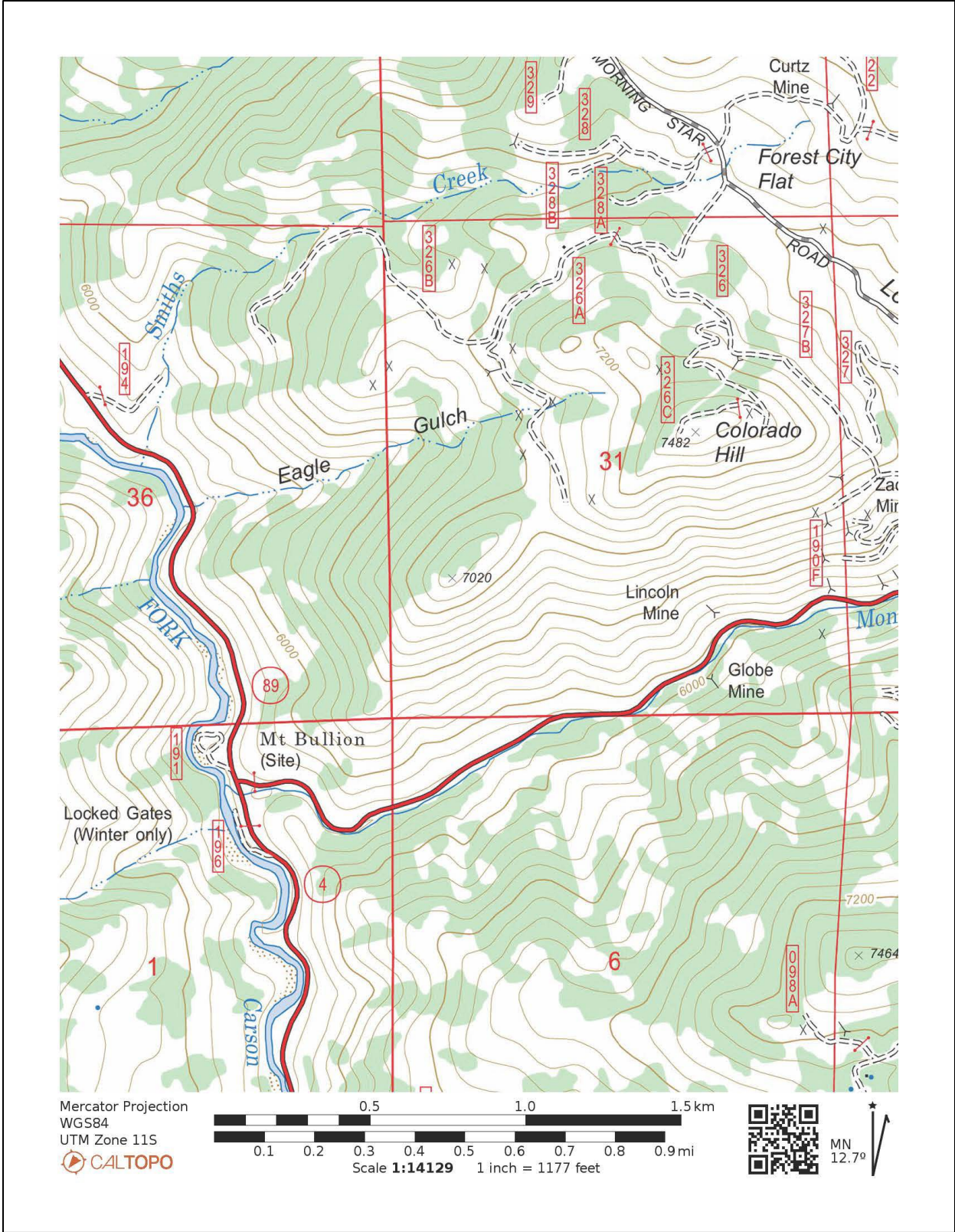


Figure 4.1: Map of Colorado Hill Area

Staff sampled water originating from Colorado Hill in August 2024. Field measurements included pH, temperature, dissolved oxygen, specific conductivity, and turbidity. The pH test results show the sampled water was acidic. Sample lab analysis included sulfate, cadmium, copper, iron, nickel, selenium and zinc. The analysis results did not exceed federal hazardous waste corrosivity or toxicity thresholds. Staff categorize the sampled water as waste with potential to pollute waters of the State.

The public can access records related to this investigation in an online database. These records include sampling data, notice, and any other reports. Anyone can access the records using [GeoTracker](#) and the Global ID T10000011632.

Staff plan to continue investigating. The next steps include determining the specific source of the acidic water. Once staff determine the source, staff can focus on reducing the discharged waste material.

5. Air Force Presentation to Mojave Water Agency Technical Advisory Committee: Impacts of Adelanto Publicly Owned Treatment Works Discharge on Former George Air Force Base, Victorville, San Bernardino County — *Alonzo Poach, Lorien Sanders, Molina Hauv*

In February 2025, the United States Air Force environmental management team presented at the Mojave Water Agency’s bi-monthly Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting regarding “Impacts of (Adelanto) Publicly Owned Treatment Works Discharge on Former George Air Force Base.” During this presentation, the Air Force reiterated its position that the groundwater levels in the basin are rising due to the discharge from the City of Adelanto’s wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) infiltration ponds. The Air Force believes that the rise in groundwater is impacting remediation and groundwater cleanup in the southern portion of Former George Air Force Base (GAFB). The Air Force believes that the rising groundwater levels are “pushing” plumes into previously uncontaminated areas and affecting remedy protectiveness. According to the Air Force, rising groundwater levels are also problematic to the groundwater monitoring well network used to monitor and remove fuels floating on the groundwater surface. Figure 5.1 is a general map showing the location of the Adelanto WWTP with respect to the Former GAFB.

The Air Force’s TAC presentation is part of ongoing discussions and follows related actions.

- In 2020, Lahontan Water Board staff rejected Air Force’s request to revise the Waste Discharge Requirements (WDR) for the City of Adelanto WWTP discharges from the permitted 4 million gallons per day (mgd) to 1 mgd. The Air Force subsequently petitioned the State Water Resources Control Board (State Board) requesting State Board review the WDR reduction request and petition abeyance. In 2022, the Air Force again petitioned the State Board requesting review of the 2020 petition, a hearing and submitted additional information.
- In September 2023, United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) issued a determination that several of the existing remedies are not protective of

human health and the environment after reviewing the Air Force Fifth Five-Year Review Report. The Air Force, in part, believes that several remedies are being impacted by rising groundwater levels.

- In 2024, the Air Force hosted Teams meetings in August and November to present their information and theories regarding City of Adelanto WWTP discharges and its impacts to Air Force remedial activities. These meetings were attended by representatives from the Air Force and its consultants, USEPA, Lahontan Water Board, City of Adelanto, City of Victorville, Southern California Logistics Airport (Former George Air Force Base), Victor Valley Wastewater Reclamation Authority, Mojave Water Agency, City of Barstow, office of United States Congressman Jay Obernolte, office of California State Assemblymember Juan Carrillo, and office of San Bernardino County Supervisor Paul Cook.

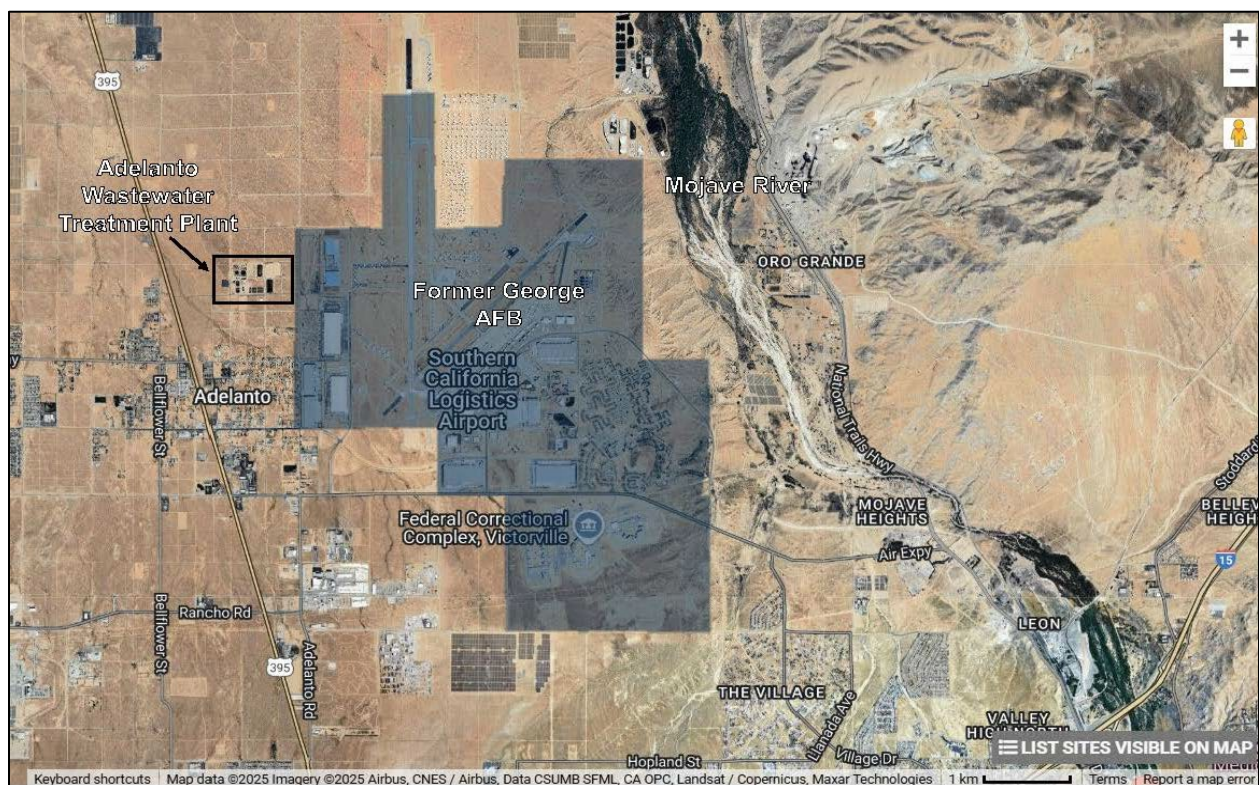


Figure 5.1: Shows former GAFB (shaded) with respect to City of Adelanto WWTP located to the west, and the Mojave River located to the east. Image from GeoTracker, March 2025.

Following the Air Force presentation, several members of the TAC, and members of the public in the audience, asked clarifying questions about the presentation and the cleanup progress. The Air Force noted that the problem must be worked collaboratively with the community and surrounding stakeholders. Water Board staff attending the TAC meeting inquired about reestablishing regular public meetings with members of the community. These meetings are referred to as Restoration Advisory Board (RAB)

meetings. The Air Force acknowledged that they would reestablish RAB meetings if there were enough participation and interest.

Water Board staff are evaluating the Air Force claims that rising groundwater levels are affecting remedies, while continuing to work collaboratively with the Air Force, USEPA, and surrounding communities to make progress in the cleanup at Former GAFB.



Photo 5.1: Shows the view facing east at the intersection of La Paz Avenue and Jonathan Street in the City of Adelanto. The City of Adelanto WWTP is on the right, on the far side of the fence. Former GAFB, currently Southern California Logistics Airport, is in the background. Image from Google Maps, March 2023

6. Budget Reductions Impact the Regional Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program – Laurie Scribe

In August 2024 California’s Department of Finance issued [Budget Letter 24-24](#) entitled Government Efficiencies Reductions. This Budget Letter required state departments, including the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board), to implement an approximately eight percent reduction in operating budgets. The State Water Board was required to submit proposed operational reductions to the Department of Finance in September 2024.

Since the program’s inception in 2000, the State Water Board has provided annual funding to the Regional Water Quality Control Boards to implement regional Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Programs (SWAMP), with the Lahontan Water Board receiving approximately \$160,000 annually. To achieve reductions required by Budget Letter 24-24, State Water Board executives permanently cut all operational funding to the nine Regional Water Quality Control Boards for regional SWAMP implementation. The funding cuts include some reductions to Fiscal Year 24/25 allocations and removal of all funds for Fiscal Year 25/26 and beyond.

Lahontan Water Board staff use these annual funding allocations to pay for analytical laboratory costs associated with ongoing status and trends water quality monitoring and harmful algal bloom monitoring; to implement bioassessment data collection; to fund fish tissue bioaccumulation studies; to implement special water quality studies that support regulatory programs; and to provide data analysis and scientific program support.

Lahontan Water Board SWAMP staff worked closely with Lahontan leadership to assess existing funds and redirect some Fiscal Year 25/26 Discretionary Contract funding to support continuation of some but not all of the planned regional SWAMP projects. Regional bioassessment monitoring will no longer be implemented. The regional SWAMP will continue to implement the following work in 2025 and 2026:

- water quality monitoring at approximately 10-15 long-term trend sites,
- harmful algal bloom program laboratory analyses,
- fish tissue bioaccumulation monitoring at two lakes in 2026, and
- development of a probabilistic based survey design for long-term regional monitoring.

Sufficient funding was available in the current Babcock Laboratory agreement from prior year allocations to pivot all sample analysis to this laboratory from other contracted laboratories, allowing Lahontan Water Board staff to continue collecting samples for long-term water quality data. Discretionary contract funding was re-allocated to maintain harmful algal bloom monitoring and the fish tissue bioaccumulation study to support human health protection as guided by Lahontan Water Board regional goals. Continuing development of a new study design for regional monitoring will support program flexibility and response to changing budget scenarios while still enabling the collection of meaningful water quality and ecologic condition information.

Lahontan Water Board staff will strive to continue some regional monitoring activities through use of discretionary contract funds and the office-wide laboratory funding allotment. However, unless the State Water Board can replace regional SWAMP funds, the future of the program will be greatly diminished when existing funding expires in June 2027. Additional information on the regional SWAMP can be found in the [November 2024 Executive Officer](#) report and on the Lahontan Water Board [SWAMP webpage](#).

7. Truckee River Watershed Enforcement Strategy Team Work Diligently to Address Water Quality Concerns in the Area – *Shelby Barker*

In recent years, water quality noncompliance concerns surfaced in the Truckee River Watershed area (shown in Figure 7.1). Observed violations include floodplain prohibitions, noncompliance with permits, insufficient compliance with permits, and failure to obtain permits. These permits include stormwater permits for industrial sites, construction sites, and municipal entities along with permits for soil disturbance within waterways. These are often referred to as IGP, CGP, MS4 permits, and 401 permits, respectively. To address on-going concerns, Lahontan Water Quality Control Board staff developed the Truckee River Watershed Enforcement Strategy Team, made up of an interdisciplinary group of permitting staff who have been involved in identifying violations and working collectively to develop solutions to these complex and systemic issues within the watershed.

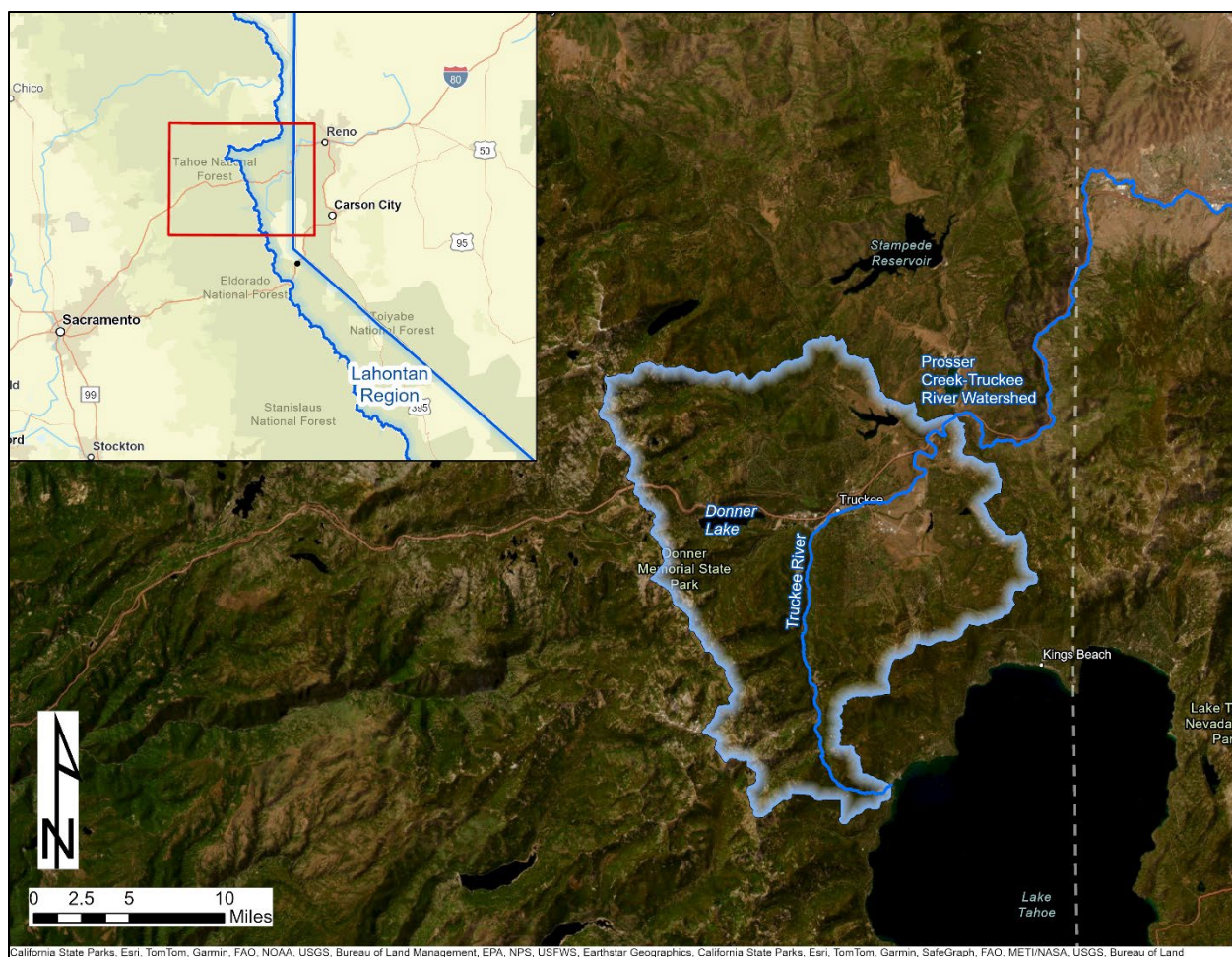


Figure 7.1: Overview of Prosser Creek-Truckee River Watershed and Truckee River

Staff conducted an increased number of inspections and issued informal enforcement. They also educated responsible parties of compliance expectations and permitting requirements, issued staff enforcement letters and Notices of Violation, and coordinated with local agencies. When informal enforcement was unsuccessful, staff proposed orders such as Cleanup and Abatement Orders (CAOs), 13267 Investigative Orders, and Administrative Civil Liabilities (ACLs).

Staff catalogued industrial stormwater violations. For example, effluent discharge violations to the Truckee River from a quarry. The Teichert Aggregates Truckee aggregate quarry discharged turbid water. In response, staff issued a 13267 Investigative Order requesting information for the stormwater basins, discharge, depth to groundwater, and geotechnical information for their facility. Staff continue to follow up with industrial sites to ensure future compliance.

Staff escalated violations at some construction sites to formal enforcement. Two examples include Olympic Valley Residential Development (Palisades) and the Coldstream Roundabout Construction Project (Coldstream Roundabout). A developer

constructed Palisades adjacent to the Wa She Shu Creek near the confluence with the Truckee River. Staff documented ongoing permit violations from 2018 through 2021. Enforcement staff reached a settlement agreement with Palisades for a \$1.65 million ACL adopted by the Board in August 2023. A separate developer constructed Coldstream Roundabout adjacent to Donner Creek. Staff catalogued ongoing permit violations in 2021 and 2022. The Town of Truckee, their contractor Teichert Construction, and the Lahontan Water Board reached a settlement agreement for a \$559,701 ACL adopted by the Board in June 2024. Of that settlement, \$271,849 went to a Supplemental Environmental Project (SEP) for Trout Creek Restoration (Reach 1, Segment A). Upon completion of the SEP, that portion of liability will be suspended. To spread awareness to local communities, our enforcement coordinator has been working with the Office of Public Affairs to provide public notice of these ACLs.

Staff have received several complaints regarding municipal stormwater problems. For example, staff alleged the California Department of Transportation (CalTrans) MS4 violated their permit in a Notice of Violation. The violations centered on inadequate stormwater infrastructure from Interstate 80 causing downstream erosion. Placer County and Town of Truckee have Phase 2 Small MS4 permits as well. When staff identify permit violations from dischargers within their jurisdiction, both Placer County and Town of Truckee have taken the lead on informal enforcement.

Staff have also responded to complaints about soil disturbance within waterways. This includes construction within the Truckee River and Donner Lake 100-year floodplains. Staff documented unpermitted construction. In some cases, unauthorized activities resulted in substantial alterations to streams and drainages. When able, staff continue to work with homeowners to obtain the necessary permits to resume work. In most cases, staff successfully helped the homeowners return to compliance with minimal enforcement. Separately, staff have worked with Truckee River Watershed Council after they began restoration without necessary permits.

Staff have worked with local agencies to increase coordination. Staff met with Placer County, Nevada County, and the Town of Truckee to improve our working relationship and coordinate inspections. Staff also worked to improve outreach alongside the Town of Truckee. Their permits now include a requirement to enroll in applicable Water Board permits. Finally, staff worked with them on joint inspections and restoration plan reviews.

Next steps for our Truckee River Watershed Enforcement Strategy Team include continuing to coordinate with the Town of Truckee, local counties, and CalTrans. Staff will also focus on field presence, such as site inspections and complaint response. Staff prioritize educational outreach and, when violations do occur, work with discharges on compliance through informal enforcement.

8. Groundwater Quality, Forestry and Wildfire Legislative Update – Ben Letton

The legislature introduced approximately 2,350 bills prior to their February 21, 2025, bill introduction deadline. Office of Legislative Affairs (OLA) at the State Water Board has identified a number of bills as being related to groundwater quality, forestry or wildfires. Mid-to-late March is the start of the legislative committee season. Lahontan Water Board staff and executives will be hearing from our OLA counterparts asking for bill review and comments, as well as the fiscal impacts these may have on Water Board staff resources. Office of Legislative Affairs uses the comments and responses from the Water Board across all regions and departments to communicate effectively with legislative committees and legislators.

AB 267 (Macedo). Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund: high-speed rail: water infrastructure and wildfire prevention.

This bill would suspend the appropriation from the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund to the High-Speed Rail Authority for the 2026–27 and 2027–28 fiscal years and would instead require those amounts from moneys collected by the State Air Resources Board to be transferred to the General Fund. This bill would specify that the transferred amounts shall be available, upon appropriation by the Legislature, to augment funding for water infrastructure and wildfire prevention.

AB 372 (Bennett). Office of Emergency Services: state matching funds: water system infrastructure improvements.

This bill, contingent on funding being appropriated pursuant to a bond act, would establish the Rural Water Infrastructure for Wildfire Resilience Program within the CalOES for the distribution of state matching funds to communities within the Wildland Urban Interface in designated high fire hazard severity zones or very high fire hazard severity zones to improve water system infrastructure. This bill would require CalOES to coordinate with the Department of Water Resources, the State Water Resources Control Board, the Office of the State Fire Marshal, and other state entities as CalOES determine to be appropriate, to achieve the purposes of the program.

AB 411 (Papan). Livestock carcasses: disposal: composting.

This bill would authorize any part of a livestock carcass resulting from a routine livestock mortality event or on-farm processing to be composted if certain requirements are met, including, among others, that the composting is conducted in accordance with best management practices for livestock composting approved by the Secretary of Food and Agriculture, in consultation with the State Water Board and CalRecycle.

AB 442 (Hadwick). California Environmental Quality Act: exemption: prescribed fire, thinning, and fuel reduction projects.

This bill would exempt from CEQA prescribed fire, thinning, or fuel reduction projects undertaken within a community with a single ingress and egress evacuation route.

AB 526 (Papan). Energy: new in-state geothermal energy generation.

This bill would require the California Energy Commission (CEC), in coordination with specified agencies, including other relevant federal, state and local agencies as needed, to 1) to develop a strategic plan for the development of new in-state geothermal energy in California, 2) to evaluate and quantify the maximum feasible capacity of new in-state geothermal energy, 3) to identify suitable and recommended locations for the development of new in-state geothermal energy, and 4) to develop and produce a permitting roadmap that describes timeframes and milestones for a coordinated, comprehensive, and efficient permitting process for new in-state geothermal energy exploration and field development and associated electricity and transmission infrastructure.

AB 550 (Petrie-Norris). Fire prevention: grant programs: reporting.

This bill would require the Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force, by July 1, 2026, and annually thereafter, to compile and post on its internet website specified information relating to specified state and federal grant programs relating to fire prevention, including a brief description of the anticipated benefits of the project, which may include, among others, the protection of important natural resources, including water quality and water supply.

AB 626 (Papan). Underground storage tanks: design and construction requirements: exemption.

This bill would exempt an operator from the December 31, 2025, single-walled underground storage tank (UST) closure requirement, exempting them from penalties, if the operator of a single-walled UST is acting in good faith to comply with the requirement to upgrade to a double-walled UST by December 31, 2025, and the operator meets specified conditions. The bill would require an operator seeking this exemption to submit a written request to the local enforcement agency and would require the local enforcement agency to review the request and issue a determination within 60 days of receipt.

AB 687 (Patterson). Forestry: timber operations: maintenance of timberlands for fuels reduction.

This bill would authorize projects exclusively for noncommercial wildfire fuels reduction in timberland, paid for in part or in whole with public funds, to prepare a timber harvesting plan as an alternative to complying with the California Environmental Quality Act, and would require these projects to be regulated as timber operations.

AB 734 (Schultz). Environmental protection: biological resources data: reporting.

This bill would require that a public agency that receives any biological resources data, as defined, post that data on the agency's website and make it available to the public within two weeks of submission.

AB 763 (Ward). Timber harvesting: streambed agreement: waste discharge requirements.

This bill would require, for a Regional Water Board that has adopted general waste discharge requirements (WDR) for timber harvesting, the Regional Water Board to authorize timber harvesting operations performed consistent with an approved timber harvesting plan subject to those general WDRs within 5 working days of receiving a complete request. This bill would also require the Department of Fish and Wildlife to issue a lake or stream agreement within 5 working days of the approval of a timber harvesting plan by the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.

AB 1102 (Boerner). Development projects: sea level rise and groundwater rise risk assessment.

This bill would require a proponent of a new development to complete a sea level rise and groundwater rise risk assessment as part of the application to a public agency if the proposed development will be within 1,000 feet of a contaminated site and will be within an area vulnerable to groundwater rise or sea level rise.

AB 1153 (Bonta). Solid waste disposal and codisposal site cleanup: illegal disposal site abatement.

This bill would authorize CalRecycle, as part of grants provided to public entities to abate illegal disposal sites, to additionally provide funding for removing and disposing of recreational vehicles, for enforcement strategies, and for developing local enforcement teams and illegal dumping enforcement officers.

AB 1227 (Essayli). California Environmental Quality Act: exemption: wildfire prevention projects.

This bill would exempt wildfire prevention projects from the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act.

AB 1456 (Bryan). California Environmental Quality Act: vegetation fuel management project exemption.

This bill would exempt from CEQA a vegetation fuel management project, undertaken or funded by a public agency, or the adoption of an ordinance requiring the implementation of a vegetation fuel management project. The bill would require a lead agency that determines to carry out or approve an activity that is within the exemption to file a notice of exemption with the Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation.

AB 1459 (Asm. Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials Committee). Hazardous waste: underground storage tanks.

This bill would make a number of noncontroversial changes to statutes related to hazardous waste. This includes excluding from the definition an underground storage tank, a tank holding hydraulic fluid or dielectric fluid for a closed loop mechanical system that uses compressed air, hydraulic fluid, or dielectric fluid to operate lifts, to operate elevators, to act as an electric cooling or insulation system, and other similar devices.

SB 234 (Niello). Wildfires: workgroup: toxic heavy metals.

This bill would, upon appropriation by the Legislature, require the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE), the Office of Emergency Services (CalOES), and the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), in consultation with specified entities, to form a workgroup related to exposure of toxic heavy metals after a wildfire. The bill would require the workgroup to do certain things, including establishing best practices and recommendations for wildfire-impacted communities and first responders to avoid exposure to heavy metals after a wildfire. The bill would require CAL FIRE, CalOES, and DTSC to report their findings to the Legislature by January 1, 2027.

SB 279 (McNerney). Solid waste: compostable materials.

This bill would make several changes intended to allow farmers and winegrape growers to compost larger amounts onsite. This bill would increase the amount of feedstock from green material, agricultural material, food material, and vegetative food material from 100 cubic yards to 500 cubic yards that would be considered an excluded activity so a compost facility is not subject to permitting requirements. This bill would also require the composting of agricultural materials and residues that are from a large-scale biomass management event at an agricultural facility that does not otherwise operate as a solid waste facility to be an excluded activity. This bill would also require composting operations to be included in the enforcement agency notification regulatory tier if certain conditions are met, including the operation having between 500 and 12,500 cubic yards of material onsite. This bill would also increase the amount of compost product composting operations may give away or sell annually from 1,000 cubic yards to 5,000 cubic yards.

SB 326 (Becker). Wildfire safety: The California Wildfire Mitigation Strategic Planning Act.

This bill would require the Deputy Director of Wildfire Preparedness and Mitigation within the Office of the State Fire Marshall (Deputy Director), to every three years prepare both a Wildfire Risk Baseline and Forecast and a Wildfire Risk Mitigation Planning Framework. This bill would also require the Deputy Director to annually prepare a Wildfire Mitigation Scenarios Report. The bill would require Deputy Director, each year these documents are completed, to submit a copy of these documents to the Legislature, the Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety, and the Public Utilities Commission for review and consideration.

SB 404 (Caballero). Hazardous materials: metal shredding facilities.

This bill would repeal existing regulatory provisions for metal shredding facilities and would establish a comprehensive scheme to regulate those facilities. The bill requires these facilities to be located, built, and operated in a manner to protect against the release of materials or hazardous waste into the environment, including surface waters.

SB 567 (Limon). Gravity-Based Energy Storage Well Pilot Program.

This bill would, until January 1, 2035, establish the Gravity-Based Energy Storage Well Pilot Program and would authorize the Supervisor of Oil and Gas to authorize the

conversion of not more than 1,000 idle wells for use as gravity-based energy storage wells to evaluate their use, including the establishment of appropriate operating conditions and physical parameters to safely generate energy. The bill would require an operator of a gravity-based energy storage well, in the event of a loss of mechanical integrity of the well or a leak to the environment, to notify CalGEM, the State Air Resources Board, the appropriate regional water quality control board, and any schools or community members living within 3,200 feet of the well. The bill would require gravity-based energy storage wells to be continuously monitored for fluid leaks. The bill would require, by January 1, 2033, the Secretary for Environmental Protection, in consultation with certain entities, including the Water Boards, to evaluate the pilot program and make recommendations to the Legislature for a framework to implement an ongoing Gravity-Based Energy Storage Well Program to regulate the operation of gravity-based energy storage wells.

SB 746 (Alvarado-Gil). Water: Urban Water Community Drought Relief program: Small Community Drought Relief program: high fire hazard and very high fire hazard severity zones.

This bill would establish the Urban Water Community Drought Relief (UCDR) program and the Small Community Drought Relief (SCDR) program, within the Department of Water Resources (DWR), to provide grants for interim or immediate drought relief. These programs, upon a specified appropriation, would also authorize funding for projects that reduce the risk of wildfire through water delivery system improvements in very high or high fire hazard severity zone communities.

9. Projected List of Future Regional Water Board Agenda Items — *Ben Letton*

The following is a list of Lahontan Regional Water Board agenda items that staff are planning for the next two Board Meetings. This list of agenda items is intended for general planning purposes and is subject to change.

May 13-14, 2025 (South Lake Tahoe)

- Desert Oasis Dairy Revised WDRs
- San Bernardino Co. LAMP Resolution
- Tahoe Marina General Permit Reissuance (Informational Item)

July 9-10, 2025 (Bishop)

- Multiple Facilities Recission Order
- Annual Enforcement Update (Informational Item)
- Accomplishments & Priorities (Informational Item)
- Triennial Review
- Department of Defense (DOD) Programmatic Overview (Informational Item)
- Bishop Creek Vision Project Field Tour

10. 4th Quarter of 2024 Violations and Unauthorized Discharge Report and Other Enforcement Actions – *Shelby Barker*

There were 45 violations documented for the fourth quarter of 2024. Violations consisted of 1 deficient monitoring, 1 deficient best management practices (BMPs), 3 violations of Board Order conditions, 3 exceedances of effluent limit concentration, 8 unauthorized discharges, 4 cannabis-related violations, and 15 late reports. Of the 8 unauthorized discharge violations, 4 occurred at regulated facilities. The remaining 4 were unregulated sites. Cleanup activities have been completed at each incident. Only one unauthorized discharge reached surface water. More details on that incident is available in the January EO Report Article *Spill Response - East Fork Carson River Helicopter Incident*.

Enforcement actions listed in the attached table are initial responses only. Additional enforcement actions 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 [Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board's Enforcement](#) website for public notice during the fourth quarter 2024 reporting period:

- 1) At a regularly scheduled Board Meeting held on November 13, 2024, in Bishop, CA, the Regional Board considered the revised proposed Administrative Civil Liability (ACL) Complaint No. R6T-2023-0027 issued to David Park and Park Livestock Co. The Water Board imposed a civil liability of \$20,000 for violations of the California Water Code and Federal Clean Water Act regarding sediment discharge to the West Walker River.
- 2) A Proposed Amended Cleanup and Abatement Order (CAO) No. 6-00-71A1 for Janesville Payless Gas Station was posted for public comment. The proposed amended CAO names Linda Hardy, Jody Ellena, Ramesh Turen, and Rajinder Singh as “Dischargers” and orders cleanup of discharges of petroleum products from Janesville Payless Gas Station. The amendment is being issued to require cleanup and abatement of petroleum discharges to groundwater as well as to continue wellhead treatment of water from production well WW-3. Comments were due to the Lahontan Water Board by December 9, 2024. No comments were received.

Fourth Quarter 2024 Violations and Unauthorized Discharges Report

Program Category	Priority Violation	County	Responsible Party	Facility	WDID	Violation Type/ Violation Description	Corrective Action	Initial Enforcement Action
Cannabis	B	Los Angeles	Arturo Medina	Arturo Medina Property	6B192206013	Other Codes Illicit cannabis cultivation without enrollment (California Water Code [CWC] violation 13260), discharges of wastes affecting Waters of the State (CWC violation 13264)	Develop and Implement Corrective Action Plan	Notice of Violation
						Basin Plan Prohibition Discharges of hazardous materials, Lahontan Water Board Basin Plan Prohibition #3		
			Magdi Hanna	Magdi Hanna Property	6B192410013	Other Codes Active cannabis cultivation without enrollment (CWC 13260), discharges of wastes affecting Waters of the State (CWC 13264)	Develop and Implement Corrective Action Plan	Notice of Violation
						Basin Plan Prohibition discharges of hazardous materials, violation of Lahontan Water Board Basin Plan Prohibition #3		
			Maria Rodriguez	Maria Rodriguez Property	6B192410014	Other Codes cannabis cultivation without enrollment (CWC violation 13260), discharges of wastes (CWC violation 13264)	Develop and Implement Corrective Action Plan	Notice of Violation
						Basin Plan Prohibition Discharges of hazardous materials, violation of Lahontan Water Board Basin Plan Prohibition #3		
			Pedro Castro	Pedro Castro Property	6B192410009	Other Codes Discharge of wastes consistent with illicit cannabis cultivation. Cannabis plants in ground, hazardous materials threatened and actually discharged	Develop and Implement Corrective Action Plan	Notice of Violation
						Basin Plan Prohibition Discharge of hazardous materials, violation of Lahontan Water Board Basin Plan Prohibition #3		
			Rachel Gutierrez	Rachel Gutierrez	6B192410011	Other Codes Active illicit cannabis cultivation without enrollment (CWC 13260 violation); discharges of wastes (CWC 13264 violation)	Develop and Implement Corrective Action Plan	Notice of Violation
						Basin Plan Prohibition Discharge of hazardous materials, Lahontan Water Board Basin Plan Prohibition #3 violation		
			Rigoberto Valencia	Rigoberto Valencia Property	6B192410010	Other Codes CWC 13260 and 13264 violations for active cultivation without enrollment, and actual discharges of wastes that could impact Waters of the State	Develop and Implement Corrective Action Plan	Notice of Violation

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						Basin Plan Prohibition Discharge of hazardous materials, violation of Lahontan Water Board Basin Plan Prohibition #3		
Cannabis (Continued)	B	Los Angeles	Washington Anita Murphy	Washington Anita Murphy Property	6B192410012	Other Codes Cannabis cultivation without enrollment (CWC 13260 violation), discharges of wastes affecting Waters of the State (CWC 13264 violation) Basin Plan Prohibition discharges of hazardous materials, violation of Lahontan Water Board Basin Plan Prohibition #3	Develop and Implement Corrective Action Plan	Notice of Violation
Construction Stormwater	B	El Dorado	City of South Lake Tahoe	Rec and Aquatics Center Phase 1	6A09LT000120	Storm Water - Deficient Best Management Practices (BMP) Implementation Contractor submittal provides photo documentation of disturbed soil areas that have not been stabilized as required by the Tahoe Construction General Permit and Soil Disturbance Grading variance requirements.	Implement adequate BMPs	Oral Communication
Department of Defense	B	Kern	Air Force Contractor	Edwards Air Force Base	6A09LT000120	Unauthorized Discharge Per reporting party, during maintenance a contractor left two valves open causing a release of approximaely jet A fuel into soil and concrete and adjacent soil. Further investigation of automatic tank gauging data logs revealed that approximately 831 - 851 gallons of Jet-A fuel was released. Release has been stopped with no impacts into waterways.	Approximately 430-450 gallons was recovered via absorbent. Impacted soil was excavated. Additional soil investigation is planned. Air Force is awaiting Funding to be released for remediation.	No Enforcement
Land Disposal	B	Inyo	Inyo County IWM	Bishop (Sunland) Class III LF	6B140300002	Order Conditions Trash/litter observed out of containment, Violated Board Order 6-01-34, Section II.A.1 and 2	Email documentation provided. No further action required.	No Enforcement
		Lassen	Lassen County	Bass Hill Sanitary Landfill (Lassen County Class III Landfill)	6A180013000	Order Conditions Discharge of solid waste outside the landfill boundary. Violation of Board Order 6-01-045, Waste Discharge Requirements (WDR) section I.B.1.	Notice provided to Lassen County to remove all garbage that has accumulated outside the landfill boundary. The garbage that has blown outside the landfill boundary and along the northern ephemeral drainage poses a threat to water quality, local wildlife and aquatic life. Lassen County to provide a time schedule to implement corrective actions.	Staff Enforcement Letter

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Program Category	Priority Violation	County	Responsible Party	Facility	WDID	Violation Type/ Violation Description	Corrective Action	Initial Enforcement Action
Land Disposal (Continued)	B	Lassen	Lassen County	Bass Hill Sanitary Landfill (Lassen County Class III Landfill)	6A180013000	Order Conditions Threatened pollution to groundwater and surface water from discharges of leachate and solid waste. Violation of Board Order 6-01-045, WDR section I.B.16.	Notice provided to Lassen County that daily inspections are required at the leachate discharge location and the findings must be recorded. The findings must be included in each semi-annual report and Regional Board staff must be notified within 24 hours if leachate is observed discharging offsite or entering the stormwater retention basin.	Staff Enforcement Letter
		San Bernardino	Cal Portland	19409 National Trails Hwy, Oro Grande	6B362092001	Unauthorized Discharge Approximately 248 gallons of gear oil was released from a piece of machinery. During monthly inspection a door was left open, causing the release. No waterways affected.	Spill was contained and cleanup efforts began immediately after discovery. Barrels containing clean-up material were appropriately labeled and transported for disposal. No further action.	No Enforcement
NPDES Municipal Wastewater	B	Lassen	Susanville SD	Susanville Sanitary District Waste Water Treatment Plant	6A181554001	Effluent Exceedance Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) (5-day @ 20 Deg. Celsius [C]) Weekly Average limit is 45 milligrams per Liter (mg/L) and reported value was 78 mg/L at EFF-001. Effluent Exceedance BOD 5-day @ 20 Deg. C, Percent Removal 30-Day Average limit is 85% and reported value was 82% at EFF-001.	Changing labs while waiting on Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program (ELAP) for assessment report.	Oral Communication
NPDES Non-Municipal Wastewater	B	Kern	National Cement Company(+)	Plant GW Treatment System - National Cement	6B150009004	Late Report Late for 31 30-day periods as of 11/21/2024 Late Report Report 28 30-day periods late as of 11/21/2024 Late Report Report 25 30-day periods late as of 11/21/2024 Late Report Report 22 30-day periods late as of 11/21/2024 Late Report Report 18 30-day periods late Late Report Report 15 30-day periods late Late Report Report 12 30-day periods late	Discharger to submit reports by specified due date.	Notice of Violation

Fourth Quarter 2024 Violations and Unauthorized Discharges Report

Program Category	Priority Violation	County	Responsible Party	Facility	WDID	Violation Type/ Violation Description	Corrective Action	Initial Enforcement Action
						Late Report Report 8 30-day period late		
NPDES Non-Municipal Wastewater (Continued)	B	Kern	National Cement Company(+)	Plant GW Treatment System - National Cement	6B150009004	Late Report Report 5 30-day period late	Discharger to submit reports by specified due date.	Notice of Violation
						Late Report Report 2 30-day periods late		
Unauthorized Discharges - Unregulated Facilities	Not Applicable	Alpine	Unknown	Lat: 38.78044; Long: -119.69995	Not Applicable	Unauthorized Discharge Pilot parked their privately owned helicopter on embankment of the East Fork Carson River. The helicopter slid down off the embankment and into the river. No release observed.	Coordinate with United States Forest Service and California Fish and Wildlife regarding removal actions and potential release. Helicopter removed 10/25.	No Enforcement
		Los Angeles	Northrop Grumann	Lat: 34.64013; Long: -118.071516	Not Applicable	Unauthorized Discharge Spill was due to mechanical failure within a hydraulic system that resulted in gradual release of hydraulic oil (approximately 400 gallons).	Release was fully contained in the interior room's secondary containment trench system with no exterior exposure to soil. No surface waters affected. Internal hazmat team worked with an external vendor (United Pumping) to fully clean out the trenches and surfaces areas of the room; cleanup was completed, 10/23. No further action.	No Enforcement
		San Bernardino	Unknown	11923 Joshua Road, Apple Valley, CA	Not Applicable	Unauthorized Discharge A tote was used to siphon diesel from above ground storage tanks.300 gallons of diesel was released to asphalt surface. The diesel was contained with an absorbent and cleaned with vacuum by Statewide Environmental. No waterways affected.	Spill was contained with absorbent. Area pressure washed and vacuumed by Statewide Environmental. No further Action.	No Enforcement
WDR - Individual	B	San Bernardino	Green Valley Foods	Green Valley Foods	6B360704003	Late Report September 2024 report was due 10/15/24; submitted to geotracker 10/28/24.	Discharger to submit reports by specified due date.	Staff Enforcement Letter

Fourth Quarter 2024 Violations and Unauthorized Discharges Report

Program Category	Priority Violation	County	Responsible Party	Facility	WDID	Violation Type/ Violation Description	Corrective Action	Initial Enforcement Action
WDR - Individual (Continued)	B	San Bernardino	Green Valley Foods	Green Valley Foods	6B360704003	Late Report Draft second quarter 2024 domestic well sampling report received 9/23/24; revised report requested orally in meeting 9/26/24 and in 12/10/24 email. Expanded report in progress; extension granted to 2/28/25. Reports required per Stipulated Agreement dated July 2017.	Discharger to submit reports by specified due date.	Staff Enforcement Letter
						Late Report Report due 11/15/24; received in Geotracker 1/4/25. and via email 1/7/25.		
WDR - Municipal Wastewater	B	Alpine	Tahoe Stateline Enterprises, LLC	Desolation Hotel Hope Valley	6A020009000	Effluent Exceedance Flow Daily Average (Mean) limit is 7,000 gallons per day (GPD) and reported value was 10,252 GPD.	Discharger has repurposed sewer tanks for additional storage to be recycled during off peak times back into the plant.	Oral Communication
		Inyo	Furance Creek Inn & Ranch	Furn Crk Inn & Ranch Pack STP	6B142002001	Unauthorized Discharge Sewage spill occurred on October 20, 2024. The spill volume ranged between 15,000 to 20,000 gallons. Spill did not exit the wastewater treatment plant facility.	Corrective actions include the repair of the equalization basin alarm to provide notice to staff of potential overflows.	Notice of Violation
		Lassen	USDA Forest Service Lassen National Forest, Eagle Lake District	Eagle Lake Ranger Station	6A189203010	Late Report Submitted 34 days late on December 19, 2024. Discharger states late report was due to data submitter being on leave.	Discharger was notified of late report and is aware of due dates.	Staff Enforcement Letter
			Spalding Community Service District	Spalding Tract Sewer System	6A180506011	Deficient Monitoring Requirement IV.C. Missing pH measurements from Ponds 2 and 3.	Discharger was notified via email 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	Late Report Submitted October 31, 2024 with a due date of October 15, 2024. 16 days late.	Discharger was notified of late report and is aware of due dates.	Staff Enforcement Letter

Fourth Quarter 2024 Violations and Unauthorized Discharges Report

Program Category	Priority Violation	County	Responsible Party	Facility	WDID	Violation Type/ Violation Description	Corrective Action	Initial Enforcement Action
WDR - Non-Municipal	B	Placer	Trimont Land Company	Northstar At Tahoe	6A319306003	<p>Unauthorized Discharge Unauthorized apparent high-volume/high-pressure discharge (e.g., fire hose) near summit of Mt. Pluto (source/cause and date unknown) causing erosion, soil disturbance and sedimentation into Lake Tahoe Hydrologic Unit for considerable distance downslope. Northstar to obtain grading variance, investigate full extent, determine whether any surface waters have been impacted, mitigate rilling, erosion and sedimentation at source and downslope for full extent of impacts, mitigate preferential pathways and submit corrective action summary report.</p>	<p>Corrective actions for this violation to include obtaining a grading variance, mitigation of any erosion caused by the discharge, including rilling along the unpaved road, stabilization of disturbed soils, elimination of preferential flow pathways caused by the discharge, restoration of the ground surface and stabilization, as needed. Northstar 11/22/24 report states remediation work was completed for the season on November 1, 2024. This included manually raking out rills in the wooded areas and on the affected roads, as well as installing two new water bars to manage future runoff. An additional water bar installation is planned for spring 2025 (middle water bar). Revisions requested via email on 12/10/24.; additional information received 1/10/25 and 2/14/25.</p>	Notice of Violation