



EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT
April 1, 2026 – April 30, 2026

Contents

1. Personnel Report — *Sandra Lopez* 1

2. Department of Defense Cleanup Program, 2026 Memorandum of Understanding for Land Use Controls — *Lorien Sanders* 2

3. Standing Item – Update on Salt and Nutrient Management Plans in the Lahontan Region — *Anna Garcia* 3

4. Standing Item – Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems — *Jose Valle de Leon* 5

1. Personnel Report — *Sandra Lopez*

Vacancies

- Environmental Scientist, Nonpoint Source Unit, South Lake Tahoe. This position will help protect water quality in the Lahontan Region by leading implementation of the region’s Nonpoint Source (NPS) Program. This includes NPS program management, Clean Water Act section 319 grants management, and implementation of permits and programs to manage impacts from rangeland and grazing operations.
- Environmental Scientist, Forestry/Dredge & Fill Unit, South Lake Tahoe. This position will draft permits, provide technical expertise, evaluate and assist in the drafting of environmental documents. Evaluate and regulate the impacts of logging operations and other forest practices on the quality and beneficial uses of water. Coordinate with the federal land management agencies (US Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management) 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.

- Engineering Geologist, Department of Defense/Site Cleanup Program Unit, Victorville. This position will oversee site investigations and cleanups at Department of Defense facilities and individual Site Cleanup sites.
- Regional Administrative Officer, Administrative Unit. This position oversees the Administrative Unit and provides supervision of various administrative functions, including business services, personnel, budgets, contracts, procurement, Public Records Act requests, records management, facilities and equipment maintenance, fleet, health and safety, training, document accessibility for digital information, and overall regional administrative operations.

2. Department of Defense Cleanup Program, 2026 Memorandum of Understanding for Land Use Controls — *Lorien Sanders*

The Department of Defense (DOD) cleanup program is a cost recovery program where the State Water Resource Control Board and the Regional Boards recover costs to oversee cleanup activities at current and former military facilities throughout the State through the Defense Environmental Restoration Program (DERP). In Region 6, we have eight (8) military facilities:

1. Edwards Air Force Base near Rosamond
2. Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake near Ridgecrest
3. Former George Air Force Base (closed base) in Victorville
4. Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow
5. Fort Irwin National Training Center near Barstow
6. Air Force Plant 42 in Palmdale
7. Sierra Army Depot in Herlong
8. Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center in Bridgeport

In March 2026, after multiple disputes regarding land use controls at federal facilities under DOD jurisdiction in California, the DOD, the California Department of Toxic Substances Control, and the California State Water Resources Control Board signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The MOU ensures continued protection of human health and the environment that is substantively equivalent to what is required under California Code of Regulations title 22, section 67931.1 (22 CCR §67391.1). Under the MOU, the agencies agree to disagree on whether 22 CCR §67391.1 is an Applicable or Relevant and Appropriate Requirement where land use controls have been selected as a remedy or a component of a remedy. The MOU provides for land use controls at active installations, property transfers to another federal agency and property transfers out of federal ownership, including early transfers. The MOU also includes provisions for the modification or termination of land use controls. The MOU does not discuss Water Code section 13307.1 authority; however, it will aid the Water Board in ensuring proper protections. The MOU applies to DOD active facilities, Base Realignment and Closure facilities, and National Priorities List sites. The MOU does not apply to sites in the Formerly Used Defense Sites program managed by the United States Army Corps of Engineers.

This new MOU is anticipated to help move activities forward at Edwards Air Force Base and Former George Air Force Base where LUCs were delaying finalization of several remedy decision documents.

3. Standing Item – Update on Salt and Nutrient Management Plans in the Lahontan Region — Anna Garcia

This item is a regular update on the progress of Salt and Nutrient Management Planning (SNMP) efforts in the Lahontan Region. The State Water Board’s *Water Quality Control Policy for Recycled Water* (Recycled Water Policy) was adopted in 2009, then amended in 2013 and 2018. The [2018 Recycled Water Policy Amendment](#) provides updated guidance on developing groundwater basin-wide or subbasin-wide SNMPS.

Information on SNMP efforts in the Lahontan Region is available on our [SNMP webpage](#). The [SNMP webpage](#) includes a link to our [2022 Staff Report on Developing a Salt and Nutrient Management Planning Strategy](#) for the groundwater basins/subbasins in our region. The strategy consists of three parts: updated data assessments for existing SNMPS, basin/subbasin evaluation and prioritization, and groundwater basin/subbasin alignment.

Updated Data Assessments for existing SNMPS:

Stakeholders in the Lahontan Region developed, and the Lahontan Water Board previously accepted, five SNMPS that cover 12 groundwater basins/subbasins and almost 90% of the population living across all the Department of Water Resources (DWR) defined groundwater basins/subbasins in our region. This list provides the SNMP name and the date of plan acceptance:

- Antelope Valley SNMP - November 2014
- Mojave SNMP - February 2016
- Fort Irwin SNMP - January 2017
- Indian Wells Valley SNMP - April 2018
- Fremont Basin SNMP - January 2019

In early 2026, Lahontan staff were invited to participate in a Regional Water Quality Working Group formed to collaboratively address shared water quality related needs and challenges in Los Angeles County, including a portion of the Antelope Valley. The working group is part of the Regional Water Reliability Task Force associated with the Los Angeles County Water Plan (LACWP). The working group is focused on salinity management in groundwater basins and the role of SNMPS related to project permitting. A series of workshops is planned for 2026 in which the working group will discuss updating SNMPS for future project development and permitting, challenges associated with SNMP implementation, basin assimilative capacity analysis, and the benefits of Pure Water project recharge to groundwater basins. [Pure Water Southern California](#) is a regional water recycling program that will purify and reuse cleaned wastewater.

Lahontan staff attended an April 16, 2026, working group meeting which included representatives from the Antelope Valley-East Kern Water Agency and Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts (LACSD), stakeholders that participated in the development of the 2014 Antelope Valley SNMP. Other attendees included representatives from Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP), Santa Clarita Valley Water, Water Replenishment District (WRD), staff from the State Water Board Division of Water Quality, as well as a Board Member, Assistant Executive Officer, and staff from the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board. Lahontan staff are looking forward to future working group meetings and continued collaboration on SNMP issues.

Basin/subbasin evaluation and prioritization:

The [2018 Recycled Water Policy Amendment](#) requires stakeholders to upload SNMP water quality data to the SWRCB's Groundwater Ambient Monitoring and Assessment Program (GAMA) system. The [GAMA Groundwater Information System](#) integrates and displays water quality data from various sources on an interactive Google-based map. Data is compiled from multiple sources and includes well chemical data and depth to water measurements. This system centralizes and increases the availability of groundwater information to the public and decision makers.

During the April 16, 2026, working group meeting, Lahontan staff asked if stakeholders have been able to upload their SNMP water quality data into the [GAMA Groundwater Information System](#). Staff from the WRD, which serves groundwater basins in the Coastal Plain of Los Angeles, indicated they have worked with State Water Board Division of Water Quality staff to upload their water quality data into the system. The SWRCB's [GAMA Groundwater Information System](#) covers the state and Lahontan staff are able to review water quality data to evaluate and prioritize the basins/subbasins of our Region in support of our region-specific SNMP Strategy.

Alignment of groundwater basins/subbasins:

Lahontan staff identified a discrepancy between the basins/subbasins identified in the [Basin Plan](#) and the basins/subbasins defined by DWR in [Bulletin 118, California's Groundwater](#). Table 2-2 of the [Basin Plan](#) lists 346 basins in the Lahontan Region. The 2020 update of [Bulletin 118, California's Groundwater](#) by DWR lists 105 groundwater basins/subbasins for the Lahontan Region. Staff are currently reviewing the locations of regulated facilities across the region in relation to the basin/subbasin boundaries identified in our Basin Plan and the boundaries defined in GIS layers from [Bulletin 118, California's Groundwater](#). This work will provide staff with an understanding of how many, and which facilities may be affected by a basin/subbasin boundary shift that would be required to align with DWR defined basin/subbasin boundaries. Lahontan staff are continuing to evaluate options to potentially align basin/subbasin boundaries with DWR defined basin/subbasin boundaries.

4. Standing Item – Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems — Jose Valle de Leon

This item provides a status update of the State Water Resources Control Board’s (State Water Board’s) Water Quality Control Policy for Siting, Design, Operation, and Maintenance of Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems (OWTS or septic systems), or OWTS Policy. The OWTS Policy allows the continued use of OWTS with permitting authority lying with the local agency.

The OWTS Policy establishes a five-tiered approach (Tiers 0-4) for the regulation and management of OWTS installations and replacements (Table 4.1). The Lahontan Water Board currently is the lead contact for the implementation of nine Local Agency Management Programs (LAMPs). There are also two cities that permit septic systems without a LAMP within the Lahontan Region. These cities permit systems by following guidelines in the OWTS Policy under Tier 1.

Table 4.1 – OWTS Policy Tiers and Local Agencies Reporting to Lahontan Water Board

Tier	Description of Tier	Effect on Lahontan Region	Local Agencies under Lahontan Water Board Jurisdiction
0	Existing OWTS that are properly functioning and do not meet the conditions of failing systems or otherwise corrective action	Applies to most existing OWTS	
1	New or replacement OWTS that meet low risk siting and design requirements as specified in Tier 1	Applies to two local agencies issuing OWTS permits without a LAMP	Adelanto Victorville
2	Local agencies that permit OWTS with an established LAMP that has standards specified	Applies to local agencies issuing OWTS permits with an approved LAMP	Lassen County Alpine County Mono County Inyo County San Bernardino County California City Barstow Apple Valley Hesperia
3	OWTS in surface watersheds impaired by nutrients or pathogens	Currently, there is none in Region 6	
4	Failed existing OWTS	When local agency required corrective actions are completed, OWTS returns to Tier 0	

Summary of OWTS Policy Revisions and Amendments

On April 18, 2023, the State Water Board adopted the revised OWTS Policy. The revised OWTS Policy replaced the original OWTS Policy that was adopted on June 19, 2012. The revised policy includes minor clarifications to the applicability of OWTS Policy tiers, including:

- Specifying that LAMPs must comply with local ordinances.
- Clarifying the mechanism for defining the geographical reach of certain requirements contained within LAMPs or Advanced Protection Management Programs.
- Clarifying the timing for the submission of reports.
- Removing legacy language addressing applicability during the initial phase-in period of the OWTS Policy which has now passed.
- Including non-substantive revisions for improved website accessibility and readability.

Revisions to clarify authority already afforded to local agencies, concerning LAMPs, including:

- Defining domestic wastewater to include wastewater normally discharged from systems serving multiple dwelling units, including accessory dwelling units that are the subject of recent legislation.
- Clarifying that the OWTS Policy Tier 2 LAMPs can include alternative collection and disposal systems that use subsurface disposal that are determined to be appropriate alternative systems by a qualified professional to satisfy Tier 2 LAMP requirements. All OWTS, including alternative collection and disposal systems that use subsurface disposal under a LAMP, must adhere to monitoring requirements, any service provider roles outlined by an approved LAMP, and any other applicable Tier 2 requirements. OWTS covered by a LAMP utilizing supplemental treatment may be required to meet Tier 3 conditions, which may include nitrogen and pathogen monitoring and mitigation requirements.
- In addition to the existing surface water considerations in the OWTS Policy, noting that LAMPs should consider whether any additional requirements may be needed to be more protective of water quality, including groundwater degradation, in specific areas within a local agency's jurisdiction, including areas vulnerable to groundwater pollution from OWTS.

Local Agency Management Program (Tier 2) Update

Per Tier 2 requirements of the OWTS Policy, local agencies may submit “Local Agency Management Programs” for approval by the applicable Regional Water Board, and upon approval then manage the installation of new and replacement OWTS under that program. LAMPs approved under Tier 2 provide an alternate method from Tier 1 programs to achieve the same policy purpose, which is to protect water quality and public health.

On May 13, 2025, Lahontan staff brought Resolution No. R6-2025-0018 to the board for consideration. The Resolution approves the newly updated San Bernardino County LAMP, whose revisions include the incorporation of requirements for Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) and Junior ADUs that rely on residential septic systems, incorporate by reference new state and county regulations, general updates to improve clarity, and responses to frequently asked questions. The Resolution was adopted by the Lahontan Water Board.

On April 10, 2026, Inyo County reached out to Lahontan staff regarding an update to the Inyo County LAMP. The process is in the beginning stages, and staff is currently working with the County to review changes and updates as requested. Once a final version of the LAMP is completed and reviewed by Water Board staff, a draft resolution will be submitted to the Board for consideration to approve the revised Inyo County LAMP.

Reporting to GeoTracker

As a requirement in the LAMPs and the OWTS Policy, local agencies must report annually by February 1 on the permitting and enforcement activities of the previous year. Additionally, Lahontan Water Board staff are requesting local agencies to provide the following information in the annual permitting and enforcement reports to evaluate the density loading of OWTS in the Lahontan Region:

- Map of septic installations, failures, and complaints
- Narrative summary of septic installations, failures, and complaints from the previous calendar year

As of April 2026, of the nine Tier 2 local agencies reporting to the Water Board (see Table 4.1) under the OWTS Policy, seven agencies have not submitted their 5-Year LAMP Assessment reports and six have not submitted their 2025 annual reports (Table 4.2).

Table 4.2 – Summary of LAMP Reporting

Local Agency Management Program	5 Year LAMP Assessment	Last Annual Report Submitted
Apple Valley Town	Submitted – Not reviewed	2023
Inyo County	Not Submitted	2026
California City	Not Submitted	2026
Barstow City	Not Submitted	2021
San Bernardino County	Reviewed	2026
Mono County	Not Submitted	2022
Hesperia City	Not Submitted	2023
Alpine County	Not Submitted	2026
Lassen County	Not Submitted	2026
Victorville City OWTS Tier 1	N/A	2022
Adelanto City OWTS Tier 1	N/A	2022