



EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

July 1, 2026 – July 31, 2026

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1. Personnel Report – *Sandra Lopez*

Promotions

- Sandra Lopez, 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.

New Hires

- David Corral, 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.

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.

- Engineering Geologist, Stormwater and Cannabis Unit, Victorville. This position will help protect water quality in the Lahontan Region by evaluating Dredge and Fill applications in the 401 program to help ensure the protection of valuable natural hydrologic infrastructure such as wetlands, ephemeral streams, and other hydrological systems. This position will also assist in our stormwater program which includes permitting and compliance inspections to help educate the public and protect the environment from surface water discharges.
- Analyst II, Administrative Unit, Victorville. This position provides administrative support to the region by managing contracts and procurement activities, supporting facility management functions, performing data entry for regulatory requirements, and ensuring compliance with financial assurance requirements.

Departures

- Eric Shay, Administrative Officer, South Lake Tahoe. Retired.

2. Forestry Program Update – *Bryan Talmadge*

Program Description

The Forest Activities Program (Program) regulates the discharge of Non-point Source pollution, primarily in the form of sediment, from timber harvest and vegetation management activities that occur in the Lahontan Region. Non-point Source pollution associated with forestry activities includes the alteration of streamside vegetation, road construction and use, and soil disturbance during mechanical equipment use.

The primary regulatory mechanism to regulate these discharges in the Lahontan Region is the Conditional Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements for wastes discharges resulting from Timber Harvest and Vegetation Management Activities in the Lahontan Region: Board Order R6-2024-0035 and is commonly referred to as the “2024 Timber Waiver” (Timber Waiver). Project enrollment is conditionally based upon whether given Project activities can comply with one of six category eligibility criteria and conditions adopted in the Timber Waiver. Coverage under the Timber Waiver is required for private and public landowners conducting commercial and/or noncommercial activities. Under the existing Timber Waiver, there are currently no associated fees for enrollment. The 2024 Timber Waiver is set to expire on August 20, 2029. Staff are currently working on the development of a timber harvest and vegetation management general waste discharge requirements general order (hereafter WDR). This WDR will function similar to the current Timber Waiver; however, the WDR will not expire every 5 years as a waiver does. In addition, the WDR will provide more flexibility with projects and conditions as it is a discretionary enrollment rather than a ministerial enrollment as with the current Timber Waiver.

Fiscal Year 26/27 (FY 26/27) Tasks for the Forestry Program

During the FY 26/27, Forestry staff plan to focus their efforts on the following tasks intended to ultimately improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the Forestry program.

First, staff will update the current version of the Forestry Program Strategy (Strategy) which was written in September 2023. The intention of the Strategy is to improve specific Program procedures to support staff as they work to protect, preserve, and restore water quality in the context of timber harvest and vegetation management within the Lahontan Region. It is a resource for Program staff and management to consult for internal guidance on recurring Program processes, when prioritizing new work, and when planning future Program Objectives and priorities. The strategy acts as a resource library that documents program history, permits and permitting mechanisms, reoccurring internal process, relevant regulations, partner agencies and their processes, Regional guidance documents developed by executive management and/or adopted through resolution by the Water Board, and the relationship between program work and relevant regional and state policy. Since it is meant to be dynamic and adaptively managed through time as changes affect the program, it helps address evolving legislative mandates and statewide commitments such as the State of Emergency discussed below. As a “living” document, staff can best adapt to change and ensure that the Strategy continues to fulfill its intended purpose.

The scope of the Strategy does not include program specific enforcement strategies and guidance as well as any interpretation of state or regional policy and regulations. Instead, the Strategy directs readers to approved Water Board resources, policy, and adopted state regulations to ensure that regulatory oversight by program staff is based upon adopted state regulations, policy, and water board resolutions. It is scheduled to be updated by June 2027.

Second, staff will continue to work on the development of the new Timber WDR. Specific milestones for the development during the FY 26/27 fiscal year include:

1. Stakeholder Engagement
2. Research and Interagency Collaborations
3. Evaluate and determine permitting pathways (e.g. multiple WDRs for federal and non-federal lands; individual WDR for Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit).
4. Document vision and outline development

2025 Proclamation of a State of Emergency

On March 1, 2025, the Governor issued a Proclamation of a State of Emergency ([GSS 9320 2-20250304094549](#)) due to recent devastating wildfires and continued catastrophic wildfire risks. The Proclamation suspended State statutes, rules, regulations, and requirements that fall within the jurisdiction of boards, departments, and offices within the California Environmental Protection Agency and the California Natural Resources Agency to the extent necessary for expediting critical fuels reduction

projects. Projects have to be performed in accordance with the State Environmental Protection Plan ([CA-Fuels-Reduction-Environmental-Protection-Plan-2025-12-31.pdf](#)) which was issued in May 2025 and updated December 2025.

Submittals of requests for suspension deadline was May 1, 2026. Project implementation and on-the-ground work is required to commence by October 15, 2026. Typical projects must then be completed within two years of work commencement; however, extensions may be granted for up to an additional five years from work commencement. The State Water Resource Control Board (State Board) administers the suspension program on behalf of the Regional Water Boards. The Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board (Lahontan Water Board) performed “Red Flag” reviews of suspension requests for projects located in the Lahontan Region. To date, 45 projects have been approved for coverage under the suspension within the Lahontan Region. Approved projects can be found on the CALFIRE Approved Project Dashboard ([Request to Suspend State Statutes and Regulations Application and Dashboard](#)).

During project implementation, staff will conduct inspections on these projects to ensure compliance with the State Environmental Protection Plan. The State Board has identified priority projects statewide that State Board staff will also inspect. Lahontan Water Board and State Board staff are coordinating these inspection efforts within the Lahontan region.

Training

On June 4, 2026, Krystal Taylor, a Senior Environmental Scientist with the State Board’s Emergency Management Program (EMP), facilitated a Wildfire Training for staff and management. This training focused on a tabletop exercise where EMP staff created a wildfire scenario in Region 6. Staff and management practiced how we would coordinate and communicate, in real time, both during the active fire and post-fire. It included surprise “injections” to simulated real world situations. The training had five main goals as listed below:

1. Strengthen internal coordination during a wildfire incident.
2. Test internal communication pathways during fast-moving emergencies like wildfire.
3. Clarify roles, responsibilities, and decision-making processes related to wildfire impacts on water quality.
4. For staff who have not been a part of a wildfire coordination effort yet, help build their confidence engaging in this space through practice and training.
5. Provide a refresher to seasoned staff since it has been a few years since a large wildfire coordination effort has occurred in the Region.

Other forestry training on the horizon includes efforts by the Central Valley Water Board to coordinate a state-wide training with the Pacific Watershed Associates (PWA) on their Handbook for Forest, Ranch, and Rural Roads (<https://www.pacificwatershed.com/roadshandbook>). The Handbook was developed, in part, with funding from the State Board. This training will include both a review of the

Handbook and a field component to see real world issues and success with roads. As forest roads are a primary source of sediment, this is an excellent opportunity for staff to strengthen their knowledge and apply it to future projects and permits. Forestry program staff have been placed on a priority list for this training.