**Lahontan Water Board Program Fact Sheet**

**FY 2017–2018**

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| ***Dredge and Fill*** |

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| **Overview**  **This Program regulates discharges of dredge and fill material to all waters of the State under the the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act, including waters of the U.S. under Clean Water Act section 401. Additional protections are provided for wetlands, special aquatic sites, and headwaters because these waterbodies have important functions and values including pollutant removal, flood water retention, and habitat connectivity. The Program’s core protection strategy is impact avoidance, followed by impact minimization, and then mitigation to compensate for impacts and to ensure no net loss of water resources. The Program is supported by 2.1 PYs.** |
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| **Key Efforts**   * **Require applicants to propose the least environmentally damaging practicable alternative (LEDPA) for a project.** * **Encourage applicants to avoid impacts to water resources; all unavoidable impacts require minimization and then mitigation.** * **Impose permit conditions that are enforceable and trackable in CIWQS for efficient compliance and enforcement.** * **Comment on environmental documents to ensure requirements of the Program, including our core protection strategy (avoid, minimize, mitigate), LEDPA, and water resource issues are clearly explained and taken into consideration early on in project planning.** * **Inspect project sites and mitigation areas for compliance with permit requirements.** * **Continue to assist and engage in discussions with State Board on the statewide Draft** Procedures for Discharges of Dredged or Fill Material to Waters of the State. * **Require monitoring and reporting, including use of California Rapid Assessment Method (CRAM) protocols and EcoAtlas.** * **Development of general orders for Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) and San Bernardino County.** |

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| **Accomplishments**   * **Issued 23 new dredge and/or fill permits (13 Water Quality Certifications (WQC),**   **6 Notices of Applicability for enrollment in WDRs for impacts to State waters, and**  **4 General Order enrollments).**   * **Actively processing 30 applications for new dredge and/or fill permits.** * **Performed 15 inspections.** * Completed 2 informal enforcement actions for non-compliance with permit conditions. * **Reviewed and commented on nearly 80 environmental documents** * **Lead Agency for CEQA compliance of four restoration projects: Pine Creek Restoration, Sierra County Sardine Meadow Restoration, Mono County Sardine Meadow Restoration, and Sierra County Dry Creek Restoration.** * **Progress towards a long-term, multi-year WQC for LADWP activities in Inyo and Mono counties. Meetings are held quarterly to develop CEQA document and discuss planned maintenance needs; site-specific permits are issued on an as-needed basis.** * **Progress towards the development of the Mojave River Watershed Mitigation Bank in the Mojave watershed in collaboration with the United States Army Corps of Engineers, United States Environmental Protection Agency, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the bank sponsor Desert Environmental Resources, Inc.** * **Ongoing training of staff and dischargers for use of CRAM protocols and EcoAtlas.** * **Ongoing inspection and technical input on the Upper Truckee River Restoration efforts.** |
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| **Performance Targets for Fiscal Year 2017-2018**   * **State Board, in collaboration with the nine regional boards, is currently working on the development of a set of statewide performance targets for the Program.** |
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| **Unaddressed Work**   * **More than two-thirds of permitted sites go uninspected each year.** * **Limited opportunities and resources to ensure mitigation is successful.** * **Limited regulatory tools to protect and regulate impacts to waters of the State where no waters of the U.S. are designated.** * **Identification of priority functions and values of waters requiring protection and impact avoidance where possible.** * **Expansion of basin plan prohibitions and policies to protect floodplains and riparian areas (currently being evaluated as part of the Climate Change Strategy efforts).** * **Incentivizing watershed restoration and resiliency efforts (partly being evaluated as part of the Climate Change Strategy efforts).** * **Limited resources for outreach and education.** |