

Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board

MINUTES

March 11-12, 2015

Regular Meeting

California Regional Water Quality Control Board-Lahontan Region
South Lake Tahoe Office, Annex Hearing Room
971 Silver Dollar Avenue
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150;

Board Members Participating

Kimberly Cox, Chair, Helendale
Keith Dyas, Vice Chair, Rosamond
Don Jardine, Markleeville
Eric Sandel, Truckee

Board Member Absent

Amy Horne, Ph.D., Truckee
Peter C. Pumphrey, Bishop

Legal Counsel

Kimberly Niemeyer, Office of Chief Counsel, State Water Resources Control Board

State Board Staff

Andrew DiLuccia, Public Information Officer, Office of Public Affairs

Regional Board Staff Participating

Patty Z. Kouyoumdjian, Executive Officer
Lauri Kemper, Assistant Executive Officer
Mike Plaziak, Sup. Engineering Geologist
Douglas Smith, Sup. Engineering Geologist
Scott Ferguson, Sup WRCE
Alan Miller, Senior WRCE
Doug Cushman, Senior WRCE

Rich Booth, Senior Engineering Geologist
Patrice Copeland, Senior Engineering Geologist
Rob Tucker, WRCE
Robert Larsen, Senior Environmental Scientist
Dan Sussman, Environmental Scientist
Ghasem Pour-Ghasemi, WRCE
Sue Genera, Executive Assistant

REGULAR MEETING: Wednesday, March 11, 2015- 7:00 p.m.

To view the full Agenda and listen to the audio of this meeting [CLICK HERE](#)

INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Cox called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. on March 11, 2015, and introduced Board Members.

Patty Z. Kouyoumdjian, Executive Officer, introduced Legal Counsel, State Board and Regional Water Board staff.

1. **PUBLIC FORUM**

None.

OTHER BUSINESS

2. Minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 11, 2015, held via teleconference in five locations:

- **Motion:** Moved by Mr. Sandel, seconded by Mr. Jardine, to approve the Minutes as presented. The Chair called for a Roll Call Vote and the motion ***carried*** per the following votes:

Ms. Cox	aye
Mr. Dyas	aye
Dr. Horne	absent
Mr. Jardine	aye
Mr. Pumphrey	absent
Mr. Sandel	aye

Click here to view the adopted [February 11, 2015 Minutes](#)

RENEWAL OF NPDES PERMITS

3. *Renewal of Waste Discharge Requirements and National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit for Cycle Power Partners, LLC, Wineagle Geothermal Power Plant

- **Motion:** Moved by Mr. Sandel, seconded by Mr. Jardine, to approve the Uncontested Calendar as presented. The Chair called for a Roll Call Vote and the motion ***carried*** per the following votes:

Ms. Cox	aye
Mr. Dyas	aye
Dr. Horne	absent
Mr. Jardine	aye
Mr. Pumphrey	absent
Mr. Sandel	aye

Click here to view adopted [Board Order R6T-2015-0010](#)

REPORTS

4. **Reports by Water Board Chair and Board Members**

Chair Cox reported that the Mojave Water Agency is scheduling another Mojave Tour in June 3, 2015 and encouraged those Board members who have not attended to go.

5. Executive Officer's Report

Ms. Kouyoumdjian, Executive Officer, presented the [March Written Report](#) and gave additional updates on:

- a. Taylor Currier has accepted a limited term Environmental Scientist position in the South Lake Tahoe office;
- b. Vehicle theft of the South Lake Tahoe "Green Jeep";
- c. R6 Electronic Content Management (ECM) conversion on May 1, 2015; and
- d. Historical UST case closure.

Scott Ferguson, Supervising Water Resource Control Engineer, presented the Annual Enforcement Summary and the Quarterly Violations Report.

OTHER BUSINESS

6. Discussion of Water Board Accomplishments and Priorities

Executive Office Kouyoumdjian and Assistant Executive Officer Kemper, presented this Item to the Board. In their presentation they gave an overview of:

- Organizational Structure and Funding Challenges
- Performance Targets and Accomplishments
- Regional Board Key Efforts
- Statewide Policies
- Future Workshops
- Guiding Principals

Chair Cox asked if thought was given to naming conventions for files moving into ECM and if we had the staff resources to handle the transition. Ms. Kemper responded that Region 6 is the last Region to transition into ECM and that a lot of troubleshooting has already been done statewide. Both South Lake Tahoe and Victorville Offices have admin staff that will triage incoming data. Mr. Sandel asked if the ECM system has a good search engine. Ms. Kemper stated that when talking to an employee at the State Board they relayed that the search engine could be slow and challenging.

Mr. Dyas asked when the deadline was for Local Area Management Plans. Ms. Kemper stated that they are due to the Regional Board May 2016 and that staff have been performing outreach with local governments.

Chair Cox requested that staff consult with Dr. Horne and Mr. Pumphrey on their preference to the order or priority given to 2015-16 Workshops. Mr. Dyas asked what the water quality connection was in the *Storm Water Strategic Initiative*. Ms. Kouyoumdjian stated that the State Water Board was having similar policy discussions. Mr. Jardine asked how *Flow Requirements to Protect Water Quality* relates to Alpine Meadows Creek. Ms. Kouyoumdjian did not know the answer but stated that this is a difficult issue and that she did not feel the State Board would try to adjudicate it until it was vetted through other regions first. Mr. Sandel stated that *Leviathan Mine* and *Riparian and Wetland Projects* could be moved farther down on the priority list and that Squaw Creek should be addressed when discussing *Flow Requirements to Protect Water Quality*. Mr. Jardine requested that water rights issues pertaining to County of Origin be addressed at some point.

Chair Cox added to the Guiding Principles discussion stating it is important for the Board to set the cultural expectations for staff and that the Board should help set priorities. Mr. Dyas commended staff on the consistent respect shown to dischargers and the rights of dischargers and would like it added to the list if it was not already captured. Mr. Sandel thought that *Train and Empower Water Board staff* should be moved to the top of the list. Ms. Kouyoumdjian committed to sharing the Guiding Principles with staff to get their suggestions.

The Executive Officer offered the Board the opportunity to get more involved with any of the Workshops or Policy Discussions that they had a particular interest in.

7. **CLOSED SESSION****

None.

Note: The water Board recessed at 8:53 p.m.

REGULAR MEETING: Thursday, March 12, 2015 – 8:30 a.m.

INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Cox called the meeting to order at 8:31 a.m. on March 12, 2015, and introduced Board Members.

Patty Z. Kouyoumdjian, Executive Officer, introduced Legal Counsel, State Board and Regional Water Board staff.

8. **PUBLIC FORUM**

None.

OTHER BUSINESS

9. **Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL) Implementation Status Reports**

Rich Booth addressed the Board and gave a Power Point presentation summarizing the six TMDLs in the Lahontan Region. Chair Cox asked that staff identify in announcements what effect or benefit the activity might have on a homeowner/public, in hopes of soliciting greater public participation.

10. **Lake Tahoe Total Maximum Daily Load Program Update**

Robert Larsen provided the Board with a summary of implementation efforts for the 65-year plan to restore Lake Tahoe's deep water transparency. The TMDL requirements focus on reducing pollutants from urban storm water runoff, as it contributes more than 70% of the fine sediment particle load. Other significant pollutant sources include runoff from disturbed undeveloped forest lands, stream channel bed and bank erosion, and atmospheric deposition. While Lake Tahoe TMDL implementation is still in its infancy, positive progress has been made.

Note: The Board took a break from 10:05-10:15 a.m.

11. **An Emergency Conditional Waiver of Statutory Requirements to File a Report of Waste Discharge and to Adopt Waste Discharge Requirements for Management and Disposal of Solid Wastes from Wildfires**

Patrice Copeland, Senior Engineering Geologist in the Victorville Office gave a presentation on current Waste Discharge Requirements for the management and disposal of solid waste from wildfires. In her presentation she highlighted the locations of landfills in the Lahontan Region and what types of debris they accept. She detailed the concentrations of hazardous waste debris contains following a structural fire and the capacity of landfills to accept various types of waste.

Board member Sandel asked how debris is handled if the Governor does not declare the site a natural disaster. Ms. Copleand responded that the debris would not be required to be taken to a lined landfill (Class III). Mr. Dyas asked if a Class III landfill was mandated to accept the waste if the Governor declares the site a natural disaster. Legal Counsel responded that the landfill is not mandated to accept the waste but that the important information is that the disposal of the materials would be exempt from the CEQA process. Mr. Dyas also asked if debris could be taken to a landfill in another region. Ms. Kouyoumdjian stated that it could if the landfill operator agreed to take it.

The Executive Officer presented an alternate resolution for the Board to consider that would expand the waiver to capture not only solid wastes from wildfires but all emergencies and disasters.

Public Comment

Mr. Todd Thalhammer with CalRecycle, addressed the Board in support of the waiver. He stated that if the soil under the debris and ash is taken to an unlined landfill it would help to expedite site cleanup.

- **Motion:** Moved by Mr. Dyas, seconded by Mr. Sandel, to approve the alternative Emergency Conditional Waiver Resolution as presented by the Executive Officer during the meeting. The Chair called for a Roll Call Vote and the motion **carried** per the following votes:

Ms. Cox	aye
Mr. Dyas	aye
Dr. Horne	absent
Mr. Jardine	aye
Mr. Pumphrey	absent
Mr. Sandel	aye

Click here to view adopted [Resolution R6T-2015-0009](#)

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 11:03 a.m. on March 12, 2015.

Prepared by: _____

Sue Genera, Executive Assistant

Adopted: June 11, 2015