Lahontan Regional Water Quality
Control Board

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

December 2002

NORTH BASIN

1. Chemical Application Management Plans for golf courses, Truckee River Hydrologic Unit, Placer County - *Jason Churchill*

A Chemical Application Management Plan (CHAMP) is a document prepared by a golf course developer or turf manager to guide the use of chemicals (such as fertilizers and other soil amendments, and pesticides including herbicides, fungicides, insecticides and rodenticides) at that specific course. Staff is currently working with the Placer County Environmental Health Department to develop CHAMP guidelines for golf courses in the Placer County portion of the Truckee River Hydrologic Unit. Several new golf courses are proposed, and a number already exist in that area, which is undergoing rapid development. The guidelines will assist developers of new or existing golf courses in writing CHAMPs, and are being developed as an outreach tool to proactively prevent water quality degradation.

Placer County may consider a suitable CHAMP as a mitigation measure to prevent significant water quality effects from a proposed golf course during the California Environmental Quality Act review process. The County may also require that a CHAMP be prepared and followed as a requirement of a Conditional Use Permit for a new or existing golf course. The CHAMP objectives are to minimize potential adverse effects on water quality and prevent chemical residues from reaching surface or ground waters. To achieve the objectives, a CHAMP should address issues such as:

- Policies to select and use chemicals to balance effectiveness with minimizing potential environmental effects (e.g., use chemicals with low toxicity, persistence and mobility).
- Policies to minimize chemical use and manage irrigation appropriately.
- Golf course design features such as natural vegetative buffer strips near surface waters, and Best Management Practices (BMPs) such as avoiding irrigation immediately after herbicide application to prevent chemical residues from reaching receiving waters.
- Monitoring programs and response policies to detect and respond to water quality problems.

Golf courses in the Truckee River watershed are typically developed under the statewide NPDES General Storm Water Permit for Construction Activity. A CHAMP may be considered as pre- and post-development BMP under this Permit. I am authorized to require monitoring and reporting on compliance with the CHAMP as a discretionary action under that Permit. Golf course managers required to conduct an ongoing monitoring program specified in the CHAMP must report any results indicating that "action thresholds" established in the CHAMP have been exceeded, and take actions to abate the problem.

2. Annual Fees - *T. Jerrold Peacock*

All dischargers have received fiscal year 2002-2003 invoices for annual fees associated with their permits. The fee schedule, which remained unchanged from 1991 to 2001, was revised this year by the State Board to change certain programs to fee-based funding, rather than funding through the state General Fund. The new

schedule is primarily based on threat to water quality and facility complexity, and roughly doubles the annual fees for most dischargers. In addition, the basis for establishing fees for National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permits and Chapter 15 facilities was completely changed. The new fees and methodology for establishing fees also applies to fees associated with General Orders issued by the State Board and the Regional Board

The new fee schedule was adopted under emergency conditions and may undergo additional changes in the near future. A panel of Assistant Executive Officers and external stakeholders will be evaluating the fee structure, and determining whether additional changes to the fee structure are appropriate, and to ensure that fees are sufficient to make up for lost General Fund revenues. I intend to provide written comments to the panel on inequities and anomalies that have recently come to my attention.

3. Federal Correctional Institution, Herlong, Lassen County - *T. Jerrold Peacock*

A new federal Prison in Herlong is approximately 90% complete and expects to start operation in summer 2003. Water and wastewater are proposed to be provided by the Herlong Utilities Cooperative (HUC), who propose to serve other facilities in the area including the U.S. Army Sierra Army Depot. Approval of the Environmental Impact Report for the proposed HUC water and wastewater facilities was appealed by local farmers, challenging the adequacy of protection for local ground water supplies. Agreement of potential mitigation was reached on 26 November, however, and Lassen County adopted the notice of determination for the project. Regional Board staff will be preparing tentative waste discharge requirements for the wastewater collection and treatment facilities, which are scheduled to be constructed in 2003 and be ready for operation in spring 2004. The Federal Correction Institution is scheduled to start operation in spring 2003. The Federal Bureau of Prisons is contracting with the U.S. Army Sierra Army Depot (SIAD) to accept and treat wastewater for the interim period at the existing SIAD wastewater treatment facility, which has unused capacity.

4. Industrial Storm Water Inspections Performed by Tetra Tech - *Scott Slamal*

EPA contracted with Tetra Tech, Inc. to conduct storm water program evaluations for various industrial facilities regulated under the Statewide General NPDES Industrial Storm Water Permit (Industrial Permit). In November 2002, Tetra Tech completed inspections at 24 industrial facilities located in the Northern, Lake Tahoe, and Carson/Walker watersheds. A preliminary goal of the inspections was to determine how industrial facilities complied with all the conditions and requirements contained in the Industrial Permit. Tetra Tech evaluated the effectiveness of the selected best management practices (BMPs) and implementation of site-specific Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plans (SWPPPs). Once in-field inspections were completed, Tetra Tech prepared detailed inspection reports that included general results, areas of potential noncompliance, and a facility photo log. Overall, of the 24 industrial facilities inspected within the North Lahontan Basin, Tetra Tech reported that facilities were generally in compliance and BMP implementation. The areas of noncompliance identified by Tetra Tech included minor yard violations and failure to retain storm water records (i.e., SWPPP, monitoring plan, annual reports, and sampling results) for on-site review. After a comprehensive review of Tetra Tech's findings Regional Board staff may recommend enforcement for some of the instances of noncompliance.

5. Update on Statewide Phase II Storm Water Permits-*Mary Fiore-Wagner*

The State Water Resources Control Board (State Board) held public hearings on December 2, 2002 to consider adoption of the Phase II Municipal and Construction Storm Water Permits. The State Board adopted modifications to the Construction Storm Water General Permit but declined to adopt the Phase II Municipal Storm Water Permit, asking its staff to address several issues in the permit.

Phase II Construction Program

Modifications to the Statewide NPDES Storm Water Construction General Permit (Construction General Permit) expanded the scope of coverage. The original Construction General Permit applied to all construction sites larger than **five acres**; now the Construction General Permit applies to all construction sites larger than **one acre**. All other requirements of the permit have essentially remained the same. By March 10, 2003, any construction site larger than one acre must be in compliance with the permit; permit compliance requires the discharger to prepare and implement a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan and conduct monitoring. The application fee is $700 and dischargers will continue to receive an annual invoice until their construction project is complete and a Notice of Termination is submitted and approved by the Regional Board.

Phase II Municipal Program

The Statewide Phase II Municipal Storm Water Permit (Small MS4 Permit) was proposed for small municipal separate storm sewer systems (MS4s) throughout the state. Small MS4s include municipalities with populations less than 100,000, including urbanized areas (areas with a population of 50,000 and density greater than 1000 people per square mile), cities, and county areas designated by the state based on site-specific criteria, and various state and federal facilities.

Within the Lahontan Region, the City of South Lake Tahoe and El Dorado and Placer Counties are already covered under the Phase I Municipal Program regulations. Areas in the Lahontan Region that will need coverage under the Phase II Program include the cities of Apple Valley, Hesperia, Lancaster, Palmdale, and Victorville and the counties of San Bernardino and Los Angeles. Facilities such as military installations, school districts, universities, colleges, and district agricultural associations that discharge to Phase I or Phase II municipalities will also require permit coverage unless they are already regulated under the Statewide Industrial Storm Water Permit.

At the December 2, 2002 public hearing, the State Board declined to adopt the Phase II Municipal Storm Water Permit. The State Board requested their staff to address several issues prior to reconsideration of adoption of the permit in late January 2003. These issues included time extensions for school districts, post-construction best management practice, and receiving water limitations.

The State Board will reconsider the permit for adoption on January 22, 2003. Upon adoption of the Phase II Municipal Storm Water Permit, designated entities must submit a Notice of Intent along with a copy of a Storm Water Management Program by March 10, 2003. The Storm Water Management Program must specify minimum measures which include public outreach, illicit discharge detection and elimination, and post construction runoff control.

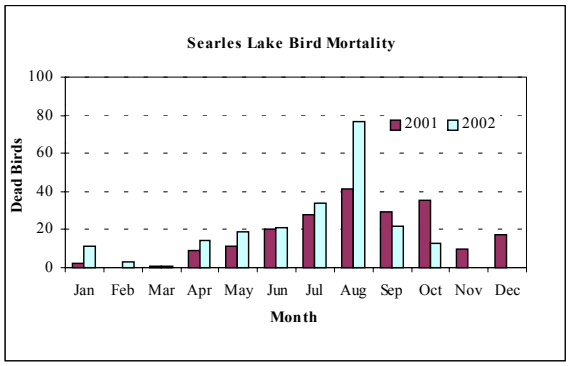
The addition of Phase II facilities will significantly impact the Regional Board's storm water workload. The number of construction sites between 1 and 5 acres and the required document review and interaction with over 15 small MS4 facilities is expected to be significant. No additional resources were allocated this fiscal year to the Regional Boards for overseeing Phase II permits.

SOUTH BASIN

6. IMC Chemicals, Inc. (IMCC) - *Kai Dunn*

Compliance Status

Daily reporting data from IMCC shows that the Argus plant injection brine exceeded the interim effluent limit for total recoverable petroleum hydrocarbons (TRPH) five times during the month of October 2002. The cause was likely due to the improper washing of plant equipment. Board staff contacted IMCC and its management is working to improve their BMPs to reduce similar incidents. Thirteen bird deaths were reported during the same period and most of them are waterfowl. The total birds picked up in the year 2002 up to the month of October were 358 with 215 dead and 143 alive. The dead birds reported in the years 2001 and 2002 are shown in the figure below.



Improving Technology

IMCC has submitted a final design with the exception of the hydrocarbon recovery mechanism for the new Argus skimmer that will treat plant effluent prior to discharge. Installation of the skimmer is a compliance task contained in the Administrative Civil Liability settlement agreement for the facility. The tests show that the skimmer design is capable of achieving a better than 97% recovery of the TRPH that might be present in the brine. Staff is continuing to work with IMCC to finalize the skimmer design.

7. Study of Chromium Sources, Mobility and Isotopic Composition of Ground Water Underlying the Sheep Creek Fan, West of Victorville, California - *Christy Hunter*

This U.S. Geological Survey-led study began this past summer with funding provided by the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC). DTSC staff is also participating in the field investigation part of the project. The purpose of this three-year study is to evaluate the occurrence of chromium in source rock, aquifer materials, and in ground water underlying the Sheep Creek fan in the western Mojave. Geochemical data and chromium isotopes will be used to distinguish between natural and anthropogenic chromium in ground water underlying the Sheep Creek fan. If successful, this project will develop a new method to address sources of chromium contamination at sites where background chromium concentrations are high and it is difficult to determine the extent of anthropogenic contamination.

Ground water samples from selected observation wells will be collected at a site having known chromium (VI) contamination near the downgradient end of the study flowpath near El Mirage Dry Lake. A multiple well site will be installed upgradient from the contamination site at El Mirage. The study will demonstrate if changes in chromium isotope compositions can be used to identify the source of chromium in complex geologic and hydrologic settings where background chromium concentrations are high.

In addition, this study will also look at other selected trace element concentrations in rock, alluvium, and water from selected wells along a flowpath from recharge areas near the foothills of the San Gabriel Mountains to discharge areas near El Mirage Dry Lake.

Since work began this past summer, rock samples and ground water samples have been collected. The study will take three years to complete and a journal article will be produced to describe the study results.

8. Mojave River/El Mirage Dairy Issues - *Steve Fischenich*

The Desert View Dairy (in Hinkley) has recently installed three ground water monitoring wells that will be used to determine the nature and extent of nitrate and total dissolved solids detected in ground water at the dairy. A well installation report has been received. A monitoring report, including laboratory analysis of ground water samples, will be submitted first week of January.

The Meadowbrook Dairy (in El Mirage) has performed preliminary Hydropunch sampling in order to provide data to help determine the optimum location for a ground water monitoring well. The Dairy is evaluating the data and is scheduled to propose the well location this month to Board staff for review. Meadowbrook Dairy has also submitted plans to San Bernardino County for the installation of an anaerobic digester system. The manure digester system should provide a more beneficial means of wastewater reuse and provide a portion of the Dairy's power requirements. A revised Best Management Practices (BMPs) Plan will be submitted after the system is installed.

9. Molycorp Cleanup and Abatement Order (CAO) Compliance Status Update - *Curt Shifrer*

In accordance with its WDRs, Molycorp shutdown its Mill on November 5, 2002, stopped the Mill discharge to P-16 and began dewatering of ponded wastewater in P-16. Molycorp continues to operate mechanical evaporators located on P-16 for evaporation of wastewater, which consists of extracted ground water and P-16 leakage generated by Corrective Action Systems (CAS). WDRs require that Molycorp: 1) file a Report of Waste Discharge (RWD) for closure of P-16 by June 10, 2003; 2) begin construction for closure by January 1, 2004; and 3) complete construction by October 1, 2004.

Board staff has two main concerns. The first concern involves the mechanical evaporators located on P-16. Before construction for closure can begin on October 1, 2004, Molycorp plans to shut off and remove the mechanical evaporators. Currently, there are no formalized provisions for disposing of this CAS wastewater if these evaporators are shutoff. Continued full operation of the CAS is required to remain in compliance with the Amended Cleanup and Abatement. A Revised CAS Proposal needs to be included in the P-16 Closure Project to ensure continued operation of all CAS. Molycorp will need to file a RWD for the Revised CAS Proposal (as well as the P-16 Closure Project) by June 10, 2003.

Molycorp staff has indicated it plans to file a RWD to dispose of waste solids (soils and waste product) to P-16 before completion of closure for P-16. The waste solids that would be disposed of in P-16 would be generated when Molycorp removes existing sediments in stormwater ponds and various small inactive ponds located at the Mine Site. Preliminary sampling indicates some of the waste solids contain constituent concentrations that exceed concentrations in the tailings solids. The proposal must be evaluated to determine the threat to waters of the state. Current CEQA documents (Initial Study and Negative Declaration) prepared by San Bernardino County for P-16 do not address this proposal. Additional time that may be needed to address CEQA issues could potentially delay closure of P-16. Therefore, Board staff feels that including this proposal with the Revised RWD for closure of P-16 may not be the best option. Board staff will be discussing with the discharger alternatives for disposal of the waste solids.

Molycorp has still not obtained necessary approvals from offsite landowners for the proposed Offsite Investigation required by the Amended CAO. The Offsite Investigation includes drilling of monitoring wells to delineate the extent of Mine Site ground water plumes. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has not granted Molycorp a Right-of-Way Permit (ROW Permit) to conduct the Investigation. Delays to obtaining the ROW Permit are due to the inability of the federal agency to evaluate the potential impacts to biological resources (Desert Tortoise, an endangered species) in a

timely manner. The federal agencies are the BLM, National Park Service, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

On December 5, 2002, Board staff met with Molycorp staff in Victorville. Topics of discussion included the proposed new tailings disposal facility and Molycorp's schedule for filing a RWD for the new facility. Molycorp hopes to complete construction of a new tailings disposal facility and restart the Mill and the Mill discharge by the first quarter of 2004. San Bernardino County, the lead agency under the CEQA, is currently working on an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the project. The public comment period for the Draft EIR is expected to begin in February 2003. Completion of the EIR is tentatively scheduled for July 2003.

10. Mammoth Lakes Stormwater Memorandum of Understanding - *Cindi Mitton*

Public Outreach

A workshop was held October 8, 2002, in the Town of Mammoth Lakes as a follow-up to the Stormwater Erosion Control workshop held last spring. The workshop (*Site Winterization and Practices for Effective Erosion and Sediment Control*) was well attended by contractors, private industry and agency representatives, and included a panel discussion with members from the Mammoth Mountain Ski Area, Caltrans and UPA, a private contractor. Discussions centered around practical site specific BMPs that can be implemented in the Mammoth area. Local and State government representatives were available to answer questions raised by the attendees.

Compliance

In September 2002 the Town sent notices to implement stormwater winterization BMPs to all property owners and contractors with active construction sites. During October 2002 the Town inspected all active construction sites including single-family homes for BMP implementation. The majority of the sites were in compliance with erosion control requirements. However, several single-family residence construction sites were issued violation notices by the Town during the October inspections for failure to implement stormwater winterization BMPs. Follow-up inspections were conducted by the Town and Regional Board staff during November 2002. Sites have now implemented winter BMPs.

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
LAHONTAN REGION

REPORT ON STATUS OF STANDING ITEMS
January 2002

The Regional Board has requested that it be kept informed of the status of a number of issues. The following table lists the items, the reporting frequency and where the report can be found.

ISSUE	REPORT FREQUENCY	STATUS/COMMENT
IMC Chemicals - Compliance Status	Monthly	Item No. 6 of Dec. 2002 EO's Report
Meyers Beacon UST Site	Quarterly	This Item will be given orally at the January Board Meeting
Mojave River/El Mirage Dairy Issues	Quarterly	Item No. 8 of Dec. 2002 EO's Report
Progress of Cleanup at Molycorp	Quarterly	Item No. 9 of Dec. 2002 EO's Report
Searles Lake Beneficial Uses-IMCC	Quarterly	This Item will be given orally at the January Board Meeting
Town of Mammoth Lakes	Quarterly	Item No. 10 of Dec. 2002 EO's Report
Eagle Lake Spalding	Semi-Annual	Due March 2003 Board Meeting
Los Angeles CSD #14	Semi-Annual	Due March 2003 Board Meeting
Vulnerability of Wells in Squaw Valley to Contamination from USTs	Semi-Annual	Due March 2003 Board Meeting
Caltrans-General Permit	Annually	Due September 2003 Board Meeting
Caltrans-Tahoe Basin	Annually	Due November 2003 Board Meeting
Tahoe Municipal Permit	Annually	Due November 2003 Board Meeting
Wetland Restoration Progress in Mono County	Annually	Due November 2003 Board Meeting

Quarterly — July, October, January & April.
Semi-Annual — September & March
Annually— Varied

13-Feb-03

EO'S MONTHLY REPORT
FOR DECEMBER 2002
UNAUTHORIZED WASTE DISCHARGES

DISCHARGER	FACILITY	LOCATION	BASIN	REGULATED FACILITY	SUBSTANCE DISCHARGED	HAZARDOUS	DATE REPORTED	DISCHARGE VOLUME	DESCRIPTION OF FAILURE	DISCHARGE TO	PROP 65	STATUS
**COUNTY - EL DORADO												
2418 PONDEROSA, UNIT A	2418 PONDEROSA, UNIT A	2418 PONDEROSA, UNIT A	N	N	HOT-TUB WATER	N	2003/01/07	1-2 GPM	DRAINED HOT-TUB INTO THE STREET VIA A GARDEN HOSE IN THE VICINITY OF THE UPPER TRUCKEE RIVER.	LAND ~150 FT FROM UPPER TRUCKEE RIVER	N	REQUESTED THE RESIDENT TO CEASE DISCHARGE. RECOMMEND DRAINING INTO SEWER SYSTEM VIA SINK OR BATH TUB. NO FURTHER ACTION RECOMMENDED.
**COUNTY - KERN												
US BORAX	MINE SITE	BORON, MAIN PROCESS PLANT	S	Y	MINING PROCESS WASTEWATER	N	2003/01/06	40,000 GALS	FLANGE ON HDPE PIPELINE BROKE CAUSING RELEASE.	GROUND	N	PIPE REPAIRED & CLEANUP COMPLETED. NEED FOR FURTHER ACTION TO BE EVALUATED UPON RECEIPT OF REQUESTED PLAN TO PREVENT SPILL RECURRENCE.
**COUNTY - SAN BERNARDINO												
BARSTOW, CITY OF	SEWER	NEAR HEADWORKS	S	Y	RAW SEWAGE	N	2002/12/18	240,000 GALS	INFLUENT PUMP STATION FAILURE. 37,000 SPILLED TO RIVERSIDE DRIVE. 203,000 GALLONS BYPASSED STP TO PERC POND #3.	GROUND	N	RIVERSIDE DR CLEANED & DISINFECTED. NOV ISSUED REQUESTING WRITTEN REPORT. NEED FOR FURTHER ENFORCEMENT PENDING RECEIPT OF WRITTEN REPORT.
SNOW VALLEY SKI AREA	SEWER	OUTFALL PIPELINE	S	N	RAW SEWAGE	N	2003/01/08	400 GALS	ROOTS CAUSED BLOCKAGE AND OVERFLOW AT MANHOLE.	GROUND	N	SEWER UNCLOGGED. SPILL AREA CLEANED & DISINFECTED. NO FURTHER ACTION RECOMMENDED.

CASE CLOSURE REPORT

State of California

Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board

Date Closure Issued	Site Name	Site Address	Case Number	Case Type	Remaining Groundwater Concentrations above Water Quality Objectives (in micrograms per liter)	Remaining Soil Concentrations (in milligrams per kilogram)	Distance from Site to Nearest Receptor	Remedial Methods Used
Dec. 9, 2002	Swanson Property	15780 Donner Pass Road, Truckee	T6S027	SLIC	none	TPHg: 1.0	Supply well greater than 1 mile	Excavate and dispose 75 cubic yards of soil
Dec. 9, 2002	Lassen Community College	478-200 Highway 139, Susanville	6T0359A	UST	none	TPHmo: 140 Lead: 37	Supply well 1,100 feet upgradient	Excavate and dispose 20 cubic yards of soil
Dec. 10, 2002	Tyree Spill	Lounsberry Road, Milford	T6S020	SLIC	none	TPHd: 5.9	20 yards away from perched water table spring	Excavate and dispose 20 cubic yards of soil

Notes:

WQOs = water quality objectives

UST = underground storage tank program

TPHmo+total petroleum hydrocarbons as motor oil

TPHd=total petroleum hydrocarbons as diesel

SLIC - spills, leaks, investigations and cleanup program

mg/kg=milligrams per kilogram