



## EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

December 2003

### NORTH BASIN

1. ***Martis Valley Residential Construction Best Management Practices Workshop - Eric Taxer***

Regional Board staff, in conjunction with local developers, agencies, and organizations, participated in a Residential Construction Best Management Practices (BMPs) Workshop geared specifically toward development in the Martis Valley. The workshop, held on November 12, 2003, was sponsored cooperatively by the Contractors Association of Truckee Tahoe, DMB Highlands Group, East West Partners, Integrated Environmental Resources, Lahontan Development, Northstar at Tahoe, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Placer County, the Truckee River Watershed Council, and the Regional Board.

The workshop provided a forum for the public to obtain and discuss information about water quality protection regulations, BMPs, and products that are available. Staff from the Regional Board and from Placer County provided the regulatory background behind the need to implement BMPs. Case studies were provided by local developers demonstrating how different BMPs worked and didn't work under different application scenarios. The workshop concluded with a summary of the effectiveness of different BMP applications in controlling storm water runoff and sedimentation. Additionally, various vendors and local suppliers were available to demonstrate how their products can be used for different residential applications. The workshop was very well attended by local developers and contractors, and was effective in communicating the need for protecting water

quality through the implementation of various and innovative storm water runoff controls.

2. ***Caltrans' October 1, 2003 Discharge Event from the I-80 Rehabilitation Boca/Floriston Project - Eric Taxer***

On October 1, 2003 a discharge of sediment into the Truckee River occurred from the Caltrans I-80 Rehabilitation Boca/Floriston project. The discharge occurred when a river diversion was being removed from the riverbed at one of the bridge footings (Bridge No. 13).

During an earlier inspection, Caltrans staff had agreed with Regional Board staff to implement certain Best Management Practices (BMPs) during the removal of the diversion structure in order to avoid sediment discharges into the Truckee River during this process. Part of the agreement was to ensure that the inspectors were coordinated during the removal process to monitor the river for any potential sediment discharges and to stop work activities that may be creating such discharges. The contractor used a front end loader working within the riverbed and pushed the diversion/workpad material out of the riverbed, thereby creating additional disturbance. A Caltrans staff person happened to observe the activity while driving by the area, and the activity was shut down when a Caltrans inspector arrived on the job site. The discharge lasted for approximately 40 minutes. Work activities were resumed using an excavator from the top of the river bank with a Caltrans

inspector present on site. Regional Board staff is pursuing an enforcement action for this event.

**3. *Caltrans' August 26, 2003 Discharge Event from the I-80 Trout Creek Bridge Replacement Project.* - Eric Taxer**

Sediment-laden storm water runoff was discharged into Trout Creek on August 26, 2003 from the Caltrans I-80 Trout Creek Bridge Replacement project. Previous discharges of sediment-laden storm water runoff occurred from this area on August 21, 2003. The discharge occurred when a subcontractor was pumping excess storm water runoff away from an area on the bridge deck where concrete had been recently poured. The subcontractor did not first contact the Water Pollution Control Manager for the project, and the water was subsequently pumped over the bridge deck into a trench upgradient from a slope area that was adequately protected with a visqueen cover. The pumped storm water overflowed from the trench and ran under the plastic cover, causing rilling to occur. The pump was turned off within ten minutes, but the runoff continued to erode the ground and hillside below the point of discharge. Sediment-laden stormwater runoff continued to cause erosion and discharge into Trout Creek for approximately 70 minutes at a rate of approximately two gallons per minute.

Since the time of discharge, Caltrans has cleaned out the check dams along the bridge embankment to restore their capacity. Caltrans also cleaned the recoverable sediment from Trout Creek under order from the California Department of Fish and Game. Regional Board staff will be pursuing additional enforcement action for this incident.

**4. *Indian Creek Reservoir TMDL Implementation, Alpine County* - Jason Churchill**

The Indian Creek Reservoir TMDL and Implementation Plan (containing numeric targets to reduce phosphorus loading) was adopted as a Basin Plan amendment by the Regional Board on July 24, 2002. The Basin Plan amendment was later approved by the State Water Resources Control Board and Office of Administrative Law, and the TMDL was approved by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) on July 1, 2003. The primary source of phosphorus loading to Indian Creek Reservoir is from internal sources (i.e., phosphorus released from bottom sediments to the water column), although external phosphorus sources (including storm water runoff and tributary inflow) also contribute to phosphorus loading. The Implementation Plan assigns responsibility to the South Tahoe Public Utility District (STPUD) for implementation of internal phosphorus loading controls, and to the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Alpine County, STPUD, and other land owners and land managers in the watershed for implementing external phosphorus loading controls.

The Implementation Plan contains a list of tasks and a schedule. The schedule requires that Regional Board staff convene a stakeholder group upon final TMDL approval to facilitate ongoing communication about TMDL issues. It requires STPUD to investigate the feasibility of internal phosphorus loading controls and other management measures, and, within 15 months of final TMDL approval, to submit a report describing investigation results and containing a plan of action to reduce internal phosphorus loading and optimize reservoir management to protect and enhance beneficial uses.

For external phosphorus loading, Regional Board staff and stakeholders are to identify specific sites in the contributing watersheds that need Best Management Practices (BMPs) for phosphorus control. Within three years after final TMDL approval, depending on progress towards implementing BMPs, the Regional Board will consider the need for regulatory action to ensure implementation. All internal phosphorus loading controls and BMPs for external phosphorus loading reduction must be fully implemented by 2013.

On September 23, 2003 I sent a letter to STPUD requesting submittal of the required report on internal phosphorus loading controls by October 1, 2004. Regional Board staff convened a

stakeholders meeting on October 22, 2003 in Alpine County, which was attended by representatives of STPUD, the BLM, the USEPA, Alpine County, Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California, Carson Water Subconservancy District, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Sierra Nevada Alliance, and private landowners. At the meeting, STPUD personnel discussed options being considered for internal phosphorus loading controls. Stakeholders also discussed possible options for external phosphorus loading, and agreed to meet as soon possible in the field, after the Indian Creek Reservoir watershed becomes accessible again after snowmelt, to identify sites needing BMPs for external phosphorus reduction as required by the Implementation Plan.

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## SOUTH BASIN

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### **5. Mojave Water Agency Water Banking Demonstration Project, San Bernardino County - John Steude**

The Mojave Water Agency (MWA) is conducting a water banking demonstration project in the Mojave River to improve groundwater recharge and reduce overdraft problems associated with groundwater demand that is greater than the replenishment rate. The MWA applied to the Regional Board for a Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification for modifications to the riverbed associated with the project. The project involves constructing a series of berms in two areas of the Mojave River near Hesperia. The temporary berms will create 250 acres of shallow ponds within the river channel. Upon completion of the berms, approximately 75,000 acre-feet of bay/delta water from the State Water Project will be supplied between October 2003 and January 15, 2005 for groundwater recharge. The berms will not impede river flow during major storm events and will be maintained as needed after storm waters have receded. I determined that the project would not adversely affect

beneficial uses and issued a Water Quality Certification order on October 27, 2003 for the Water Banking Demonstration Project.

### **6. Los Angeles County Sanitation District No. 14, Lancaster – Ground Water Monitoring Improvements -Ted Saari**

The Los Angeles County Sanitation District No. 14 (District) is revising and improving its ground water monitoring system for the Lancaster Water Reclamation Plant (WRP) to achieve compliance with Waste Discharge Requirements, which require additional monitoring and reporting. The District will install new ground water monitoring wells at the Treatment and Storage Ponds area, the Paiute Ponds and Ducks Unlimited Pond area in a two-phase ground water investigation. Board staff has worked closely with the District on the plans. The District will be completing installation of monitoring wells and have results of one round of sampling available by August 1, 2004 as required by the Waste Discharge Requirements

**7. *Los Angeles County Sanitation District No. 20, Palmdale Water Reclamation Plant – Revised Monitoring and Reporting Program and Revised Report of Waste Discharge - Ted Saari***

I have revised the Monitoring and Reporting Program (MRP) for the Los Angeles County Sanitation District No. 20 (District), Palmdale, Water Reclamation Plant. In addition to standard ground water monitoring requirements, new elements of the MRP include provisions to characterize and monitor the vertical distribution of nitrate and total dissolved solids in the vadose zone below each irrigated and land application site. The MRP also requires the District to prepare reports on, and monitor, the water and nitrogen balance for each irrigated crop. The District will be required to estimate the amount of nitrogen that would be used by the crops and compare it with the observed nitrogen uptake over the growing season.

The District has also submitted a revised Report of Waste Discharge dated October 24, 2003, for the use of additional Los Angeles World Airports land for effluent disposal. Board staff has requested additional information from the District to make its report complete, including California Environmental Quality Act documentation and an Engineering Report required by California Code of Regulations. The additional land is needed to implement the District's strategy to use more wastewater agronomically and reduce the amount it landspreads.

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

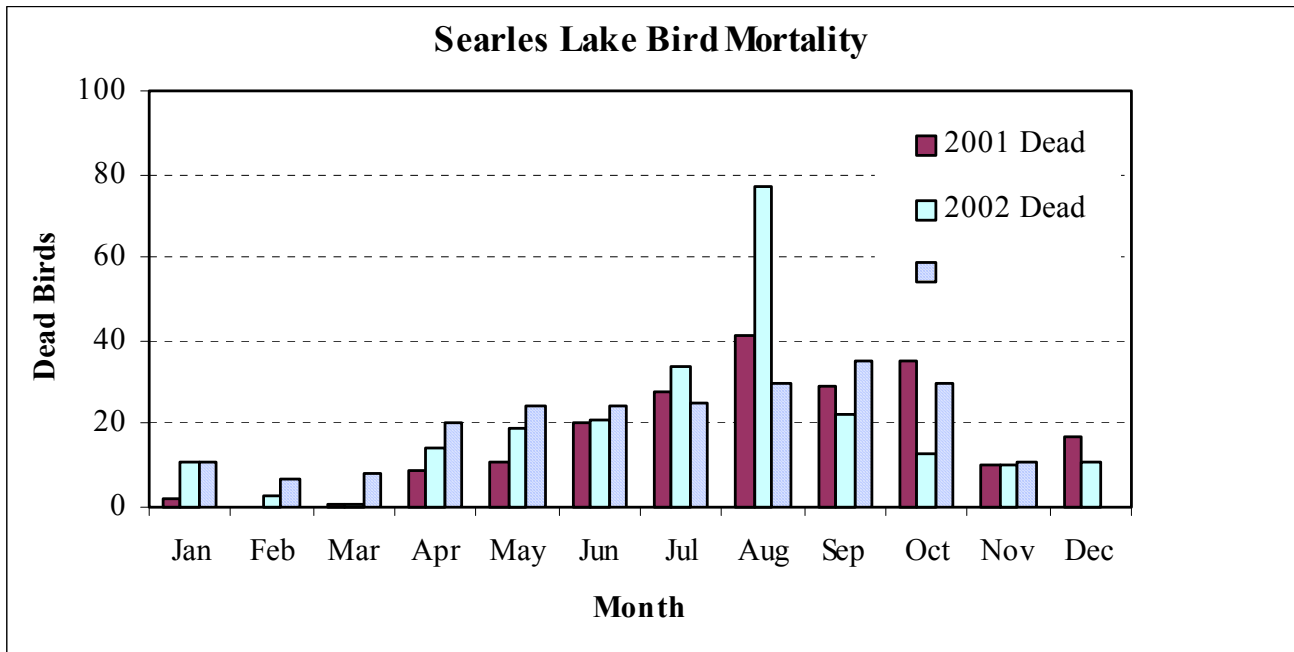
***Compliance Status***

The Argus plant brine exceeded the interim effluent limit for total recoverable petroleum hydrocarbons (TRPH) once during the month of November 2003. Samples collected at the skimmer outlet show very low TRPH concentrations that are below the interim effluent limit. The cause of the one violation of the interim effluent limit could not be determined. Ninety-five birds were picked up during the same period; eleven of them were found dead. The total number of birds found up to this year through the month of November is 420 with 225 dead and 195 alive. The dead birds reported in the year 2001, 2002, and 2003 are shown in the figure on the next page.

IMCC has removed approximately 50 cubic yards of contaminated soil from several surface areas near the Serpentine channel structure. The next step will be removal of contaminated soil from the channel. The contaminated soils will be hauled to an offsite disposal site.

***New Argus Skimmer Status***

IMCC submitted the Argus Skimmer Evaluation Interim Report. The Report indicated that the TRPH concentrations of skimmer inlet and skimmer outlet are low. There was one instance with a relatively high TRPH in the inlet; the TRPH in the outlet was reduced by approximately 70 percent. This indicates that the skimmer is working satisfactorily.



**CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY  
CONTROL BOARD  
LAHONTAN REGION**

**REPORT ON STATUS OF STANDING ITEMS  
December 2003**

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. 8 of December 2003 EO's Report
Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts #14	Monthly	Item No. 6 of December 2003 EO's Report
Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts #20	Monthly	Item No. 7 of December 2003 EO's Report
Meyers Beacon UST Site	Quarterly	Due January 2004 Board Meeting
Mojave River/El Mirage Dairy Issues	Quarterly	Due January 2004 Board Meeting
Progress of Cleanup at Molycorp	Quarterly	Due January 2004 Board Meeting
Status of Basin Plan Amendments	Semi-Annual	Due March 2004 Board Meeting
Eagle Lake Spalding	Semi-Annual	Due March 2004 Board Meeting
Town of Mammoth Lakes - Erosion Control	Semi-Annual	Due March 2004 Board Meeting
Caltrans-General Permit	Annually	Due September 2004 Board Meeting
Caltrans-Tahoe Basin	Annually	Due November 2004 Board Meeting
Tahoe Municipal Permit	Annually	Due November 2004 Board Meeting
Wetland Restoration Progress in Mono County	Annually	Due November 2004 Board Meeting

<u>Frequency</u>	<u>Board Meeting Month</u>
<i>Quarterly</i>	July, October, January & April.
<i>Semi-Annual</i>	September & March
<i>Annually</i>	Varied

**CASE CLOSURE REPORT**  
 State of California  
 Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board

<b>Date Closure Issued</b>	<b>Site Name</b>	<b>Site Address</b>	<b>Case Number</b>	<b>Case Type</b>	<b>Remaining Groundwater Concentrations above Water Quality Objectives (in micrograms per liter)</b>	<b>Remaining Soil Concentrations (in milligrams per kilogram)</b>	<b>Distance from Site to Nearest Receptor</b>	<b>Remedial Methods Used</b>
October 22, 2003	Randsburg Wash Gas Station	Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake	6B1500366T	UST (gasoline) (waste oil)	none	TPHg: 4,000 TPHmo: 24 Xylene: 164	Municipal well 7,000 feet away Depth to ground-water- 270 ft bgs	Soil excavation and disposal
Novemer 10, 2003	NORCAL Beverage	1044 Industrial Way South Lake Tahoe	6T0319A	UST (diesel)	TPHd: 64 TPHmo: 180	TPHd: 11 TPHmo: 83	Municipal well 700 feet away	Soil excavation and disposal (97 cubic yards)
November 10, 2003	Werner Trucking Accident	I-80 Donner Lake Interchange Truckee	T6S037	SLIC (diesel, oil)	none	TPHd: <20 TPHmo: 190	Depth to ground-water- 30 ft bgs	Soil excavation and disposal (14.6 tons)

**Notes:**

UST = Underground storage tank program  
 SLIC = Spills, Leaks, Investigation and Cleanup Program  
 TPHg = Total petroleum hydrocarbons quantified as gasoline  
 TPHmo = Total petroleum hydrocarbons quantified as motor oil  
 TPHd = Total petroleum hydrocarbons quantified as diesel  
 ug/L = micrograms per liter  
 mg/kg = milligrams per kilogram

**EO'S MONTHLY REPORT FOR  
DECEMBER 2003  
UNAUTHORIZED WASTE DISCHARGES**

DISCHARGER	FACILITY	LOCATION	BASIN	REG. FACILITY	SUBSTANCE DISCHARGED	HAZARDOUS	DATE REPORTED	DISCHARGE VOLUME	DESCRIPTION OF FAILURE	DISCHARGE TO	PROP 65	STATUS
<b>**COUNTY -</b>		<b>Alpine</b>										
Unknown motorist(s)	Unknown motorist(s)	SR88 east of Woodfords	<input type="checkbox"/> N	<input type="checkbox"/> N	Gasoline	<input type="checkbox"/> N	11/17/2003	26 gals	Released after traffic accident, 90% of fuel burned up.	Roadway	<input type="checkbox"/> N	CHP is lead agency. No Further Action Required.
<b>**COUNTY -</b>		<b>Placer</b>										
Unknown	Unknown	3/4 mi. down USFS fire protection road/Hwy 267 side of Brockway Summit	<input type="checkbox"/> N	<input type="checkbox"/> N	Drug lab remnants	<input type="checkbox"/> Y	11/6/2003	Unknown	Remnants of empty containers found. No ground contamination observed.	Soil	<input type="checkbox"/> N	Law enforcement investigation underway. Placer Co. Health Dept. is investigating. No Further Action Recommended.
TCPUD	TCPUD	15 Tahoma Road, Dollar Point	<input type="checkbox"/> N	<input type="checkbox"/> N	Sewage	<input type="checkbox"/> N	11/23/2003	<100 gals	Blockage in lateral caused overflow onto ground; no surface water affected. Suspected tree root intrusion caused blockage.	Ground	<input type="checkbox"/> N	TCPUD cleaned area, shoveled sewage & debris, disinfected area. Blockage cleared. No Further Action Recommended.
Squaw Valley Ski Corp	Squaw Valley Ski Corp	Gold Coast Maintenance Facility	<input type="checkbox"/> N	<input type="checkbox"/> N	Diesel fuel	<input type="checkbox"/> Y	11/29/2003	10 gals	Gasket failure on day tank.	Soil	<input type="checkbox"/> N	Escavated contaminated soil by hand into 55-gal drum, pending disposal by Rumos. No Further Action Recommended.