CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
LAHONTAN REGION

MEETING OF JUNE 9, 2010
Kings Beach

ITEM: 8

SUBJECT: **EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT**

DISCUSSION: The Executive Officer's report includes the following:

June 2010

Enclosure 1:	Discussion of Standing Items
Enclosure 2:	Executive Officer's Written Report
Enclosure 3:	Notification of Spills
Enclosure 4:	Notification of Closure of Underground Storage Tank Cases (Pursuant to Article 11, Division 3, Chapter 16, title 23, California Code of Regulations)
Enclosure 5:	Violation Reports (will be sent under separate cover)

ENCLOSURE 1

Discussion of Standing Items

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD LAHONTAN REGION

REPORT ON STATUS OF STANDING ITEMS

June 2010

The Water 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
City of Barstow	Quarterly in the South	Due September 2010 Board Meeting
County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles - District No. 14	Semi-Annual	Due July 2010 Board Meeting
County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles - District No. 20	Semi-Annual	Due July 2010 Board Meeting
Status of Basin Plan Amendments	Semi-Annual	Due October 2010 Board Meeting
Status of Grants	Semi-Annual	Due October 2010 Board Meeting
Caltrans Statewide General Permit/Tahoe Basin	Annually	Due April 2011
Tahoe Municipal Permit	Annually	EO Report Item No. **4**
Mojave River/El Mirage Dairies	Semi-Annual	Due July 2010 Board Meeting
Searles Valley Minerals Operations - Compliance Status	Semi-Annual	Due July 2010 Board Meeting
Wetland Restoration Mitigation - Mono County	Annually	Due November 2010 Board Meeting

ENCLOSURE 2

Executive Officer's Written Report

08-0004

Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

June 2010

NORTH BASIN

1. ***SWAMP Algae Sampling Protocol Training*** – *Carly Nilson*

Dr. Elizabeth Fetscher of the Southern California Coastal Water Research Project (SCCWRP) is traveling around the state training Water Board staff on the bioassessment algae sampling protocol. Several staff attended the training in early May held at the Sierra Nevada Aquatic Research Lab near Mammoth Lakes.

The Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program (SWAMP) first developed sampling protocol for macroinvertebrate bioassessments in February of 2007 to standardize methods to evaluate the "biological integrity" of a waterbody. Although macroinvertebrate bioassessments are extremely useful in determining the biological health of a waterbody, fish and algae are also used as indicators for waterbody health. Because the Lahontan Region lacks a great diversity of fish species, sampling for algae is the better of the two options for determining the biological integrity of a waterbody.

The algae sampling protocol includes measurements of biomass (quantity) and taxonomic composition (quality). All algae samples must be sent to a laboratory for further analysis. Bioassessments include both physical habitat measurements and specimen collection and analysis. The algae sampling protocol physical habitat measurements mimic those that are in the macroinvertebrate sampling protocol to expedite sampling of both during the same stream reach sampling period. Having more than one indicator for bioassessments allows for a comprehensive understanding of the biologic integrity of a stream and its needs for restoration and/or preservation.

Water Board staff learned protocols to ensure proper sample collection and analysis. This additional assessment tool can provide information to assess aquatic habitat and water supply municipal/ domestic beneficial uses. In the future, the Water Board may include algae sampling as part of the Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program or may require algae monitoring in future permitting actions. Some algae, especially blue-green algae may impact taste and odor and/or cause toxicity.

For the Standard Operating Procedures for algae bioassessments please refer to http://swamp.mpsl.mlml.calstate.edu/wp-content/uploads/2009/11/SWAMP_SOP_Algae_Field_Collection_070109.pdf

2. ***International Low Impact Development Conference*** - *Alan Miller*

In April, the American Society of Civil Engineers held a San Francisco conference to offer leading-edge ideas and learning experiences for attendees in

the subject of Low Impact Development, or LID, approaches for managing storm water. The conference was organized in cooperation with State Water Board and San Francisco Bay Water Board. The keynote Speaker was Alexis Strauss, Water Division Director for United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9.

Technical sessions were presented on topics such as Low Impact Development (LID) and Sustainability; LID and Re-Imagining Cities; Constructing LID Facilities; Computational Methods; Site Design Considerations; Incentives for Using LID; Watershed Retrofit with LID; Costs of LID; and Case Studies, including several site tours. A highlight of the conference was the truly international flavor, with presenters and attendees from most major world continents describing their approaches to LID design.

LID is gaining more international and national attention because it works. On January 20, 2005, the State Water Resources Control Board adopted sustainability as a core value for all Water Board activities and programs, and directed Water Board staff to consider sustainability in all future policies, guidelines, and regulatory actions. The State Water Board maintains a LID website at: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/low_impact_development/index.shtml.

LID is a sustainable practice that benefits water supply and contributes to water quality protection. Unlike traditional storm water management, which collects and conveys storm water runoff through storm drains, pipes, or other conveyances to a centralized storm water facility, LID takes a different approach by using site design and storm water management to maintain the site's pre-development runoff rates and volumes. The goal of LID is to mimic a site's predevelopment hydrology by using design techniques that infiltrate, filter, store, evaporate, and detain runoff close to the source of rainfall. LID practices include bioretention facilities or rain gardens, grass swales and channels, vegetated rooftops, rain barrels, cisterns, vegetated filter strips, and permeable pavements. These and other emerging LID practices were a focus at the conference. LID has been a proven approach in other parts of the country and is seen in California as an alternative to conventional storm water management.

The Water Boards are advancing LID in various ways. LID has been applied to government, residential, and commercial development and redevelopment, and has proven to be a cost-efficient and effective method for managing runoff and protecting the environment. The 2010 International LID Conference highlighted new and continuing work including research, developments, and community adoption of LID throughout the United States and internationally. Staff appreciated the opportunity to broaden Storm Water Program management perspectives and share experiences among other administrators, researchers, practicing engineers, design professionals, municipal officials and other global leaders in the LID field.

3. ***Earth Day 2010*** - *Carly Nilson*

Earth Day is an annual celebration that transcends borders and boundaries and is celebrated internationally. The Lake Tahoe Community College and the Village at Squaw Valley were venues for Earth Day 2010 celebrations. The events included live music, food, and an opportunity for participants to learn about various environmental projects and issues occurring in the local area. The Lahontan Water Board staff presented an interactive

wetland demonstration pond where participants were encouraged to be "hands on." The pond had wetland type features including a boggy feel, plastic plants demonstrative of a wetland, and animals one might find if exploring a wetland. Staff was there to answer questions, encourage curiosity, and be part of the celebration.

4. ***Lake Tahoe Municipal NPDES Permit Update*** – *Robert Larsen*

The Lake Tahoe TMDL effort has identified urban stormwater runoff as the primary source of fine sediment particles and phosphorus impacting Lake Tahoe's famed transparency. Research associated with the TMDL has also found the urban area offers the largest pollutant load reduction opportunities.

The Water Board regulates stormwater discharges from the municipal jurisdictions within the Lake Tahoe Basin under waste discharge requirements, which also serves as a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Phase I Storm Water Permit (NPDES Permit) as required by Clean Water Act section 402(p). The City of South Lake Tahoe, El Dorado County, and Placer County are co-permittees under the NPDES Permit. The current NPDES Permit expires in October 2010. Water Board staff are developing a draft permit update to include fine sediment particle and nutrient waste load allocations consistent with Lake Tahoe TMDL goals. The draft permit update will require the municipalities to submit revised Storm Water Management Plans describing how required load reduction targets will be met.

The draft NPDES Permit Monitoring and Reporting Program will include reference to the Lake Clarity Crediting Program Handbook and associated tools as the primary mechanism to track compliance with annual average load reduction requirements. As with the previous NPDES Permit update, Water Board staff plan to work collaboratively with the co-permittees during the permit development process. The draft updated NPDES Permit will be circulated to the public prior to the Water Board's consideration of Lake Tahoe TMDL adoption.

5. ***Lake Tahoe – Central Coast Stormwater Information Exchange*** – *Robert Larsen*

With generous support from the United States Environmental Protection Agency and other funding sources, Water Board staff have been working with Lake Tahoe basin urban stormwater managers to develop tools for tracking and quantifying the expected water quality benefits from on-the-ground actions. These tools include the Pollutant Load Reduction Model to estimate pollutant load reductions, two Rapid Assessment Methodologies to evaluate field conditions, and the Lake Clarity Crediting Program to provide a consistent metric of water quality benefit.

Many resource managers in other parts of California have expressed interest in learning how these methods might be used to improve stormwater management efforts in other areas. In April 2010, Water Board staff Robert Larsen met with Central Coast Water Board staff, local stormwater managers, and other stakeholders to share information and brainstorm about how lessons learned at Lake Tahoe might apply to the Central Coast.

Central Coast Water Board staff were enthusiastic about the innovative approaches being developed to manage Lake Tahoe urban stormwater and were particularly interested in hearing about

how Lahontan Water Board staff envision using these tools to track compliance with the upcoming Lake Tahoe TMDL and with Municipal NPDES Stormwater Permits. Similarly, representatives from several Central Coast municipalities and members of the Monterey Bay Marine Sanctuary Foundation were encouraged by the potential to track and quantify stormwater management activities. Central Coast Water Board staff and stakeholders agreed to explore funding opportunities to begin work on urban stormwater management tracking tools. Lahontan Water Board staff may visit the central coast next year to report on implementation progress and share any "lessons learned."

6. ***Former USA Gasoline Station, El Dorado County, South Lake Tahoe*** - *Tammy Lundquist*

The former USA Gasoline Station is in the mature stage of groundwater remediation. Current groundwater contamination is limited to groundwater beneath the site. Remediation of shallow groundwater began in May 2000 at the site and included pump and treat, dual vapor extraction and dewatering systems (DVEDS). From January 2007 through July 2008, the remediation systems were taken offline to allow for groundwater levels to rebound in wells. Rebound of the groundwater is desired in order to 'rinse' soils in the vicinity of the pumping wells and to increase influent contaminant concentrations.

In July 2008, contaminant concentrations increased, so pumps were re-installed in select wells. The remediation system was brought back on-line for testing; however, it was discovered that the power to the system had been shut-off. Power was restored to the systems in October 2008 and treatment began.

In March 2009, carbon breakthrough in the vessels caused the dual vapor extraction dewatering system to be shut down. In April 2009, Water Board staff contacted the consultant to ascertain when the DVEDS system would be operational. Water Board staff was informed that there were significant safety issues regarding access to the carbon vessels. The consultant was evaluating other remedial options. The First Quarter Monitoring Report for 2009 showed groundwater concentrations for total petroleum hydrocarbons as gasoline up to 19,000 micrograms per liter (µg/L) and benzene up to 120 µg/L.

In June 2009, Board staff contacted the responsible party, Dansk Investments (Dansk), to discuss continued remedial action. Dansk was advised that it is subject to a Cleanup and Abatement Order (CAO) that requires remedial actions and monitoring. Violations of the CAO could result in additional enforcement action. Dansk responded that it was unable to pay for remedial actions. Dansk advised that the second quarter groundwater monitoring may not be conducted since money was not available. Dansk advised it would contact Water Board staff and provide status about securing funding. Since Dansk was not responsive, Water Board staff issued a Notice of Violation in August 2009. Eventually, in November 2009, Dansk provided financial documents and again indicated it could not pay for continued cleanup. Dansk did not conduct the second or third quarter 2009 groundwater monitoring.

In February 2010, due to the lack of compliance with the CAO, Water Board staff and the State Water Board's Office of Enforcement staff contacted Dansk to discuss possible enforcement actions for noncompliance with the CAO. Water Board staff agreed to a time schedule for

Dansk to return to compliance with provisions of the CAO by immediately resuming quarterly groundwater monitoring and the installation of a remediation system by the end of May 2010. If the remediation is not installed by the end of May, then additional enforcement action may occur.

7. ***Leviathan Mine Activities*** *–Chein Kao*

Water Board staff is mobilizing for the 2010 pond water treatment season. As required by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), on May 11, 2010, a Work Plan was submitted describing all Water Board planned activities including pond water treatment, site monitoring, and site maintenance for 2010 at the Leviathan Mine site. In accordance with an agreement reached with USEPA this past winter, monthly monitoring of surface water around the site was reduced to eliminate winter sampling, which poses significant safety risks. Years of winter water quality sample collection provide a sound database upon which to evaluate water quality variation and trends associated with the site. Water Board staff resumed monitoring at the 13 sampling locations around the site in April 2010, prior to planned treatment and discharge activities by Atlantic Richfield Company, which began in early May. A planned pavement improvement project is in the pre-design phase, and Water Board staff is working with Department of General Services engineers on the scope of field survey and soil data collection this summer.

One of the major improvements for this summer field season will be the availability of health and safety professionals to support Water Board staff's field activities. Certified Industrial Hygienist and Certified Safety Professionals will upgrade the Leviathan Mine Health and Safety Plan, monitor on-site working conditions to evaluate requirements for worker's protection, coordinate and provide consultation for employees' medical surveillance program, and provide reports and recommendations on job health and safety. The health and safety professionals will be on-site weekly during the summer treatment season to monitor field activities and hold safety meetings to provide Water Board staff field safety training and recommendations. At the end of this treatment season, the health and safety professionals will provide a final report evaluating health and safety requirements and procedures for the activities the State is implementing a this site.

SOUTH BASIN

8. ***The Adelanto Public Utility Authority*** – *John Morales*

The Adelanto Public Utility Authority (Authority) owns and operates the Adelanto Domestic Wastewater Treatment facility, which receives an average flow of 2.2 million gallons per day (mgd) of wastewater from the City of Adelanto. Population growth over the past several years has resulted in the current wastewater flows that exceed the design capacity of the treatment facility which is 1.5 mgd. In 2007, the Water Board issued a Cease and Desist Order (CDO) to the Authority to address flow limit violations, biochemical oxygen demand effluent limit violations and discharge of waste to a non-permitted percolation pond. The Authority responded to the CDO by proposing to expand its treatment capacity by constructing a new technology Micro-media Filtration (MMF) Plant.

The Authority encountered some delays in completing the new plant, and completed the infrastructure in 2008. However, during off-site testing of the new technology at a full scale wastewater treatment plant on the East Coast the micro organisms (bugs) did not yield the expected performance. These delays postponed Authority estimated start-up date until December 2009.

Further testing this year has not resulted in any improvement in the expected ability of the bugs to treat the waste using the MMF technology. Also, since the bugs did not yield the expected performance, they were not transported to the Adelanto Treatment facility.

Because of the unsuccessful outcome of the MMF project thus far, coupled with the pressure from Water Board Orders, the Authority is re-evaluating its options under its contract with Micro-media including changes in the treatment system previously proposed.

In the meantime, the Authority is working to come into compliance with the CDO by diverting a portion of its influent flows to the Victor Valley Wastewater Reclamation Authority. Water Board staff has requested the Authority prepare a work plan and schedule to address the effluent and flow violations, anticipated in June 2010.

9. ***ERC West Sludge Treatment Operations in Apple Valley*** - *Ghasem Pour-ghasemi*

In response to a complaint received in April 2010, Water Board staff investigated an unauthorized sludge composting facility in Apple Valley. The facility was accepting sewage sludge, de-watering the sludge inside a building and then spreading the partially dewatered sludge outside of the building on the ground surrounding the building. The company, named ERC West, was operating the facility without any permits and had taken approximately 300 tons of sludge for treatment when Water Board staff started its investigation. Water Board staff discovered that the waste was secondary processed sewage sludge coming from the Big Bear Regional Wastewater Agency (RWA). The ERC West facility operation was shut down by the Town of Apple Valley on April 15, 2010.

Because the Big Bear RWA is located in the Santa Ana region, Water Board staff coordinated with Santa Ana Water Board staff, and met with the Town of Apple Valley, the San Bernardino County Department of Environmental Heath, and the Big Bear RWA on-site on April 29, 2010 to discuss cleanup of the unauthorized

waste discharge. Although the owner of ERC West was not at the site, his employee allowed inspection of the site. Big Bear RWA took responsibility to remove the solid waste from the site and clean up any contamination. Additionally, Water Board staff requested that Big Bear RWA install best management practices until the site could be cleaned up to control pollutants from leaving the site from stormwater runoff. The site is fenced to prevent public access. Solid waste removal from the site by Big Bear RWA is expected to be complete by May 21, 2010. Soil sampling will be performed to ensure that site cleanup is complete.

10. ***Town of Apple Valley Preparing a Multi-species Habitat Conservation Plan*** – *Patrice Copeland and Jan Zimmerman*

The Town of Apple Valley (Town) is preparing a Multi-species Habitat Conservation Plan (Conservation Plan) that is integral to future development in the Town and its sphere of influence, an area of approximately 170,000 acres. There are seven federal or state listed species and 26 sensitive species within the Town's limits and its sphere of influence. As part of this effort, the Town, in cooperation with the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), will prepare a Joint Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS) for the proposed Conservation Plan. The Town is the lead agency for the EIR. The USFWS will act as lead agency under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for the purposes of the EIS. The Conservation Plan provides for compliance with federal and state Endangered Species Acts (ESAs) by granting permitting authority to local governments, as appropriate.

The Town has set a goal of conserving and protecting its natural resources, which includes species protection as well as the protection of water quality. In general, municipalities with a Conservation Plan have full control over permitting and the orderly implementation of their General Plan, while complying with the ESAs. To begin this process, the Town held a California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Public Scoping Meeting on April 28, 2010. The Town's environmental consultant provided a brief overview of the project, the environmental conditions in the vicinity, and the environmental review process. Water Board staff attended this meeting and voiced concerns with respect to beneficial uses of water and ensuring that the requirements of the Lahontan Basin Plan will be met. The Town plans to hold additional public outreach and scoping meetings while continuing to develop the Conservation Plan. Water Board staff will meet with the Town's representative and consultants in the near future to discuss the Conservation Plan, our role as a responsible agency in the EIR/EIS process, and our permitting requirements.

11. ***Tecopa Hot Springs – Corrective Action Work Plan*** - *John Morales*

The County of Inyo (County) has renewed its lease with the United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) for the Tecopa Hot Springs County Park. The County operates a campground and sewage lagoon on a 40-acre parcel of land leased from the BLM. The sewage lagoon has experienced seepage along an approximately 160-foot section of the western embankment into the surrounding surface and groundwater, as documented in Notices of Violations (NOVs) issued to the County in February 2003 and June 2009. The seepage from the lagoon flows to a wetland area

downgradient of the lagoon. The California Department of Fish and Game and BLM have requested that the County protect and preserve the wetland habitat as it addresses the seepage.

In response to the NOVs issued by Water Board staff, the County has submitted its proposed Hydrogeologic Investigation, where it proposes to comply by implementing the following objectives.

1. Quantify the amount of seepage and predict any changes in water availability to the wetlands surrounding the lagoon that may occur as a result of implementation of the lagoon repairs. Proposed repairs to the lagoon include lining the embankment sidewalls and removing sludge from the base of the lagoon.

2. Sample and analyze the total dissolved solids (TDS) and nitrate concentrations of native groundwater in the area to evaluate whether seepage from the lagoon might be affecting the quality of surrounding groundwater.

3. Evaluate the chemical composition of the sludge that would be removed to assess disposal options for the sludge.

The County's consultant will evaluate the effects to the wetland if the County re-directs water diverted from an adjacent drainage, allowing it to instead flow directly to the wetland to offset the current seepage from the lagoon. If this water is diverted into the wetland, approximately the same amount of overall water will be available to the wetlands, but it will be of higher quality.

Staff is evaluating the County's Hydrogeologic Investigation Report and anticipates submitting comments to the County by the end of June.

ENCLOSURE 3

Notification of Spills
(Unauthorized Waste Discharges)

08-0113

EO'S Monthly Report
04/16/10 - 05/15/10
Unauthorized Waste Discharges

COUNTY: PLACER

Discharger/Facility	Location	Basin	Regulated Facility	Substance Discharged	Spill Date	Discharge Volume	Description of Failure	Discharge To	Status
Squaw Valley Public Services Dist.	1605 Christy Lane (Squaw Valley Realty)	N	Y	Raw sewage	4/14/2010	250 gallons	A pipe joint in the sewer main separated and blockage occurred. Sewage backed up and spilled out of the cleanout. The spill was stopped and blockage was removed.	Paved area.	Placer County provided immediate response to the blockage. The pipe joint separation was not repaired due to grading issues in inclement weather and snow covered conditions. As of 5/25/10, a contractor has been retained and is expected to complete all repairs by 6/10/10.

COUNTY: SAN BERNARDINO

Discharger/Facility	Location	Basin	Regulated Facility	Substance Discharged	Spill Date	Discharge Volume	Description of Failure	Discharge To	Status
BNSF Railway / BNSF Barstow Terminal	200 Avenue H, Barstow	S	Y	Lube Oil	5/2/2010	250 Gallons	Mechanical failure in the locomotive engine resulted in a release of lube oil to ground.	Ground	Spill area and contaminated soil excavated. No further action recommended.
City of Victorville / VVWRA	Percolation Pond 6, Victorville	S	Y	Secondary Treated Wastewater	5/11/2010	Unknown	VVWRA personnel noticed wet spots and seepage along the berm of percolation pond 6 (north ponds).	Ground	VVWRA personnel are investigating the cause of the seepage and are transfering the wastewater to a different pond to assess the integrity of the pond. Further assessment pending review of spill report.

08-0114

ENCLOSURE 4

Notification of Closure of Underground Storage Tank Cases

08-0115

CASE CLOSURE REPORT
May 2010
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 ug/L)	Remaining Soil Concentrations (in mg/Kg)	Distance from Site to Nearest Receptor	Remedial Methods Used
April 19, 2010	Former Tidewater Service Station	1625 Main Street, Susanville	T6S040	SCP	NA	5,100 TPHg; 5,900 TPHd	Susan River is ~700 feet to the south	Monitored Natural Attenuation
April 22, 2010	Mobil/Liquor King	2802 East Avenue I, Lancaster	6B1920012T	UST	NS	11 TPHg	municipal well is ~1,400' to the southeast	Natural Attenuation
April 22, 2010	Antelope Valley Aggregate	7311 East Avenue T, Littlerock	6B1900412T	UST	61 TPHg	1,300 TPHg; 17,000 TPHd	municipal well is ~1.25 miles to the west	Excavation
April 26, 2010	Union Pacific Rail Road Company -Former Southern Pacific Yard	Intersection of Antola and Amedee Roads, Wendel	T6S069	SCP	160 TPHd	20,000 TPHmo	Honey Lake is ~1 mile to the south	Excavation
May 3, 2010	Former Beacon Station No. 601	8070 North Lake Boulevard, Kings Beach	6T0010A	UST	190 TPHg 25 MTBE	1,400 TPHg (1999)	municipal well is ~1.5 miles to the northwest	Soil vapor extraction, Dual Phase Extraction, Groundwater Extraction
May 4, 2010	Tecopa Trading Post	201 Noonday Boulevard, Tecopa	6B1400099T	UST	NA	137 TPHg	domestic well is~50 feet to west (upgradient)	Unknown

08-0116

Notes:
TPHd - Total petroleum hydrocarbons quantified as diesel
TPHg - Total petroleum hydrocarbons quantified as gasoline
TPHmo- Total petroleum hydrocarbons quantified as motor oil
ug/L = micrograms per liter
PCE- Tetrachloroethylene
TCE- Trichloroethylene
Receptor- surface water, private drinking water wells and municipal supply wells, etc.
NS- Not Sampled
NA- Not Applicable
ND- Not Detected

ENCLOSURE 5

Violation Reports

(will be sent under separate cover)