



# EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

September 2013

## STATE AND REGIONAL

### 1. Silverwood Lake Fish Consumption Advisory — *Thomas Suk*

On August 7, 2013, the State Water Board and CalEPA's Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) issued a joint press release announcing OEHHA's completion of "Safe Eating Guidelines" for Silverwood Lake (San Bernardino County). The advisory recommends that anglers consume rainbow trout and avoid eating most other species caught at this lake due to contamination by mercury and Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs).

OEHHA developed a one-page pictorial advisory (copy attached), which is posted at OEHHA's website along with a fact sheet and full report (see:

[www.oehha.ca.gov/fish/so\\_cal/silverwood.html](http://www.oehha.ca.gov/fish/so_cal/silverwood.html)).

OEHHA has requested that the reservoir operator (California State Parks) post the advisory in prominent locations at the Lake, and/or provide copies to anglers as they enter the park.

Our Region's Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program (SWAMP) funded and led the planning, design, collection, and laboratory analyses of fish tissue. OEHHA toxicologists developed the final advisory.

In June of 2010, SWAMP published results of a state-wide survey of fish from California lakes and reservoirs. That survey identified two reservoirs in our Region from which fish fillet tissue exceeded "No Consumption"

criteria adopted by OEHHA - Silverwood Lake and Little Rock Reservoir (Los Angeles County). Largemouth bass from both reservoirs exceeded OEHHA's "No Consumption" criterion for mercury, and fish from Silverwood Lake also exceeded OEHHA's "No Consumption" criterion for PCBs. The source(s) of mercury and PCBs remain unknown at this time.

The 2010 state-wide survey was the first of its kind. It was a limited "screening" study; and it did not capture sufficient numbers of fish, or enough species of fish, for OEHHA to develop detailed consumption guidance. The screening study was intended to provide a state-wide assessment of contaminants in sport fish and to identify potential "hot spots" for further study. In 2011, SWAMP followed up by collecting additional fish at Silverwood Lake so OEHHA could develop this detailed advisory.

After publication of the screening study in 2010, Silverwood Lake was identified as our Region's highest priority for follow-up due to multiple contaminants (mercury and PCBs), and because the 2010 survey documented concentrations of PCBs in fish were among the highest in the state.

A similar follow-up study is now underway at Little Rock Reservoir. The fish collections have been completed, and laboratory work is ongoing. A final advisory is expected sometime in 2014.

2. **Statewide Grazing Regulatory Action Project (GRAP) – Update to June 2011 Report** - *Cindy Wise*

The Statewide Grazing Regulatory Action Project (GRAP) is one of seven collaborative projects policy that Regional and State Water Board staff are working on to develop ways to more efficiently ways to address impaired waters. The overall goal of the GRAP is to develop an approach that efficiently addresses water quality impairments associated with grazing operations – an approach that will help to streamline the process of addressing impairments, conserve valuable resources, and give implementing parties the clarity and consistency they deserve.

The GRAP work team is under the lead of Lahontan Water Board staff with active participants from eight Regional Boards, the State Water Board, and the Division of Water Quality. The GRAP work team has met about once a month since its inception in April 2011.

The GRAP is working internally on a a draft workplan and schedule. In August 2012, the GRAP updated a Problem Statement and web posting (see [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/nps/grap.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/nps/grap.shtml)). The GRAP work team is now developing a stakeholder outreach plan hopes to begin stakeholder listening sessions in November 2013

The GRAP team is striving to balance statewide consistency with regional autonomy, and is considering regional differences in hydrology, grazing practices and other distinguishing factors. The GRAP team is working to develop a thoughtful, measured approach, not simply a “one-size-fits-all” approach that will work on public and private lands. The GRAP work team is very cognizant of the tension that exists between fully protecting waters for recreation and tourism while also providing for other major land uses such as rangeland livestock grazing. As the work team moves forward, it will provide ample opportunities for stakeholder input and will

carefully consider public comments on draft policies and other products.

3. **Status of Local Technical Assistance Grants Activities from August 2012 to July 2013** - *Cindy Wise*

Water Board and State Water Board staff, coordinate to implement the Region's financial assistance program that include loan and grant funding for watershed protection projects, nonpoint source pollution control projects, and construction of municipal sewage and water recycling facilities. This is an update of program activities in our Region; followed by a table of the local projects that are currently managed by Water Board staff.

**Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) Program**

The CWSRF program provides low-interest loans for the construction of wastewater and water recycling facilities, municipal landfill treatment systems, implementation of non-point source projects and programs; and stormwater treatment projects. It is funded by federal grants, state bond funds, local match funds, repayments, and revenue bonds. The proposed annual business plan (aka Intended Use Plan or IUP) for Federal Fiscal Year 2014 includes a list of projects intended to be financed in 2014. The State Water Board will consider adopting the FY 2014 IUP at its October 2013 Board Meeting. The IUP financing forecast includes over \$69M in financing for these five projects in our Region:

Victor Valley Wastewater Reclamation Authority - Upper Narrows Pipeline Repair/Replacement Project (\$4M)

Victor Valley Wastewater Reclamation Authority - Apple Valley Sub regional Wastewater Reclamation Plant (\$26M)

Victor Valley Wastewater Reclamation Authority - Hesperia Subregional Wastewater Reclamation Plant (\$33.5M)

Victor Valley Wastewater Reclamation Authority - Nanticoke Pump Station Bypass Sewer Project (\$4.5M)

South Tahoe Public Utility District - Diamond Valley Ranch Emergency Retention/Irrigation Field (\$1M)

The current CWSRF annual business plan can be found at:

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/public\\_notices/comments/2014draft\\_iup/final\\_draft\\_2014\\_iup.pdf](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/public_notices/comments/2014draft_iup/final_draft_2014_iup.pdf)

The CWSRF Program accepts project applications on a continuous basis and the project priority list included in the annual business plan can be amended as necessary.

### **Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Grant Program**

The IRWM Grant Program provides grants for projects intended to promote and practice integrated regional management of water for both quality and supply. To be eligible for IRWM grant funds, IRWM geographic regions must be approved by CA Department of Water Resources (DWR.) DWR has approved six IRWM groups in our Region - Lahontan Basins, Tahoe-Sierra, Inyo Mono, Fremont, Antelope Valley and Mojave. Since the inception of the IRWM program, over \$58M in IRWM grants have been awarded in our Region. Round 2 IRWM implementation grant awards are currently being determined by DWR management. Round 3 IRWM implementation grant solicitation is planned for 2014. State Water Board and Water Board staff will assist DWR staff with project proposal evaluation. DWR staff will manage all IRWM project grants. For more information, see <http://www.water.ca.gov/irwm>

### **Proposition 84 Storm Water Grant Program**

The Proposition 84 Storm Water Grant Program (SWGP) includes approximately \$82M in matching grant funds available to local public agencies for planning and implementation projects that reduce and prevent pollution of rivers, lakes, and streams

from discharges of stormwater. Planning and implementation projects selected for funding in the first round total about \$50M and include one project in our Region awarded to the Tahoe RCD for \$760,000, titled *Catchment-scale Stormwater Monitoring, Model Validation and Load Estimation to Meet TMDL Requirements in the Lake Tahoe Basin*. A second round of project solicitation is planned for FY 2013/14 with the remaining \$32M to be used for implementation projects. Water Board staff will assist State Water Board staff with project proposal review. State Water Board staff will manage all selected projects. For more information on the SWGP, please see: [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/grants\\_loans/prop84/index.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/grants_loans/prop84/index.shtml)

### **Proposition 84 Agricultural Water Quality Grant Program**

The State Water Board's Agricultural Water Quality Grant Program (AWQGP) includes approximately \$13.7M in Proposition 84 bond funds. Projects in our Region funded from the AWQGP include \$1M for a project titled *Grazing Management Practice Implementation and Assessment in One or More Targeted Watersheds in the Lahontan Region (Walker River, Carson River, Susan River and Owens River.)* The project is now underway with Sierra Business Council as the grantee and managed by Water Board staff. This project include grazing management practice (MP) education and outreach, grazing MP implementation (on a cost-sharing basis with ranchers), and water quality monitoring and analyses to assess the effectiveness of grazing MPs and for bacteria source identification. Sierra Business Council is currently working with interested ranchers in the Susan River watershed and Bridgeport area. We hope to have applications in shortly and begin projects this fall. Applications are still being accepted on a first come, first serve basis, until implementation money for this grant is depleted.

### **319 Nonpoint Source Implementation Grant Program**

This is the federal grant program for nonpoint source pollution control projects. As shown in the table below, our staff currently manage six 319 Nonpoint Source grants totaling \$2,073,144. The next solicitation to award approximately \$4 M in planning and implementation projects is underway, with Concept Proposals due September 12.

For more information, see

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/nps/docs/2014/2014\\_cpnotice.pdf](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/nps/docs/2014/2014_cpnotice.pdf)

Projects selected for funding from this solicitation will be managed by Water Board staff.

### **Web Site and Electronic Mailing List**

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/grants\\_loans/](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/grants_loans/) is the link from the State Water Board's web page for information on current and upcoming grants.

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/email\\_subscriptions](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/email_subscriptions) is the link to subscribe electronically to the grants mailing list to receive notification of new grant information by selected program.

## **OTHER GRANT INFORMATION**

### **Grants Roundtable Meetings**

This forum continues to meet about two times a year to discuss grant-related issues. It includes a representative from each Regional Board and staff from the State Water Board. The next meeting is planned for Fall 2013.

### **Funding Fairs**

The California Financing Coordinating Committee (CFCC) was formed in 1998 and is made up of several state and federal funding agencies including the State Water Board. The intent of the CFCC is to facilitate and expedite the completion of various types of infrastructure projects by helping customers combine the resources of different agencies. Project information is shared between members so additional resources can be identified. The CFCC conducts free Funding Fairs statewide each year to educate the public and potential customers about the different member agencies, and the financial and technical resources available. Five Funding Fairs will be held across the state during August through October of 2013. More information about the Fairs and a handbook can be found at:

<http://www.cfcc.ca.gov/res/docs/2013/2013%20CFCC%20Full%20Work%20Book-final.pdf>

**GRANT PROJECTS CURRENTLY MANAGED BY REGIONAL BOARD STAFF**

<b>Fund</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Recipient</b>	<b>Amount</b>
319 Nonpoint Source	Reducing Sediment Loads through Residential BMPs – Middle Truckee River TMDL	Sierra Nevada Alliance	\$485,000
319 Nonpoint Source	Coldstream Canyon Floodplain Restoration	Truckee River Watershed Council	\$250,000
319 Nonpoint Source	Squaw Creek Restoration Preliminary Design	Placer County	\$167,961
319 Nonpoint Source	Upper Owens River Water Quality Project: Assessment and Implementation Measures to Reduce Nutrient Loading	California Trout, Inc.	\$125,000
319 Nonpoint Source	Lake Forest Water Quality Improvement Project	Placer County	\$750,000
319 Nonpoint Source	Truckee River Voluntary BMP Retrofit Program	Truckee River Watershed Council	\$295,183
Proposition 84 Agricultural Water Quality	Grazing Management Practice Implementation and Assessment in One or More Targeted Watersheds in the Lahontan Region	Sierra Business Council	\$1,000,000
<b>Total of Current Projects:</b>			<b>\$3,073,144</b>

## NORTH BASIN

### 4. Tahoe Forest Roads Workshop & Field Tours – Douglas Cushman

Water Board staff collaborated with University of California Cooperative Extension, the Society of American Foresters, and Tahoe Basin Land Management Agencies to conduct a two day workshop focused on native surface road management and the related water quality protection issues. On June 13 - 14, 2013, the workshop was held in South Lake Tahoe and covered topics that included ecological habitat and water quality impacts of forest roads, maintenance actions based on road use designations, road restoration and decommissioning strategies, and funding challenges faced by road managers.

On July 15 and 30, 2013 field tours showed workshop participants how different land managers had addressed native surface road issues at selected sites on US Forest Service lands, CA State Parks lands, and at Homewood Ski Area.

The workshop and field tours were well attended with participation from two Regional Water Boards, CA State Water Board, multiple USDA National Forests and Research Stations, CA State Parks, CA Geological Survey, CalFire, California Tahoe Conservancy, Tahoe Regional Planning Agency, NV State Parks, University of California Davis faculty, staff from two Tahoe area ski resorts, and numerous environmental consulting firm representatives.

Workshop attendees were able to network with other professionals and gained useful ideas for future road projects. The workshop format was conducive to information sharing and also highlighted project funding and operational constraints, and how these issues were dealt with on different ownerships.

### 5. 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Lake Tahoe Summit - Robert Larsen

Since the first Presidential Forum in 1997, a diverse group of stakeholders has gathered annually to celebrate the beauty of Lake Tahoe and discuss the importance of protecting and restoring the Lake. The event, known as the "Lake Tahoe Summit," is held in August. This year, Senator Harry Reid of Nevada hosted the Summit at Sand Harbor. The theme was "*A Clean Lake Legacy: Preserving Tahoe and the Environment for Future Generations*".

The event was organized by the Tahoe Fund, a non-profit private fund raising group that helps fund environmental restoration and recreation projects throughout the Lake Tahoe basin. Speakers included Joanne Marchetta (TRPA Executive Director), U.S. Senators Reid (NV) and Feinstein (CA), Governors Sandoval (NV) and Brown (CA), U.S. Congressman Amodei (NV), and former Vice President Al Gore.

The 2013 summit was well attended, with approximately 1,000 guests filling the seats at Sand Harbor. Top officials from a variety of agencies like the U.S. EPA, U.S. Forest Service, and the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers joined local leaders in celebrating the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Lake Tahoe Environmental Improvement Program. Following the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) Regional Plan Update last year, much of the emphasis was on the renewed spirit of cooperation between the states of California and Nevada and the collaborative effort required for the plan development and implementation.

This was Vice President Gore's first visit since the 1997 Presidential Forum, and following an introduction by Senator Reid he delivered a rousing speech highlighting the environmental achievements since his last visit and discussing the local and global challenge associated with climate change. Vice President Gore closed his talk by encouraging attendees to use Tahoe as an example of environmental sustainability that can be applied nationally and globally. Board members interested in Vice President Gore's speech can find it here:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nYaq20ZFxQk>

The Russian Ambassador to the United States was a surprise guest, and the parallels between Lake Baikal and Lake Tahoe were noted by several speakers. Senators Reid and Feinstein have introduced a bill in the Senate to re-authorize the Lake Tahoe Restoration Act, and the Summit served to highlight the importance of federal, state, and local funding in achieving our shared environmental goals.

## SOUTH BASIN

### 6. **Composting General Order Update –** *Brianna Bergen*

A statewide conditional waiver for “green-waste only” was in effect from 1994 to 2003; however, Senate Bill 390 was adopted and changed California Water Code (CWC) sections 13269 and 13350, which required these waivers to be either renewed or replaced with waste discharge requirements (WDRs). The CWC requires that anyone who discharges waste that could affect waters of the State must submit a report of waste discharge. The Water Boards may waive this report and subsequent waste discharges with conditions. As the conditional waiver is no longer in effect, composting facilities may be issued individual WDRs, such as were adopted by this Board for Nursery Products’ Hawes Composting Facility (March 2010).

Currently, State Water Board staff is developing substantive conditions for a Draft *Statewide Order for Composting Facilities* (General Order) that would address appropriate water quality protection measures at composting facilities that currently exist or may be constructed. As you are aware, the State Water Board and Regional Water Boards are required to protect the quality and beneficial uses of the waters of the state. The Department of Resources, Recycling and Recovery (Cal Recycle) has an ‘Organics Policy Roadmap’ that identifies the need to compost more organic materials and reduce what is disposed in landfills annually (reduce the amount of organics being landfilled by 50 percent by 2020). State Water Board staff recognizes these needs and has prepared this draft General Order to: 1) streamline the permitting process, 2) implement consistent regulation of qualifying compost facilities throughout the State, and 3) protect water

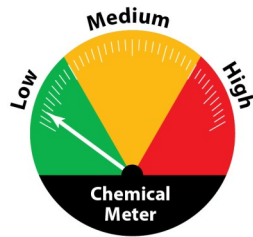
quality while reducing disposal of organic materials in landfills.


The Water Boards do not have the ability to waive requirements on discharges to surface waters subject to the federal Clean Water Act. For discharges to surface waters, National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits may be required to address either stormwater or wastewater discharges.

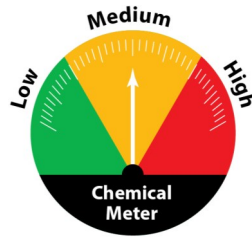
On August 23, 2013, Water Board staff attended stakeholder workgroup meetings to discuss a Draft Environmental Impact Report (Draft EIR) that is being prepared in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act for the General Order. State Water Board staff, Cal Recycle staff, Regional Water Board staff, industry stakeholders, and other interested parties met to discuss the scope of the proposed Draft EIR. The Draft EIR will be a programmatic analysis of impacts to the environment caused by the General Order. State Water Board staff clarified that they are looking for alternatives to evaluate in the Draft EIR, not alternatives to composting. Concerns from industry stakeholders focused on existing facilities, climate impact, stormwater management, construction requirements, and financial and economic impact evaluation. Water Board staff plan to continue participating in these meetings and provide comments on the draft General Order and the Draft EIR to State Water Board staff.



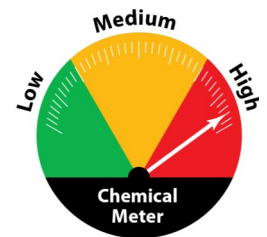
# A Healthy Guide to Eating Fish from Silverwood Lake



Rainbow trout 



Tule perch



Largemouth bass

Bluegill



Channel catfish



Blackfish



Tui chub



Striped bass

 = High in Omega-3s

7 servings a week



1 serving a week

**Do not eat**  
except women over 45 years  
and men can eat largemouth  
bass, bluegill, or catfish—  
1 serving a week

**Eat only the skinless fillet.**

PCBs are in the fat and skin of the fish.



- Remove and throw away the skin before cooking.
- Cook thoroughly and allow the juices to drain away.

**What is a serving?**



For Adults    For Children

The recommended serving is the size and thickness of your hand. Give children smaller servings.

 **Why eat fish?**

Eating fish is good for your health. Fish have Omega-3s that can reduce your risk for heart disease and improve how the brain develops in unborn babies and children.

**What is the concern?**

Some fish have high levels of mercury and PCBs. PCBs can cause cancer. Mercury can harm the brain, especially in unborn babies and children.