



EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

June 1, 2026 – June 30, 2026

Contents

1. Personnel Report – <i>Sandra Lopez</i>	1
2. Standing Item—City of Barstow Nitrate – <i>Aileen Chea</i>	1
3. Standing Item: Annual City of Barstow Orphan Perchlorate Update, July 2026 – <i>Molina Hauv</i>	5
4. Lahontan Region Awarded \$1.18 million in Cleanup and Abatement Account Funds – Jan Zimmerman	8

1. Personnel Report – *Sandra Lopez*

Vacancies

- Environmental Scientist, Nonpoint Source Unit, South Lake Tahoe. This position will help protect water quality in the Lahontan Region by leading implementation of the region's Nonpoint Source (NPS) Program. This includes NPS program management, Clean Water Act section 319 grants management, and implementation of permits and programs to manage impacts from rangeland and grazing operations.

2. Standing Item—City of Barstow Nitrate – *Aileen Chea*

This standing item describes the compliance status for the City of Barstow (City) with waste discharge requirements (WDRs) and various compliance orders issued by the Water Board regarding historical disposal practices from its wastewater treatment plant.

Waste Discharge Requirements

Discharge from the Barstow Wastewater Treatment Plant is currently regulated by waste discharge requirements, Board Order No. R6V-2019-0252 (Board Order). This Board Order requires monitoring and reporting of nitrate effluent and groundwater

monitoring wells. Submitted monitoring reports must include maps and graphs to show nitrate trends in groundwater. Additionally, the Board Order established an effluent limit for total nitrogen of 10 milligrams per liter (mg/L) and a receiving water maximum contaminant level for nitrate as nitrogen of 10 mg/L.

According to self-monitoring reports submitted by the City (2025 fourth quarter report), the monthly total nitrogen concentrations in effluent samples averaged 6.34 mg/L and effluent concentrations of nitrate as nitrogen averaged 4.69 mg/L for the year of 2025. Groundwater sample data results, in conjunction with groundwater flow patterns, indicate the nitrate concentrations predominantly increase from upgradient to downgradient in the Soapmine area north of the Mojave River as the mass of nitrate in groundwater diffuses and migrates eastward, as illustrated in Figure 2.1.

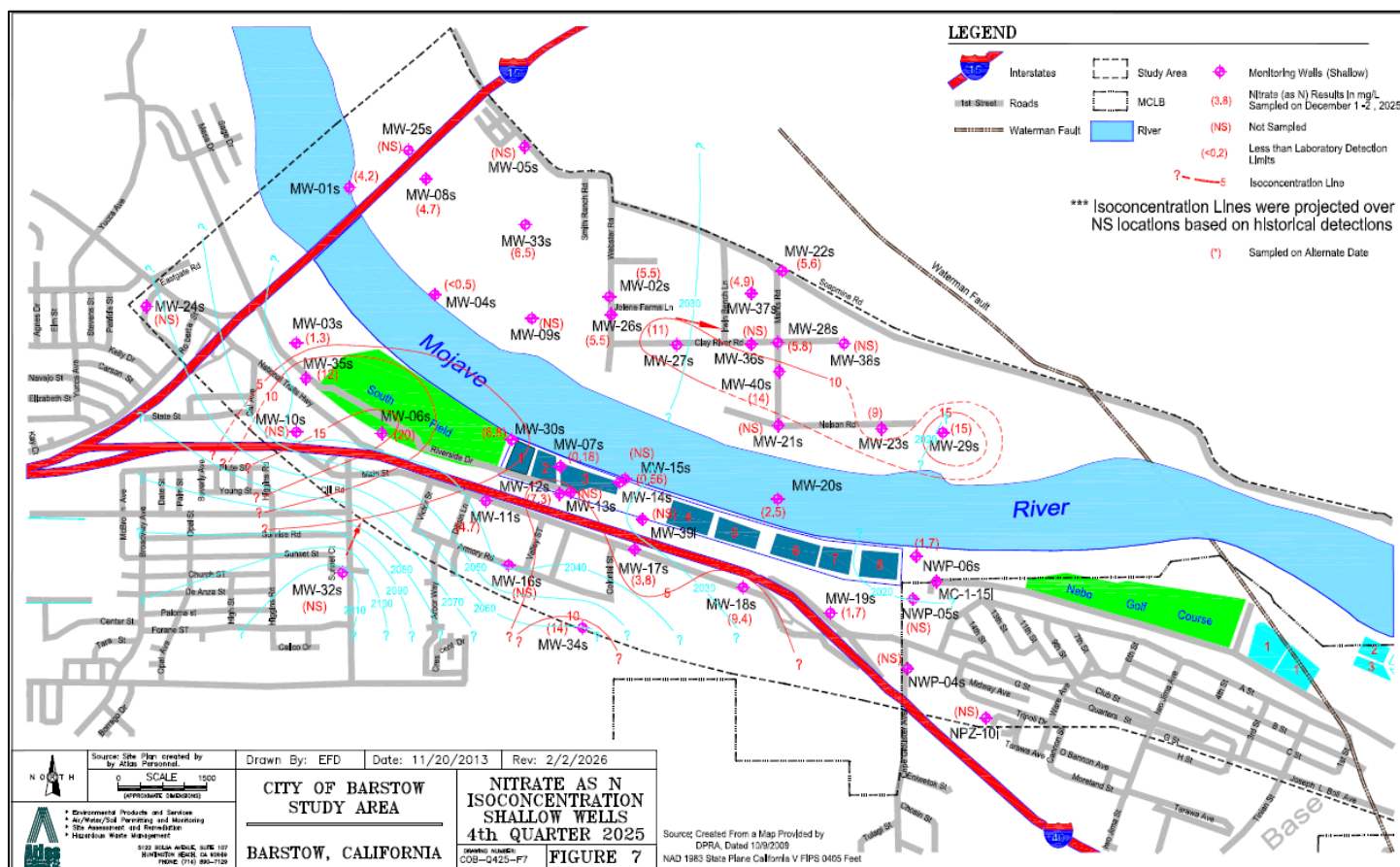


Figure 2.1—Map illustrating groundwater gradient and sampled nitrate concentrations based on shallow groundwater monitoring wells from the City's 4th Quarter 2025 Groundwater Monitoring Report.

Nitrate Pollution Groundwater Cleanup

The Water Board adopted Cleanup and Abatement Order (CAO) No. R6V-2013-0045 requiring the City to address nitrate polluted groundwater on the north side of the Mojave River. The cleanup status remains on hold until a comingled perchlorate plume, not the City's responsibility, is addressed.

Residential Well Sampling and Replacement Water in the Soapmine Road Area

The City continues to conduct quarterly sampling of residential drinking water wells to measure nitrate concentrations in groundwater, as required by CAO No. R6V-2007-0017. If a residential well sample contains a nitrate as nitrogen concentration equal to or greater than 5 mg/L, then the City must provide that residence with uninterrupted replacement water in the Soapmine Road area. For the first quarter of 2026, the City sampled 30 out of 42 residential wells (results shown in Figure 2.2). This count can vary based on the number of occupied residences in the Soapmine Road study area at the time of sampling.

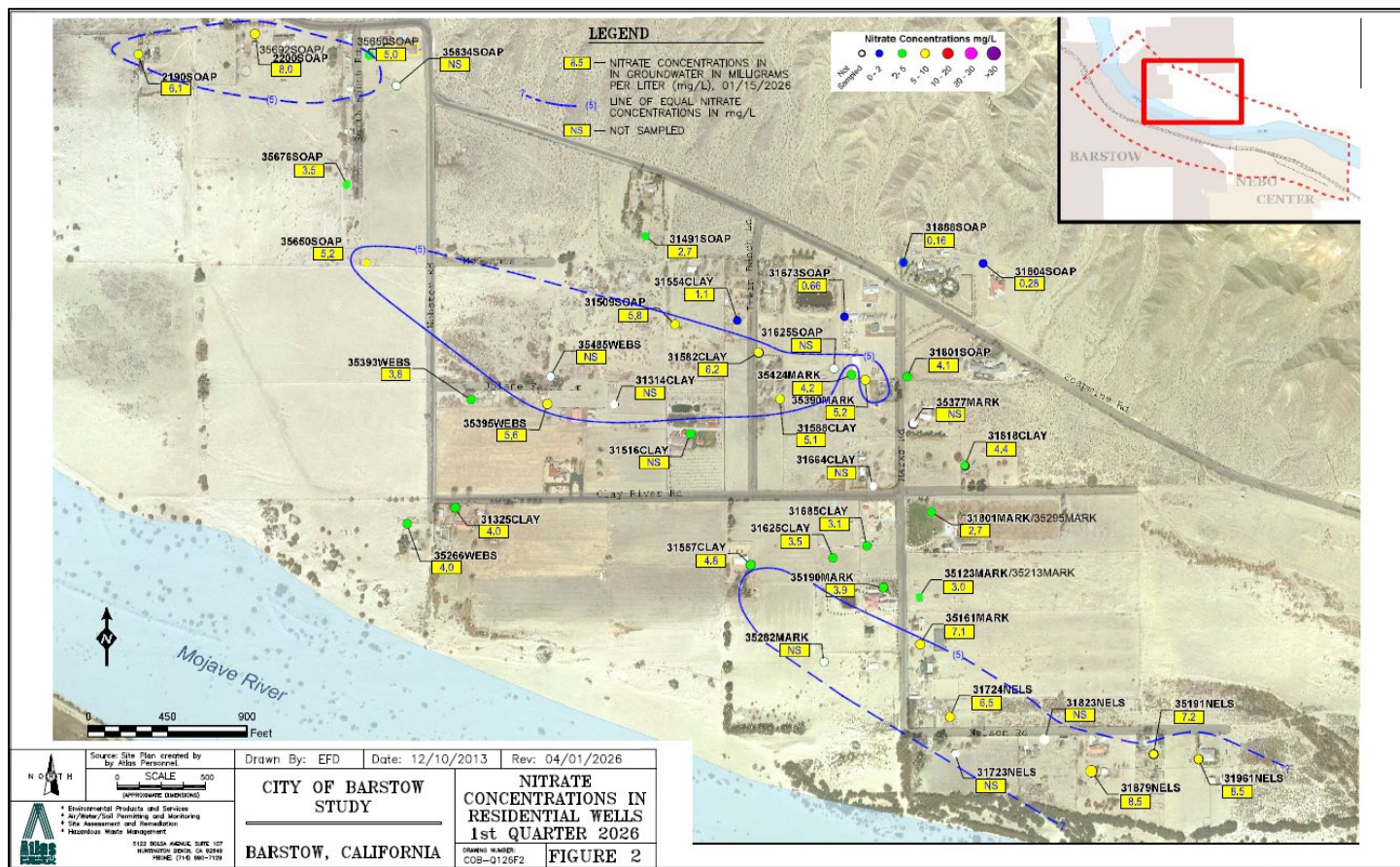


Figure 2.2— Map illustrating residential well locations and concentrations of sampled nitrate as nitrogen as reported in the City's first quarter 2026 report.

In aggregate, the nitrate concentration trends have become relatively stable, with a decreasing trend in residential wells sampled since quarterly monitoring began (illustrated in Figure 2.3). According to the City's submitted first quarter 2026 report, 17 wells sampled contained nitrate as nitrogen concentrations exceeding the replacement water threshold concentration of 5 mg/L. However, the City is providing 20 residences within the required study area with uninterrupted replacement water service (bottled water).

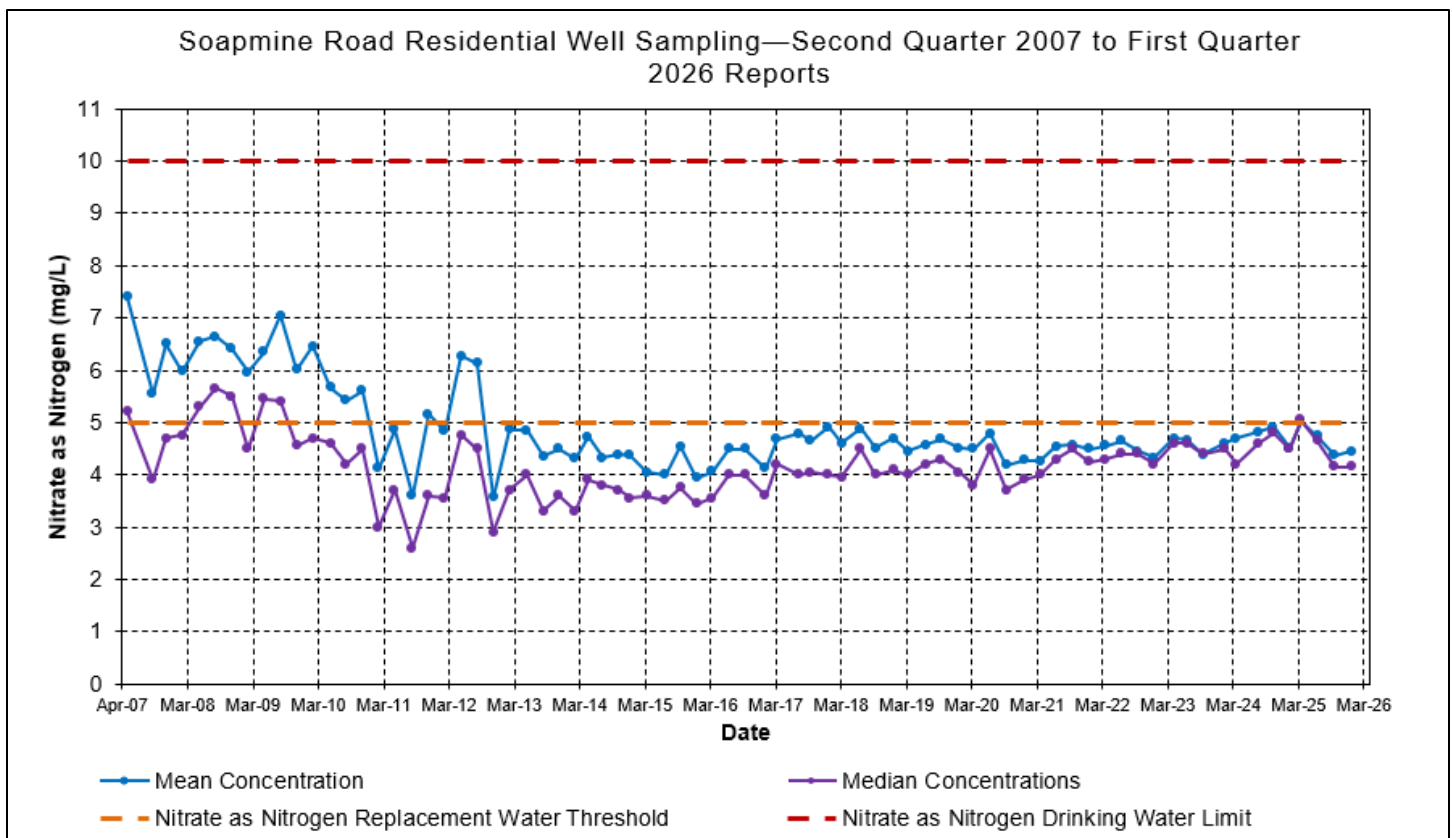


Figure 2.3—Chart illustrating sampled nitrate as nitrogen concentrations from residential wells reported on a quarterly basis compared to the replacement water threshold concentration contained in the CAO and the drinking water limit.

Based on the difference between the historical groundwater impact and current sampling data, the City has requested that the Water Board modify residential well sampling and replacement water requirements in CAO No. R6V-2007-0017, as follows.

1. Reduce sampling frequency for some residences from quarterly to either semi-annually or annually based on nitrate as nitrogen sample concentrations consistently measuring less than 5 mg/L.
2. Permanently cease well monitoring and bottle supply delivery to upgradient private wells (2190 Soapmine Road and 2200 Soapmine Road) affected by contamination from an unknown source, unrelated to the current cleanup.
3. Increase nitrate as nitrogen trigger threshold concentration from 5 mg/L to 10 mg/L for drinking water supply.
4. Cease supplying uninterrupted water service if 2 years of testing report nitrate and nitrogen concentrations below 10 mg/L.

Water Board staff are working with the City to address the City's request to revise CAO No. R6V-2007-0017.

**3. Standing Item: Annual City of Barstow Orphan Perchlorate Update, July 2026 –
Molina Hauv**



**Photo 3.1: Overview photo of Mojave River Pyrotechnics
Barstow Perchlorate project area**

Background

In 2010, Golden State Water Company, the local drinking water purveyor, detected perchlorate concentrations above the California drinking water maximum contaminant level in one of their drinking water supply wells. As a result, Golden State Water Company shut off the perchlorate-impacted well. The governor of California declared a state of emergency and California State Senator Feinstein requested that the Lahontan Water Board investigate and provide support where needed. Lahontan Water Board requested assistance from United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) to identify potential sources of perchlorate in groundwater.

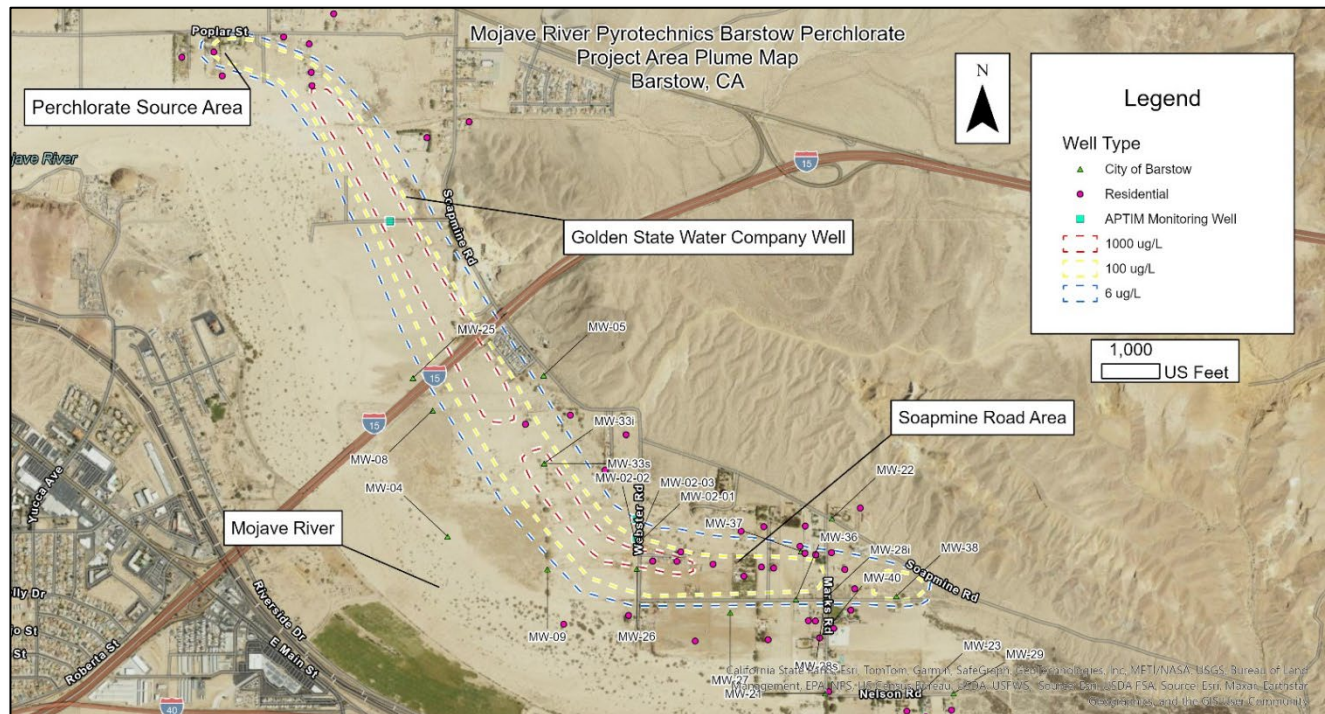
The Lahontan Water Board and USEPA conducted investigations which found that perchlorate originated from land disposal at a residential property which impacted the soil. The residential property belonged to the owner of the former Mojave River Pyrotechnics Company which used perchlorate in its manufacturing process.

Assessment and Remediation History

From 2010 to 2012, Lahontan Water Board and USEPA collected soil and groundwater samples during environmental investigations and remedial actions. Laboratory analytical results of soil samples indicated perchlorate concentrations up to 130,000 milligrams per kilogram in soil and up to 110,000 micrograms per liter ($\mu\text{g/L}$) in groundwater. USEPA excavated perchlorate-containing soil from two areas to total depths of 3 feet. All excavated soil was transported off-site for disposal.

From 2016 to 2026, Lahontan Water Board contracted an environmental consultant to perform source area site assessment including soil borings and groundwater monitoring well installation, focused feasibility study, remedy conceptual design, tracer tests, bench scale analysis, in-situ bioremediation, plume monitoring, and soil confirmation sampling. Final reporting is in progress. Funding was provided through the State Water Board's Site Cleanup Subaccount Program (SCAP) Senate Bill 445 grant funding. The funding for this project ends December 2026.

Lahontan Water Board staff sample private residential wells (quarterly) and City of Barstow groundwater monitoring wells (semi-annually). The most recent laboratory analytical data collected in the 2nd quarter 2026 indicates maximum perchlorate concentrations of up to 1200 µg/L (Figure 1). Private well owners are regularly informed of their laboratory analytical results and whether the water in their wells is safe to consume based on the concentration of perchlorate in their well compared to the drinking water Maximum Contaminant Level of 6 µg/L. Results are sent to property owners via email and/or United States Postal Service mail depending on homeowner's preferences.



Bottled Water

The site and surrounding community rely on private groundwater wells as their potable water source. Since 2011, Lahontan Water Board has offered bottled water to eligible residents due to perchlorate concentrations in their private groundwater wells. Bottled water is intended for drinking water use and delivered twice a month.

There are a total of forty-eight residences within the plume area. Currently, fourteen residential wells contain perchlorate concentrations at or above the drinking water Maximum Contaminant Level of 6 micrograms per liter. Currently, five residences receive bottled water. The number of residences receiving bottled water fluctuates depending on occupancy and financial eligibility. Funding for bottled drinking water is provided by State Water Resources Control Board Division of Financial Assistance Cleanup and Abatement Account Funds and was recently extended to June 2029.

Replacement bottled water continues to be used for safe drinking water because there are currently no Division of Drinking Water-approved Point of Entry or Point of Use Systems certified to treat perchlorate. To date, the community has not been interested in transitioning from well water to the Golden State Water Company-managed City of Barstow supplied water. The City of Barstow's public water system would require significant infrastructure modifications, including installation of water pipelines, to extend water service into the community.

Community Engagement

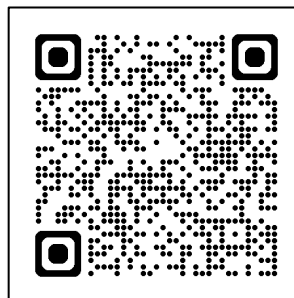
Lahontan Water Board staff strive to keep the community informed about cleanup progress. In addition to informing private well owners of their laboratory analytical results, community members and the general public can sign up online for a GovDelivery email subscription to keep informed about cleanup efforts, sampling, and GeoTracker page updates. In November 2025, Water Board staff provided a public presentation on the Barstow Perchlorate remediation project to the Board which summarized the remediation efforts, ongoing work, and next steps.

Next Steps

Lahontan Water Board staff will continue plume monitoring and managing State-provided bottled water delivery.

Future assessment and remedial work are pending the final in-situ remediation report and approval of additional SB445 funding.

Scan the QR code to sign up
and receive updates on Mojave
River Pyrotechnics



4. Lahontan Region Awarded \$1.18 million in Cleanup and Abatement Account Funds – Jan Zimmerman

In March 2026, the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) adopted  [Resolution 2026-0009](#), allocating **\$1,180,000** in Tier 2 Cleanup and Abatement Account (CAA) funds to the Lahontan Regional Board. This one-time distribution returns unspent enforcement-related CAA monies to the regions based on a formula which provides a baseline amount (\$850,000) to each region and distributes the remaining funds proportional to the fines and penalties/settlements collected and deposited to the CAA from the respective Regional Board from FY 20/21 through FY 24/25. These funds are intended to support water quality cleanup and abatement projects that deliver measurable environmental and public health benefits.

Our Region 6 allocation may be used for investigations, monitoring, and fund transfers into statewide contracts, partially replacing discretionary contract funds that are no longer available. Although the full amount is now encumbered, the State Water Board expects timely expenditure. We intend to distribute the funds through a competitive project solicitation process, with the Executive Team reviewing and approving final awards. The table below summarizes the projects that have been selected to receive funding so far. To date, \$780,675 has been awarded to implement and support several projects within the region, and there is nearly \$400k left to award. We will continue to update the Board as additional funding is awarded and until the full \$1.18 million is committed.

Region 6 Cleanup and Abatement Account Funding Awards			
Champion	Project Name	Project Description	Funded Amount
March 2026			
Kelly Huck	Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program (SWAMP)	Continuation of our regional Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program (SWAMP) for three years beginning April 2027 through March 2030. The program will monitor 17 locations from Truckee River in the north to West Fork Mojave River in the south. The \$222,068 funds awarded will be transferred to the Statewide Chemistry Contract for sample analyses.	\$222,068
Kerri O'Keefe	Colorado Hill Mine Area Investigation	A one sampling event during spring runoff to evaluate impacts of acid mine drainage on Monitor Creek and the East Fork Carson River from historic mining in Colorado Hill Mine Area, Alpine County. The purpose is data collection to evaluate long-term permanent solutions. The \$24,607 funds awarded will be transferred to the Statewide Chemistry Contract for sample analyses.	\$24,607
May 2026			
Ed Hancock	Lake Tahoe Watershed Model Update Project	This project funds a watershed model update for Lake Tahoe which is the subject of a 2011 Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for fine sediment and nutrients. Because predicted water quality has not been realized by successful pollutant load reductions, investments should be made to modernize the underpinning Hydrological Simulation Program—FORTRAN (HSPF) watershed model. Modernization of HSPF will offer a fuller accounting of load reduction/lake response, allow TMDL managers to predict and evaluate different climactic and implementation scenarios, and provide transparent accounting of TMDL variables to stakeholders and the public. The \$200,000 funds awarded for this project will be utilized in an interagency agreement between the Water Board and Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) and managed by Lahontan staff. The total project cost is approximately \$8,500,000, supported by additional funding from the California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA) and other TMDL management agencies.	\$200,000

Region 6 Cleanup and Abatement Account Funding Awards			
Champion	Project Name	Project Description	Funded Amount
Dan Sussman	Hot Creek, Owens River, and Crowley Lake Mercury Data Collection Project	The project will include collection and analysis of mercury in water, sediment, in Hot Creek and the Owens River during a range of flow conditions over the course of 3 years, and fish tissue in one of those years. Data will help characterize the mercury fish tissue concentrations in two popular fishing waterbodies, as well as mercury fate, transport and methylation processes controlling fish tissue concentrations in the region. This project will be implemented under SWAMP by Moss Landing Marine Laboratory (San Jose State University Research Foundation), with Lahontan staff performing some sample collection for a three-year project. (\$222,000) Additionally, water column and sediment data will be collected at Crowley Lake and used to inform the understanding of mercury cycling and partition in the lake. (\$30,000)	\$252,000
Sabrina Rice	Pre-Holiday HAB Assessment Project	The project will include harmful algal bloom monitoring to identify cyanotoxin risks prior to peak recreational holidays including Memorial Day, Independence Day, and Labor Day at roughly 30 waterbodies per assessment. These assessments track the threat posed by harmful algal blooms, which can impair water quality and pose public health hazards. The resulting data will guide timely advisories and management actions that mitigate human and animal exposure risks and support long-term protection of beneficial uses. The \$82,000 funding award will be transferred to the Statewide Bend Contract to support sample analyses for two years beginning in 2027.	\$82,000
Region 6 total funds			\$1.18 mil
Total funds awarded through June 2026			\$780,675
Total funds remaining June 2026			\$399,325