

Climate Change Program Annual Report

Item No. 7

Lahontan Water Board Meeting
October 2, 2024



Laurie Scribe, Senior Environmental Scientist Specialist

Presentation Outline

❖ Introduction

- Resolution R6T-2019-0277, Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Strategy (2019)
- Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Action Plan (2021)

❖ Annual Reporting - July 2023 – June 2024

- Prior Year's Accomplishments
- Proposed Actions for coming year
- Updates on Partnerships
- Updates on Statewide activities

❖ Questions, Comments, and Discussion



Resolution R6T-2019-0277



1. Protection of Wetlands, Floodplains, & Headwaters



2. Infrastructure Protection



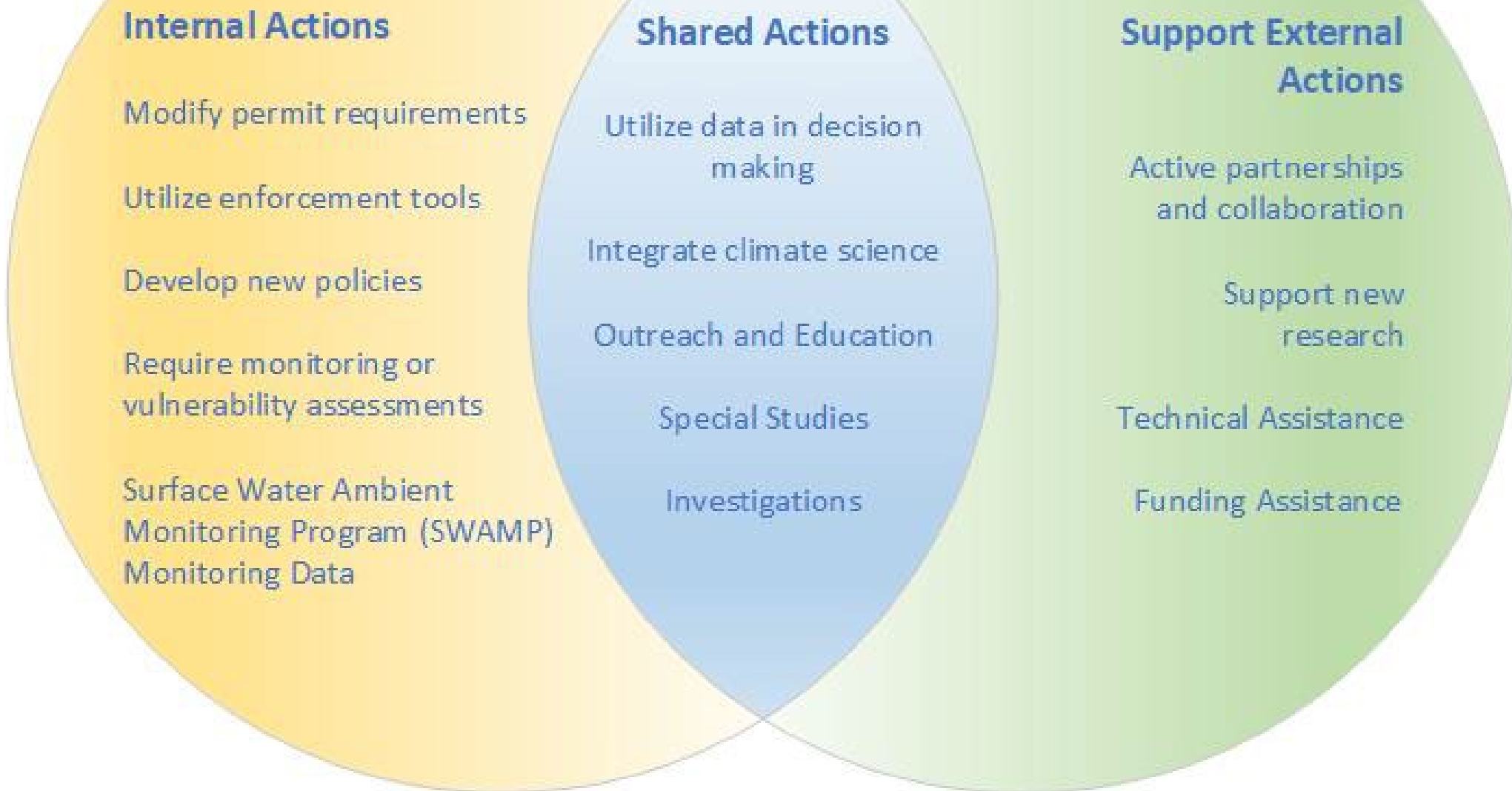
3. Protection of Groundwater Quality & Supply



4. Protection of Headwater Forests and Promoting Fire Resiliency

Policy Statements

Climate Change Action Plan – potential actions as a regulatory agency



Fiscal Year 23/24 Proposed Actions – How Did We Do?

23/24 Proposed Actions	Status Update
Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program Management Plan Update	Delayed; work planned for FY 24/25
2022 Triennial Review Item – Riparian, Floodplain, and Wetland Protection Updates	Progress: determined that several sub-issues can be addressed without a Basin Plan Amendment
Timber Waiver	April 2024 Hearing Postponed Adopted in August 2024
Continued Integration of Climate Change With Our Programs	Ongoing

2022 Triennial Review - Riparian, Floodplain, and Wetland Protection Updates

Issue Summary: Staff would evaluate the need for updating existing Basin Plan language for consistency and clarity and would consider the need to add additional protections.

1. Clarify aspects of the 100-yr floodplain discharge prohibition in Truckee and Tahoe hydrologic units => no Basin Plan amendment
 - Next steps: staff training
2. Clarifying mitigation requirements for Lake Tahoe discharge prohibitions affecting lands designated as Stream Environment Zones => no Basin Plan amendment
 - Next steps: staff training

2022 Triennial Review - Riparian, Floodplain, and Wetland Protection Updates - continued

3. Refining the definition of riparian areas => no Basin Plan amendment
 - Next steps: use existing Policy (Statewide dredge/fill Procedures); consider updates to existing permit R6T-2003-0004
4. Consider language requiring setbacks from wetlands and potentially other waters and groundwater recharge areas. => needs considerable development prior to determining if a Basin Plan amendment is appropriate
 - Next steps: project needs further scope development and planning prior to considering a Basin Plan amendment

Additional Actions in Fiscal Year 23/24

- Advancing Restoration Interagency summit
- Creation of a Funding Opportunities subscription list for Nonpoint Source related activities
- Additional focus on maintaining current lists of Supplemental Environmental Projects in Regional Enforcement Priorities
- Funding toward monitoring climate change related impacts on Lake Tahoe – wildfire smoke, algal bloom, aquatic invasive species



New Zealand Mud Snail
Photo credit: Marine Taxonomic Services

FY 24/25 Proposed Actions

- Outreach to partners for Supplemental Environmental Projects
- Aquatic Invasive Species internal work group
- Updating the Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program Management Plan



Water Board staff collecting eDNA samples along Trout Creek in the Upper Truckee River Marsh. Photo credit: Alanna Misico




FY 24/25 Proposed Actions Continued – Updating the Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program Management Plan

- Driven by recommendations from 20-Year Status and Trends Report
- Utilizes an adaptive monitoring framework
- New overarching management questions
- Considerations for incorporating climate change into management plan:
 - Long-term upper watershed monitoring sites
 - Filling data gaps in baseline condition assessments
 - More focus on non-perennial waters



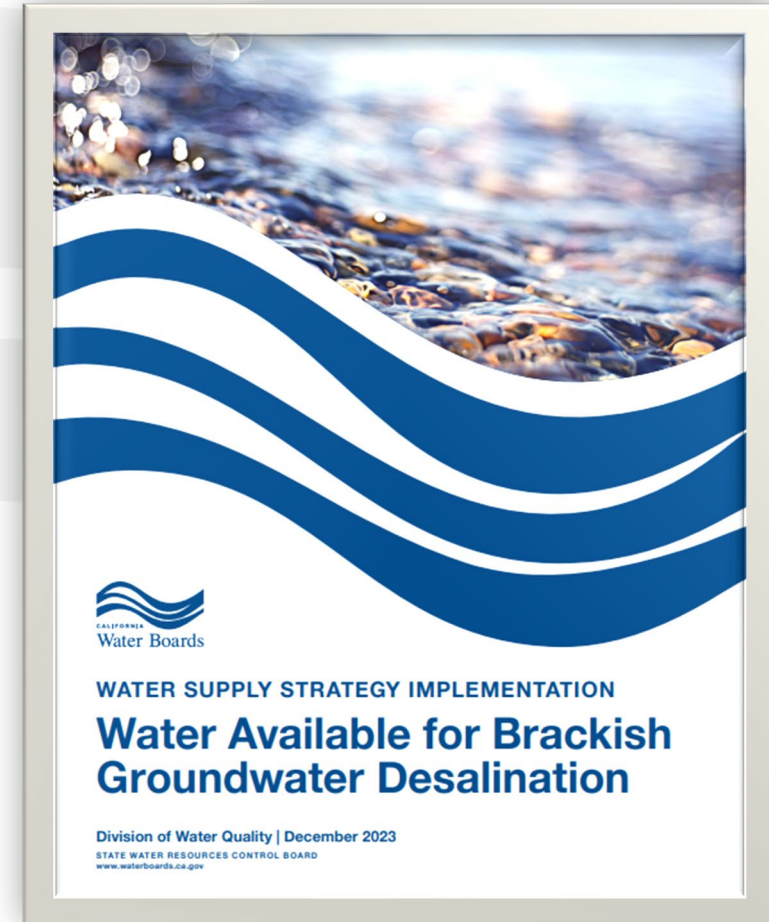
Kerrick Meadow, Hoover Wilderness.
Photo credit: Laurie Scribe

Partnerships and Outreach

Partnership	Policy Statement	Partner Agencies	Status
Tahoe Science Advisory Council		Multiple Tahoe Basin agencies, universities, NGOs	Ongoing
San Bernardino County Local Area Management Plan		San Bernardino County, Water Board Regions 7 and 8	Ongoing
Forestry and Wildfire Resiliency Program		State Board, Regional Boards	Ongoing

Updates – Regional and Statewide

- New report: “Tahoe Stormwater Treatment BMPs in a Changing Climate”
- State Water Resources Control Board:
 - Updating Climate Change Resolution
 - Water Supply Strategy Implementation Reports:
 - “Water Available for Brackish Groundwater Desalination” –16 basins identified within the Lahontan Region
 - “Planned Recycled Water Projects” –7 potential projects identified in the Lahontan Region



Questions and comments



Lake Manly from Dantes View in Death Valley, February 24, 2024.
Photo credit: February 24, 2024, Amanda Lopez.