

Section 3.5 National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Program Activities Throughout the Region ('Regionwide')

NPDES permits are issued to regulate discharges of waste to 'waters of the United States' including discharges of storm water from urban separate storm sewer systems and certain categories of industrial activity. NPDES permits are required to prescribe conditions of discharge which will ensure protection of beneficial uses of the receiving water as described in the RWQCB's *Water Quality Control Plan of the Lahontan Region*, and in other state policies. NPDES permits can also require municipal sewage treatment systems to conduct pretreatment programs if their design capacity is greater than 5 million gallons per day; smaller treatment plants may also be required to conduct pretreatment if there are significant industrial user of their systems. As part of the NPDES program, the RWQCB issues NPDES permits, reviews discharger self-monitoring reports, performs independent compliance checking, and takes enforcement actions as needed. The RWQCB issues new NPDES permits as necessary.

Priorities for FY 02/03 are shown in Chapter Appendix A.