

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE      March 12, 2009**

**Contact:**

**Harold J. Singer  
Lahontan Water Board Executive Officer  
(530) 542-5412**

**Blake Riva  
Northstar Mountain Properties  
(530) 587-2222**

**NORTHSTAR MOUNTAIN PROPERTIES, LLC, PAYS \$2.75 MILLION IN WATER  
QUALITY SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT**

*Agreement settles claims for storm water permit and waste discharge violations that occurred throughout the 2006 construction season*

**KINGS BEACH**—Northstar Mountain Properties, LLC (NMP) has agreed to pay \$2.75 million as part of its settlement with the State of California stemming from water quality violations, the majority of which occurred at the Northstar Resort Community during the 2006 construction season. This is the largest settlement ever reached by the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board as a result of an enforcement action related to storm water compliance activities associated with construction projects.

NMP allegedly violated conditions of its Clean Water Act Water Quality Certification, Construction Storm Water Permit, and prohibitions contained in the Lahontan Water Board's Basin Plan. Violations occurred at eleven different project areas in the Northstar Resort Community.

Under the terms of the settlement, NMP has agreed to pay \$500,000 to be distributed between the State Water Resource Control Board's Cleanup and Abatement Account (80%) and Waste Discharge Permit Fund (20%). The remaining \$2,250,000 will fund a major Supplemental Environmental Project proposed by NMP which will focus on watershed improvements within the Martis Valley area. The improvements will occur at Waddle Ranch, a 1,462-acre parcel recently acquired by the Truckee Donner Land Trust for environmental conservation and within the Northstar community. In addition to water quality and habitat improvement, the project will ultimately result in a technology transfer to land managers within the Sierra Nevada through a "Watershed Evaluation, Treatment and Monitoring Handbook" and through a "Forest Fuels Treatment/Water Quality Protection Handbook."

"We take storm water permit compliance very seriously," said Jack Clarke, Chair of the Lahontan Water Board. "The development and construction industries should take note of the significant consequences associated with violating the state's water quality protection laws and regulations, including Water Board enforcement orders." Mr. Clarke went on to say that, "The settlement will also result in many water quality enhancements that will directly benefit the affected watershed and handbooks that will benefit all of the Sierra Nevada area."

In 2006, the Lahontan Water Board documented numerous violations at a planned development of approximately 325 acres within the existing Northstar Resort

Community. The violations related to NMP's failure to adequately install and maintain storm water controls, some of which eventually led to discharges of sediment-laden storm water runoff into area surface waters during rainfall events, and compliance with Lahontan reporting requirements.

The Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board is one of nine regional boards in the state. Its principal duty is to protect and restore California's water quality east of the Cascade and Sierra Nevada crests from the Oregon border through the Mojave Desert. To do so, it sets water quality standards and waste discharge requirements, enforces federal and state water quality statutes, regulates cleanup of sites that threaten water quality, and educates the public about water quality issues. The Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board consists of up to nine individuals, each appointed by the Governor, and a small professional staff comprised mostly of scientists, engineers, and geologists. For more information, go to <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/lahontan/>.