



Terry Tamminen
Secretary for
Environmental
Protection

California Regional Water Quality Control Board

Lahontan Region



Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor

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MINUTES May 12-13, 2004

Regular Meeting

Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board
Truckee Sanitary District
12304 Joerger Dr.
Truckee, CA

Chair Eric Sandel called the meeting to order at 3:35 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

William Betterley, Hesperia
John Brissenden, Hope Valley
Jack Clarke, Apple Valley
Amy Horne, Ph.D., Truckee
Eugene Nebeker, Ph.D., Lancaster
Eric Sandel, Truckee

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

None

LEGAL COUNSEL

Steven H. Blum, State Water Resources Control Board

STAFF PRESENT

Harold J. Singer, Executive Officer
Robert S. Dodds, Assistant Executive Officer
Hisam Baqai, Supervising WRCE, Southern Lahontan Watersheds Division
Lauri Kemper, Supervising WRCE, Northern Lahontan Watersheds Division
Doug Smith, Senior Engineering Geologist, Lake Tahoe Watershed
Scott Ferguson, Senior WRCE, Truckee River Watershed
Mike Plaziak, Senior Engineering Geologist, Mojave Unit
Cadie Olsen, Engineering Geologist, Truckee River Watershed
Chuck Curtis, Supervising WRCE, Planning and Toxics Division
Marietta Christoffersen, Office Technician
Carrie Granados, Office Technician

ADDRESSING THE BOARD

Art Baggett, Chair, SWRCB
Richard Anderson, California Fly Fisher Magazine
Steve Maguin, Los Angeles County Sanitation District (District)

1. Executive Officer's Report

Mr. Singer discussed the following:

Item No. 2 - Update on Alpine County Road Issues - Although USFS has a good management approach for analyzing and improving forest roads, Board staff is evaluating whether it is being carried out in the field. Board staff will meet with Alpine County and USFS in the field for a ground review this spring and early summer to see what has been done so far and what will need to be done with the forest and unpaved roads in Alpine county.

John Brissenden suggested that representatives from the Carson River Watershed Council go along on the ground review so that they can continue to do those reviews on their own when Board staff are not available.

Item No. 6 - USFS Attends TRPA Erosion Control Training to Improve Construction Site BMPs - There have been problems with the LTBMU Forest Service regarding some of their projects. The Board feels that they should attend some additional training. The USFS agrees and have attended some training that the Board helped facilitate with TRPA.

John Brissenden, submitted pictures (that illustrate why training is needed) of the turnpike project on the Big Meadow Trail that was built by the Tahoe Rim Trail Group under the direction of the USFS.

Doug Smith stated that the Tahoe Rim Trail Group under a MOU with the USFS did the project last year. A Notice of Violation was issued to USFS for violating BMPs and the solution for correcting the problem is still being evaluated.

Lauri Kemper discussed the alternative analysis presented by the USFS in terms of the best way to reconstruct the trail, either around the meadow or through it.

Mr. Singer discussed with the Board whether the project should be permitted after the fact, should the USFS be required to remove it, or if there should be some enforcement action for doing the work without a permit. Mr. Singer stated there would be a decision later this calendar year.

Item No. 7 - Intrawest Rodeo Grounds Project-June Lake - There is a proposed residential development project in the June Lake area near the June Mountain Ski Area Base parking. Mr. Singer expressed concerns to the Board regarding the wastewater capacity of the June Lake facility and the different environmental impacts of such a large project. He mentioned that some controversy might arise over the size of the project. Eric Sandel and Amy Horne suggested a possible field trip out to the site at the June Board meeting in Bishop.

Item No. 8 - Molycorp Cleanup and Abatement Order Compliance Status Update - The Board is requiring that Molycorp do a groundwater investigation to determine the extent of the plume that has been released from its facility. BLM has issued Molycorp a permit for installation of monitoring wells on BLM land but the Park Service, an adjacent landowner, has raised issues about the well locations. Board staff will be meeting with the Park Service to discuss the locations. Board staff will monitor the progress of the project closely.

Item No. 9 - PG&E Hinkley Projects - Mr. Singer discussed with the Board the status of the two projects at Hinkley, which are 1) Interim Plume Containment and Hexavalent Chromium Treatment Project and 2) In-Situ Pilot Study and Long-Term Ground Water Treatment System Project.

A background study will be completed to identify the natural background conditions. The Board had three different professors from three different Universities do a peer review of the proposed background study with the result that Board staff had PG&E modify its proposal. PG&E will submit the report and proposal for Board approval and then begin the background study.

Item No. 10 - Searles Valley Minerals - The Board received a letter from the Department of Fish and Game requesting the due date be extended for selecting and funding the mitigation project. Mr. Singer sent a response letter indicating that he is willing to delay a decision as to whether or not to move the funds that are currently held in escrow to the Cleanup and Abatement account because they did not start to fund the project by the date in the Order.

Searles Valley Minerals is proposing new pipelines in the production area that will reduce the number of pipe breaks and the need to drain pipelines out of the Searles Lake Area.

The Quarterly Violations Report was discussed.

There was a miscommunication between the Board Technical Staff and the Student Assistants in regards to the Violations Reports. The Student Assistants did not document the violation when a Self-Monitoring Report was not received from a Discharger. This error has been corrected and will now be indicated on the Quarterly Violations Reports.

2. **CLOSED SESSION**

Board members met in closed session on May 12, 2004 from 4:40 p.m. to 5:27 p.m. to discuss items b, e, h, i, j, l, m, n, q and s. Authority: Government Code Section 11126(e)(2)(B)(c)(I).

The Board reconvened in open session at 5:28 p.m. and the afternoon session of the meeting adjourned.

Chair Eric Sandel called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m.

Art Baggett spoke on the new administration. He gave background information on all the new appointees, what to expect in the future with different water quality issues, and talked about the California Performance Review (CPR) process established by the Governor.

3. **PUBLIC FORUM**

No one addressed the Board during Public Forum.

4. **MINUTES**

- **Motion:** Moved by Jack Clarke, seconded by William Betterley and **unanimously carried** to adopt the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 10 and 11, 2004 in South Lake Tahoe, CA.

5. **ADOPTION OF UNCONTESTED CALENDAR**

- **Motion:** Moved by William Betterley, seconded by Eugene Nebeker and **unanimously carried** to adopt Items 6 (with revisions) and 7 of the Uncontested Calendar as proposed. Item 10 was removed from the Uncontested Calendar.

STATUS REPORTS

8. **Monitoring in the Martis Valley Watershed**

Cadie Olsen, Associate Engineering Geologist, made the staff presentation and discussed the following:

- Background
- Location
- Martis Valley's setting
- Current information, data and reports
- General monitoring considerations
- 4/28/04 meeting with Placer County, Town of Truckee, Lahontan, UCB Sagehen, Truckee River Watershed Council
- Resulting Strategy and Recommendations

Ms. Olsen responded to Board members questions and Chuck Curtis, Supervising WRCE, spoke on the Truckee TMDL.

Richard Anderson, California Fly Fisher Magazine, spoke on the water quality issues and existing water quality standards now applied in the Martis Valley Watershed. He had concerns about the amount of development planned upstream and the effect it may have on the lake, fish and the angling community.

9. **Report on the: 1) Status of Compliance By Los Angeles County Sanitation District (District) No. 20, Palmdale Water Reclamation Plant (PWRP) and the City of Los Angeles World Airports with Cleanup and Abatement Order No. R6V-2003-056 Addressing Waste Discharges of Nitrate to Ground Waters and 2) Status of Compliance of the Los Angeles County Sanitation District No. 14, Lancaster Water Reclamation Plant with Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. R6V-2002-053**

Dr. Nebeker recused himself from this item.

Mike Plaziak, Senior Engineering Geologist made the staff presentation and discussed the following:

PART A – District No. 20 – Palmdale WRP, Los Angeles World Airports

- Review Task List
- Abatement Plan
- Addendum to Delineation Plan
- Wind Speed Monitoring Plan
- Future Tasks

PART B – District No. 14 – Lancaster WRP

- 2025 Plan and Final Environmental Impact Report
- Review Ground Water Well Installation Reports
- Review Abandoned Well Investigation Reports
- Conduct Annual Compliance Inspection

Hisam Baqai, Supervising WRCE, answered questions from the Board. Chuck Curtis, Supervising WRCE, explained the process of how the crops remove nitrogen from the water applied.

Steve Maguin, District, discussed nitrate applications on crops and the status of Districts No. 14 and No. 20 compliance efforts.

Mr. Singer spoke on the final Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and the stakeholders meeting held on May 7, 2004.

OTHER BUSINESS

10. Resolution Authorizing the Expenditure of Funds from the Fleur Du Lac Water Quality Mitigation Fund

Lauri Kemper, Supervising WRCE, made the staff presentation and discussed the different proposed projects to utilize the fund. She made reference to an April 27, 2004 comment letter received from Jan Brisco, Executive Director, Tahoe Lakefront Owners' Association.

Motion: Moved by Jack Clarke, seconded by John Brissenden and **unanimously carried** to adopt Item 10.

11. Reports by Chair and Board Members

Dr. Nebeker related that the Environmental Director at EAFB complimented Victorville staff, Cindi Mitton, Elizabeth Lafferty and Mike Plaziak on the cooperative, collaborative relationships that have been established over the years.

Mr. Sandel noted that EPA announced a tentative perchlorate standard of 1 ppb and California's standard is set for 6 ppb.

2. **CLOSED SESSION**

Board members met in closed session on May 12, 2004 from 10:30 p.m. to 10:44 p.m. to discuss items b, e, h, i, j, l, m, n, q and s. Authority: Government Code Section 11126(e)(2)(B)(c)(I).

The Board reconvened in open session on May 12, 2004 at 10:45 p.m.

With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 10:45 p.m.

Prepared by: _____ Adopted: September 9, 2004
Pam Walker, Administrative Officer