Lahontan Regional Water Quality
Control Board

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

April 2001

NORTH BASIN

1. ***Update on 13267 Golf Letter Regarding Use of Sulfur Dioxide in Surface waters,*** *-Abigail O'Keefe*

   In January of 2001, Regional Board staff received information concerning the use of sulfur dioxide at some golf courses in California. Other Regional Boards had discovered that some golf course managers were trying to improve the appearance of their water features by injecting Sulfur Dioxide into their ponds using an automatic injection system. The result was the creation of acidic conditions that led to dead, deformed, and partially dissolved amphibian life and fishes.

   The Executive Officer issued a 13267 letter requesting golf courses to submit report stating whether or not they have ever used sulfur dioxide at their facility. All golf courses in Region 6 were included on the mailing list. The letters were mailed out in the middle of April. Reports are to be submitted to the Regional Board by May 30, 2001. Staff will follow-up on any reports of sulfer dioxide use.

2. ***Big Tree Cry Cleaners, Placer County*** - *Lisa Dernbach*

   At the March 2001 meeting, the Regional Board agreed to continue the public hearing for consideration of an administrative civil liability order against the responsible parties for the Big Tree Cleaners in Tahoe City. The Board took this action to allow the responsible parties more time to submit documents to expand remediation at the site. The parties were required to submit: a workplan for implementing soil remediation and expanding groundwater plume capture, an implementation schedule, and a funding commitment. The documents were originally due to the Regional Board on December 10, 2000. Solvent chemicals occur in groundwater beneath the site up to 13,000 micrograms per liter.

   As of mid-April, I have not heard from any of the parties regarding submittal of technical documents. I will send a letter soon reminding them that the public hearing will be continued at the July 2001 Board meeting in Tahoe City and that the Board is expecting the documents to be submitted before then.

3. ***Tahoe Toms Gas Station, El Dorado County** – Lisa Dernbach*

At my request, the Attorney General's office in April petitioned the El Dorado County Superior Court for an injunction against the responsible partied of the Tahoe Tom's Gas Station for violating directives in a cleanup and abatement order (CAO). The court is expected to schedule a hearing on the matter in May.

Specifically, we are requesting that the court issue an order enjoining the responsible parties from violating Provision No.3 in the CAO. The responsible parties are six months behind in submitting a final design for expanding soil remediation at the site and three months behind in implementing this action. A thick smear zone of petroleum hydrocarbons in the saturated zone beneath the gas station continues to leach contaminants, including MTBE, in ground water.

In the meantime, Board staff met with staff from the UST Cleanup Fund and the South Tahoe Public Utility District to discuss ways to improve corrective actions at the site. I felt the meeting provided constructive recommendations, which I intend to list in a letter to the responsible parties for implementation.

4. ***The Use of Alum for Storm Water Treatment**-MaryFiore-Wagner*

On March 23, 2001, the City of South Lake Tahoe invited Environmental Research and Design, Inc. to present a workshop on storm water management using chemical coagulants like aluminum sulfate (alum) and ferric chloride. The Florida based environmental firm which has treatment systems in the southeast, Seattle, WA, and La Ponte, IN has seen the most pollutant removal efficiency with alum. The group presented the design standards, operation and maintenance details, and effectiveness studies regarding the use of alum for storm water treatment.

Chemical treatment with alum is relatively inexpensive compared to traditional methods used to treat storm water (i.e., dry retention basins and wet ponds). Methods that rely on infiltration to remove storm water pollutants, including nutrients and fine sediments, often require acquisition of large land areas which increase construction costs. The group presented data which indicated removal efficiencies for phosphorus are similar whether stormwater is chemically treated or allowed to infiltrate.

Since large land areas are limited in the Lake Tahoe Basin, treatment of storm water with alum may have some application. Under the Regional Board's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit requirements, treated storm water could be released to surface waters only if the effluent achieved the Regional Board's water quality standards for discharge to surface water. Since research has indicated discharges of alum treated storm water can chemically and biologically alter a surface water, any discharge of treated effluent would have to be carefully monitored. The effluent would have to be appropriately buffered to minimize the release of aluminum ions which are potentially toxic to aquatic organisms. Studies to evaluate if the discharge was causing benthic impacts would be required since research has shown direct discharges to surface waters have resulted in initial decreases in species density and shifts in species diversity.

5. ***Stormwater Issues in Lake Tahoe Basin - Transition from Concentration-based Effluent Limitations to Load-based TMDLs for Stormwater Runoff-Lauri Kemper***

The Basin Plan requires stormwater runoff from disturbed areas meet concentration-based effluent limitations in the Lake Tahoe Basin or requires infiltration. Staff recognizes that in some cases it may not be feasible to treat or infiltrate stormwater runoff. However, increased treatment in another area of the watershed could compensate for the pollutant loading from the untreated area. Total Maximum Daily Loads will be established for Lake Tahoe that will allocate load reductions to specific types of discharges allowing reductions to be achieved in one location while accepting pollutant loading from areas where it is infeasible to treat as long as the total required load reduction is achieved.

In the interim before the development of the Tahoe TMDL, Regional Board staff is considering a proposed Basin Plan amendment which will describe the Regional Board's intended shift from concentration based effluent limits to load-based allocations. Such clarification would encourage persons to focus on reducing the greatest pollutant loads to Lake Tahoe, rather than attempting to treat to the same level every drop of runoff generated in the Basin. Also, project designers should provide the best possible pollutant removal at each site while not worrying about being able to comply everywhere with the concentration-based effluent limits. Also, Regional Board staff is considering adding emphasis on controlling fine sediments and bioavailable nutrients. Current research suggests control of fine sediments (silts and clays) and bioavailable nutrients may help slow primary productivity and improve transparency (Lake Tahoe Watershed Assessment, 2000). By including this information as part of the effluent limits, BMP efforts can be focused on the pollutants of greatest concern.

Regional Board staff is asking for guidance from the Lake Tahoe Basin Science Advisory Group to ensure any amendment to the Basin Plan will reflect sound scientific research. The goal of the amendment is to guide project proponents in planning storm water BMPs or treatment that will provide maximum water quality benefits. The amendment may also provide more specific guidance (such as a hierarchy of treatment measures) and a requirement to conduct watershed assessments and stormwater characterization.

Regional Board staff has discussed this approach with all the local governments and Caltrans. Staff met with scientists from University of California, Davis - Tahoe Research Group and Desert Research Institute to obtain scientific peer review. The guidance we prepare will be used in our Lake Tahoe Basin Guidance Manual for Road and Highway Departments and will be used by the California Tahoe Conservancy in its updated guidelines for erosion control and stormwater treatment grant program. This collaborative effort will result in a consistent message to the agencies tasked with treating stormwater runoff.

6. ***Paradise Flat Timber Harvest Plan*** – *Erika Lovejoy*

Staff inspected a timber harvest operation at the Paradise Flat area west of Emerald Bay, after mud was observed on Highway 89 near the landing area. The landowner, Tamarack Water Company, contracted with a private logging operation to remove trees for fire

hazard reduction. The operation was permitted by the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA), with a certified California Department of Forestry (CDF) Timber Harvest Plan. Regional Board comments regarding avoidance of impacts to SEZs were incorporated into the TRPA permit.

Operations were approved for "over-snow" conditions to avoid impacts to SEZs. High temperatures this March resulted in early snow melt. The site inspection revealed that a temporary stream crossing created from logs would soon collapse into an SEZ if it were not removed before more snow melted. The crossing was constructed without prior notification to TRPA, which was required by the permit to allow for evaluation of proper snow conditions. Further investigation also found a large area of slash (both brush and large trees) piled into an SEZ. CDF requires removal of slash within 200 feet of the roadway for fire protection, so slash would need to be removed by hand in order to avoid impacts to the SEZ.

After consultation with Regional Board staff and CDF, TRPA halted logging operations and ordered the temporary stream crossing to be removed immediately. Both agencies are currently working with TRPA staff to draft a letter to the permit holder with further instructions for slash removal, and conditions for future operations in the area.

7. ***Recent meetings regarding McKinney-Rubicon Springs Road, Placer County-*** *Kara Russell*

The Regional Board adopted Cease and Desist Order No. 6-94-20 against Placer County for unauthorized discharges of waste earthen materials from the McKinney-Rubicon Springs Road (Rubicon Road) to McKinney Creek. Regional Board staff inspected the Rubicon Road on September 5, 2000. Staff observed that roadbed erosion (gullies several feet deep in some locations) had caused significant sediment loading to adjacent wetlands and lakes. Barricades previously installed by Placer County have been moved, and improvements had not been maintained. Off-highway vehicle (OHV) use during wet conditions has widened the road in some locations, and new side trails have been created in other locations. On December 1, 2000 the Executive Officer issued a Notice of Violation (NOV) to Placer County for violating Cease and Desist Order No. 6-94-20. The NOV requires Placer County to develop and implement an erosion control/runoff treatment plan, to prevent the discharge of wastes from the Rubicon Road to McKinney Creek, and an annual operations and maintenance plan for the Road.

In response to the NOV and concerns from California user interests groups, Placer County recently held two meetings to discuss the fate of the Rubicon Road. Both meetings were well attended with 160 people at the public meeting held in Auburn, CA on March 26, 2001, and roughly 30 people (including a picketer) at the second meeting held at the Regional Board office in South Lake Tahoe on April 10. Harold Singer attended the first meeting, and gave a brief presentation on the regulatory background of the Rubicon Road.

Meeting attendees, including the USFS, Placer and El Dorado Counties, the League to Save Lake Tahoe, the TRPA, California State Parks, the California 4 Wheel Drive Association, OHV Clubs, Rubicon Road area residents, and Lahontan staff, agreed that repair and maintenance work is needed on the Rubicon Road. The user groups do

not want a seasonal closure on the road, which would eliminate OHV use in saturated soil conditions, and would like the road to remain open year-round. Placer County is ultimately responsible for designing and constructing the repairs and improvements and will be responsible for maintenance on the roadway. However, many of the OHV enthusiasts volunteered to help with these efforts. To keep the Rubicon Road open year-round will require costly improvements including hardening of the road in many locations, and ongoing maintenance. One source of funds for this effort is the California OHV Commission.

8. ***Herbicide applications for invasive weed control, Alpine County – Jason Churchill***

The Alpine County/Upper Carson River Weed Management Area (WMA) was formed in 2000, encompassing a geographic region that includes Alpine County as well as portions of Nevada. Stakeholders representing both states formed an Invasive Weed Management Group that will oversee efforts to eradicate invasive and noxious weeds including Yellow Starthistle, Knapweed, and Tall Whitetop within the WMA. By replacing native plants, these weeds can cause significant impacts to ecosystems and water quality, as well as economic losses to agriculture and loss of recreational opportunities. Regional Board staff participated in meetings of the Weed Management Group on January 11 and April 3, 2001 in Gardnerville, Nevada. Under California Senate Bill 1740, $15,000 was provided to fund weed control efforts within the Alpine County portion of the WMA.

A Work Plan for year 2001 weed management efforts was prepared, and discussed at the April 3 meeting. The Work Plan describes several weed eradication projects in Alpine County, possibly starting as early as May, on private ranch land, federal land (Bureau of Land Management), and Washoe Tribal Lands. These projects will involve herbicide applications to land and possibly to wetland areas. Regional Board staff requested project proponents to submit project-specific information that will allow staff to determine the potential for herbicides to reach surface waters.

9. ***Park Avenue Redevelopment Continues- Kara Russell***

The Park Avenue Redevelopment Project in South Lake Tahoe will move forward in the 2001 construction season with construction of the Grand Summit Resort Hotel and the Marriott Timber Lodge. Both resorts include an underground parking structure and a permanent foundation drain system to route intercepted ground water to infiltration systems. Dewatering will be necessary for construction of these facilities. Dewatering wastewater will be discharged through settling tanks to on-site infiltration trenches. Stormwater runoff from both sites will be conveyed to the public storm drain system in Park Avenue through a common treatment vault to a series of two-stage treatment basins ultimately discharging to Lake Tahoe. The final outfall to Lake Tahoe will either be to the North Ditch in the Tahoe Meadows or the Lakeside Marina.

The City of South Lake Tahoe (City) completed a portion of the planned redevelopment infrastructure improvements during the 2000 construction season. These included the realignment of Park Avenue between Highway 50 and the Loop Road (Montreal Road) and installation of storm drain, water, sewer, and other utility lines within Park Avenue, Highway 50, and Van Sickle Road. Remaining demolition within

the Redevelopment area includes the Lake Tahoe Inn, Bandanas, and the Red Carpet Inn. Construction of a new Lake Tahoe Inn within the Redevelopment area is proposed. Remaining work to be completed by the City includes infrastructure improvements within Van Sickle Road and Transit Way, to be constructed in 2002, and the construction of the two-stage treatment basins final outfall to Lake Tahoe, to be constructed in the fall of 2001 or 2002. An ice rink and cinema complex are also proposed; however staff has not received an application for these facilities.

10. ***Update on Squaw Valley Public Service District, Water Supply Well No. 3 and the Opera House UST Diesel Contamination, Placer County-****Tammy Lundquist*

In March 2001, Squaw Valley Ski Corporation (Ski Corp) installed a mid-level groundwater monitoring well to check potential migration of a diesel contamination plume into a deeper zone. Plume migration into the deeper zone concerns staff because the Squaw Valley Public Services District (SVPSD) Supply Well No. 3 is screened in the deeper zone. The new mid-level well (MW-9) was sampled in March and April. Preliminary analytical ground water results show a total petroleum hydrocarbon as diesel (THPd) concentration of 120 parts per billion (ppb) and 91 ppb, respectively. The taste and odor threshold for TPHd is 100 ppb. Board staff will review the technical report, which is due by the end of May, to determine if subsequent corrective actions are needed.

11. ***Dependable Tow Site in Truckee –*** *Douglas F. Smith*

A proposed Administrative Civil Liability (ACL) Order, for failure to submitted workplan, was continued at the Regional Board's February 2001 meeting until the meeting scheduled for May 10-11, 2001. The Responsible Parties (Edgar Stratton and Kenneth Osburn) requested the continuance to pursue submittal of the required workplan and to seek reimbursement from the insurance carrier. At the February Board meeting, Staff agreed to investigate the status of including a potential third Responsible Party (RP).

Staff's investigation did not yield any evidence that the third party should be included as an RP. Also, the current RPs have not submitted any documentation to support including the third party.

The RPs have retained an engineering consultant who is to prepare the required workplan. Staff is scheduled to meet with the RPs and their consultant prior to the May 2001 Board meeting and, hopefully, an acceptable workplan will submitted prior to the Board meeting.

SOUTH BASIN

12. ***Lafarge Corporation, National Cement Plant Compliance*** *- Gene Rondash*

On March 16 2001, Regional Water Quality Control Board staff (Board staff) met with representatives of National Cement to discuss the status of actions associated with Cleanup and Abatement Order (CAOs) No. 6-90-59A4 and No. 6-94-90A4. The current issues for review were National Cement's plant expansion/impacts to existing monitoring wells and the appropriateness of

the Maintenance Shop, Diesel Pipeline spill, and Landfill compliance options as being defined in feasibility studies.

As defined in the Maintenance Shop Area Feasibility Study the option for a mid-plume extraction well is no longer practicable due to facility construction in the area of maximum plume concentrations. National Cement is strongly considering a three-year source removal option for both Maintenance Shop and Diesel Pipeline spills. Board staff suggested that the effort look at the sources as an integrated element rather than individual. National Cement will incorporate an integrated approach for its closure plans for the Maintenance Area, Diesel Pipeline spill, and Landfill area remediation programs. Currently, National Cement's consultants are evaluating a pump and treat system for removal of the remaining volatile organic compounds from the ground water prior to discharge. This system would discharge treated water to the land area above the wetlands and allows recharge to both the wetland and ephemeral stream downgradient of National Cement operations.

National Cement has implemented Task One of the Diesel Pipeline Work Plan with the compliance monitoring well installation scheduled for April 9, 2001. All documents associated with CAOs No. 6-90-59A4 and No. 6-94-90A4 have been delivered as required. Board staff is currently evaluating the Landfill Corrective Action Plan (CAP) and the Maintenance Shop Feasibility Study

13. ***Los Angeles County Sanitation District No. 20, Palmdale Water Reclamation Plant - Los Angeles World Airports Abandoned Well Survey*** - *Ted Saari*

    The Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts (District) has completed an abandoned well survey as part of a CAP required in waste discharge requirements (WDRs) adopted by the Regional Board in June 2000, for the District's Palmdale Water Reclamation Plant. The survey was conducted in areas on Los Angeles World Airports property authorized for recycled water application and disposal of treated wastewater by landspreading. The purpose for the survey was to identify and properly destroy previously unknown abandoned wells, which might provide a conduit for waste to the ground water table. The survey identified eight wells; three of which had been previously destroyed and five had been abandoned. The five abandoned wells were video logged revealing that three had been filled in with soil or were collapsed. The remaining two wells had water in them and they may be rehabilitated for use as monitoring or irrigation supply wells, or destroyed in accordance with state regulations.

14. ***Kern County Waste Management Department – Tehachapi Sanitary Landfill, Hexavalent Chromium Assessment*** - *Greg Cash*

    Kern County Waste Management Department has completed a site assessment and a human health risk assessment for Hexavalent Chromium (Cr^{+6}) at the Tehachapi Sanitary Landfill.

    Kern County has collected 96 soil samples and ground water samples from 11 monitoring wells and seven Geoprobes.

Samples were collected up-gradient, down-gradient and cross-gradient of the landfill. Results indicate that the distribution of Cr^{+6} in the soil and ground water appears to be fairly widespread all around the landfill (up-gradient, down-gradient and cross-gradient). It also appears that the landfill is not the source of the Cr^{+6}. The apparent source of Cr^{+6} in the soil is possibly related to: 1) naturally occurring ambient levels, or 2) historic deposition of cement kiln dust from a nearby, upwind cement production facility that has been in operation for approximately 90 years. Cr^{+6} concentrations in the soil decrease with depth.

Kern County also conducted a human health risk assessment which indicated that adverse noncancer health effects and unacceptable cancer risks are not likely from exposure to Cr^{+6} in soil during normal operating conditions. The United States Environmental Protection Agency has preliminary remediation goals (PRGs) based on cancer health effects of 64 mg/kg (industrial/commercial workers) and 0.2 mg/kg (residents). The maximum Cr^{+6} concentration at the site is 0.18 mg/kg, which is below both the industrial and residential PRGs. The nearest residence to the site is located one mile away, and the nearest town is approximately four to five miles away.

15. ***State to Develop Health Goal, Seeks Scientific Review of Hexavalent Chromium in Drinking Water*** – *Joe Koutsky*

On March 27, 2001, the Department of Health Services (DHS) and the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) announced key actions regarding the further study and regulation of Hexavalent Chromium (Cr^{+6}) in drinking water. DHS is asking OEHHA to establish a specific Public Health Goal (PHG) for Cr^{+6}. The PHG would formally identify a level of Cr^{+6} in drinking water that does not pose a significant human health risk. Establishment of a PHG would be the first step toward the development by DHS of a state drinking water standard specifically for Cr^{+6}. This would be the first Cr^{+6} drinking water standard in the nation.

At the same time, the California Environmental Protection Agency, on behalf of OEHHA, has asked the University of California (UC) to establish a blue ribbon panel of expert scientists from throughout the United States to review scientific information concerning the potential of Cr^{+6} to cause cancer when it is ingested. The UC panel's review will provide recommendations to assist OEHHA in the development of a Cr^{+6} PHG. The UC panel will also provide important information to both OEHHA and DHS for a statutorily required assessment of health risks posed by Cr^{+6} in drinking water in the San Fernando Valley that will be conducted this year. OEHHA will ask the UC panel to provide written recommendations on several questions relating to the potential of ingested Cr^{+6} to cause cancer, and approaches for determining levels of Cr^{+6} in drinking water that do not pose a significant health risk. This panel will select up to 13 scientists to serve on the panel. OEHHA is asking that the chair of the panel hold one public workshop and then present its recommendations during the summer of 2001. Senate Bill 2127, approved by the Legislature and signed into law last year, requires the assessment to be completed by the end of 2001.

In February 1999, OEHHA published a PHG of 2.5 parts per billion (ppb) for total chromium, of which Cr^{+6} is a component.

However, Cr^{+6} is the most toxic form of chromium and is the primary health concern when chromium is present in drinking water. Limited monitoring data collected by DHS during the past two years has led health officials to suspect that Cr^{+6} comprises a larger percentage of total chromium typically found in water than was believed when OEHHA published the PHG for total chromium. More recently, DHS promulgated emergency regulations requiring California water utilities to monitor their drinking water specifically for Cr^{+6} and report their findings to DHS.

16. ***GAMA Program, Voluntary Domestic Well Assessment Project** – Joe Koutsky*

In an effort to assess water quality and relative susceptibility of ground water resources, as well as to provide domestic well owners with specific information regarding domestic well water quality, the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) is implementing the Voluntary Domestic Well Assessment Project.

The California Legislature, and the Governor, as well as private citizens have become increasingly concerned about the recent public supply well closures due to the detection of chemicals, such as methyl tertiary butyl ether (MTBE) from gasoline and various solvents from industrial sources. As a result of the increased awareness toward ground water quality, the SWRCB created a component of the Ambient Ground Water Monitoring and Assessment (GAMA) Program, called the Voluntary Domestic Well Assessment Project which addresses private drinking water wells.

The Voluntary Domestic Well Assessment Project will sample domestic wells for various constituents commonly found in domestic well water and provide that information to the domestic well owners. In addition, the Voluntary Domestic Well Assessment Project will include a public education component to aid the public in understanding water quality data and water quality issues affecting domestic water wells.

Domestic water samples will be collected at a well access point or from a household water tap. The general constituents to be sampled are Nitrate, Total and Fecal Coliform Bacteria, MTBE, and general minerals such as sodium, potassium, calcium, magnesium, iron, chloride, carbonate, bicarbonate, and sulfate. The SWRCB will incur the costs of sampling and analysis, and the results will be provided to domestic well owners.

17. ***Inyo County General Plan Amendment** – Doug Feay*

Inyo County is currently updating its General Plan. The updated General Plan elements are land use, circulation, housing, open space, conservation, safety, and noise. Board staff reviewed the draft General Plan update including the Issues and Alternatives Report and Environmental Impact Report (EIR). Board staff prepared a letter in response to the Draft EIR indicating the EIR needs to include better evaluation of impacts from development on surface waters, ground waters and wetlands. Board staff also commented that Inyo County include descriptions of its policies which address impacts to water quality and evaluate in the EIR how implementation of the policies at the proposed build out would impact water quality. Additionally, Board staff requested that the circulation element include an evaluation of storm water discharges. Board

staff requested that the Draft EIR be revised to address these comments.

18. *IMC Chemicals, Trona – Michele Ochs*

Meetings

Board staff has been meeting on a regular basis with IMC Chemicals (IMCC) personnel and their consultants in an effort to improve relations and expedite work toward compliance goals. The meetings have split into two groups. One group discusses regulatory issues while the second group addresses technical subjects. These meetings have helped to focus attention toward common compliance goals.

Improving Technology

IMCC personnel and its consultants have been working on new sampling techniques and analytical methods to achieve the best results when dealing with brine samples from Searles Lake. Advances are being made and have been reported to Board staff in recent reports. Further testing is needed to continue to improve these results.

Pilot testing continues for the improved removal of chemicals of concern in the LLX plant effluent. Recent improvements have been attributed to the heating of the effluent prior to entering the Wemco filtration system. Updates of the pilot testing have been given to Board staff in recent reports and during the technical meetings. As with the analytical methods, further testing is needed to continue to improve the results of the pilot testing.

WDR Compliance

Daily reporting data from IMCC shows that the interim effluent limitations set forth in the WDRs have not been exceeded during the months of February and March 2001. No bird deaths were reported during the same time period. However, one bird death occurred during the first week of April. Board staff continues to conduct inspections and review information submitted to ensure progress is made toward reaching final effluent limits.

19. ***Intrawest North Village, Mammoth Lakes** – Michele Ochs*

Construction of Intrawest's North Village Project is scheduled to begin this summer. Ground breaking of Phase 1 is scheduled for June 1, 2001. The North Village includes demolition of existing development and construction of a destination resort facility on 64.1 acres within the Town of Mammoth Lakes. It will include over 3000 rooms, 135,000 square feet of commercial uses, a gondola to Mammoth Mountain Ski Resort, associated access roads, and underground parking. Phase 1, including the gondola, will take an estimated 18 months to complete. The construction will be regulated by the Statewide National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) General Construction Permit for Storm Water Discharges. Board staff has previously provided comments to Intrawest on required erosion control measures for construction and will conduct periodic inspections as the project progresses.

20. ***Caltrans Supplemental Environmental Project** – Doug Feay*

On February 14, 2001, the Regional Board Executive Officer issued an Administrative Civil Liability (ACL) complaint to Caltrans for discharges of earthen material to surface waters during construction at Lee Vining and Parker Creeks. During a meeting with

Board staff on March 19, 2001, Caltrans proposed a Supplemental Environmental Project (SEP) regarding the ACL complaint. Caltrans has proposed a storm water improvement project for the town of Lee Vining. The project would involve the construction of devices that would remove sediment and hydrocarbons from the town's storm water prior to the discharge of the storm water to local surface waters. The devices would be installed at the Caltrans maintenance yard in Lee Vining. Caltrans would be responsible for the maintenance of the devices. Board staff is continuing to work with Caltrans regarding the SEP.

21. ***Eastern Sierra Conservation Easement*** - *Cindi Mitton*

On March 28, 2001, Board staff attended a public meeting held by the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) regarding establishment of a conservation easement on most of the LADWP land in the Owens Valley. LADWP staff had previously met with representatives of the Wildlands Conservancy and was negotiating the draft easement. During the public meeting LADWP staff apologized for not holding public meetings earlier in the process and iterated a commitment to solicit and consider all public input prior to negotiating a potential easement. LADWP is considering selling development rights to a land conservancy on over 300,000 acres of land in Inyo and Mono Counties while retaining water rights.

LADWP indicated it would schedule future public meetings in both Inyo and Mono Counties regarding the proposal. LADWP indicated it desires to have land use remain generally "status quo" under the proposed conservation easement.

22. ***Status of Nitrate Sampling in El Mirage*** - *Mike Plaziak*

In June 2000, Board staff began monitoring ground water quality in a number of domestic production wells in El Mirage when data from an agricultural well, sampled by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) showed an increase in nitrate concentrations. Four quarters of ground water data were collected from domestic and agricultural wells adjacent to three dairies in El Mirage: Meadowbrook Dairy, Andy Hettinga Dairy No. 1, and No. 2. The fourth and last quarter ground water sampling event concluded during January 2001. A preliminary review of the data indicates background ground water concentrations of nitrate as nitrogen are less than 1 mg/L. In wells adjacent to dairy operations and irrigated croplands, Board staff observed concentrations that ranged from 1 to 6 mg/L of nitrate as nitrogen. The drinking water standard for nitrate as nitrogen is 10 mg/L. Board staff will finalize the ground water results and provide recommendations for future Regional Board actions in a Staff Report to the Board.

EO'S MONTHLY REPORT FOR
APRIL 2001
UNAUTHORIZED WASTE DISCHARGES

DISCHARGER	FACILITY	LOCATION	BASIN	REGULATED FACILITY	SUBSTANCE DISCHARGED	HAZARDOUS	DATE REPORTED	DISCHARGE VOLUME	DESCRIPTION OF FAILURE	DISCHARGE TO	PROP 65	STATUS
**** COUNTY - EL DORADO**												
USA PETROLEUM	SAME	76 UNION STATION	N		GASOLINE	N	2001/03/15	UNKNOWN	PUMP #5 AT THE GAS STATION HAS NOT BEEN SHUTTING OFF PROPERLY, CAUSING DISCHARGE TO GROUND. COMPLAINTANT HAS WITNESSED THIS TWICE IN THE LAST 30 DAYS.	PAVEMENT	N	COMPLAINTANT NOTIFIED STATION PERSONNEL WHO WERE DISINTERESTED IN THE PROBLEM. COMPLAINT FORWARDED TO COUNTY HEALTH DEPT.
**** COUNTY - LASSEN**												
CA CORRECTION CNTR, SUSANVILLE	SAME	CA CORRECTION CENTER KITCHEN	N	N	GREYWATER (SEWER LINES)	N	2001/03/16	2-300 GALLONS	BATHROOMS IN KITCHEN BACKED UP AND OVERFLOWED. SPILL EVENTUALLY RAN INTO STORMDRAIN THAT LEADS TO A DRY DITCH AT THE ANTELOPE CAMP.	DRY DITCH	N	FLOW WAS STOPPED AND THE AREA WAS ABOVE THE STORMDRAIN WAS CLEANED WITH LIME. RECOMMEND VACUUMING AT THE NEXT STORMDRAIN.
**** COUNTY - MONO**												
CALIF DEPT OF FISH & GAME	HOT CREEK HATCHERY	MAMMOTH LAKES AREA	S	N	SEPTIC TANK EFFLUENT	N	2001/03/19	75 GALS	BROWN-OUT CAUSED PUMP LIFT STATION MOTOR TO BURN OUT. WET WELL EVENTUALLY OVERFLOWED.	GROUND	N	REPAIRS COMPLETED. AREA DISINFECTED. INSPECTION BY RB STAFF. NOTICE TO COMPLY ISSUED. CLEANUP AND CLEANUP COMFIRMATION SAMPLING COMPLETE.
**** COUNTY - PLACER**												
PRIVATE BOAT	SAME	LAKE TAHOE-STAR HARBOR	N	N	UNLEADED GASOLINE	N	2001/03/28	1 PINT	DURING FUELING, THE TANK "BURPED" CAUSING A RELEASE OF GAS INTO LAKE TAHOE.	LAKE TAHOE	N	SHEEN DISSIPATED WITHIN 20 MIUTES. BOAT WAS CLEANED WITH RAGS. NO FURTHER ACTION REQUIRED.
**** COUNTY - SAN BERNARDINO**												
US DEPT OF THE ARMY	SEWER LIFT STATION	FT IRWIN	S	Y	RAW SEWAGE	N	2001/03/16	2500 GALS	PUMP CLOGGED WITH RAGS, CAUSING WET WELL TO OVERFLOW.	GROUND	N	AREA CLEANED & DISINFECTED. RAG GRINDER INSTALLED. NOV ISSUED.

DISCHARGER	FACILITY	LOCATION	BASIN	REGULATED FACILITY	SUBSTANCE DISCHARGED	HAZARDOUS	DATE REPORTED	DISCHARGE VOLUME	DESCRIPTION OF FAILURE	DISCHARGE TO	PROP 65	STATUS
KJC OPERATING CO	SEGS IV SOLAR POWER PLANT	BORON	S	Y	HEAT TRANSFER FLUID	Y	2001/03/16	75 GALS	OPERATOR ERROR DURING MAINTENANCE ON PIPE WITHIN SOLAR FIELD	GROUND	N	CONTAMINATED SOIL REMOVED FOR TREATMENT AT ONSITE BIOREMEDIATION FACILITY. NO FURTHER ACTION.
US BORAX	MAIN PROCESS PLANT	BORON	S	Y	BORATE PREGNANT LIQUOR	Y	2001/03/27	1000 GALS	AUTOMATIC VALVE STUCK OPEN CAUSING OVERFLOW	GROUND	N	CONTAMINATED SOIL EXCAVATED AND DISPOSED AT AUTHORIZED LOCATION. NOV ISSUED.
VICTORVILLE, CITY OF	SEWER SYSTEM	VVL, HESPERIA & SENECA ROADS	S	N	RAW SEWAGE	N	2001/04/06	6000 GALS	VANDALS PUT DEBRIS IN SEWER CAUSING OVERFLOW	GROUND	N	AREA CLEANED & DISINFECTED. MANHOLE BURIED UNDER SEVERAL FEET OF SOIL. NO FURTHER ACTION.