



Lassen County Fire Safe Council, Inc.

PO Box 816
Susanville, CA 96130

Tom Esgate
Managing Director
(530) 310-0146

twesgate@sbcglobal.net

Cathy Dirden
Secretary
(530) 251-5560

mcdirden@hotmail.com

May 8, 2009

Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board
2510 Lake Tahoe Boulevard
South Lake Tahoe, California 96150

The Lassen County Fire Safe Council, Inc. would like to thank the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board staff for proposing the latest changes in the waiver process. We feel like your organization has listened and taken into account our comments, and those of many others, regarding the redundancy, unnecessary burden and huge costs that the current waiver process places on fire safe councils and other groups working to improve natural resources in the Lahontan region. As we said in our previous comments, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection is quite capable of ensuring environmental compliance with regard to these minor timber treatments. And they are minor, that is why they are allowed to be conducted under an exemption. Frankly, things had almost gotten to the point where our fire safe council was considering not implementing anymore projects in the Lahontan Region and directing our efforts to work in the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board region of our county where the waiver process is automatic, much more efficient and very partner friendly. Our projects in the Lahontan region have cost us many, many thousands of dollars more due to the current over burdensome waiver process.

The proposed changes are reasonable and we hope the board will adopt them.

We look forward to working with the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board and its staff as we continue to work to protect our communities and restore our watersheds and critical wildlife habitat.

Thank you for your consideration.

Very Truly,

Thomas W. Esgate

Thomas W. Esgate,
Managing Director

cc: State Senator
Assemblyman
Governor