

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD  
LAHONTAN REGION

**NOTICE OF INTENT TO CERTIFY A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION**

for the

**Angora Fire Trails and Stream Environment Zone Restoration Project**

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** The U.S. Forest Service – Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit (LTBMU) has undertaken a multi-phase restoration effort to restore area burned by the 2007 Angora Fire near South Lake Tahoe, CA. The LTBMU has previously conducted rehabilitation and restoration activities including slope stabilization and erosion control, silviculture activities, reforestation, and road system improvements. Remaining restoration activities that require approvals from the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board (Water Board) include trails system changes and improvements and stream environment zone restoration.

The Angora Fire Trails and Stream Environment Zone Restoration Project (Project) includes the following:

1) **Aquatic habitat and stream channel restoration:** Restore 1,200 feet of Angora Creek channel by excavating a new channel to reflect historic channel pattern of greater sinuosity and shallower depth. Restore the man-made 0.5-acre Seneca Pond to a wetland complex. Place large woody debris on 2 miles of Angora Creek and tributaries to promote riparian habitat diversity. Stabilize a 1,500 foot long gully in the Gardner Mountain Meadow. Work will be completed primarily with heavy equipment.

2) **Trails:** Restore/decommission 16.7 miles of trail by recontouring, subsoiling, and camouflaging. Construct 8.9 miles of new trail. Remove 15,130 square feet of trail from Stream Environment Zones (SEZ). Install a footbridge over Angora Creek. Construction and decommissioning will be completed with hand tools and small mechanized equipment.

The LTBMU has prepared a draft Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) and Angora Creek Meadow-Channel Restoration Design Plans (Design Plans). The SWPPP and Design Plans contain erosion and sediment control BMPs, revegetation specifications, project inspection and monitoring, and preliminary diversion and dewatering specifications.

**PROJECT LOCATION:** Angora Fire area near South Lake Tahoe, El Dorado County

**REGULATORY PROCESS:** The Water Board will regulate waste discharges associated with the LTBMU's implementation of the Angora Fire Trails and Stream Environment Zone Restoration Project by: (1) the Water Board's General Waste

Discharge Requirements and National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit for Storm Water Discharges Associated with Construction Activity in the Lake Tahoe Basin; (2) issuing Clean Water Act 401 Water Quality Certification; and (3) granting exemptions to prohibitions contained in the Water Quality Control Plan for the Lahontan Region. Therefore, the Water Board is the Lead Agency under CEQA.

**PREVIOUS PUBLIC REVIEW:** In 2010, the LTBMU prepared an Environmental Assessment for the Angora Fire Restoration Project (Angora EA) and a Decision Notice/Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). During 2008 and 2009 the LTBMU conducted public outreach and scoping for the Angora EA, as well as consultations with local and county agencies. In March 2010 the Angora EA was widely circulated for a 30-day comment period. The Forest Supervisor signed the FONSI in July 2010. The current Project is a subset of the larger federal Angora Fire Restoration Project as analyzed in the Angora EA. This Notice of Intent serves as a notice of the Water Board's intent to certify the Mitigated Negative Declaration.

**INTENT TO ADOPT A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION:** The Project is subject to the requirements of both the federal National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The LTBMU developed the Angora EA and FONSI for the larger Angora Fire Restoration Project, pursuant to NEPA. Water Board staff have reviewed the information contained in the LTBMU's Angora EA and FONSI for compliance with CEQA, and determined that additional mitigation measures and information are needed to comply with CEQA requirements.

Therefore, the Water Board is circulating a Mitigated Negative Declaration and associated CEQA checklist along with supporting documents in compliance with CEQA guidelines. Supporting documentation including the Angora EA, FONSI, draft SWPPP, and Design Plans are all available on the Water Board's website at:  
[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/lahontan/water\\_issues/projects/angora\\_fire\\_restoration/index.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/lahontan/water_issues/projects/angora_fire_restoration/index.shtml)

The CEQA checklist was developed by Water Board staff to inform the public and interested agencies of the additional mitigation measures identified as necessary by the Water Board. It also summarizes the design features contained in the Angora EA that will be implemented to reduce potential negative impacts to less than significant. The CEQA checklist supports the Water Board's independent analysis that impacts from the Project will be mitigated to less than significant based on implementation of the design features and mitigation measures summarized in the CEQA Checklist.

The Water Board will consider certifying the Mitigated Negative Declaration during a public meeting held on:

**DATE:** June 19-20, 2013

**TIME:** During the Water Board's regular meeting. Meetings generally begin at 4:00PM; however this is subject to change. The exact time

will be posted on the Water Board's web page at:  
<http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/lahontan/index.shtml>

**PLACE:** Lee Vining, CA. The exact location information will be available on the Water Board's web page at <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/lahontan/index.shtml> no less than 10 days before the meeting.

**PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD:** The public review period for the Mitigated Negative Declaration is from **April 12, 2013 to May 13, 2013**. Written comments or questions on these documents should be directed to the attention of Laurie Scribe at the address below or via email to [LScribe@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:LScribe@waterboards.ca.gov)

Paper or electronic copies of these documents may be obtained by emailing Laurie Scribe at the above email address or calling (530) 542-5465; or may be examined and photocopied on weekdays between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. at the Lahontan Water Board's office, 2501 Lake Tahoe Boulevard, South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150.