



Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board

MEMORANDUM

TO: Water Board Members

FROM: PATTY Z. KOUYOUMDJIAN
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

DATE: September 28, 2012

SUBJECT: EXEMPTION TO THE 100-YEAR FLOOD PLAIN WASTE DISCHARGE PROHIBITION WITHIN THE LITTLE TRUCKEE RIVER HYDROLOGIC UNIT FOR THE 2012 TRUCKEE MEADOWS WATER AUTHORITY INDEPENDENCE LAKE MAINTENANCE PROJECT, SIERRA COUNTY

In 10 days, I intend to sign the enclosed letter granting an exemption to the above-cited discharge prohibition specified in the *Water Quality Control Plan for the Lahontan Region* (Basin Plan), and issuing a Notice of Applicability for General Waste Discharge Requirements for small construction (Board Order No. R6T-2003-0004-195). The exemption will allow the project proponent to remove sediment that has accumulated in the outlet channel from the lake. The project is necessary to maintain proper operation of the lake system and prevent excess sediment from entering the Little Truckee River.

A public notice soliciting comments regarding the prohibition exemption will be posted for 10 days on the Water Board's website and interested parties have been notified by email through the Region 6 electronic mailing system.

Please contact me at (530) 542-5412, or Dale Payne, Environmental Scientist, at (530) 542-5464, if you have any questions or comments regarding this matter.

Enclosure: Draft Notice of Applicability

DY/adw/T:/ TMWA Independence Lake Maintenance Project 2012 Board Notice.docx
File: Tahoe Meadows Water Authority / Nevada and Sierra County / R6T-2003-0004-195 / WDID 6A461208003

Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board

Bill Hauck
Truckee Meadows Water Authority
1355 Corporate Boulevard
Reno, NV 89520

NOTICE OF APPLICABILITY FOR GENERAL WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS AND FLOODPLAIN DISCHARGE EXEMPTION FOR TRUCKEE MEADOWS WATER AUTHORITY, INDEPENDENCE LAKE 2012 MAINTENANCE PROJECT, WDID NO. 6A461208003, BOARD ORDER NO. R6T-2003-0004-195, SIERRA COUNTY

The Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board (Water Board) has received your Notice of Intent to comply with the terms of the General Waste Discharge Requirements for minor lakebed alteration projects (Permit). The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has determined the activity is exempt from Clean Water Act Section 404. Water Board staff has found your project eligible to proceed in accordance with the Permit requirements.

1. The project must be implemented in accordance with the requirements contained in the Permit and in accordance with the information submitted in the Notice of Intent.
2. The required annual fee (as specified in the annual billing you will receive from the State Water Resources Control Board) shall be submitted until the Notice of Applicability is officially revoked. Revocation procedures are specified in Section IV.C. of the Permit.
3. Failure to abide by the conditions of the Permit could result in an enforcement action as authorized by provisions of the California Porter-Cologne Water Quality Act.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The project location is at Independence Lake (HU No. 636) in Sierra County, and is needed to maintain the function of the outlet conveyance channel and minimize potential sediment discharges to the Little Truckee River. The project will involve removing approximately 50 to 75 cubic yards of sediment from the head of the conveyance using a rubber-tired backhoe. The area of disturbance is approximately 4,000 square feet. The outlet conveyance channel is currently dry and has been dry all season. The sediment will be removed and loaded directly into an end dump for off-site storage at the Truckee Meadows Water Authority (TMWA) Glendale Water Treatment Plant, located in the State of Nevada. The material is then reused for fill where needed at various TMWA facilities. Work will be conducted when

the channel is dry and the lake level will be approximately 75 to 100 feet from the work area. Sediment controls will be placed between the work area and the edge of lake.

WATER QUALITY CONTROL PLAN WASTE DISCHARGE PROHIBITION

The Water Quality Control Plan for the Lahontan Region (Basin Plan) contains certain waste discharge prohibitions that apply to the Little Truckee River Hydrologic Unit (HU No. 636), including prohibition 4.(c), which states:

The discharge or threatened discharge, attributable to human activities, of solid or liquid waste materials, including soil, silt, clay, sand, and other organic and earthen materials to lands within the 100-year floodplain of the Little Truckee River or any tributary to the Little Truckee River is prohibited.

Although the goal of the project is sediment removal, sediment discharges may occur from the activities that would violate the prohibition.

PROHIBITION EXEMPTION GRANTED

The Basin Plan allows for exemptions to the above-cited prohibition for repair of existing structures provided there is no additional loss of floodplain area or volume and applicable best management practices and mitigation measures to protect water quality are incorporated into the project proposal. The proposed project meets these criteria. In addition, Resolution No. R6T-2008-0031, page 3, numbers 2.b. and 2.e. state the following:

2. The Water Board Delegates authority to its executive officer to grant exemptions to the Basin Plan prohibitions listed in Attachment 1 [of this Resolution] for the Lake Tahoe, Truckee River, or Little Truckee River Hydrologic Units and for specific discharges where:
 - b. The project meets the exemption or exception criteria set forth in the Basin Plan, and
 - e. The project is a repair or replacement of existing facilities.

Therefore, in accordance with provisions in the Basin Plan, and Resolution No. R6T-2008-0031, I am granting an exemption to prohibition 4.(c) specified above.

If you have any questions regarding permit requirements, please contact Dale Payne at (530) 542-5464. Please use the above-referenced WDID and Board Order numbers in any future communications regarding this project and Permit.

PATTY Z. KOUYOUMDJIAN
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

cc: Sierra County Transportation and Public Works Department
Nevada County Planning Department
Town of Truckee Building Department
Karen Schlichting, Tri Sage Consulting
Bill Orme/ State Water Resources Control Board

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File: Tahoe Meadows Water Authority / Nevada and Sierra County / R6T-2003-0004-195 / WDID 6A461208003

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