Climate Change Program Annual Update

Item No. 8
Lahontan Water Board Meeting
September 14, 2022

CALIFORNIA
Water Boards

Laurie Scribe, Senior Environmental Scientist Specialist

Presentation Outline

❖Introduction
- Resolution R6T-2019-0277, Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Strategy and Policy Statements
- Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Action Plan

❖Annual Update
- Reporting period July 2021 – June 2022

❖Questions, Comments, and Discussion

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1. Protection of Wetlands, Floodplains, & Headwaters

2. Infrastructure Protection

3. Protection of Groundwater Quality & Supply

4. Protection of Headwater Forests and Promoting Fire Resiliency

Policy Statements

Action Plan – Annual Update

❖ Prior year's accomplishments and on-going efforts

❖ Proposed internal actions for coming year

❖ Updates on external partnerships/collaboration

❖ Updates on emerging issues and new policy

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Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Actions – How Did We Do?

Strategy to streamline permitting of low threat Dredge and Fill projects while still meeting ACOE and Basin Plan mandates

Streamlined Pier Permitting

Begin to address the backlog of expired permits including WWTPs and Geothermal permits

In Process

1. Groundwater Remediation General Permit

2. Groundwater basin alignment with SGMA

Adopted

Postponed

Develop regional forestry strategy and approach for timber permit update

In Process

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Additional Actions Completed
Fiscal Year 2021-2022

➢ Revised Climate Change program webpage
➢ Participation in quarterly climate change meetings
➢ Ongoing enforcement of floodplain development prohibitions
➢ Adopted Permits and Board Workshops (see Enclosure 2)
➢ Mojave River Watershed Mitigation Bank
➢ Wildfire response and monitoring

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Proposed Actions – Fiscal Year 2022-2023

1. Continue enforcement efforts; 2. Utilization of new tools and processes

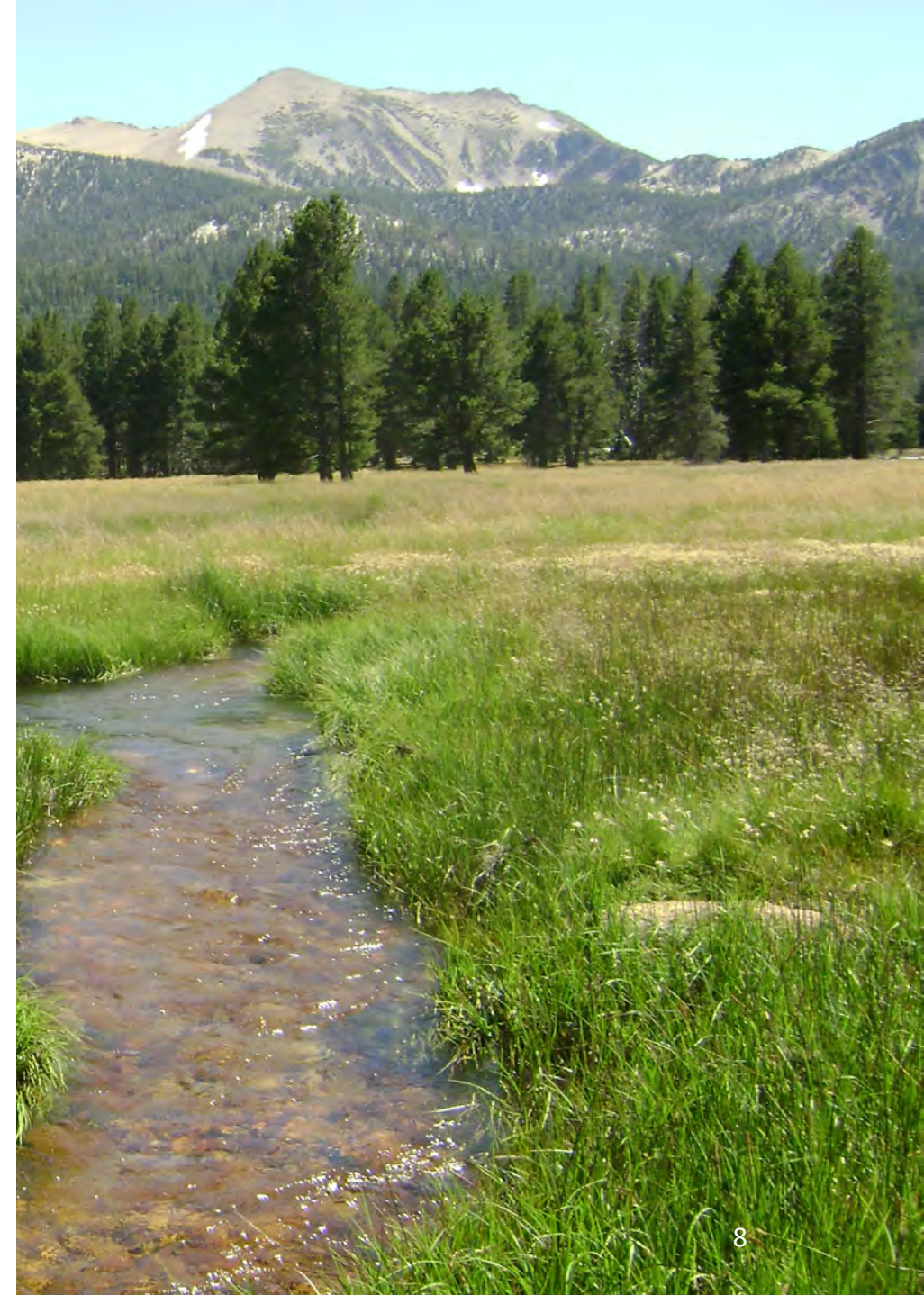Continue efforts to renew old permits for regulated facilities

Groundwater Basin/Subbasin Alignment Project

Finalize regional forestry strategy and permit approach

Additional Proposed Actions for FY 2022-2023

❖ **Continue Action Plan Implementation**
- Workplans and internal coordination
- Coordination meetings with State Board and BDOs

❖ **Triennial Review Items**
- Internal coordination
- Phasing and conceptual timelines

❖ **SWAMP Management Questions Revisions**
- Headwaters
- Climate Change

Partnerships and Outreach

Partnership	Policy Statement	Partner Agencies	Status
California Tahoe Conservancy and others; climate modeling for Tahoe Basin	1, 2, 3, 4	multiple Tahoe basin agencies and research institutions	Ongoing
Mojave Water Agency Technical Advisory Committee	2, 3	Multiple; group also serves as IRWM Plan support team	Ongoing
Implementation of Statutory Exemption for Restoration Projects	1, 4	CA Dept of Fish and Wildlife, permittees	Ongoing
State Board Large Habitat Restoration General Order Development	1, 4	SWRCB, Regional Boards	Implementation Phase

Significant or Emerging Issues

❖ **Harmful Algal Blooms**
- Incidence response, pre-holiday assessment, special studies
- 11 partner groups throughout the region

❖ **Aquatic Invasive Species**
- Growing threat throughout region
- Development of internal AIS working group

Policy Updates - Statewide

➢ <u>California Climate Adaptation Strategy</u>

➢new interactive format - www.climateresilience.ca.gov

➢Previous strategies referred to as Safeguarding CA

➢6 Overarching Priorities:
1. Strengthen Protections for Climate Vulnerable Communities
2. Bolster Public Health and Safety to Protect Against Increasing Climate Risks
3. Make Decisions Based on the Best Available Climate Science
4. Build a Climate Resilient Economy
5. Accelerate Nature-Based Climate Solutions and Strengthen Climate Resilience of Natural Systems
6. Partner and Collaborate to Leverage Resources

More Policy Updates - Statewide

[California's Sea Level Rise Action Plan](#)

[Extreme Heat Action Plan](#)

[California's 5th Climate Change Assessment](#)

Protecting Californians From Extreme Heat: A State Action Plan to Build Community Resilience

April 2022

Comments, Questions, and Discussion

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