

LAKE VALLEY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

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Fire and Fuels Management Program

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November 20, 2008

California Regional Water Quality Control Board
Lahontan Region
Attn: Anne Holden
2501 Lake Tahoe Boulevard
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150

COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS REGARDING THE VEGETATION MANAGEMENT MOU BETWEEN THE WATER BOARD AND TRPA

Resolution NO. R6T-2008-(PROPOSED):

➤ Pg 4 Section L

- 1 → • Broadcast, understory, and pile burning are not specifically listed...are these activities assumed under fuel reduction and/or environmental improvement?

➤ Pg 5 Section 2

- 2 → • How is significance determined? Are there quantitative measures associated such as time it takes for soil to recover or number of gallons discharged?
- 3 → • Will TRPA have the authority to impose conditions to mitigate to less than significant levels?

➤ Pg 5 Section 5

- 4 → • Typo of 4th line?

MOU:

➤ 3rd paragraph

- 5 → • Is the term watershed more appropriate than tributary?

➤ Pg 4 Section 3 & 5

- 6 → • States "exemptions will not be delegated to an agency not a party to this MOU", hence only TRPA can issue exemptions; then in Section 5 states "If another regulatory agency imposes conditions..." This is a bit confusing...is the intention of Section 5 to say that other regulatory agencies *can* impose conditions such as Calfire or EPA or Fish and Game or *cannot* impose?

In General:

Clarifying the relationship between the Water Board and TRPA when it comes to permitting veg. mgt. is definitely a step in the right direction. The big question is how will TRPA logistically and formally step up in this role, for example:

- 7 → • Who will be the qualified staff to review waiver projects? What qualifications and training will these staff members have?
- 8 → • For fuel reduction projects, will staff be available to determine/review SEZ delineations?
- 9 → • Will Land capabilities Verifications (LCV) be required? LCV's are expensive and too detailed for the purpose of fuel reduction projects.
- 10 → • When the Timber Waiver is approved, will the same forms for monitoring/inspections/reporting/permits/application be used by TRPA?
- 11 → • Will TRPA agree to take action, permit or delegate a project to the Water Board in a timely manner...say 45 days?
- 12 → • If project is delegated to the Water Board, it should happen in the early stages of review and be clear to the applicant who is the lead agency.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration in review of my comments and questions. I look forward to your responses. Please continue to send updates and notices of meetings regarding this proposal.

Sincerely,

Martin Goldberg
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