FACT SHEET

LAHONTAN REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD

- WHERE IS THE LAHONTAN REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD?
- KEY ISSUES IN REGION 6
- WATER DATA

- LAHONTAN REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD (REGION 6)
  2501 LAKE TAHOE BLVD.
  SOUTH LAKE TAHOE, CA 96150
  (530) 542-5400
  FAX: (530) 544-2271
- VICTORVILLE OFFICE
  15428 CIVIC DRIVE, SUITE 100
  VICTORVILLE, CA 92392
  (760) 241-6583
  FAX: (760) 241-7308

WHERE IS THE LAHONTAN REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD?

The Lahontan Region is named for a prehistoric lake that once covered much of the Great Basin. The Region includes about 20 percent of California from the Oregon border south along the eastern crest of the Sierra Nevada through the northern Mojave Desert. Within this area are hundreds of lakes, streams and wetlands, including the nationally significant Lake Tahoe and Mono Lake. Tourism is the most important industry in the Region, which also includes Death Valley National Park, the Mammoth Lakes area and portions of the newly formed Mojave National Preserve. Other important components of the Region's economy are mining (gold, borax, rare earth), agriculture (mostly livestock), and several military bases. The Regional Board has offices at South Lake Tahoe and Victorville.

KEY ISSUES IN REGION 6

The Regional Board has played a key role in cleanup activities at regional military bases. It also authorized, in coordination with the State Resources Agency, the payment of over $2.2 million from the Tahoe Keys Mitigation Fund to construct projects in the Lake Tahoe Basin.

The Regional Board completed a Watercraft Emission Study at Lake Tahoe and found measurable concentrations of Methyl Tertiary Butyl Ether (MTBE) and benzene in the lake. Based, in part, on the results of the study, the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency adopted ordinances banning the use of two-stroke watercraft engines at Lake Tahoe. Cleanup of the Leviathan Mine, an inactive sulfur mine acquired by the State in 1984, continues. The Regional Board has treated about 11 million gallons of acid mine drainage, re-vegetated more than five acres of disturbed area, and constructed treatment lagoons capable of passively treating the drainage. The Board monitors flow and water quality at the site.

The Regional Board has been instrumental in setting new standards to control pollutants in snowmelt and road runoff entering a tributary to Lake Tahoe. The Regional Board issued a Notice of Violation to the California Department of Transportation requesting changes in their operations. Subsequently, Governor Davis directed the Department to cease the practice.

Problems associated with the contamination of drinking water wells in the South Lake Tahoe area by MTBE continue. Since 1998, the Regional Board has continued to clean up MTBE contamination from a recalcitrant owner's site in Meyers using funds from the State's "Emergency, Abandoned, and Recalcitrant" account.

In 2001 the Regional Board adopted its first Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) to control

sediment loading to Heavenly Valley Creek in the Lake Tahoe Basin from past ski resort development. The Board's new TMDL unit is working on several other TMDLs affecting the Lake Tahoe, Truckee River, Walker River, and Owens River watersheds.

WATER DATA

- 33,131 square miles of land
- 3,170 miles of streams
- 382,300 acres of lakes

Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board (Region 6)
2501 Lake Tahoe Blvd.
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150
(530) 542-5400
Fax: (530) 544-2271
Executive Officer: Harold J. Singer

Victorville Office
15428 Civic Drive, Suite 100
Victorville, CA 92392
(760) 241-6583
Fax: (760) 241-7308

INFORMATION NUMBERS

Assistance, general .....
Lake Tahoe .....(530) 542-5400
Victorville .....(760) 241-6583
Administrative Services
Lake Tahoe .....(530) 542-5406
Victorville .....(760) 241-6583
Above Ground Tanks
Lake Tahoe .....(530) 542-5453
Victorville .....(760) 241-2434
Basin Planning.....
Lake Tahoe .....(530) 542-5460
Beneficial Uses of Water Designations
Lake Tahoe .....(530) 542-5460
Victorville .....(760) 241-6583
Complaint Reporting
Lake Tahoe .....(530) 542-5400
Victorville .....(760) 241-7325
DOD/DOE Federal Facility Cleanups
Lake Tahoe .....(530) 542-5453
Victorville.....(760) 241-7404
Groundwater Cleanups.....
see "underground storage tanks"
Land Disposal–Industrial
Lake Tahoe.....(530) 542-5400
Victorville.....(760) 241-6583
Nonpoint Source Pollution Coordinator
Lake Tahoe.....(530) 542-5408
Victorville.....(760) 241-7325
NPDES Permitting:
Lake Tahoe.....(530) 542-5432
Victorville.....(760) 241-7404
Ombudsman
Lake Tahoe.....(530) 542-5410
Personnel & Hiring
Lake Tahoe.....(530) 542-5406
Victorville.....(760) 241-7325
Sewage Spills
Lake Tahoe.....(530) 542-5400
Victorville.....(760) 241-6583
Spills (non-sewage)
Lake Tahoe.....(530) 542-5400
Victorville.....(760) 241-6583
Storm Water Regulation
Lake Tahoe.....(530) 542-5436
Victorville.....(760) 241-7325
Total Maximum Daily Loads
Lake Tahoe.....(530) 542-5460
Victorville.....(760) 241-7408
Underground Storage Tanks
(Groundwater Cleanup):
Lake Tahoe.....(530) 542-5453
Victorville.....(760) 241-7413
Waste Classification
Lake Tahoe.....(530) 542-5400
Victorville.....(760) 241-6583
Water Reclamation
Lake Tahoe.....(530) 542-5400
Victorville.....(760) 241-6583
Watershed Programs
Lake Tahoe.....(530) 542-5408
Victorville.....(760) 241-7413
Water Quality Standards
Lake Tahoe.....(530) 542-5462
Victorville.....(760) 241-6583
Wetlands
Lake Tahoe.....(530) 542-5408
Victorville.....(760) 241-7413