



Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board

May 23, 2023

CERTIFIED MAIL NO. 7021-1970-0001-8927-0941
WDID: 6B360107001
Global ID: WDR100030590

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Notice of Violation of Board Order No.R6V-2009-0037, Lake Arrowhead Community Services District, Lake Arrowhead, San Bernardino County

The purpose of this notice is to inform the Lake Arrowhead Community Services District (District) that Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board (Water Board) staff is alleging a violation of Board Order No. R6V-2009-0037 (Board Order) on November 9, 2022, at the Lake Arrowhead Wastewater Treatment Plant (Plant). Water Board staff discovered the alleged violation, discussed below, after notification by the District of an unauthorized release. This violation is subject to additional enforcement, including administrative civil liability (fine) up to \$10,000 per day of violation pursuant to Water Code section 13385. The District's response to this Notice will be taken into consideration by Water Board staff when determining what, if any, additional enforcement to take.

VIOLATIONS

On November 9, 2022, a 2-inch steel pipe located within a manhole broke and caused a spill of approximately 21,000 gallons of mixed secondary and tertiary treated effluent. The manhole is located approximately ¼-mile north of the Arrowhead Fish and Game Conservation Club. The manhole is part of the outfall pipeline that carries treated effluent from the Lake Arrowhead wastewater treatment plant to the percolation ponds at the Effluent Management Site in Hesperia.

According to the District, the release at the point of discharge traveled southwest along Highway 173 where it entered a culvert and ponded at the culvert outlet near an unnamed natural drainage. Vacuum trucks were used immediately as part of the cleaning process at the ponded area and culvert outlet. The culvert is 0.3 miles upstream from the drainage confluence with Kinley Creek. Although the unnamed drainage was not flowing at the time of the release, Kinley Creek was flowing due to

PETER C. PUMPHREY, CHAIR | MICHAEL R. PLAZIAK, PG, EXECUTIVE OFFICER

rainfall from the previous day. Bacteria samples were collected by the District at the possible point of entry (POE) from the drainage to Kinley Creek, 100 feet upstream from the POE, and 100 feet downstream of the POE. The lab results from these points were included in the District's spill report submitted on November 28, 2022.

1. The unauthorized discharge from the outfall pipeline is a violation of Board Order section I.D.2, which states "*Surface flow or visible discharge of sewage or sewage effluent from the authorized disposal/recycling site to adjacent land areas or surface waters is prohibited.*"

REQUIRED ACTIONS

Water Board staff requests the District address the following action items **within 30 days** of receiving this Notice.

1. The District collected bacteriological samples between November 10 and 12, 2022. Samples were collected at the POE to Kinley Creek and 100 feet upstream and downstream of the POE to Kinley Creek. The lab results for total coliform on November 10 and 11 showed higher bacteria concentrations upstream of the POE than downstream of the POE. Typically, in a discharge, it is expected that the higher concentrations would appear downstream from the POE rather than upstream. This typical scenario is reflected in the total coliform results from November 12. Please provide a written explanation why the concentrations of bacteria were higher upstream of the POE than downstream of the POE for the samples the District collected on November 10 and 11, 2022.

ADDITIONAL ENFORCEMENT

The Water Board takes the above-referenced violations very seriously, as indicated by the significant fines that can be imposed for such violations. Additional days of violation will continue to accrue until the conditions resulting in the alleged violations are corrected. As stated above, the District's response to this Notice will be taken into consideration when staff is contemplating if and what additional enforcement to take.

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact Sergio Alonso, Water Resource Control Engineer, at (760) 243-7324 (sergio.alonso@waterboards.ca.gov) or myself at (760) 241-7376 (jan.zimmerman@waterboards.ca.gov).



Jan Zimmerman, PG
Supervising Engineering Geologist
Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board

cc: Shelby Barker, Lahontan Water Board (shelby.barker@waterboards.ca.gov)