



## Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board

November 2, 2023

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### **Notice of Violation of Board Order No.R6V-2009-0037, Waste Discharge Requirements, 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) is alleging a violation of Board Order No. R6V-2009-0037 (Board Order) sections I.D.1, I.D.2, and I.D.3 on March 15-27 and March 29-30 at the Grass Valley Wastewater Treatment Plant (Grass Valley Plant). Water Board staff discovered the alleged violations, discussed below, after District staff informed Water Board staff of the planned controlled discharge on March 15, 2023.

#### **VIOLATIONS**

**YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED** that the District violated the Board Order for the following violations:

1. Board Order Section I.D.1 states: *There shall be no discharge, bypass, or diversion of untreated or partially treated sewage, sewage sludge, grease, or oils from the collection, transport, treatment, or disposal facilities to adjacent land areas or surface waters.*
2. Board Order Section I.D.2 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.*
3. Board Order Section I.D.3 states: *All facilities used for collection, transport, treatment or disposal of waste shall be adequately protected against overflow,*

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

*washout, inundation, structural damage, or a significant reduction in efficiency resulting from a storm or flood having a recurrence interval of once in 100 years.*

Between March 15-27 and 29-30, District staff conducted a controlled discharge of a total of 10,096,275 gallons of tertiary treated and secondary treated wastewater to an unnamed creek behind the plant that leads to Grass Valley Creek a quarter of a mile to the north. The controlled discharge came as a result of combined snow melt and significant rainfall. The capacity at the two storage ponds in the Willow Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant was exceeded. The storage holding pond and unused clarifiers at the Grass Valley Plant were also exceeded. Under normal operations, treated effluent is either discharged to the holding pond at the Grass Valley Plant for use at the Lake Arrowhead golf course or discharged to the percolation ponds at the Hesperia Effluent Management Site (Hesperia EMS). The Grass Valley Plant connects to the Hesperia EMS via an outfall pipeline with a design capacity of 4 million gallons per day (MGD).

The District is currently enrolled under Cease-and-Desist Order No. R6V-2013-0022 (CDO). The CDO was adopted in response to high influent flows to the Grass Valley Plant exceeding the capacity of the outfall pipeline due to excessive I/I during large storms. To address the overflows, the CDO placed a final standard of 5.8 MGD for maximum daily flow for any day, including a 100-year storm event coming from the Discharger's community sewer system. The final standard must be met by June 30, 2026. Although the District has been working on addressing I/I issues for multiple years, periods of drought have made it more challenging to determine the effectiveness of these efforts. The heavy storm in the recent wet season calls the Final Standard Date in the CDO into question as to whether it could be met.

### **REQUIRED RESPONSE**

The District is required to take the following actions in response to the alleged violations **within 60 days** of receiving this Notice.

- Recent storm events have shown that the Grass Valley Plant still needs to conduct controlled discharges during heavy precipitation events. Based on the recent storm events in the area, please conduct a full evaluation of the potential for the District to meet Final Standard requirements outlined in the CDO by June 30, 2026. This comparison must also compare the Interim Standards that were to have been met by March 31, 2018, and March 31, 2021. A thorough evaluation may be helpful in determining whether the District will be able to achieve full compliance with the CDO.

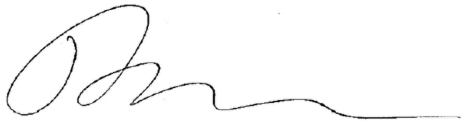
### **ADDITIONAL ENFORCEMENT**

The Water Board takes the above-referenced violations very seriously. 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.

Pursuant to CWC section 13350(e), you are subject to penalties of up to \$5,000 for each day in which the violation occurs or \$10 for each gallon of waste discharged, but

not both, for the violation listed above. These administrative civil liabilities may be assessed by the Regional Water Board beginning with the date that the violations first occurred and without further warning. This matter may be referred to the Office of the Attorney General for further enforcement. The Regional Water Board reserves its right to take any further enforcement action authorized by law.

Please contact Sergio Alonso, Water Resource Control Engineer, at (760) 243-7324 ([sergio.alonso@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:sergio.alonso@waterboards.ca.gov)) or me at (760) 241-2434 ([reginald.tan@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:reginald.tan@waterboards.ca.gov)) to answer any questions the District may have regarding this Notice. Electronic document submittal is required. Please send the District's response to [Lahontan@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Lahontan@waterboards.ca.gov), and include the District's name and WDID No. 6B360107001 in the subject line.



Reginald Tan, P.E.  
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Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board

cc: Sergio Alonso ([sergio.alonso@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:sergio.alonso@waterboards.ca.gov))  
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