Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board

NOTICE OF DETERMINATION TO ADOPT THE NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR GENERAL WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS FOR IN-SITU AND EX-SITU GROUNDWATER REMEDIATIN PROJECTS

Project Description: Pursuant to Division 7 of the California Water Code, the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board (Lahontan Water Board) adopted the General Waste Discharge Requirements for In-situ and Ex-situ Groundwater Remediation Projects, General Order No. R6-2022-0020, to regulate the discharges of waste associated with the use of amendments (chemical, organic and biological compounds) and the discharge of the treated groundwater to the land surface.

Under regulatory oversight and strict monitoring, the various compounds authorized for use are known to reduce pollutant concentrations in groundwater to acceptable drinking water levels. The compounds include chemical oxidants, chemical oxidant activators, aerobic bioremediation enhancement compounds, anaerobic degradation enhancement compounds, reduction degradation enhancement compounds, metals precipitation/stabilization, sorption/biodegradation biomatrix, surfactants/co-solvents, bioaugmentation organisms, tracer study compounds, buffer solutions and pH adjusters, biofouling control agents, adsorption injectants.

General Order R6-2022-0020 authorizes the direct injection of the amendments to the vadose zone and groundwater basin for in-situ treatment and authorizes the use of the amendments for treatment above ground during ex-situ remediation. The treated groundwater from ex-situ treatment systems is authorized to be disposed of by subsurface infiltration or injection, surface infiltration or percolation trenches or basins, evaporation ponds, land spreading, spray disposal (i.e., for dust control), or irrigation and allow discharge to ephemeral drainages that are not waters of the US. The waste must be returned to the same groundwater basin that the water was withdrawn to promote groundwater supply sustainability.

Remediation activities covered under General Order R6-2022-0020 are expected to result in net positive benefits to groundwater quality within the Lahontan Region.