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Erick Walker

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Caldor Fire Restoration Project Draft Environmental Assessment Comments

This letter is in response to the Caldor Fire Restoration Project Draft Environmental Assessment. The Lahontan Water Board supports the Proposed Action to conduct forest restoration and watershed and aquatic habitat restoration within the Caldor Fire burn area and adjacent lands.

While supporting the Proposed Action, we urge the LTBMU to ensure that all necessary state regulatory authorizations are obtained prior to project commencement. Restoration work including road construction, forest thinning, fuels reduction, prescribed fire and herbicide treatment, will require enrollment in Board Order No. R6-2024-0035 Conditional Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements for Waste Discharges Resulting from Timber Harvest and Vegetation Management Activities in the Lahontan Region (Timber Waiver).

Watershed and aquatic habitat restoration work, such as stream and meadow restoration, that affect water resources and/or occurs within Waters of the US/State will require Clean Water Act (CWA) section 401 Water Quality Certification or coverage under a General Order of Waste Discharge Requirements.

We encourage early consultation with the Water Board to ensure regulatory requirements are met. We support the LTBMUs project objectives to restore desired ecological processes and habitat conditions and restore or improve the vegetation condition and hydrologic function of stream systems, meadows and riparian areas. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Caldor Fire Restoration Project.

Sincerely,

Bryan Talmadge, PE

Senior Water Resource Control Engineer