FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Jan Zimmerman
Lahontan Regional Water Quality
Control Board
jan.zimmerman@waterboards.ca.gov
760-241-7376

May 2, 2016

Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board
Approves Largest Mitigation Bank in California

May 2, 2016. The Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board (LRWQCB) provided its approval of the Petersen Ranch Mitigation Bank today – the largest mitigation bank in the State of California at 4,000+ acres. The Petersen Ranch Mitigation Bank serves the Antelope Valley along with the bulk of Los Angeles County and portions of Kern, Ventura, and San Bernardino Counties.

The Petersen Ranch Mitigation Bank offers credits for wetlands, waters of the U.S. and State, species, and habitat to mitigate for impacts under U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Regional Water Quality Control Board, and California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirements. The Bank sponsor, Land Veritas, is woman-owned and has worked diligently with the LRWQCB, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and California Department of Fish & Wildlife over the past five years. The agencies have thoroughly vetted this major asset for the State of California.

"Public agencies and private sector builders will now be able to mitigate by purchasing credits - the most effective means of preserving our natural resources, including waters of the U.S. and State. The purchase of credits removes the need for small area mitigation and all of the documentation that is required to establish mitigation, saving the bank customers and the regulatory agencies countless hours of effort while ensuring maximum protection of our State's precious resources," according to LRWQCB Executive Officer Patty Kouyoumdjian.

The LRWQCB is responsible for preserving, enhancing, and restoring the quality of California's water resources and drinking water for the protection of the environment, public health, and all beneficial uses, and to ensure proper water resource allocation and efficient use, for the benefit of present and future generations. The LRWQCB regulates the discharges of fill and dredged material to all waters of the state, including waters of the U.S. under the Clean Water Act Section

401 and the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act and provides additional protections for wetlands, special aquatic sites and headwaters in the Lahontan district.

For more information on the Petersen Ranch Mitigation Bank, call 877 445-8699 or visit [HYPERLINK "http://landveritasmitigationbanks.com/"].

# # #