

**CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
LAHONTAN REGION**

**MEETING OF NOVEMBER 14-15, 2018
APPLE VALLEY, CA**

ITEM 10

**HEARING AND CONSIDERATION OF THE 2018 TRIENNIAL REVIEW OF THE
WATER QUALITY CONTROL PLAN FOR THE LAHONTAN REGION (BASIN PLAN)**

CHRONOLOGY

November 4, 2015	The Water Board adopted Resolution No. R6T-2015-0051, 2015 Triennial Review of the Basin Plan.
June 4, 2018	Water Board staff publicly noticed the July 2018 and September 2018 workshops for the 2018 Triennial Review of the Basin Plan.
July 18, 2018	The Water Board hosted a workshop to solicit comments on the 2018 Triennial Review of the Basin Plan.
September 12, 2018	Water Board hosted a workshop to solicit comments on the 2018 Triennial Review of the Basin Plan.
September 24, 2018	The public comment period closed for the 2018 Triennial Review of the Basin Plan.
October 1, 2018	Water Board staff publicly noticed the November 14-15, 2018 public hearing and consideration of adoption of the 2018 Triennial Review of the Basin Plan.

BACKGROUND

Federal and state law require periodic review of Water Quality Control Plans (Basin Plans). This review process is referred to as the "Triennial Review" process. Triennial Review in California is generally limited to identifying high-priority basin planning projects to be addressed during the following three years. The Triennial Review identifies potential revisions to beneficial uses, water quality objectives, policies that address basin plan implementation, and other Basin Plan elements. The prioritized Triennial Review List essentially serves as the three-year work plan for the Water Board's Basin Planning Program; however, project descriptions do not include details of potential methods or strategies to accomplish the prioritized tasks. Adopting the Triennial Review List is not a regulatory action; and, therefore, does not require environmental review (e.g., CEQA). The Water Board's most recent Triennial Review List was adopted in November 2015 and identified priority basin planning projects to be addressed during the three-year period of 2016 - 2018.

ISSUES

Should the Water Board approve the Proposed 2018 Triennial Review List, which will establish the high-priority basin planning work in the Lahontan Region for the next three years (2019 - 2021)?

DISCUSSION

Water Board staff initiated the 2018 Triennial Review of the *Water Quality Control Plan for the Lahontan Region* (Basin Plan) in early June 2018, in preparation of presenting its Proposed 2018 Triennial Review List during the Water Board's November 14 - 15, 2018 Board meeting. To date, Water Board staff has completed the following Triennial Review tasks:

- Drafting and presenting Draft 2018 Triennial Review Staff Reports and Draft 2018 Triennial Review Lists
- Holding two public workshops to receive comments from the public, other interested parties, and Water Board members
- Evaluating and responding to comments submitted during the June 4, 2018 - September 24, 2018 public comment period
- Preparing a Proposed 2018 Triennial Review List for Water Board consideration

Proposed 2018 Triennial Review materials have been updated in response to comments from Water Board members, the public, and other interested parties. Water Board staff has evaluated the information and recommendations received during the public comment period, and the factors identified, below, in developing its Proposed 2018 Triennial Review List, which will be considered for adoption at the Water Board's November 14-15, 2018 Board meeting. The Water Board's November 15, 2018 public hearing for this matter will be the fourth opportunity for the public and other interested parties to provide comments on this matter.

Resources and Prioritization: The resources necessary to complete the basin planning projects identified for the Proposed 2018 Triennial Review of the Basin Plan far exceed the resources available for doing so over the next three years. Therefore, it is necessary to prioritize the projects and identify the subtasks staff anticipates completing during the following three years. Overall, Water Board staff used the following factors to guide its project prioritization:

- Water Board direction and/or key priority (e.g., human health protection, environmental health protection/improvement, climate change)
- State Water Board guidance
- Stakeholder input/support/collaboration
- Region-wide applicability
- Current staff engagement and anticipated project completion
- Regulatory clarity

These six factors are reflected, as applicable, in the Prioritization column of staff's Proposed 2018 Triennial Review List. For illustrative purposes, the Proposed 2018 Triennial Review List includes a "line," above which demarcates the projects staff anticipates addressing during the next three years, and below which staff does not plan to address unless additional resources, internal or external, become available.

Additional Information: The Proposed 2018 Triennial Review List includes two projects that were not identified in the materials for the July 2018 and September

2018 workshops. One project, now presented as Priority 9, is “Truckee River Embedded/ Deposited Sediment Objective.” This project was previously identified on the 2015 Triennial Review List and was inadvertently not included in the Draft 2018 Triennial Review Lists, as discussed at the September 2018 Water Board meeting. The project’s objective is to address impairment of COLD and SPWN beneficial uses in the Truckee River associated with sedimentation/siltation. The current Truckee River TMDL, adopted by the Water Board in 2008, is based upon the water quality objective for suspended sediment, which does not appear to be addressing the impairment of COLD and SPWN beneficial uses. This project would examine beneficial use impairment by sedimentation/siltation as measured by riverbed sedimentation and macroinvertebrate population health. Staff will collaborate with Truckee River Watershed Council on this effort.

The second new project, presented as Priority 11, is “Develop New Beneficial Use-Based Water Quality Objectives.” The vast majority of water quality objectives in the Basin Plan are not explicitly tied to a beneficial use. The existing water quality objectives, which protect high quality waters, in many cases when exceeded do not necessarily impair beneficial uses. This project would evaluate that paradox in the context of antidegradation, protecting existing high-quality waters, regulatory/permitting needs, developing the Clean Water Act Section 303(d) List of Impaired Waters, and the need for and existence of site-specific objectives. This project may address several projects that were previously listed independently on the 2015 Triennial Review List and/or Draft 2018 Triennial Review Lists and are now identified under Priority 11.

PUBLIC OUTREACH/ INPUT

On June 4, 2018, Water Board staff initiated the 2018 Triennial Review process by publicly noticing the July 2018 and September 2018 public workshops and inviting the public and other interested parties to provide input regarding the Water Board’s future basin planning priorities. The public notice was posted on the Water Board’s website under the Announcements section and on its Basin Planning Program webpage. The public notice was also distributed through five separate Lyris lists (Board Meeting, Basin Planning - Regionwide, Basin Planning - Triennial Review, Climate Change, and TMDLs - 303(d) (Impaired Waters)).

The Water Board hosted its first public workshop at its July 18 - 19, 2018 Board meeting in Bishop, CA. There were no public comments received at the Board meeting, though members of the public and/or other agencies were present.

On August 15, 2018, Water Board staff posted on its web site and distributed an additional public notification regarding the Triennial Review process and associated public comment period to parties subscribing to the same five Lyris lists identified, above. Staff also distributed the public notice to representatives of 28 Native American Tribes located within or in close proximity to the Lahontan Region.

On August 23, 2018, Water Board staff publicly noticed the release of staff's Draft Prioritized 2018 Triennial Review List. Staff also extended the public comment period for the 2018 Triennial Review process from September 14, 2018 to September 24, 2018, allowing a full 30-day review and comment period for the Draft Prioritized 2018 Triennial Review List. The public notice was posted on the Water Board's web site and sent to the parties subscribing to the same five Lyris lists identified, above, and to representatives of 28 Native American Tribes located within or in close proximity to the Lahontan Region.

The Water Board hosted its second public workshop at its September 12 - 13, 2018 Board meeting in South Lake Tahoe, CA. Lisa Wallace, Truckee River Watershed Council Executive Director, provided oral comments regarding the Middle Truckee River Embedded/Deposited Sediment Objective Project. This project is identified on the Water Board's 2015 Triennial Review List, but inadvertently was not carried over to the Draft Prioritized 2018 Triennial Review Lists.

On September 24, 2018, the public comment period for the Water Board's 2018 Triennial Review process closed. Water Board staff received 16 comment letters during the public comment period.

October 1, 2018, Water Board staff publicly noticed the November 14 - 15, 2018 Water Board hearing informing interested parties that the Water Board would be considering for adoption staff's Proposed 2018 Triennial Review List. The public notice was posted on the Water Board's web site and distributed through the same five Lyris lists as prior notices, and to representatives of the same 28 Native American Tribes located within or in close proximity to the Lahontan Region, as before.

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt the Resolution, as proposed.

ENCLOSURE	ITEM	BATES NUMBER
1	Proposed Resolution	10 - 5
2	2018 Triennial Review Staff Report	10 - 19
3	Response to Comments	10 - 43 Will be submitted as a late addition
4	Notice of Public Hearing	10 - 45
5	Water Board Staff Presentation	10 - 49

ENCLOSURE 1

**CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
LAHONTAN REGION**

RESOLUTION NO. R6T-2018-(PROPOSED)

**2018 TRIENNIAL REVIEW OF THE WATER QUALITY CONTROL PLAN
FOR THE LAHONTAN REGION (BASIN PLAN)**

WHEREAS, the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Lahontan Region (Water Board), finds:

1. The Water Quality Control Plan for the Lahontan Region (Basin Plan) took effect March 31, 1995 and has been amended from time to time since that date.
2. The Basin Plan contains the Lahontan Region's water quality standards, which consist of beneficial uses of waters in the Lahontan Region, water quality objectives, as well as an anti-degradation policy. The Basin Plan also contains a program of implementation, including but not limited to, control measures necessary to protect water quality for the beneficial uses.
3. State and federal laws require periodic review of Basin Plans. Pursuant to California Water Code section 13240 and Clean Water Act section 303(c), the Water Board is responsible for periodically reviewing water quality standards and, as appropriate, modifying and adopting standards contained in the Basin Plan. This process is known as "Triennial Review."
4. The Water Board and its staff implemented the 2018 Triennial Review by:
 - a. Noticing and circulating draft staff reports and draft lists of basin planning projects, and posting these materials on the Water Board's Internet web page, for public review and comment during a 112-day period between June 4, 2018 and September 24, 2018;
 - b. Noticing and conducting two public workshops at its July 18, 2018 regular meeting in Bishop and its September 12, 2018 regular meeting in South Lake Tahoe;
 - c. Responding to public comments received during the June 4, 2018 - September 24, 2018 public comment period, and carefully taking such comments and other factors into consideration when developing the Proposed 2018 Triennial Review List; and
 - d. Noticing and conducting a public hearing to receive oral comments at the Water Board's regularly scheduled November 14 - 15, 2018 meeting in Apple Valley.
5. As a result of the Water Board's Triennial Review process, the Water Board has identified and prioritized its basin planning projects in the 2018 Triennial Review List

(Attachment A of this Resolution) and as described in the *Final Staff Report – 2018 Triennial Review of the Water Quality Control Plan for the Lahontan Region*. The 2018 Triennial Review List also identifies basin planning projects that will require additional funding before they can be addressed.

6. The Triennial Review process does not necessarily involve the revisions of all or any particular component of the water quality standards every three years. Moreover, identification of an issue during Triennial Review does not necessarily mean that any Basin Plan amendment will be made over the course of the three-year review cycle. While the Water Board is required to conduct a review of its Basin Plan, neither federal nor state law imposes a duty to revise or modify it.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

1. The Water Board, in fulfillment of the requirements of California Water Code section 13240 and Clean Water Act section 303(c), has:
 - a. Concluded the 2018 Triennial Review of the Water Quality Control Plan for the Lahontan Region.
 - b. Approved the 2018 Triennial Review List as set forth in Attachment A to this Resolution.
 - c. Concluded that projects identified in the 2018 Triennial Review List with priority designations of 11 - 19 will require additional funding before they can be addressed.
2. The Water Board's Triennial Review actions do not preclude other revisions to the Water Quality Control Plan for the Lahontan Region that may become necessary before the next Triennial Review.
3. The entire Water Quality Control Plan for the Lahontan Region shall remain in effect until such time that the Water Board adopts specific amendments and the appropriate state and federal agencies approve such amendments.

I, Patty Z. Kouyoumdjian, Executive Officer, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of a Resolution adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Lahontan Region, on November 15, 2018.

PATTY Z. KOUYOUMDJIAN
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Attachment A: 2018 Triennial Review List

ENCLOSURE 1

Attachment A

Table 1 – Proposed 2018 Triennial Review List

Priority	Project	Description	Prioritization	Next Steps*
1	Evaluate Bacteria Water Quality Objectives	Evaluate Basin Plan fecal coliform objectives for surface waters and clarify their regulatory and assessment applications considering the State Water Board's recently adopted statewide bacteria objective for REC-1 beneficial use.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve regulatory clarity Region-wide applicability State Water Board guidance 	<p>Begin work in Year 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evaluate regional data Consult stakeholders Develop strategy
2	Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Strategy	Water Board is currently developing a Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Strategy (Strategy). If adopted, identify, prioritize, and begin work on the Strategy's recommended priority actions requiring basin planning response(s). Additionally, evaluate opportunities to incorporate/address Source Water Protection (priority Project 3) and Riparian Protection Policy (priority Project 4) elements.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water Board priorities (human health protection and environmental health protection/ restoration) Region-wide applicability Stakeholder collaboration/ support 	<p>Begin work in Year 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify and prioritize basin planning-related recommendations Evaluate opportunity to address Project 3 and Project 4 goals/objectives Initiate work on highest-priority recommendation(s), as guided by Strategy and resources
3	Source Water Protection	Identify potential basin planning activities necessary to further improve source water protection within the Lahontan Region. Source waters include headwaters for surface waters usually in the mountains and groundwater recharge areas typically near the base of mountains.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water Board priorities (human health protection and environmental health protection/restoration) Region-wide applicability 	<p>Continue work in Year 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue coordination with State Water Board on state-wide policy development Identify opportunities to address project goals/objectives through Project 2.
4	Riparian Protection Policy	Evaluate need to develop a policy or revise or add Basin Plan control measures to prevent/minimize/mitigate impacts of hydromodification upon groundwater and surface water beneficial uses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water Board priorities (environmental health protection/restoration) Region-wide applicability 	<p>Begin work in Year 2 or 3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evaluate need for and identify scope of Basin Plan control measures or policy development Evaluate opportunities to address project goals/objectives through Project 2 and/or Project 3

*Staff plans to provide the Water Board with project updates through a combination of EO Report articles and status reports.

Table 1 – Proposed 2018 Triennial Review List

Priority	Project	Description	Prioritization	Next Steps*
5	Mojave River Surface Water Beneficial Use Revisions	Basin Plan amendment involving the following revisions. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add BIOL and RARE to specific reaches of Mojave River and its tributaries • Remove COLD from specific reach • Clarify use of existing water quality objectives for the floodplain aquifer. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Underway/near completion • Regulatory clarity • Stakeholder support 	<p>Complete work in Year 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete Staff Report and Use Attainability Analysis • Complete Substitute Environmental Document • Public workshop • Adoption hearing
6	Site-Specific Water Quality Objectives for Mojave Ground Water	Staff will evaluate groundwater quality information to determine whether it is appropriate to set specific WQOs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Underway • Regulatory clarity • Stakeholder support 	<p>Continue work in Year 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prioritize ground water sub-basins for evaluation • Evaluate available data/information and determine if it is adequate for determining the need for and ability to develop new water quality objectives • Develop strategy, including stakeholder involvement and schedule, to develop new water quality objectives where appropriate
7	Remove Lake Tahoe Prohibition on New Pier Construction	This project will remove language in the Basin Plan that conflicts with TRPA's Code of Ordinances regarding new pier construction.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Underway • Regulatory clarity 	<p>Complete work in Year 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete Staff Report • Complete Substitute Environmental Document • Public workshop • Adoption hearing

*Staff plans to provide the Water Board with project updates through a combination of EO Report articles and status reports.

Table 1 – Proposed 2018 Triennial Review List

Priority	Project	Description	Prioritization	Next Steps*
8	Tribal and Subsistence Beneficial Uses	Add Tribal Cultural, Tribal Subsistence Fishing, and Subsistence Fishing beneficial uses (CUL, T-SUB, SUB) to the Basin Plan. Engage with tribes to identify waters that support Tribal beneficial uses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water Board priorities (human health protection) Tribal requests Environmental justice/disadvantage communities 	<p>Begin work in Year 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and implement Tribal consultation process Develop approach and schedule to incorporate beneficial uses into the Basin Plan and to designate waterbodies with those uses
9	Truckee River Embedded/Deposited Sediment Objective	Evaluate whether to propose a new water quality objective for deposited/embedded sediment for the Middle Truckee River to address impairment of COLD and SPWN beneficial uses. The current TMDL is based on the water quality objective for suspended sediment which is not effective at addressing the impairment of COLD and SPWN beneficial uses.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water Board priorities (environmental health protection/restoration) Stakeholder support/collaboration 	<p>Begin work in Year 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collaborate with Truckee River Watershed Council to develop strategy regarding data collection, analysis, and needs assessment Evaluate options for addressing beneficial use impairment following data collection, analysis, and needs assessment
10	Editorial Revisions, Corrections, and Incorporation of Adopted State Water Board Policies	Miscellaneous corrections and improvements, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Correcting square mile number for Region and features in the wrong watershed Consistent use of terms Correct and updated references to policies and plans Formatting changes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Basin Plan accuracy and ease of use Potential to combine with other basin planning actions 	<p>Begin work in Year 2 or 3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify other basin planning efforts where these needs could be incorporated

*Staff plans to provide the Water Board with project updates through a combination of EO Report articles and status reports.

Table 1 – Proposed 2018 Triennial Review List

Priority	Project	Description	Prioritization	Next Steps
11	Develop New Beneficial Use-Based Water Quality Objectives	<p>Add new water quality objectives (WQOs) to the Basin Plan based on protection of beneficial uses. Note that this project could also address or facilitate progress on the following projects identified on the 2015 Triennial Review List:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mean of Monthly Means • Region-wide Approach to TDS Water Quality Objectives for Surface Waters • Susan River Site-Specific Objectives • Water Quality Objectives for Leviathan and Bryant Creeks • Revise Hot Creek Water Quality Objectives • Site-Specific Objectives for Fish Springs 	<p>Staff posits a need to develop water quality objectives that are associated with the protection of specific beneficial uses. This is a complex topic that is influenced by, and will influence, such things as 303(d) list development, permits, and anti-degradation evaluations. There are more immediate Basin Planning needs, and so staff proposes postponing this project, which has potential to displace all above projects, and recommends this project be prioritized in the 2021 Triennial Review.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify and evaluate options/approaches regarding developing new beneficial use-based water quality objectives and how existing water quality objectives will be used.

Table 1 – Proposed 2018 Triennial Review List

12	Evaluate New Section CWA 304(a) Criteria	Identify new or updated Clean Water Act section 304(a) water quality criteria published by the USEPA for incorporation into the Lahontan Basin Plan. This project would also incorporate the 2015 Triennial Review project “Biotic Ligand Model for Copper,” which is a 2007 USEPA national criteria.	With some exceptions, the new 304(a) criteria contaminants revise criteria included in the California Toxics Rule, which the Water Board does not have the ability to modify. The State Water Board addressed updated bacteria ambient water quality criteria for recreational waters and has a project underway to address cadmium. It is most efficient for the State Water Board to adopt those 304(a) criteria (when more stringent than existing water quality objectives) as statewide WQOs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with State Water Board and recommend that State Water Board address this evaluation on a state-wide basis • Evaluate new or revised CWA section 304(a) recommended water quality criteria for incorporation into the Basin Plan as water quality objectives
Priority	Project	Description	Prioritization	Next Steps
13	Eagle Lake “Building Moratorium”	Reevaluate the Basin Plan’s waste discharge prohibition establishing a maximum development density of one single family dwelling equivalent per 20 acres for new development discharging waste to subsurface disposal systems in the Eagle Drainage Hydrologic Area (Eagle Lake watershed excluding the Stones-Bengard, Spalding Tract, and Eagle’s Nest subdivisions) in light of the State Water Board’s Onsite Wastewater Treatment System Policy. This prohibition has restricted development in the rural area not serviced by a community service district who provide sewer and waste disposal.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lahontan Water Board staff in the permitting program is evaluating alternatives to address this issue 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop Guidance document identifying alternative approach(es) • Evaluate how to implement the guidance and determine if a Basin Plan amendment is necessary

Table 1 – Proposed 2018 Triennial Review List

14	Water Quality Objectives for Lake Tahoe Nearshore	Evaluate research findings to determine if new nearshore water quality standards are necessary.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water Board-funded research effort currently underway • Research findings and recommendations will be developed during the next 3 to 5 years • Research findings and recommendations are important to evaluate if new water quality standards are necessary 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluate research findings and determine need for new water quality standards
15	Biological Indicators	Develop narrative and/or numeric biological objectives (i.e., biocriteria) to protect the biological integrity of the Region's surface waters.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project goal/objectives may be addressed by State Water Board's developing Biological Integrity Project 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor and participate in State Board efforts • Evaluate need for region-specific water quality objectives

Table 1 – Proposed 2018 Triennial Review List

Priority	Project	Description	Prioritization	Next Steps
16	Instream Flow Criteria	Evaluate developing narrative or site-specific numeric flow criteria and/or WQOs for flow requirements.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> State Water Board (DWQ, Water Rights) In-Stream Flow Program under development Project goals/objectives may in part be addressed by Project 2 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prioritize needs by waterbody and beneficial use Use State Water Board metrics to determine recommended flow levels
17	Remove Beneficial Uses from Piute Ponds Wetlands	Remove Groundwater Recharge (GWR) and Agricultural Supply (AGR) beneficial uses from the Piute Ponds and wetlands in the Amargosa Creek watershed eastern Los Angeles County.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Need to reevaluate need for project with Discharger that requested project. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stakeholder and tribal engagement Conduct Use Attainability Analysis
18	Clarify Policy on Package Plants	Clarify language regarding package plants, as necessary, which may require a Basin Plan amendment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project goals/objectives may be addressed through non-basin planning action. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evaluate need for revising Basin Plan language.
19	Revise PCPs Water Quality Objectives	The USEPA recommended revising water quality objectives for pentachlorophenol (PCPs), where appropriate.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Defer and recommend to State Water Board addressing matter on a state-wide basis 	

ENCLOSURE 2



STAFF REPORT

2018 Triennial Review of the Water Quality Control Plan for the Lahontan Region

California Regional Water Quality Control Board
Lahontan Region

October 2018

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Introduction

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Lahontan Region (Water Board) is the state agency with primary responsibility for setting and implementing water quality standards in the part of California located east of the Sierra Nevada crest, from the Oregon border into the northern Mojave Desert (Figure 1). This part of California is roughly 24 percent of the state. Water quality standards and control measures are contained in the *Water Quality Control Plan for the Lahontan Region* (Basin Plan). The current Basin Plan took effect in 1995, replacing three earlier plans. Sixteen sets of amendments to the 1995 Basin Plan have received all necessary approvals. The Basin Plan is available on the Water Board's Internet web page at:

<http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/lahontan>.

State and federal laws require periodic review of Basin Plans; the federal process is called "Triennial Review." Due to resource limitations and the complexity of California's Basin Plan amendment process, Triennial Review in California is generally limited to identifying high-priority basin planning projects to be addressed over the three years between Triennial Review events. Examples of such projects include, but are not limited to, developing new or revising existing water quality objectives; evaluating, adding, or removing beneficial use designations for specific surface water bodies and/or ground water basins; and developing new or revising existing control measures, such as waste discharge prohibitions.

The Water Board's Triennial Review process produces a prioritized list of basin planning projects but does not include a description of the method or the strategy staff will take in completing the priority projects. The prioritized Triennial Review List serves as the three-year work plan for the Water Board's Basin Planning Program. The Water Board's current Triennial Review List was adopted in November 2015, following a September 17, 2015 public workshop, and has been used to allocate resources towards accomplishing the priority projects on the list. Triennial Review is not a regulatory action and does not require environmental analysis under the California Environmental Quality Act.

This staff report provides information on the Triennial Review process and on basin planning projects recommended by Water Board staff. Additional projects may be identified at the November 2018 public hearing. Staff will make final recommendations regarding basin planning projects at the November 2018 public hearing. The Water Board will consider staff's proposed 2018 Triennial Review List and could adopt the list as proposed or with modifications, or request staff to revise the list and return at a later Board meeting. Upon adoption, the 2018 Triennial Review List will identify its high-priority basin planning work for the following three years (2019 - 2021) and will also identify future basin planning projects to be addressed as future resources allow. Basin Plan amendments, whether or not they are identified in the adopted 2018 Triennial Review List, are required to proceed through a separate development and evaluation process, including future public hearings and opportunities for the public and others to

provide comments. Additionally, the Executive Officer or the Water Board has the ability to change priorities during the Triennial Review cycle (2019 - 2021).

Water Quality Standards

Under the Clean Water Act, water quality standards include designated uses, water quality criteria, and an antidegradation policy. The *Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act* (Porter-Cologne) modifies the federal language to refer to designated uses as *beneficial uses* and water quality criteria as *water quality objectives*, which includes the State Water Board's antidegradation policy (Resolution 68-16). Porter-Cologne authorizes the Water Board to establish a *program of implementation* for water quality protection in California. A program of implementation includes actions necessary to achieve objectives, a time schedule for the actions to be taken, and monitoring to determine compliance with water quality objectives and protection of beneficial uses of water. Changes to water quality standards (beneficial uses and water quality objectives) require a Basin Plan amendment.

Water quality standards (beneficial uses and water quality objectives) are set forth in Basin Plan Chapters 2, 3, and 5 and can be viewed at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/lahtontan/water_issues/programs/basin_plan/reference_s.shtml).

The Basin Plan's beneficial use tables (Tables 2-1 and 2-2) include both existing and potential beneficial uses.

Triennial Review Process and Public Participation

The Water Board's 2018 Triennial Review Process involves:

- Publicly noticing two Triennial Review workshops held in July 2018 and September 2018 through the Water Board's electronic mailing lists for: Basin Planning – Regionwide, Triennial Review, Board Meetings, Climate Change, and TMDLs – 303(d) List, and notified recipients that future correspondence would be delivered to the Triennial Review electronic mailing list.
- Publishing the hearing notice, brief list of potential projects, 2015 Triennial Review List status update, and draft staff report on the Water Board's webpage.
- Providing a public review period for draft Triennial Review Lists, and solicitation for additional 2018 Triennial Review projects and written comments.
- Publishing the hearing notice for the November 2018 public hearing where the Water Board will consider adopting the 2018 Triennial Review List.

- Preparing written responses to public comments. All written comments and responses will be provided to the Water Board before the November 2018 public hearing.
- Receiving public comment at the July 2018 and September 2018 public workshops, and the November 2018 public hearing.
- The Water Board's consideration of a resolution establishing its 2018 Triennial Review List and identifying the priority basin planning projects to be addressed by staff during the 2019 - 2021 Triennial Review period.
- Submitting the adopted 2018 Triennial Review List to the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

The Nature of Triennial Review Projects

All Triennial Review projects involve either actual changes to Basin Plan water quality standards (beneficial uses, beneficial use designations, water quality objectives, control measures), or evaluating and determining the appropriate approach to addressing issues related to Basin Plan water quality standards. Not all Triennial Review projects result in a Basin Plan amendment, but all Triennial Review projects involve Basin Plan elements. Generally, Triennial Review projects can be placed into one of two categories:

1. Basin Plan amendments
2. Research, analysis, and/or assessment for determining if a Basin Plan amendment is appropriate.

An example of a proposed 2018 Triennial Review project in the first category is the Basin Plan amendment revising Mojave River Surface Water Beneficial Uses. The research and analysis have already been completed and support preparing and presenting a Basin Plan amendment to the Water Board for considering its adoption. If adopted, the project will also include pursuing State Water Board approval, and subsequently, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency approval. It is important to remember that the actual Basin Plan amendment is the final action or step following extensive research, analysis, and other activities. These activities that lead up to and support a Basin Plan amendment are typically conducted by Water Board staff that are involved with the regulatory programs whose issues will be addressed by the Basin Plan amendment.

An example of a proposed 2018 Triennial Review project in the second category is the Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Strategy (Strategy) project. Water Board staff continues to develop its proposed Strategy for the Lahontan Region. The Water Board is scheduled to consider the proposed Strategy for adoption in early 2019. The Strategy will have several recommended actions, some of which may be implemented

through regulatory/permitting actions and others that may require basin planning actions. For example, requiring certain dischargers to conduct infrastructure risk assessments can be done through regulatory/permitting actions such as amending existing permits and monitoring programs. An example of expanding waste discharge prohibitions for floodplain protection beyond Lake Tahoe and the Truckee River would require a Basin Plan amendment; once the prohibitions are part of the Basin Plan, the new prohibitions could then be used in regulatory/permitting actions.

Planning Considerations

Prioritization. The Clean Water Act requires the Water Board to give a generalized ranking of the projects by priority. The 2018 Triennial Review List (Table 1) provides general prioritization informed by multiple factors, including Water Board direction and/or key priority (e.g., human health protection, environmental health protection/improvement, climate change), State Water Board guidance, stakeholder input/support/collaboration, region-wide applicability, current staff engagement and anticipated project completion, and regulatory clarity. Additionally, Table 1 identifies specific actions related to each project that staff expects to complete in the subsequent three-year period.

Budget. The Water Board's basin planning resources are limited. The Planning and Assessment Unit, which is largely responsible for implementing the Water Board's Basin Planning, Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL), and Surface Water Ambient Monitoring (SWAMP) Programs, includes four Environmental Scientists, a Water Resources Control Engineer, and a Scientific Aide, who are supervised by a Senior Environmental Scientist. These staff are responsible for water quality monitoring and assessment (SWAMP and Integrated Report) and addressing impaired waters for the entire Lahontan Region (TMDL program), in addition to working on basin planning projects identified and prioritized by the Triennial Review List. Meeting some of the Unit's responsibilities, including those identified in the Triennial Review List, may require contracted studies for data collection (e.g., special monitoring studies to facilitate updating water quality objectives) or predictive modeling. Additionally, the Triennial Review List includes several projects requiring research and analytical work by other Water Board staff that will eventually support either an actual Basin Plan amendment or an alternative non-basin planning action.

While the basin planning resources are limited, some of the projects may be able to progress more quickly if external entities provide resources, such as performing technical analyses and related tasks. Assistance from external entities has the potential to make significant progress on a project, but only Water Board staff can carry a Basin Plan amendment through the regulatory approval process.

Projects Needing Additional Funding. The State Water Board's guidance for the Triennial Review process asks Regional Water Boards to identify planning projects that would require additional funding to address. Therefore, the Water Board's Triennial Review List will identify basin planning and related activities targeted for progress

during the following three years (2019 - 2021), and those requiring additional funding to be addressed during this time period. The 2018 Triennial Review List (Table 1) is prioritized. Projects that do not have dedicated funds are *not* highlighted in yellow and are “below the line,” and staff will work on them when resources become available.

Basin Plan Amendment Process. Not all projects identified in a Triennial Review List will culminate in Basin Plan amendments. The projects that do typically require significant research and analysis to support the resulting Basin Plan amendment. In many cases, the Basin Plan amendment is addressing one or more program-specific issues, and the research and analytical work is best conducted by Water Board staff working within such programs (e.g., NPDES, Storm Water, Land Disposal). Research for Basin Plan amendments can include scientific literature review and/or water quality monitoring or special studies conducted by Water Board staff or contractors. Scientific peer review is required for amendments involving scientific judgment, and the reviewer’s comments may result in significant changes to preliminary draft amendments before they are released for public review. The basin planning process can require six months to more than a year to account for public input, environmental documentation, peer review, and Water Board action. An additional nine months or more can be required after Water Board action for the amendments to receive all subsequent approvals at the state and federal levels. Following Water Board adoption, amendments must be approved by the State Water Board, the California Office of Administrative Law (OAL), and in some cases, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. To facilitate the OAL review process, staff prepares and indexes a detailed administrative record.

2018 Triennial Review Planning Projects

Table 1, attached, identifies 19 currently proposed basin planning projects for the 2018 Triennial Review period. Water Board staff proposes dedicating resources to the following 10 projects for the 2018 Triennial Review period.

Ongoing Work. Water Board staff made significant progress towards completing the projects listed, below, during the 2015 Triennial Review period. Staff is proposing to dedicate adequate resources to complete the projects identified, below, during the 2018 Triennial Review period.

- Mojave River Surface Water Beneficial Use Revisions (Basin Plan amendment)
- Site Specific Water Quality Objectives for Mojave Ground Water Basins (Strategy development)
- Remove Lake Tahoe Prohibition on New Pier Construction (Basin Plan amendment)

2015 Projects to Commence in the 2018 Cycle. The projects listed, below, are identified in the 2015 Triennial Review List, but received very little or no resources during the 2015 Triennial Review period. Their priority is being elevated in the 2018 Triennial Review List due to (1) actions/activities completed by other parties, (2)

support by other parties, (3) related to other high-priority projects, and/or (4) easily incorporated into a proposed Basin Plan amendment.

- Evaluate Bacteria Water Quality Objectives (Analysis and strategy development/implementation)
- Truckee River Embedded/Deposited Sediment Objective (Strategy development)
- Riparian Protection Policy (Needs evaluation and strategy development)
- Editorial Revisions, Corrections, and Incorporation of Adopted State Water Board Policies (Basin Plan amendment)

New Projects Receiving Resources. The projects listed, below, have been identified by Water Board members, staff, and/or stakeholders since the 2015 Triennial Review List was adopted.

- Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Strategy (Basin planning needs assessment)
- Source Water Protection (Policy development)
- Tribal and Subsistence Beneficial Uses (Coordination and collaboration with Tribal organizations)

New Projects Without Resources

- Develop New Beneficial Use-Based Water Quality Objectives (Evaluate options/approaches)
- Clean Water Act 304(a) Water Quality Criteria (Incorporate new U.S. Environmental Protection Agency criteria into the Basin Plan)

2018 Triennial Review List Resources

In adopting the 2018 Triennial Review List, the Water Board will identify the basin planning projects Water Board staff will focus its resources upon during the following three years. Table 1 highlights these 10 projects in **yellow**. Basin planning projects can take multiple years. For that reason, Table 1 also identifies specific actions staff anticipates completing during the next three years. For projects identified as “below the line,” Table 1 also includes specific actions. Please note that for the projects listed below the line, staff does not anticipate working on these projects in the next three years without new resources, unless the Water Board or its Executive Officer raise the priority or if other resources (such as from an external entity) allow work to progress on one of the below the line projects

Schedules for addressing the projects identified will depend upon the complexity of the selected matters and available resources. As discussed, above, additional basin planning activities may be identified because of completing work on projects identified in the 2018 Triennial Review List. Work on such basin planning activities could be initiated during the 2018 Triennial Review period, or later depending upon available resources and Water Board priorities. Additionally, if important new topics arise before the next Triennial Review (2022 - 2024), basin planning priorities may be revised by the Water Board or its Executive Officer. If additional funding is received or outside

support provided, staff will attempt to address one or more of the projects currently shown “below the line.”

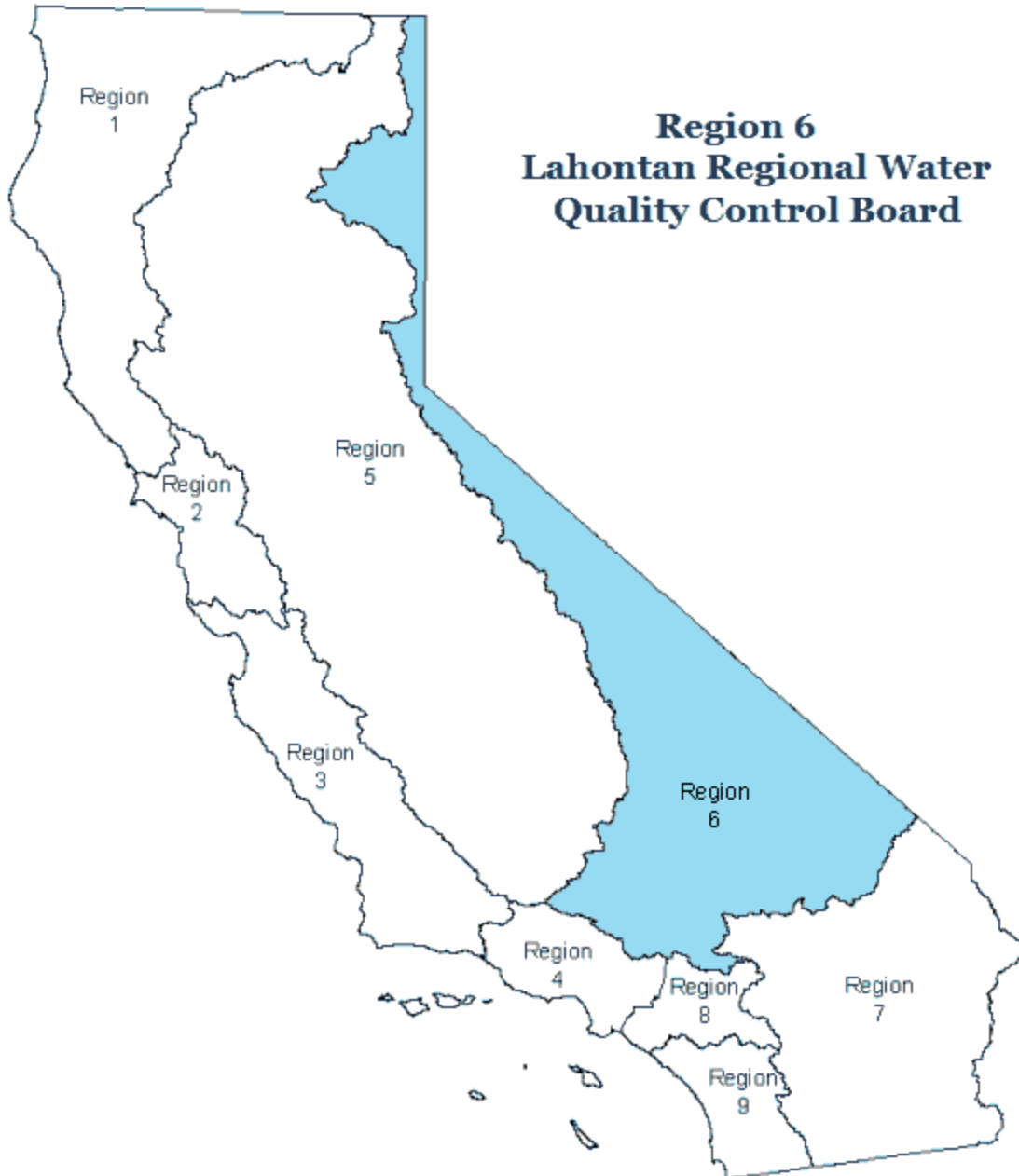
Attachments:

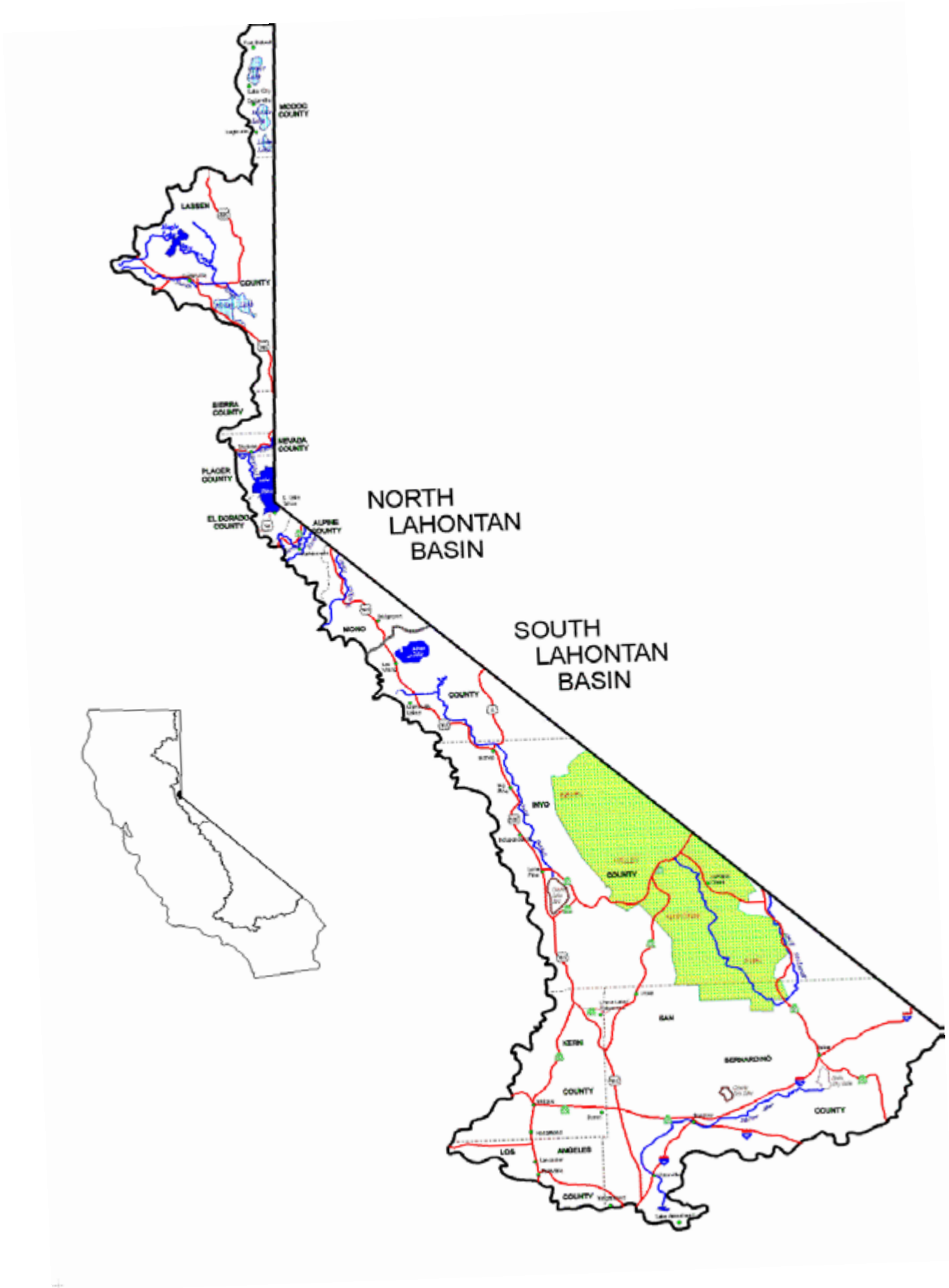
- Figure 1. Map of the Lahontan Region
- Table 1. 2018 Triennial Review List

ENCLOSURE 2

Figure 1

Figure 1 - Mapped Boundary of Lahontan Region





ENCLOSURE 2

Table 1

Table 1 – Proposed 2018 Triennial Review List

Priority	Project	Description	Prioritization	Next Steps*
1	Evaluate Bacteria Water Quality Objectives	Evaluate Basin Plan fecal coliform objectives for surface waters and clarify their regulatory and assessment applications considering the State Water Board's recently adopted statewide bacteria objective for REC-1 beneficial use.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve regulatory clarity Region-wide applicability State Water Board guidance 	<p>Begin work in Year 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evaluate regional data Consult stakeholders Develop strategy
2	Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Strategy	Water Board is currently developing a Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Strategy (Strategy). If adopted, identify, prioritize, and begin work on the Strategy's recommended priority actions requiring basin planning response(s). Additionally, evaluate opportunities to incorporate/address Source Water Protection (priority Project 3) and Riparian Protection Policy (priority Project 4) elements.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water Board priorities (human health protection and environmental health protection/ restoration) Region-wide applicability Stakeholder collaboration/ support 	<p>Begin work in Year 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify and prioritize basin planning-related recommendations Evaluate opportunity to address Project 3 and Project 4 goals/objectives Initiate work on highest-priority recommendation(s), as guided by Strategy and resources
3	Source Water Protection	Identify potential basin planning activities necessary to further improve source water protection within the Lahontan Region. Source waters include headwaters for surface waters usually in the mountains and groundwater recharge areas typically near the base of mountains.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water Board priorities (human health protection and environmental health protection/restoration) Region-wide applicability 	<p>Continue work in Year 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue coordination with State Water Board on state-wide policy development Identify opportunities to address project goals/objectives through Project 2.
4	Riparian Protection Policy	Evaluate need to develop a policy or revise or add Basin Plan control measures to prevent/minimize/mitigate impacts of hydromodification upon groundwater and surface water beneficial uses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water Board priorities (environmental health protection/restoration) Region-wide applicability 	<p>Begin work in Year 2 or 3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evaluate need for and identify scope of Basin Plan control measures or policy development Evaluate opportunities to address project goals/objectives through Project 2 and/or Project 3

*Staff plans to provide the Water Board with project updates through a combination of EO Report articles and status reports.

Table 1 – Proposed 2018 Triennial Review List

Priority	Project	Description	Prioritization	Next Steps*
5	Mojave River Surface Water Beneficial Use Revisions	Basin Plan amendment involving the following revisions. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add BIOL and RARE to specific reaches of Mojave River and its tributaries • Remove COLD from specific reach • Clarify use of existing water quality objectives for the floodplain aquifer. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Underway/near completion • Regulatory clarity • Stakeholder support 	<p>Complete work in Year 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete Staff Report and Use Attainability Analysis • Complete Substitute Environmental Document • Public workshop • Adoption hearing
6	Site-Specific Water Quality Objectives for Mojave Ground Water	Staff will evaluate groundwater quality information to determine whether it is appropriate to set specific WQOs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Underway • Regulatory clarity • Stakeholder support 	<p>Continue work in Year 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prioritize ground water sub-basins for evaluation • Evaluate available data/information and determine if it is adequate for determining the need for and ability to develop new water quality objectives • Develop strategy, including stakeholder involvement and schedule, to develop new water quality objectives where appropriate
7	Remove Lake Tahoe Prohibition on New Pier Construction	This project will remove language in the Basin Plan that conflicts with TRPA's Code of Ordinances regarding new pier construction.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Underway • Regulatory clarity 	<p>Complete work in Year 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete Staff Report • Complete Substitute Environmental Document • Public workshop • Adoption hearing

*Staff plans to provide the Water Board with project updates through a combination of EO Report articles and status reports.

Table 1 – Proposed 2018 Triennial Review List

Priority	Project	Description	Prioritization	Next Steps*
8	Tribal and Subsistence Beneficial Uses	Add Tribal Cultural, Tribal Subsistence Fishing, and Subsistence Fishing beneficial uses (CUL, T-SUB, SUB) to the Basin Plan. Engage with tribes to identify waters that support Tribal beneficial uses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water Board priorities (human health protection) Tribal requests Environmental justice/disadvantage communities 	<p>Begin work in Year 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and implement Tribal consultation process Develop approach and schedule to incorporate beneficial uses into the Basin Plan and to designate waterbodies with those uses
9	Truckee River Embedded/Deposited Sediment Objective	Evaluate whether to propose a new water quality objective for deposited/embedded sediment for the Middle Truckee River to address impairment of COLD and SPWN beneficial uses. The current TMDL is based on the water quality objective for suspended sediment which is not effective at addressing the impairment of COLD and SPWN beneficial uses.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water Board priorities (environmental health protection/restoration) Stakeholder support/collaboration 	<p>Begin work in Year 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collaborate with Truckee River Watershed Council to develop strategy regarding data collection, analysis, and needs assessment Evaluate options for addressing beneficial use impairment following data collection, analysis, and needs assessment
10	Editorial Revisions, Corrections, and Incorporation of Adopted State Water Board Policies	Miscellaneous corrections and improvements, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Correcting square mile number for Region and features in the wrong watershed Consistent use of terms Correct and updated references to policies and plans Formatting changes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Basin Plan accuracy and ease of use Potential to combine with other basin planning actions 	<p>Begin work in Year 2 or 3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify other basin planning efforts where these needs could be incorporated

*Staff plans to provide the Water Board with project updates through a combination of EO Report articles and status reports.

Table 1 – Proposed 2018 Triennial Review List

Priority	Project	Description	Prioritization	Next Steps
11	Develop New Beneficial Use-Based Water Quality Objectives	<p>Add new water quality objectives (WQOs) to the Basin Plan based on protection of beneficial uses. Note that this project could also address or facilitate progress on the following projects identified on the 2015 Triennial Review List:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mean of Monthly Means • Region-wide Approach to TDS Water Quality Objectives for Surface Waters • Susan River Site-Specific Objectives • Water Quality Objectives for Leviathan and Bryant Creeks • Revise Hot Creek Water Quality Objectives • Site-Specific Objectives for Fish Springs 	<p>Staff posits a need to develop water quality objectives that are associated with the protection of specific beneficial uses. This is a complex topic that is influenced by, and will influence, such things as 303(d) list development, permits, and anti-degradation evaluations. There are more immediate Basin Planning needs, and so staff proposes postponing this project, which has potential to displace all above projects, and recommends this project be prioritized in the 2021 Triennial Review.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify and evaluate options/approaches regarding developing new beneficial use-based water quality objectives and how existing water quality objectives will be used.

Table 1 – Proposed 2018 Triennial Review List

12	Evaluate New Section CWA 304(a) Criteria	Identify new or updated Clean Water Act section 304(a) water quality criteria published by the USEPA for incorporation into the Lahontan Basin Plan. This project would also incorporate the 2015 Triennial Review project “Biotic Ligand Model for Copper,” which is a 2007 USEPA national criteria.	With some exceptions, the new 304(a) criteria contaminants revise criteria included in the California Toxics Rule, which the Water Board does not have the ability to modify. The State Water Board addressed updated bacteria ambient water quality criteria for recreational waters and has a project underway to address cadmium. It is most efficient for the State Water Board to adopt those 304(a) criteria (when more stringent than existing water quality objectives) as statewide WQOs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with State Water Board and recommend that State Water Board address this evaluation on a state-wide basis • Evaluate new or revised CWA section 304(a) recommended water quality criteria for incorporation into the Basin Plan as water quality objectives
Priority	Project	Description	Prioritization	Next Steps
13	Eagle Lake “Building Moratorium”	Reevaluate the Basin Plan’s waste discharge prohibition establishing a maximum development density of one single family dwelling equivalent per 20 acres for new development discharging waste to subsurface disposal systems in the Eagle Drainage Hydrologic Area (Eagle Lake watershed excluding the Stones-Bengard, Spalding Tract, and Eagle’s Nest subdivisions) in light of the State Water Board’s Onsite Wastewater Treatment System Policy. This prohibition has restricted development in the rural area not serviced by a community service district who provide sewer and waste disposal.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lahontan Water Board staff in the permitting program is evaluating alternatives to address this issue 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop Guidance document identifying alternative approach(es) • Evaluate how to implement the guidance and determine if a Basin Plan amendment is necessary

Table 1 – Proposed 2018 Triennial Review List

14	Water Quality Objectives for Lake Tahoe Nearshore	Evaluate research findings to determine if new nearshore water quality standards are necessary.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water Board-funded research effort currently underway • Research findings and recommendations will be developed during the next 3 to 5 years • Research findings and recommendations are important to evaluate if new water quality standards are necessary 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluate research findings and determine need for new water quality standards
15	Biological Indicators	Develop narrative and/or numeric biological objectives (i.e., biocriteria) to protect the biological integrity of the Region's surface waters.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project goal/objectives may be addressed by State Water Board's developing Biological Integrity Project 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor and participate in State Board efforts • Evaluate need for region-specific water quality objectives

Table 1 – Proposed 2018 Triennial Review List

Priority	Project	Description	Prioritization	Next Steps
16	Instream Flow Criteria	Evaluate developing narrative or site-specific numeric flow criteria and/or WQOs for flow requirements.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> State Water Board (DWQ, Water Rights) In-Stream Flow Program under development Project goals/objectives may in part be addressed by Project 2 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prioritize needs by waterbody and beneficial use Use State Water Board metrics to determine recommended flow levels
17	Remove Beneficial Uses from Piute Ponds Wetlands	Remove Groundwater Recharge (GWR) and Agricultural Supply (AGR) beneficial uses from the Piute Ponds and wetlands in the Amargosa Creek watershed eastern Los Angeles County.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Need to reevaluate need for project with Discharger that requested project. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stakeholder and tribal engagement Conduct Use Attainability Analysis
18	Clarify Policy on Package Plants	Clarify language regarding package plants, as necessary, which may require a Basin Plan amendment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project goals/objectives may be addressed through non-basin planning action. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evaluate need for revising Basin Plan language.
19	Revise PCPs Water Quality Objectives	The USEPA recommended revising water quality objectives for pentachlorophenol (PCPs), where appropriate.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Defer and recommend to State Water Board addressing matter on a state-wide basis 	

ENCLOSURE 3

**(will be submitted under
separate cover)**

ENCLOSURE 4

Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board

******NOTIFICATION******
(issued 9/28/2018)

**CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY
CONTROL BOARD LAHONTAN REGION**

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE 2018
TRIENNIAL REVIEW OF THE WATER QUALITY
CONTROL PLAN FOR THE LAHONTAN REGION**

The Triennial Review of The Water Quality Control Plan for The Lahontan Region (Basin Plan) is sometimes referred to as the “triennial” review because federal law requires a review of water quality standards every three years. The Basin Plan identifies beneficial uses of surface and ground waters, establishes water quality standards for protecting the beneficial uses, and describes implementation programs for achieving water quality standards. The Basin Plan covers all watersheds located in the Lahontan Region, including eastern California from the Oregon border to the northern Mojave Desert, east of the Sierra Nevada crest.

The purpose of the Triennial Review is to identify and prioritize key Basin Plan issues that will guide Basin Planning efforts for the following three years. The result of the review is a list of priority projects to be investigated further and, where appropriate, addressed through the adoption of Basin Plan amendments.

The public hearing to consider adoption of a proposed Resolution and a prioritized list of basin planning projects for the 2018 Triennial Review will be held during the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Lahontan Region’s (Water Board) meeting scheduled for:

DATES:	November 14-15, 2018
TIME:	7:00 p.m. on 11/14 & 8:30 a.m. on 11/15
PLACE:	Mojave Water Agency 13846 Conference Center Drive Apple Valley, CA 92307

Final dates and approximate times will be identified in the Water Board’s agenda for each meeting, which are posted on the Water Board’s web site at www.waterboards.ca.gov/lahontan, a minimum of 10 days prior to each meeting. Meeting rooms will be accessible to people with disabilities. Individuals who require special accommodations or have special language needs are requested to contact Katrina Fleshman at (530) 542-5414 (Katrina.Fleshman@waterboards.ca.gov) at least five (5) working days prior to the meeting. TTY/TTD/Speech to Speech users may dial 7-1-1 for the California Relay Service.

PETER C. PUMPHREY, CHAIR | PATTY Z. KOUYOUMDJIAN, EXECUTIVE OFFICER

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Water Board held two public workshops at the July and September 2018 Board meetings to provide information and to hear comments. Written comments on a draft list of issues provided by Water Board staff, or on other suggestions for revisions to the Basin Plan, were invited during a 102-day comment period, from June 4, 2018 to September 14, 2018. On August 24, 2018, Water Board staff released a [draft prioritized list of proposed projects](#) and extended the comment period to September 24, 2018, for a total comment period of 112 days. The proposed projects included: Revise Water Quality Objectives for Bacteria, Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Strategy Implementation, Source Water Protection, Riparian Protection Policy, Mojave River Surface Water Beneficial Use Revisions, Site Specific Objectives for Mojave Ground Water Sub-basins, Remove the Prohibition on New Pier Construction in Fish Spawning Habitat at Lake Tahoe, Tribal Beneficial Uses, Evaluate New or Revised Clean Water Act Section 304(a) Recommended Criteria for Incorporation into the Basin Plan as Water Quality Objectives, Deposited/ embedded sediment standard for the Middle Truckee River, and other projects that can be reviewed in the [minutes and materials available for Item 3 of the September Board meeting](#).

The Water Board will prepare a response to comments document to address written comments received by September 24, 2018. The comments received will be considered in the development of an updated staff report and prioritized list, and a proposed Resolution that will be presented to the Water Board to consider for adoption at the public hearing.

The Water Board will have the options of (1) adopting staff's recommendations unchanged, (2) adopting staff recommendations with revisions, or (3) directing staff to make substantial revisions and return before the Water Board at a later date. Adoption of the Triennial Review List does not mean that the Water Board will adopt any proposed Basin Plan amendment identified on the Triennial Review List. Such Basin Plan amendments will proceed through a separate development and evaluation process, including future public hearings and opportunities for the public and others to provide comments.

The public will have an opportunity to provide verbal comments during the November hearing.

DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY

Documents relevant to the hearing and links to information on the Triennial Review will be available 30 days prior the hearing at:

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/lahontan/water_issues/programs/basin_plan/#triennial

INTERESTED PERSONS LIST

Persons wishing to subscribe to the Water Board's electronic mailing list regarding the Triennial Review can do so through the Water Board's website by clicking on the "Subscribe" button on the right side of the following webpage:

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/email_subscriptions/reg6_subscribe.html.

Check the box titled "Basin Plan - Triennial Review."

STAFF CONTACT

Please direct questions about this notice or the Basin Plan Triennial Review to Mr. Daniel Sussman at (530) 542-5466 (daniel.sussman@waterboards.ca.gov).

ENCLOSURE 5

2018 Triennial Review Public Hearing and Water Board Consideration

Agenda Item No. 10

Daniel Sussman
Senior Environmental Scientist
Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board

November 15, 2018
Apple Valley



Presentation Overview

1. Background
2. 2018 Triennial Review Outreach
3. Comments
4. Proposed Projects
5. Ranking Factors
6. Schedule
7. Public Input to the Water Board
8. Water Board Consideration of Resolution

Background-Triennial Review

- Water Quality Control Plan (Basin Plan)
 - Regulatory (standards, implementation)
 - Informational (maps, program info., etc.)
- Triennial Review of the Basin Plan
 - Clean Water Act requirement
 - Work Plan for Basin Planning Program
 - Public process and input
 - Water Board and staff input
 - Prioritization

3

Public Outreach

- 2 Public Workshops + Public Hearing
- 3 Project Lists
- 112 Days of Public Comment
- 16 Comment Letters

4

Comments Received

Project	Letters	Commenter
Tribal Beneficial Uses	9	Bishop Paiute Tribe (2); Owens Valley Indian Water Commission; Mono Lake Kutzadika Tribe; Lone Pine Paiute-Shoshone Reservation (2); Big Pine Paiute Tribe of the Owens Valley; Private citizen - member of Bishop Paiute Tribe; Private citizen
Bacteria Water Quality Objectives	3	California Cattlemen's Association; Los Angeles Department of Water and Power; Centennial Livestock
CWA Section 304(a)	2	Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County (ammonia); USEPA
Removal of GWR and AGR from Piute Ponds Wetlands	1	Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County
Truckee River Embedded/ Deposited Sediment Obj.	1	Truckee River Watershed Council
Mojave River GW SSOs	1	Mojave Water Agency

2018 Triennial Review Projects Summary

- **19 Projects**
 - 10 projects ranked above the line
 - 2 projects scheduled for completion in 2019
 - 6 consolidated below the line

Prioritization Considerations

- Water Board Priorities
 - Human health protection
 - Environmental health protection/restoration
- Project Underway/ Near Completion
- Region-Wide Applicability
- Regulatory Clarity
- Stakeholder Collaboration/Support



2018 Triennial Review Projects to Receive Resources

1. Evaluate Bacteria WQO
2. Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Strategy*
3. Source Water Protection*
4. Riparian Protection Policy*
5. Mojave River Surface Water Beneficial Uses
6. Mojave Ground Water Site-Specific WQOs

* Related to Climate Adaptation & Resource Protection/Resiliency



2018 Triennial Review

Projects to Receive Resources

7. Remove Lake Tahoe Prohibition on New Piers
8. Tribal and Subsistence Beneficial Uses
9. Truckee River Embedded/ Deposited Sediment
10. Editorial Revisions, Corrections, and Incorporation of Adopted State Water Board Policies



2018 Triennial Review

Projects Without Resources

11. Develop New Beneficial Use-Based WQOs

- The need/objective
 - Improve water quality assessment (impaired water bodies)
 - Maintain high quality waters
- Potential approaches
- Potential applicability to other projects
 - TDS water quality objectives
 - Site specific objectives
 - Mean of monthly means objectives



2018 Triennial Review

Projects Without Resources

12. Evaluate CWA Section 304(a) Criteria

- Recommended water quality criteria: new since 5/30/2000
- Aquatic life criteria
 - Biotic Ligand Model for Copper (2007)
 - Ammonia (2013)
 - 7 others
- Human health criteria



11

2018 Triennial Review

Projects Without Resources

13. Eagle Lake “Building Moratorium”
14. Water Quality Objectives for Tahoe Nearshore
15. Biological Indicators
16. Instream Flow Criteria
17. Remove BUs from Piute Ponds Wetlands
18. Clarify Policy on Package Plants
19. Revise PCPs Water Quality Objectives



12

Schedule

- November 2018 Board Meeting
 - Public hearing
 - Water Board consideration of resolution adopting Proposed Triennial Review List
- Nov./Dec. Transmittal to USEPA & State Water Board



13

Staff Recommendation

Adopt the Resolution, as proposed



14

Questions?

