
Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board

MINUTES

November 10, 2021

The Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board (Water Board)
conducted this meeting using
Video and Teleconference as shown below:

Video and Teleconference Meeting Only
No Physical Meeting Location
(Authorized by Government Code Section 11133)

Water Board Members

Peter C. Pumphrey, Chair, Chalfant	Eric Sandel, Vice-Chair, Truckee
Amy Horne, Ph.D., Truckee	Kimberly Cox, Helendale
Keith Dyas, Rosamond	Essra Mostafavi, Bishop

State Water Board

Elizabeth Beryt, Office of Chief Counsel	Nichole Morgan, State Water Board Liaison
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Water Board Staff

Mike Plaziak, Executive Officer	Scott Ferguson, Supervising WRC Engineer
Ben Letton, Assistant Executive Officer	Patrice Copeland, Supervising Engineering Geologist
Robert Tucker, Sr. WRC Engineer	Andrew Jensen, Environmental Program Mgr.
Doug Cushman, Sr. WRC Engineer	Jan Zimmerman, Sr. Engineering Geologist
Tiffany Steinert, Engineering Geologist	Mary Fiore-Wagner, Sr. Environmental Scientist
TJ Middlemis-Clark, WRC Engineer	Dan Sussman, Sr. Environmental Scientist
Jeff Brooks, Sr. Engineering Geologist	Elizabeth VanDiepen, Engineering Geologist
Lisa Scorable, Engineering Geologist	Adam Henriques, Environmental Scientist
Katrina Fleshman, Executive Assistant	Mike Suglian, Scientific Aid

[View the full Agenda and listen to the audio of this meeting](#)

REGULAR MEETING: Wednesday, November 10, 2021, @ 10:00 a.m.

CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Pumphrey called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and discussed procedures to adhere to the Governor's Executive Order during this COVID-19 emergency, the meeting will be video and teleconference only with no in person attendance. Chair Pumphrey introduced Travis with AGP Video and asked Travis to give direction to the public that wish to speak.

Chair Pumphrey introduced the Water Board Members, Water Board staff and State Water Board staff.

1. PUBLIC FORUM

Jeffrey Shellito, resident of Truckee.

2. MINUTES

Motion: Moved by Member Dyas, seconded by Member Dr. Horne to approve the October 6-7, 2021, meeting Minutes as presented. Chair Pumphrey called for a roll call vote and the motion carried per the following votes:

Chair Pumphrey	Aye
Vice-Chair Sandel	Aye
Member Dr. Cox	Aye
Member Dyas	Aye
Member Dr. Horne	Aye
Member Mostafavi	Aye

[View the adopted October 6-7, 2021, Meeting Minutes](#)

3. REPORTS BY WATER BOARD CHAIR AND WATER BOARD MEMBERS

Nichole Morgan, State Water Board, discussed the Governor's emergency order to combat the current drought conditions in every state.

Chair Pumphrey talked about the WQCC meeting in October and possibly having a follow-up workshop for items that needed further discussion. Chair Pumphrey stated Dr. Horne brought up at the WQCC meeting a possible Mentorship for new Board members.

Dr. Horne stated during the WQCC she asked how Water Board makes sure the money that is coming from funding of Water Products is divided equally among the states. Chair Pumphrey encouraged Board members to reach out to Joaquin Esquivel with their ideas on how to proceed with this. Member Mostafavi indicated she can work with Dr. Horne with their ideas on the water issue as well as the Mentorship idea and send their ideas to Mr. Esquivel.

4. EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

The Executive Officer, Michael R. Plaziak, provided an update to the Water Board and public on key actions and activities in the Lahontan region, including the items below.

- a. Mono Lake – Status of this ONRW
- b. Personnel Report/Update on filling vacancies.
- c. Standing Items changes:
 - Salt & Nutrient Management Plan – Proposed to move to September 2022
 - City of Barstow Orphan Perchlorate – Proposed to have annually instead of semi-annual.
 - City of Barstow Nitrate – Proposed to move annually to June
 - Leviathan Mine – Instead of January, we will have the report for the March Board meeting
 - Pacific Gas & Electric Company – Would like to move the June report to May

- d. Proposed 2022 Board Meeting Schedule
- e. Merit award for Timothy Middlemis-Clark

COMMENTS BY THE WATER BOARD MEMBERS

The Board members had no objections to the Standing Items changes proposed by Mr. Plaziak.

5. STATE OF THE 401 CERTIFICATION AND DREDGE & FILL PROGRAM

Water Board staff, Liz VanDiepen, Engineering Geologist, and Tiffany Steinert, Engineering Geologist, updated the Water Board on successes and challenges associated with dredge and fill permitting in the Lahontan Region, and recent USEPA developments and implementation of “Waters of the United States.”

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS BY THE WATER BOARD

Member Dr. Cox indicated she likes the idea of developing templates to help streamline some of this workload.

Dr. Horne highlighted the importance of meadow restoration for climate change resilience, as those types of projects increase water storage capacity and improve base flows as well as expand on natural fire buffers.

Member Mostafavi stated the science foundation published a report on climate change and using geo-engineering by spraying sulfur dioxide in the upper atmosphere to create weather, to combat any type of drought. Ms. Mostafavi asked what role the Water Board has in potentially soliciting these activities or offering input, even with regards to drought being caused by these types of practices. Ms. Copeland replied that Water Board staff, Anna Garcia, Senior, Engineering Geologist, is going to listen to a workshop related to cloud seeding and can provide an article by the next Board Meeting. Ms. Mostafavi asked for the information on the workshop so that she may listen as well.

6. STATE OF THE FOREST ACTIVITIES PROGRAM

Water Board staff, Adam Henriques, Environmental Scientist, updated the Water Board on existing permits and processes that address forest management within the region, and provide a preview of pending State Water Board led actions to address desired increases in the pace and scale of forest fuels treatments. Staff will also discuss coordination with other agencies and stakeholders involved with forest fuels treatment and preview pending legislation related to wildfire prevention.

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS BY THE WATER BOARD

Member Dr. Cox asked for a readable copy of slide 14, which is the California's Wildfire and Forest Resilience Action Plan.

Board member Sandel inquired about clarification on permit exemptions for Utility corridor Right-Of-Way vegetation management activities. Staff clarified that these activities are generally exempt from Cal Fire requirements to prepare a Timber Harvest Plan and to thus involve the multiagency review team, but not exempt from coverage under the 2014 Timber Waiver. Staff proactively review these activities to determine required permit coverage.

7. CLOSED SESSION

The Water Board went into Closed Session at 1:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the Water Board, the meeting adjourned at 1:45 p.m. on November 10, 2021.

Prepared by: _____ Adopted: _____
Katrina Fleshman, Water Board Clerk