
Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board

MINUTES

May 11, 2022

The Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board (Water Board)
conducted this meeting in the location shown below:

Water Board Annex, Hearing Room
971 Silver Dollar Avenue
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150

And

Lahontan Water Board
15095 Amargosa Road, Bldg. 2 Suite 210
Victorville, CA 92394

Water Board Members in South Lake Tahoe

Peter C. Pumphrey, Chair, Chalfant
Amy Horne, Ph.D., Truckee
Essra Mostafavi, Bishop

Water Board Members in Victorville

Kimberly Cox, Helendale
Keith Dyas, Rosamond

State Water Board

Elizabeth Beryt, Office of Chief Counsel

Nichole Morgan, State Water Board Liaison

Water Board Staff

Mike Plaziak, Executive Officer
Ben Letton, Assistant Executive Officer
Robert Tucker, Sr. WRC Engineer
Jeff Fitzsimmons, Engineering Geologist
Angelica Soto, Board OT
Dan Sussman, Sr. Environmental Scientist
Linda Stone, Engineering Geologist
Ghasem Pour-Ghasemi, Sr. WRC Engineer
Katrina Fleshman, Executive Assistant

Scott Ferguson, Supervising WRC Engineer
Patrice Copeland, Supervising Engineering Geologist
Andrew Jensen, Environmental Program Mgr.
Jennifer Watts, Environmental Scientist
Mary Fiore-Wagner, Sr. Environmental Scientist
Jan Zimmerman, Sr. Engineering Geologist
Bill Muir, Sr. Engineering Geologist
Christina Guerra, Engineering Geologist

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

REGULAR MEETING: Wednesday, May 11, 2022, @ 9:00 a.m.

CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Pumphrey called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and discussed procedures for in-person and video and teleconference meeting. Chair Pumphrey introduced AGP Video and asked AGP Video 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

Speakers at today's public forum all spoke on the concerns of Microplastics in Lake Tahoe, possibly caused by the Verizon Cell towers.

- David Jenkins
- Monica Eisensteiken
- Robert Aaron
- Allen Miller
- Bill Lieberman
- Malena Laos
- Alex (no last name given)

COMMENTS BY THE WATER BOARD

Water Board staff, Michael R. Plaziak, PG, Executive Officer, thanked the public for bringing their concerns to the Water Board. Mr. Plaziak indicated the Water Board will need to look further into this issue as more information needs to be gathered.

Water Board staff, Melissa Thaw, Environmental Scientist explained some of the research that is currently being done regarding Microplastics by UC Davis and the Desert Institute. Ms. Thaw indicated that UC Davis should have their report by December. Ms. Thaw further indicated that the Water Board is keeping in contact with the Desert Institute on their findings when available.

Member Cox asked Water Board staff when they prepare the permit for the Verizon Tower, ask them to use an alternative method. Member Cox said she looks forward to the UC Davis study in December.

Member Dr. Horne asked Water Board staff to keep the Water Board updated on the Reports and research regarding the Microplastic issue.

Member Mostafavi agrees with member Dr. Horne and encourages the Water Board staff to make the microplastic research a priority and keep the Water Board updated.

2. MINUTES

- a. The January 12-13, 2022, meeting Minutes was presented for vote.

Motion: Moved by Member Dyas, seconded by Member Cox to approve the January 12-13, 2022 Minutes as presented. Chair Pumphrey called for a roll call vote and the motion carried per the following votes:

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

[View the adopted January 12-13, 2022 Meeting Minutes](#)

- b. The March 9-10, 2022, Board meeting Minutes was presented for vote.

Motion: Moved by Member Dyas, seconded by Member Cox to approve the March 9-10, 2022, Minutes as presented. Chair Pumphrey called for a roll call vote and the motion carried per the following votes:

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

[View the adopted March 9-10, 2022, Meeting Minutes](#)

3. REPORTS BY WATER BOARD CHAIR AND WATER BOARD MEMBERS

Member Dr. Horne talked about changes with staff and Board members since our last meeting twenty-six months ago.

Board Chair Pumphrey indicated the next WQCC meeting is set for October 27th and 28th 2022. Mr. Pumphrey also indicated the next Chairs Meeting will include Chairs and Vice-Chairs.

Lahontan's State Board Liaison, Nichole Morgan gave updates regarding the Water Board.

4. EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

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

- a. Personnel Report/Vacancies and Promotions
- b. USGS Chromium Background Study coming in June 2022
- c. PGE Cleanup Update
- d. Mojave River Mitigation Bank

COMMENTS BY THE WATER BOARD

Member Cox asked about the delay in getting the study from the USGS Chromium Background. Mr. Plaziak replied that the primary reason for the delay in receiving the study was COVID and hopes they meet the June deadline.

5. *CLOSURE AND POST-CLOSURE WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS FOR TROGON DEVELOPMENT, LLC, COOLWATER GENERATING STATION, SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY

Water Board staff, Jeffery Fitzsimmons, asked the Water Board members to consider adopting closure and post-closure Waste Discharge Requirements to approve the proposed closure method for the surface impoundments, establish post-closure maintenance and monitoring requirements for the closed waste management unit, and provide general updates to the Monitoring and Reporting Program.

Motion: Moved by Member Dr. Horne, seconded by Member Cox to adopt closure and post-closure Waste Discharge Requirements to approve the proposed closure method for the surface impoundments, establish post-closure maintenance and monitoring requirements for the closed waste management unit, and provide general updates to the Monitoring and Reporting Program as presented. Chair Pumphrey called for a roll call vote and the motion carried per the following votes:

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

6. PER- AND POLYFLUOROALKYL SUBSTANCES (PFAS), THE STATE OF WHAT WE KNOW AND WHAT WE DON'T KNOW

Water Board staff, Jan Zimmerman, Senior Engineering Geologist, presented an overview of a Staff Report that was prepared to bring awareness to what PFAS are and to highlight the emerging regulatory framework associated with these substances.

Water Board staff, Anna Garcia, gave presentation of PFAS substances and the regulatory framework associated with PFAS as we know it today.

Water Board staff, Jan Zimmerman, Senior Engineering Geologist, presented on the Statewide Orders for Determination of the presence of PFAS.

Water Board staff, Shelby Barker, presented on the status of PFAS at Landfills.

Water Board staff, Christina Guerra, Engineering Geologist, presented on the status of PFAS at Airports.

Water Board staff, Ghasem Pour-Ghasemi, Senior Water Resource Control Engineer, presented on the status of PFAS at Public Owned Treatment Works.

Water Board staff, Christina Guerra, Engineering Geologist, presented on the status of PFAS at Bulk Fuel Storage Facilities.

Water Board staff, Linda Stone, Engineering Geologist, presented on the status of PFAS at Department of Defense facilities.

Water Board staff, Jan Zimmerman, Senior Engineering Geologist presented on the Development of a PFAS strategy and next steps to review and understand the PFAS data that has been collected and will be collected.

COMMENTS BY THE WATER BOARD

Member Dr. Horne indicated she likes the recommendations Water Board staff is suggesting by approaching the problem strategically. Dr. Horne went on to say the Water Board is prepared and in place to move forward when it is the right time.

Member Dr. Horne stated there are more than 25 public airports in our Lahontan region, and it might be worth looking into the use of AFFF at all the airports.

Member Mostafavi stated Canada submitted a screening report in 2009 to the Stockholm committee on the PFOS issue. Considering we are in a regulatory climate in a state where we give the Regional Water Board's priority to figure it out, but State Board will support you in this. We don't need to reinvent the wheel and the Water

Board can incorporate it. Share this information and hopefully hit the ground running. Bottom line is hopefully Water Board staff can incorporate this peer review report.

Member Cox asked for more data to the information on slide 6-21. Ms. Zimmerman indicated that they will add the data and provide that to the Water Board.

Member Cox asked about the Helendale POTW residential plant and the identified PFOA in the influent. What residential items contributed to the PFOA? Water Board Staff, Anna Garcia replied the PFAS sources are Teflon coating in cookware, as well as anything we use day today to make things waterproof, such as scotch guard, etc. Ms. Garcia agreed the Water Board would need additional investigation to find out exactly what it is causing PFOAs in the influent. Member Cox stated if the Water Board is going to do a thorough job in evaluating these, we need to find the sources. Member Cox went on to say she feels we need to take a deeper look into these household use products and go back to industry and help eliminate it at the front end.

Member Cox asked about the comment on slide 6-38 "*No statewide standard.*" Member Cox asked if we are going to be left on a region by region bases to develop standards for PFOA. Member Cox indicated that seems wildly inefficient when nine Regional Boards have highly technical staff to investigate this. Should be something we can do at the State Board level.

Board Chair Pumphrey agrees with Member Cox that this is a large task and wants to know why the state board is not taking an interest in this. One of the things Water Board Staff could add to the strategy is encouraging the States Board involvement.

Water Board staff, Jan Zimmerman, replied to Member Cox and Board Chair Pumphrey that the state is taking a lead role in what the Standard is. However, the State Board is leaving it up to each Water Board Region to determine how they are going to move forward for a strategy for developing implementation of the standard when that is adopted.

7. REVIEW OF TRUCKEE RIVER SEDIMENT TOTAL MAXIMUM DAILY LOAD

Board member, Dr. Amy Horne, read her Conflict of Interest Statement indicating there is no conflict regarding this item and her connection with the Truckee River Watershed Council, for which she is a Board member.

Water Board staff, Jennifer Watts, Environmental Scientist, presented an overview of the 10-year review of the Truckee River Sediment Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL).

Jessica Thompson from the Town of Truckee and Mary Keller from Placer County and Placer County's consultant, Stefan Schuster presented on TMDL implementation and monitoring activities.

Beth Christman, from Truckee River Watershed Council (TRWC), gave a presentation on the TMDL 10-year review and past TMDL-focused studies supported by TRWC that included an offer to assist with future data collection.

COMMENTS BY THE WATER BOARD

Ms. Cox concurs with Water Board staff recommendations to revisit the TMDL in three to five years.

Member Dr. Horne asked Ms. Watts how the Water Board staff can best use the next three to five years to bring this to the Water Board that will assist them in conducting an effective review. Ms. Watts replied that Water Board staff will focus on obtaining updated information regarding habitat conditions, and bioassessment observations in the Truckee River to provide to the Board. This will include looking at sediment deposited in the channel and not just suspended sediment.

Chair Pumphrey agrees with the recommendations and indicates more information is needed.

Member Dyas asked Ms. Christman from the Truckee river Watershed how they can assist with data collection. Ms. Christman indicated they have some funding they can provide to support additional studies.

BOARD KIMBERLY COX LEFT THE MEETING AT 1:15PM.

8. RESOLUTION OF FORMER BOARD MEMBER ERIC SANDEL

Water Board Chair, Pete Pumphrey read the written Resolution of former Board Member Eric Sandel.

9. CLOSED SESSION

The Water Board did not go into Closed Session.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the Water Board, the meeting adjourned at 1:53 p.m. on May 11, 2022.

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