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## Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board

# MINUTES

**March 25, 2026**

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

Eastern Sierra Tri-County Fairgrounds  
475 Sierra Street  
Bishop, CA 93514

Regular Meeting  
Wednesday, March 25, 2026, 1:00 p.m.

### Water Board Members

Kimberly Cox, Ph.D., Helendale  
Rick Dever, Crestline

Jeff Loux, Ph.D., Truckee  
Robert Pearce, Ph.D., Chalfant

### State Water Board

Elizabeth Beryt, Office of Chief Counsel

Nichole Morgan, Lahontan Board Liaison

### Water Board Staff

Ben Letton, Executive Officer  
Trevor Miller, Sr. WRC Engineer  
Ariel Lafarga, Board Clerk

Jan Zimmerman, Assistant Executive Officer  
Michael Reese, WRC Engineer

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

**REGULAR MEETING: Wednesday, March 25, 2026, at 1:00 p.m.**

### **CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Water Board Member Dr. Jeff Loux, called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. Dr. Loux introduced the Water Board Members, and the Water Board staff, and discussed procedures for in-person and video and teleconference meetings.

## 1. PUBLIC FORUM

No public speakers.

## 2. MINUTES

Motion: Moved by Member Dr. Cox, seconded by Member Dr. Pearce, to approve February 11, 2026, meeting Minutes as presented. Board Member Dr. Loux called for a roll call vote and the motion carried by the following votes:

Chair Dr. Loux	Aye
Vice Chair Dr. Pearce	Aye
Member Dr. Cox	Aye
Member Dever	Aye

[View the adopted February 11, 2026, Meeting Minutes](#)

## 3. REPORTS BY WATER BOARD CHAIR AND WATER BOARD MEMBERS

Water Board staff, Nichole Morgan, State Board Liaison, discussed the following items: State Board Annual Priorities, Division of Drinking Water Regulations Updates, Adopted Resolution for the Cleanup and Abatement Account, State Board March 17th informational item regarding Mono Lake, Tribal Beneficial Uses Update, California Environment Protection Agency Vapor Intrusion Workshops and Delta Conveyance Project Hearing.

### COMMENTS BY WATER BOARD

Dr. Pearce announced the Alpine Cattleman's Association meeting is on April 11<sup>th</sup> in Lone Pine.

Dr. Loux asked Board members to send him an email with topics of interest for agenda items at the WQCC (Water Quality Coordinating Committee) meeting he will attend in May.

Member Dever expressed item of interest for WQCC is an update on the pollution of Imperial Beach on the Tijuana River.

## 4. AMENDED TIME SCHEDULE ORDER FOR HOT CREEK FISH HATCHERY, MONO COUNTY

Water Board staff, Trevor Miller, Senior Water Resources Control Engineer, presented the proposed amended Time Schedule Order (TSO) for the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's (CFDW's) Hot Creek Fish Hatchery.

### PUBLIC COMMENTS

Nicole Gephart, California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Nicole provided the Board will additional data collected by the Department of Fish and Wildlife from 2021 to 2025.

### COMMENTS BY WATER BOARD

Dr. Pearce asked how is groundwater gradient determined. Mr. Miller responded in the groundwater investigation of the four groundwater wells they used the elevations from the groundwater to determine the groundwater gradient.

Member Dever asked are any of the background studies going to take into account the levels of nitrogen in Hot Creek and which one of those studies will check the levels of nitrogen. Mr. Miller responded the intake water credit study would take into account the total nitrogen concentrations in the influence springs.

Dr. Loux asked is there sense of nitrogen values for the influent now. Mr. Miller responded as part of the NPDES permit there is a requirement to sample the influent springs quarterly for total nitrogen as well as nitrate and nitrite.

Dr. Loux asked how that relates to the 0.3 or the 1.5. Mr. Miller responded if it falls between 0.3 and 0.6 it is okay.

Dr. Loux asked if they are exceeding the 1.5 values consistently. Mr. Miller responded they are within compliance.

Dr. Loux asked about a basin plan objective that would potentially change the 0.3 milligrams per liter. Mr. Miller responded that basin planning staff have been looking into a possible basin plan amendment for the site-specific water quality objective for total nitrogen to identify whether the 0.3 milligrams assessed as an annual average would support beneficial uses.

Dr. Loux asked what is the likelihood of the Water Board to move in a direction to understand a potentially different objective. Ben Letton, Executive Officer, responded it was identified as a high priority issue. Elizabeth Beryt, Legal Counsel, responded there have been discussions on changes to the basin plan and if the basin plan is changed there would not be an automatic change to the NPDES permit it would have to go through public process of commenting and a board decision to change the effluent limit.

Dr. Cox asked how does the mixing zones work. Mr. Miller responded essentially allowing some dilution of the receiving water to help bring that concentration down. Changing the compliance point somewhere downstream to allow for some of the dilution.

Motion: Moved by Member Dr. Cox, seconded by Member Rick Dever, to adopt the order as presented. Dr. Loux called for a roll call vote and the motion carried by the following votes:

Chair Dr. Loux	Aye
Vice Chair Dr. Pearce	Aye
Member Dr. Cox	Aye
Member Dever	Aye

## **5. EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT**

Water Board staff, Ben Letton, 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 Updates
- b. January EO Report Article

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public speakers.

COMMENTS BY WATER BOARD

No comments by Water Board.

**6. BOARD MEMBER REQUESTS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS AND OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST**

The Water Board members will provide requests for future agenda items and other items of interest.

COMMENTS BY WATER BOARD

Dr. Loux is curious about the process for the next vision plan and update on the aquatic invasive species in the Tahoe Keys.

**7. CLOSED SESSION**

The Water Board members did not enter Closed Session.

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to come before the Water Board, the meeting adjourned at 2:14 p.m. on March 25, 2026.

Prepared by:  Adopted: May 6, 2026  
Ariel Lafarga, Water Board Clerk