
Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board

MINUTES

May 6-7, 2026

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

SPECIAL MEETING/LUNCH

Wednesday, May 6, 2026, 10:30 a.m.

15095 Amargosa Rd., Bldg. 2 - Suite 210, Victorville, CA 92394

AND

Mojave Water Agency
13846 Conference Center Dr
Apple Valley, CA 92307

Regular Meeting

Wednesday, May 6, 2026, 1:00 p.m.

Regular Meeting

Thursday, May 7, 2026, 10:00 a.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
Alonzo Poach, Supv. Engr. Geologist
Christina Guerra, Senior Engr. Geologist
Anna Garcia, Senior Engr. Geologist
Sergio Alonso, WRC Engineer
Molina Hauv, Engineering Geologist

Jan Zimmerman, Assistant Executive Officer
Reginal Tan, Senior WRC Engineer
Lorien Sanders, Senior Engr. Geologist
Andrew Robinson, Engineering Geologist
John Morales, WRC Engineer
Ariel Lafarga, Board Clerk

JEFF LOUX, CHAIR | BEN LETTON, EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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

REGULAR MEETING: Wednesday, May 6, 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 March 25, 2026, meeting Minutes as presented. Board Clerk called for a roll call vote and the motion carried by the following votes:

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

[View the adopted March 25, 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: Water Quality Coordinating Committee, Sustainable Groundwater Management Act, Issuance of Draft Decision and Draft Permit for Sites Reservoir Project, 2026 Vapor Intrusion Workshop, Delta Conveyance Project, Mono Lake Public Workshops, Water Rights Enforcement, Salton Sea Management Program, 2030 Integrated Report, Regulations for Onsite Treatment and Reuse of Nonpotable Water, Clean Water State Revolving Fund, Stakeholder Fee Meetings, Wastewater Needs Assessment Advisory Group, and Safe and Affordable Funding for Equity and Resilience.

COMMENTS BY WATER BOARD

Dr. Loux announced he will be attending Water Quality Coordinating Committee Meeting in person on May 14th in Sacramento.

Dr. Loux summarized the California Environmental Protection Agency field trip of Mono Lake on May 5th.

4. AMENDED WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS FOR MP OPERATIONS LLC MOUNTAIN PASS MINE AND MILL OPERATIONS, SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY

The Water Board considered adopting the amended Waste Discharge Requirements for the construction of a waste management unit, Reclaim Pond 2, for the containment of tailings leachate from the Northwest Tailings Disposal Facility at the Mountain Pass Mine. The amended Waste Discharge Requirements also include

monitoring network requirements, including the installation of an additional groundwater monitoring well.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public speakers.

COMMENTS BY WATER BOARD

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

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

5. WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEATH VALLEY NATIONAL PARK COW CREEK REVERSE OSMOSIS WATER TREATMENT PLANT, INYO COUNTY

The Water Board considered adopting new Waste Discharge Requirements, including monitoring and reporting requirements, for the discharge of reverse osmosis (RO) concentrate from the Cow Creek RO Water Treatment Plant in the Cow Creek housing area of Death Valley.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Brian Aillaud, National Park Service – Death Valley National Park.

Brian provided support for adopting the reverse osmosis water treatment plant.

COMMENTS BY WATER BOARD

Dr. Pearce asked what the groundwater depth around the irrigation system is. Mr. Alonso responded he does not have that number. Mr. Letton responded that the groundwater depth is 9.5 and 10.5 feet below the ground surface.

Dr. Loux asked what the dilution factor in terms of raw water is coming in mix before it is discharged. Mr. Alonso responded Lahontan has requested the park service to begin sampling.

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

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

6. STATEWIDE PER- AND POLYFLUOROALKYL SUBSTANCES (PFAS) INVESTIGATION SUMMARY FOR DRINKING WATER AND LAHONTAN PFAS INVESTIGATIONS UPDATE AND RECAP

State Board Staff, Windy Linck, Senior Engineering Geologist, Division of Water Quality, and Daniel Newton, Assistant Deputy Director, Division of Drinking Water provided an update on statewide efforts to sample drinking water wells for Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) and presented results from statewide sampling for PFAS compounds. Water Board Staff, Alonzo Poach, Supervising Engineering Geologist and Anna Garcia, Senior Engineering Geologist presented results from PFAS sampling efforts within the Lahontan Region.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public speakers.

COMMENTS BY WATER BOARD

Dr. Cox asked whether GeoTracker allows separating data points. Ms. Linck explained that on the PFAS Map, users can filter points using the left-side pane or isolate them with the lasso tool.

Dr. Cox asked whether grant funding exists for PFAS treatment. Mr. Newton responded there are grants and low interest loans available.

Dr. Pearce asked whether individual wells in Mono County could be tested for PFAS. Mr. Newton explained that there currently are no good programs or opportunities for sampling private domestic wells. Individuals could choose to collect their own water samples and have them analyzed, but doing so would be quite expensive.

Member Dever asked whether PFAS detected in drinking water sources are from lake water or all wells. Mr. Newton responded they are still receiving data, so they don't have all surface water, but they do primarily have all groundwater at this point.

Dr. Loux asked what the health effect of the chemicals are in general. Mr. Newton responded that a lot of these analytes have unknown health impacts. However, the broad spectrum is cancer, low birth rate and thyroid defects.

Member Dever asked whether the firefighting foam has been reformulated. Mr. Poach responded it has been reformulated to not contain PFAS for land applications.

Dr. Cox asked if Lahontan would require Edwards Air Force Base, George Air Force Base and China Lake to provide additional testing. Mr. Poach responded sites that were investigated are doing more testing and installing more wells with additional sampling.

Dr. Cox asked how Lahontan receives those samples. Mr. Poach responded the results come in a report to Lahontan.

7. 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. Reorganization Update
- b. Personnel Updates
- c. February EO Report Articles

- d. March EO Report Articles
- e. Water Quality Coordinating Committee Meeting

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public speakers.

COMMENTS BY WATER BOARD

Member Dever asked that the Victorville wastewater treatment plant spill report be sent to him. Shelby Barker, Senior Engineering Geologist and Enforcement Coordinator, responded she will work with Sergio Alonso to provide that report.

Dr. Cox asked what brought about this reorganization. Mr. Letton responded it was a combination of getting positions back, talking with management and trying to rebalance numbers in Victorville.

Dr. Loux expressed kudos to Daniel McClure for Table 4.1: West Fork Carson River Vision Plan Implementation Summary in the March Executive Officer Report.

8. 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 2:51 p.m. on May 6, 2026.

REGULAR MEETING: Wednesday, May 7, 2026, at 10:00 a.m.

CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

Water Board Member Dr. Jeff Loux, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Dr. Loux introduced the Water Board Members, and the Water Board staff, and discussed procedures for in-person and video and teleconference meetings.

9. PUBLIC FORUM

No public speakers.

10. REPORTS BY WATER BOARD CHAIR AND WATER BOARD MEMBERS

The Water Board members provided updates to the Water Board and the public on events and activities of interest on May 6, 2026.

11. FORMER HINKLEY DAIRY CLEANUP AND ABATEMENT ORDER INFORMATIONAL ITEM

Water Board Staff provided an overview of the Former Hinkley Dairy Cleanup and Abatement Order (CAO) and its compliance history. Water Board staff also provided an overview of its discussions with Hinkley Dairy and local residents regarding replacement water, the CAO, and the possibility of revising or rescinding the CAO.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ken Devries, Discharger.

Ken provided information about the Former Hinkley Dairy.

Loren Pitts, Hinkley Resident.

Mr. Pitts expressed his frustration with replacement water.

Brent Querfurth, Hinkley Resident.

Mr. Querfurth expressed his frustration with replacement water.

COMMENTS BY WATER BOARD

Dr. Cox asked what the Green Valley Farms image on Slide 4 of the staff presentation. Mr. Morales responded calf are housed at Green Valley Farms.

Dr. Cox asked whether Lahontan has evaluated Green Valley Farms as a potential contributor to the nitrate and total dissolved solids. Mr. Poach responded that Lahontan is in the process of evaluating as a potential source.

Dr. Loux asked what trend is being shown since the removal of the cows. Mr. Morales responded some residential wells have remain stable while others have decreased in nitrate and total dissolved solids.

Dr. Loux asked whether there is a general estimate of wellhead filtration or hooking up to Golden State Water Company. Mr. Poach responded a general estimate would be \$50,000 for wellhead treatment.

Dr. Cox asked if total dissolved solids is an MCL or SMCL. Mr. Morales responded SMCL.

Dr. Cox asked what is the total dissolved solid in that area. Mr. Morales responded he does not have specific values but certain wells in the area have been above the SMCL.

Dr. Loux asked how the board's function is technically described. Ms. Beryt responded the Water Board is primarily responsible for the protection of water quality in the region. The Board can review the implementation of the cleanup and abatement order, work with staff on improvements to the implementation, recommend or consider amendments to the cleanup and abatement order, issue other cleanup and abatement orders to other dischargers in the area, issue waste discharge requirements, and take enforcement action for non-compliance with any of the existing orders.

Dr. Loux asked for an explanation on the non-permitting or permitting of the Green Valley Farm. Mr. Letton responded Lahontan has spoken with Hector Huerta regarding an investigative order.

Dr. Cox asked what the process for a rescission of a cleanup and abatement order is. Ms. Beryt responded there are several avenues for a rescission: levels are reduced to a point where replacement water is no longer needed and issue a no further action letter or rescission, another is that the site is no longer a source which requires additional evidence.

Member Dever asked whether the Hinkley Dairy is compliant with the CAO. Mr. Tan responded the Hinkley Dairy is complying. Mr. Morrales also responded that some

residents have not been receiving bottled water in a timely manner due to routing issues.

Member Dever asked Mr. Pitts which strategy for replacement water do you have your heart set on. Mr. Pitts replied he would like to have a treatment system installed.

Ms. Zimmerman asked what the Board's expectation is to reach a solution. Dr. Loux responded with quicker collaboration and next time this item is presented to the Board there be a vote regarding plan.

Mr. Letton reiterated bottled water not being a long-term solution. Residents are not willing to receive water service from Golden State Water Company. Residents willing to have well head water filtration treatment system installed.

Mr. Letton asked legal counsel can the Hinkley Dairy and residents mediate on their own to come up with a solution. Ms. Beryt responded that the Hinkley Dairy and residents can mediate on their own to reach a solution they deem acceptable and present that to the Board.

12. FORMER GEORGE AIR FORCE BASE, VICTORVILLE – DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Water Board staff provided an overview of environmental cleanup at Former George Air Force Base in Victorville.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public speakers.

COMMENTS BY WATER BOARD

Member Cox asked about PFAS outlined in red on Slide 18. Ms. Hauv stated the outlined area in red is just the site location not an indication of PFAS.

13. 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

No comments by water board.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the Water Board, the meeting adjourned at 12:25 p.m. on May 7, 2026.

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