

Summary of Proposed Amendments to the Water Quality Control Plan for the Lahontan Region (Basin Plan)

Amendments are proposed to the *Water Quality Control Plan for the Lahontan Region* (Basin Plan) to correct errors, remove duplication, clarify applicability of the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board's regulations, and update cited State and Regional Board plans and policies. Below is a summary of the proposed changes.

1. Editorial changes to correct grammar or sentence structure in Chapters 3, 4 and 5. Chief among these grammar corrections is the replacement of the word "which" with "that" in sentences with restrictive clauses.
2. Modify Table 2-1, Beneficial Uses of Surface Waters of the Lahontan Region, for the Mojave Hydrologic Unit (HU) to remove duplication, correct errors and add receiving waters, as appropriate.
3. Chapter 3 - Water Quality Objectives
 - a. Add description of the National Toxics Rule and the California Toxics Rule that apply as water quality objectives.
 - b. Improve description and implementation of the Antidegradation Policy of the State Board and federal antidegradation regulations.
 - c. Correct an error on Lake Tahoe electrical conductivity water quality objective (change 50 degrees C to 25 degrees C).
 - d. Correct nitrate description in various tables (replace "Nitrogen as Nitrate" with the correct terminology "Nitrate as Nitrogen."
 - e. Correct Table 3-17 surface water names (replace "Owens River (Tinemaha River Outlet)" with "Owens River (Tinemaha Reservoir Outlet)" and replace "Haiwee Reservoir (outlet)" with "South Haiwee Reservoir (outlet)."
 - f. Correct Mojave River name (at Lower Narrows) in Table 3-20 (delete "West Fork").
4. Amend Chapter 4 to:
 - a. Incorporate State Board policy on mixing zones for NPDES waste discharge permits in *Policy for Implementation of Toxics Standards for Inland Surface Waters, Enclosed Bays, and Estuaries of California* (SIP). Expand the use/applicability of provisions of the SIP for additional constituents and waters not covered by the SIP, including non-federal surface waters and groundwaters.
 - b. Incorporate State Board policy authorizing use of compliance schedules in NPDES permits.
 - c. Clarify regulatory tools for enforcement.
 - d. Update discussion of the Nonpoint Source Program.
5. Section 4.1 – Clarify, simplify, and consolidate waste discharge prohibitions:
 - a. Consolidate the narrative (No. 1) and numeric (No. 2) objective violation prohibitions.
 - b. Add prohibition for unauthorized discharges (new No. 3).
 - c. Eliminate regionwide prohibition No.5, as new prohibition No. 3 and existing No. 4 covers these types of discharges.
 - d. Provide exemption criteria for prohibition Nos. 1 and 2.

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- e. Authorize Executive Officer to grant exemption to prohibitions for emergency projects.
 - f. Provide authorization/exemptions for a list of low threat discharges (discharges with low threat to water quality and with no significant effect to the environment) if specific conditions/criteria are met.
 - g. Authorize Executive Officer to grant exemptions for restoration projects.
 - h. Eliminate duplication of Surprise Valley, Cowhead Lake, Madeline Plains, Duck Flat, Susanville (prohibition Nos. 1 through 3), and Smoke HU prohibitions with revised regionwide prohibition No. 1 and new No. 3.
 - i. Clarify Eagle Drainage HU prohibitions and remove duplicative prohibitions.
 - j. Consolidate Little Truckee River and Truckee River HUs prohibitions and exemptions, remove duplicative prohibitions, add exemption criteria for prohibited surface water discharges, and modify exemption criteria for discharges within the 100-year floodplain.
 - k. Remove Executive Officer exemption delegation language, as delegations to the Executive Officer may be amended at the will of the Board.
 - l. Remove septic system prohibition for Glenshire and Devonshire subdivisions, as those areas are now sewered.
 - m. Remove the Amargosa HU prohibition No. 1, Searles HU prohibition No. 1, Antelope HU prohibition No. 2, and Mojave HU prohibition No. 6, as they are covered by the new regionwide prohibition No. 3.
 - n. Remove the Mojave HU prohibition No 5, as the area is now sewered.
 - o. Amend figures as appropriate to reflect prohibition changes.
 - p. Amend pesticide prohibition language that was approved by the Lahontan Water Board on December 7, 2011, to clarify what entities may apply for exemptions.
6. Amend section 4.4 to incorporate the 2012 State Board policy on onsite wastewater treatment systems. Modify Facilities Discussion to summarize the types of facilities in the Region, and eliminate detailed descriptions of the facilities, as the facilities change through time. Clarify graywater systems discussion.
 7. Update the Forest Management portion of section 4.9 to reflect current regulation of forest and vegetation management activities.
 8. Chapter 5 – Lake Tahoe
 - a. Remove outdated discussion of the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency and its plans and policies (throughout all sections).
 - b. Remove language that duplicates parts of Section 4.
 9. Section 5.1 – Lake Tahoe Water Quality Standards:
 - a. Improve description and implementation of the Antidegradation Policy of the State Board and federal antidegradation regulations.
 - b. Correct typographical error on ammonia formula (change 0.052 to 0.52).
 - c. Correct an error on Lake Tahoe electrical conductivity water quality objective (change 50 degrees C to 25 degrees C).
 10. Section 5.2 – Lake Tahoe HU waste discharge prohibitions:
 - a. Add general language regarding prohibitions.
 - b. Delete language of regionwide prohibitions and refer to section 4.1, where regionwide prohibitions are located.

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- c. Remove prohibitions that are duplicative of regionwide prohibitions or other Tahoe prohibitions.
 - d. Improve descriptions of floodplain and Stream Environment Zone (SEZ) prohibitions and associated exemption criteria.
 - e. Remove duplicative prohibition language for the Truckee River Hydrologic Unit.
 - f. Remove figures 5.2-1 and 5.2-2 that are no longer applicable to this section.
11. Section 5.3 – Lake Tahoe HU Best Management Practices: Update to reflect current plans, policies and regulations.
 12. Section 5.4 – Lake Tahoe HU Land Capability and Coverage Limitations: Update Basin Plan language to reference the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) and local government regulations and planning documents, and remove outdated references to regulations no longer in effect or not applicable to the Lahontan Water Board’s authority.
 13. Section 5.5 – Lake Tahoe HU Remedial Programs and Offset: Simplify discussion and refer to TRPA programs to address the effects of watershed disturbance.
 14. Section 5.6 – Lake Tahoe HU Stormwater Problems and Control Measures: Update to remove outdated references.
 15. Section 5.7 – Lake Tahoe HU SEZ, Floodplains, Shorezones and Groundwater:
 - a. Remove outdated material and most references to TRPA programs, policies and ordinances to focus on Water Board activities and authorities.
 - b. Delete prohibition exemption discussions, as exemptions are now all in Section 5.2.
 - c. Remove discussion on Executive Officer authority to grant exemptions, as delegations to the Executive Officer may be amended at the will of the Board.
 16. Section 5.8 – Lake Tahoe HU Development Restrictions: Delete entire section, as development and most land use regulation are not within the Water Board’s authority. Renumber following sections, tables, and figures accordingly.
 17. Section 5.9 – Lake Tahoe HU Wastewater Treatment, Export, and Disposal:
 - a. Remove most language referencing TRPA plans, policies and ordinances.
 - b. Simplify discussion of wastewater facilities.
 18. Sections 5.10 through 5.12: Update and remove most references to TRPA plans, policies and ordinances.
 19. Section 5.13 – Lake Tahoe HU Forest Management Activities – Update language to reflect current regulations and approaches.
 20. Sections 5.14 through 5.17: Update and remove most references to TRPA plans, policies and ordinances.
 21. Chapter 6: Update and correct references, including discussion of State and Regional Board plans and policies.
 22. Update the document Title Page and Record of Amendments to reflect the effective date of these amendments, update the Table of Contents and document pagination to reflect the changes resulting from these amendments, and make other formatting changes as needed.