

CEQA SCOPING MEETING

Proposed Basin Plan Amendment to Update
Bacteria Water Quality Objectives in the
Lahontan Region

October 14th, 2021, 4:00 pm



October 2021

California Water Boards | Lahontan Region



California Water Boards' Mission Statement

To preserve, enhance, and restore the quality of California's water resources and drinking water for the protection of the environment, public health, and all beneficial uses, and to ensure proper water resource allocation and efficient use, for the benefit of present and future generations.

Meeting Agenda

- Meeting Logistics
- Meeting Purpose
- Background
- Proposed Basin Plan Amendment (BPA)
- CEQA Process
- BPA Process and Timeline
- Scoping Comments

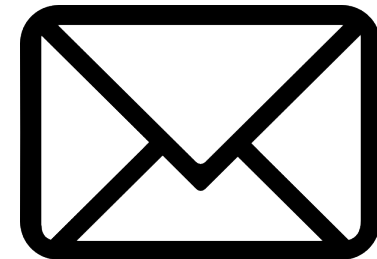
Scoping Meeting Logistics

- Meeting is being recorded
- Participants will be muted until comment period
- Chat to everyone feature is disabled
- Comments can be emailed during the presentation to:

LahontanBacteriaObjectives@waterboards.ca.gov

Participation Options

- Oral Comments (today's meeting)
- Written Comments



CEQA SCOPING MEETING

Meeting Purpose

Ed Hancock, Environmental Scientist
Lahontan Regional Water Board



CEQA Scoping Meeting Purpose

- Inform the public and interested parties about proposed changes to the Water Quality Control Plan for the Lahontan Region (Basin Plan)
- Provide opportunity for the public to provide comments and input on the scope of the environmental analysis, as required under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

Background

1975 – Lahontan Water Board adopts a fecal coliform-based water quality objective to monitor fecal pollution in regional surface waters

2012 – U.S. EPA recommends *E. coli* and Enterococci as indicators of recent fecal pollution in freshwater surface waters

2018 – State Water Board adopts the *Bacteria Provisions*^{*}, establishing an *E. coli*-based water quality objective for all Water Contact Recreation (REC-1) surface waters in California

2021 – Staff recommend the Lahontan Board pursue a Basin Plan Amendment to update the region's fecal bacteria water quality objectives

Background

* The *Bacteria Provisions* specifically did not supersede the existing Lahontan Region fecal coliform water quality objective. Presently, both the *Bacteria Provisions* **and** the fecal coliform objective apply to Lahontan Region surface waters

Proposed Basin Plan Amendment (BPA)

- Remove the fecal coliform water quality objective from the Basin Plan:

~~*The fecal coliform concentration during any 30-day period shall not exceed a log mean of 20/100 ml....*~~

- Insert language for *E. coli* and Enterococci water quality objectives
 - Objectives already apply to Lahontan Region surface waters via the 2018 State Water Board [Bacteria Provisions](#)

CEQA Process

- Water Board's planning program is a "certified exempt" regulatory program under CEQA
- **Substitute Environmental Document (SED)**
 - Uses environmental checklist to identify potential impacts
 - Must consider impacts to resource areas such as air quality, water quality, biological resources, agricultural resources, recreation, etc.

***We seek all comments on the scope
of our environmental analysis***

BPA Adoption Process and timeline

- Engage stakeholders early to solicit their input (2020/21)
- Circulate draft staff report, environmental checklist, proposed amendment language (Winter 2021/22)
- Update staff report and respond to comments (2022)
- Lahontan Water Board hearing to consider adoption of the proposed BPA (early 2023)

Document Availability

- Available on the Project Webpage
https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/lahontan/water_issues/programs/basin_plan/#basin
- Circulated via 'Basin Planning – Regionwide' email subscription list. *Subscribe here:*
https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/email_subscriptions/reg6_subscribe.html
- Project questions?
LahontanBacteriaObjectives@waterboards.ca.gov

Timeline: State Water Board, Office of Administrative Law, & U.S. EPA

- State Water Board hearing for consideration and approval (2023)
- Office of Administrative Law (OAL) review (2023)
- U.S. EPA review (2023)
- **Amendment becomes effective after EPA and OAL approval**

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Participation and Resources



California Water Boards

More Information - Project Website

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/lahontan/water_issues/programs/basin_plan/#basin

- Board Packets from previous Project Board Items (January & May 2021)
 - January Packet includes [Objectives Evaluation Staff Report](#)
- Recordings and notes from 2020 Public Workshop
- Frequently Asked Questions document
- Contact Information

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Comment Options



Comments

Comments must be project-related. Comments can:

- Identify any potentially significant environmental impacts associated with the project
- Identify reasonable project alternatives
- Identify mitigation measures the project should consider
- Identify the scope and content of the SED

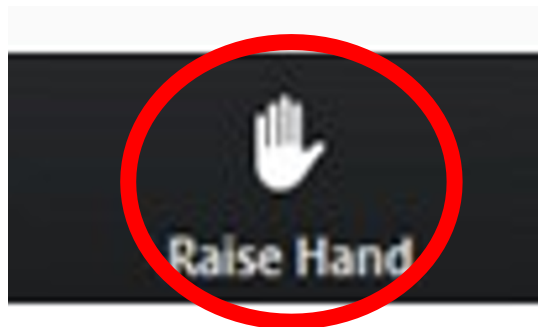
All comments may be made public

Participation Instructions

Everyone will remain muted until called upon

Computer Commands

- To raise your hand, find the “Raise Hand” button on your screen



Phone Commands

- *9 to raise hand
- *6 to mute/unmute



Oral Comments

- Please wait for the moderator to invite you to comment
- Please state your first and last name
- Please include applicable affiliations with agencies or organizations

Telephone Commands (if calling in using a telephone):

*9 to raise hand

*6 to unmute

Written Comments

CEQA Scoping Public Comment Deadline – **October 29th, 2021**

Written comments can be sent via email to:

LahontanBacteriaObjectives@waterboards.ca.gov

Subject line: "Comment Letter – Bacteria Objectives"

OR

Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board

Attention: Ed Hancock

2501 Lake Tahoe Boulevard

South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150

All comments may be made public

Thank You

- Questions or comments, please contact us:

LahontanBacteriaObjectives@waterboards.ca.gov

- Project Website:

www.waterboards.ca.gov/lahontan/water_issues/programs/basin_plan/#basin