

**CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
LAHONTAN REGION**

RESOLUTION R6T-2013-0008

**TRIENNIAL REVIEW OF WATER QUALITY CONTROL PLAN FOR
THE LAHONTAN REGION (BASIN PLAN)**

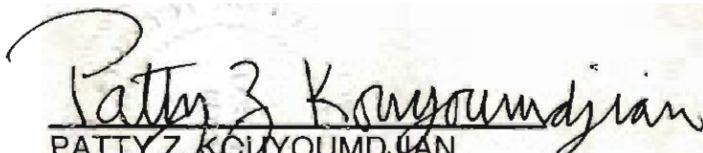
WHEREAS, the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Lahontan Region (Water Board), finds:

1. The Water Quality Control Plan for the Lahontan Region (Basin Plan) took effect March 31, 1995 and has been amended since that date.
2. State and federal laws require periodic review and revision of Basin Plans.
3. The Water Board is responsible for reviewing water quality standards and implementation plans as appropriate and for modifying and adopting standards contained in the Basin Plan under provisions set forth in Section 303(c) of the federal Clean Water Act and Section 13240, Division 7 of the California Water Code. The federal process is called "Triennial Review."
4. The Water Board and its staff implemented the 2012 Triennial Review by:
 - a. Sending letters to the Region's Basin Plan mailing list and the electronic mailing list for Triennial Review, with a list of potential planning issues for public comment.
 - b. Making the issues list and a staff report available to the public on request and posting these materials on the Water Board's Internet web page.
 - c. Noticing and conducting two public scoping meetings at its September 12 and 13, 2012 regular meeting in Barstow and October 10 and 11, 2012 regular meeting in South Lake Tahoe.
 - d. Responding to public comments received during the designated period.
 - e. Noticing and conducting a public hearing in Barstow on January 17, 2013, prior to Board consideration.
5. As a result of the Triennial Review process, the Water Board formulated the priority issues list shown in Attachment A. This attachment includes recommendations for both regional and statewide planning priorities and identifies priority topics that would require additional funding to be addressed before the next Triennial Review.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

1. The Water Board, in fulfillment of the requirements of Section 303(d) of the Federal Clean Water Act and Section 13240, Division 7 of the California Water Code, has done the following:
 - a. Concluded the 2012 Triennial Review of the Lahontan Basin Plan
 - b. Approved the priority list (Table 1 in Attachment A) for revision of the Lahontan Basin Plan
 - c. Concluded that all other planning issues identified by staff and the public during the 2012 Triennial Review process would require additional funding in order to be addressed before the next Triennial Review.
2. The Water Board's Triennial Review actions do not preclude other Basin Plan revisions that may become necessary before the next Triennial Review in 2015.

I, Patty Z. Kouyoumdjian, Executive Officer, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of a Resolution adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Lahontan Region, on January 17, 2013.


PATTY Z. KOUYOUMDJIAN
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Attachment A: 2012 Triennial Review Priority List

ATTACHMENT A

Table 1 - 2012 TRIENNIAL REVIEW RECOMMENDED PRIORITY LIST

Projects with Available Resources	Description	Resource Needs (PY)	Estimated Completion Time (or year, if known)
#1 Prohibition amendments (Ongoing work)	This project would amend Basin Plan Chapters 4 and 5 to make editorial revisions to remove inconsistencies regarding waste discharge prohibitions and exemption criteria affecting the entire Lahontan Region, add or clarify exemption criteria, and would include some unrelated changes to other parts of the plan.	0.2 (Additional resources from management, not accounted for in Basin Planning Program, will be used.)	Fall 2013
#2 Revise water quality objectives for bacteria	<p>Based on the results of ongoing field sampling in the Lahontan Region, revisions to federal criteria for recreational waters, and a proposed State Water Board policy (anticipated in early 2013), revisions will be proposed to the current regionwide objectives for "Bacteria, Coliform" specific to our region to incorporate new information including the use of E. coli as an indicator.</p> <p>Staff recommends data be collected and analyzed to determine whether bacteria site specific objectives for Bridgeport Valley are warranted. Furthermore, data should be collected and analyzed region-wide, staff should evaluate the State Board and USEPA's E. Coli and enterococci standard setting process, and staff should evaluate options for modernizing bacteria standards.</p>	3.5	2016 - 2017 (see Table 3 for detailed listing of tasks)

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Projects with Available Resources	Description	Resource Needs (PY)	Estimated Completion Time (or year, if known)
#3 Remove the MUN beneficial use designation from 2 groundwater basins at China Lake Naval Air Weapons Center	Water Board staff is reviewing technical information provided by the U.S. Navy. If the MUN use is shown not to be an existing or feasibly attainable use of the affected ground waters, Table 2-2 of the Basin Plan may be amended to remove the MUN use designation for portions of two groundwater basins.	0.4 (The Navy will provide technical support)	Spring 2014
#4 Incorporate State Water Board wastewater treatment policy into the Basin Plan and revise existing language and associated changes if needed.	The State Water Board adopted a policy including statewide control measures for onsite wastewater treatment systems (septic systems) on June 19, 2012. The policy directs Regional Water Boards to incorporate it into their Basin Plans within 12 months of its effective date. Revisions to Chapter 4 and the appendices of the Lahontan Basin Plan may also be necessary for compatibility. Staff may consider and recommend other Basin Plan revisions related to onsite wastewater treatment systems, including additional monitoring and treatment.	0.5	By April 2014 (May be completed in conjunction with Project #1 Prohibition Amendment effort)
#5 Program Manager	The Basin Planning Program Manager participates in State/Regional Water Board Roundtable activities, and workplan development, provides information to the public, etc.	0.3 (0.10 PY per year)	Ongoing

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Projects with Available Resources	Description	Resource Needs (PY)	Estimated Completion Time (or year, if known)
#6 2015 Triennial Review	Prepare the 2015 Triennial Review staff report and priority list. Host scoping meetings and hearings, as necessary, for Water Board consideration.	0.2	October 2015
#7 Miscellaneous work that will not directly result in Basin Plan amendments	Staff resources are needed for work such as: coordination with other states, other agencies, and Native American tribes regarding water quality standards; development and management of contracts related to planning; staff training, etc.	0.3 (0.1 PY per year)	Ongoing
#8 Review new scientific information to consider changes to the water quality objectives for nearshore areas of Lake Tahoe.	Evaluate research findings in late 2012 and propose next steps to set nearshore assessment indicators as a first step to developing new nearshore water quality standards. Resource needs listed here only include staff evaluation of research findings, interagency coordination, public meetings, stakeholder outreach, and development of a workplan.	0.3	2013

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Projects Requiring Additional Resources	Description	Resource Needs (PY)	Estimated Completion Time (or year, if known)
#9 Incorporate Antelope Valley Salt and Nutrient Management Plan into the Basin Plan	The State Water Board's Recycled Water Policy directs Regional Water Boards to incorporate Salt and Nutrient Management Plans (SNMPs) completed by stakeholder groups into the Basin Plans. The Antelope Valley SNMP is expected to be submitted to the Lahontan Water Board in 2014. Consider revising groundwater objectives to account for expected changes in salt and nutrients.	0.3	FY 15-16
#10 Incorporate Mojave Basin Salt and Nutrient Management Plan into the Basin Plan	The State Water Board's Recycled Water Policy directs Regional Water Boards to incorporate SNMPs completed by stakeholder groups into the Basin Plans. The Mojave Basin SNMP is expected to be submitted to the Lahontan Water Board in 2014. Consider revising water quality objectives for Mojave groundwater and river to account for expected changes in salt and nutrients.	0.3	FY 15-16

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Projects Requiring Additional Resources	Description	Resource Needs (PY)	Estimated Completion Time (or year, if known)
#11 Update Chapter 5 of the Basin Plan to reflect pending revisions to the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency's (TRPA's) regional land use and water quality plans.	Chapter 5 of the Lahontan Basin Plan incorporates the regulatory provisions of TRPA's 1988 <i>Water Quality Management Plan for the Lake Tahoe Region</i> ("208 Plan"). TRPA adopted revisions to its regional land use plan on 12/12/12, and is beginning revisions to the 208 Plan. Staff resources are needed to coordinate with TRPA to ensure consistency with the Lake Tahoe TMDL. Changes to Basin Plan Chapter 5 may be necessary to reflect the TRPA plan revisions as finally adopted.	0.3	9 months (May be completed in conjunction with Project #1 Prohibition Amendment effort)
	PY Totals for Projects #1 through #11	6.6	

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Projects Requiring Additional Resources	Description	Resource Needs (PY)	Estimated Completion Time (or year, if known)
#12 Hydromodification (Riparian Protection Policy)	Revise Basin Plan to include specific implementation measures to protect all beneficial uses of ground and surface waters from the effects of development and hydromodification. Specific emphasis is needed on protecting desert surface waters, including measures to control or prevent excessive erosion of soft soils and subsequent down stream sediment deposition, adversely impacting Aquatic and Wildlife Habitats.	1.0	One year (To begin following USEPA wetland grant funded projects)
#13 Biological indicators	Revise existing narrative water quality objective for protection of aquatic communities (nondegradation of aquatic communities objective).	1.5	Two years
#14 Squaw Valley groundwater withdrawal	Evaluate the effects of potential increased groundwater withdrawal in Squaw Valley on the water quality of Squaw Creek and its tributaries. In particular, examine the interplay of water supply and water quality influencing biological conditions and a consideration of flow requirements for Squaw Creek.	0.5	6 months (to begin after receiving data evaluation from ground water study)
#15 Revised Hot Creek water quality objectives	Develop revised objectives for Hot Creek (Owens River HU) based on changes in water quality related to increased constituent levels emanating from the natural groundwater flows entering the creek.	1.0	9 months

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Projects Requiring Additional Resources	Description	Resource Needs (PYs)	Estimated Completion Time (or year, if known)
<p>#16 Adopt or revise site-specific water quality objectives for Fish Springs in the Owens Valley to facilitate NPDES permitting for a state fish hatchery.</p>	<p>The Department of Fish and Game (DFG) operates Fish Springs hatchery in the Owens Valley where source water is ground water and the discharge from the hatchery forms Fish Springs Creek. The Basin Plan currently has an objective for Fish Springs Creek above the hatchery, however, water no longer exists at that location. Water Board proposes removing this objective from the Basin Plan and setting an objective for Fish Springs creek below the hatchery. This effort may involve gathering additional water quality information from LADWP.</p>	<p>1.0</p>	<p>One year</p>
<p>#17 Susan River site specific objectives</p>	<p>Develop revised objectives for section of the Susan River and its tributaries downstream of Susanville’s Community Services District (District). Consider lowering water quality while ensuring continued protection of beneficial uses. Staff will need to involve the District, current downstream agricultural users, and the Department of Fish and Game in evaluating alternatives including: increased treatment, increased land disposal capacity, and establishing or ensuring minimum flows in Susan River and its tributaries.)</p>	<p>2.0</p>	<p>One and a half years</p>

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Projects Requiring Additional Resources	Description	Resource Needs (PYs)	Estimated Completion Time (or year, if known)
#18 Revise Chapter 3 language on determining compliance with water quality objectives.	The proposed revisions would change water quality objectives expressed as “means of monthly means” to annual means and define minimum sample numbers and sampling frequencies for determining compliance with objectives. This could avoid the need for new Clean Water Act Section 303(d) listings based on very small sample numbers, and facilitate delisting.	1.0	One year
#19 Dairies Strategy	Revise the Basin Plan, Section 4.10, to include an updated Dairy Regulatory Strategy to address groundwater pollution from dairies. (It may be possible to implement an appropriate strategy without a Basin Plan amendment.)	0.5	One year
#20 BIOLOGICAL Beneficial Use for Mojave River	Add the Biological Use (BIO) for specific reaches of the Mojave River with remaining viable habitat, specifically from Bear Valley Road to Helendale.	0.3	9 months

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Projects Requiring Additional Resources	Description	Resource Needs (PYs)	Estimated Completion Time (or year, if known)
#21 Clarify Table 2-1, for Hydrologic Unit 628 (Mojave River)	Correct duplicative features of list of beneficial uses between the major and sub-watershed of the Mojave River Hydrologic Unit.	0.3	9 months
#22 Eagle Lake “building moratorium”	Amend the Basin Plan to lessen restrictions on building density for septic systems. (See Comment Letter “Eagle Lake” dated 10/9/12 in Attachment A.) This project may be addressed by incorporating State Board’s new Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems Policy.	0.5	One year
#23 Biotic Ligand Model for copper	Incorporate the USEPA national criteria for copper into water quality standards program using the Biotic Ligand Model. (See Comment Letter “Copper water quality standards” dated 10/1/12 in Attachment A.)	0.5	One year
#24 Revise PCPs water quality objectives	The USEPA recommends a revision of water quality objectives for pentachlorophenol (PCPs), where appropriate. The USEPA believes existing objectives are not sufficiently protective of early life stages of salmonids. (See Comment Letter “Triennial Review” dated 10/18/12 in Attachment A.)	1.0	Two years

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Projects Requiring Additional Resources	Description	Resource Needs (PYs)	Estimated Completion Time (or year, if known)
#25 Remove two beneficial uses from Piute Ponds wetlands	This project would involve removal of Groundwater Recharge (GWR) and Agricultural Supply (AGR) beneficial uses from the Piute (also known as Paiute) Ponds and wetlands in the Amargosa Creek watershed eastern Los Angeles County. The ponds and wetlands are maintained with effluent from the Los Angeles County Sanitation District No. 14 (Lancaster) wastewater treatment facilities. (See Comment Letter "Groundwater recharge and agricultural supply beneficial use designations" dated 9/27/12 in Attachment A.)	1.0	One and a half years
	PY Totals for Projects #12 through #25	12.1	