

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

**MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 14, 2022
BISHOP, CA**

ITEM 8

CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION PLAN ANNUAL UPDATE

CHRONOLOGY	
November 20, 2019	The Lahontan Water Board adopted Resolution No. R6T-2019-0277 formalizing a Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Strategy (Climate Change Strategy) for the Water Board. The Climate Change Strategy provides direction and guidance on the development and implementation of actions to address climate change impacts. Resolution R6T-2019-0277 directs staff to develop an action plan for purposes of making progress toward protection of the four key resource areas, and to report annually regarding progress.
March 10, 2021	Water Board staff presented an informational item to the Lahontan Water Board and a staff report titled “Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Action Plan for the Lahontan Region” (Climate Change Action Plan). The Climate Change Action Plan provides more context to the Water Board’s role in mitigation and adaptation efforts, summarizes guidance contained in the Climate Change Strategy, and presents a framework to clarify how actions are developed, prioritized, and reported upon.

BACKGROUND

The Lahontan Water Board prepared its Climate Change Strategy, which was formalized with the adoption of [Resolution No. R6T-2019-0277](#) (Resolution) in November 2019. The Resolution and Climate Change Strategy define the Lahontan Water Board’s role in protecting water quality and beneficial uses within the context of California’s climate change efforts and summarizes anticipated regional climate change impacts.

The Resolution directs staff to focus its efforts, as resources allow, to address the impacts of climate change on four key resource areas and Policy Statements, where water quality and beneficial use protection strategies and actions will be most effective in the face of climate change:

- (1) Protection of Wetlands, Floodplains and Headwaters
- (2) Protection of Infrastructure
- (3) Protection of Groundwater Quality & Supply
- (4) Protection of Headwater Forests and Promoting Fire Resiliency

BACKGROUND

Additionally, the Resolution and the Climate Change Strategy directs Water Board staff to develop an action plan. The Climate Change Action Plan was brought forth as an informational item presented to the Lahontan Water Board in March 2021. It contains more context to the Water Board's role in mitigation and adaptation efforts, summarizes guidance contained in the Climate Change Strategy, and provides a framework to clarify how actions are developed, prioritized, and reported upon. Resolution R6T-2019-0277 directs the Executive Officer, or their designee, to report annually to the Lahontan Water Board on progress of program specific climate change response related actions from the previous year. The Climate Change Action Plan provides additional guidance regarding the content of annual update

DISCUSSION

The Climate Change Action Plan Annual Update (Annual Update) is the second reporting to the Lahontan Water Board and public on progress related to implementation of the Climate Change Strategy and Climate Change Action Plan. The Climate Change Action Plan presents a framework in Section 5 for the content of the Annual Update. This discussion and the presentation to the Water Board follow that framework.

This Annual Update reports on climate change actions that were accomplished during fiscal year 2021-2022 (July 2021-June 2022), ongoing actions, actions proposed for the coming fiscal year (July 2022- June 2023), updates on partnerships and outreach, and a summary of emerging issues and statewide policy updates.

Accomplishments supporting the Climate Change Strategy are summarized in Enclosure 1. Over the 12-month reporting period for this update, the Water Board adopted six Orders that support the Policy Statements. One of the Orders is a new general permit for the Water Board setting requirements for groundwater remediation projects. This general permit will provide streamlined and consistent groundwater remediation permitting for years to come and will facilitate protection of groundwater resources throughout the region in support of Policy Statement 3. Other accomplishments include the adoption of the Triennial Review, which includes several proposed basin plan amendments that will further the goals of the Policy Statements and ongoing enforcement of floodplain development prohibitions.

In fiscal year 2022-2023 Water Board staff will continue implementation of the framework that was presented in the Climate Change Action Plan (Section 4). This includes summarizing and tracking potential actions, using work planning to refine the proposed work, enhancing internal communication related to integration of climate change into our numerous programs, and producing this Annual Update. Additional targeted projects include ongoing enforcement of floodplain development prohibitions to protect riparian areas, utilizing new tools and updated processes such as the Statutory Exemption for Restoration Projects (SERP) in the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), updating expired permits which allows for incorporation of climate change issues, starting the research and process to align our groundwater basins with those used by the Department of Water Resources, and finalizing a forestry program strategy and plan to update the existing Timber Waiver.

DISCUSSION

Water Board staff continue to engage in numerous partnerships that support the Policy Statements, including with the California Tahoe Conservancy, the Sierra Meadows Partnership, and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. Water Board staff also support ongoing implementation of the numerous adopted Salt and Nutrient Management Plans and coordination with Integrated Regional Water Management groups.

Significant ongoing and emerging issues that are exacerbated by climate change include ongoing occurrences of freshwater harmful algal blooms, extreme drought, aquatic invasive species, and wildfires. The State Water Resources Control Board and the State of California continue to take actions to mitigate against these issues, and update policies related to climate change resilience and protection of natural resources, including:

- [Sea-Level Rise Action Plan for California](#)
- [State Adaptation Strategy](#)
- [Extreme Heat Action Plan](#)
- [California's 5th Climate Change Assessment](#)

CLIMATE CHANGE RESPONSE

Presentation of the Annual Update is consistent with Resolution R6T-2019-0277, the Water Board's Climate Change Strategy by providing an update to the Lahontan Water Board as directed by Resolution R6T-2019-0277.

PUBLIC OUTREACH/INPUT

No public outreach was associated with this item.

PRESENTERS

Laurie Scribe, Water Board, Senior Environmental Scientist - Specialist

RECOMMENDATION

This is an informational item, and no formal action is requested, though Water Board members may give direction to staff.

ENCLOSURE	ITEM	BATES NUMBER
1	Summary of Climate Change Actions July 2021 to June 2022	8 - 5

ENCLOSURE 1

Summary of Climate Change Actions July 2021 to June 2022

Adopted Orders that support the Policy Statements:

[Board Order No. R6T-2022-0004](#)

Waste Discharge Requirements and National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit for the Tahoe Keys Property Owners Association Tahoe Keys Lagoons Aquatic Weed Control Methods Test

[Board Order No. R6V-2022-2009](#)

Revised Waste Discharge Requirements for San Bernardino County Solid Waste Management Division Barstow Class III Landfill, Class II Surface Impoundments, and Septage Sludge Landfarm, San Bernardino County

[Board Order No. R6T-2022-0011](#)

2022 Triennial Review of the Water Quality Control Plan for the Lahontan Region (Basin Plan)

[Board Order No. R6V-2022-0014](#)

Closure and Post-Closure Waste Discharge Requirements for Trogon Development, LLC, Coolwater Generating Station, San Bernardino County

[Board Order No. R6V-2022-0023](#)

Revised Waste Discharge Requirements for Los Angeles County Sanitation District No. 14 Lancaster Water Reclamation Plant, Los Angeles County

[Board Order No. R6-2022-0020](#)

General Waste Discharge Requirements for In -situ and Ex -situ Groundwater Remediation Projects

Other actions that support the Climate Change Strategy:

- Board Workshop on the Draft Basin Plan Amendment for Fecal Bacteria Water Quality Objectives (March 2022)
- Collaboration and support in the establishment of the Mojave Mitigation Bank
- Board Workshop on Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS), the State of What We Know and What We Don't Know (May 2022)
- Wildfire response and monitoring (Fall 2021)
- Updated the Water Board climate change webpage
- On-going enforcement of floodplain development prohibitions in the Tahoe and Truckee Hydrologic Units
- Continue to engage with partner groups and agencies such as the California Tahoe Conservancy, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and Mojave Water Agency