

Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board **Watershed Management Initiative**

(2002)

Overview

The water resource protection efforts of the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) and the regional water quality control boards (RWQCBs) are guided by a five year Strategic Plan (which was updated in 1997). A key component of the Strategic Plan is a watershed management approach for water resources protection.

To protect water resources, point and nonpoint source discharges, ground and surface water interactions, and water quality / water quantity relationships must be considered within a watershed context. These complex relationships present considerable challenges to water resource protection programs. The Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board, the other eight RWQCBs, and the SWRCB are responding to these challenges with the Watershed Management Initiative (WMI). The WMI is designed to integrate various surface and ground water regulatory programs while promoting cooperative, collaborative efforts within a watershed. It is also designed to focus limited resources on key issues.

The following document is referred to as the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board's Watershed Management Initiative Chapter (Chapter). Each RWQCB updates its WMI Chapter semiannually. The combined WMI Chapters of all nine RWQCBs (as well as that of the SWRCB) constitute the Integrated Plan for Implementation of the WMI.