



Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board

MINUTES

June 28, 2023

The Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board (Water Board) conducted this meeting at the location shown below:

Eastern Sierra Tri-County Fairgrounds
Tallman Building
475 Sierra St,
Bishop, CA 93514

And

Via Video and Teleconference (Gov. Code § 11133)

Water Board Members

Kimberly Cox, Helendale
Amy Horne, Ph.D., Truckee
Keith Dyas, Rosamond

Peter C. Pumphrey, Chair, Chalfant (Absent)
Essra Mostafavi, Bishop

State Water Board

Elizabeth Beryt, Office of Chief Counsel

Water Board Staff

Mike Plaziak, Executive Officer
Jan Zimmerman, Sr. Engineering Geologist
Dan Sussman, Sr Environmental Scientist
Robert Tucker, Sr. WRC Engineer

Ben Letton, Assistant Executive Officer
Andrew Jensen, Environmental Program Mgr.
Timothy Middlemis-Clark, Supervising WRC Engineer
Katrina Fleshman, Executive Assistant

[View the full Agenda and listen to the audio of this meeting](#)

REGULAR MEETING: Wednesday, June 28, 2023, @ 10:00 a.m.

CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

Vice-Chair, Dr. Amy Horne, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and discussed procedures for in-person and video and teleconference meeting. Vice-Chair Dr. Horne introduced AGP Video staff. Vice-Chair Dr. Horne introduced the Water Board Members and the Water Board staff.

PETER C. PUMPHREY, CHAIR | MICHAEL R. PLAZIAK, EXECUTIVE OFFICER

1. PUBLIC FORUM

No public comments.

2. MINUTES

Motion: Moved by Member Dyas, seconded by Member Cox, to approve the April 26, 2023, meeting Minutes as presented. Vice-Chair Dr. Horne called for a roll call vote and the motion carried per the following votes:

Chair Pumphrey	Absent
Vice-Chair Dr. Horne	Aye
Member Dr. Cox	Aye
Member Dyas	Aye
Member Mostafavi	Aye

[View the adopted April 26, 2023, Meeting Minutes](#)

3. REPORTS BY WATER BOARD CHAIR AND WATER BOARD MEMBERS

Water Board member, Essra Mostafavi, indicated 160 acres was acquired by the Mono Lake Kadzadika tribe.

4. EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

The Executive Officer, Michael R. Plaziak, provided an update to the Water Board and public on key actions and activities in the Lahontan region, including the items below.

- a. Personnel Report. Introduced new staff.
- b. Revision of USGS OFR 2023-1043 (Natural and Anthropogenic Hexavalent Chromium, Cr (VI), in Groundwater near a Mapped Plume)
- c. Kelso Wash Train Derailment.

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS BY WATER BOARD

Water Board member, Dr. Amy Horne asked about the Climate Change Strategy Lahontan developed a few years ago, and one was to protect infrastructure. Dr. Horne asked Water Board staff if Lahontan is being proactive in helping infrastructure, so it is less vulnerable to intense storms. Executive Officer, Mike Plaziak, replied that the responsibility for the infrastructure is the that of the facilities. And he would expect that the facilities are working with State Board and the Department of Finance to get or grants to support that effort. Our Lahontan staff works with the facilities as we regulate the facilities.

Water Board staff, Robert Tucker, Sr. WRC Engineer, replied to Dr. Horne that the new sanitary sewer overflow permit was put in place the State Water Board.

5. FY 22/23 PRIORITIES/ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Water Board staff, Michael R. Plaziak, Executive Officer, presented an overview of the region's accomplishments from the past year and the strategic plan for the next fiscal year. Mr. Plaziak discussed the region's results from the 2022 Engagement Survey and how "The Prioritized Leader" (TPL) is helping the team address pace and developing a sustainable workload.

Water Board staff, Timothy Middlemis-Clark, Supervising Water Resource Control Engineer, presented an overview of the Regulatory and Cleanup Division, including status of programs and staff assignments.

Water Board staff, Andrew Jensen, Environmental Program Manager, presented an overview of the Compliance and Planning Division, and provided an overview of the Strategic Narrative Summary.

Water Board staff, Jan Zimmerman, Supervising Engineering Geologist, gave an overview of accomplishments of the South Lahontan Division. Ms. Zimmerman also provided an overview of the 2022/2023 fiscal year Performance Targets.

Water Board staff, Ben Letton, Assistant Executive Officer, presented an overview of the Lahontan Water Board's 2022/2023 Key Accomplishments and status of 2022/2023 Performance Targets. Mr. Letton Discussed, what to expect for the 2023/2024 fiscal year for the Lahontan Water Board.

Lastly, Mr. Plaziak closed the presentation with a summary of expectations for the Lahontan Water Board for the 2023/2024 fiscal year.

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS BY WATER BOARD

Water Board member, Dr. Horne asked about the needs for more resources, and asked how Water Board members can help with that. Water Board staff, Mr. Letton, replied that Lahontan Executives are working on a budget change proposal to submit to state board in April 2024.

Water Board member, Dr. Horne, asked Mr. Plaziak, what can the Water Board members expect for the August Water Board meeting. Water Board staff, Mr. Plaziak, responded that the focus will be on the April USGS study status of PG&E actions. Mr. Plaziak went on to say he would like the Water Board members to provide their questions and or comments to Lahontan staff, regarding Dr. John Izbicki's USGS Chromium Background Study presented at the April 26, 2023, Water Board meeting, by July 31, 2023.

6. Basin Plan Amendment to Remove the Regionwide Bacteria Water Quality Objectives and Insert Discussion of the REC-1 Bacteria Provisions.

Water Board staff, Daniel Sussman, Senior Environmental Scientist, held a hearing to consider adopting a Resolution to adopt an amendment to the Water Quality Control Plan for the Lahontan Region to remove the regionwide fecal coliform and narrative coliform water quality objectives and to insert the statewide REC-1 Bacteria Provisions, and to adopt and approve the Substitute Environmental Document.

Mr. Sussman indicated the proposed amendment includes revisions to part of Chapters 2, 3, 4, and 5 of the Basin Plan.

Motion: Moved by Member Keith Dyas, seconded by Member Dr. Kimberly Cox, to adopt a Resolution to adopt an amendment to the Water Quality Control Plan for the Lahontan Region to remove the regionwide fecal coliform and narrative coliform water quality objectives, and to adopt and approve the Substitute Environmental Document. Vice-Chair Dr. Horne called for a roll call vote and the motion carried per the following votes:

Chair Pumphrey	Absent
Vice-Chair Dr. Horne	Aye
Member Dr. Cox	Aye
Member Dyas	Aye
Member Mostafavi	Aye

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS BY WATER BOARD

Water Board member, Keith Dyas, asked what the acronym “OAL” stands for and how long is OAL allowed to review the Basin Plan. Mr. Sussman replied that OAL stands for “Office of Administrative Law” and they have thirty work days to review the Administrative Record for the Basin Plan amendment.

Water Board member, Dr. Cox, asked while the Basin Plan amendment is being worked by State Board, OAL, and USEPA, can Water Board begin implementing those standards in the plan, or do we have to wait for this to go through the review process. Mr. Sussman replied that the statewide REC-1 Water quality objectives (standards) apply to surface waters regionwide already and should be relied upon. In terms of the outgoing water quality objectives, that’s more of a policy issue on how we prioritize their use.

Water Board member, Dr. Horne, asked about the purpose of narrative water quality objectives, and if the need has changed over time. Mr. Sussman explained that both narrative and numeric objectives are water quality objectives under the clean Water Act they’re often put in place to provide some flexibility to the Water Board.

Dr. Horne inquired about the thirty-four surface waters on the 303(d) list that exceed the fecal coliform objective, and asked if this passes, how many will be reduced. Mr. Sussman indicated that in our Staff report, it shows nine.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Theresa Dunham, Attorney at Law, Kahn, Soares & Conway, LLP. expressed her support for the Basin Plan Amendment and appreciation of the Lahontan Water Board staff engagement.

Victor Ventura, Environmental Associate from the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, expressed his support for the Basin Plan Amendment and appreciation of Lahontan Water Board staff engagement.

7. CLOSED SESSION

The Water Board members did not go into Closed Session on Wednesday, June 28, 2023.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the Water Board, the meeting adjourned at 12:40 p.m. on June 28, 2023.

Prepared by: _____ Adopted: _____
Katrina Fleshman, Water Board Clerk