

Bacteria Water Quality Objectives Evaluation Project

Question and Answer Session

Wednesday, August 5th 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.



Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board

Welcome!

- Thank you for participating this evening
- Please make sure to mute your microphone
- Meeting materials available at: https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/lahontan/water_issues/programs/basin_plan/#basin



Meeting logistics

- Take breaks as you need them:
2-hour workshop with a 10-minute break about halfway through but we encourage everyone to take care of themselves
- Purpose of workshop: to answer your questions about this Project. Please ask for clarification on any concerns you might have

How to submit questions and comments:

- **Via email:** LahontanBacteriaObjectives@waterboards.ca.gov
 - Include subject: *Q&A Session: 'Question' or 'Comment'*
 - Please provide the following information:
 - Your First and Last Name
 - Who you represent (i.e., self, another person, an organization)
 - Indicate if you will read your question or comment yourself, or if you would like staff to read it for you
 - Your concise question or comment

How to ask questions and comments (2):

- **Via Zoom:** Use the 'raise your hand' function at the bottom of the participants window to the right of the Zoom screen. Wait for your name to be called
- **Via telephone:** Press *9 to raise your hand. When your name is called, press *6 to unmute yourself. When you are finished speaking, please press *6 again to mute

Overview of today's meeting

- [Information video](#) / [Presentation slides](#) / [Project website](#)
- Recap of Project information
 - Timeline
 - Purpose
 - Potential Project strategies
- Questions and informal comments to staff

Project Timeline

- November 2018: Lahontan Water Board makes Bacteria Objectives Evaluation a top planning priority
- July 2019: Project work begins
- March 2020: Public workshops postponed due to COVID-19 restrictions
- **July/August 2020: Online engagement with interested parties**
- *November 2020: Water Board informational item at Barstow meeting*
- *February 2021: CEQA begins*

Why is there a Project?

- Two bacteria objectives in the Lahontan Region
 - Fecal coliform objective in Lahontan Basin Plan
 - *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*) objective adopted by State Water Board in 2018
- Progression of research and scientific understanding regarding Fecal Indicator Bacteria (FIB)

Some Project goals...

- Update fecal coliform indicator of Basin Plan to reflect modern indicator science
- Provide regulatory clarity
- Protections for high-quality waters

Some potential options:

1. Relying only on Statewide *E. coli*/REC-1 use objective
2. Apply *E. coli*/REC-1 use objective together with a numeric antidegradation guideline assigned to high-quality waters in the Region
3. Develop a Regionwide objective and/or beneficial use with *E. coli* as the indicator bacteria
 - New objective would be approximate to the current fecal coliform objective

Next Steps

- Project Strategies: further development and Staff Report
- **November 2020** - Lahontan Water Board Meeting
 - Staff will present Project information
 - Board may provide direction on Project strategies
- Interested persons can communicate directly with Project staff – what are your thoughts and concerns?

Questions and Comments Session

- This is your opportunity to participate early in this project
- Your questions and comments are important to us
- Please feel free to ask any questions, or provide your observations, about bacteria water quality

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Contact information

- Webpage:
https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/lahontan/water_issues/programs/basin_plan/#basin
- Project email address:
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