

# *Public Workshop on the Mono Lake Drought Response Considerations*



February 15, 2023



# *Item 3: Mono Lake Current Conditions*

**Kootzaduka'a Tribe**

Chairwoman Charlotte Lange  
& Dean Tonenna



February 15, 2023

# Tribal Perspectives on Mono Lake



















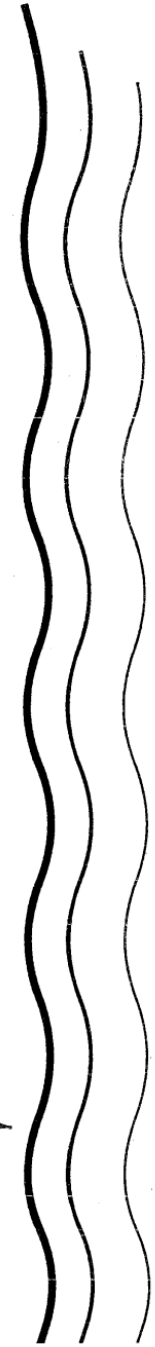












**MONO LAKE BASIN  
WATER RIGHT DECISION 1631**

**Decision and Order Amending Water Right  
Licenses to Establish Fishery Protection Flows  
in Streams Tributary to Mono Lake and  
to Protect Public Trust Resources at Mono Lake  
and in the Mono Lake Basin**

**(Water Right Licenses 10191 and 10192, Applications 8042**

**September 20, 1994**

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD**



**STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD  
RESOLUTION NO. 2021-0050**

CONDEMNING RACISM, XENOPHOBIA, BIGOTRY, AND RACIAL INJUSTICE  
AND STRENGTHENING COMMITMENT TO RACIAL EQUITY, DIVERSITY,  
INCLUSION, ACCESS, AND ANTI-RACISM

**Acknowledging Racism and Racial Inequities**

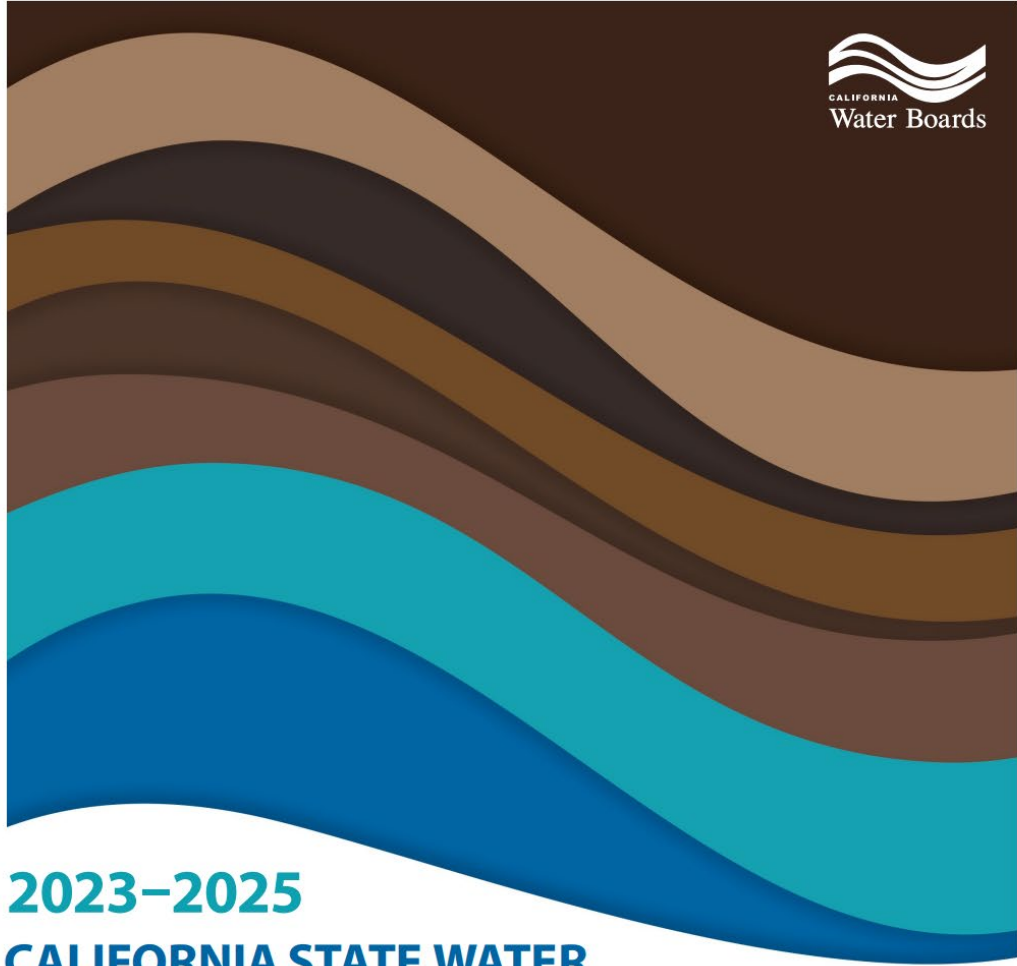
7. Historically, the Water Boards' programs were established over a structural framework that perpetuated inequities based on race. These inequities persist, and prior to this resolution, the Water Boards had not explicitly acknowledged the role racism has played in creating inequities in affordability and access to clean and safe water and in the allocation and protection of water resources. Toward reconciliation, the State Water Board now acknowledges:

a. White supremacy is a systemically and institutionally perpetuated system of exploitation and oppression of nations and people of color by white people for the purpose of maintaining and defending a system of wealth, power, and privilege. In the United States, white supremacy led to the genocide and forced relocation of Native American people to facilitate white resettlement and the enslavement of Native American and Black people for white economic gain. White supremacy has been served by many other government policies targeting people of color, including, for example, race-focused immigration restrictions, the internment of Japanese Americans, exclusionary housing and labor policies, and lack of investment in

Black, Indigenous, and people of color communities. The impacts of federal, state, and local decision-making and policies made decades ago continue to impose challenges for Black, Indigenous, and people of color communities, which still grapple with the lasting effects of historical racial inequities stemming from those governmental decisions and policies.

- b. The colonization, displacement, and genocide of Native American people in the United States have contributed to the loss of water resource and watershed management practices that supported Native American people's traditional food sources and ways of life. Watersheds are now primarily managed through large-scale diversion of water for municipal, industrial, agricultural, and commercial beneficial uses to the detriment of traditional, local, and cultural uses and without compensation, recognition, or replacement. Historical land seizures, broken promises related to federal treaty rights, and failures to recognize and protect federal reserved rights have resulted in the loss of associated water rights and other natural resources of value, as well as cultural, spiritual, and subsistence traditions that Native American people have practiced since time immemorial.
- c. As a result, California Native American Tribes continue to face barriers to defining, quantifying, accessing, protecting, and controlling their ancestral lands, water rights, instream flows, cultural resources, and beneficial uses. Redistribution of water has reduced or eliminated access to healthy traditional food sources such as smelt, salmon, freshwater mussels, and freshwater plants. Disconnection from traditional ancestral land and water and the unavailability of traditional foods have been linked to serious and pervasive health issues. In addition, low or non-existent instream flows, and associated water quality problems, impair or prevent water-related cultural, spiritual, and subsistence practices. These injustices are exacerbated by climate change and complex water resource and watershed management processes.
- d. The historical seizures of land from people of color have had, and continue to have, long-standing, oppressive impacts that extend beyond the loss of the land itself. These impacts include the loss of the associated water rights and other natural resources of value, lack of access to affordable and reliable governmental services, and forced relocation to areas with fewer or lower quality natural resources.





2023-2025

CALIFORNIA STATE WATER  
RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD

# RACIAL EQUITY ACTION PLAN



we look at things. And we don't.  
Just check the box on racial equity or think about it after the fact.



# Lead Role: Rights

## Strategic Direction #1: Integrating Racial Equity, Measuring Impact

*Goal 1b: Programs and policies are evaluated and realigned to address racial injustices.*

Action	Support	Stage	Performance Indicators
<p>Consider impacts to BIPOC communities, tribal beneficial uses and cultural resources, and related ecosystems when developing, implementing, and enforcing instream flow requirements, consistent with all applicable laws and requirements, including those related to water rights, basin planning, public trust resources, and endangered species.</p>	<p>OCC OE</p>	<p>3(R)</p>	<p>Develop and update webpage that identifies streams with ongoing instream flow development activities.</p>



# Lead Role: OE

## Strategic Direction #1: Integrating Racial Equity, Measuring Impact

Goal 1b: Programs and policies are evaluated and realigned to address racial injustices.

Action	Support	Stage	Performance Indicators
Participate as partners in implementing the Environmental Justice Enforcement Action Plan with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the California Environmental Protection Agency ( <a href="http://bit.ly/EJ_enforcement_plan">bit.ly/EJ_enforcement_plan</a> )	-	2	<p>Staff participation in EJ community listening sessions</p> <p>Staff participation in EJ Enforcement Rapid Response Team</p> <p>Participation in community outreach training for enforcement staff</p> <p># Multimedia inspections in overburdened communities</p>



- c. As a result, California Native American Tribes continue to face barriers to defining, quantifying, accessing, protecting, and controlling their ancestral lands, water rights, instream flows, cultural resources, and beneficial uses. Redistribution of water has reduced or eliminated access to healthy traditional food sources such as smelt, salmon, freshwater mussels, and freshwater plants. Disconnection from traditional ancestral land and water and the unavailability of traditional foods have been linked to serious and pervasive health issues. In addition, low or non-existent instream flows, and associated water quality problems, impair or prevent water-related cultural, spiritual, and subsistence practices. These injustices are exacerbated by climate change and complex water resource and watershed management processes.



Decisions regarding Mono Lake have impacts that span generations into the future. Emergency actions are needed to restore Mono Lake before the situation get worse. Mono Lake has sustained our tribe for generations. Our tribal heritage relies upon a lake that is healthy and strong.