

CEQA Scoping Meeting

Proposed Basin Plan Amendments

Removal of Municipal and Domestic Supply
Beneficial Use
for Groundwater in Salt Wells Valley and
Shallow Groundwater in Indian Wells Valley

May 9, 2013

Mary Fiore-Wagner, Environmental Scientist
Omar Pacheco, Engineering Geologist



Agenda

1. CEQA Scoping

- Purpose
- What is the "project"?
 - MUN Beneficial Use
 - Criteria to justify MUN Use dedesignation
- Possible Approaches
- Identify reasonably foreseeable significant adverse environmental impacts

2. Amendment Timeline

Purpose of Scoping

Solicit feedback to guide environmental analysis of:

- Proposed amendments.
- Potential alternatives to amendments.
- Potential environmental impacts that could result from amendments.

3

Defining the Project

Project is:

Basin Plan Amendment to remove the Municipal and Domestic Supply Beneficial Use (MUN) from portions of ground water basins located beneath NAWS, China Lake.

- **Indian Wells Valley**– shallow, unconfined GW beneath the eastern portion of China Lake
- **Salt Wells Valley**– portion within the NAWS, China Lake Boundary

Proposed Amendments do not affect other designated beneficial uses.

4

Background on the Removal of MUN Use

- Water Quality or background studies began when the Navy began investigating and cleaning up contaminants in soil and groundwater.
- The objective of these background studies were used to establish background concentrations of naturally occurring inorganic constituents in aquifer.
- Based on these background studies results, the Navy found that shallow aquifer in the IWV basin and the aquifer in the SWV basin are impaired with high concentrations of naturally occurring arsenic and total dissolved solids (TDS).

Based on the results of these studies, the Navy found that the shallow groundwater in the IWV basin and the groundwater in the SWV is too impaired to be used as drinking water without further treatment.

5

MUN Beneficial Use

Municipal and Domestic Supply (MUN)

Beneficial Uses of waters used for community, military, or individual water supply systems including, but not limited to, drinking water supply.

MUN designation applies to the Salt Wells Valley and the Indian Wells Valley ground water basins.

6

Waters Not Considered Suitable or Potentially Suitable

Sources of Drinking Water Policy (Resolution 88-63)

Surface and ground waters where:

- a. TDS >3,000 mg/L, and not expect to supply a public water system, or
- b. Contamination by natural processes that can not be reasonably treated for domestic use, or
- c. Water source does not provide sufficient water to supply a single well capable of producing an average, sustained yield of 200 gallons per day.

7

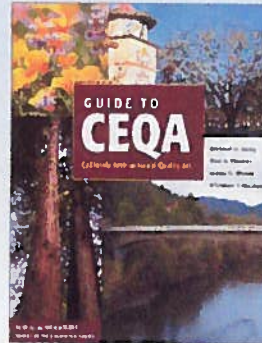
Possible Approaches

1. Adopt the MUN Use Removal as proposed in the Navy's Technical Justification.
2. Modify the proposed area of de-designation.
Based on site geology and/or iso-concentrations lines.
3. No Project, No Change.

8

Checklist Categories

- I. Aesthetics
- II. Agricultural Resources
- III. Air Quality
- IV. Biological Resources
- V. Cultural Resources
- VI. Geology/Solts
- VII. Hazards & Hazardous Materials
- VIII. Hydrology & Water Quality
- IX. Land Use/Planning
- X. Mineral Resources
- XI. Noise
- XII. Population/Housing
- XIII. Public Services
- XIV. Recreation
- XV. Transportation/Traffic
- XVI. Utilities/Service Systems
- XVII. Mandatory Findings of Significance



9

Potential Environmental Impacts

- Desert Tortoise & Mojave Tui Chub
- Water Supply to accommodate population growth
- Petroglyphs
- Demand for Water for future research and training needs at China Lake



10

Proposed Amendment Timeline

1. Project scoping meeting (today). Written comments due June 10, 2013.
2. Release of Substitute Environmental Documentation (draft Basin Plan Amendment, Staff Report, CEQA checklist) (Late Summer 2013).
3. 45-day public comment period following release of documents.
4. Water Board public hearing to consider adoption of proposed amendments & environmental document.
5. State Board approval.
6. Office of Administrative Law approval.

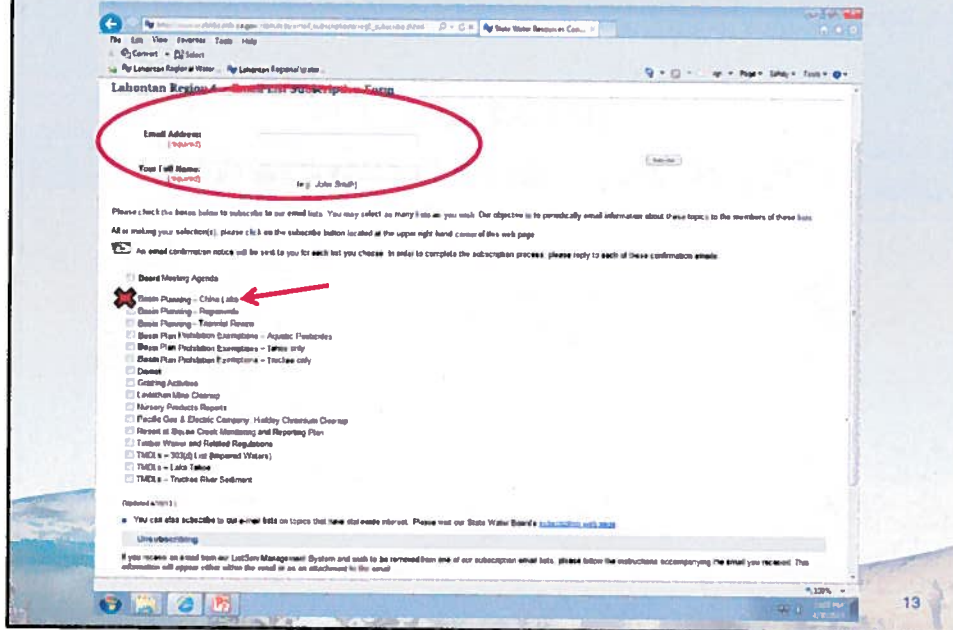
11

Lahontan Web Link: <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/Lahontan>

The screenshot shows the website for the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board. The page layout includes a top navigation bar with the agency name and a search box. A left sidebar contains a menu with categories like 'About Us', 'Water Quality', and 'Public Scoping'. The main content area features a large banner for the 'California Lahontan Region' and a section titled 'Public Scoping on Proposed Basin Plan Amendments' with several news items. A red circle highlights the 'Public Scoping on Proposed Basin Plan Amendments' link in the left sidebar.

12

Lahontan Web Link: <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/Lahontan>



We welcome your comments

To ensure scoping comments are considered, they must be received in writing at the Water Board by:

June 10, 2013.

Send comments to:

Mary Fiore-Wagner
Lahontan Water Board
2501 Lake Tahoe Blvd.
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150

Email: mfwagner@waterboards.ca.gov

Phone: 530.542.5425

Website: <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/Lahontan>

**Questions/
CEQA Scoping Comments**

