CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD LAHONTAN REGION

RESOLUTION NO. R6T-2019-0246

APPROVAL OF AMENDMENTS TO THE WATER QUALITY CONTROL PLAN FOR THE LAHONTAN REGION TO MODIFY MOJAVE RIVER BENEFICIAL USE DESIGNATIONS AND OTHER MINOR REVISIONS

WHEREAS, the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Lahontan Region, (Lahontan Water Board) finds that:

- 1. The amendments to the *Water Quality Control Plan for the Lahontan Region* (Basin Plan) were developed in accordance with Water Code section 13240.
- 2. The Porter-Cologne Act declares, "the quality of all the waters of the state shall be protected for the use and enjoyment by the people of the state." (Water Code section 13000.)
- 3. Pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21080.5, the Resources Agency has approved the Regional Water Boards' basin planning process as a "certified regulatory program" that adequately satisfies the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Public Resources Code section 21000 et seq.) requirements for preparing environmental documents. (California Code of Regulations title 14, §15251, subdivision (g); California Code of Regulations, title 23, §3777.)
- 4. The Substitute Environmental Documentation for this project consists of the final Staff Report and the environmental checklist dated June 2019, comments and responses to comments, the draft Basin Plan amendment language, and this Resolution.
- 5. The amendments modify the Basin Plan to both add and remove beneficial use designations for the Mojave River and its tributaries, modify language in Chapter 3, Table 3-20 to clarify the application of site specific objectives for the Mojave River, replace Figure 3-13 to correctly depict the locations cited in Table 3-20, update language in Chapter 4 related to federal Wild and Scenic River designations, and insert language in Chapter 4, Section 4.11 (Recreation) related to off highway vehicle routes and protecting desert riparian habitat.
- 6. The Substitute Environmental Documentation concludes that the adoption of the Basin Plan amendments will not result in any significant environmental impacts. As a result, no analysis is presented regarding reasonable alternatives to the project and mitigation measures to avoid or reduce any significant or potentially significant adverse environmental impacts. (Cal. Code Regs. tit. 23, §3777, subd. (e).)

- 7. A CEQA scoping meeting was conducted on April 24, 2018 in Apple Valley. A notice of the CEQA scoping meeting was provided on the Water Board's website and was sent to interested parties, including partner agencies, environmental groups, and other individuals interested in Basin Plan amendments.
- 8. A draft Staff Report and the Basin Plan amendments were prepared and distributed to interested individuals and public agencies on March 1, 2019 for review and comment in accordance with state environmental regulations (California Code of Regulations, title 23, section 3775 et seq.).
- 9. The Lahontan Water Board heard and considered public comments presented at the public hearing held on June 12, 2019 in Barstow.
- 10. The record, including the Staff Report and environmental checklist, indicates that these amendments are consistent with the provisions of the State Water Resources Control Board's (State Water Board) Resolution No. 68-16, "Statement of Policy with Respect to Maintaining High Quality Waters in California" and federal antidegradation policy prescribed in 40 CFR section 131.12.
- 11. The Lahontan Water Board finds that the Substitute Environmental Documentation satisfies the requirements for the implementation of CEQA for exempt regulatory programs, as set forth in California Code of Regulations, title 23, section 3775 et seq.
- 12. The amendments meet the necessity standard of the Administrative Procedures Act, Government Code section 11353, subdivision (b).

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

- 1. The Lahontan Water Board hereby adopts and approves the Substitute Environmental Documentation that was prepared, where applicable, in accordance with the provisions applicable to the certified exempt regulatory programs, California Code of Regulations, title 23, sections 3777 through 3779.
- 2. Pursuant to Water Code section 13240, et seq., the Lahontan Water Board, after considering the entire administrative record, including all oral testimony and written comments, adopts the amendments to the *Water Quality Control Plan for the Lahontan Region* as set forth in Enclosure 1.
- 3. The Executive Officer is directed to forward copies of the Basin Plan amendments and the administrative record to the State Water Board in accordance with the requirements of Water Code section 13245.
- 4. The Lahontan Water Board requests that the State Water Board approve the Basin Plan amendments in accordance with the requirements of Water Code sections 13245 and 13246 and forward them to the California Office of Administrative Law (OAL) for approval.

- 5. Following approval of the Basin Plan amendments by the State Water Board and OAL, the Executive Officer shall file a Notice of Decision with the Natural Resources Agency. The record of the final Substitute Environmental Documentation shall be retained at the Lahontan Water Board's office at 2501 Lake Tahoe Boulevard, South Lake Tahoe, California, in the custody of the Lahontan Water Board's administrative staff.
- 6. If during its approval process, Lahontan Water Board staff, State Water Board or OAL determines that minor, non-substantive changes to the amendment language or supporting staff report and environmental checklist are needed for clarity or consistency, the Executive Officer may make such changes, and shall inform the Lahontan Water Board of any such changes.
- I, Patty Z. Kouyoumdjian, Executive Officer, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of a Resolution adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Lahontan Region, on June 12, 2019.

PATTY T. KOUYOUMILJIAN

Enclosure 1: Basin Plan Amendments

Enclosure 1

Amendments to the Water Quality Control Plan for the Lahontan Region

Introduction

The following Basin Plan Amendment language, shown below, and organized by Chapter, is intended to be removed or added from the Basin Plan. Text indicated in underline format is intended to be inserted into the Basin Plan. Text indicated in strikeout format is intended to be removed from the Basin Plan. The location of each change is described in more detail below in italics.

Changes to Chapter 2 Present and Potential Beneficial Uses

The following text will be inserted into and removed from Chapter 2, Table 2-1, "Beneficial Uses of Surface Water of the Lahontan Region."

TABLE 2-1. BENEFICIAL USES OF SURFACE WATERS OF THE LAHONTAN REGION

Unless otherwise specified, beneficial uses also apply to all tributaries of surface waters identified in Table 2-1.

	HYDROLOGIC UNIT/SUBUNIT	WATERBODY	BENEFICIAL USES	- RECEIVING	
HU No.	DRAINAGE FEATURE	CLASS MODIFIER	WATER WOE WOE WOE WOE WAR RARE BIOL COLD WILD WAR REC:2 REC:3 REC		
627.00	CUDDEBACK HYDROLOGIC UNIT				
	MINOR SURFACE WATERS				
	MINOR WETLANDS	WETLANDS			
628.00	MOJAVE HYDROLOGIC UNIT				
628.10	EL MIRAGE HYDROLOGIC AREA				
	SHEEP CREEK	PERENNIAL STREAM	X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X	£L MIRAGE	
	HEATH CANYON CREEK	PERENNIAL STREAM	X X X X X X X X X X SHEEP CREEK		
	MINOR SURFACE WATERS		X X X X X X X X X X EL MIRAGE VLY GW BASIN		
	MINOR WETLANDS	WETLANDS	X X X X X X X X X X X X X EL MIRAGE VLY GW BASIN		
628.20	UPPER MOJAVE HYDROLOGIC AREA				
	MOJAVE RIVER (See Figure 2-1.1)		X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X	3ASIN, SO	
	MOAVE RIVER (BEAR VALLEY RD TO HELENDALE)		X X X X X X X X X X X X DPER MOJAVE R. VLY GWE LK, CRONESE LAKES	Basin, S	
	LOWER NARROWS OF MOJAVE R. WETLANDS	WETLANDS	X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X MOJAVE RIVER, UPPER MOJA	AVE R. V	
	TURNER SPRINGS	SPRINGS	X X X X X X X X X X MOJAVE RIVER		
	WEST FORK MOJAVE RIVER	INTERMITTENT STREAM	X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X	IVER, UF	
	EAST FORK OF WEST FORK OF MOJAVE RIVER	PERENNIAL STREAM	X X X X X X X X X SILVERWOOD LAKE		
	LAKE GREGORY	LAKE	X X X X X X X X X X HOUSTON CREEK		
	SEELEY CANYON CREEK	PERENNIAL STREAM	X X X X X X X X X EAST FORK OF WEST FORK		
	HOUSTON CREEK	PERENNIAL STREAM	X X X X X X X X X EAST FORK OF WEST FORK		
	DART CREEK	PERENNIAL STREAM	X X X X X X X X X X X HOUSTON CREEK		
	DEEP CREEK	PERENNIAL STREAM	X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X FORKS RESERVOIR, MOJAVE	E RIVER	
	SAWPIT CREEK	PERENNIAL STREAM	X X X X X X X X X X WEST FORK MOJAVE		
	WILLOW CREEK	INTERMITTENT STREAM	X X X X X X X X DEEP CREEK		
	TROY CREEK	INTERMITTENT STREAM	X X X X X X X X X X DEEP CREEK		
	TROY POND	INTERMITTENT POND	X X X X X X X X X X DEEP CREEK		
	HOLCOMB CREEK	INTERMITTENT STREAM	X X X X X X X X DEEP CREEK		
	LITTLE BEAR CREEK	INTERMITTENT STREAM	X X X X X X X X DEEP CREEK		
	LAKE ARROWHEAD	LAKE	X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X		
	ARROWBEAR LAKE	LAKE	X X X X X X X X X X X DEEP CREEK		
	HOOKS CREEK	PERENNIAL STREAM	XXX XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX		
	TWIN PEAKS CREEK	PERENNIAL STREAM	X X X X X X X X X X (UPPER) GRASS VALLEY CRE	ĒΕΚ	
	SHAKE CREEK	PERENNIAL STREAM	X X X X X X X X DEEP CREEK		
	SHEEP CREEK	PERENNIAL STREAM	X X X X X X X X X X DEEP CREEK		
	CRAB CREEK	PERENNIAL STREAM	X X X X X X X X DEEP CREEK		
	GREEN VALLEY LAKE	LAKE	X X X X X X X X X GREEN VALLEY CREEK		
	GREEN VALLEY CREEK	PERENNIAL STREAM	X X X X X X X X X X X GREEN VALLEY LAKE, DEEP		
	SILVERWOOD LAKE	RESERVOIR	X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X	UPPE	

TABLE 2-1. BENEFICIAL USES OF SURFACE WATERS OF THE LAHONTAN REGION

	Unless otherwise specified, beneficial uses also apply to all tributaries of surface waters identified in Table 2-1.				
	HYDROLOGIC UNIT/SUBUNIT	WATERBODY	BENEFICIAL USES RECEIVING		
	DRAINAGE FEATURE	CLASS MODIFIER	WATER FLD WOE RARE RARE BIOL COLD WILD WARM WARM AGR REC-1 REC-2 REC-1 R		
	GRASS VALLEY LAKE	LAKE	X X X X X X X X X X GRASS VALLEY CREEK		
	GRASS VALLEY CREEK	PERENNIAL STREAM	X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X MOJAVE RIVER		
	UPPER MOJAVE RIVER, LOWER SLOUGH	WETLANDS	MOJAVE RIVER		
	MINOR SURFACE WATERS		X X X X X X X X X X X X UPPER MOJAVE R VLY GW BASIN		
	MINOR WETLANDS	WETLANDS	X X X X X X X X X X X X X X UPPER MOJAVE R VLY GW BASIN		
		1			
628.30	MIDDLE MOJAVE HYDROLOGIC AREA		W W W W W W W W W W W W W W W W W W W		
	MOJAVE RIVER (See Figure 2-1.1)		X X X X X X X X		
	MINOR SURFACE WATERS		X X X X X X X X X X X X X MIDDLE MOJAVE R VLY GW BASIN		
	MINOR WETLANDS	WETLANDS	XXX XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX		
628.40	LOCKHART HYDROLOGIC AREA				
020.40	ECONOMIC TO SECURITION OF THE PROPERTY OF THE				
628.41	GRASS VALLEY HYDROLOGIC SUBAREA				
	MINOR SURFACE WATERS		X X X X X X X X X X X HARPER VALLEY GW BASIN		
	MINOR WETLANDS	WETLANDS	X X X X X X X X X X X X X ARPER VALLEY GW BASIN		
628.42	HARPER VALLEY HYDROLOGIC SUBAREA				
020.42	BIRD SPRINGS	SPRINGS	X X X X X X X X X X HARPER VALLEY GW BASIN		
	HARPER LAKE	ALKALI LAKE	X X X X X X X X X X X INTERNALLY DRAINED LAKE		
	OPAL MTN. SPRINGS	SPRINGS			
	HARPER LAKE WETLANDS	WETLANDS	X X X X X X X X X X X HARPER LAKE		
	MINOR SURFACE WATERS		X X X X X X X X X X HARPER VALLEY GW BASIN		
	MINOR WETLANDS	WETLANDS	X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X HARPER VALLEY GW BASIN		
	<u> </u>				
628.50	LOWER MOJAVE HYDROLOGIC AREA		V V V V V V V V W MIDDLE-LOWER MOJAVE R VLY GWBASIN		
	MOJAVE RIVER (See Figure 2-1.1 and 2-1.2)		NA N		
	MOJAVE RIVER, CAMP CADY WILDLIFE AREA		X X X		
	MINOR SURFACE WATERS		X X X X X X X X X X LOWER MOJAVE R VLY GW BASIN		
	MINOR WETLANDS	WETLANDS	X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X		
628.60	NEWBERRY SPRINGS HYDROLOGIC AREA				
020.00	MEMBERNI SI NINGSTITUNGLOGIC AREA				
628.61	KANE WASH HYDROLOGIC SUBAREA				
	MINOR SURFACE WATERS		X X X X X X X X X X KANE WASH AREA GW BASIN		
	MINOR WETLANDS	WETLANDS	X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X		
(20.72	TROV VALLEY LIVEROL OCIC CURAREA				
628.62	TROY VALLEY HYDROLOGIC SUBAREA MINOR SURFACE WATERS		X X X X X X X X X X TROY VLY GW BASIN		
628.62	MINOR SURFACE WATERS MINOR WETLANDS	WETLANDS	X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X		
020.02	MINON WEIDINGS		TATAL		

TABLE 2-1. BENEFICIAL USES OF SURFACE WATERS OF THE LAHONTAN REGION

Unless otherwise specified, beneficial uses also apply to all tributaries of surface waters identified in Table 2-1.

			BENEFICIAL USES
	HYDROLOGIC UNIT/SUBUNIT DRAINAGE FEATURE	WATERBODY CLASS MODIFIER	RECEIVING WOE SPWN WATER WATER REC.1 REC.1 REC.2 REC.2 REC.2 REC.1
628.70	AFTON HYDROLOGIC AREA		
628.71	CAVES HYDROLOGIC SUBAREA		ONES OWNER OF THE CONTRACT OF
	MOJAVE RIVER (See Figure 2-1.1)		X X X X X X X X X X X X X CAVES CYN VLY GW BASIN, SODA LAI CRONESE LAKES
	MOJAVE RIVER, AFTON CANYON		X X X
	MINOR SURFACE WATERS		X X X X X X X X X X X CAVES CYN VLY GW BASIN
	MINOR WETLANDS	WETLANDS	X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X CAVES CYN VLY GW BASIN
628.72	CRONESE HYDROLOGIC SUBAREA		
	BITTER SPRINGS	WETLANDS	X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X CRONESE VALLEY GW ASIN
	CRONESE LAKES (EAST AND WEST)	WETLANDS	X X X X X X X X X X VLY GW BASIN
	MINOR SURFACE WATERS		X X X X X X X X X X CRONESE VALLEY GW BASIN
	MINOR WETLANDS	WETLANDS	X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X
628.73	LANGFORD HYDROLOGIC SUBAREA		
020.73	MINOR SURFACE WATERS		X X X X X X X X X X LANGFORD VLY GW BASIN
	MINOR SURFACE WATERS MINOR WETLANDS	WETLANDS	X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X
	IIIIII WEIE III DO	TELBUIDO .	A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A
628.80	BAKER HYDROLOGIC AREA		
		•	
628.81	SILVER LAKE HYDROLOGIC SUBAREA		
	SILVER LAKE	ALKALI LAKE	X X X X X X X X X X X X X INTRNL DRN LK/SILVER LK VLY GW BA
	HALLORAN SPRING	SPRING/EMERGENT	X X X X X X X X X X SILVER LAKE VLY GW BASIN
	MINOR SURFACE WATERS		X X X X X X X X X X SILVER LAKE VLY GW BASIN
	MINOR WETLANDS	WETLANDS	X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X
628.82	SODA LAKE HYDROLOGIC SUBAREA		
020.02	SODA LAKE	ALKALI LAKE	X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X
			SODA EARE VET GW DASIN
	ZYZYX SPRING MOJAVE RIVER (See Figure 2-1.1)	SPRING	X X X X X X X X X X
	MOJAVE RIVER, AFTON CANYON		X X X X X X X X X X X SODA LAKE, SODA LAKE VLY GW BAS
	INDIAN SPRING	SPRING	X X X X X X X X X X X X X SODA LAKE VLY GW BASIN
	CANE SPRING	SPRING	X X X X X X X X X X X X SODA LAKE VLY GW BASIN
	GRANITE SPRING	SPRING	X X X X X X X X X X X X X X SODA LAKE VLY GW BASIN
	HENRY SPRING	SPRING	X X X X X X X X X X X X SODA LAKE VLY GW BASIN
	MESQUITE SPRINGS	SPRINGS	X X X X X X X X X X MOJAVE RIVER SINK
	MINOR SURFACE WATERS		
	MINOR WETLANDS	WETLANDS	

The following Figures 2-1.1 and 2-1.2 will be inserted into Chapter 2 following Table 2-1, "Beneficial Uses of Surface Water of the Lahontan Region" and before Table 2.2, "Beneficial Uses for Ground Waters pf the Lahontan Region. These figures depict beneficial use designations for the Mojave River, as referenced in Table 2-1.

Figure 2-1.1

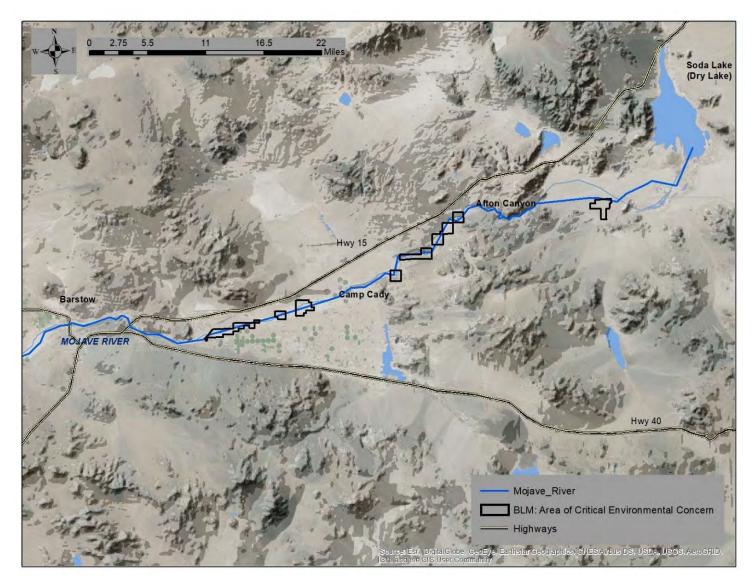
Map showing locations where the COLD and WARM freshwater habitat beneficial uses apply for the Mojave River



Figure 2-1.2

Map showing delineation of the Mojave Fringed-toed Lizard Bureau of Land Management-designated

Area of Critical Environmental Concern



<u>Figure 2-1.2 shows the Mojave Fringed-toed Lizard Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) as designated by the Bureau of Land Management.</u>
The reaches of the Mojave River that pass through these ACEC units are designated with the BIOL beneficial use.

ahontan Region."			

Table 2-2
BENEFICIAL USES FOR GROUND WATERS OF THE LAHONTAN REGION

BASIN				BENEFI	CIAL USI	ES	
DWR NO.	BASIN NAME	MUN	AGR	IND	FRSH	POND	WILD
6-44	Antelope Valley	Х	Х	Х	Х		
6-45	Tehachapi Valley East	Х	Х	Х	Х		
6-46	Fremont Valley	Х	Х	Х	Х		
6-47	Harper Valley	Х	Х	Х	Х		
6-48	Goldstone Valley	Х		Х	Х		
6-49	Superior Valley	Х					
6-50	Cuddback Valley	Х	Х	Х	Х		
6-51	Pilot Knob Valley	Х	Х	Х	Х		
6-52	Searles Valley (see note #1 below)	Х		Х			
6-53	Salt Wells Valley (see note #2 below)	Х		Х			
6-54	Indian Wells Valley (see note #2 below)	Х	Х	Х	Х		
6-55	Coso Valley	Х					
6-56	Rose Valley	Х	Х	Х	Х		
6-57	Darwin Valley	Х					
6-58	Panamint Valley	Х		Х			
6-59	Granite Mountain Area	Х	Х		Х		
6-60	Fish Slough Valley	Х	Х	Х	Х		
6-61	Cameo Area	Х					
6-62	Race Track Valley	Х					Х
6-63	Hidden Valley	Х					
6-64	Marble Canyon Way	Х	Х		Х		
6-65	Cottonwood Spring Area	Х	Х		Х		
6-66	Lee Flat	Х					
6-67	Martis Valley	Х	Х		Х		
6-68	Santa Rosa Flat	Х					
6-69	Kelso Lander Valley	Х	Х		Х		
6-70	Cactus Flat	Х	Х	Х			
6-71	Lost Lake Valley	Х					
6-72	Coles Flat	Х					
6-73	Wild Horse Mesa Area	Х					
6-74	Harrsiburg Flats	Х					
6-75	Wildrose Canyon	Х					
6-76	Brown Mountain Valley	Х		Х			
6-77	Grass Valley	Х		Х			
6-78	Denning Spring Valley	Х	Х		Х		
6-79	California Valley	Х	Х	Х	Х		
6-80	Middle Park Canyon	Х		Х			
6-81	Butte Valley	Х	Х		Х		

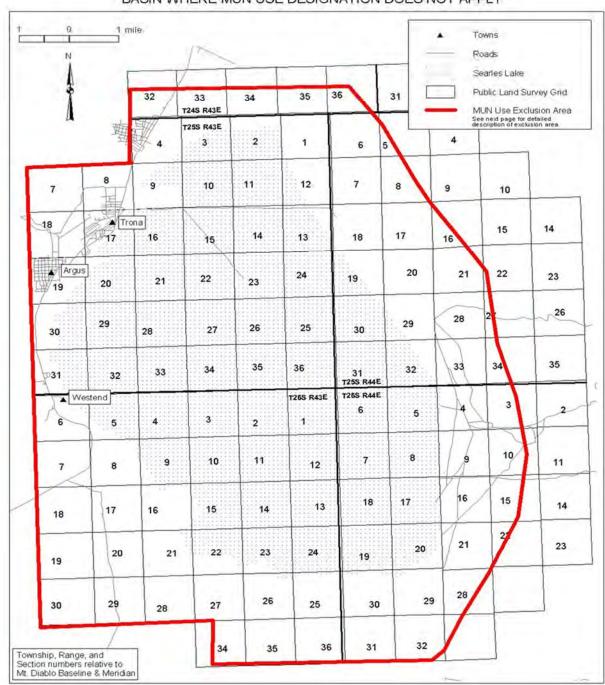
Note #1: The MUN designation does not apply to ground water under the Searles Lake bed, or to the groundwater surrounding Searles Lake within the boundaries shown in Figure 2-2.1. The PRO (Industrial Process Supply) use applies to the ground water under the Searles Lake bed.

Note #2: The MUN designation does not apply to the ground waters located beneath the Salt Wells Valley and those within the shallow groundwater (above the top of the low-permeability lacustrine clay sediments) in the eastern Indian Wells Valley groundwater basins as shown on Figure 2-2.2.

The following text will be inserted into Chapter 2, Figure 2-1, "Boundary of Area Within Searles Valley Ground Water Basin Where MUN Use Designation Does Not Apply" and its accompanying text.

FIGURE 2-2.1 BOUNDARY OF AREA WITHIN SEARLES VALLEY GROUND WATER BASIN WHERE MUN USE DESIGNATION DOES NOT APPLY

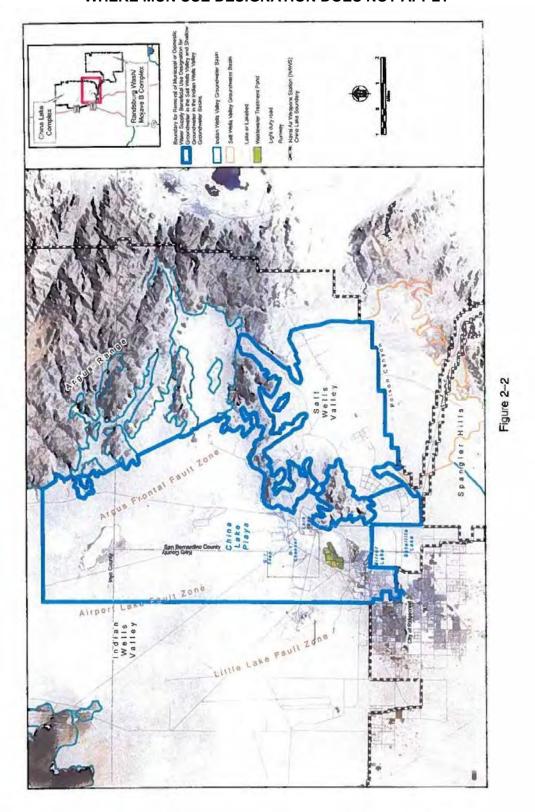
FIGURE 2-1. BOUNDARY OF AREA WITHIN SEARLES VALLEY GROUND WATER BASIN WHERE MUN USE DESIGNATION DOES NOT APPLY



The area shown in Figure 2-2.1, within which the Municipal and Domestic Supply beneficial use does not apply to ground water, is as follows:

The following text will b Water Basin Where MU	ne inserted into Chapter 2, F IN Use Designation Does No	Figure 2-2, "Boundary of Apply" and its accompo	Area Within Salt Wells Vo anying text.	alley Ground

FIGURE 2-2,2
BOUNDARY OF AREA WITHIN SALT WELLS VALLEY GROUND WATER BASIN
WHERE MUN USE DESIGNATION DOES NOT APPLY



The area shown in Figure 2-2.2, within which the Municipal and Domestic Supply beneficial use does not apply to ground water is as follows:

Changes to Chapter 3 Water Quality Objectives

The following text will be inserted into and removed from Chapter 3, Table 3-20, Water Quality Objectives for Certain Water Bodies Mojave Hydrologic Unit.

Table 3-20
WATER QUALITY OBJECTIVES FOR CERTAIN WATER BODIES
MOJAVE HYDROLOGIC UNIT

See Fig. 3-13	Surface Waters (Station 2) Ground Waters (Stations 1, 3, 4, 5, & 6)	Objective (mg/L)(Maximum)	
		TDS	NO₃ as NO₃
1 b	West Fork Mojave River	245	6
2ª	Mojave River (at Lower Narrows)	312	5
3 ^b	Mojave River (at Barstow)	445	6
4 b	Mojave River (upstream side of Waterman Fault)	560	11
5 ^b	Mojave River (upstream side of Calico-Newberry Fault)	340	4
6 ^b	Mojave River (just upstream of Camp Cady Ranch Building Complex)	300	1

Objectives for reaches of the Mojave River which normally flow above ground. underground, but, under high flow conditions will surface.

NO₃ as NO₃ Nitrate as Nitrate

TDS Total Dissolved Solids (Total Filterable Residue)

b Objectives for reaches of the Mojave River which flow underground in a confined channel.

The following figure will replace Figure 3-13. (Water Quality Objectives for Certain Water Bodies, Mojave Hydrologic Unit) in Chapter 3 that follows Table 3-20 to correct the placement on the map of location No. 4.

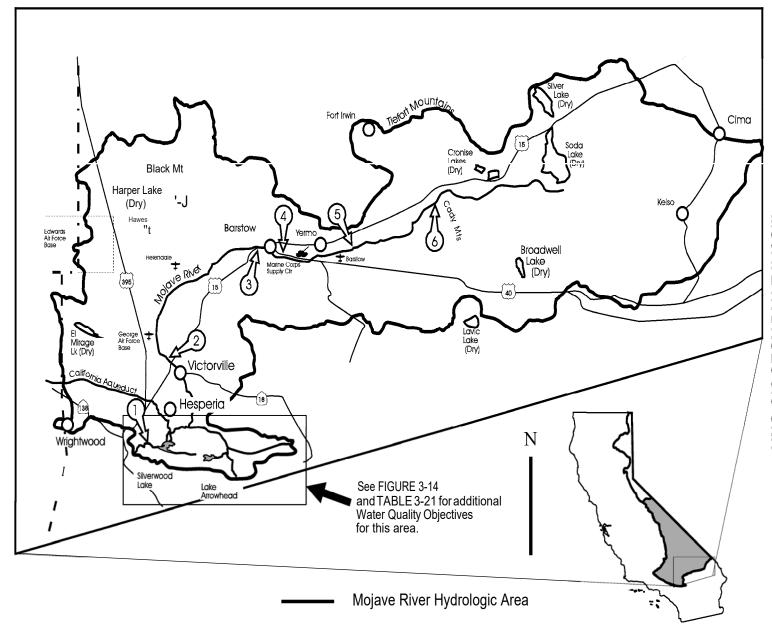


Figure 3-13
WATER QUALITY OBJECTIVES FOR CERTAIN WATER BODIES
MOJAVE HYDROLOGIC UNIT

Changes to Chapter 4, Section 4.9 Resource Management and Restoration

The following text will be inserted into and removed from Chapter 4.9 in the section "Wild and Scenic River" within the section "Special Designations to Protect Water Resources" and before the section "Outstanding National Resource Water".

Special Designations to Protect Water Resources

Certain waters within the Region are considered exceptional resources for a variety of reasons. The special designations described below are available to protect these exceptional resources.

Wild and Scenic River

The federal Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968 (P.L. 90-542) declared that "the established national policy of dam and other construction at appropriate sections of the rivers of the United States needs to be complemented by a policy that would preserve other selected rivers or sections thereof in their free-flowing condition to protect the water quality of such rivers and to fulfill other vital national conservation purposes."

Federal Wild and Scenic status prohibits construction of new dams and major water diversions. Eligible and designated rivers may include both public and private land. The Act does not prohibit development on private property along designated rivers, but allows for the acquisition of such lands to protect Wild and Scenic values. On public lands, both eligible and designated river segments are specifically managed to protect identified Wild and Scenic values. River segments designated as components of the Wild and Scenic River System may be classified as either wild, scenic, or recreational. The Lahontan Region contains several waterbodies that are components of the National Wild and Scenic River System, which include portions of the Owens River Headwaters, Cottonwood Creek, Amargosa River, Surprise Canyon Creek, and Deep Creek and its tributary, Holcomb Creek. Up-to-date information about the Wild and Scenic River system and current designations is available at:

https://www.rivers.gov/.

There are currently no federally-designated Wild and Scenic Rivers in the Lahontan Region. However, nNumerous river segments in the Region are eligible for federal Wild and Scenic status (see Table 4.9-1). Federal guidelines require that rivers eligible for National Wild and Scenic River designation be managed to protect their outstandingly remarkable values and free-flowing character until Congress makes a decision concerning designation. A condition (No. 7) of the Nationwide Permit under Clean Water Act Section 404 for dredge and fill activities states that no activity may occur in a component of the National Wild and Scenic River System, or in a river officially designated by Congress as a "study river" for possible inclusion in the system while the river is in an official study status.

In 1972, the California Legislature passed the California Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (California Stats. 1972, c. 1259, p. 2510, § 5093.50 to 5093.69), which is very similar to the federal legislation. The Act prohibits the construction of dams, reservoirs, and most water diversion facilities on river segments designated by the Legislature to be included in the system. Reaches of two rivers in the Lahontan Region, the West Walker and East Fork Carson, are currently designated as California Wild and Scenic Rivers:

- West Walker River -- Approximately 37 river miles from Tower Lake at the headwaters downstream to the
 confluence with Rock Creek, near the town of Walker on the edge of Antelope Valley, as well as about one mile
 of one tributary (Leavitt Creek).
- East Fork Carson River -- Approximately ten river miles from the town of Markleeville to the California/Nevada state line.

the following text will be inserted into and removed from Chapter 4.9, Table 4.9-1, List of rivers in Lahontan Regio Determined eligible for National Wild & Scenic River designation by federal land management agencies.	n

Table 4.9-1
List of rivers in Lahontan Region determined eligible for National Wild & Scenic River designation by federal land management agencies

Hydrologic Unit Number	Name of river/creek followed by managing agency	NF = National Forest; RA =USBLM Resource Area
601	Lee Vining Creek	Inyo NF
601	Mill Creek	Inyo NF
601	South Fork Mill Creek	Inyo NF
601	Upper Parker Creek	Inyo NF
603	Walker Creek	Inyo NF
603	Convict Creek	Inyo NF
603	Cottonwood Creek (Sierra Nevada)	Inyo NF
603	Fish Slough	Bishop RA
603	George Creek	Bishop RA
603	Glass Creek	Inyo NF
603	Hot Creek	Inyo NF & Bishop RA
603	Independence Creek	Bishop RA
603	Laurel Creek	Inyo NF
603	Lone Pine Creek	Inyo NF
603	McGee Creek	Inyo NF
603	Rock Creek	Inyo NF & Bishop RA
603	South Fork Bishop Creek	Inyo NF
603	Upper Owens River	Inyo NF
604	Cottonwood Creek (White Mountains)	Inyo NF
<u>628</u>	Mojave River (Afton Canyon)	Barstow RA
630	Atastra Creek	Bishop RA
630	Dog Creek	Bishop RA
630	East Walker River	Toiyabe NF
630	Green Creek	Bishop RA
630	Rough Creek	Bishop RA
630	Virginia Creek	Bishop RA
631	West Walker River	Toiyabe NF
632	East Fork Carson River	Toiyabe NF
634	Cold Creek	Tahoe NF
634	Martis Creek	Tahoe NF
634	Upper Truckee River	LTBMU
635	Alder Creek	Tahoe NF
635	Lower Truckee River	Tahoe NF
636	Independence Creek	Tahoe NF
636	Little Truckee River	Tahoe NF
636	Perazzo Canyon	Tahoe NF
636	Sagehen Creek	Tahoe NF

Changes to Chapter 4, Section 4.11 Recreation

The following text will be inserted into Chapter 4.11, in the section "Offroad Vehicles," after the section "Boating and Shorezone Recreation," and before the section "Ski Area."

Offroad Vehicles

Offroad vehicles (ORVs), (also called "off-highway" vehicles or OHVs), include, but are not limited to, any of the following: bicycles, motorcycles, "all terrain vehicles," snowmobiles, and any other vehicle (including passenger trucks and cars) operated off of paved roads. While the impacts of "mountain" bicycles are still being debated, motorized vehicles can cause serious erosion problems, directly (through soil detachment, compaction, or creation of ruts) or indirectly (through damage to vegetation or by starting wildfires). Operation of over-the-snow vehicles can also disturb soils and vegetation if there is insufficient snow cover.

Control Measures for Offroad Vehicles

- 1. The U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management designate ORV routes on public lands and prohibit operation away from these routes. ORV use may be further restricted during extremely dry conditions in order to prevent fires, and during wet (i.e., winter/spring) conditions when excessive soil disturbance is likely. However, illegal use can and does occur. Compliance should be encouraged via well planned and targeted public education efforts, as well as strict enforcement of regulations.
- Regional Board staff should continue to review and comment on proposed changes in ORV management plans of public agencies. These agencies should be encouraged to monitor the water quality impacts of legal ORV use, and to modify or close routes where water quality problems are occurring. Modifications could include rerouting of trail segments away from surface waters and wetlands <u>and sensitive desert riparian habitat</u>, or installation of bridges at stream crossings. Closed routes should be stabilized and revegetated.
- 3. Some local governments have ordinances regulating ORV use, although these may be directed at problems unrelated to water quality (e.g., noise). All local governments in the Region should be encouraged to adopt and enforce ordinances which will prevent erosion from ORV use on private lands.
- 4. Although waste discharge requirements are generally an infeasible means of controlling the impacts of private ORV use, the Regional Board can issue requirements or cleanup orders to landowners whose property is contributing to water quality problems as a result of ORV damage. Waste discharge requirements can also be issued to commercial ORV facilities to ensure proper operation (e.g., to ensure that snowmobiles are operated over snow deep enough to prevent soil damage).