

# Water Quality Report Card

## Bishop Creek Pathogens Vision Project

**Regional Water Board:** Lahontan, Region 6

**Beneficial Uses Affected:** REC-1, MUN

**Implemented Through:** N/A

**Effective Date:** N/A

**Attainment Date:** N/A

**STATUS** Under Development

**Pollutant Type:** Nonpoint Source

**Pollutant Source:** Nonpoint Source, Urban Runoff

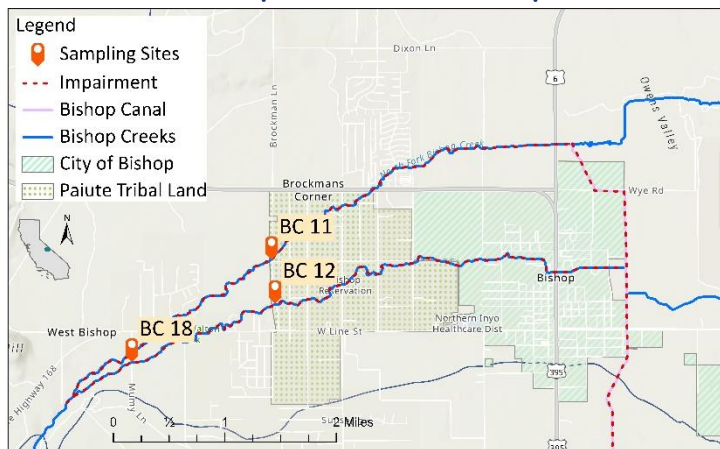
### Water Quality Improvement Strategy

The Bishop Creek Watershed drains approximately 102 square miles of the Eastern Sierra Nevada before flowing through the City of Bishop and entering the Owens River. In 2011, the Lahontan Regional Water Board (Water Board) Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program (SWAMP) found that levels of fecal indicator bacteria (FIB) in Bishop Creek exceeded water quality objectives (WQOs). From 2012 to 2016, SWAMP monitored Bishop Creek for fecal coliform and *E. coli*. These data were used to support the recommendation to list Bishop Creek as impaired under Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 303(d) during the 2018 Integrated Report. The Water Board has identified Bishop Creek as a “Vision Watershed” and staff are working on a Vision Project Plan document which is scheduled to be completed by September 2022. The Bishop Creek Vision Project follows a framework laid out by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA), known as the [Long-Term Vision for Assessment, Restoration, and Protection under the Clean Water Act Section 303\(d\) Program \(The Vision\)](#). The Vision focuses on improving water quality through collaboration with stakeholders. The Vision is a flexible approach and can include regulatory measures towards achieving water quality restoration goals.

### Bacterial Load Allocations

Beneficial Use	Numeric Target
Water Contact Recreation (REC-1)	Geometric Mean < 100 CFU <sup>1</sup> /100 mL <i>E. coli</i>
Municipal and Domestic Supply (MUN)	Log Mean < 20 CFU <sup>1</sup> / 100mL fecal coliform

### Bishop Creek Watershed Map



### Water Quality Outcomes

- Bacteria sampling by the Water Board, Bishop Paiute Tribe, and Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP), have created a robust data set for the Vision Project.
- Data show that bacteria contamination is seasonal from April through October. Bacteria concentrations are most elevated in the downstream portions of the study area.
- Data collected in recent years reveal lower levels of bacteria when compared to previous monitoring efforts; however, the April-October period still presents human health risks at several locations.
- Analysis of microbial source tracking (MST) data indicates that cattle are a predominant source of bacteria to Bishop Creek.

### Water Quality

