

**STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
BOARD MEETING SESSION – LAHONTAN REGIONAL WATER BOARD
DECEMBER 6, 2022**

ITEM 4

SUBJECT

CONSIDERATION OF A PROPOSED RESOLUTION APPROVING AN AMENDMENT TO THE WATER QUALITY CONTROL PLAN FOR THE LAHONTAN REGION TO CLARIFY MOJAVE RIVER BENEFICIAL USE DESIGNATIONS, UPDATE SITE CLEANUP, LAND DISPOSAL, AND BISHOP UNDERGROUND TANK POLICY SECTIONS AND OTHER EDITORIAL REVISIONS.

DISCUSSION

The Regional Water Quality Control Board, Lahontan Region (Lahontan Water Board) identified in its 2022 Triennial Review of the Water Quality Control Plan for the Lahontan Region (Basin Plan) the prioritization of a Basin Plan amendment to correct inconsistencies identified in a previous Basin Plan Amendment adopted in 2019. That Basin Plan Amendment modified beneficial uses in the Mojave River and was adopted by the Lahontan Water ([Resolution No. R6T-2019-0246](#)) and the State Water Board ([Resolution No. 2019-0053](#)) in 2019 and approved by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in 2020.

The Lahontan Water Board adopted the current proposed Basin Plan amendment on June 8, 2022, with [Resolution No. R6T-2022-0021](#) and [Enclosure](#). The amendment revises Basin Plan Chapter 2, Table 2-1, Present and Potential Beneficial Uses, to correctly depict the beneficial use designations for the Mojave River as intended. Additional Basin Plan revisions include adding language to Chapter 3, Water Quality Objectives, that describes the statewide mercury water quality objectives established by the State Water Board ([Resolution No. 2017-0027](#)), and updating language in Chapter 4, Implementation, related to the Site Cleanup program and waste disposal to land under Chapter 15 and Title 23. Revisions are also proposed to update the section on Underground Storage Tank policy in Chapter 4. Revisions to Chapter 6 include updating language related to State Water Board Plans and Policies. The modifications to the Mojave River beneficial use designations, inclusion of the statewide mercury objectives and updates related to the Statewide Low Threat Underground Storage Tank Case Closure Policy are actions that were previously analyzed pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The other elements in the amendment do not have the potential for resulting in either a direct physical change in the environment, or a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment. Consequently, no additional CEQA documentation is needed for this basin planning action.

POLICY ISSUE

Should the State Water Board adopt the proposed resolution to approve the amendment to the Water Quality Control Plan for the Lahontan Basin?

FISCAL IMPACT

The Basin Plan amendment does not create additional work for Lahontan Water Board staff or lead to a requirement for additional fiscal resources.

REGIONAL BOARD IMPACT

Yes, adoption of this Resolution will amend the Lahontan Water Board's Basin Plan.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

That the State Water Board:

1. Adopt the proposed resolution to approve the Basin Plan amendment adopted under Lahontan Water Board Resolution No. R6T-2022-0021.
2. Authorize the Executive Director or designee to submit the Basin Plan amendment adopted under Lahontan Water Board Resolution No. R6T-2022-0021, as approved, and the administrative record for this action to the Office of Administrative Law and to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for approval.