

**CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD LAHONTAN
REGION**

2501 Lake Tahoe Blvd., South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150

**PUBLIC NOTICE OF AVAILABLE DOCUMENTS FOR REVIEW AND COMMENT
AND**

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER

**ADOPTION OF NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM
PERMIT AND WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE, MOJAVE RIVER FISH HATCHERY,
SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY**

This is a Public Notice by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Lahontan Region (Lahontan Water Board) that tentative National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit and Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) for the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), Board Order No. R6T-2024-TENT (Order) for the Mojave River Fish Hatchery (Facility) in San Bernardino County, is available to review and comment at the following Link or a copy may be sent upon request.

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/lahontan/board_decisions/tentative_orders/

If adopted, the Order will allow the continued operation of the Mojave River Fish Hatchery and its discharge of hatchery wastewater to the Mojave River, a water of the United States, within the Upper Mojave Hydrologic Area (CA Department of Water Resources No. 628.20). The Facility has been regulated under NPDES Orders since 1975. The Facility is a cold water concentrated aquatic animal production (CAAP) facility producing over 400,000 pounds (lbs) of trout annually. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife is the owner and operator of the Facility and is responsible for the operations.

Project Information

Permit Applicant	California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Name of Project	Mojave River Fish Hatchery
Permitee/Facility Address	12550 Jacaranda Avenue, Victorville, CA 93395
Discharge Point	Facility discharges hatchery wastewater to the Mojave River, a water of the United States, within the Upper Mojave Hydrologic Area (CA Department of Water Resources No. 628.20).
Discharge Description	Fish Hatchery and Egg Incubation wastewater
Receiving Waters	Mojave River, within the Upper Mojave Hydrologic Area (CA Department of Water Resources No. 628.20)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Lahontan Region (Lahontan Water Board) will receive written comments on tentative Fish Springs Fish Hatchery, NPDES Permit and WDRs. Written comments must be received no later than **5:00pm on February 20, 2024**. Written comments may be submitted electronically, via email, with the subject “Comments on Tentative Mojave River Fish Hatchery” to lahontan@waterboards.ca.gov, or submitted in hard copy to:

Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board
2501 Lake Tahoe Boulevard
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150
Attention: Lauder Fairchok.

Except at the discretion of the Regional Water Board Chair, written material received after 5:00pm on February 20, 2024 will not be accepted.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Lahontan Water Board will hold a public hearing to receive public comments and consider adoption of the Mojave River Fish Hatchery NPDES Permit and WDRs.

This notice also sets forth the procedures and processes the Lahontan Water Board will use at this proceeding and contains important deadlines.

The Lahontan Water Board will hold a public hearing and consider adoption of the NPDES permit, as follows:

DATE: April 17-18, 2023
TIME: 9:00 a.m. (Tentative start time)
PLACE: Barstow Community College, Black Box Theater
2700 Barstow Road
Barstow, CA 92311

and

via video and teleconference

This public meeting is currently scheduled to take place in-person and via video and teleconference, but the format may be changed in the future. Any person wishing to obtain information about changes to the date, time, location, or format of the meeting should visit the Board’s website:

(https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/lahontan/board_info/remote_meeting/).

The final meeting agenda will be available on the Board’s website at least 10 days before the meeting. The agenda will provide the location and format of the meeting, the anticipated date the hearing will be held for this item, and the anticipated order of all agenda items; however, the Board may consider agenda items out of their listed order. The agenda materials may also include staff revisions to the proposed order.

Advanced Zoom registration is required to participate telephonically or by computer.

The deadline to submit a Virtual Speaker Card is **April 16, 2024**. Procedures for viewing and/or participating in the hearing, including for submitting Virtual Speaker Cards for individuals who want to provide oral comments are available on the Lahontan Water Board's website (https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/lahontan/board_info/remote_meeting/) and are also available in the agenda for the meeting or by contacting the Lahontan Water Board's office. Questions regarding such procedures should be directed to the Lahontan Water Board at (530) 542-5400.

Participants in this proceeding are identified as either "Parties" or "Interested Persons." Designation as a Party is not necessary to participate in this proceeding. Both Interested Persons and Parties will have the opportunity to present oral comments. Both Interested Persons and Parties may be asked to respond to clarifying questions from the Lahontan Water Board members, counsel, or staff, or others, at the discretion of the of the Board.

The designated party for this hearing is the CDFW. Parties to the hearing may present evidence. The Board meetings does not generally require the prior identification of witnesses, the cross examination of witnesses, or other procedures not specified in this notice. Parties or persons with special procedural requests should contact staff, who will endeavor to accommodate reasonable requests.

Interested persons include any person or organization that is interested in the outcome of the hearing, but who has not been designated as a party. Interested persons may present oral comments at the hearing, but they may not present evidence. Oral comments include policy statements and/or arguments about the appropriateness, wisdom, or utility of the proposal before the Lahontan Water Board. Interested persons are not subject to cross-examination and may not cross-examine witnesses.

All designated parties and interested persons may speak at the Lahontan Water Board meeting. Oral comments should avoid repeating previous comments to allow all persons time to be heard. Interested persons with similar concerns or opinions are encouraged to choose one representative to speak and are encouraged to coordinate their presentations with each other. Oral comments will be limited to five (5) minutes each. Any person may ask for additional time for their oral comment by sending a request with a justification supporting the request and the requested amount of time to the Board Clerk, Katrina Fleshman at RB6-Lahontan@waterboards.ca.gov or by contacting her directly at (530) 542-5414 by 5:00 p.m. **on April 10, 2024**. Please indicate in the subject line "Mojave River Fish Hatchery NPDES 2024 Update."

Interested persons requesting additional time will be advised prior to the date of the hearing of the amount of time they will be allocated. The decision to grant or deny additional time will be based upon the complexity and the number of issues under

consideration, the extent to which entities and persons have coordinated, the number of interested persons anticipated, the extent to which entities and persons have identified unique interests, and the time available for the hearing. It is the Lahontan Water Board's intent that reasonable requests be accommodated.

Participants requesting to use a PowerPoint presentation during the oral comment at the public hearing must email the file, in .ppt format, to: RB6-Lahontan@waterboards.ca.gov with a copy to katrina.fleshman@waterboards.ca.gov, and be received by 5:00 p.m. on **April 10, 2024**. Please indicate in the subject line "Mojave River Fish Hatchery NPDES 2024 Update."

The proceeding before the Lahontan Water Board generally will be conducted in the following order:

1. Opening statement by the Chair summarizing the subject matter and purpose of the hearing
2. Administration of oath to persons who intend to testify
3. Water Board staff presentation
4. Questions from the Water Board members to staff or counsel
5. Designated parties' presentations
6. Questions from the Water Board members, counsel, or staff to designated parties
7. Interested persons' comments
8. Questions from the Water Board members, counsel, or staff to designated parties or interested persons
9. Questions from the Water Board members to staff or counsel
10. Deliberations
11. Water Board decision

Document Availability: The NPDES permit and corresponding information are available on:

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/lahontan/board_decisions/tentative_orders/

Copies of any documents can also be obtained by contacting the Lahontan Water Board's office at (530) 542-5400 or visiting the office at 2501 Lake Tahoe Blvd., South Lake Tahoe weekdays between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

The Final Meeting Agenda

(https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/lahontan/board_info/agenda/2022_schedule.html) will be available at least 10 days before the meeting.

The Procedures Governing Lahontan Water Board Meetings

(https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/laws_regulations/) may be found at Title 23, California Code of Regulations, Section 647 et seq. and are available upon request. Hearings before the Lahontan Water Board are not conducted pursuant to Government Code section 11500 et seq.

Individuals requiring special accommodations are requested to send an email to RB6-Lahontan@waterboards.ca.gov with the subject line "Special accommodation for Board Meeting" or call (530) 542-5400 at least five working days prior to the meeting.

TTY users may contact the California Relay Service at 1-800-735-2929 or by voice line at 1-800-735-2922

Questions may be directed to Lauder Fairchok at the Lahontan Water Board Office, at (530) 542-5408 or Lauder.Fairchok@Waterboards.ca.gov.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lauder Fairchok". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first name "Lauder" and last name "Fairchok" clearly distinguishable.

Lauder Fairchok
Water Resource Control Engineer, Regulatory and Enforcement Unit
Date: January 5, 2024