

**CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
LAHONTAN REGION
MEETING OF JANUARY 11-12, 2017
APPLE VALLEY**

ITEM 9
CLIMATE CHANGE SURVEY UPDATE

CHRONOLOGY	
Nov. 13, 2014	Water Board staff hosted first Climate Change Adaptation Public Workshop in Barstow, CA. Climate change experts presented the latest research regarding anticipated climate change effects in the Lahontan Region to over 100 attendees. Attendees provided ideas regarding potential Water Board adaptations/responses (regulatory, policy, coordination with stakeholders, education, etc.) to climate change.
Jan. 15, 2015	Water Board staff hosted second Climate Change Adaptation Public Workshop in South Lake Tahoe, CA., which is similar in attendance, content, and format to Nov. 2014 workshop.
May 13-14, 2015	Water Board staff presented summary of public ideas generated from the Nov. 2014 and Jan. 2015 public workshops to the Water Board.
July 8-9, 2015	Water Board staff presents Climate Change Conceptual Model and Adaptation Strategy. Water Board provides direction.
Dec. 2015	Three internal Water Board Climate Change Working Groups are formed and begin meeting: Infrastructure, Storm Water and Low Impact Development, and Wetlands and Floodplains.
Aug. 2016	Water Board staff widely distributes Climate Change Adaptation Survey (Enclosure 1) to Email Subscription Lists and other interested persons. Survey is posted on the Climate Change page of the Lahontan Water Board's web site.
Aug. – Oct. 2016	Water Board staff attends outreach meetings with a variety of stakeholder groups to encourage stakeholder participation with staff's survey, and to solicit input.
November 9, 2016	Water Board staff discusses staff's online Climate Change Survey, prioritizing potential climate change-related actions, and next steps in developing a climate change adaptation strategy. Water Board provides direction.

BACKGROUND

Water Board staff continues to work towards developing a Climate Change Adaptation Strategy. Staff has reached out to a wide range of stakeholders throughout the region beginning with two workshops in 2014/2015, and most recently with its online survey. Over 400 ideas regarding climate change have been consolidated down to approximately 25 potential adaptation concepts/actions. Based upon stakeholder input and Water Board direction, staff will soon begin drafting the Water Board's Climate Change Adaptation Strategy, identifying the specific actions the Lahontan Water Board will focus its limited resources on in responding to changing environmental conditions related to climate change, and will identify which external parties and interested stakeholders have expressed interest in assisting the Water Board in identifying and developing proposals for adaptation.

ISSUES

1. How does the Water Board use the survey results and stakeholder input to review potential concepts/ actions in the Climate Change Adaptation Strategy development process?
2. What are the schedule and activities for developing the Strategy?

DISCUSSION

Water Board staff's online survey closed on December 31, 2016. Moving forward, staff is proposing the following schedule of activities that it believes will continue to keep our stakeholders and future partners engaged in developing and implementing the Water Board's Climate Change Adaptation Strategy.

January/February 2017	In-depth survey results analysis.
Early March 2017	Release Survey Results Report.
April 2017	Board Meeting presentation on Survey Results Report and discussion on future climate change adaptation activities.
June 2017	Two public workshops (north and south) to solicit input regarding limited number of actions/ideas Water Board could/intend to pursue.
September 2017	Board Meeting presentation on Draft Climate Change Adaptation Strategy.

As the proposed schedule illustrates, Water Board staff intends to remain focused and busy in developing the Water Board's Climate Change Adaptation Strategy. Staff believes that presenting the survey results in a report that also identifies some key ideas related to how the Lahontan Water Board could be implementing its strategy will be an effective approach to sharing information with stakeholders and maintaining interest and participation.

Following the April Board Meeting presentation and Water Board direction, staff will directly engage with stakeholders through two public workshops. The purpose of the workshops is to solicit input from the Water Board and interested stakeholders on a limited number of proposed actions, such as effective participation with regional organizations, including a permit requirement for industrial facilities vulnerable to large weather/runoff events to conduct threat analysis, or streamlining restoration project permitting processes to promote projects that enhance/increase watershed resiliency to climate change.

Following the workshops, staff will turn its attention towards drafting the Water Board's Climate Change Adaptation Strategy with the intent to present a draft strategy at the September 2017 Board Meeting. The strategy will take into consideration existing and future resources that are available for implementing the strategy, Water Board responsibilities associated with other state climate change programs or laws, and identify actions that will allow the Water Board to most effectively move climate change mitigation and adaptation forward in the Lahontan Region,

PUBLIC OUTREACH/INPUT

Water Board staff continues to maintain its climate change web page, and to distribute agenda items and other documents/activities to its extensive Climate Change Mailing List. In June 2017, two public workshops (north and south) to solicit input are proposed.

RECOMMENDATION

Water Board staff is seeking Board member and interested stakeholder input and suggestions.

ENCLOSURE	ITEM	BATES NUMBER
1	Water Board Staff's Presentation	Submitted Under Separate Cover