

Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board

MINUTES

January 30, 2025

The Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board (Water Board)
conducted this meeting at the location shown below:

Holiday Inn Express
2700 Lenwood Rd., Barstow, CA

And

Via Video and Teleconference (Gov. Code § 11133)

Water Board Members

Kimberly Cox, Helendale
Essra Mostafavi, Bishop
Robert Pearce, Chalfant

Amy Horne, Ph.D., Truckee
Rick Dever, Crestline
Jeff Loux, Truckee

State Water Board

Elizabeth Beryt, Office of Chief Counsel

Nichole Morgan, Lahontan Board Liaison

Water Board Staff

Ben Letton, Asst. Executive Officer
Timothy Middlemis-Clark, Supv. WRC Engineer
Jan Zimmerman, Supv. Engineering Geologist
Mary Fiore-Wagner, Sr. Environmental Scientist
Katrina Fleshman, Board Clerk

Dan Sussman, Sr. Environmental Scientist
Amanda Lopez, Engineering Geologist
Shelby Barker, Sr. Engineering Geologist
Ariel Lafarga, Asst. Board Clerk

[View the full Agenda and listen to the audio of this meeting](#)

REGULAR MEETING: Thursday, January 30, 2025, at 9:00 a.m.

CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Water Board Chair, Dr. Amy Horne, called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. The Board Chair, Dr. Horne, introduced the Water Board Members, and the Water Board staff, and discussed procedures for in-person and video and teleconference meetings.

ESSRA MOSTAFAVI, CHAIR | MICHAEL R. PLAZIAK, PG, EXECUTIVE OFFICER

1. PUBLIC FORUM

Matt Clifford, California Director, from Trout Unlimited.

2. MINUTES

Motion: Moved by Member Dr. Cox, seconded by Member Jeff Loux, to approve November 13, 2024, meeting Minutes as presented. Board Chair Dr. Horne called for a roll call vote and the motion carried per the following votes:

Board Chair Dr. Horne	Aye
Member Dr. Cox	Aye
Member Mostafavi	Aye
Member Pearce	Aye
Member Dever	Aye
Member Loux	Aye

[View the adopted November 13, 2024, Meeting Minutes](#)

3. REPORTS BY WATER BOARD CHAIR AND WATER BOARD MEMBERS

Water Board staff, Nichole Morgan, State Board Liaison, discussed changes to the State Water Board organization. Ms. Morgan mentioned that December 4, 2024, is the 50th Anniversary of the State Safe Drinking Water Act.

Ms. Morgan updated the Board on the January firestorms and how the Water Boards are participating in the recovery efforts.

Water Board member, Jeff Loux, encouraged the public and water board staff to visit the Truckee River. Mr. Loux went on to say the Truckee River has a new bike path and trail system on the south side of the river.

Water Board member, Rob Pearce, indicated the Tri-Valley Groundwater Management District have completed three of their monitoring wells in the Southern Mono County, as part of the Sustainable Groundwater Monitoring Act.

Water Board Vice-Chair, Essra Mostafavi, talked about changes to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) that could impact the work in the Lahontan region.

The Water Board Chair, Dr. Amy Horne, indicated that the WQCC meeting is scheduled for May 2nd, and encouraged Water Board members to attend.

Water Board Chair, Dr. Horne, also mentioned State Board has drafted "Shared Expectations Memo" of the Water Board members. Dr. Horne read the expectation memo to the Water Board.

4. EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

The Assistant Executive Officer, Ben Letton, provided an update to the Water Board and public on key actions and activities in the Lahontan region, including the items below.

- a. Personnel Report (new hires, promotions, retirements, and vacancies)
- b. Cannabis Program cuts
- c. Los Angeles fires/Support by Lahontan staff volunteers

- d. Status on Racial Equity Working Group
- e. Watershed Needs Assessment
- f. Phase-In Per and Polyfluoroalkyl Substance Monitoring for Landfills
- g. 2024 Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program Update
- h. Restoration Advisory Board and China Lake Partnering Meeting
- i. New Dairy Strategy for Regulating Confined Dairy and other Cattle Facilities Presentation at Mojave Water Agency
- j. Eagle Lake Newsletter
- k. Proposed 2025 Standing EO Reports/Retooling the EO Report

Water Board staff, Shelby Barker, Sr. Engineering Geologist, provide an overview of the 3rd Quarter Violations Report.

COMMENTS BY WATER BOARD MEMBERS

Water Board member, Kimberly Cox, asked Ms. Barker to provide the Water Board members with a copy of the Supplemental Environmental Protection (SEP) Policy.

Water Board member, Rob Pearce, asked about the status of the Bishop Vision Creek project. Water Board staff, Mary Fiore-Wagner, responded Lahontan staff will be providing a regional grazing update in the January 2025 Executive Officer's (EO) report.

Water Board vice-Chair, Essra Mostafavi, stated she is looking forward to hearing updates from the Lahontan volunteer team regarding the Los Angeles fires cleanup efforts.

Water Board Chair, Dr. Amy Horne, suggested Lahontan staff highlight in the EO reports significant discharges received and our efforts to deal with them. Dr. Horne would also like to hear more about the California budget and any emerging issues, including more regular updates on legislative bills. She would also like to continue to receive annual updates on our Climate Change efforts.

5. Status Report on Cleanup Activities Concerning Chromium Contamination from Pacific Gas and Electric Company's (PG&E's) Hinkley Compressor Station

Water Board staff, Amanda Lopez, Engineering Geologist, introduced PG&E representatives, and the Independent Review Panel Manager who reported on actions taken during the past year and planned for this year for chromium contamination cleanup in Hinkley such as cleanup and remediation efforts, establishing cleanup values, and community outreach efforts.

Ian Baker, Director of Environmental Remediation from PG&E, gave a presentation on the overview of the PG&E gas pipeline operations, including the site history and remediation program.

Water Board staff, Amanda Lopez, Engineering Geologist, gave a presentation on the status report on cleanup activities concerning chromium contamination.

Ian Baker, Director of Environmental Remediation, gave further presentation on the groundwater remediation program and progress.

Raudel Sanchez, IRP Manager, gave a presentation on the outreach and technical advisory services provided to the Hinkley community.

COMMENTS BY WATER BOARD MEMBERS

Water Board member, Jeff Loux, asked about the shallow and deep zones. Water Board staff, Ms. Lopez explained the upper aquifer and lower aquifer are divided by the blue clay and the shallow and deep zones refer to the zones in the upper aquifer above the blue clay. Water Board member Mr. Loux further asked how often PG&E does sampling and where are the samples analyzed. Mr. Baker replied sampling is done monthly, and some areas are done annually. The samples are sent off site to a commercial laboratory.

Water Board member Dr. Cox asked about the timeline for the feasibility study. Ms. Lopez indicated one to two years. Dr. Cox further asked if the study would address arsenic and other byproducts. Ms. Lopez indicated that PG&E is monitoring for that and if found, will provide an alternative source of water for residents. Dr. Cox asked if Lahontan staff could provide some kind of graphics on the process of the cleanup and map that shows the spread of manganese and arsenic byproducts.

Water Board staff, Rick Dever, asked about the type of treatment used inside the 50 parts per billion plume outlines. Mr. Baker replied that PG&E focuses on the high concentration areas, injecting ethanol to promote bacterial reduction of hexavalent chromium to trivalent chromium.

Water Board Vice-Chair, Essra Mostafavi, asked if the Feasibility Study is prepared by Water Board staff, or an outside consultant. Ms. Lopez replied that PG&E is preparing the Feasibility study. Ms. Mostafavi further asked if the community members have the ability to address their concerns regarding the arsenic and manganese, and will the study be addressing those concerns. Ms. Mostafavi also asked if there was evidence of arsenic and manganese byproducts being incorporated into agricultural products (i.e., alfalfa) at the Agricultural Treatment Units (ATUs). Ms. Lopez indicated Lahontan is open to receiving public comment at any time.

The Water Board Chair, Dr. Horne, stated that she feels the Feasibility study is a great idea.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

John Turner, Hinkley resident.

John Cross, Hinkley resident.

6. Annual Election of the Water Board Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson

Motion: Member Rick Dever moved to nominate Member Dr. Amy Horne as Chair for 2025 and seconded by Member Loux.

Chair Dr. Horne called for a roll call vote and the motion failed per the following votes:

Board Chair Dr. Horne

Aye

Member Dr. Cox	Nay
Member Mostafavi	Nay
Member Pearce	Nay
Member Dever	Aye
Member Loux	Aye

Motion: Member Dr. Cox moved to nominate Essra Mostafavi as Chair for 2025 and was seconded by Member Pearce.

Chair Dr. Horne called for a roll call vote and the motion carried per the following votes:

Board Chair Dr. Horne	Nay
Member Dr. Cox	Aye
Member Mostafavi	Aye
Member Pearce	Aye
Member Dever	Nay
Member Loux	Aye

Motion: Member Kimberly Cox moved to nominate Member Rob Pearce as Vice-Chair for 2025 and seconded by Member Loux

Chair Dr. Horne called for a roll call vote and the motion carried per the following votes:

Board Chair Dr. Horne	Aye
Member Dr. Cox	Aye
Member Mostafavi	Aye
Member Pearce	Aye
Member Dever	Aye
Member Loux	Aye

7. CLOSED SESSION

The Water Board members did not go into Closed Session on Thursday, January 30, 2025.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the Water Board, the meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m. on January 30, 2025.

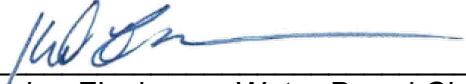
TOUR: Thursday, January 30, 2025, at 1:30 p.m.

Tour: Site Cleanup of Pacific Gas and Electric Company's (PG&E's) Hinkley Compressor Station

Tour Description: The Water Board toured sites associated with the cleanup of chromium contamination from Pacific Gas and Electric Company's (PG&E's) Hinkley Compressor Station. At the beginning of the tour, the Regional Board

provided a brief overview of the locations that will be included in the tour. Participants visited various locations in the Hinkley Valley. The tour included stops at remediation sites and locations providing an overlook of the Hinkley Valley. Representatives of PG&E gave a brief overview and explanation at each tour stop and answered questions from the Regional Board members and its staff.

While a quorum of the Regional Board was present at the tour, there was no action or voting taking place during the tour.

Prepared by:  Adopted: May 13, 2025
Katrina Fleshman, Water Board Clerk