
Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board

FROM: Ed Hancock, Planning and Assessment Unit
LAHONTAN REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD

DATE: 29 April 2020

SUBJECT: BACTERIA WATER QUALITY OBJECTIVES EVALUATION PROJECT,
COVID-19 PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT STRATEGIES

Greetings.

As a result of COVID-19 crisis, the Lahontan Water Board (Water Board) postponed the Bacteria Water Quality Objectives Evaluation Project (Bacteria Project) public workshops scheduled throughout the region in March 2020.

The Water Board takes the health of all people who live, work, and visit the Lahontan Region extremely seriously. We recognize that the COVID-19 situation is fluid and are sensitive to the fact that priorities for most people are focused on the health and safety of their loved ones. We also understand that the Bacteria Project is an important issue for many in the Lahontan Region, and that further delays for this project will continue to prolong existing issues. Staff would like to continue moving the Bacteria Project forward as best as possible given the current situation.

In January 2020, many of you responded to a survey about the Bacteria Project. Survey results showed a high level of interest in participating in the planning process, a desire to protect human health and the health of our water ways from fecal pollution, and a strong interest from respondents to continue to provide input and share their views during the course of the Bacteria Project. Based on the high level of participation and interest received during the first survey, Water Board staff have created a second survey to assess how best to continue to inform and engage interested parties and to help determine how to best to proceed with the Bacteria Project during these challenging times. The survey can be found [here](#) or at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/GNM3R9C>. We encourage you to fill out this survey and forward it to other interested parties. The survey will close Friday, May 15th at 5pm.

We value your opinion and are keen to understand the ways in which you use surface waters in Eastern California. Our intent is to host public meetings for this project once the COVID-19 situation is resolved. However, given the current restrictions on public gatherings, we are interested to engage with you in ways that do not involve face-to-face contact at this time. Your input is vital to help staff complete a comprehensive evaluation of the bacteria water quality objectives currently in place in the Lahontan

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Region. Should you have any questions, please contact Ed Hancock at (530) 542-5574 or at ed.hancock@waterboards.ca.gov.

Wishing you and your family all the best during these challenging times.

Kind regards,

Ed Hancock, M.S.
Environmental Scientist, Planning and Assessment Unit