*****PUBLIC NOTICE*****

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

**NOTICE OF CEQA SCOPING MEETING**

**FOR A BASIN PLANNING PROJECT: *PROJECT TO REVISE PROHIBITION EXEMPTIONS FOR LOW THREAT AND RESTORATION DISCHARGES***

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Lahontan Region (Lahontan Water Board) will hold a California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) scoping meeting at the following time and location:

**Monday, December 7th, 2026**

**4:00 P.M. PDT**

The meeting will be conducted virtually via Zoom

**Zoom Meeting Link:** https://waterboards.zoom.us/j/89750337451

**Zoom Meeting ID:** 897 5033 7451

**Zoom Call in Number:** +16699009128, 89750337451# US (San Jose)

+16694449171, 89750337451# US

**SUMMARY**

The Lahontan Water Board announces a public meeting to discuss changes to the Water Quality Control Plan for the Lahontan Region (Basin Plan). The Basin Plan assigns beneficial uses to waterbodies, and establishes water quality objectives, waste discharge prohibitions, and other measures to protect those beneficial uses. This project would update the Basin Plan so that more types of low-threat projects would be exempt from waste discharge prohibitions. The project types being considered for this update are environmental restoration activities, pier reconstructions, utility pole replacements, and culvert replacements. Additionally, some updates to the language that already exists in the Basin Plan would be made to clarify some discharge types as well as the purpose and function of Basin Plan Table 4.1-1.

**WHY THIS MATTERS**
The Lahontan Water Board wants to expand the list of projects that are exempt from strict discharge rules, making it easier for low-risk and environmentally beneficial projects to move forward. This amendment is meant to reduce unnecessary work for permitted projects that don't pose a high risk to water quality. Public input is important to help identify what actions, alternatives, and environmental impacts should be considered.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**
The Project to Revise Prohibition Exemptions for Low Threat and Restoration Discharges involves developing a proposed amendment to the Basin Plan which would expand the discharge categories in Table 4.1-1 (Low Threat Discharges that are Conditionally Exempt from Waste Discharge Prohibitions), and conditionally exempt restoration projects from waste discharge prohibitions in Chapters 4 and 5 of the Basin Plan.

**CEQA SCOPING MEETING**
State regulations require that Basin Plan amendments that are "projects" for purposes of CEQA, be accompanied by Substitute Environmental Documentation (SED) (23 CCR § 3775-3781). The purpose of the scoping meeting is to provide a forum for the public to provide input on the scope and content of the environmental analysis included in the draft SED that will be prepared to support the proposed Basin Plan amendment. Scoping is helpful to the Lahontan Water Board in identifying the range of actions, alternatives, mitigation measures, and significant environmental effects to be analyzed in the SED. The meeting will consist of a presentation regarding the proposed changes to the Basin Plan, and an opportunity for participants to provide input about the content of the environmental analysis to be included in the draft SED.

Public comments can be made at the scoping meeting or can be submitted in written form by December 18th, 2026, to Eli Balderas at the contact information provided below. Lahontan Water Board staff will not prepare written responses to each individual comment received but will incorporate written responses to all significant environmental points in the report that will be publicly available for review and comment on the Lahontan Water Board website.

Additional project information is available at the project website:
https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/lahontan/water_issues/programs/basin_plan/exempted-low-threat-projects-amendment.html

The project website will be updated as new documents (e.g., Draft Basin Plan Amendment, Staff Technical Report) are developed and made available for public review.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**
During the 2025 Triennial Review of the Lahontan Basin Plan, the Lahontan Water Board prioritized a project to consider expanding the project categories in Table 4.1-1 of

the Basin Plan so that more project types could be exempt from waste discharge prohibitions in this manner, thereby increasing efficiency and reducing resource load dedicated to projects that do not pose a high risk of water quality impact. The project scope was expanded to include prohibition exemptions for restoration projects to help increase the pace and scale of restoration work implemented to protect upper watersheds, meadows and floodplains.

More information regarding the Lahontan Water Board's Triennial Review Process is available at:
https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/lahontan/water_issues/programs/basin_plan/#triennial

**LANGUAGE SERVICES**

This meeting will be offered in English. To request translation of a written document, interpretation services for the meeting, or sign language services please use one of the following options at least ten (10) business days before the meeting, if possible, by November 23rd, 2026:

- Submit an online request: bit.ly/LanguageAccessForm
- Call (916) 341-5254
- Email languageservices@waterboards.ca.gov

Contact us to request information in your language.
Contáctenos para solicitar información en su idioma.
Свяжитесь с нами, чтобы запросить информацию на вашем языке.
귀하의 언어로 작성된 정보를 요청하려면 저희에게 문의하십시오.
ਆਪਣੀ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਵਿੱਚ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਪ੍ਰਾਪਤ ਕਰਨ ਲਈ ਸਾਡੇ ਨਾਲ ਸੰਪਰਕ ਕਰੋ।.
Makipag-ugnayan sa amin para humiling ng impormasyon sa iyong wika.

**ACCESSIBILITY**

Telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) users may contact the California Relay Service at: TTY (800) 735-2929 or voice line at (800) 735-2922.

If you have special accommodations or language needs, please contact Eli Balderas at least ten days prior to the meeting date at (530) 542-5597 or Eli.Balderas@Waterboards.ca.gov.

**CONTACT INFORMATION**
Written comments will be accepted until **Friday, December 18, 2026, at 5:00 P.M. PDT.**

Please direct written comments to Eli Balderas at Eli.Balderas@Waterboards.ca.gov, or mail or hand delivery to:

Attention: Eli Balderas
Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board
2501 Lake Tahoe Blvd
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150

Please also indicate in the subject line, “CEQA Comment Letter— Project to Revise Prohibition Exemptions for Low Threat and Restoration Discharges.”

For further information about the Project to Revise Prohibition Exemptions for Low Threat and Restoration Discharges contact the project lead, Eli Balderas, at Eli.Balderas@Waterboards.ca.gov or (530) 542-5597.

Future notices regarding this project will be circulated via the Basin Planning – Regionwide email list. If you are not already a member of this list, please go to https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/email_subscriptions/reg6_subscribe.html, enter your contact information, check “Basin Planning – Regionwide”, and click “Submit” to subscribe.