Bacteria Water Quality Objectives Evaluation Project

Question and Answer Session

Wednesday, August 5th 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.
Welcome!

• Thank you for participating this evening

• Please make sure to mute your microphone

• Meeting materials available at: https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/lahtontan/water_issues/programs/basin_plan/#basin
Meeting logistics

• Take breaks as you need them:
  2-hour workshop with a 10-minute break about halfway through but we encourage everyone to take care of themselves

• Purpose of workshop: to answer your questions about this Project. Please ask for clarification on any concerns you might have
How to submit questions and comments:

• **Via email:** LahontanBacteriaObjectives@waterboards.ca.gov
  - Include subject: Q&A Session: ‘Question’ or ‘Comment’
  - Please provide the following information:
    - Your First and Last Name
    - Who you represent (i.e., self, another person, an organization)
    - Indicate if you will read your question or comment yourself, or if you would like staff to read it for you
    - Your concise question or comment
How to ask questions and comments (2):

• **Via Zoom**: Use the ‘raise your hand’ function at the bottom of the participants window to the right of the Zoom screen. Wait for your name to be called

• **Via telephone**: Press *9 to raise your hand. When your name is called, press *6 to unmute yourself. When you are finished speaking, please press *6 again to mute
Overview of today’s meeting

- Information video / Presentation slides / Project website
- Recap of Project information
  - Timeline
  - Purpose
  - Potential Project strategies
- Questions and informal comments to staff
Project Timeline

- **November 2018**: Lahontan Water Board makes Bacteria Objectives Evaluation a top planning priority
- **July 2019**: Project work begins
- **March 2020**: Public workshops postponed due to COVID-19 restrictions
- **July/August 2020**: Online engagement with interested parties
- **November 2020**: Water Board informational item at Barstow meeting
- **February 2021**: CEQA begins
Why is there a Project?

• Two bacteria objectives in the Lahontan Region
  • Fecal coliform objective in Lahontan Basin Plan
  • *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*) objective adopted by State Water Board in 2018

• Progression of research and scientific understanding regarding Fecal Indicator Bacteria (FIB)
Some Project goals…

- Update fecal coliform indicator of Basin Plan to reflect modern indicator science
- Provide regulatory clarity
- Protections for high-quality waters
Some potential options:

1. Relying only on Statewide *E. coli*/REC-1 use objective

2. Apply *E. coli*/REC-1 use objective together with a numeric antidegradation guideline assigned to high-quality waters in the Region

3. Develop a Regionwide objective and/or beneficial use with *E. coli* as the indicator bacteria
   - New objective would be approximate to the current fecal coliform objective
Next Steps

• Project Strategies: further development and Staff Report

• **November 2020** - Lahontan Water Board Meeting
  • Staff will present Project information
  • Board may provide direction on Project strategies

• Interested persons can communicate directly with Project staff – what are your thoughts and concerns?
Questions and Comments Session

• This is your opportunity to participate early in this project

• Your questions and comments are important to us

• Please feel free to ask any questions, or provide your observations, about bacteria water quality
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Contact information

• Webpage: https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/lahontan/water_issues/programs/basin_plan/#basin

• Project email address: LahontanBacteriaObjectives@waterboards.ca.gov

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