



California Regional Water Quality Control Board

Lahontan Region



Linda S. Adams
Acting Secretary for
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Edmund G. Brown Jr.
Governor

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Interested Parties

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE WATER QUALITY CONTROL PLAN FOR THE LAHONTAN REGION: PESTICIDE PROHIBITION WITH EXEMPTION CRITERIA

The Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board (Water Board) is proposing to amend the Water Quality Control Plan for the Lahontan Region (Basin Plan) by replacing the existing regionwide pesticide water quality objective, which effectively prohibits pesticide application to water, with a regionwide waste discharge prohibition with exemption criteria for aquatic pesticide application to water.

The existing pesticide water quality objective precludes the discharge of pesticides to water for all purposes including those necessary for the protection of public health and safety and ecological integrity. The proposed amendment would amend the Basin Plan by providing the Water Board with the discretion to approve eligible aquatic pesticide applications. The Water Board approval would include granting a prohibition exemption and subsequently regulating aquatic pesticide discharge under individual or general Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) or National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits.

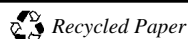
Circumstances eligible for a prohibition exemption involve the use of aquatic pesticides for purposes of vector control, fisheries management, invasive species control, and other activities (e.g. drinking water protection). Proposed aquatic pesticide application projects must satisfy specific criteria to be considered for a prohibition exemption. While the presence of aquatic pesticides may temporarily degrade water quality, control measures built into the project (to satisfy exemption criteria and permit requirements) will limit the temporal and spatial extent of water quality degradation necessary for project success.

The proposed amendment presents an approach that allows the Water Board to proactively protect water quality from the unauthorized use and unintended effects of aquatic pesticides and their residues, while still allowing lawful and appropriate use of aquatic pesticides.

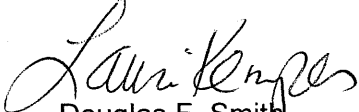
The Water Board anticipates considering the proposed amendment language for adoption at a future Water Board meeting as early as July 2011, but no later than October 2011.

The Water Board requests that you review the draft documents and provide us with your written comments no later than **May 13, 2011 at 5 pm**. Documents may be viewed and downloaded from the Water Board's internet home page at http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/lahontan/water_issues/programs/basin_plan/index.shtml under the "Pesticide Amendment" heading. Comments received after May 13, 2011 may not be given full consideration in preparation of the recommended Basin Plan Amendment to be presented to the Board for adoption. If you prefer a hardcopy of the draft documents, please contact Amber Wike at 530-542-5400 or at awike@waterboards.ca.gov.

California Environmental Protection Agency



If you have any questions, or to submit comments, please contact either Mary Wagner at mfwagner@waterboards.ca.gov or (530) 542-5425 or Daniel Sussman at dsussman@waterboards.ca.gov or (530) 542-5466. Comments can also be sent to: Lahontan Water Board, 2501 Lake Tahoe Blvd., So. Lake Tahoe, CA 96150.



Douglas F. Smith

for Planning and Restoration Division Manager