
Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board

July 29, 2020

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING AND OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT ON ADDING DEFINITIONS FOR TRIBAL CULTURAL AND SUBSISTENCE FISHING BENEFICIAL USES IN A PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE WATER QUALITY CONTROL PLAN FOR THE LAHONTAN REGION (BASIN PLAN)

This Notice relates to an important step in recognizing and protecting cultural practices and traditional uses of waters by California Native American Tribes, subsistence fishing by California Native American Tribes, and subsistence fishing by other communities and individuals. It includes information about opportunities to participate in the process.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board (Water Board) is proposing to amend the Water Quality Control Plan for the Lahontan Region (Basin Plan). The proposed amendment will add to Chapter 2 of the Basin Plan the definitions of three new beneficial uses from the statewide "Part 2 of the Water Quality Control Plan for Inland Surface Waters, Enclosed Bays, and Estuaries of California—Tribal and Subsistence Fishing Beneficial Uses and Mercury Provisions". The three new beneficial uses are Tribal Tradition and Culture (CUL), Tribal Subsistence Fishing (T-SUB), and Subsistence Fishing (SUB). CUL reflects uses of water that support the cultural, spiritual, and traditional ways of living by California Native American Tribes. The T-SUB and SUB uses are in recognition of populations that are likely to consume more fish than the average recreational angler in California, thus at a higher human health risk from bioaccumulative contaminants in fish tissue such as mercury.

PETER C. PUMPHREY, CHAIR | PATTY Z. KOUYOUMDJIAN, EXECUTIVE OFFICER

The proposed amendment will add only the definitions for the three new beneficial uses into the Lahontan Basin Plan. Designations of the new beneficial uses to specific waterbodies, where those uses are existing or attainable, will be considered under a future, separate Basin Plan amendment process. Input from California Native American Tribes and the subsistence fishing communities will be a vital part of the beneficial use designation process.

SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN COMMENTS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Water Board will receive public comments on the proposed Basin Plan amendment and Draft Staff Report, and will accept written comments on these documents as set forth in this Notice. Written comments must be received no later than **August 31, 2020**. The documents are available for review at:

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/lahontan/water_issues/programs/basin_plan/#other

Should you require a paper copy of the documents, please contact the staff listed at the end of this Notice with your request.

Written comments can be emailed to: Lahontan@waterboards.ca.gov

or mailed to:

Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board

2501 Lake Tahoe Blvd.

South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150

Attention: Cindy Wise or Dan Sussman

Please include "Comments-Tribal Cultural and Subsistence Fishing Beneficial Uses Basin Plan Amendment" in the subject line of your email or hardcopy submittals.

PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Water Board will hold a public board hearing to receive public comment and to consider the proposed Basin Plan amendment on September 16, 2020. Public comment may be limited by the Water Board Chair to allow all people time to be heard. The Water Board will then affirm, reject, or modify the proposed Basin Plan amendment, or postpone a decision to a future Board meeting.

The agenda for the Water Board's Meeting that will include information about the public hearing is typically posted 10-15 days prior to the meeting on the Water Board's website at http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/lahontan/board_info/agenda The Agenda will identify the specific date and starting time for the public hearing. As a result of the COVID-19 emergency and the Governor's Executive Orders to protect public health by limiting public gatherings and requiring social distancing, this Meeting will occur solely via remote presence. Links for the meeting, including a phone call option, will be posted on the Water Board's website: https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/lahontan/board_info/remote_meeting

Updates to this Notice will be distributed by Lahontan Water Board staff through its Board Meeting Agenda Mailing List and its Basin Planning email subscription service or listserv. You can subscribe to the "Basin Planning - Tribal Cultural and Subsistence Fishing Beneficial Uses" listserv via the Water Board's home page at:

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/email_subscriptions/reg6_subscribe.html

If you have any questions about this Notice, please contact:

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or

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