

**CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD  
LAHONTAN REGION  
MEETING OF NOVEMBER 15-16, 2017  
SOUTH LAKE TAHOE**

**ITEM 12**

**CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION & MITIGATION UPDATE**

**CHRONOLOGY**

<b>November 2014</b>	Water Board staff hosted the first Climate Change Adaptation Public Workshop in Barstow, California. Climate change experts presented the latest research regarding anticipated climate change effects in the Lahontan Region to over 100 attendees. Attendees provided ideas regarding potential Water Board adaptations/responses (regulatory, policy, coordination with stakeholders, education, etc.) to climate change.
<b>January 2015</b>	Water Board staff hosted second Climate Change Adaptation Public Workshop in South Lake Tahoe, California, which was similar in attendance, content, and format to Nov. 2014 workshop.
<b>May 2015</b>	Water Board staff presented summary of public ideas generated from the Nov. 2014 and Jan. 2015 public workshops to the Water Board.
<b>July 2015</b>	Water Board staff presented Climate Change Conceptual Model and Adaptation Strategy. Water Board provided direction.
<b>December 2015</b>	Three internal Water Board Climate Change Working Groups formed and began meeting: Infrastructure, Storm Water and Low Impact Development, and Wetlands and Floodplains.
<b>August 2016</b>	Water Board staff widely distributed Climate Change Survey to Email Subscription Lists and other interested persons. Survey is posted on the Climate Change page of the Water Board's web site.
<b>Aug. – Oct. 2016</b>	Water Board staff attended outreach meetings with a variety of stakeholder groups to encourage stakeholder participation with staff's survey, and to solicit input.
<b>November 2016</b>	Water Board staff discussed staff's online Climate Change Survey, prioritizing potential climate change-related actions, and next steps in developing a climate change mitigation and adaptation strategy. Water Board provided direction.

<b>January 2017</b>	Water Board staff provided preliminary observations regarding staff's online Climate Change Survey results, and proposed revised schedule for developing a climate change mitigation and adaptation strategy. Water Board established a Climate Change Subcommittee and provided direction.
<b>May 2017</b>	Water Board staff presented a Climate Change Staff Report, which presented information on the input received from outreach workshops in 2014 and 2014 and from an online survey in August 2016. Water Board members supported staff's plan to hold outreach meetings throughout the region to solicit public input on various options the Water Board should pursue to adapt to climate change.
<b>September 28 – October 10, 2017</b>	Water Board staff conducted three public outreach meetings (Truckee, Apple Valley, Bishop) to gather input on various options the Water Board could prioritize for adapting to climate change.

## BACKGROUND

Water Board staff continues working on a Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Strategy. Staff's efforts have involved substantial participation from the climate change scientific community, and extensive stakeholder participation through two initial workshops focusing on the science, an online survey asking about options, a Climate Change Staff Report, and recently, three outreach meetings across the region to gather input on prioritizing options. Staff has also provided a number of updates to the Water Board during regularly scheduled Water Board meetings, where Board members have provided direction to staff.'

Staff efforts are now focused on reviewing what we have learned through the workshops and Climate Change Survey and to better understand the State of California's extensive efforts adapting to climate change. The staff review will explore how the State Water Resources Control Board and Regional Water Quality Control Boards can support and implement the climate change laws and effectively use the Water Board's limited resources to respond to climate change in the Lahontan Region.

From the public input received at the November 2014 and January 2015 initial workshops, and from the 2016 online survey, staff crafted six main goals with various options to achieve each goal.

- Goal 1: Increase Storm Water Treatment and Infiltration
- Goal 2: Protect Recharge Areas and Floodplains
- Goal 3: Increase Protection and Restoration of Headwaters
- Goal 4: Increase Monitoring of Climate Change Indicators
- Goal 5: Reduce Nitrogen Loading to Surface & Groundwater
- Goal 6: Protect Infrastructure

Staff shared the goals and options at three outreach meetings to seek public input on priorities and additional options to achieve each goal. Staff held outreach meetings on September 28, 2017 in Truckee, on October 5, 2017 in Apple Valley, and on October 11, 2017 in Bishop. Enclosure 1 is a table listing the participants at the three meetings.

## ISSUES

What steps should the Water Board take to develop a Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Strategy for Board consideration in early 2018?

## DISCUSSION

A keystone to developing the Water Board's Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Strategy from the beginning has been stakeholder involvement. The Water Board started its strategy development with public workshops that brought climate change experts together with a large number of stakeholders with varying interests, experiences, and backgrounds to share information and ideas regarding climate change impacts across the Lahontan Region, and ideas for responding to climate change and its impacts.

Staff received many new options during the recent outreach meetings and recognizes additional information and options can be gathered from specific individuals and entities that did not participate in the recent meetings. Further, from the list of options, staff with Board input, will need to identify the highest priority options or a limited subset of options to pursue within available staff resources. With this in mind, staff plans to continue to solicit input from its stakeholders and foster partnerships with local governments and organizations in the Lahontan Region to strengthen our efforts.

Staff will present key messages received from the recent three public input workshops.

## PUBLIC OUTREACH/INPUT

Water Board staff maintains and updates its climate change web page, and distributes agenda items and other documents/activities to the Board's Climate Change Mailing List. Staff held three public input workshops in late September 2017 to mid-October 2017.

## RECOMMENDATION

This is an informational item and no formal action is requested. Water Board staff is seeking Board member and interested stakeholder input and suggestions on the input received to date and on the steps forward to craft a Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Strategy.

ENCLOSURE	ITEM	BATES NUMBER
1	List of Participants at the Public Input Meetings	12-xx
2	Water Board Staff's Presentation	Submitted Under Separate Cover