
Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board

MINUTES

May 13, 2025

The Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board (Water Board)
conducted this meeting at the location shown below:

Lahontan Water Board Annex, Hearing Room,
971 Silver Dollar Avenue,
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150

And

Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board
15095 Amargosa Road, Bldg. 2, Suite 210
Victorville, CA 92394

REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, May 13, 2025, 9:00 a.m.

AND

Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board
2501 Lake Tahoe Blvd.
South Lake Tahoe, CA

SPECIAL MEETING/LUNCH

Tuesday, May 13, 2025, 12:30 p.m.

And

Via Video and Teleconference (Gov. Code § 11133)

Water Board Members

Kimberly Cox, Helendale
Essra Mostafavi, Bishop
Robert Pearce, Chalfant

Amy Horne, Ph.D., Truckee
Rick Dever, Crestline
Jeff Loux, Truckee

State Water Board

Elizabeth Beryt, Office of Chief Counsel

Nichole Morgan, Lahontan Board Liaison (absent)

Water Board Staff

Ben Letton, Asst. Executive Officer	Dan Sussman, Sr. Environmental Scientist
Timothy Middlemis-Clark, Supv. WRC Engineer	Reginald Tan, Sr. WRC Engineer
Jan Zimmerman, Supv. Engineering Geologist	John Morales, WRC Engineer
Mary Fiore-Wagner, Sr. Env. Scientist	Brian Judge, Engineering Geologist
Shelby Barker, Sr. Engineering Geologist	Jose Valle de Leon, WRC Engineer
Ariel Lafarga, Asst. Board Clerk	Jasmine Enerson, Asst. Board Clerk
Katrina Fleshman, Board Clerk	

[View the full Agenda and listen to the audio of this meeting](#)

REGULAR MEETING: Tuesday, May 13, 2025, at 9:00 p.m.**CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS**

The Water Board Chair, Essra Mostafavi, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. The Board Chair, Mostafavi, introduced the Water Board Members, and the Water Board staff, and discussed procedures for in-person and video and teleconference meetings.

1. PUBLIC FORUM

No public comments.

2. MINUTES

Motion: Moved by Member Kimberly Cox, seconded by Member Loux, to approve January 30, 2025, meeting Minutes with the change to the January Minutes vote on page 5. The correction is: member Dever indicated "NAY" not "AYE" and member Loux indicated "AYE" not "NAY". Board Chair Essra Mostafavi called for a roll call vote and the motion carried per the following votes:

Board Chair Essra Mostafavi	Aye
Vice-Chair Pearce	Aye
Member Dr. Cox	Aye
Member Dr. Horne	Aye
Member Dever	Aye
Member Loux	Aye

[View the adopted January 30, 2025, Meeting Minutes](#)

3. REPORTS BY WATER BOARD CHAIR AND WATER BOARD MEMBERS

Water Board Chair, Essra Mostafavi, provided a summary of our former Executive Officer, Mike Plaziak's, commitment and dedication to the Lahontan Water Board. Ms. Mostafavi further provided an update on May 1-2, 2025, WQCC Meeting in Sacramento.

Water Board member, Rick Dever, also attended the WQCC meeting in Sacramento, and indicated he was concerned over the reporting of the smell in the Tijuana River by Region 9 and hopes they can find a resolution.

Water Board Member, Jeff Loux, indicated our Acting Executive Officer, Ben Letton, provided a summary at the WQCC meeting of our Lahontan region and he thought it was a great presentation of our region. Mr. Loux indicated there is an interesting project that the Town of Truckee is lean on regarding the “River Revitalization Steering Committee” (RRSC)

Water Board member, Dr. Amy Horne, indicated during the WQCC meeting there was a wastewater needs assessment discussion that she was interested in. Dr. Horne also mentioned that the Tahoe Summit is in August and this year’s organizer is Senator Adam Schiff. Dr. Horne encourages all Board members to try and attend the 2025 Tahoe Summit.

4. EXECUTIVE OFFICER’S REPORT

The Assistant Executive Officer, Ben Letton, provided an update to the Water Board and public on key actions and activities in the Lahontan region, including the items below.

- a. A tribute to former Executive Officer, Michael R. Plaziak.
- b. Personnel Report (Promotions, new hires, separations, upcoming retirements and vacancies.
- c. Public outreach meeting for the 2024 Timber Waiver
- d. Impacts of Adelanto Publicly Owned Treatment Works Discharge on Former George Air Force Base
- e. Budget Reductions Impact the Regional Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program
- f. Truckee River Watershed Enforcement Strategy Teamwork
- g. Groundwater Quality, Forestry and Wildfire Legislative Update
- h. Projected List of Future Regional Water Board Agenda Items
- i. Department of Defense Program Overview and Funding Challenges
- j. Streamlined Permitting with Region 6 First General 401 Water Quality Certification
- k. Emergence of Land Applications in Rural Areas of Region 6
- l. Vision Plan Implementation (Bishop Creek and West Fork Carson River)
- m. Future Water Board Agenda items
- n. Change to the 2025 Standing Items, Climate Change

Water Board staff, Shelby Barker, Senior Engineering Geologist, provided an overview of the 4th Quarter Violations Report.

COMMENTS BY WATER BOARD MEMBERS

Water Board member Dr. Amy Horne asked about the vegetative buffer strip in regard to the 2024 Timber Waiver Public Outreach. Mr. Letton responded a Vegetative buffer strip is a strip of vegetation that is left adjacent to the water body, or an area where pollutants could be conveyed into a surface water.

Water Board member, Dr. Amy Horne, indicated she can see the benefits of field work reflected in the 4th Quarter Violations Report.

Water Board member Dr. Amy Horne asked how the cuts in the SWAMP program affect the future versions of the Integrative Reports. Mr. Sussman indicated that some of our reports are from Federal data basis and tribal data, and it will impact Lahontan reports if we are unable to go out and collect the data ourselves.

Water Board member, Kimberly Cox, encourage Lahontan staff to keep in mind and never forget that the Air Force and their team indicated they are using natural attenuation as a method of cleanup. Ms. Cox has heard assertions made that they are using that method but does not feel that science backs up the assertion. Ms. Cox wants Lahontan staff to monitor and use sound science so that they are indeed using Natural attenuation is their method of cleanup.

Water Board member, Jeff Loux, asked who initiates the Vision Plan process. Mr. Letton explained that the vision plans has the same nine elements of a TMDL, but it is more of an informal regulatory setting. Water Board staff, Dan Sussman, further stated, that the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) had a vision for addressing three new waters that they put out every year. USEPA had a Vision Plan they implemented a few years ago. The vision plan grew out of the fact that outside of California a lot of the TMDLs requirements do not have an implementation plan.

5. REVISION OF WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS, FOR THE DESERT OASIS DAIRY, SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY.

Water Board staff, John Morales, Water Resource Control Engineer (WRCE), provided a presentation and asked the Water Board to consider adopting revised Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) that will update the requirements and monitoring for Desert Oasis Dairy in Barstow.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Toby Moore, Principal Hydrogeologist for Golden State Water Company

Jack Vanderhulst, Owner of Desert Oasis Dairy

Paul Sousa, Western United Dairies

Jean Peirre-Cativela, representing Dairy Cares Statewide Organization

COMMENTS BY WATER BOARD MEMBERS

Water Board member, Rick Dever, complimented staff on the work they did with the stakeholders to accomplish this WDR.

Water Board member, Jeff Loux, asked about the three wells, one upgradient and two downgradient, does not sound like a new plan and would like that explained. Mr. Loux also wanted to know what happens if the plan does not work how staff are going to go forward. Water Board staff, John Morales, replied that Lahontan is giving the Discharger and the consultant ample time to determine if the existing monitoring wells are good or bad. Staff is expecting an assessment of the existing system to determine if additional wells are needed.

Board Member, Dr. Cox, asked during outreach for this item, if staff have any residents from the Hinkley community participate in previous conversations. Water Board Staff, Mr. Morales, indicated that staff did distribute the tentative order to the residences of Hinkley but received no responses.

Water Board member, Jeff Loux, suggested staff create a header on every page with commenter name to help organize and simplify the "Response to Comments"

Water Board member Dr. Rob Pearce asked if there was an assessment done of the Water Quality Monitoring cost. Water Board staff, Mr. Morales, indicated they are at the stage of just presenting the current needs and the economic analysis will come later. Dr. Pearce further asked if the Lahontan staff, can add "NRCS Certified Planner with job approval authority in NRCS standard 590 Nutrient Management" to the Desert Oasis Dairy WDR. Water Board took a break to allow Lahontan staff to review and discuss Board Member Pearce's suggestion.

Water Board member Horne stated that the Mojave River is a closed basin and asked if a dairy within a closed basin requires additional levels of protection. Staff responded yes that dairies in closed basins are required to meet a higher standard of water quality protection. Dr. Horne further complimented staff on the permit and emphasized the benefits of an individual WDR and utilizing performance standards, rather than prescriptive standards.

Water Board staff, Jan Zimmerman, presented the new staff recommendation to adopt the revised WDR for the Desert Oasis Dairy with the late change for submitting the groundwater monitoring network plan 180 days after adoption. Also, to address Board member Pierce's comment, staff proposed the following changes be made to the order on Bate stamp 5-22, section A-4. It was proposed to add "NRCS certified planner with job approval authority in NRCS standard 590 nutrient management plan.. Staff proposed to make changes to Bates stamp 5-27, attachment B, under nutrient management principles and make that same change to Bates stamp 5-30 under statement of certification section 7-7.a. With those late changes proposed, it was recommended that the board adopt the order.

Water Board members, agreed to add the suggested sentence of "NRCS Certified Planner with job approval authority in NRCS standard 590 Nutrient Management Plan" to the Desert Oasis Dairy WDR.

Motion: Moved by Member Cox, seconded by Member Pearce, to adopt the revised Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) that will update the requirements and monitoring for Desert Oasis Dairy in Barstow, with the changes to section VI Required Plans and Reporting. The change consists of replacing the words "No later than 90 days..." with "No later than 180 days...". and adding the words "NRCS certified planner with job approval authority in NRCS standard 590 nutrient management plan. As a certified person to prepare the nutrient management plan".

Board Chair Essra Mostafavi called for a roll call vote and the motion carried per the following votes:

Board Chair Essra Mostafavi	Aye
Vice-Chair Pearce	Aye
Member Dr. Cox	Aye
Member Dr. Horne	Aye
Member Dever	Aye
Member Loux	Aye

6. LAKE TAHOE MARINA GENERAL NPDES PERMIT INFORMATIONAL UPDATE

Water Board staff, Brian Judge, Engineering Geologist, provided an overview of the General Waste Discharge Requirements and National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit for Storm Water Discharges Associated with Marina Operations in The Lake Tahoe Hydrologic Unit, El Dorado, and Placer Counties, and solicit feedback for the Permit reissuance, which is anticipated by the Fall of 2026.

COMMENTS BY WATER BOARD

Water Board member, Jeff Loux, asked about the map of the lake and how much communication does Lahontan have with the State of Nevada, regarding their process. Water Board staff, Brian Judge, replied Nevada has similar Water quality requirements as far as industrial storm waters. Mr. Loux asked about the process of the cleanup after snow melts. Mr. Judge replied they are swept and inspect the BMPs periodically. Mr. Loux suggested that since the initial inspection after a snow melt is so critical, the inspection and cleanups happen immediately after a snow melt. Staff is required to do a visual weekly inspection, where they walk the marina and keep records of that.

Water Board member, Dr. Cox, asked if there is a BMP in place for a fuel spill. Mr. Judge replied, each Marina has spill kits. They are long booms like big tubes that are 50 feet long, and we surround the boats with booms which cause the gas and oil to float to the top so they can absorb those types of spills.

Dr Horne asked if marina discharges of nutrients and fine sediment are included in the Tahoe TMDL. Mr. Judge replied yes, that the marina is within a jurisdiction under the municipal stormwater permit, which must reduce these constituents throughout their entire county. Marina land fall with that urban area included for the overall reduction. Dr Horne also asked about sources of Copper, Zinc, and Lead from marinas. Mr. Judge replied that those metals often come from paint.

WATER BOARD TOOK A BREAK FROM 12:08PM TO 1:30PM

7. REVISED SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY LOCAL AGENCY MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Water Board staff, Jose Valle de Leon, Water Resource Control Engineer, asked the Water Board to consider adopting a resolution approving the revised Local Agency Management Program (LAMP) for San Bernardino County. Water Board staff will present background information related to Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems

(OWTS), State Water Board's OWTS Policy, and the most recent revision of the San Bernardino County LAMP.

COMMENTS BY WATER BOARD

Board member, Jeff Loux, asked staff to provide examples of "alternative treatment systems". Mr. Valle de Leon replied that when a resident has a lot that is too small to install a septic system alone, they would install an alternative treatment system that would treat nutrient effluent to bring it below the 50% removal rate. Board Member Loux also asked about maximum allowable slopes (45%) for disposal fields. He was surprised that an OWTS system could be constructed on slopes that steep. Mr. Valle de Leon replied that he did not know exactly how that number was derived but these allowable slope percentages were in the original LAMP.

Board member, Dr. Horne asked about the language "... county committed to continue to send proposed OWTS designs that do not meet specific LAMP criteria to the respective Water Board. In addition, San Bernardino County intends to also refer OWTS that are engineered systems with either or both supplemental treatment system or alternative dispersal system for the Water Board's "preliminary approval." Dr. Horne asked what happens if Lahontan discovers that San Bernardino County is not complying with those commitments. Water Board staff, Mr. Valle de Leon replied that the LAMP can be revoked from the county. Water Board staff, Reginald Tan, Sr. WRC Engineer, further indicated that Lahontan has the ability to revoke the LAMP as appropriate, after which the LAMP will go back to a tier one standard, which is more stringent with the state water policy.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Motion: Moved by Member Cox, seconded by Member Dr. Horne, to adopt a resolution approving the revised Local Agency Management Program (LAMP) as presented. Board Chair Essra Mostafavi called for a roll call vote and the motion carried per the following votes:

Board Chair Essra Mostafavi	Aye
Vice-Chair Pearce	Aye
Member Dr. Cox	Aye
Member Dr. Horne	Aye
Member Dever	Aye
Member Loux	Aye

8. *RESCISSION OF PROJECT APPROVALS REGARDING TAHOE KEYS LAGOONS AQUATIC WEED CONTROL METHODS TEST.

Water Board staff, TJ Middlemiss-Clark, Supervising WRC Engineer, asked the Water Board to consider adopting a resolution that (1) vacates and sets aside Resolution R6T-2022-0002 Certification of California Environmental Quality Act Final Environmental Impact Report for the Tahoe Keys Lagoons Aquatic Weed Control Methods Test; (2) vacates and sets aside Resolution No. R6T-2022-0003 Granting an Exemption to the Aquatic Pesticide Discharge Prohibition in The Water Quality Control Plan for the Lahontan Region for the Tahoe Keys Lagoons Aquatic Weed

Control Methods Test for the Tahoe Keys Property Owners Association City Of South Lake Tahoe; (3) terminates Order No. R6T-2022-0004 Waste Discharge Requirements and National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit for Tahoe Keys Property Owners Association Tahoe Keys Lagoons Aquatic Weed Control Methods Test; and (4) rescinds Mitigation Monitoring And Reporting Program No. R6T-2022-0005 Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program For The Tahoe Keys Lagoons Aquatic Weed Control Methods Test For The Tahoe Keys Property Owners Association City Of South Lake Tahoe.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Sarah Vidra, Interim Director of the Tahoe Water Suppliers Association.

Motion: Moved by Member Dr. Horne, seconded by Member Loux, to adopt the Resolution regarding the Rescission of Project Approvals Regarding Tahoe Keys Lagoons Aquatic Weed Control Methods Test as presented. Board Chair Essra Mostafavi called for a roll call vote and the motion carried per the following votes:

Board Chair Essra Mostafavi	Aye
Vice-Chair Pearce	Aye
Member Dr. Cox	Aye
Member Dr. Horne	Aye
Member Dever	Aye
Member Loux	Aye

9. CLOSED SESSION

The Water Board members went into Closed Session on Thursday, May 13, 2025, at 2:09 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the Water Board, the meeting adjourned at 2:09 p.m. on May 13, 2025.

Prepared by:  Adopted: May 13, 2025
Katrina Fleshman, Water Board Clerk