



Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board

April 5, 2014

To Interested Parties:

OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT ON LAHONTAN WATER BOARD'S CLEAN WATER ACT SECTION 303(D)/305(B) ASSESSMENT

Section 305(b) and 303(d) of the federal Clean Water Act requires states to assess the quality of their surface waters on a continuing basis (the next assessment for the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board (Lahontan Water Board) will be in 2020) and to identify impaired water bodies needing remedial programs, such as development of Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs), to ensure attainment of water quality standards. The Lahontan Water Board plans to prepare an "Integrated Report" for the State Water Resources Control Board (State Board). After review and approval by State Board, it will be provided to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) to fulfill the requirements of the federal Clean Water Act.

After providing opportunities for public participation and considering public comments, the Lahontan Water Board will consider recommendations to the State Water Board for changes in the statewide Section 303(d) list of impaired waters. The Water Board will compile a Region 1, 6, and 7 Integrated Report and submit it to the USEPA.

The Lahontan Water Board will hold a public hearing on this item at its June 18-19, 2014 meeting. Following the hearing, the Board will consider approving recommendations for revisions to the Section 303(d) list. The Board will not take formal action on staff's assessments of non-impaired waters under Clean Water Act Section 305(b). However, public comments may be submitted on these assessments, as documented in water body fact sheets.

Staff's recommendations and related information will be available for review on the Lahontan Water Board's web page April 5, 2014. The address for this page is: <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/lahontan>. The online information will include water body fact sheets for each of the more than 2300 water body-pollutant combinations assessed. The fact sheets will include links to all of the information and data used in the assessment. Twenty-three new listings to the Section 303(d) list are being recommended.

Because of the large size of the electronic fields, the Lahontan Water Board is not distributing paper copies of all the files. Readers are encouraged to download and print information of interest to them. Paper copies of the staff report and Appendices A through C may be obtained by contacting Daryl Kambitsch at DKambitsch@waterboards.ca.gov.

The exact time for the June 18-19, 2014 Lahontan Water Board meeting has not been determined, although the location will be in Bishop. A Notice of Public Hearing with this information will be sent to the Lahontan Water Board's TMDLs – 303(d) List (Impaired Waters) in May 2014, and the agenda announcement for the June meeting will be available on the Lahontan Water Board's webpage in late May/early June. Interested parties may subscribe to the Lahontan Water Board's electronic mailing list to receive email copies of notices. For instructions, see: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/email_subscriptions/reg6_subscribe.shtml.

Written public comments on staff's recommendations are requested to be received at the Lahontan Water Board's South Lake Tahoe office by **May 19, 2014** in order to allow adequate time for preparation of written responses and for full consideration of comments and responses by the Lahontan Water Board. Lahontan Water Board staff will prepare written responses to significant written public comments and public hearing testimony for inclusion in the administrative record.

Written comments may be submitted in paper format or by email. Comments should be sent to the attention of Carly Nilson and Mary Fiore-Wagner at 2501 Lake Tahoe Blvd., South Lake Tahoe CA 96150 or by email to cnilson@waterboards.ca.gov or mfwagner@waterboards.ca.gov.

The Lahontan Water Board is not soliciting additional information and data for use in the assessment at this time. Any new information or data will need to be entered into the California Environmental Data Exchange Network (CEDEN) to be included in the next Integrated Report cycle.

For additional questions about the Section 303(d)/305(b) assessment process, please contact Mary Fiore-Wagner at 530-542-5425 or Carly Nilson at 530-542-5445.



Douglas F. Smith, P.G.
Supervising Engineering Geologist
Manager of Planning and Restoration Division