



Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board

MINUTES

December 6, 2023

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

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

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
Keith Dyas, Rosamond

State Water Board

Elizabeth Beryt, Office of Chief Counsel

Water Board Staff

Ben Letton, Asst. Executive Officer
Robert Tucker, Sr. WRC Engineer
Jeremy Feinberg, Engineering Geologist
Tiffany Barulich, WRC Engineer
Adam Henriques, Environmental Scientist
Cynthia Harris, Asst. Board Clerk

Jan Zimmerman, Sr. Engineering Geologist
Timothy Middlemis-Clark, Supv. WRC Engineer
Andrew Jensen, Environmental Program Mgr.
Trevor Miller, Sr. WRC Engineer
Katrina Fleshman, Board Clerk

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

REGULAR MEETING: Wednesday, December 6, 2023, @ 10:00 a.m.

CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

Water Board Vice-Chair, Amy Horne, (Acting Board Chair) called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Acting Board Chair, Dr. Horne, introduced the Water Board Members, and the Water Board staff, and discussed procedures for in-person and video and teleconference meetings.

DR. AMY HORNE, ACTING CHAIR | MICHAEL R. PLAZIAK, PG, EXECUTIVE OFFICER

1. PUBLIC FORUM

No public comments.

2. MINUTES

Motion: Moved by Member Dyas, seconded by Member Dr. Cox, to approve the October 31, 2023, meeting Minutes as presented. Chair Dr. Horne called for a roll call vote and the motion carried per the following votes:

Acting Board Chair Dr. Horne	Aye
Member Dr. Cox	Aye
Member Dyas	Aye
Member Mostafavi	Aye
Member Pearce	Abstain

[View the adopted October 31, 2023, Meeting Minutes](#)

3. REPORTS BY WATER BOARD CHAIR AND WATER BOARD MEMBERS

No reports by Water Board members, or State Water Board staff.

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. Cal Poly Pomona Korean American Scientists and Engineers Associations (KSEA) Presentation.
- b. Eastern California Cannabis Unit Report
- c. Changes to the 2024 proposed Standing Items
- d. Changes to the 2024 Board meeting locations for April and August
- e. Achievement awards to Administrative Officer, Eric Shay, and Environmental Scientist, Adam Henriques.

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS BY WATER BOARD MEMBERS

Water Board Acting Board Chair, Dr. Horne, asked Water Board staff, given the number of unpermitted sites in region six, how is the Water Board staff is handling the large volume Cannabis program violations with only three staff. Water Board staff, Trevor Miller, Sr. WRC Engineer, replied one of the biggest challenges is the interfacing with Law Enforcement. Another is there are eleven landowners that were issued a Notice of Violation and six of them have not responded, and a challenge is tracking down those landowners.

5. NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM AND WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS FOR FISH SPRINGS FISH HATCHERY, INYO COUNTY

Water Board staff, Tiffany Barulich, Water Resource Control Engineer, held a public hearing to receive public comments and consider adopting an updated NPDES permit for the discharge of hatchery wastewater from Fish Springs Hatchery to Fish Springs Creek.

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS BY WATER BOARD MEMBERS

Water Board Member Dr. Cox said she feels it is important for us to all understand issuing NPDES permits doesn't happen within a few weeks or even in a month. Dr. Cox asked Ms.

Barulich how long this process took for this permit to come before the Board. Ms. Barulich replied the first application was around 2019 and Lahontan Staff has been diligently working on this permit since November of last year.

Water Board member, Dr. Cox indicated that Ms. Barulich mentioned the monitoring for the total recoverable manganese and potassium permanganate, and she was inquiring as to what is recoverable manganese and why Lahontan doesn't require CDFW to recover the manganese. Water Board staff, Robert Tucker, Senior Water Resource Control Engineer, replied that Lahontan only requires sampling from CDFW when they apply an aquatic drug or pharmaceutical. It is not continuous sampling, and not that it is not recoverable, but the cost benefit analysis would probably have to be done with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW). Ms. Barulich went on to say that CDFW did not use those drugs or chemicals in the last permit term, but in this permit, we will continue to require monitoring for them.

Water Board Member Dyas asked Ms. Barulich to verify what is meant by the term "technology based effluent limits". Ms. Barulich replied this is based on technology that the facility includes to treat the effluent from the raceway ponds, which is the settling basin. The Limit was based off the best professional judgment since there is not standard for settling basins. The limits are based on the technologies that exist in wastewater treatment, and depending on what constituent you're monitoring it will depend on the treatment technology.

Water Board member, Mostafavi, asked what the extremes in pH that CDFW has seen within the effluent. Ms. Barulich replied that the last previous permit term, the maximum pH that the facility had in their effluent was 8.5, and the maximum temperature at that point was around little over 20 degrees Celsius, so the median is about 7.58, and the minimum was at 6.8, and this is at the effluent.

Water Board member, Mostafavi, further asked how the CDFW addresses ammonia levels within the effluent. Ms. Barulich replied that CDFW is required to monitor the ammonia at the receiving water.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Terry Jackson, Senior Environmental Scientist and Statewide Hatchery NPDES Coordinator, from the California Fish and Wildlife.

Motion: Moved by Member Mostafavi, seconded by Member Dr. Cox, to consider adopting the updated NPDES permit for the discharge of hatchery wastewater from Fish Springs Hatchery to Fish Springs Creek as presented. Chair Dr. Horne called for a roll call vote and the motion carried per the following votes:

- Acting Board Chair Dr. Horne Aye
- Member Dr. Cox Aye
- Member Dyas Aye
- Member Mostafavi Aye
- Member Pearce Aye

WATER BOARD TOOK A BREAK FROM 11:22AM TO 11:30AM

6. FOREST ACTIVITIES PROGRAM UPDATE

Water Board Staff, Trevor Miller, Senior Water Resource Engineer, gave the introduction and presented an outline of the presentation for the Forest Activities Program Update.

Adam Henriques, Environmental Scientist, updated the Water Board on the Forest Activities Program strategy, existing permits, processes, and staff activities that address discharges from timber harvest and vegetation management activities within the region, including coordination with other agencies and stakeholders involved with forest fuels treatment and wildfire risk reduction.

Jeremy Feinberg, Engineering Geologist, provided a progress update on the development, goals, and expected thematic revisions of an updated Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements for Waste Discharges Resulting from Timber Harvest and Vegetation Management Activities (Timber Waiver), expected for the Board’s consideration in February 2024.

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS BY THE WATER BOARD

Water Board member, Dr. Cox, asked if Lahontan has an action plan for after a wildfire incident, due to the contamination debris which has the potential to contaminate the water bodies. Lahontan staff Mr. Henriques replied that category three in our Timber Waiver provides coverage for post fire suppression repair.

Water Board member, Mostafavi, asked to clarify why Lahontan is increasing the consistency with the Central Valley Water Board, Timber waiver policies and forest practice rules. Mr. Henriques replied that Lahontan Water Board and Central Valley Water Board share a large boundary and a lot of landscape level projects span our respective water board boundaries.

Water Board member, Acting Board Chair, Dr. Horne, asked if Lahontan has any state responsibility to the forest management for the areas in our region. Mr. Miller explained that 65% of the Lahontan region is federally owned.

PUBLIC COMMENTS


Martin Goldberg, Fire Captain, for Lake County Fire District, indicated that he is here to let the Lahontan staff know that the Tahoe fires and fuel team, is here to collaborate with the Lahontan staff as needed.

7. CLOSED SESSION

The Water Board members did not go into Closed Session on Wednesday, December 6, 2023.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the Water Board, the meeting adjourned at 12:49 p.m. on December 6, 2023.

Prepared by:  Adopted: 4/17/2024
Katrina Fleshman, Water Board Clerk