

**CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
LAHONTAN REGION**

**MEETING OF OCTOBER 10-11, 2012
SOUTH LAKE TAHOE**

ITEM: 12

SUBJECT: **SCOPING MEETING - 2012 TRIENNIAL REVIEW OF THE WATER QUALITY CONTROL PLAN FOR THE LAHONTAN REGION (BASIN PLAN)**

DISCUSSION: Periodic review and update of Basin Plans is required under state and federal law. The “Triennial Review” process in California involves Water Board action to prioritize a list of basin planning issues for the staff to address over the following three years. Triennial Review is not a regulatory action (unless it includes adoption of Basin Plan amendments) and, therefore, does not require environmental review.

For the 2012 Triennial Review process, Water Board staff prepared a draft list of basin planning topics, a staff report, and the status of each topic on the 2009 Triennial Review list. Enclosure 1 is the August 17, 2012 letter that requested public review. Enclosure 2 contains the 2012 Triennial Review documents that were made available to the public on August 17, 2012, and emailed to the Water Board’s Basin Planning and Triennial Review subscriber lists.

The draft 2012 Triennial Review topics list shows 21 items that staff have estimated would require about 24 person-years (PYs) to complete over three years. Of the 21 listed items, staff is currently working on seven items and these are shaded grey in the table. These seven items will need about four PYs (over three years) to complete and are considered “Committed” since they are required actions of the Basin Planning program. Because the Water Board receives a budget of only about four PYs per year to work on Basin Planning items, the list of “Uncommitted” items must be prioritized to direct staff work.

This scoping meeting is the second of two scoping sessions; the first was held at the Water Board’s regular meeting of September 12, 2012 in Barstow. (Just prior to the September 12th scoping meeting, Board staff presented a late revision to Table 2 of the Staff Report. The last page of Table 2 was revised to show the correct amount of staff resources, known

as person-years or PYs, available for the next three years. Table 2 in the Staff Report, Enclosure 2, shows the correct PYs.)

The scoping meetings are being held to 1) inform the Water Board members and public about the Triennial Review process and items on the draft list, and 2) to accept public comments and discuss basin planning priorities for the Lahontan Region. The draft 2012 list is meant to open the discussion about priorities and may include suggestions to either add or delete items from the list.

At the September scoping meeting, Water Board members asked staff for more information on criteria to help prioritize the items on the draft list (e.g., quantify the water quality benefit, quantify the number of people affected, other resources available). Staff will present this information to the Board and public on or before the October 10th meeting.

Public comment deadline is October 19, 2012, so staff will consider all comments received, including input from the Water Board members, in proposing a final 2012 Triennial Review priority list. Staff has tentatively scheduled a public hearing for adoption of the 2012 Triennial Review at the Water Board’s January 2013 meeting in Barstow.

RECOMMENDATION: No action at this time, but Water Board members may provide input or direction to staff on Basin Planning priorities.

| Enclosure | Item | Bates Number |
|-----------|---|--------------|
| 1 | August 17, 2012 letter requesting public review | 12-5 |
| 2 | Staff Report on 2012 Triennial Review | 12-9 |
| | Figure 1: Map of Lahontan Region | 12-15 |
| | Table 1: Summary of Basin Plan Amendment Process | 12-17 |
| | Table 2: 2012 Triennial Review Topic List | 12-19 |
| | Table 3: Status of 2009 Triennial Review Priorities | 12-27 |

ENCLOSURE 1

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Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board

August 17, 2012

To Interested Parties:

OPPORTUNITY FOR WRITTEN COMMENTS ON TRIENNIAL REVIEW OF THE LAHONTAN BASIN PLAN

California's water quality standards and control measures are contained in Water Quality Control Plans (Basin Plans). There are state and federal requirements for periodic review of California's Basin Plans. The California "Triennial Review" process involves a Regional Water Board action, following at least one public hearing, on a short list of priority planning issues to be addressed over the following three years. Because the plan amendment process itself is lengthy and complex, and Water Board staff resources for planning are limited, staff identifies only a few priority issues for each Triennial Review cycle.

The Lahontan Water Board plans to hold at least two scoping sessions, September 12, 2012 in Barstow, California and October 10, 2012 in South Lake Tahoe to accept public comments and discuss basin planning priorities for the Lahontan Region. Water Board anticipates holding a public hearing for adoption of the Triennial Review at its January 2013 meeting in Barstow. A Notice of Public Hearing with information on the starting time and street address will be sent to the Water Board's electronic mailing list and posted on the Board's public Internet web page at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/lahontan/water_issues/programs/basin_plan/index.shtml#triennial approximately 30 days before the meeting. Information on subscriptions to our electronic mailing lists is available at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/email_subscriptions/reg6_subscribe.shtml

The enclosed staff report is Water Board staff's initial recommendations on future planning priorities in the next three years. Members of the public are invited to comment on the staff recommendations and to suggest additional planning topics.

Written comments may be submitted by U.S. mail, overnight mail service, email (preferred), or fax. Comments are requested by **October 19, 2012** to allow adequate time for review by staff and Water Board members before consideration of adoption of the Triennial Review. Written responses will be prepared for all written comments received by this date and mailed to the responders and posted on Lahontan's website.

Comments should be sent to the attention of Richard Booth at RBooth@waterboards.ca.gov. The Water Board's postal address and fax number are in the letterhead below. Please contact me if you have any questions about the Basin Plan, the Triennial Review process, or the enclosed priority list.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Richard W. Booth".

for Richard W. Booth
Chief, TMDL/Basin Planning Unit

Enclosure

ENCLOSURE 2

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STAFF REPORT

on

**Triennial Review
of the
Water Quality Control Plan
for the Lahontan Region**

California Regional Water Quality Control Board
Lahontan Region
2501 Lake Tahoe Boulevard
South Lake Tahoe CA 96150

September 20, 2012

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Introduction

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Lahontan Region (Water Board) is the state agency responsible for setting and implementing water quality standards in about 20% of California - east of the Sierra Nevada crest and in the Northern Mojave Desert (Figure 1). Water quality standards and control measures are contained in the Water Quality Control Plan for the Lahontan Region (Basin Plan). The current Basin Plan took effect in 1995, replacing three earlier plans. As of early 2012, thirteen sets of amendments to the 1995 plan have received all necessary approvals. The Basin Plan is available on the Water Board's Internet web page at: <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/lahontan>.

State and federal laws require periodic review and revision of Basin Plans; the federal process is called "Triennial Review." Due to resource limitations and the complexity of California's plan amendment process, Triennial Review in California is generally limited to identification of high priority planning topics to be addressed over the three years between one Triennial Review cycle and the next. Unless it actually involves adoption of plan amendments, Triennial Review is not a regulatory action and does not require environmental analysis under the California Environmental Quality Act. The Water Board's current Triennial Review priorities were adopted in October 2009 and have been used to allocate resources, including Water Board staff (staff) time, towards accomplishing the priorities as much as feasible.

Two public scoping meetings are on September 12, 2012 in Barstow and at the October 10 and 11, 2012 regular meeting in South Lake Tahoe. A public hearing for Triennial Review adoption is scheduled for the Water Board's January 2013 meeting in Barstow.

This staff report provides information on the Triennial Review process and on planning topics identified by staff. Additional topics may be identified in written public comments or testimony at the scoping meetings and the public hearing. Staff will make final recommendations regarding priority planning topics following the public hearing. The Water Board will be asked to approve a "short list" of topics to be addressed over the following three fiscal years, and to prioritize the remaining topics for future action as resources allow. The review process does not necessarily mean that specific revisions will be made to the Basin Plan, but after investigation by staff, the identified topics may result in Basin Plan amendments. The Executive Officer or the Water Board has the ability to change priorities between the Triennial Review cycles.

Water Quality Standards

In California, water quality standards include designated beneficial uses of water, narrative and numerical water quality objectives, and a nondegradation policy. Water quality objectives are similar to federal "water quality criteria," but objectives are regulatory and criteria are not. Water quality standards in the Lahontan Basin Plan are set forth in Basin Plan Chapters 2, 3, and 5.

(http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/lahontan/water_issues/programs/basin_plan/reference_s.shtml). The plan's beneficial use tables (Tables 2-1 and 2-2) include both existing and potential beneficial uses. Most of the numerical objectives are based on historical water quality data collected before adoption of the 1975 North and South Lahontan Basin Plans, and reflect antidegradation considerations rather than numeric criteria for the protection of specific beneficial uses. Unless criteria for variances to objectives are specifically included in the Basin Plan, variances or exceptions cannot be granted without Basin Plan amendments to revise the objectives.

Applicable water quality standards also include numerical limits for toxic "priority pollutants" promulgated as surface water standards by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) under the National Toxics Rule and California Toxics Rule. These standards have not yet been physically incorporated into the Basin Plan.

All of the waters of the Lahontan Region are internally drained, and many of them are isolated. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has determined that some waters within the Lahontan Region are not "waters of the United States" under the federal Clean Water Act. State standards still apply to any "waters of the State" that are determined not to be waters of the United States.

Triennial Review Process and Public Participation

The Water Board's 2012 Triennial Review Process will involve:

- Sending staff's draft topics list and the hearing notices to the Water Board's Basin Plan mailing list and to an electronic mailing list for Triennial Review.
- Making copies of the hearing notice, topics list, and this staff report available on the Water Board's webpage.
- Providing a 45-day public review period for the topics list and the opportunity to submit other topics and written comments.
- Preparing written responses to written public comments. All written comments and responses will be provided to the Water Board before the hearing.
- Testimony at the public hearing.
- Water Board adoption of a resolution identifying priority planning topics to be addressed by staff and topics requiring additional funding.
- Submission of the adopted priority list to the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA).

Table 3 shows status of the previous 2009 Triennial Review priority list as of October 2009.

Basin Plan Amendment Process

The Basin Plan amendment process is summarized in Table 1, adapted from the State Water Board's planning guidance. As the table indicates, the process is lengthy and complex. (The table does not include the revisions that may need to be made in preliminary drafts in response to comments by internal reviewers, and in response to scientific peer review.) Chronologically, the process can require six months to more than a year between the end of the "research" period in Step A. and Water Board action, and nine months or more can be required after Water Board action for the amendments to receive all needed approvals. "Research" for Basin Plan amendments can include scientific literature review and/or water quality monitoring or special studies. Scientific peer review is required for amendments involving scientific judgment, and the reviewer's comments may result in significant changes to preliminary draft amendments before they are released for public review. Following Water Board adoption, amendments must be approved by the State Water Board, the California Office of Administrative Law (OAL), and (in some cases) the USEPA. To facilitate the OAL review process, staff prepares and indexes a detailed administrative record.

Planning Considerations

Budget. The Water Board's planning resources are limited. Some Basin Plan amendments may also require contracted studies for data collection (e.g., special monitoring studies to facilitate update of water quality objectives) or predictive modeling.

Topics needing additional funding. The State Water Board's guidance for the Triennial Review process asks Regional Water Boards to identify planning topics that would require additional funding to address. The Lahontan Water Board will be asked to choose a small subset of the planning topics identified by staff and the public for emphasis over the next three years; ideally the total estimated cost of the selected topics should not exceed the resources expected to be available within that time. All of the remaining topics will be identified as topics requiring additional funding in order to be addressed during the next three years.

Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs). The federal Clean Water Act requires states to identify surface water bodies that are not meeting standards due to pollutants (the "Section 303(d) list"), and to prepare strategies called TMDLs to ensure attainment of standards. In California, TMDLs and TMDL implementation programs are generally (but not always) adopted as Basin Plan amendments. Priorities and schedules for TMDL development are determined through the Section 303(d) list update process and through the Regional Board's annual TMDL program workplans. Section 303(d) listing

does not necessarily mean that TMDLs (and/or Basin Plan amendments) will be developed for all listed waters; the impairment issues may be addressed in other ways.

Work on Basin Plan amendments to incorporate TMDLs will be supported with state and/or federal TMDL program funds, not basin planning funds. Public comments may be submitted on TMDL issues as part of the Triennial Review process. Responses to these comments will be prepared, and they will be added to the Water Board's Triennial Review files. However, the Water Board's action will focus on priorities for use of Basin Planning funds for planning topics other than TMDL development.

Over the next three years, staff will work to develop TMDLs for the following:

- Susan River for toxicity from unknown source
- Eagle Lake for nutrients
- Donner Lake for polychlorinated biphenyls
- Bodie Creek for metals
- Certain tributaries to Lake Tahoe impaired by nutrients and sediment.

2012 Triennial Review Planning Topics

Table 2 summarizes potential priority topics for the 2012 Triennial Review. These include ongoing work, priorities carried over from previous years, and new priorities identified by staff and stakeholders. They have not yet been discussed by the Water Board as 2012 priorities.

After reviewing written public comments and testimony, staff will prepare final recommendations as part of the Water Board's agenda packet for the January 2013 public hearing. Staff will request the Water Board to choose a subset of topics from Table 2 and from any new topics identified in public comments, and to direct staff to investigate these topics over the next three years and develop draft Basin Plan amendments as appropriate.

Schedules for completion of public draft amendments and Water Board action on specific topics will depend upon the complexity of the selected topics. Some of the topics may be worked upon between Fiscal Years 12-13 and 15-16, with Board action on plan amendments after 2016. If important new topics arise before the next Triennial Review, planning priorities may be changed by the Water Board or the Executive Officer. Topics not selected for emphasis in the next three fiscal years will be identified as topics requiring additional funding. If additional funding is received or outside support provided, staff will attempt to address more projects. Staff will reconsider these topics during the next Triennial Review process and may recommend them as priorities at that time.

Attachments

Figure 1. Map of the Lahontan Region

Table 1. Summary of Basin Plan Amendment Process

Table 2. 2012 Triennial Review Topic List

Table 3. Status of 2009 Triennial Review Priorities for Basin Plan Activities

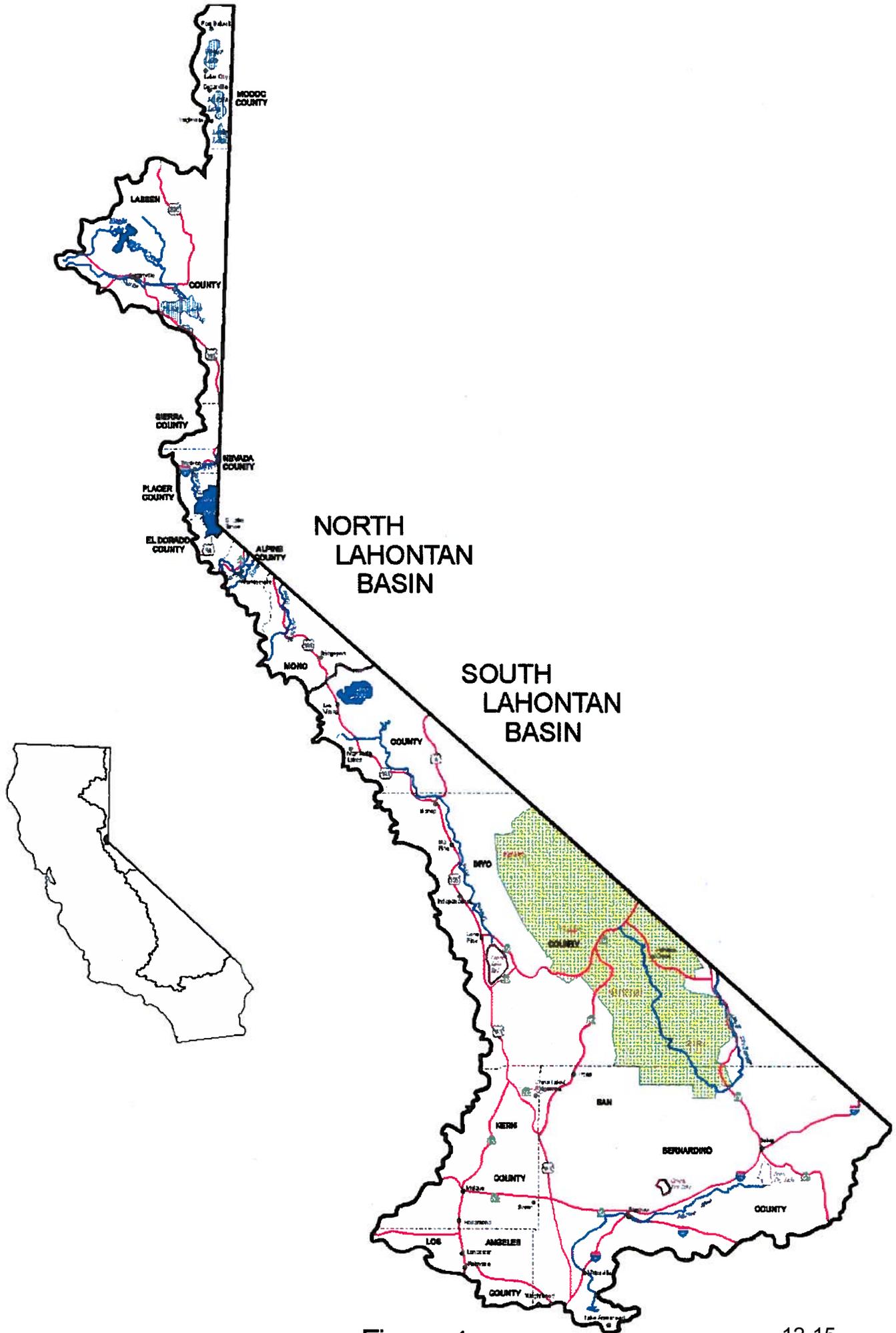


Figure 1

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Table 1 Summary of Basin Plan Amendment Process

(Refer to page 37 in the hyperlink)

| WHO... | DOES WHAT? |
|-----------------------|--|
| REGIONAL BOARD | <p>A. IDENTIFY THE NEED for a Plan amendment based on the Triennial Review, public concerns, new or revised laws, regulations or policies, etc. Undertake work to develop solutions - research, field work (e.g. collect chemical, physical, and/or biological monitoring data; data analysis), etc.</p> <p>B. PLAN the Administrative Record for the amendment.</p> <p>C. PREPARE NECESSARY DOCUMENTS STAFF REPORT on the proposed amendment; reasonable alternatives, mitigation, economic considerations, and anti-degradation as required <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If addressing beneficial uses • If addressing water quality objectives • If addressing an implementation plan THE CEQA CHECKLIST DRAFT AMENDMENT DRAFT RESOLUTION </p> <p>D. EXTERNAL SCIENTIFIC PEER REVIEW</p> <p>E. PUBLISH A HEARING NOTICE / NOTICE OF FILING at least 45 days prior to the hearing</p> <p>F. RESPOND to comments – revising the draft amendment and staff report as necessary</p> <p>G. ADOPTION HEARING</p> <p>H. REGIONAL BOARD TRANSMIT two copies of the complete administrative record to the State Board; and PARTICIPATE in SWRCB Workshop and Board Meeting</p> |
| STATE BOARD | <p>I. APPROVE AMENDMENT at a public meeting (or return it to the Regional Board for further consideration)</p> |
| REGIONAL BOARD | <p>J. TRANSMIT approved amendment to Office of Administrative Law (OAL) for review and approval of the regulatory provisions</p> <p>K. TRANSMIT the OAL approved amendment to US EPA, if needed, for review and approval of surface waters standards and their implementing provisions</p> <p>L. (1) FILE CEQA NOTICE OF DECISION with the Secretary of Resources after final approval by OAL or US EPA. (2) Either pay Department of Fish & Game filing fee or submit Certificate of Fee Exemption.</p> <p>M. PRINT and DISTRIBUTE Amendment</p> |

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TABLE 2 - 2012 TRIENNIAL REVIEW TOPIC LIST

| Topic | Description (Shaded topics indicate projects that are core program requirements, specifically required, or underway.) | Resource Needs (PY) | Estimated Completion Time (or year, if known) |
|---|--|----------------------------|--|
| Prohibition amendments (Ongoing work) | This project would amend Basin Plan Chapters 4 and 5 to make editorial revisions to remove inconsistencies regarding waste discharge prohibitions and exemption criteria affecting the entire Lahontan Region, add or clarify exemption criteria, and would include some unrelated changes to other parts of the plan. | 0.5 - 1.0 | 2013 |
| Program Manager | The Basin Planning Program Manager participates in State/Regional Water Board Roundtable activities, and workplan development, provides information to the public, etc. | 0.3 (0.10 PY per year) | Ongoing |
| 2015 Triennial Review | Prepare the 2015 Triennial Review staff report and priority list. Host scoping meetings and hearings, as necessary, for Water Board consideration. | 0.20 | October 2015 |
| Miscellaneous work that will not directly result in Basin Plan amendments | Staff resources are needed for work such as: coordination with other states, other agencies, and Native American tribes regarding water quality standards; development and management of contracts related to planning; staff training, etc. | 0.75 (0.25 PY per year) | Ongoing |

| Topic | Description (Shaded topics indicate projects that are core program requirements, specifically required, or underway.) | Resource Needs (PY) | Estimated Completion Time (or year, if known) |
|--|---|--|---|
| Incorporate State Water Board wastewater treatment policy into the Basin Plan and revise existing language and associated changes if needed. | <p>The State Water Board adopted a policy including statewide control measures for onsite wastewater treatment systems (septic systems) on June 19, 2012. The policy directs Regional Water Boards to incorporate it into their Basin Plans within 12 months of its effective date.</p> <p>Revisions to Chapter 4 and the appendices of the Lahontan Basin Plan may also be necessary for compatibility. Staff may consider and recommend other Basin Plan revisions related to onsite wastewater treatment systems, including additional monitoring and treatment.</p> | 0.3 - 1.0 | April 2014 |
| Remove the MUN beneficial use designation from 2 groundwater basins at China Lake Naval Air Weapons Center | Water Board staff is reviewing technical information provided by the U.S. Navy. If the MUN use is shown not to be an existing or feasibly attainable use of the affected ground waters, Table 2-2 of the Basin Plan may be amended to remove the MUN use designation for portions of two groundwater basins. | 1.0 (The Navy provides in-kind support) | 2013 |

| Topic | Description | Resource Needs (PY) | Estimated Completion Time (or year, if known) |
|--|---|--|---|
| Revise water quality objectives for bacteria | <p>Based on the results of ongoing field sampling in the Lahontan Region, revisions to federal criteria for recreational waters, and a proposed State Water Board policy (anticipated in early 2013), revisions will be proposed to the current regionwide objectives for “Bacteria, Coliform” specific to our region to incorporate new information including the use of E. coli as an indicator. Staff has considered various options that fall into three categories:</p> <p>Option 1 (Regionwide with site specific considerations): Board staff takes actions to make changes to the bacteria standard for the entire region, including considering site specific objectives for the Bridgeport Valley. Land use or geographic-based objectives for areas in the Lahontan Region outside of Bridgeport Valley would be considered for a possible multi-tiered set of bacteria objectives – more stringent in pristine watersheds, less stringent in watersheds with urban or agriculture uses.</p> <p>Option 2 (Phase I 200 CFU for Bridgeport Valley, then Phase II Regionwide): The Board considers site specific objectives for the Bridgeport Valley at 200 colony forming units per 100 milliliters (from the current 20 per 100 mL), an objective consistent with other Regions in the state. Later, in “Phase II”, the Board considers other bacteria standard changes for the entire Region depending and State Board or USEPA actions.</p> <p>Option 3 (Phase I Bridgeport Valley only, then Phase II Regionwide): In Phase I, Board staff collects data to determine the best water quality achievable, then recommends site specific objectives for bacteria in the Bridgeport Valley. Later, in “Phase II”, the Board considers other bacteria standard changes for the entire Region depending and State Board or USEPA actions.</p> | <p>Option 1: 5.0</p> <p>Option 2: Phase I - 0.5, Phase II - 5.0</p> <p>Option 3: Phase I - 3.5, Phase II – 3.0</p> | <p>Option 1: Three years</p> <p>Option 2: Phase I - six months, Phase II - three years</p> <p>Option 3: Phase I - two years, Phase II – two years</p> |

| Topic | Description | Resource Needs (PY) | Estimated Completion Time (or year, if known) |
|---|--|---------------------|---|
| Update Chapter 5 of the Basin Plan to reflect pending revisions to the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency's (TRPA's) regional land use and water quality plans. | Chapter 5 of the Lahontan Basin Plan incorporates the regulatory provisions of TRPA's 1988 <i>Water Quality Management Plan for the Lake Tahoe Region</i> ("208 Plan"). TRPA expects to adopt revisions to its regional land use plan in late 2012, and is beginning revisions to the 208 Plan. Staff resources are needed to coordinate with TRPA to ensure consistency with the Lake Tahoe TMDL. Changes to Basin Plan Chapter 5 may be necessary to reflect the TRPA plan revisions as finally adopted. | 1.0 - 1.5 | 9 months |
| Adopt or revise site-specific water quality objectives for Fish Springs in the Owens Valley to facilitate NPDES permitting for a state fish hatchery. | The Department of Fish and Game (DFG) operates Fish Springs hatchery in the Owens Valley where source water is ground water and the discharge from the hatchery forms Fish Springs Creek. The Basin Plan currently has an objective for Fish Springs Creek above the hatchery, however, water no longer exists at that location. Water Board proposes removing this objective from the Basin Plan and setting an objective for Fish Springs creek below the hatchery. This effort may involve gathering additional water quality information from LADWP. | 1.5 | One year |

| Topic | Description (Shaded topics indicate projects that are core program requirements, specifically required, or underway.) | Resource Needs (PY) | Estimated Completion Time (or year, if known) |
|--|---|---------------------|---|
| Review new scientific information to consider changes to the water quality objectives for nearshore areas of Lake Tahoe. | Evaluate research findings in late 2012 and propose next steps to set nearshore assessment indicators as a first step to developing new nearshore water quality standards. Resource needs listed here only include staff evaluation of research findings, interagency coordination, public meetings, stakeholder outreach, and development of a workplan. | 0.3 | 2013 |
| Susan River site specific objectives | Develop revised objectives for section of the Susan River and its tributaries downstream of Susanville's Community Services District (District). Consider lowering water quality while ensuring continued protection of beneficial uses. Staff will need to involve the District, current downstream agricultural users, and the Department of Fish and Game in evaluating alternatives including: increased treatment, increased land disposal capacity, and establishing or ensuring minimum flows in Susan River and its tributaries.) | 2.0 | One and a half years |
| Squaw Valley groundwater withdrawal | Evaluate the effects of potential increased groundwater withdrawal in Squaw Valley on the water quality of Squaw Creek and its tributaries. In particular, examine the interplay of water supply and water quality influencing biological conditions and a consideration of flow requirements for Squaw Creek. | 0.5 | 6 months (to begin after receiving data evaluation from ground water study) |
| Clarify Table 2-1, for Hydrologic Unit 628 (Mojave River) | Correct duplicative features of list of beneficial uses between the major and sub-watershed of the Mojave River Hydrologic Unit. | 0.2 | 9 months |

| Topic | Description | Resource Needs (PYs) | Estimated Completion Time (or year, if known) |
|--|---|----------------------|---|
| Incorporate Antelope Valley Salt and Nutrient Management Plan into the Basin Plan | The State Water Board's Recycled Water Policy directs Regional Water Boards to incorporate Salt and Nutrient Management Plans (SNMPs) completed by stakeholder groups into the Basin Plans. The Antelope Valley SNMP is expected to be submitted to the Lahontan Water Board in 2014. Consider revising groundwater objectives to account for expected changes in salt and nutrients. | 1.0 | 9 months |
| Incorporate Mojave Basin Salt and Nutrient Management Plan into the Basin Plan | The State Water Board's Recycled Water Policy directs Regional Water Boards to incorporate SNMPs completed by stakeholder groups into the Basin Plans. The Mojave Basin SNMP is expected to be submitted to the Lahontan Water Board in 2014. Consider revising water quality objectives for Mojave groundwater and river to account for expected changes in salt and nutrients. | 1.0 | 9 months |
| Revise Chapter 3 language on determining compliance with water quality objectives. | The proposed revisions would change water quality objectives expressed as "means of monthly means" to annual means and define minimum sample numbers and sampling frequencies for determining compliance with objectives. This could avoid the need for new Clean Water Act Section 303(d) listings based on very small sample numbers, and facilitate delisting. | 0.5 - 1.0 | One year |
| Revised Hot Creek water quality objectives | Develop revised objectives for Hot Creek (Owens River HU) based on changes in water quality to account for changes in water quality related to increased constituent levels emanating from the natural groundwater flows entering the creek. | 1.0 | 9 months |

| Topic | Description | Resource Needs (PYs) | Estimated Completion Time (or year, if known) |
|------------------|---|----------------------|---|
| Dairies Strategy | <p>Revise the Basin Plan, Section 4.10, to include an updated Dairy Regulatory Strategy to address groundwater pollution from dairies. There are 13 large dairies or cattle operations in our region. Dairy sizes range from about 1,000 to 4,500 heads of cattle. Each cow produces the equivalent waste load of 20 persons.</p> <p>Nine of the 13 facilities produce wash water. Wash water can percolate through the desert soils of the southern Lahontan Region. Operation of these dairies has led to groundwater contamination plumes of nitrates and salts (TDS – total dissolved solids). The regulatory and control strategy update consists of the following components:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Source control – identify pollution sources (dairy practices) and require dairies to eliminate groundwater pollution by implementing nutrient and waste management plans • Compliance Monitoring – ensure monitoring tracks groundwater pollutant plumes and verifies the effectiveness of source control to eliminate further groundwater pollution • Identify at risk residential wells and supply replacement water where needed • Groundwater cleanup – require remediation of contaminated groundwaters | 0.5 | One year |

| Topic | Description | Resource Needs (PYs) | Estimated Completion Time (or year, if known) |
|--|---|----------------------|---|
| Hydromodification | Revise Basin Plan to include specific implementation measures to protect all beneficial uses of ground and surface waters from the effects of development and hydromodification. Specific emphasis is needed on protecting desert surface waters, including measures to control or prevent excessive erosion of soft soils and subsequent down stream sediment deposition, adversely impacting Aquatic and Wildlife Habitats. | 1.0 | One year (defer until State Board policy?) |
| BIOLOGICAL Beneficial Use for Mojave River | Add the Biological Use (BIO) for specific reaches of the Mojave River with remaining viable habitat, specifically from Bear Valley Road to Helendale. | 0.1 | 9 months |
| Biological indicators | Revise existing narrative water quality objective for protection of aquatic communities (nondegradation of aquatic communities objective). | 1.5 | Two years |
| <p>TOTAL COST OF COMMITTED ITEMS: 3.4 to 4.6 PYs over three years</p> <p>TOTAL COST OF UN-COMMITTED ITEMS: 16.8 to 19.3 PYs over three years</p> <p>TOTAL COST OF ALL ITEMS: 20.2 to 23.9 PYs over three years</p> <p>TOTAL STAFF RESOURCES AVAILABLE: 5.7 PYs over three years (1.9 PYs per fiscal year)</p> <p>At current staff resource allocation, planning staff can complete all the committed items and 1.1 PYs of the un-committed items. (Revised 9/6/12).</p> | | | |

TABLE 3. STATUS OF 2009 TRIENNIAL REVIEW PRIORITIES FOR BASIN PLANNING ACTIVITIES

| Topic No. | Topic | 2009 Description and Estimated Completion Date | Status in August 2012 |
|------------------|---|---|---|
| 0 | Complete Lake Tahoe TMDL and associated amendments to Chapter 5 | Ongoing work that will use TMDL program rather than Basin Planning program resources. | The TMDL was adopted by the Regional Water Board on 11/16/10 and the State Board on 4/19/11. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency approved the TMDL on 8/16/11 and is now in effect. |
| 1 | Complete amendments to the water quality objective for pesticides | Ongoing work (in FY 09-10 workplan). The estimated completion date was May 2010. | The pesticide Basin Plan amendment was adopted by the Regional Water Board on 12/7/11 and the State Board on 5/15/12. The Office of Administrative Law (OAL) is reviewing the Amendment. It will become effective pending OAL and USEPA approval. |
| 2 | Complete amendments to plan provisions affecting the shorezone of Lake Tahoe. | Ongoing work (in FY 09-10 workplan). The estimated completion date was July 2010. | Further work on these amendments has been suspended pending the resolution of the litigation. |

TABLE 3. STATUS OF 2009 TRIENNIAL REVIEW PRIORITIES FOR BASIN PLANNING ACTIVITIES

| Topic No. | Topic | 2009 Description and Estimated Completion Date | Status in August 2012 |
|------------------|--|---|---|
| 3 | Complete Tahoe/Truckee Prohibition/forestry amendments. | Ongoing work (in FY 09-10 workplan). Revise exemption criteria for 100-year floodplain waste discharge prohibitions in the Lake Tahoe and Truckee River watersheds to be consistent and to clarify application of exemption criteria to forest fuel reduction activities. Update Chapter 4 and 5 discussions on timber harvest and vegetation management. The estimated completion date was October 2010. | The scope of this project has been expanded to include update of waste discharge prohibitions and exemption criteria for the entire Lahontan Region. The tentative schedule calls for CEQA scoping in winter 2012, release of public drafts in January, and Water Board action in May 2013. |
| 4 | Complete Chapter 5 amendments to incorporate Tahoe Regional Planning Agency's (TRPA's) new 20 year Regional Plan | Ongoing assistance to TRPA to ensure that TRPA Regional Plan is consistent with the Lake Tahoe TMDL. Additional water quality programs and implementation measures will be incorporated into Chapter 5 of the Basins Plan following TRPA's adoption of its Regional Plan. The estimated completion date for the Basin Plan amendments was early 2012. | In June 2012 TRPA released draft changes to its Regional Plan, with a goal of adopting a revised plan in December 2012. The Chapter 5 Basin Plan amendments will be deferred until the TRPA Regional Plan update is complete. |

TABLE 3. STATUS OF 2009 TRIENNIAL REVIEW PRIORITIES FOR BASIN PLANNING ACTIVITIES

| Topic No. | Topic | 2009 Description and Estimated Completion Date | Status in August 2012 |
|------------------|---|---|--|
| 5 | Revise water quality objectives for the Mojave River | Initial effort to gather information from Mojave Water Agency and other entities. Prepare workplan and resource estimate to complete Basin Plan amendment to revise objectives. The estimated completion date for the investigation was June 2012. | A staff report on the investigation was completed in October 2011. It concludes that currently available surface water data for the Mojave River and tributary streams are inadequate to serve as the basis for updated objectives. |
| 6 | Modify waste discharge prohibitions to protect additional prime groundwater recharge areas of arid basins | Initial effort during this Triennial Review cycle. Prepare scope, workplan and resource estimate to complete basin plan amendment. The estimated completion date was June 2012. | No work on this topic has been done to date. The need for these amendments should be clarified upon completion of ongoing work by stakeholders on salt/nutrient management plans and Integrated Regional Water Management Plans for specific watersheds. Funding sources other than Basin Planning are being used for Water Board staff participation in these stakeholder planning efforts. |

TABLE 3. STATUS OF 2009 TRIENNIAL REVIEW PRIORITIES FOR BASIN PLANNING ACTIVITIES

| Topic No. | Topic | 2009 Description and Estimated Completion Date | Status in August 2012 |
|------------------|---|--|---|
| 7 | Revise bacteria objectives | Initial effort includes managing contract to collect data and compare fecal coliform bacteria levels to E. coli levels in waters of the Lahontan Region, and reviewing proposed State Water Board and USEPA criteria. Basin Plan amendment (post 2013 at the conclusion of a Proposition 84 grant study) will incorporate the State Water Board's bacteria policy when final and consider revisions to the Lahontan Region's bacteria- related objectives. The estimated completion date was June 2013. | The State Water Board has not yet released a public draft of its proposed bacteria policy. The USEPA plans to approve final revised criteria for recreational waters (including inland waters) by late 2012. Bacteria sampling by UC Davis in 2009-2010 has been completed. The Proposition 84 funded study will involve further assessment by UC Davis. Revised objectives for E. coli are now expected to be developed by 2019. |
| 8 | Miscellaneous work that will not directly result in Basin Plan amendments | Work includes coordination with other states, agencies, tribes and TRPA regarding standards revisions, contract management for plan-related work, staff training, administrative staff updates of electronic plan, coordination with State Water Board Division of Water Rights and water purveyors in Squaw Valley, Placer County regarding ground water management issues, work with third parties on nutrient and salt management plans developed under State Water Board's Recycled Water Policy, etc. | Miscellaneous planning-related work, including coordination with stakeholders involved with aquatic invasive species, is ongoing. |

TABLE 3. STATUS OF 2009 TRIENNIAL REVIEW PRIORITIES FOR BASIN PLANNING ACTIVITIES

| Topic No. | Topic | 2009 Description and Estimated Completion Date | Status in August 2012 |
|------------------|-----------------------------|--|--|
| 9 | Update of entire Basin Plan | Update of the plan to improve its usability for staff and the public. Revisions will address new and revised State Water Board plans and policies, California Toxics rule standards, Nonpoint Source Plain, waiver and enforcement provisions, Surface water Ambient Monitoring Program, Watershed Management Initiative, revised maps, a revised beneficial use table reflecting the CalWater watershed numbering system, etc. Salt/nutrient management plans completed in response to the State Water Board's recycled water policy may be incorporated into the Basin Plan as part of this project if they are available before public drafts are completed. Estimated completion date was Spring 2012. | Work on this topic has been delayed due to resource limitations and other planning priorities. Staff maintains a list of needed editorial and regulatory plan changes on an ongoing basis. Some of these changes (e.g., updated reference to the current Water Code waiver provisions, the State Water Board Nonpoint Source Plan, NPDES compliance schedules, and the California Toxics Rule) will be proposed as part of the prohibition amendments (Topic No. 3). The State Water Board has contracted for preparation of revised Basin Plan maps in Geographic Information System (GIS) format as part of an effort to provide "Web Portal" access to the Basin Plans. |

TABLE 3. STATUS OF 2009 TRIENNIAL REVIEW PRIORITIES FOR BASIN PLANNING ACTIVITIES

| Topic No. | Topic | 2009 Description and Estimated Completion Date | Status in August 2012 |
|------------------|--|---|---|
| 10 | Remove MUN use from Eastern Indian Wells Valley and Salt Wells Valley Basins | This project was requested in comments from the China Lake Naval Air Weapons Center. Staff will rely upon the Navy to provide adequate information and data to justify the amendments. Depending on the availability of data the project may or may not be completed within the next 3 years. The estimated completion date was "after 2012." | After indicating in 2010 that it was no longer interested in pursuing these amendments, the Navy expressed renewed interest in 2011 and delivered a technical justification report in May 2012 in response to a detailed staff letter requesting more information. Staff has reviewed the report and is evaluating whether de-designation of MUN use in portions of the two groundwater basin is appropriate. |
| 11 | 2009 and 2012 Triennial Review | Resources are needed to develop a draft priority list and related documents, respond to public comments, and prepare agenda materials and administrative records. | Work on the 2012 Triennial Review process is expected to begin in late Fiscal Year 2011/2012. |
| 12. | Program Manager | Program manager participates in State/Regional Board roundtable meetings, aids in workplan development, provides information to the public, etc. | The Program Manager's duties are ongoing. |