

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

**MEETING OF OCTOBER 6-7, 2021
VIDEO/TELECONFERENCE**

ITEM 6

TRIENNIAL REVIEW WORKSHOP

CHRONOLOGY

November 15, 2018	Resolution R6T-2018-0050 approves the 2018 Triennial Review List
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BACKGROUND

Federal and state law require periodic review of Water Quality Control Plans (Basin Plans). This review process is referred to as the “Triennial Review” process. Triennial Review in California is generally limited to identifying high priority basin planning issues and projects to be addressed during the following three years. The prioritized Triennial Review project list essentially serves as the three-year work plan for the Water Board’s Basin Planning program. Approving the Triennial Review project list does not require environmental review (e.g., CEQA). The Water Board’s most recent Triennial Review Project List was adopted in November 2015 (see Enclosure 1) and identified priority basin planning issues and projects to be addressed during the three-year period of 2016 - 2018.

ISSUES

The Triennial Review is a requirement of the Clean Water Act. While a board workshop is not a required element of the process, this meeting is an opportunity for both the Water Board and the public to provide input on the Triennial Review list of projects. Having a board workshop gives the Water Board an opportunity to be involved in the public process and to hear directly from interested parties. This workshop also provides opportunity for the Water Board to provide input and direction to staff on what project types to prioritize.

DISCUSSION

The Triennial Review process includes:

- Holding a public workshop
- Drafting a Staff Report and circulating it for public comment
- Evaluating all comments received
- Preparing a proposed prioritized Project List for Water Board consideration
- Water Board considers approval of the Project List
- Submitting the Triennial Review Staff Report and Project List to State Water Board and the USEPA

DISCUSSION

The purpose of this workshop is to 1) inform Water Board members, the public, and other interested parties about the Triennial Review process; 2) discuss the status of priority issues and projects identified in the Water Board's 2018 Triennial Review Project List; 3) identify potential priority issues and projects for the 2021 Triennial Review Project List; 4) discuss project prioritization factors, and 5) to receive input and comments from the public and other interested parties. A list of identified basin planning needs is presented without prioritization (Enclosure 2). It is meant to open the discussion about priorities and may include suggestions to either add or delete items from the list.

The workshop discussion and Board comments will inform development of the Triennial Review Staff Report. The contents of the Staff Report will include:

- A brief description of each water quality issue
- An estimate of the time and staff resources needed to investigate the issue and to prepare a plan amendment to deal with the issue
- A (generalized) ranking of the issues by priority
- Identifying the issues that would require additional funding

With the limited resources for Basin Planning, staff will evaluate the Triennial Review priorities and determine how best to address projects that will have the most benefit and protection of water quality and beneficial uses. The Planning and Assessment Unit, which includes the Basin Planning program, includes three staff members who split resources between Basin Planning efforts, TMDL projects, and the Integrated Report. Some basin planning projects respond to needs of specific regulatory programs. These projects can benefit from the time and expertise of program staff, in collaboration with basin planning staff.

The projects to be discussed at the workshop were drawn from a compilation of staff comments recorded since 2018 and the 2018 Triennial Review. The list of potential projects is quite long, and the Basin Planning process is inherently resource intensive. This workshop with the Water Board provides an opportunity to advise staff on what approach to take when prioritizing the Project List, and what criteria to inform prioritization within that approach.

The prioritization approach can be quantitative, subjective, or a combination. Below are some of the possible prioritization approaches the Water Board could utilize:

- San Francisco Bay Water Board model: Assign priority by scoring weighted criteria, such as protection of beneficial uses, resources expended, public interest, and level of controversy
- San Diego Water Board model: All projects support the Practical Vision. Only include projects that can be accomplished or progressed during the three-year period. There are no projects listed as "below the line," so each Triennial Review process considers project anew

DISCUSSION

- Only prioritize projects that align with one or more Lahontan Region Goals and directly support a divisional objective.
- Staff proposes priority based on board input, public interest, and programs' needs (Current Process)
- Board members assign priority through board meeting discussion prior to approval hearing.

No matter the approach, the Triennial Review Project List needs to rank the issues by priority. Criteria for that ranking are useful to prioritization. Below are of criteria to consider:

- Consistency with the Strategic Narrative
- Clear connection to a basin planning need
- Project underway
- Input from external parties
- Provide regulatory clarity or consistency
- Level of complexity

This workshop is a first step in the 2021 Triennial Review process. The Water Board, staff, and the public will have further opportunities to help the develop the Triennial Review. The input the Water Board gives staff at this workshop will influence the contents of the staff report and the manner in which the Project List is assembled.

CLIMATE CHANGE RESPONSE

The 2018 Triennial Review project list included, as priority 2, the Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Strategy (Strategy). The Water Board adopted the Strategy with Resolution No. R6T-2019-0277 Staff subsequently developed the Climate Change Action Plan. The current Triennial Review process aims to address any discrete basin planning projects needed in the Lahontan Region. Basin planning projects that support the overarching Policy Statements in the Strategy could be prioritized through the Triennial Review process, within the resource constraints of the basin planning program, and as supported by other programs.

PUBLIC OUTREACH/INPUT

Water Board staff initiated the Triennial Review process by publicly noticing the September public workshop and inviting interested parties to provide input regarding future basin planning priorities. The public notice is posted on the Water Board's website under the Announcements section and on its Basin Planning program webpage. Notice of this posting was also distributed through the Basin Planning-Triennial Review and Basin Planning – Regionwide Lyris lists on August 17, 2021. The public and other interested parties are invited to virtually attend the workshop to recommend topics be prioritized for basin planning. Interested parties may also provide written input via email or the postal service.

Water Board staff will distribute a draft Triennial Review Staff Report for public review in October. The draft report will include a prioritized list of projects. Comments on the Staff Report and project list will be considered and responded to, and both the Staff Report and Project List will be updated prior to Water Board consideration at a subsequent hearing.

PRESENTERS

Daniel Sussman, Water Board, Senior Environmental Scientist (presentation is Enclosure 3).

RECOMMENDATION

This is an informational item and no formal action is requested. This item provides opportunity for Water Board members and the public to provide comment on the contents of the 2021 Triennial Review project list. Staff will consider input received at the workshop and use that input to inform the Staff Report and recommendation of a priority projects list for Water Board approval.

ENCLOSURE	ITEM	BATES NUMBER
1	Resolution R6T-2018-0050 and Project List	6 - 5
2	List of identified Basin Planning needs	6 - 17
3	Water Board staff presentation (Daniel Sussman)	6 - 23

ENCLOSURE 1

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

RESOLUTION NO. R6T-2018-0050

**2018 TRIENNIAL REVIEW OF THE WATER QUALITY CONTROL PLAN
FOR THE LAHONTAN REGION (BASIN PLAN)**

WHEREAS, the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Lahontan Region (Water Board), finds:

1. The Water Quality Control Plan for the Lahontan Region (Basin Plan) took effect March 31, 1995 and has been amended from time to time since that date.
2. The Basin Plan contains the Lahontan Region's water quality standards, which consist of beneficial uses of waters in the Lahontan Region, water quality objectives, as well as an anti-degradation policy. The Basin Plan also contains a program of implementation, including but not limited to, control measures necessary to protect water quality for the beneficial uses.
3. State and federal laws require periodic review of Basin Plans. Pursuant to California Water Code section 13240 and Clean Water Act section 303(c), the Water Board is responsible for periodically reviewing water quality standards and, as appropriate, modifying and adopting standards contained in the Basin Plan. This process is known as "Triennial Review."
4. The Water Board and its staff implemented the 2018 Triennial Review by:
 - a. Noticing and circulating draft staff reports and draft lists of basin planning projects, and posting these materials on the Water Board's Internet web page, for public review and comment during a 112-day period between June 4, 2018 and September 24, 2018;
 - b. Noticing and conducting two public workshops at its July 18, 2018 regular meeting in Bishop and its September 12, 2018 regular meeting in South Lake Tahoe;
 - c. Responding to public comments received during the June 4, 2018 - September 24, 2018 public comment period, and carefully taking such comments and other factors into consideration when developing the Proposed 2018 Triennial Review List; and
 - d. Noticing and conducting a public hearing to receive oral comments at the Water Board's regularly scheduled November 14 - 15, 2018 meeting in Apple Valley.
5. As a result of the Water Board's Triennial Review process, the Water Board has identified and prioritized its basin planning projects in the 2018 Triennial Review List

Table 1 – Proposed 2018 Triennial Review List

Priority	Project	Description	Prioritization	Next Steps*
1	Evaluate Bacteria Water Quality Objectives	Evaluate Basin Plan fecal coliform objectives for surface waters and clarify their regulatory and assessment applications considering the State Water Board's recently adopted statewide bacteria objective for REC-1 beneficial use.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve regulatory clarity • Region-wide applicability • State Water Board guidance 	Begin work in Year 1: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluate regional data • Consult stakeholders • Develop strategy
2	Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Strategy	Water Board is currently developing a Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Strategy (Strategy). If adopted, identify, prioritize, and begin work on the Strategy's recommended priority actions requiring basin planning response(s). Additionally, evaluate opportunities to incorporate/address Source Water Protection (priority Project 3), Riparian Protection Policy (priority Project 4), and Instream Flow Criteria (priority Project 16) elements.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water Board priorities (human health protection and environmental health protection/ restoration) • Region-wide applicability • Stakeholder collaboration/ support 	Begin work in Year 1: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify and prioritize basin planning-related recommendations • Evaluate opportunity to address Project 3, Project 4, and Project 16 goals/objectives • Initiate work on highest-priority recommendation(s), as guided by Strategy and resources
3	Source Water Protection	Identify potential basin planning activities necessary to further improve source water protection within the Lahontan Region. Source waters include headwaters for surface waters usually in the mountains and groundwater recharge areas typically near the base of mountains.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water Board priorities (human health protection and environmental health protection/restoration) • Region-wide applicability 	Continue work in Year 1: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue coordination with State Water Board on state-wide policy development • Identify opportunities to address project goals/objectives through Project 2.
4	Riparian Protection Policy	Evaluate need to develop a policy or revise or add Basin Plan control measures to prevent/minimize/mitigate impacts of hydromodification upon groundwater and surface water beneficial uses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water Board priorities (environmental health protection/restoration) • Region-wide applicability 	Begin work in Year 2 or 3: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluate need for and identify scope of Basin Plan control measures or policy development • Evaluate opportunities to address project goals/objectives through Project 2 and/or Project 3

Table 1 – Proposed 2018 Triennial Review List

Priority	Project	Description	Prioritization	Next Steps*
5	Mojave River Surface Water Beneficial Use Revisions	Basin Plan amendment involving the following revisions. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add BIOL and RARE to specific reaches of Mojave River and its tributaries • Remove COLD from specific reach • Clarify use of existing water quality objectives for the floodplain aquifer. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Underway/near completion • Regulatory clarity • Stakeholder support 	Complete work in Year 1: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete Staff Report and Use Attainability Analysis • Complete Substitute Environmental Document • Public workshop • Adoption hearing
6	Site-Specific Water Quality Objectives for Mojave Ground Water	Staff will evaluate groundwater quality information to determine whether it is appropriate to set specific WQOs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Underway • Regulatory clarity • Stakeholder support 	Continue work in Year 1: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prioritize ground water sub-basins for evaluation • Evaluate available data/information and determine if it is adequate for determining the need for and ability to develop new water quality objectives • Develop strategy, including stakeholder involvement and schedule, to develop new water quality objectives where appropriate
7	Remove Lake Tahoe Prohibition on New Pier Construction	This project will remove language in the Basin Plan that conflicts with TRPA's Code of Ordinances regarding new pier construction.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Underway • Regulatory clarity 	Complete work in Year 1: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete Staff Report • Complete Substitute Environmental Document • Public workshop • Adoption hearing

*Staff plans to provide the Water Board with project updates through a combination of EO Report articles and status reports.

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Table 1 – Proposed 2018 Triennial Review List

Priority	Project	Description	Prioritization	Next Steps*
8	Tribal and Subsistence Beneficial Uses	Add Tribal Cultural, Tribal Subsistence Fishing, and Subsistence Fishing beneficial uses (CUL, T-SUB, SUB) to the Basin Plan. Engage with tribes to identify waters that support Tribal beneficial uses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water Board priorities (human health protection) • Tribal requests • Environmental justice/ disadvantage communities 	Begin work in Year 1: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and implement Tribal consultation process • Develop approach and schedule to incorporate beneficial uses into the Basin Plan and to designate waterbodies with those uses
9	Truckee River Embedded/Deposited Sediment Objective	Evaluate whether to propose a new water quality objective for deposited/embedded sediment for the Middle Truckee River to address impairment of COLD and SPWN beneficial uses. The current TMDL is based on the water quality objective for suspended sediment which is not effective at addressing the impairment of COLD and SPWN beneficial uses.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water Board priorities (environmental health protection/restoration) • Stakeholder support/collaboration 	Begin work in Year 1: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaborate with Truckee River Watershed Council to develop strategy regarding data collection, analysis, and needs assessment • Evaluate options for addressing beneficial use impairment following data collection, analysis, and needs assessment
10	Editorial Revisions, Corrections, and Incorporation of Adopted State Water Board Policies	Miscellaneous corrections and improvements, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Correcting square mile number for Region and features in the wrong watershed • Consistent use of terms • Correct and updated references to policies and plans • Formatting changes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basin Plan accuracy and ease of use • Potential to combine with other basin planning actions 	Begin work in Year 2 or 3: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify other basin planning efforts where these needs could be incorporated

*Staff plans to provide the Water Board with project updates through a combination of EO Report articles and status reports.

Table 1 – Proposed 2018 Triennial Review List

Priority	Project	Description	Prioritization	Next Steps
11	Develop New Beneficial Use-Based Water Quality Objectives	<p>Add new water quality objectives (WQOs) to the Basin Plan based on protection of beneficial uses. Note that this project could also address or facilitate progress on the following projects identified on the 2015 Triennial Review List:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mean of Monthly Means • Region-wide Approach to TDS Water Quality Objectives for Surface Waters • Susan River Site-Specific Objectives • Water Quality Objectives for Leviathan and Bryant Creeks • Revise Hot Creek Water Quality Objectives • Site-Specific Objectives for Fish Springs 	<p>Staff posits a need to develop water quality objectives that are associated with the protection of specific beneficial uses. This is a complex topic that is influenced by, and will influence, such things as 303(d) list development, permits, and anti-degradation evaluations. There are more immediate Basin Planning needs, and so staff proposes postponing this project, which has potential to displace all above projects, and recommends this project be prioritized in the 2021 Triennial Review.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify and evaluate options/approaches regarding developing new beneficial use-based water quality objectives and how existing water quality objectives will be used.

Table 1 – Proposed 2018 Triennial Review List

12	Evaluate New Section CWA 304(a) Criteria	Identify new or updated Clean Water Act section 304(a) water quality criteria published by the USEPA for incorporation into the Lahontan Basin Plan. This project would also incorporate the 2015 Triennial Review project “Biotic Ligand Model for Copper,” which is a 2007 USEPA national criteria.	With some exceptions, the new 304(a) criteria contaminants revise criteria included in the California Toxics Rule, which the Water Board does not have the ability to modify. The State Water Board addressed updated bacteria ambient water quality criteria for recreational waters and has a project underway to address cadmium. It is most efficient for the State Water Board to adopt those 304(a) criteria (when more stringent than existing water quality objectives) as statewide WQOs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with State Water Board and recommend that State Water Board address this evaluation on a state-wide basis • Evaluate new or revised CWA section 304(a) recommended water quality criteria for incorporation into the Basin Plan as water quality objectives
Priority	Project	Description	Prioritization	Next Steps
13	Eagle Lake “Building Moratorium”	Reevaluate the Basin Plan’s waste discharge prohibition establishing a maximum development density of one single family dwelling equivalent per 20 acres for new development discharging waste to subsurface disposal systems in the Eagle Drainage Hydrologic Area (Eagle Lake watershed excluding the Stones-Bengard, Spalding Tract, and Eagle’s Nest subdivisions) in light of the State Water Board’s Onsite Wastewater Treatment System Policy. This prohibition has restricted development in the rural area not serviced by a community service district who provide sewer and waste disposal.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lahontan Water Board staff in the permitting program is evaluating alternatives to address this issue 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop Guidance document identifying alternative approach(es) • Evaluate how to implement the guidance and determine if a Basin Plan amendment is necessary

Table 1 – Proposed 2018 Triennial Review List

14	Water Quality Objectives for Lake Tahoe Nearshore	Evaluate research findings to determine if new nearshore water quality standards are necessary.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water Board-funded research effort currently underway • Research findings and recommendations will be developed during the next 3 to 5 years • Research findings and recommendations are important to evaluate if new water quality standards are necessary 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluate research findings and determine need for new water quality standards
15	Biological Indicators	Develop narrative and/or numeric biological objectives (i.e., biocriteria) to protect the biological integrity of the Region's surface waters.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project goal/objectives may be addressed by State Water Board's developing Biological Integrity Project 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor and participate in State Board efforts • Evaluate need for region-specific water quality objectives

Table 1 – Proposed 2018 Triennial Review List

Priority	Project	Description	Prioritization	Next Steps
16	Instream Flow Criteria	Evaluate developing narrative or site-specific numeric flow criteria and/or WQOs for flow requirements.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State Water Board (DWQ, Water Rights) In-Stream Flow Program under development • Project goals/objectives may in part be addressed by Project 2 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prioritize needs by waterbody and beneficial use • Use State Water Board metrics to determine recommended flow levels
17	Remove Beneficial Uses from Piute Ponds Wetlands	Remove Groundwater Recharge (GWR) and Agricultural Supply (AGR) beneficial uses from the Piute Ponds and wetlands in the Amargosa Creek watershed eastern Los Angeles County.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to reevaluate need for project with Discharger that requested project. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stakeholder and tribal engagement • Conduct Use Attainability Analysis
18	Clarify Policy on Package Plants	Clarify language regarding package plants, as necessary, which may require a Basin Plan amendment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project goals/objectives may be addressed through non-basin planning action. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluate need for revising Basin Plan language.
19	Revise PCPs Water Quality Objectives	The USEPA recommended revising water quality objectives for pentachlorophenol (PCPs), where appropriate.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Defer and recommend to State Water Board addressing matter on a state-wide basis 	

ENCLOSURE 2

Project Identification Number	Project Name	Description
1	Bacteria Water Quality Objectives (WQO): Fecal coliform removal	Remove fecal coliform indicator bacteria. Reference or include statewide REC-1 E. coli objective.
2	High Quality Beneficial Use	Protect high quality source waters. Create new BU to protect waters with exceptional, or unaffected, hydrologic function, habitat value, and free of bacterial pollution.
3	Designate Tribal BUs	Designate waters with CUL or T-SUB beneficial use. Can be separate projects.
4	Designate Subsistence Fishing BU	Designate waters with SUB beneficial use.
5	Site Specific WQO for Mojave Groundwater Basins	Staff will evaluate groundwater quality information to determine whether it is appropriate to set specific WQOs.
6	Evaluate USEPA Clean Water Act Section 304(a) Criteria for adoption	Determine if R6 should add USEPA criteria to BP as WQOs and amend the Basin Plan if appropriate
7	Evaluate TDS site-specific WQO for Susan River at Litchfield	Determine if a BP amendment is needed, or if there are alternative solutions for the Susanville Sanitary District to meet permit conditions
8	Update Nitrogen WQO at Hot Creek	Update or create new nitrogen site specific WQO that would apply to Hot Creek Fish Hatchery permit limits.
9	Groundwater Protection Prohibitions	Establish prohibitions limiting certain land uses and development in critical recharge areas and high priority groundwater basins to mitigate impacts from climate change and population growth.
10	Update unit/area-specific prohibition language in chapter 4.1	Revise the language of the unit/area-specific prohibitions so that they are written in plain language and to be consistently interpreted and applied for the specific waste types, regionwide.
11	Clarify cesspool regulations	References to cesspools is inconsistent with OWTS and LAMP Tier 2 requirements; but there is no prohibition for OWTS Tier 1 or Federal lands. Add a regionwide prohibition "no cess pools allowed."
12	Update Chapter 4.4 (Municipal and Domestic Wastewater: Treatment, Disposal, and Reclamation)	Revise and update the domestic wastewater section to provide more specific criteria. This will assist permit writers and provide dischargers clarity in meeting requirements.
13	Update or delete Appendices B, C, and D	Evaluate the need for these appendices. Some parts are outdated. Other parts can be replaced with references.
14	Evaluate Truckee River site specific WQOs	The Truckee River has multiple site specific objectives with multiple points of compliance, each in close proximity. The project would evaluate the need for so many objectives at so many compliance points, and recommend keeping as-is, reducing compliance points, and/or changing WQOs.

15	Consider revising fluoride WQO in Mojave River	At the CDFW Mojave Fish hatchery, the observed maximum ambient background and intake water fluoride concentration exceeds the most stringent water quality criterion/objective.
16	Site Cleanup Program edits in Ch. 4	Updates for accuracy and current regulations
17	Specify floodplain definition for ephemeral streams	More clear floodplain definitions would support the applicability of the Truckee/Tahoe 100-year floodplain prohibitions.
18	Require development setbacks from wetlands	The Basin Plan does not include references to development setback from wetlands. Wetland setbacks are needed to ensure indirect, unpermitted impacts do not occur. Development that directly abuts wetlands has a negative effect on wetland functions.
19	Evaluate definition of "riparian areas" and regulatory nexus	Staff considers refining the definition of 'riparian areas' and make it easier for staff and dischargers to determine when a riparian area is a Water of the State
20	Clarify or Update definition of SEZ in Ch. 5	Clarify or Update definition of SEZ (Ch. 5) as it relates to lakes below high water line. This may be different for LakeTahoe vs. other lakes in the Tahoe Basin.
21	Designate unmapped groundwater basins MUN	Some groundwater basins are not mapped, as listed in Table 2-2 (from Department of Water Resources). This action would designate these basins MUN
22	Designate groundwater basin 6-22 (upper Kingston Valley Basin) with IND beneficial use	Designate IND use for Upper Kingston Valley Basin (6-022) consistent with Mountain Pass Mining Operations
23	Remove POND beneficial use from Table 2-2	The POND beneficial use is not defined in the Basin Plan and does not exist in the other Regional Board Basin Plans, nor the State Board list of beneficial uses. It appears to be a historic relic and may have been a precursor to the AQUA beneficial use.
24	Add Laurel Pond as a named water body in Table 2-1	Add Laurel Pond as a named water body and identify beneficial uses. Laurel Pond receives effluent from Mammoth Community Water District. Consider removing the MUN use per Resolution 88-63. Evaluate whether the REC-1 use is appropriate. Evaluate need for site specific objectives.
25	Mojave River Watershed Updates	The Mojave River Surface Water Beneficial Uses Basin Plan amendment (USEPA Approval November 2020) included errors inconsistent with the intent of the project staff report and presentations. This project would fix those inconsistencies, as described in the USEPA approval letter.
26	Basin Plan Plate Maps	Create more usable groundwater and surface water plates. Can be added to Basin Plan or by reference.

27	Basin Plan Prohibition Areas	Add reference to digitized GIS based prohibition area maps prepared by State Board Department of Information Technology
28	Update Region Size	Geographic area quoted in the Basin Plan differs from area quoted in the Department of Water Resources State Water Plan.
29	Fix References	Review references to California Code of Regulations and fix any errors.
30	Fix Typos	e.g. Bare Creek (Bear Creek), certainsurface (certain surface)
31	Instream Flow Criteria	Evaluate developing narrative or site-specific numeric flow criteria and/or WQOs for flow requirements.
32	Remove Beneficial Uses from Piute Ponds Wetlands	Remove Groundwater Recharge (GWR) and Agricultural Supply (AGR) beneficial uses from the Piute Ponds and wetlands in the Amargosa Creek watershed eastern Los Angeles County.
33	Update TDS objectives region-wide	Develop a region-wide approach for TDS WQOs for surface waters. There are currently many site specific objectives and the objectives are not associated with protection of a specific beneficial use
34	Evaluate water quality objectives for association with specific beneficial uses	Associating WQOs with the protection of specified beneficial uses would be consistent with guidance on standards development and would provide a scientific basis for numeric objective levels.

ENCLOSURE 3

Item 6: Triennial Review Workshop

Dan Sussman
Senior Environmental Scientist
Planning and Assessment Unit



September 15, 2021

Presentation Outline

- Triennial Review requirements
- Basin Plan Overview
- Staff Resources
- 2018 Triennial Review Projects Status
- Projects to Consider
- Agency Goals and Prioritization
- Next Steps
- Discussion

Strategic Narrative – Division Objective

Assesses and develop a comprehensive list of BPAs needed to create better alignment with Regional Goals and improve efficiency for core regulatory programs. Incorporate these needed changes in Triennial Review. Close look at Chapter 3 & 4

Triennial Review – the **Why** and the **What**

“[The State] shall from time to time [but not less than every three years] hold public hearings for the purpose of reviewing applicable water quality standards and, as appropriate, modifying and adopting standards.”

-Clean Water Act section 303(c)(1)

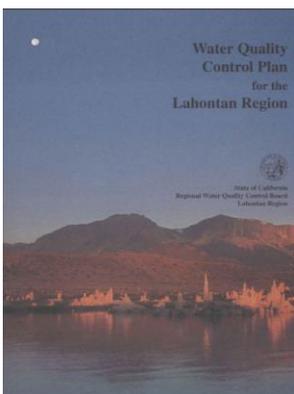
40 CFR Section 131.20

- Public Hearing and supporting process
- Submit results of the review to the USEPA
- Address new or revised Clean Water Act section 304(a) Criteria

Triennial Review – the Why and the What

- A brief description of each water quality issue
- An estimate of the time and staff resources needed to investigate the issue and to prepare a plan amendment to deal with the issue
- A (generalized) ranking of the issues by priority
- Identifying the issues that would require additional funding

Basin Plan Overview



Regulatory Contents

- Standards (beneficial uses, water quality objectives)
- Implementation (discharge prohibitions, permit programs, TMDLs, etc.)

Informational Contents

- Maps, program descriptions, plans and policies

Resources

Planning and Assessment Unit – 7* people

- Programs: Basin Planning, TMDL, SWAMP
- 2: SWAMP
- 3: Planning/ TMDL/ Assesment
- 1: Scientific Aid (0.75 time)
- 1: Supervisor

Funding for 3 Planning/TMDL staff includes 1.2 PY/yr Federal TMDL program funds (CWA §106)

Other Lahontan Water Board Staff

Planning and Assessment Unit Current TMDL/Basin Planning Projects

- Impaired Waters
 - Bishop Creek Bacteria Vision Project
 - West Fork Carson River Vision Project
 - Upper Owens River Mercury Investigation
 - Truckee River TMDL Review/ TR18 Project 9
 - Integrated Report
- Basin Planning
 - Bacteria Water Quality Objectives
 - Tribal and Subsistence Beneficial Uses

2018 Triennial Review Project Status

Project	Status
Evaluate Bacteria Water Quality Objectives	Active
Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Strategy	Adopted (no BPA)
Source Water Protection	Hold
Riparian Protection Policy	Hold
Mojave River Surface Water BUs	Complete*

2018 Triennial Review Project Status

Project	Status
Site-Specific Water Quality Objectives for Mojave Ground Water	Plans to re-start
Remove Lake Tahoe Prohibition on New Pier Construction	Complete
Tribal and Subsistence Beneficial Uses	First amendment approval pending
Truckee River Embedded/Deposited Sediment Objective	Active



11

Project Types

- Standards Actions (change, delete, add WQO and BUs)
- Regulatory consistency
- Update out of date information or legal references
- Fix informational errors
- Policy clarification

Projects Types (30+ suggested projects)

- 2018TR Active Projects (e.g., Bacteria, Tribal BU, Truckee River)
- Board Identified Projects (e.g., Hot Creek WQO, High Quality BU)
- Standards actions (e.g., revise FI WQO in Mojave River; evaluate TDS for Susan River WQO; evaluate Truckee River WQOs)
- Clarification and Consistency (e.g., define floodplains of ephemeral streams; define riparian areas; MUN for unmapped groundwater basins; revise unit or area specific prohibitions)
- Program Updates (e.g., CSI Program updates; Update numeric objectives to apply to specific beneficial uses)
- Edits and Informational Updates (e.g., size of region; misspellings; remove POND)

Discussion about prioritization

“A (generalized) ranking of the issues by priority”

- High, Medium, Low
- Above the line; below the line
- Quantitative or Subjective
- Staff process, Board process, or combination

Strategic Narrative – Goals

1. Protect human health and aquatic life
2. Protect/Improve aquatic resources and water quality
3. Promote a Safe Work Environment
4. Provide exceptional customer service, while being realistic about resources and commitments

Additional Prioritization Considerations

- Clear connection to basin planning need
- 2018 Triennial Review Priority
- Project Underway
- Region-wide applicability
- Needed for success of regulatory project
- Regulatory Clarity and Accessibility
- Stakeholder input

Next Steps



- Draft Staff Report and Distribute for Comment ➤ October 2021
- Respond to Comments and update Staff Report ➤ December 2021
- Public Hearing to adopt resolution ➤ March 2022
- Transmittal to USEPA and State Board ➤ March/April 2022

Comments on Projects and Priorities

- Is there an issue that hasn't been addressed?
- Is there a project you want to advocate for and support?
- Is there a project you do not think should get resources?
 - Not ready for this process
 - Not an issue
 - Not appropriate

Questions or to Submit Comments

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Subject: 2021 Triennial Review