



Lahontan Regional Water Quality
Control Board



EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

July 2013

STATE AND REGIONAL

1. Status of the 2013 Triennial Review Projects – *Richard Booth*

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 Basin Plan amendment process, Triennial Review in California is generally limited to identification of the highest priority planning projects to be addressed over the three years between one Triennial Review cycle and the next.

The current Triennial Review was adopted by the Water Board on January 17, 2013 and is used to allocate resources, including Water Board staff time, towards accomplishing the priorities as much as feasible.

Table 1 (attached) lists all 25 projects that staff recommended and that the Board adopted in January. The first 11 projects were identified as having resources available; the remaining 14 projects need additional resources. Additional resources are available for some of these projects as explained in Table 1.

Project #1 (prohibition amendments – Basin Plan cleanup) is undergoing staff review and is expected to be ready for the Board’s consideration in the winter of 2014.

Staff is preparing the environmental documents for Project #3 (remove MUN use from China Lake groundwater basins) and hopes to have the documents and Basin Plan amendment for the Board’s adoption also in the winter of 2014.

Project #2 (revise water quality objectives for bacteria) is a high priority Basin Planning project with the largest resource allocation for the current Triennial Review period. Consequently, the significant sub-tasks for this project are explained and updated in greater detail in Table A, also attached.

The rest of the Basin Plan projects are at various stages of completion or they currently have no staff resources devoted to that (see Table 1). None of these projects are scheduled for Board action before spring 2014.

2. Using Biological Objectives to Help Determine Stream Health – *Alan Miller/Tom Suk*

Broadly stated, the goals of the Clean Water Act are to restore and maintain the physical, chemical and *biological* integrity of the waters. In late 2011 staff reported on work underway pursuant to a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency grant to further develop scientific and policy recommendations for numerically assessing the biological integrity of year-round wadeable streams using benthic macroinvertebrates (spineless bottom-dwelling animals visible to the naked

eye). This work, preceded by nearly two decades of additional scientific work in California, will guide recommendations for the State Water Board to adopt numerical biological targets and/or water quality objectives and a policy for protecting streams from biological degradation based on scientific criteria.

The most recent developments follow a January 2013 workshop presentation to the State Water Board on the scientific basis for the policy, based on work undertaken by the Steering Committee and the Scientific Advisory Team. Two Lahontan Water Board staff actively participate in these groups. The State Water Board project manager, Karen Larsen, indicated over 40 meetings to date by the various groups in an effort to appraise the science and gather public input prior to proposing a policy for adoption by the State Water Board.

The Scientific Advisory Team is concluding its work on the project for the Steering Committee. The Team is proposing a modeling tool that can provide a score called the California Stream Condition Index (CSCI) that is between 0 and 100 relative to what would be expected biologically at a reference stream site in that setting. Using the modeling tool and the CSCI, California is on its way to being able to determine whether a stream is "healthy," that is, providing a healthy environment such that certain expected aquatic life forms will be found there. This is needed to supplement the solely chemical and physical assessments of the past. A future policy will likely be about setting forth consistent methods for bioassessments, and determining what to do with CSCI scores potentially affected by wastes, physical stream modifications, and water use.

The next steps involve State Board staff developing and evaluating in an Environmental Document a range of regulatory and non-regulatory alternatives for implementing a draft policy for bio-objectives. That rule proposal is expected for public comment later this year and policy

consideration by the State Water Board will likely follow in 2014.

3. **Composting General Order Update – Brianna Bergen**

Currently the Water Board may issue individual waste discharge requirements (WDRs), such as were adopted by the Water Board for Nursery Products' Hawes Composting Facility (March 2010). The State Water Board staff is developing a new General Permit for regulating composting facilities. A Draft General Permit is being prepared that would apply water quality protection measures to composting facilities that currently exist or may be constructed. Lahontan staff are actively participating in its development.

The Water Boards are required to protect the quality and beneficial uses of the waters of the state. The Department of Resources, Recycling and Recovery (Cal Recycle) has an 'Organics Policy Roadmap' that identifies the need to compost more organic materials and reduce what is disposed in landfills annually (reduce the amount of organics being landfilled by 50 percent by 2020). State Water Board staff recognizes these dual needs and has prepared the draft General Permit to: 1) streamline the permitting process, 2) implement consistent regulation of qualifying compost facilities throughout the state, and, 3) protect water quality while reducing disposal of organic materials in landfills.

On May 20 and 21, 2013, Water Board staff attended stakeholder workgroup meetings, held in northern and southern California (via Webinar), to discuss the General Permit. Water Board staff, Cal Recycle staff, industry stakeholders, and other interested parties met to discuss the scope of the proposed General Permit, clarify terminology and definitions, discuss requirements for waste pile pads and surface impoundments, and discuss changes from the previous draft.

Concerns from industry stakeholders focused on existing facilities, conductivity requirements for the waste piles and impoundments, climate variations, tiering requirements based on site conditions, and engineered alternatives. Topics discussed also included implementation concerns and financial impact of the General Permit.

Based on comments received on previous drafts, State Water Board staff plan to issue an Environmental Impact Report in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act for this General Permit. Water Board staff plan to continue participating and providing comments.

NORTH BASIN

4. **Collaboration with the US Forest Service on Investigation of Susan River Mercury Impairment** – *Carly Nilson*

Water Board staff met with Lassen National Forest Service (Forest Service) staff at the end of May to discuss a two year fish tissue sampling and mercury analysis program the Forest Service is implementing in the Susan River watershed. Currently, the Susan River is listed as impaired for mercury on the 303(d) list. The Forest Service began sampling in 2012 for methylmercury in fish tissue to determine the source of impairment.

This spring the Forest Service asked Water Board staff to review the 2012 data and assist in developing a sampling plan for the second year of this study to capture the most valuable data for determining whether or not the Susan River should remain on the 303(d) list as impaired for mercury.

Because of the human health hazard from consuming fish tissue with high mercury concentrations, Water Board staff wants to collaborate with other agencies in further examining specific waterbody impairments beyond initial screening studies. The methylmercury data from the Forest Service study will be entered into the California Environmental Data Exchange Network to be evaluated in next listing cycle.

5. **Silver King Creek Paiute Cutthroat Trout Rotenone Project Federal Injunction Dissolved, Alpine County** - *Bruce Warden*

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) Paiute Cutthroat Trout Restoration project in Silver King Creek, Alpine County, has been re-started following a May 13, 2013 Federal Court Order dissolving a September 6, 2011 permanent injunction. The dissolved injunction was based on a violation of the 1964 Wilderness Act regarding what was considered

unjustified use of motorized equipment to run an auger for metering potassium permanganate to neutralize rotenone downstream of the treatment area.

The Water Board approved a permit for this project in April 2010. The CDFW and federal partner agencies, the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the US Forest Service, have begun active preparation to implement the project this summer. It is anticipated that the project will commence around the third week of August, when water flow and temperature conditions will likely be optimal for rotenone treatment. Teams will be visiting the site in July and early August to conduct monitoring and prepare for the treatment. Water Board staff will perform compliance monitoring of surface waters before, during, and after rotenone treatment. Water Board staff are coordinating monitoring plans for these efforts with CDFW staff.

6. **New Report on Fish Contamination in Streams & Rivers** — *Thomas Suk*

The State Water Board's Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program (SWAMP) has released a report titled *Contaminants in Sport Fish from California Rivers and Streams*. The report, published May 23, documents a recent study of 63 popular river and stream fishing locations throughout California. Fourteen of the 63 sites are within the Lahontan Region.

This new study analyzed sport fish because they provide information on potential human exposure to contaminants, and on the condition of the aquatic food web. Sport fish were captured and tested for mercury, PCBs, selenium, and a suite of pesticides.

In the Lahontan Region, fish from four of 14 locations (i.e., Big Pine Creek, East Walker River, Independence Creek, and Virginia Creek) exceeded Advisory Tissue Levels

(ATLs) for mercury established by the California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA). The other potential contaminants (i.e., PCBs, selenium, and pesticides) were detected in fish from several of the Region's rivers and streams, but levels all were below OEHHA's ATLs. (Only mercury exceeded OEHHA's advisory levels.)

The recent study is one component of SWAMP's statewide "bioaccumulation" project that tracks sport fish contamination in all California water bodies. Results from the study of the state's lakes were reported three years ago, and results for coastal waters were published last year.

Staff has prepared an Excel spreadsheet (attached) that allows the reader to view "at-a-glance" the fish tissue results for our Region.

The full study report can be viewed at: www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/swamp/rivers_study.shtml

The previous (2010) report for lakes and reservoirs can be viewed at: www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/swamp/lakes_study.shtml.

7. **Successful Workshop on Environmental Documentation** – *Douglas F. Smith*

The Water Board office hosted a workshop for staff from both the Water Boards and the U.S. Forest Service on considerations for preparing joint environmental documentation. More than 30 individuals attended the workshop on May 21-22, 2013, with staff from six national forests across the state, Water Board regions, and State Water Board. Two U.S. Forest Service staff, Barry Hill and Laura Hierholzer, and State Water Board counsels Kim Niemeyer and Kenneth Bogdan played key roles in developing the workshop.

At the workshop, the participants learned what triggers a Water Board discretionary action and how to streamline the documentation requirements to meet the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

Preparing joint NEPA-CEQA documents can, in many situations, significantly streamline the process and yield consistent and transparent environmental documents for public involvement in a manner that saves considerable staff resources. With the U.S. Forest Service as the NEPA lead and the Water Board as the CEQA lead, close communication is tantamount for joint NEPA-CEQA documents.

We are encouraged by the positive interaction amongst staff at the workshop and believe that joint NEPA-CEQA documentation is one of the highest priorities to implement between agencies. Plans are underway to schedule another workshop training next year.

SOUTH BASIN

8. **Caltrans Highway 58 Expansion Project, San Bernardino County - Lisa Dernbach**

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) plans to certify its Final Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (FEIR/EIS) to widen a portion of State Route 58 (SR-58) through the unincorporated community of Hinkley, in San Bernardino County, west of Barstow by July 1. Caltrans received minimal public comments on the Project to change the two-lane conventional highway to a four-lane expressway for approximately 2.8 miles. The Project is needed to relieve traffic congestion and improve public safety.

In May, Water Board staff attended a meeting in Hinkley with Caltrans and Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) to discuss ways to reduce the project's impact on on-going monitoring and remediation activities for chromium contamination. The preferred project alternative has the expressway located one-half mile south of the current SR-58 alignment. Three in-place monitoring wells at the new Hinkley Road interchange will be marked and then extended above the new pavement. Another monitoring well on Mountain View Road will also stay in place and be extended above new pavement. Meanwhile, two monitoring wells planned to be covered by the expressway will be re-located to property to the north owned by PG&E. The other new interchange, to be located at Lenwood Road, does not interfere with any of PG&E's monitoring and remediation network.

Prior to project construction, PG&E plans to open a trench along Fairview Road where the pipeline that currently provides fresh water to the Desert View Dairy in the north and the Northwest Freshwater Injection System east of the Hinkley Elementary School exists. The pipeline will be trenched deeper to prevent damage from the new expressway. PG&E also plans to lay additional pipeline within the open trench in anticipation of future remediation system expansions.

Water Board staff previously submitted comments to inform Caltrans of areas of known groundwater contamination that might be encountered during project construction.

To avoid using any water contaminated from chromium by PG&E or from nitrates by Hinkley dairies, Caltrans plans to acquire all water for the project from a permitted well in Barstow.

Due to the early completion of the FEIR/EIS, the project has been moved up in schedule with construction planned to start in 2014. Water Board staff will follow the project to ensure that water quality is protected and ongoing and future cleanup actions can continue.

9. **Pretreatment Program Inspections - Mike Coony**

Section 2233 of the California Code of Regulations (CCR), Title 23, requires municipal wastewater dischargers to maintain an industrial pretreatment program if their facility has a design flow equal to or greater than 5 million gallons per day (MGD). The purpose of the program is to prevent industrial source constituents from passing through the facility or interfering with wastewater treatment plant operations. The program

consists of a system of industrial user permits with constituent limitations, self-monitoring and reporting, inspections, and enforcement authority.

In Spring 2013, Tetra Tech, under contract with EPA, performed selected facility pretreatment inspections on behalf of the Water Board. The selected facilities were Los Angeles County Sanitation District 14 (Lancaster) and Victor Valley Wastewater Reclamation Authority (Dischargers). Each Tetra Tech inspection took two days. On the first day, Tetra Tech reviewed the Dischargers' programs for compliance with Federal regulations. On the second day, Tetra Tech and the Discharger performed inspections at selected industries to verify that the Discharger is complying with the approved pretreatment program. Water Board staff accompanied Tetra Tech to provide oversight. Specific recommendations for follow-up actions are pending receipt of Tetra Tech inspection reports. Water Board staff observed that the two pre-treatment programs inspected are generally compliant, but there are administrative issues to be addressed.

As a result of these inspections, Water Board staff discovered that two facilities in the region above 5 MGD do not have the Section 2233 pretreatment requirement written into their permit. These are the two Los Angeles County Sanitation District facilities, the Lancaster plant and the Palmdale plant. Water Board staff intends to bring amended waste discharge requirements to the Water Board that incorporate California regulations into the permits.

10. **Highlights of the California Water Environment Association Annual Conference** -Mike Coony

Water Board staff attended the annual California Water Environment Association (CWEA) Conference. The CWEA members are wastewater collection and treatment operators, wastewater agency personnel, and wastewater engineering consulting firms. The mission of the association is to promote and disseminate information and training to wastewater professionals.

Plant of the Year Award for communities under 50,000 people was presented to the Lake Arrowhead Community Services District- Grass Valley Plant. This is the first time in a number of years that one of the region's dischargers has received this award.

An item of interest to the Water Board is the increasing number of discharge permits with total nitrogen limits of 10 mg/L or less, the drinking water standard for nitrate. Membrane technologies were also a subject of interest. About a decade ago, the membrane bioreactor technology was becoming popular because it combined secondary and tertiary treatment into a single unit. The technology eliminated the secondary clarifier and lowered capital costs. The drawback in this technology is that proprietary membranes are used, which requires the discharger to hold a long-term service contract with the supplier. More recently, designers are selecting membrane filtration as a filtration unit process to meet Title 22 tertiary recycled water treatment requirements but employing the technology less frequently for standard wastewater treatment.

11. Air Force Plant 42, Site 5 Draft Record of Decision – Linda Stone

Air Force Plant 42 (Plant 42) has submitted a Draft Record of Decision (ROD) for proposed remedial actions at Site 5, the Former Fire Training Circle. The ROD presents the selected remedy for mitigating soil contamination at Site 5. The Department of Toxic Substances Control (Department) and the Water Board both oversee cleanup actions at Plant 42. The Department is the state lead regulatory agency. The Water Board is responsible for ensuring requirements for the protection and restoration of water quality are met at Plant 42.

Site 5 is located in the central airfield portion of Plant 42. The site was an unlined, bermed, fire-training area approximately 100 feet in diameter. Fire training practices consisted of flooding the circle with water and adding flammable liquids, which were then ignited. Fire-training at this site ceased after 1981.

Material used in these fire training exercises included fuels, oils, hydraulic fluids, and solvents. This practice caused the site soils to be contaminated with low levels of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and semi volatile organic compounds (SVOCs). SVOCs are less mobile than VOCs and are restricted to shallow soils at the site. Subsurface investigations at the site found VOC concentrations in soil and soil gas that decreased with depth. No VOCs were detected in soil below a depth of 30 feet and no VOCs were detected in soil gas below a depth of 75 feet.

The depth to groundwater at this site is approximately 400 feet. One groundwater monitoring well was installed downgradient of the site and sampled for eight sampling events, most recently in 2011. The results of this monitoring show

that the soil contamination had not impacted groundwater beneath the site. Based on the vertical separation of at least 300 feet between the soil contamination and groundwater, the fact that the use of the site for firefighting has stopped, and that site contaminants have not been detected in the site monitoring well; the site does not pose a threat to the underlying groundwater.

The site has been graded to prevent ponding or soil erosion during rainfall events and there is no viable habitat present at the site. The site also does not pose a threat to surface water. The Air Force conducted a human health risk assessment that found the site posed a slightly elevated risk for the potential future occupational worker and a higher risk to a potential future resident.

The ROD evaluated five remedial alternatives, including:

1. No Action
2. Institutional Controls
3. Excavation and Offsite Disposal
4. Soil Vapor Extraction
5. Excavation and Offsite Disposal with Soil Vapor Extraction.

The Air Force has proposed in the ROD Alternative 2, Institutional Controls, as the recommended alternative. Institutional Controls would limit worker exposure, prevent future residential use, and prevent unauthorized removal of soil from the site.

Water Board staff reviewed the proposed remedy and find it complies with the applicable or relevant and appropriate requirements of the Water Board and recommend the Executive Officer concur and sign the ROD. If there are changes to the proposed ROD, an updated item will be provided to the Board.

Table 1 - JUNE 2013 STATUS of 2013 TRIENNIAL REVIEW PRIORITY PROJECTS

Projects with Available Resources	Description and Estimated Completion Date	Status in mid-June 2013
<p>#1 Prohibition amendments (Basin Plan cleanup)</p>	<p>This project will 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 other minor changes to of the plan.</p> <p>Other proposed changes to the Basin Plan include incorporating State Board policies such as authorizing use of compliance schedules in NPDES permits, mixing zones for NPDES permits, and the 2012 State Board policy on onsite wastewater treatment systems.</p>	<p>Staff conducted two scoping meetings (in February and March 2013) and has received comments. Staff is considering the scoping comments and is drafting proposed language for the amendments and preparing the CEQA-equivalent Substitute Environmental Document for Board consideration in late fall of 2013 or winter of 2014.</p>
<p>#2 Revise water quality objectives for bacteria</p>	<p>Based on the results of ongoing field sampling in the Lahontan Region, revisions to federal criteria for recreational waters, and a draft State Water Board policy (scoping anticipated in late 2013), staff is working with State Board staff to modernize the current regionwide objectives for "Bacteria, Coliform" including the use of E. coli as an indicator.</p> <p>Water Board contractors are collecting, and Water Board staff are analyzing, data to determine whether bacteria site specific objectives for certain waterbodies are warranted.</p>	<p>See Table A (attached) "Topics Related to Revising Bacteria Water Quality Objectives" that gives details of bacteria-related Water Board actions.</p>

Table 1 - JUNE 2013 STATUS of 2013 TRIENNIAL REVIEW PRIORITY PROJECTS

Projects with Available Resources	Description	Status in mid-June 2013
#3 Remove the MUN beneficial use designation from two 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 groundwaters, Table 2-2 of the Basin Plan may be amended to remove the MUN use designation for portions of two groundwater basins.	Staff conducted a scoping meeting in May 2013. Comment period ended June 10; staff received no comments. Staff is preparing the CEQA-equivalent Substitute Environmental Document for proposed adoption of amendments in January 2014.
#4 Incorporate State Water Board onsite wastewater treatment system (OWTS) 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 Chapters 4, 6, and the appendices of the Lahontan Basin Plan may also be necessary for compatibility. Staff will not recommend provisions outside the OWTS Policy for systems covered by the Policy, except our prohibitions that are currently in place.</p>	Staff will incorporate the State Board's onsite wastewater treatment policy as part of the Basin Plan Cleanup project (Project #1 above.)
#5 Program Manager	The Basin Planning Program Manager participates in State/Regional Water Board Roundtable activities, and workplan development, provides information to the public, etc.	The Program Manager's duties are ongoing.
#6 2015 Triennial Review	Prepare the 2015 Triennial Review staff report and priority list. Host scoping meetings and hearings, as necessary, for Water Board consideration.	Work on the 2015 Triennial Review process is expected to begin in FY 15/16.

Table 1 - JUNE 2013 STATUS of 2013 TRIENNIAL REVIEW PRIORITY PROJECTS

Projects with Available Resources	Description	Status in mid-June 2013
#7 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, coordination with stakeholders involved with aquatic invasive species, etc.	Miscellaneous planning related work is ongoing.
#8 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.	After staff evaluates the research findings, staff will consult with sister agencies on how to address water quality. Report to the legislature due in fall 2013.

Table 1 - JUNE 2013 STATUS of 2013 TRIENNIAL REVIEW PRIORITY PROJECTS

Projects with Available Resources	Description	Status in mid-June 2013
<p>#9 Incorporate Antelope Valley Salt and Nutrient Management Plan into the Basin Plan</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>The Antelope Valley Integrated Regional Water Management Group is finalizing their draft Salt and Nutrient Management Plan. The draft plan is expected to be available for review Summer 2013. The Group will be soliciting comments on the draft plan from stakeholders and resource agencies, including Regional Board staff. The final plan is expected to be included as an appendix to the 2014 Updated Integrated Regional Water Management Plan.</p>
<p>#10 Incorporate Mojave Basin Salt and Nutrient Management Plan into the Basin Plan</p>	<p>The State Water Board's Recycled Water Policy directs Regional Water Boards to incorporate SNMPs completed by stakeholder groups into the Basin Plans. Consider revising water quality objectives for Mojave groundwater and river to account for expected changes in salt and nutrients.</p>	<p>The Mojave Basin SNMP is expected to be submitted to the Lahontan Water Board in 2014.</p>

Table 1 - JUNE 2013 STATUS of 2013 TRIENNIAL REVIEW PRIORITY PROJECTS

Projects with Available Resources	Description	Status in mid-June 2013
<p>#11 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.</p>	<p>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").</p> <p>TRPA adopted revisions to its regional land use plan on December 12, 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.</p>	<p>Chapter 5 revisions are being considered as part of the Basin Plan Cleanup project (Project #1 above.) Staff is working to identify needed changes and propose revised language.</p>

[Projects #12 through #25, listed below, require additional resources to complete]

Table 1 - JUNE 2013 STATUS of 2013 TRIENNIAL REVIEW PRIORITY PROJECTS

Projects Requiring Additional Resources	Description	Status in mid-June 2013
#12 Hydromodification (Riparian Protection Policy)	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.	No staff work performed specific to a Basin Plan amendment. Regulatory staff attending a Southern California episodic streams working group and participating in State Board sponsored discussions on Proposed Statewide riparian protection policies.
#13 Biological indicators	Revise existing narrative water quality objective for protection of aquatic communities (nondegradation of aquatic communities objective).	State and Water Board staff, including Lahontan staff presented the scientific basis for the proposed policy to State Board (see Executive Officer report in this agenda package titled "What Is a Healthy Stream? Statewide Biological Water Quality Objectives Can Help Determine"). Basin Plan amendment will follow State Board's policy considerations.
#14 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.	The Squaw Valley Public Service District has recently developed tools to analyze groundwater pumping's effect on the flow in Squaw Creek and to evaluate different pumping scenarios such that pumping's effect on the creek can be minimized. An EIR for Squaw Valley Real Estate's Village at Squaw Valley project, expected 2014, will include an assessment of the effects of groundwater pumping to supply that project.

Table 1 - JUNE 2013 STATUS of 2013 TRIENNIAL REVIEW PRIORITY PROJECTS

Projects Requiring Additional Resources	Description	Status in mid-June 2013
#15 Revised Hot Creek water quality objectives	Develop revised objectives for Hot Creek (Owens River HU) based on changes in water quality related to increased constituent levels emanating from the natural groundwater flows entering the creek.	In FY 13/14, staff is scheduled to review technical data to determine whether a Basin Plan amendment is needed to establish site specific objectives for Hot Creek or whether intake credits can be used to revise the NPDES permit.
#16 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 Wildlife operates Fish Springs hatchery in the Owens Valley where source water is groundwater 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.	No staff work performed specific to a Basin Plan amendment.

Table 1 - JUNE 2013 STATUS of 2013 TRIENNIAL REVIEW PRIORITY PROJECTS

Projects Requiring Additional Resources	Description	Status in mid-June 2013
#17 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 Wildlife in evaluating alternatives including: increased treatment, increased land disposal capacity, and establishing or ensuring minimum flows in Susan River and its tributaries.	Work on this project is slated for FY 13/14.
#18 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.	No staff work performed specific to a Basin Plan amendment.
#19 Dairies Strategy	Revise the Basin Plan, Section 4.10, to include an updated Dairy Regulatory Strategy to address groundwater pollution from dairies. (It may be possible to implement an appropriate strategy without a Basin Plan amendment.)	No staff work performed specific to a Basin Plan amendment. Staff continues to implement the 2010 Dairies Strategy.

Table 1 - JUNE 2013 STATUS of 2013 TRIENNIAL REVIEW PRIORITY PROJECTS

Projects Requiring Additional Resources	Description	Status in mid-June 2013
#20 BIOLOGICAL Beneficial Use for Mojave River	Add the Biological Use (BIOL) for specific reaches of the Mojave River with remaining viable habitat, specifically from Bear Valley Road to Helendale.	No staff work to date specific to a Basin Plan amendment.
#21 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.	Staff will make these changes to Table 2-1 as part of the Basin Plan Cleanup project (Project #1 above).
#22 Eagle Lake “building moratorium”	Amend the Basin Plan to lessen restrictions on building density for septic systems. This project may be addressed by incorporating State Board’s new Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems Policy.	No staff work to date specific to a Basin Plan amendment.
#23 Biotic Ligand Model for copper	Incorporate the USEPA national criteria for copper into water quality standards program using the Biotic Ligand Model.	No staff work to date specific to a Basin Plan amendment.
#24 Revise PCPs water quality objectives	The USEPA recommends a revision of water quality objectives for pentachlorophenol (PCPs), where appropriate. The USEPA believes existing objectives are not sufficiently protective of early life stages of salmonids.	No staff work to date specific to a Basin Plan amendment.

Table 1 - JUNE 2013 STATUS of 2013 TRIENNIAL REVIEW PRIORITY PROJECTS

Projects Requiring Additional Resources	Description	Status in mid-June 2013
<p>#25 Remove two beneficial uses from Piute Ponds wetlands</p>	<p>This project would involve removal of Groundwater Recharge (GWR) and Agricultural Supply (AGR) beneficial uses from the Piute (also known as Paiute) Ponds and wetlands in the Amargosa Creek watershed eastern Los Angeles County. The ponds and wetlands are maintained with effluent from the Los Angeles County Sanitation District No. 14 (Lancaster) wastewater treatment facilities.</p>	<p>No staff work to date specific to a Basin Plan amendment. Staff is considering whether to recommend removal of the two beneficial uses.</p>

Table A -Topics Related to Revising Bacteria Water Quality Objectives

Topics Related to Revising Bacteria Water Quality Objectives	Task	Strategic Dates (as of mid June 2013)
Compile all bacterial data and map it	This data should include data from the UC Davis contract #08-076-160 (completed July 15, 2010) which includes 337 stream water samples collected from 35 sample locations and analyzed for E. coli and fecal coliform. Additional data to be analyzed includes the Bridgeport ranchers Grazing Waiver data, internal Eastern Sierra Bacteria data, SWAMP data, permittee data, and data from future grants/contracts.	Initial task could be completed by June 30, 2013 if expertise is available; additional data entry completed by June 30, 2016
Compile all Bridgeport Valley Grazing Waiver information	Evaluate the Bridgeport Waiver information, including the “Section 13267” information submitted last year by the ranchers. This evaluation can and should include reporting on miles of property fenced from waterways, miles of streams still exposed to uncontrolled access by livestock, acres of various implementation actions completed, proportion of irrigation return flows treated or eliminated, money spent, Grazing Management Practices (GMPs) in relation to distance to monitoring sites, etc. This information will assist in evaluating efforts of Bridgeport Valley ranchers and determine if they have completed all feasible GMPs on their properties.	Task could be completed by June 30, 2013; additional information input completed annually
Eastern Sierra Bacteria monitoring (internal)	Monitoring performed by R6 planning, NPS, and SWAMP staffs during the grazing season, including pre- and post- grazing. Based on data, monitoring sites may change or additional sites may be added. This monitoring ensures Lahontan staff is evaluating possible impairments due to grazing and tracking seasonal/annual variations.	May through October/November annually

Table A - Topics Related to Revising Bacteria Water Quality Objectives

Topics Related to Revising Bacteria Water Quality Objectives	Task	Strategic Dates (as of mid June 2013)
Field monitoring report for 2012 Eastern Sierra bacteria	Field work complete.	Draft report recently submitted for internal review.
Grazing Advisory Group (GAG)	Internal R6 working group that coordinates efforts and shares data between NPS, SWAMP, and basin planning projects in relation to grazing/bacteria. Coordinate on projects/contracts and determine/delegate work tasks. This is the platform for sharing information, coordinating projects in the region, and planning new/future projects.	Monthly/Quarterly during development of bacteria basin plan amendment
Internal working group to evaluate basin plan amendment options	This group evaluates the information gathered and tasks completed to define feasible options for a regionwide basin plan amendment to present to upper management and Lahontan's Grazing Advisory Group.	Next 3 years
Lahontan's laboratory	Perform fecal coliform and E. coli analyses	Ongoing, as needed
Possible future contract (FY 13-14): UC Santa Barbara SNARL contract	If funded, the contractor will test and employ library-independent microbial source tracking approaches to determine bacteria sources in surface waters. Specifically, the contractor will test and refine recently developed animal feces-specific <i>Bacteriodes</i> spp. qPCR primers, and use the assays to determine bacteria sources in the Region.	Contract may conclude June 30, 2016
Rivers and Ranches - Prop 84 grant	Rivers and Ranches- implementation of grazing management practices on private ranch properties (\$352,840)	Grant concludes March 1, 2016
Sampling by SWAMP personnel	Water quality monitoring	Ongoing
Tallac and Trout Creeks pathogen sampling	Staff is reviewing historic and recently collected pathogen water quality data for the possible de-listing of Tallac and Trout creeks for pathogens.	Underway

Table A - Topics Related to Revising Bacteria Water Quality Objectives

Topics Related to Revising Bacteria Water Quality Objectives	Task	Strategic Dates (as of mid June 2013)
Track USEPA/State Board bacteria standards	The State Board is in the process of creating a new bacteria amendment based on USEPA’s REC-1 guidance. Staff will need to evaluate the new USEPA guidance and possibly provide input to State Board for our regional interests/considerations. Staff to coordinate with Paul Hann's Unit and with Michael Gjerde for Clean Beaches initiative and Quantitative Microbial Risk Assessment.	Possibly next one to three years
UC Davis - Prop 84 grant	UC Davis subcontract- pre and post- management practices implementation bacterial monitoring bacterial source tracking in priority watersheds to determine source of impairment. (\$400,000)	
UC Santa Barbara SNARL contract No. 12-067-160	At no fewer than 8 watersheds, conduct longitudinal (i.e., headwaters-to-mouth) stream surveys for bacterial indicators. This design can provide site-specific data for many watersheds and the data analysis could reveal trends (and quantification) of bacteria levels in headwaters (i.e., “background”), above/below grazing areas, above/below urban/residential areas, etc. (\$130,000)	Contract concludes March 20, 2015 (or sooner)
UC Santa Barbara - Prop 84 grant	UC Santa Barbara subcontract – establishment of a bacterial analysis lab near Mammoth Lakes; receive and run water samples. (\$56,000)	
UC Davis contract (concluded 2010) contract # 08-076-160	\$60000. 337 stream samples collected and analyzed for E. coli and fecal coliform	concluded 12/31/2010