



Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board

PUBLIC NOTICE

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD, LAHONTAN REGION

NOTICE OF CEQA SCOPING MEETING

FOR A BASIN PLAN AMENDMENT TO REVISE SITE-SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES FOR TOTAL NITROGEN AND NITRATE IN HOT CREEK, MONO COUNTY

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Lahontan Region (Lahontan Water Board) will hold a California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) scoping meeting at the following time and location:

Wednesday, February 26, 2026
3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Mammoth Lakes; Community Center Park
1000 Forest Trail
Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546

The Hot Creek Nitrogen Site-Specific Objectives Project involves developing a proposed amendment to the Water Quality Control Plan for the Lahontan Region (Lahontan Basin Plan) which would revise the total nitrogen and nitrate as N water quality objectives for Hot Creek and move the location along Hot Creek at which these objectives apply. The proposed amendment could result in less stringent nitrogen water quality objectives to account for the unique ecological condition of Hot Creek that supports abundant aquatic life as well as rare and threatened species.

State regulations require that Basin Plan amendments that are “projects” for purposes of CEQA, be accompanied by substitute environmental documentation (SED) (23 CCR § 3775-3781). The purpose of the scoping meeting is to provide a forum for the public to provide input on the scope and content of the environmental analysis included in the draft SED that will be prepared to support the proposed Basin Plan amendment. Scoping is helpful to the Lahontan Water Board in identifying the range of actions, alternatives, mitigation measures, and significant environmental effects to be analyzed in the SED. The meeting will consist of a presentation regarding the proposed changes to the Basin Plan, and an opportunity for meeting participants to provide input about the content of the environmental analysis to be included in the draft SED.

ROBERT PEARCE, ACTING CHAIR | BEN LETTON, EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Public comments can be made at the scoping meeting or can be submitted in written form by March 28, 2026, to Eli Balderas at the contact information provided below. Lahontan Water Board staff will not prepare written responses to each individual comment received but will incorporate written responses to all significant environmental points in the report that will be publicly available for review and comment on the Lahontan Water Board website.

Additional project information is available at the project website:

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/lahontan/water_issues/programs/basin_plan/hot-creek-ssos.html

This web site will be updated as new documents (e.g., Draft Basin Plan Amendment, Staff Technical Report) are developed and made available for public review.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

During the 2022 Triennial Review of the Lahontan Basin Plan, the Board prioritized creation of an updated total nitrogen Water Quality Objective for Hot Creek. This commitment was reaffirmed in the 2025 Triennial Review.

More information regarding the Lahontan Water Board's Triennial Review Process is available at:

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/lahontan/water_issues/programs/basin_plan/#triennial

PARKING AND PHYSICAL ACCESSIBILITY

The meeting room at the Mammoth Lakes Community Center is physically accessible to persons with disabilities. The facility also has public parking and is accessible via public transit.

LANGUAGE SERVICES

This meeting will be offered in English. To request translation of a written document, interpretation services for the meeting, or sign language services please use one of the following options at least ten (10) business days before the meeting, if possible, by February 12, 2026:

- Submit an online request: bit.ly/LanguageAccessForm
- Call (916) 341-5254
- Email languageservices@waterboards.ca.gov

Contact us to request information in your language.

Contáctenos para solicitar información en su idioma.

Свяжитесь с нами, чтобы запросить информацию на вашем языке.

귀하의 언어로 작성된 정보를 요청하려면 저희에게 문의하십시오.

આપણ ભસ્તુ વિચ જાણ પાપત કરન લઈ સડ નલ સબુક કરા.

Makipag-ugnayan sa amin para humiling ng impormasyon sa iyong wika.

ACCESSIBILITY

Telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) users may contact the California Relay Service at: TTY (800) 735-2929 or voice line at (800) 735-2922.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Please direct any written comments, questions, or concerns regarding the scoping meeting or the Basin Plan Amendment process to Eli Balderas at (530) 542-5597, or by email to Eli.Balderas@Waterboards.ca.gov.

If you would like to receive further correspondence related to this project, please subscribe to the "Basin Planning: Region 6 - Hot Creek Site Specific Objectives" mailing list at:

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/email_subscriptions/reg6_subscribe.html