

Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board

November 27, 2018

REMOVING A BASIN PLAN DISCHARGE PROHIBITION TO ALLOW NEW PIER DEVELOPING IN THE LAKE TAHOE HYDROLOGIC UNIT – OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT

Please see the attached Draft Technical Report/Environmental Document and Proposed Basin Plan Amendment to remove outdated language from the Water Quality Control Plan for the Lahontan Region (Basin Plan) to maintain regional regulatory consistency.

Background

The Water Board and Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) have concluded that protective measures can be taken to reduce and avoid the impact of new piers in spawning habitat at Lake Tahoe. This finding, coupled with demonstrated mitigation measure success, prompted TRPA to revise outdated shoreline standards and remove its prohibition on developing new piers in spawning habitat.

To be consistent with regional regulations, the Water Board intends to remove a Basin Plan Prohibition that currently prevents the construction of new piers along the California side of Lake Tahoe. The Water Board action will: (1) provide area-wide consistency regarding pier development, (2) recognize that potential environmental impacts from pier development are de minimis, and (3) acknowledge established regulatory oversight and required mitigation adequately protects fish spawning habitat.

All new pier development remains subject to Water Board and TRPA regulatory conditions. New pier development must conform to the parcel eligibility and density criteria specified by the TRPA Code, meet required TRPA and Water Board regulatory requirements, and implement appropriate impact mitigation measures.

Comments Requested

The substitute environmental documentation, including the staff report, a California Environmental Quality Act checklist, and the proposed basin plan amendment are being distributed to interested individuals and public agencies for a minimum 45-day review and comment period in accordance with state environmental regulations. (California Code of Regulations, title 23, section 3779.).

PETER C. PUMPHREY, CHAIR | PATTY Z. KOUYOUMDJIAN, EXECUTIVE OFFICER

2501 Lake Tahoe Blvd., So. Lake Tahoe, CA 96150 | 15095 Amargosa Road, Bldg 2, Ste 210, Victorville CA 92394
e-mail Lahontan@waterboards.ca.gov | website www.waterboards.ca.gov/lahontan

Please review the enclosed documents and provide Water Board staff with your written comments no later than 5 pm on **February 1, 2019**, to facilitate the Water Board's consideration of adopting the proposed amendment at its March 13, 2019 meeting in South Lake Tahoe.

Comments may be submitted via email to Lahontan@waterboards.ca.gov. Please include "Lake Tahoe Pier Basin Plan Amendment" in the subject line. If you do not have access to the Internet, please submit your written comments to:

Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board
Attention: Robert Larsen
2501 Lake Tahoe Blvd. South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150.

You can review the Water Board's March 2019 meeting agenda 10 days before the meeting on our web site at: www.waterboards.ca.gov/lahontan. Click on Regional Board, Agendas, for the March 13, 2019 meeting. If you need further information regarding this meeting, please contact our office at (530) 542-5400.

If you need further information regarding this proposed Basin Plan amendment, please contact me at (530) 542-5439, or robert.larsen@waterboards.ca.gov.



Robert Larsen
Senior Environmental Scientist

Attachments: Draft Staff Report and Substitute Environmental Document
Proposed Basin Plan Amendments

cc: Mailing List

BL/cdw/T: Lake Tahoe Basin Plan Prohibition Exemptions-Tahoe only / TMDLs