



## What We Do: Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board

### Statistics:

- 6 appointed board members
- 70 staff
- 2 regional offices: South Lake Tahoe & Victorville
- 33,131 square miles of Eastern California from the Oregon border in the north to the Mojave Desert in the south
- 700 lakes, including 2 Outstanding National Resource Waters – Lake Tahoe & Mono Lake
- 3,170 miles of rivers and streams
- 10 Native American Tribes
- Highest point in the Lower 48 States – Mt. Whitney, 14,505 feet
- Lowest point in the continental USA – Death Valley National Park, 282 feet below sea-level

**U**nder the State Water Resources Control Board and the leadership of its Governor appointed board members, the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board (Water Board) works to preserve and restore the quality of California's water resources. The Water Board does this by regulating waste discharges to surface and groundwater resources and implements the region's Water Quality Control Plan (Basin Plan), which focuses on water quality issues specific to the Lahontan region.

**Footprint:** The Water Board oversees a region covering 33,131 square miles of the eastern side of the state, which contains a diverse range of landscapes and habitats. The region's streams, rivers and lakes carry water to the Western states' Great Basin and, via diversion, to Southern California. Approximately 85 percent of lands in the region are federally managed, and 77 percent of the region is undeveloped. Many of the waters found in the region are pristine and support diverse plant and animal communities.

**Structure:** The region is divided into two basins: the North Lahontan Basin, administered by the South Lake Tahoe office, and the South Lahontan Basin, which is administered by the Victorville office. Both offices work together as custodians of the waters in the region and include teams of engineers, geologists and scientists. The Water Board strives to protect and restore supplies of clean water, recreational opportunities, wildlife health and diversity, and agricultural and industrial opportunities for communities in the region. Water quality in the region is protected through the development of regulations and permitting processes based on scientific research, inspecting permitted facilities and, if necessary, taking enforcement actions against entities violating state or federal water laws.

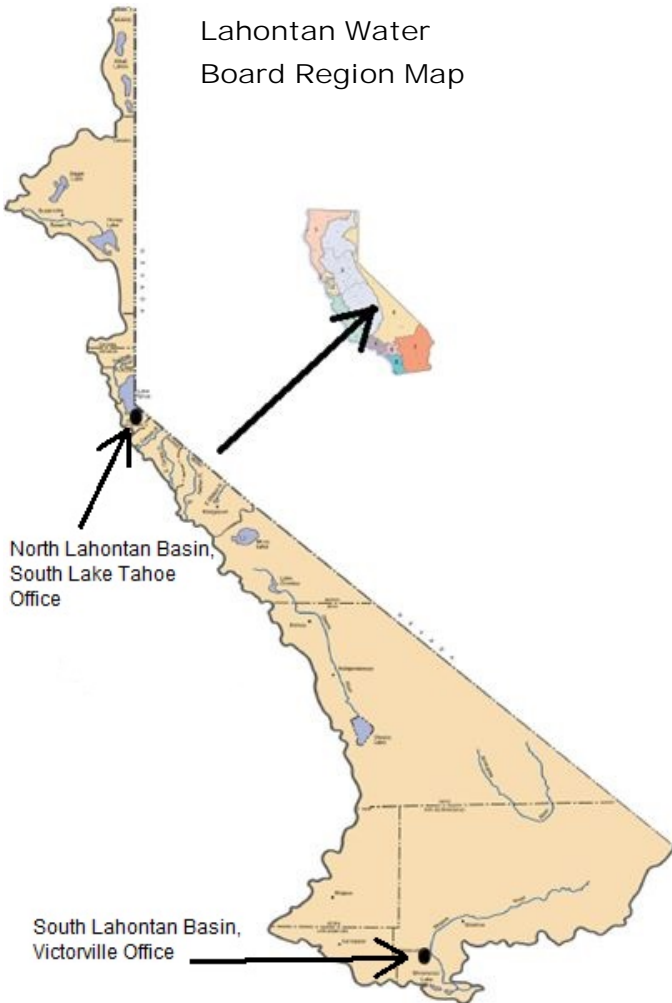
Visit our website: [www.waterboards.ca.gov/lahontan](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/lahontan)

South Lake Tahoe Office: 2501 Lake Tahoe Blvd, South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150  
Tel: (530)-542-5400

Victorville Office: 15095 Amargosa Road, Building #2, Suite #210, Victorville CA 92394  
Tel: (760)-241-6583

## HOW THE WATER BOARD ACHIEVES ITS MISSION

Lahontan Water  
Board Region Map



- ❖ Ensures environmental projects are in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Control Act.
- ❖ Applies the 1969 Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act, also known as the California Water Code.
- ❖ Administers the United States Environmental Protection Agency's Clean Water Act in California.
- ❖ Issues permits under the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System, Section 402, of the Clean Water Act, which regulates discharges of pollution to land and surface water.
- ❖ Following Section 319 of the Clean Water Act, regulates Nonpoint Source activities, such as dirt road building, agricultural activities and timber harvesting.
- ❖ Helps facilitate the distribution of state and federal funds to projects that ensure the protection and remediation of water resources in the region.
- ❖ Developed the Tahoe Total Maximum Daily Load to protect the high quality waters of the Tahoe Basin and improve lake clarity.

- ❖ Basin Planning Unit ensures that the Basin Plan is relevant to historical and emerging issues in the region, and is continually revised to embrace new technologies in order to protect water quality.
- ❖ North and South Basin Regulatory Units issue permits, waste discharge requirements, waivers and exemptions to Basin Plan prohibitions to address regulated activities.
- ❖ Enforcement Unit uses its regulatory authority to address entities that violate or do not comply with water quality regulations.
- ❖ Nonpoint Source Program issues permits and waivers for nonpoint source activities and facilitates financial assistance to qualifying projects.
- ❖ Cleanup and Site Investigation Program oversees the remediation of spills, leaking storage tanks and vapor intrusion from contaminated soils.
- ❖ Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program samples water quality to provide continuous data on the status of surface waters in the region.