

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

2501 Lake Tahoe Blvd., South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150

NOTICE OF CONTINUANCE OF PUBLIC HEARING To Consider

**Issuance of Wendel Geothermal Power Plant, National Pollutant Discharge
Elimination System Permit and Waste Discharge Requirements**

Lassen County

October 6, 2022

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board (Lahontan Water Board) will continue a public hearing to receive public comments and consider issuance of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) and Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) Permit Board Order No. R6T-2022-PROP (Order) for the Wendel Geothermal Power Plant (Facility) in Lassen County.

If adopted, the Order will allow pumped geothermal fluid to be discharged into Wendel Hot Springs, a water of the United States and tributary to Honey Lake. The Facility has been previously regulated under NPDES Orders since 1984. The Facility utilizes heat from the geothermal fluid to produce electrical power for the local utility and does not chemically alter the fluid prior to discharge.

On June 9, 2022, the Lahontan Water Board held a public hearing on the proposed Order for the Facility. A revised Order was circulated for a limited-scope written public comment period that closed on September 19, 2022. At the November 9, 2022 Board meeting, the Lahontan Water Board will continue the hearing to receive public comments and to consider issuance of the Order.

The Lahontan Water Board will hold a public hearing and consider adoption of the Order, as follows:

DATE: November 9, 2022

TIME: 09:00 a.m.

PLACE: Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board's Annex, Hearing Room
971 Silver Dollar Avenue, South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150

AND

Via Video and Teleconference (Gov. Code § 11133)

This public meeting is currently scheduled to take place in-person and via video and teleconference, but the format may be changed in the future. Any person wishing to

obtain information about changes to the date, time, location, or format of the meeting should visit the [Board's website](#)¹. The final meeting agenda will be available on the Board's website at least 10 days before the meeting. The agenda will provide the location and format of the meeting, the anticipated date the hearing will be held for this item, and the anticipated order of all agenda items; however, the Board may consider agenda items out of their listed order. The agenda materials may also include staff revisions to the proposed order.

This notice also sets forth the procedures and processes the Lahontan Water Board will use at this proceeding and contains important deadlines.

Project Information

Permit Applicant	Baseload Power Wendel, LLC
Name of Project	Wendel Geothermal Power Plant
Permittee/Facility Address	732-725 Antola Road, Wendel, CA 96136
Discharge Point	Wendel Hot Springs
Discharge Description	Spent Geothermal Fluids
Receiving Waters	Wendel Hot Springs and Honey Lake

Public Hearing Procedures

Advanced Zoom registration is required to participate telephonically or by computer. The deadline to submit a Virtual Speaker Card is **November 6, 2022**. Procedures for viewing and/or participating in the hearing, including for submitting Virtual Speaker Cards for individuals who want to provide oral comments are available on the Lahontan [Water Board's website](#)² and are also available in the agenda for the meeting or by contacting the Lahontan Water Board's office. Questions regarding such procedures should be directed to the Lahontan Water Board at (530) 542-5400.

Participants in this proceeding are identified as either "Parties" or "Interested Persons." Designation as a Party is not necessary to participate in this proceeding. Both Parties and Interested Persons will have the opportunity to present oral comments. Both Parties and Interested Persons may be asked to respond to clarifying questions from the Lahontan Water Board members, counsel, or staff, or others, at the discretion of the of the Board.

¹ Text of website address: https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/lahontan/board_info/remote_meeting/

² Text of website address: https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/lahontan/board_info/remote_meeting/

The Designated Party for this hearing is the Base Load Power. Parties to the hearing may present evidence or, cross-examine other parties' witnesses (if any are called). Parties are subject to cross-examination about any evidence they present.

Interested Persons include any person or organization that is interested in the outcome of the hearing, but who has not been designated as a party. Interested persons may present oral comments at the hearing, but they may not present evidence. Oral comments include policy statements and/or arguments about the appropriateness, wisdom, or utility of the proposal before the Lahontan Water Board. Interested persons are not subject to cross-examination and may not cross-examine witnesses.

All designated parties and interested persons may speak at the Lahontan Water Board meeting. Oral comments should avoid repeating previous comments to allow time all for persons to be heard. Interested persons with similar concerns or opinions are encouraged to choose one representative to speak and are encouraged to coordinate their presentations with each other.

Oral comments will be limited to five (5) minutes each. Any person may ask for additional time for their oral comment by sending a request with a justification supporting the request and the requested amount of time to the Board Clerk, Katrina Fleshman at RB6-Lahontan@waterboards.ca.gov or by contacting her directly at (530) 542-5414 by 5:00 p.m. by **October 25, 2022**. Please indicate in the subject line "Wendel Geothermal Power Plant."

Interested persons requesting additional time will be advised prior to the date of the hearing of the amount of time they will be allocated. The decision to grant or deny additional time will be based upon the complexity and the number of issues under consideration, the extent to which entities and persons have coordinated, the number of interested persons anticipated, the extent to which entities and persons have identified unique interests, and the time available for the hearing. It is the Lahontan Water Board's intent that reasonable requests be accommodated.

Participants requesting to use a PowerPoint presentation during the public hearing must email the file, in .pptx format, to RB6-Lahontan@waterboards.ca.gov with a copy to katrina.fleshman@waterboards.ca.gov, and be received by 5:00 p.m. on **October 25, 2022**. Please indicate in the subject line "Wendel Geothermal Power Plant." Except at the discretion of the Regional Water Board Chair, written material received after the above date will not be accepted. If the Chair chooses to accept late written material, that material will not be incorporated into the administrative record if doing so would prejudice the Permittee or the Regional Water Board staff. The Chair may choose to modify this rule upon a showing of severe hardship (California Code of Regulations, Title 23, sections 648.1 and 648.4).

The proceeding before the Lahontan Water Board generally will be conducted in the following order:

1. Opening statement by the Chair summarizing the subject matter and purpose of the hearing
2. Administration of oath to persons who intend to testify
3. Water Board staff presentation
4. Questions from the Water Board members to staff or counsel
5. Designated parties' presentations
6. Questions from the Water Board members, counsel, or staff to designated parties
7. Interested persons' comments
8. Questions from the Water Board members, counsel, or staff to designated parties or interested persons
9. Questions from the Water Board members to staff or counsel
10. Deliberations
11. Water Board decision

Document Availability

The NPDES permit and corresponding information are available on the [website](#)³.

The written comment period for the Order is closed. Responses to timely written comments and other supporting information will be posted on the Water Board's website prior to the public hearing.

Copies of any documents can also be obtained by contacting the Lahontan Water Board's office at (530) 542-5400 or visiting the office at 2501 Lake Tahoe Blvd., South Lake Tahoe weekdays between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

The Final Meeting Agenda

(https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/lahontan/board_info/agenda/2022_schedule.html) will be available at least 10 days before the meeting.

The Procedures Governing Lahontan Water Board Meetings

(https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/laws_regulations/) may be found at Title 23, California Code of Regulations, Section 647 et seq. and are available upon request. Hearings before the Lahontan Water Board are not conducted pursuant to Government Code section 11500 et seq.

Individuals requiring special accommodations are requested to send an email to RB6-Lahontan@waterboards.ca.gov with the subject line "Special accommodation for Board Meeting" or call (530) 542-5400 at least five working days prior to the meeting. TTY

³ Text of website address: https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/lahontan/board_decisions/tentative_orders/

users may contact the California Relay Service at 1-800-735-2929 or by voice line at 1-800-735-2922

Questions may be directed to Trevor Miller at the Lahontan Water Board Office, at (530) 542-5430 or Trevor.Miller@Waterboards.ca.gov.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert Tucker". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Robert Tucker P.E.

Senior Water Resource Control Engineer, Regulatory and Enforcement Unit

Date : October 6 2022