



Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board

*****PUBLIC NOTICE*****

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD LAHONTON REGION

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING FOR A BASIN PLAN AMENDMENT TO DESIGNATE TRIBAL BENEFICIAL USES TO MONO LAKE AND ITS TRIBUTARIES

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board (Lahontan Water Board) staff will hold a California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) public scoping meeting for a proposed Basin Plan Amendment to designate Tribal Beneficial Uses to Mono Lake and its tributaries in Mono County in the Lahontan Region. The public scoping meeting has been scheduled as a virtual only meeting for:

February 9, 2023, 2:00 to 4:00 pm

Zoom Meeting Link: <https://waterboards.zoom.us/j/94618466208>

Zoom Meeting ID: 946 1846 6208

Zoom Call in Number: +1 669 900 9128

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 environmental analysis needed in the draft SED to support those changes.

PETER C. PUMPHREY, CHAIR | MICHAEL R. PLAZIAK, PG, EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Project Description

The Mono Basin Tribal Beneficial Uses Designation Project involves adding new Tribal Beneficial Use designations to the Basin Plan for certain waterbodies in Mono County. Beneficial uses identify the uses of a waterbody that need to be protected and are one element of water quality standards, as defined under the federal Clean Water Act. The Tribal Beneficial Uses are meant to acknowledge and protect uses of water specific to California Native American Tribes. They are focused on the need to protect human health and are not meant to address the protection of aquatic habitat or aquatic organisms. There are two Tribal beneficial uses: Tribal Tradition and Culture (CUL) and Tribal Subsistence Fishing (T-SUB). Definitions for those uses are provided in the enclosed fact sheet. A California Native American Tribe must confirm that the designation of a Tribal Beneficial Use to a specific waterbody is appropriate.

The Mono Basin Tribal Beneficial Uses Designation Project involves proposed designations for specific waterbodies in Mono county that were requested by Tribes in the project area. Currently, the waterbodies proposed for designation include Mono Lake and its tributaries (designations for CUL and T-SUB), including Wilson Creek, Mill Creek, DeChambeau Creek, Lee Vining Creek and Rush Creek. The Lahontan Water Board intends to conduct an analysis under CEQA to consider any potential environmental impacts of this action.

The State Water Board adopted new mercury water quality objectives for the protection of the Tribal Beneficial Uses. Consequently, those water quality objectives for mercury apply to waterbodies designated with the Tribal Beneficial Uses. Details about the mercury water quality objectives associated with the Tribal Beneficial Uses are available in the State Water Board's [Mercury Provisions](#). It is possible that water quality objectives for other constituents may be developed in the future to support Tribal Beneficial Use designations, however the development of new water quality objectives would be a separate project and is not included in the scope of the current project.

Submission of Comments

The Lahontan Water Board will accept both written and oral comments on the environmental information that should be included in the draft SED. The scoping meeting will be conducted virtually, using Zoom online video and audio broadcast software. Agencies, organizations, and the public will be able to provide oral comments directly through the online meeting or by calling the telephone number listed above.

Written comments will be accepted until **February 21, 2023 at 5:00 pm PDT**. Those comments can be submitted electronically to Jennifer Watts at Jennifer.watts@waterboards.ca.gov or via mail to the address below:

Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board

Attention: Jennifer Watts

2501 Lake Tahoe Boulevard

South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150

Future notices regarding this project will be circulated via the Basin Planning – Tribal Cultural and Subsistence Beneficial Uses email list. If you are not already a member of this list, please go to

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/email_subscriptions/reg6_subscribe.html, enter your contact information and check “Basin Planning – Tribal Cultural and Subsistence Beneficial Uses” to subscribe.

For further information about the *Mono Basin Tribal Beneficial Uses Designation Project* contact the project lead, Jennifer Watts, at Jennifer.watts@waterboards.ca.gov or 530.542.5491.

Accessibility and Interpretation Services

Individuals requiring special accommodations for the scoping meeting, including interpretation services, are requested to call Katrina Fleshman, Executive Assistant, at least ten days prior to the meeting date at: (530) 542-5414 or by email at katrina.fleshman@waterboards.ca.gov. Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD) users may contact the California Relay Service at (800) 735-2929 or voice line at (800) 735-2922.