



California Regional Water Quality Control Board Lahontan Region



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Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor

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To Interested Parties:

OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT ON LAHONTAN WATER BOARD'S CLEAN WATER ACT SECTION 303(D)/305(B) ASSESSMENT

Sections 305(b) and 303(d) of the federal Clean Water Act require states to assess the quality of their surface waters every two years and to identify impaired water bodies needing remedial programs called Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) to ensure attainment of water quality standards. California plans to prepare an "Integrated Report" to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) to fulfill both of these requirements. After providing opportunities for public participation and considering public comments, the Regional Water Quality Control Boards (Water Boards) will adopt recommendations to the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) for changes in the statewide Section 303(d) List of impaired waters. The State Water Board will compile a statewide Integrated Report and submit it to the USEPA.

The Lahontan Water Board will hold a public hearing at its July 8-9, 2009 meeting. Following the hearing, the Water Board will consider approving recommendations for revisions to the Section 303(d) List. The Water Board will not take formal action on staff's assessments of non-impaired waters under Clean Water Act Section 305(b). However, public comments may be submitted on these assessments, as documented in water body fact sheets.

Staff's recommendations and related information will be available on the Lahontan Water Board's Internet web page in early May 2009. The address for this page is <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/lahontan>. The online information will include water body fact sheets for each of the more than 1200 water body-pollutant combinations assessed. The fact sheets will include links to all of the information and data used in the assessment. Three additions to the Section 303(d) list are being recommended. These new listings are for Mesquite Springs in Death Valley National Park (for naturally occurring arsenic and boron) and for Cold Creek in the Lake Tahoe Basin (for nitrogen).

Because of the large size of the electronic files, the Water Board is not distributing paper copies of all files. Readers are encouraged to download and print information of interest to them. Paper copies of the staff report and Appendices A through C may be obtained by contacting Carrie Hackler at the address above, by telephone at (530) 542-5404 or by email to CHackler@waterboards.ca.gov.

California Environmental Protection Agency



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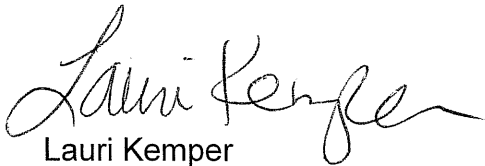
The exact time and place for the July 8-9, 2009 Lahontan Water Board meeting have not yet been determined. A Notice of Public Hearing with this information will be sent to the Water Board's Section 303(d) mailing lists in late May 2009, and the agenda announcement for the July meeting will be available online in late June. Interested parties may subscribe to the Water Board's electronic mailing list to receive email copies of notices. For instructions, see http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/lahontan/resources/email_subscriptions.shtml.

Written public comments on staff's recommendations are requested to arrive at the Board's South Lake Tahoe office by June 15, 2009 in order to allow adequate time for preparation of written responses and for full consideration of all comments and responses by the Water Board. Water Board staff will prepare written responses to all written public comments and public hearing testimony for inclusion in the administrative record.

Written comments may be submitted in paper format or by fax or email. Comments should be sent to the attention of Judith Unsicker at the mailing address or fax number above, or by email to junsicker@waterboards.ca.gov.

The Water Board is not soliciting additional information and data for use in the assessment at this time. Any new information or data submitted with public comments will be retained for use during the next Integrated Report assessment cycle.

Judith Unsicker is the Water Board's staff contact person for the Section 303(d)/305(b) assessment. She can be reached at the email address above or by telephone at: (530) 542-5462.



Lauri Kemper
Supervising Water Resource Control Engineer