



## Bureau of Water Quality Planning

### Proposed Changes to Lahontan Reservoir Standards Nevada Administrative Code 445A.1794, 445A.1882, and 445A.1824

Fact Sheet for Petition R101-14  
October 2015

#### **Background**

Section 303 of the Clean Water Act and 40 CFR 131 give states responsibility for setting, reviewing and revising beneficial uses and water quality standards. State of Nevada authorities are contained in Nevada Revised Statutes 445A.425, 520 and 565 and water quality standards for waters of Nevada are found in the Nevada Administrative Code (NAC numbers 445A.118 through 2234). Water quality standards are set for a waterbody segment at a level designed to ensure protection of the designated beneficial use(s) set for the waterbody. Standards are generally based on United State Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) criteria, such as, physical, chemical and biological characteristics, to protect the designated beneficial use(s). Workshops are held to obtain comments on proposed beneficial uses and/or water quality standards from federal, state and local agencies and the general public. Proposed standards are presented at a public hearing to the Nevada State Environmental Commission (SEC) for review and adoption. Standards adopted by the SEC are then subject to approval by the EPA before incorporating into the NAC.

#### **Summary of Changes to Water Quality Standards**

The Nevada Division of Environmental Protection, Bureau of Water Quality Planning (NDEP-BWQP) is proposing to revise the water quality standards for Lahontan Reservoir in Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) 445A.1792, 445A.1822 and 445A.1824. The current standards were last updated in 1984 and an update was deemed appropriate. Proposed revisions include: 1) adjustment in the extent of the river reach immediately above Lahontan Reservoir; 2) creation of a separate reach description for Lahontan Reservoir; and 3) update of phosphorus, dissolved oxygen, chloride and alkalinity criteria.

The rationale document and the draft petition are available online at <http://ndep.nv.gov/admin/public.htm> under Water Quality Planning.

#### **For questions, comments or additional information please contact:**

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