

# Triennial Review of Nevada's Surface Water Quality Standards

## PUBLIC WORKSHOP MEETING NOTES

<b>Carson City</b>	<b>Elko</b>	<b>Las Vegas</b>
<b>November 26, 2018</b> 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Dept. of Conservation & Natural Resources Richard H. Bryan State Office Building Great Basin Room 4 <sup>th</sup> Floor South 901 South Stewart Street Carson City, Nevada 89701-5249	<b>November 27, 2018</b> 9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Elko County Library Meeting Room 720 Court Street Elko, Nevada 89801	<b>November 28, 2018</b> 1:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Clark County Wetlands Park Nature Center 7050 E. Wetlands Park Lane, Las Vegas, NV 89129

A summary of the main comments and questions from the attendees at the workshops with Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP) responses is provided below. (Note: some of the NDEP responses may contain additional details for clarification that may not have been provided during the workshops.)

**Attendees:**

*NDEP Staff (all staff were not present at every workshop):*

Paul Comba, Chief, Bureau of Water Quality Planning (BWQP)

John Heggeness, Supervisor, Standards, Monitoring and Assessment (SMA) Branch, BWQP

Seth Alm, Environmental Scientist, SMA, BWQP

Mary Siders, Environmental Scientist, SMA, BWQP

Dave Simpson, Environmental Scientist, SMA, BWQP

**Public Participants at Workshops**

<b>Carson City</b>	<b>Elko</b>	<b>Las Vegas</b>
Andy Hummel	Andrew Gault	John Solvie
Weston Fettgather		Peggy Roefer
Allen Biaggi		Dan Fischer
Nick Brothers		Scott Schiefe
Zack Blumberg		Tom Keglovits
Kameron Morgan		Sonnia Lewanowski
Vilene Likely		Brenda Pohlman

## Comments/questions received at the Carson City workshop:

Alan Biaggi, Nevada Mining Association

1. What is Carbaryl?

NDEP Response: Carbaryl is a pesticide that would be added to the section for organic chemicals in the toxics table.

2. Appreciate the dialogue BWQP has had with the Nevada Mining Association (NMA), especially in regards to the antidegradation implementation procedure.

NDEP Response: We feel it is important to reach out to the stakeholders.

3. NMA asks that action only be taken during a permanent year (i.e., permanent petition).

NDEP Response: We normally only pursue standards actions and petitions during the permanent regulations cycle.

Unknown

4. Do we have an idea or feel where the next focus basin will be? Do we have a list of priorities for the basins?

NDEP Response: No we have not yet chosen the next focus basin

Zack Blumberg, Nevada Department of Transportation

5. When can we expect the next Integrated Report?

NDEP Response: First or middle part of 2019

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## Comments/questions received at the Elko workshop:

Andrew Gault, Bureau of Land Management

6. Discussion about Ash Springs area. What parameters should be measured to protect for contact recreation?

NDEP Response: We can send you what our parameter list is, but bacteria (mainly E.coli) would be the biggest concern for contact recreation.

7. Do water quality standards (WQS) apply to Ash Springs?

NDEP Response: Yes, the springs are tributary to the downstream Pahrangat Reservoir, the WQS for which are found in NAC 445A.2202.

8. Discussion on Upper Meadow Valley Wash. There may be potential for renewed mining.

NDEP Response: Comment noted

9. Do we have WQS on Meadow Valley Wash?

NDEP Response: Yes, see NAC 445A.2176 for the WQS for Meadow Valley Wash.

10. Recommends we review water quality standards in the Meadow Valley Wash area.

NDEP Response: We may consider that when reviewing the Colorado Basin standards.

11. There may be a proposal for a well field near Meadow Valley Wash in support of a new development in Moapa via pipeline. If this happens there may be impacts to fish species of concern?

NDEP Response: The Nevada Division of Water Resources is the agency that would be handling this proposal. We do not get involved with groundwater pumping and water rights issues. If surface waters were affected, the applicable WQS would be used to assess impacts. As noted above, WQS for Meadow Valley Wash are found in NAC 445A.2176.

12. Does BWQP regulate groundwater quality?

NDEP Response: No, that would be the Bureaus of Water Pollution Control and Safe Drinking Water.

13. Is the drought leading to more harmful algae blooms (HABs)?

NDEP Response: It may be a factor, in that ponded water warms more quickly as the volume of water decreases (all other factors being equal). Organisms that cause HABs typically prefer calmer and warmer water.

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## **Comments/questions received at the Las Vegas workshop:**

Brenda Pohlman, City of Henderson

14. Question on what Water Quality Standards and waterbodies we are looking at on the Colorado Basin.

NDEP Response: For now, the Las Vegas Wash, Lake Mead and Lower Colorado are under consideration. We are not intending to look at the Muddy or Virgin rivers. There was a comment at the Elko meeting from the BLM that we should maybe look at Ash Springs and Meadow Valley Wash.