



STATE OF NEVADA

Department of Conservation & Natural Resources

DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

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Proposed Changes to South Fork Reservoir Standards Nevada Administrative Code 445A.1432, and 445A.1466

Fact Sheet
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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 South Fork Reservoir in Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) 445A.1432 and 445A.1466. The current standards in 445A.1466 were set for the stretch of the South Fork Humboldt River from Lee to the Humboldt River that includes the South Fork Reservoir. It was deemed appropriate to separate out the reservoir from the river and establish separate sets of standards for the South Fork Reservoir and the South Fork Humboldt River. Proposed revisions include: 1) creation of a separate reach description for South Fork Reservoir; 3) update of phosphorus and dissolved oxygen criteria; and 4) inclusion of criteria for chlorophyll-a (indicator of algae biomass), total nitrogen, nitrite, total suspended solids, turbidity, color, Secchi depth, chloride and alkalinity.

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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