

NDEP Bureau of Water Quality Planning

Revisions to Nevada's Water Quality Standards

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Revisions

Four Petitions to Adjust Nevada's Water Quality Standards

- Petition R129-10 Class D Waters
- Petition R127-10 Bronco, Gray & Smoke Creeks
- Petition R130-10 Colorado Salinity
- Petition R133-10 Snake Basin

Public Workshops

- ◆ Carson City – May 13, 2010
 - ◆ Ely – May 20, 2010
 - ◆ Elko – May 21, 2010
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- ◆ Comments accepted until June 11, 2010

Clarification of Petition Numbering

- Sections within these Petitions Refer back to Petition R160-06
- Section 1 Section 11 of LCB File No. R-160-06.....

Highlights of Revisions

■ Tribal Waters

- ◆ In the CWA Tribes are treated as states
- ◆ WQS adopted by Nevada for waters on Tribal lands are not applicable
- ◆ Remove Tribal waters from NAC

■ Petition Corrections – See errata pages

■ Narrative Nutrient Criteria

- ◆ Bronco, Gray and Smoke Creeks
- ◆ 4 New Waters in the Snake Basin

Nutrient Criteria Strategy

- Problem: Phosphorous and Nitrogen levels alone are inconsistent indicators of waterbody impairment and eutrophication (algae growth) problems
- Multiple lines of evidence to assess nutrient impairment - water chemistry, D.O., algae levels, biological data, and physical habitat conditions

Nutrient Criteria

Narrative for Total Phosphorus and Total Nitrogen:
“Waters shall be from nutrient concentrations from other than natural sources that cause the growth of algal or aquatic plants in amounts that interfere with any beneficial uses of the water”

Numeric Standards:

- ◆ Total Phosphorous
- ◆ Nitrate
- ◆ Nitrite

Petition R129-10

Class D Waters

NAC 445A.127

Class D waters

- Class D Waters have Non-contact Recreation
do not have Contact Recreation
- USEPA requires a periodic review of waters that do not have the “fishable/swimmable” goal as a beneficial use.
- Evaluate if the waters will now support Contact Recreation as a use

Class D waters

■ Class D waters

- ◆ Stillwater Marsh
- ◆ Quinn River (The Slough)
- ◆ Lagomarsino Creek
- ◆ Steamboat Creek
- ◆ Gleason Creek
- ◆ Murry Creek
- ◆ Humboldt River to and including the Humboldt Sink

Revisions to Class D waters

- Add Contact Recreation to:
 - ◆ Lagomarsino Creek
 - ◆ Steamboat Creek
 - ◆ Murry Creek – Murry Creek above Crawford Street
 - ◆ Lower Humboldt River

Revisions to Class D waters

- Keep Non-contact Recreation (Do not add Contact Recreation to):
 - ◆ Gleason Creek
 - ◆ Quinn River (the Slough)
 - ◆ Stillwater Marsh
 - ◆ Humboldt Sink
 - ◆ Murry Creek – below Crawford Street

Contact Recreation – Bacterial Standards

- The bacteria E. Coli is used as an indicator of bacterial contamination
- For waters with Contact Recreation add:
 - ◆ $AGM \leq 126$ No./100 ml, and
 - ◆ $S.V. \leq 576$ No./100 ml
- For the waters with Non-contact Recreation add:
 - ◆ $AGM \leq 630$ No./100 ml

Tribal Waters

- Tribal Waters
 - ◆ In the CWA Tribes are treated as states
 - ◆ Remove Tribal Waters from NAC
- Quinn River flows through the Fort McDermitt Indian Reservation

Tribal Waters - Quinn River

- Three Reaches on Fort McDermitt Indian Reservation
- Remove one reach entirely on tribal land
- Add to The Slough and Quinn River, East and South Forks
 - “except for the length of the river within the exterior borders of the Fort McDermitt Indian Reservation”*

Corrections to Petition R129-10

■ Corrections

- ◆ Spelling – [Murray] Creek to Murry Creek
- ◆ Replace *to* with *above* (Murry Creek [to] above Crawford St.)
- ◆ Replace *from* with *below* (Murry Creek [from] below Crawford St.)
- ◆ Page 5 – Quinn River keep East and South forks

Petition R129-10

■ Corrections

- ◆ Page 2 – Murry Creek [from] below Crawford Street
- ◆ Page 19 – Murry Creek [to] above Crawford Street
- ◆ Page 19 – Murry Creek [from] below Crawford Street
- ◆ Page 22 - Murry Creek [to] above Crawford Street

Class D waters

Questions on Petition R129-10?