

# NDEP Bureau of Water Quality Planning

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Public Workshops  
Revisions to  
Nevada's Water Quality Standards

May, 2012

Nevada Division of Environmental Protection  
Bureau of Water Quality Planning  
Water Quality Standards Program

# Revisions

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## Five Petitions to Adjust Nevada's Water Quality Standards

- North Antelope Creek
- Bronco, Gray & Smoke Creeks
- Colorado Salinity
- Fecal Coliform
- Aquatic Life Toxics

# Public Workshops

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- Carson City – May 08, 2012
- Las Vegas – May 09, 2012
- Elko – May 16, 2012
  
- Draft Fact Sheet, Petition and Rationale are available at:  
[http://ndep.nv.gov/admin/public.htm#water\\_q](http://ndep.nv.gov/admin/public.htm#water_q)

# Highlights of Revisions

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- Nevada Water Quality Standards
  - NAC 445A.11704 – 445A.2234
  - These NAC numbers have changed

# Clean Water Act

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- **KEY ELEMENTS** - of Water Quality Standards
  - 1) Designated beneficial uses
  - 2) Criteria to protect beneficial use
  - 3) Antidegradation provision (RMHQ)

# Nevada Water Quality Standards

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- 1) Beneficial Uses, NAC 445A.122
  - Municipal or domestic supply
  - Irrigation
  - Watering livestock
  - Propagation of aquatic life (cold water, warm water fish)
  - Propagation of wildlife
  - Enhancement of water quality

# Nevada Water Quality Standards

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## Beneficial Uses (continued)

- Industrial Supply
- Waters of extraordinary ecological or aesthetic value (Lake Tahoe)
- Recreation involving contact with the water (swimming)
- Recreation not involving contact with the water (boating)

# Clean Water Act

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- 1) Designated beneficial uses
- 2) Criteria to protect beneficial use
  - Generally use EPA recommendations
  - Can develop regional or site specific
- 3) Antidegradation provision (RMHQ)
  - Not proposing RMHQs

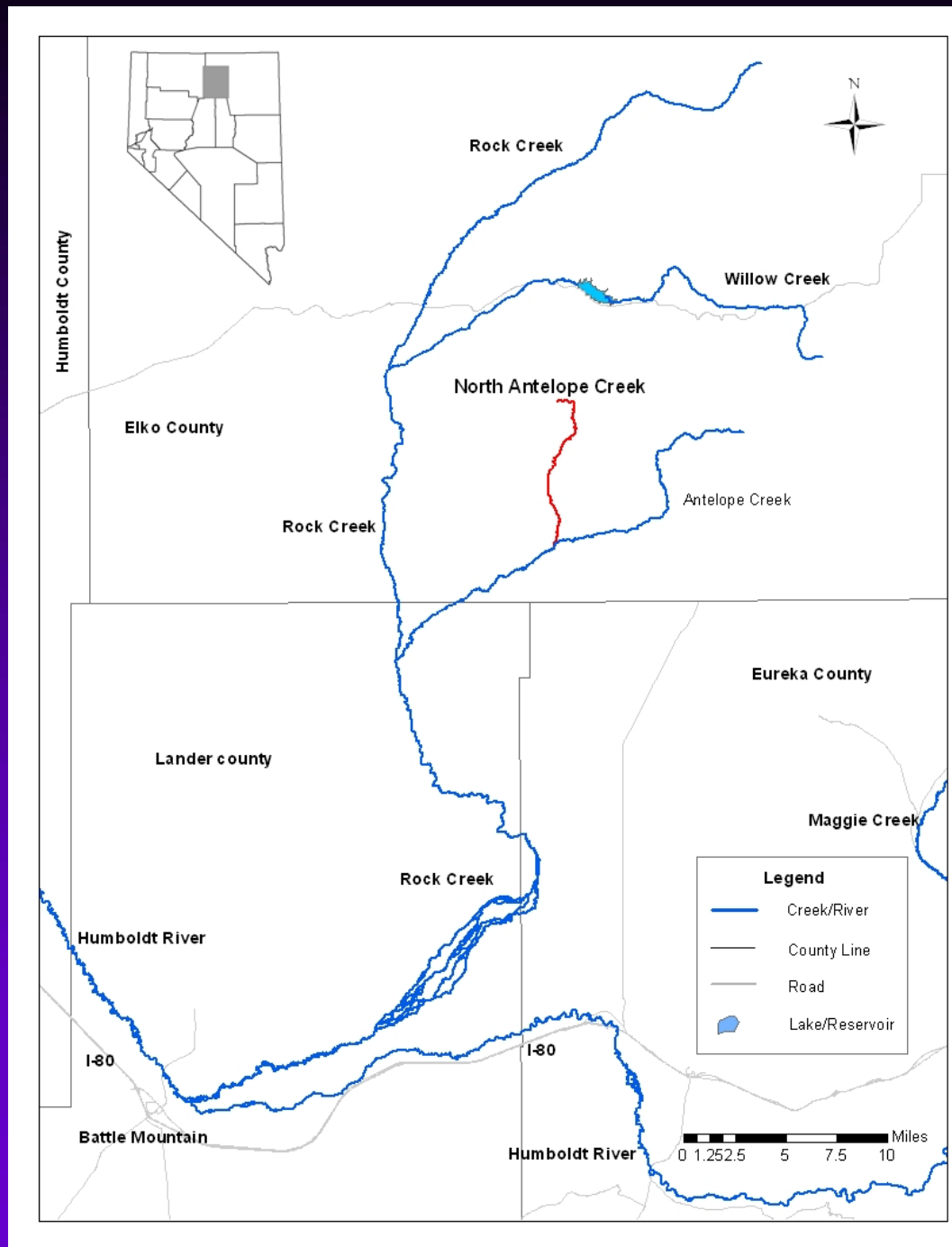


# North (Little) Antelope Creek

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## Proposed Revisions to the Nevada Water Pollution Control Regulations

NAC 445A.1527 Humboldt Region:  
North Antelope Creek at Antelope Creek,  
From its origin to Antelope Creek.



# North Antelope Creek

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## Beneficial Uses - Adding

- Watering livestock
- Propagation of aquatic life (warm water)
- Contact recreation
- Non contact recreation
- Industrial supply
- Propagation of wildlife

# North Antelope Creek

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## Beneficial Uses – Not Adding

- Irrigation
- Municipal and domestic supply
- Enhancement of water quality
- Waters of extraordinary ecological or aesthetic value (Lake Tahoe)

PARAMETER	REQUIREMENTS TO MAINTAIN EXISTING HIGHER QUALITY	WATER QUALITY STANDARDS FOR BENEFICIAL USES	Beneficial Use <sup>a</sup>										
			Livestock	Irrigation	Aquatic	Contact	Noncontact	Municipal	Industrial	Wildlife	Aesthetic	Enhance	Marsh
Beneficial Uses			X		X	X	X		X	X			
Aquatic Life Species of Concern													
Temperature - °C		S.V. ≤ 34.0			*	X							
pH – SU		S.V. 6.5 – 9.0	X		*	*			X	*			
Dissolved Oxygen - mg/l		S.V. ≥ 5.0	X		*	X	X			X			
Total Phosphorous (as P) - mg/l		S.V. ≤ 0.1 <sup>b</sup>			*	*	X						
Nitrogen Species (as N) - mg/l		Nitrate S.V.	b	X		*				X			
		Nitrite S.V.	b	X		*				X			
		Total Nitrogen <sup>b</sup>				*	*						
Total Ammonia (as N) - mg/l		c			*								
Total Dissolved Solids - mg/l		S.V. ≤ 3000	*										
Chloride - mg/l		1-hr. Avg. ≤ 860 <sup>d</sup> 96-hr. Avg. ≤ 230	X		*					X			
Suspended Solids - mg/l		S.V. ≤ 80			*								
Turbidity – NTU		S.V. ≤ 50			*								
E coli - No./100 ml		A.G.M. ≤ 126 S.V. ≤ 576				*	X						
Fecal Coliform - No./100 ml		S.V. ≤ 1000	*				X			*			

\* = The most restrictive beneficial use.

X = Beneficial use.

Refer to NAC 445A.122 and 445A.1432 of this regulation for beneficial use terminology.

The water must not contain nutrient concentrations from a source other than a natural source which cause the growth of algae or aquatic plants in amounts that interfere with any beneficial uses of the water.

The ambient water quality criteria for ammonia are specified in NAC 445A.118.

One-hour and 96-hour average concentration limits may be exceeded only once every 3 years.

# Nutrient Criteria

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## Narrative:

“Waters shall be free 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

# Nevada Water Quality Standards

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- **PLEASE NOTE**
  - Rodeo Creek - Underground Mining operation
    - Currently discharging to infiltration Ponds near the confluence with Antelope Creek
  - Applied for Discharge to North Antelope Creek
    - Discharge likely to reach Antelope Creek, may reach Rock Creek
    - One to three years from now.

# North Antelope Creek

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Questions on the  
North Antelope Creek petition?

Fact Sheet, Petition and Rationale are  
available at:

[http://ndep.nv.gov/admin/public.htm#water\\_q](http://ndep.nv.gov/admin/public.htm#water_q)