



Town of Mammoth Lakes
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April 16, 2025

Re: Comments on Triennial Review

To the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board,

The Mammoth Lakes Town Council is supportive of the designation of Hot Creek as an Outstanding National Resource Water (ONRW). Hot Creek is one of the most unique stream systems in California. Its unique geologic and hydrologic properties support a world-class fishery that attracts thousands of visitors each year and sustainable economic opportunities for surrounding communities. It is also home to rare and sensitive species including the Owens Tui Chub. These qualities and benefits depend on the singular chemical and temperature profile of the water in Hot Creek, and ONRW designation would protect these qualities from impacts associated with proposed resource development in the area.

Hot Creek is highly deserving of ONRW designation and attempts to develop gold mining operations within one-third of a mile of Hot Creek over the past few years warrant immediate action on the part of the Lahontan Regional Water Board. Mining operations at any scale near Hot Creek present an existential threat to the outstanding qualities of this stream system. With gold near record prices and a federal administration committed to expediting and eliminating environmental reviews, it's important that we act assertively to better protect the region's most unique and productive aquatic habitats.

The Town of Mammoth Lakes strongly urges the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control board to incorporate the designation of Hot Creek as an ONRW as a Tier 2 priority or higher in its Triennial Review update to the Basin Workplan to safeguard the many outstanding qualities of this prized trout fishery.

Sincerely,

Chris Bubser
Mayor