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Date: March 23, 2010
To: Responsible and Trustee Agencies, Organizations, and Interested Parties
Subject: NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR THE PROPOSED OWENS VALLEY LAND MANAGEMENT PLAN

The City of Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) is proposing to implement the Owens Valley Land Management Plan. As the Lead Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the LADWP has prepared an Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) which evaluates the potential environmental effects of the proposed project.

Project Location

The Owens Valley Land Management Plan (OVLMP) is a resource management guide for City of Los Angeles-owned, non-urban lands in the Owens River Watershed in Inyo County, California (excluding the Lower Owens River Project (LORP) planning area). The project area for river management encompasses the Middle Owens River from Pleasant Valley Reservoir to the Los Angeles Aqueduct intake and includes the adjacent terraces. The project area for grazing management encompasses the 50 grazing leases managed by Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) in Inyo County. These lands are on the Rovana, Fish Slough, Laws, Tungsten Hills, Bishop, Poleta Canyon, Big Pine, Uhlmeyer Spring, Fish Springs, Tinemaha Reservoir, Aberdeen, Blackrock, Independence, Bee Springs, Manzanar, Union Wash, Lone Pine, Dolomite, Bartlett, Owens Lake, Keeler, Olanca, Vermillion Canyon, and Haiwee Reservoir 7.5 minute U. S. Geological Survey (USGS) quadrangles.

Project Description

The 1997 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) among LADWP, Inyo County, the Owens Valley Committee (OVC), the Sierra Club, the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG), the California State Lands Commission (SLC), and Carla Scheidlinger outlines the requirement for an OVLMP for City of Los Angeles-owned, non-urban lands in the Owens River Watershed in Inyo County (excluding the LORP planning area). LADWP prepared, and proposes to implement the OVLMP in compliance with the MOU and the 2004 Stipulation and Order related to the MOU. The MOU states that LADWP shall continue to protect water resources used by the citizens of Los Angeles while providing for the continuation of sustainable uses such as recreation, livestock grazing, agriculture, and other activities. In doing so, LADWP shall promote biodiversity and healthy ecosystems, and address situations or problems that occur from the effects of various land uses on City of Los Angeles-owned property. The MOU states that priority is to be given to riparian areas, irrigated meadows, and sensitive plant and animal habitats.

Water and Power Conservation ... a way of life

111 North Hope Street, Los Angeles, California 90012-2607 *Mailing address:* Box 51111, Los Angeles 90051-5700
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Public Review Period: The IS/MND is being made available for public review for a period of 30 days beginning March 23, 2010 and concluding April 26, 2010. The electronic version of the IS/MND may be viewed on line at <http://www.ladwp.com/envnotices>. Printed copies of the IS/MND are also available for review at the following locations:

LADWP
111 North Hope Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012
Attn: Ms. Irene Paul
(213) 367-3509

LADWP
300 Mandrich Street
Bishop, CA 93514
Attn: Mr. David Martin
(760) 873-0312

Bishop Branch Library
210 Academy Street
Bishop, CA 93514
Attn: Reference Section
(760) 873-5115

Comments on the IS/MND must be received in writing no later than 5:00 p.m., April 26, 2010 and sent to:

Los Angeles Department of Water and Power
Environmental Assessment and Planning
Attention: Ms. Irene Paul
111 North Hope Street, Room 1044
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Comments may also be faxed to Ms. Paul at (213) 367-4710.

All comments received related to issues discussed in the IS/MND will be included in the final package that is forwarded to the Board of Water and Power Commissioners for final consideration.

If you have any questions regarding the IS/MND, please contact Ms. Irene Paul at (213) 367-3509.