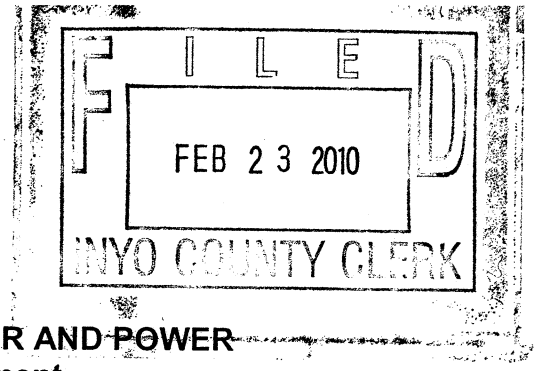

NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A NEGATIVE DECLARATION

CITY OF LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF WATER AND POWER
Mazourka Measuring Station Replacement

In accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the City of Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) has prepared an Initial Environmental Study (IES) for the referenced project. LADWP has determined that the proposed project will not have a significant adverse effect on the environment. LADWP intends to adopt a Negative Declaration for the project.

Project Title: Mazourka Measuring Station Replacement

Project Location: Approximately ¼ mile south of Mazourka Canyon Road along the Owens River

Project Description: Replacement of one of the four permanent monitoring stations selected by the MOU parties to determine flow compliance for the Lower Owens River Project. The replacement structure will be similar in design to the stations located at Keeler Bridge and Reinhackle. The replacement of the structure is necessary to increase the accuracy of the measurement within this reach of the river. The new location provides for a straight reach of channel, and a concrete structure will reduce the difficulty of collecting measurements at this location.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Brian Tillemans, Environmental Affairs Officer, Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, 760-873-0214

Address where IES/ND and reference materials may be viewed: LADWP offices, 300 Mandich Street, Bishop, CA 93514-3449

Public Review Period: Comments on the proposed Negative Declaration must be received between February 23, 2010 and March 23, 2010. Please address comments to Mr. Brian Tillemans, Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, 300 Mandich Street, Bishop, CA 93514-3449.

10-00011

CITY OF LOS ANGELES
OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK ROOM 395
CITY HALL LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012

CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT
INITIAL STUDY AND CHECKLIST
(ARTICLE IV – CITY CEQA GUIDELINES)

LEAD CITY AGENCY: City of Los Angeles Department of Water and Power 300 Mandich St. Bishop, CA 93514	**COUNCIL DISTRICT(S):** N/A	**DATE:** February 22, 2010
PROJECT TITLE/NUMBER: Mazourka Measuring Station Replacement Number: N/A		**CASE NUMBER:** N/A
PREVIOUS ACTIONS CASE NUMBER: None		

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The project addressed by this environmental document is the replacement of one of the four permanent monitoring stations selected by the MOU parties to determine flow compliance for the Lower Owens River Project (LORP). The existing measuring station is situated within culverts under Mazourka Canyon Road. The replacement structure will be similar in design to the station located at Keeler Bridge and Reinhackle.

The new monitoring station will be approximately 72 feet long with an upstream width of 120 feet and a downstream width of 80 feet. Ingress and egress to the project site will be on existing access roads, and the area of disturbance for construction will be limited to 2.5 acres. There will be a temporary earthen coffer dam constructed upstream and downstream of the construction area. All river flows will bypass the construction site through a temporary bypass channel on the east side of the river. Construction of the station will take approximately 2 months, and include placing 255 cubic yards of concrete, 165 cubic yards of 1 ½ inch rock, 240 feet of 5 feet diameter bypass pipe, and the placement of 1286 cubic yards of decomposed granite behind the new walls. Equipment to be used includes: a long reach excavator, tracked excavator, backhoe, track dozer, dump trucks, water trucks, compactors, pick-up trucks, cranes, dewatering pumps, generators, and various hand tools.

The replacement of the structure is necessary to increase the accuracy of measurement within this reach of the river. The new location provides for a straight reach of channel, and a concrete structure will reduce the difficulty of collecting measurements at this location. Additionally, moving the station from the highway will reduce data gaps created by vandalism. LADWP is reducing the impacts from installation by placing the structure in a previously disturbed location.

The LORP is a large scale restoration project that will establish a healthy, functioning riverine-riparian ecosystem in 62 miles of the Lower Owens River and surrounding areas, enhance biodiversity and benefit threatened and endangered species, and continue to sustain current recreational, livestock, and agricultural uses of the land. The elements of the LORP include: (1) rewatering the Lower Owens River to enhance riparian habitats and native and game fisheries; (2) enhancing the 1,500-acre Blackrock Waterfowl Habitat Area (BWHA) with seasonal flooding and land management to benefit wetlands and waterfowl; (3) maintaining several off-river lakes and ponds for fish and wildlife benefits; and (4) providing water to the Owens River Delta to maintain and enhance wetland and aquatic habitats..

PROJECT LOCATION: Approximately ¼ mile south of Mazourka Canyon Road along the Lower Owens River

PLANNING DISTRICT: N/A	**STATUS:** ☐ **PRELIMINARY** ☐ **PROPOSED** _____ ☐ **ADOPTED (Date):** _____	
EXISTING ZONING: Open Space 40 Acre (Inyo County)	**MAX. DENSITY ZONING:** N/A	☐ **DOES CONFORM TO PLAN**
PLANNED LAND USE AND ZONE: Natural Resources (Inyo County)	**MAX. DENSITY PLAN:** N/A	☐ **DOES NOT CONFORM TO PLAN**
SURROUNDING LAND USES: Ranching ,Open Space, Recreation	**PROJECT DESNITY:** N/A	☒ **NO DISTRICT PLAN**

CEQA Initial Study

Mazourka Measuring Station Replacement

February 2010

Interim General Manager
S. David Freeman

Senior Assistant General Manager – Water System
James B. McDaniel

Manager, Aqueduct Business Group
Gene L. Coufal

Director of Environmental Services
Mark J. Sedlacek

Prepared by:

Los Angeles Department of Water and Power
300 Mandich St.
Bishop, CA 93514

Los Angeles Department of Water and Power

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Section Name **Page Number**

Section 1
Project and Agency Information

1.1 PROJECT TITLE AND LEAD AGENCY

Project Title:	Mazourka Measuring Station Replacement
Lead Agency Name:	Los Angeles Department of Water & Power
Lead Agency Address:	300 Mandich St. Bishop, CA 93514
Contact Person:	Ms. Lori Gillem
Contact Phone Number:	(760) 873-0407
Project Sponsor:	Same as Lead Agency

1.2 PROJECT BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

The City of Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) has prepared this Initial Study (IS) to address the impacts of construction of the Lower Owens River Project (LORP) measuring station replacement near Mazourka Canyon Road. The IS serves to identify the site-specific impacts, evaluate their potential significance, and determine the appropriate document needed to comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Based on this IS, a Negative Declaration (ND) is the appropriate CEQA document. Staff recommends that the LADWP Board of Commissioners adopt this IS/ND for the proposed project.

1.2.1 PROJECT BACKGROUND

The LORP is a large scale restoration project that will establish a healthy, functioning riverine-riparian ecosystem in 62 miles of the Lower Owens River and surrounding areas, enhance biodiversity and benefit threatened and endangered species, and continue to sustain current recreational, livestock, and agricultural uses of the land. The elements of the LORP include: (1) rewatering the Lower Owens River to enhance riparian habitats and native and game fisheries; (2) enhancing the 1,500-acre Blackrock Waterfowl Habitat Area (BWHA) with seasonal flooding and land management to benefit wetlands and waterfowl; (3) maintaining several off-river lakes and ponds for fish and wildlife benefits; and (4) providing water to the Owens River Delta to maintain and enhance wetland and aquatic habitats.

Previous Environmental Documentation. The Lower Owens River Project Final Environmental Impact Report, June 23, 2004.

1.3 PROJECT LOCATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The project is located on LADWP-owned lands in the Owens Valley, Inyo County. The proposed project is located ¼ mile south of Mazourka Canyon Road along the Lower Owens

River. The Lower Owens River is approximately 3 miles south east of the town of Independence.

1.4 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The project addressed by this environmental document is the replacement of one of the four permanent monitoring stations selected by the MOU parties to determine flow compliance for the Lower Owens River Project (LORP). The existing measuring station is situated within culverts under Mazourka Canyon Road. The replacement structure will be similar in design to the station located at Keeler Bridge and Reinhackle.

The new monitoring station will be approximately 72 feet long with an upstream width of 120 feet and a downstream width of 80 feet (Figure 1.). Ingress and egress to the project site will be on existing access roads, and the area of disturbance for construction will be limited to 2.5 acres. There will be a temporary earthen coffer dam constructed upstream and downstream of the construction area. All river flows will bypass the construction site through a temporary bypass channel on the east side of the river, a portion of the channel will be in a culvert to provide access to the project site by vehicle. Construction of the station will take approximately 2 months, and include placing 255 cubic yards of concrete, 165 cubic yards of 1 ½ inch rock, 240 feet of 5 feet diameter bypass pipe, and the placement of 1286 cubic yards of decomposed granite behind the new walls. Equipment to be used includes: a long reach excavator, tracked excavator, backhoe, track dozer, dump trucks, water trucks, compactors, pick-up trucks, cranes, dewatering pumps, generators, a concrete pump truck, and various hand tools.

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The LORP is a large scale restoration project that will establish a healthy, functioning riverine-riparian ecosystem in 62 miles of the Lower Owens River and surrounding areas, enhance biodiversity and benefit threatened and endangered species, and continue to sustain current recreational, livestock, and agricultural uses of the land. The elements of the LORP include: (1) rewatering the Lower Owens River to enhance riparian habitats and native and game fisheries; (2) enhancing the 1,500-acre Blackrock Waterfowl Habitat Area (BWHA) with seasonal flooding and land management to benefit wetlands and waterfowl; (3) maintaining several off-river lakes and ponds for fish and wildlife benefits; and (4) providing water to the Owens River Delta to maintain and enhance wetland and aquatic habitats.

1.5 PROJECT APPROVALS

The proposed location has been identified in cooperation with the MOU parties. Alterations to waters of the state are subject to CDFG Code Section 1602 (streambed alteration agreements). Army Corps of Engineers permit 200200632-BAH, and SWRCB permit #6B14C356691 have been issued for this project. Permits or approvals from other agencies are not anticipated.

Section 2
Environmental Analysis

2.1 ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED

The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this project, involving at least one impact that is a "Potentially Significant Impact" as indicated by the checklist on the following pages.

☐ Aesthetics	☐ Greenhouse Gas Emissions	☐ Population and Housing
☐ Agricultural Resources	☐ Hazards and Hazardous Materials	☐ Public Services
☐ Air Quality	☐ Hydrology and Water Quality	☐ Recreation
☐ Biological Resources	☐ Land Use and Planning	☐ Transportation and Traffic
☐ Cultural Resources	☐ Mineral Resources	☐ Utilities and Service Systems
☐ Geology and Soils	☐ Noise	☐ Mandatory Findings of Significance

2.2 AGENCY DETERMINATION

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

☒ I find that the project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.

☐ I find that although the project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the project have been made by or agreed to by the applicant. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.

☐ I find that the project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.

☐ I find that the project MAY have a "potentially significant impact" or "potentially significant unless mitigated" impact on the environment, but at least one effect 1) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and 2) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis as described on attached sheets. An ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required, but it must analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed.

☐ I find that although the project could have a significant effect on the environment, because all potentially significant effects (a) have been analyzed adequately in an earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION pursuant to applicable standards, and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the project, nothing further is required.

Signature: Gene L Coufal Title: Los Angeles Aqueduct Manager

Printed Name: GENE L. COUFAL Date: 2/23/10

2.3 ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

2.3.1 Aesthetics

Issues and Supporting Information Sources	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Discussion:

a) **No Impact.** The project is in a remote location and there are no designated scenic vistas in the immediate vicinity of the proposed project or in sufficiently close proximity such that views from those vistas would be adversely affected by the proposed project. Therefore, no impacts would occur.

b) **No Impact.** The proposed project does not lie within the view shed of a State scenic highway. Therefore, no impacts would occur.

c) **No Impact.** The proposed project will not degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings. The project location is heavily disturbed from an old highway bridge and on-going maintenance in the area. The adjacent area on both sides of the old bridge abutments is void of vegetation. Therefore, no impacts would occur.

d) **No Impact.** The proposed project will not have the potential to create a new source of substantial light or glare that would adversely affect nighttime views in the project area. Lighting is not included in the project. The new structure will be located within the river channel. Additionally, the closest town is approximately 3.5 miles away. Therefore, no impacts would occur.

2.3.2 Agricultural and Forest Resources

Issues and Supporting Information Sources	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code section 51104(g))?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e) Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Discussion:

a) **No Impact.** No part of the proposed project is located on or near Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency (DOC, 2006) The area of the proposed project is not mapped, and is not considered Farmland (ZIMAS, 2007).

b) **No Impact.** Existing zoning by Inyo County of the project site is OS-40 (Open Space, 40-acre minimum lot size) with a land use designation of NR (Natural Resources) (Inyo County, 2009). Since Inyo County does not offer a Williamson Act program, the proposed project will have no impact on agricultural zoning or Williamson Act contracts.

c) **No Impact.** The project site is not zoned as forested land nor will the proposed project result in conversion of forest land to non-forest use. Public Resources Code Section 12220 (g) defines "Forest land" as land that can support 10-percent native tree cover of any species, including hardwoods, under natural conditions, and that allows for management of one or more forest resources, including timber, aesthetics, fish and wildlife, biodiversity, water quality, recreation, and other public benefits.

d) **No Impact.** The project site is not zoned as forested land nor will the proposed project result in conversion of forest land to non-forest use. Public Resources Code Section 12220 (g) defines "Forest land" as land that can support 10-percent native tree cover of any species, including hardwoods, under natural conditions, and that allows for management of one or more forest resources, including timber, aesthetics, fish and wildlife, biodiversity, water quality, recreation, and other public benefits.

e) **No Impact.** The proposed project will not create other changes in the existing environment which will directly affect any agricultural or forest lands.

2.3.3 Air Quality

Issues and Supporting Information Sources	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)?	☐	☐	☒	☐
d) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	☐	☐	☒	☐
e) Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Discussion:

The southern Owens Valley is located in the Great Basin Unified Air Pollution Control District (GBUAPCD). The valley has been designated by the State and EPA as a non-attainment area for the state and federal 24-hour average PM10 standards. Wind-blown dust from the dry bed of Owens Lake is the primary cause of the PM10 violations. The area has been designated as attainment or unclassified for all other ambient air quality standards. Air quality is considered excellent for all criteria pollutants with the exception of PM10. Large industrial sources are absent from the Owens Valley. The major sources of criteria pollutants, other than wind-blown dust, are woodstoves, fireplaces, vehicle tailpipe emissions, fugitive dust from travel on unpaved roads, prescribed burning, and gravel mining.

a) **No Impact.** The relevant air quality plan for the project area is the Final 2008 Owens Valley PM10 Planning Area Demonstration of Attainment State Implementation Plan (SIP) (GBUAPCD, 2008). The focus of this planning document is implementation of dust control measures at Owens Dry Lake, the major particulate matter sources in the valley. There is no impact on the applicable air quality plan.

b) **Less than Significant Impact.** The GBUAPCD has not established specific quantitative thresholds of significance for air emissions related to construction. However, emissions thresholds for permitting new stationary sources (GBUAPCD Rule 209-A) can be used as screening criteria to evaluate the potential significance of project emissions during construction. [Since the carbon monoxide threshold in Rule 209-A is not a numeric standard, the South Coast Air Quality Management District threshold was used for this analysis.] Emissions during project construction will result from the operation of the equipment listed in Section 1. Since emissions are estimated to be substantially below significance thresholds, the impact on air quality from project construction is less than significant. Therefore, the impact on air quality from project operation will be less than significant.

c) **Less Than Significant Impact.** The project area is a non-attainment area for PM10. Construction of the project will result in dust emissions from earth disturbance. LADWP must meet GBUAPCD Rule 401, which requires that fugitive dust emission control measures be implemented to adequately prevent

visible dust from the leaving the property and to maintain compliance with the PM10 standard. Due to the small acreage of disturbance planned and the use of water trucks as warranted, dust emissions related to project construction are not be anticipated to be visible off the project site. Therefore, project related impacts on PM10 will be less than significant

d) **No Impact.** Sensitive receptors include schools, day-care facilities, nursing homes, and residences. The closest community with sensitive receptors is 3 miles from the project site. There is no impact to substantial pollutant concentrations due to the limited air pollutant emissions from the small number of equipment, the short period of equipment use, and the distance to the receptors.

e) **Less Than Significant Impact.** Project construction will result in minor localized odors associated with fuel use for equipment and vehicles. These odors are common, not normally considered offensive, and will not be experienced by any residences since none are immediately adjacent to the project sites. Odor impacts to potential recreation visitors at the sites during construction activities will be temporary and less than significant.

2.3.4 Biological Resources

Issues and Supporting Information Sources	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, and regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c) Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of wildlife nursery sites?	☐	☐	☒	☐
e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?	☐	☐	☐	☒
f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒

a) **No Impact.** The proposed project will not have a substantial adverse effect on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The project will be placed in a heavily disturbed site where a road bridge used to cross the river. The areas adjacent to the banks are denuded and the bridge abutments from the road bridge are existing in the banks. There are few trees within the project area and preconstruction nesting surveys will be performed if construction overlaps the nesting season. Additionally, the project will require a Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement from the Department of Fish and Game.

b) **Less Than Significant Impact.** The proposed project has a less than significant impact on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Measuring station construction will disturb approximately 150 linear feet of sparse vegetation

c) **No Impact.** This project will not have a significant substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands. There are none designated in the area.

d) **Less Than Significant Impact.** The proposed project will not interfere with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish as there will be a diversion channel that can accommodate the river flow and migratory fish movement. Since wildlife movements are often concentrated along riparian corridors, the project site is likely used by wildlife populations such as mule deer and tule elk on a regular basis, and by migratory birds such as waterfowl on a seasonal basis. The proposed project will only temporarily disturb the site. Therefore, the impacts are less than significant.

e) **No Impact.** This project does not conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources. There are no policies for this area.

f) **No Impact.** The project site does not fall within any Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan., or state habitat conservation plan.

2.3.5 Cultural Resources

Issues and Supporting Information Sources	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in §15064.5?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to §15064.5?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Discussion: A field survey of the project site was conducted in the winter of 2010. The Cultural Resources Survey Reports completed for the project are on file with LADWP. To protect resources, site records are not appended to the Initial Study.

a) **No Impact.** The proposed project will not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resources as defined in 15064.5. The project location does not contain any significant historical items.

b) **No Impact.** An intensive pedestrian survey of the Area of Potential Effect found one fragmentary hand-stone and nine ceramic sherds, which were removed from the site and turned over to the local tribe. The survey examined a 150 x 60 meter wide survey area centered on the area targeted for development. All areas proposed for surface disturbing activity were completely surveyed. Four sub-surface test units were placed systematically around the surface artifacts to determine if any sub-surface deposit was present. Sub-surface testing identified additional ceramic artifacts within the extent of the surface deposit only. It was apparent that these were displaced from the surface, most likely by cattle or vehicle traffic.

c) **No Impact.** The proposed project will not directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or geologic feature. The project is located in a previously disturbed area and all earthwork will be inside the previously disturbed area. Depth of disturbance is approximately 4' or less and within well stratified very deep soils.

d) **No Impact.** Human remains were not found in the course of the 2010 pedestrian surveys at the project site. However, in the unexpected event that human remains are discovered, the Inyo County Coroner would be contacted, the area of the find would be protected, and provisions of State CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5 would be followed.

2.3.6 Geology and Soils

Issues and Supporting Information Sources	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a) Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:				
i) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.	☐	☐	☐	☒
ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?	☐	☐	☐	☒
iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?	☐	☐	☐	☒
iv) Landslides?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction, or collapse?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994) creating substantial risks to life or property?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems, where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Discussion:

The project area lies in eastern California, between Lone Pine and Independence in the Owens Valley. The Owens Valley of eastern California is a deep north-south trending basin, lying between the Sierra Nevada to the west and the White-Inyo Mountains to the east. The Owens Valley was formed as a fault block basin with the valley floor dropped down relative to the mountain blocks on either side.

The Owens Valley is the westernmost basin in a geologic province known as the Basin and Range, a region of fault-bounded, closed basins separated by parallel mountain ranges stretching from central Utah to the Sierra Nevada and encompassing all of the state of Nevada. Geological formations in the project areas are of Cenozoic age, chiefly Quaternary.

The soils in Owens Valley contain mostly Quaternary alluvial fan, basin-fill, and lacustrine deposits (Miles and Goudy, 1997).

a) **No Impact.** The project area is located within U.S. Geological Survey quadrangles containing delineated Alquist-Priolo special studies zones (California Geological Survey). Surface rupture

on these faults is also possible outside of the currently mapped active traces of these range-front faults in the vicinity of the project sites. Since habitable structures will not be built as part of the proposed project, people will not be exposed to adverse effects involving seismic ground shaking. The project area has relatively little slope which reduces any possibility of land slides. Torrifluvents-Fluvaquentic Endoaquolls complex is the soil map unit adjacent to the river channel. These soils are found with very little slope thus reducing the possibility of liquefaction.

b) **No Impact.** The proposed project includes minor soil disturbance related to installation of the monitoring station.. The area to be affected is previously disturbed and all appropriate BMPs will be utilized to prevent erosion and prevent the loss of topsoil.

c) **No Impact.** Soils adjacent to the river channel have a slope of 0-2% and are classified as very deep soils. Liquefaction is unlikely at the project site. Additionally, since no habitable structures will be built as part of the proposed project there is no impact.

d) **No Impact.** Habitable structures will not be built as part of the proposed project. The measuring station will be placed in the river channel and the adjacent soils will be continually inundated eliminating the possibility of soils shrinking and swelling. Additionally the soils mapped in the adjacent areas have low concentrations of clay. There will be no project-related impacts from expansive soils.

e) **No Impact** Sanitation facilities are not present or proposed for the project site. There will be no impact on soils related to wastewater disposal.

2.3.7 Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Issues and Supporting Information Sources	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a) Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Discussion:

a) **Less Than Significant Impact.** Greenhouse gases include, but are not limited to, carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, hydrofluorocarbons, perfluorocarbons and sulfur hexafluoride. Project-related emissions of greenhouse gases will be limited to air pollutants generated during the temporary construction activities. Operations-related air pollutant emissions will result from infrequent vehicle trips to the project sites – the same as under existing conditions. Since operation of the project will not increase air pollutant emissions over existing conditions, the project will have no significant impact on climate change. Increases in vegetated area resulting from the project will have a beneficial impact. As described above, construction of the project will result in less than significant combustion emissions from vehicles and equipment. The impact on emissions of greenhouse gases and therefore climate change will be less than significant.

b) **No Impact.** The following policies and regulations are relevant to climate change in California:

- **Global Change Research Act of 1990** - In 1990, Congress passed and the President signed Public Law 101-606, *the Global Change Research Act of 1990.* The purpose of the legislation was . . . *to require the establishment of a United States Global Change Research Program aimed at understanding and responding to global change, including the cumulative effects of human activities and natural processes on the environment, to promote discussions towards international protocols in global change research, and for other purposes.*

  To that end, Global Change Research Information Office (GCRIO) was established in 1991 to serve as a clearinghouse of information and to provide interagency Global Change Data and Information System (GCDIS) to high level users. In 2000, the National Assessment Syntheses Team (NAST) formed under the United States Global Change Research Program (USGCRP) completed a report, entitled *National Assessment of the Potential Consequences of Climate Variability and Change*, to assess the potential impacts on a national and regional level. The U.S. Climate Change Science Program (USCCSP) was launched in February 2002 as a collaborative interagency program, under a new cabinet-level organization designed to improve the government wide management of climate science and climate-related technology development. The CCSP incorporates and integrates the USGCRP with the Administration's U.S. Climate Change Research Initiative (CCRI).

The CCRI builds on the USGCRP, with a focus on accelerating progress over a 5-year period on the most important issues and uncertainties in climate science, enhancing climate observation systems, and improving the integration of scientific knowledge into policy and management decisions and evaluation of management strategies and choices.

- **State of California Executive Order S-3-05** - The Governor of California signed Executive Order S-3-05 on June 1, 2005. The Order recognizes California's vulnerability to climate change, noting that increasing temperatures could potentially reduce snowpack in the Sierra Nevada, a source of water supply in the State. Additionally, according to this Order, climate change could influence human health, coastal habitats, microclimates, and agricultural yield. To address these potential impacts, the Order mandates greenhouse gas emission reduction targets. More specifically, by 2010, greenhouse gas emissions are expected to be reduced to 2000 levels; by 2020, emissions are expected to reach 1990 levels; and by 2050, emissions are expected to be 80 percent below 1990 levels.

  The Secretary of the California Environmental Protection Agency (CEPA) will oversee the reduction program targets and coordinate efforts to meet these provisions with numerous State agencies, such as the Resource Agency, which includes the DWR. The Secretary of CEPA will also provide biannual reports to the Governor and the State Legislature regarding: (1) progress toward meeting the greenhouse gas emissions targets; (2) the ongoing impacts of global warming in the State, including impacts to water supply and the environment; and (3) potential mitigation and adaptation plans to combat these impacts. In order to achieve the climate change emission targets, in June 2005, the Secretary of CEPA formed the Climate Action Team (CAT). The CAT includes representatives from Air Resources Board; Business, Transportation, and Housing Agency; Department of Food and Agriculture; California Energy Commission (CEC); California Integrated Waste Management Board, Resources Agency (including DWR), and Public Utilities Commission. The CAT submitted a report in 2006 outlining the preliminary strategy to reduce GHG emission.

- **State of California Assembly Bill 32** – California Global Warming Solutions Act - Assembly Bill (AB) 32, *California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006*, was signed into law on September 27, 2006. With the Governor's signing of AB 32, the Health and Safety Code (Section 38501, Subdivision (a)) now states the following: *"Global warming poses a serious threat to the economic well-being, public health, natural resources, and the environment of California. The potential adverse impacts of global warming include the exacerbation of air quality problems, a reduction in the quality and supply of water to the state from the Sierra snowpack, a rise in sea levels resulting in the displacement of thousands of coastal businesses and residences, damage to marine ecosystems and the natural environment, and an increase in the incidences of infectious diseases, asthma, and other human health-related problems."*

  AB 32 requires the California Air Resources Board (CARB), in coordination with State agencies as well as members of the private and academic communities, to adopt regulations to require the reporting and verification of statewide greenhouse gas emissions and to monitor and enforce compliance with this program. Similar to Executive Order S-3-05, under the provisions of the bill, by 2020, statewide greenhouse gas emissions will be limited to the equivalent emission levels in 1990. To achieve the 2020 reduction goal, by January 2011, CARB shall adopt emission limits and reduction measures, which may include a system of market-based declining annual aggregate emission limits for sources or categories of sources that emit greenhouse gases. It is anticipated that limits and emission standards adopted by the CARB will become operative beginning January 2012. In addition, the CAT established by

the Governor to coordinate the efforts set forth under Executive Order S-3-05 is expected to continue its role coordinating overall climate policy. On December 12, 2008, CARB adopted its Climate Change Scoping Plan pursuant to AB 32 (CARB, 2008)s.

- **State of California Senate Bill 375** - On September 30, 2008, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger signed Senate Bill (SB) 375, which seeks to reduce GHG emissions by discouraging sprawl development and dependence on car travel. SB 375 helps implement the AB 32 GHG reduction goals by integrating land use, regional transportation and housing planning.

  The proposed project is located within a 62-mile river restoration project and is consistent with greenhouse gas policies and regulations. Therefore, there is no impact on these policies and regulations.

2.3.8 Hazards and Hazardous Materials

Issues and Supporting Information Sources	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?	☐	☐	☐	☒
f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?	☐	☐	☐	☒
g) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	☐	☐	☒	☐
h) Expose people or structures to the risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Discussion:

a) and b) **Less Than Significant Impact.** Construction and operation of the proposed project will require the routine transport of limited quantities of fuel. Fuel will be used for vehicles and power equipment. Fuel will be contained within the manufacturer's tanks on all powered heavy equipment onsite, or in approved canisters for powered hand equipment. If necessary, a fuel/service truck will visit the sites, parking at a non-sensitive location such as a road shoulder on level ground. Equipment operators will move equipment to the fuel/service truck for refueling. No fuel will be stored onsite at the project locations.

As is the current practice by LADWP, use of these hazardous materials will be carefully monitored to limit exposure of humans or environmental receptors. Therefore, impacts related to release or accidental exposure to humans or the environment will be less than significant.

c) **No Impact.** There are no schools within 3 miles of the project site. Hazardous materials use will be limited to fuels. Since this material will be properly handled (as described above), there will be no impact on the schools from hazardous materials.

d) **No Impact.** Section 65962.5 of the California Government Code requires the California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA) to update a list of known hazardous materials sites, which is also called the "Cortese List." The sites on the Cortese List are designated by the State Water Resources Control Board, the Integrated Waste Management Board, and the Department of Toxic Substances Control.

The only development within the project area is an abandoned road and bridge abutments. There is no potential for past uses of hazardous materials at the project site. Therefore, the project will have no impact related to hazardous waste sites.

e) and f) **No Impact.** The project area is not located sufficiently near either a private airstrip or public airport to pose a safety risk. The Independence Airport is located over 3 miles north west of the project site. There will be no project-related impacts on airport safety.

g) **Less Than Significant Impact.** Construction related traffic will be limited to a remote location over 3 miles away from the closest residential area. The impact from travel of the construction workers and equipment to the project site will have a less than significant impact on emergency access and evacuation plans.

h) **Less Than Significant Impact.** The proposed project is located in a remote location on the east side of the Los Angeles Aqueduct and south of Mazourka Canyon road. The monitoring station will not be constructed with flammable materials. The project will not expose people or structures to a significant impact from wildland fires.

2.3.9 Hydrology and Water Quality

Issues and Supporting Information Sources	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level (e.g., the production rate of pre-existing nearby wells would drop to a level which would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted)?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e) Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?	☐	☐	☐	☒
f) Otherwise substantially degrade water quality?	☐	☐	☐	☒
g) Place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area, as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map?	☐	☐	☐	☒
h) Place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures which would impede or redirect flood flows?	☐	☐	☐	☒
i) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam?	☐	☐	☐	☒
j) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Discussion:

The Lower Owens River is the only surface water on the project site.

a) **No Impact.** The proposed project will not violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements. Under the General Construction Permit for the State Water Resources Control Board a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) is in place for this project. The best management practices (BMPs) for construction are clearly outlined in the plantand will be in practice at the construction site.

b) **No Impact.** The proposed project will not deplete groundwater supplies or interfere with groundwater recharge. The project requires no consumptive uses of groundwater.

c) **No Impact.** The construction of the monitoring station will not alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area. The project is located in a previously disturbed location where the natural drainage pattern has been modified. However, during construction the flow of the river will be temporarily diverted around the worksite. The river bypass will not increase erosion or siltation on or off site.

d) **No Impact.** The monitoring station construction will not alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff. The SWPPP delineates BMPs to be utilized to prevent surface runoff. All BMPs will be in place and checked regularly pre and post storm events to prevent any discharges.

e) **No Impact**. Stormwater flows across the project sites and infiltrates or enters existing surface water features. Since the project will not alter the volume of stormflows, and since engineered stormdrains are not present on the project site and are not proposed, there will be no impact on the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems nor an addition of substantial new sources of polluted runoff.

f) **No Impact.** With the implementation of the SWPPP for the measuring station construction, water quality will not be degraded as a result of construction activities.

g), h) and i) **No Impact.** The proposed project will not place housing or structures that will impede flows within the flood plain, or create levees or dams No levees or dams are present on the project sites and no off-site levees or dams will be modified as part of project implementation. The project will have no impact on housing or structures in a 100-year flood hazard area.

j) **Less than Significant Impact.** Due to the distance to large surface water features from the project site, seiche and tsunami are not relevant for the proposed project. However, mudflows originating at higher elevations above project areas and then moving across the site is a possible phenomenon. Since no habitable structures are planned as part of the project, people will not be exposed to injury or death from mudflows. Since the damage could be readily repaired by re-installing the facilities, the impact will be less than significant.

2.3.10 Land Use and Planning

Issues and Supporting Information Sources	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a) Physically divide an established community?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project (including, but not limited to the general plan, specific plan, local coastal program, or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Discussion:

a) **No Impact.** The proposed project is located in an area zoned for open space and used for ranching, wildlife habitat, and recreation. No habitable structures are located on or immediately adjacent to the properties, and none are planned as part of the proposed project. Therefore, there will be no project-related impacts on established communities.

b) **No Impact.** The Inyo County General Plan (2001) includes Goal BIO-1: Maintain and enhance biological diversity and healthy ecosystems through the County. Policy BIO-1.2 calls for the preservation of riparian habitat and wetlands and Policy BIO-1.3 calls for the restoration of biodiversity. As a project expected to result in the enhancement or creation of riparian, aquatic habitats, the proposed project is consistent with these General Plan goal and policies. Accordingly, there will be no adverse impacts on applicable land use plans and policies.

c) **No Impact.** There are no Significant Natural Areas (SNAs) as determined by CDFG at the project site, and there are no adopted habitat conservation plans or natural community conservation plans for this site. Therefore, there will be no impact on any other adopted habitat plan or natural community conservation plan.

2.3.11 Mineral Resources

Issues and Supporting Information Sources	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Result in the loss of availability of a locally-important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan, or other land use plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Discussion:

a) and b) **No Impact.** There is no existing mining activity at the project site. The project site is not a locally-important mineral resource recovery sites. These actions will not limit future mineral recovery activities or result in the loss of availability of known mineral resources. There will be no project-related impacts on mineral resources.

2.3.12 Noise

Issues and Supporting Information Sources	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project result in:				
a) Exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c) A substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) A substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?	☐	☐	☒	☐
e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	☐	☐	☐	☒
f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Discussion:

a) and d) **Less Than Significant Impact.** No habitable structures are located on or immediately adjacent to the property, and none are planned as part of the proposed project. The nearest school to the project site is the Keith Bright School, located on Mazourka Canyon Road over 3 miles from the project area.

Given the distance of the project area from residences and schools, noise generated during construction will be inaudible at these sensitive receptors. Noise may be temporarily noticeable to ranch workers or persons visiting the sites for recreation. Therefore, noise impacts during construction will be less than significant.

b) **Less Than Significant Impact.** Heavy equipment and compactors used for measuring station installation may create minor groundborne vibration or groundborne noise. Since the closest buildings to the project site are over 3 miles away, impacts related to temporary groundborne vibration or noise will be less than significant.

c) **No Impact.** Noise generated during project operation will include intermittent vehicle travel and ranch operations-related noise - the same as existing conditions. Therefore, there will be no permanent increase in ambient noise levels related to the project.

d) and f) **No Impact.** The project area is not located sufficiently near either a private airstrip or public airport to expose people residing or working in the area to experience excessive noise levels. The Independence Airport is located over 3 miles north west of the project site. There will be no project-related impacts on noise near an airport/airstrip.

2.3.13 Population and Housing

Issues and Supporting Information Sources	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a) Induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Discussion:

a) through c) **No Impact.** There will be no impacts on population and housing from implementation of the measuring station replacement project.

2.3.14 Public Services

Issues and Supporting Information Sources	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services:				
i) Fire protection?	☐	☐	☐	☒
ii) Police protection?	☐	☐	☐	☒
iii) Schools?	☐	☐	☐	☒
iv) Parks?	☐	☐	☐	☒
v) Other public facilities?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Discussion:

a) **No Impact.** Habitable structures are not present on the project site and none are proposed as part of the project. Recreation use and the subsequent need for police services will be the same as existing conditions. The project is not growth inducing and does not create structures that would require additional fire protection. Therefore, there will be no project-related impacts on fire protection, police protection, schools, parks, or other public facilities.

2.3.15 Recreation

Issues and Supporting Information Sources	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Discussion:

a) and b) **No Impact.** Habitable structures and recreational facilities are not present on the project site and none are proposed as part of the project. Therefore, the project will not result in population increases that will subsequently increase the use of park and recreational facilities. Therefore, the project will result no impact to recreation or recreational facilities.

2.3.16 Transportation and Traffic

Issues and Supporting Information Sources	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a) Conflict with an applicable plan, ordinance or policy establishing measures of effectiveness for the performance of the circulation system, taking into account all modes of transportation including mass transit and non-motorized travel and relevant components of the circulation system, including but not limited to intersections, streets, highways and freeways, pedestrian and bicycle paths, and mass transit?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Conflict with an applicable congestion management program, including but not limited to level of service standards and travel demand measures, or other standards established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c) Result in a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that results in substantial safety risks?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	☐	☐	☒	☐
e) Result in inadequate emergency access?	☐	☐	☐	☒
f) Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs regarding public transit, bicycle, or pedestrian facilities, or otherwise decrease the performance or safety of such facilities?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Discussion:

a) and b) **Less Than Significant Impact.** Construction of the project will result in a minimal number of construction vehicles and workers traveling to the project site. There will be no impact on traffic patterns in the nearby town of Independence. The temporary increase in traffic in and around the rural project sites is less than significant.

c) **No Impact.** The project area is not located sufficiently near either a private airstrip or public airport, nor does the project contain features that will alter air traffic patterns. The Independence Airport is located over 3 miles north west of the project site. No impacts on air safety will occur.

d) **Less Than Significant Impact.** Substantial roadway alterations are not proposed as part of the project. The existing roadways will continue to be suitable for their existing uses and no new roadway hazards will be created. The impact is less than significant on roadway hazards.

e) **No Impact.** Aside from minor grading potentially required to bring a crane and concrete pump truck to the project site, roadway alternations are not proposed as part of the project so access to the project site will not be altered. There will be no impact on emergency access.

f) **No Impact.** The project does not include housing, employment, or roadway improvements relevant to alternative transportation measures. Therefore, there will be no project-related impacts on alternative transportation.

2.3.17 Utilities and Service Systems

Issues and Supporting Information Sources	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a) Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Require or result in the construction of new stormwater drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e) Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?	☐	☐	☐	☒
f) Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs?	☐	☐	☐	☒
g) Comply with federal, state, and local statues and regulations related to solid waste?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Discussion:

a) through c) and e) through g) **No Impact.** The project does not include or induce housing or employment which will result in the need for public services and utilities. With the exception of the Owens River, the project sites do not contain water, sewage, or solid waste infrastructure, nor are any proposed under the project. There will be no project-related impacts on public utilities and service systems.

d) **No Impact.** There is no plumbed potable water serving the project sites. The project will have no impact on water utility service.

2.3.18 Mandatory Findings of Significance

	Issues and Supporting Information Sources	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a)	Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal, or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b)	Does the project have the potential to achieve short-term, to the disadvantage of long-term, environmental goals?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c)	Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable ("cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects.)?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d)	Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Discussion:

a) **Less Than Significant.** The construction of the Mazourka Measuring Station does not have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal, or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California History or prehistory. Construction activities will be of a short duration and have no significant impacts. The project is located in a previously disturbed site and best management practices will be followed to reduce any potential construction related impacts.

b) **No Impact.** There are no short-term goals related to the project that will be disadvantageous to any long-term environmental goals of the LORP.

c) **No Impact.** There are no known projects in the immediate area of the project site that will have overlapping construction schedules with the proposed project.

d) **No Impact.** The proposed project will not have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings.

Section 3
References and Abbreviations

3.1 REFERENCES AND BIBLIOGRAPHY

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3.2 ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

APE	Area of Potential Effect
AQMP	Air Quality Management Plan
BMPs	Best Management Practices
CalEPA	California Environmental Protection Agency
CDFG	California Department of Fish and Game
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
Farmland	Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance
GCRIO	Global Change Research Information Office
GBUAPCD	Great Basin Unified Air Pollution Control District
HCP	Habitat Conservation Plan
IS	Initial Study
LADWP	(City of) Los Angeles Department of Water and Power
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
ND	Negative Declaration
PM10	particulate matter 10 microns or less in diameter
SIP	state implementation plan
SCAQMD	South Coast Air Quality Management District
SNA	Significant Natural Areas
SWRCB	State Water Resources Control Board
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
USGS	U.S. Geological Survey

FIGURE 1
MAZOURKA MEASURING STATION