

CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT
NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

Submission of this form is optional. The form shall be filed with the County Clerk pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21152(b). Pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21168(d), the filing of this notice starts a 35-day statute of limitations on Court challenges to the approval of the project. Failure to file the notice results in the statute of limitations being extended to 180 days.

TO: Office of Planning and Research P.O. Box 3044 Sacramento, CA 95812-3044	TO: Inyo County Clerk P.O. Drawer F Independence, CA 93526
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FROM (LEAD AGENCY AND ADDRESS):
 Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP)
 111 North Hope Street, Room 1044
 Los Angeles, CA 90012

PROJECT TITLE:
 Owens Lake Monitoring Wells T981 and T982

PROJECT LOCATION: Project location is in the northern area of Owens Lake, south of Lone Pine and north of Olancha. See attached map.	CITY: Olancha	COUNTY: Inyo
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DESCRIPTION OF NATURE, PURPOSE, AND BENEFICIARIES OF PROJECT:
 LADWP is evaluating the potential for using groundwater at Owens Lake to supply a portion of water demand for dust mitigation. The investigation will assist in developing robust protocols for protection of groundwater-dependent resources while conserving water supply from other sources. As part of the evaluation, LADWP proposes to install monitoring wells (T981 and T982) in the northern portion of Owens Lake (see attached map). T981 will be 4 inches in diameter, at a depth of 900 feet, located immediately east of the Owens River Fault in order to improve the understanding of the effect of the fault on groundwater flow. T982 will be 3 inches in diameter, at a depth of 400 feet, installed near the north shore of the Owens Lake playa to verify the existence of a thick clay layer that separates the shallow surficial aquifer from the deeper aquifers. Each site was evaluated for biological and cultural resources to confirm avoidance of impacts to sensitive resources, and a tribal monitor will be present during ground disturbance. Both sites are approximately 100-ft by 100-ft, and located on existing access roads or berms turnouts that were built as part of the Owens Lake Dust Mitigation Program. All project construction activities and equipment laydown would be restricted to the existing compacted roads and turnouts. All applicable avoidance measures from the 2008 Owens Valley PM10 Planning Area Demonstration of Attainment State Implementation Plan, Appendix D, Mitigation Monitoring Program will be followed as appropriate.

CONTACT PERSON: Jane Hauptman	TELEPHONE NUMBER: (213) 367- 0968
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EXEMPT STATUS: Categorical Exemption Class 6: Data Collection	SECTION: 15306
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JUSTIFICATION FOR PROJECT EXEMPTION:
 Class 6 consists of basic data collection, research, experimental management, and resource evaluation activities that do not result in a serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource. These may be strictly for information gathering purposes, or as part of a study leading to an action which a public agency has not yet approved, adopted, or funded.

LEAD AGENCY SIGNATURE: Charles C. Holloway	TITLE: Manager of Environmental Planning and Assessment	DATE: February 9, 2021
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Owens Lake Monitoring Wells T981 and T982

Legend

- Lone Pine
- Monitoring Well

