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NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

Date: July 16, 2014

To: Agencies, Organizations, and Interested Parties

Subject: Notice of Preparation of an Environmental Impact Report and Notice of Public Meeting for the Owens Lake 2011 SCR D and 2012 SCR D Dust Control Measures Projects

The City of Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) is conducting environmental review of the proposed 2011 Supplemental Control Requirements Determination (SCR D) and 2012 SCR D projects of the Owens Lake Dust Mitigation Program (OLDMP) on Owens Lake in order to comply with regulatory orders for the control of emissions of particulate matter from the lakebed. LADWP constructs and operates dust control measures (DCMs) on the lake in compliance with Agreements with the Great Basin Unified Air Pollution Control District (GBUAPCD) under the authority of California Health & Safety Code Sec. 42316, legal settlement agreements with GBUAPCD, lease agreements for use of state lands (administered by the California State Lands Commission), and other regulatory approvals.

While LADWP has prepared a Remedial Action Plan (RAP) for the 2011 SCR D project and is reviewing design concepts for the 2012 SCR D project, the City has filed, (1) an action in the Los Angeles County Superior Court under Health and Safety Code Section 42316, subdivision (b), and the Code of Civil Procedure Section 1094.5, challenging the decision of the California Air Resources Board (CARB) sustaining the 2011 SCR D and the GBUAPCD's authority to issue the 2011 SCR D under Health and Safety Code section 42316, subdivision (a), and (2) an appeal with CARB concerning the 2012 SCR D pursuant to those same statues. Therefore, LADWP is conducting environmental review of the *tentative* 2011 SCR D and 2012 SCR D projects, but is concurrently continuing to pursue legal relief from the requirement to construct the projects. The environmental documents being prepared for the project should not be interpreted as an acknowledgement of or admission regarding the propriety of the 2011 or 2012 SCR Ds.

Under the 2011 SCRD project, best available control measures (BACM) would be installed on 13 parcels (Duck Pond-L1, C2-L1, T10-1-L1, T17-2-L1, T21-L2, T21-L1, T32-1-L1, T35-2-L1, T37-1-L1, T37-2-L1, T37-2-L2, T37-2-L3, and T37-2-L4) totaling 1,828 acres of Owens Lake. BACM would include Gravel Cover, Shallow Flooding, and Managed Vegetation. Additionally, the project would include transition of 1,156 acres of existing Shallow Flooding in dust control area (DCA) T18S to approximately 906 acres of Gravel Cover and 250 acres of Shallow Flooding. Under the 2012 SCRD project, Brine Shallow Flooding and Gravel Cover would be installed in four additional DCAs (Duck Pond-L2, T10-3-L1, T21-L3 and T21-L4), totally 485 acres.

As the Lead Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), LADWP has determined that an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) will be prepared for the Owens Lake 2011 SCRD and 2012 SCRD Dust Control Measures projects.

Project Location: The 110 square-mile Owens Lakebed is located in Inyo County, California, approximately 5 miles south of the community of Lone Pine and approximately 61 miles south of the city of Bishop. Owens Lakebed is bounded by State Route (SR) 136 to the north and east, SR 190 to the south, and U.S. Highway (U.S.) 395 to the west. Project areas are located as noted on the enclosed figure.

Potential Environmental Effects: Potential environmental impacts that may occur as a result of the proposed project include impacts to Aesthetics, Air Quality, Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Land Use and Water Supplies. An analysis of these potential environmental impacts and other potential impacts that could be mitigated to a less-than-significant level is provided in an Initial Study Checklist, which is attached or can be reviewed at the following website: www.ladwp.com/envnotices. Copies of the document are also available for review at:

- LADWP office in Bishop - 300 Mandich Street, Bishop, California 93514
- Lone Pine Library - 127 Bush Street, Lone Pine, California 93545
- Bishop Library - 210 Academy Avenue, Bishop, California 93514
- Inyo County Library - Big Pine Branch, 500 South Main Street, Big Pine, California, 93513
- Inyo County Library - Independence Branch, 168 North Edwards Street, Independence, California 93526
- Cerro Coso Community College Library - 3000 College Heights Blvd., Ridgecrest, California 93555-9571

Notice of Public Meeting:

A public meeting will be held to discuss the scope and content of the environmental information to be included in the EIR. Agency representatives and members of the public interested in the project are welcome to attend. The meeting will be:

July 29, 2014
4:00 – 5:00 p.m.
LADWP Sulfate Facility
Training/Conference Room
111 Sulfate Road
Keeler, California 93530
[1 mile south of Keeler, west side of State Highway 136]

Public Review Period: LADWP invites the views of your agency regarding the scope and content of the environmental information to be included in the EIR, relevant to your agency's statutory responsibilities in connection with the proposed project. Your agency will need to use the EIR when considering your permit or other discretionary approval your agency may issue for the proposed project.

Due to the time limits mandated by State Law, your response must be received by 5:00 p.m. August 18, 2014. Please indicate a contact person in your response and submit your response via mail, fax, or electronic mail to:

Los Angeles Department of Water and Power
111 North Hope Street, Room 1044
Los Angeles, California 90012
Attention: Mr. David Porter
David.Porter2@LADWP.com
Fax (213) 367-4710

If you require additional information, please contact Mr. David Porter at (213) 367-0706.

Sincerely,


Charles C. Holloway
Manager of Environmental Planning and Assessment
Los Angeles Department of Water and Power