Department of Water and Power the City of Los Angeles

ANTONIO R. VILLARAIGOSA
Mayor

Commission
LEE KANON ALPERT, *President*
EDITH RAMIREZ, *Vice President*
FORESCEE HOGAN-ROWLES
JONATHAN PARFREY
THOMAS S. SAYLES
BARBARA E. MOSCHOS, *Secretary*

S. DAVID FREEMAN
Interim General Manager

RAMAN RAJ
Chief Operating Officer

FILED
MAR 11 2010
INYO COUNTY CLERK

Date: March 23, 2010

To: Agencies, Organizations, and Interested Parties

Subject: NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY/NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT AN INITIAL STUDY/MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR THE PROPOSED ADDITIONAL MITIGATION PROJECTS DEVELOPED BY THE MOU AD HOC GROUP

The City of Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) is proposing to implement the Additional Mitigation Projects Developed by the MOU Ad Hoc Group located in Inyo County, California. 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.

LA's the Place

Project Location

With the goal of identifying reasonable and feasible measures that would provide the most environmental benefits that can be achieved with the available water, an Ad Hoc group consisting of representatives from the MOU Parties and affected ranchers (LADWP lessees) defined habitat enhancement projects at eight sites: Freeman Creek (215 AF/yr), Hines Spring Well 355 (240 AF/yr), Hines Spring Aberdeen Ditch (145 AF/yr), North of Mazourka Canyon Road (300 AF/yr), Homestead (300 AF/yr), Well 368 (150 AF/yr), Diaz Lake (250 AF/yr), and Warren Lake (to be determined annually to balance the 1,600 AF commitment). Through distribution of allocated water at each site, the Additional Mitigation Projects will enhance and create riparian, aquatic, wetland and/or spring habitats.

Project Description

The 1997 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) among LADWP, Inyo County, California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG), the California State Lands Commission (SLC), the Sierra Club, the Owens Valley Committee (OVC), and Carla Scheidlinger outlines the requirement for additional commitments to those identified in the 1991 Environmental Impact Report (EIR) concerning LADWP's groundwater pumping and related activities (LADWP, 1991). Section III.A.3. Additional Mitigation of this MOU describes the commitment to supply 1,600 AF of water per year (AF/yr) for 1) the implementation of the on-site mitigation measure at Hines Spring identified in the 1991 EIR, and 2) the implementation of on and/or off-site mitigation in addition to that identified in the 1991 EIR for impacts that occurred at Fish Springs, Big and Little Blackrock Springs, and Big and Little Seely Springs.

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.