Theodore D. Schade
Air Pollution Control Officer

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GREAT BASIN UNIFIED AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT
157 Short Street, Bishop, California 93514-3537
760-872-8211 Fax: 760-872-6109

## Notice of Preparation

TO: Kammi Foote
Inyo County Clerk
168 North Edwards Street
Independence, California 93526

FROM: Great Basin Unified Air
Pollution Control District
157 Short Street
Bishop, California 93514-3537

Subject: **Notice of Preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Report for the Keeler Dunes Particulate Matter Air Pollution ($PM_{10}$) Non-attainment Area Project (Proposed Project)**

The Great Basin Unified Air Pollution Control District (District), in coordination with the U.S. Department of Interior Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Bishop Field Office, intends to prepare an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the development of strategies to mitigate windblown dust that is contributing to the non-attainment of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for the $PM_{10}$ air pollutant in the Keeler Dunes (proposed project site) near the community of Keeler, Inyo County, California. The District and the BLM will be the lead agencies responsible for coordinating the environmental analysis pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), respectively. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will be a cooperating federal agency. A separate Notice of Intent will be prepared for the environmental analysis under NEPA.

The District is seeking input from regulatory agencies and other interested parties regarding the scope and intent of the information to be included in the EIR. Scoping has been helpful to agencies in identifying the range of actions, alternatives, mitigation measures, and significant effects to be analyzed in depth in an EIR and in eliminating detailed studies of issues not found to be significant. Responsible and trustee agencies will need to use the EIR when considering permits or related approvals for the proposed project.

The proposed project site is located northwest of Keeler, on lands administered by the BLM and the City of Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, and is approximately 1.0 square mile in size. The proposed project site is bounded approximately by California State Route 136 on the east-northeast and the dry Owens Lake bed shoreline on the west-southwest, and extends approximately 2.5 miles to the northwest from Keeler.

The District's goal is to use dust mitigation measures that stabilize the sand dunes and have a low impact to natural resources within the Keeler Dunes. Dust-control efforts may include a variety of measures, such as establishment and management of native vegetation, wind breaks, and barriers; spraying of the sand with water or other dust-suppressing substances; and placement of gravel with or without an underlying geotextile fabric in selected areas.

Due to the time limit mandated by State law, responses must be submitted no later than 5:00 p.m. on Friday, November 25, 2011. Please send letters of comment (including the name of the designated contact person for your agency) on the Notice of Preparation to the following address:

Great Basin Unified Air Pollution Control District
**Attn:** Mr. Theodore D. Shade
157 Short Street, Suite 6
Bishop, California 93514-3537

Comments can also be submitted electronically at: keelerdunesproject@gmail.com

Agencies and organizations should identify a point of contact for future coordination.

Scoping meetings: On Monday, November 14, 2011, the District and BLM will host two scoping meetings to review the various project elements and solicit information in relation to CEQA analysis for the proposed project. Both meetings will take place at the Board of Supervisors Chamber of the Inyo County Administrative Center, located at 168 North Edwards Street, Independence, California 93526. The public agency meeting will be from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. and the general public meeting will be from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Signature: T. D. Schade
Mr. Theodore D. Schade

Telephone: (760) 872-8211

Title: Air Pollution Control Officer

Date: October 25, 2011

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