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Date: August 30, 2013

To: Agencies, Organizations, and Interested Parties

Subject: Notice of Availability of the Draft Environmental Impact Report for the Southern Owens Valley Solar Ranch Project (SCH # 2010091094)

The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Report (Draft EIR) for consideration of the Southern Owens Valley Solar Ranch Project (proposed Project). The LADWP is the lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

**Project Location**

The proposed Project is located on City of Los Angeles-owned property in the Owens Valley in Inyo County, California. The Project site is on approximately 1,200 acres about six miles southeast of the town of Independence and about ten miles north of the town of Lone Pine. Regional access to the Project site is provided by US Highway 395 (US 395), located approximately four miles west of the site. Manzanar Reward Road connects the Project site with US 395 (see the enclosed map).

**Project Description**

The Project would consist of a 200 megawatt (MW) net generating capacity solar energy facility using solar photovoltaic (PV) panel modules and associated infrastructure. The power produced by the proposed Project would be conveyed to the power grid via interconnection to the LADWP's existing 230 kilovolt (kV) Inyo-Rinaldi transmission line, which is located along the western perimeter of the Project site. The proposed Project would help the City of Los Angeles, and, by extension, the State of California, meet its renewable energy goals. The Project would produce approximately 440 gigawatt hours of clean, renewable energy annually. This amount of energy would be sufficient to power approximately 75,000 households and help achieve the goals of the California Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) and other State and local renewable energy programs.

The primary elements of the proposed Project include the solar panel arrays, supporting electrical equipment, on-site electrical collection cabling, an on-site electrical substation, a maintenance building, improvement of a portion of Manzanar Reward Road, and on-site roadways.

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### **Impacts of the Project**

The Draft EIR found that implementation of the proposed Project may result in significant environmental impacts to air quality, biological resources, cultural and paleontological resources, and hydrology and water quality. Implementation of the best management practices and mitigation measures provided in the Draft EIR would ensure that all potential impacts are less than significant when compared to significance criteria used in the evaluation. No unavoidable significant environmental impacts were identified for the proposed Project.

### **Public Review of the Draft EIR**

The 45-day public review period for the Draft EIR will commence on September 4, 2013 and conclude on October 18, 2013 at 5:00 p.m. A copy of the document will be posted at [www.ladwp.com/envnotices](http://www.ladwp.com/envnotices). The document will also be available for review at the following locations:

<b>Repository Site</b>	<b>Address</b>
LADWP Environmental Affairs Call for an appointment: (213) 367-4096	111 North Hope Street, Room 1044 Los Angeles, California 90012
LADWP Bishop Operations Office	300 Mandich Street Bishop, California 93514 (760) 872-1104
Lone Pine Branch Library	Corner of Washington and Bush Streets Lone Pine, California 93545 (760) 878-0260
Big Pine Branch Library	500 South Main Street Big Pine, California 93513 (760) 938-2420
Independence Branch Library	168 North Edwards Street Independence, California 93526 (760) 872-1104
Bishop Library	210 Academy Avenue Bishop, California 93514 (760) 873-5115

### **Public Information Meetings**

The LADWP will hold two public meetings on the above noted Project. The public meetings will inform the public about the proposed Project analyzed in the Draft EIR and provide an opportunity for agency representatives, individuals, and other interested parties to provide oral and written comments on the proposed Project. The meetings are scheduled from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Doors will open at 5:30 with a presentation on the proposed Project at 6:00 p.m. The meetings will be held on the dates and locations listed below:

Date	Location
Tuesday, September 24, 2013	Statham Hall 138 Jackson Street Lone Pine, California 93545 (760) 872-1727
Wednesday, September 25, 2013	Bishop United Methodist Church 205 North Fowler Street Bishop, California 93514 (next to Bishop High School) (760) 872-7701

**Ways to Submit Comments**

During the public review period, written and oral comments concerning the adequacy of the Draft EIR may be submitted in one of the ways listed below. Written comments must be submitted by October 18, 2013. Written responses will be prepared for inclusion in the Final EIR following the public review period.

- Attend the Public Information Meeting(s) and provide oral and/or written comments to LADWP Staff
- Email written comments to: [Charles.Holloway@ladwp.com](mailto:Charles.Holloway@ladwp.com) and [Nadia.Parker@ladwp.com](mailto:Nadia.Parker@ladwp.com)
- Send written comments by mail to:  
Ms. Nadia Parker  
Environmental Planning and Assessment  
Los Angeles Department of Water and Power  
111 North Hope Street, Room 1044  
Los Angeles, California 90012

  
Signature

Charles C. Holloway  
Manager of Environmental Planning and Assessment

Enclosure: Project Vicinity Map