Los Angeles Department of Water & Power

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Notice of Availability of a Draft Environmental Impact Report and Notice of Public Meeting for the Proposed Owens Lake Dust Mitigation Program

PHASE 9/10 PROJECT

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) is currently implementing the Owens Lake Dust Mitigation Program (OLDMP) on Owens Lake in order to reduce emissions of particulate matter less than or equal to 10 microns in diameter (PM_{10}). LADWP constructs and operates dust control measures (DCMs) on the lake in compliance with Orders from 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, and other regulatory approvals. LADWP is the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) lead agency for the Phase 9/10 Project which would expand and modify the existing system of dust control on the lake by installation of Gravel Cover, Managed Vegetation and Shallow Flooding Best Available Control Measures (BACM) on 3.61 square miles of area identified as emissive by GBUAPCD. In addition, approximately 1.82 square miles of existing Shallow Flooding dust control area (DCA) would be transitioned to approximately 0.81 square miles of Gravel Cover and 1.02 square miles of Shallow Flooding to minimize dust while conserving water use on Owens Lake.

PROJECT LOCATION

The 110 square-mile Owens Lake 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 Lake is bounded by State Route (SR) 136 to the north and east, SR 190 to the south, and U.S. Highway 395 to the west.

SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS

The Draft EIR identifies significant and unmitigable impacts related to cultural resources for the proposed Project. An alternative to the proposed Project has been identified to reduce impacts to less than significant levels. The Project area does not contain any sites on any of the lists of sites enumerated under Section 65962.5 of the Government Code.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

The 45-day public review period for the Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) will commence on February 12, 2015 and conclude on March 30, 2015. An electronic version of the Draft EIR may be viewed online at http://www.ladwp.com/envnotices. Copies are also available for review at LADWP, Bishop Office (300 Mandich Street, Bishop, CA 93514), the Bishop Library (210 Academy Avenue, Bishop, California 93514), the Lone Pine Library (127 Bush Street, Lone Pine, California 93545), the Inyo County Library Big Pine Branch (500 South Main Street, Big Pine, California 93513), the Inyo County Library Independence Branch (168 North Edwards Street, Independence, California 93526), and the Cerro Coso Community College Library (3000 College Heights Boulevard, Ridgecrest, California 93555).

Please submit comments in writing by 5:00 p.m. on March 30, 2015 to:

Los Angeles Department of Water and Power
Environmental Planning and Assessment
111 North Hope Street, Room 1050
Los Angeles, CA 90012
Attention: David Porter

Comments may also be faxed to David Porter at (213) 367-4710.

PUBLIC MEETING

A public meeting will be held to discuss the Draft EIR. Agency representatives and members of the public interested in the Phase 9/10 Project are welcome to attend.

Thursday, March 5, 2015
5 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]

15-00008