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Notice of Exemption - Inyo County

To: Office of Planning and Research
1400 Tenth Street, Room 121
Sacramento, CA 95814

From: City of Los Angeles Department of
Water and Power
111 N. Hope St.
Los Angeles, CA 90012

County Clerk
County of Inyo
P.O. Drawer F
Independence, CA 93526

Project Title: Installation of Testing Wells at Owens Lake, California

Project Applicant: City of Los Angeles Department of Water and Power

Project Location - Specific: Owens Lake, CA (see attached map)

Project Location - City: Lone Pine

Project Location - County: Inyo

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project: This project includes installation of 12-inch diameter steel testing wells at two sites located at northern Owens Lake. Both sites are located on lands under jurisdiction of the California State Lands Commission. The purpose of the testing wells is to evaluate the effectiveness of the Owens River and Owens Valley fault zones as hydraulic barriers to groundwater flow.

Boreholes will be drilled using mud rotary drilling method to a depth of approximately 1,500 feet below ground surface. Geophysical and lithologic logging of the borehole will be used to identify the depths and thicknesses of all aquifers present at this location. Screens will be installed across aquifers 3, 4, and 5. Blank casing will be installed from above the screened zone to the surface. Gravel pack will be placed in the annular space between the screen and the borehole wall. The remainder of the annular space will be filled with seal material including neat cement and bentonite. After the installation of seal material, the well will be developed. A 24-hour pumping test will be conducted by the contractor using a temporary pump. Groundwater levels will be monitored in nearby monitoring wells during the pumping tests. Data collected from these monitoring wells will be used to evaluate hydraulic characteristics of the formations and to guide installation of the two associated monitoring wells in the northwest Owens Lake.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: This project is subject to issuance of a lease by the California State Lands Commission. Additionally, well installation is subject to the issuance of a well drilling permit by the Inyo County Environmental Health Services Department.

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Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: City of Los Angeles Department of Water and Power

Exempt Status: *(check one)*

- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
- General Rule (Sec. 15061(b)(3));
- Categorical (Class 6; Section 15305 (a));
- Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));
- Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));

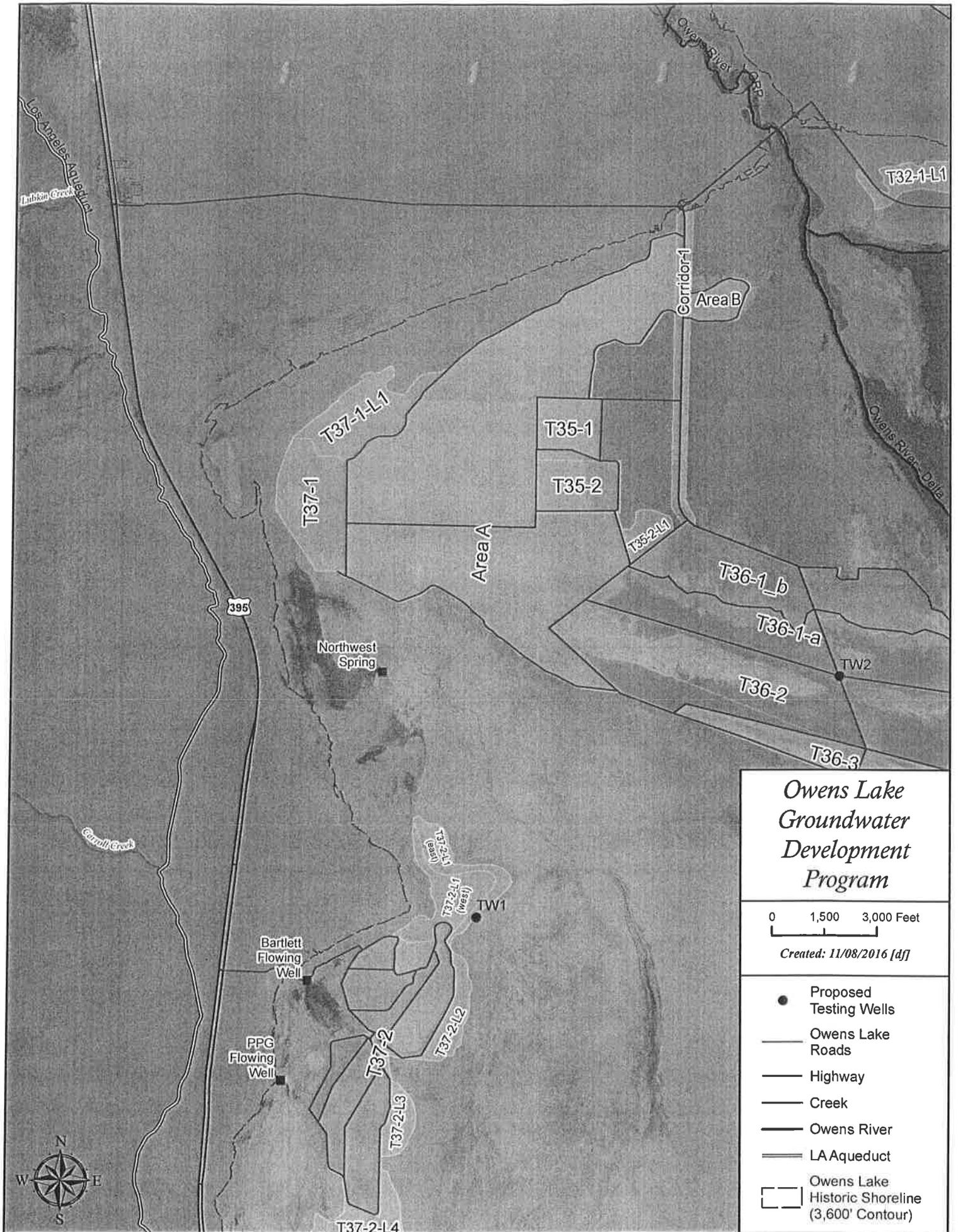
Reasons why project is exempt: Proposed testing wells will be used for collecting lithologic and geophysical logs to define stratigraphy of the formation, followed by a 24-hour pumping test and then for groundwater data gathering. Therefore the project is exempt under Class 6 (Information Collection) of the CEQA.

Lead Agency: City of Los Angeles Department of Water and Power

Contact Person: Charles C. Holloway

Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (213) 367-0285

Signature: Nadia A Parker for Date: 11-4-16
Name: Charles C. Holloway



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