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Notice of Preparation of an Environmental Impact Report
Notice of Public Meeting

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Inyo County
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Date: October 30, 2014

To: Agencies, Organizations, and Interested Parties

Subject: Notice of Preparation of an Environmental Impact Report and Notice of Public Meeting
North Haiwee Dam Seismic Improvement Project
Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP), City of Los Angeles

The LADWP is proposing to implement the North Haiwee Dam Seismic Improvement Project (proposed Project) in order to improve the seismic safety of the existing North Haiwee Dam (NHD) and North Haiwee Reservoir (NHR). LADWP operates and maintains the NHD and NHR as part of the Los Angeles Aqueduct (LAA) system.

A seismic stability evaluation of the existing Dam, conducted by LADWP, concluded that the existing Dam could experience structural failure in the event of a Controlling Maximum Credible Earthquake (MCE) scenario. The MCE is the largest earthquake which could possibly occur at a fault, based on the characteristics of that particular earthquake fault. Based on this evaluation, the California Department of Water Resources, Division of Safety of Dams (DSOD), has directed LADWP to operate the NHR at a restricted maximum surface water elevation in order to prevent flooding in the event of an MCE.

In order to operate the NHR at the normal water level permitted prior to the restrictions put in place by DSOD, LADWP needs to comply with DSOD requirements including demonstration of continuous progress on seismic improvements and initiation of construction activities for such improvements by 2017. To that end, LADWP is proposing the proposed Project, which would provide sufficient seismic reliability for the NHR, maintain the function of an essential water conveyance infrastructure component for the Los Angeles region, and protect local populations from a hazardous flooding event. The proposed Project is comprised of the construction of North Haiwee Dam Number 2 (NHD2), realignment of the LAA, realignment of Cactus Flats Road, and excavation of dam materials at one or more proposed borrow sites.

As the Lead Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act, LADWP has determined that an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) will be prepared for the proposed Project.

111 N. Hope Street, Los Angeles, California 90012-2607 *Mailing address:* Box 51111, Los Angeles, CA 90051-5700
Telephone: (213) 367-4211 www.LADWP.com

Project Location

The proposed Project would be located in unincorporated areas of Inyo County, California. The Project site is located approximately 0.5 miles southeast of the community of Olancha, and approximately 0.75 miles north of the community of Haiwee. The Project site is bordered on the south by the NHR, on the east by undeveloped, hilly LADWP-owned property, on the north by privately-owned agricultural property, and on the west by undeveloped Bureau of Land Management-owned land.

The existing Dam is located at the north end of the NHR and South Haiwee Reservoir. Cactus Flats Road travels roughly west to east, north of the existing Dam. The LAA approaches the NHR from the northwest, and enters the NHR approximately 0.25 miles south of the existing Dam. The existing Dam is approximately 0.7 miles east of the United States Highway 395 (US-395) and the Project site is accessed via the partially paved North Haiwee Road from the west and via the partially paved Cactus Flats Road from the north and east. Proposed borrow sites for NHD2 materials area located within a 21-mile radius of the NHD2 site.

Potential Environmental Effects

Potential environmental impacts that may occur as a result of the proposed Project include impacts to: 1) Aesthetics; 2) Agricultural and Forestry Resources; 3) Air Quality; 4) Biological Resources; 5) Cultural Resources; 6) Geology/Soils; 7) Greenhouse Gas Emissions; 8) Hazards and Hazardous Materials; 9) Hydrology/Water Quality; 10) Mineral Resources; 11) Noise; 12) Population/Housing; 13) Public Services; 14) Recreation; 15) Transportation; and 16) Utilities/Service Systems.

An analysis of these potential environmental impacts and other potential impacts which would have a less than significant impact or no impact is provided in the Initial Study Checklist.

Public Review Period

The Initial Study is being made available for public review for a period of 45 days beginning October 30, 2014 and ending December 15, 2014. The document may be viewed at the following website address: http://www.ladwp.com/envnotices. Copies are also available for review at:

- LADWP's Bishop Office (300 Mandich Street, Bishop, CA 93514)
- Lone Pine Library (corner of Washington and Bush Streets, Lone Pine, CA 93545).
- Independence Public Library (168 North Edwards Street, Independence, CA 93526)
- Big Pine Branch Library (500 South Main Street, Big Pine, California 93513)
- Bishop Branch Library (210 Academy Avenue, Bishop, California 93514)

Comments on the Initial Study must be received in writing no later than 5:00pm, December 15, 2015 and should be sent to:

Los Angeles Department of Water and Power
Environmental Affairs
111 N. Hope Street Room 1050
Los Angeles, CA 90012
Attention: Ms. Laura Hunter

Comments may also be submitted to Ms. Hunter via fax at (213) 367-4710 or via email at Laura.Hunter@ladwp.com.

Notice of Public Meeting

A public meeting will be held to discuss the scope and content of the environmental information to be included in the EIR. Agency representatives and members of the public interested in the proposed Project are welcome to attend. The meeting will be:

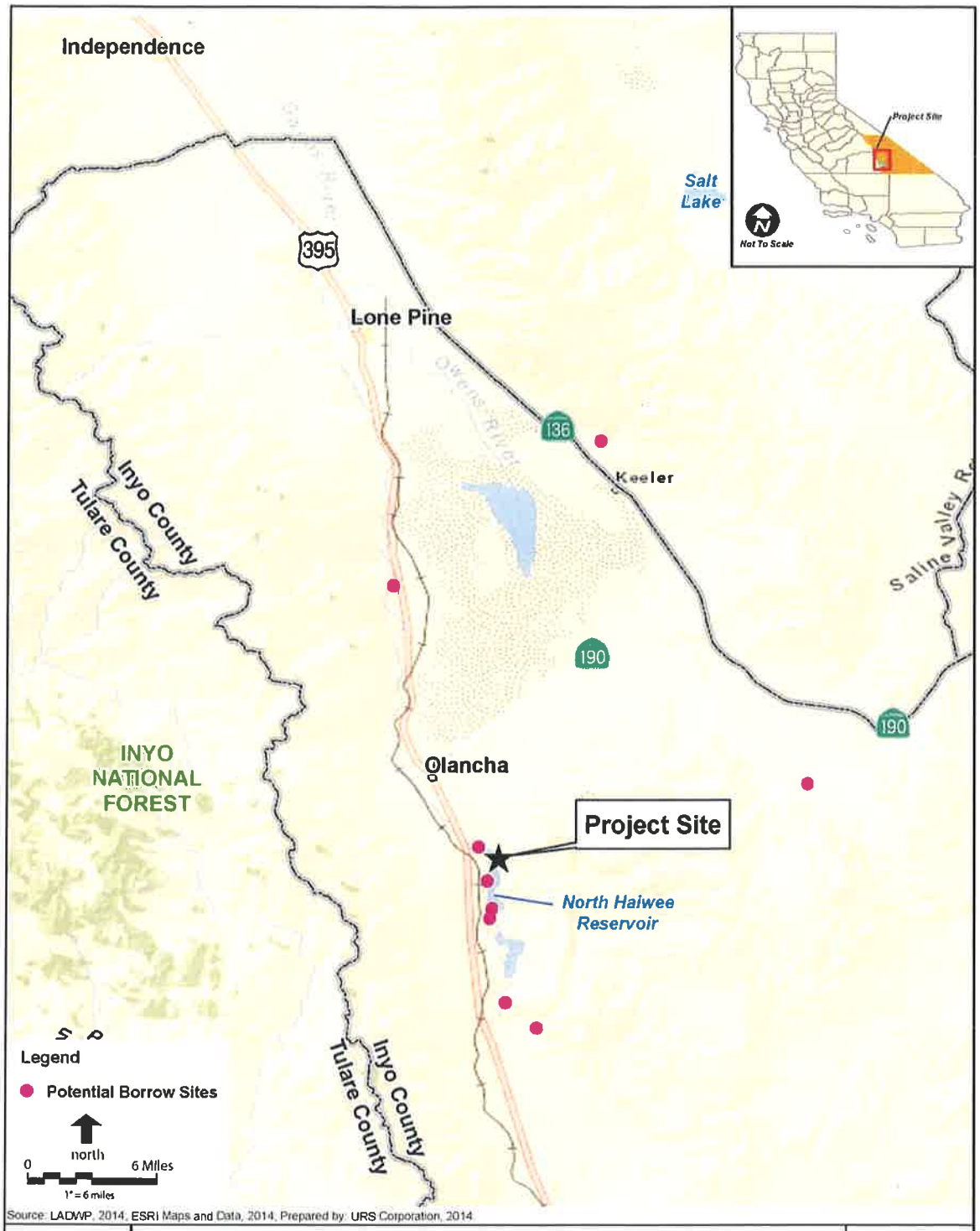
Wednesday, November 19, 2014
6:30pm – 8:30pm
Statham Hall (Lone Pine Senior Center)
138 Jackson Street
Lone Pine, CA 93545

If you require additional information, please contact Ms. Laura Hunter at (213) 367-4096.

Sincerely,

Charles C. Holloway

Charles C. Holloway
Manager of Environmental Planning and Assessment
Los Angeles Department of Water and Power



URS | **Project Area** | *Figure 1*