Los Angeles LADWP Department of Water & Power

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NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

Date: September 22, 2014

To: Affected Agencies, Organizations and Interested Persons

Subject: Notice of Intent (NOI) to Adopt a Negative Declaration (ND) for the Owens Gorge Flow Restoration Project

A Negative Declaration (ND) has been prepared by the City of Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP), for the proposed Owens Gorge Flow Restoration Project. LADWP is the Lead Agency, pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), responsible for preparation of this document.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Based on a series of agreements between the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), Mono County, the State of California, and LADWP, LADWP proposes to implement a flow regime intended to establish and maintain a fishery in good condition in portions of the Owens River Gorge (Gorge), below the Upper Gorge Power Plant. This would satisfy the requirements of the California Fish and Game Code Section 5937. The proposed project is intended to enhance the riverine-riparian habitat in the Gorge, while simultaneously maintaining LADWP's power generation and transmission and water storage and distribution capabilities. The proposed project involves implementation of a permanent flow release schedule in the middle and lower reaches of the Gorge between the Upper Gorge Power Plant and the Control Gorge Power Plant set forth in a Stipulation and Order agreed upon by the Mono County District Attorney, Mono County Counsel, LADWP, and CDFW. The flow schedule would include base flows and seasonal peak flows, including channel maintenance peak flows and riparian peak flows. To accommodate the peak flows, the proposed project would also include the protection, reinforcement, and/or modification of some existing LADWP power generation and transmission structures within the Gorge. Additionally, the proposed project would include the installation of a fishway at the existing fish barrier located upstream of the Control Gorge Power Plant.

PROJECT LOCATION

The Owens River Gorge is located between Crowley Lake Reservoir in southwest Mono County and Pleasant Valley Reservoir in northwest Inyo County, California. The City of Bishop is located approximately 8.5 miles southeast of Pleasant Valley Reservoir. The proposed project encompasses the approximately 10-mile segment of the Gorge from the Upper Gorge Power Plant to the Control Gorge Power Plant. The proposed project segment of the Gorge is located entirely on land owned and controlled by the City of Los Angeles.

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Telephone: (213) 367-4211 www.LADWP.com

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

The 30-day public comment period for this NOI will commence on September 23, 2014, and conclude on October 23 2014. The ND is available for review on the LADWP website at http://www.ladwp.com/envnotices and at the following locations:

LADWP Bishop Operations Office
300 Mandich Street
Bishop, CA 93514

Inyo County Library
210 Academy Avenue
Bishop, CA 93514

Please submit comments in writing to the address provided below. Comment letters must be received by 5:00 p.m. on **October 23, 2014**.

Los Angeles Department of Water and Power
111 North Hope Street, Room 1044
Los Angeles, CA 90012
Attn: Julie Van Wagner
Email: Julie.VanWagner@ladwp.com

All comments received related to issues discussed in the ND will be included in the final package that is forwarded to the City of Los Angeles Board of Water and Power Commissioners for final consideration.

For any questions regarding the review of the ND, please contact Ms. Julie Van Wagner at (213) 367-5295.

Sincerely,

Julie Van Wagner

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

JVW:nph

c: Ms. Julie Van Wagner