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COUNTY OF INYO WATER DEPARTMENT

July 25, 2024

Dear Bishop Resident:

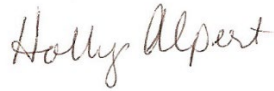
You are receiving this letter because you live near a site where the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) proposes to install a new groundwater production well. Under the Inyo/Los Angeles Long-Term Water Agreement (LTWA), LADWP may construct new wells in areas where groundwater conditions are suitable and where the operation of a new well will not have a significant effect on the environment. This includes avoiding adverse effects on water quality or water levels in private, non-LADWP wells. LADWP plans to construct this well in southwest Bishop at a location known as "B-5". This site is located south of Schober Lane and between Sunland Indian Reservation Road and Sunland Drive along the Hall Ditch (see map next page). LADWP states that this well would give them more flexibility in water operations (including providing water to ditches in the Bishop area) and may also be used as backup for existing wells in the Bishop area to provide water for irrigation.

Under the LTWA, the Inyo County Water Department is responsible for helping to ensure that proper monitoring and management are in place to minimize the impacts of a new well to environmental resources, including nearby vegetation and private wells. Concerns about construction of a well at this site have been raised in the past because of the many private wells located in the vicinity of B-5. Most private wells in the area are less than 250 feet deep and pump groundwater primarily from the shallow groundwater system. In order to minimize impacts on private wells and nearby vegetation, LADWP proposes to pump water at B-5 from the hydraulically separate deep aquifer (approximately 400-700 feet below ground surface). In addition, LADWP has installed a monitoring well (T988) to the northwest of the B-5 site along Schober Lane. The monitoring well is located between the B-5 site and the nearest private wells. This well is constructed so that it will track groundwater levels in the shallow, intermediate, and deep aquifers and can give an early indication if water levels in the shallower groundwater system drop due to pumping a well at B-5.

Before operating the new well, there are several steps LADWP must follow. First, before drilling the well, LADWP must comply with California's environmental protection law. After drilling the well, LADWP will conduct a 24- to 72-hour pumping test to gather data on how pumping the well affects nearby groundwater levels. This test will also allow LADWP to update its groundwater model, which predicts groundwater movement in the Bishop-Laws area. Once this is complete and the results have been analyzed, LADWP will operate the well for a full growing season to gather more data for additional analysis of potential impacts. The Water Department has proposed that LADWP continue to comply with the environmental protection law at each step in the process.

In addition to the Water Department's efforts to help develop a monitoring and management plan that will protect our local resources, including private wells, the Inyo County Water Commission will consider and comment on the proposed well at a future public meeting, which will be noticed in advance. You can follow the Inyo County website for updates: www.inyowater.org. You are also welcome to contact the Inyo County Water Department (760-878-0002), 3rd District Supervisor Scott Marcellin (smarcellin@inyocounty.us), or 4th District Supervisor Jennifer Roeser (jroeser@inyocounty.us).

Sincerely,



Holly Alpert
Inyo County Water Director
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