Department of Water and Power the City of Los Angeles

ANTONIO R. VILLARAIGOSA
Mayor

RONALD F. DEATON, *General Manager*

September 28, 2005

Mr. Phil McDowell
Interim Water Director
Inyo County Water Department
163 May Street
Bishop, California 95314

Dear Mr. McDowell:

Subject: Revised Proposed Operational Plan for 2005-06 Runoff Year

In accordance with the Inyo County Superior Court's August 9, 2005 Order (Order), Case No. S1CVCV01-29768, the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) has prepared this Proposed Operational Plan for groundwater pumping and water recharge operations in Owens Valley for the remainder of the 2005-06 runoff year as outlined below.

Based on the Order, the total Owens Valley pumping for the 2005-06 runoff year must be limited to 57,412 acre-feet. The revised pumping from the Owens Valley for the 2005-06 runoff year is expected to be 57,412 acre-feet while the available pumping capacity according to ON/OFF provisions of the Inyo/Los Angeles Long-Term Groundwater Management Plan (Agreement) is 123,235 acre-feet as of July 2005.

Enclosed with this Proposed Operational Plan please find revisions to Tables 3, 5, 7, and 8 of the "Los Angeles Department of Water and Power Annual Owens Valley Report," dated May 2005. As required by the Order, the in-valley uses will remain the same as was planned at the beginning of the year. The following is the revised groundwater pumping operation plan for each wellfield.

- **Laws Wellfield**

The vegetation monitoring site L1 remained in ON status as of July 2005. The available pumping capacity from this wellfield is 24,399 acre-feet according to On/OFF status. During the first four months of the year 7,135 acre-feet of water was spread in the Laws Wellfield, recharging the groundwater aquifer. Pumping from the Laws Wellfield includes water for irrigation, Enhancement/Mitigation

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(E/M) projects, stock water, domestic use, and the LA Aqueduct. The total production from the Laws Wellfield for the 2005-06 runoff year is expected to be 4,583 acre-feet.

The Order also included an additional spreading of 16,294 acre-feet in the Laws Wellfield. Based on the capacity of the Upper and Lower McNally canals and operational requirements of the LA Aqueduct, spreading activity in the Laws Wellfield is planned to start on November 1, 2005. By March 31, 2006, an additional 16,294 acre-feet will be spread in the Laws areas. The total water spreading in Laws Wellfield during the 2005-06 runoff year will be at least 23,429 acre-feet.

- **Bishop Wellfield**

Pumping from the Bishop Wellfield is governed by the provisions of the Hillside Decree. Due to the high runoff conditions, in the first five months of the year pumping was less than water used on Los Angeles-owned lands in the Bishop area. As a result, the total pumping from the Bishop Wellfield for the 2005-06 runoff year is expected to be 7,777 acre-feet.

- **Big Pine Wellfield**

The vegetation monitoring sites BP3 and BP4 remained in ON status as of July 2005. The total available pumping capacity in the Big Pine Wellfield is 37,867 acre-feet. During the first four months of the year 2,449 acre-feet of water was spread in the Big Pine Wellfield, recharging the aquifer. Pumping from the Big Pine Wellfield includes water for the Fish Springs Fish Hatchery and the town water system. Considering the groundwater recharge from the high runoff, water spreading, and the minimum pumping, this wellfield is and will remain in compliance with the mining provisions of the Green Book for the rest of the year. The total production from the Big Pine Wellfield for the 2005-06 runoff year is expected to be 20,681 acre-feet.

- **Taboose-Aberdeen Wellfield**

The vegetation monitoring site TA5 remained in ON status as of July 2005. The total available pumping capacity in the Taboose-Aberdeen Wellfield is 12,380. During the first four months of the year 5,196 acre-feet of water was spread in the Taboose-Aberdeen Wellfield, recharging the aquifer. Pumping from Taboose-Aberdeen includes water for maintaining a pond adjacent to the Owens River and LA Aqueduct supply. The total production from the Taboose-Aberdeen Wellfield for the 2005-06 runoff year is expected to be 2,661 acre-feet.

- **Thibaut-Sawmill Wellfield**

The vegetation monitoring site TS3 remained in ON status as of July 2005. The total available pumping capacity in the Thibaut-Sawmill Wellfield is 15,566 acre-feet. During the first four months of the year 367 acre-feet of water was spread in the Thibaut-Sawmill Wellfield, recharging the aquifer. Pumping from the Thibaut-Sawmill Wellfield includes water for the Black Rock Fish Hatchery. The total production from the Thibaut-Sawmill Wellfield for the 2005-06 runoff year is expected to be 11,909 acre-feet.

- **Independence-Oak Wellfield**

No vegetation monitoring site in the Independence-Oak Wellfield was in ON status as of July 2005. The available pumping capacity in the Independence-Oak Wellfield is from exempt wells and totals 13,973 acre-feet. A total of 3,840 acre-feet of water was spread in the Independence-Oak Wellfield during the first fours month of the year, recharging the aquifer. Pumping from the Independence-Oak Wellfield includes water for irrigation, E/M projects, and the town water system. The total production from the Independence-Oak Wellfield for the 2005-06 runoff year is expected to be 5,714 acre-feet.

- **Symmes-Shepherd Wellfield**

No vegetation monitoring site in the Symmes-Shepherd Wellfield was in ON status as of July 2005. The available pumping capacity of this wellfield is 1,400 acre-feet according to ON/OFF status. A total of 2,180 acre-feet of water was spread in the Symmes-Shepherd Wellfield during the first four months of the year, recharging the aquifer. Pumping from the Symmes-Shepherd Wellfield includes water for irrigation, E/M projects, and the LA Aqueduct. The total production from the Symmes-Shepherd Wellfield for the 2005-06 runoff year is expected to be 1,342 acre-feet.

- **Bairs-Georges Wellfield**

The vegetation monitoring site BG2 remained in ON status as of July 2005. The total available pumping capacity in the Bairs-Georges Wellfield is 4,054 acre-feet. A total of 1,835 acre-feet of water was spread in the Bairs-Georges Wellfield during the first four months of the year, recharging the aquifer. Pumping from the Bairs-Georges Wellfield includes water for an operational testing related to the Reinhackle Spring. Since this is an above-normal runoff year, LADWP does not expect to pump in order to maintain the minimum flow requirements in Georges

Creek. The total production from the Bairs-Georges Wellfield for the 2005-06 runoff year is expected to be 1,479 acre-feet.

- **Lone Pine Wellfield**

There is no vegetation monitoring site in the Lone Pine area. The total available pumping capacity in the Lone Pine Wellfield is 1,596 acre-feet. Pumping from the Lone Pine Wellfield includes water for E/M projects and the town water system. LADWP has drilled a new production well in the Lone Pine area according to the provisions of the Agreement. This well awaits the Initial Operation Phase as described in the Green Book. Due to the objection of the Inyo County Water Department (ICWD), a one-month pump test is proposed by LADWP. If ICWD agrees to the proposed pumping protocol, this pumping can occur at the end of this runoff year. The total production from Lone Pine Wellfield for the 2005-06 runoff year is expected to be 1,266 acre-feet.

Similar to all previous years, it may be necessary to pump a number of production wells adjacent to the LA Aqueduct to protect the aqueduct from freezing during the winter months. If such pumping becomes necessary, the ICWD will be notified of the wells that should be operated.

Table 8 has been revised to reflect the reduction in pumping from approximately 90,000 acre-feet to 57,412 acre-feet for in-valley use and the additional spreading of 16,294 acre-feet in the Laws Wellfield. The revised total flow of water to the City of Los Angeles is expected to be 375,971 acre-feet for the 2005-06 runoff year. This amount represents 23,849 acre-feet of additional aqueduct delivery than was originally forecasted for the first five months of the runoff year, and 7,483 acre-feet of forecasted lower reservoir storage at the end of the runoff year.

The LADWP is planning to closely monitor and report the actual pumping during the remainder of this runoff year as required by the Order. The planned pumping as described above may be adjusted near the end of year to ensure that total Owens Valley pumping for 2005-06 runoff year will not exceed 57,412 acre-feet.

Please note that this Revised Proposed Operational Plan is being submitted by LADWP in compliance with the Order and sets forth the LADWP's proposed plan for groundwater pumping operations and groundwater recharge operations for the remainder of the 2005-06 runoff year in light of the conditions imposed in the Order. As indicated, this is a proposed plan. Actual operations may, and usually do, differ from the proposed plan. Those differences will be reflected in the monthly reports.

Please feel free to contact me at (760) 873-0225 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY
GENE L. COUFAL

Gene L. Coufal
Manager
Aqueduct Business Group

Enclosures