

**LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF WATER AND POWER  
ANNUAL OWENS VALLEY REPORT**

**Annual Owens Valley Operations Plan for Runoff Year 2007-08  
Conditions of Owens Valley  
Status of 1991 Environmental Impact Report Mitigation Measure  
Status of Other Studies, Projects, and Activities**

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A The Bishop Cone Audit for the 2005-2006 Runoff Year

## **SUMMARY**

This report includes LADWP's proposed Owens Valley operations plan for the 2007-2008 runoff year, an update on Owens Valley conditions, the current status of LADWP's environmental and mitigation projects, and other studies, projects, and activities.

### **Owens Valley Annual Operations Plan Summary**

For the period of April 1, 2007 to March 31, 2008 the forecasted Owens Valley runoff is 241,300 acre-feet, or 58% of normal. According to the well ON/OFF provisions of the Water Agreement, approximately 140,300 acre-feet of water are available for groundwater pumping from Owens Valley wellfields. The planned pumping for the 2007-2008 runoff year is regulated by additional obligations/agreements beyond the Water Agreement. Currently pumping is regulated by court order which limits LADWP's pumping to 56,194 acre-feet. Upon lifting of the court's order LADWP pumping will be limited to 63,232 acre-feet under the Inyo County/LADWP IMP Agreement.

### **Owens Valley Conditions**

The 2007-2008 runoff year is forecasted to be one of the lowest on record. The overall Eastern Sierra snow pack as of April 1, 2007 was 22% of normal. Similarly, precipitation on the valley floor has been below normal with approximately 2.5 inches as compared to the long-term average of 5.9 inches. The actual precipitation in 2006-07 runoff year ranged between 1.41 inches at the Alabama Gates gauge and 5.9 inches at the Big Pine gauge. Due to last year's above-average precipitation and runoff, overall vegetation cover in the Owens Valley was above the mid-1980's baseline conditions in 2005 (2006 data is not available) and groundwater levels generally moved upward.

### **Enhancement/Mitigation Project Status**

Enhancement/Mitigation projects are environmental projects that were implemented prior to the 1991 Owens Valley Groundwater Pumping EIR. Some of these projects were identified in the EIR as mitigations for impacts due to LADWP's water gathering activities. There are twenty six projects identified as enhancement/mitigation measures; 24 of these have been completed or are being implemented, and two are in the final planning stages.

### **Mitigation Project Status**

There are forty-two mitigation projects identified for thirteen impacts in the 1991 Owens Valley EIR. Twenty-nine of these projects have been completed or are

being fully implemented. Ten of the mitigation projects are currently partially implemented, as they are in the process of being constructed or are being revegetated. Three projects are in the planning phase.

**Other Studies**

Inyo County and LADWP are jointly working toward the completion of nine cooperative studies to develop a better understanding of Owens Valley natural resources and their connection to LADWP water gathering activities.

The status of the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Programs for the Laws 2004 revegetation project, Well 415 in Big Pine, and the LORP project has been updated. The status on implementation of the 1991 Water Agreement and the 1997 MOU provisions has also been updated.