

SUMMARY

This report includes LADWP's proposed Owens Valley operations plan for the 2009-10 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, 2009 to March 31, 2010 the forecast Owens Valley runoff is 294,100 acre-feet, or 71% of normal. According to the well ON/OFF provisions of the Water Agreement, approximately 135,000 acre-feet of water is available for groundwater pumping from Owens Valley wellfields. Currently, LADWP pumping is governed by the ON/OFF provisions of the *1991 Agreement between the County of Inyo and the City of Los Angeles (City) and its Department of Water and Power on a Long-Term Groundwater Management Plan for Owens Valley and Inyo County (Water Agreement)* and the *Agreement Between the County of Inyo and the City of Los Angeles Department of Water and Power Regarding and Interim Management Plan for Groundwater Pumping in the Owens Valley (IMP)* agreed upon by Inyo County and LADWP. Accordingly, LADWP's planned pumping is limited to 63,450 acre-feet (acft) for 2009-10 runoff year.

Owens Valley Conditions

The 2009-10 runoff year is forecast to be below normal. The overall Eastern Sierra snow pack as of April 1, 2009 was 72% of normal. Similarly, precipitation on the valley floor has been below normal with approximately 3.24 inches as compared to the long-term average of 5.97 inches. Despite last year's below normal runoff, the overall vegetation cover in the Owens Valley remained above the mid-1980's baseline conditions in 2008. Similarly, groundwater levels in the wellfields generally remained stable mainly due to minimal pumping by LADWP for in-valley uses.

During 2008-09 runoff year the Lower Owens River was in full operation status with minimum average flows of 40 cfs measured at all gauge stations. The total water use by the Lower Owens River, the Delta, and the Blackrock Waterfowl Habitat was approximately 25,000 acre-feet for the year. The releases at the Los Angeles Aqueduct (LAA) intake is augmented through additional releases at the Independence, Blackrock, Georges, Locust, and Alabama spillgates to maintain an average continuous flow of at least 40 cfs in the river channel.

Construction of Owens Lake Dust Mitigation Measures continued during 2008-09 runoff year. With the additional areas covered by the Dust Control Project, water demand by the project continued to increase with total water use of 60,000 acft during 2008-09 runoff years.

Enhancement/Mitigation Project Status

The enhancement/mitigation projects discussed in this report are environmental projects that were implemented prior to the *1991 EIR Water From the Owens Valley to Supply the Second Los Angeles Aqueduct* (1991 EIR), used to evaluate a long-term groundwater management plan in the Owens Valley. Some of these projects were identified in the 1991 EIR as mitigations for impacts due to LADWP's water gathering activities. There are 26 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 42 mitigation projects identified for thirteen impacts in the 1991 EIR. 29 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.

Green Book Revision Cooperative Study

Inyo County and LADWP are jointly working toward the completion of Green Book Revision cooperative studies to develop a better understanding of Owens Valley natural resources and an updated procedure for managing natural resources in Owens Valley.

The status of the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Programs for the Laws Irrigation Project, Well 415 in Big Pine, and the Lower Owens River Project (LORP) have been updated. The status on implementation of the Water Agreement and the 1997 Memorandum of Understanding between LADWP, Inyo County, the California Department of Fish and Game, the California State Lands Commission, the Sierra Club, and the Owens Valley Committee (1997 MOU) provisions have also been updated.