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**COUNTY OF INYO
WATER DEPARTMENT**

April 29, 2009

Clarence Martin, Assistant Aqueduct Manager
Los Angeles Department of Water and Power
300 Mandich Street
Bishop, CA 93514

Dear Mr. Martin:

In accordance with the provisions of the Inyo/Los Angeles Long-Term Water Agreement, we are providing the following comments on your proposed Owens Valley Operations Plan for Runoff Year 2009-10.

On the cover page, it is stated that:

This Owens Valley Operations Plan for Runoff Year 2009-10 is a preliminary draft, and is being transmitted to you as a governmental entity based upon your agreement to treat this material as confidential. The individuals authorized to view this material are ICWD staff reviewing and providing input into LADWP's Annual Owens Valley Report.

This statement is incorrect, in that we have not agreed to treat the proposed Operations Plan as confidential. We believe the proposed Operations Plan is a public document, and have always treated it so.

We concur that the proposed 63,100 acre-feet of pumping complies with the Interim Management Plan.

We note that the total pumping for the Owens Valley for 2008-2009 shown in Table 9 exceeded the planned pumping by 1,349 acre-feet. The Water Department has analyzed the difference in water table elevation cause by this additional pumping, and it appears to have resulted in water levels 0.1 – 0.4 feet lower than would have occurred had the planned amount been pumped. Recognizing that the proposed pumping for 2009-2010 is limited to in-valley uses, we do not propose that pumping for 2009-2010 be reduced to compensate for the over-pumping. However, should in-valley uses be reduced, we believe that compliance with the Interim Management Plan requires that pumping be reduced by an equivalent amount.

The Water Department received an e-mail on April 28 indicating LADWP's intent to raise the pumping in the Taboose-Aberdeen wellfield to 550 acre-feet. In light of the over pumping of 308 acre-feet in the Taboose-Aberdeen wellfield during 2008-2009 and the resulting water table decline, we believe that pumping should remain at 200 acre-feet in the Taboose-Aberdeen wellfield, as described in the proposed Operations Plan.

As discussed at the April 13, 2009 Technical Group meeting, the Water Department will provide LADWP with comments on the latest draft of the protocol for the initial operation of well W416. We are concerned that the triggers described in the draft are not sufficiently protective of non-LADWP wells near W416, and that the six month duration of the test is too long.

In order to comply with the Long-Term Water Agreement's process for development of Operations Plans, the Technical Group should meet within 10 days to attempt to resolve the County's concerns with the proposed Operations Plan. We propose that the Technical Group meet on Monday, May 4 to discuss the Operations Plan.

Sincerely,

Robert Harrington
Water Director