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For Immediate Release

BATTLE BREWING IN MONO COUNTY

Over One Hundred Community Members Turn Out to Oppose Los Angeles Department of Water & Power

Bridgeport, CA (August 8, 2018) – Over one hundred community members from across Mono County packed the Mono County Courthouse in Bridgeport, CA yesterday as the Mono County Supervisors held public comment on the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power’s plans to cease irrigation allotments in Long and Little Round Valleys. The action could potentially destroy thousands of acres of sensitive wetland habitat.

Over a dozen environmental organizations, as well as representatives from the Bureau of Land Management, the Great Basin Air Quality Control District, and even ex-LADWP employees, joined Mammoth Lakes Recreation in voicing their concerns over the plans. Spokespeople from Friends of the Inyo, the Mono Lake Committee, Eastern Sierra Land Trust, the Sierra Club and others cited concerns ranging from threats to the bi-state sage grouse, a California species of special concern which utilizes the area as brooding site, to climate change, to opening the door to invasive plant species and increasing the risk of wildfires. Mammoth Lakes Recreation spoke out on the potential impacts to Long Valleys famous fishing resources.

“Yesterday’s meeting should serve as a shot across the bow for LADWP,” said Matt McClain, executive director for Mammoth Lakes Recreation. “There is widespread opposition to this plan within the community and our sights are set squarely on the agency and Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti.”

The Mono County Supervisors voted unanimously to take action against the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, including possible litigation to restrain the agency’s actions in Mono County and prevent further harm.

In public comment, Mammoth Lakes Recreation stated that it would support whatever action the County deemed necessary to stop LADWP’s plans to destroy the wetlands.

About Mammoth Lakes Recreation

Formed in 2014, Mammoth Lakes Recreation’s mission is to deliver cutting edge sustainable recreation, mobility, and arts & culture opportunities and infrastructure for the benefit of the community and natural environment of Mammoth Lakes. We work to fulfill our mission by focusing our efforts in three areas: capital projects, advocacy, and entrepreneurship. For more information, go to www.mammothlakesrecreation.org.