



Town of Mammoth Lakes
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Via U.S. Mail and Email
Mayor Eric Garcetti
City of Los Angeles
200 North Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

August 15, 2018

RE: Los Angeles Department of Water and Power's Decision to Dewater Mono County Environment and Ranchlands

Honorable Mayor Garcetti:

The Town of Mammoth Lakes is aware of the ongoing discussions between Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) and the Mono County Board of Supervisors (Board) regarding the diversion and export of water from wetland, ranch, and meadow areas in Mono County. It is the Town's understanding that LADWP has also indicated its long-term plans to further (and permanently) reduce the amount of water supplied to these lands, following environmental review under CEQA. On Tuesday, August 7, Town staff attended a meeting of the Board at which this item was discussed. Over 100 people ranging from private citizens to environmental groups and non-profits to other government entities, including Bureau of Land Management and the local Paiute tribe, spoke and provided comments in opposition to this practice.

While the LADWP actions do not have direct effects on the Town of Mammoth Lakes, there are significant potential economic and environmental impacts to the entire Eastern Sierra region. As you are aware, the majority of our tourism comes from Southern California, including Los Angeles County. The Town sees millions of visitors each year who come to Mammoth Lakes and the Eastern Sierra to enjoy our abundant and beautiful natural resources and outdoor recreation opportunities. Current observations show that LADWP's current diversion and export of water from 6,400 acres of wetland and meadow areas in Long Valley and Little Round Valley is already having negative impacts on sensitive species, including the Bi-State Sage Grouse and habitat crucial to its survival. It is also significantly impacting the recreational and agricultural economy of the Eastern Sierra region.

The Town is extremely concerned that environmental analysis has not been completed prior to changing historical practices with regards to how water is managed throughout lands in Mono County. Without conducting a proper environmental impact analysis prior to its decision, there is no way to conclude that LADWP's actions are not an immediate threat to the environment. The Town is concerned that irreversible damage may have already occurred. Until sufficient

environmental analysis can be conducted, the Town strongly urges LADWP to reevaluate the current water allotment for this year and allow more water to be used locally in order to prevent additional lands from drying up and turning brown.

The Town appreciates LADWP's concerns regarding climate change. As a resort community that relies heavily on winter visitation and snowfall, we understand firsthand how critical addressing potential impacts from climate change is. However, climate change is a complex issue, and simply reducing local water usage and diverting water out of this area is not a sustainable solution. In depth analysis needs to be conducted in order to determine actual water needs and to assess those against snowpack and anticipated runoff in any given year.

The Town of Mammoth Lakes strongly urges you to immediately deliver water to Mono County lands, and to not implement any future water diversions until a complete and thorough CEQA analysis has been completed.

Sincerely,

V. Cleland Hoff
Mayor

Cc: Liz Crosson, Director of Infrastructure, Office of Mayor Garcetti
Aura Vasquez, Commissioner, LADWP Board of Commissioners
Martin L. Adams, Chief Operating Officer, LADWP
Richard F. Harasick, Senior Assistant General Manager, LADWP
Nancy Sutley, Chief Sustainability Officer, LADWP
Joseph A. Brajevich, General Counsel, LADWP
Julie C. Riley, Supervising Attorney, LADWP
U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein
U.S. Senator Kamala Harris
U.S. Congressman Paul Cook
U.S. Congressman Jim Costa
U.S. Congressman Tony Cardenas
U.S. Congresswoman Nanette Diaz Barragan
U.S. Congresswoman Judy Chu
U.S. Congressman Jimmy Gomez
U.S. Congresswoman Maxine Waters
California State Senator Tom Berryhill
California State Senator Bob Hertzberg
California State Senator Jeff Stone
California State Senator Ben Allen
California State Senator Henry Stern
California State Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon
California State Assemblymember Frank Bigelow
California State Assemblymember Eduardo Garcia
California State Assemblymember James Gallagher

California State Assemblymember Wendy Carillo
California State Assemblymember Laura Friedman
Secretary John Laird, California Natural Resources Agency
Director Charlton Bonham, California Department of Fish and Wildlife Secretary
Felicia Marcus, California State Water Resources Control Board Executive Officer
Patty Z. Kouyoumdjian, Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board
Carolyn Swed, Steve Abele, Justin Barrett, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Steve Nelson, U.S. Bureau of Land Management
Holly Alpert, Inyo-Mono Regional Water Management Group
Mono County Board of Supervisors
Inyo County Board of Supervisors