



MONO LAKE COMMITTEE

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July 21, 2021

Cynthia McClain-Hill, LADWP Board Commissioner President
Susana Reyes, LADWP Board Commissioner Vice President
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Nicole Neeman Brady, LADWP Board Commissioner
Mia Lehrer, LADWP Board Commissioner
Martin Adams, LADWP General Manager and Chief Engineer

Los Angeles Department of Water & Power
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Los Angeles, California 90051-5700

Sent via email

RE: Restoration of Streams Tributary to Mono Lake

Dear President McClain-Hill, Commissioners, and General Manager Adams:

I write today to offer congratulations and, on behalf of the Mono Lake Committee, to say “thank you.” Stream restoration in the Mono Basin is poised to leap forward thanks to our collaborative work together.

This past week a major milestone was achieved in the fulfillment of the 2013 Settlement Agreement between the LA Department of Water & Power, the Mono Lake Committee, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and CalTrout. On July 12, the State Water Resources Control Board issued its Draft Administrative Order to approve LADWP’s Petition to implement beneficial stream restoration measures built on decades of independent scientific research and monitoring.

We appreciated discussing these benefits at your Commission meeting in April. By reactivating a full range of ecological and geomorphological processes, this new era of stream restoration will provide 20 miles of Rush, Lee Vining, Parker and Walker creeks a programmatic path to restore environmental integrity and much-needed resilience, especially important in a time of climate disruption.

The journey we have been on has not always been easy and many challenges remain before us. We share a goal of healing the Mono Basin ecosystem—the streams, lake and habitat—from environmental damage done decades ago by excessive aqueduct water diversions and returning these vital natural resources to health.

The Draft Order reflects our mutual success from working together. The voluntary Settlement Agreement between our four agencies and organizations is today

providing a meaningful and valuable framework for regulatory implementation of the State Water Board's mandates.

According to the Draft Order, the State Water Board anticipates approving LADWP's Petition later this summer by amending the City's Mono Basin water licenses to include the stream restoration provisions of the Settlement Agreement. This will be a major step forward in the restoration of these damaged habitats, and it also will deliver the benefits our organizations agreed to, such as incentivized cost offsets for the outlet construction at Grant Reservoir, streamlining management of the stream restoration monitoring program, and providing for science-based adaptive management.

The progress made here through collaboration is a model for approaching the challenges that lie ahead, from a sustainable water supply in the City to the restoration of Mono Lake. The Mono Lake Committee looks forward to continued collaboration with the Commission, LADWP, the City of Los Angeles, and Los Angeles residents to pursue the protection of the public trust at Mono Lake and its tributary streams.

Sincerely,



Geoffrey McQuilkin
Executive Director

Cc: State Water Resources Control Board
California Department of Fish and Wildlife
California Trout
Mayor Garcetti, City of Los Angeles
Los Angeles City Council
Mono County Supervisors
Mono Lake Kutzadika'a Tribe
Inyo National Forest
Great Basin Unified Air Pollution Control District
Governor, State of California
Secretary, California Natural Resources Agency
Secretary, CalEPA