

Los Angeles Aqueduct Tour



September 10, 2022 • Rose Nelson

**\$145 per person / \$130 for Mono Lake Committee members
enrollment limited to 15 participants**

The Mono Basin extension of the Los Angeles Aqueduct began exporting water 350 miles south to the City of LA in 1941. Today, the aqueduct must balance competing needs instead of exclusively serving one. Join Mono Lake Committee Education Director Rose Nelson for a focused, field-based investigation of the north end of the aqueduct system. We'll visit all the major aqueduct facilities in the Mono Basin and learn about their modern relationship with Los Angeles, Mono Lake, and its tributary streams. We will look at the changes coming from the 2021 Mono Basin Stream Restoration Order, discuss past and present diversions, and see how 20th century infrastructure is serving the 21st century water needs. This field seminar will provide a great overview of the Mono Basin system, the Los Angeles Aqueduct, and a few of the historical, engineering, and ecological anecdotes that make up this fascinating water infrastructure.

Rose Nelson is the Mono Lake Committee's Education Director. The boundless natural history of the Mono Basin initially brought her here, but understanding and interpreting the importance of the policies that protect the basin has deepened her appreciation of the area's complex water history. A vibrant interpreter, she will bring the story of the aqueduct to life while leading you along the engineering seam that shapes the landscape of the Mono Basin with interesting stops that reveal the hydrology, ecology, and history of Mono Lake and the Los Angeles Aqueduct.

ITINERARY

Saturday, September 10, 8:00am: Meet at the Mono Lake Committee Information Center & Bookstore in Lee Vining. After check-in and introductions, we'll spend about an hour in the Committee's gallery for a general orientation to the Mono Basin watershed and some general hydrology concepts. We'll look at old maps from the Mono Lake research library showing historic patterns of land ownership and water management.

We will then move outdoors to begin our field portion starting at the top of the Los Angeles Aqueduct at the Lee Vining Creek diversion, where some of the water first begins its long journey to the city, and where the rest of the water flows past modernized infrastructure for the benefit of all. We will then follow the path of the aqueduct south to visit each diversion site and discuss the important historical, as well as current, relevance of each.

After lunch at a shady spot with restrooms, we'll continue along the aqueduct path until we reach the holding site of all Mono Basin diversions, Grant Lake Reservoir, to see how water gets out of the reservoir and into Rush Creek and Mono Lake. We will end the day down along the Rush Creek bottomlands to discuss stream restoration and the exciting recent developments with the State Water Board's Order 21-86, issued in October 2021. All along the way, throughout the day, we will not fail to notice relevant bits of natural and human history that accent this unusual water conveyance. The day will end around 5:00pm.

ACTIVITY LEVEL: EASY

This seminar's activity level: *easy*. We will be walking short distances from cars on mostly graded or well-established flat trails. There will be a few short off trail sections in soft sand on relatively flat ground. Many locations are in full sun and the seminar will require quite a bit of standing.

WEATHER & ALTITUDE

Temperatures in summer will be hot during the day and drop to chilly at night, with possible windy conditions and afternoon thunderstorms. Average temperatures in September in Lee Vining are 76°F (max) and 47°F (min).

This seminar will take place at elevations ranging from about 6,000 to 7,000 feet above sea level. It is a good idea to acclimate at the elevation of Lee Vining for at least 24 hours prior to the start of the seminar. Those with a history of heart, ear, or respiratory problems should consult their doctors before attending. Anyone restricted to lower elevations should not enroll. *Note: If you have residual respiratory effects from having Covid-19, activities at altitude may be particularly difficult for you.

Remember to bring (and drink!) lots of water because your body loses more water at the higher altitudes of the Mono Basin. Begin drinking extra water as you drive to higher elevation in order to prevent dehydration and headaches. Also, the sun is intense at high elevations, capable of burning even on cool and cloudy days, so be sure to protect yourself thoroughly using sunscreen, sunglasses, and hat.

TO BRING

___ face mask (N95 or KN95 recommended)

- ___ lunch & snacks
- ___ plenty of drinking water for the day
- ___ day pack
- ___ rain jacket
- ___ personal sun strategy (hat, sunscreen, sunglasses, etc.)
- ___ insect repellent
- ___ binoculars/camera
- ___ field guides/note-taking materials
- ___ field chair or collapsible stool (optional but helpful)

SUGGESTED READING

- John Hart, *Storm Over Mono* (out of print but available online):
- <http://content.cdlib.org/xtf/view?docId=ft48700683&brand=eschol>
E.C. Pielou, *Fresh Water*.
- William L. Kahrl, *Water and Power*.

SUGGESTED WEB BROWSING

- Current real time data, including flows and minimum flow rules:
monobasinresearch.org/data/mbrtdframes.htm
- Historical resources: monobasinresearch.org/historical/

COVID-19 REQUIREMENTS FOR 2022

All participants and instructors must be fully vaccinated and boosted. Proof of vaccination will be required after you register for a seminar.

Please minimize your exposure to Covid in the time leading up to your seminar. We recommend obtaining a negative PCR test result within 72 hours prior to your seminar starting.* If your PCR test comes back positive for Covid, you must cancel your registration and stay home. If you begin to feel sick in the days leading up to your seminar, you must cancel your registration and stay home. You will receive a full refund in either case.

*Depending on the regional Covid situation we may need to *require* a negative PCR test result within 72 hours prior to your seminar starting.

During the seminars masks will be required indoors and in carpools/Mono Lake Committee van in accordance with Mono County requirements (N95 or KN95 masks offer the best protection). If Mono County has lifted the mask requirement, masks will not be required indoors and in vehicles during the seminars. (You may wear a mask at any time if you wish to.)

If you begin to feel ill with Covid symptoms at any time during the seminar, you must immediately notify the instructor or staff member accompanying the group and leave the seminar.

Please keep in mind that conditions may change at any time and we may have to change our procedures in order to provide the opportunity for everyone involved with the Field Seminars to safely participate. Depending on the Covid situation in the weeks leading up to your seminar, we may have to plan to hold the

seminar completely outdoors. Mask requirements may change. There's a chance we may have to cancel seminars altogether. We will communicate with you about any of these changes, and you can always get in touch with us if you have questions or need more clarification about specific circumstances, by emailing fieldseminars@monolake.org or by calling (760) 647-6595.



Mono Lake Committee Field Seminars

P.O. Box 29 • Lee Vining, CA 93541 • (760) 647-6595 • monolake.org/seminars