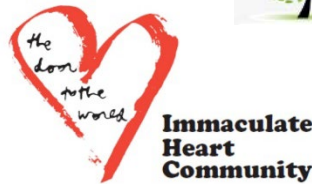


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March 28, 2024

The Honorable Karen Bass
Mayor, City of Los Angeles
200 N. Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Mayor Bass,

In 1994, the City of Los Angeles made a historic promise to the people of California: Los Angeles agreed to allow Mono Lake to rise to the protection level of 6,392 feet above sea level, restoring Mono Lake's health, its tributary streams, and its internationally significant ecological, cultural, scenic, wildlife, and recreation resources.

City of Los Angeles leaders stood in the State Capitol with the Mono Lake Committee and many stakeholders, including state and federal agencies, to confirm their joint commitment to support the implementation of the State Water Resources Control Board

Mono Lake decision. This landmark agreement put an end to decades of costly litigation. It recognized the permanent connection of the Mono Basin with the people of Los Angeles, from the south and east to the coast, and how the future wellbeing of both are forever linked. It was and remains an historic and precedent setting agreement, demonstrating collaborative leadership to achieve a solution to saving such an incredible natural resource.

Today Mono Lake has only made it halfway to the mandated management level, putting the lake's recovery a decade behind schedule and causing ongoing ecological, wildlife, economic, Tribal, and air quality harms.

You have a significant opportunity this year to take an important step forward in fulfilling the City's promise to Mono Lake without any risk of interrupting water supply to the residents of Los Angeles. On April 1, 2024, the state-allowed maximum amount of water diversions from Mono Lake will increase nearly fourfold. But the City is not required under its license to take all of this water. There is a choice to make, and leaving diversion levels unchanged will help preserve the lake rise progress made last year.

We respectfully request that this year, your administration choose to not increase water diversions from Mono Lake.

Under your leadership, Mono Lake diversions have not changed. Why risk Mono Lake impacts at this crucial moment with an increase? Coming off the very wet 2023 winter, water supplies are ample. Stormwater capture has increased, and per capita water use is falling, reflecting the successful conservation efforts of Angelenos. And under programs you have recently instituted, there is an opportunity to engage the public to further conserve water.

Please renew the City's commitment to implementing the State Water Resources Control Board's Mono Lake decision and direct the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power not to increase its Mono Basin diversions this year to help raise Mono Lake to the mandated sustainable lake elevation of 6,392 feet.

This is a meaningful action the City can take. It complements the technical work underway, thanks to your administration, exploring long-term Mono Lake solutions in collaboration with the Mono Lake Committee, key parties, and the State Water Board. Together with your leadership and vision, we can all work together to restate our great City's commitment to a shared sustainable water future—for Mono Lake and Los Angeles.

Sincerely,

Geoffrey McQuilkin
Executive Director, Mono Lake Committee

Hon. Ruth Galanter
LA City Council (ret.)

Mary Nichols
Distinguished Counsel, Emmett Center for Climate and Sustainability, UCLA School of Law

Charming Evelyn
Chair, Water Committee, Sierra Club Angeles Chapter

mark! Lopez
Eastside Community Organizer & Special Projects Coordinator
East Yard Communities for Environmental Justice

Mark Gold
Director of Water Scarcity Solutions, Natural Resources Defense Council

Roxan Rivas
Planning Director, Pacoima Beautiful

Bruce Reznik
Executive Director, Los Angeles Waterkeeper

Travis Longcore, Ph.D.
President, Los Angeles Audubon Society

Roberto Cabrales
Southern California Program Co-Director-Wilmington
Communities for a Better Environment

Madelyn Glickfeld
Retired, UCLA Institute of the Environment and Sustainability
UCLA Water Resources Group

Hector Verdugo
Associate Executive Director & External Affairs, Homeboy Industries

Conner Everts
Executive Director, Southern California Watershed Alliance

Cecilia V. Estolano
President and CEO of Estolano Advisors and Better World Group

Sandra Jacobson
Director, California Trout, South Coast & Sierra

Tom Soto
Board Secretary, Mono Lake Committee
Trustee, Natural Resources Defense Council

Corey Brown
Attorney

Glen Dake
Landscape Architect

Martha Davis
Board Member, Mono Lake Committee
Retired Assistant General Manager for Policy, Inland Empire Utilities Agency

Gabriel Gutiérrez, Ph.D.

Professor, Department of Chicano/a Studies, California State University, Northridge

Ester Feldman

Principal, Feldman Consulting

Former President, Community Conservation Solutions

Rev. Walter Contreras

Faith-Rooted Organizer with Clergy and Laity United for Economic Justice (CLUE)

Allis Druffel, IHM

Immaculate Heart Community Environmental Commission

Amanda Begley

Watershed Senior Program Manager, Tree People*

Carlos Moran

Andrea León-Grossmann

Board Member, Environmental Justice Coalition for Water

Paula Daniels

Former Public Works Commissioner

Amy E. Holm

Former Mono Lake Committee Board Member

Liz Crosson

Richard Atwater

President of the Board of Directors, Foothill Municipal Water District

Robert Wilkinson

Bren School, University of California Santa Barbara*

Mahomed Akbar Khan

President, American Muslims for Sustainability

Ed Begley Jr

Actor, Environmentalist

*for identification only

CC:

Council President, Paul Krekorian

Councilmember and Chair of the Energy & Environment Committee, Katy Yaroslavsky