

## **Mono Lake Day**

WHEREAS, thirty years ago on September 28, 1994, Los Angeles leaders - including the Mayor, City Councilmembers, and Department of Water and Power Commissioners - joined the Mono Lake Committee and many other stakeholders to support the State Water Resources Control Board's historic Decision 1631 regarding Mono Lake, resolving a multi-decade conflict; and

WHEREAS, the 1994 Decision on Mono Lake is considered one of the greatest environmental success stories in the history of the State of California; and

WHEREAS, Mono Lake is important to the cultural heritage of the Kutzadika'a Tribe and people who have called the region home since time immemorial; and

WHEREAS, Mono Lake hosts a unique ecosystem of national and global significance, providing food and habitat to millions of migratory birds on their journey along the Pacific Flyway, and

WHEREAS, since the issuance of Decision 1631, LADWP has invested nearly \$50 million to restore and improve riparian habitats and fish populations in the tributaries to Mono Lake has reduced its exports of water from the Mono Basin by 85%; and

WHEREAS, Mono Lake is greatly valued as a place to experience a vast and unique high desert inland sea with distinctive tufa towers, millions of migratory and nesting birds, an array of wildlife, wide open spaces, and stunning views; and

WHEREAS, Mono Lake is a place of special meaning for Los Angeles residents – many of them youth - thousands of whom have participated in outdoor education programs at the lake, learned about their connection with the Eastern Sierra watershed as a source of their water, gained understanding of the relationship to environmental justice and water conservation, and engaged in hands-on restoration work at Mono Lake; and

WHEREAS, Los Angeles residents value all water as a precious resource that should not be wasted and strongly support continued conservation as a core strategy for assuring a sustainable water future for the City; and

WHEREAS, Los Angeles is committed to environmental stewardship to ensure the survival of vital resources like Mono Lake while also managing water wisely to ensure the human right to water, particularly in these challenging times of extended drought, greater weather disruptions, and climate change impacts; and

WHEREAS, the State Water Board Decision launched a program to restore many miles of riparian forest and fish and wildlife habitat along the streams and tributaries to Mono Lake, and the Department of Water and Power in collaboration with the Mono Lake Committee, the Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the California Trout, has implemented restoration projects, operational changes, and commitments to facilities modifications that have delivered significant habitat restoration successes; and

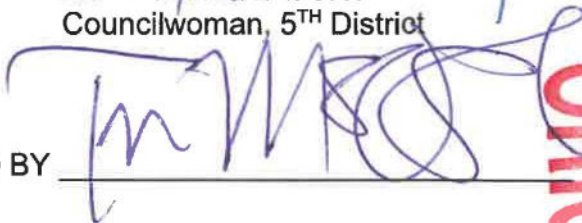
WHEREAS, an education program founded thirty years ago by Mothers of East Los Angeles and the Mono Lake Committee brings Los Angeles youth to Mono Lake for a week-long program to learn about the City's extended watershed, wise water use, and the natural world, and operates with the partnership support of the Department of Water and Power; and

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WHEREAS, the City and Mono Lake supporters are united in their joint commitment to environmental justice, biodiversity, local water, and a future in which lakes, streams, cities, wildlife and people all have an opportunity to thrive;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Los Angeles City Council hereby remains steadfast in its commitment to Mono Lake and its tributaries as a part of the City's sustainable water future and declares September 28th to be Mono Lake Day.

PRESENTED BY   
KATY YAROSLAVSKY  
Councilwoman, 5<sup>TH</sup> District

SECONDED BY 

**ORIGINAL**