



**AGENDA REQUEST FORM**  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
COUNTY OF INYO

For Clerk's Use Only:  
AGENDA NUMBER

- Consent     Departmental     Correspondence Action     Public Hearing  
 Scheduled Time for     Closed Session     Informational

**FROM:** Inyo County Planning Department

**FOR THE BOARD MEETING OF:** September 28, 2010

**SUBJECT:** Owens Lakebed Master Plan

**DEPARTMENTAL RECOMMENDATION:** Receive an update from staff regarding the Owens Lakebed Master Plan and provide direction to staff and Supervisors Cervantes and Arcularius.

**SUMMARY DISCUSSION:** The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (DWP) has initiated a Master Plan for the Owens Lakebed. This effort follows many years of dust mitigation efforts with the State Lands Commission (SLC) and the Great Basin Unified Air Pollution Control District (GBUAPCD), and will provide a framework for future of the Lakebed, including potentially solar energy development, habitat enhancement, and further dust mitigation. At its regularly scheduled April 27, 2010 meeting, DWP representatives presented information to the Board regarding the project. After the presentation, the Board directed Supervisors Cervantes and Arcularius and the Planning Director to participate on the Planning Committee for the effort. Subsequently, on May 11, 2010, the Board approved correspondence to the Planning Committee delineating the Board's policy regarding the Plan (refer to Attachment 1).

Gina Bartlett, a facilitator from the Center for Collaborative Policy at California State University Sacramento has been retained by DWP to coordinate the planning effort. A summary of the plan has been prepared to provide a brief overview of the project (refer to Attachment 2), and a website has been created with further information at <https://owenslakebed.pubspsvr.com/default.aspx>. The Planning Committee has been meeting since April, approximately once per month (refer to Attachment 3). The Planning Committee includes relevant public agencies and stakeholders (refer to Attachment 2), and the meetings are open to the public. Numerous topics have been discussed, including the Committee's charter (refer to Attachment 4), a vision statement and objectives (refer to Attachment 5), beginning work on defining zones for the Lakebed, and approaches to implementing the Master Plan.

Additional pertinent items include the following:

- The boundary of the planning area has been preliminarily determined to be the 3,600-foot elevation. Staff has transmitted correspondence to private property owners within this boundary alerting them to the planning process.
- Subgroups have been created for the following topics: (1) habitat, (2) solar, (3) legal implementing mechanism, and (4) economic development. These groups have been meeting regularly to address their respective issues. Additional subgroups may be created as needed.
- Discussions have occurred about whether a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) or Natural Communities Conservation Plan (NCCP) would be the preferred implementation instrument.

- An Agency Forum has been convened to provide input from decision-makers from the many involved public agencies, including DWP, SLC, GBUAPCD, the Department of Fish and Game, the Department of Water Resources. This group first met on June 16, 2010, and is scheduled to meet again on September 29, 2010.


Members of the Planning Committee are now briefing their respective organizations and other potentially interested parties. It has been determined that the SLC will be the lead agency for purposes of environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), and SLC has begun the process of selecting a consultant. It is hoped that a draft Plan will be completed later this year, with environmental review commencing concurrently or soon thereafter.

**OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT:** Owens Lake Planning Committee and interested organization and individuals – Los Angeles Department of Water and Power; Great Basin Unified Air Pollution Control District; State Lands Commission; Department of Fish and Game; Inyo County Water Department and other County Departments; Inyo and Mono County Agriculture Department; numerous tribes, business, community, agricultural, and conservation groups; etc.

**FINANCING:** Resources from the County's general fund and Water Department budget are utilized to monitor DWP's activities and participate in related planning efforts.

<b><u>APPROVALS</u></b>	
COUNTY COUNSEL:	AGREEMENTS, CONTRACTS AND ORDINANCES AND CLOSED SESSION AND RELATED ITEMS <i>(Must be reviewed and approved by county counsel prior to submission to the board clerk.)</i>
AUDITOR/CONTROLLER:	ACCOUNTING/FINANCE AND RELATED ITEMS <i>(Must be reviewed and approved by the auditor-controller prior to submission to the board clerk.)</i>
PERSONNEL DIRECTOR:	PERSONNEL AND RELATED ITEMS <i>(Must be reviewed and approved by the director of personnel services prior to submission to the board clerk.)</i>

**DEPARTMENT HEAD SIGNATURE:**  
(Not to be signed until all approvals are received)



Date: 9-22-10

**Attachments**

1. Correspondence from Board to Planning Committee Dated May 11, 2010
2. Master Plan Overview
3. Master Plan Framework
4. Charter
5. Vision Statement and Objectives

# OWENS LAKEBED

Dust Mitigation | Habitat and Wildlife | Water Efficiency | Solar Potential



## COLLABORATIVE PLANNING PROCESS

The Los Angeles Department of Water & Power has convened a broad collaborative process to develop a "Master Plan" for the Owens Lakebed. The "Master Plan" will be a document that identifies broadly supported goals and objectives to enhance the Owens Lakebed. A diverse group of interest groups are working together to reach consensus on the plan in 2010. The plan will focus on dust mitigation, habitat and wildlife, water efficiency methods, and potential renewable energy development. The outcome will be a collaborative vision for the future of the Owens Lakebed.



## PLANNING COMMITTEE

The decision making group is the Planning Committee whose members represent diverse interests. The Committee's goal is to develop the plan in 2010. Planning Committee meetings are open to everyone. Members are listed on the second page.

## AGENCY FORUM

State agencies and Inyo County will meet periodically to discuss and resolve regulatory and statewide policy issues. Members include the Great Basin Air Pollution and Control District, the State Lands Commission (the primary landowner), LA Department of Water & Power, California Department of Fish & Game, State Water Resources Control Board, Department of Water Resources and County of Inyo.

## Master Plan Elements

Project Map  
Plan Objectives  
Planning Zones  
Implementation  
Monitoring

## STAKEHOLDER FORUM

The Stakeholder Forum is the broad range of organizations and the general public interested in the Owens Lakebed. Forum members stay abreast of planning activities and provide input on the Plan's context and overall direction by attending workshops or holding briefings at key milestones.

Interests represented in collaborative decision making: Air Quality, Community: Keeler and Lone Pine, Economic/Local Business, Energy/Solar, Environmental: Bird and Native Plants, Governmental: County, State, & Tribal, Open Space, Public Access, Public Trust, Landowners, Agriculture/ Ranchers, Recreation, and Water

# PLANNING FORUM MEMBERS

**Supervisor Linda Arcularius**, Inyo County Board of Supervisors

**Mark Bagley**, Owen Valleys Committee and Sierra Club

**Julie Bear**, Sierra Nevada Conservancy

**Marina Brand**, State Lands Commission

**George Castaneda**, CG Roxane LLC (Crystal Geyer)

**Teri Cawelti**, Owens Valley Indian Water Commission

**Supervisor Richard Cervantes**, Inyo County Board of Supervisors

**Colin Connor**, State Lands Commission

**Karen Ferrell-Ingram**, Eastern Sierra Land Trust

**Joshua Hart**, Inyo County Planning Department

**Brad Henderson**, California Department of Fish & Game

**Lisa Isaacs**, Interpretation

**Bruce Ivey**, Ducks Unlimited and California Waterfowl

**Andrea Jones**, Audubon California

**Mel Joseph**, Lone Pine Paiute-Shoshone

**Scott Kemp**, Rancher

**Mark Lacey**, California Cattleman's Association

**Paul Lamos**, Rio Tinto Minerals, Owens Lake Operation and Lone Pine Chamber of Commerce

**Bernadette Lovato**, Bureau of Land Management

**Yamen Nanne**, Solar, Department of Water & Power

**Steve McLaughlin**, Bristlecone Chapter, California Native Plant Society

**George Milovich**, County of Inyo & Mono Agricultural Commissioner

**Mike Prather**, Audubon Chapter

**Pete Pumphrey**, Audubon Chapter

**Toni Richards**, Bishop Paiute Tribe

**Ted Schade**, Director, Great Basin Air Pollution Control District

**Brian Tillemans**, Department of Water & Power

**Bill VanWagoner**, Department of Water & Power

**Sam Wasson**, Keeler Community Representative

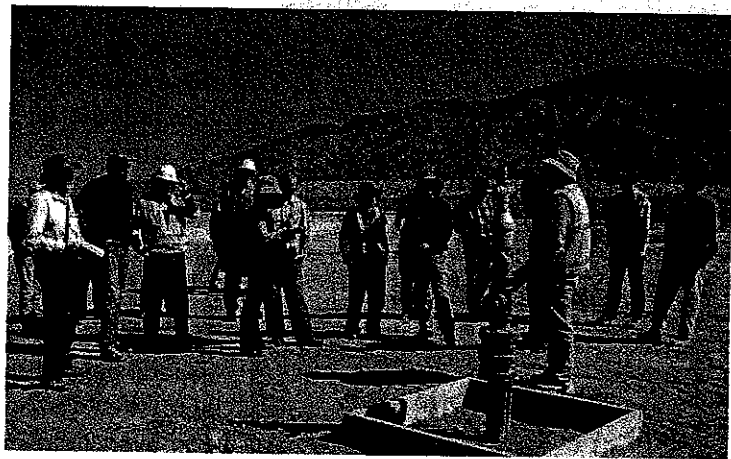
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*The outcome will be a collaborative vision for the future of the Owens Lakebed.*

## 2010 MEETING DATES

Meetings are generally 9:30-3:30  
in Keeler or Bishop

<b>March 10</b>	<b>August 11</b>
<b>April 28</b>	<b>Sept 15</b>
<b>May 12</b>	<b>Oct 20</b>
<b>June 9</b>	<b>Nov 10</b>
<b>June 30</b>	<b>Dec 8</b>



## For More Information

<https://owenslakebed.pubspsvr.com>

Brian Tillemans, LADWP, 760-873-0214

Facilitator Gina Bartlett, Center for Collaborative Policy, 415-255-6805



## BOARD OF SUPERVISORS COUNTY OF INYO

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*Clerk of the Board*  
PATRICIA GUNSOLLEY  
*Assistant Clerk of the Board*

May 11, 2010

Owens Lake Planning Committee  
City of Los Angeles Department of Water and Power  
111 North Hope Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: Owens Lake Planning Effort

Members of the Owens Lake Planning Committee:

On behalf of the Inyo County Board of Supervisors, I wish to relay to you, the Department of Water and Power (DWP), and the City of Los Angeles our continued support for dust mitigation efforts on Owens Lake. In addition, the Inyo County Board of Supervisors encourages productive planning for the Lakebed, and is actively participating in this most recent planning initiative. While our participation will represent a significant outlay of our resources, we believe it is necessary to achieve successful outcomes.

The County's participation in the planning process and its ability to consider supporting the final Plan is guided by the following parameters:

1. Water management and groundwater development by DWP on the Lakebed are intrinsically related to and regulated by the Inyo/Los Angeles Long-Term Water Agreement. We look forward to continuing our work to implement this important Agreement within the context of Owens Lake planning.
2. Dust and other particulate mitigation efforts are paramount to reduce the risk incurred by County residents to the adverse health effects of chronic exposure to Lakebed sediments, many of which are toxic. Particulate control is the primary purpose of DWP's activities on the Lakebed, and the County supports reasonable alternatives to achieve this goal.
3. The County supports efforts to reduce water utilized on the Lake that still achieve particulate mitigation.
4. Potential fiscal impacts from any Plan that results from this effort must be analyzed as part of the Plan. Any Plan that is not fiscally sound will most assuredly be ineffective. A thoroughly vetted cost estimate to implement the Plan, including costs incurred by the County (e.g., police, fire, roads, schools, etc.), must be prepared, and permanent funding sources to offset these costs must be identified.

5. We have designated Supervisors Cervantes and Arcularius and the County's Planning Director to serve on the Planning Committee being formed to guide this effort. Other staff will be available on an as-needed basis, schedules permitting. We requested that DWP staff provide regular updates to the full Board of Supervisors, and we hope you will support and participate in these briefings.
6. Development on the Lakebed may result in potential impacts to the environment, culture, and/or economy of the County. We expect that DWP will fully analyze such effects, as required by law, and offer our assistance in this endeavor.
7. The County and its citizens should experience net positive benefits from development here.

In addition to the parameters identified above, the Board wishes to remind the Committee that the Inyo County Board of Supervisors represents all of the interest groups and stakeholders on the Planning Committee and, as such, reserves the right as the Board of Supervisors to accept or reject any aspect of the Plan on behalf of our constituents.

Thank you. We look forward to working with you as we move forward with this important planning effort for Owens Lake. Please contact the County Administrative Officer, Kevin Carunchio, at (760) 878-0292 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Supervisor Richard Cervantes, Chairperson  
Inyo County Board of Supervisors

cc: Board of Supervisors  
Kevin Carunchio, CAO  
Randy Keller, County Counsel  
Honorable Mayor of Los Angeles, Antonio Villaraigosa  
Austin Beutner, Interim DWP General Manager  
City of Los Angeles Board of Water and Power Commissioners  
James B. McDaniel, DWP  
Marin L. Adams, PE, DWP  
Gina Bartlett, Center for Collaborative Policy  
Ted Schade, Great Basin Unified Air Pollution Control District  
Board of the Great Basin Unified Air Pollution Control District  
State Lands Commission  
Paul Thayer, State Lands Commission  
John McCamman, Department of Fish and Game  
Curt Taucher, Department of Fish and Game

# MEETING FRAMEWORK Owens Lakebed Planning Committee

Updated 7/1/2010

Meetings	Topics	Date / Location
1	Briefing on CCP Stakeholder Interviews Charter, Organization & Scope Conducted Internal/External Assessment	March 10, 2010 9:00-12:30 Lone Pine, CA
2	Site Visit	April 28, 2010 9:00-3:30 Lone Pine, CA
3	Refine Charter Inventory the Present: <i>What do we know? What have we learned? What are we already doing?</i> Inventory Existing Uses	May 12, 2010 9:30-3:30 LADWP Bishop, CA
4	Explore Water Efficient Dust Control Measures Review Environmental Planning Steps Understand Conditions Necessary for Solar Review Communication Plan	June 9, 2010 9:30-3:30 Keeler, LADWP Facility
5	Identify Vision for Lakebed Identify Stakeholder Interests and Planning Issues & Concerns Define Project Area Define Plan Objectives	June 30, 2010 9:30-3:30 US Forest Service Office Bishop, CA
6	Refine Plan Objectives Define Key Areas, Planning Zone Characteristics and Criteria (i.e. critical habitat areas, dust mitigation, solar...) Public Trust Briefing Talking Points	August 11, 2010 9:30-3:30 Keeler, LADWP Facility
7	Explore & Select Planning Framework Assign Zones Review Zone Assignments with Stakeholder Interests	<del>NEW DATE</del> Sept 15 <del>29</del> , 2010 9:30-3:30 Bishop, CA
8	Refine Zones and Zone Assignments Design Implementation Plan	<del>NEW DATE</del> Oct 20 <del>13</del> , 2010 9:30-3:30 Near Lakebed
9	Identify Monitoring Program Begin Reviewing Draft Plan	Nov 10, 2010 9:30-3:30 Bishop, CA
10	Continue Plan Review Refine and Discuss Remaining Issues	Dec 8, 2010 9:30-3:30 Near Lakebed

# Owens Lakebed Planning Committee

## CHARTER

Planning Committee Approved 9/15/2010

### Goal

The goal of the Owens Lakebed Planning Committee is to develop a “master” plan for the Owens Lakebed. The Planning Committee will recommend the plan for adoption by agencies and organizations responsible for implementation.

The plan will be a document that identifies a vision, broadly-supported goals, objectives, actions and projects to enhance the Owens Lakebed, including dust mitigation, habitat and wildlife, water efficiency, renewable energy resources, and economic interests. The plan will build upon concepts and technical information developed during the Conservation Action Plan process and provided within the Owens Lake Habitat Management Plan (OLHMP), as well as any other relevant plans and efforts.

To this end, the goals of the Planning Committee are to:

- Work collaboratively in an open process with other members who represent interests in the Owens Lakebed.
- Develop common understanding on present and future conditions of the Owens Lakebed.
- Negotiate in good faith to achieve consensus on how the Owens Lakebed will be managed into the future.

### Membership

The Planning Committee consists of members that represent the following interest groups:

- Agriculture / Ranchers
- Air Quality
- Community
- Economic / Local Business
- Energy / Solar
- Environmental: Bird and Native Plants
- Governmental: County, State, & Tribal
- Open Space
- Landowners
- Public Access
- Public Trust
- Recreation
- Water

Members live throughout the Owens Valley or work in agencies that have jurisdiction in or around the Owens Lakebed.

Additional stakeholders may join the Planning Committee after its initial formation with the concurrence of other Committee members. Member organizations may change their individual representatives if necessary by notifying the project manager or facilitator.



## Stakeholder Structure

1. **Planning Committee:** The Planning Committee, comprised of organizations representing diverse interests, is the decision-making body of the Owens Lakebed planning process. The Planning Committee has a collaborative governance structure: agencies with jurisdiction over the lakebed will join non-governmental and community organizations, business associations, and individuals to develop the Owens Lakebed Plan.
2. **Agency Forum:** The Agency Forum, comprised of state and local agencies with two ex-officio Planning Committee representatives, will meet periodically to discuss and resolve regulatory and statewide policy issues. The outcome of these deliberations will be forwarded to the Planning Committee for its consideration and inclusion in the plan.
3. **Coordinating Committee:** The Coordinating Committee, appointed by the Planning Committee, is a smaller, representative group of the Planning Committee that meets in-between Planning Committee meetings to assist staff with process planning and developing proposals for Planning Committee consideration.
4. **Stakeholder Forum:** The Stakeholder Forum is the term used to describe the broad range of organizations and the general public interested in the Owens Lakebed planning process that seek information about activities either by attendance at meetings or through other means of communication. The Owens Lakebed planning process will seek input from the Stakeholder Forum on the Plan's direction and content.
5. **Work Groups:** The Planning Committee can establish Work Groups as needed. Work Groups would focus on preparing recommendations for Planning Committee consideration.

## Roles and Responsibilities

### Planning Committee

1. Organizations and governmental agencies participating in the Owens Lakebed process will select one formal designee to represent them on the Planning Committee. The designee will represent the views of the organization that selected them to participate in the process.
2. Planning Committee members will attend meetings consistently and, if unable to attend any session, will send an alternate also chosen by their participating group. However, use of alternates is not encouraged as this can interfere with the continuity of discussion and decision-making.
3. Planning Committee members agree to arrive at each meeting fully prepared to discuss the issues on the agenda. Preparation would include reviewing meeting summaries, technical information, and draft documents distributed in advance of each meeting.
4. The Planning Committee is the decision making body of the planning process, and its members will make a good faith effort to achieve consensus to produce a Plan with the strongest support possible.
5. Members will present their constituent members' views on the issues being discussed and be willing to engage in respectful, constructive dialogue with other members of the working group.

6. Members will develop a problem-solving approach in which they consider the interests and viewpoints of all group members, in addition to their own.
7. Members will regularly communicate information about the process to their organizations or agencies, as well as to the individual constituencies and communities they represent and actively seek their constituents' input.
8. The Planning Committee will make decisions in accordance with the rules set out in the section on Decision Making below.

#### Agency Forum

1. The Agency Forum consists of the following: State Lands Commission, Great Basin Air Pollution Control District, California Department of Fish & Game, California Department of Water Resources, California State Water Resources Control Board, County of Inyo, Los Angeles Department of Water & Power, plus two ex-officio members of the Planning Committee.
2. The Agency Forum will consult with other agencies as needed, such as the California Public Utilities Commission or U.S. Forest Service.
3. The Agency Forum's role is to create an opportunity for the agencies to discuss and coordinate regulatory and state policy issues that affect the Owens Lakebed planning process.
4. The Agency Forum may play a role in the development of the Plan including preparation of substantive proposals for final approval in the Planning Committee. The Planning Committee is the decision making body on the plan content.
5. The Agency Forum will strive for consensus within the Forum and craft proposals that are responsive to the diverse interests participating in the Planning Committee.

#### Coordinating Committee

1. The Coordinating Committee consists of the Audubon Society, California Department of Fish & Game, Great Basin Air Pollution Control District, Inyo County, LA Department of Water & Power, and Owens Valley Indian Water Commission as determined at the Planning Committee's March 2010 meeting.
2. The role of the Coordinating Committee is that of process planning and logistics to assist staff with scheduling, recommendations for process modifications, communication, and other issues for which staff needs advice in between Planning Committee Meetings.
3. The Coordinating Committee may play a role in the development of the Plan, at the request of the Planning Committee, including preparation of substantive proposals, but has no decision-making authority.
4. The Coordinating Committee will strive for consensus and, lacking that, will present the full range of opinions on any proposal to inform the Planning Committee's decisions.

### Stakeholder Forum

The Stakeholder Forum is the term for the interested organizations and the public. The Planning Committee will provide information and seek input from the Stakeholder Forum on the Plan's direction and content.

Strategies for reaching this larger audience include:

1. Public comment time at Planning Committee meetings in a flexible and inclusive manner rather than limited to a single period.
2. Periodic workshops or briefings at Forum member organizations to keep stakeholders abreast of progress on planning and solicit input on planning issues.
3. Interactive communication through a website with full publication of work products, reports, public meeting materials, regional resource databases and other resources.
4. A master mailing list compiled by the convener consisting of lists contributed by member organizations as well as public inquiries, meeting attendance lists and website sign-ins.
5. Multi-media materials created by member organizations to assist members in updating constituent and other community groups on planning activities and to inform local and regional media of milestone achievements.
6. Special outreach to tribal governments to elicit their input in a manner consistent with protocols on government-to-government relationships
7. Other public participation strategies as developed by the Planning Committee or Coordinating Committee.

### Work Groups

1. The Planning Committee may establish Work Groups to assist with developing the plan. Work Groups may develop recommendations or proposals for the full stakeholder group's consideration.
2. Work Groups will strive for consensus and, lacking that, will present the full range of opinions on any proposal to the Planning Committee to inform the Planning Committee's decisions.
3. Planning Committee Members may participate in more than one Work Group. Members of the work group need not be members of the Planning Committee.
4. Work Groups are encouraged to seek additional participants from outside the Planning Committee to increase the diversity of interests represented, provide additional expertise to the Work Group, or for other reasons deemed necessary by the Work Group. Work Group membership must balance interests and diversity but should be kept to a workable number to facilitate in-depth discussions.

### Convener

The Los Angeles Department of Water & Power is convening the Planning Committee to develop the Plan. The convener will sponsor committee meetings, garner necessary funding to

complete the plan, and provide in-kind staff support to manage the project. In addition, the convener has contracted with the Center for Collaborative Policy to facilitate the planning process.

#### Facilitator

In cooperation with all stakeholders, the facilitator from the Center for Collaborative Policy will design Committee meetings and guide the overall process toward achieving its mutually agreed-upon purpose and goals. The facilitator will:

- Formulate the agenda and desired outcomes for all meetings based on input of stakeholders and facilitate those proceedings.
- Identify and synthesize points of agreement and disagreement for the written meeting summaries.
- Assist in building consensus among members.
- Ensure compliance with all process agreements and working ground rules.
- Serve as a confidential communication channel for members, alternates, and observers who wish to express views privately because they do not feel comfortable doing so in front of the large group.
- Advocate for a fair, effective, and credible process, but remain impartial with respect to the outcome of the deliberations.

#### Planning Committee Meeting Schedule

The regular meeting day for Planning Committee meetings will be the second Wednesdays of the month as much as possible. Planning Committee meetings will be held from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. due to the large amount of issues that require discussion and decision-making.

##### 2010 Meeting Dates

March 10	August 11
April 28	Sept 15
May 12	Oct 20
June 9	Nov 10
June 30	Dec 8

#### Attendance

Given the volume of information to be considered and the short time frame, regular attendance by each member is essential. Designated representative must be identified in advance, fully briefed and able to represent the member during decision making.

#### Communication

1. Meeting summaries will be provided following each Planning Committee meeting.
2. The Planning Committee is encouraged to develop common statements for periodic public release. Suggested text for such statements may be developed by staff and facilitators or may be offered by a group member. The Planning Committee may delegate this responsibility to the Coordinating Committee.
3. Members are asked to speak only for their organization or themselves when asked by external parties, including the media, about the committee's progress, unless there has been

a formal adoption of a statement, concepts, or recommendations by the Planning Committee. When asked about another member's views, the member should refer the inquiry to that party directly.

4. The facilitator will not speak to the media.
5. In addition, staff or members will be available to provide presentations of the group's work at meetings, conferences or other venues using agreed-upon talking points. Members are strongly encouraged to provide or arrange presentations about the group's work wherever feasible to increase awareness of Owens Lakebed planning. The facilitator and staff can assist with materials and presentations to that end.
6. The Planning Committee will develop a communications plan early in its process that specifies its outreach activities.

## Planning Committee Decision Making

**Consensus as the Fundamental Principle:** The Planning Committee shall strive for consensus (agreement among all participants) in all of its decision-making. Working toward consensus is a fundamental principle of the process.

**Definition of "Consensus":** In reaching consensus, some Planning Committee members may strongly endorse a particular proposal while others may accept it as "workable." Others may be only able to "live with it." Still others may choose to "stand aside" by verbally noting a disagreement, yet allowing the group to reach a consensus without them if the decision does not affect them or compromise their interests. Any of these actions still constitutes consensus.

**Less than 100% Consensus Decision Making:** The Planning Committee shall not limit itself to strict consensus if 100% agreement among all participants cannot be reached after all interests and options have been thoroughly identified, explored, discussed and considered. Less-than-consensus decision-making shall not be undertaken lightly. If after full exploration and discussion the Planning Committee cannot come to 100% agreement, the Committee will identify a subcommittee to further explore the issue. With facilitator assistance, the subcommittee will identify the key issues and concerns and attempt to develop one or more proposals for full Planning Committee consideration. Subcommittee representation will be consistent with work group guidelines identified above.

If the subcommittee is unable to reach an agreed-upon proposal, the subcommittee will report back to the Planning Committee, presenting its analysis and perhaps one or more proposals for Planning Committee consideration. If the Planning Committee is unable to resolve at that point, it will forward to the Agency Forum. The Agency Forum will review all the issues and concerns and make a decision on the language to be included in the plan.

**Conditional Endorsements:** It is also understood that Planning Committee members represent organizations and, in some cases, may not be unable to make final commitments without conferring first with their organization. In this case, agreements will be considered conditionally endorsed, pending organizational confirmation.

## Approving the Plan

The Owens Lakebed Plan will be approved by the Planning Committee and recommended for adoption by the implementing agencies and organizations.

1. The Planning Committee approves the plan as "draft."
2. Planning Committee members take plan to boards/commissions for conditional support.
3. The California Environmental Quality Act analysis is completed.
4. The Planning Committee recommends the Plan for adoption.
5. Implementing agencies / organizations adopt the final plan.

## Process Agreements

To hold a successful planning forum, the parties must agree to the procedures that the group will use as well as define individual behaviors or ground rules.

**Everyone agrees to negotiate in good faith and hold to the agreement that is reached by participants.** All participants agree to participate in decision making, to act in good faith in all aspects of this planning committee and to communicate their interests in group meetings. Good faith also requires that parties not make commitments they do not intend to follow through with, and that parties act consistently in the planning committee and in other forums where the issues under discussion in this planning process are also being discussed.

**Everyone acknowledges that Planning Committee members and their organizations live in two worlds.** This means that members or their organizations may have to occasionally unilaterally pursue their interests during the planning process. This does not imply that an organization is violating their good faith participation. No one participating in the planning process is being asked to abandon their obligations to their organizations or give up any type of rights.

**Everyone agrees to address the issues and concerns of the participants.** Everyone who is joining in the planning forum is doing so because the organization that s/he represents or s/he individually has a stake in the issue at hand. For the Planning Committee to be successful, all the parties agree to validate the issues and concerns of the other parties and strive to reach an agreement that takes all the issues under consideration. Disagreements will be viewed as problems to be solved, rather than battles to be won.

**Everyone agrees to focus on the present and future, and not dwell on the past.** Individual perceptions of the past change over time. While the past informs everyone's thinking and perspectives, the past cannot be changed. The purpose of this Planning Committee is to problem solve today about how to address the issues and concern for tomorrow.

**Everyone agrees to inform their constituents about the outcome of the Planning Committee.** Time will be built into the Planning Committee for participants to inform and seek advice from their constituents about the discussions and the negotiated outcome.

## Working Together

The facilitator and participants will work together to create a problem solving environment and to implement these agreements to that aim.

The group agrees to:

- Listen and openly discuss issues with others who hold diverse views.
- View disagreements as problems to be solved rather than battles to be won.

- Refrain from ascribing motives or intentions to other participants.
- Respect the integrity and values of other participants.
- Honor time.
- Use conversational courtesy.
- Keep cell phones silent during meetings. Please return calls during breaks.
- Appreciate humor but do not engage in humor at the expense of others.

### Open Process

1. All meetings of the Owens Lakebed planning process are open to the public.
2. Planning Committee agendas will be sent out in advance of the meetings and posted on a web site. At each meeting, the public will be given an opportunity to comment.
3. Members of the public are expected to adhere to process agreements.

### Amendments to this Charter

The Planning Committee, utilizing the Charter decision-making process as described above, may adopt changes to this Charter.

## Owens Lakebed Master Plan Vision Statement

9/20/2010

The Owens Lakebed Master Plan represents a collective vision of the future of Owens Lakebed developed by the Owens Lakebed Planning Committee (Planning Committee). The Planning Committee is a collaborative decision making body that draws from the diverse interests of people from throughout the region, and is comprised of members of nonprofit groups, environmental interests, local business and agriculture, concerned citizens, and governmental agencies.

The underlying objective of the Owens Lakebed Master Plan is to create a working environment on the Owens Lakebed that is consistent with public trust, meets dust control requirements, uses water efficiently, promotes/enhances local environmental and economic interests, and meshes with the rural Sierra Nevada setting. The Planning Committee also recognizes that on Owens Lakebed lies an opportunity for renewable energy development, and that the Owens Lakebed Master Plan could serve as a model at state, national, and international levels as a collaborative, multiple use approach to resolving some extremely complex issues. To ensure that Owens Lakebed is managed in the future in a way that satisfies the interests of all stakeholders and benefits local residents, the goals and objectives in the Owens Lakebed Master Plan are based on the following elements:

- Effective Dust Control
- Public Trust
  - Ecological Protection and/or Creation and Enhancement (Wildlife Habitat and Vegetation Communities)
  - Creation of an Aesthetically Pleasing Environment
  - Public Access and Recreation
- Water Use Efficiency/Water Conservation
- Opportunities for Renewable Energy Development
- Opportunities for Economic Development and Tourism
- Cultural Resources Protection

The following statements summarize the Planning Committee's vision for the future of Owens Lake:

- *Control dust on Owens Lakebed to obtain good air quality and reduce the dust related public health risk.* The positive future of Owens Lakebed is dependent on dust being controlled to meet public health and air quality standards so that it can be enjoyed by all.
- *Protect, create, and/or enhance ecological resources on Owens Lake.* The Planning Committee's vision includes sustainable wildlife habitat as well as protection of sensitive plant communities that surround the Lakebed such as springs, seeps, and alkali meadows. Owens Lakebed has become well recognized for its habitat for the Western Snowy Plover, a California Species of Special Concern, as well as other species of waterfowl and migratory birds. Members of the Planning Committee desire to see a portion of the lakebed set aside as a wildlife sanctuary. While the size of the area has not been specified, the area should provide good quality habitat for the target species and be maintained in perpetuity. There is an opportunity to focus on quality over quantity, and also to enhance adjacent high quality habitats (e.g., Lower Owens River Project Delta Habitat Area, and lakebed fringing springs and seeps.)



- *Water use efficiency and water conservation shall be a priority when implementing dust control efforts on Owens Lake.* Water conservation is currently, and will continue to be, a pressing issue as water resources become increasingly scarce. Future dust control will likely be a combination of current and new technology. The Planning Committee has expressed interest in exploring alternative water sources (e.g., groundwater, brine, etc.) and mechanisms of onsite water recycling for dust control on Owens Lake. In addition, the Committee may also pursue alternative methods of dust mitigation that do not require water at all.
- *Create a Master Plan that can be flexible in the future and that is sustainable from a climate change and water use efficiency standpoint.* The Master Plan will be flexible and robust to adapt to changing conditions and technology.
- *Explore opportunities for renewable energy development.* The Planning Committee recognizes that Owens Lakebed presents favorable conditions for developing renewable energy projects, particularly solar power generation. Such creation of large scale solar projects could help the State of California and City of Los Angeles reach considerable goals for green energy conversion and development. In addition, renewable energy projects may possibly be used in conjunction with dust control measures to meet multiple goals while taking the pressure off of more sensitive areas across the state that would otherwise be subject to developing green energy projects.
- *Promote economic development in the area as well as tourism, public access, and educational opportunities on Owens Lake.* There is a strong desire among the group to turn the history of Owens Lakebed into something very positive for the area's communities. The Owens Lakebed Master Plan will strive to enhance local business interests, jobs in the area, and the existing infrastructure. Recreation and educational opportunities will enhance tourism in the region. There is also an opportunity to use public education not only for recognizing the history and ecological significance of the region, but also as a tool to inform the public about renewable energy projects, water use efficiency, and large scale dust control efforts.
- *Create a viewshed that is in harmony with the surrounding rural environment while recognizing the need for flexibility and balance between public trust values and potential future uses, including renewable energy projects.* There is also the desire to enhance the current natural communities that surround the lake, such as lake-fringing springs and seeps that can likely be self sustaining if properly managed.
- *Protect Cultural Resources.* The Planning Committee recognizes that the Owens Lakebed subwatershed contains vast insight into the history and significance of the Owens Valley from a cultural perspective. All members have a vested interest in protecting these resources.

### **Implementing the Owens Lakebed Master Plan**

The Planning Committee acknowledges that the Plan must be inclusive and the process transparent. The final plan must be consistent with existing agreements, yet flexible and sustainable. It also must lend itself to adaptive management as new technology is developed and consider the implications of climate change or other issues as they arise. The Planning Committee sees the future of Owens Lakebed to be a mosaic of solutions, one that will satisfy mutual goals and interests of multiple stakeholders. The final plan will be a product of hard work and honest collaboration, and will provide for effective dust control, preservation and/or protection of economic, cultural, visual, natural, and water resources, and be a possible gateway to renewable energy development.

# Vision

