



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COUNTY OF INYO

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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
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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