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SUMMARY

LADWP submitted its draft Annual Owens Valley Report to Inyo County on May 20, 2005. After receiving comments from Inyo County the report will be finalized. The purpose of the report is to satisfy the LADWP's annual reporting obligations for its Owens Valley water gathering operations under the Inyo/LA Water Agreement.

The report includes LADWP's proposed Owens Valley operations plan for the 2005-2006 runoff year, an update on Owens Valley conditions, the current status of LADWP's environmental and mitigation projects.

Owens Valley Annual Operations Plan Summary

For the period of April 1, 2005 to March 31, 2006 the forecasted Owens Valley runoff is 527,200 acre-feet, or 128% of normal. According to the well ON/OFF provisions of the Water Agreement, approximately 151,000 acre-feet of water are available for groundwater pumping from Owens Valley wellfields. As contemplated under the three year pumping plan currently being considered by Inyo County and LADWP, LADWP plan to pump a total of 90,000 acre-feet of water from Owens Valley wellfields during the 2005-2006 runoff year.

Owens Valley Conditions

The 2005-2006 runoff year will be the first wet year following sixth straight year of lower than average runoff conditions in the Owens Valley. The average Eastern Sierra snow pack as of April 1, 2005 was 167% of normal but because last few years have been drier than normal, the forecasted runoff is expected to be approximately 128% of normal. Similarly, precipitation on the valley floor has been above normal with an average of 10.3 inch as compared to the long-term average of 5.98 inches. The actual precipitation in 2005-06 runoff year ranged between 13.7 inches at South Haiwee gauge and 6.7 inches at the Lone Pine gauge. Despite the previous years' below average runoff, overall vegetation cover in the Owens Valley is about equal to the mid-1980's baseline conditions and groundwater levels remain moderately high.

Enhancement/Mitigation Project Status

Enhancement/Mitigation projects are environmental projects that were implemented prior to the 1991 Owens Valley Groundwater Pumping EIR. Some of these projects were identified in the EIR as mitigations for impacts due to LADWP's water gathering activities. There are twenty six projects identified as enhancement/mitigation measures; 23 of these have been completed or are being implemented (three of which are being re-evaluated), and three are in the planning stage.

Mitigation Project Status

There are thirty six mitigation projects identified for thirteen impacts considered in the EIR. The majority of these projects have been completed or are being implemented. Two of the mitigation projects are being re-evaluated and four projects are in the planning stages.

Cooperative Studies

Inyo County and LADWP are jointly working toward the completion of nine cooperative studies to develop a better understanding of Owens Valley natural resources and their connection to LADWP water gathering activities.