

**LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF WATER AND POWER  
ANNUAL OWENS VALLEY REPORT**

**Annual Owens Valley Operations Report  
Conditions of Owens Valley  
Status of 1991 Environmental Impact Report Mitigation Measure  
Status of Other Studies, Projects, and Activities**

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## **SUMMARY**

This report includes LADWP's proposed Owens Valley operations plan for the 2006-2007 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, 2006 to March 31, 2007 the forecasted Owens Valley runoff is 556,100 acre-feet, or 135% of normal. According to the well ON/OFF provisions of the Water Agreement, approximately 142,000 acre-feet of water are available for groundwater pumping from Owens Valley wellfields.

### **Owens Valley Conditions**

The 2006-2007 runoff year will be the second wet year following six straight years of lower than average runoff conditions in the Owens Valley. The average Eastern Sierra snow pack as of April 1, 2006 was 135% of normal. Similarly, precipitation on the valley floor has been above normal with approximately 7.02 inches as compared to the long-term average of 5.9 inches. The actual precipitation in 2005-06 runoff year ranged between 3.93 inches at the Lone Pine gauge and 10.54 inches at the Tinemaha Reservoir gauge. Due to last years' above-average precipitation and runoff, overall vegetation cover in the Owens Valley was above the mid-1980's baseline conditions in 2004 (2005 data is not available) and groundwater levels generally moved upward.

### **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; 22 of these have been completed or are being implemented, one is being constructed, 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. Seven of the mitigation projects have not been completed. All seven are in the process of being constructed or implemented. Four of the seven projects are Enhancement/Mitigation Projects.

**Other 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.

The status of the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Programs for the Laws 2004 revegetation project, Well 415 in Big Pine, and the LORP project has been updated. The status on implementation of the 1991 Water Agreement and the 1997 MOU provisions has also been updated.