

Mitigation Report

Inyo County
Water Commission
July 25, 2023

MITIGATION PROJECT COMMITMENTS	Goal	Completed	Implemented/Required	Implemented/Ongoing	Fully Implemented	Not Fully Implemented
Each Project Mitigation Projects by the MOU Ad Hoc (Section III.A.3))	Create and enhance riparian, aquatic and spring habitat types. In addition, sub-irrigation of pasture/meadow will enhance livestock grazing opportunities.			X		
Seeley Springs (1 Seeley Well W349; EIR Table 5-2)	Maintained by LADWP well adjacent to Owens River to provide waterfowl and shorebird habitat larger than had existed at Seeley Spring			X		
Revegetation (EIR Impact 10-5)	Revegetate the site with plant species found in surrounding areas.				X	
Revegetation (EIR Impact 10-5)	Revegetate the site with plant species found in surrounding areas.				X	
Water System (EIR Impact 10-11, 10-13)	Provide up to \$100,00 to reconstruct and upgrade existing residential ditches in the community of Big Pine. A flow of up to 6 cfs is to be established			X		
Threat Regreening (EIR Impact 10-11, 10-13)	Enhance the aesthetics of abandoned agricultural or pasture lands in Big Pine.			X		
Revegetation (EIR Impact 10-5)	Revegetate the site with plant species found in surrounding areas.				X	
Revegetation (EIR Impact 10-11)	Rehabilitate the site to an Alkali Meadow similar to those within a 5 mi. radius of the site.	LA			IC ²	
Hatchery (EIR Impact 10-5)	The hatchery provides compensatory mitigation by producing fish that are stocked throughout the region.			X		
Water System (EIR Impact 10-5)	Provide water for a warm-water fishery and waterfowl area...			X		

64 Mitigation Commitments

mitigate for range of impacts after 1970 that resulted from the operation of the second Los Angeles Aqueduct

Environmental Projects (EP), 1970-1984

Enhancement/Mitigation (E/M) Projects, 1985-1991

Revegetation projects in the 1991 EIR

Additional Mitigation Projects, 1997 MOU

Revegetation Plans for Lands Removed From Irrigation in the Laws Area, 2003 MND

Project Status Table

COMPLETE

Project has no additional commitments required (no water allotment or other financial or environmental mitigation; no continual monitoring and reporting)

IMPLEMENTED AS REQUIRED These measures are only applied when necessary (monitoring and reporting for mitigation measures for new projects, construction, etc.)

IMPLEMENTED and ONGOING Project is fully implemented and is currently meeting goals; however, there may be ongoing water or financial commitments or monitoring and reporting requirements

FULLY IMPLEMENTED, NOT MEETING GOALS Project is fully implemented but has not yet met prescribed goals or success criteria

NOT FULLY IMPLEMENTED

Project under development, or under construction, but not fully implemented

PROJECT UNDER INVESTIGATION, or DIFFERENCE OF OPINION

Project status under discussion

PROJECT ORIGINS

LADWP MITIGATION PROJECT COMMITMENTS	Goal	Project Status					Reference Document				
		Completed ¹	Implemented as Required ²	Implemented and Ongoing ³	Fully Implemented Not Met Goals ⁴	Not Fully Implemented ⁵	1991 EIR Mitigation	1991 EIR Environmental Projects	1991 EIR E/M Project	Revised Project	1997 MOU
Eastern California Museum (EIR Tables 4-3 and 5-3)	Enhanced the appearance of the Eastern California Museum grounds in Independence. It consisted of a small pond, trees, expanded lawn areas, and installation of an irrigation system.			X			X		X		
Farmers Pond (EIR Impact 10-5, 10-18, 11-1, EIR Table 5-2)	Water is provided fall of each year to offer increased habitat for migrating waterfowl.			X			X	X			
Fish Springs Hatchery (EIR Impact 10-14)	The hatchery provides compensatory mitigation by producing fish that are stocked throughout the region.			X			X	X			
Five Bridges Area Revegetation Project (300 acres; EIR Impact 10-12)	Restore the area to a complex of vegetation communities with similar species composition and cover as exists at local similar sites. The goal will be attained when the desired vegetation conditions are achieved and are sustainable. Maintain, and reestablish where necessary, the riparian and meadow communities that were delineated into vegetation parcels during the pre-impact 1984-1987 LADWP vegetation mapping and inventory.	LA			IC		X			X	
Freeman Creek Project (Additional Mitigation Projects Developed by the MOU Ad Hoc Group (MOU Section III.A.3))	Divert Freeman Creek into ancestral washes to create a diverse riparian corridor. Sub-irrigation may create small wetlands in depressions in an existing pasture. Small seeps are expected to become established after initiation of the project. Sub-irrigation of an earthen reservoir should create shallow marsh habitat. In addition, water will be provided to the ranch lessee to improve pasture forage and expand an existing pasture. The project is expected to benefit species that utilize riparian and wetland habitats.			LA	IC						X
Hines Spring (1 to 2 acres, EIR Impact 10-14), implemented as the Additional Mitigation Projects Developed by the MOU Ad Hoc Group (MOU Section III.A.3)	The Hines Spring vent and its surroundings will receive on-site mitigation. Water will be supplied to the area from an existing, but unused, LADWP well at the site. As a result, approximately one to two acres will either have ponded water or riparian vegetation. Hines Spring will serve as a research project on how to re-establish a damaged aquatic habitat and surrounding marshland. Riparian trees and a selection of riparian herbaceous species will be planted on the banks.			X			X				X
Hines Spring South (EIR Impact 10-11)	To revegetate with species mapped in surrounding communities.				X		X			X	
Hines Spring Well 355 Project (Additional Mitigation Projects Developed by the MOU Ad Hoc Group (MOU Section III.A.3))	Approximately one to two acres will either have ponded water or riparian vegetation. Riparian trees and a selection of riparian herbaceous species will be			X							X

Habitat



LADWP MITIGATION PROJECT COMMITMENT	HABITAT GOALS	Project Status				
		Completed ¹	Implemented as Required ²	Implemented and Ongoing ³	Fully Implemented Not Met Goals ⁴	Not Fully Implemented ⁵
Big and Little Seely Springs	Maintained by LADWP well adjacent to Owens River to provide waterfowl and shorebird habitat larger than had existed at Seeley Spring			X		
Calvert Slough	Water provided to maintain habitat; small pond and marsh area near LADWP Aqueduct.			X		
Farmers Pond	Water is provided fall of each year to offer increased habitat for migrating waterfowl.			X		
Klondike Lake Aquatic Habitat	Sustains a year-groundwater supply in this 160-acre formerly seasonal lakebed area providing nesting and feeding areas for waterfowl, and permitting water skiing and other water sports in summer months. Previously, the lake, located north of Big Pine, had been filled with water only during above-normal water runoff years.			X		
Klondike SSHA	Seasonal flooding provides nesting and feeding areas for waterfowl.			X ⁷		
Little Blackrock Springs	Water diverted from ditch to maintain wet area at original spring site.			X		
LORP	The goal of the LORP is the establishment of a healthy, functioning Lower Owens River riverine-riparian ecosystem, and the establishment of healthy functioning ecosystems in the other elements of the LORP, for the benefit of biodiversity and threatened and endangered species, while providing for the continuation of sustainable uses including recreation, livestock grazing, agriculture, and other activities.			LA	IC	
Reinhackle Spring	Reduce pumping to the degree necessary to restore the flow to avoid changes or decreases in spring vegetation, or provide water to avoid such decreases or changes.			X		
Saunders Pond	Water is provided to a warm-water fishery and waterfowl area, similar to Buckley Ponds...			X		

An aerial photograph of a vast, flat landscape, likely a wetland or marsh. The terrain is covered in dense, low-lying vegetation, possibly reeds or grasses, in shades of green and brown. A winding road or path cuts through the landscape, starting from the bottom left and curving towards the center. In the background, there are distant hills or mountains under a clear sky. The text "Additional Mitigation" is overlaid in the center of the image in a large, white, sans-serif font.

Additional Mitigation

LADWP MITIGATION PROJECT COMMITMENT	ADDITIONAL MITIGATION	Project Status				
		Completed ¹	Implemented as Required ²	Implemented and Ongoing ³	Fully Implemented Not Met Goals ⁴	Not Fully Implemented ⁵
Hines Spring, Aberdeen Ditch	Create and enhance riparian, aquatic and spring habitat types. In addition, sub-irrigation of pasture/meadow will enhance livestock grazing opportunities.			X		
Diaz Lake	Supply water from the Los Angeles Aqueduct to a 75 acre lake that is an Inyo County recreation facility.			X		
Freeman Creek Project	Divert Freeman Creek into ancestral washes to create a diverse riparian corridor. Sub-irrigation may create small wetlands in depressions in an existing pasture. Small seeps are expected to become established after initiation of the project. Sub-irrigation of an earthen reservoir should create shallow marsh habitat. In addition, water will be provided to the ranch lessee to improve pasture forage and expand an existing pasture. The project is expected to benefit species that utilize riparian and wetland habitats.			LA	IC	
Hines Spring	The Hines Spring vent and its surroundings will receive on-site mitigation. Water will be supplied to the area from an existing, but unused, LADWP well at the site. As a result, approximately one to two acres will either have ponded water or riparian vegetation. Hines Spring will serve as a research project on how to re-establish a damaged aquatic habitat and surrounding marshland. Riparian trees and a selection of riparian herbaceous species will be planted on the banks.			X		
Hines Spring, Well 355	Approximately one to two acres will either have ponded water or riparian vegetation. Riparian trees and a selection of riparian herbaceous species will be planted on the banks. The area will be fenced.			X		
Homestead	Create riparian, wetland and spring habitats and improve the existing alkali meadow. This will benefit riparian dependent bird and mammal species. Fish, waterfowl and invertebrate species will benefit from the one-acre pond.			X		
North of Mazourka Canyon Road	Develop artesian well site V008 and another nearby new artesian well to create physical conditions and habitat types consistent with Owens Valley springs. The project will create spring and riparian habitat.			X		
Warren Lake Project	Create readily utilized shallow-water habitat for shorebirds and waterfowl. The availability of shallow-water habitat is dependent on rainfall. Therefore, this project may provide shallow-water habitat in dry years depending on the amount and timing of water releases.			X		
Well 368 Project	Create and maintain riparian, aquatic and spring habitats.			X		

Community



LADWP MITIGATION PROJECT COMMITMENT	COMMUNITY PROJECTS	Project Status				
		Completed ¹	Implemented as Required ²	Implemented and Ongoing ³	Fully Implemented Not Met Goals ⁴	Not Fully Implemented ⁵
Independence Ditch System	Provide water to a ditch running through Independence. After passing through town, the unused water may supply irrigation water to the Independence Pasturelands and/or Independence Springfield enhancement/mitigation project			X		
Independence East Side Regreening	Enhance the aesthetics of abandoned agricultural or pasture lands in Independence.			X		
Independence Roadside Rest Area	This consists of planting of shade and windbreak trees and grass, installation of an irrigation system, and placement of picnic tables on a 1/2-acre site south of the town of Independence. The project is an aesthetic improvement over the previously blighted area.			X		
Independence Woodlot	Two irrigated projects in Lone Pine and Independence provide a greenbelt and are harvested as sustainable source of firewood for those in need.			X		
Lone Pine East Side Regreening	Enhance the aesthetics of abandoned agricultural or pasture lands in Lone Pine.			X		
Lone Pine-North Lone Pine Clean Up	No documentation located.	X				
Lone Pine Riparian Park	[EIR] Projects have reestablished abandoned pasture land and provide water to approximately 320 acres of native vegetation lands and increase livestock grazing capabilities.			X		
Lone Pine Sports Complex	At the request of the community, portions of the Lo-Inyo Elementary School and vacant LADWP property will be converted to an outdoor sports complex consisting of baseball fields, soccer fields, and related parking, picnic and park areas.	X				
Lone Pine West Side Regreening	Enhance the aesthetics of abandoned agricultural or pasture lands in Lone Pine.			X		
Lone Pine Woodlot	Two irrigated projects in Lone Pine and Independence provide a greenbelt and are harvested as sustainable source of firewood for those in need.			X		
Millpond Recreation Area	Provide water to pond at recreation area either by creek flow or well at site.			X		
Steward Ranch	Compensate the landowner for reduced production and increased pumping costs.	X				
Tree Planting along Roadways	Tree planting along roadways.			X		

Agriculture



LADWP MITIGATION PROJECT COMMITMENT	Agricultural Goals	Project Status				
		Completed ¹	Implemented as Required ²	Implemented and Ongoing ³	Fully Implemented Not Met Goals ⁴	Not Fully Implemented ⁵
Olancho-Cartago Irrigated Fields	...continue to provide water for irrigation of Los Angeles-owned lands in the Olancho/Cartago area in accordance with past practices.			X		
Independence Pasturelands and Native Pasturelands	Revegetated approximately 910 acres of abandoned croplands and sparsely vegetated land to create native pasture lands and provides water to native vegetation lands. Involved conversion of sparsely vegetated land east of Independence to productive native pasture land by flood irrigation. The project mitigated a source of blowing dust and stabilized soil previously affected by severe wind erosion.			X		
Independence Springfield	Supply water and reduce pumping to revegetate barren or near-barren ground with native pasture.			X		
Laws Historical Museum Pasturelands	Provides a regular water supply to improve the native vegetation on a 21-acre parcel, establish irrigated pasture on 15 acres and establish windbreak trees, all adjacent to the museum.			X		
Laws/Poleta Native Pasture	Provides water for irrigation of approximately 216 acres of sparsely vegetated land to reestablish native vegetation on abandoned pasturelands and increase livestock grazing capabilities.			X		
McNally Ponds and Native Pasturelands	Provides water for 300 acres during the spring and summer months to mitigate and sustain vegetation, and to provide water to 60 acres of ponds during the fall months for waterfowl habitat.			X ⁷		
Richards Field	Revegetate with irrigated pasture or alfalfa.			X		
Shepherd Creek Alfalfa Field	Revegetated 198 acres of abandoned cropland adjacent to U.S. Highway 395 with sprinkler irrigated alfalfa and wind break trees. The property between Lone Pine and Independence had maintained only sparse annual vegetation since 1976. This area was a source of blowing dust.			X		
Shepherd Creek Potential	If the density of the native cover in this area does not naturally increase, the existing enhancement/mitigation project may be expanded to include this additional area.	X				
Tule Elk Field	Water provided to field heavily used in summer by Tule elk herd...			X		
Van Norman Fields	Revegetate with irrigated pasture or alfalfa			X		

Revegetation



In a land with a promise so grand, A revegetation project was planned. Decades have flown, Yet it's barely grown, Leaving us scratching our heads, in demand.

Through the years, it's a tale that's been told, Of the shrubs that were meant to take hold. But the promises fade, As we wait in the shade, For a green landscape, now dusty and old.

With each passing year, we still believe, That the plants will one day achieve, But time marches on, And hope nearly gone, As the decades pass by, we grieve.

So here's to the project, stuck in time, A limbo of growth and decline. May the next generation, Finish the revegetation, And complete what was once so divine.

LADWP MITIGATION PROJECT COMMITMENT	REVEGETATION GOALS	Project Status				
		Completed ¹	Implemented as Required ²	Implemented and Ongoing ³	Fully Implemented Not Met Goals ⁴	Not Fully Implemented ⁵
Big Pine Area Revegetation Project	Revegetate the site with plant species found in surrounding areas.				X	
Big Pine Area Revegetation Project	Revegetate the site with plant species found in surrounding areas.				X	
Bishop Area Revegetation Project	Revegetate the site with plant species found in surrounding areas.				X	
Blackrock 16E Revegetation Project	Rehabilitate the site to an Alkali Meadow similar to those within a 5 mi. radius of the site.	LA			IC ⁷	
Five Bridges Area Revegetation Project	Restore the area to a complex of vegetation communities with similar species composition and cover as exists at local similar sites. The goal will be attained when the desired vegetation conditions are achieved and are sustainable. Maintain, and reestablish where necessary, the riparian and meadow communities that were delineated into vegetation parcels during 1984-1987 LADWP vegetation mapping and inventory.	LA			IC	
Hines Spring South	To revegetate with species mapped in surrounding communities.				X	
Independence 105	To revegetate with species mapped in surrounding communities.	LA			IC ⁷	
Independence 123	To revegetate with species mapped in surrounding communities.	LA			IC ⁷	
Independence 131	To revegetate with species mapped in surrounding communities.			LA	IC ⁷	
Laws 118 (Laws Type E)	Establish a native perennial vegetation cover of at least 10% by the year 2013 composed of at least eight different native species (including a native grass). Further, after two years with no on-site revegetation activities, monitoring must show that these goals have been sustained on these parcels.			LA	IC ⁷	
Laws 129	Establish a native perennial vegetation cover of at least 10% by the year 2013 composed of at least eight different native species (including a native grass). Further, after two years with no on-site revegetation activities, monitoring must show that these goals have been sustained on these parcels.			LA	IC ⁷	
Laws 27	40 Acres planted with native plants for the purpose of seed production. Any portion of parcel 27 that is not a part of the seed farm, and that has not already been converted to irrigated pasture, will be converted to irrigated pasture.			LA	IC ⁷	
Laws 90	Establish native perennial vegetation cover of at least 10% by the year 2013 composed of at least ten different native species (including a native grass). Further, after two years with no on-site revegetation activities, monitoring must show that these goals have been sustained on each parcel.			LA	IC ⁷	
Laws 94	Establish native perennial vegetation cover of at least 10% by the year 2013 composed of at least ten different native species (including a native grass). Further, after two years with no on-site revegetation activities, monitoring must show that these goals have been sustained on each parcel.			LA	IC ⁷	
Laws 95	Establish native perennial vegetation cover of at least 10% by the year 2013 composed of at least ten different native species (including a native grass). Further, after two years with no on-site revegetation activities, monitoring must show that these goals have been sustained on each parcel.			LA	IC ⁷	
Laws Area Revegetation Project	Revegetate the site with plant species found in the surrounding area. By agreement in the 2003 Irrigation Project in the Laws Area, approximately 32 acres in the northern portion of the parcel will be reclassified from Type A to Type E, and will converted to irrigated pasture.	LA			IC ⁷	
Tinemaha 54 Revegetation Project	Restore vegetation conditions to that which existed prior to impact.				X	



Yellow Billed Cuckoo Habitat, Hogback Creek

This project, north of Lone Pine, supports suitable habitat for endangered Yellow-Billed Cuckoo



Well 368

Artesian well water is provided to create riparian, aquatic and spring habitats in support of the Owens Valley Pupfish



Homestead

Well water is used to create wetlands and spring habitat, and to irrigate alkali meadow



Freeman Creek

This project was intended to reestablish lost riparian habitat, irrigate pasture, and produce a shallow marsh



Hines Springs, Well 355

Well water is provided to an ancestral channel to create riparian

