



Lower Owens River Project Work Plan, Budget, and Schedule 2025-2026 Fiscal Year

Prepared by
Inyo County Water Department and
Los Angeles Department of Water and Power

Lower Owens River Project Work Plan, Budget, and Schedule

2025-2026 Fiscal Year

The Inyo County Water Department (ICWD) and the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) jointly prepared this 2025-26 Fiscal Year Lower Owens River Project Work Plan. The Inyo County/Los Angeles Technical Group adopted this work plan on June 24, 2025. The Technical Group recommends that the Inyo County Board of Supervisors and the City of Los Angeles Board of Water and Power Commissioners or their designee approve the 2025-26 Fiscal Year Lower Owens River Project Work Plan.

Introduction

The Final Environmental Impact Report for the Lower Owens River Project (LORP) Section 2.2.1 provides that the Long-Term Water Agreement (LTWA) Technical Group will develop and adopt an annual work plan for the LORP, which describes LORP work to be performed in the following fiscal year. This work plan identifies who will perform or oversee tasks, a schedule, and a budget. This work plan and budget were prepared according to the Agreement between the County of Inyo (County) and City of Los Angeles Department of Water and Power Concerning Funding of the Lower Owens River Project (Funding Agreement) sections D, E, and F. Following adoption by the Technical Group, the work plan will be submitted to the County and LADWP governing boards for approval. Each governing board must approve the plan before this work plan and budget can be implemented. The Work Plan, Budget, and Schedule are in effect from July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026.

The objectives of this work plan are to maintain compliance with the July 11, 2007, Superior Court Stipulation and Order in Case No. S1CVCV01-29768, conduct monitoring necessary to achieve the LORP goals described in the 1997 Memorandum of Understanding, maintain infrastructure necessary to the operation of the LORP, and implement adaptive management measures. The following priorities are observed in this work plan:

1. Work and activities required to maintain required flows in the river and required water supplies to other LORP components.
2. Maintenance associated with flow compliance monitoring and reporting associated with the above referenced Stipulation and Order.
3. Habitat and water quality monitoring described in the LORP Final EIR, or required to comply with the requirements of the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board.
4. The preparation of the LORP Annual Report as required by Section 2.10.4 of the LORP Final EIR and by Section L of the above referenced Stipulation and Order.
5. Other work or activities including the implementation of adaptive management measures.

Section 1 of this work plan covers the budget and schedule for operations and maintenance, monitoring, mosquito abatement, noxious species control, saltcedar control, and reporting activities.

Section 2 outlines Adaptive Management activities identified to be conducted in the 2025-26 fiscal year.

The budget amount reflects the additional costs above equal sharing of work by the parties and does not include the costs of Inyo and LA staff times where they offset.

LORP Operations & Maintenance, Monitoring, and Adaptive Management Budget

Table 1 summarizes the costs of operation, maintenance, and monitoring for the fiscal year and specifies the costs incurred for standard operations, maintenance, and monitoring, as well as for Adaptive Management. A summary of these activities follows in Sections 1 and 2 below.

In 2025-26 a total of 4 people days will be required to complete standard biologic monitoring tasks. Inyo County and LADWP will each contribute 2 days. Maintenance, Operations, and Hydrologic monitoring are tasks solely performed by LADWP, and are shared costs between Inyo County and LADWP. LADWP has allocated 80 days for Range Monitoring, which is a LADWP cost. Inyo County and LADWP will perform additional Adaptive Management tasks over 194 people days (Inyo County and LADWP each 97 days).

Based on this budget, total cost for the fiscal year is \$746,851.81, with Inyo County contributing \$80,000 and LADWP contributing \$666,851.81. Inyo County's Post Implementation Credit was reduced to zero following FY 2023-24; subsequently Inyo County's LORP trust fund account is now the sole funding source and will be decreased by \$293,425.90. The cost to the trust is calculated by subtracting the dollars LADWP will spend during the fiscal year from the amount spent by Inyo County and dividing this figure by two.

Table 1. LORP Work Plan Summary Budget, FY 2025-26.

Inyo County	Budgeted Staff Work Days	Value of Additional Staff Time, Materials, and Equipment	Payment/Credit
Biological Monitoring	2	\$0.00	
Mosquito Abatement	-	\$30,000.00	
Noxious Species Control	-	\$50,000.00	
Adaptive Management	97	\$0.00	
Inyo County Totals	99	\$80,000.00	(\$293,425.90)
LADWP	Budgeted Staff Work Days	Budgeted Value of Additional Staff Time, Materials, and Equipment	
Hydrologic Monitoring	-	\$81,140.00	
Biological Monitoring	2	\$0.00	
Operations and Maintenance	-	\$506,382.11	
Mosquito Abatement	-	\$30,000.00	
Rodent Control	-	\$10,000.00	
Adaptive Management	97	\$39,329.70	
LADWP Totals	99	\$666,851.81	
Combined Total	198	\$746,851.81	
Inyo County Credit Adjustment (1/2 of the Difference in Expenditures between Inyo County and LADWP)		(\$293,425.90)	

Footnote to Table 1. Post Implementation Credit and Trust Accounting

Original Post Implementation Credit		2,253,033.00	2,253,033.00
Increase Post Imp Credit by 2.9% based on the July 2007 price Index	2.9%	65,337.96	2,318,370.96
County's obligation for July 11, 2007 to June 30, 2008 period		243,524.00	2,074,846.96
Increase the remaining balance of the Post Implementation Credit by 5.7% based upon the July 2008 price index	5.7%	118,266.28	2,193,113.23
County's obligation for 2008-2009 fiscal year		243,524.00	1,949,589.23
Reduce the remaining balance of the Post Implementation Credit by 1.3% based upon the April 2009 price index	-1.3%	25,344.66	1,924,244.57
County's share of the costs for the 2009-2010 work plan and budget, including adaptive management.		266,176.00	1,658,068.57
Increase the remaining balance of the Post Implementation Credit by 1.9% based upon the April 2010 price index effective July 10, 2010	1.9%	31,503.30	1,689,571.88
County's share of the costs for the 2010-2011 work plan and budget, including adaptive management effective July 21, 2010.		317,805.00	1,371,766.88
Increase the remaining balance of the Post Implementation Credit by 3.3% based upon the April 2011 price index effective July 10, 2011.	3.3%	45,268.31	1,417,035.18
County's share of the costs for the 2011-2012 work plan and budget, including adaptive management effective July 21, 2011.		48,278.00	1,368,757.18
County's share of the costs for the Amended 2011-2012 work plan and budget, effective July 21, 2011.		57,687.00	1,311,070.18
Increase the remaining balance of the Post Implementation Credit by 1.5% based upon the April 2012 price index effective July 10, 2012.	1.5%	19,666.05	1,330,736.24
County's share of the costs for the 2012-2013 work plan and budget, including adaptive management effective July 23, 2012.		14,084.00	1,344,820.24
Increase the remaining balance of the Post Implementation Credit by 0.9% based upon the April 2013 price index effective July 10, 2013.	0.9%	12,103.38	1,356,923.62
County's share of the costs for the 2013-2014 work plan and budget, including adaptive management effective June 21, 2013.		41,979.00	1,398,902.62
Increase the remaining balance of the Post Implementation Credit by 1.4% based upon the April 2014 price index effective July 10, 2014.	1.4%	19,584.64	1,418,487.25
County's share of the costs for the 2014-2015 work plan and budget, including adaptive management effective June 21, 2014.		78,483.00	1,340,004.25
Increase the remaining balance of the Post Implementation Credit by 0.5% based upon the April 2015 consumer price index.	0.5%	6,700.02	1,346,704.28
County's share of the costs for the 2015-2016 work plan and budget, including adaptive management effective June 21, 2015.		73,755.00	1,272,949.28
Increase the remaining balance of the Post Implementation Credit by 2.0% based upon the April 2016 consumer price index.	2.0%	25,458.99	1,298,408.26
County's share of the costs for the 2016-2017 work plan and budget, including adaptive management effective June 21, 2016.		84,704.00	1,213,704.26
Increase the remaining balance of the Post Implementation Credit by 2.7% based upon the April 2017 consumer price index.	2.7%	32,770.02	1,246,474.28
County's share of the costs for the 2017-2018 work plan and budget, including adaptive management, effective October 31, 2018.		114,857.00	1,131,617.28
Increase the remaining balance of the Post Implementation Credit by 4.0% based upon the April 2018 consumer price index.	4.0%	45,264.69	1,176,881.97
County's share of the costs for the 2018-2019 work plan and budget, including adaptive management, effective October 31, 2019.		139,493.00	1,037,388.97

Increase the remaining balance of the Post Implementation Credit by 3.3% based upon the April 2019 consumer price index.	3.3%	34,233.84	1,071,622.80
County's share of the costs for the 2019-2020 work plan and budget, including adaptive management, effective October 31, 2020.		132,557.50	939,065.30
Increase the remaining balance of the Post Implementation Credit by 0.7% based upon the April 2020 consumer price index.	0.7%	6,573.46	945,638.76
County's share of the costs for the 2020-2021 work plan and budget, including adaptive management, effective October 31, 2021.		252,481.42	693,157.34
Increase the remaining balance of the Post Implementation Credit by 3.6% based upon the April 2021 consumer price index.	3.6%	24,953.66	718,111.01
County's share of the costs for the 2022-2023 work plan and budget, including adaptive management, effective October 31, 2022.		175,435.79	542,675.22
Increase the remaining balance of the Post Implementation Credit by 7.9% based upon the April 2022 consumer price index.	7.9%	42,871.34	585,546.56
County's share of the costs for the 2022-2023 work plan and budget, including adaptive management, effective October 31, 2023.		192,211.26	393,335.30
Increase the remaining balance of the Post Implementation Credit by 3.8% based upon the April 2023 consumer price index.	3.8%	14,946.74	408,282.04
County's share of the costs for the 2023-2024 work plan and budget, including adaptive management, effective October 31, 2024.		419,438.47	-11,156.43
LORP Trust Fund as of April 7, 2025.			2,066,557.87
LORP Trust Fund with the difference in cost associated with 2023-24 work plan and budget, including adaptive management, effective October 31, 2024.*			2,055,401.44

*The original post implementation credit was reduced to below zero following FY 2023-24, prompting the start of the LORP Trust Fund Account (see Post-Implementation Agreement section I.9).

Section 1. Maintenance and Monitoring Tasks

LORP Tasks

The maintenance and monitoring portion of this work plan consists of four categories of tasks: operations and maintenance, hydrologic monitoring, biological monitoring, and range monitoring.

Operations and Maintenance

Operation activities consist of setting and checking flows and ensuring that necessary flows reach the river to maintain mandated base and seasonal habitat flows. Estimates of the level of effort necessary for maintenance are adjusted as required by section II.D of the Funding Agreement and provides that costs for maintenance above the baseline costs for facilities in the river corridor and the Blackrock Waterfowl Management Area (BWMA) shall be shared. Maintenance activities associated with the river and its tributaries may consist of: cleaning sediment accumulations and other obstructions from water measurement facilities, cleaning sediment and aquatic vegetation from ditches, mowing ditch margins, adjustments to flow control structures, maintenance/replacement of existing structures. For the BWMA this work may include: annual maintenance to spillgates, ditches, dikes, berms, ponds, and other infrastructure associated with the BWMA.

Budgeted Operations and Maintenance costs and associated material costs for 2025-26 are included in Table 2. The estimated costs for River corridor and BWMA facilities are \$287,630.20 and \$409,481.51 respectively, for an overall 2025-26 operations and maintenance expenditure of \$697,111.71. This figure reduced by the combined CPI-adjusted baseline costs for the river corridor and BWMA facilities is \$506,382.11 (Table 2).

Table 2. LORP Operations and Maintenance Budget 2025-26 Fiscal Year

Labor					Equipment			
Location/Activity	Labor type	Hours	Labor Rate	Total Labor	Equipment/Materials	Hours	Rate	Total Equip
River								
Measuring Station Maintenance								
Cleaning	Building Repairman	10	\$53.98	\$539.80	3 axle dump truck	30	\$94.12	\$2,823.60
	MCH	50	\$47.64	\$2,382.00	3/4 ton 4x4 pick-up	100	\$41.96	\$4,196.00
	Equipment Operator	10	\$58.56	\$585.60	Excavator	30	\$132.61	\$3,978.30
	Power Shovel Operator	30	\$61.75	\$1,852.50	Mower	10	\$48.93	\$489.30
	Truck Driver	30	\$49.99	\$1,499.70				
Subtotal		130		\$6,859.60		170		\$11,487.20
Intake Spillgate								
Maintenance	Building Repairman	40	\$53.98	\$2,159.20	3 axle dump truck	40	\$94.12	\$3,764.80
	MCH	340	\$47.64	\$16,197.60	3/4 ton 4x4 pick-up	620	\$41.96	\$26,015.20
	Equipment Operator	200	\$58.56	\$11,712.00	Bull Dozer	80	\$67.07	\$5,365.60
	Power Shovel Operator	40	\$61.75	\$2,470.00	Excavator	40	\$132.61	\$5,304.40
	Truck Driver	40	\$49.99	\$1,999.60	Mower	20	\$48.93	\$978.60
Subtotal		660		\$34,538.40		800		\$41,428.60
Thibaut Spillgate and Ditch								
Cleaning	MCH	120	\$47.64	\$5,716.80	3 axle dump truck	40	\$94.12	\$3,764.80
	Equipment Operator	80	\$58.56	\$4,684.80	3/4 ton 4x4 pick-up	160	\$41.96	\$6,713.60
	Power Shovel Operator	40	\$61.75	\$2,470.00	Backhoe and trailer	40	\$56.29	\$2,251.60
	Truck Driver	20	\$49.99	\$999.80	Excavator	40	\$132.61	\$5,304.40
					Loader	40	\$110.68	\$4,427.20
Subtotal		260		\$13,871.40		320		\$22,461.60
Independence Spillgate and Ditch								
Cleaning/Mowing	Power Shovel Operator	40	\$61.75	\$2,470.00	3/4 ton 4x4 pick-up	280	\$41.96	\$11,748.80
	MCH	160	\$47.64	\$7,622.40	Excavator	40	\$132.61	\$5,304.40
	Equipment Operator	80	\$58.56	\$4,684.80	Loader	40	\$110.68	\$4,427.20
	Truck Driver	30	\$49.99	\$1,499.70	Mower	40	\$48.93	\$1,957.20
					Low bed/side dump	10	\$104.99	\$1,049.90
					Water truck	40	\$54.23	\$2,169.20
Subtotal		310		\$16,276.90		450		\$26,656.70
Locust Spillgate and Ditch								
Cleaning	MCH	100	\$47.64	\$4,764.00	3 axle dump truck	40	\$94.12	\$3,764.80
	Equipment Operator	80	\$58.56	\$4,684.80	3/4 ton 4x4 pick-up	200	\$41.96	\$8,392.00
	Power Shovel Operator	20	\$61.75	\$1,235.00	Backhoe and trailer	80	\$56.29	\$4,503.20
	Truck Driver	40	\$49.99	\$1,999.60	Excavator	20	\$132.61	\$2,652.20
Subtotal		240		\$12,683.40		340		\$19,312.20
Georges Ditch								
Cleaning/Mowing	MCH	120	\$47.64	\$5,716.80	3/4 ton 4x4 pick-up	240	\$13.60	\$3,264.00
	Equipment Operator	80	\$58.56	\$4,684.80	Backhoe and trailer	30	\$56.29	\$1,688.70
	Power Shovel Operator	40	\$61.75	\$2,470.00	Excavator	40	\$132.61	\$5,304.40
	Truck Driver	20	\$49.99	\$999.80	Loader	20	\$110.68	\$2,213.60
					Mower	30	\$48.93	\$1,467.90
Subtotal		260		\$13,871.40		360		\$13,938.60
Alabama Spillgate								
Cleaning	Equipment Operator	40	\$58.56	\$2,342.40	3 axle dump truck	180	\$94.12	\$16,941.60
	Power Shovel Operator	60	\$61.75	\$3,705.00	3/4 ton 4x4 pick-up	100	\$41.96	\$4,196.00
	Truck Driver	180	\$49.99	\$8,998.20	Bull Dozer	40	\$67.07	\$2,682.80
					Excavator	60	\$132.61	\$7,956.60
Subtotal		280		\$15,045.60		380		\$31,777.00
Delta Spillgate								
	Building Repairman	40	\$53.98	\$2,159.20	3/4 ton 4x4 pick-up	40	\$41.96	\$1,678.40
	MCH	40	\$47.64	\$1,905.60	3/4 ton 4x4 pick-up	40	\$41.96	\$1,678.40
Subtotal		80		\$4,064.80		80		\$3,356.80
River Subtotal				\$117,211.50				\$170,418.70

Table 2. LORP Operations and Maintenance Budget 2025-26 Fiscal Year (continued)

Labor					Equipment			
Location/Activity	Labor type	Hours	Labor Rate	Total Labor	Equipment/Materials	Hours	Rate	Total Equip
Blackrock Waterfowl Management Area								
Blackrock Ditch								
Maintenance	MCH	260	\$47.64	\$12,386.40	3 axle dump truck	120	\$94.12	\$11,294.40
	Equipment Operator	120	\$58.56	\$7,027.20	3/4 ton 4x4 pick-up	400	\$41.96	\$16,784.00
	Power Shovel Operator	140	\$61.75	\$8,645.00	Excavator	140	\$132.61	\$18,565.40
	Truck Driver	200	\$49.99	\$9,998.00	Loader	40	\$110.68	\$4,427.20
					Mower	80	\$48.93	\$3,914.40
					Low bed/side dump	60	\$104.99	\$6,299.40
					Water truck	60	\$54.23	\$3,253.80
Subtotal		720		\$38,056.60		900		\$64,538.60
Thibaut Pond Maintenance								
Mowing/digging	MCH	100	\$47.64	\$4,764.00	3/4 ton 4x4 pick-up	200	\$41.96	\$8,392.00
	Equipment Operator	60	\$58.56	\$3,513.60	Low bed/side dump	6	\$104.99	\$629.94
	Power Shovel Operator	40	\$61.75	\$2,470.00	Quadtrac/excavator	20	\$132.61	\$2,652.20
	Truck Driver	12	\$49.99	\$599.88	Water truck	6	\$54.23	\$325.38
Subtotal		212		\$11,347.48		232		\$11,999.52
Patrol & Flow Changes (River and BWMA)								
A&R data	A&R Keeper (1.5 FTE)	3089	\$49.83	\$153,924.87	3/4 ton 4x4 pick-up	3089	\$41.96	\$129,614.44
Subtotal				\$153,924.87		3089		\$129,614.44
BWMA Subtotal				\$203,328.95				\$206,152.56
TOTALS								
River Total				\$287,630.20				
BWMA Total				\$409,481.51				
Total O and M				\$697,111.71				
CPI Adjusted O & M				\$506,382.11				

Baseline Costs (described in Post-Implementation Agreement Sections I.D.2 & I.D.6)			
CPI adjustment	River	BWMA	Total CPI adjustment
Baseline	\$56,863.00	\$62,798.00	\$119,661.00
2006-2007 4.5%	\$59,421.84	\$65,623.91	\$125,045.75
2007-2008 3.1%	\$61,263.91	\$67,658.25	\$128,922.16
2008-2009 -1.3%	\$60,467.48	\$66,778.69	\$127,246.17
2009-2010 0.9%	\$61,011.69	\$67,379.70	\$128,391.39
2010-2011 0.7%	\$61,438.77	\$67,851.36	\$129,290.13
2011-2012 3.0%	\$63,281.93	\$69,886.90	\$133,168.83
2012-2013 2.1 %	\$64,610.85	\$71,354.53	\$135,965.38
2013-2014 0.4%	\$64,869.30	\$71,639.94	\$136,509.24
2014-2015 1.3%	\$65,712.60	\$72,571.26	\$138,283.86
2015-2016 1.6%	\$66,764.00	\$73,732.40	\$140,496.40
2016-2017 1.8%	\$67,965.75	\$75,059.59	\$143,025.34
2017-2018 3.6%	\$70,412.52	\$77,761.73	\$148,174.25
2018-2019 3.6%	\$72,947.37	\$80,561.15	\$153,508.52
2019-2020 3.2%	\$75,281.69	\$83,139.11	\$158,420.80
2020-2021 1.0%	\$76,034.50	\$83,970.50	\$160,005.00
2021-2022 6.0%	\$80,596.57	\$89,008.73	\$169,605.30
2022-2023 6.0%	\$85,432.37	\$94,349.26	\$179,781.62
2023-2024 2.8%	\$87,824.47	\$96,991.04	\$184,815.51
2024-2025 3.2%	\$90,634.86	\$100,094.75	\$190,729.60

Hydrologic Monitoring

Hydrologic monitoring consists of monitoring, analyzing, and reporting river baseflows and seasonal habitat flows, water usages associated with the flooded extent of the BWMA, the levels of the Off-River Lakes and Ponds, and baseflows, pulse flows, and seasonal habitat flows to the Delta. Budgeted hydrologic monitoring costs for the 2025-26 fiscal year are \$81,140.00 (Table 3).

Table 3. Hydrologic Monitoring Budget, FY 2025-26

	Person days	Labor Costs	Equipment Cost	Total Predicted Cost July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026
HYDRO OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE				
River Stations	24	\$13,200.00	\$5,760.00	\$18,960.00
Seasonal Habitat	6	\$3,330.00	\$240.00	\$3,570.00
Off River Lakes & Ponds	6	\$3,330.00	\$240.00	\$3,570.00
Flow to Delta	2	\$1,100.00	\$3,080.00	\$4,180.00
Blackrock Waterfowl	7	\$3,850.00	\$3,280.00	\$7,130.00
Reporting Compliance	7	\$3,850.00	\$280.00	\$4,130.00
ENGINEERING				
Reporting Compliance	60	\$39,600	\$0	\$39,600.00
			Total Hydro Budget	\$81,140.00

Biological Monitoring

Biological monitoring, analysis, reporting, and report preparation will be jointly conducted by Inyo and LADWP as to comply with LORP Final EIR and MOU requirements (Table 4). Inyo County staff will monitor the flooded extent of the BWMA. The flooded extent will be primarily determined by using remote sensing of high-resolution satellite imagery with ground truthing to determine accuracy. Inyo staff will be responsible for a total of 2 person days and LADWP a similar amount. There will be no off-setting costs.

Table 4. Biological Monitoring Budget, FY 2025-26

Biological Monitoring	Days	Inyo Days	LA Days
Blackrock Waterfowl Management Area			
Waterfowl Area Wetted Acreage	4	2	2
Total Person Days on Project	4	2	2

Range Monitoring

Range monitoring is related to the tasks described in the LORP Final EIR. Three types of monitoring will take place that are directly related to the management of livestock grazing: irrigated pasture condition scoring, utilization monitoring, and range trend monitoring. Range monitoring will be conducted by LADWP and is not a shared cost, and therefore is not budgeted for in this work plan (Table 5).

Table 5. Range Monitoring (LADWP only), FY 2025-26

Task	Person Days
Utilization	35
Irrigated Pasture Condition	5
Range Trend	30
Analysis and Reporting	10
Total	80

Mosquito Abatement

For fiscal year 2025-26, the Owens Valley Mosquito Abatement Program (OVMAP) will continue a comprehensive Integrated Mosquito Management Plan (IMMP) when addressing the new and developing sources within the LORP in accordance with its mission of protecting public health. This IMMP consists of an expansion of currently used materials and methods for the surveillance and control of mosquitoes across the OVMAP boundary. The \$60,000 budget anticipates field surveillance of potential larval habitat for mosquito production, larviciding, pupaciding, adult mosquito surveillance with light traps, mosquito borne disease surveillance, and treatment for adult mosquitoes.

Noxious Species Control

The Inyo and Mono Counties Agricultural Commissioner's Office conducts operations to control and eradicate several invasive weed species within the LORP boundaries. These invasive weed species include: perennial pepperweed (*Lepidium latifolium*), Russian knapweed (*Acroptilon repens*), Canada thistle (*Cirsium arvense*), yellow star thistle (*Centaurea solstitialis*), spotted knapweed (*Centaurea maculosa*), hairy whitetop (*Carderia pubescens*), and heart podded hoary cress (*Carderia draba*). These populations are managed using integrated pest management methods, including mechanical, chemical, and biological controls.

For fiscal year 2025-26, Inyo County will be responsible for treating weeds in the LORP. The budget for noxious weed control is \$50,000. An increase in perennial pepperweed in the LORP in recent years will require additional funding and efforts to contain the existing population and prevent spread. Additional funding for Inyo County will be sought from outside sources.

Additional weed treatment and surveillance by LADWP and ICWD are described in Section 2. Adaptive Management.

Saltcedar Control

Due to lack of enhanced funding, Inyo County's saltcedar control program has been scaled back. The effort will focus on surveying and treatment of saltcedar resprouts along the Owens River in the LORP. Inyo County's LORP saltcedar control activities are funded through the Inyo/Los Angeles Water Agreement. LADWP and Inyo County programs will work cooperatively to treat saltcedar, which may include areas in the LORP as resources are available.

Adaptive management

Inyo County and LADWP have identified adaptive management and monitoring tasks to complete in the 2025-26 fiscal year. Refer to Section 2 for more information.

Schedule

Table 6. Schedule of Monitoring and Reporting Activities for FY 2025-26

Period	Monitoring
July 1-August 30, 2025	LORP Noxious Species Survey/Treatment
September 1 – December 5, 2025	LADWP/Inyo Prepare Draft LORP Report
September 1, 2025 - March 1, 2026	Start and end dates for flow releases to BWMA
October 1 - October 31, 2025	Fiscal Year 2024-25 Work Plan and Budget Reconciliation
Friday, October 31, 2025	Transmittal of LORP Accounting Report to Governing Boards
November 3-7, 2025	Measure BWMA Flooded Extent
Friday, December 19, 2025	Draft Report transmitted to MOU Parties
Thursday, January 15, 2026	Public Meeting for Draft LORP Report
Thursday, January 22, 2026	Technical Group Meeting to Adopt LORP Annual Report
March 2-7, 2026	Measure BWMA Flooded Extent
March 1 – April 30, 2026	Fiscal Year 2026-27 Work Plan and Budget Development
May 1 – May 31, 2026	Transmittal of LORP Work Plan, Budget, and Schedule to governing boards for approval
April 1 - June 30, 2026	Noxious Species Survey/Treatment
May 1 - June 15, 2026	Seasonal Habitat Flow

Section 2. Adaptive Management

Implementation costs of both the Interim BWMA Plan and adaptive management for the river are provided below. These costs are to be shared equally between LADWP and Inyo County.

Adaptive Management with Additional Costs

Implementation of the Interim BWMA Management and Monitoring Plan

LADWP and Inyo County have implemented four years of the five-year Interim BWMA Management and Monitoring Plan (Interim Plan) that started in 2021. The fifth year will occur in FY 2025-26 and will include the following work: repairing berms in both Thibaut and West Winterton units, lowering a culvert in West Winterton to increase conveyance to a down gradient basin, and finally discing and dragging of tules and cattails in West Winterton to provide greater open-water habitat. This work will be conducted by LADWP and is budgeted at \$39,329.70 (Table 7). Costs will be shared equally by LADWP and Inyo County.

Table 7. BWMA Adaptive Management Costs

BWMA ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT COST 2025-26								
Labor					Equipment			
Location/Activity	Labor type	Hours	Labor Rate	Total Labor	Equipment Type	Hours	Rate	Total Equip
Thibaut & West Winterton Berm Repair								
Berm repairs	Equipment Operator	30	\$58.56	\$1,756.80	3/4 ton 4x4 pick- up	30	\$41.96	\$1,258.80
	MCH	60	\$46.48	\$2,788.80	Backhoe and trailer	60	\$56.29	\$3,377.40
					Water truck	30	\$54.23	\$1,626.90
Subtotal				\$4,545.60				\$6,263.10
West Winterton culvert								
Lower culvert	Building Repairman	10	\$53.98	\$539.80	3/4 ton 4x4 pick- up	30	\$41.96	\$1,258.80
	Equipment Operator	10	\$58.56	\$585.60	Backhoe and trailer	10	\$56.29	\$562.90
	MCH	20	\$46.48	\$929.60	Water truck	10	\$54.23	\$542.30
Subtotal				\$2,055.00				\$2,364.00
Winterton West Discing & Drag								
Discing & Dragging	MCH	100	\$46.48	\$4,648.00	3/4 ton 4x4 pick- up	100	\$41.96	\$4,196.00
	Equipment Operator	100	\$58.56	\$5,856.00	Bull Dozer	100	\$67.07	\$6,707.00
	Truck Driver	20	\$49.99	\$999.80	Semi w/ Lowboy	20	\$84.76	\$1,695.20
Subtotal				\$11,503.80				\$12,598.20
TOTALS								
Thibaut & west Winterton Berm Repair Total			\$10,808.70					
West Winterton Culvert Total			\$4,419.00					
West Winterton Discing and Drag			\$24,102.00					
Proposed Project Total			\$39,329.70					

Adaptive Management without Additional Costs

1. Monitoring Associated with the Interim BWMA Plan

As stated in the Interim BWMA Plan, LADWP and the County will conduct additional monitoring concurrent with its implementation on flooded extent, as well as both avian and vegetation monitoring to note response to the new flooding regime. To be monitored:

- a) Flooded extent will continue to be measured both to confirm compliance with the Interim Plan and to help describe the effectiveness of seasonal filling and drawdown. Remote sensing with field verification will be used to determine the area associated with the flooding. Estimates of flooded acreage derived from remote sensing will occur monthly, and maps of the wetted area

will be generated for November 1, 2025, and March 1, 2026. Water releases will be monitored and reported annually. Staff time commitment for flooded extent monitoring in BWMA is outlined in Table 4, as this task is required under the LORP Final EIR. Inyo County and LADWP will equally share this task and will take a total of 4 person days to complete.

- b) Avian monitoring will be conducted to evaluate the use of BWMA by the habitat indicator species during implementation of the 5-year interim program. Eight seasonal surveys will be conducted September-April in each active unit during implementation of the Interim Plan. It is estimated that it will take a total of 40 person days to complete this task and will be evenly divided between Inyo County and LADWP.
- c) Vegetation monitoring of the BWMA units will characterize species composition and abundance as to quantify available forage for water birds. Monitoring, analysis, and reporting will be conducted solely by LADWP and take 16 person days.

The estimated time that monitoring and reporting associated with the Interim Plan will require a total of 56 person days in the 2025-26 fiscal year, with Inyo contributing 20 days and LADWP 36 days.

2. Noxious species treatment

Additional noxious weed treatment will continue in 2025-26 along the LORP and BWMA. The LADWP will perform all the work at 61 person days. Treatment will focus on known pepperweed populations along the river and in units of the BWMA that will be flooded in the fall. These areas require a concentrated effort beyond those described in the operation and management plan. Because these populations are relatively less mature than other populations in the LORP, this extra effort is likely to be advantageous in control as immature populations are more susceptible to treatment. Subsequently, it is envisioned that this additional work will be temporary because of more favorable treatment conditions. Lastly, while treating crews will surveil for new populations of weeds and treat accordingly.

3. Tree recruitment assessment

The fieldwork component of the Tree Recruitment Assessment for the Lower Owens River Project, which occurred during the months of May and June from 2021-2025, is complete. This assessment included aging mature trees to correlate establishment with historic environmental conditions and revisiting a sample of post-project recruitment sites identified in earlier Rapid Assessment Surveys to collect data on site characteristics such as landform, water availability, soil salinity, associated species, and ground surface conditions. The final component involved two removal experiments to assess the possible effects of plant competition on successful tree recruitment.

The focus for 2025-26 will be on quality assurance and quality control of the collected data. This process will involve reviewing field notes, validating measurements, and resolving any discrepancies encountered. Once data qa/qc is complete, preliminary data analysis will be initiated. This work will take 5 days to complete and will be entirely performed by Inyo County.

4. Rapid Assessment Survey

Rapid assessments along the river will focus on two main areas of interest: mapping new noxious weed populations and surveying along the river's edge in low topography for 2024 recruitment. Perennial pepperweed will be mapped downstream from known populations, and these data are shared in real time with LADWP and County weed management personnel through a shared GIS. Inyo County will perform the whole of this work with 60 person days.

5. Water Quality Monitoring

Inyo County will monitor water quality along the river. Measurements will include temperature, dissolved oxygen, pH, and specific conductance and will be collected monthly except during the seasonal habitat flow, where measurements will be collected bi-weekly. County staff will summarize findings and generate a report. Inyo County will be responsible for the entirety of this work, which will take 12 person days.

Table 8 shows a total of 194 people-days budgeted for 5 adaptive management tasks, with Inyo County contributing 97 person-days and Los Angeles contributing 97 days.

Table 8. Adaptive Management Monitoring 2025-26

Task #	Biological Monitoring	Days	Inyo Days	LA Days
1	BWMA Interim Management and Monitoring Plan - Monitoring and Reporting	56	20	36
2	Noxious species survey & treatment	61	0	61
3	Tree recruitment assessment	5	5	0
4	Rapid Assessment of river	60	60	0
5	Water quality monitoring	12	12	0
	Total Person Days	194	97	97