

Notice of Determination**- 1 -****To:**

Office of Planning and Research
For U.S. Mail:

P.O. Box 3044

Sacramento, CA. 95812-3044

Street Address:

1400 Tenth Street
Sacramento, CA. 95814

From:

Department of Fish and Wildlife
Inland Deserts Region
3602 Inland Empire Blvd., Suite C-220
Ontario CA, 91764
Contact: Alyssa Marquez
Phone: (760) 567-0332

**Lead Agency**

Los Angeles Department of Water and Power
111 North Hope Street, Room 1044
Los Angeles, CA. 90012
Contact: Chuck Halloway
Phone: 213-367-0285

SUBJECT: Filing of Notice of Determination pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21108

State Clearinghouse Numbers: SCH # 2002111020, SCH # 2005061068, SCH # 2007021127

Project Title: Owens Lake Tillage with Best Available Control Measure (BACM) Backup (TwB²) Project

(Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement No. 1600-2020-0105-R6)

Project Location: The Project is located in the Owens Lake bed, between the communities of Lone Pine and Olancha, bounded by State Route 136 to the north and east, State Route 190 to the South, and US Highway 395 to the West, in the County of Inyo, State of California; Township 16S, Range 37E, Owens Lake US Geological Survey map; Township 17S, Range 38E, Keeler US Geological Survey map; Township 18S, Range 37E, Vermillion Canyon US Geological Survey map; Township 16S, Range 37E, Dolomite US Geological Survey Map; Township 18S, Range 37E, Owens Lake US Geological Survey Map.

Project Description: The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) has executed Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement No. 1600-2020-0105-R6, pursuant to section 1602 of the Fish and Game Code to the project applicant, the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP).

The proposed Project is limited to the maintenance of eleven dust control areas (DCAs) in Owens Lake, totaling 2,626 acres (4.1 square miles), that LADWP modified from shallow flood DCAs to tillage (completed in early 2016), as authorized under the Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement No. 1600-2014-0155-R6 Owens Lake Tillage with BACM Backup Project. These DCAs include : T3SW (386 acres TwB²), T3SE (319 acres TwB²), T3NE (76 acres TwB²; 73 acres Brine Pool), T24 Addition (42 acres TwB²), T2-2 (14 acres TwB²; 119 acres shallow flood), T2-3 (75 acres TwB²), T2-4 (96 acres TwB²; 84 acres Brine), T5-4 (43 acres Brine), T29-4 (162 acres Brine), T3SE Addition (77 acres shallow flood), and T16 (489 acres TwB²; 109 acres Brine; 463 acres shallow flood).

Tillage consists of tilled rows approximately 2-feet deep and up to 4-feet high ridges with spacing between rows to vary from several feet up to 14-feet apart. The tillage rows and ridges roughen or clod the lakebed surface to minimize dust emission from the DCAs. Tillage is created and periodically maintained (i.e., re-tilling and/or rewetting to restore effectiveness) with tractor-drawn equipment such as a disk, plow, or rotary hoe, and can also include tilted dozer blades or excavators to create rows of ridges. Other equipment utilized includes bulldozers, water trucks, all-terrain vehicles, 4-wheel drive trucks, front-end loaders, graders, dump trucks, scrapers, tracked excavator, compactor, haul truck, crane\pipe layer, trencher with conveyor, tracked chain material delivery trucks, water pumps, post hold digger and backhoe.

Maintenance and repair of infrastructure associated with the 11 DCAs is also covered under this Agreement. Infrastructure includes: turnout facilities, pipelines, sprinklers, irrigation systems, whipline arrays, culverts, collector channels, controlled outlet structures, Arizona crossings, subsurface drainage piping, and shallow collector wells equipped with pumps. Equipment used to perform maintenance activities includes bulldozers, skid steers, scrapers, excavators, backhoes, trenchers, trucks, portable diesel generators, tractors, HDPE fusing machine, quads, dump trucks, motor grader, loaders, compactor, side-by-sides and pumps. When feasible, extended facility maintenance (repairs of pumps, berms, laterals and submains) will be completed during the non-dust control season.

Notice of Determination

This is to advise that CDFW, acting as a Responsible Agency, approved the above described project on January 10, 2022 and has made the following determinations regarding the project pursuant to California Code of Regulations section 15096, subdivision (i):

1. The project will / will not have a significant effect on the environment. This determination is limited to effects within CDFW's permitting jurisdiction as a Responsible Agency.
2. CDFW considered the environmental impact reports prepared by the Lead Agency for this project pursuant to California Code of Regulations section 15096, subdivision (f).
3. Mitigation measures were / were not made a condition of CDFW's approval of the project.
4. A mitigation reporting or monitoring plan was / was not adopted by CDFW for this project.
5. A statement of overriding considerations was / was not adopted by CDFW for this project.
6. Findings were / were not made by CDFW pursuant to California Code of Regulations section 15091.

The final environmental impact report prepared for the project is available to the general public at the office location listed above for the Lead Agency. CDFW's record of project approval as Responsible Agency is available at CDFW's regional office.

DocuSigned by:
Alisa Ellsworth 1/10/2022
 _____ Date: _____
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Alisa Ellsworth, Environmental Program Manager or Regional Manager

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____