

Summary Form for Electronic Document Submittal

Form F

Lead agencies may include 15 hardcopies of this document when submitting electronic copies of Environmental Impact Reports, Negative Declarations, Mitigated Negative Declarations, or Notices of Preparation to the State Clearinghouse (SCH). The SCH also accepts other summaries, such as EIR Executive Summaries prepared pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15123. Please include one copy of the Notice of Completion Form (NOC) with your submission and attach the summary to each electronic copy of the document.

SCH #: 2018051049

Project Title: Owens River Water Trail

Lead Agency: Inyo County

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Project Location: Approx. 6.3-mile segment of Owens River near Lone Pine Inyo County
City *County*

Project Description (Proposed actions, location, and/or consequences).

Construct the Owens River Water Trail to allow public recreational access solely for non-motorized watercraft on an approximately 6.3-mile segment of the Owens River. The project would develop facilities for recreational users to enter and exit the river and allow unimpeded navigation for non-motorized watercraft, such as kayaks, stand-up paddle boards, and canoes. The project would involve removal of emergent vegetation and excavation within the river channel to remove occlusions. In addition, boat launch and take-out facilities that would provide limited amenities (i.e., vault restroom, wildlife resistant trash receptacles, signage) in addition to access to the river, would be developed. The County would provide ongoing maintenance of the water trail.

Identify the project's significant or potentially significant effects and briefly describe any proposed mitigation measures that would reduce or avoid that effect.

Based on the analyses contained in the Draft EIR, the project would result in potentially significant impacts to: Biological Resources; Cultural Resources; Paleontological Resources; and Hydrology and Water Quality. However, with the implementation of mitigation measures impacts would be reduced to a less than significant level.

Mitigation Measures BIO-1 through BIO-10 establish protections for biological resources primarily through surveys, monitoring and reporting, implementation of educational programs, as well as establishing restrictions for construction and maintenance activities and requiring permits.

Mitigation Measures CUL-1 through CUL-5 and CUL-9 establish protections for cultural resources primarily through monitoring and reporting, training of workers, and installing exclusionary fencing around the archaeological sites within or immediately adjacent to the proposed project access roads. Mitigation Measure CUL-6 requires language specific to cultural resources on the proposed signage to be installed at the boat launch and take out kiosks. Mitigation Measure CUL-7 requires the use of material from the site to be used to limit access outside the defined features of the project. Mitigation Measure CUL-8 requires that the County implement an annual site condition verification program to monitor the conditions of known archaeological sites and the implementation of further protection if determined to be necessary.

Mitigation Measures GEO-1 through GEO-4 establish protections for paleontological resources primarily through monitoring, reporting, and training of workers. These measures also include provisions for the protection of paleontological resources, should they be encountered.

Mitigation Measures HYD-1a, HYD-1b, and HDY-2 would ensure impacts to the hydrology and water quality of the Lower Owens River would be minimized through implementation of in-stream best management practices (BMPs) geared towards reducing pollution, sediment loading, and dissolved oxygen; installing trash receptacles to aid in keeping trash out of the river and surrounding floodplain; and implementation of construction BMPs for floodplain erosion management.

If applicable, describe any of the project's areas of controversy known to the Lead Agency, including issues raised by agencies and the public.

- Construction of improvements should be outside of State right-of-way
- Need for an encroachment permit if work is to be conducted in the right-of-way

- Assess impacts on drainage and water quality
- Evaluate potential indirect impacts to biological resources; resources should be inventoried/surveyed
- Evaluate potential cumulative impacts
- Use of local onsite propagules from project area for restoration
- Hydromodification (alteration of the natural flow of water through a landscape) should be mitigated; concern of changes affecting current fishing holes
- Provide protection of rich and robust culture
- Support for opportunities for traditional practices and healthy family recreation
- Concern of potential impacts resulting from increase in use of area
- Disposal of emergent vegetation and excavated materials
- Impacts resulting from an increase in activity and people in the area

Provide a list of the responsible or trustee agencies for the project.

California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Caltrans District 9
State Water Resources Control Board
Los Angeles Department of Water and Power