

Notice of Determination

To:

Office of Planning and Research
[CEQA Submit](#)

From:

Department of Fish and Wildlife
Inland Deserts Region
3602 Inland Empire Blvd., Suite C-220
Contact: Dana Scott
Email: Dana.Scott@Wildlife.ca.gov
Phone: (760)664-8056



Lead Agency

Los Angeles Department of Water and Power
111 N. Hope Street, Room 1044
Los Angeles, CA 90012
Contact: Julie Van Wagner
Phone: (213) 367-5295

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

State Clearinghouse Number: 2010021063

Project Title: Upper and Middle Owens River Gorge Power Plant Repairs (Streambed Alteration Agreement No. EPIMS-MOO-55329-R6)

Project Location (Mono): The Project is located in the Owens River Gorge, a tributary to Owens Lake, in the Counties of Inyo and Mono, State of California; Section 5 & 16, Township 5S, Range 31E, United States Geological Survey (USGS) Casa Diablo Quadrangle.

Project Description: The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) has executed Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement (EPIMS-MOO-55329-R6), pursuant to Fish and Game Code section 1602, the project Applicant, Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (Permittee).

The Project is limited to the release of water to the Owens River below the Court-ordered Managed Average Base flows between the Upper Gorge Power Plant and the Control Gorge Power Plant as defined in the Stipulation for Entry of Final Judgment and Permanent Injunction and Order of Final Judgment and Permanent Injunction (Case No. 10088). Flows will be reduced to seepage flows (from Long Valley Reservoir) between the Upper Gorge Power Plant and Control Gorge Power Plant during a temporary outage of Tunnels 1, 2, 3, and the associated penstocks, so that the Permittee may repair the Upper and Middle Gorge Power Plant isolation systems. The repair work entails disassembling, cleaning, inspecting, testing, refurbishing, and replacing the isolation systems components. Reduced seepage flows of 16 cfs will be maintained through the Owens River Gorge during two work periods between January 2025 and March 2025, each lasting approximately two weeks.

This is to advise that CDFW, acting as a Responsible Agency, approved the project described above on January 3, 2025 and has made the following determinations regarding the project pursuant to California Code of Regulations section 15096, subdivision (i):

1. The project 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 Negative Declaration prepared by the Lead Agency for this project pursuant to California Code of Regulations section 15096, subdivision (f).
3. Mitigation measures were made a condition of CDFW's approval of the project.
4. A Mitigation Reporting or Monitoring Plan was adopted by CDFW for this project.
5. A Statement of Overriding Considerations was not adopted by CDFW for this project.
6. Findings were not made by CDFW pursuant to California Code of Regulations section 15091.

The **Negative Declaration** 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 a Responsible Agency is available at CDFW's regional office.

Notice of Determination

DocuSigned by:

Alisa Ellsworth

Signature: _____

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1/3/2025

Date: _____

Alisa Ellsworth, Environmental Program Manager

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____