

MOTION

SPECIAL 1

On May 2, 2017, the Board of Water and Power Commissioners (Board) approved Item 28, on their agenda, adopting the April 27, 2017 California State Lands Commission Letter of Non-Objection, Authorizing Emergency Activities in the Lower Owens River and Owens Lake.

On March 20, 2017, Mayor Eric Garcetti declared a local emergency relating to the Los Angeles Aqueduct (LAA) and Owens Lake Dust Mitigation Program Infrastructure located in Mono, Inyo, Kern and Los Angeles Counties. Snowpack conditions and unprecedented snowfall in the Eastern Sierra, coupled with reduced water demands and the maximum capacity limitations of the LAA and water delivery facilities, are likely to result in flooding on Owens Lake.

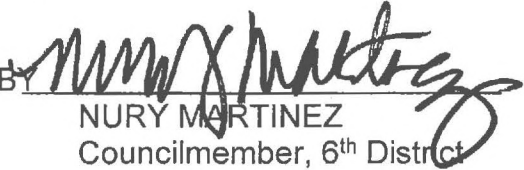
Flooding on Owens Lake will result in damage to the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power's (LADWP) dust control infrastructure necessary for public health and safety to minimize air quality problems emanating from Owens Lake. In response to this threat, LADWP has mobilized construction forces to implement temporary measures for protection of critical infrastructure associated with dust mitigation on Owens Lake. A significant portion of this work is on California State Land and therefore work cannot proceed without adopting the California State Lands Commission Letter of Non-Objection, dated April 27, 2017 which authorizes specific emergency activities to proceed.

LADWP is implementing measures to conserve runoff water and recharging groundwater basins in the Owens Valley and throughout the Aqueduct system to mitigate potential damage. LADWP is also maximizing water delivery to the City in an effort to avoid damage to environmentally sensitive areas. LADWP is conducting complex analysis and planning to develop methods which will potentially mitigate damage in areas that are most threatened at Owens Lake.

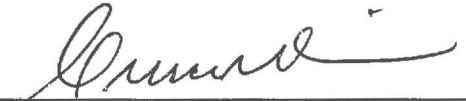
LADWP must take immediate steps to manage the flow of water onto the Owens Lake playa in a manner that avoids additional air quality problems at the shoreline of the lakebed and protects the current dust mitigation infrastructure.

I THEREFORE MOVE that pursuant to Section 245 (b) of the Los Angeles City Charter, the City Council hereby RESOLVE to waive review of the May 2, 2017 action of the Board of Water and Power Commissioners adopting an April 27, 2017 California State Lands Commission Letter of Non-Objection, Authorizing Emergency Activities in the Lower Owens River and Owens Lake, as further detailed in the text of this Motion.

PRESENTED BY


NURY MARTINEZCouncilmember, 6th District

SECONDED BY



May 3, 2017