

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 #: 2019069081

Project Title: Copper Sulfate Application Project Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration

Lead Agency: Los Angeles Department of Water and Power

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Project Location: 5 to 30 miles north of Lone Pine / Inyo County

City

County

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

The proposed project would use copper sulfates to treat harmful aquatic vascular plants and algae at Alabama Gates, Merritt Cut, the North and South Haiwee Reservoirs, and other possible areas along the concrete-lined portion of the Los Angeles Aqueduct, as necessary, to protect drinking water supplies and its water distribution system from harmful toxic algae blooms. Copper sulfate would be applied in compliance with the project specific statewide General National Pollution Discharge Elimination System Permit and the Aquatic Pesticide Application Program (APAP) approved by the State Water Resources Control Board. For treatment of the North or South Haiwee Reservoirs, the copper sulfate would be applied aerially via a helicopter. For treatment at Merritt Cut, Alabama Gates, or concrete-lined areas along the Los Angeles Aqueduct, small granules of copper sulfate would be applied directly into the treatment area through an auger feeder transported by truck to the site.

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

The IS/MND describes potentially significant impacts to biological resources. Mitigation measures have been defined to reduce potential impacts to less than significant levels as summarized below.

Wildlife species that utilize aquatic habitat for foraging could be exposed to high toxic levels of copper sulfate. Target application concentrations of copper sulfate would not impact species utilizing aquatic habitats, however, if applications inadvertently exceed target concentrations, potentially significant impacts could occur. Mitigation Measures BIO-1 and BIO-2 include additional monitoring requirements beyond the APAP measures and remedial measures if overages are detected.

Vehicles traveling on access roads could result in mortalities to special-status species, such as the desert tortoise and Mohave ground squirrel, during copper sulfate applications. Application activities have the potential to disturb nesting special-status birds in adjacent native habitats, including loggerhead shrikes, burrowing owls, and Le Conte's thrashers. Mitigation Measures BIO-3 through BIO-5 would require vehicles to stay on existing dirt access roads, comply with posted speed limits, and conduct nesting bird surveys when ground activities occur in undisturbed areas that provide habitat for nesting birds.

Cumulative impacts to shoreline special-status species would be reduced through implementation of Mitigation Measure BIO-6, requiring the preparation of a monitoring plan to assess current and future levels of copper sulfate accumulation.

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

No controversy to the project is known by the Lead Agency.

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

- Coverage under the State Water Resources Control Board, National Pollution Discharge Elimination System General Permit for Residual Aquatic Pesticide Discharges to Waters of the United States from Algae and Aquatic Weed Control Applications, Order No. 2013-002-DWQ, NPDES No. CAG990005.
- Prohibition Exemption to use Aquatic Pesticides from the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

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