

**NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR THE
SIX-MONTH OPERATIONAL TEST OF WELL TW-E AT OWENS LAKE**

Date: February 23, 2021

To: Agencies, Organizations, and Interested Parties

Subject: Notice of Intent to Adopt a Negative Declaration for the Six-Month Operational Test of Well TW-E at Owens Lake

The City of Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) has prepared an Initial Study / Negative Declaration (IS/ND) for the 6-month operational test of Testing Well-East (TW-E) at Owens Lake (Proposed Project). Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), LADWP is the Lead Agency and responsible for preparation of this document.

Project Description: LADWP proposes to conduct a 6-month operational test of TW-E, located in the northern portion of Owens Lake in Inyo County. Construction of TW-E was completed in 2018. The Proposed Project includes equipping TW-E with a pump, conducting an operational test for 6-months at a steady pumping rate, and implementing a monitoring and data collection program. No earthwork or land modifications would be required for implementation of the Proposed Project.

To gather necessary hydrogeologic information, TW-E would be pumped continuously at an average rate of 3 cubic feet per second (cfs) (approximately 1,350 gallons per minute) for a period of 6-months. The duration of the test was selected to mimic the duration that potential future pumping for dust mitigation would occur and when the vegetation is dormant. Pumping TW-E at 3 cfs for 6-months was simulated by the Owens Lake Groundwater Model. Based on the model forecasted aerial extent of potential drawdown at groundwater-dependent locations, 3 cfs for 6-months was identified as a pumping rate that could provide the data necessary to meet project goals while being conservatively protective of groundwater dependent resources.

Equipping the well with a (likely submersible) pump would entail installation of 20-foot sections of 8- to 10-inch diameter steel pump column (about 580 feet in total). A flatbed truck and crane would be used for pump installation, which is estimated to take one to two days. The pump intake and a pressure transducer would be installed in TW-E at depths of 580 and 560 feet below ground surface, respectively, to accommodate the expected drawdown inside the pumping well casing.

Project Location: The Owens Valley is bounded by the Eastern Sierra Nevada to the west and the Inyo Mountains to the east, with the Coso Range rising to the south. The 110-square mile

Owens Lake is located in Inyo County, California, approximately 5 miles south of the community of Lone Pine and approximately 60 miles south of the City of Bishop.

The test well, TW-E, is located on Owens Lake at the intersection of existing dust control areas (Shallow Flood ponds) T36-1W, T36-1E, T36-2W, and T36-2E.

Hazards and Hazardous Materials: Section 65962.5 of the California Government Code requires the California Environmental Protection Agency to update a list of known hazardous materials sites, which is also called the “Cortese List.” Based on a search of hazardous waste and substances sites listed in the Department of Toxic Substances Control “EnviroStor” database; a search of leaking underground storage tank sites listed in the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) “GeoTracker” database; and a search of solid waste disposal sites identified by the SWRCB, with waste constituents above hazardous waste levels outside the waste management unit, there are no sites listed on or adjacent to the Proposed Project site.

Public Review of the Initial Study: The public review period commences on February 23, 2021 and concludes on March 25, 2021 at 5:00 pm. A copy of the IS/ND is posted at the following website: <http://www.ladwp.com/envnotices>.

Public Comments: During the public review period, written comments concerning the adequacy of the Initial Study may be submitted. Comments must be submitted by March 25, 2021. Please submit your comments to the following address:

Los Angeles Department of Water and Power
111 North Hope Street, Room 1044
Los Angeles, CA 90012
Attn: Mr. James R. Howe
Email: james.howe@ladwp.com

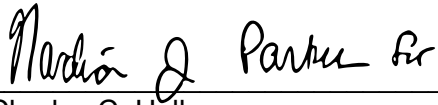
PLEASE NOTE: LADWP’s practice is to make the entirety of comments received a part of the public record. Therefore names, home addresses, home phone numbers, and email addresses of commenters, if included in the response, will be made part of the record available for public review. Individual commenters may request that LADWP withhold their name and/or home addresses, etc., but if you wish LADWP to consider withholding this information, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comments. In the absence of this written request, this information will be made part of the record for public review. LADWP will always make submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives of, or officials of, organizations or businesses, available for public inspection in their entirety.

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If you require additional information, please contact Mr. James R. Howe at james.howe@ladwp.com or (213) 367-0414.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charles C. Holloway". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

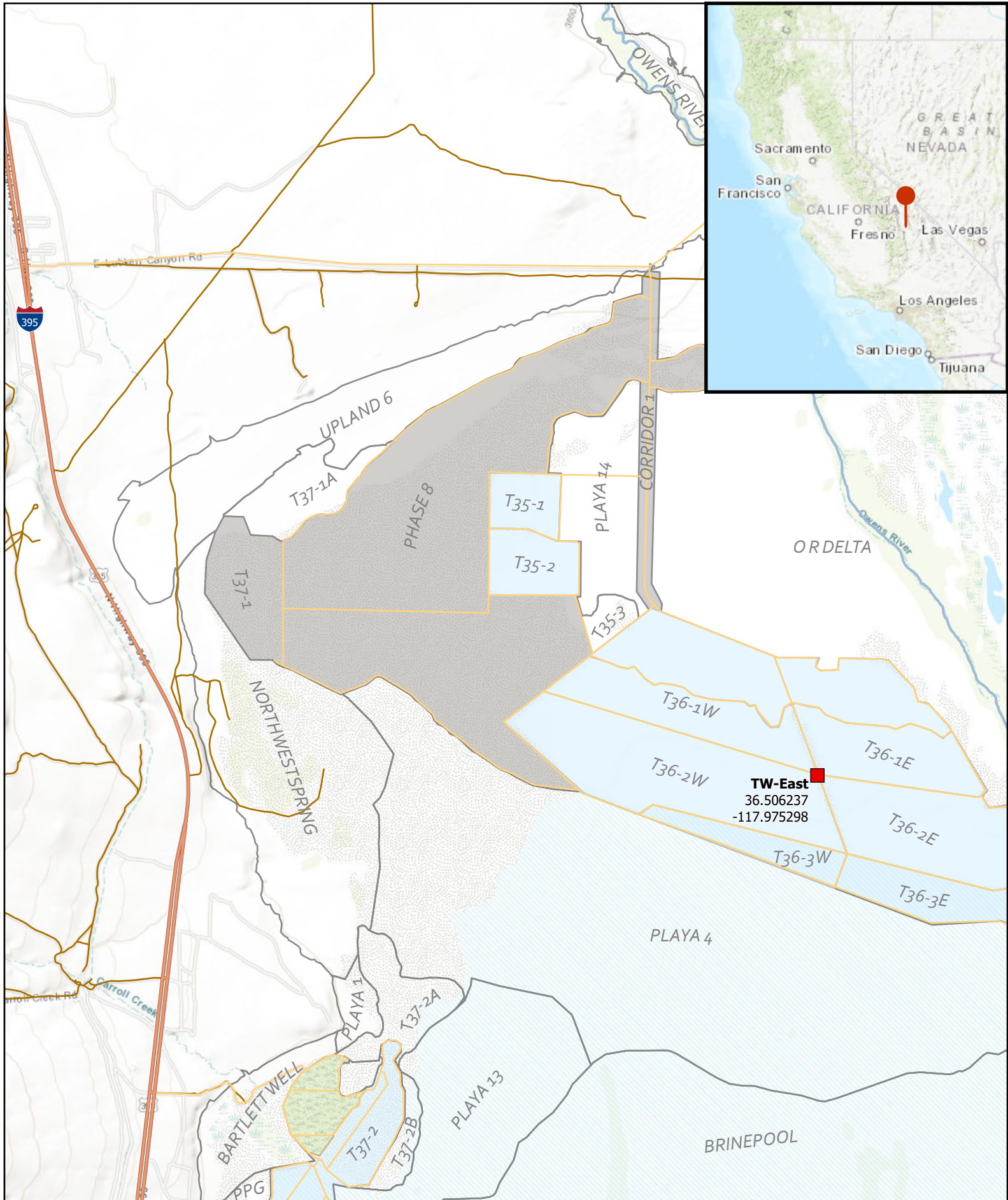
Charles C. Holloway

Manager of Environmental Planning and Assessment

CL:jh

Enclosure

c: Mr. James R. Howe



Testing Well East (TW-E)

