

Martha Davis
Box 508
Nicasio, CA 94946

August 6, 2018

The Honorable Mono County Board of Supervisors
c/o County Clerk for Mono County
Box 715
Bridgeport, CA 93517

Attn: Skendall@mono.co.gov

Re: Agenda Item 7C: Los Angeles Department of Water and Power Removal of
Water from Little Round and Long Valleys

Dear Chair Gardner and the Board of Supervisors,

I recently became aware of the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) decision to modify leases in Little Round Valley and Long Valley that has resulted in a significant reduction in the release of water to these lands.

As the former executive director of the Mono Lake Committee and someone who has more than 40 years of experience with Southern California and statewide water issues, I want to thank the County for its leadership in seeking a constructive solution to the issue raised by Los Angeles.

All regions of the state need to prepare for the impact of climate change on regional water supplies and it is a good thing that the city of Los Angeles is thinking about how to continue to improve management of its water demands and supplies. It's been 25 years since the Mono Lake decision and the people of Los Angeles are still leading California in efficient water use for which they deserve credit.

However, key among the preparations for climate change is the need to ensure that state's meadows and wetlands can absorb and hold back the increasingly intense rain events California is experiencing, and release this water slowly to our stream and groundwater systems. Not only has LADWP's decision to reduce water available to the Mono County lands been disconcertingly abrupt, the Department is not considering the long-term benefit to the people of Los Angeles of releasing sufficient water to maintain existing meadows and wetlands and the value of the shared environmental and economic benefits to Mono County.

In particular, I applaud the County's proposal to develop a long-term water management plan for the Little Round and Long Valleys with Los Angeles along with a broad array of stakeholders including environmental organizations, recreation groups, wildlife organizations, state and federal agencies, ranchers and others.

The impacts of climate change are already far-reaching, and we need to develop resilient water management strategies now that will contribute to the long-term, sustainable environmental and economic well being of both Los Angeles and the Eastern Sierra. A water management plan that incorporates climate change considerations along the lines proposed by staff would be the first of its kind in California, and would go a long ways towards working out a common-sense strategy for sharing our state's public trust water resources between two important regions of the state.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments. Please let me know if I can be of assistance to you in any way.

Sincerely,

s/Martha Davis

Box 508
Nicasio, CA 94946

Sent via email: mlcmarthadavis@gmail.com