



ERIC GARCETTI
MAYOR

May 1, 2018

Board of Supervisors
County of Mono
Attn: Shannon Kendall, Clerk of the Board
P.O. BOX 715
Bridgeport, CA 93517

SENT VIA EMAIL and U.S. MAIL

Subject: LADWP Mono County Ranch Leases

Dear Honorable Supervisors:

Thank you for your letter dated April 19, 2018 regarding the City of Los Angeles Department of Water and Power's (LADWP) ranch leases in Mono County. I value the City's longstanding relationship with Mono County, and appreciate the opportunity to work collaboratively as we adapt to changing conditions in the region.

Since former Los Angeles Mayor Fred Eaton began ranching in Long Valley more than 100 years ago, Mono County and the City have fostered a productive working relationship. We have worked together on returning flows to the Owens Gorge, we have witnessed the return of water to tributaries flowing into Mono Lake, and we have collaborated in providing water to the people of Mono County. Notably, elected officials from Mono County participated in reaching settlement of the Owens Lake litigation in 2014, a significant environmental and community achievement.

As you know, water supply in the southwest has become increasingly unpredictable. In response, I set ambitious targets to maximize LA's local water supply by integrating priority groundwater, recycled water, and stormwater projects within the City. This year, we have already broken ground on the North Hollywood West Groundwater Remediation Project, the first of four projects that will eventually serve 800,000 Angelenos annually. Despite these efforts, LA will continue to rely on imported water, including some from the Owens Valley. With longer and more frequent periods of

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drought, we are looking everywhere we can to conserve and prioritize our water resources.

Changing environmental circumstances, including the most recent five-year drought, requires us to reevaluate our current water uses, including the water historically provided to eastern Sierra ranches. Over the next six months, LADWP will analyze the potential environmental impacts of reducing water on leased ranch land in Mono County and will discuss the findings with you and the ranchers before any new lease language is proposed.

In the interim, I have directed staff to inform you this week of the amount of water available for operational spreading to the lessees this year based on snowpack and anticipated runoff. Staff has indicated that the amount of water provided will likely be similar to 2016, which was also based on snowpack conditions. This determination will be made under the flexibility that the existing expired leases afford.

Lastly, I encourage you to communicate directly with the President of the Board of Water and Power Commissioners, former Congressman Mel Levine. As a next step, President Levine and LADWP staff will be in touch to discuss this important issue. I am confident we can engage in a collaborative process to achieve environmental sustainability in LADWP's ranching leases in Mono County. Again, thank you for your continued partnership in protecting the region's resources and serving the residents of the City of Los Angeles and Mono County.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "E. Garcetti".

ERIC GARCETTI
Mayor

Cc: Chief of Staff Ana Guerrero
Deputy Mayor Barbara Romero
LADWP Board of Commissioners President Mel Levine
LADWP General Manager David Wright