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Notice of Determination

To:
Office of Planning and Research
CEQA Submit

From:
Department of Fish and Wildlife
Inland Deserts Region
3602 Inland Empire Blvd., Suite C-220
Contact: Bryant Luu
Email: Bryant.Luu@wildlife.ca.gov
Phone: (760) 923-8666

Lead Agency
Los Angeles Department of Water and Power
111 N. Hope Street, Room 1044
Los Angeles, CA 90012
Contact: Jane Hauptman
Email: Jane.Hauptman@ladwp.com
Phone: (213) 367-0968

SUBJECT: Filing of Notice of Determination pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21108

State Clearinghouse Number: 2010021063

Project Title: Owens Gorge Power Plant Repairs: Request for Seepage Flow (Streambed Alteration Agreement No. EPIMS-MOO-62579-R6)

Project Location (Mono): The Project is located in the Owens River Gorge, a tributary to Owens Lake, in the Counties of Inyo and Mono, State of California; Section 5 & 16, Township 5S, Range 31E, United States Geological Survey (USGS) Casa Diablo Quadrangle.

Project Description: The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) has executed Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement (EPIMS-MOO-62579-R6), pursuant to Fish and Game Code section 1602, the project Applicant, Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (Permittee).

The Project is limited to the release of water to the Owens River below the Court-ordered Managed Average Base flows between Tunnel 1 and the Upper Gorge Power Plant as defined in the Stipulation for Entry of Final Judgment and Permanent Injunction and Order of Final Judgment and Permanent Injunction (Case No. 10088). Flows will be reduced to seepage flows (from Long Valley Reservoir) between Tunnel 1 and the Upper Gorge Power Plant during a temporary outage of Tunnel 1 and its associated penstock, so that the Permittee may inspect Tunnel 1 and its associated penstock, shutoff valve, surge chamber, and tunnel slidegate, and repair the pressure-relief valves at the Upper Gorge Power Plant. Reduced seepage flows of approximately 16 cfs will be maintained though the Owens River Gorge between February 17, 2026 and March 4, 2026. The entire project is anticipated to take approximately two weeks to complete.

This is to advise that CDFW, acting as a Responsible Agency, approved the project described above on January 28, 2026 and has made the following determinations regarding the project pursuant to California Code of Regulations section 15096, subdivision (i):

1. The project will not have a significant effect on the environment. This determination is limited to effects within CDFW's permitting jurisdiction as a Responsible Agency.
2. CDFW considered the Negative Declaration prepared by the Lead Agency for this project pursuant to California Code of Regulations section 15096, subdivision (f).
3. Mitigation measures were made a condition of CDFW's approval of the project.
4. A Mitigation Reporting or Monitoring Plan was adopted by CDFW for this project.
5. A Statement of Overriding Considerations was not adopted by CDFW for this project.
6. Findings were not made by CDFW pursuant to California Code of Regulations section 15091.

The **Negative Declaration** prepared for the project is available to the general public at the office location listed above for the Lead Agency. CDFW's record of project approval as a Responsible Agency is available at CDFW's regional office.

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Notice of Determination

DocuSigned by:
Alisa Ellsworth
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Signature: _____ *Date:* 1/28/2026

Alisa Ellsworth, Environmental Program Manager

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____