NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

To: Office of Planning and Research
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

County Clerk, County of Kern
1115 Truxtun Avenue
Bakersfield, CA 93301

From: Indian Wells Valley Water District
500 W. Ridgecrest Blvd.
Ridgecrest, CA 93555

Project Title:

Indian Wells Valley Water District (District)
2023 Emergency Release Mitigation Project

Project Location:

The 2023 Emergency Release Mitigation Project (Project) will be located within several District-owned parcels along Little Dixie Wash within the County of Kern, in and around the City of Ridgecrest and the community of Inyokern. Specific Project locations are shown on attached Exhibits 1 through 5.

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:

The Project is intended to help protect to U.S. Navy facilities at the China Lake Naval Air Weapons Station (NAWS) on the China Lake playa from potential flooding and subsidence damage. A secondary potential benefit of the Project is to enhance percolation of the water released from the Los Angeles Aqueduct (Aqueduct) into the Indian Wells Valley groundwater basin (IWV Basin).

On or about March 22, 2023, the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) filed a Notice of Exemption advising that due to the atmospheric river systems and record-breaking snow fall, LADWP would take "emergency action" including actions to "increase water flows in certain controlled water ways throughout the LAA system". Five (5) of the discharge gates release flows within the IWV Basin and are shown on Exhibit 6. The southern 3 release gates all ultimately flow into Little Dixie Wash which eventually flows onto the China Lake playa and thus, the potential flooding and subsidence damage.

LADWP's NOE states that they will be seeking outside services to "supplement flood damage minimization efforts". In this respect, IWVWD staff has been and still is in contact with LADWP advising of the progress of the flows since the releases began in March. Although not retained by LADWP, District efforts should assist in attempting to mitigate any damage to Navy facilities on China Lake.

Attached as Exhibit 7 is an April 28, 2023, email from Lori Dermody, Environmental Affairs Officer for LADWP, to the Flood Diversions Department at the State Water Resources Control Board reporting on the status of the releases. The email confirms the releases will last for the next "several months". Multiple Emergency declarations justifying the needed emergency actions are included as well.

A number of temporary sandbag dikes will be hand-placed within the banks of Little Dixie Wash to retard flows generated by emergency releases of excess water from the Los Angeles Aqueduct by the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP). The proposed locations for the temporary sandbag dikes are indicated on Exhibits 1 through 5. The dikes will be no more than 2

feet high and will be filled and placed by hand. They will be removed after termination of the emergency aqueduct releases.

The beneficiaries of the Project are the people of the Indian Wells Valley.

Public Agency Approving Project:	**Agency Carrying Out Project:**
Indian Wells Valley Water District	Indian Wells Valley Water District

Exempt Status:

Emergency Exemption: State CEQA Guidelines Section 15269(c)

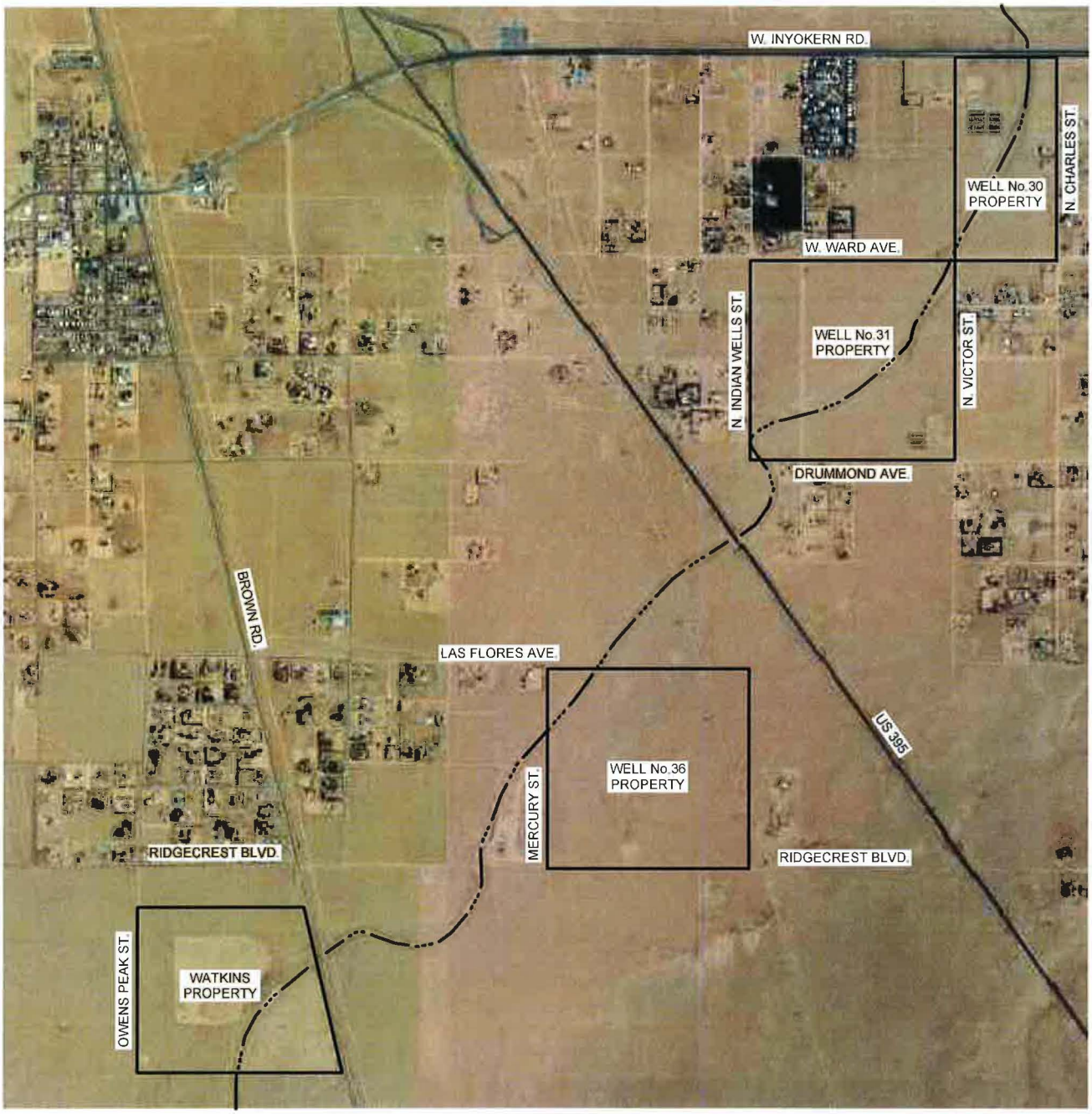
Reasons Why Project is Exempt:

14 Cal. Code Reg. § 15269(c) states that "Specific actions necessary to prevent or mitigate an emergency" are exempt from the requirements of CEQA. Here, the emergency is the need to mitigate potential property damage to Navy facilities on China Lake playa from the "emergency actions taken by LADWP pursuant to its Notice of Exemption. See also discussion under *Description of Nature, Purpose, And Beneficiaries of Project*.

Agency Contact Person:	**Telephone**
Don Zdeba	(760) 375-5086

Date: 9 May 2023

Signature: _____
Don Zdeba, General Manager



KRIEGER & STEWART
Engineering Consultants
3602 University Avenue • Riverside, CA 92501
www.kriegerandstewart.com • 951 • 684 • 6900

INDIAN WELLS VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

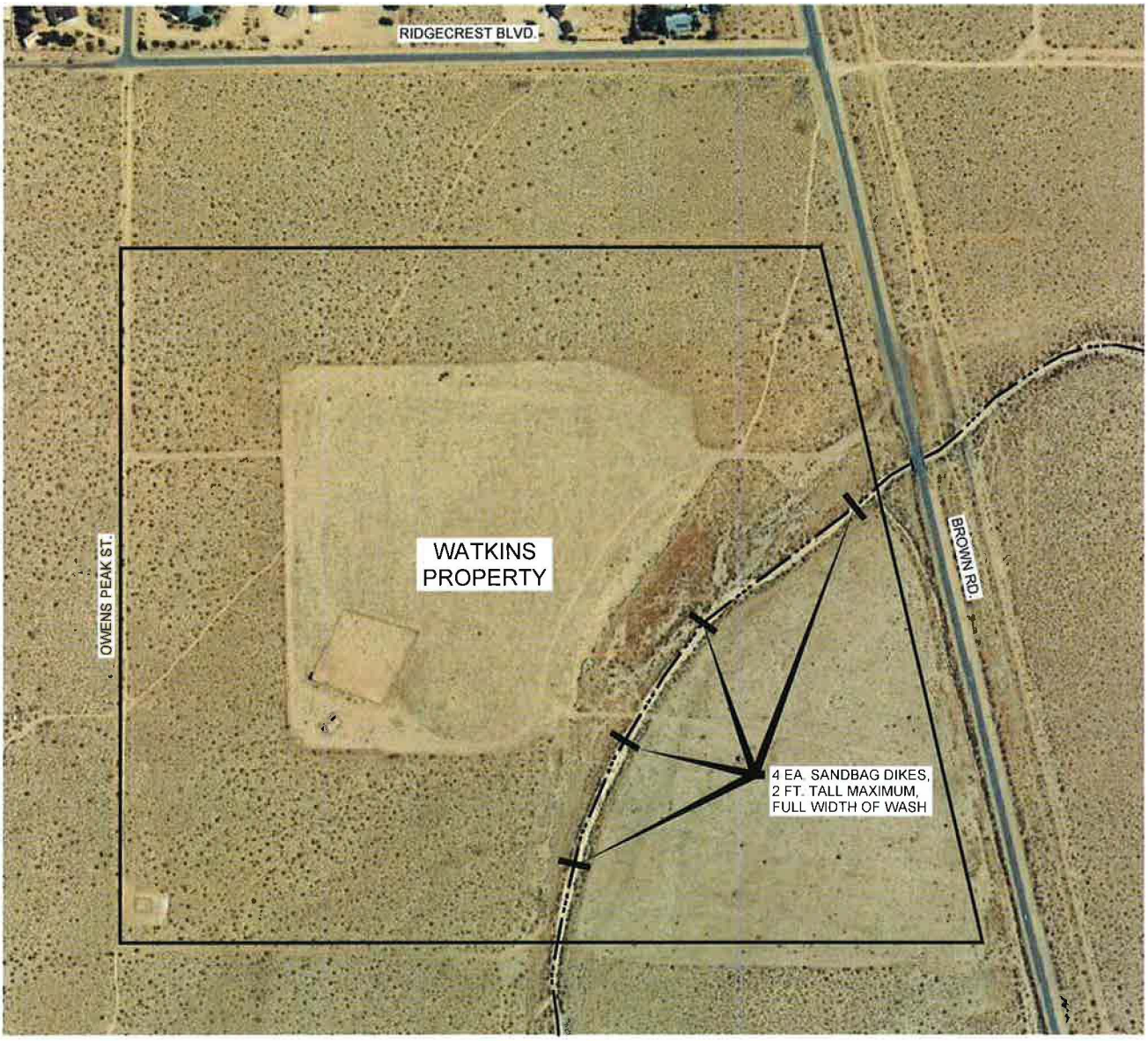
2023 EMERGENCY RELEASE MITIGATION PROJECT

PROJECT OVERVIEW

EXHIBIT 1

SCALE: 1"=2000' DATE: 05/01/23 DRAWN BY: ERB CHECKED BY: TRR W.O.: 178-45.2.5

178-45.2.5s1.dwg



KRIEGER & STEWART
Engineering Consultants
3602 University Avenue • Riverside, CA 92501
www.kriegerandstewart.com • 951 · 684 · 6900

INDIAN WELLS VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

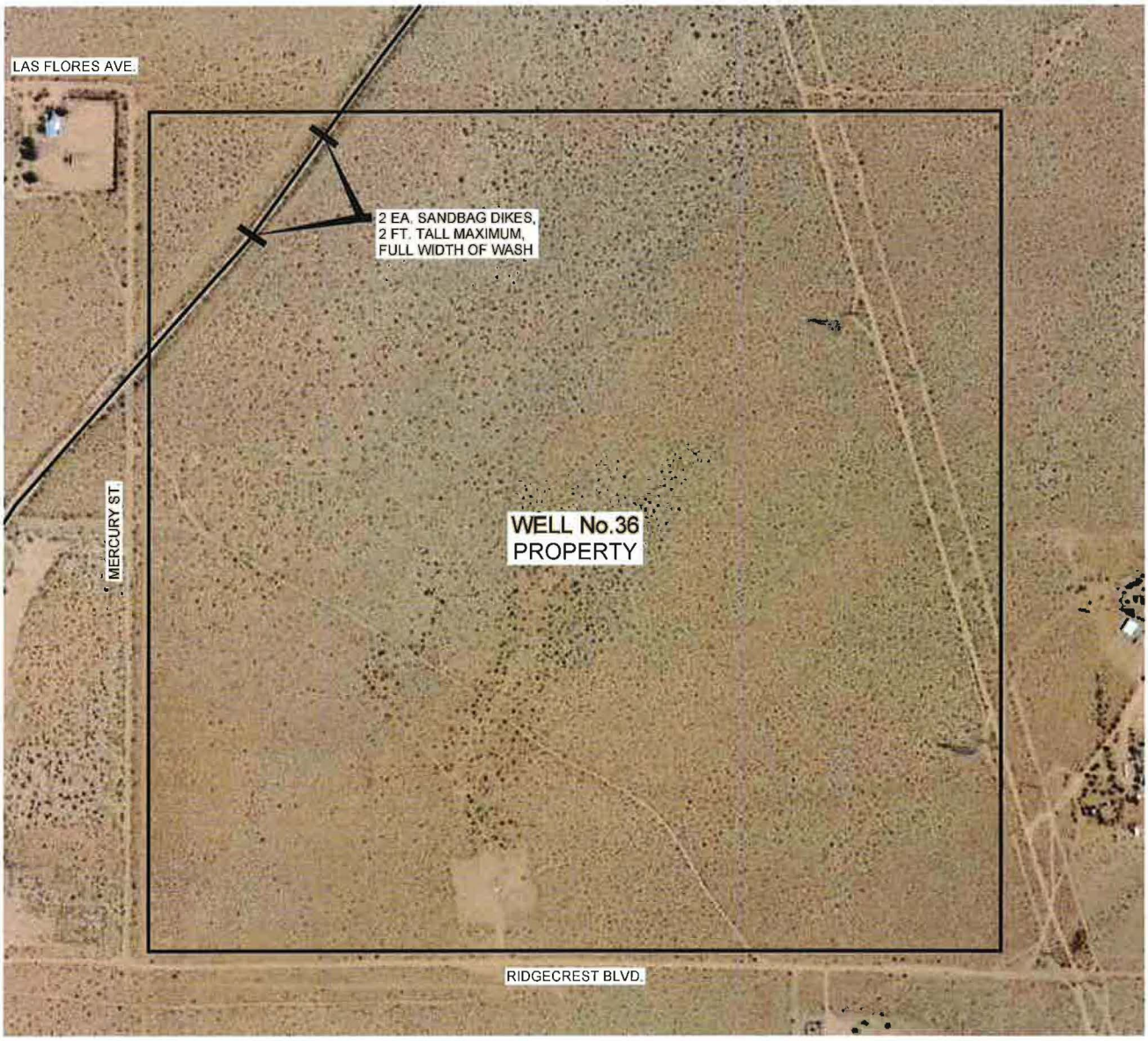
2023 EMERGENCY RELEASE MITIGATION PROJECT

WATKINS PROPERTY SITE PLAN

EXHIBIT 2 OF 6

SCALE: 1"=500' DATE: 05/01/23 DRAWN BY: ERB CHECKED BY: TRR W.O.: 178-45.2.5

178-45.2.5s2.dwg



KRIEGER & STEWART
Engineering Consultants
3602 University Avenue • Riverside, CA 92501
www.kriegerandstewart.com • 951 • 684 • 6900

INDIAN WELLS VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

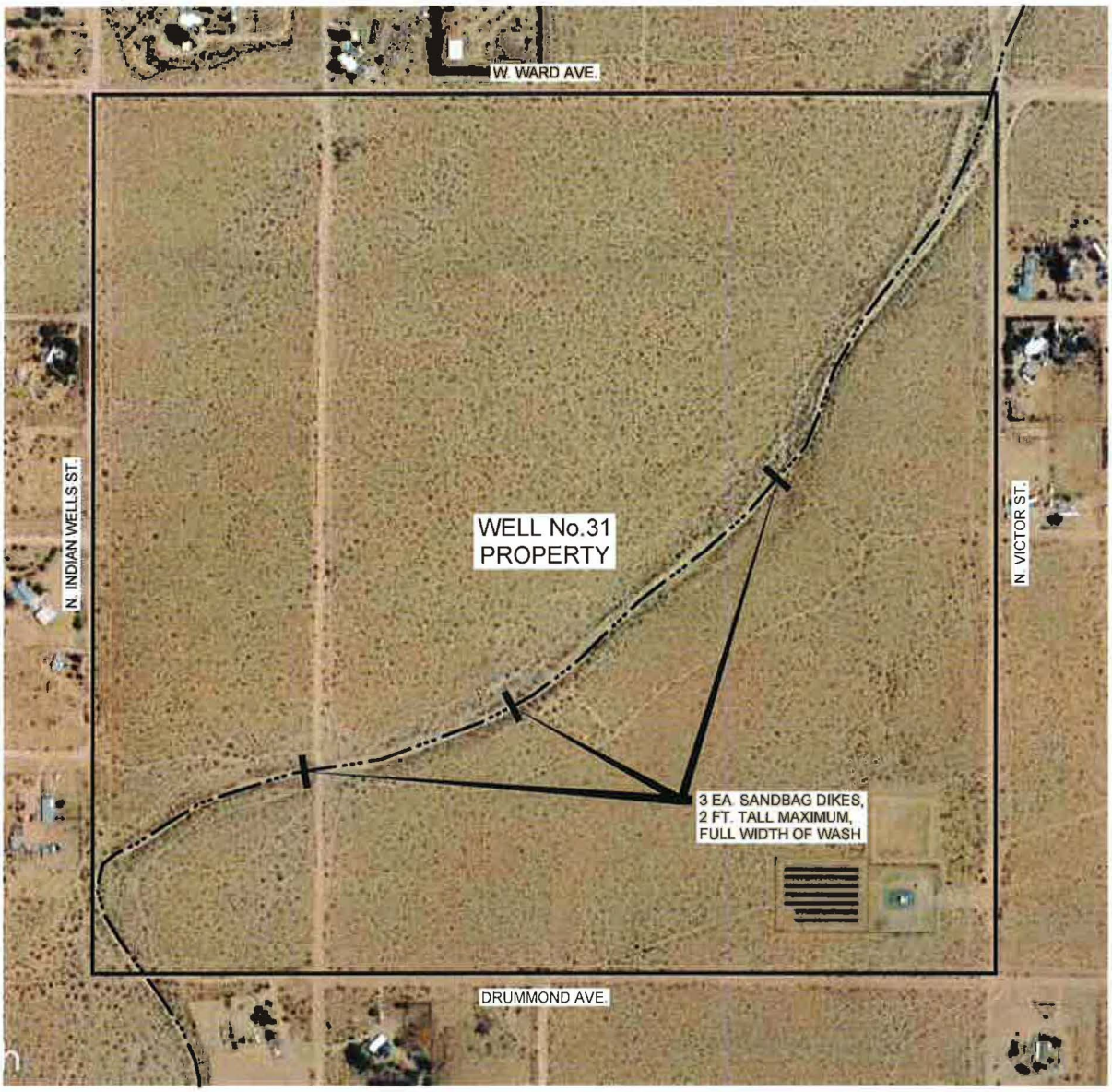
2023 EMERGENCY RELEASE MITIGATION PROJECT

WELL No.36 PROPERTY SITE PLAN

EXHIBIT 3

SCALE: 1"=500' DATE: 05/01/23 DRAWN BY: ERB CHECKED BY: TRR W.O.: 178-45.2.5

178-45.2.5s3.dwg



KRIEGER & STEWART
Engineering Consultants
3602 University Avenue • Riverside, CA 92501
www.kriegerandstewart.com • 951 • 684 • 6900

INDIAN WELLS VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

2023 EMERGENCY RELEASE MITIGATION PROJECT

WELL No.31 PROPERTY SITE PLAN

EXHIBIT 4 OF 6

SCALE: 1"=500' DATE: 05/01/23 DRAWN BY: ERB CHECKED BY: TRR W.O.: 178-45.2.5

178-45.2.5s4.dwg





KRIEGER & STEWART
Engineering Consultants

3602 University Avenue • Riverside, CA 92501
www.kriegerandstewart.com • 951 • 684 • 6900

INDIAN WELLS VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

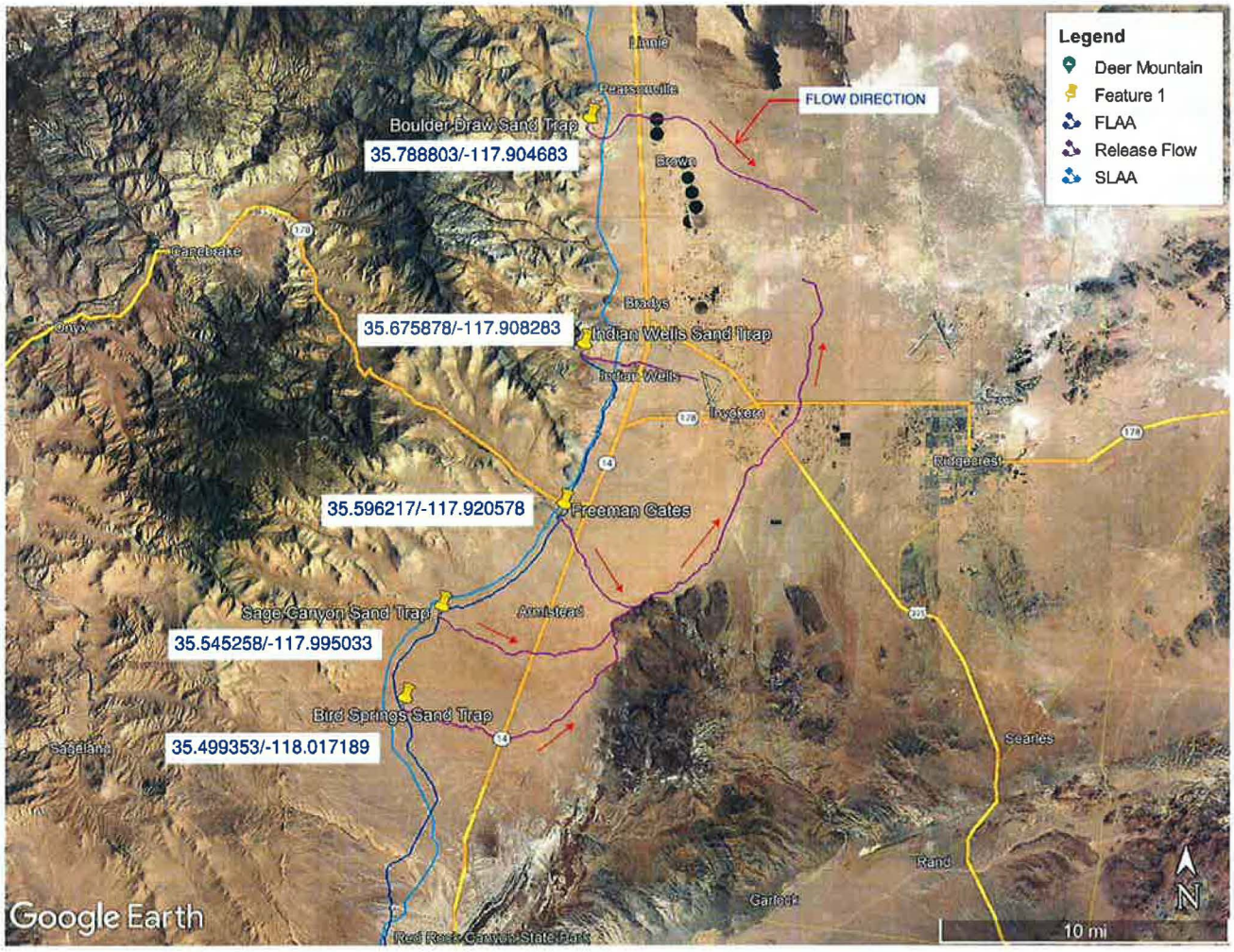
2023 EMERGENCY RELEASE MITIGATION PROJECT

WELL No.30 PROPERTY SITE PLAN

EXHIBIT 5 OF 6

SCALE: 1"=500' DATE: 05/01/23 DRAWN BY: ERB CHECKED BY: TRR W.O.: 178-45.2.5

178-45 2.5s5 dwg



KRIEGER & STEWART
Engineering Consultants
3602 University Avenue • Riverside, CA 92501
www.kriegerandstewart.com • 951 • 684 • 6900

INDIAN WELLS VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

2023 EMERGENCY RELEASE MITIGATION PROJECT

LADWP'S RELEASE POINTS AND FLOW DIRECTIONS

EXHIBIT 6 OF 6

SCALE: AS SHOWN DATE: 05/01/23 DRAWN BY: SPK CHECKED BY: DFS W.O.: 178-45.2.5

178-45 2.5s6.dwg

EXHIBIT 7

Jim Worth

From: don.zdeba@iwvwd.com
Sent: Friday, April 28, 2023 7:06 PM
To: Charles Krieger; David Scriven; Tim Parker; Jim Worth; Renee Morquecho; Jason Lillion; Ty Staheli
Subject: EXHIBIT 7: LADWP Report - Executive Order N-4-23
Attachments: Emergency Declarations - LADWP.pdf

INDIAN WELLS VALLEY WATER DISTRICT
2023 EMERGENCY RELEASE MITIGATION PROJECT
EXHIBIT 7
EMAIL FROM LADWP WITH ATTACHMENT

From: Dermody, Lori <Lori.Dermody@ladwp.com>
Sent: Friday, April 28, 2023 3:25 PM
To: FloodDiversion@waterboards.ca.gov
Cc: Aaron Steinwand <asteinwand@inyocounty.us>; Holly Alpert <halpert@inyocounty.us>; don.zdeba@iwvwd.com; Perez, Adam <Adam.Perez@ladwp.com>; Tillemans, Eric <Eric.Tillemans@ladwp.com>; Tory, Melanie <Melanie.Tory@ladwp.com>; Jorat, Saeed <Saeed.Jorat@ladwp.com>; Gillem, Lori <Lori.Gillem@ladwp.com>
Subject: LADWP Report - Executive Order N-4-23

Good afternoon,
Please accept the attached report on behalf of the City of Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) Aqueduct Section for water spreading/releases pursuant to Executive Order N-4-23. Given the March 2023 atmospheric river events, historic snowpack, and impending runoff conditions this season, LADWP has begun spreading water from our waterways and facilities within the Angeles Aqueduct System to alleviate flood risks to local communities, and which will also recharge groundwater aquifers. LADWP will be managing historic runoff conditions for the next several months in this manner. Although we believe LADWP is not required to file under the executive order for these releases, we are doing so to help provide greater transparency and cooperation among agencies during these emergency conditions.

Also attached are city, county, state, and federal emergency declarations that support these water releases. Please feel free to contact me if you have further questions. Thank you for your consideration, Lori Dermody

Lori S. Dermody
Environmental Affairs Officer
Los Angeles Department of Water and Power
Watershed Resources, Aqueduct Section
(760) 873-0408 (office), (760) 305-3750 (cell)
lori.dermody@ladwp.com



----------Confidentiality Notice----------
This electronic message transmission contains information from the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, which may be confidential. If you are not the

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

PROCLAMATION OF A STATE OF EMERGENCY

WHEREAS severe winter storms struck California beginning in late February bringing damaging winds and historic precipitation, including snowfall in areas unaccustomed to snow; and

WHEREAS these storms damaged and forced the closure of federal and state highways and roads, and continue to threaten critical infrastructure; and

WHEREAS these storms resulted in and continue to threaten power outages, have forced evacuations, and have stranded residents and motorists in impacted counties; and

WHEREAS it is forecasted that additional storms will continue to threaten counties across California, bringing strong winds, blizzard conditions across the Sierra Nevada mountains, above normal precipitation, and unusually cold temperatures; and

WHEREAS under the provisions of Government Code section 8558(b), I find that conditions of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property exist due to these storms; and

WHEREAS under the provisions of Government Code section 8558(b), I find that the conditions caused by these storms, by reason of their magnitude, are or are likely to be beyond the control of the services, personnel, equipment, and facilities of any single local government and require the combined forces of a mutual aid region or regions to appropriately respond; and

WHEREAS under the provisions of Government Code section 8625(c), I find that local authority is inadequate to cope with the magnitude of the damage caused by these storms; and

WHEREAS under the provisions of Government Code section 8571, I find that strict compliance with various statutes and regulations specified in this Proclamation would prevent, hinder, or delay the mitigation of the effects of these storms.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GAVIN NEWSOM, Governor of the State of California, in accordance with the authority vested in me by the State Constitution and statutes, including the California Emergency Services Act, and in particular, Government Code section 8625, **HEREBY PROCLAIM A STATE OF EMERGENCY** to exist in Amador, Kern, Los Angeles, Madera, Mariposa, Mono, Nevada, San Bernardino, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Sierra, Sonoma, and Tulare counties.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

1. All agencies of the state government utilize and employ state personnel, equipment, and facilities for the performance of any and all

activities consistent with the direction of the Office of Emergency Services and the State Emergency Plan. Also, all residents are to obey the direction of emergency officials with regard to this emergency in order to protect their safety.

2. The Office of Emergency Services shall provide assistance to local governments, if appropriate, under the authority of the California Disaster Assistance Act, Government Code section 8680 et seq., and California Code of Regulations, Title 19, section 2900 et seq.

3. The California Department of Transportation shall formally request immediate assistance through the Federal Highway Administration's Emergency Relief Program, United States Code, Title 23, section 125, in order to obtain federal assistance for highway repairs, reconstruction, or restoring access.

4. As necessary to assist local governments and for the protection of public health and the environment, state agencies shall enter into contracts to arrange for the procurement of materials, goods, and services necessary to quickly assist with the response to and recovery from the impacts of these storms. Applicable provisions of the Government Code and the Public Contract Code, including but not limited to travel, advertising, and competitive bidding requirements, are suspended to the extent necessary to address the effects of these storms.

5. The provisions of Unemployment Insurance Code section 1253 imposing a one-week waiting period for unemployment insurance applicants are suspended as to all applicants who are unemployed as a direct result of these storms, applied for unemployment insurance benefits during the time period beginning February 21, 2023, and ending on the close of business on August 21, 2023, and are otherwise eligible for unemployment insurance benefits.

6. As directed by the Office of Emergency Services, the California National Guard may be mobilized under Military and Veterans Code section 146 to support disaster response and relief efforts and to coordinate with all relevant state agencies and state and local emergency responders and law enforcement within the impacted areas. Sections 147 and 188 of the Military and Veterans Code are applicable during the period of participation in this mission, exempting the California Military Department from applicable procurement rules for specified emergency purchases, and those rules are hereby suspended.

I FURTHER DIRECT that as soon as hereafter possible, this Proclamation be filed in the Office of the Secretary of State and that widespread publicity and notice be given of this Proclamation.

This Proclamation is not intended to, and does not, create any rights or benefits, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity, against the State of California, its agencies, departments, entities, officers, employees, or any other person.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of California to be affixed this 1st day of March 2023.

GAVIN NEWSOM
Governor of California

ATTEST:

SHIRLEY N. WEBER, Ph.D.
Secretary of State

DECLARATION BY THE DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY SERVICES FOR THE COUNTY OF INYO, STATE OF CALIFORNIA, PROCLAIMING EXISTENCE OF A LOCAL EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, consecutive severe storm systems resulting from atmospheric river weather phenomena swept across Inyo County, the Eastern Sierra, and the State of California in January and February 2023 bringing record amounts of snow and rain to Inyo County; and,

WHEREAS, the compounding effects of these storm systems damaged County roads and resulted in isolated flooding that necessitated the Inyo County Board of Supervisors proclaiming a local emergency known as the January 2023 Flood Emergency; and,

WHEREAS, these same storm events resulted in the Governor of the State of California issuing a state of emergency proclamation on January 12 and March 1, and the President of the United States approving major disaster declaration on January 14, 2023; and,

WHEREAS, the State of California Department of Water Resources March 2, 2023 Statewide Snow Water Equivalent reports that the Southern Sierra had 232% of normal-to-date snow water equivalent; and,

WHEREAS, additional atmospheric river events are expected to occur on March 9 and March 14, at temperatures warmer than previous storms, as predicted by the National Weather Service, resulting in rain on snow conditions and an increased likelihood of avalanches and flooding; and

WHEREAS, the City of Los Angeles owns the property rights to 90-percent of the surface water in the Owens Valley and, through its Department of Water and Power, maintains and operates an extensive conveyance system to collect and deliver Owens Valley water to the City of Los Angeles; and,

WHEREAS, even in years of normal, or slightly-above normal snowpack, the runoff can result in isolated flooding and damage to private, Tribal, and public property and infrastructure, including County roads, bridges, and campgrounds; and,

WHEREAS, based on its current forecasts, LADWP estimates that overall April, 2023 through March, 2024 runoff in the Owens River drainage will be 800,000 to 1 million acre-feet of water, and may be more than double the normal amount of runoff of 412,284 acre-feet; and,

WHEREAS, current climate trends toward warmer air temperatures may contribute to and exacerbate periods of excessive snowmelt runoff; and,

WHEREAS, in any year, the timing and volume of snowpack runoff is dependent on temperature and precipitation events which may continue throughout the spring and summer and are intrinsically difficult to predict; and,

WHEREAS, the County of Inyo is not a flood control agency and does not have a flood control district; and,

WHEREAS, the ability to avoid or minimize flooding associated with additional storms and runoff is dependent on LADWP's ability to successfully manage its property, diverting water from creeks and

other conveyance structures, and spreading water through its diversion structures, flood basins, and infrequently used ditches and canals; and,

WHEREAS, 2023 storms and runoff conditions threaten the safety of property and persons in Inyo County by flooding private, Tribal, and public property; damaging or destroying infrastructure including roads, bridges, water conveyance and diversion structures, dust control apparatus, sanitary facilities, and campgrounds; creating conditions that propagate mosquitoes and other vectors that harbor disease and threaten public health; and, posing long-term environmental threats associated with the spread of invasive species; and,

WHEREAS, proactively mitigating and responding to the threatened effects of the 2023 storms and anticipated runoff will help ensure the relative safety and enjoyment of millions of visitors that come to Inyo County to enjoy the unparalleled natural wonders of Inyo County and, in turn, protect the County's tourism economy; and,

WHEREAS, the Director of Emergency Services for the County of Inyo found that threatened conditions of disaster and of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property have arisen in Inyo County as the result of additional storm and projected runoff events in 2023; and,

WHEREAS, the Director of Emergency Services finds that these emergency conditions will require additional resources, services, personnel, equipment, and any other assistance, including the combined forces of the mutual aid region to mitigate the effects of the local emergency. These resources are necessary to address immediate threats and to assist in recovery efforts; and,

WHEREAS, Government Code Section 8630, and Inyo County Code Section 2.56.060 empowers the Director of Emergency Services to proclaim the existence of a local emergency when the County Board of Supervisors is not in session and Inyo County is threatened or likely to be threatened by the conditions of disaster or of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property that are or are likely to be beyond the control of the services, personnel, equipment and facilities of this County; and

WHEREAS, the Inyo County Board of Supervisors is not currently in session and cannot immediately be called into session; and

WHEREAS, the Inyo County Board of Supervisors shall take action to ratify this Proclamation within seven days thereafter or the Proclamation shall have no further force or effect.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AND PROCLAIMED by the Director of Emergency Services for the County of Inyo that, for the reasons set forth herein, a local emergency now exists throughout Inyo County; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED AND REQUESTED that the Director of the Governor's Office of Emergency Services concur in this declaration of a local emergency; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED AND REQUESTED that Governor of the State of California proclaim a State Emergency in Inyo County; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, PROCLAIMED AND ORDERED that during the existence of this local emergency the powers, functions, and duties of the emergency organization of this County shall be those prescribed by State law, by ordinances, and resolutions, and that this emergency shall be deemed

to continue to exist until either the Governor of the State of California, or the Board of Supervisors of the County of Inyo, State of California, proclaims its termination, or if the Board of Supervisors of the County of Inyo does not ratify this proclamation within seven days of its issuance. Further, it is directed that this emergency proclamation be forwarded to the Director of the Governor's Office of Emergency Services and the Governor of the State of California, with a request for additional resources, services, personnel, and equipment.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED on this 7 day of March, 2023, by the Inyo County Inyo County Director of Emergency Services.



Nate Greenberg, County Administrative Officer
Director of Emergency Services
County of Inyo, State of California

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

PROCLAMATION OF A STATE OF EMERGENCY

WHEREAS on March 1, 2023, I proclaimed a State of Emergency to exist in 13 counties as a result of winter storms that struck California beginning in late February, and which have continued to significantly impact those 13 identified counties, as well as several additional counties across California; and

WHEREAS these storms, including an atmospheric river system, are forecasted to continue through mid-March, and, in addition to previously issued freeze warnings and frost advisories due to rapidly declining temperatures, the National Weather Service has issued flood watch warnings in recent days; and

WHEREAS heavy rain, snow, and gusty winds caused by these storms continue throughout the State, especially in the mountains and foothill regions, resulting in significant travel impacts and residents being snowed in or stranded; and

WHEREAS these storms continue to bring significant precipitation, avalanche and flood concerns, and triggered evacuation warnings; and

WHEREAS these storms continue to damage and force the closure of federal and state highways and roads, and have also damaged and continue to threaten critical infrastructure, homes, and buildings; and

WHEREAS these storms, including the forecasted atmospheric river system, will compound the complexities of recovery in the affected counties that are still responding and continue to respond to impacts of these storms; and

WHEREAS due to the sustained force and longevity of persistent heavy rain and snow, there are multiple cumulative and compounding effects which have already strained local and state resources, and the impacts of these storms will be exacerbated by the upcoming atmospheric river system; and

WHEREAS under the provisions of Government Code section 8558(b), I find that conditions of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property exist due to these storms; and

WHEREAS under the provisions of Government Code section 8558(b), I find that the conditions caused by these storms, by reason of their magnitude, are or are likely to be beyond the control of the services, personnel, equipment, and facilities of any single local government and require the combined forces of a mutual aid region or regions to appropriately respond; and

WHEREAS under the provisions of Government Code section 8625, I find that local authority is inadequate to cope with the magnitude of the damage caused by these storms; and

WHEREAS under the provisions of Government Code section 8571, I find that strict compliance with various statutes and regulations specified in this Proclamation would prevent, hinder, or delay the mitigation of the effects of these storms.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GAVIN NEWSOM, Governor of the State of California, in accordance with the authority vested in me by the State Constitution and

statutes, including the California Emergency Services Act, and in particular, Government Code section 8625, **HEREBY PROCLAIM A STATE OF EMERGENCY** to exist in Butte, El Dorado, Fresno, Humboldt, Imperial, Inyo, Lake, Mendocino, Merced, Monterey, Napa, Placer, Plumas, Sacramento, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Stanislaus, Tuolumne, and Yuba counties.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

1. All operative provisions contained in my March 1, 2023, State of Emergency Proclamation are hereby incorporated and applicable, as appropriate, to Butte, El Dorado, Fresno, Humboldt, Imperial, Inyo, Lake, Mendocino, Merced, Monterey, Napa, Placer, Plumas, Sacramento, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Stanislaus, Tuolumne, and Yuba counties as a result of the storms identified in this and the previous Proclamation.

2. Any fairgrounds the Office of Emergency Services determines suitable to assist individuals impacted by these storms in the counties identified in this and the March 1, 2023, State of Emergency Proclamation, shall be made available to the Office of Emergency Services pursuant to the Emergency Services Act, Government Code section 8589. The Office of Emergency Services shall notify the fairgrounds of the intended use and may immediately utilize the fairgrounds without the fairground board of directors' approval.

I FURTHER DIRECT that as soon as hereafter possible, this Proclamation be filed in the Office of the Secretary of State and that widespread publicity and notice be given of this Proclamation.

This Proclamation is not intended to, and does not, create any rights or benefits, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity, against the State of California, its agencies, departments, entities, officers, employees, or any other person.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of California to be affixed this 8th day of March 2023.



GAVIN NEWSOM
Governor of California

ATTEST:

SHIRLEY N. WEBER, Ph.D.
Secretary of State

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

March 9, 2023

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Through: Robert J. Fenton, Jr.
Regional Administrator
Federal Emergency Management Agency Region IX
1111 Broadway, Suite 1200
Oakland, CA 94607-4052

Dear Mr. President,

Under the provisions of Section 501 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 5121-5207 (Stafford Act), as implemented by 44 C.F.R. § 206.35, I request that you issue an Emergency Declaration for the State of California due to the continuous, ongoing series of winter storms, which are now forecasted to include an impending atmospheric river system. According to the National Weather Service (NWS) and the State's climatologist, these storms, which began in late-February, are predicted to continue to pummel California through at least mid-March. The sustained force and longevity of persistent heavy rains, high winds, freeze warnings and record snowfall have already strained local and State resources.

I am specifically requesting approval of emergency protective measures (Category B), limited to Direct Federal Assistance (DFA), under the Public Assistance program for the following counties: Amador, Butte, El Dorado, Fresno, Humboldt, Imperial, Inyo, Kern, Lake, Los Angeles, Madera, Mariposa, Mendocino, Merced, Mono, Monterey, Napa, Nevada, Placer, Plumas, Sacramento, San Bernardino, San Francisco, San Mateo, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Sierra, Sonoma, Stanislaus, Tulare, Tuolumne and Yuba. I am requesting DFA in order to meet critical emergency protection requirements in the form of generators, road clearance equipment and supplies, and sheltering and potential mass care assistance. The emergency measures required as a result of the severity and destructiveness of these

continuous winter storms, including the incoming atmospheric river system, are beyond the capabilities of the State and affected local governments to perform or to contract for, thus requiring DFA.

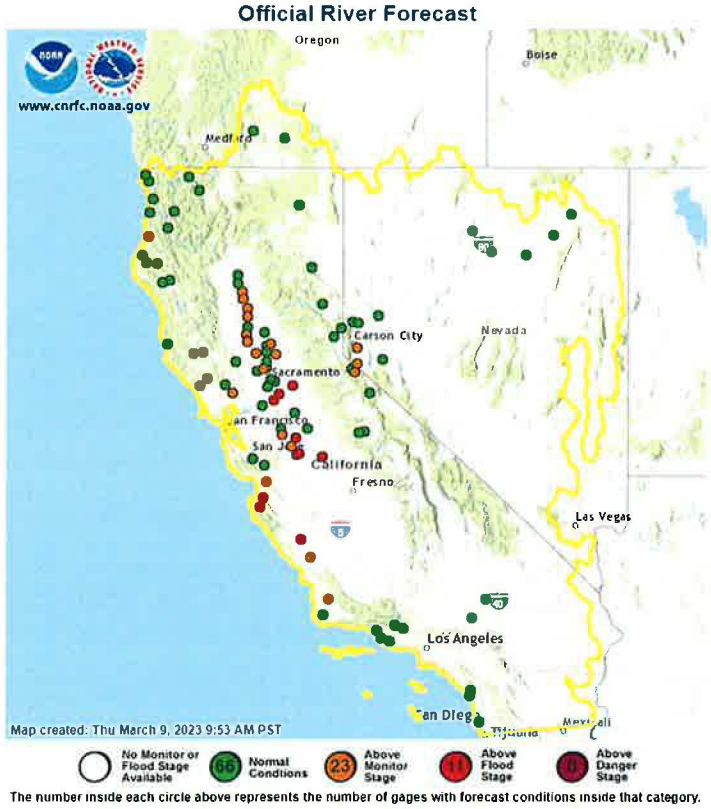
I. Meteorologic Forecasting

A series of winter storms began affecting California on February 21, 2023. Since the start of the event, California has had nearly uninterrupted storms. These storms have already caused significant damage in California from the substantial rain, snowfall, and river and urban flooding. It is expected the incoming atmospheric river system will bring heavier precipitation, creating greater impacts and compounding the complexities of response and recovery in the affected counties that are still responding to effects of the December 2022-January 2023 winter storm event.

The NWS predicts that heavy rain and snow will inundate California over at least the next week, substantially adding to the water and snow that has already saturated the State since late February. The atmospheric river system will likely affect the State through mid- to late-March. Moderate to heavy snow is possible at or above 7,000 to 8,000 feet elevation, particularly in the High Sierra, with heavy rainfall expected in Northern, Central, and coastal Southern California.

This incoming atmospheric river system is expected to exacerbate the effects of these storms which have already strained local and State resources. Recent heavy snowfall, combined with anticipated warmer temperatures over the course of the next week, are expected to bring snow melt runoff rates higher than the forecasted accumulation. The snowpack above 4,000 feet elevation will absorb and freeze most of the incoming rainfall; however, the existing snow below that transition zone will experience melting and contribute to rainfall runoff. The NWS forecasts the atmospheric river system is expected to broadly impact the lower elevation Sierras, foothills, and valley stream networks. River, creek, stream, roadway, and urban flooding is predicted to occur, resulting in the NWS placing 47 counties under a flood watch beginning today, March 9, 2023. Flooding in these counties will contribute to cascading risks of mud and debris flows in coastal and lower elevation Sierra burn scars undermining the safety of persons and critical infrastructure.

The below graphic predicts 11 locations that will exceed flood stage and 23 locations that will exceed monitoring stage throughout California.



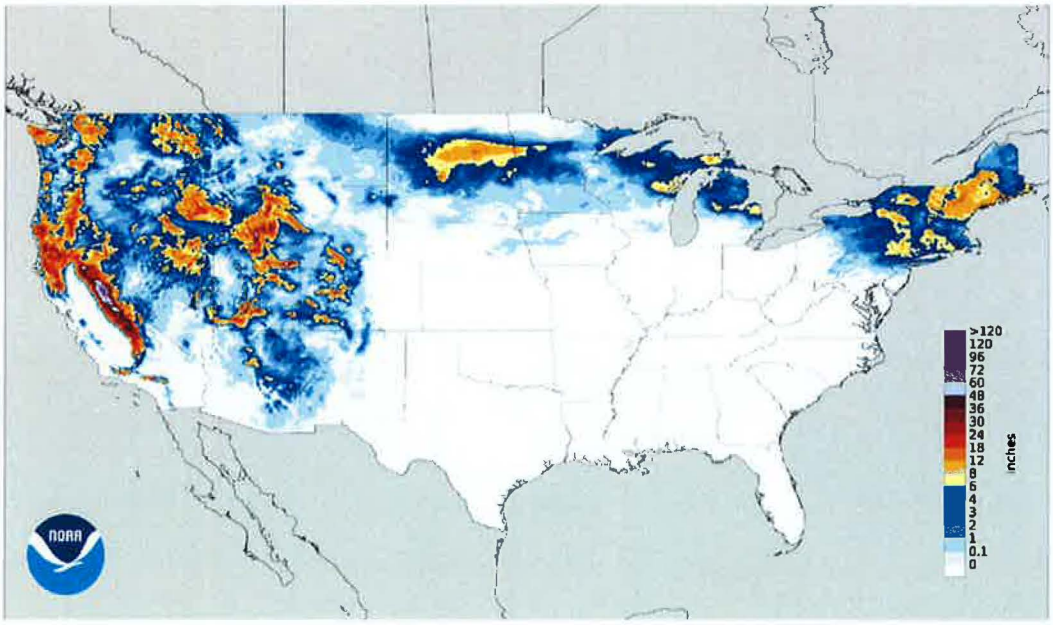
The incoming atmospheric river system, coupled with the winter storms that have already hit California, is expected to generate new and historic flood records. The Merced River near Stevinson in Merced County is forecast to reach a record-setting high-water mark of 73.5 feet during the early morning of March 12. The Salinas River near Spreckels in Monterey County is forecast to peak of 24.8 feet on March 14. This area of the Salinas River was previously damaged during the December 2022-January 2023 winter storm event, causing significant negative impacts to the local population. The Russian River near Hopland in Mendocino County is forecast to peak at 16 feet on March 10, resulting in flooding of Highway 175. The Cosumnes River near Michigan Bar in Sacramento County is forecasted to peak at 13.8 feet on the night of March 10, flooding houses in Wilton and overtopping local levees.

II. EMERGENCY RESPONSE

A. INCIDENT OVERVIEW – STATE AND LOCAL EFFORTS AND RESOURCES

On February 21, 2023, the State activated its State Operations Center (SOC) and it has remained operational. As a result of the storms, NWS issued weather warnings, watches, and advisories, including blizzard, winter storm, freeze, and high wind for areas across California. It is forecasted by the NWS that there will be potential for record snowfall in the southern half of the Sierras. This is in addition to the record snowfall accumulations exceeding 8 feet that have already been observed over the last two weeks from the northern Sierras to as far south as Big Bear. The significant low elevation snowfall in counties such as Los Angeles, Mono, and San Bernardino caused entire communities to become isolated essentially overnight. For a period of time, Interstates 5 and 15, along with other State highways, which served as connectors from Southern California to the rest of the State, were completely closed due to snowfall. Interstate 80 between the California and Nevada borders suffered the same fate. Parts of the Sierra Nevada mountains range saw up to 6 feet of snow in the 72 hours prior to March 1, 2023. The Southern California mountains saw 1 to 3 feet during that same time frame. All the while, the storms continued deepening the snowpack across the Sierra Nevada.

National Snowfall Analysis: 72-hour accumulation ending 2023-03-01 12 UTC
Issued 2023-03-03 09:28:46 UTC



Counties across the state have proclaimed local emergencies, and more are expected to follow, as the unrelenting storms overwhelm their local response resources. The State responded to these storms by providing snow removal equipment and personnel, search and rescue units, air resources both for reconnaissance, rescue, and resupply efforts, and by opening shelters. To achieve this, the State has called upon resources from the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE), California National Guard (CNG), California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), California Conservation Corps (CCC), California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR), California Department of Social Services (CDSS), and local government resources. Hundreds of people were evacuated due to avalanche, flooding, and structure collapse potential, while tens of thousands lost power. Entire communities still remain under shelter in place orders due to the snowfall, such as in San Bernardino County where an estimated 30 to 50 percent of the local population in the Lake Arrowhead area are having critical needs met via emergency response personnel. Numerous state and federal highways are closed and damaged due to flooding, snow, and earth slides and, for many of those, there is no estimated time of reopening. The lack of useable roadways has resulted in State and local aircraft resources being utilized to supply communities with food, water, livestock feed, and fuel.

Due to the severity of these continuous storms, as well as the impending atmospheric river system, there will be significant and heavy rain-on-snow load stresses to structures, in some cases exceeding the engineered design loads. Many of the areas that will receive significant accumulation are not accustomed to receiving heavy snowfall and will suffer significant structural damage and roof collapses. This includes San Bernardino, Mono, El Dorado, and Nevada counties, where commercial and residential structures have already collapsed while power within these areas remains down.

On March 1, 2023, I proclaimed a State of Emergency for 13 counties[1] impacted by the winter storms that had occurred and those that were and are still ongoing and incoming. On March 8, 2023, I added 21 counties[2] to the State of Emergency in response to ongoing storms, developing needs and more damage discovered from the winter storm onslaught. I expect to add additional counties as the snow continues to melt or be removed and further damage is revealed and/or needs arise.

---

[1] Amador, Kern, Los Angeles, Madera, Mariposa, Mono, Nevada, San Bernardino, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Sierra, Sonoma, and Tulare

[2] Butte, El Dorado, Fresno, Humboldt, Imperial, Inyo, Lake, Mendocino, Merced, Monterey, Napa, Placer, Plumas, Sacramento, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Stanislaus, Tuolumne, and Yuba

As the State continues to respond to these winter storms and drawing upon CAL FIRE, CNG, CCC, CDCR, additional resources, including swift water rescue task forces, aviation search and rescue, high water vehicles, excavation equipment, fire engines, and hand crews, are being pre-positioning for what may be the most damaging storms of the series. The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) Flood Operations Center, activated on March 9, 2023, has already begun to liaise with counties facing elevated flood risks and to send flood fight specialists to areas of concern.

B. FEDERAL AGENCY EFFORTS AND RESOURCES

The U.S. Coast Guard has provided support in the form of aircraft to assist with distribution of emergency feed to sustain livestock operations.

C. ACTION TAKEN

In addition to the above-described response efforts, I have taken appropriate action under State law and directed the execution of the State Emergency Plan consistent with 44 C.F.R. § 206.35 (c)(1) and (c)(2) when I proclaimed the States of Emergency in specified counties, on March 1, 2023, and March 8, 2023, due to the widespread impact of these extreme and continuing winter storms.

D. FINDINGS PURSUANT TO 44 C.F.R. § 206.35 (b)(1) and (b)(2)

I hereby find that these winter storms, and the forecasted atmospheric river system, are of such severity and magnitude that effective response is beyond the capability of the State and the affected local governments. I further find that the counties identified in this request require supplementary Federal emergency assistance, as set forth above, to save lives and to protect property, public health and safety, or to lessen or avert the threat of this disaster.

III. CERTIFICATION

I certify for this emergency that the State and local governments will assume all applicable non-federal shared costs as required by the Stafford Act.

IV. STATE COORDINATING OFFICERS AND AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVES

I have designated the Director of the Governor's Office of Emergency Services, Nancy Ward, as the Governor's Authorized

Representative (GAR) and State Coordinating Officer for this request. Director Ward is empowered to execute on behalf of the State all necessary documents for federal assistance, including claims for Public Assistance, and will work with FEMA in continuing to provide more information or explanation on my behalf.

V. CONCLUSION

California is prioritizing life and safety response measures at this time and will complete preliminary damage assessments when it is able to do so. Due to the ongoing winter storms devastating California and overwhelming deployed State and local resources, and the approaching atmospheric river system, I am requesting an Emergency Declaration to authorize Direct Federal Assistance for effective efforts necessary to save lives and protect public health and safety, while reserving the right to request a Major Disaster Declaration based on damage caused by these winter storms.

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom
Governor of California

Enclosures:
OMB No. 1660-0009/FEMA Form 010-0-13

MARCH 10, 2023

President Joseph R. Biden, Jr. Approves California Emergency Declaration

Today, President Joseph R. Biden, Jr. declared that an emergency exists in the State of California and ordered Federal assistance to supplement State, tribal, and local response efforts due to the emergency conditions resulting from severe winter storms, flooding, landslides, and mudslides beginning on March 9, 2023, and continuing.

The President's action authorizes the Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), to coordinate all disaster relief efforts which have the purpose of alleviating the hardship and suffering caused by the emergency on the local population, and to provide appropriate assistance for required emergency measures, authorized under Title V of the Stafford Act, to save lives and to protect property and public health and safety, and to lessen or avert the threat of a catastrophe in the counties of Amador, Butte, El Dorado, Fresno, Humboldt, Imperial, Inyo, Kern, Lake, Los Angeles, Madera, Mariposa, Mendocino, Merced, Mono, Monterey, Napa, Nevada, Placer, Plumas, Sacramento, San Bernardino, San Francisco, San Mateo, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Sierra, Sonoma, Stanislaus, Tulare, Tuolumne, and Yuba.

Specifically, FEMA is authorized to identify, mobilize, and provide at its discretion, equipment and resources necessary to alleviate the impacts of the emergency. Emergency protective measures (Category B), limited to direct Federal assistance, under the Public Assistance program will be provided at 75 percent Federal funding.

Deanne Criswell, Administrator, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Department of Homeland Security, named Andrew F. Grant as the Federal Coordinating Officer for Federal recovery operations in the affected areas.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION MEDIA SHOULD CONTACT THE FEMA NEWS DESK AT (202) 646-3272 OR FEMA-NEWS-DESK@FEMA.DHS.GOV.

###

President Joseph R. Biden, Jr. Approves Emergency Declaration for California

Release Date: mars 10, 2023

WASHINGTON -- FEMA announced today that federal disaster assistance has been made available to the state of California to supplement state, tribal and local response efforts due to emergency conditions resulting from severe winter storms, flooding, landslides and mudslides beginning March 9, 2023, and continuing.

The President's action authorizes FEMA to coordinate all disaster relief efforts to alleviate the hardship and suffering caused by the emergency on the local population, and to provide appropriate assistance to save lives, to protect property and safety and to lessen or avert the threat of catastrophe in the counties of Amador, Butte, El Dorado, Fresno, Humboldt, Imperial, Inyo, Kern, Lake, Los Angeles, Madera, Mariposa, Mendocino, Merced, Mono, Monterey, Napa, Nevada, Placer, Plumas, Sacramento, San Bernardino, San Francisco, San Mateo, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Sierra, Sonoma, Stanislaus, Tulare, Tuolumne and Yuba.

Specifically, FEMA is authorized to identify, mobilize and provide at its discretion, equipment and resources necessary to alleviate the impacts of the emergency. Emergency protective measures limited to direct federal assistance, under the public assistance program will be provided at 75% federal funding.

Andrew F. Grant has been named the Federal Coordinating Officer for federal recovery operations in the affected areas.

KAREN BASS
MAYOR

DECLARATION OF LOCAL EMERGENCY

By virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Los Angeles, pursuant to the provisions of Los Angeles City Charter Section 231 and Los Angeles Municipal Code Section 8.27, I hereby find that:

On January 13, 2023, I declared a local emergency as a result of the significant impacts of high winds and substantial precipitation brought on by a series of atmospheric river storm systems that began on January 9, 2023; and

Precipitation within Inyo and Mono Counties during January through March 2023 far exceeded any amount since the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) record keeping began; and

On March 1, 2023, the Governor of California proclaimed a state of emergency to support disaster response and relief in thirteen counties as a result of these severe winter storms, and on March 7, 2023, the County of Inyo declared a local emergency due to the continuing atmospheric river weather phenomena; and

A portion of the wall of the Los Angeles Aqueduct partially collapsed on March 11, 2023 as the result of the flooding from the extreme runoff in the Olancha area; and

The conditions of extreme peril to the safety of public property, infrastructure and environment have arisen and have already and will continue to impact the City of Los Angeles' Aqueduct system, its water gathering facilities, its water delivery facilities and its air quality control facilities located within Mono, Inyo, Kern, and Los Angeles Counties and the City of Los Angeles. The aforementioned perilous conditions are caused by multiple atmospheric river storm systems which struck California in January through March 2023, bringing massive amounts of snow and rain; and

Digitally Signed using ClerkSign (Document 18ca21ee-294d-4cb9-a29e-f699b0c17d9b)

This precipitation rapidly filled reservoirs, lakes, rivers, and streams throughout the Eastern Sierra region, causing them to reach capacity, resulting in potential widespread flooding; and

This precipitation has produced a snowpack equal to 255 percent of of April 1 average and is continuing to grow with additional precipitation events expected through April 2023; and

The Los Angeles Aqueduct system is transporting an exceptionally large volume of water; and

There are four potential locations for delivery of excess water in the Los Angeles Aqueduct: (1) the lands and water bodies of the Owens Valley; (2) the natural terminus of the Owens River, Owens Lake; (3) the City of Los Angeles and the Los Angeles River; and (4) potential transfer to the State Water Project; and

LADWP is taking extraordinary measures to conserve the water in the Owens Valley and throughout the vicinity of the Los Angeles Aqueduct by maximizing the amount of water delivered to Los Angeles, recharging the groundwater basins and attempting to bring all surface storage reservoirs to full capacity; and

Los Angeles is also taking extraordinary steps to avoid inundating critical infrastructure or habitat, such as preventing water from spilling over Long Valley Dam and Tinemaha Dam because of dam safety concerns and associated damage to habitat; and

LADWP must take immediate steps, including constructing protective measures at and near Owens Lake, as well as along the aqueduct to manage the flow of water into Owens Lake in a manner that minimizes impacts to the current dust mitigation infrastructure; and

LADWP must take subsequent steps to repair, replace and remediate damaged dust control measures on the Owens Lake playa in an expedited manner that incorporates flood resilience components in order to maintain compliance with air quality regulations in the Owens Valley Planning Area; and

LADWP must take immediate steps to (1) armor facilities, including the Lower Owens River pumpback station, berm roads, pipes, and ancillary facilities, installation of diversion and water conveyance structures; (2) divert creek and water conveyance flows as necessary to prevent damage; (3) clean, repair and rebuild water delivery and conveyance facilities as needed; (4) rebuild spreading grounds to capture overflow; and (5) repair and restore damaged patrol and access roads and associated drainage infrastructure; and

Digitally Signed using ClerkSign (Document 18ca21ee-294d-4cb9-a29e-f699b0c17d9b)

Based upon the above, said events are or are likely to become beyond the control of the normal services, personnel, equipment and facilities of the regularly constituted branches and departments of the City government.

NOW, THEREFORE, I hereby declare that a Local Emergency exists throughout the City-owned lands adjacent to the City's Los Angeles Aqueduct, its water gathering facilities, its water delivery facilities, and its air quality control facilities located in Mono, Inyo, Kern, and Los Angeles Counties and in the City of Los Angeles and direct the Emergency Operations Organization (EOO) to be immediately activated to take such steps that are necessary for the protection of life and property; and

I FURTHER DIRECT that all City Departments impacted by this event, and its ongoing effects, continue to conduct damage assessments and collect cost estimates for the purpose of seeking State and Federal disaster assistance; and

I FURTHER DIRECT that this Declaration of Local Emergency shall take effect immediately and that widespread publicity and notice shall be given said Declaration through the most feasible and adequate means of disseminating such notice throughout the City.

Karen Bass

KAREN BASS
Mayor

Dated at Los Angeles, California

Date: March 14, 2023

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Filed with the City Clerk

Date: 03/15/2023, 2023

Time: 7:26am

Signed with ClerkSign

By: Pat Y Latte

Mar 15, 2023 7:28AM

Digitally Signed using ClerkSign (Document 18ca21ee-294d-4cb9-a29e-f699b0c17d9b)

KAREN BASS
MAYOR

DECLARATION OF LOCAL EMERGENCY

By virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Los Angeles, pursuant to the provisions of Los Angeles Municipal Code Section 8.27, I hereby find that:

WHEREAS, In March 2023, the City of Los Angeles began experiencing continued significant impacts as a result of high winds and substantial precipitation brought on by a series of atmospheric river storm systems; and

WHEREAS, These storms have included an atmospheric river system, numerous weather advisories, and flood watches issued by the National Weather Service in recent days; and

WHEREAS, these storms have caused extreme conditions such as power outages, damage to power poles, fallen trees, slope failures, numerous locations with substantial mud and debris flows and flooding, and red and yellow tagged structures; and

WHEREAS, the City of Los Angeles has experienced multiple road closures due to debris flow and related water damage, impacting significant transportation arteries requiring long-term repair and threatening the integrity of the City's infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, the National Weather Service is projecting additional storm activity in the coming days, which will further cripple the City's ability to mitigate cascading impacts of the continuous storms; and

WHEREAS, Based upon the above events, there exists the potential that said incidents are likely to become beyond the control of the normal services, personnel, equipment and facilities of the regularly constituted branches and departments of the City Government; and

WHEREAS, The Governor of California, pursuant to the Emergency Services Act, issued a proclamation declaring an emergency in thirteen California counties including Los Angeles on March 1, 2023; and

Digitally Signed using ClerkSign (Document 7f474bf8-c21b-479b-99d6-1b7c9a68af89)

WHEREAS, President Biden approved an Emergency Declaration for the State of California on March 10, 2023 to supplement state, tribal and local response efforts due to emergency conditions resulting from severe winter storms, flooding, landslides and mudslides beginning March 9, 2023, and continuing; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I hereby declare the existence of a Local Emergency and direct the Emergency Operations Organization (EOO) to be immediately activated to take such steps that are necessary for the protection of life and property.

I FURTHER DIRECT that all City Departments impacted by this event, and its ongoing effects, continue to conduct damage assessments and collect cost estimates for the purpose of seeking State and Federal disaster assistance.

I HEREBY REQUEST that the Governor waive regulations that may hinder response and recovery efforts; that recovery assistance be made available under the California Disaster Assistance Act; and that the State expedite access to State and Federal resources and any other appropriate Federal; disaster relief programs.

I FURTHER DIRECT that this Declaration of Local Emergency shall take effect immediately and that widespread publicity and notice shall be given said Declaration through the most feasible and adequate means of disseminating such notice throughout the City.

Karen Bass

KAREN BASS
Mayor

Dated at Los Angeles, California

Date: March 14, 2023

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Filed with the City Clerk

Date: 03/15/2023, 2023

Time: 7:25am

Signed with ClerkSign

By: Pat Y Cath

Mar 15, 2023 7:27AM

Digitally Signed using ClerkSign (Document 7f474bf8-c21b-479b-99d6-1b7c9a68af89)