CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

Submission of this form is optional. The form shall be filed with the County Clerk pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21152(b). Pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21168(d), the filing of this notice starts a 35-day statute of limitations on Court challenges to the approval of the project. Failure to file the notice results in the statute of limitations being extended to 180 days.

TO:	**TO:**
Office of Planning and Research P.O. Box 3044 Sacramento, CA 95812-3044	Mono County Clerk P.O. Box 237 Bridgeport, CA 93517 Via email: clerkrecorder@mono.ca.gov

FROM (LEAD AGENCY AND APPLICANT ADDRESS):

Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP)
111 North Hope Street, Room 1044
Los Angeles, CA 90012

PROJECT TITLE:
Seismic and Earthquake Early Warning Station - Lee Vining Area, Mono County

PROJECT LOCATION:	**CITY:**	**COUNTY:**
Latitude 38.051546, Longitude -119.181497		Mono

DESCRIPTION OF NATURE, PURPOSE, AND BENEFICIARIES OF PROJECT:
The University of Nevada Reno, Nevada Seismological Laboratory (UNR) seeks to remove an existing seismic station and install an Earthquake Early Warning station (with non-ground penetrating solar, electrical, and radio components) located on City of Los Angeles (City) property located to the west of Highway 395 near the Lee Vining Area of Mono County, California, as shown on the enclosed map. The purpose of the station is to provide critical public health and safety functions by providing between 10 to 60 seconds warning that ground shaking may be imminent. Approximately two to a maximum of three standard 4×4 vehicles will carry in all equipment using established roads. See attached for additional information and details on the construction and installation.

CONTACT PERSON:	**TELEPHONE NUMBER**:
Nadia Parker	(213) 367-6376

EXEMPT STATUS:	**SECTION:**
Categorical Exemption	15303

JUSTIFICATION FOR PROJECT EXEMPTION:
In accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act, this project is Categorically Exempt from CEQA review pursuant to Section 15303, Class 3. Class 3 consists of construction and location of limited number of new, small facilities or structures; installation of small new equipment and facilities in small structures. Section 15303(d) includes water main, sewage, electrical, gas, and other utility extensions, including street improvements, of reasonable length to serve such construction.

LEAD AGENCY SIGNATURE:	**TITLE:**	**DATE:**
Jane Hauptman Jane A. Hauptman	Manager of Environmental Planning and Assessment	07/09/2026

Construction

Approximately two to a maximum of three standard 4×4 vehicles will carry in all equipment using established roads. Vehicles exceeding the 1-ton factory category will not be used.

Vehicles will not drive off-road. Accessing the work site will require travelling through Greater Sage-Grouse habitat. All vehicles will remain on existing roads and travel under 25 mph. All gates shall be left as they are found, either opened or closed. No work shall be conducted during the Greater Sage-Grouse lekking season, which is March 1 through April 30.

Vehicles will park within the permit boundaries. Where vehicle access is limited to one vehicle at a time, each vehicle will bring the materials in and unload, then move away allowing further unloading by other vehicles. If a road is not in a drivable condition, the construction crew will park the trucks in a safe location, and the construction crew will walk to the site carrying equipment in backpacks. The UNR is not proposing to build any access roads; only existing roads or walking with backpacks will be used.

The sensor vault requires boring 12" diameter holes up to 3' deep. A jackhammer may be used to bore the vault holes using an auger bit. UNR will use hand tools instead of a jackhammer when required by the landowner agency.

The cement mixer is a Wheelman by IMER® U.S.A. Inc. (or similar) and is powered by an electric motor with 0.5 horsepower. Per the manufacturer, the mixer operates at approximately 65dB. Other options for mixing cement include the use of a hand mixer which produces 0dB.

The generator that is used to power the cement mixer is a Honda® EU2000i (or similar) that is fuel efficient with low emissions and operates at approximately 59dB maximum rated load and 53dB at quarter load. Special sound dampening materials make this generator very quiet. This generator is typically used for noise-enforced campsites.

Equipment, personal vehicles, used in site preparation will be cleaned and free of mud, soil, and other vegetative debris, prior to operations on federal lands to prevent the spread of invasive weeds.

NOTE: Not all equipment will be operating at the same time. Generally, the order is vehicles haul in supplies and materials and are shut off, and the inal pieces of equipment to be used are the cement mixer and generator. When done, the mixer and generator are turned off.

Personnel will complete the initial “hard construction” activities (drilling the hole, mixing and laying the cement pad, digging the trenches, laying pipe, etc.) during the irst one or

two days. Then all equipment is loaded back onto trucks or into vehicles and personnel leave the site. This will allow the concrete to cure. Approximately two weeks later, NSL personnel (generally only one person) will return to install the station's seismic components. This will take approximately one or two days.

Operations

UNR would like to inspect and maintain stations (including clearing the vegetation around a station's equipment) on an annual basis. However, current UNR funding does not support this level of maintenance. Current operation and maintenance will be done when a station stops transmitting data or has a problem. This is anticipated to be once every ive years.

UNR will only access stations during months when the ground is dry or dry enough to avoid leaving ruts or footprints.

Helicopters will not be used.

Maintenance

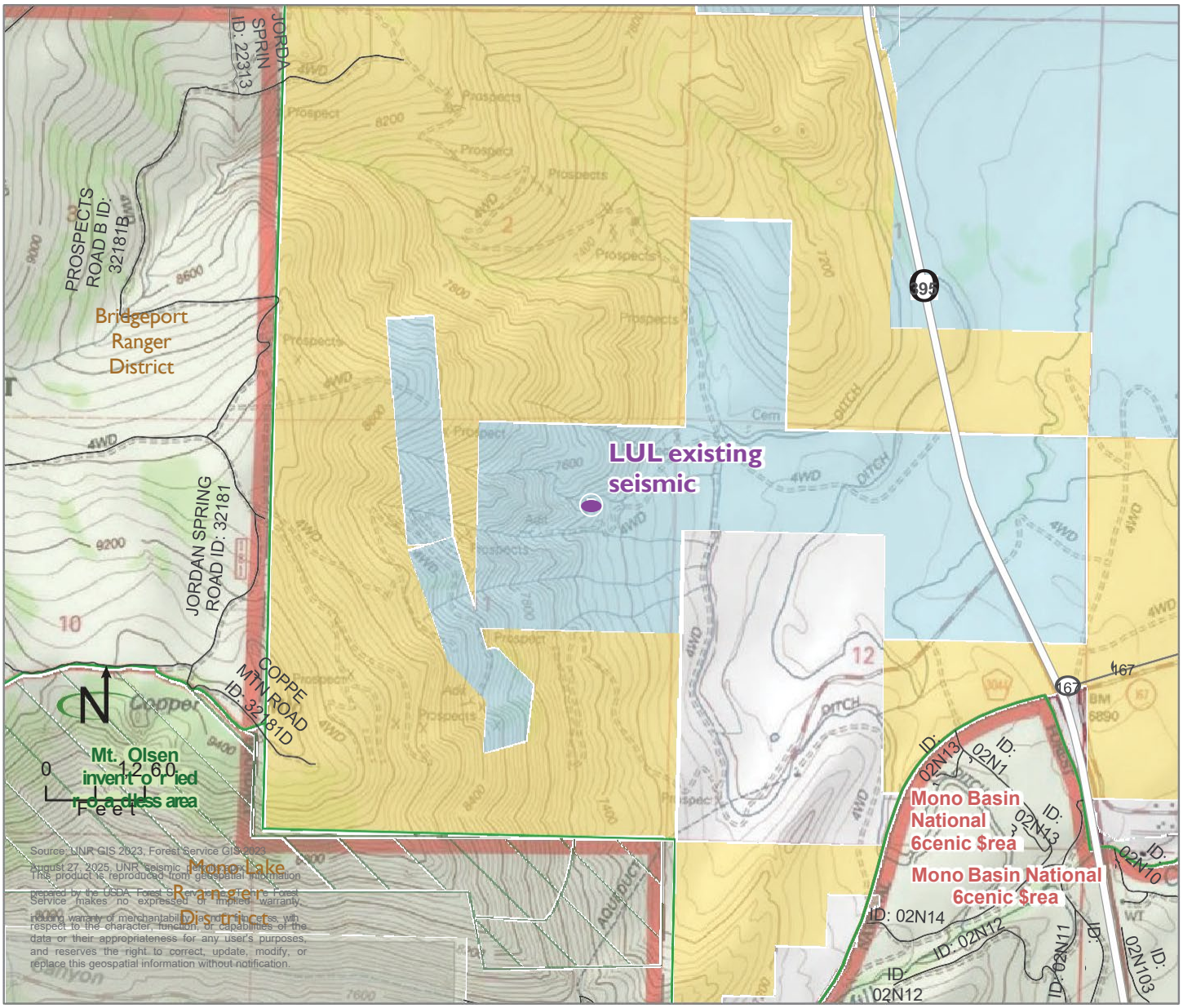
Some ground vegetation (grass or weeds) may need to be cleared around the site for ire safety or to allow safe access for personnel when performing scheduled maintenance. UNR will use gas-or battery-powered, hand-held weed and grass trimmers to trim vegetation up to 10 feet from the above-ground infrastructure. Gas-powered trimmers are 21 and 30 cc professional-grade, 2-stroke engines. The engine is either EPA 2010 and later and/or a California (CARB) Tier III Compliant depending on model. Idle speed is between 2,500 and 3,000 RPM and full speed is between 7,600 and 8,700 RPM. Vegetation clearing operations should take less than 15 minutes.

Vegetation clearing for maintenance purposes will be done during site visits repairing stations that stopped transmitting data.

Each individual station is built to operate for up to the life of the batteries—typically 5 years—without maintenance. However, when the equipment stops transmitting data, an unscheduled maintenance trip or trips will be needed. Data transmission is usually restored with one visit; however, up to 6 visits may occur at problematic sites. Visits will generally be done during the spring, summer, and fall. UNR will follow timing limitations as agreed upon.

All work will be accomplished between 06:00 am – 07:00 pm.

LUL, General Location



- Existing seismic station
- Highway
- Major Road
- Forest Service core road
- Forest Service motor vehicle unit management trail
- Bureau of Land Management
- State or local government
- National Forest, administrative boundary
- Forest Service inventoried roadless area

