

KEELER DUNES DUST CONTROL PROJECT

FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT /
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

SCH #2011101065

ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT: DOI-BLM-CAC-070-2014-0023-EA

VOLUME IV

PREPARED FOR:

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT, BISHOP FIELD OFFICE
351 PACU LANE SUITE 100
BISHOP, CALIFORNIA 93514

AND

GREAT BASIN UNIFIED AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT
157 SHORT STREET
BISHOP, CALIFORNIA 93514

PREPARED BY:

SAPPHOS ENVIRONMENTAL, INC.
430 N. HALSTEAD STREET
PASADENA, CALIFORNIA 91107

JUNE 2014

TABLE OF CONTENTS

VOLUME I

SECTION	PAGE
ES EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	ES-1
1.0 INTRODUCTION	1-1
1.1 Purpose of the Document	1-1
1.2 Background	1-4
1.3 Proposed Action Overview	1-4
1.3.1 Location	1-5
1.4 Objectives of, and Purpose and Need for, the Proposed Action	1-5
1.4.1 District	1-6
1.4.2 BLM	1-6
1.5 Joint CEQA/NEPA Documents	1-6
1.5.1 CEQA EIR	1-7
1.5.2 NEPA EA	1-7
1.5.3 Review and Certification Process	1-9
1.6 Agency Roles and Responsibilities	1-9
1.6.1 District	1-9
1.6.2 BLM	1-10
1.6.3 Other Agency Reviews and/or Consultations	1-10
1.7 Possible Benefits of the Proposed Action	1-12
1.7.1 Protecting Public Health	1-12
1.7.2 Improving Air Quality	1-13
1.7.3 Protecting Environmentally Sensitive Areas from Anthropogenic Acceleration of Exposure	1-13
1.8 Relationship to Other Statutes, Regulations, and Plans	1-13
1.8.1 Federal Policy Consistency and Land Use Plan Conformance	1-14
1.8.2 State Policy Consistency	1-15
1.8.3 Local Policy and Land Use Conformance	1-15
1.9 Availability of Reports	1-16
1.10 Organization and Content	1-17
1.11 Issues to be Addressed	1-18
1.11.1 CEQA EIR	1-18
1.11.2 NEPA EA	1-19
1.12 Issues Scoped Out from Further Environmental Review	1-19
1.12.1 CEQA	1-19
1.12.2 NEPA	1-35
2.0 PROPOSED PROJECT / PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES	2-1
2.1 Proposed Project / Proposed Action	2-1
2.1.1 Introduction	2-1
2.1.2 Project Background and Development	2-2
2.1.3 Alternatives Development and Screening	2-3
2.1.4 Overview of Alternatives Considered in Detail	2-4
2.1.5 Features Common to the Proposed Project / Proposed Action and	

	All Proposed Project / Proposed Action Alternatives.....	2-4
2.2	Proposed Project / Proposed Action Alternatives including the Proposed Project / Proposed Action	2-23
2.2.1	Proposed Project / Proposed Action	2-24
2.2.2	Alternative 1, Dust Control Measures Applied to 214 Acres Using Irrigation Water Delivered via Water Trucks / ATVs	2-25
2.2.3	Alternative 2, Dust Control Measures Applied to 197 Acres Using Irrigation Water Delivered via Water Trucks / ATVs	2-26
2.2.4	Alternative 3, Dust Control Measures Applied to 194 Acres Using Irrigation Water Delivered via Water Trucks / Tanks / PVC Irrigation and Selected Manual Watering	2-27
2.2.5	Alternative 4, Dust Control Measures Applied to 194 Acres Using Irrigation Water Delivered via Water Trucks / PVC Irrigation System and Selected Manual Watering	2-28
2.2.6	Alternative 5, Dust Control Measures Applied to 194 Acres Using Irrigation Water Delivered via KCSD Water Well / Pipeline to Irrigation System and Selected Manual Watering.....	2-29
2.3	No Project / No Action Alternative	2-30
2.3.1	Alternative 3, No Project / No Action Alternative.....	2-30
2.4	CEQA Comparison of Impacts by Alternative.....	2-30
2.5	CEQA Environmentally Superior Alternative.....	2-35
2.6	Alternatives Considered But Eliminated from Detailed Analysis	2-35
2.6.1	Geotextile Fabric and Gravel	2-36
2.6.2	Excavation and Removal.....	2-36
2.6.3	Spraying Emissive Sand Deposits	2-36
2.7	Intended Uses of the EIR/EA Authorizing Actions.....	2-37
2.7.1	Discretionary Actions and Approvals	2-37
2.7.2	Discretionary Actions and Approvals by Other Agencies.....	2-38
3.0	ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING	3.0-1
3.1	Visual/Aesthetic Resources	3.1-1
3.1.1	Regulatory Framework.....	3.1-1
3.1.2	Affected Environment	3.1-6
3.2	Air Quality	3.2-1
3.2.1	Regulatory Framework.....	3.2-1
3.2.2	Affected Environment	3.2-6
3.3	Biological Resources	3.3-1
3.3.1	Regulatory Framework.....	3.3-1
3.3.2	Affected Environment	3.3-6
3.4	Cultural Resources.....	3.4-1
3.4.1	Regulatory Framework.....	3.4-1
3.4.2	Affected Environment	3.4-7
3.5	Geology and Soils	3.5-1
3.5.1	Regulatory Framework.....	3.5-1
3.5.2	Affected Environment	3.5-3
3.6	Paleontological Resources	3.6-1
3.6.1	Regulatory Framework.....	3.6-1
3.6.2	Affected Environment	3.6-1
3.7	Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Climate Change	3.7-1
3.7.1	Regulatory Framework.....	3.7-1

	3.7.2	Affected Environment	3.7-4
3.8		Hydrology and Water Quality	3.8-1
	3.8.1	Regulatory Framework.....	3.8-1
	3.8.2	Affected Environment	3.8-5
3.9		Land Use and Planning.....	3.9-1
	3.9.1	Regulatory Framework.....	3.9-1
	3.9.2	Affected Environment	3.9-4
3.10		Recreation	3.10-1
	3.10.1	Regulatory Framework.....	3.10-1
	3.10.2	Affected Environment	3.10-3
3.11		Transportation and Traffic.....	3.11-1
	3.11.1	Regulatory Framework.....	3.11-1
	3.11.2	Affected Environment	3.11-2
4.0		ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES	4.0-1
4.1		Visual/Aesthetic Resources	4.1-1
	4.1.1	Study Methods.....	4.1-1
	4.1.2	CEQA Significance Criteria / NEPA Requirements	4.1-2
	4.1.3	Environmental Consequences	4.1-3
	4.1.4	Mitigation Measures	4.1-30
	4.1.5	Residual Impacts after Mitigation	4.1-30
4.2		Air Quality	4.2-1
	4.2.1	Study Methods.....	4.2-1
	4.2.2	CEQA Significance Criteria / NEPA Requirements	4.2-2
	4.2.3	Environmental Consequences	4.2-4
	4.2.4	Mitigation Measures	4.2-33
	4.2.5	Residual Impacts after Mitigation	4.2-33
4.3		Biological Resources	4.3-1
	4.3.1	CEQA Significance Criteria / NEPA Requirements	4.3-1
	4.3.2	Environmental Consequences	4.3-2
	4.3.3	Mitigation Measures	4.3-20
	4.3.4	Residual Impacts after Mitigation	4.3-20
4.4		Cultural Resources.....	4.4-1
	4.4.1	Study Methods.....	4.4-1
	4.4.2	CEQA Significance Criteria / NEPA Requirements	4.4-3
	4.4.3	Environmental Consequences	4.4-6
	4.4.4	Mitigation Measures	4.4-18
	4.4.5	Residual Impacts after Mitigation	4.4-18
4.5		Geology and Soils	4.5-1
	4.5.1	Study Methods.....	4.5-1
	4.5.2	CEQA Significance Criteria / NEPA Requirements	4.5-1
	4.5.3	Environmental Consequences	4.5-2
	4.5.4	Mitigation Measures	4.5-21
	4.5.5	Residual Impacts after Mitigation	4.5-21
4.6		Paleontological Resources	4.6-1
	4.6.1	Study Methods.....	4.6-1
	4.6.2	CEQA Significance Criteria / NEPA Requirements	4.6-2
	4.6.3	Environmental Consequences	4.6-3
	4.6.4	Mitigation Measures	4.6-9
	4.6.5	Residual Impacts after Mitigation	4.6-9

4.7	Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Global Climate Change.....	4.7-1
4.7.1	Study Methods.....	4.7-1
4.7.2	CEQA Significance Criteria / NEPA Requirements	4.7-3
4.7.3	Environmental Consequences	4.7-6
4.7.4	Mitigation Measures	4.7-15
4.7.5	Residual Impacts after Mitigation	4.7-15
4.8	Hydrology and Water Quality	4.8-1
4.8.1	Study Methods.....	4.8-1
4.8.2	CEQA Significance Criteria / NEPA Requirements	4.8-2
4.8.3	Environmental Consequences	4.8-3
4.8.4	Mitigation Measures	4.8-26
4.8.5	Residual Impacts after Mitigation	4.8-27
4.9	Land Use and Planning.....	4.9-1
4.9.1	Study Methods.....	4.9-1
4.9.2	CEQA Significance Criteria / NEPA Requirements	4.9-1
4.9.3	Environmental Consequences	4.9-2
4.9.4	Mitigation Measures	4.9-5
4.9.5	Residual Impacts after Mitigation	4.9-5
4.10	Recreation	4.10-1
4.10.1	Study Methods.....	4.10-1
4.10.2	CEQA Significance Criteria / NEPA Requirements	4.10-1
4.10.3	Environmental Consequences	4.10-2
4.10.4	Mitigation Measures	4.10-9
4.10.5	Residual Impacts after Mitigation	4.10-10
4.11	Transportation and Traffic.....	4.11-1
4.11.1	Study Methods.....	4.11-1
4.11.2	CEQA Significance Criteria / NEPA Requirements	4.11-3
4.11.3	Environmental Consequences	4.11-4
4.11.4	Mitigation Measures	4.11-28
4.11.5	Residual Impacts after Mitigation	4.11-28
5.0	CUMULATIVE IMPACTS	5.0-1
5.0	Cumulative Impacts	5.0-1
5.01	CEQA Process.....	5.0-1
5.02	NEPA Process	5.0-1
5.03	Existing Cumulative Conditions	5.0-2
5.1	Visual/Aesthetic Resources	5.1-1
5.1.1	Geographic Scope	5.1-1
5.1.2	Timeframe	5.1-2
5.1.3	Existing Cumulative Conditions	5.1-2
5.1.4	Cumulative Visual Resource Impacts	5.1-5
5.2	Air Quality	5.2-1
5.2.1	Geographic Scope	5.2-1
5.2.2	Timeframe	5.2-1
5.2.3	Existing Cumulative Conditions	5.2-1
5.2.4	Cumulative Air Quality Impacts	5.2-4
5.3	Biological Resources	5.3-1
5.3.1	Geographic Scope	5.3-1
5.3.2	Timeframe	5.3-1

5.3.3	Existing Cumulative Conditions	5.3-1
5.3.4	Cumulative Biological Resources Impacts	5.3-4
5.4	Cultural Resources.....	5.4-1
5.4.1	Geographic Scope	5.4-1
5.4.2	Timeframe	5.4-1
5.4.3	Existing Cumulative Conditions	5.4-1
5.4.4	Cumulative Cultural Resources Impacts	5.4-5
5.5	Geology and Soils	5.5-1
5.5.1	Geographic Scope	5.5-1
5.5.2	Timeframe	5.5-1
5.5.3	Existing Cumulative Conditions	5.5-1
5.5.4	Cumulative Geology and Soils Impacts	5.5-3
5.6	Paleontological Resources	5.6-1
5.6.1	Geographic Scope	5.6-1
5.6.2	Timeframe	5.6-1
5.6.3	Existing Cumulative Conditions	5.6-1
5.6.4	Cumulative Paleontological Impacts	5.6-5
5.7	Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Global Climate Change	5.7-1
5.7.1	Geographic Scope	5.7-1
5.7.2	Timeframe	5.7-1
5.7.3	Existing Cumulative Conditions	5.7-1
5.7.4	Cumulative Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Global Climate Change Impacts	5.7-6
5.8	Hydrology and Water Quality	5.8-1
5.8.1	Geographic Scope	5.8-1
5.8.2	Timeframe	5.8-1
5.8.3	Existing Cumulative Conditions	5.8-1
5.8.4	Cumulative Hydrology and Water Quality Impacts	5.8-3
5.9	Land Use and Planning.....	5.9-1
5.9.1	Geographic Scope	5.9-1
5.9.2	Timeframe	5.9-1
5.9.3	Existing Cumulative Conditions	5.9-1
5.9.4	Cumulative Land Use and Planning Impacts	5.9-4
5.10	Recreation	5.10-1
5.10.1	Geographic Scope	5.10-1
5.10.2	Timeframe	5.10-1
5.10.3	Existing Cumulative Conditions	5.10-1
5.10.4	Cumulative Recreation Impacts.....	5.10-5
5.11	Traffic and Transportation.....	5.11-1
5.11.1	Geographic Scope	5.11-1
5.11.2	Timeframe	5.11-1
5.11.3	Existing Cumulative Conditions	5.11-2
5.11.4	Cumulative Visual Resource Impacts	5.11-5
6.0	OTHER CEQA REQUIRED CONSIDERATIONS.....	6.0-1
6.1	Proposed Action.....	6.1-1
6.1.1	Significant Irreversible Environmental Changes	6.1-1
6.1.2	Growth Inducing Impacts.....	6.1-2
6.1.3	Unavoidable Significant Environmental Impact	6.1-3

7.0	EFFECTS FOUND NOT TO BE SIGNIFICANT	7.0-1
8.0	CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION	8.0-1
9.0	REFERENCES	9-1

TABLES		PAGE
2.1.5.2-1	Native Vegetation List.....	2-10
2.1.5.2-2	Water Requirements for Proposed Project / Proposed Action	2-14
2.1.5.2-2	Dust Control Activity, Duration, Equipment, and Workers	2-17
2.2-1	VMTs for Proposed Project / Proposed Action and Proposed Project / Proposed Action Alternatives	2-24
2.2.1-1	Proposed Project / Proposed Action Dust Control Applied to 194 Acres	2-25
2.2.2-1	Alternative 1, Dust Control Measures Applied to 214 Acres via Water Trucks / Tanks / ATVs	2-26
2.2.3-1	Alternative 2, Dust Control Measures Applied to 197 Acres via Water Trucks / Tanks / ATVs	2-27
2.4-1	Temporary Impacts by Alternatives	2-31
2.4-2	Comparison of Alternatives.....	2-31
2.7.2-1	Permit Requirements	2-38
3.1.1.1-1	Visual Resource Management Objectives by Class.....	3.1-2
3.1.2.3-1	Key Observation Points	3.1-9
3.2.1.1-1	Current (2013) Ambient Air Quality Standards.....	3.2-2
3.2.2.2-1	Summary of 2009–2012 PM ₁₀ Concentrations at the District’s 15 Air Quality Monitoring Sites	3.2-9
3.3.3.2-1	Plant Communities Present within the Proposed Project / Proposed Action Study Area.....	3.3-12
3.3.3.4-1	BLM Sensitive Plant Species with the Potential to Occur in the Region of the Proposed Project / Proposed Action Study Area	3.3-16
3.3.3.4-2	Priority Plant Species with the Potential to Occur in the Region of the Proposed Project / Proposed Action Study Area	3.3-18
3.3.3.4-3	State-Listed Species with the Potential to Occur in the Region of the Proposed Project / Proposed Action Study Area	3.3-21
3.3.3.4-4	BLM Sensitive Wildlife Species with the Potential to Occur in the Region of the Proposed Project / Proposed Action Study Area	3.3-22
3.3.3.4-5	California Species of Special Concern and Fully Protected Species with the Potential to Occur in the Region of the Proposed Project / Proposed Action Study Area.....	3.3-23
3.3.3.4-6	Locally Important Species with the Potential to Occur in the Region of the Proposed Project / Proposed Action Study Area	3.3-27
3.4.2.3-1	Cultural Resources Investigations within the Study Area	3.4-12
3.4.2.3-2	Previously Recorded Cultural Resources Located within the Proposed Project / Proposed Action Area.....	3.4-14
3.4.2.4-1	BLM Recorded Archaeological Isolates within the APE	3.4-19
3.4.2.6-1	Summary of Native American Consultation Efforts for the Proposed Project / Proposed Action	3.4-22
3.7.1.2-1	California Greenhouse Gas Business-as-Usual Emissions and Targets	3.7-3
3.7.2.3-1	State of California GHG Emissions by Sector	3.7-6
3.7.2.3-2	Global Warming Potentials and Atmospheric Lifetimes of GHGs	3.7-7

3.9.2.2-1	Summary of Land Ownership in the Proposed Project / Proposed Action Study Area and Dust Control Area	3.9-4
3.10.2.2-1	List of Public Recreation Areas within a 1-Hour Travel Time of the Proposed Project / Proposed Action.....	3.10-4
4.1.3.4-1	Alternative 3 Irrigation Pipeline Area	4.1-16
4.1.3.5-1	Alternative 4 Irrigation Pipeline Area	4.1-21
4.1.3.6-1	Alternative 5 Irrigation Pipeline Area	4.1-26
4.2.3.1-1	Conformity Determination.....	4.2-5
4.2.3.1-2	Unmitigated Estimated Daily Regional Construction Emissions	4.2-5
4.2.3.1-3	Unmitigated Estimated Annual Regional Construction Emissions	4.2-6
4.2.3.1-4	Unmitigated Estimated Daily Operational Emissions.....	4.2-6
4.2.3.1-5	Unmitigated Estimated Annual Operational Emissions	4.2-7
4.2.3.2-1	Conformity Determination for Alternative 1	4.2-10
4.2.3.2-2	Unmitigated Estimated Daily Regional Construction Emissions for Alternative 1	4.2-10
4.2.3.2-3	Unmitigated Estimated Annual Regional Construction Emissions for Alternative 1	4.2-11
4.2.3.2-4	Unmitigated Estimated Daily Operational Emissions for Alternative 1	4.2-11
4.2.3.2-5	Unmitigated Estimated Annual Operational Emissions for Alternative 1	4.2-12
4.2.3.3-1	Conformity Determination for Alternative 1	4.2-14
4.2.3.3-2	Unmitigated Estimated Daily Regional Construction Emissions for Alternative 1	4.2-15
4.2.3.3-3	Unmitigated Estimated Annual Regional Construction Emissions for Alternative 1	4.2-15
4.2.3.3-4	Unmitigated Estimated Daily Operational Emissions for Alternative 1	4.2-16
4.2.3.3-5	Unmitigated Estimated Annual Operational Emissions for Alternative 1	4.2-16
4.2.3.4-1	Conformity Determination for Alternative 1	4.2-19
4.2.3.4-2	Unmitigated Estimated Daily Regional Construction Emissions for Alternative 1	4.2-20
4.2.3.4-3	Unmitigated Estimated Annual Regional Construction Emissions for Alternative 1	4.2-20
4.2.3.4-4	Unmitigated Estimated Daily Operational Emissions for Alternative 1	4.2-21
4.2.3.4-5	Unmitigated Estimated Annual Operational Emissions for Alternative 1	4.2-21
4.2.3.5-1	Conformity Determination for Alternative 1	4.2-24
4.2.3.5-2	Unmitigated Estimated Daily Regional Construction Emissions for Alternative 1	4.2-24
4.2.3.5-3	Unmitigated Estimated Annual Regional Construction Emissions for Alternative 1	4.2-25
4.2.3.5-4	Unmitigated Estimated Daily Operational Emissions for Alternative 1	4.2-25
4.2.3.5-5	Unmitigated Estimated Annual Operational Emissions for Alternative 1	4.2-26
4.2.3.6-1	Conformity Determination for Alternative 1	4.2-28
4.2.3.6-2	Unmitigated Estimated Daily Regional Construction Emissions for Alternative 1	4.2-29
4.2.3.6-3	Unmitigated Estimated Annual Regional Construction Emissions for Alternative 1	4.2-29
4.2.3.6-4	Unmitigated Estimated Daily Operational Emissions for Alternative 1	4.2-30
4.2.3.6-5	Unmitigated Estimated Annual Operational Emissions for Alternative 1	4.2-30
4.3.2-1	Vegetation Community Impacts by Alternative	4.3-3
4.4.3.1-1	Eligibility Status of Archaeological Sites Located in the APE	4.4-7
4.4.3.1-2	Eligibility Status of Archaeological Isolates Located in the APE.....	4.4-8

4.7.1-1	Characterization of Business As Usual GHG Emissions for Inyo County	4.7-2
4.7.2.1-1	CAPCOA-Suggested Thresholds for Greenhouse Gases.....	4.7-5
4.7.3.1-1	CO ₂ and CO _{2e} Emissions	4.7-7
4.7.3.2-1	CO ₂ and CO _{2e} Emissions for Alternative 1	4.7-8
4.7.3.3-1	CO ₂ and CO _{2e} Emissions for Alternative 2	4.7-9
4.7.3.4-1	CO ₂ and CO _{2e} Emissions for Alternative 3	4.7-10
4.7.3.5-1	CO ₂ and CO _{2e} Emissions for Alternative 4	4.7-11
4.7.3.6-1	CO ₂ and CO _{2e} Emissions for Alternative 5	4.7-12
4.11.3.1-1	Proposed Project / Proposed Action Trip Generation	4.11-5
4.11.3.1-2	LOS Calculations	4.11-6
5.03-1	Cumulative Projects in the Vicinity of the Proposed Project / Proposed Action .	5.0-4
5.1.3.1-1	Past, Present, and Reasonably Foreseeable Projects in the Vicinity of the Proposed Project / Proposed Action.....	5.1-3
5.2.3.1-1	Past, Present, and Reasonably Foreseeable Projects in the Vicinity of the Proposed Project	5.2-2
5.3.3.1-1	List of Cumulative Projects within the Vicinity of the Proposed Project / Proposed Action for the Analysis of Cumulative Impacts to Biological Resources	5.3-2
5.4.3.1-1	List of Cumulative Projects in the Vicinity of the Proposed Project / Proposed Action for the Analysis of Cumulative Impacts to Cultural Resources	5.4-3
5.5.3-1	List of Cumulative Projects within the Vicinity of the Proposed Action for the Analysis of Cumulative Impacts to Geology and Soils	5.5-2
5.6.3.1-1	List of Cumulative Projects in the Vicinity of the Proposed Project / Proposed Action for the Analysis of Cumulative Impacts to Paleontological Resources.....	5.6-3
5.7.3-1	Characterization of Business As Usual GHG Emissions for Inyo County.....	5.7-2
5.7.3.3-1	CO ₂ and CO _{2e} Emissions.....	5.7-3
5.7.3.3-2	Past, Present, and Reasonably Foreseeable Projects in the Vicinity of the Proposed Project / Proposed Action for the Analysis of Cumulative Impacts to Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Global Climate Change	5.7-4
5.8.3.1-1	List of Cumulative Projects within the Vicinity of the Proposed Project / Proposed Action for the Analysis of Cumulative Impacts to Hydrology and Water Quality	5.8-2
5.9.3.1-1	List of Cumulative Projects in the Vicinity of the Proposed Project / Proposed Action for the Analysis of Cumulative Impacts to Land Use and Planning.....	5.9-2
5.10.3.1-1	List of Cumulative Projects in the Vicinity of the Proposed Project / Proposed Action for the Analysis of Cumulative Impacts to Recreational Resources.....	5.10-4
5.11.2-1	Dust Control Activity, Duration, Equipment, and Workers	5.11-2
5.11.3.1-1	Past, Present and Reasonably Foreseeable Projects in the Vicinity of the Proposed Project / Proposed Action.....	5.11-3

FIGURES

FOLLOWS PAGE

1.2-1 Study Area Boundary in Relation to Owens Valley Planning Area..... 1-1

1.2-2 Federal PM₁₀ Standard Exceedances at the Keeler Dunes and
Owens Lake, 1993–2012 1-2

1.3.1-1 Regional Vicinity Map 1-4

1.3.1-2 Study Area Location Map..... 1-4

2.1.5.1-1 Study Area Location and Parcel Map 2-5

2.1.5.1-2 Topographic Map with USGS 7.5-minute Quadrangle Index 2-6

2.1.5.1-3 Geomorphic Map of the Keeler Dunes Area 2-7

2.1.5.2-1 Example of Vegetated Swansea Dunes..... 2-8

2.1.5.2-2 Location of Infrastructure Elements Common to All Action Alternatives 2-11

2.1.5.2-3 Water Supply..... 2-14

2.2.1-1 Dust Control Measure Locations and Minimum Efficiency Requirements 2-22

2.2.2-1 Alternative 1, Dust Control Measures Applied to 214 Acres..... 2-23

2.2.3-1 Alternative 2, Dust Control Measures Applied to 197 Acres..... 2-24

2.2.4-1 Alternative 3, Manual Watering and Irrigation Schematic along
Old State Highway 2-25

2.2.5-1 Alternative 4, Manual Watering and Irrigation Schematic along
State Route 136 2-26

2.2.6-1 Alternative 5, Manual Watering and Irrigation Schematic with KCSD Well 2-27

3.1.2-1 Existing Conditions 3.1-6

3.1.2.2-1 Scenic Highways and Resources..... 3.1-8

3.1.2.3-1 Key Observation Point Index Map 3.1-8

3.1.2.3-2 Observation Point 1 3.1-10

3.1.2.3-3 Observation Point 2..... 3.1-10

3.1.2.3-4 Observation Point 3..... 3.1-10

3.1.2.3-5 Observation Point 4..... 3.1-10

3.1.2.3-6 Pilot Demonstration Test Photographs 3.1-12

3.2.2.2-1 Great Basin Unified Air Pollution Control District Air Quality
Monitoring Sites 3.2-8

3.2.2.3-1 Sensitive Receptors..... 3.2-10

3.3.1.2-1 National Wetlands Inventory Map 3.3-4

3.3.3.2-1 Plant Community Map..... 3.3-12

3.4.2.1-1 Area of Potential Effects for Cultural Resources 3.4-8

3.8.2.2-1 100-Year Flood Zone Map..... 3.8-8

3.8.2.2-2 Springs in Study Area Vicinity..... 3.8-8

3.9.1.1-1 Study Area in Relation to the Bishop Resource Management Plan
Management Areas 3.9-2

3.9.2.1-1 Existing Land Uses..... 3.9-4

3.9.2.2-1 Land Ownership in the Study Area 3.9-4

3.10.2.2-1 Nearest Recreational Facilities to the Study Area..... 3.10-4

3.10.2.2-2 Historic Mining Towns and Smelter Sites 3.10-6

3.10.2.2-3 Study Area in Relation to the Lower Owens River Project Planning Area 3.10-6

3.11.2.1-1 Existing Roadway Conditions..... 3.11-2

3.11.2.2-1 Existing Year 2011 Annual ADT Volumes..... 3.11-4

4.3.2.1-1 Owens Dune Weevil Suitable Habitat within the Proposed Project /
Proposed Action Area..... 4.3-6

5.03-1 Cumulative Projects in the Vicinity of the Proposed Project / Proposed Action . 5.0-2

VOLUME II

APPENDICES

- A Notice of Preparation
- B Visual Resources Technical Appendix
- C Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Emissions Technical Report

VOLUME III

APPENDICES

- D Biological Resources Technical Report
- E Cultural Resources Technical Report
- F Paleontological Survey Report
- G Phase I Environmental Site Assessment
- H Traffic Impact Study
- I Keeler Dunes Investigation: Project Study Plan
- J Keeler Dunes Project Irrigation System Analysis
- K Using Roughness (Solid Elements and Plants) to Control Sand Movement and Dust Emissions: Keeler Dunes Dust Demonstration Project, Interim Report
- L Preliminary Results of Plant Establishment in the Straw Bale Demonstration Dust Control Project

VOLUME IV

SECTION

PAGE

10.0	CLARIFICATIONS AND REVISIONS TO THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT / ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT	10-1
11.0	RESPONSE TO COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT / ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT	11-1
11.1	Summary Distribution List/Respondents.....	11-1
	11.1.1 Federal Agencies	11-1
	11.1.2 State Agencies	11-2
	11.1.3 Regional or Local Agencies.....	11-2
	11.1.4 Native American Tribes	11-2
	11.1.5 Individuals or Private Organizations	11-3
11.1	Letters of Comment and Responses.....	11-3
	11.2.1 Federal Agencies	11-4
	11.2.2 State Agencies	11-5
	11.2.3 Regional or Local Agencies.....	11-12
	11.2.4 Native American Tribes	11-22
	11.2.5 Individuals or Private Organizations	11-27

TABLES	PAGE
ES.4-1	Summary of Project Alternative Elements..... 10-3
2.1.5.2-2	Water Requirements for Proposed Project / Proposed Action 10-6
2.1.5.3-1	Seed Mix for Restoration..... 10-7
2.2-2	Summary of Project Alternative Elements..... 10-10
2.4-2	Comparison of Alternatives..... 10-13
4.4.1.4-1	Summary of Consultation with Native American Tribes Pursuant to CEQA, NEPA, and NHPA 10-21
FIGURE	FOLLOWS PAGE
3.8.2.2-2	Springs in Study Area Vicinity..... 10-14

SECTION 10.0

CLARIFICATIONS AND REVISIONS TO THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

Note to reader:

Section 10.0 consists of clarifications and revisions to the Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR)/Environmental Assessment (EA) that was circulated for a 45-day public-review between March 24 and May 8, 2014. The Great Basin Unified Air Pollution Control District (District) and the U.S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management (BLM) hosted two public workshops during the circulation of the Draft EIR/EA for public review. The District received comments directly at the two public workshops, via letters of comments, and additional comments were transmitted verbally during a meeting between the District and the City of Los Angeles Department of Water and Power. The clarifications and revisions to EIR/EA resulted from responses to comments received from the Tribes, agencies, and the public and additional information resulting from the advancement of the engineering and design of the proposed dust control measure.

The clarifications and revisions presented in this section do not constitute any of the four thresholds for supplemental environmental review pursuant to Section 15088.5 of the State California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines:

- a new significant environmental impact from the project or a proposed mitigation measure;
- substantial increases in the severity of the environmental impacts would result unless mitigation measures are adopted ;
- the presentation of new, considerably different, and feasible alternatives or mitigation measures that would lessen the environmental impacts and were not adopted by the proponent; or
- the Draft EIR/EA was fundamentally flawed and basically inadequate and conclusory in nature that meaningful public review and comment were precluded.

The updates presented in this section are consistent with the findings as presented in the EIR/EA and/or are minor. In accordance with Section 15088.5 of the State CEQA Guidelines, recirculation of the EIR/EA document is not required where the new information added to the EIR/EA merely clarifies or amplifies or makes insignificant modifications in an the EIR/EA that has been deemed to be technically and procedurally adequate by District staff.

Clarifications and revisions to text are provided below with strike-out indicating deletion and bold and italics indicating insertion of new text.

**SECTION ES
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Page ES-1 According to the terms of the 2013 Settlement Agreement, the LADWP will provide ten million dollars (\$10,000,000) to the District as a public benefit contribution for implementing dust controls in the Keeler Dunes. In return, the District agreed to forever release the LADWP from any and all liability for dust emissions, regardless of origin, from the Keeler Dunes **and other dune areas**. The funds from the LADWP for the “Keeler Project” were received by the District in December 2013.

Page ES-5 Six project alternatives, **constituting a “reasonable range of alternatives,” pursuant to Section 15126.6 of the State CEQA Guidelines**, required under CEQA have ~~been~~ **were** carried forward for detailed analysis and ~~are discussed below in the EIR/EA (Table ES.4-1, Summary of Project Alternative Elements).~~

Page ES-5 Table ES-1, *Summary of Project Alternative Elements*, has been added to provide a summary of information contained in Section 2 of the EIR/EA.

**TABLE ES.4-1
SUMMARY OF PROJECT ALTERNATIVE ELEMENTS**

	Proposed Project / Proposed Action	Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3	Alternative 4	Alternative 5	Alternative 6
Project Size (Acres)	194	214	197	194	194	194	0
Irrigation Method	Hand Watering	Hand Watering	Hand Watering	Temporary irrigation system from west	Temporary irrigation system from east	Temporary irrigation system from east	None
Water Source	Fault Test Well	Fault Test Well	Fault Test Well	Fault Test Well	Fault Test Well	KCSD Well and Fault Test Well	None
Number of Straw Bales	123,185	126,654	129,905	123,185	123,185	123,185	0
Number of Plants	369,555	379,962	389,715	369,555	369,555	369,555	0
Days/Irrigation (crew of 10) for Initial Irrigation	15 weeks	15+ weeks	15+ weeks	8 weeks	8 weeks	8 weeks	n/a
Days/Irrigation (crew of 10) for Supplemental Irrigation	10 weeks	10+ weeks	10+ weeks	5 weeks	5 weeks	5 weeks	n/a
Total Travel (Miles)	23,147	23,147+	23,147+	4,671	4,671	2,864	0

Page ES-10 The remaining environmental issues are carried forward for detailed analysis in this EIR / EA: aesthetics / visual resources, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, geology and soils, paleontological resources, greenhouse gases, hydrology and water quality, land use and planning, recreation, and transportation and traffic.

SECTION 1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.12.1.6 Public Services

Page 1-30 The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) is responsible for fire protection for the nearby community of Keeler and land owned by the LADWP and Southern Pacific Railroad within the southern and southwestern edges of the proposed project boundary.

1.12.1.7 Utilities and Service Systems

Page 1-34 The **BMPs specified as an element of the project design avoid** impacts to utilities and service systems with regard to having sufficient water supplies ~~would be expected to be reduced to below the level of significance with the incorporation of mitigation measures.~~

SECTION 2.0 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

2.1.1 Introduction

Page 2-1 Alternative 3 involves DCMs applied to 194 acres using a combination of irrigation water delivers by temporary aboveground **plastic or metal** polyvinyl chloride (PVC) pipelines and manual watering in selected areas. Alternative 3 also involves the placement of on-site 20,000-gallon water tanks within the staging areas along the Old State Highway. Alternative 4 involves dust control measures applied to 194 acres using water transported by water trucks to roadside staging areas off of State Route 136 for direct connection to a combination of irrigation water delivered by temporary aboveground ~~PVC~~ **plastic or metal** pipelines and manual watering in selected areas.

2.1.2 Project Background and Development

Page 2-3 According to the terms of the 2013 Settlement Agreement, the LADWP will provide ten million dollars (\$10,000,000) to the District as a public benefit contribution for implementing dust controls in the Keeler Dunes (paragraph II.a.i). In return, the District agreed to forever release the LADWP from any and all liability for dust emissions, regardless of origin, from the Keeler Dunes **and other dune areas** (paragraph II.b.i). The funds from the LADWP for the "Keeler Project" were received by the District in December 2013.

2.1.4 Overview of Alternatives Considered in Detail

Page 2-4 The proposed project / proposed action and five project action alternatives are described in Section 2.2, and the no project / no action alternative is described in Section 2.3:

- Proposed Project / Proposed Action, Dust Control Measures Applied to 194 Acres Using Irrigation Water Delivered via Water Trucks / ATVs
- Alternative 1, Dust Control Measures Applied to 214 Acres Using Irrigation Water Delivered via Water Trucks / ATVs;
- Alternative 2, Dust Control Measures Applied to 197 Acres Using Irrigation Water Delivered via Water Trucks / ATVs;
- Alternative 3, Dust Control Measures Applied to 194 Acres Using Irrigation Water Delivered via Water Trucks / Tanks / ~~PVC~~ **Plastic or Metal** Irrigation System and Selected Manual Watering
- Alternative 4, Dust Control Measures Applied to 194 Acres Using Irrigation Water Delivered via Water Trucks / ~~PVC~~ **Plastic or Metal** Irrigation System and Selected Manual Watering
- Alternative 5, Dust Control Measures Applied to 194 Acres Using Irrigation Water Delivered via KCSD Water Well / Pipeline to ~~PVC~~ **Plastic or Metal** Irrigation System and Selected Manual Watering

2.1.5 Features Common to the Proposed Project / Proposed Action and All Proposed Project / Proposed Action Alternatives

Page 2-4 The primary differences between the proposed project / proposed action and the proposed project / proposed action alternatives are the areal extent to which the dust controls are applied, and whether ATVs or a combination of ATVs and a temporary irrigation system would be used to deliver water to support plant establishment, during the initial 3 years of the vegetation efforts. ~~The proposed project/proposed action and three of the action alternatives involve the use of temporary water tanks at three of the four staging areas during the initial three years of the revegetation efforts.~~ These differences will be separately identified with corresponding figures and tables in Section 2.2. The proportion of the project area with differing designed percent reduction of PM₁₀ emissions (or control efficiency/level) as well as the footprint of the control area varies slightly from one alternative to another.

2.1.5.2 Project Elements

Page 2-10 The pilot test project will continue to collect data during the environmental review process to further refine the relationships and observations recorded during the pilot study and guide the final design of the project.

The June 9, 2014 Keeler Dunes Straw Bale Demonstration Project Plant Monitoring Plant Vigor Survey report indicates that plant survival is above 50 percent throughout the test site despite plant mortality attributed to sand

inundation from outside the test project area.¹ However, even though there have been many deaths attributed to sand inundation, the majority of the planted native shrubs are in good health and are on their way to being well established. Many plants planted in May 2013 and October 2013 have graduated from young transplants to small shrubs and have grown in height to be above the straw bales and many of the young plants planted in March 2014 are flourishing. The survival of plants from all planting dates is still above 50 percent indicating that the vegetation component of the Straw Bale Demonstration Project continues to be a success. The project area surface is becoming more stable and as such wildlife is now utilizing the area and there are young seedling *Atriplex parryi* (ATPA) recruits that are doing well.

Page 2-13

Staging Area 4 will be established adjacent to the gravel haul road constructed by the LADWP for dust mitigation on the Owens Lake, adjacent to the turn-off onto SR 136 (Figure 2.1.5.2-3). This staging area will be placed on previously disturbed land within the graveled limits of the existing road; thus, no vegetative removal is necessary. The area will measure approximately 10 feet by 200 feet and will be used primarily for temporary straw bale storage.

Staging areas may be watered or may have temporary geotextile fabric or matting used to help stabilize the soils. The matting or geotextile/geocell material would be removed either at the end of the project or when the staging areas are reduced in size. If the areas are watered, the source for the water would be the Fault Test well and would require the use of water trucks.

Access routes and staging Areas 1, 2, and 3 will require the brushing and grubbing of vegetation in order for them to function and to avoid the greater visual impact of grading. ***All of the Staging areas will be reduced in size by approximately 50 percent following the construction period. The portion that is reduced will start to be restored at the end of the construction period.*** These staging areas will be restored and revegetated ***in their entirety*** after the proposed project / proposed action has been completed.

Page 2-15

Data in Table 2.1.5.2-2 were recalculated, and the table was revised as follows:

¹ Great Basin Unified Air Pollution Control District. 9 June 2014. Keeler Dunes Straw Bale Demonstration Project Plant Monitoring: Plant Vigor Survey June 9, 2014 And Plant Establishment Update. Prepared by: Sondra R. Grimm. Bishop, CA.

**TABLE 2.1.5.2-2
WATER REQUIREMENTS FOR PROPOSED PROJECT / PROPOSED ACTION**

Irrigation Event	Year	Gallons per Bale	Gallons	Acre-feet
Initial irrigation	Fall 2014	5	615,925	1.89
Irrigation at time of planting	Fall 2014	3	369,555	1.13
Supplemental #1	Spring 2015	3	369,555	1.13
Supplemental #2	Fall 2015	3	369,555	1.13
Supplemental #3	Spring 2016	3	369,555	1.13
Supplemental #4	Fall 2016	3	369,555	1.13
Supplemental #5	Spring 2017	3	369,555	1.13
Supplemental #6	Fall 2017	3	369,555	1.13
		Total	3,202,810 3,203,120	9.80 9.83

Note: The amounts of water shown here are the target amounts for each irrigation event. Actual water use for the project may be up to 25% higher due to system operations and to ensure that the plants are not under-watered. Thus the total amount of water used for irrigation within the project over three years may be as high as about 12.3 acre-feet.

Page 2-15 **The plants will be delivered from the nursery to the project staging areas prior to planting within the project. To ensure that the plants maintain health prior to planting they may be watered and stored in a temporary shaded area. Water used during temporary storage of the plants will come from the District’s Fault Test well via water truck. The amount of water needed for plant care during storage is not known but it is anticipated that it will be less than 1 gallon per plant.** During the time of planting there will be two irrigation events associated with planting. The first will be conducted prior to planting to pre-wet/pre-condition the soil. The second irrigation will be conducted immediately following planting of the shrubs.

Page 2-15 The Fault Test production well can produce a sustained flow rate of 250 gpm and thus only requires a total flow of 2.7 days to produce enough water for the initial watering. Flow tests conducted at the Fault Test Site have included continuous flows for periods up to 90 days with no observed impacts to the surrounding area **(including local vegetation). Supplemental watering would require less water from the Fault Test well than the initial irrigation event, for an estimated total water use of up to 12.3 acre-feet for the proposed project / proposed action over a 3 year period, which would be within the sustainable yield from the Fault Test Well.** Thus production of the relatively small amount of water needed for the plants on the proposed project / proposed action would not be expected to cause impacts to the local area.

Page 2-16 Vehicles would turn around at Staging Area 3 and return to SR 136 via the existing Gravel Haul Road (Figure 2.1.5.2-3). **The ROW for the Old State Highway is held by the Inyo County Road Department. However, that portion of the Old State Highway proposed to be used for the proposed project / proposed action is not in the Inyo County Road Department’s maintained mileage system². Sediment and debris that have been deposited on the Old State Highway would be cleared for the proposed project / proposed action. Additionally, potholes would be filled and**

² Brown, Bob, Road Superintendent, Inyo County Road Department. 23 May 2014. Email to Carla Scheidlinger, AMEC.

general light maintenance work completed. Maintenance work may include watering. Water would come from the Fault Test Well Site.

2.1.5.3 Project Design Features and Best Management Practices

Page 2-18 The project installation shall be monitored, by the District, **or consultant to the District**, during construction to ensure that there is no alteration of drainages. ~~SEE: As disc used at Galley Proof, i/~~In the absence of a 1600 Agreement, the District shall notify the contractor and all onsite personnel of the need to avoid any alteration of drainages and monitor that avoidance is achieved during construction.

Page 2-19 ~~Restoration of disturbed areas, such as staging areas and the temporary access route, would occur at the end 3 years or when the plants are established enough such that they do not need any supplemental watering. Restoration will include decompaction as needed and the establishment of native vegetation similar to that used in the project area. If the plants are not established by the end of the 3 year period the District will request an extension in advance so that additional environmental analysis can be undertaken in a timely manner.~~ **Restoration of disturbed areas, including staging areas and the temporary access routes, will occur at the end of the first 3 years of the project when the installed plants on the project site are established enough such that they do not need any supplemental watering. Restoration will include de-compaction of staging areas, as needed. After de-compaction, the staging areas will be mechanically or manually smoothed. The areas will then be seeded with the recommended seed mixture shown in Table 2.1.5.3-1, Seed Mix for Restoration. Seed will be sourced from within the Owens Valley. The seed will be broadcast, and then raked in. Both broadcasting and raking will be done by hand. Erosion control BMPs will remain in place, or will be repositioned, around the staging areas. Seeding will be appropriately timed for optimal germination, such as late fall or late winter/early spring. The temporary access routes between the staging areas and the project area will not be de-compacted, but will be smoothed, seeded, and raked in the same manner as the staging areas.**

Page 2-10 Table 2.1.5.3-1, *Seed Mix for Restoration*, has been added:

**TABLE 2.1.5.3-1
SEED MIX FOR RESTORATION**

Species	Common Name	Pounds PLS per Acre
<i>Atriplex parryii</i>	Parry saltbush	2
<i>Sarcobatus vermiculatus</i>	Greasewood	2
<i>Sueda moquinii</i>	Alkali seepweed	1
<i>Atriplex hymenoletra</i>	Holly-leaf saltbush	1
<i>Distichlis spicata</i>	Saltgrass	2
<i>Cleomella obtusifolium</i>	Mohave cleomella	1
<i>Achnatherum hymenoides</i>	Indian ricegrass	1

Note: PLS = Pure Live Seed.

The supplemental **preconstruction** survey for cultural resources will involve **surveying the proposed project design and identifying and recording eligible cultural resources identified, as well as identifying alternative areas void or resources to adjust the project plan accordingly. Those cultural resources identified for avoidance will be documented** the identification and recordation of artifacts and features using handheld global positioning system (GPS) units. **Additionally, following the preconstruction survey a** A—spatial analysis in geographic information systems (GIS) will then be undertaken to **confirm** determine the specific placement of vegetation, straw bales, footpaths, and routes of travel for ATVs or temporary irrigation lines in relationship to cultural resources to ensure the final site plan avoids these resources. **The maps depicting the construction scenario and avoidance of sensitive cultural sites will be reviewed and approved by both BLM and the District prior to finalizing. The final map with the final project scenario and avoidance areas will be included in the District contractor Inadvertent Discovery Plan, which is the guidance document to be used during archaeological and Native American monitoring of construction.** The contractor shall submit a final proposed construction scenario to the BLM for approval that depicts the location of these project elements and their relation to surface artifacts and features. An on-site archaeological monitor will be required to be present during implementation of the DCMs in culturally sensitive areas and a Tribal monitor will be required to be present during the implementation of the DCMs in all areas.

An on-site archaeological monitor will be present during implementation of the DCMs in culturally sensitive areas and a Tribal monitor will be present during the implementation of the DCMs in all areas. Concordant with this effort, an inadvertent discovery plan will be prepared for the District and BLM before implementation of the DCMs to serve as a guidance document for both the Archaeological and Native American monitor(s) in the event of archaeological discoveries during project implementation. The inadvertent discovery plan will include an overview of the project; regulatory context; professional qualifications; definition of resource types (prehistoric and historic); avoidance and preservation; monitoring plan; discovery protocols; management and treatment of human remains; data management and curation; references; and attachments. Attachments will include a map of avoidance areas, daily monitoring forms, and contact list.

Should the construction period occur during rain events, supplemental erosion and sediment control measures may be implemented, including, but not limited to, the use of:

- Mulching
- Geotextiles and mats
- Earth dikes
- Temporary drains and gullies
- Silt fencing
- Straw-bale barriers
- Sand-bag barriers
- Brush or rock filters

- Sediment traps
- De-silting basins

Although the proposed project / proposed action study area spans both sides of SR 136, the dust control measure site is located downslope of SR 136, at an elevation of at least 15 feet in elevation below the SR 136 State Right-of-Way (ROW) and approximately 700 feet horizontally southwest of the State ROW at the nearest point to the highway. Therefore, storm water runoff in the State ROW would not be affected by the proposed project / proposed action. No dust control measures would be implemented on the eastern side of SR 136, which is upslope of the State ROW.

2.2 Proposed Project / Proposed Action Alternatives Including the Proposed Project / Proposed Action

Page 2-23 This EIR/EA evaluates the proposed project / proposed action and five proposed project / proposed action alternatives:

- Alternative 1, Dust Control Measures Applied to 214 Acres Using Irrigation Water Delivered via Water Trucks / ATVs;
- Alternative 2, Dust Control Measures Applied to 197 Acres Using Irrigation Water Delivered via Water Trucks / ATVs;
- Alternative 3, Dust Control Measures Applied to 194 Acres Using Irrigation Water Delivered via Water Trucks / Tanks / ~~PVC~~ **Plastic or Metal** Irrigation System and Selected Manual Watering
- Alternative 4, Dust Control Measures Applied to 194 Acres Using Irrigation Water Delivered via Water Trucks / ~~PVC~~ **Plastic or Metal** Irrigation System and Selected Manual Watering
- Alternative 5, Dust Control Measures Applied to 194 Acres Using Irrigation Water Delivered via KCSD Water Well / Pipeline to ~~PVC~~ **Plastic or Metal** Irrigation System and Selected Manual Watering

Page 2-23 Furthermore, the vehicle miles traveled (VMTs) associated with the proposed project / proposed action differ for each source and method of supplying water for both ATVs and water trucks as presented in Table 2.2-1, *VMTs for Proposed Project / Proposed Action and Proposed Project / Proposed Action Alternatives*. ***A comparison of the different irrigation scenarios for each alternative is summarized in Table 2.2-2, Summary of Project Alternative Elements.***

Page 2-24 In response to comments provided by Caltrans, Table 2.2-2, *Summary of Project Alternative Elements*, was added to provide a summary of information contained in the detailed descriptions of the alternatives.

**TABLE 2.2-2
SUMMARY OF PROJECT ALTERNATIVE ELEMENTS**

	Proposed Project / Proposed Action	Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3	Alternative 4	Alternative 5	Alternative 6
Project Size (Acres)	194	214	197	194	194	194	0
Irrigation Method	Hand Watering	Hand Watering	Hand Watering	Temporary irrigation system from west	Temporary irrigation system from east	Temporary irrigation system from east	None
Water Source	Fault Test Well	Fault Test Well	Fault Test Well	Fault Test Well	Fault Test Well	KCSD Well and Fault Test Well	None
Number of Straw Bales	123,185	126,654	129,905	123,185	123,185	123,185	0
Number of Plants	369,555	379,962	389,715	369,555	369,555	369,555	0
Days/Irrigation (crew of 10) for Initial Irrigation	15 weeks	15+ weeks	15+ weeks	8 weeks	8 weeks	8 weeks	n/a
Days/Irrigation (crew of 10) for Supplemental Irrigation	10 weeks	10+ weeks	10+ weeks	5 weeks	5 weeks	5 weeks	n/a

2.2.4 Alternative 3, Dust Control Measures Applied to 194 Acres Using Irrigation Water Delivered via Water Trucks / Tanks / PVC Plastic or Metal Irrigation System and Selected Manual Watering

Page 2-28 In Alternative 3, the temporary irrigation system would be designed such that irrigation laterals are placed every 150 **to 160** feet across the Alternative 3 site, rather than extending to each straw bale. The water from the **1.5 to 2**-inch lateral lines would be delivered to the plant locations through detachable hoses.

Page 2-28 At locations where the access route crosses irrigation lines, temporary protective covers would be placed over the piping to allow travel over the system and prevent damage to the irrigation system. There would be approximately **100 to 124** total crossings of the irrigation lines (with **50 to 62** crossings of the **1.5- to 2**-inch distribution laterals and **50 to 62** crossings of the 4-inch transmission line). An estimated 4,500 miles of travel are required over the course of the first 3 years for watering all of the plants in the Alternative 3 area (Table 2.2-1).

2.2.5 Alternative 4, Dust Control Measures Applied to 194 Acres Using Irrigation Water Delivered via Water Trucks / PVC Plastic or Metal Irrigation System and Selected Manual Watering

Page 2-28 As with Alternative 3, plants within the 95-percent control area would continue to be watered with hoses attached to the laterals of the temporary **PVC plastic or metal** irrigation system. In this alternative, water trucks would stage at turnouts built near to the highway and deliver water directly in to the temporary **PVC plastic or metal** irrigation system, rather than utilizing water tanks at the staging areas for temporary storage as proposed in Alternative 3.

Page 2-29 As in Alternative 3, in this alternative the temporary irrigation system would be designed such that distribution laterals would be placed every 150 **to 160** feet across the site, rather than extending directly to each straw bale. The water from the lateral lines would be delivered to the plant locations through detachable hoses. This option includes travel into the project area from the staging areas by ATV to the hose attachment points along the lateral lines. Watering of individual plants in the vicinity of the hose attachment points would be conducted by a worker on foot. All travel associated with irrigation would be along the designated access routes and lateral lines. The ATV travel in the project in Alternative 4 is comparable to that in Alternative 3 and is approximately 80 percent as compared to the proposed project / proposed action. At locations where the access route crosses irrigation lines, temporary protective covers would be placed over the piping to allow travel over the system and prevent damage to the irrigation system. There would be approximately **100 to 124** total crossings of the irrigation lines (with **50 to 62** crossings of the **1.5 to 2**-inch distribution laterals and **50 to 62** crossings of the 4-inch transmission line).

Page 2-29 In Alternative 4, the water trucks would be temporarily staged at the designated turnouts during times of active watering. Three turnouts would be established along the west side of SR 136 for water truck staging. **The location of the designated water truck staging turnouts along SR 136 is subject to the approval of an encroachment permit by Caltrans before construction begins.** The water trucks would be parked off-site at night and on weekends, at the Fault Test Well site, or other existing parking or staging area in the vicinity of Owens Lake.

2.2.6 Alternative 5, Dust Control Measures Applied to 194 Acres Using Irrigation Water Delivered via KCSD Water Well / Pipeline to Plastic or Metal Irrigation System and Selected Manual Watering

Page 2-29 In Alternative 5, water obtained from the KCSD well would be transported to the **project** site via a temporary pipeline that connects into the KCSD water system near the KCSD well site. Water would be supplied directly to the temporary irrigation system from the KCSD, in lieu of the District's Fault Test well. As with Alternatives 3 and 4, Alternative 5 would include a temporary aboveground irrigation system installed within the 95-percent control level area to provide water to the project area. **In order to have sufficient water pressure in the irrigation system, a small 5 horsepower electric booster pump and 85-gallon pressure tank will be installed within the existing fence surrounding the KCSD well. The 85-gallon pressure tank would be approximately 4.5 feet high and would not be visible above the existing**

fence surrounding the KCSD well. The irrigation system will require the use of one small electric booster pump to achieve sufficient water pressure.

Page 2-29 The pipeline would be routed under SR 136 using directional drilling under the existing roadway to avoid impacts to SR 136. In order to install the pipe under the SR 136, a temporary disturbance of approximately 50-feet by 50 feet on each side of the road would be required for the drilling equipment. **Installation of the pipeline would require an encroachment permit from Caltrans.** In order to have sufficient water pressure in the irrigation system, a small ~~2-3-5~~ horsepower electric pump may be used near the KCSD well.

Page 2-30 As in Alternatives 3 and 4 the temporary irrigation system would be designed such that irrigation laterals are placed every 150 **to 160** feet across the site, rather than extending directly to each straw bale. The water from the lateral lines would be delivered to the plant locations through detachable hoses. This option includes travel into the Alternative 5 area by ATV from the staging areas to the hose attachment points along the lateral lines. Watering of individual plants in the vicinity of the hose attachment points will be conducted by a worker on foot. All travel associated with irrigation would be along the designated access routes and lateral lines. At locations where the access route crosses irrigation lines, temporary protective covers would be placed over the piping to allow travel over the system and prevent damage to the irrigation system. There would be approximately **100 to 124** total crossings of the irrigation lines (with **50 to 62** crossings of the **1.5 to 2**-inch distribution laterals and **50 to 62** crossings of the 4-inch transmission line).

2.4 CEQA Comparison of Impacts by Alternative

Page 2-31 The Aesthetics / Visual Resources row of Table 2.4-2 has been revised:

**TABLE 2.4-2
COMPARISON OF ALTERNATIVES**

Resource	Proposed Project / Proposed Action (194 acres) Water Truck / ATVs	Alternative 1 (214 acres) Water Trucks / ATVs	Alternative 2 (197 acres) Water Trucks / ATVs	Alternative 3 (194 acres) Water Trucks / Tanks <i>PVC-Plastic or Metal</i> Irrigation System Selected Manual	Alternative 4 (194 acres) Water Trucks / Roadside <i>PVC-Plastic or Metal</i> Irrigation System Selected Manual	Alternative 5 (194 acres) KCSO Water Well Pipeline <i>Plastic or Metal</i> Irrigation System Selected Manual	Alternative 6 No Project / No Action
Aesthetics / Visual Resources	No effect on scenic vista; no effect on scenic resources <i>within a state scenic highway</i> ; no adverse effect on substantially degrading existing visual character and quality; no effect on creating a new source of light or glare. Water storage tanks would not be included in this alternative.	Same as would occur for the proposed project / proposed action.	Same as would occur for the proposed project / proposed action.	No adverse effect on scenic vista; no effect on scenic resources <i>within a state scenic highway</i> ; no adverse effect on substantially degrading existing visual character and quality; less than significant impact on creating a new source of light or glare. Water storage tanks are visible in less than one percent of the viewshed and are consistent with other public infrastructure in the vicinity of Owens Lake. The temporary <i>PVC plastic or metal</i> pipe irrigation system would be barely visible and produce a source of glare below the level of significance.	No effect on scenic vista; no effect on scenic resources <i>within a state scenic highway</i> ; no adverse effect on substantially degrading existing visual character and quality; less than significant impact on creating a new source of light or glare. Water storage tanks would not be included in this alternative. The temporary <i>PVC-plastic or metal</i> pipe irrigation system would be barely visible and produce a source of glare below the level of significance.	No effect on scenic vista; no effect on scenic resources <i>within a state scenic highway</i> ; no adverse effect on substantially degrading existing visual character and quality; less than significant impact on creating a new source of light or glare. Water storage tanks would not be included in this alternative. The temporary <i>PVC plastic or metal</i> pipe irrigation system would be barely visible and produce a source of glare below the level of significance. The approximately 4.5-foot high 85-gallon water tank would be located at least 100 feet from SR 136, within the existing chain link fence surrounding the existing KCSO well head and storage system, and barely visible from the highway in comparison to the existing structures present at the well site.	No effect on visual resources would occur as the proposed project / proposed action would not be implemented. Existing impacts of dust on aesthetics would not be alleviated because DCMs would not be implemented.

GLOBALS

The following global revisions, as shown above in Section 2, *Project Description*, have been made throughout the EIR/EA.

The descriptions of Alternatives 3, 4, and 5, have been revised as follows:

- Alternative 3, Dust Control Measures Applied to 194 Acres Using Irrigation Water Delivered via Water Trucks / Tanks / ~~PVC~~**Plastic or Metal** Irrigation System and Selected Manual Watering
- Alternative 4, Dust Control Measures Applied to 194 Acres Using Irrigation Water Delivered via Water Trucks / ~~PVC~~**Plastic or Metal** Irrigation System and Selected Manual Watering
- Alternative 5, Dust Control Measures Applied to 194 Acres Using Irrigation Water Delivered via KCSD Water Well / Pipeline to **Plastic or Metal** Irrigation System and Selected Manual Watering

All references to "PVC pipe" or "PVC pipeline" have been replaced with "~~PVC~~**plastic or metal pipe**" or "~~PVC~~**plastic or metal pipeline**."

All references to "124 total crossings" have been changed to "**100 to** 124 total crossings."

All references to "62 crossings" have been changed to "**50 to** 62 total crossings."

All references to "2-inch" pipe, "2-inch" laterals," or "2-inch" distribution laterals have been changed to "**1.5- to** 2-inch."

SECTION 3.2 AIR QUALITY

Page 3.2-4 The proposed DCMs would be implemented within the Owens Lake Management Area, with the exception of the KCSD well tank (Alternative 5), which is located within the South Inyo Management Area. **Both management areas are under the jurisdiction of the Bishop Field Office.**

SECTION 3.8 HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY

Page 3.8-7 Figure 3.8.2.2-2, *Springs in Study Area Vicinity*, following this page, has been revised to show the location of the Dead Hawk Spring.

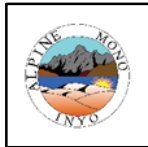
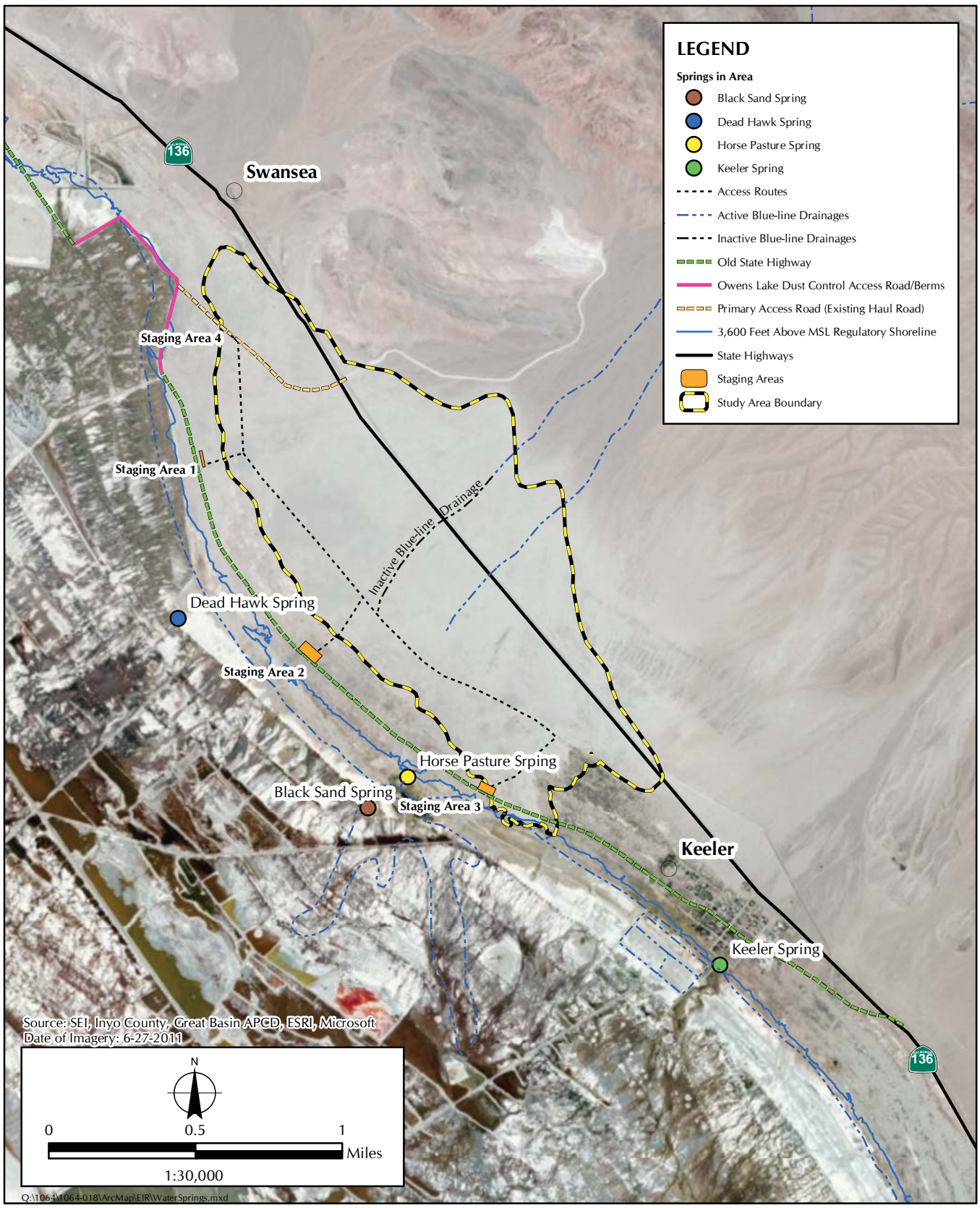


FIGURE 3.8.2.2-2
 Springs in Study Area Vicinity

Page 3.8-8 The exact date of drilling of the Keeler Spring well is unknown but appears to have been in the early 1900s or late 1800s. **The Dead Hawk Spring is a spring mound feature located approximately 0.4-miles west of the project area (Figure 3.8.2.2-2). The Dead Hawk Spring is a natural feature and not created by an abandoned artesian well.**

In addition to the Keeler Spring, there are ~~two~~ **three** additional spring sites ~~created by human activity that are located~~ **near but** outside of the proposed project / proposed action **to the southwest of the project** site ~~approximately 0.3 miles from the southwestern border and are located~~ within the historic shoreline of Owens Lake. **Two of the springs, The Black Sand and Horse Pasture springs both result from free-flowing artesian wells that were drilled in the early 1900s. The third spring, Dead Hawk, is a natural spring mound feature.**

SECTION 4.1 AESTHETICS / VISUAL RESOURCES

Global Changes to Section 4.1

All references to “transmission lines” are replaced with “**transmission line poles.**”

All references to “white PVC pipe” or “white PVC pipeline” are replaced with “white **or black plastic or metal** PVC pipe” or “white **or black plastic or metal** PVC pipeline.”

All references to “white pipe” are replaced with “white, **black, or metallic** pipe.”

All references to “white line in the distance” have been replaced with “~~white~~ line in the distance”

4.1.1 Study Methods

Page 4.1-2 The proposed project / proposed action site is located within the dust control measures study area. Viewshed maps were prepared for the Visual Resources Technical Report and can be found in Appendix B.

The creation of scouring and shadow dunes is not expected within the proposed project / proposed action area. The proposed project / proposed action and alternatives have been designed to control the entire active dust source; thus, sand motion and movement within the project area should not be sufficient to create sustained duration of scouring or the formation of sand dunes.

4.1.3 Environmental Consequences

Page 4.1-6 The proposed project would **not** be expected to result in ~~less than~~ substantial impacts to aesthetics in relation to substantial damage to scenic resources within a state scenic highway during construction.

Page 4.1-8 The proposed project would **not** be expected to result in ~~less than~~ substantial impacts to aesthetics related to the creation of a new source of substantial light or glare during construction.

- Page 4.1-10 Alternative 1 would **not** be expected to result in ~~less than~~ substantial impacts to aesthetics in relation to substantial damage to scenic resources within a state scenic highway during construction.
- Page 4.1-12 Alternative 1 would **not** be expected to result in ~~less than~~ substantial impacts to aesthetics related to the creation of a new source of substantial light or glare during construction.
- Page 4.1-13 Alternative 2 would **not** be expected to result in ~~less than~~ substantial impacts to aesthetics in relation to substantial damage to scenic resources within a state scenic highway during construction.
- Page 4.1-15 Alternative 2 would **not** be expected to result in ~~less than~~ substantial impacts to aesthetics related to the creation of a new source of substantial light or glare during construction.
- Page 4.1-16 The potential direct and indirect impacts to aesthetics and visual resources from Alternative 3 are similar to the potential direct and indirect impacts of the proposed project / proposed action, with potential visibility of the water storage tanks and white ~~or black~~ **PVC plastic or metal** irrigation pipes (see Section 4.1.3.1). ***The pipe would be laid on the ground and would be covered by sand from wind events over time. If metal irrigation pipes are used, they would be painted a color that blends in with the surrounding landscape and reduces the potential glare from the reflective metal surface of the pipelines. If black plastic pipe is used, any areas where the black pipe is considered a visible nuisance would be manually covered with sand or painted or camouflaged in a manner to avoid visibility from the highway.***
- Page 4.1-17 Alternative 3 would **not** be expected to result in ~~less than~~ substantial impacts to aesthetics in relation to substantial damage to scenic resources within a state scenic highway during construction.
- Page 4.1-18 From adjacent areas (the community of Keeler and along SR 136) at eye level, the temporary system of white ~~or black~~ **PVC plastic or metal** irrigation pipes would be predominantly shielded from view by the straw bales, existing vegetation, and dunes in the foreground. ***The pipe would be laid on the ground and would be covered by sand from wind events over time. If metal irrigation pipes are used, they would be painted a color that blends in with the surrounding landscape. If black plastic pipe is used, any areas where the black pipe is considered a visible nuisance would be manually covered with sand or painted or camouflaged in a manner to avoid visibility from the highway.***
- Page 4.1-19 At eye level, the white ~~or painted~~ line would blend in with the visual effect of the glare reflecting off watered portions of Owens Lake. ***If metal irrigation pipes are used, they would be painted a color that blends in with the surrounding landscape. If black plastic pipe is used, any areas where the black pipe is considered a visible nuisance would be manually covered with sand or painted or camouflaged in a manner to avoid visibility from the highway.***

- Page 4.1-20 The installation of 2- to 6-inch diameter white **or black** ~~PVC~~ **plastic or metal** pipelines of the temporary irrigation system would produce a source of glare during the daytime when sunlight is present, with a potential to provide up to 12.2 miles of linear glare lines where the pipelines are not shaded by the vegetation and straw bales along the grid of pipeline. ***If metal irrigation pipes are used, they would be painted a color that blends in with the surrounding landscape and reduces the potential glare from the reflective metal surface of the pipelines. If black plastic pipe is used, any areas where the black pipe is considered a visible nuisance would be manually covered with sand or painted or camouflaged in a manner to avoid producing a source of glare.*** However, as the pipelines would be predominantly visually shielded from public roads including the key observation points and the shallow slope of the valley would reduce the visibility of the pipelines to a linear visual element, the visual glare from the ~~PVC~~ **plastic or metal** pipelines would be below the level of significance.
- Page 4.1-20 The 2- and 4-inch diameter white **or black** ~~PVC~~ **plastic or metal** pipelines of the temporary irrigation system would be a source of glare during the daytime when sunlight is present, with a potential to provide up to 12.2 miles (0.3 acre) of linear glare lines where the pipelines are not shaded by the vegetation and straw bales along the grid of pipeline. ***If metal irrigation pipes are used, they would be painted to reduce the potential glare from the reflective metal surface of the pipelines. If black plastic pipe is used, any areas where the black pipe is considered a visible nuisance would be manually covered with sand or painted or camouflaged in a manner to avoid producing a source of glare.*** However, as the pipelines would be predominantly visually shielded from public roads including the key observation points and the shallow slope of the valley would reduce the visibility of the pipelines to a linear visual element, the visual glare from the ~~PVC~~ **plastic or metal** pipelines would be below the level of significance.
- Page 4.1-21 The potential direct and indirect impacts to aesthetics and visual resources from Alternative 4 are similar to the potential direct and indirect impacts of the proposed project / proposed action, with additional visibility of the white **or black** ~~PVC~~ **plastic or metal** irrigation pipes and the temporarily parked water delivery trucks at three turnout points along SR 136 (see Section 4.1.3. 1). ***The pipe would be laid on the ground and would be covered by sand from wind events over time. If metal irrigation pipes are used, they would be painted a color that blends in with the surrounding landscape and reduces the potential glare from the reflective metal surface of the pipelines. If black plastic pipe is used, any areas where the black pipe is considered a visible nuisance would be manually covered with sand or painted or camouflaged in a manner to avoid visibility from the highway.***
- Page 4.1-22 Alternative 4 would **not** be expected to result in ~~less than~~ substantial impacts to aesthetics in relation to substantial damage to scenic resources within a state scenic highway during construction.
- Page 4.1-23 From adjacent areas (the community of Keeler and along SR136) at eye level, the temporary network of white **or black** ~~PVC~~ **plastic or metal** irrigation pipes would be predominantly shielded from view by the straw bales, existing vegetation, and dunes in the foreground. ***The pipe would be laid on the ground and would be covered by sand from wind events over time. If metal irrigation pipes are used,***

they would be painted a color that blends in with the surrounding landscape. If black plastic pipe is used, any areas where the black pipe is considered a visible nuisance would be manually covered with sand or painted or camouflaged in a manner to avoid visibility from the highway.

- Page 4.1-23 The trunk lines leading from the distribution lines to turnout points along SR 136 would potentially be visible from three stretches totaling approximately 1,870 feet (0.4 mile) along SR 136, including KOP 3. **The trunk lines would be painted a color that blends in with the surrounding landscape.** At eye level, the white **or painted** line would blend in with the visual effect of the glare reflecting off watered portions of Owens Lake.
- Page 4.1-24 The nearest irrigation distribution line pipe would be located approximately 690 feet away from the SR 136 freeway and appear as a white **or painted** line in the distance where the dunes, existing vegetation, and straw bales do not shield it from view due to the overall flat terrain of the valley.
- Page 4.1-24 At eye level, the white **or painted** line would blend in with the visual effect of the glare reflecting off watered portions of Owens Lake. **If metal irrigation pipes are used, they would be painted a color that blends in with the surrounding landscape. If black plastic pipe is used, any areas where the black pipe is considered a visible nuisance would be manually covered with sand or painted or camouflaged in a manner to avoid visibility from the highway.**
- Page 4.1-24 The installation of 2- to 6-inch diameter white ~~PVC~~ **plastic or metal** pipelines of the temporary irrigation system would produce a source of glare during the daytime when sunlight is present, with a potential to provide up to 12.7 to 13.1 miles of linear glare lines where the pipelines are not shaded by the vegetation and straw bales along the grid of pipeline. **If metal irrigation pipes are used, they would be painted a color that blends in with the surrounding landscape and reduces the potential glare from the reflective metal surface of the pipelines. If black plastic pipe is used, any areas where the black pipe is considered a visible nuisance would be manually covered with sand or painted or camouflaged in a manner to avoid producing a source of glare.** However, as the pipelines would be predominantly visually shielded from public roads including the key observation points and the shallow slope of the valley would reduce the visibility of the pipelines to a linear visual element, the visual glare from the ~~PVC~~ **plastic or metal** pipelines would be below the level of significance.
- Page 4.1-25 The 2- and 6-inch diameter white ~~PVC~~ **plastic or metal** pipelines of the temporary irrigation system would be a source of glare during the daytime when sunlight is present, with a potential to provide up to 12.7 to 13.1 miles of linear glare lines where the pipelines are not shaded by the vegetation and straw bales or covered by sand. **If metal irrigation pipes are used, they would be painted to reduce the potential glare from the reflective metal surface of the pipelines. If black plastic pipe is used, any areas where the black pipe is considered a visible nuisance would be manually covered with sand or painted or camouflaged in a manner to avoid producing a source of glare.** However, as the pipelines would be predominantly visually shielded from public roads including the key observation points and the shallow slope of the valley would reduce the visibility of the

pipelines to a linear visual element, the visual glare from the ~~PVC~~ **plastic or metal** pipelines would be below the level of significance.

- Page 4.1-26 The grid lines of the aboveground irrigation lines would be predominantly shielded from view by the straw bales and dune topography, with the small visible portions of white pipe blending into the distance. **The approximately 4.5-foot high 85-gallon water tank that would be required at the existing KCSD well as part of the design of the irrigation system would be located at least 100 feet from SR 136, within the existing chain link fence surrounding the well head and storage system, and barely visible from the highway in comparison to the existing structures present at the well site. The water tank would be painted a color that blends with the surrounding landscape, likely a dark olive green or grey.** The trunk line leading to the KCSD well near SR 136 would potentially be highly visible from the highway during the 3 years of temporary irrigation; as it has the potential to be highly visible, it would be painted as part of the project design before installation to match the tan and beige color of the landscape.
- Page 4.1-27 Alternative 5 would **not** be expected to result in ~~less than~~ substantial impacts to aesthetics in relation to substantial damage to scenic resources within a state scenic highway during construction.
- Page 4.1-28 From adjacent areas (the community of Keeler and along the 136 ~~freeway~~**highway**) at eye level, the temporary network of white ~~PVC~~ **plastic or metal** irrigation pipes would be predominantly shielded from view by the straw bales, existing vegetation, and dunes in the foreground. The nearest irrigation distribution line pipe would be located approximately 690 feet away from the SR 136 ~~freeway~~**highway** and appear as a white **or painted** line in the distance where the dunes, existing vegetation, and straw bales do not shield it from view due to the overall flat terrain of the valley.
- Page 4.1-27 At eye level, the white **or painted** line would blend in with the visual effect of the glare reflecting off watered portions of Owens Lake. **If metal irrigation pipes are used, they would be painted a color that blends in with the surrounding landscape. If black plastic pipe is used, any areas where the black pipe is considered a visible nuisance would be manually covered with sand or painted or camouflaged in a manner to avoid visibility from the highway.**
- Page 4.1-27 Temporary infrastructure elements (an access route, staging areas for equipment, an aboveground irrigation system, **an 85-gallon water tank within the chain link fence for the KCSD well**, and a pipeline to connect the irrigation system to the KCSD well) of Alternative 5 would also appear intermixed with the existing visual setting.
- Page 4.1-28 The nearest irrigation distribution line pipe would be located approximately 690 feet away from the SR 136 ~~freeway~~ **highway** and appear as a white **or painted** line in the distance where the dunes, existing vegetation, and straw bales do not shield it from view due to the overall flat terrain of the valley. **If metal irrigation distribution pipes are used, they would be painted a color that blends in with the surrounding landscape. If black plastic pipe is used, any areas where the black pipe is considered a visible nuisance would be manually covered with sand or painted or camouflaged in a manner to avoid visibility from the highway.** The **painted** trunk line leading from the KCSD water system under SR 136 would

potentially be visible from one stretch along SR 136, including KOP 2. **The trunk line would be painted a color that blends in with the surrounding landscape.** At eye level, the beige/tan painted trunk line would blend in with the visual effect of the glare reflecting off watered portions of Owens Lake.

Page 4.1-29 The installation of 2- to 6-inch diameter white ~~PVC~~ **plastic or metal** pipelines of the temporary irrigation system has the potential to produce a source of glare during the daytime when sunlight is present, with a possibility to provide up to 12.3 miles of linear glare lines where the pipelines are not shaded by the vegetation and straw bales along the pipeline system. **If metal irrigation pipes are used, they would be painted a color that blends in with the surrounding landscape and reduces the potential glare from the reflective metal surface of the pipelines. If black plastic pipe is used, any areas where the black pipe is considered a visible nuisance would be manually covered with sand or painted or camouflaged in a manner to avoid producing a source of glare.** However, as the pipelines would be predominantly visually shielded from public roads including the key observation points and the shallow slope of the valley would reduce the visibility of the pipelines to a linear visual element, the visual glare from the ~~PVC~~ **plastic or metal** pipelines would be below the level of significance.

Page 4.1-29 The 2- and 6-inch diameter white ~~PVC~~ **plastic or metal** pipelines of the temporary irrigation system might be a source of glare during the daytime when sunlight is present, with a potential to provide up to 12.3 miles of linear glare lines where the pipelines are not shaded by the vegetation and straw bales along the grid of pipeline. **If metal irrigation pipes are used, they would be painted to reduce the potential glare from the reflective metal surface of the pipelines. If black plastic pipe is used, any areas where the black pipe is considered a visible nuisance would be manually covered with sand or painted or camouflaged in a manner to avoid producing a source of glare.** However, as the pipelines would be predominantly visually shielded from public roads including the key observation points and the shallow slope of the valley would reduce the visibility of the pipelines to a linear visual element, the visual glare from the ~~PVC~~ **plastic or metal** pipelines would be below the level of significance.

SECTION 4.4 CULTURAL RESOURCES

4.4.1.4 Native American Participation

Page 4.4-2 As the lead federal agency, the BLM invited tribes into consultation pursuant to Section 106 of the NHPA and other relevant regulations including Executive Order 13007 (**Table 4.4.1.4-1, Summary of BLM Led Native American Consultation Efforts for the Proposed Project / Proposed Action**). **Four Native American tribes have requested to be included in government to government consultation with the BLM. These consultations began during project planning and are continuing through project completion.** ~~To date, four Native American tribes have been identified and invited to consult on the proposed project / proposed action.~~

Page 4.4-3 As suggested by the Native American Heritage Commission, Table 4.4.1.4-1, *Summary of Consultation with Native American Tribes Pursuant to CEQA, NEPA, and NHPA* has been added to provide a summary of the consultation and coordination that was undertaken with the Tribes.

**TABLE 4.4.1.4-1
SUMMARY OF CONSULTATION WITH NATIVE AMERICAN TRIBES PURSUANT TO
CEQA, NEPA, AND NHPA**

Native American Group	Point of Contact	Date	Method of Consultation	Topic of Consultation
Lone Pine	Chair: Joseph	10/24/11	Cert letter	Keeler Dunes—District proposal for dust control
Independence	Chair: Naylor	10/24/11	Cert letter	Keeler Dunes—District proposal for dust control
Big Pine	Chair: Moose	10/24/11	Cert letter	Keeler Dunes—District proposal for dust control
Timbisha	Chair; Gholson	10/18/11	Phone	Keeler Dunes—District proposal for dust control
Timbisha	Chair; Gholson	10/17/11	Letter	Keeler Dunes—District proposal for dust control
Lone Pine	THPO, CR Committee	11/5/2011	Meeting	Keeler Dunes—District proposal for dust control, DRECP
Lone Pine	Acting Chair, Mary Wuester, Kathy Bancroft, THPO	1/20/2012	Meeting and Field Trip to ODL cairns	DRECP, Keeler Dunes—District proposal for dust control
Big Pine	Bill Helmer, THPO; Danielle Gutierrez, T. Sec. The rest of the council did not attend.	2/21/2012	Meeting	Solar PEIS, DRECP, CASSP, Digital 395, Keeler Dunes Test, Owens Lake Planning, Bodie Vegetation Update
Lone Pine	Acting Chair, Mary Wuester, Kathy Bancroft, THPO	2/5/2014	Meeting	Keeler Dunes—District and BLM to discuss the proposed irrigation alternatives
Big Pine	Bill Helmer, THPO, Danelle Gutierrez, Vice Chair, Sally Manning, Environmental Director, Jacklyn Velazquez,	2/11/2014	Meeting	Keeler Dunes—District and BLM to discuss the proposed irrigation alternatives

Key: District = Great Basin Unified Air Pollution Control District.

**SECTION 4.8
HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY**

4.8.3 Environmental Consequences

Page 4.8-3 There are no perennial surface water bodies in the proposed project / proposed action site. **Besides the Shallow Flooding dust control areas on Owens Lake,** the nearest surface water resources are Black Sand Spring, and Horse Pasture Spring,

~~and Dead Hawk Mound~~ located approximately ~~0.25 mile~~ downgradient (west) of the proposed project / proposed action site (Figure 3.8.2.2-2, *Springs in Study Area Vicinity*). ~~The Dead Hawk Spring is a spring mound feature located approximately 0.4 miles west of the project area (Figure 3.8.2.2-2). The Dead Hawk Spring is a natural feature and not created by an abandoned artesian well.~~ The bed of Owens Lake, approximately 1/4 mile downgradient of the proposed project / proposed action area, ~~has been~~ **is currently** developed with the Shallow Flooding dust control measure, in conjunction with 2008 SIP.

SECTION 5.0 CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

Table 5.03-1 Cumulative Projects in the Vicinity of the Proposed Project / Proposed Action

“Lower Owens River Project” row, “Status” column

Page 5.0-4 **April 11, 20124** Annual Report released documenting on-going monitoring consisting of:
Seasonal Habitat Flow Flooded Extent and Water Quality (May 20142)
-Rapid Assessment Survey (August 20124)
Hydrologic Monitoring (throughout 20124)
-Land Management (throughout 20124)
-Streamside Monitoring for Woody Species Regeneration and other Riparian (September 20124)
-Weed Monitoring and Treatment (growing Season 20124)

SECTION 9.0 REFERENCES

The following references have been added, from the footnotes in Section 2, above.

Page 9-1 **Brown, Bob, Road Superintendent, Inyo County Road Department. 23 May 2014. Email to Carla Scheidlinger, AMEC.**

Page 9-7 **Great Basin Unified Air Pollution Control District. 9 June 2014. Keeler Dunes Straw Bale Demonstration Project Plant Monitoring: Plant Vigor Survey June 9, 2014 And Plant Establishment Update. Prepared by: Sondra R. Grimm. Bishop, CA.**

SECTION 11.0
RESPONSE TO COMMENTS ON THE
DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT /
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

The Draft Environmental Impact Report / Environmental Assessment (Draft EIR/EA) was completed and forwarded to the Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR).

A Notice of Completion (NOC) was posted at OPR, at the Independence Library, Big Pine Library, Bishop Library, Lone Pine Library, and near the Keeler Dunes at the District office in the community of Keeler on March 24, 2014. Forty-nine (49) public agency representatives were sent copies of the Notice of Availability (NOA), electronic copies of the Draft EIR/EA, hard copies of the Draft EIR/EA, or some combination of the three. The Draft EIR/EA was made available for public review at the Great Basin Unified Air Pollution Control District Office, the Bureau of Land Management Bishop Field Office, the Sapphos Environmental, Inc. office, Independence Library, Big Pine Library, Bishop Library, and Lone Pine Library, and on the Great Basin Unified Air Pollution Control District website from March 24 until May 8, 2014, for a period of 45 days. An NOA of the Draft EIR/EA for public review was advertised in the *Inyo Register* newspaper. In addition, 30 individuals or private organizations identified by the District were sent copies of the NOA, electronic copies of the Draft EIR/EA, hard copies of the Draft EIR/EA, or some combination of the three. Although the 45-day public comment period closed on May 8, 2014, the District received and accepted the submittal of one (1) anticipated late letter of comment from the City of Los Angeles Department of Water & Power. A total of four (4) letters of comment were received on the Draft EIR/EA. In addition, two (2) sets of comments were received during public workshops, and one (1) comment set was received in a teleconference between the District and the City of Los Angeles Department of Water & Power. These additional comments are included in this section.

This section of the EIR/EA contains a summary of the distribution list for the Draft EIR/EA and a listing of the parties that provided comments during the public review period. The distribution list/respondents have been divided into the following categories:

1. Federal Agencies
2. State Agencies
3. Regional and Local Agencies
4. Native American Tribes
5. Individuals and Private Organizations

11.1 SUMMARY DISTRIBUTION LIST/RESPONDENTS

11.1.1 Federal Agencies

Six federal agencies received an NOA, an electronic copy of the Draft EIR/EA, or both.

- China Lake NAWS
- National Park Service
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- U.S. EPA Region 9, Air Division

- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- U.S. Forest Service

The District did not receive any letters of comment from these federal agencies.

11.1.2 State Agencies

Seven state agencies received an NOA, an electronic copy of the Draft EIR/EA, a hard copy of the Draft EIR/EA, or a combination of the three.

- California Air Resources Board
- California Department of Fish and Wildlife
- California Department of Transportation
- California Native American Heritage Commission
- Governor's Office of Planning and Research California State Clearinghouse
- California State Historic Preservation Office
- California State Lands Commission

The District received two letters of comment: these were from the California Department of Transportation, District 9, and the California Native American Heritage Commission.

11.1.3 Regional and Local Agencies

Seven regional or local agencies received an NOA, an electronic copy of the Draft EIR/EA, a hard copy of the Draft EIR/EA, or a combination of the three.

- Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board
- Alpine County
- Inyo County
- Mono County
- Keeler Community Service District
- Lone Pine Chamber of Commerce
- City of Los Angeles Department of Water & Power

The District received two letters of comment from the City of Los Angeles Department of Water & Power. In addition, the District participated in one teleconference with the City of Los Angeles Department of Water & Power. The comments received during that teleconference have been collated under Section 11.2.3 of this document.

11.1.4 Native American Tribes

Seven Native American Tribes, as well as California Indian Legal Services, received an NOA, an electronic copy of the Draft EIR/EA, a hard copy of the Draft EIR/EA, or a combination of the three.

- Big Pine Paiute Tribe
- Bishop Paiute Tribe
- Bridgeport Indian Colony
- Fort Independence Paiute Tribe

- Lone Pine Paiute Shoshone Reservation
- Timbisha Shoshone Tribe
- Utu Utu Gwaitu Paiute Tribe
- California Indian Legal Services

Verbal comments were received from a representatives of the Lone Pine-Paiute Shoshone Tribe during the public workshop held on April 2, 2014. In addition, verbal comments were received from a representative of the Big Pine Tribe during the public workshop held on April 16, 2014. These comments have been collated under Section 11.2.4 of this document.

11.1.5 Individuals and Private Organizations

Thirty (30) individuals and private organizations identified by the District received an NOA, an electronic copy of the Draft EIR/EA, a hard copy of the Draft EIR/EA, or a combination of the three.

The District did not receive any letters of comment from individuals or private organizations.

11.2 LETTERS OF COMMENT AND RESPONSES

The letters of comment received on the Draft EIR/EA are presented in this subsection with the comments numbered and annotated in the right margin. Responses to the comments follow each comment letter.

11.2.1 Federal Agencies

No letters of comment were received from federal agencies.

11.2.2 State Agencies

Native American Heritage Commission
Dave Singleton
Program Analyst
1550 Harbor Boulevard, Suite 100
West Sacramento, CA 95691
(916) 373-3715

State of California Department of Transportation
District 9
Gayle J. Rosander
IGR/CEQA Coordinator
500 South Main Street
Bishop, CA 93514
(760) 872-0785

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION

1650 Harbor Boulevard, Suite 100
West Sacramento, CA 95891
(916) 373-3715
Fax (916) 373-5471
Web Site www.nahc.ca.gov
Ds_nahc@pacbell.net
e-mail: ds_nahc@pacbell.net



April 23, 2014

Mr. Theodore D. Schade, P.E., Air Pollution Control Officer

Great Basin Unified Air Pollution Control District

157 Short Street
Bishop, CA 93514-3537

Sent by FAX to: (760) 872-6109
No. of Pages: 5

RE: SCH#2011101065; NEPA/CEQA Joint Document; draft Environmental Impact Report /Environmental Assessment (DEIR/DEA) for the **“Keeler Dunes Dust Control Project;”** located on approximately 870-acres in the Community of Keeler; Inyo County, California

Dear Mr. Schade:

The Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) has reviewed the above-referenced environmental document. The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA 42 U.S.C 4321-43351) and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (16 U.S.C 470 *et seq.*), 33 CFR Part 330 and 36 CFR Part 800.14(b) require consultation with culturally affiliated Native American tribes to determine if the proposed project may have an adverse impact on cultural resources. To adequately comply with this provision and mitigate project-related impacts on archaeological resources, the Commission notes the following:

Contact the culturally affiliated Native American Contacts for consideration as 'consulting parties regarding the project site, pursuant to 36 CFR, Part 800.w(c)(2), has been provided and is attached to this letter.

1

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) states that any project which includes archeological resources, is a significant effect requiring the preparation of an EIR (CEQA guidelines 15064.5(b)). To adequately comply with this provision and mitigate project-related impacts on archaeological resources, the Commission recommends the following actions be required:

Lead agencies should include in their mitigation plan provisions for the identification and evaluation of accidentally discovered archeological resources, pursuant to California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) §15064.5(f). In areas of identified archaeological sensitivity, a certified archaeologist and a culturally

2

affiliated Native American, with knowledge in cultural resources, should monitor all ground-disturbing activities. Also, California Public Resources Code Section 21083.2 require documentation and analysis of archaeological items that meet the standard in Section 15064.5 (a)(b)(f).

2

If there is federal jurisdiction of this project due to funding or regulatory provisions; then the following may apply: the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA 42 U.S.C 4321-43351) and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (16 U.S.C 470 *et seq.*) and 36 CFR Part 800.14(b) require consultation with culturally affiliated Native American tribes to determine if the proposed project may have an adverse impact on cultural resources

1

We suggest that this (additional archaeological activity) be coordinated with the NAHC, if possible. The final report containing site forms, site significance, and mitigation measures should be submitted immediately to the planning department. Any information regarding site locations, Native American human remains, and associated funerary objects should be in a separate confidential addendum, and not be made available for public disclosure pursuant to California Government Code Section 6254.10.

3

A list of appropriate Native American Contacts for consultation concerning the project site has been provided and is attached to this letter to determine if the proposed active might impinge on any cultural resources.

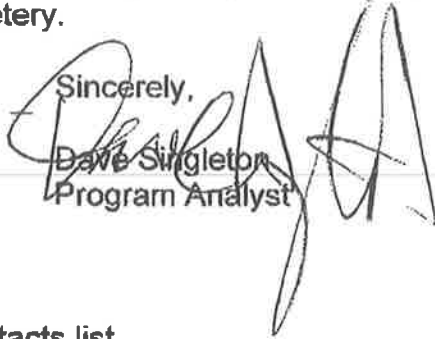
California Government Code Section 65040.12(e) defines "environmental justice" to provide "fair treatment of People...with respect to the development, adoption, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations and policies." (The California Code is consistent with the Federal Executive Order 12898 regarding 'environmental justice.' Also, applicable to state agencies is Executive Order B-10-11 requires consultation with Native American tribes their elected officials and other representatives of tribal governments to provide meaningful input into the development of legislation, regulations, rules, and policies on matters that may affect tribal communities.

1

Lead agencies should consider first, avoidance for sacred and/or historical sites, pursuant to CEQA Guidelines 15370(a). Then if the project goes ahead then, lead agencies include in their mitigation and monitoring plan provisions for the analysis and disposition of recovered artifacts, pursuant to California Public Resources Code Section 21083.2 in consultation with culturally affiliated Native Americans.

2

Lead agencies should include provisions for discovery of Native American human remains in their mitigation plan. Health and Safety Code §7050.5, CEQA §15064.5(e), and Public Resources Code §5097.98 mandates the process to be followed in the event of an accidental discovery of any human remains in a location other than a dedicated cemetery.

Sincerely,

Dave Singleton
Program Analyst

CC: State Clearinghouse

Attachment: Native American Contacts list

**Native American Contacts
Imperial County California
April 23, 2014**

Big Pine Paiute Tribe of the Owens Valley
Genevieve Jones, Chairperson
P. O. Box 700 Owens Valley Paiute
Big Pine , CA 93513
G.Jones@BigPinePaiute.org
760- 938-2003
760-938-2942-FAX
(760) 938-2942-FAX

Bishop Paiute Tribe
Brian Adkins, Environmental Mgr
50 Tu Su Lane Paiute - Shoshone
Bishop , CA 93514
(760) 873-3076

Bishop Paiute Tribe
Dale Chad Delgado, Chairperson
50 Tu Su Lane Paiute - Shoshone
Bishop , CA 93514
(760) 873-3584
(760) 873-4143 - FAX
(760) 873-4143

Big Pine Band of Owens Valley THPO
Bill Helmer, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
P.O. Box 700 Paiute
Big Pine , CA 93513
b.helmer@bigpinepaiute.org
(760) 938-2003
(760) 938-2942 - FAX
(760) 938-2942 fax

Fort Independence Community of Paiute
Israel Naylor, Chairperson
P.O. Box 67 Paiute
Independence CA 93526
Israel@fortindependence.
(760) 878-5160
(760) 878-2311 FAX
(760) 878-2311- Fax

Bishop Paiute Tribe THPO
Raymond Andrews, THPO
50 Tu Su Lane Paiute - Shoshone
Bishop , CA 93514
(760) 873-8435 ext 250
(760) 920-0357 - cell - cell
gwest@ovcdc.com
(760) 873-4143 - FAX

Timbisha Shoshone Tribe
George Gholoson, Chairperson
121 W. Line Street Western Shoshone
Bishop , CA 93514
george@timbisha.com
(760) 872-3614
(760) 873-9004 - FAX
(760) 873-9004 FAX

Lone Pine Paiute Shoshone Reservation
Mary Wuester, Chairwoman
P.O. Box 747 Paiute
Lone Pine , CA 93545 Shoshone
(760) 876-1034
760-876-8302 - FAX

(760) 876-8302

This list is current only as of the date of this document.

Distribution of this list does not relieve any person of the statutory responsibility as defined in Section 7050.5 of the Health and Safety Code, Section 5097.94 of the Public Resources Code and Section 5097.98 of the Public Resources Code.

This list is only applicable for contacting locative Americans with regard to cultural resources for the proposed SCH#2011101065; Joint NEPA/CEQA Document; draft Environmental Impact and federal Environmental Assessment (DEIR/EA) for the Keeler Dust Control Project; located in Inyo County, California.

**Native American Contacts
Imperial County California
April 23, 2014**

Lone Pine Paiute Shoshone Reservation
Kathy Bancroft, Cultural Resources Officer
P.O. Box 747 Paiute
Lone Pine , CA 93545 Shoshone
406-570-5289
kathybncrft@yahoo.com
760-876-8302 FAX

This list is current only as of the date of this document.

Distribution of this list does not relieve any person of the statutory responsibility as defined in Section 7050.5 of the Health and Safety Code, Section 5097.94 of the Public Resources Code and Section 5097.98 of the Public Resources Code.

This list is only applicable for contacting locative Americans with regard to cultural resources for the proposed SCH#2011101065; Joint NEPA/CEQA Document; draft Environmental Impact and federal Environmental Assessment (DEIR/EA) for the Keeler Dust Control Project; located in Inyo County, California.

Native American Heritage Commission
Dave Singleton
Program Analyst
1550 Harbor Boulevard, Suite 100
West Sacramento, CA 95691
(916) 373-3715

The District received a letter of comment, in response to release of the Draft Environmental Impact Report / Environmental Assessment (EIR/EA) for public review, from the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC), dated April 23, 2014. A response has been prepared for each of the three comments bracketed in the letter and can be referenced to the bracketed letter that precedes these responses.

Response to Comment No. 1

Thank you for your comments related to coordination with Native Americans required pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), and the appended list of Native American contacts.

Native American coordination was undertaken to fulfill the District's requirements, pursuant to CEQA, for consideration of Native American cultural resources (please see clarifications and revisions to Section 4.4 for a summary of the District's coordination efforts with Native American most likely descendants). Records searches for the proposed project / proposed action included a request for a search of the Sacred Lands File maintained by the NAHC. This request was made of the NAHC early in the planning process in August 2011. The results of the search would be an indication of the presence of known Native American cultural resources in the proposed project / proposed action study area. Written responses to the District's inquiry received by Sapphos Environmental, Inc. on August 31, 2011, advised that the Sacred Lands File indicated that no Native American cultural resources have been identified within the cultural resources study area (Cultural Resources Technical Report, Appendix A, Documentation of Native American Consultation).

However, the NAHC did indicate that the Keeler Dunes locale is known as a culturally sensitive area and recommended that additional coordination be undertaken with local Native American groups and individuals on the matter. As a result of this recommendation, Sapphos Environmental, Inc., acting on behalf of the District, sent letters to 10 Native American contacts classified by the NAHC as potential sources of information related to cultural resources in the vicinity of the proposed project / proposed action area. The letters advised the tribes and specific individuals of the proposed project / proposed action and its geographic area and requested information regarding cultural resources within the study area, as well as feedback or concerns related to the proposed project / proposed action. This outreach resulted in responses from Matthew Nelson, a Tribal Historic Preservation Officer and NAGPRA Coordinator of the Bishop Paiute Tribe, who noted that the Keeler Dunes and foothills of the Inyo Mountains east of Owens Lake contained extremely culturally sensitive areas. A second response was received from Kathy Fabunan, a tribal administrator for the Lone Pine Paiute-Shoshone Tribe, who forwarded the request for information to the tribe's Cultural Committee for comment.

The proposed project involves a federal action, consideration of a right-of-way by the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management. The BLM is the federal lead agency for

consideration of the right-of-way permit thus triggering environmental evaluation pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act, and consultation with the Tribes pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

The BLM initiated consultation, pursuant to Section 106 of the NHPA, in October 2011. BLM determined that the project would result in no effect to cultural resources through project design. (Please see clarifications and revisions to Section 4.4 for a summary of the District's coordination efforts with Native American most likely descendants.) In November 2013, new irrigation alternatives were identified by the District and discussed with BLM. As a result of these discussions, the BLM reinitiated the Section 106 consultation process (December 2013) to then include the BLM, Tribal representatives, and the District. Additional alternatives were developed as a result of the second Section 106 consultation efforts, and the proposed project / proposed action description was revised to include Native American participation in vegetation planting within cultural sensitive areas. As part of the Section 106 consultation process, the BLM sent letters and organized meetings and field visits with tribal representatives to discuss the proposed project / proposed action and alternatives to obtain their comments and concerns about the proposed project / proposed action and alternatives. BLM consultation with Native American representatives is ongoing (please see clarifications and revisions to Section 4.4 for a summary of the District's coordination efforts with Native American most likely descendants. On March 20, 2014, the District and Sapphos Environmental, Inc. (Ms. Marie Campbell and Ms. Rachael Nixon) met with the State Historic Preservation Office (Ms. Susan Stratton, State Archaeologist, and Jenan Suanders, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer) and provided an overview of the Owens Lake Dust Control Project related to ongoing work with the Cultural Resources Task Force, for Phase 7a/7b of the project. The meeting also included a brief overview of the Keeler Dunes Project. At the conclusion of the March 20 meeting, SHPO requested copies of the Keeler Dune EA/EIR and Cultural Resources Technical Report, which were provided for review and comment as part of the public review period required under CEQA.

Response to Comment No. 2

As part of the project design and development process, extensive coordination was undertaken by the District with BLM to develop a conceptual site plan that places project elements in a manner that avoids cultural resources. However, the potential exists, due to the shifting nature of the sand deposits, for additional cultural resources to be exposed prior to the initiation of project installation. Therefore, an additional survey will be undertaken by the District, in consultation with the BLM and Native American monitors. The results of the survey will be used as the basis for the development of the final site plan to be submitted with the right-of-way (ROW) application, demonstrating avoidance of potentially significant cultural resources, including any required corresponding refinements associated with the proposed construction scenario. Special consideration will be afforded to portions of identified sites falling within the APE. This work will involve the identification and recording of identified artifacts and features, including those previously identified within site boundaries and any newly identified cultural deposits within the Area of Potential Effect. A plot of the proposed project / proposed action elements, including their relation to surface artifacts and features, will be provided with the ROW application. The supplemental monitoring of the areas falling within the impact area will be undertaken by a qualified archaeologist along with a Native American monitor to ensure that no cultural deposits are adversely affected by the transport and placement of the vegetation and straw bales and the delivery of water via small tanks and hoses mounted on ATVs or temporary irrigation lines. The final site plan will be adjusted to avoid the two cultural resources identified in the initial surveys and any additional cultural resources identified as a result of the supplemental surveys.

The supplemental survey for cultural resources will involve the identification and recordation of artifacts and features using handheld global positioning system (GPS) units. A spatial analysis in geographic information systems (GIS) will then be undertaken to determine the specific placement of vegetation, straw bales, foot paths, and routes of travel for ATVs or temporary irrigation lines in relationship to sensitive cultural resources to ensure the final site plan avoids these resources. The contractor shall submit a final proposed construction scenario to the lead agency for approval that depicts the location of these project elements and their relation to surface artifacts and features.

An on-site archaeological monitor will be required to be present during implementation of the DCMs in culturally sensitive areas and a Tribal monitor will be required to be present during the implementation of the DCMs in all areas. Concordant with this effort, an inadvertent discovery plan will be prepared for the District and BLM before implementation of the DCMs to serve as a guidance document for both the Archaeological and Native American monitor(s). The inadvertent discovery plan will include an overview of the project; regulatory context; professional qualifications; definition of resource types (prehistoric and historic); avoidance and preservation; monitoring plan; discovery protocols; management and treatment of human remains; data management and curation; references; and attachments. Attachments will include a map of avoidance areas, daily monitoring forms, and contact list.

Additionally, the proposed project / proposed action will be conducted in concordance with Section 5097.91 of the PRC established by the NAHC and Health and Safety Code, Sections 7050 and 7052. These protocols detail the reporting and treatment requirements of Native American remains and the penalties for non-compliance.

Response to Comment No. 3

The NAHC has been provided documentation of the Draft EIR/EA for their review and comment. This has included the Cultural Resources Technical Report and associated site records, significance findings, and recommendations. The NAHC will be kept abreast of any further developments regarding potential impacts to any cultural resources or Native American human remains.

In addition, representatives of the District (Mr. Ted Schade) and their environmental consulting firm, Sapphos Environmental, Inc. (Ms. Marie Campbell and Ms. Rachael Nixon) met with the Native American Heritage Commission (Mr. Dave Singleton and Ms. Terrie Robinson) on May 8, 2014, to review the Owens Lake and Keeler Dunes Dust Control projects, including alternatives developed to avoid environmentally sensitive resources.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

DISTRICT 9
 500 SOUTH MAIN STREET
 BISHOP, CA 93514
 PHONE (760) 872-0785
 FAX (760) 872-0754
 TTY 711
 www.dot.ca.gov



*Serious drought.
 Help save water!*



April 28, 2014

Ms. Tori DeHaven
 Great Basin Unified Air Pollution Control District
 157 Short Street
 Bishop, CA 93514

File: INY-136-11
 DEIR/EA
 SCH#: 2011101065

Keeler Dunes Dust Control Project Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Assessment (DEIR/EA)

Dear Ms. DeHaven:

Thank you for giving the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) District 9 the opportunity to comment on the Keeler Dunes Project DEIR/EA. We appreciate our on-going interaction with Great Basin Unified Air Pollution Control District (GBUAPCD) and consultant staff regarding design options and permitting. We offer the following comments:

- Section ES.2 could better summarize the alternatives for plant irrigation. | 1
- The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (DWP) is the permit holder for the State Route (SR) 136 "Primary Access Road (Existing Haul Road)" at postmile 10.5. During previous interaction, we requested a letter from the DWP authorizing the Keeler Dunes project to use this access. | 2
- Two places in the Construction paragraph one page 4.1-27 denote SR 136 as a freeway, which it is not. | 3
- Stormwater runoff - greater than historic, cannot be allowed into State right-of-way (R/W). | 4
- As noted and also discussed with staff, encroachment permits are required for activities within SR 136 R/W:
 - Alternative 4 - turnout locations would need to be proposed to Caltrans for approval and any eventual construction. Other conditions of use may be included. | 5
 - Alternative 5 - installation of a water pipe under SR 136 connecting with the Keeler Community Service District.

Ms. Tori DeHaven
April 28, 2014
Page 2

5

- Traffic Control Plan – including signage, flagging operations etc.

For permitting details, Mark Reistetter may be reached at (760) 872-0674 or mark.reistetter@dot.ca.gov.

We value a cooperative working relationship regarding project related State highway impacts. I may be contacted at (760) 872-0785, with any questions.

Sincerely,



GAYLE J. ROSANDER
IGR/CEQA Coordinator

c: State Clearinghouse
Mark Reistetter, Caltrans

**State of California Department of Transportation
District 9
Gayle J. Rosander
IGR/CEQA Coordinator
500 South Main Street
Bishop, CA 93514
(760) 872-0785**

The Great Basin Unified Air Pollution Control District (District) received a letter of comment, in response to release of the Draft Environmental Impact Report / Environmental Assessment (EIR/EA) for public review, from the State of California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), dated April 28, 2014. A response has been prepared for each of the five comments bracketed in the letter and can be referenced to the bracketed letter that precedes these responses.

Response to Comment No. 1:

Thank you for your comment requesting revisions to the plant irrigation summary regarding the alternatives for plant irrigation. The method of irrigation is a key component of all of the action alternatives. Alternative 1 and Alternative 2 rely on the same method of irrigation as the proposed project/proposed action. Alternative 3 would use the same means of delivery of the irrigation water to the site as the proposed project / proposed action, but would rely on a temporary plastic or metal pipeline irrigation system to delivery water throughout the project/action area. Alternative 4 would also use a temporary plastic or metal pipeline irrigation system to delivery water throughout the project/action area from water trucks staged temporarily adjacent to State Route 136. The recommended project, analyzed as Alternative 5 in the EIR/EA, would use a temporary plastic or metal pipeline irrigation system to delivery water throughout the project/action area from the existing Keeler Community Service District well.

In response to the comment provided by Caltrans, a clarification and revision has been made to the Executive Summary (Table ES.4-1) and Section 2.2 (Table 2.2-2) to include a comparative table of the elements of the alternatives.

Response to Comment No. 2:

Thank you for your comment notifying the District that Los Angeles Department of Water & Power (LADWP) is the permit holder for the State Route (SR) 136 "Primary Access Road (Existing Haul Road)" at postmile 10.5. Authorization to use the existing Haul Road has been granted pursuant to the 2013 Settlement Agreement, paragraph II.a.3, between LADWP and the District.

"II.a.3. Upon the effective date of the Keeler and Other Dunes Release pursuant to section II(b) of this Agreement, and the 2008 SIP and Board Order 080128-01 amendments submittal to CARB as described in section II(b)(iii) of this Agreement, LADWP will immediately provide the District access to its property in the Keeler Dunes area in order for the District to complete the environmental impact analyses and for all design, permitting, construction, operation, maintenance, management, monitoring and activities directly and exclusively related to the Keeler Project. So long as access is provided by LADWP, the District shall indemnify in perpetuity, defend and hold the City of Los Angeles and LADWP harmless for personal injuries caused by the negligence or willful misconduct of the District with respect to all activities undertaken by the District and its employees, agents and contractors on LADWP's property, except that the District shall not be required to repair

any alteration of the property that is part of or related to the design or implementation of the dust control measures for the Keeler Project. Any dust monitoring undertaken by the District on LADWP's Keeler Dunes property shall exclusively be for the Keeler Project and shall not be used for any other purpose."

Response to Comment No. 3:

Thank you for your comment that page 4.1-27 in the Construction paragraph incorrectly denotes SR 136 as a freeway. Please see Clarifications and Revisions to the EIR/EA where "freeway" has been replaced with "highway" in Section 4.1 on pages 4.1-26, 4.1-31, and 4.1-32 in all references to State Route (SR) 136.

Response to Comment No. 4:

Thank you for your comment regarding the restriction of storm water runoff from the Keeler Dunes Dust Control Project, which cannot be allowed into the State right-of-way (ROW). The recommended action, analyzed as Alternative 5 in the EIR/EA, involves installation of a temporary irrigation pipeline in the State R/W, best management practices would be utilized during construction throughout the project site inclusive of the SR 136 State R/W as described in Section 2.1.5.3.I, *Stormwater*, of the EIR/EA, to comply with all provisions of the NPDES Program pursuant with a SWPPP that the District would be required to prepare.

Although the proposed project / proposed action study area spans both sides of SR 136, the dust control measures are located downslope of State Route 136, at an elevation of at least 15 feet below the SR 136 State Right-of-Way (R/W) and approximately 700 feet southwest of the State R/W at the nearest point to the highway. No dust control measures would be implemented on the eastern side of SR 136, which is upslope of the State R/W, under the proposed project / proposed action or any of the alternatives. Section 2.1.5.3.I, *Project Design Features and Best Management Practices*, has been clarified to reflect this information. Therefore, storm water runoff in the State R/W would not be affected by the construction or maintenance of the dust control measures.

Response to Comment No. 5:

Thank you for your comment regarding the encroachment permit requirement for activities within SR 136 R/W. The text in Section 2.2.5, *Alternative 4*, has been revised to state that the location of the designated water truck staging turnouts along SR 136 is subject to the approval of an encroachment permit by Caltrans before construction begins. A statement has also been added to Section 2.2.6, *Alternative 5*, explaining that installation of the pipeline would require an encroachment permit from Caltrans. Section 4.11.3.1 (Transportation and Traffic) of the EIR/EA states that "the proposed project / proposed action includes the **requirement to obtain an encroachment permit from Caltrans and preparation of a Traffic Control Plan** to ensure the safe transport of equipment and materials in a manner that safeguards vehicular traffic on US 395, SR 136, and SR 190."

Section 4.11.3.5, *Alternative 4*, of the EIR/EA states that "As with the proposed project / proposed action, Alternative 4 would not require any changes to the existing design of the roadway network or increase incompatible uses and **construction and operation of this alternative includes the requirement to obtain an encroachment permit from Caltrans and preparation of a Traffic Control Plan** to ensure the safe transport of equipment and materials in a manner that safeguards vehicular traffic on US 395, SR 136, and SR 190."

Section 4.11.3.6, *Alternative 5*, also states that “As with the proposed project / proposed action, *Alternative 5* would not require any changes to the existing design of the roadway network or increase incompatible uses and **construction and operation of this alternative includes the requirement to obtain an encroachment permit from Caltrans and preparation of a Traffic Control Plan** to ensure the safe transport of equipment and materials in a manner that safeguards vehicular traffic on US 395, SR 136, and SR 190.”

11.2.3 Regional and Local Agencies

Los Angeles Department of Water & Power
James G. Yannotta
Manager of Aqueduct
300 Mandich Street
Bishop, CA 93514-3449
(760) 873-3449

Los Angeles Department of Water & Power
Milad Taghavi
111 N. Hope Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012-2607
(213) 367-1032

Los Angeles Department of Water & Power
Martin L. Adams
Deputy Senior Assistant General Manager – Water System
111 N. Hope Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012-2607
(213) 367-4211

ERIC GARCETTI
Mayor

Commission
MEL LEVINE, *President*
WILLIAM W. FUNDERBURK JR., *Vice President*
JILL BANKS BARAD
MICHAEL F. FLEMING
CHRISTINA E. NOONAN
BARBARA E. MOSCHOS, *Secretary*

MARCIE L. EDWARDS
General Manager

April 23, 2014

Mr. Theodore D. Shade
Air Pollution Control Officer
Great Basin Unified Air Pollution Control District
157 Short Street
Bishop, CA 93514-3537



Dear Mr. Shade:

Subject: Keeler Dunes Project and Settlement Agreement

The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) received an e-mail request dated March 7, 2014, from Ms. Carla Scheidlinger of AMEC requesting a lease on behalf of Great Basin Unified Air Pollution Control District (District) for implementation of the Keeler Dunes Project. Part of the request was for permission to use the LADWP haul road leading from U.S. Highway 136, Keeler, California.

Ms. Scheidlinger's e-mail states that the District is completing an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the project. On March 26, 2014, LADWP received from Ms. Scheidlinger an e-mail link to the District website where the draft EIR is posted.

LADWP will start its review of the draft EIR. As a landowner granting a lease or license to the District, LADWP's Board of Commissioners will have to adopt the final EIR as a condition of the lease or license.

LADWP requires the following additional items in order to evaluate this lease or license request:

- A legal description of City of Los Angeles (City) property the District wants to lease.
- Construction plans for any improvements that are to be built on City property.
- Copies of all necessary permits required for the project.
- Approval of appropriate environmental documents.
- Drainage plans and storm water pollution prevention plans.
- The District may share use of the haul road built by LADWP over Bureau of Land Management (BLM) property for the duration of the Keeler Dunes Project or until the permit between LADWP and BLM expires, whichever occurs first.
- The District needs to obtain its own permit from BLM and comply with BLM requirements including, but not limited to, the control of weeds on federal property.

Los Angeles Aqueduct Centennial Celebrating 100 Years of Water 1913-2013

Bishop, California mailing address: 300 Mandich Street • Bishop, CA 93514-3449 • Telephone: (760) 873-0208 • Fax: (760) 873-0266
111 North Hope Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012-2607 Mailing address: Box 51111, Los Angeles, CA 90051-5700
Telephone: (213) 367-4211 www.LADWP.com



Mr. Theodore D. Shade
Page 2
April 23, 2014

- The District must submit a schedule for use of the haul road to LADWP for its review and approval. The schedule must ensure that LADWP's use of the haul road will not be obstructed by the District's activities.

2

If you have any questions regarding this permission, please write to our office at the above-noted address, or you may telephone Mr. Donald S. McGhie, Senior Real Estate Officer, at (760) 873-0248.

Sincerely,



James G. Yannotta
Manager of Aqueduct

Enclosure (to be signed and returned)

c: Ms. Carla Scheidlinger
Mr. Larry Primosch, BLM
Mr. Donald S. McGhie
Real Estate

Los Angeles Department of Water & Power
James G. Yannotta
Manager of Aqueduct
300 Mandich Street
Bishop, CA 93514-3449
(760) 873-3449

The Great Basin Unified Air Pollution Control District (District) received a letter of comment, in response to release of the Draft Environmental Impact Report / Environmental Assessment (EIR/EA) for public review, from Los Angeles Department of Water & Power (LADWP), dated April 23, 2014. A response has been prepared for each of the two comments bracketed in the letter and can be referenced to the bracketed letter that precedes these responses.

Response to Comment No. 1:

Thank you for your comment the requirements of LADWP related to implementation of the dust control measure for the Keeler Dunes Project for use of the LADWP haul road leading from State Route 136 at Mile Marker 10.5, in the vicinity of Keeler, California.

Authorization for implementation of dust controls on lands owned by the City of Los Angeles in the Keeler Dunes and permission to use the existing Haul Road has been granted pursuant to the 2013 Settlement Agreement, paragraph II.a.3, between LADWP and the District.

“II.a.3. Upon the effective date of the Keeler and Other Dunes Release pursuant to section II(b) of this Agreement, and the 2008 SIP and Board Order 080128-01 amendments submittal to CARB as described in section II(b)(iii) of this Agreement, LADWP will immediately provide the District access to its property in the Keeler Dunes area in order for the District to complete the environmental impact analyses and for all design, permitting, construction, operation, maintenance, management, monitoring and activities directly and exclusively related to the Keeler Project. So long as access is provided by LADWP, the District shall indemnify in perpetuity, defend and hold the City of Los Angeles and LADWP harmless for personal injuries caused by the negligence or willful misconduct of the District with respect to all activities undertaken by the District and its employees, agents and contractors on LADWP’s property, except that the District shall not be required to repair any alteration of the property that is part of or related to the design or implementation of the dust control measures for the Keeler Project. Any dust monitoring undertaken by the District on LADWP’s Keeler Dunes property shall exclusively be for the Keeler Project and shall not be used for any other purpose.”

The LADWP has provided a letter confirming authorization to the District to conduct dust control activities on lands controlled by LADWP.¹

Response to Comment No. 2:

Thank you for your comment requesting additional information in relation to implementation of dust controls in the Keeler Dunes on lands owned by the City of Los Angeles and the proposed use

¹ James G. Yannotta, Los Angeles Department of Water & Power. 11 June 2014. Letter to Theodore Schade, Great Basin Unified Air Pollution Control District. Subject: Keeler Dunes Project and Settlement Agreement.

of the LADWP haul road leading from State Route 136 at Mile Marker 10.5, in the vicinity of Keeler, California.

Legal Description: The District shall notify the construction contractor of the requested legal description. The District can provide the LADWP with a coordinate description of the final project area on LADWP lands, if requested.

Construction Plan: The District's dust control measures are limited to the deployment of straw bales, vegetation with native plants, and supplemental irrigation for up to three years using a temporary irrigation system, as described in the EIR/EA. The project does not include the construction of buildings or structures.

Copies of permits: The project will require a right-of-way permit from the BLM and an encroachment permit from Caltrans. The District will provide copies of the permits and the encroachment permit from Caltrans upon specific request by the LADWP.

Approvals of environmental documents: The District Governing Board is scheduled to consider certification of the EIR on July 7, 2014.

Drainage plans and Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plans: The project does not involve the alteration of drainages; therefore drainage plans are not required. As indicated in the project description, a SWPPP will be prepared and submitted to the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board prior to the initiation of construction.

Duration of Use of Haul Road: The District understands that the District's use of the Haul Road shall be for the duration of the Keeler Dunes Project or until the permit between LADWP and BLM expires, whichever comes first.

BLM Right-of-Way Permit: As indicated in the project description of the EIR/EA, the District understands that the project requires issuance of a right-of-way permit from the BLM. As such, a joint EIR/EA has been prepared to support both the District's decision-making processes pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act and the BLM's decision-making process under the National Environmental Policy Act. As specified in Section 2.1.5.3.H of the EIR/EA project description, the project specifies preparation of a Weed Control Plan for the entirety of the project area, including lands administered by the BLM.

Project Schedule: A general schedule for implementation of the project is specified in Section 2.1.5.2.E of the EIR/EA project description. Once a specific schedule is developed, the District will coordinate with the LADWP for use of the gravel haul road to ensure that the LADWP's use of the haul road is not obstructed by the Keeler Dunes Dust Control project.

The District (Ms. Grace Holder and Mr. Duane Ono) participated in a teleconference with LADWP (Mr. Milad Taghavi) on May 26, 2014, concerning comments on the Keeler Dunes DEIR/EA. Topics discussed were as follows:

- 1) Air Modeling. The LADWP asked how the Keeler Dunes model related to other sources in the OVPA and how it was used to design the project. DWP also expressed concern about emissions from the dunes affecting sources on Owens Lake. DWP was concerned that emissions from the dunes may affect other monitors besides Keeler and that emissions may “hopscotch” over receptors near the dunes and affect other locations. | 1
- 2) BACM. The LADWP was interested on the elimination of Owens Lake BACMs for control of the dunes due to impacts to natural resources. DWP asked if this approach could also be used on Owens Lake. Response was that within the Phase 7b areas this approach may be possible to a limited extent based on the MDCE required but that other controls on Owens Lake require 99% control and one of the three Owens Lake BACMs. | 2
- 3) Groundwater. DWP expressed concern that water production from the Fault Test Well will affect vegetation in the vicinity of the well. | 3
- 4) Length of Project. DWP asked about what would happen at the end of the three years of the project if the plants required additional water or if the concentrations of dust from the dunes still caused exceedances in Keeler. | 4

The District (Ms. Grace Holder and Mr. Duane Ono) participated in a teleconference with LADWP (Mr. Milad Taghavi) on May 16, 2014, concerning comments on the Keeler Dunes DEIR/EA.

Page ES-1, paragraph 2: Add per 2013 settlement agreement "... regardless of origin, from the Keeler Dunes and **other dune areas**". | 5

Page 1-9, paragraph F. Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program., second paragraph: Question from DWP on who gets the MMRP once it is complete. Response by District that it would be made publically available. | 6

Page 2-3, paragraph 2: add language "**and other dune areas**" per 2013 settlement agreement and change made on page ES-1. | 7

Page 2-15, third paragraph: DWP expressed concern about impacts to existing local vegetation due to water production from Fault Test well. Response by District that estimated water use of ~10 acre-feet for the project was over a 3 year period and was within the sustainable yield from the Fault Test well. Previous aquifer testing at FT site used substantially more water than that for KD project over a short time period (~90 days) and did not result in any observed changes to local vegetation. | 8

Page 2-18, last paragraph: question about sentence "SEI: As disc used at Galley Proof...". Response was that this was a note from Sapphos Environmental that was left in the draft document and it should be removed. | 9

Page 3.2-4, paragraph D: question about why there are two Management Areas and if they had different requirements. Explained that the two Management Areas are due to the fact that the BLM jurisdiction is split in the region between the Bishop Field Office and the Ridgecrest Field Office. The main project area is in the Owens Lake Management Area under the jurisdiction of the Bishop Field Office and that the KCSD water tank is in the South Inyo Management Area under the jurisdiction of the Ridgecrest Field Office. | 10

Page 3.8-8, paragraph 2: Add language about the presence of the Dead Hawk Spring into the text. This is a spring mound located on the northeast portion of Owens Lake bed near the project area. It is a natural feature and not created by an abandoned artesian well. | 11

Figure 3.8.2.2-2: Add location of Dead Hawk Spring to map. | 12

Page 4.1-1, section 4.1.1.1: comment made by DWP about the potential of scouring and shadow dunes not being addressed in the document. Response that these were not expected to be created within the project since the project is designed to control the entire active dust source and that sand motion within the project should not be significant movement of sand within the project area. | 13

Page 4.3-1: Comment and question regarding the use of ATVs within the project and would they affect the dune habitat. Response that this is not expected to be a problem since ATV travel is being restricted to a designated access route and the ATVs are not allowed to travel over the entire project area. | 14

Page 4.4-5, paragraph B: Question regarding the Section 106 consultation that was completed for the project. Response was that there was a discussion and table in the document that summarized the consultation that was conducted. This would be found and sent to DWP. (Note: Mr. Taghavi was sent a follow up email with the location in the document where the information could be found, page 3.4-21 and Table 3.4.2.6-1)

15

Page 4.8-3, Paragraph A. Direct and Indirect Impacts, Add Dead Hawk Spring per previous comment on page 3.8-8. Note – also make a global search for places in the document where this should be added.

16

Page 5.0-4, Table 5.03-1: Correction – Lower Owens River Project. In the “Status” column, correction that the most recent Annual Report was finalized on April 11, 2014. Correct dates.

17

Los Angeles Department of Water & Power
Milad Taghavi
111 N. Hope Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012-2607
(213) 367-1032

In addition to the April 23, 2014 letter of comment from the LADWP, the Great Basin Unified Air Pollution Control District (District) took additional comments, via a telephone conversation, in response to release of the Draft Environmental Impact Report / Environmental Assessment (EIR/EA) for public review, from Los Angeles Department of Water & Power (LADWP), on May 16, 2014. A response has been prepared for each of the comments bracketed in the summary of the LADWP comments provided by the District in an e-mail dated May 16, 2014.

Response to Comment No. 1:

The District appreciates the inquiry by the LADWP regarding the relationship between the Keeler Dunes focused air quality model and other sources of PM₁₀ emissions in the Owens Valley Planning Area. The Keeler Dunes are a separate and distinct source of emissions from sources on Owens Lake; thus questions related to control of PM₁₀ emissions from the Owens Lake bed are beyond the scope of this project and EIR/EA. However, the information discussed during the telephone conversation is provided here for full disclosure to the respective decision-making bodies, responsible and trustee agencies, the Tribes, and other stakeholders.

As explained by the District (Mr. Duane Ono), during the phone conversation, the focused air quality model conducted for the Keeler Dunes is similar to the model developed for the Owens Lake, in that the dust concentrations are evaluated at the main receptor locations outside of the Dunes, and not within the source area. The contribution from each source area is evaluated independently, and source areas are not combined in the evaluation.

Furthermore, the District (Mr. Duane Ono) explained that the concern articulated, by LADWP, regarding the potential for emissions from the Keeler Dunes to “hopscotch” over receptors near the dunes and affect other areas that are the subject of control vis-à-vis the Owens Lake dust control project have not been observed in the field or through an evaluation of the extensive data collected from Dust ID program. The data collected from the Dust ID program, demonstrate that PM₁₀ emissions from the Keeler Dunes disperse with increased distance from the source area.

Response to Comment No. 2:

The District appreciates the inquiry by the LADWP regarding the potential use of the dust control measure designed for the Keeler Dunes to be allowed for use in areas on Owens Lake. The Keeler Dunes Dust Control project is a separate and distinct source of emissions; thus questions related to control of PM₁₀ emissions from the Owens Lake bed are beyond the scope of this project and EIR/EA. However, the information discussed during the telephone conversation is provided here for full disclosure to the respective decision-making bodies, responsible and trustee agencies, the Tribes, and other stakeholders.

The Owens Valley Planning Area is a serious non-attainment area. The Keeler dunes are one of the active dust sources within the OVPA. The emissions from Keeler Dunes directly affect people and property located in the communities of Keeler and Swansea within Inyo County; thus requiring specific treatment at the source of the emissions, specifically the Keeler Dunes. The 2008 State

Implementation Plan and District policy requires the National and State standards be met at communities and other locations within the Owens Valley Planning Area. Therefore, the emissions from the Keeler Dunes are independent from other sources of PM₁₀ emissions, and warrant control due to their effect on people and property in the community of Keeler. The District appreciates the support of the LADWP in its efforts to achieve the National Ambient Air Quality standards for PM₁₀ emissions, throughout the Owens Valley Planning Area.

The three BACMS approved by the District are designated specifically for control of sources on the bed of Owens Lake. Since the Keeler Dunes are not on the bed of Owens Lake, alternative measures may be used for control of the PM₁₀ emissions besides Owens Lake BACM. However, the District did implement a test of the straw bale/plant establishment control measure in the dunes as a possible measure for future use on Owens Lake. To date, the Straw Bale Test Project has demonstrated that successful vegetation establishment with native plants can be achieved in a sandy soil without the extensive leaching of salts from the substrate, as required on most areas of the Owens Lake Bed.

As discussed with LADWP during the phone call and during the fifth meeting of the Cultural Resources Task Force, the District is willing to discuss with the LADWP the use of straw bales combined with establishment of native vegetation for use on the lake bed in suitable locations. Alternatively, the District is in the process of evaluating the effectiveness of Engineered Roughness Elements for control of PM₁₀ emissions on the Owens Lake bed.² The District (Mr. Duane Ono) informed the LADWP the first phase of the testing of the Engineered Roughness Elements is scheduled to end in June 2014, and following that the District will make decisions about how to proceed with the next phase of testing based on the interpretation of the initial results. In particular, the District will consider the pattern of elements in a staggered grid versus an irregular natural vegetation pattern. It is anticipated that the next phase of the Engineered Roughness Element test project may have a different pattern of elements that prevents channeling between rows, in an effort to achieve a higher control efficiency level.

Response to Comment No. 3:

The District appreciates the concerns expressed by the LADWP in relation to the potential for water production from the Fault Test Wells to affect vegetation in the vicinity of the well.

The District explained that the anticipated water use is low, anticipated to be less than 12.5 acre-feet over a three year period of time. The District shared with LADWP that previous testing of the Fault Test Well for aquifer testing produced much higher volumes of water over a period of 90 days and that there were no observed effects on the surrounding vegetation.

Response to Comment No. 4:

The District appreciates the City's questions regarding a proposed course of action, if the vegetation has not achieved sufficient stature to achieve the required level of dust control at the end of the anticipated three year maintenance period.

² Sapphos Environmental, Inc. 19 May 2014. Memorandum for the Record No. 6: Dust Control Options for Phase 7b Sites. Prepared for: Great Basin Unified Air Pollution Control District. Job Number: 1064-018. Prepared by: Sapphos Environmental, Inc., Pasadena, CA.

The District explained that the results of the Straw Bale Test Project indicate that it is reasonably foreseeable that the proposed project will achieve the objectives related to plant survivorship and stature of plants during the anticipated three years of maintenance. In the unanticipated event that the project objectives are not achieved, the District would conduct the required analysis to determine if further refinements to the project are required, including the potential for additional supplemental irrigation and the appropriate level of environmental review to support any proposed refinements to the project.

Response to Comment No. 5:

Please see clarifications and revisions to Section ES, page ES-1, third paragraph.

Response to Comment No. 6:

All measures required to avoid significant impacts to environmental resources have been incorporated into the project design.

Response to Comment No. 7:

Please see clarifications and revisions to Section 2, page 2-3.

Response to Comment No. 8:

Please see clarifications and revisions to page 2-15, 3rd paragraph.

Response to Comment No. 9:

Please see clarifications and revisions to Section 2.0, page 2-18, last paragraph.

Response to Comment No. 10:

Please see clarifications and revisions to Section 3.2, page 3.2-4, paragraph D.

Response to Comment No. 11:

Please see clarifications and revisions to Section 3.8, page 3.8-8.

Response to Comment No. 12:

Please see clarifications and revisions to Figure 3.8.2.2-2.

Response to Comment No. 13:

Please see clarifications and revisions to Section 4.1.1.1, page 4.1-2.

Response to Comment No. 14:

Please see clarifications and revisions to Section 2.

Response to Comment No. 15:

Please see clarifications and revisions to Section 4.4, page 4.4-5 and the addition of Table 4.4.1.4-1, *Summary of Consultation with Native American Tribes Pursuant to CEQA, NEPA, and NHPA*.

Response to Comment No. 16:

Please see clarifications and revisions to Section 4.8, page 4.8-3.

Response to Comment No. 17:

Please see clarifications and revisions to Section 5, Table 5.03-1, "Status" column, Lower Owens River Project.

ERIC GARCETTI
Mayor

Commission
MEL LEVINE, *President*
WILLIAM W. FUNDERBURK JR., *Vice President*
JILL BANKS BARAD
MICHAEL F. FLEMING
CHRISTINA E. NOONAN
BARBARA E. MOSCHOS, *Secretary*

MARCIE L. EDWARDS
General Manager

May 19, 2014

Mr. Theodore D. Schade
Air Pollution Control Officer
Great Basin Unified Air Pollution Control District
157 Short Street
Bishop, CA 93514-3537

Dear Mr. Schade:

Subject: Great Basin Unified Air Pollution Control District's (District) Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Assessment (DEIR) for Keeler Dunes Dust Control Project (Project)

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the District's DEIR for Project. The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power's (LADWP) comments are outlined below.

1. Protection of Sensitive Environmental Resources

LADWP fully agrees and supports the District's following approach for protecting the sensitive environmental resources within Project:

- Installing "the straw bales and native plants on portions of the Project with the lesser level of environmental sensitivity." (Page ES-21.)
- If sufficient particulate matter with a diameter of 10 micrometers (PM₁₀) "reduction is achieved with implementation of this initial control area, the sensitive areas specified in the proposed project/proposed action and Alternatives 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 would be delayed until the monitoring results demonstrate that treatment is not required to achieve attainment or that exceedances are occurring from those areas and that treatment is required." (Page ES-21.)
- "Each of the BACMs' [Best Available Control Measures] used at the bed of Owens Lake requires substantial ground disturbance that would be incompatible with the District's objectives for the proposed Project/proposed action, which include conservation and management of the environmentally sensitive resources that characterize the site. Therefore, the District engaged in a process of exploring alternative methods for controlling emissions. DCMs [Dust Control Measures] that

were evaluated and eliminated from detail analysis included spreading of geotextile overlain with gravel on emissive area, excavation and removal of the sand dunes and spraying of emissive areas with water or other dust suppressing substances.” (Page 2-35.)

- “The potentially frequent application of water may negatively alter cultural resources by physically and chemically damaging subsurface cultural deposits. Due to these potential impacts, this alternative [spraying emissive sand deposits] was eliminated from consideration.” (Page 2-37.)

2. Project Objective

LADWP believes the project objective should be broader than simply attaining the federal PM₁₀ National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) in the towns of Swansea and Keeler. In order to remain consistent with the 2008 Owens Valley PM₁₀ Planning Area Demonstration of Attainment State Implementation Plan (2008 SIP), the objective should be to reduce the PM₁₀ emissions from the Keeler Dunes so that they do not cause or contribute to violations of the federal NAAQS within the Owens Valley Planning Area.

In addition, the 2008 SIP does not address compliance with the State of California’s 24-hour PM₁₀ standard. LADWP is interested to understand why that aspect of the objective is included. Lastly, in order to understand the comparison between project alternatives, LADWP requests that the District quantify how well each of the five alternatives achieves the federal NAAQS. LADWP assumes the Final Environmental Impact Report will demonstrate how each of the alternatives will achieve the standard.

3. National Ambient Air Quality Standards

LADWP is concerned that the proposed project will not provide sufficient control to bring the Owens Valley Planning Area into attainment with the NAAQS. Because attainment relies in part on the effective control of emissions from Keeler Dunes, it is important to demonstrate how this project will achieve these air quality goals.

The 2008 SIP calls for an emission reduction of 8,302 tons per year (Table 7.1, 2008 SIP.), which is 99 percent of the uncontrolled emissions of 8,386 tons per year from the Keeler Dunes. (Table 4.2, 2008 SIP.) The minimum dust control efficiency in the 2008 SIP is therefore 99 percent.

The DEIR states the following:

1

2

3

4

5

“A dust control efficiency of 95 percent would be implemented on approximately 177 acres and would result in an immediate cover by the bales of approximately 12.1 percent. The proposed project/proposed action would implement 85 percent control on 17 acres, resulting in a 6.7 percent bale cover. The total acreage (177 acres at a 95 percent control efficiency and 17 acres at an 85 percent control efficiency) for DCMs to which native vegetation would be applied is 194 acres.” (Pages ES-1 and 2-24.)

LADWP has calculated the air quality impacts resulting from the District’s stated dust control efficiency of 95 percent covering up to 214 acres in the Keeler Dunes. This calculation used the District’s Dust ID modeling analysis for the 2013 Supplemental Control Requirements Determination (2013 SCR D). Results are outlined below:

- For the period addressed in the 2013 SCR D, the three-highest model-predicted PM₁₀ concentration days occurred on March 6 and 7, 2012, and June 9, 2012.
- If the Project was implemented with 95 percent dust control efficiency, the federal PM₁₀ NAAQS at the Keeler Tapered Element Oscillating Microbalance (TEOM) would be violated on all three days by a significant margin. (Numerical results available if needed.)
- Additionally, if the Project was implemented as described with 95 percent dust control efficiency, the maximum predicted 24-hour PM₁₀ concentrations at the receptors would also be exceeded by 20-50 times the federal standard. (Numerical results available if needed.)

If the above analysis is correct, LADWP is concerned that failure to control all of the prescribed emissions from Keeler Dunes will result in the modeled or perceived need for additional controls elsewhere in the Owens Valley Planning Area.

4. Straw Bale Test Duration

According to Appendix K of the DEIR, the straw bale test period was from May 23, 2013 through August 7, 2013. During the 76 calendar days of test period, the DEIR states that “[i]t must be noted that for Keeler Dunes the data collection to date is fairly limited and does not yet include any large scale and sustained transport event.” (Page 9.). This statement is in line with data collected at the Keeler meteorological station which indicates that the straw bales study area was exposed to only 23 hours of winds high enough to move sand (i.e., more than 7.5 meter per second (m/s) over the entire 76-day test period.

Mr. Theodore D. Schade
Page 4
May 19, 2014

Maximum one-hour wind speed measured during the test period was 10.9 m/s compare to 18 to 20 m/s wind speeds known to occur on Owens Lake.

Hence, the ultimate performance and control dust efficiency of the straw bales are not fully discussed in the DEIR. Generally, the District has required such evaluation to be based on sustained high-wind events which typically produce the highest PM₁₀ concentrations on and around the Owens playa. Please clarify at what stage the District would be able to share the ultimate performance and control dust efficiency of the straw bales based on the District's requirement of sustained high-wind events. LADWP would welcome reviewing additional straw bales data that the District may have which shows the ultimate performance and control dust efficiency of the straw bales.

6

Also, Keeler Dunes has been designated as a serious non-attainment area within the Owens Valley Planning Area. The District has required in the past that such areas be control by one of the District's approved BACMs. Please clarify whether the District now intends to allow the use of straw bale as BACM for culturally and/or environmentally sensitive sites such as on the Keeler Dunes. If so, LADWP would support the District's designation of additional non-water BACMs such as straw bales for use on Owens Lake.

7

LADWP supports the Keeler Dunes project as an important step necessary to protect public health and bring the Owens Valley Planning area into compliance. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Milad Taghavi, Owens Lake Project Manager, at (213) 367-1138.

Sincerely,



Martin L. Adams
Deputy Senior Assistant General Manager – Water System

PCP:vf

c: Mr. Milad Taghavi

**Los Angeles Department of Water & Power
Martin L. Adams
Deputy Senior Assistant General Manager – Water System
111 N. Hope Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012-2607
(213) 367-4211**

In addition to the timely letter of comment, the Great Basin Unified Air Pollution Control District (District) received a late letter of comment, in response to release of the Draft Environmental Impact Report / Environmental Assessment (EIR/EA) for public review, from Los Angeles Department of Water & Power (LADWP), dated May 19, 2014. A response has been prepared for each of the seven comments bracketed in the letter and can be referenced to the bracketed letter that precedes these responses.

Response to Comment No. 1:

Thank you for your comment expressing support for the protection of sensitive environmental resources within the project. The District appreciates the support of the LADWP in the recommended dust control measure for the Keeler Dunes Project.

Response to Comment No. 2:

Thank you for your comment requesting a broader project objective from simply attaining the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQs) to reducing the PM₁₀ emissions from the Keeler Dunes so that they do not cause or contribute to violations of the NAAQs within the Owens Valley Planning Area. Dust emissions from the Keeler Dunes primarily impact the communities of Keeler and Swansea. Implementation of the Keeler Dunes Dust Control Project is expected to reduce those impacts such that the National and State PM₁₀ standards will be met within those communities. The 2008 State Implementation Plan contains distinct measures and actions required to meet the National standards within the Owens Valley Planning Area.

Response to Comment No. 3:

Thank you for your comment requesting explanation of why compliance with the State of California's 24-hour PM₁₀ standard is listed as a project objective when it was not addressed in the 2008 SIP. The project goal of attaining the California State 24-hour PM₁₀ standard in the communities of Keeler and Swansea from emissions generated by the Keeler Dunes is in line with District Rule 401, which requires the LADWP to implement controls on the bed of Owens Lake that cause or contribute to exceedances of the State PM-10 standard at residences within communities zoned for residential use in the Inyo County General Plan Land Use Diagrams. By having a goal of meeting the State standard in the local communities, the District is trying to ensure clean air for the residents of the District.

Response to Comment No. 4:

Thank you for your comment requesting that the District quantify how well each of the five alternatives achieves the federal NAAQs. The scope of the EIR/EA is limited to an analysis of the ability of each of the action alternatives to meet the basic objectives of the project. As indicated in the EIR/EA, the proposed project/proposed action and each of the five project/action alternatives

are all capable of meeting all of the basic objectives of the project, including attainment of the State and National Ambient Air Quality Standard for PM₁₀ emissions.

The District completed a focused air quality model on dust emissions from the Keeler Dunes and used the results of this model in the design of the project. Accordingly, all of the project alternatives meet both the Federal and State PM₁₀ 24-hour standards in the communities of Keeler and Swansea. The proposed project and Alternatives 3, 4, and 5 all have the same project extent and control levels and therefore have the same impacts at modeling receptors. Alternatives 1 and 2 vary slightly in terms of the project extent and the internal distribution of the control efficiency levels but are also designed to meet both the State and National standards for PM₁₀ emissions in the local communities.

Response to Comment No. 5:

Thank you for your comment expressing concern that failure to control all of the prescribed emissions from Keeler Dunes due to lower dust control efficiency levels than identified in the 2008 SIP will result in the modeled or perceived need for additional controls elsewhere in the Owens Valley Planning Area (OVPA) in order to achieve attainment with the NAAQs. The annual emissions forecast for the Keeler Dunes included in the 2008 SIP is based on information collected prior to implementation of the District's detailed monitoring program and Keeler Dunes investigation. The first priority in designing the Keeler Dunes project was meeting the Federal and State PM₁₀ standards. As such, a focused air quality model of the Keeler Dunes was completed to determine the contribution of the sources within the dunes to the local communities. Based on the results of this model, the District determined that the proposed project (or one of the alternatives presented in the EIR/EA) would provide sufficient reduction in the PM₁₀ concentrations in the local communities to attain the Federal and State standards.

The District attempted to investigate the statements made by the LADWP concerning the PM₁₀ contributions from the dunes on the three dates questioned by the LADWP. It is unclear as to the basis for the statements made by the LADWP since, based on a 95% reduction in PM₁₀ concentrations from the dunes, the Keeler monitoring site would have a maximum concentration of about 30 ug/m³ on the three dates in question, which is well below the State standard of 50 ug/m³ instead of 20-50 times the federal standard as stated by the LADWP. The impact of the Keeler Dunes on the Keeler air quality monitoring station can be easily assessed after the project is implemented based on wind direction, continued monitoring within the dunes, and dust cam video such that the emissions from the dunes can be tracked and not attributed to other sources in the OVPA.

Response to Comment No. 6:

Thank you for your comment requesting additional straw bale dust control efficiency and performance data from the Straw Bale Test Project. The District continues to operate the Straw Bale Test Project such that, to date, there is almost a full year of data available including numerous high wind events. This data is available upon request.

Response to Comment No. 7:

Thank you for your comment requesting clarification whether the District intends to allow the use of straw bales as an approved BACM for culturally and/or environmentally sensitive sites that could also be used as a non-water BACM on Owens Lake. The Owens Valley Planning Area is a serious

non-attainment area. The Keeler dunes are one of the active dust sources within the OVPA. The emissions from Keeler Dunes directly affect people and property located in the communities of Keeler and Swansea within Inyo County; thus requiring specific treatment at the source of the emissions, specifically the Keeler Dunes. The three BACMS approved by the District are designated specifically for control of sources on the bed of Owens Lake. Since the Keeler Dunes are not on the bed of Owens Lake, alternative measures may be used for control of the PM₁₀ emissions. However, the District did implement a test of the straw bale/plant establishment control measure in the dunes not only for use in the dunes but also as a possible measure for future use on Owens Lake. The Straw Bale Test Project has demonstrated that successful revegetation with native plants can be achieved in the dunes environment without the extensive leaching of salts from the substrate, required on most areas of the Owens Lake Bed.

As discussed with LADWP during the fifth meeting of the Cultural Resources Task Force, the District is willing to discuss with the LADWP the use of straw bales combined with establishment of native vegetation for use on the lake bed in suitable locations.³

³ Sapphos Environmental, Inc. 19 May 2014. Memorandum for the Record No. 6: Dust Control Options for Phase 7b Sites. Prepared for: Great Basin Unified Air Pollution Control District. Job Number: 1064-022. Prepared by: Sapphos Environmental, Inc., Pasadena, CA.

11.2.4 Native American Tribes

Public Workshop #1
Lone Pine Film History Museum
701 S Main St, Lone Pine, CA 93545
April 2, 2014

Public Workshop #2
Bishop City Hall
Council Chamber
377 West Line Street, Bishop, CA 93514
April 16, 2014

**Public Workshop #1
Lone Pine Film History Museum
April 2, 2014**

During the public review period for the Draft Environmental Impact Report / Environmental Assessment (EIR/EA), the Great Basin Unified Air Pollution Control District (District) and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) hosted two public workshops to present a summary of the findings of the environmental analysis; inform the public of the opportunities for providing input to the District and BLM; and to receive input related to the proposed project / proposed action, proposed project / proposed action alternatives, the no project / no action alternative, and the scope of the environmental analysis. The District received six timely comments from the Lone Pine Paiute-Shoshone Tribe at the first public workshop held at the Lone Pine Film History Museum on April 2, 2014.¹ The Tribal Historic Preservation Officer for the Lone Pine-Paiute Shoshone Tribe (Ms. Kathy Bancroft) attended the meeting and provided comments:

Comment No. 1:

The Lone Pine Paiute-Shoshone Tribal Historic Preservation Officer expressed concerns regarding potential effects of movement on the straw bales and the potential for that movement to effect sensitive resources that are known to be present within the Keeler Dunes through direct contact through movements, erosion on the windward side of the base, and deposition from decomposition of the straw bale.

1

Comment No. 2:

The Lone Pine Paiute-Shoshone tribe expressed opposition to straw bales being placed on top of any culturally sensitive sites.

2

Comment No. 3:

There were concerns expressed regarding herbivory of the native plants installed as an element of the revegetation project.

3

Comment No. 4:

The Lone Pine Paiute-Shoshone Tribal Historic Preservation Officer expressed the belief that although the straw bales would cover less than 10 percent of the surface, the Tribe considers the entire study area to be affected by the project.

4

Comment No. 5:

Concern was expressed that the Tribal office may not have received any copies of the document.

5

Comment No. 6:

It was requested that the public review period for the EIR/EA be extended.

6

¹ Sapphos Environmental, Inc. 30 April 2014. Memorandum for the Record No. 12: April 2, 2014, Lone Pine Public Workshop Meeting for the Keeler Dunes Dust Control Project EA/EIR. Prepared for: Great Basin Unified Air Pollution Control District. Job Number: 1064-018. Prepared by: Sapphos Environmental, Inc., Pasadena, CA.

**Public Workshop #1
Lone Pine Film History Museum
701 S Main St, Lone Pine, CA 93545
April 2, 2014**

During the public review period for the Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Assessment (EIR/EA), the Great Basin Unified Air Pollution Control District (District) and the Bureau of Land Management hosted two public workshops to present a summary of the findings of the environmental analysis, inform the public of the opportunities for providing input to the District and BLM, and to receive input related to the proposed project/proposed action, proposed project/action alternatives, the no-project/no action alternative, and the scope of the environmental analysis. The Tribal Historic Preservation Officer for the Lone Pine-Paiute Shoshone Tribe (Ms. Kathy Bancroft) attended the meeting and provided six comments. A response has been prepared for each of the six comments summarized in the summary of comments that precedes these responses.

Response to Comment No. 1:

The District has evaluated the concerns expressed by the Lone Pine Paiute-Shoshone Tribal Historic Preservation Officer regarding potential effects of movement on the straw bales and the potential for that movement to effect sensitive resources that are known to be present within the Keeler Dunes through direct contact through movements, erosion on the windward side of the base, and deposition from decomposition of the straw bale.

As described in Section 2, Project Description of the EIR/EA, the District has specified that each straw bale be placed in the field, at a precise location, using Global Positioning System units to precisely locate the straw bales to avoid all known culturally sensitive significant cultural resources. The entirety of the Area of Potential Effect was surveyed during preparation of the EIR/EA and the conceptual plan for placement of the straw bales was completed, demonstrating that it is feasible to avoid known cultural resource deposits. In response to the known condition for the continually moving sand to expose additional sensitive cultural resource materials, the District has required an additional pre-construction survey to be performed within 21 days of the placement of the straw bales to ensure that newly exposed areas do not contain potentially significant cultural resources. The District has also required that the preconstruction survey be accompanied by Native American monitoring to ensure avoidance of sensitive cultural and natural resources.

With respect to the potential for scouring and erosion of sand from the corners and underneath some of the bales that was observed on the Straw Bale Test Project that resulted in the "tipping" of selected straw bales, the District believes that the bale array during full implementation of the project will have a sufficiently intensive perimeter effect to avoid the potential for "tipping" at locations containing environmentally sensitive resources. The bales are too heavy to get moved directly by the wind. Instead what happened was that along the windward edge of the test project some of the bales "tipped" due to erosion of material. This is not expected to be a problem on the large scale project since the bale array will extend to the edge of the active area. However, if it does happen, it will only occur along the edge of the project and will not be a problem throughout the entire project. Where sufficient erosion is observed along the edge locations to affect the overall effectiveness of the control measure (i.e. tipping of bales on top of plants, etc.), the bales will be reset in the same location. During initial construction, the bales will be located by the contractor with a placement specification ± 3 feet of the target. Bales are not expected to be

placed directly on top of sensitive cultural resources such that if there would not be any impacts to cultural resources from tipping of bales.

Response to Comment No. 2:

The District appreciates and is sensitive to the concerns of the tribe regarding the need to avoid placement of straw bales on environmentally sensitive resources. Pre-construction Pre-construction archeological survey will be conducted with a Native American monitor and a Native American monitoring will also be presenting during construction to ensure avoidance of sensitive cultural and natural resources. Additionally, cultural monitoring will also continue throughout the construction phase of the project and the District is developing an Inadvertent Discovery Plan in the event that sensitive resources are found during placement of the bales or planting of the shrubs. Archaeological monitoring by a qualified archaeologist during construction will be conducted where construction activities would occur near archaeological sensitive avoidance areas. An Inadvertent Discovery Plan will be prepared and approved by BLM and the District prior to construction. The Plan will serve as a guide to Native American and Archaeological monitors during construction.

Please see also Response to Comment No. 1.

Response to Comment No. 3:

The District documented herbivory as part of the Straw Bale Test Project. As described in Section 2.1.5.2, *Project Elements*, of the EIR/EA, wire mesh will be used to protect selected plants during the initial 3 years of the revegetation effort. Mesh would be removed at the end of the 3-year period. The use of mesh in conjunction with the two plant species that were most susceptible to herbivory was observed to be an effective deterrent during the Straw Bale Test Project.

Response to Comment No. 4:

The District appreciates that comments provided by the Lone Pine Paiute-Shoshone Tribal Historic Preservation Officer in relation to perceived extent of the effect of the project extending beyond the area where the straw bales would be placed, which constitutes less than 10 percent of the surface of the study area. The benefit of the proposed dust control measure is that it allows the protection of people and property in the communities of Keeler and Swansea from PM₁₀ emissions consistent with the State and National Ambient Air Quality Standards with a measure that requires only a short-term presence in areas containing environmentally sensitive resources. The overall goal is to rehabilitate and stabilize the dunes with native vegetation comparable to other vegetated dunes located above the historic shore line of Owens Lake. In response to comments received from representatives of the Tribes during the consultation pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, and coordination required pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act and the National Historic Preservation Act, the District and BLM developed Alternative 5, which seeks to avoid impacts through reduced human activity during installation and maintenance, to the maximum extent practicable.

In an effort to avoid impacts to environmentally sensitive areas, the District has agreed to phased implementation of the project in the 17 acres containing environmentally sensitive areas, as specified on in the third paragraph of Page ES-21 of the Executive Summary and Page 2-28 of Section 2, Project Description, of the EIR/EA:

“The proposed project / proposed action and Alternatives 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 provide for expeditious attainment of the NAAQS. In an effort to avoid and minimize impacts to the emissive areas that contain the most sensitive environmental resources, the District has agreed to install the straw bales and native plants on the portions of the project with the lesser level of environmental sensitivity. If sufficient PM₁₀ reduction is achieved with implementation of this initial control area, the sensitive areas specified in the proposed project / proposed action and Alternatives 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 would be delayed until the monitoring results demonstrate that treatment is not required to achieve attainment or that exceedances are occurring from those areas and that treatment is required. The proposed project / proposed action and proposed project/proposed action alternatives were analyzed on the full build-out scenario, as a reasonable worst case scenario.”

Response to Comment No. 5:

In response to the concern expressed that the Lone Pine Paiute-Shoshone Tribal office may not have received a copy of the draft EIR/EA for public review, the District provided a copy of the draft EIR/EA to the Tribal Historic Preservation Officer of the Lone Pine Paiute-Shoshone Tribe at the public meeting. The District hand carried hard copies of the Draft EIR/EA to the Tribal Historic Preservation Officer for each of the tribes represented on the Cultural Resources Task Force at the regularly scheduled meeting on April 9, 2014.

Response to Comment No. 6:

Due to the thorough consultation undertaken pursuant to Section 106 of the NHPA and the three resulting alternatives, in conjunction with need to complete plant installation between August 2014 and spring 2015, the District and BLM made a determination to not extend the public review period for the EIR.

**Public Workshop #2
Bishop City Hall
April 16, 2014**

During the public review period for the Draft Environmental Impact Report / Environmental Assessment (EIR/EA), the Great Basin Unified Air Pollution Control District (District) and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) hosted two public workshops to present a summary of the findings of the environmental analysis; inform the public of the opportunities for providing input to the District and BLM; and to receive input related to the proposed project / proposed action, proposed project / proposed action alternatives, the no project / no action alternative, and the scope of the environmental analysis. The second public workshop was held at Bishop City Hall on April 16, 2014. A presentation was made by representatives of the District, BLM, and the District's environmental consultant, Sapphos Environmental, Inc.¹ The environmental specialist for the Big Pine Tribe (Ms. Jackyln Velasquez) attended the meeting and provided three comments:

Comment No. 1:

The environmental specialist for the Big Pine Tribe inquired how well testing on the lake bed for the LADWP's Lower Owen's River project will affect the use of the District's fault test well to support the Keeler Dunes Dust Control Project.

1

Comment No. 2:

The environmental specialist for the Big Pine Tribe inquired about what irrigation system material would be used for the Keeler Dunes Dust Control Project.

2

Comment No. 3:

The environmental specialist for the Big Pine Tribe inquired how long it would take for the bales to break down.

3

¹ Sapphos Environmental, Inc. 30 April 2014. Memorandum for the Record No. 13: April 16, 2014 Bishop Public Workshop Meeting for the Keeler Dunes Dust Control Project EA/EIR. Prepared for: Great Basin Unified Air Pollution Control District. Job Number: 1064-018. Prepared by: Sapphos Environmental, Inc., Pasadena, CA.

**Public Workshop #2
Bishop City Hall
Council Chamber
377 West Line Street, Bishop, CA 93514
April 16, 2014**

During the public review period for the Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Assessment (EIR/EA), the Great Basin Unified Air Pollution Control District (District) and the Bureau of Land Management hosted two public workshops to present a summary of the findings of the environmental analysis, inform the public of the opportunities for providing input to the District and BLM, and to receive input related to the proposed project/proposed action, proposed project/action alternatives, the no-project/no action alternative, and the scope of the environmental analysis. The District received three timely comments from the Big Pine Tribe (Ms. Jackyln Velasquez) at the second public workshop held at Bishop City Hall on April 16, 2014. A response has been prepared for each of the three comments summarized in the summary of comments that precedes these responses.

Response to Comment No. 1:

The Keeler Dunes dust control project is expected to be completed before the Los Angeles Department of Water & Power (LADWP) well testing for the Lower Owens River project is initiated; therefore, there are no anticipated cumulative impacts from the two projects.

Response to Comment No. 2:

There are three alternatives that include the use of a temporary irrigation system: Alternatives 3, 4, and 5. It is anticipated that the irrigation system material that would be used for the Keeler Dunes Dust Control Project will consist of poly vinyl chloride (PVC) pipe, polyethylene (poly), metal pipe, or other comparable material. The use of UV resistant pipe material will be considered. It is anticipated that the temporary irrigation system would be in place for up to three years to provide supplemental irrigation, as determined necessary in response to monitoring of the vegetation.

Response to Comment No. 3:

The dust control measures consist of two primary elements: straw bales and native vegetation. The straw bales are provided as a temporary roughness factor to reduce the effects of the wind while the native vegetation is allowed to become established. It is anticipated that the straw bales will break down over the 3-year period of the project, and that as the bales break down the plants that were planted along the base of the bales would eventually grow taller and strengthen. The majority of the straw bales are expected to be bundled with sisal or other biodegradable natural product. Where another bundling material, such as plastic, is used, the District would require removal of that binding material once the bales have disintegrated or the plants are of sufficient size to no longer require the bale for protection.

11.2.5 Individuals or Private Organizations

No letters of comment were received from individuals or private organizations.