

HABITAT CONSERVATION PLAN



**for LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF WATER AND POWER'S
OPERATIONS, MAINTENANCE, AND MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES
ON ITS LAND IN MONO AND INYO COUNTIES, CALIFORNIA**

August 2015

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) for Los Angeles Department of Water and Power's Operation and Maintenance Activities on Its Land in Mono and Inyo Counties, California, was developed by the City of Los Angeles, Department of Water and Power (LADWP) as part of the Section 10(a)(1)(B) Endangered Species Act requirements to address the potential incidental take of listed species. This HCP is also intended to serve as the application for an incidental take permit (ITP) under State law pursuant to Fish and Game Code § 2081. The HCP covers approximately 314,000 acres of the City of Los Angeles (City) non-urban land holdings in Inyo and Mono Counties, California (hereafter Plan Area). LADWP manages these lands and has developed a low-effect, habitat-based HCP to protect habitat for species of special concern, candidate species, and federal and state threatened and endangered species, while allowing LADWP to continue its ongoing water gathering, water distribution, power production, and power transmission activities, and allowing the continuation of other land uses. These other land uses include habitat enhancements for Covered Species, livestock grazing, agriculture, recreation, fire and weed management, and road maintenance and closures. This HCP is not intended to fully meet the obligation of the "habitat conservation plan" described in the *1997 Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, County of Inyo, the California Department of Fish and Game, the California State Lands Commission, the Sierra Club, and the Owens Valley Committee* (1997 MOU).

The seven species covered under this HCP are Owens pupfish (*Cyprindon radiosus*), Owens tui chub (*Siphateles bicolor snyderi*), Owens/Long Valley speckled dace (*Rhinichthys osculus* spp.), bi-state population of Greater Sage-Grouse (*Centrocercus urophasianus*), Yellow-billed Cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus*), Willow Flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii*), and Bell's Vireo (*Vireo bellii*), collectively called Covered Species. With the exception of Greater Sage-Grouse, all are aquatic or woody riparian obligate species (riparian obligate); therefore the HCP focuses on aquatic and woody riparian (riparian) habitats.

Potential impacts to Covered Species (including take) and their habitats from implementation of this HCP are expected to be negligible. This HCP covers the Lower Owens River Project (LORP; which includes 62 miles (mi) of re-watered river channel) as well as activities associated with the Owens Valley Land Management Plan (OVLMP) and other land management activities in the Plan Area. The impacts analysis in this HCP identifies sites where impacts could potentially occur. LADWP's activities are expected to cause no permanent habitat loss and impacts to Covered Species will be minimized and mitigated. This HCP also identifies the Conservation Actions that LADWP will implement. These actions focus at the habitat level for the Covered Species. The HCP also discusses funding sources for implementation, plus the actions that would be taken in the event of changed circumstances. The duration of the ITPs would be 10 years, with the potential for renewal.