



*Range of Light Group
Toiyabe Chapter, Sierra Club
Counties of Inyo and Mono, California
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June 5, 2018

Mayor Eric Garcetti
City of Los Angeles
200 North Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: De-watering of Grazing Allotments in Mono County

Dear Mayor Garcetti,

The Executive Committee of the Sierra Club Range of Light Group, representing 428 members in the Eastern Sierra, is deeply concerned by LADWP's recent attempt to stop irrigation on their grazing allotments in Mono County. The usual irrigation allotment of five acre-feet/acre/year is not a significant amount of water to the City of Los Angeles, but it is to the local ranchers and for the environment. We maintain that this action would cause a significant decline in the Bi-state Sage Grouse sub-population in Long Valley and precipitate its extinction. De-watering LADWP lands will also dry up wetlands and create additional environmental problems.

The Department of Water and Power has a long history of subverting the needs of Eastern Sierrans. All residents of Mono and Inyo Counties will be affected if the tax revenue from cattle grazing is eliminated. Land use changes will impact our environment as wetlands dry up. The Eastern Sierra is an important wildlife corridor bridging the southern desert to Modoc Plateau and the Basin and Range to the Sierra Nevada. These irrigated ranch lands, in conjunction with BLM and USFS lands, play an important role in keeping this corridor open to wildlife.

With global warming, water is going to be an on-going issue for all Californians. We hope LADWP will share water resources in a fair and equitable way for the good of the environment, biodiversity of the planet, and for local residents. Many Southern California citizens vacation here and enjoy the open spaces, expansive views, and wildlife as they ski, hike, or explore.

We urge LADWP to continue irrigation in Long Valley and Little Round Valley.

Lynn Boulton
Chair of Range of Light Group Executive Committee
Sierra Club Toiyabe Chapter

cc via email:

Ana Guerrero, Chief of Staff, Office of Mayor Garcetti

LADWP Board of Commissioners

Matt Kemp, President, Inyo/Mono Cattlemen's Association

Mark Lacey, VP, Inyo/Mono Cattlemen's Association

Mary Roper, President, Owens Valley Committee

Mono County Board of Supervisors

Sharon Lee Koch, Chair, Angeles Chapter, Sierra Club

Charming Evelyn, Water Committee Chair, Angeles Chapter, Sierra Club

Ann Macquarie, Chair, Toiyabe Chapter, Sierra Club

Charlotte Allen, Co-Chair, CNRCC Water Committee, Sierra Club

Louis Sahagun, writer for the LA Times