

Martha Davis
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8.15.22

Chairman Bob Gardner and
The Honorable Board of Supervisors, Mono County
% Clerk of the Board
Bridgeport, CA 93517

RE: Item 9(A): Long Valley and Little Round Valley – Litigation and Bi-State Sage Grouse

Dear Chair Gardner and Honorable Mono County Supervisors,

As someone who loves Mono County and the Eastern Sierra, I am writing to express my thanks for your effective efforts to ensure that any future modifications to the Long Valley and Little Round Valley grazing leases by the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) are reasonable and consistent with the protection of Mono County's environmental and economic resources.

While Appellate Court did not give the County the satisfaction of being declared the winner, the decision appears to be a strong substantive victory for Mono County because it holds LADWP to the letter of its testimony. Specifically the court says:

"Los Angeles concedes that a policy of not providing any irrigation water to the leased properties is a markedly different prospect than the 2010 Leases. We accept this concession..." (p. 22); and,

"if 2018 marked the beginning of a practice of sharply reduced water deliveries to the lessees ... the correlation between the shift and the Dry Lease Proposal would be obvious and Los Angeles' claim to be relying on the 2010 Leases would be unmistakably pretextual." (p. 31-32)

It appears that LADWP can't sharply reduce water deliveries further without a full CEQA assessment. This is good news and is a solid victory for the County.

I support your staff's recommendation that the Board stay in close contact with LADWP and that you request regular updates from the Department on the status on the CEQA process initiated by LADWP in 2018. Since the Department agrees with the County that any significant modifications to the grazing leases requires a full CEQA analysis, close coordination on the development of the CEQA analysis will benefit everyone involved.

Perhaps LADWP will also be willing to restore information on their web page about the CEQA process. There are many people in the southland who will want to stay informed.

Again my thanks for your leadership on this important issue.

Sincerely,



Martha Davis