



**ERIC GARCETTI**  
**MAYOR**

## **EMERGENCY PROCLAMATION**

### **Subject: Los Angeles Aqueduct System Emergency**

WHEREAS, Los Angeles City Charter Sec. 231 and Los Angeles Administrative Code Sec. 8.22 empower the Mayor of the City of Los Angeles to proclaim the existence or threatened existence of a local emergency when any occurrence which by reason of its magnitude is or is likely to become beyond the control of the normal services, personnel, equipment and facilities of the regularly constituted branches and departments of the City government, and;

WHEREAS, the Mayor of the City of Los Angeles does hereby find: That the conditions of extreme peril to the safety of public property, infrastructure and environment have arisen and will impact the City of Los Angeles' Aqueduct, its water gathering facilities, its water delivery facilities and its air quality control facilities located within Mono, Inyo, Kern, Los Angeles Counties and the City of Los Angeles. The aforementioned perilous conditions are caused by multiple atmospheric river storm systems which struck California in January and February of 2017, bringing massive amounts of snow and rain; and

WHEREAS, precipitation within Inyo and Mono Counties during January and February far exceeded any amount since LADWP record keeping began; and

WHEREAS, this precipitation rapidly filled reservoirs, lakes, rivers, and streams throughout the Eastern Sierra region, causing them to reach capacity, resulting in potential widespread flooding; and

WHEREAS, this precipitation has produced a snowpack equal to 241 percent of normal-to-date which was confirmed by LADWP analysts on March 15, 2017, and LADWP expects that it must manage an amount of water that is nearly twice the amount of the Los Angeles' annual demand; and

WHEREAS, the Los Angeles Aqueduct system is transporting an exceptionally large volume of water; and

WHEREAS, there are three locations for delivery of excess water in the Los Angeles Aqueduct: (1) the lands and water bodies of the Owens Valley; (2) the natural terminus of the Owens River, Owens Lake; and (3) the City of Los Angeles and the Los Angeles River; and,

WHEREAS, LADWP is taking extraordinary measures to conserve the water in the Owens Valley and throughout the vicinity of the Los Angeles Aqueduct by maximizing the amount of water delivered to Los Angeles, recharging the groundwater basins and attempting to bring all surface storage reservoirs to full capacity; and

WHEREAS, Los Angeles is also taking extraordinary steps to avoid inundating environmentally sensitive areas, such as preventing water from spilling over the Long Valley Dam because of dam safety concerns and the existence of endangered Owens Tui Chub habitat that was identified by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife directly below the dam; and

WHEREAS, all of these concerns must be balanced with LADWP's mission to maximize the reasonable and beneficial use of such water through storage in all available locations; and

WHEREAS, LADWP and its customers have invested more than \$1 billion to improve air quality at Owens Lake and the associated infrastructure is threatened by the potential inundation from large amounts of water predicted to flow through the Los Angeles Aqueduct in the coming months; and

WHEREAS, LADWP must take immediate steps, including constructing infrastructure at and near Owens Lake, to manage the flow of water into Owens Lake in a manner that avoids additional air quality problems at the shoreline of the lakebed and in a manner that is most protective of the current dust mitigation infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, LADWP must take subsequent steps to repair, replace and remediate damaged dust control measures on the Owens Lake playa in an expedited manner that incorporates flood resilience components to ensure air quality is maintained throughout the Great Basin Unified Air Pollution Control District; and

WHEREAS, LADWP must take immediate steps to (1) armor facilities, including the Lower Owens River pumpback station and ancillary facilities, diversion and water conveyance structures; (2) divert creek and water conveyance flows as necessary to prevent damage; and (3) clean, repair and rebuild water delivery and conveyance facilities as needed;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY PROCLAIMED, that a local emergency now exists throughout the lands adjacent to the City's Los Angeles Aqueduct, its water gathering

facilities, its water delivery facilities, and its air quality control facilities located in Mono, Inyo, Kern, and Los Angeles Counties and in the City of Los Angeles, and;

IT IS FURTHER PROCLAIMED AND ORDERED, that during the existence of said local emergency, the powers, functions, and duties of the emergency organization, the City of Los Angeles, shall be those prescribed by state law, by ordinances, and resolutions of this City; and that this emergency proclamation shall expire in seven (7) days after issuance, unless confirmed and ratified by the Los Angeles City Council;

IT IS FURTHER PROCLAIMED that pursuant to California Government Code Section 8630(c), the Los Angeles City Council shall review the need for continuing the local emergency at least once every 30 days until the Mayor terminates the local emergency;

IT IS FURTHER PROCLAIMED, that the City of Los Angeles requests that all relevant California State and local agencies cooperate and assist in expediting a coordinated response to mitigate, armor, repair and rebuild all necessary facilities jeopardized by the current emergency and that all necessary assistance, including financial, and waivers from relevant rules, orders and regulations be issued;

IT IS FURTHER PROCLAIMED AND REQUESTED, that the Los Angeles City Council and Board of Water and Power Commissioners adopt resolutions by a four-fifths vote: (1) declaring that the public interest and necessity demand the immediate expenditure of public money to safeguard life, health or property, (2) delegating to the General Manager of the LADWP the authority to order any action necessary to safeguard life, health or property caused by the local emergency declared herewith, and (3) requiring the LADWP to provide a report to the Los Angeles City Council and Board of Water and Power Commissioners. The LADWP shall report back the reasons justifying why the emergency will not permit a delay resulting from a competitive solicitation for bids and why the action is necessary to respond to the emergency to the City Council not less than every fourteen (14) days and to the Board of Water and Power Commissioners at its regularly scheduled meetings after any such action taken pursuant to the resolutions.

IT IS FURTHER PROCLAIMED AND ORDERED, that authority for future emergency proclamation renewals and notifications provided to the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services, for additional aid and assistance from the State of California, is hereby delegated to the General Manager of the LADWP.

Executed this 20th day of March 2017.



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ERIC GARCETTI  
Mayor