

May 3, 2017

The Honorable City Council  
c/o Office of the City Clerk  
Room 395, City Hall  
Mail Stop 160

Attention: Councilmember Nury Martinez  
Chair, Energy and Environment Committee

Honorable Members:

Subject: Response to Motion - Broken Big Pine Paiute Tribe Irrigation Pipeline

In response to the Energy and Environment Committee's Motion dated April 7, 2017, the following information is provided pertaining to the broken Big Pine Paiute Tribe (Tribe) irrigation pipeline.

On April 12, 2017, the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) Aqueduct crews completed replacement of 1,400 feet of the Tribe's irrigation pipeline. The pipeline was deteriorated in several locations. Due to concerns portrayed by Tribal members at the March 21 Board of Water and Power Commissioners meeting, and their pressing need to receive irrigation water this spring, LADWP decided to replace the Tribe's irrigation line. This was done in the spirit of cooperation and commitment by LADWP to a positive working relationship with the Tribe.

Water supply for the Tribe is addressed in the 1939 Land Exchange Agreement (Agreement) between the Federal Government and the City of Los Angeles. The Agreement identifies responsibilities for both LADWP and the Tribe. LADWP has been meeting its responsibilities in accordance with the Agreement. LADWP supplies water to the Tribe's irrigation line at a diversion pond at the southwest corner of the reservation. Water enters the Tribe's irrigation line, which was installed by the United States Bureau

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of Indian Affairs (BIA) on behalf of the Tribe in the early 1940's after the Agreement was implemented, from that location.

LADWP has been working with the Tribe to resolve the irrigation water supply issues for the reservation and thought it was close to a mutually-agreeable resolution. LADWP had previously offered to replace the pipeline as part of a more comprehensive agreement to resolve the underlying matters of water supply, pipeline ownership, operation and maintenance responsibilities, and rights of access. It is necessary to work jointly with the Tribe and BIA so that all can have a clear understanding of each others expectations and obligations. LADWP will schedule a meeting with both the Tribe and BIA to address these issues.

If you have any questions or require further information, please contact me at (213) 367-1338, or have a member of your staff contact Ms. Winifred J. Yancy, Director of Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs, at (213) 367-0025.

Sincerely,



David H. Wright  
General Manager

JGY:rdn

Enclosure

c/enc: Councilmember Bob Blumenfield, Vice-Chair, Energy and Environment  
Committee  
Councilmember Paul Koretz, Member  
Councilmember Gilbert A. Cedillo, Member  
Councilmember Mitch O'Farrell, Member  
Ms. Winifred J. Yancy

MOTION

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

During the Board of Water and Power Commissioner's (Board) meeting of March 21, 2017, members of the Big Pine Paiute Tribe raised concerns about efforts to work with the Department of Water and Power (DWP) to repair a broken irrigation pipeline. The pipeline is located on their Reservation in the Owens Valley.

Big Pine Paiute Tribe members informed the Board that the broken pipeline caused loss of significant amount of water during the last several years which has impacted irrigation and their ability to farm, harvest and prepare food.

The members of the Tribe claimed that the broken pipeline is owned by the DWP and that they should repair it without delay. The members also stressed the pressing need to receive irrigation water this spring to continue farming and support themselves.

The DWP states that it has been working with the Big Pine Paiute Tribe to resolve the pipeline matter and a variety of related issues. Given concerns expressed during the Board meeting, the DWP must act quickly to repair the pipeline.

In order to better understand this matter, the DWP must report to the Council regarding the status of the pipeline repair. It is critical that the pipeline be repaired promptly in order to ensure the health and welfare of the members of the Big Pine Paiute Tribe.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Department of Water and Power report to the City Council in 30 days on the status of the pipeline repair associated with the Big Pine Paiute Tribe Reservation; and efforts to ensure future infrastructure problems are immediately addressed.

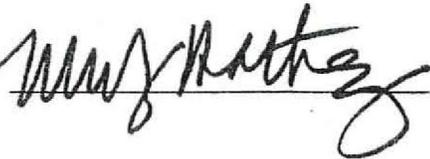
PRESENTED BY:



MITCH O'FARRELL

Councilmember, 13<sup>th</sup> District

SECONDED BY:



APR 7 2017