



Owens Valley Committee
PO Box 77
Bishop, CA 93515

No new DWP wells!

This year (2015) DWP announced it plans to drill two wells in Bishop, one in Laws, and one in Big Pine. Under the Owens Lake Master project it intends to drill an as-yet unspecified number of wells in southern Owens Valley. The Owens Valley Committee strongly opposes *any* new DWP wells in Owens Valley for the following reasons:

1) New wells mean DWP is *increasing* its dependence on Owens Valley water, even as LA Mayor Garcetti seeks to “*reduce* the amount of imported water used by Angelenos” ([LA Daily News 4/8/15](#)). Instead of continuing to waste ratepayers’ money exploiting Owens Valley, DWP should invest in water recycling, stormwater capture, and improved conservation measures in Los Angeles. This will provide much-needed jobs, while helping the city live within its own watershed and reduce its dependence on imported Owens Valley water.

2) Existing pumping management in Owens Valley is ineffective. Inyo County and DWP agree that the Water Agreement’s On/Off pumping management protocol needs to be replaced but do not agree on how. The *three*-year process of revising the protocol [initiated by the Standing Committee in 2007](#) is now in its *ninth* year with no end in sight. DWP should not be allowed to drill new wells until agreement is reached on a scientifically-sound pumping protocol that protects the fragile Owens Valley environment.

3) Existing DWP pumping in Owens Valley is excessive. DWP’s average pumping since the mid-1980s Water Agreement baseline period is almost 90,000 acre feet per year (af/yr). [USGS hydrologists](#) estimated long term average pumping should not exceed 70,000 af/yr (excluding artesian flows) to maintain baseline vegetation conditions. DWP should not be allowed to drill new wells until it has reduced its long term average pumping to 70,000 af/yr.

4) Mitigation delayed is mitigation denied. DWP has yet to [fully mitigate impacts from previous pumping](#) as required in the 1991 Water Agreement and EIR, and 1997 MOU. Some mitigation projects haven’t been started. Others are failing. Others never made sense in the first place. DWP should not be allowed to drill new wells until it completes all its mitigation obligations in the Water Agreement and associated EIR and MOU.

5) DWP refuses to obtain appropriate permits from Inyo County for proposed new wells. DWP should not be allowed to drill any new wells until it recognizes the county’s authority and obtains appropriate county permits.



Owens Valley Committee
PO Box 77
Bishop, CA 93515

6) DWP created hydrologic havoc in west Bishop in 2013 and 2014 when it refused to agree to dry-year Chandler Decree flow reductions in Bishop Creek consistent with its past practice. DWP should not be allowed to drill new wells until Bishop homeowners whose wells went dry or basements flooded have been fully compensated.

7) Enough is enough! Owens Valley has already sacrificed more than its share for the prosperity of Los Angeles.

What you can do

- 1) Contact [LA Mayor Eric Garcetti](#): Tell him DWP is defying his efforts to promote sustainability and reduce dependence on imported water. Ask the mayor to have DWP cease its attempts to drill new wells in Owens Valley and, instead, invest money that would have been spent drilling wells on water recycling, stormwater capture and conservation in Los Angeles. Send a copy of your letter or email to [LA City Councilman Felipe Fuentes](#) , and the LA Board of Water and Power Commissioners (Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, Room 1555-H, 15th Floor, 111 North Hope Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012)
- 2) Contact [Inyo County Supervisors](#): Ask them to take whatever legal action necessary to insure DWP applies for all necessary Inyo County permits before it is allowed to drill any new wells. Ask that county representatives at the Technical Group not agree to operate any new wells until the Green Book revision process is complete and all DWP mitigation projects in the Water Agreement and associated EIR and MOU are successfully completed.