



KAREN BASS  
MAYOR

## DECLARATION OF LOCAL EMERGENCY

By virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Los Angeles, pursuant to the provisions of Los Angeles City Charter Section 231 and Los Angeles Municipal Code Section 8.27, I hereby find that:

*On January 13, 2023, I declared a local emergency as a result of the significant impacts of high winds and substantial precipitation brought on by a series of atmospheric river storm systems that began on January 9, 2023; and*

*Precipitation within Inyo and Mono Counties during January through March 2023 far exceeded any amount since the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) record keeping began; and*

*On March 1, 2023, the Governor of California proclaimed a state of emergency to support disaster response and relief in thirteen counties as a result of these severe winter storms, and on March 7, 2023, the County of Inyo declared a local emergency due to the continuing atmospheric river weather phenomena; and*

*A portion of the wall of the Los Angeles Aqueduct partially collapsed on March 11, 2023 as the result of the flooding from the extreme runoff in the Olancho area; and*

*The conditions of extreme peril to the safety of public property, infrastructure and environment have arisen and have already and will continue to impact the City of Los Angeles' Aqueduct system, its water gathering facilities, its water delivery facilities and its air quality control facilities located within Mono, Inyo, Kern, and 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 through March 2023, bringing massive amounts of snow and rain; and*

*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*

*This precipitation has produced a snowpack equal to 255 percent of of April 1 average and is continuing to grow with additional precipitation events expected through April 2023; and*

*The Los Angeles Aqueduct system is transporting an exceptionally large volume of water; and*

*There are four potential 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; (3) the City of Los Angeles and the Los Angeles River; and (4) potential transfer to the State Water Project; and*

*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*

*Los Angeles is also taking extraordinary steps to avoid inundating critical infrastructure or habitat, such as preventing water from spilling over Long Valley Dam and Tinemaha Dam because of dam safety concerns and associated damage to habitat; and*

*LADWP must take immediate steps, including constructing protective measures at and near Owens Lake, as well as along the aqueduct to manage the flow of water into Owens Lake in a manner that minimizes impacts to the current dust mitigation infrastructure; and*

*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 in order to maintain compliance with air quality regulations in the Owens Valley Planning Area; and*

*LADWP must take immediate steps to (1) armor facilities, including the Lower Owens River pumpback station, berm roads, pipes, and ancillary facilities, installation of diversion and water conveyance structures; (2) divert creek and water conveyance flows as necessary to prevent damage; (3) clean, repair and rebuild water delivery and conveyance facilities as needed; (4) rebuild spreading grounds to capture overflow; and (5) repair and restore damaged patrol and access roads and associated drainage infrastructure; and*

*Based upon the above, said events are or are 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.*

NOW, THEREFORE, I hereby declare that a Local Emergency exists throughout the City-owned 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 direct the Emergency Operations Organization (EOO) to be immediately activated to take such steps that are necessary for the protection of life and property; and

I FURTHER DIRECT that all City Departments impacted by this event, and its ongoing effects, continue to conduct damage assessments and collect cost estimates for the purpose of seeking State and Federal disaster assistance; and

I FURTHER DIRECT that this Declaration of Local Emergency shall take effect immediately and that widespread publicity and notice shall be given said Declaration through the most feasible and adequate means of disseminating such notice throughout the City.



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KAREN BASS  
Mayor

Dated at Los Angeles, California

Date: March 14, 2023

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Filed with the City Clerk

Date: 03/15/2023, 2023

Time: 7:26am

By:  

Mar 15, 2023 7:29AM