



Lone Pine Paiute-Shoshone Reservation

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January 14, 2020

VIA E-MAIL APRILN@IWWWVWD.COM

Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority (IWVGA), Board of Directors c/o April Nordenstrom,
Clerk of the IWVGA Board
500 W. Ridgecrest Blvd.
Ridgecrest, CA 93555

Re: Draft Groundwater Sustainability Plan

Dear IWVGA:

Lone Pine Paiute-Shoshone Reservation (LPPSR) is in full support of Inyo County's position to oppose water exports to the Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Basin. The Owens Valley Groundwater Basin is taxed from 100 years of water exports and the engineered loss of a 110 square mile lake. Every year there are more losses of springs and diverted surface water sources. Although the region does not meet California Department of Water Resources' strict definition under SGMA of a basin in distress, the LPPSR community has the historic knowledge of a much richer and healthier environment before exports began.

We understand the fear and concerns of an uncertain future due to the depletion of a critical resource. However, the easiest option of taking water from neighboring basins is not an acceptable nor long term solution. The valleys to the north of Indian Wells have little control over their water due to the continuing growth of Los Angeles. Let us learn from past mistakes and find creative alternatives to unsustainable use of fresh water.

Sincerely,



Richard Button, Tribal Chairperson
Lone Pine Paiute-Shoshone Reservation

Cc: Mr. Matt Kingsley