



Steps to Restoring the River

The LORP will largely let Mother Nature do her job at restoring stream and riparian habitats. The goal is to apply sound land and flow management practices that enable natural habitat to develop with little intervention or human manipulation. In this approach, nature will have the proper tools to restore sustainable habitats without having humans decide what they think is best for the ecosystem. Natural recolonization of wildlife and fish is anticipated with enhancement and restoration of native wetland habitats.



Some construction will take place before water can be diverted into the river. The LADWP will make some modifications to the 1913 aqueduct intake system located south of Tinemaha Reservoir (near Big Pine) to be able to continuously feed water into the Lower Owens River. At the end of the Owens River, just north of Owens Lake, the LADWP will build a pumpback station that will deliver water to Owens Lake for dust control, or to the Los Angeles Aqueduct.



Two capacities for the pumpback station have been explored in the Draft EIR. The smaller pumpback station would return 50 cubic feet of water per second into the aqueduct and the larger would pump up to 150 cubic feet per second during the seasonal habitat flows.

Some Owens Valley residents are concerned that the larger pumpback station could lead to additional groundwater wells on the east side of Owens River. The LADWP can meet its water obligations without pursuing east-side wells. The larger pumpback station would, however, recover up to 900 acre-ft of water per year more than the smaller station.