



**Media Contact:**

Justin Caporusso  
Public Information Manager  
Mono County  
[jcaporusso@mono.ca.gov](mailto:jcaporusso@mono.ca.gov)  
916-412-0571

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Mono County Victorious in Litigation Protecting Local Habitat and Resources**

**MONO COUNTY, Calif. (MARCH 10, 2021)** – On March 8, 2021, The Superior Court of the State of California, County of Alameda, issued an Order requiring the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) to continue to provide water for wildlife, habitat, and scenic, recreational and economic resources in the Long Valley and Little Round Valley regions of Mono County. The decision came as a result of a petition filed by Mono County and the Sierra Club under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Specifically, the County and Sierra Club sought to prevent damage to these valuable environmental resources resulting from a sudden and unanalyzed change in LADWP’s water management practices.

Siding with the County and Sierra Club, the Court directed LADWP to continue to provide water which it has historically delivered to ranchers in Long Valley and Little Round Valleys until such time as it completes a comprehensive environmental review. The ranchers have used the water for close to 100 years to create pasture, wetlands and meadows on more than 6,000 acres of land in Mono County. These areas are critical not only for their habitat, scenic and recreational uses, but also for wildlife, including the Bi-State Sage Grouse.

“We are pleased with the Court’s ruling and hope to partner with LADWP to find a mutually beneficial solution for the long-term that protects our region’s habitat and resources, while also addressing the City’s legitimate water needs” stated Stacey Simon, Mono County Counsel.

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