



## GREAT BASIN UNIFIED AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT

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### **Information and Frequently Asked Questions** **Nomination of Owens Lake to the National Register of Historic Places**

#### **1. What is the purpose of the nomination?**

Owens Lake is a source of dust that must be controlled by Los Angeles Department of Water and Power. The construction, operation, and maintenance of dust control measures may impact cultural resources. The nomination will assist agencies in meeting state and federal requirements for considering the effects of projects to cultural resources and provide a useful framework for future planning, project implementation, and long-term stewardship while recognizing the lake's importance to indigenous culture.

#### **2. Who is leading the nomination?**

The nomination of Owens Lake, known as Patsiata in the Paiute and Shoshone languages, is being led by the Patsiata Tribal Oversight Committee, composed of the Tribal Historic Preservation Officers of five local Tribes with close ties to the lake: the Lone Pine Paiute-Shoshone Tribe, the Timbisha Shoshone Tribe, the Big Pine Paiute Tribe of Owens Valley, the Fort Independence Indian Community of Paiute Indians, and the Bishop Paiute Tribe. The nomination is being sponsored by the Great Basin Unified Air Pollution Control District (District) with support from California State Lands Commission (CSLC), the primary landowner.

#### **3. Where is the boundary?**

The proposed boundary is shown on the attached map. The boundary covers 186 square miles including the current Owens Lake and surrounding historic shorelines associated with indigenous use. Most of the area is public land (98%), with the rest owned by approximately two dozen private landowners. The communities of Lone Pine, Keeler, Olancho, and Cartago have been excluded from the boundary. A GIS shapefile of the boundary has been shared with Inyo County Planning.

<b><u>Proposed Nomination Boundary Landowner Information</u></b>	
<b>Owner</b>	<b>Ownership</b>
California State Lands Commission	54.9%
City of Los Angeles Department of Water and Power	28.4%
Bureau of Land Management	14.2%
California Department of Fish and Wildlife	0.2%
Inyo County	0.1%
Private	2.2%

**4. How might the nomination affect private property owners?**

Listing on the National Register alone does not place restrictions as to what can or cannot be done to the property, however additional review and analysis of proposed projects may be required. At the federal level, a property's status on the National Register is largely honorific and does not place additional restrictions unless federal funding or a federal license or permit is involved. However in California, additional analysis and review of a project may be required under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) if the property owner proposes to take actions that may cause a significant impact to the environment for properties listed on, or eligible for, the National or State Registers. Determination of the specific requirements for each project will be made by Inyo County Planning Department or the permitting agency.

**5. What information will be released to public agencies?**

To assist agencies, the Patsiata Tribal Oversight Committee will be releasing an agency version of the nomination so that Inyo County and other public agencies who own or manage land within the boundary will have access to information regarding the cultural and historical importance of the Historic District. The agency version, which will include lists of the contributing and non-contributing elements, will assist agencies in meeting state and federal requirements to consider the effects of proposed projects on cultural resources and should streamline requirements under the California Environmental Quality Act. Specific confidential archaeological site information will not be included in the agency version of the nomination but may be obtained from the California Historical Resources Inventory System by qualified users.

**6. What is the nomination process and the next steps?**

The nomination is in the process of being prepared for submission. As part of that process, all public and private landowners within the proposed boundary are being notified, along with other interested stakeholders. Following public outreach, the nomination will be submitted to the California State Historic Preservation Officer, who will review the nomination and will notify affected property owners and local governments and solicit public comment. If recommended by the state, the nomination will be submitted to the Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places for review and listing on the National Register. If a majority of private property owners within the proposed boundary formally object, the property cannot be listed on the National Register but may still be determined eligible for listing.

**7. Where can I find more information about the National Register?**

The National Park Service, which maintains the National Register, offers information about the Register and the nomination process online at [www.nps.gov/subjects/nationalregister/index.htm](http://www.nps.gov/subjects/nationalregister/index.htm).

The California Office of Historic Preservation also provides links explaining how the National and State historic registers interact with CEQA at <http://ohp.parks.ca.gov/>.

## Proposed Owens Lake Historic District Boundary Map



The proposed boundary includes the current Owens Lake as well as the historic shorelines dating back to 14,000 years ago associated with indigenous history. The communities of Lone Pine, Keeler, Olancho, and Cartago have been excluded from the boundary.