

# *Public Workshop on the Mono Lake Drought Response Considerations*



February 15, 2023

# Item 5: Public Comments and Questions



Comments and Questions will be limited to 2 minutes per speaker

If joining via Zoom, please raise your hand

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Great Basin Unified Air Pollution Control District  
**Current Conditions - Mono Lake Air Quality**

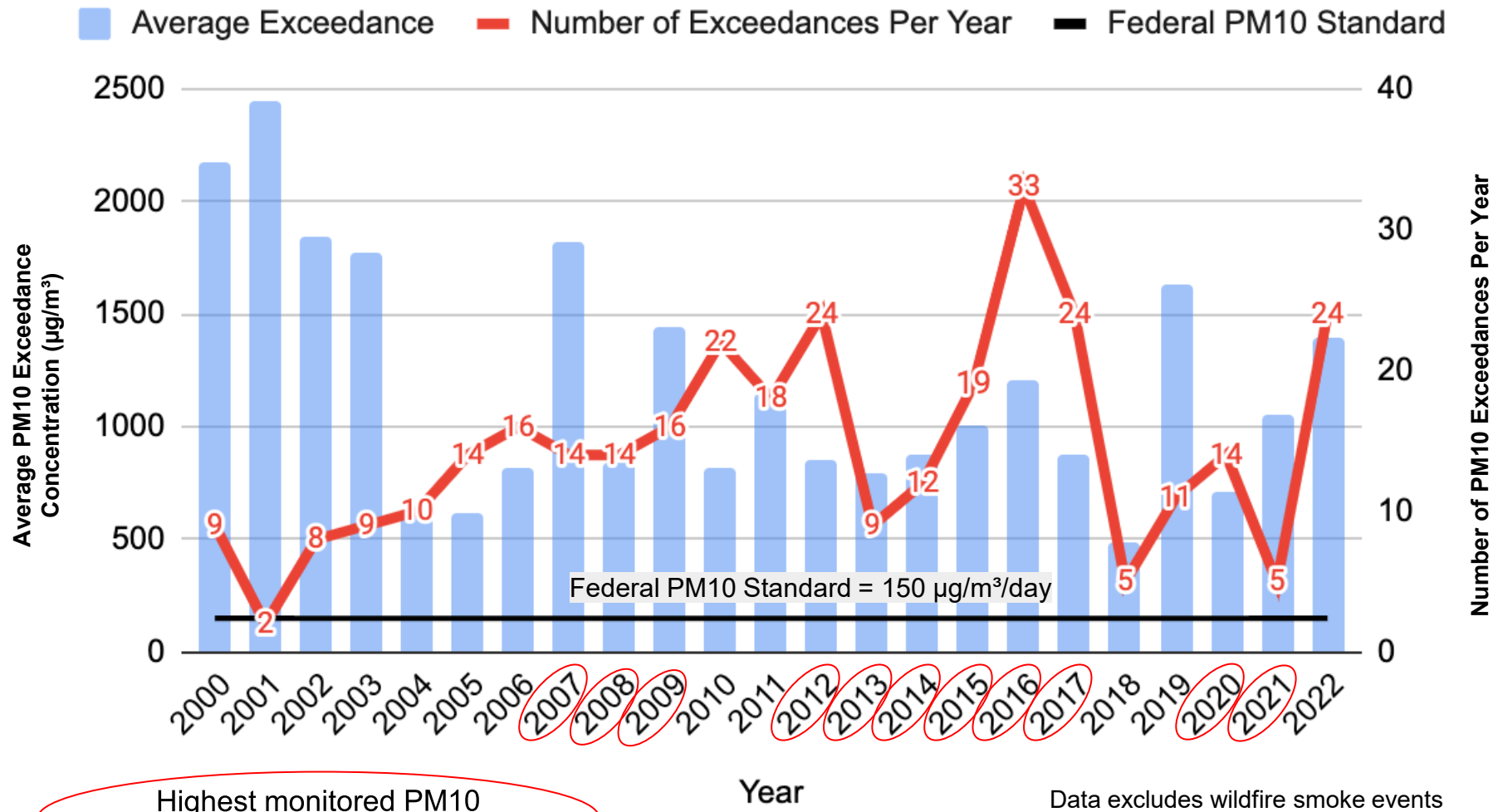
- Air quality issues remain unresolved
- PM10 emissions from exposed lakebed continue to exceed air quality standards
- Temporary relief currently provided by snow, but not all winters have snow cover





# Mono PM10 Emissions Continue to Greatly Violate Air Quality Standards in Frequency and Magnitude

## Mono Shore PM10 Federal Exceedances 2000-2022



Highest monitored PM10 concentration in US

# 332 Days of PM10 Federal Exceedances from 2000-2022

Date	Exceed	Date	Exceed	Date	Exceed	Date	Exceed	Date	Exceed	Date	Exceed	Date	Exceed	Date	Exceed
4/8/2000	690	6/17/2005	235	4/30/2008	2769	6/16/2010	318	6/25/2012	630	12/9/2015	445	3/5/2017	842	6/12/2020	201
5/4/2000	1063	6/18/2005	292	5/7/2008	161	8/28/2010	210	10/22/2012	209	8/2/2015	713	3/20/2017	172	9/8/2020	511
5/6/2000	490	6/19/2005	328	5/20/2008	2563	9/7/2010	357	11/8/2012	3972	12/13/2015	259	3/24/2017	798	9/13/2020	159
5/9/2000	3059	6/20/2005	298	6/4/2008	694	9/8/2010	210	11/28/2012	289	12/22/2015	299	3/30/2017	382	9/15/2020	340
5/10/2000	1513	6/21/2005	541	6/5/2008	913	10/24/2010	735	11/29/2012	2187	1/13/2016	852	4/6/2017	3543	9/16/2020	443
6/7/2000	1642	9/10/2005	546	6/21/2008	906	11/19/2010	807	12/21/2012	598	1/29/2016	811	4/11/2017	291	9/17/2020	594
6/8/2000	241	9/11/2005	487	8/31/2008	857	12/14/2010	1112	3/5/2013	174	3/10/2016	162	4/12/2017	521	9/21/2020	169
10/9/2000	387	10/1/2005	940	9/19/2008	286	2/15/2011	654	4/7/2013	3284	3/11/2016	280	4/16/2017	563	11/6/2020	233
11/29/2000	10466	10/2/2005	1245	10/30/2008	309	2/16/2011	253	4/14/2013	435	3/13/2016	2106	4/26/2017	505	11/13/2020	223
6/2/2001	414	10/13/2005	477	10/31/2008	330	3/10/2011	916	4/15/2013	529	3/14/2016	899	4/27/2017	213	11/17/2020	492
9/25/2001	4482	5/19/2006	1915	11/3/2008	409	3/15/2011	477	6/18/2013	187	3/20/2016	898	5/12/2017	402	11/18/2020	1343
2/28/2002	195	5/20/2006	238	12/13/2008	470	4/20/2011	1375	6/19/2013	213	3/21/2016	1233	9/20/2017	1349	3/6/2021	1230
3/10/2002	396	5/21/2006	174	3/3/2009	489	4/28/2011	212	8/20/2013	170	3/28/2016	855	10/19/2017	659	4/5/2021	750
4/14/2002	3089	6/12/2006	450	3/9/2009	625	5/25/2011	4886	9/21/2013	295	4/14/2016	345	10/20/2017	1236	4/13/2021	2827
4/15/2002	1157	6/13/2006	168	3/29/2009	477	5/28/2011	1213	10/27/2013	1870	5/19/2016	4054	11/8/2017	407	10/22/2021	199
5/18/2002	201	6/27/2006	210	4/14/2009	1130	5/30/2011	216	3/29/2014	626	5/20/2016	1184	11/9/2017	2538	11/8/2021	287
5/19/2002	6505	9/14/2006	1012	5/1/2009	158	5/31/2011	1802	4/17/2014	258	6/15/2016	2160	11/13/2017	216	2/14/2022	527
5/20/2002	1481	9/15/2006	306	5/3/2009	766	6/1/2011	633	5/18/2014	2618	10/2/2016	272	12/20/2017	192	3/13/2022	839
11/7/2002	1744	11/8/2006	624	5/4/2009	1377	6/28/2011	834	9/25/2014	340	10/13/2016	541	2/10/2018	296	4/9/2022	428
3/13/2003	487	11/10/2006	434	9/29/2009	235	10/3/2011	477	10/15/2014	173	10/14/2016	2138	2/11/2018	292	4/11/2022	3216
3/14/2003	1657	11/21/2006	231	10/3/2009	335	11/3/2011	1994	10/25/2014	908	10/15/2016	6507	2/18/2018	1098	4/18/2022	402
3/26/2003	333	11/22/2006	174	10/13/2009	717	11/18/2011	3393	10/31/2014	268	10/16/2016	264	2/24/2018	172	4/19/2022	845
4/13/2003	1170	11/28/2006	1764	10/19/2009	363	11/30/2011	242	11/22/2014	1188	10/23/2016	503	4/15/2018	580	4/21/2022	162
4/21/2003	545	12/8/2006	300	11/11/2009	343	12/1/2011	343	11/28/2014	1890	10/24/2016	816	2/25/2019	2198	5/5/2022	320
4/24/2003	5283	12/23/2006	721	11/12/2009	248	12/30/2011	649	12/10/2014	390	10/30/2016	454	2/26/2019	3427	5/6/2022	7202
4/25/2003	5745	12/26/2006	4300	11/20/2009	14147	1/15/2012	1488	12/11/2014	1405	11/15/2016	334	2/27/2019	999	5/8/2022	1998
4/26/2003	341	1/10/2007	1909	12/6/2009	1461	1/19/2012	1482	12/29/2014	402	11/16/2016	1878	3/25/2019	619	5/19/2022	225
4/27/2003	398	1/11/2007	359	12/7/2009	181	1/20/2012	268	2/5/2015	1071	11/18/2016	219	3/27/2019	442	5/27/2022	331
5/11/2004	192	4/6/2007	168	3/25/2010	339	2/29/2012	340	2/6/2015	3294	11/19/2016	3103	4/9/2019	238	6/5/2022	317
5/12/2004	843	4/14/2007	2008	3/29/2010	159	3/1/2012	476	3/31/2015	239	11/20/2016	615	4/20/2019	155	6/12/2022	7681
5/17/2004	913	4/17/2007	726	3/30/2010	495	3/6/2012	563	4/1/2015	1048	11/25/2016	1176	4/30/2019	1715	6/13/2022	825
6/7/2004	447	9/30/2007	2154	4/2/2010	754	3/12/2012	677	4/4/2015	287	11/26/2016	719	5/15/2019	3956	6/16/2022	352
9/18/2004	987	10/4/2007	1657	4/3/2010	740	3/13/2012	315	4/5/2015	4098	12/6/2016	694	9/16/2019	1867	6/17/2022	2753
10/8/2004	430	10/10/2007	10020	4/4/2010	444	3/31/2012	1409	4/7/2015	405	12/10/2016	267	9/28/2019	2310	9/7/2022	204
10/17/2004	322	10/16/2007	266	4/11/2010	794	4/12/2012	203	4/13/2015	513	1/1/2017	384	1/16/2020	2032	9/18/2022	456
10/18/2004	898	4/20/2010	181	4/20/2010	181	4/23/2012	533	4/14/2015	1836	1/2/2017	753	10/22/2022	845.4*	10/22/2022	845.4*
10/19/2004	871	10/20/2007	304	4/27/2010	4344	4/26/2012	1385	5/12/2015	243	1/3/2017	2081	3/7/2020	164	11/1/2022	2355.9*
10/26/2004	208	5/9/2010	305	5/9/2010	305	5/14/2012	1385	5/13/2015	288	3/14/2020	1955	11/6/2022	436.6*	11/6/2022	436.6*
4/7/2005	285	11/29/2007	480	5/10/2010	307	5/17/2012	270	11/15/2015	469	3/15/2020	668	11/7/2022	444.1*	11/7/2022	444.1*
4/13/2005	386	11/30/2007	2736	5/21/2010	3096	5/24/2012	227	11/24/2015	882	5/11/2020	233	12/9/2022	303.4*	12/9/2022	303.4*
5/28/2005	2108	4/6/2008	247	5/25/2010	1529	6/1/2012	158	6/1/2012	158	5/17/2020	486				
6/6/2005	507	4/11/2008	930	5/26/2010	318	6/4/2012	1265	6/4/2012	1265	2/26/2017	953				
				5/27/2010	460	6/23/2012	220	6/23/2012	220	3/4/2017	1400				

\*Q4 2022 values are preliminary, all other values are certified and accessed from the EPA AQS database.

Excludes PM10 Exceedances due to Wildfire Smoke Events  
 Exceedances are listed by Date and Concentration in  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3/\text{day}$   
 Color Scale is informational to display the range of magnitude

**Federal PM10 Standard = 150  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3/\text{day}$**





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# Eared Grebes & Mono Lake

Joseph R. Jehl, Jr., Division of Birds  
National Museum of Natural  
History, Smithsonian Institution

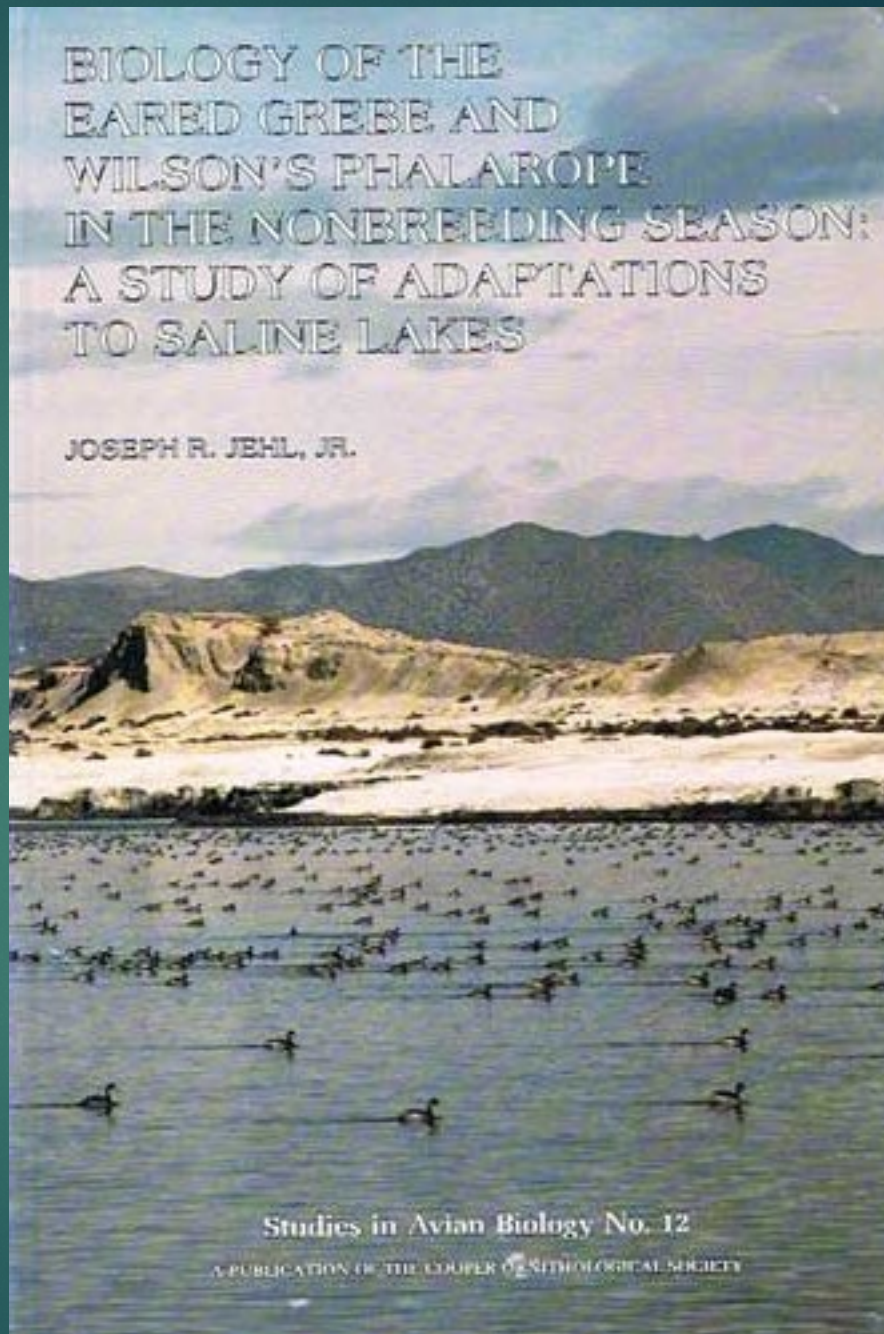
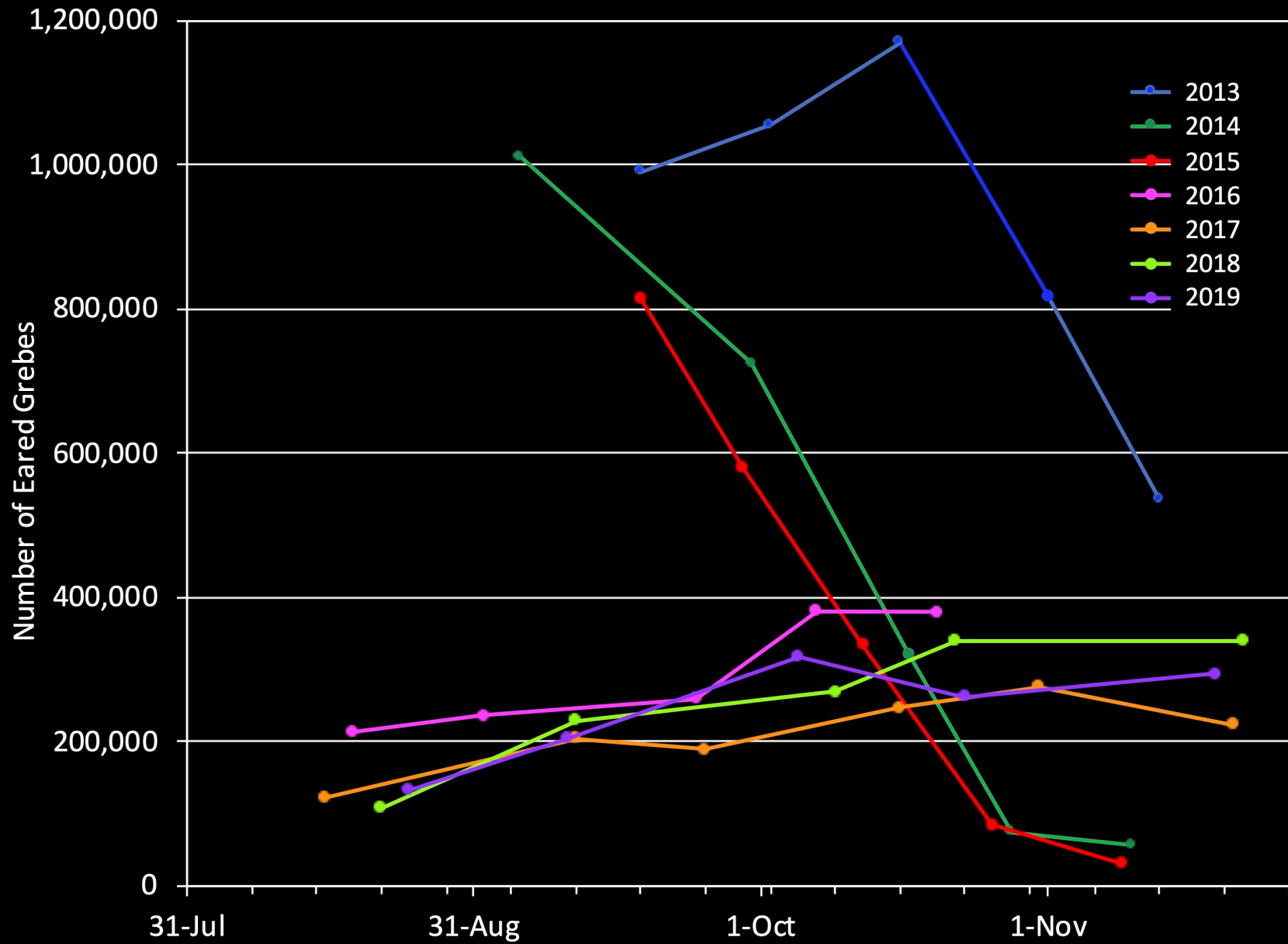




Photo credit: Ray Spencer

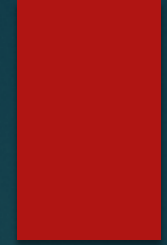
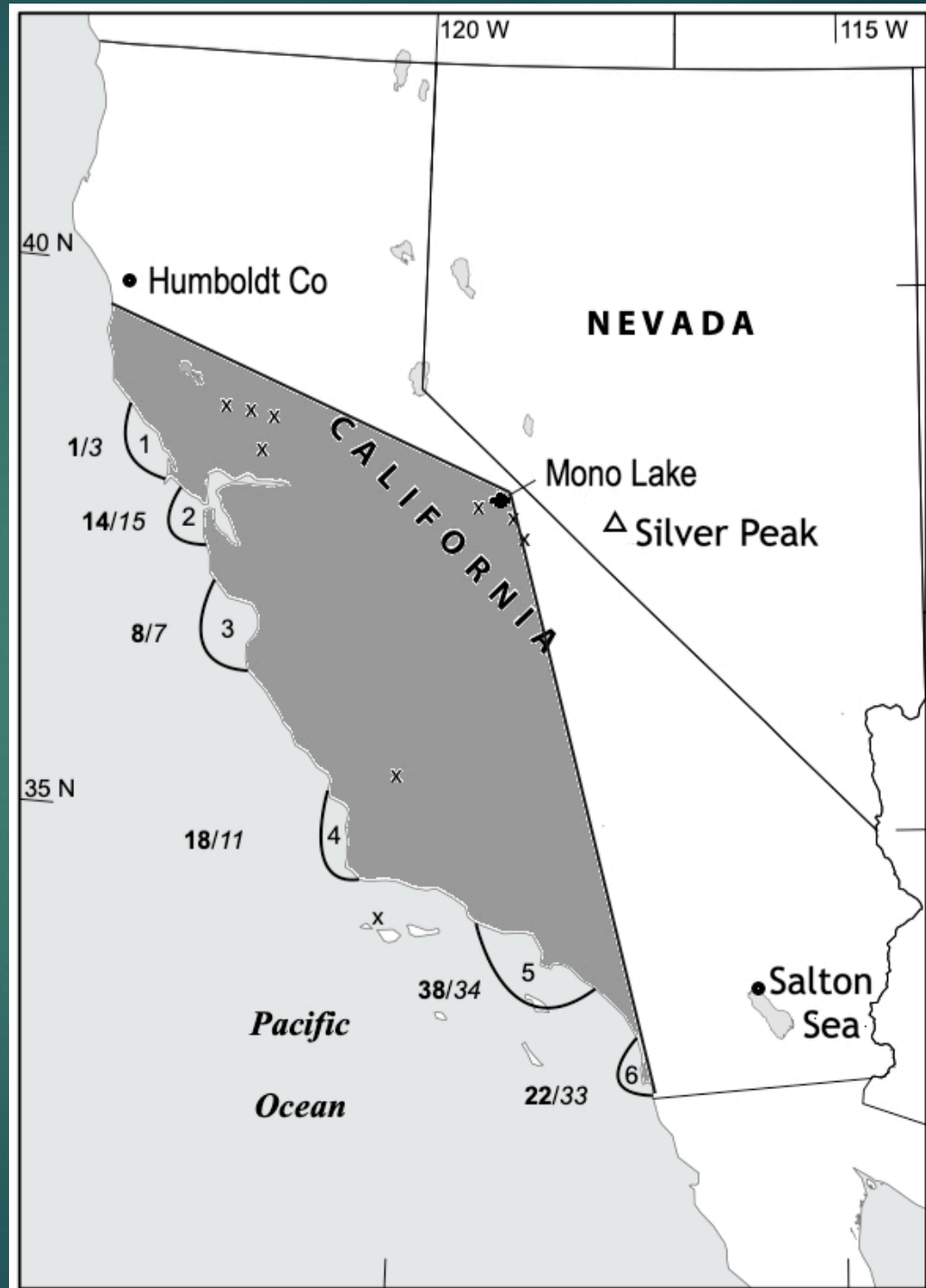


# Eared Grebe Abundance Mono Lake: 2013-2019



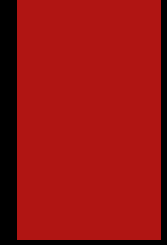
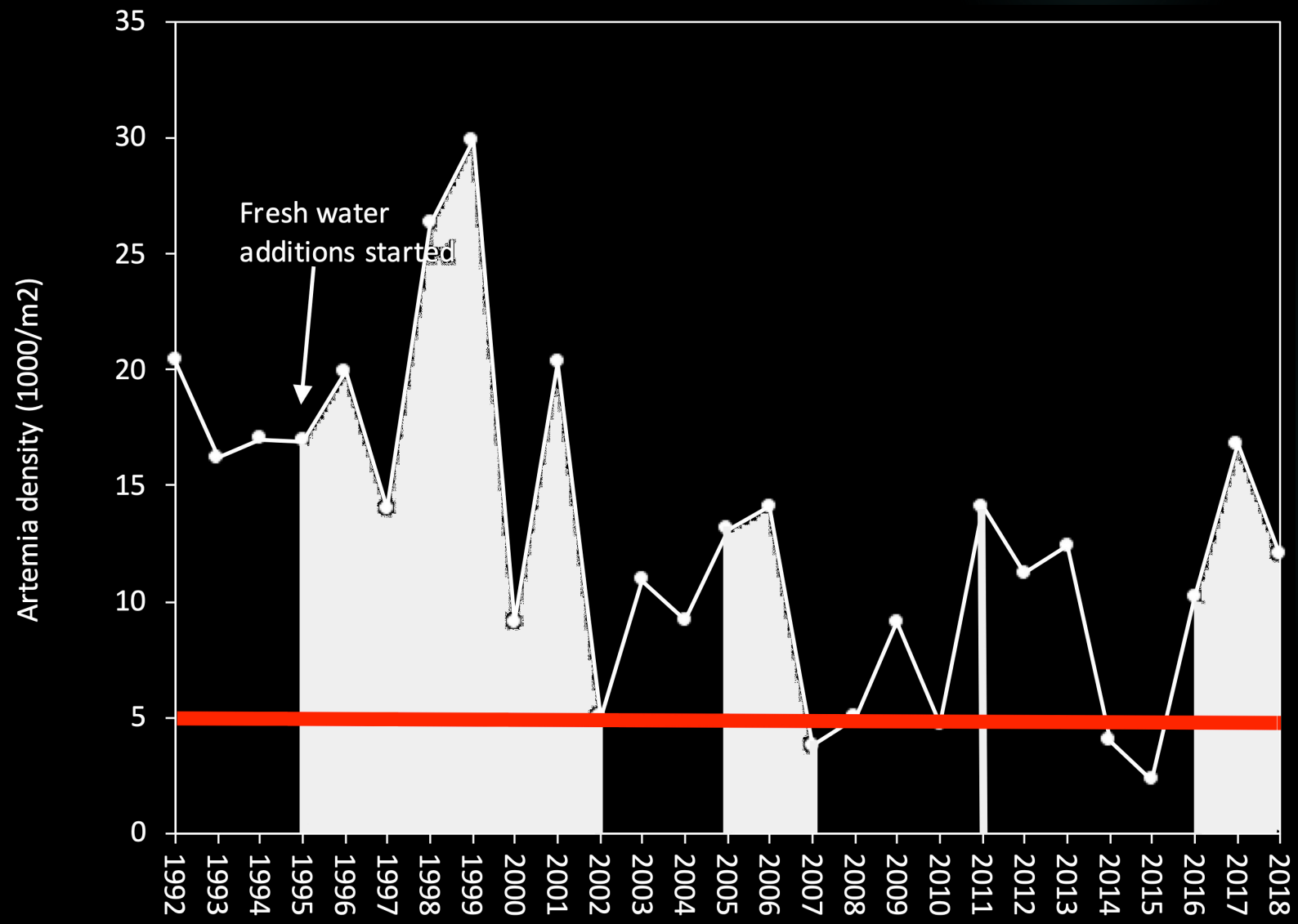
# Locations of Eared Grebes

Recovered in 2014 & 2015  
from Bodega Bay to San  
Diego

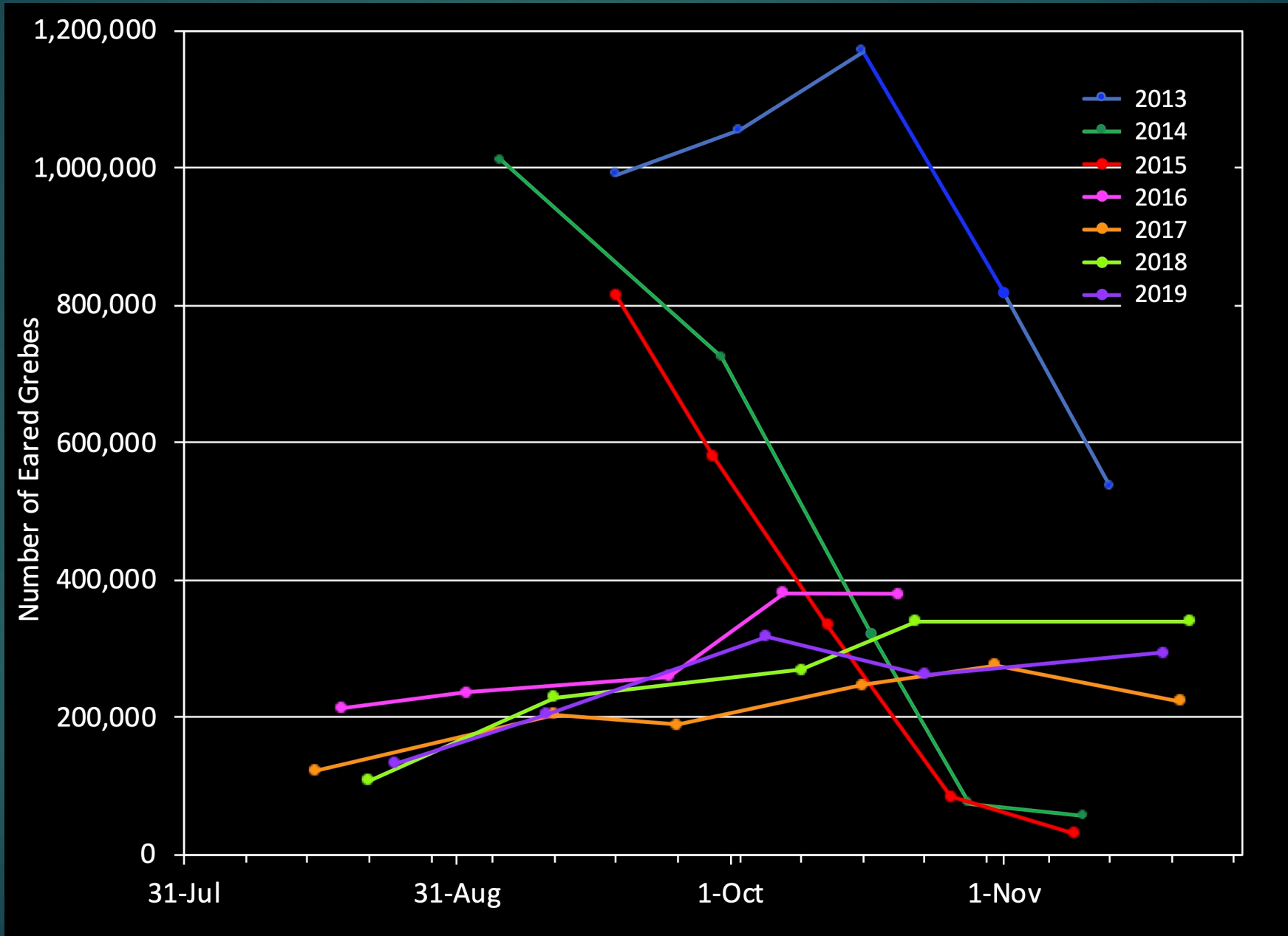




# Artemia Density at Mono Lake



# Eared Grebe Abundance Mono Lake: 2013-2019





## Point Blue Report

### Population size and reproductive success of California Gulls at Mono Lake



Annual Report

March 2021

Ryan D. Burnett, Kristie Nelson, & Annie E. Schmidt Ph.D

Conservation science for a healthy planet

3820 Cypress Drive, #11 Petaluma, CA 94954

T 707.781.2555 | F 707.765.1685

[pointblue.org](http://pointblue.org)

*In years when lake levels rise, lake productivity lowers*, and though nesting islets are free of predators, *there is insufficient resources to support large numbers of nests* and produce large number of young. *Increasing lake levels, preferably incrementally*, to an elevation where they would stay sufficiently high to thwart predator access, even following several years of drought, would be prudent to ensuring the long-term viability of this population in a future where more extreme swings in annual climate variation are predicted (Swain et al. 2018).





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Scott Stine, Four Truisms for CSWRCB, 2/15/23

**Four Self-Evident Truths about Mono Lake's Future Fluctuations  
of the Transition Period**

- The less water DWP exports, the greater will be the lake rises during future wet periods;
- The less water DWP exports, the smaller will be the lake drops during future dry periods;
- The less water DWP exports, the higher the lake (and thus, all other things being equal, the higher the environmental quality) will be at any future moment during the ongoing transition period; and ultimately,
- The less water DWP exports, the sooner the lake surface, once climate allows, will reach the elevation that the Water Board deemed necessary to "protect the public trust resources at Mono Lake and in the Mono Basin."  
( "... to protect public trust resources at Mono Lake and in the Mono Basin" is from the subtitle of D-1631.)



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# State Water Board Informational Resources

Board staff will accept written comments on this workshop until March 17, 2023 at 4:00 pm

Please email comments and questions to  
[MonoLake@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:MonoLake@waterboards.ca.gov)

For further information and to subscribe to the Mono Lake Information Email List visit  
[waterboards.ca.gov/monolake](https://waterboards.ca.gov/monolake)