

Leach Hot Springs Geothermal Exploration Project Noxious Weed Management Plan Pershing County, Nevada

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LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

BLM	Bureau of Land Management
Ormat	Ormat Technologies, Inc.

NOXIOUS WEED MANAGEMENT PLAN LEACH HOT SPRINGS GEOTHERMAL EXPLORATION PROJECT

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Ormat Technologies, Inc. (Ormat) is planning a geothermal exploration drilling program near Leach Hot Springs located approximately 20 miles south of Winnemucca, Nevada, on public land administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The proposed project, as described in *Preliminary Environmental Assessment Ormat Technologies, Inc., Leach Hot Springs Geothermal Exploration Project*, includes the construction of 12 drill pads and associated access roads for a total disturbance of 69.79 acres (BLM 2011). This Noxious Weed Management Plan is being developed in order to help control noxious weed species from becoming established in areas disturbed by this project.

Noxious weeds within Nevada are defined in the Nevada Revised Statutes 555.05 as “any species of plant which is, or is likely to be, detrimental or destructive and difficult to control or eradicate.” The Nevada Department of Agriculture Plant Industry Division provides a list of all weeds currently listed as noxious for the State of Nevada. Noxious weeds in Nevada are divided into three categories as identified below. This management plan treats all three categories equally as far as treatment when identified.

Category A weeds are currently not found or found in limited distribution throughout the state. These species are actively excluded from the state and actively eradicated. Control is required by the state on all infestations.

Category B weeds are those that are established in scattered populations in some counties of the state; actively excluded where possible, actively eradicated from nursery stock dealer premises; control required by the state in areas where populations are not well established or previously unknown to occur.

Category C weeds are species that are currently established and generally widespread in many counties of the state; actively eradicated from nursery stock dealer premises; abatement at the discretion of the state quarantine officer.

2.0 NOXIOUS WEED MANAGEMENT PLAN

In order to minimize the establishment of noxious weeds within the project area, Ormat would use the following environmental protection measures:

- Use certified weed-free seed mixes during revegetation of disturbed areas;
- Complete concurrent reclamation when feasible in order to minimize disturbed areas where weed species could establish;
- Revegetate growth medium and overburden stockpiles with a weed-free seed mix as soon as possible following stockpile completion;
- Restrict vehicle traffic to defined roads or overland travel routes to reduce potential mechanical transport of noxious weed seeds; and
- Wash all vehicles that are within areas of established noxious weed populations prior to leaving the site.

Along with these environmental protection measures, Ormat would conduct the weed surveys and treatment described below, as necessary.

2.1 NOXIOUS WEED SURVEYS

A survey for State of Nevada noxious weed species would take place within areas disturbed by Ormat's Leach Hot Springs exploration project every three years following the initial disturbance per the BLM's request. These surveys would continue until successful reclamation of disturbance has been achieved. Successful reclamation is determined through the Nevada Guidelines for Successful Revegetation for the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection, the Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service. Surveys would consist of walking disturbance and identifying locations of noxious weed infestations using a Trimble global positioning unit.

2.2 NOXIOUS WEED TREATMENT

If noxious weed species are found within the pads and roads associated with the Leach Hot Springs exploration project, appropriate treatment for the type of species present would take place. A certified individual (or a Nevada licensed herbicide applicator) would complete treatment of noxious weed species.

3.0 REFERENCES

Bureau of Land Management (BLM). 2011. Environmental Assessment Ormat Technologies, Inc., Leach Hot Springs Geothermal Exploration Project DOI-BLM-NV-W0100-2011-0001-EA. United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management Winnemucca District, Humboldt River Field Office. Pending.

Nevada Department of Agriculture, Plant Industry Division. 2011. Noxious Weeds List. Available at http://agri.nv.gov/nwac/PLANT_NoxWeedList.htm. Accessed February 1, 2011.