

January 12, 2011

CITY OF LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF WATER AND POWER

Scattergood-Olympic Transmission Line Project *Scoping Report*

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120455

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Scoping Report

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| REVISION HISTORY | | |
|------------------|-------------------|----------|
| DATE | REVISED BY | REVISION |
| 12/27/10 | Stephanie Bennett | A |
| 01/12/11 | Stephanie Bennett | Final |
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- Appendix A1 – Comments (transcribed)
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- Appendix B1 – Sign-in Sheets (transcribed)
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- Appendix C – Notice of Preparation
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1.0 PROJECT BACKGROUND

The City of Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) is proposing to construct the Scattergood-Olympic Transmission Line Project, an underground 230 kilovolt (kV) transmission line connecting the Scattergood Generating Station and the Olympic Receiving Station (also referred to as Receiving Station K). The new underground transmission line would reinforce the Scattergood Generating Station transmission system and provide continued reliability of electrical service to the western Los Angeles area. LADWP is the Lead Agency and will prepare an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). POWER Engineers, Inc. has been hired by LADWP to assist with the environmental studies and preparation of the EIR.

2.0 NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF EIR

In compliance with Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations (CCR) Section 15082, LADWP prepared a Notice of Preparation (NOP) of an EIR that described the proposed project and location, environmental review process, the potential environmental effects, and contact information, as well as announced the times and locations of the public scoping meetings. Please refer to Appendix C for a copy of the NOP. On October 8, 2010, the NOP (State Clearinghouse [SCH] No. 2009091085) was filed with the SCH; the scoping review period started on October 12, 2010 and ended on November 12, 2010. The agencies, elected officials, and Native American Tribes listed below were sent a copy of the NOP via certified mail.

- United States Fish and Wildlife Service
- United States Army Corps of Engineers
- California Department of Fish and Game
- California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) District 7
- California Coastal Commission
- California Dept of Parks and Recreation
- Native American Heritage Commission
- Southern California Association of Governments
- South Coast Air Quality Management District
- California Regional Water Quality Control Board
- Los Angeles Department of City Planning
- Los Angeles Department of Public Works – Bureau of Engineering
- Los Angeles Dept. Of Transportation
- Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks
- Los Angeles County Department of Beaches and Harbors
- Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning
- City of Culver City, City Hall
- City of Inglewood Planning Division
- Santa Monica Planning and Community Development Department
- El Segundo Planning and Safety
- Los Angeles World Airports Planning – LAX
- Santa Monica Bay Restoration
- Gabrielino/Tongva San Gabriel Band of Mission Indians
- Tongva Ancestral Territorial Tribal Nation
- City Council District 5
- City Council District 11
- Assemblyman, District 53
- Assemblyman, District 51
- Assemblywoman, District 47
- Senator, District 28
- Del Rey Neighborhood Council
- Mar Vista Community Council
- Neighborhood Council of Westchester-Playa Del Rey
- West Los Angeles Neighborhood Council
- Palms Neighborhood Council
- Venice Neighborhood Council
- Westside Neighborhood Council

3.0 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT – PROJECT BRIEFINGS

LADWP identified seven neighborhoods councils and two City Council Districts in the project area and presented information to those groups regarding the project and opportunities for input, as part of early public consultation (CCR Section 15083). LADWP attended the neighborhood council meetings listed below and provided short briefings to the communities and council members about the project and public scoping meetings.

| NEIGHBORHOOD MEETINGS ATTENDED | | | |
|--|--|----------------------|-----------|
| Neighborhood Group | Location | Date | Time |
| Mar Vista Community Council | Mar Vista Rec Center 11430 Woodbine Street, Mar Vista | Tuesday 9/14/10 | 7:00 p.m. |
| Venice Neighborhood Council | Westminster Elementary School Auditorium 1010 Abbott Kinney Boulevard, Venice | Tuesday 9/21/10 | 7:00 p.m. |
| Los Angeles Council District 11 | CD 11 WLA District Office 1645 Corinth Avenue (Room 201) | Thursday 9/30/10 | 2:30 p.m. |
| Neighborhood Council of Westchester – Playa del Rey | Westchester Municipal Bldg. Council Community Room 7166 W. Manchester Ave., Westchester | Tuesday 10/5/10 | 6:30 p.m. |
| Palms Neighborhood Council | Iman Cultural 3376 Motor Ave., Palms | Wednesday 10/6/10 | 7:00 p.m. |
| Los Angeles Council District 5 | CD 5 District Office 822 South Robertson Boulevard Suite 102 | Tuesday 10/12/10 | 1:30 p.m. |
| Del Rey Neighborhood Council | Courtyard by Marriot 13480 Maxella Ave., Marina Del Rey | Thursday 10/14/10 | 7:00 p.m. |
| Westside Neighborhood Council | Western Pavilion 10800 W. Pico Boulevard, Room A | Thursday 10/14/10 | 7:00 p.m. |

Project information and involvement opportunities were provided to the West L.A. Neighborhood Council for distribution to its mailing list.

4.0 PUBLIC SCOPING MEETINGS

In compliance with CCR Section 15082(c), LADWP conducted two public scoping meetings in an open house format. The purpose of the meeting was to inform the public about the project; describe the purpose and need of the project; provide information regarding the environmental review process; and gather public input regarding the scope and content of the EIR and establishment of siting criteria for the proposed underground transmission line. The public scoping meetings were held on the following dates and locations:

October 26, 2010; 5:30 to 8:30 pm
West Los Angeles Municipal Building
1645 West Corinth Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90025

November 4, 2010; 5:30 to 8:30 pm
Courtyard Marriot, Palos Verde Meeting Room
13480 Maxella Avenue
Marina Del Rey, CA 90292

The scoping meetings were announced in the NOP, at the above-listed neighborhood council briefings, and on the project-specific website (www.ladwp.com/Scattergood-Olympic). The meetings were also advertised in several local papers as follows (refer to Appendix D for copies of the newspaper advertisements):

- The Argonaut – October 14, 2010
- Brentwood News – November 2010
- Canyon News – October 17, 2010
- Culver City News – October 14, 2010
- Daily Breeze – October 15, 2010
- Los Angeles Times (legal notice) – October 12, 2010
- Los Angeles Times (display ad) – October 15, 2010
- Los Angeles Sentinel – October 14, 2010
- La Opinion – October 15, 2010
- Los Angeles Watts Times – October 14, 2010
- Palisadian Post – October 14, 2010
- Wave, Culver City edition – October 14, 2010
- Wave (Inglewood/Hawthorne/Gardena/Lawndale) – October 14, 2010

Display boards and a large project map were set up at stations around the room covering the following topics. Copies of the display boards are included in Appendix D.

- Welcome
- Large Project Map of Study Area
- Purpose of Open House
- Project Objectives
- Project Description
- Development of Potential Routes – Engineering Siting Criteria
- Development of Potential Routes – Environmental Siting Criteria
- Environmental Impact Report
- Electric and Magnetic Fields
- EMF Factors to Consider
- CEQA Process/Timeline
- We Want to Hear from You
- Public Participation – Next Steps
- GIS Comment Stations

Project team members were available to answer questions about the displays and other project-related topics. The following team members also listened to feedback, concerns and issues raised by the public:

- Charles Holloway – Manager of Environmental Planning & Assessment - LADWP
- Julie Van Wagner – Environmental Project Manager – LADWP
- Vincent Curci – Transmission Engineering - LADWP
- Kishan Kasandra – Transmission Engineering – LADWP

- Victoria Cross – Community Relations – LADWP
- Dr. Michael Kelsh – EMF Specialist – Exponent
- Thomas Ryan – Environmental Planner – POWER Engineers, Inc.
- Karen Cadavona – Public Involvement Specialist – POWER Engineers, Inc.
- Stephanie Bennett – Public Involvement Specialist – POWER Engineers, Inc.
- Andy Bartos – GIS Specialist – POWER Engineers, Inc.
- Jill Norton – GIS Specialist – POWER Engineers, Inc.

Attendees of the public scoping meetings were given an overview of the layout of the room and stations as they entered the meeting location. Each attendee was asked to sign in and was given a packet of information including a project fact sheet, study area map, and a comment form.

A total of 70 people signed in at the two scoping meetings (36 on October 26, 2010, and 34 on November 4, 2010). Four (4) people identified themselves as being affiliated with community groups, while two (2) identified themselves as working with City Councilmembers. Attendees were encouraged to comment either by filling out a comment form or at one of the two interactive GIS comment stations.

To allow LADWP to consider public input on the proposed project prior to preparation of the EIR, the public was also encouraged to comment by email, phone or mail by November 12, 2010. The following information was listed on all project materials, including official notification:

- E-mail: Scattergood-Olympic@ladwp.com
- Call: Toll-free (877) 735-8407
- Mail to: Scattergood-Olympic Transmission Line Project
Los Angeles Department of Water and Power
Attn: Julie Van Wagner, Environmental Project Manager
111 North Hope Street; Room 1044
Los Angeles. CA 90012

Information was also made available through the project website www.ladwp.com/Scattergood-Olympic.

5.0 SCOPING COMMENTS SUMMARY

This section summarizes the comments received from the public and agencies during the scoping period for the proposed project from October 12, 2010 to November 12, 2010. A total of 54 comments was received during the scoping period. A letter from the Los Angeles County Department of Beaches & Harbors dated November 30, 2010 was received after the scoping period deadline but has been included in this report. Of that number:

- 48 comments were received from the public (three commenters identified themselves on the sign-in sheet as being affiliated with the Mar Vista Community Council but did not specify that their comments reflected the opinion of the Community Council).
- Five (5) comments were received from agencies.
- One (1) comment was received from a Community Group.
- One (1) comment was received from a City Councilmember.

Comments were received at the scoping meetings and via e-mail and mail. At the scoping meetings, comments were provided by attendees by submittal of a comment form, and by submittal of comments at one of two interactive GIS stations.

Submittal of comments via the interactive GIS stations at the scoping meetings allowed recordation and spatial illustration of comments by geographic location. Stakeholders within the project study area were able to base their comments on their property address or to identify areas of concern outside of their neighborhoods, residences or business locations. Appendix A-1 includes the transcribed comments submitted regarding the project. The purpose of providing transcribed comments is to assist readers who may have difficulty reading some handwritten comments. Appendix A-2 includes copies of the original comments as received during the NOP scoping period (including the comment letter that was submitted by the Los Angeles County Department of Beaches & Harbors after closing of the scoping period, as noted above) – the comments are organized by comment submittal type (i.e., comment form, e-mail, mail, and via GIS station). The original GIS comments include the comment identification number keyed to an aerial based map.

To help LADWP determine the scope and issues to be addressed in the Draft EIR, written comments were included in the scoping analysis. Below is a summary of the issues and comments that were raised by the public and agencies; the comments are organized by issue topic.

5.1 Project Need and Objectives

Public comment regarding the Purpose and Need for the Scattergood-Olympic Transmission Line Project included an acknowledgement that it is a necessary endeavor in order to comply with federally mandated regulations and to better serve the West Los Angeles area. The sentiment was not shared by all stakeholders, however, and some members of the public expressed concerns verbally and in writing regarding the need for an additional underground line from Scattergood Generating Station to Olympic Receiving Station. Public comment included skepticism about whether more energy is really needed in the area and who it would benefit. One member of the public wanted to know if the energy would be sold or used to generate power in the local community. Another asked if the project was needed due to development in the area and stated that if that is the case, development should pay for the new line.

5.2 Alternatives

Alternatives were not identified or presented at the scoping meetings. Instead, the public was shown a project boundary map and asked to help identify criteria for siting a transmission line within the proposed project area. This approach to siting the transmission line was designed to allow the public to have as much input as possible in determining the alternatives and issues that will be addressed as part of the project and EIR.

While some residents were pleased to have an opportunity to help identify criteria, others questioned the absence of alternatives and wanted the study area expanded. Many comments had specific advice regarding alternatives. One commenter also inquired about a bottleneck shape around Lincoln Boulevard between Manchester Avenue and Jefferson Boulevard and whether that meant LADWP had already determined to route the line down Lincoln Boulevard between these two streets. Members of the public asked if the study area could be expanded to include Sepulveda Boulevard from Manchester Parkway to Centinela Boulevard. One comment suggested routing the line east on Westchester Parkway (no homes, wide street), using the vacant land Los Angeles World Airports (LAWA) owns adjacent to Westchester Parkway, or sending the transmission line east on Imperial (a State Highway.) There was also concern that topographical maps need to be studied because of the steepness of hills in the area, including Manchester Boulevard in Playa del Rey.

The Westwood South of Santa Monica Boulevard Homeowners Association (Association) suggested that LADWP consider a route that could provide the neighborhood with an opportunity to have existing power

lines that are above-ground placed underground. The Association believes the area has experienced significant cumulative impacts from recent and current transportation-related projects (Santa Monica Boulevard Parkway, 405 HOV, EXPO line) and suggested that any new projects involving transit corridors remain west of the area. The Association also noted that the Westwood South of Santa Monica Boulevard area is adjacent to a number of large traffic generating centers (UCLA, Westwood Village, Century City) and claims neighborhood streets cannot absorb any additional impacts. The Association also stated that alternatives near Pico/Olympic should be avoided because an environmental process is already underway in that area and it would be inappropriate to site a line in that area until the first study is concluded.

In its letter dated November 30, 2010, the Los Angeles County Department of Beaches & Harbors suggested that siting of the project be coordinated with the Los Angeles Department of Public Works to consider an option to construct the new transmission line along the bluff that is located between the beach and Vista del Mar Avenue to provide an opportunity to improve the slope in the area. To that end, it was suggested that doing so would help to minimize traffic lane interruptions along Vista del Mar Avenue.

5.3 Human Environment Issues

Air Quality

The South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) submitted comments regarding the analysis of potential air quality impacts from the proposed project that should be included in the Draft EIR. The SCAQMD requests that a copy of the Draft EIR and all supporting technical reports be sent for review upon its completion. The SCAQMD emphasized that documents related to the air quality and greenhouse gas analyses and electronic versions of all air quality modeling and health risk assessment files should be included, and made particular mention of original emission calculation spreadsheets and modeling files.

Construction Impacts

Several members of the public expressed concern about construction impacts and the time required to build a new transmission line. Some comments focused on the time required and questioned why the project would take two and a half years to complete. Others focused on specific areas they felt could not handle the impacts of construction.

One commenter asked if the construction of the Bundy-Olympic Medical Center has been considered, since it will run concurrently with the proposed Scattergood-Olympic Transmission Line Project. Some wondered what could be done to minimize disruptions to residences, traffic and the community. One community group asked that LADWP consider staying west of their area because it has experienced significant cumulative impacts from recent, current and projected transportation-related projects.

One commenter had a number of specific questions regarding construction (and construction equipment) of the line in regards to Vista del Mar Lane, including the vehicle weight limit on Vista del Mar Lane, the vehicle weight limit on Manchester Avenue west of Pershing Drive, the weight of one reel of cross-linked polyethylene (XLPE) transmission line, the weights of delivery trucks, and how many reels (of transmission line) per truck. The same commenter asked why three fiber optic conduits are being installed.

Cost/Benefits

Some members of the public asked who was bearing the cost of the new line. One commenter suggested that if the project provides power to other cities, towns, etc., that they should pay a percentage of the cost.

One comment submitted by a community group stated that they hoped a more direct (and less costly) route can be identified, perhaps one that will provide a neighborhood with the opportunity to have existing power lines that are currently above-ground placed underground as part of the project so that a benefit can be obtained for those who will “host” the line.

Electric and Magnetic Fields (EMF)

Significant concern was raised over electric and magnetic fields (EMF). Several comments were made asking LADWP to avoid narrow/residential streets due to EMF so that a setback of 37.5 feet would be in place. Some commenters asked LADWP to adhere to the same setback requirements as those established by the California Department of Education, the Los Angeles Unified School District and the Mar Vista Community Council.

Some commenters asked that shielding be considered in areas where the line could be closer than 37.5 feet from residences. One commenter questioned the success rate of shielding, however, and asked several questions regarding what happens to the magnetic field with shielding on the top and sides, including whether it is absorbed by the shield or directed downward.

Members of the public also asked that the EIR include the health effects of EMF on humans, which are reported in epidemiological studies conducted by Dr. Sander Greenland of UCLA. Another comment mentioned the California Department of Health Services study that concluded living near high voltage transmission lines can increase the risk of certain diseases or health issues. The commenter asked that the EIR respond to the study.

One commenter stated that he has a shunt in his brain as the result of an aneurism and was concerned about the effects of EMF on the shunt. Another questioned whether EMF has the potential for pacemaker interference and asked that it be addressed in the EIR.

Noise

Members of the public had questions about the noise levels due to the operation of a transmission line, including what the anticipated levels are at nearby residences. Members of the public inquired about the average noise (in decibels) produced by the energized Scattergood-Olympic power line. There were also questions about what mitigation measures can be taken to reduce or eliminate noise, induced voltages, and other impacts.

Property Values

Several residents expressed concern over their property values should the line be sited near their property. Many fear the line will cause their home values to decrease.

Public Health and Safety

Many comments expressed a great deal of concern regarding the existence of a 30-inch gas pipeline under Inglewood Boulevard. Most of the residents who expressed this concern mentioned the explosion in San Bruno, California. Several stakeholders asked that the EIR include a complete list of all pipelines (gas, petroleum, etc.) that are located within the project area.

A few comments were submitted regarding the possibility of gas line explosions occurring simultaneously with the electrical surges as part of the normal end-of-life burnout of underground high voltage power lines. Many wanted to know the risk.

One commenter also asked whether the project addresses the possibility the cable could be a target of terrorism.

LADWP received a few comments from residents on Armacost Avenue who believe the age demographics of their block (there are about 20 young children on the street) constitute a unique environment that should be considered for health and safety reasons.

One commenter asked that the following issues be addressed in the EIR regarding safety: animal contact area concerns, residential water and gas pipe shocking concerns, power circuit resonance conditions, impacts of new gas and water line installations in powerline rights-of-way, induced voltages onto fences and light poles, and tingling sensations at swimming pools and outdoor water faucets.

Public Services and Utilities

Many commenters wanted to know if LADWP has considered impacts to other lines including sewer, oil and electric. One commenter asked about the impacts of the line on radio, television and communication circuits (mobile or stationary.)

Traffic

The public and one agency (Los Angeles County Department of Beaches & Harbors) expressed both general and specific concerns regarding traffic impacts during construction of the Scattergood-Olympic Transmission Line Project. Many asked that those impacts be considered when selecting the route and mentioned specific areas and streets for consideration in this regard, including Marina Del Rey, Lincoln Boulevard, Vista del Mar Avenue, and areas adjacent to Dockweiler State Beach. The Department of Beaches & Harbors expressed specific concerns about potential project-related construction traffic impacts along Lincoln Boulevard and Vista del Mar Avenue and adjacent to Dockweiler State Beach, and asked that LADWP consider existing public projects in the area as well as ways to minimize construction impacts during high peak season at marina and beach areas (e.g., parking areas). Some citizens wanted to know how LADWP would coordinate with the public during construction to help lessen traffic impacts. Many comments mentioned other present and future projects (including a rail line) and expressed concern that traffic would be overwhelming.

5.4 Natural Environment Issues

Hazardous Materials/Soils

Agency concerns included the issue of soil contamination. The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) asks that if, during the implementation of the project, soil contamination is suspected that construction in the area be stopped and appropriate health and safety procedures be implemented. DTSC also asks that if contaminated soils exist, the draft EIR identify how any required investigation and/or remediation will be conducted and which agency will provide oversight.

One member of the public had a number of questions regarding the heat of the soil as a result of the transmission line and asked the EIR to identify the temperature of the soil above the line, ten feet away and 20 feet away. The same commenter asked what type of backfill will be used in the trench built for the line and what is the thermal resistivity of the backfill.

Cultural Resources

One agency, the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC), identified that Native American Cultural Resources were identified within one-half mile of, but not in, the Area of Potential Effect (APE).

As the state “trustee agency” pursuant to Public Resources Code 21070 for the protection and preservation of California’s Native American Cultural Resources, they are recommending early consultation with Native American tribes in the area to avoid unanticipated discoveries once the project is underway. The lead agency for the Scattergood-Olympic Transmission Line Project is required to assess whether the project will have an adverse impact on these resources within the APE, and if so, to mitigate that effect. State law also addresses Native American Religious Expression in Public Resource Code 5097.9. The NAHC did perform a Sacred Lands File (SLF) search in the NAHC SLF Inventory, established by the Legislature pursuant to Public Resources Code 5097. 94(a), and Native American Cultural Resources were identified within one-half mile of, but not in, the APE. The NAHC recommends using “consulting parties” from the tribes that may have knowledge of the religious and cultural significance of the historic properties in the project area (i.e., APE). A Native American Tribe or Tribal Elder may be the only source of information about a cultural resource. Also, the NAHC recommends that a Native American Monitor or Native American culturally knowledgeable person be employed whenever a professional archaeologist is employed during the “Initial Study” and in other phases of the environmental planning processes.

Cumulative Impacts

One community group submitted a comment regarding the cumulative effects of several projects in their area. The Westwood South of Santa Monica Boulevard Homeowners Association believes they have experienced significant cumulative impacts from recent, current and projected transportation-related projects and suggest that any new projects that would involve transit corridors remain west of their area.

Other Comments

The City of Inglewood submitted a comment acknowledging the receipt of the NOP for the Scattergood-Olympic Transmission Line Project. They stated they had no initial comment but would like to be included in the distribution of the Draft EIR for review and comment.

6.0 NEXT STEPS IN THE EIR PROCESS

Comments received during the public scoping period will be considered during the preparation of the Draft EIR. The Project Team is currently developing potential alternative routes for siting of the proposed transmission line, and will consider public input as part of the project siting process. The anticipated completion of the Draft EIR is expected in Summer 2011. Although the public scoping period has ended (November 12, 2010), LADWP welcomes comments throughout the environmental review process. More public meetings (i.e., informational meetings) are scheduled for early 2011, and the 45-day public review period of the Draft EIR is expected to commence in Summer 2011. The Final EIR is expected in Fall 2011. The project is expected to be considered by the Board of Water and Power Commissioners in Winter 2011.