# Department of Water and Power



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October 8, 2010

To:

Agencies, Organizations, and Interested Parties

Subject:

Scattergood-Olympic Transmission Line Project

Notice of Preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Report

SCH Number 2009091085

The City of Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) is proposing to construct and operate the Scattergood-Olympic Transmission Line Project (SOTLP). As proposed, the SOTLP would be an underground 230,000 volts (230 kV) transmission line between the Scattergood Generating Station (SGS) and Olympic Receiving Station. The new underground transmission line would reinforce the SGS transmission system and provide continued reliability of electrical service to the western Los Angeles area. LADWP is the lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and will prepare an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the proposed project.

#### PROJECT LOCATION

The SGS is located at 12700 Vista Del Mar, about one mile southwest of the Los Angeles International Airport. The Olympic Receiving Station is located at 1840 Centinela Avenue, approximately one mile northwest of the Interstate 10/Interstate 405 interchange. The underground transmission line would connect these two locations and, to the maximum extent possible, be placed within existing public road rights-of-way. An alignment for the transmission line has not yet been determined, but will be within the defined study area. Please refer to the attached map for the study area.

### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The underground 230 kV transmission line cables would consist of plastic insulated copper conductors and installed within a trench three feet wide and seven to nine feet deep within public road rights-of-way. The trench would hold a five-conduit bank encased in concrete; three conduits would contain the power cables and the other conduits would contain fiber optic cables for communications within the LADWP system. Each conduit would be six to eight inches in diameter.

Cable splices would be installed in and accessed through prefabricated concrete maintenance vaults located along the alignment approximately every 1,500 to 2,200 feet. The maintenance vaults would be approximately 12 to 14 feet wide, 12 feet deep, and 36 to 38 feet long.

The Ballona Creek and Centinela Creek crossings would involve the installation of new conduits on the underside of or through the bridges; no additional construction activities would be required on either the bridges or within the creek channels. If approval to install conduits under or through the bridges is not granted by other city agencies, directional drilling would be used to install the conduits under the creeks to avoid disturbance to the creeks. Drilling pits and directional drilling equipment would be located within the existing road right-of-way and would require the closure of one lane.

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## **ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW**

In September 2009, LADWP prepared an Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) for the proposed SOTLP. Copies of the IS/MND may be found at the locations listed below or viewed electronically at the following website: <a href="http://www.ladwp.com/Scattergood-Olympic">http://www.ladwp.com/Scattergood-Olympic</a>.

Culver City Julian Dixon Library 4975 Overland Avenue Culver City, CA 90230

El Segundo Public Library 111 West Mariposa Avenue El Segundo, CA 90245 LADWP, Environmental Services Department 111 North Hope Street, Room 1044 Los Angeles, CA 90012

Marina Del Rey Library 4533 Admiralty Way Marina Del Rey, CA 90292

In response to comments received, LADWP determined that the project should undergo further review through the preparation of an EIR. In compliance with CEQA, LADWP will prepare the EIR to: 1) inform decision makers and the public of the potential environmental impacts that are expected to result from the construction, operation, and maintenance of the proposed project; 2) determine ways to minimize or avoid significant effects; and 3) identify alternatives that may avoid or minimize potential significant impacts.

## POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT

From the IS/MND and public input, the topics listed below were identified as having the potential for significant impacts, with or without incorporation of mitigation. Environmental studies will be conducted as part of the EIR review process and will identify potential impacts associated with the proposed project.

- air quality
- biological resources
- cultural resources
- geology and soils
- hazards and hazardous materials
- hydrology and water quality

- land use planning
- noise
- public services
- traffic and transportation
- utilities and service systems

# PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Public input is an important part of the SOTLP. LADWP will conduct two public scoping meetings, in an open house format, to inform the public about the project, purpose and need, siting criteria for an underground transmission line, and environmental review process.

October 26, 2010; 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. West Los Angeles Municipal Building Hearing Room #200 1645 West Corinth Avenue Los Angeles, CA 90025 Parking on the northwest corner of Iowa & Corinth November 4, 2010; 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Courtyard Marriot, Palos Verde Meeting Room 13480 Maxella Avenue Marina Del Rey, CA 90292

<u>Organizations and Interested Parties</u>: LADWP is soliciting input from organizations and interested parties regarding the scope and content of the environmental information to be included in the EIR, as well as the siting criteria for an underground transmission line.

Agencies: For government agencies with statutory responsibility, due to the time limits mandated by state law, your response must be sent at the earliest possible date but not later than 30 days after receipt of this notice (PRC Section 21080.4 and CEQA Guidelines Section 150282 (b)). The response should identify significant environmental issues, reasonable alternatives, and mitigation measures that will need to be explored in the Draft EIR, and whether the agency would request to be considered a responsible agency or trustee agency for the project.

#### **COMMENTS**

Please submit comments regarding the Scattergood-Olympic Transmission Line Project by **November 12, 2010** by any one of the following ways:

- At the public scoping meetings
- E-mail: <u>Scattergood-Olympic@ladwp.com</u>
- Call: Toll-free (877) 735-8407
- Mail to: Scattergood-Olympic Transmission 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

Charle C. Holley Signature

Charles C. Holloway

Manager of Environmental Planning and Assessment

Scattergood - Olympic Transmission Line Project

