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**DATE:** March 7, 2016

**TO:** Agencies, Organizations, and Interested Parties

**SUBJECT:** Notice of Availability of Draft Environmental Impact Report for the Sylmar Ground Return System Replacement Project (SCH #2010091044)

The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) has prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Report (Draft EIR) for consideration of the Sylmar Ground Return System (SGRS) Replacement Project. The Draft EIR addressed by way of this notice represents a revised Draft EIR for the Project that was previously addressed in a Draft EIR that was released for agency and public review in May 2014. The revised Draft EIR is being recirculated in its entirety because the proposed Project, while focused on the same basic objectives, has changed substantially in its scope and location compared to the Project addressed in the previously released Draft EIR. The LADWP is the lead agency for the Project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

#### Project Location

The proposed Project would be located primarily in Santa Monica Bay but would also include a small landside portion located in an existing parking lot on the south side of Pacific Coast Highway (PCH) at Sunset Boulevard, where the existing Gladstone Vault is located. The Gladstone Vault is the termination point of the existing underground segment of the SGRS. The proposed SGRS marine cables would extend from the Gladstone Vault beneath Will Rogers State Beach and under the ocean floor to the proposed electrode array located in the Santa Monica Bay approximately two miles offshore. See the attached Project map.

#### Project Description

The LADWP is proposing to replace the existing marine cables and the marine electrode portions of the SGRS. The replacement facility will be located in the vicinity of the existing SGRS marine facility in Santa Monica Bay. The existing marine facility would be decommissioned and abandoned in place after the replacement marine facility is placed in service. While the new marine facility would be in a different alignment than the existing, it would serve the same purpose and function as the existing facility. The SGRS is an integral component of the Pacific Direct Current Intertie Transmission Line (PDCI), which transmits bulk power between Los Angeles and the Pacific Northwest. The PDCI is a direct current system, and it cannot operate reliably without a ground return system. Due to physical and operational system deficiencies with the existing marine facility of the SGRS, its replacement is proposed to increase the reliability and stability of the power generation and delivery system for Southern California; to continue to meet current and projected demand for power in the region; and to help increase the available share of renewable resource energy for the PDCI partners.

From the Gladstone Vault, the new marine cables would extend to a new electrode array in the Santa Monica Bay. The marine cables would be installed several feet beneath the ocean floor by means of a water-jet plow to the site of the proposed electrode array, approximately two miles offshore. This would entail two parallel furrows, approximately 20 feet apart, each containing a 3.2-inch diameter bundled set of three cables encased in a high-density polyethylene jacket.

The electrode array would be located on the ocean floor at a depth of approximately 100 feet below mean sea level. The array would be composed of 36 concrete vaults, arranged in two rows of 18 vaults. Each vault and row would be spaced approximately 30 feet apart. Each vault would be 20 feet long, eight feet wide, and four feet high. The vaults would rest directly on the ocean floor.

**Impacts of the Project**

The Draft EIR found that implementation of the proposed Project, including the implementation of identified Best Management Practices and Mitigation Measures, would result in temporary but significant unavoidable adverse impact during Project construction related to air quality. No permanent significant impacts to air quality, or any other resource, would result from Project operation.

**Public Review of the Draft EIR**

The 45-day public review period for the Draft EIR will commence on March 10, 2016 and conclude on April 25, 2016. A copy of the document and project information will be posted on the Project website at [www.ladwp.com/envnotices](http://www.ladwp.com/envnotices). The document will also be available for review at the following locations:

<b>REPOSITORY SITE</b>	<b>ADDRESS</b>
LADWP Environmental Affairs Call for an appointment 213-367-1745	111 North Hope Street, Room 1044 Los Angeles, CA 90012
Palisades Branch Library	861 Alma Real Drive Pacific Palisades, CA 90272

**Ways to Submit Comments**

During the public review period, written comments concerning the adequacy of the environmental analysis contained in the revised Draft EIR may be submitted in one of the ways listed below. Comments must be received by 5:00 p.m. at the end of the review period on April 25, 2016. Please note, as provided by Section 15088.5(f)(1) of the CEQA Guidelines, comments received from the previously released Draft EIR are part of the administrative record; however, those comments will not receive a formal written response in the Final EIR for the Project. Only for those comments received on this revised Draft EIR will written responses be prepared for inclusion in the Final EIR following the public review period. If you require additional information regarding this notice, please contact Ms. Nancy Chung at (213) 367-0404.

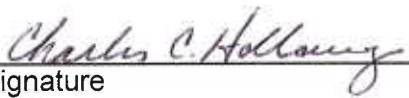
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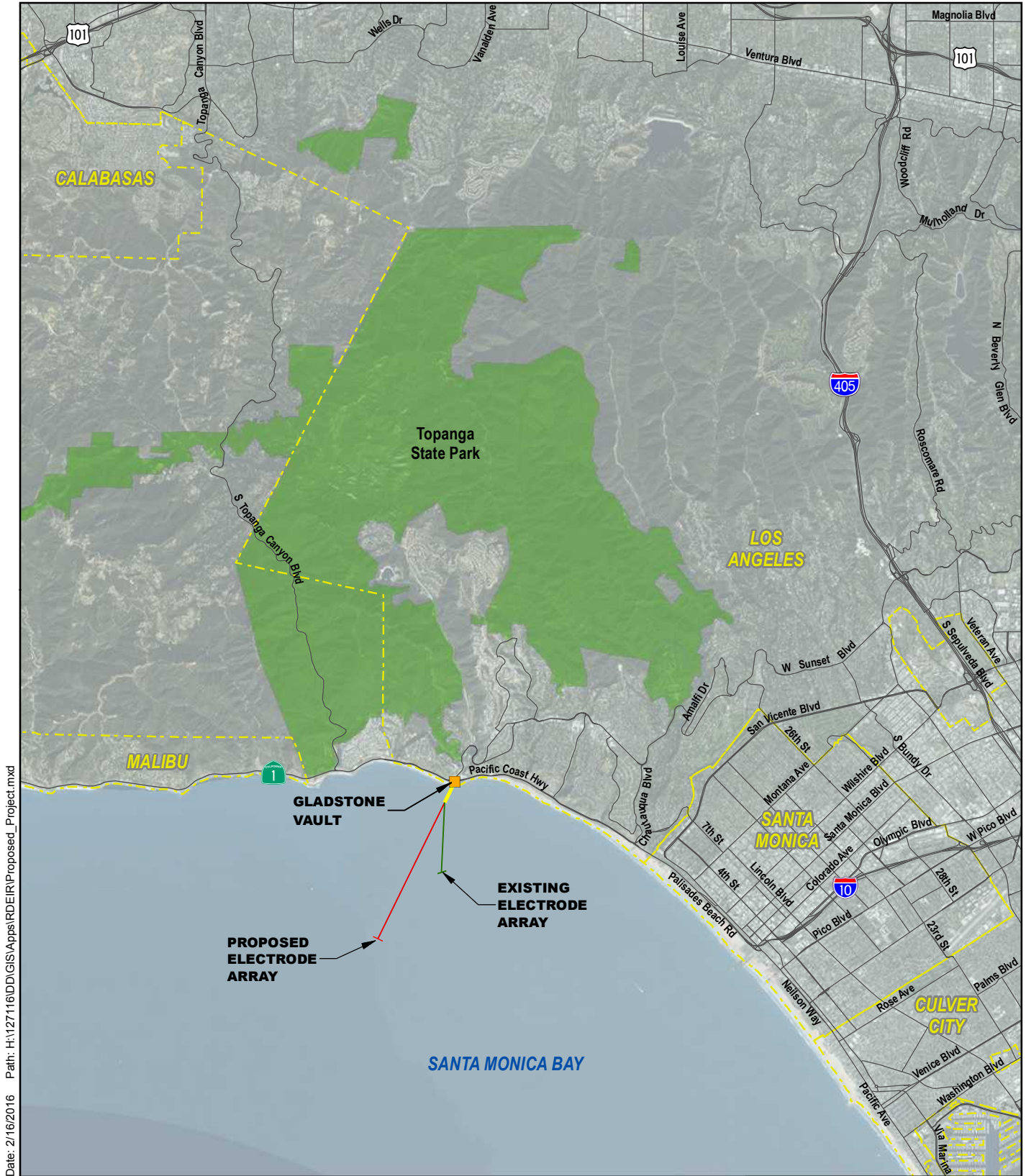
- Email to [SylmarGroundReturnProject@ladwp.com](mailto:SylmarGroundReturnProject@ladwp.com)
- Send written comments by mail to:

Los Angeles Department of Water and Power  
Sylmar Ground Return System Replacement Project  
Attn: Nancy Chung, Environmental Project Manager  
P. O. Box 51111, Room 1044  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

  
Signature

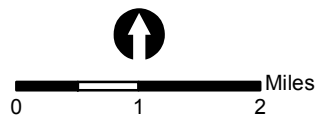
Charles C. Holloway  
Manager of Environmental Assessment





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- Proposed Marine Cables
- Existing Marine Cables
- - - Existing Conduit



<b>PROPOSED PROJECT</b>
SYLMAR GROUND RETURN SYSTEM REPLACEMENT PROJECT