

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF A DRAFT SUPPLEMENT TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT AND NOTICE OF A PUBLIC MEETING

Date: December 12, 2024

To: Interested Agencies, Organizations, and Parties

Subject: Notice of Availability of a Draft Supplement to the Environmental Impact Report for the Los Angeles Groundwater Replenishment Project

A Draft Supplement to the Environmental Impact Report (SEIR) has been prepared by the City of Los Angeles (City), as represented by the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) and the Los Angeles Department of Public Works Bureau of Sanitation (LASAN), to supplement the evaluation of potential environmental effects that may result from development of certain modifications to the facilities at the Japanese Garden Lake, which is a change to the previously-approved Los Angeles Groundwater Replenishment Project (LAGRP). The changes at the Japanese Garden Lake are referred to here as the “Proposed Project.” LADWP is identified as the lead agency and LASAN is identified as a responsible agency for the Proposed Project under the California Environmental Quality Act. The Proposed Project would allow for recycled water that currently flows through the Japanese Garden Lake and discharges into the Los Angeles (LA) River from the Donald C Tillman Water Reclamation Plant (DCTWRP) to be diverted back to the DCTWRP as influent for treatment at the Advanced Water Purification Facility (AWPF) and eventual recharge to groundwater or other recycled water use consistent with the LAGRP. LADWP is requesting input from individuals, stakeholders, organizations, and agency representatives that may be interested in the Proposed Project and the content of the environmental analysis and information included in the Draft SEIR.

Project History

LADWP had previously prepared the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Los Angeles Groundwater Replenishment (LAGRP) Project (State Clearinghouse No. 2013091023). The previously-approved LAGRP Project would replenish the San Fernando Groundwater Basin with up to 30,000 acre-feet per year of recycled water from the DCTWRP. The LAGRP Project was undertaken in accordance with the Los Angeles Mayor’s 2014 Executive Directive No. 5 (Emergency Drought Response) and 2015 Sustainable City Plan, the 2010 Los Angeles Urban Water Management Plan, the 2012 Recycled Water Master Plan, and the 2012 Groundwater Replenishment Master Plan. Since the certification of the LAGRP EIR, the City has continued to enact and maintain water conservation efforts that have reduced the volume of wastewater influent available to DCTWRP. Implementation of the Proposed Project would provide additional influent for

DCTWRP to more effectively utilize the existing treatment facilities and maintain an adequate volume of recycled water supply to serve as influent to the AWPf.

Project Description

The Proposed Project consists of the installation of approximately 90 linear feet of buried 16-inch diameter stainless steel pipeline. This would link the existing outlet pipeline of the Japanese Garden Lake to the existing intake pipeline that routes wastewater to the DCTWRP headworks facility from the Additional Valley Outfall Relief Sewer. New diversion structures and valves would be installed at the outlet and on the DCTWRP wastewater intake pipeline to allow for the diversion of water from the Japanese Garden Lake to the DCTWRP, for eventual recharge to groundwater or other recycled water use consistent with the previously-approved LAGRP. The new pipeline would be buried approximately 25 feet below grade and would require excavation along its alignment. Installation of the pipeline and valves would take approximately ten active working days to complete and would occur intermittently over a period of up to three months. As a result of the project modifications, there would be a decrease in flow of recycled water to the LA River. This change in the point of discharge, place of use, and purpose of use of recycled water from DCTWRP would result in an average decrease in flow of approximately four million gallons a day (MGD) to the LA River downstream of the Japanese Garden discharge point and is subject to the discretionary approval by the State Water Resources Control Board.

Project Location

DCTWRP is located at 6100 Woodley Avenue, in the Encino and Van Nuys community of the City of Los Angeles. DCTWRP is located within the Sepulveda Basin which is owned and managed by the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers (Corps) for flood control, recreation opportunities, natural resources preservation and enhancement, and other uses. DCTWRP is operated by LASAN under a lease agreement with the Corps.

The Japanese Garden, dedicated in 1984, occupies approximately 6.5 acres in the northwest corner of the DCTWRP property. The existing 108-inch diameter buried discharge pipeline from the Japanese Garden Lake travels southeast through the Sepulveda Basin, beneath the Sepulveda Dam, and discharges to the LA River approximately 900 feet downstream of the dam.

Summary of Environmental Impacts

The draft SEIR provides further analysis for potential impacts in three areas: biological resources, hydrology and water quality, and recreation due to the potential for the project modifications to result in new environmental impacts that were not previously considered in the 2016 EIR. A U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Hydrologic Engineering Center River Analysis System (HEC-RAS) model of hydraulics in the LA River channel was developed to support further analysis of potential impacts to the three environmental factors due to

project modifications and the approximate four MGD recycled water diverted from the LA River. The HEC-RAS model determined the project modifications would result in reductions in water depth less than one inch within the relevant reaches of the LA River. Therefore, the Proposed Project would result in either no impacts or less than significant impacts to biological resources, hydrology and water quality, and recreation related to construction and operation activities. The Proposed Project was determined to not have new or substantially more severe impacts as a result of construction and operation activities to other environmental resource factors.

Public Meeting

LADWP will hold a virtual Public Meeting to share information regarding the Proposed Project and the environmental review process, and to receive comments regarding the contents of the environmental analysis addressed in the Draft SEIR. LADWP encourages all interested individuals and organizations to attend this meeting. The date, time, and details for the virtual public meeting are as follows:



Date: Thursday, January 9, 2025

Time: 7:00 PM

Location: Zoom Conference: <https://zoom.us/j/99581586729>

Meeting ID: 995 8158 6729

Or by phone dial: +1 (669) 900 6833/Meeting ID: 995 8158 6729

Or by QR Code:

Verbal comments provided at the Public Meeting will be recorded so that they may be addressed in the preparation of the Final SEIR.

As a covered entity under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City of Los Angeles does not discriminate on the basis of disability and, upon request, will provide reasonable accommodation or other auxiliary aids and/or services may be provided upon request. To ensure availability, you are advised to make your request at least 72 hours prior to the meeting you wish to attend. Due to difficulties in securing Sign Language Interpreters, five or more business days notice is strongly recommended. For additional information, please contact: (213) 367-0706 and/or TDD: 1 (800) 432-7397.

Public Comment Period

The 60-day public comment period for this Notice of Availability will commence on **December 12, 2024** and conclude on **February 9, 2025**. The Draft SEIR is available for review on the LADWP website at <https://www.ladwp.com/reports/environmental-reports>. Written comments can be submitted via email or hard copy by the methods described below. Note that your name, address, and comments become public information and may be released to interested parties if requested.

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By Electronic Mail: Comments via email will be accepted as official comments. However, please remember to include your name and return address in the email message so that you can be added to the project mailing list for future project notifications. Emails should be sent to Aiden.Leong@ladwp.com.

Hard Copy Mail: Written comments must be postmarked by **February 9, 2025**. Please write legibly and indicate a contact name and return address in your comment letter. Mail your comments to:

Los Angeles Department of Water and Power
111 North Hope Street, Room 1044
Los Angeles, CA 90012
Attention: Mr. Aiden Leong
Email: Aiden.Leong@ladwp.com

Please remember to include your name and return address so that you can be added to the project mailing list for future project notifications. Written comments can be submitted via email or hard copy by the methods described above. Please note, the City's practice is to make the entirety of comments received a part of the public record. Therefore, names, home addresses, home phone numbers, and email addresses of commenters, if included in the response, will be made part of the record available for public review. Individual commenters may request that the City withhold their name and/or home addresses, etc., but if you wish the City to consider withholding this information, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comments. In the absence of this written request, this information will be made part of the record for public review. The City will always make submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, available for public inspection in their entirety.

Sincerely,



Jane Hauptman
Manager of Environmental Planning and Assessment