

CHAPTER 6: COORDINATION AND CONSULTATION

6.1 INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents the City of Los Angeles Department of Water and Power’s (LADWP) public and agency involvement and outreach activities, satisfying the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirements for public scoping and agency consultation and coordination for the Sylmar Ground Return System (SGRS) Replacement Project (Project). CEQA Guidelines Section 15129 states that an “EIR [Environmental Impact Report] shall identify all federal, state, or local agencies, other organizations, and private individuals consulted in preparing the draft EIR.” LADWP is the Lead Agency under CEQA for the proposed Project.

Consistent with CEQA, public participation and agency consultation for this Project have been accomplished through issuance of public notices, public scoping meetings, and formal and informal consultation with agencies, stakeholders, landowners, and Native American tribes. The consultation and coordination process helped to determine the scope of the Draft EIR and identify a range of alternatives and mitigation measures.

6.2 SCOPING PROCESS

Scoping is the process for determining the scope of issues to be addressed in the Draft EIR. The public, affected agencies, Native American tribes, and other interested parties are invited to participate in the environmental review process. The following sections summarize the scoping process.

6.2.1 Notice of Preparation

In compliance with CEQA Guidelines Section 15082, a Notice of Preparation (NOP) of an EIR was prepared that described the proposed Project and location, environmental review process, potential environmental effects, and contact information. The NOP was published in the Los Angeles Times on September 23, 2010. On September 24, 2010, the NOP (State Clearinghouse [SCH] No. 2010091044) was filed with the SCH; the scoping review period started on September 24, 2010 and ended on October 25, 2010. A copy of the NOP was distributed via certified U.S. mail to:

- 50 agencies (city, county, State, and federal)
- 5 elected officials
- 5 community organizations
- 6 businesses
- 9 libraries
- 15 schools

Please refer to Section 6.4 for a summary of Native American scoping comments, including those comments received in response to issuance of the NOP.

6.2.2 Scoping and Public Meetings

A scoping meeting was hosted by LADWP during the scoping review period on October 14, 2010, at the LADWP headquarters building in Los Angeles. Invitations were mailed in advance to jurisdictional agencies and agencies believed to have an interest in the Project; no invitees attended this meeting.

Additional public meetings were conducted on the dates and locations listed in Table 6-1. The purpose of the meetings was to inform the public about the Project; describe its purpose and need; provide

information regarding the environmental review process; and gather public input regarding the content of the Draft EIR.

TABLE 6-1 PUBLIC MEETING LOCATIONS

MEETING	LOCATION	DATE
Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council	19700 Rinaldi Street Porter Ranch, CA 91326	September 7, 2010
Brentwood Community Council Meeting	11820 San Vicente Boulevard Los Angeles, CA 90049	September 7, 2010
Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council Meeting	11128 Balboa Boulevard Granada Hills, CA 91344	September 9, 2010
Sylmar Neighborhood Council - Public Services Committee Meeting	13109 Borden Avenue Sylmar, CA 91342	September 14, 2010
Northridge West Neighborhood Council Meeting	19130 Tulsa Street Northridge, CA 91326	September 14, 2010
North Hills West Neighborhood Council Meeting	15725 Parthenia Street Los Angeles, CA 91343	September 15, 2010
Northridge East Neighborhood Council Meeting	9601 Zelzah Avenue Northridge, CA 91330	September 15, 2010
Reseda Neighborhood Council Meeting	7338 Canby Street Reseda, CA 91335	September 20, 2010
Tarzana Neighborhood Council Meeting	18321 Clark Street Tarzana, CA 91356	September 28, 2010
Pacific Palisades Chamber of Commerce	15330 Antioch Street Pacific Palisades, CA 90272	October 1, 2010
Chatsworth Neighborhood Council Meeting	10100 Variel Avenue Chatsworth, CA 91311	October 6, 2010
Old Granada Hills Residents' Group Meeting	10535 Zelzah Avenue Granada Hills, CA 91344	October 7, 2010
Brentwood Homeowners Association Meeting	Brentwood School (East Campus) 100 South Barrington Place Los Angeles, CA 90049	October 12, 2010
Pacific Palisades Community Council Meeting	Palisades Branch Library 861 Alma Real Drive Pacific Palisades, CA 90272	October 14, 2010
City of Santa Monica Public Meeting	Montana Avenue Branch 1704 Montana Ave Santa Monica, CA 90403	October 25, 2010

The public was also encouraged to comment by email, phone or U.S. mail by October 25, 2010. The following contact information was listed on the NOP:

Email: SylmarGroundReturnProject@ladwp.com
 Call: (213) 367-4710
 Mail to: Los Angeles Department of Water and Power
 111 North Hope Street, Room 1044
 Los Angeles, CA 90012

6.2.3 Scoping Comments Summary

A total of 424 comments were received during the scoping period from September 24, 2010 to October 25, 2010. The comments came from various sources, as summarized in Table 6-2, and were regarding various topics, as summarized below.

TABLE 6-2 SOURCE OF SCOPING COMMENTS

NUMBER OF COMMENTS	SOURCE OF COMMENT
407	Individuals
13	Agencies
	California Department of Fish and Wildlife (Trustee Agency)
	California Department of Parks and Recreation
	California Department of Transportation
	California State Lands Commission (Trustee and Responsible Agency)
	Brentwood Community Council
	Los Angeles City Council - 12 th District
	Los Angeles Unified School District
	Metropolitan Transportation Authority
	Native American Heritage Commission (Trustee Agency)
	Pacific Palisades Community Council
	Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy
	South Coast Air Quality Management District
	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
3	Organizations
	Brentwood Homeowners Association
	Topanga Canyon Docents
	Temescal Canyon Association

Aesthetics and Visual Resources

The Temescal Canyon Association, California Department of Parks and Recreation, Pacific Palisades Community Council, Topanga Canyon Docents, and the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy all commented on the Topanga State Park Alignment and the visual impacts this particular alignment would cause to the park. The Brentwood Community Council also strongly supported the undergrounding of as many of the replacement lines as possible to reduce aesthetic impacts. The Brentwood Homeowners Association also strongly supports the undergrounding of all existing overhead wires leading to the Kenter Canyon Terminal Tower.

Air Quality

The South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) recommended the identification of potentially adverse air quality impacts from all phases of the Project, as well as the preparation of a mobile health risk assessment. SCAQMD also stated that any significant adverse air quality impacts would require implementation of all feasible mitigation measures.

In addition, numerous members of the public were concerned about the air pollution the Project construction would generate in the Brentwood area.

Alternatives

Several Brentwood residents expressed support for the Topanga State Park Alignment over the San Vicente Alignment to avoid environmental impacts in the Brentwood area. The Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD), along with several other residents, wanted an alternative option that would remove the above ground electrical transmission lines that exist along the west side of Kenter Elementary School; LAUSD suggested undergrounding the portion of the above ground line that runs along the elementary school. In contrast, the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy opposed the Topanga State Park Alignment in favor of the San Vicente Alignment. The Pacific Palisades Community Council, Topanga Canyon Docents, Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, and the Temescal Canyon Association also opposed the proposed Topanga State Park Alignment. The Brentwood Homeowners Association stated that any action to tear up Kenter Avenue should be automatically rejected. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife requested that a range of alternatives be analyzed to ensure that alternatives to the proposed Project are fully considered and evaluated.

Biological Resources

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife commented that a complete assessment of flora and fauna within and adjacent to the Project area would be required, with particular emphasis upon identifying endangered, threatened, and locally unique species and sensitive habitats; direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts expected to adversely affect biological resources; an examination of potential mitigation measures; and required permits.

Cultural Resources

According to the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC), cultural resources were identified within one-half mile of the Topanga State Park Alignment. Consultation with tribes and interested Native American tribes was strongly encouraged as required by law.

Fire

Some residents commented on the potential fire hazard for residents in the Kenter Canyon area.

Hazards

The Brentwood Community Council expressed concern with the potential significant health impacts of the overhead electric lines; they requested that concerns of safety be fully studied in the Draft EIR. LAUSD commented that there could be larger electromagnetic field strengths from new aboveground power lines located adjacent to Kenter Elementary School because the new lines would be of larger diameter and carry a larger amount of electricity; as such, they requested the preparation of an analysis of EMF exposures to Kenter Elementary School students and staff related to existing power lines and proposed upgrade to determine if EMF exposure would increase or decrease.

Land Use

The California State Lands Commission commented that they should be consulted in regards to construction activities and permitting requirements.

Noise

Brentwood residents expressed concern regarding the level of noise that would be generated by the proposed Project over the construction period.

Recreation

A Los Angeles City Councilman from the 12th District suggested providing an off-street bicycle path along the main overhead alignment, beginning in Sylmar and ending at Mulholland Drive.

Transportation and Traffic

Several Brentwood residents expressed concerns regarding Project-related traffic impacts that would result from road closures and trench digging along heavily traveled routes such as Sunset Boulevard, Pacific Coast Highway, San Vicente Boulevard, Kenter Avenue, and the nearby intersection of Interstate 405. The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) recommended that LADWP provide a construction management plan and a cooperative agreement; Project coordination with Caltrans and the California Highway Patrol; and the limitation of construction truck trips to off-peak hours. The Metropolitan Transportation Authority requires a Traffic Impact Analysis and an analysis of development-related impacts to transit.

Water Resources

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife expressed concern related to effects on watercourses, or canalization or conversion of natural or human-made drainages. Also, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers commented that a permit for the discharge of dredged or fill material in waters or wetlands of the U.S. may be required, pursuant to the Clean Water Act.

6.3 AGENCY AND ELECTED OFFICIAL CONTACTS

In compliance with CEQA Guidelines Section 15129, Table 6-3 below identifies federal, state, or local agencies, other organizations, and private individuals contacted in preparation of this Draft EIR.

TABLE 6-3 AGENCY CONTACT SUMMARY

AGENCY	CONTACT
Federal	
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	Dan Swenson
National Marine Fishery Services	Bryant Chesney
State	
California Department of Parks and Recreation	Craig Sap, Suzanne Goode, Kathryn Tobias, David Wrightsman, Barbara Tejada, Tom Dore
California Coastal Commission	Allison Dettmer
State Lands Commission	Drew Simpkin, Grace Kato, Donn Oetzel
Local	
Los Angeles County Department of Beaches and Beaches	John Kelly
City of Santa Monica	Mark Cuneo, Greg DeVincu, Lee Swain, Terese Toomey, Bill Foley
PCH Partners	Various
Tribal	

AGENCY	CONTACT
San Fernando Band of Mission Indians	John Valenzuela, Tribal Administrator
Folkes, Chumash, Tataviam, Fernandeño	Beverly Salazar Folkes
Tongva Ancestral Territorial Tribal Nation	John Tommy Rosas, Tribal Administrator
Folkes, Chumash, Fernandeño, Tataviam, Shoshone Paiute, Yaqui	Randy Guzman-Folkes
Fernandeno Tataviam Band of Mission Indians	William Gonzales
Tehachapi Indian Tribe	Charles Cook
LA City/County Native American Indian Commission	Ron Andrade
Kitanemuk and Yowlumne Tejon Indians	Delia Dominguez
Gabrielino-Tongva Tribe	Bernie Acuna
Ti'At Society	Cindi Alvitre
Gabrielino-Tongva Tribe	Linda Candelaria, Chairwoman
Gabrielino Tongva Indians of California Tribal Council	Robert Dorame, Tribal Chair/Cultural
Gabrielino/Tongva Council/Gabrielino Tongva Nation	Samuel, H. Dunlap, Chairperson
Gabrieleno/Tongva Tribal Council	Anthony Morales, Chairperson
Santa Ynez Tribal Elders Council	Freddie Romero, Cultural Preservation Consultant
Shoshoneon Gabrieleno Band of Mission Indians	Andy Salas, Chairperson

As indicated above, agency, elected officials/staff received a copy of the NOP for review and comment. Additionally, LADWP met with the following elected local officials/staff prior and subsequent to the public scoping period on the dates listed below.

TABLE 6-4 ELECTED OFFICIAL CONTACTS

REPRESENTATIVES	LOCATION	DATE
LA City Council District 11 Norman Kulla, Northern District and Senior Counsel Jessyca R. Avalos, Field Deputy	CD 11 West LA Office, 1645 Corinth Avenue Room 201 Los Angeles, CA 90025	4/22/09
LA City Council District 11 Norman Kulla, Northern District Director and Senior Counsel Jessyca Avalos, Field Deputy	CD 11 West LA Office, 1645 Corinth Avenue Room 201 Los Angeles, CA 90025	9/9/09
LA City Council District 11 Norman Kulla, Northern District Director and Senior Counsel Jessyca Avalos, Field Deputy Sam Shink, Safeway Wesley Fieldhouse, Safeway	West LA District Office 1645 Corinth Ave #201 Los Angeles, CA 90025	1/12/10
LA City Council District 12 Megan Cottier, Field Deputy Sandy Clydesdale, District Director	CD 12 Field Office 18917 Nordhoff St., Suite 18 Northridge, CA 91324	2/23/10
La City Council District 11 Norman Kulla, Northern District Director and Senior Counsel Jessyca R. Avalos, Field Deputy Brentwood and Pacific Palisades Neighborhood Council Leaders	West LA District Office 1645 Corinth Ave #201 Los Angeles, CA 90025	5/11/10
LA City Council District 03 Octaviano Rios, Field Deputy Cara Goldman, District Director	CD 3 District office, 19040 Vanowen St., Reseda, CA	8/17/10
LA City Council District 11 Councilmember Bill Rosendahl	City of LA City Hall	11/9/10

REPRESENTATIVES	LOCATION	DATE
Laura McLennan		
LA City Council District 11 Norman Kulla, Northern District Director and Senior Counsel	1645 Corinth Ave., #201 Los Angeles, CA	2/28/12
CA State 41st Assembly District Timothy B. Lippman Senior Assistant	2800 28th St., Suite 150, Santa Monica, CA 90405	3/5/12
CA State Senate District 23 Kara Seward, Deputy District Director	2716 Ocean Park Blvd., Suite 3088 Santa Monica, CA 90405	3/16/12
County Supervisor District 3 Maria Chong-Castillo, Deputy	Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration 500 West Temple Street Los Angeles, CA 90012	3/22/12

6.4 FORMAL CONSULTATION

6.4.1 Native American Coordination

The NAHC was contacted on two occasions to perform a Sacred Lands File search in the NAHC Sacred Lands File Inventory, established by the Legislature pursuant to Public Resources Code 5097.94(a). Responses with tribal contact lists were received on September 7, 2009, and July 8, 2010. A third list was received from the NAHC on September 20, 2010, in its response to the CEQA NOP. The NAHC recommended using consulting parties from the tribes that may have knowledge of the religious and cultural significance of the historic properties in the Project area (e.g., areas of potential effect). A Native American tribe or Tribal Elder may be the only source of information about a cultural resource. Also, the NAHC recommended 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.

A first round of letters, sent on September 8, 2009, were sent to the contacts below asking for additional knowledge or concerns relative to cultural resources for the proposed Project:

- Mr. Charles Cook, Chumash, Fernandeno, Tataviam, Kitanemuk
- Ms. Beverly Salazar Folkes, Chumash, Tataviam, Fernandeno
- Mr. William Gonzales, Fernandeno Tataviam Band of Mission Indians, Cultural/Environmental Department
- Mr. Ron Andrade, LA City/County Native American Indian Community, Director
- Mr. John Tommy Rosas, Tongva Ancestral Territorial Tribal Nation, Tribal Administrator
- Mr. John Valenzuela, San Fernando Band of Mission Indians, Tribal Administrator
- Mr. Randy Guzman-Folkes, Chumash, Fernandeno, Tataviam, Shoshone Paiute, Yaqui

A second round of letters was sent on August 2, 2010, to the contacts below asking for additional knowledge or concerns relative to cultural resources for the proposed Project:

- Ms. Delia Dominguez, Kitanemuk and Yowlumne Tejon Indians
- Ms. Cindi Alvitte, Ti'At Society
- Mr. Charles Cook, Chumash, Fernandeno, Tataviam, Kitanemuk
- Ms. Beverly Salazar Folkes, Chumash, Tataviam, Fernandeno
- Mr. William Gonzales, Fernandeno Tataviam Band of Mission Indians, Cultural/Environmental Department
- Mr. Ron Andrade, LA City/County Native American Indian Community, Director

- Mr. John Valenzuela, San Fernando Band of Mission Indians, Tribal Administrator
- Mr. Randy Guzman-Folkes, Chumash, Fernandeano, Tataviam, Shoshone Paiute, Yaqui

A third round of letters was sent on October 15, 2010, to the contacts below asking for additional knowledge or concerns relative to cultural resources for the proposed Project:

- Mr. Anthony Morales, Gabrielino/Tongva Tribal Council, Chairperson
- Mr. Sam Dunlap, Gabrielino/Tongva Nation, Chairperson
- Mr. Robert Dorame, Gabrielino Tongva Indians of California Tribal Council, Tribal Chair/Cultural
- Mr. Bernie Acuna, Gabrielino-Tongva Tribe
- Mr. Andy Salas, Shoshonean Gabrielino Band of Mission Indians, Chairperson
- Ms. Linda Candelaria, Gabrielino-Tongva Tribe, Chairwoman
- Mr. Freddie Romero, Santa Ynez Tribal Elders Council, Cultural Preservation Consultant
- Mr. John Tommy Rosas, Tongva Ancestral Territorial Tribal Nation, Tribal Administrator
- Ms. Cindi Alvitre, Ti'At Society

Native American Scoping Comments

A total of four responses were received from three individuals, as shown in Table 6-5 below. All responses are documented in Appendix F, Cultural Resources Technical Report.

TABLE 6-5 NATIVE AMERICAN SCOPING COMMENTS

INDIVIDUAL	DATE RECEIVED	COMMENT SUMMARY
Mr. John Tommy Rosas, Tribal Administrator Tongva Ancestral Territorial Tribal Nation	9/11/2009	Stated that the CEQA document would be reviewed.
Mr. John Tommy Rosas, Tribal Administrator Tongva Ancestral Territorial Tribal Nation	10/18/2010	Stated that the Project would negatively affect sacred sites and that he officially objects to the Project.
Mr. Freddie Romero, Cultural Preservation Consultant, Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians Tribal Elders Council	10/29/2013	Stated no issues with the Project in terms of impacts to cultural resources and would have no further comments.
Mr. Andy Salas, Chairman, Shoshonean Gabrielino Band of Mission Indians	11/26/2010	Stated that the proposed Project is within one of the tribes' villages and is in a highly culturally sensitive area. In order to protect resources, requested one of their experienced and certified Native American monitors be retained to observe all ground disturbances related to the Project.

6.5 PUBLIC REVIEW OF DRAFT EIR

6.5.1 Notice of Completion

Per CEQA Guidelines Section 15085, the Notice of Completion is a document that must be filed with the SCH, Office of Planning and Research, when the Draft EIR is published. The CEQA Lead Agency shall also provide the public a Notice of Availability (NOA) of the Draft EIR (CEQA Guidelines Section 15087). The NOA will also include details for any scheduled public meetings or hearings (date, time, and place); a list of significant environmental effects; and whether the Project site is listed under Section 65962.5 of the Government Code (hazardous waste facilities). Pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15105, the public review period for a Draft EIR submitted to the SCH shall be no less than 45 days nor should it be longer than 60 days except under unusual circumstances.

6.5.2 Public Review

In accordance with CEQA requirements, this Draft EIR will be circulated for public and agency review and comment for a 45-day period.

Written comments received during the comment period associated with circulation of the Draft EIR will be addressed in the Final EIR. Comments will be accepted by email at SylmarGroundReturnProject@ladwp.com, and by writing to:

Sylmar Ground Return System Replacement Project
Los Angeles Department of Water and Power
Attn: Nadia Parker, Environmental Project Manager
111 North Hope Street, Room 1044
Los Angeles, CA 90012

6.5.3 Draft EIR Notification

An NOA of this Draft EIR was mailed to the agencies, elected officials, Native American tribes, and interested individuals and organizations on the Project mailing list. Newspaper advertisements also announced the public meetings.

6.5.4 Document Repository Sites

CEQA documents prepared as part of the proposed Project, including this Draft EIR and appendices, will be made available at the public repository sites listed in Table 6-6 and online (www.ladwp.com/envnotices).

TABLE 6-6 DOCUMENT REPOSITORY SITES

REPOSITORY SITE	ADDRESS
Los Angeles Department of Water and Power	111 North Hope Street, Room 1044 Los Angeles, CA 90012
Donald Bruce Kaufman – Brentwood Branch Library	11820 San Vicente Boulevard Brentwood, CA 90049
City of Santa Monica Main Library	601 Santa Monica Boulevard Santa Monica, CA 90401
Palisades Branch Library	861 Alma Real Drive Pacific Palisades, CA 90272

6.6 ADDITIONAL STEPS IN THE ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Following consideration of the comments received during the Draft EIR comment period, a Final EIR will be prepared and circulated per CEQA requirements. The Final EIR will include responses to all comments related to the adequacy of the EIR analysis. The completion of the Final EIR, and Project consideration by the Board of Water and Power Commissioners, is expected in Fall 2014.

6.7 LIST OF PREPARERS

A list of persons responsible for the preparation of various sections of the Draft EIR or preparation of significant background materials, or who participated to a significant degree in preparing the Draft EIR, is presented below.

LADWP—Lead Agency

- Charles Holloway, Manager of Environmental Planning and Assessment
- Nadia Parker, Environmental Project Manager
- Nancy Chung, Previous Environmental Project Manager

Consultants responsible for Draft EIR project management, document production, and technical analysis:

TABLE 6-7 LIST OF PREPARERS

NAME	PARTICIPATION
POWER Engineers, Inc.	
Court Morgan	Project Manager
Sarah Perez	Project Coordinator
Dan Woodward	Cultural Resources, Paleontology
David Barrackman	GIS, Graphics
Vanessa Santistevan	Biological Resources
Heidi Horner	Technical Editing
Sarice Gutman	Document Production
Fenner Associates	
Jeff Fenner	Technical Assistance
KOA	
Brian Marchetti	Traffic and Transportation
Scientific Resources Associated	
Valorie Thompson	Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Emission
Terry Hayes and Associates	
Sam Silverman	Noise
Burns & McDonnell	
Matt Wartian	Marine Resources
Steve Gruber	Marine Resources