

ERIC GARCETTI
Mayor

Commission
MEL LEVINE, *President*
WILLIAM W. FUNDERBURK JR., *Vice President*
JILL BANKS BARAD
MICHAEL F. FLEMING
CHRISTINA E. NOONAN
BARBARA E. MOSCHOS, *Secretary*

MARCIE L. EDWARDS
General Manager

NOTICE OF PREPARATION

DATE: May 9, 2014

TO: Affected Agencies, Organizations and Interested Parties

SUBJECT: Notice of Preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Report for the Elysian Park-Downtown Water Recycling Projects

The City of Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) is the Lead Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). LADWP will prepare an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Elysian Park-Downtown Water Recycling Projects (WRPs), which consists of two separate projects: The Elysian Park WRP and the Downtown WRP. The term "proposed project" is used hereinafter to refer to the Elysian Park WRP and Downtown WRP collectively. The proposed project would maximize the use of recycled water to replace potable sources for irrigation and industrial uses by extending the recycled water pipeline network to Elysian Park and to existing customers in downtown Los Angeles. The proposed project is being undertaken in accordance with the 2010 Urban Water Management Plan and the Recycled Water Master Planning documents.

LADWP is requesting input from individuals, stakeholders, organizations, and agency representatives that may be interested in the proposed project regarding the scope and content of the environmental information to be included in the EIR.

PROJECT HISTORY

A Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the proposed project was circulated for public review and comment by LADWP starting on September 18, 2012, initiating a 30-day public review period pursuant to CEQA and its implementing guidelines. LADWP accepted comments on the document until October 31, 2012. The Draft MND was also distributed to relevant public agencies, as well as adjacent property owners and occupants.

Subsequent to the close of the public review period for the Draft MND, some design modifications were made to the Elysian Park WRP, formerly referred to as Phase I. In 2013, pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15073.5, LADWP prepared a Recirculated Draft MND to provide an explanation of the revised project description and to disclose environmental issue areas where modifications to the Elysian Park WRP necessitated revisions to the previous Draft MND analysis. The Recirculated Draft MND was released for comment starting on August 16, 2013, initiating a 30-day public review period pursuant to CEQA and its implementing guidelines, with the public review period closing on September 16, 2013. The Recirculated Draft MND was also distributed to relevant public agencies, as well as adjacent property owners and occupants.

Following the close of the public review period for the Recirculated Draft MND, LADWP determined that physical and design constraints along a portion of the proposed alignment for the Downtown WRP, previously referred to as Phase II, rendered the alignment difficult to implement and that a new preferred alignment should be crafted and analyzed. Subsequently, LADWP will prepare an EIR to analyze potential environmental impacts resulting from implementation of the Elysian Park WRP (the same as Phase I in the Recirculated Draft MND), and the new preferred alignment proposed for the Downtown WRP, and a proposed new pressure regulator station for the Downtown WRP.

PROJECT LOCATION

The Elysian Park WRP would primarily take place within Elysian Park, which is located approximately 1.5 miles north of downtown Los Angeles and directly north of Dodgers Stadium. However, some construction would occur in the Elysian Valley neighborhood along the Los Angeles River Bike Path, Riverdale Avenue, Blake Avenue, Dorris Place adjacent to Dorris Place Elementary School, as well as along Park Drive within the Echo Park neighborhood. Installation of the Elysian Park WRP would require tunneling beneath I-5. The Elysian Park WRP would abut residential, public facilities, and open space uses.

The Downtown WRP would occur in public streets in the urbanized and fully developed communities of Cypress Park, Chinatown, downtown Los Angeles, Exposition Park, Boyle Heights, and southeast Los Angeles. The Downtown WRP segments abut commercial, residential, industrial, public facilities, and open space uses.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Elysian Park WRP involves the delivery of recycled water to Elysian Park. A new 16-inch recycled water pipeline would be constructed from the existing recycled water pipeline serving the existing Taylor Yard WRP, totaling approximately 10,800 linear feet. The proposed Elysian Park recycled water pipeline would connect to a proposed new approximately 2 million gallon (MG) recycled water storage tank located on the hilltop near Elysian Fields within Elysian Park via a proposed new recycled water pumping station located on the west side of I-5, just inside Elysian Park. The proposed route for the recycled water pipeline would roughly follow Stadium Way. In addition, to provide for the potable water uses within Elysian Park (e.g., restrooms and drinking fountains), approximately 1,000 linear feet of 8-inch potable water pipeline would be constructed from Park Drive to Grace E. Simons Lodge. Approximately 2,800 linear feet of 2-inch potable water service line with a booster pump housed within an existing pumping station would also be constructed from Grace E. Simons Lodge to Elysian Fields in order to supply the two bathrooms and drinking fountains at Elysian Fields.

The Downtown WRP involves the delivery of recycled water to customers located in downtown Los Angeles, Exposition Park, Boyle Heights, and southeast Los Angeles. A pressure regulator station would be constructed on San Fernando Road south of Loosmore Street along an existing recycled water pipeline, upstream of the proposed Downtown WRP pipeline alignment. The Downtown WRP would construct approximately 86,500 linear feet of new 16-inch recycled water pipeline. The pipeline would be constructed from the proposed terminus at Mesnager Street near Los Angeles State Historic Park (also known as the Cornfields Park) to customers located in downtown Los Angeles, Exposition Park, Boyle Heights, and southeast Los Angeles. The mainline segment would roughly follow Spring Street, Alameda Street, Temple Street, and south on San Pedro Street to Jefferson Boulevard. From the mainline segment, extensions would serve specific known customers. To reach Boyle Heights, the pipeline would be extended east along 9th Street, continuing east on Olympic Boulevard to Evergreen Avenue. To reach Exposition Park, the pipeline would be extended west along Jefferson Boulevard to Main Street to 37th Street to Exposition Boulevard. To reach the South Los Angeles Wetlands Park in southeast Los Angeles, the pipeline would be extended south from Jefferson Boulevard along Avalon Boulevard to 54th Street.

POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS

The potential environmental effects of the proposed project to be addressed in the Draft EIR will include, but may not be limited to, the following:

- Aesthetics
- Air Quality
- Biological Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Land Use and Planning
- Noise
- Transportation and Traffic

POTENTIAL ALTERNATIVES

In accordance with CEQA Guidelines Section 15126.6, the EIR will include an evaluation of the No Project Alternative, as well as a reasonable range of alternatives. Potential alternatives will be analyzed at a lower degree of detail than the proposed project. The potential alternatives that may be evaluated in the EIR other than the required No Project Alternative may include, but not be limited to, alternate pipeline alignments and/or construction methods for the Elysian Park WRP and Downtown WRP.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

The 30-day public comment period for this NOP will commence on May 9, 2014, and conclude on June 13, 2014. Copies of the Initial Study will be available for review on the LADWP website at <http://www.ladwp.com/envnotices> and at the following locations:

LADWP, Environmental Affairs Division
111 North Hope Avenue, Room 1044
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Edendale Branch Public Library
2011 West Sunset Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA 90026

Los Angeles Central Library
630 West 5th Street
Los Angeles, CA 90071

Echo Park Branch Public Library
1410 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90026

Chinatown Branch Public Library
639 North Hill Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Lincoln Heights Branch Public Library
2530 Workman Street
Los Angeles, CA 90031

Cypress Park Branch Public Library
1150 Cypress Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90065

Silverlake Branch Public Library
2411 Glendale Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA 90039

Please submit comments in writing to the address provided below **no later than 5:00 p.m. on June 13, 2014.**

Los Angeles Department of Water and Power
111 North Hope Street, Room 1044
Los Angeles, CA 90012
Attn: Irene Paul

Email: Irene.Paul@ladwp.com

The following information would be useful to include in your response:

- For all respondents, please provide contact information and identify the environmental information and issues that you believe should be addressed in the EIR, including any suggested alternatives to the proposed project.

- For agency respondents, please provide the name of the contact person for your agency, mailing address, e-mail, and telephone number. List any permit(s) or approval(s) under your agency's authority, as well as any reasonably foreseeable projects, programs, or plans that may have an overlapping influence with the proposed project.

For any questions regarding this NOP, please contact Ms. Irene Paul at (213) 367-3509.

PUBLIC MEETING

A public meeting will be held during the scoping period to solicit input from interested parties on the proposed content of the Draft EIR. A Spanish language translation will be provided at the public meeting. The meeting will be held:

**Thursday, May 22, 2014 at 6:30 pm
Los Angeles Department of Water and Power
111 North Hope Street, Cafeteria Rooms 1 & 2
Los Angeles, CA 90012**

(Free public parking available at the Customer Parking Lot, Gate No. 6)



Signature



Charles C. Holloway
Manager of Environmental Planning and Assessment
Los Angeles Department of Water and Power