

Notice of Availability of Draft Environmental Impact Report

DATE: July 21, 2016

TO: Affected Agencies, Organizations, and Interested Parties

SUBJECT: Notice of Availability of a Draft Environmental Impact Report for the Redmont Pump Station and Tank Project

A Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) has been prepared by the City of Los Angeles (City), as represented by the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP), to evaluate potential environmental effects that would result from development of the proposed Redmont Pump Station and Tank Project (Proposed Project). LADWP is identified as the lead agency for the Proposed Project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The Proposed Project would replace the existing Redmont Pump Station facility with a new pump station and new steel reservoir tank. The Proposed Project is necessary to provide a reliable water source to the Sunland-Tujunga community of the City of Los Angeles. The Proposed Project would be located at the existing pump station and reservoir site, and construction would occur in two phases over a two-year period as to not interrupt service. LADWP is requesting input from individuals, stakeholders, organizations, and agency representatives that may be interested in the Proposed Project regarding the content of the environmental analysis and information included in the Draft EIR.

PROJECT HISTORY

The existing Redmont Pump Station receives water from the existing Redmont Reservoir (i.e., Redmont Tank), an underground, covered reservoir located within the same property boundaries of the station. The reservoir, which was built in 1920 and acquired by LADWP in 1951, houses 435,000 gallons of water. The Redmont Pump Station is the third in a series of five pump stations that delivers water to the area. During the summer months when water demands are high, the existing Redmont Pump Station does not function efficiently, requiring excessive system manipulation to distribute water to the communities of Sunland and Tujunga. Additionally, due to the age of the existing pump, it routinely requires an inordinate level of maintenance and does not meet current control system standards and technology. Although repairs are made, significant improvements are needed to ensure safety and reliability. To correct the operational weaknesses and vulnerabilities of the existing Redmont Pump Station, the LADWP proposes to replace the facility with a new pump station and storage tank. The proposed replacement would improve the water system reliability in the Sunland-Tujunga community and would reduce the facility's operations and maintenance cost. The new dual zone pump station would also support water delivery to a future reservoir tank and meet the fire demand requirements placed on the system by the proposed Canyon Hills Development project.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Under the Proposed Project, the LADWP would:

- Construct and operate a new water pump station to replace the existing Redmont Pump Station.
- Construct and operate a new water storage tank to replace the existing Redmont reservoir tank.
- Install and maintain new water connection pipelines at the Redmont Pump Station.

The new pump station would be approximately 92 feet long by 58 feet wide by 27 feet tall; it would house seven operating pumps, and an overhead crane for lifting equipment inside the pump station. The new reservoir tank would measure 58 feet in diameter and 30 feet in height, 20 feet of which is above grade. The Proposed Project would require the installation of 350 feet of new water line connection pipelines within Tujunga Canyon Boulevard adjacent to the site.

Construction of the new pump station and tank would take approximately two years and occur in two main phases as to not interrupt service. Phase I involves placing the existing pump station on direct line suction from the Foothill Pump Station, followed by the demolition of the existing reservoir tank and the construction of the new pump station. Phase II involves placing the new pump station on direct line suction, followed by the demolition of the existing pump station and construction of the new reservoir tank.

Once completed, the new Redmont Pump Station would operate as an unmanned pumping station similar to the existing facility. Operational activities associated with the proposed replacement station would typically include one site visit per week by LADWP personnel for routine maintenance, repair and inspection. In comparison to the existing facility, the repair and maintenance activities associated with the new Redmont Pump Station would be reduced due to its improved design and engineering and the reduction in age related maintenance issues ongoing at the existing facility.

PROJECT LOCATION

The Proposed Project site is shown at the end of this notice. The Redmont Pump Station site is located at 10501 Redmont Avenue in the City of Los Angeles, at the northeast corner of the North Tujunga Canyon Boulevard and Summitrose Street intersection. The existing facilities serve the communities of Sunland and Tujunga, and consist of the pump station itself and the reservoir tank, which is a below-ground, covered water storage reservoir. The Proposed Project would be constructed on the same site, which is surrounded by residential properties. Land uses in the surrounding areas not directly adjacent to the site include low and medium density residential use, public facilities including four schools located within one-half mile of the Project site, and open space. During Project construction, an empty parcel located one-quarter mile to the northwest of the Project site (on the northwest corner of North Tujunga Canyon Boulevard and Hillrose Street) would be used as a construction parking and staging area.

SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS

Construction of the Proposed Project would result in short-term impacts related to noise and traffic. Localized air quality impacts from fugitive dust may also occur during construction.

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Mitigation has been proposed to reduce these impacts, but they would remain significant and unavoidable. All other construction and operational impacts can be mitigated to a level of less than significant or would not create any significant environmental impacts. The Proposed Project would not be located on a hazardous materials site. The existing facility contains an underground storage fuel tank and asbestos that will need to be removed. Prior to removal activities, LADWP would conduct an environmental investigation to assess what is necessary for the fuel tank removal, including assessing the amount of asbestos and determining if the tank has leaked, which could result in the potential for limited remedial activities. Any remediation and all removal activities would be conducted in compliance with applicable regulations.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

The 45-day public comment period for this Notice of Availability will commence on July 21, 2016, and conclude on September 7, 2016. The Draft EIR is 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

Sunland-Tujunga Branch Library
7771 Foothill Boulevard
Tujunga, CA 91042

Please submit comments in writing, or email, to the address provided below no later than **5:00 p.m. on September 7, 2016.**

LADWP, Environmental Affairs Division
111 North Hope Avenue, Room 1044
Los Angeles, CA 90012
Attn: Nadia Parker, Environmental Supervisor
Email: Nadia.Parker@ladwp.com

For all respondents, please provide contact information and provide comments on the environmental analysis included within the Draft EIR.

PUBLIC MEETING

A public meeting will be held during the Draft EIR public review period to solicit comments from interested parties on the content of the Draft EIR. The meeting will be held at:

Date: Thursday, August 11, 2016
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Location: Sunland-Tujunga Area Neighborhood Council Auditorium
7747 Foothill Blvd.
Tujunga, CA 91042
818-352-3287



Charles C. Holloway
Manager of Environmental Planning and Assessment

