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Notice of Availability of Draft Environmental Impact Report

DATE: May 12, 2016

TO: Affected Agencies, Organizations, and Interested Parties

SUBJECT: Notice of Availability of a Draft Environmental Impact Report for the Los Angeles Groundwater Replenishment 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) and the Los Angeles Department of Public Works Bureau of Sanitation (LASAN), to evaluate potential environmental effects that would result from development of the proposed Los Angeles Groundwater Replenishment 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 replenish the San Fernando Groundwater Basin (SFB) with up to 30,000 acre-feet per year (AFY) of purified recycled water from the Donald C. Tillman Water Reclamation Plant (DCTWRP). Achieving this replenishment goal would entail operating DCTWRP at the plant's full existing capacity to treat up to 80 million gallons per day of wastewater. The Proposed Project is being 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. 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

Based on its selection as the preferred site in the Groundwater Replenishment Master Plan, the southwest corner of DCTWRP (DCT SW) was the location for the advance water purification facility (AWPF) indicated in the Notice of Preparation (NOP) for the Proposed Project Draft EIR, dated September 6, 2013. However, since the publication of the NOP, more detailed analysis for the Proposed Project has occurred, including further considerations related to preserving future potential expansion capability for both recycled water treatment and advanced water purification processes at DCTWRP. Based on this analysis, it was determined that DCT SW provided limited capability to further expand the AWPF, if necessary in the future, because the site was physically constrained by adjacent uses. Therefore, a site in the southeast corner of the DCTWRP complex (DCT SE), which was also one of the five sites evaluated in the 2012 Groundwater Replenishment Master Plan, has been identified as the Proposed Project site to be analyzed in the Draft EIR.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Under the Proposed Project, an AWPf would be constructed within DCTWRP to purify the tertiary-treated recycled water produced by the existing DCTWRP facilities. The purified recycled water (purified water) would be conveyed to the spreading grounds using the existing East Valley Recycled Water Line that currently connects the Balboa Pump Station at DCTWRP to the Hansen Spreading Grounds (HSG) and the Hansen Storage Tank. A new 42-inch-diameter pipeline branch would need to be constructed from the existing East Valley Recycled Water Line to reach the Pacoima Spreading Grounds (PSG). The new pipeline would start at the intersection of Branford Street and Arleta Avenue and proceed northwesterly along Arleta Avenue to PSG, then continue within the PSG property to new outlet structures to be constructed within PSG. The segment of pipeline within Arleta Avenue would be approximately 11,000 feet long.

LADWP could recharge up to 19,000 AFY of purified water at HSG, and up to 23,000 AFY of purified water at PSG, based on the availability of supply and the annual capacity of both spreading grounds. However, LADWP estimates that an average of 15,000 AFY of purified water would be recharged at both HSG and PSG to achieve a total of 30,000 AFY.

PROJECT LOCATION

The Proposed Project would be located in the eastern San Fernando Valley of the City, in Los Angeles County, California (see attached Proposed Project map). DCTWRP is located at 6100 Woodley Avenue, in the Encino and Van Nuys communities of the City. The DCTWRP property is located within the Sepulveda Basin, which is owned and managed by the United States Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) for the purposes of flood control, recreation opportunities, natural resources preservation and enhancement, and other uses. DCTWRP is operated by LASAN under a lease agreement with the Corps.

Groundwater recharge into the SFB is primarily achieved through existing spreading grounds in the San Fernando Valley operated by the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works. HSG is located in the Sun Valley community of the City, along the northwest side of the Tujunga Wash Channel. PSG is located in the Pacoima community of the City, adjacent to Pacoima Wash and the Pacoima Diversion Channel.

SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS

The Proposed Project would create significant temporary impacts during construction to air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, noise, and transportation and traffic, requiring mitigation measures to reduce the impacts to a less than significant level. Specific mitigation measures have been identified to reduce these impacts to a less than significant level, except for noise and traffic. With incorporation of mitigation measures, temporary noise and traffic impacts related to construction would be reduced but would remain significant and unavoidable. After completion of construction, the Proposed Project would not create any long-term significant environmental impacts during operations. DCTWRP is listed in the GeoTracker database due to current water treatment operations involving hazardous materials and waste discharge requirements and one permitted underground storage tank (UST) is located on the western edge of the DCTWRP site. No hazardous materials sites are located at PSG or within the recycled water pipeline alignment. One UST cleanup site is listed in the north corner of HSG; however, the case was closed and completed in December 2010. HSG also contains one permitted UST.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

The 60-day public comment period for this Notice of Availability will commence on May 12, 2016, and conclude on July 11, 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

Lake View Terrace Branch Library
12002 Osborne Street
Lake View Terrace, CA 91342

Van Nuys Branch Library
6250 Sylmar Avenue
Van Nuys, CA 91401

Pacoima Branch Library
13605 Van Nuys Boulevard
Pacoima, CA 91331

Please submit comments in writing, or email, to the address provided below no later than **5:00 p.m. on July 11, 2016.**

Los Angeles Department of Water and Power
111 North Hope Street, Room 1050
Los Angeles, CA 90012
Attn: Nadia Parker
Email: Nadia.Parker@ladwp.com

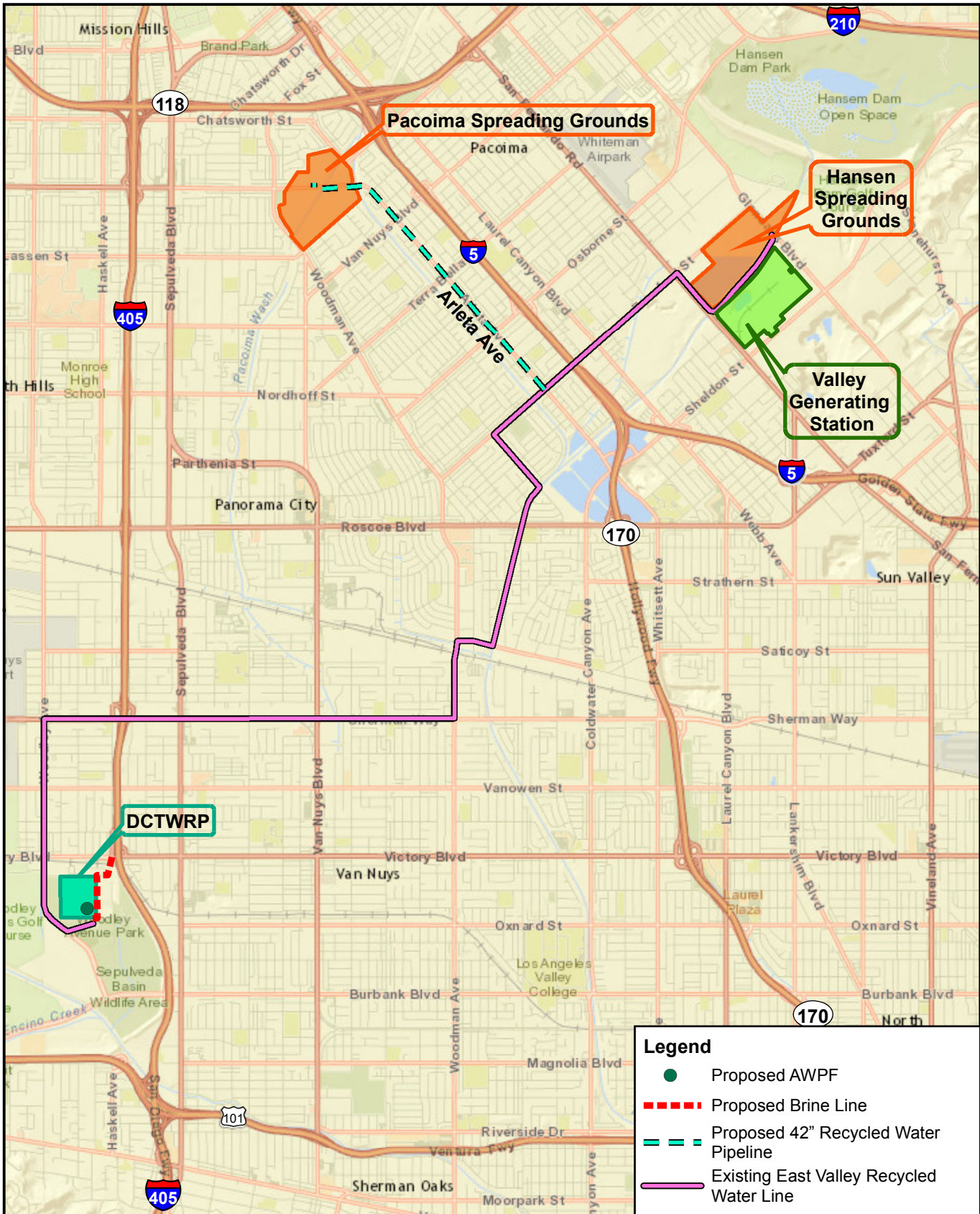
For all respondents, please provide contact information and provide comments on the environmental analysis included within the Draft EIR.

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: Tuesday, June 14, 2016
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Location: Sepulveda Garden Center
16633 W Magnolia Blvd
Encino, CA 91436


Charles C. Holloway
Manager of Environmental Planning and Assessment



Legend

- Proposed AWP
- Proposed Brine Line
- - - Proposed 42" Recycled Water Pipeline
- Existing East Valley Recycled Water Line

Source: ESRI, 2016



Los Angeles Groundwater Replenishment Project