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March 7, 2011

To: Affected Agencies, Organizations and Interested Persons

Subject: **Notice of Availability (NOA) of a Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Elysian Reservoir Water Quality Improvement Project**

A Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) has been prepared by the City of Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) for the proposed Elysian Reservoir Water Quality Improvement Project. LADWP is the Lead Agency, pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), responsible for preparation of this document.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

To help ensure the quality, reliability, and stability of the City of Los Angeles drinking water supply and to ensure compliance with updated United States Environmental Protection Agency water quality standards, LADWP proposes to construct a new buried concrete-covered reservoir (buried reservoir) to replace the existing uncovered Elysian Reservoir. The new buried reservoir would be constructed in essentially the same location as the existing reservoir, although with a slightly reduced footprint. The buried reservoir would provide an equal amount of potable water storage (55 million gallons) as is available in the existing reservoir. A new 54-inch diameter underground inlet line connecting the buried reservoir to the existing Riverside Trunk Line would also be constructed to replace the existing nearly 67-year-old 36-inch inlet line. The area atop the buried reservoir would be developed for recreation uses. A shallow wildlife pond of not less than 0.5 acres in size would also be created at the northern end of the project site, but not atop the buried reservoir. After completion of project construction, the site would be open to the public as part of Elysian Park. Other than facilities related to water storage and distribution, the site would be maintained and operated by the Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks (LADRP).

PROJECT LOCATION

Elysian Reservoir is located in Elysian Park, approximately 1.5 miles north of downtown Los Angeles. The 14-acre Elysian Reservoir property is owned by the City of Los Angeles and maintained by LADWP. The reservoir itself lies northwest of and immediately adjacent to the Pasadena Freeway (State Route 110), between Dodger Stadium to the southwest and the Golden State Freeway (Interstate 5) to the northeast. Elysian Reservoir is accessed off of Grand View Drive. Construction activity related to the new inlet line would take place essentially within the Caltrans island located adjacent to the west side of Riverside Drive between the freeway on-ramps opposite Duvall Street and Barclay Street, approximately 1,700 feet northwest of Elysian Reservoir and separated from the reservoir property by Interstate 5 and the ridgeline that forms the eastern boundary of the ravine in which Elysian Reservoir is located.

Water and Power Conservation ... a way of life

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SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS

No impacts to agricultural resources, geology and soils, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, land use and planning, mineral resources, population and housing, public services and utilities, or recreation would occur as a result of the proposed project. The Draft EIR identified less than significant impacts for aesthetics, operational air quality and greenhouse gas emissions, operational noise, and operational traffic. Impacts to biological resources, cultural resources, and construction traffic would be less than significant with the implementation of mitigation measures. The proposed project would create significant and unavoidable impacts related to construction air quality and construction noise. The proposed project would also contribute to significant and unavoidable cumulative impacts related to construction air quality and construction noise.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

The 45-day public comment period for this NOA will commence on March 10, 2011, and conclude on April 25, 2011. The Draft EIR is available for review on the LADWP website at <http://www.ladwp.com/ladwp/cms/ladwp004156.jsp> and at the following locations:

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

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

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

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

Please submit comments in writing to the address provided below. Comment letters must be received by 5:00 p.m. on **April 25, 2011**.

Los Angeles Department of Water and Power
111 North Hope Street, Room 1044
Los Angeles, CA 90012
Contact: Julie Van Wagner
Fax: (213) 367-4710
Email: Julie.VanWagner@ladwp.com

For any questions regarding the review of the EIR, please contact Ms. Julie Van Wagner at (213) 367-4466 (message box).

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

LADWP will hold a public meeting during the month of April 2011. Further information regarding the date, time, and location of this meeting will be provided, including on the LADWP website at <http://www.ladwp.com/ladwp/cms/ladwp004156.jsp>. If any other interested parties would like to be added to our mailing list, we can be contacted by one of the methods above. The public is invited to attend this meeting and present comments regarding the Draft EIR.



Signature

Charles C. Holloway
Manager of Environmental Planning and Assessment