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## NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY

**DATE:** March 20, 2015

**TO:** Affected Agencies, Organizations and Interested Parties

**SUBJECT:** Notice of Availability (NOA) of a Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Elysian Park-Downtown Water Recycling Projects (SCH No. 2012091047)

The City of Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) is the Lead Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). LADWP has prepared 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 content of the environmental analysis and information included in the Draft 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 (formerly referred to as Phase II) rendered the alignment difficult to implement and that a new preferred alignment should be crafted and analyzed.

Subsequently, LADWP has prepared a Draft EIR that analyzes 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 DESCRIPTION**

The Elysian Park WRP involves the delivery of recycled water to Elysian Park. A new 16-inch recycled water pipeline would be constructed beginning just southwest of the Los Angeles River along the Los Angeles River Bike Path, near the northern terminus of Dorris Place in the Elysian Valley neighborhood totaling approximately 10,800 linear feet. The proposed Elysian Park recycled water pipeline would connect to a proposed new approximately 2 million gallon 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 Interstate 5 (I-5, Golden State Freeway) just inside Elysian Park. The proposed alignment for the recycled water pipeline would roughly extend along Stadium Way and Angels Point Road. 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 the Grace E. Simons Lodge. Approximately 2,800 linear feet of 2-inch potable water service line with a booster pump housed within an existing pump house would extend from Grace E. Simons Lodge to Elysian Fields in order to supply the restrooms and drinking fountains at Elysian Fields.

The Downtown WRP involves constructing and operating 86,500 linear feet (approximately 16 miles) of new 16-inch recycled water pipeline from the proposed terminus at Mesnager Street near Los Angeles State Historic Park (also known as the Cornfields Park) within the Chinatown community to customers located in downtown Los Angeles, Exposition Park, Boyle Heights, and southeast Los Angeles. The mainline would roughly extend on San Pedro Street south to Jefferson Boulevard. To reach Boyle Heights, the pipeline would roughly extend on 9th Street to Olympic Boulevard (9th Street becomes Olympic Boulevard at Gladys Avenue). To reach Exposition Park, the pipeline would roughly extend on 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 roughly extend on Avalon Boulevard from Jefferson Boulevard south to 54th Street. Additionally, a proposed new pressure regulator station would be installed and operated on San Fernando Road, south of Loosmore Street, within the community of Cypress Park.

### **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, and 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.

## SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS

No impacts to agricultural resources, geology and soils, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, mineral resources, population and housing, public services, recreation, and utilities and service systems would occur as a result of the proposed project. The Draft EIR identifies less than significant impacts for air quality, greenhouse gas emissions, and land use and planning. Impacts to aesthetics, biological resources, cultural resources, construction noise, and construction traffic would be less than significant with the implementation of mitigation measures. The proposed project would not create significant and unavoidable impacts. In addition, the Draft EIR includes an analysis of project alternatives and discussion of alternatives considered that were previously eliminated.

## PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

The 45-day public comment period for this NOA will commence on March 20, 2015, and conclude on May 8, 2015. 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

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 May 8, 2015.**

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](mailto:Irene.Paul@ladwp.com)

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

- For all respondents, please provide contact information and provide comments on the environmental analysis included within the Draft EIR.
- 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 the review of the Draft EIR, please contact Ms. Irene Paul at (213) 367-3509.

### **PUBLIC MEETING**

Two public meetings will be held during the Draft EIR public review period to solicit comments from interested parties on the content of the Draft EIR. Every person wishing to comment must complete a Speaker's Request Form provided at the meeting and submit the form to LADWP staff prior to the beginning of the public meeting. A Spanish language translation will be provided at the public meetings.

The meetings will be held:

**Date:** April 20, 2015  
**Time:** 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM  
**Location:** EXPO Center, Comrie Hall  
3980 S. Bill Robertson Lane (Formerly Menlo Avenue)  
Los Angeles, CA 90037  
(Parking located in "Lot 1", at the corner of Martin Luther King  
Boulevard and Bill Robertson Lane)

**Date:** April 23, 2015  
**Time:** 6:30 PM -8:30 PM  
**Location:** Grace Simons Lodge  
1025 Elysian Park Drive  
Los Angeles, CA 90012



Signature



Charles C. Holloway  
Manager of Environmental Planning and Assessment