Initial Study

Upper Stone Canyon Reservoir Water Quality Improvement Project

Los Angeles Department of Water and Power
Environmental Services
111 North Hope Street, Room 1044
Los Angeles, California 90012

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SECTION 1
PROJECT DESCRIPTION

1.1 Overview of the Project

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 (EPA) water quality standards, the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) proposes to replace the uncovered Upper Stone Canyon Reservoir with a buried concrete storage structure, which would be sited essentially within the existing reservoir (proposed project). The concrete storage structure would provide a minimum of 81 million gallons (MG) of potable water storage. The area atop the concrete storage structure would be planted, and a pedestrian trail system would be established within the Stone Canyon Reservoir complex property to provide for passive recreation activity. After completion of project construction, the trails within the site would be open to public use, and the recreation functions would be maintained and operated by the Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks (LADRP).

1.2 California Environmental Quality Act

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) applies to proposed projects initiated by, funded by, or requiring discretionary approvals from state or local government agencies. The proposed changes at Upper Stone Canyon Reservoir constitute a project as defined by CEQA (California Public Resources Code §§21000 et seq.). LADWP is the lead agency for the compliance with CEQA because pursuant to *CEQA Guidelines* §15367, "'Lead Agency' means the public agency which has the principal responsibility for carrying out or approving a project."

As the lead agency for this project, LADWP must complete an environmental review to determine if the proposed project would create significant adverse environmental impacts. To fulfill the purpose of CEQA, this Initial Study has been prepared to assist in making that determination. Based on the nature and scope of the proposed project, the evaluations contained in the Initial Study environmental checklist (included herein), and the comments received from agencies and members of the public during review of the Notice of Preparation (NOP) of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR), factors that have potential to involve significant adverse environmental impacts will be determined. Such factors will become the focus of more detailed analysis in an EIR to determine the nature and extent of any potential environmental impacts and establish appropriate mitigations for those impacts determined to be significant. Based on the Initial Study analysis and NOP review, factors for which no significant adverse environmental impacts are expected to occur will be eliminated from further evaluation in the EIR. A preliminary evaluation of the potentially affected factors is included in the Initial Study checklist in Section 2.

1.3 Project Location

Upper Stone Canyon Reservoir is located approximately 0.5 miles south of Mulholland Drive between Roscomare Road and Beverly Glen Boulevard. The Stone Canyon Reservoir complex property is owned and maintained by LADWP. Upper Stone Canyon Reservoir itself is accessed from Mulholland Drive via a non-publicly accessible road, approximately 1.5 miles east of the

San Diego Freeway (Interstate [I] 405). Figure 1 shows Upper Stone Canyon Reservoir in relation to the region, and Figure 2 shows the vicinity of the reservoir.

1.4 Historical Perspective and Current Operations of Upper Stone Canyon Reservoir

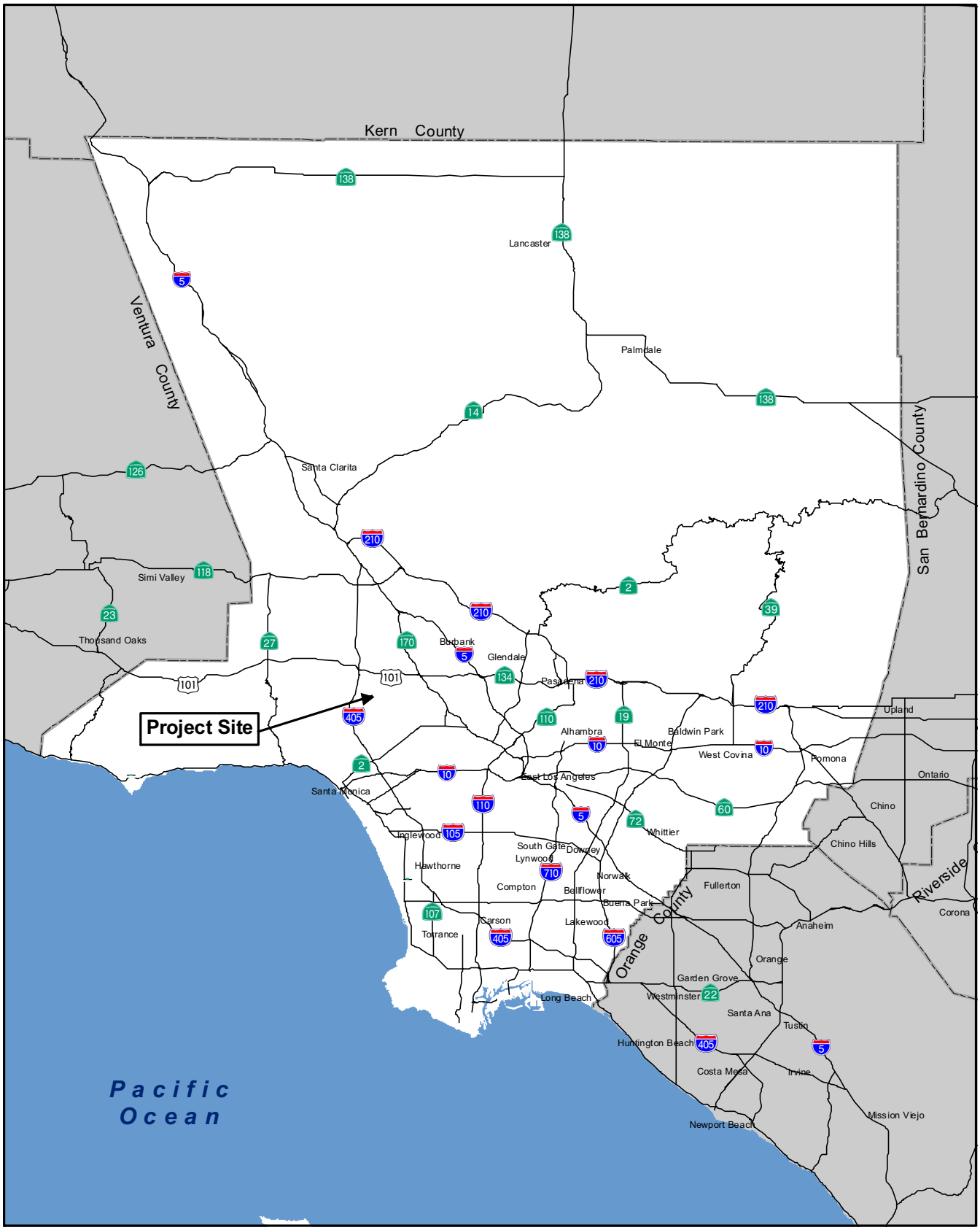
Upper Stone Canyon Reservoir is a component of the larger Stone Canyon Reservoir complex, which occupies approximately 756 acres of property owned and maintained by LADWP. The original Stone Canyon Reservoir (now referred to as Lower Stone Canyon Reservoir) was built in 1921 by damming the canyon. This reservoir provided storage for approximately 3.4 billion gallons of drinking water to serve western areas of Los Angeles. However, Lower Stone Canyon Reservoir has recently been taken out of service as a drinking water source as part of a system-wide initiative to comply with the California Department of Public Health drinking water quality requirements related to the Surface Water Treatment Rule. LADWP worked with members of Coalition to Protect Open Reservoirs, Stone Canyon subcommittee, to reach a mutually agreed upon solution for removing the reservoir from service. To facilitate this removal, a new water supply conduit was constructed to entirely bypass the Lower Reservoir and deliver water directly from Upper Stone Canyon Reservoir to the reservoir service area distribution system. The Lower Stone Canyon Reservoir will remain filled with essentially raw water that will be used only in emergency circumstances.

Upper Stone Canyon Reservoir was constructed in 1954 to provide approximately 138 MG of additional storage capacity and increase the distribution system operating pressure for portions of the service area. Treated drinking water is supplied to the reservoir by pipelines originating at the Los Angeles Aqueduct Filtration Plant (LAAFP) located in Granada Hills. Upper Stone Canyon Reservoir serves approximately 450,000 people in a service area that includes Beverly Glen, West Los Angeles, Pacific Palisades, Marina Del Rey, and the Los Angeles International Airport vicinity. During lower demand periods, water from the LAAFP may be diverted around Upper Stone Canyon Reservoir through bypass conduits and directly into the service area distribution network. However, the reservoir provides crucial storage capacity that allows for the operational flexibility necessary to meet daily and seasonal peaks in demand that could not be satisfied through the use of water distribution pipelines alone. This operational flexibility has become increasingly important since the loss of vast amount of storage previously provided by, but no longer available from, Lower Stone Canyon Reservoir.

1.5 Existing Facility and Site Description

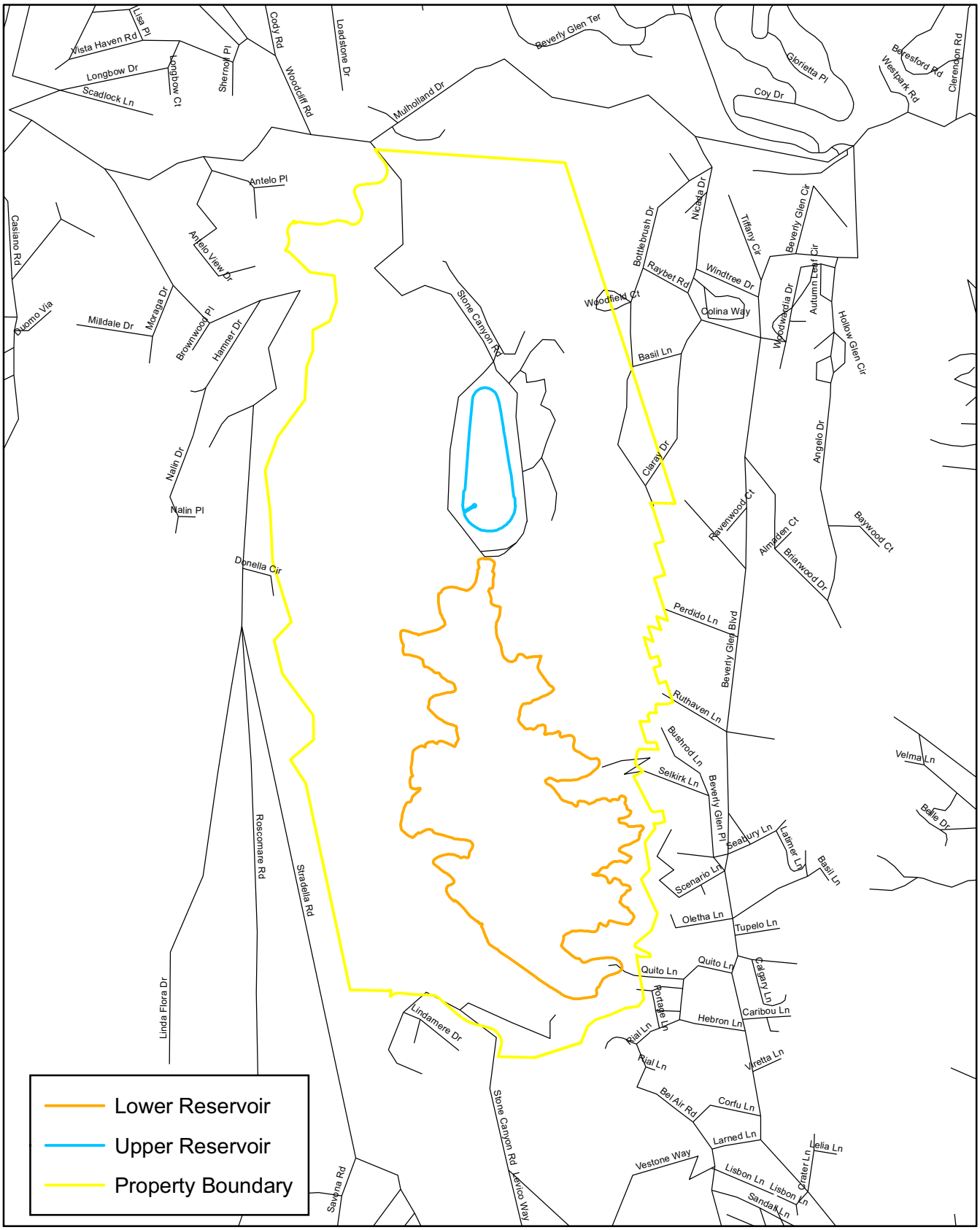
While Upper Stone Canyon Reservoir has a total storage volume of 138 MG, its effective operating capacity is only 81 MG because of pressure limitations imposed on the gravity fed system by elevation. The reservoir has a maximum depth of 49 feet, a high water elevation of 929 feet, and a surface area of approximately 14 acres at the high water elevation. The reservoir is approximately 1,600 feet long and approximately 500 feet wide at the maximum width, near the outlet tower at the southern end, tapering to approximately 250 feet wide, near the inlet at the northern end. The bottom and sides of the reservoir are paved with asphaltic concrete. A 7-foot tall chain link fence encloses the entire reservoir. An approximately 20- to 25-foot-wide paved road is located around the perimeter of the reservoir. Figure 3 shows the Upper Stone Canyon Reservoir site.

In addition to the bypass line constructed as part of the Lower Stone Canyon Reservoir project, facilities recently constructed at Stone Canyon include a new chlorination station, located adjacent to the west side of the Upper Reservoir. Other than the reservoirs and appurtenant facilities, the Stone Canyon Reservoir complex property remains essentially undeveloped.



Source: California Geospatial Information Library (2003-5)

Figure 1
Regional Location Map



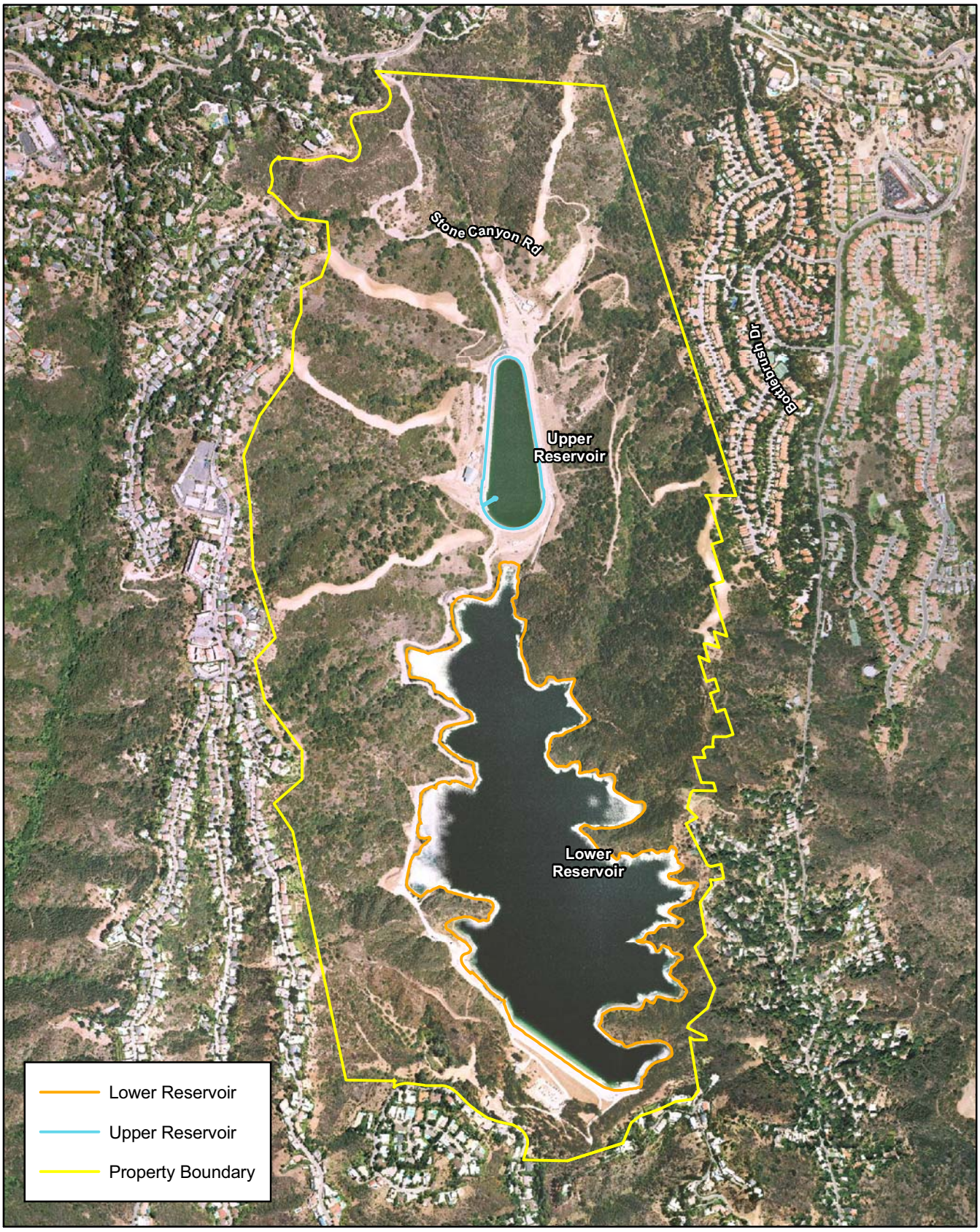
Source: U.S. Census Bureau 2000 TIGER files

N

1 inch equals 1,500 feet

0 250500 1,000 1,500 2,000 2,500 3,000 Feet

Figure 2
Project Vicinity Map



Source: Globexplorer 2007

N

1 inch equals 1,250 feet

0 312.5 625 1,250 1,875 2,500 3,125 Feet

Figure 3
Upper Stone Canyon Reservoir Site

The proposed project would be contained entirely within the boundaries of the property. The entire complex property has a land use designation of Open Space. Surrounding land uses are predominantly low- to very low-density residential. The northern portion of the complex property, located just north of the Upper Reservoir itself, is included with the Mulholland Scenic Parkway Specific Plan Area, which is intended to preserve natural scenic values and enhance recreation opportunities along the Mulholland Drive corridor.

1.6 Project Description

The primary goal of the proposed project is to help improve the quality of the City of Los Angeles drinking water, including compliance with updated EPA water quality standards contained in the Stage 2 Disinfectants and Disinfection Byproducts Rule and the Long Term 2 Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule, while at the same time maintaining the water supply system reliability and stability provided by Upper Stone Canyon Reservoir. To accomplish this goal, a buried concrete storage structure would be constructed in place of the existing uncovered reservoir to protect the stored water from exposure to microbial pathogens and reduce the application of certain types of disinfectants used to treat the water. The concrete storage structure would provide a minimum storage capacity of 81 MG, which is 57 MG less than the current total volume of Upper Stone Canyon Reservoir, but equivalent to the reservoir's effective operational capacity.

In order to initiate construction of the proposed project, the Upper Stone Canyon Reservoir water level would initially be drawn down by normal consumption through the drinking water distribution system until the water level reached an elevation of 923 feet, which is the lower limit of the normal operating range of the reservoir. Below this elevation, the reservoir water would need to be drained into Lower Stone Canyon Reservoir. To maintain the stability of the Upper Reservoir dam, the rate at which the water level would be lowered would be carefully controlled. At this controlled rate, the storage capacity of the Lower Reservoir and the associated storm drainage system would readily accommodate the water drained from the Upper Reservoir.

A material laydown and equipment storage area would be established in the already cleared and graded area to the north of the reservoir. The existing reservoir, including the outlet tower, intake, reservoir sides and bottom, portions of the dam, and portions of the perimeter road would then be demolished. The site of the reservoir would be excavated to accommodate the proposed underground storage structure. However, because the proposed concrete storage structure would need to remain at a given elevation to maintain an adequate operating pressure for the water distribution system, the amount of backfill material generated from excavation may not be sufficient to fully cover the concrete storage structure. The additional material required to bury the concrete storage structure would be obtained from a borrow site located within the Stone Canyon Reservoir complex property, adjacent to the reservoir. The topsoil from the borrow area would be stockpiled and replaced over the disturbed area during site restoration. The concrete storage structure would be poured in place and buried, with a maximum of 3 feet of cover over the highest point of the top of the storage structure. Finally, the site would be landscaped, including restoration of the borrow area, and a pedestrian trail system, including interpretive displays and small informal picnic sites, would be created.

After the above construction is complete, the property would be open to the public on a controlled basis to provide access to the passive recreation trail system. A parking area for trail users would be constructed onsite, and a restroom facility would be provided adjacent to the parking area. A facility to house office space and maintenance storage would also be provided,

including a small yard area to store equipment and supplies. The trail system and associated facilities would be operated and maintained by LADRP. Site access would be controlled by a gate, which would be open for public entry during daylight hours only.

The total duration of construction would be approximately 5.5 years. Based on an assumption that the material required to bury the concrete storage structure would come from an onsite borrow area, it is anticipated that the proposed project would involve approximately 15,000 truck trips to the site. In addition, there would be daily worker commute trips to the site. Construction vehicles would use Mulholland Drive to access the site from I-405. After completion of construction, operation of the water storage facilities onsite would not generate additional traffic. The recreation functions are anticipated to generate a relatively small amount of additional traffic to the site. Public vehicle access to the site would only be provided from Mulholland Drive during operation of the proposed project.

1.7 Land Use Consistency

City of Los Angeles Municipal Code Section 12.04.05 states that the purpose of the Open Space (OS) zone is to provide regulation for publicly owned land in order to implement the City's adopted General Plan. No building, structure, or land shall be used and no building or structure shall be erected, moved onto the site, enlarged or maintained, except as specified. The primary purpose of this zone is to protect and preserve natural resources and natural features of the environment; to provide outdoor recreation opportunities and advance the public health and welfare; to enhance environmental quality; to encourage the management of public lands in a manner which protects environmental characteristics; and to encourage the maintenance of open space uses on all publicly owned park and recreation land, and open space public land which is essentially unimproved. Uncovered public water supply reservoirs and accessory uses that are incidental to the operation and continued maintenance of such reservoirs are permitted within the OS zone. The proposed project would remove the existing open reservoir and replace it with a buried concrete storage structure, providing potentially usable open space. Operation of the passive recreation area may require construction of accessory structures, such as restroom/storage facilities. These facilities are conditionally permitted accessory structures within the OS zone, under the provisions of a Conditional Use Permit (CUP). The proposed project would therefore be consistent with the OS zone.

1.8 Required Permits and Approvals

Numerous approvals and/or permits would be required to implement the Upper Stone Canyon Reservoir Water Quality Improvement Project. The environmental documentation for the project would be used to facilitate compliance with federal and state laws and the granting of permits by various state and local agencies having jurisdiction over one or more aspects of the proposed project. These approvals and permits may include the following:

City of Los Angeles Department of Water and Power

- Certification by the Board of Commissioners that the EIR was prepared in accordance with CEQA and other applicable codes and guidelines
- Approval by the Board of Commissioners of the proposed project

City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks

- Approval by the Board of Commissioners of an agreement between LADWP and LADRP for the lease, operations, maintenance, and security for the recreation aspects of the reservoir property

City of Los Angeles Department of Public Works, Bureau of Engineering

- Excavation Permits

City of Los Angeles Department of Building and Safety

- Grading Permit
- Haul Route Permits
- Building Permit

City of Los Angeles Department of Planning

- Conditional Use Permit
- Design Review per the Mulholland Scenic Parkway Specific Plan

City of Los Angeles Department of Public Works, Flood Control

- Discharge Permit for construction dewatering and hydrostatic test water discharge in storm system and channel

State of California Department of Water Resources, Division of Safety of Dams

- Application for approval of plans and specifications for the removal of a dam and reservoir

State of California Department of Industrial Relations, Division of Occupational Safety and Health, Mining and Tunneling Unit

- Underground Classification Permit for tunneling and jacking locations

State of California Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board

- National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit for Construction Dewatering
- NPDES Permit for Hydrostatic Test Water Discharge

SECTION 2
INITIAL STUDY CHECKLIST

The following discussion of potential environmental effects was completed in accordance with §15063(d) (3) of the *CEQA Guidelines* (2008) to determine if the project may have a significant effect on the environment.

A brief explanation is provided for all determinations in Section 3, *Environmental Impact Assessment*, of this document. A "No Impact" or "Less than Significant Impact" determination is made when the proposed project would not have any impact or would not have a significant effect on the environment for that issue area based on a project-specific analysis.

Project Title:
Upper Stone Canyon Reservoir Water Quality Improvement Project

Lead Agency Name and Address:
Los Angeles Department of Water and Power
Environmental Services
111 North Hope Street, Room 1044
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Contact Person and Phone Number:
Sarah Easley Perez
Environmental Specialist
Los Angeles Department of Water and Power
(213) 367-1276

Project Sponsor's Name and Address:
Los Angeles Department of Water and Power
Water Engineering and Technical Services
111 North Hope Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Project Location:
Upper Stone Canyon Reservoir is located approximately 0.5 miles south of Mulholland Drive, between Roscomare Road and Beverly Glen Boulevard in the Bel Air area of Los Angeles.

City Council District:
District 5

Neighborhood Council District:
Bel Air-Beverly Crest

General Plan Designation:

The proposed project site is designated as Open Space in the City of Los Angeles General Plan. The proposed project site is located within the Bel Air-Beverly Crest Community Plan area.

Zoning:

[Q]OS-1XL (Open Space)

Description of Project:

To help ensure the quality, reliability, and stability of the City of Los Angeles drinking water supply, LADWP proposes to replace the uncovered Upper Stone Canyon Reservoir with a buried concrete storage structure, which would be sited essentially within the existing reservoir (proposed project). The concrete storage structure would provide a minimum of 81 MG of potable water storage. The area atop the buried concrete storage structure would be planted, and a pedestrian trail system would be established within the Stone Canyon Reservoir complex property to provide for passive recreation activity. A restroom/storage facility would be provided adjacent to the parking area. After completion of project construction, the trails within the site would be open to the public. The trail system and recreation functions would be operated and maintained by LADRP.

Surrounding Land Uses and Setting:

Upper Stone Canyon Reservoir is a component of the larger Stone Canyon Reservoir complex, which occupies approximately 756 acres of property owned and maintained by LADWP and also includes the 3.4-billion gallon Lower Stone Canyon Reservoir, which has recently been removed from service as a drinking water storage reservoir. Other than the reservoirs and appurtenant facilities, the Stone Canyon complex property remains essentially undeveloped. The Upper Reservoir itself has a surface area of approximately 14 acres at high water elevation. The reservoir is surrounded by a paved road. The proposed project would be contained entirely within the boundaries of the Stone Canyon Reservoir complex property. The entire complex property is designated as Open Space. Surrounding land uses are predominantly low- to very low-density residential uses. The northern portion of the complex property, located just north of the Upper Reservoir itself, is included with the Mulholland Scenic Parkway Specific Plan Area, which is intended to preserve natural scenic values and enhance recreation opportunities along the Mulholland Drive corridor.

Agencies That May Have an Interest in the Proposed Project:

CEQA Lead Agency

- Los Angeles Department of Water and Power

Responsible/Trustee Agencies

- Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks

- California Department of Water Resources, Division of Safety of Dams
- California Division of Occupational Safety and Health, Mining and Tunneling Unit
- Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board

Reviewing Agencies

- California Department of Transportation
- California Department of Public Health
- City of Los Angeles Department of Public Works, Bureau of Engineering
- City of Los Angeles Department of Public Works, Flood Control
- City of Los Angeles Fire Department
- City of Los Angeles Police Department
- City of Los Angeles Department of Transportation
- City of Los Angeles Department of Building and Safety
- City of Los Angeles Department of Planning

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED

The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this project, involving at least one impact that is a "Potentially Significant Impact" as indicated by the Environmental Impacts discussion in Section 3.

☒ Aesthetics	☐ Agriculture Resources	☒ Air Quality
☒ Biological Resources	☒ Cultural Resources	☐ Geology/Soils
☐ Hazards & Hazardous Materials	☐ Hydrology/Water Quality	☐ Land Use Planning
☐ Mineral Resources	☒ Noise	☐ Population/Housing
☐ Public Services	☐ Recreation	☒ Transportation/Traffic
☐ Utilities/Service Systems	☒ Mandatory Findings of Significance	

DETERMINATION

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

☐ I find that the proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.

☐ I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the project have been made by or agreed to by the project proponent. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.

☒ I find that the proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an environmental impact report is required.

☐ I find that the proposed project may have a "potentially significant impact" or "potentially significant unless mitigated" impact on the environment, but at least one effect 1) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and 2) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis as described on attached sheets. An ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required, but it must analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed.

☐ I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, because all potentially significant effects (a) have been analyzed adequately in an earlier EIR pursuant to applicable standards, and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project, nothing further is required.

Charles C. Holloway 6/17/08

Signature Date

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

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant Impact After Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
I.	**AESTHETICS**. Would the project:				
a.	Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	**X**			
b.	Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?	**X**			
c.	Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?	**X**			
d.	Create a new source of substantial light or glare that would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?				**X**
e.	Create a new source of substantial shade or shadow that would adversely affect daytime views in the area?				**X**
II.	**AGRICULTURE RESOURCES**. In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997) prepared by the California Department of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland. Would the project:				
a.	Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?				**X**
b.	Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson act contract?				**X**
c.	Involve other changes in the existing environment that, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use?				**X**
III.	**AIR QUALITY**. Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations. Would the project:				
a.	Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?				**X**
b.	Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?	**X**			
c.	Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)?	**X**			
d.	Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	**X**			
e.	Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?			**X**	

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant Impact After Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
IV.	**BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES**. Would the project:				
a.	Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	**X**			
b.	Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	**X**			
c.	Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?	**X**			
d.	Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?	**X**			
e.	Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?	**X**			
f.	Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?				**X**
V.	**CULTURAL RESOURCES**. Would the project:				
a.	Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5?	**X**			
b.	Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5?	**X**			
c.	Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?	**X**			
d.	Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?			**X**	
VI.	**GEOLOGY AND SOILS**. Would the project:				
a.	Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:				
	i) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.			**X**	

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant Impact After Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
	ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?			X	
	iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?				X
	iv) Landslides?			X	
b.	Result in substantial soil erosion, loss of topsoil, or changes in topography or unstable soil conditions from excavation, grading, or fill?			X	
c.	Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on-or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?			X	
d.	Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial risks to life or property?				X
e.	Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater?				X
VII.	**HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS**: Would the project:				
a.	Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?			X	
b.	Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?			X	
c.	Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?			X	
d.	Be located on a site that is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?				X
e.	For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?				X
f.	For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?				X
g.	Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?				X
h.	Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands?			X	

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant Impact After Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
VII.	**HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY**. Would the project:				
a.	Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?			**X**	
b.	Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level (e.g., the production rate of pre-existing nearby wells would drop to a level which would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted)?			**X**	
c.	Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of stream or river, in a manner that would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site?			**X**	
d.	Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner that would result in flooding on- or off-site?			**X**	
e.	Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?			**X**	
f.	Otherwise substantially degrade water quality?			**X**	
g.	Place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map?				**X**
h.	Place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures that would impede or redirect flood flows?				**X**
i.	Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam?				**X**
j.	Inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow?			**X**	
IX.	**LAND USE AND PLANNING**. Would the project:				
a.	Physically divide an established community?				**X**
b.	Conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project (including, but not limited to the general plan, specific plan, local coastal program, or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?			**X**	
c.	Conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan?				**X**

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant Impact After Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
X.	**MINERAL RESOURCES**. Would the project:				
a.	Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?				**X**
b.	Result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan?				**X**
XI.	**NOISE**. Would the project result in:				
a.	Exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?	**X**			
b.	Exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?	**X**			
c.	A substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?			**X**	
d.	A substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?	**X**			
e.	For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?				**X**
f.	For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?				**X**
XII.	**POPULATION AND HOUSING**. Would the project:				
a.	Induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?				**X**
b.	Displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?				**X**
c.	Displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?				**X**
XIII.	**PUBLIC SERVICES**.				
a.	Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services:				

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant Impact After Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
	i) Fire protection?				X
	ii) Police protection?				X
	iii) Schools?				X
	iv) Parks?				X
	v) Other public facilities?				X
XIV.	**RECREATION**.				
a.	Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?				X
b.	Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities that might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?			X	
XV.	**TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC**. Would the project:				
a.	Cause an increase in traffic that is substantial in relation to the existing traffic load and capacity of the street system (i.e., result in a substantial increase in either the number of vehicle trips, the volume to capacity ratio on roads, or congestion at intersections)?	X			
b.	Exceed, either individually or cumulatively, a level of service standard established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways?	X			
c.	Result in a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that results in substantial safety risks?				X
d.	Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	X			
e.	Result in inadequate emergency access?			X	
f.	Result in inadequate parking capacity?				X
g.	Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs supporting alternative transportation (e.g., bus turnouts, bicycle racks)?				X
XVI.	**UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS**. Would the project:				
a.	Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board?				X
b.	Require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?			X	
c.	Require or result in the construction of new stormwater drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?				X

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant Impact After Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
d.	Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed?			X	
e.	Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider that serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?				X
f.	Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs?			X	
g.	Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?				X
XVII.	**MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE**.				
a.	Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?	X			
b.	Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? "Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects.	X			
c.	Does the project have environmental effects that will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	X			

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SECTION 3
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

INTRODUCTION

The following discussion addresses impacts to various environmental resources, per the Initial Study checklist questions contained in Appendix G of the *CEQA Guidelines*, as summarized above in Section 2.0, *Initial Study Checklist*. It was prepared in accordance with §15070 and §15071 of the *CEQA Guidelines* (2008).

I. AESTHETICS

Would the project:

a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?

Potentially Significant Impact. The proposed project site is located approximately 0.5 miles south of Mulholland Drive between Roscomare Road and Beverly Glen Boulevard. The 756-acre Stone Canyon Reservoir complex property is owned and maintained by LADWP. Upper Stone Canyon Reservoir itself is accessed from Mulholland Drive via a non-publicly accessible road. The reservoir is visible from adjacent residences located above the reservoir to the east and west. The Mulholland Scenic Parkway Specific Plan designates a scenic viewpoint above the reservoir (Nicada Overlook) that provides public views of the Stone Canyon property. A trail runs along the southern side of Mulholland Drive that may also provide views of the reservoir. The proposed project involves replacing the reservoir with a buried concrete storage structure. Following construction, the area atop of the storage structure would be planted. Nevertheless, the proposed project would alter the views of the site by removing the open reservoir from the visual environment. Furthermore, portions of the project site that may be used as a borrow area for material to bury the concrete water storage structure may fall within the Mulholland Scenic Parkway Specific Plan boundary. As such, the proposed project could create potentially significant impacts to a scenic vista. This issue will be examined further in the EIR.

b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?

Potentially Significant Impact. Roadways that provide scenic views within and around the City of Los Angeles are classified by the County of Los Angeles and State of California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) as officially designated scenic highways or corridors. The closest officially designated local scenic parkway to the proposed project is Mulholland Drive, which is located approximately 0.5 miles north of Upper Stone Canyon Reservoir. The northern portion of the reservoir complex property, located just north of the Upper Reservoir itself, is included with the Mulholland Scenic Parkway Specific Plan Area, which is intended to preserve natural scenic values and enhance recreation opportunities along the Mulholland Drive corridor. Alteration of the project site could be visible from Mulholland Drive. As such, the proposed project could substantially damage scenic resources. This issue will be examined further in the EIR.

c) Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?

Potentially Significant Impact. The proposed project would involve replacing Upper Stone Canyon Reservoir with a buried concrete storage structure and planting the area atop the structure. As described above, there are private and possibly public views of the existing open reservoir. Removing the reservoir would eliminate views of open water from these residences and public vantage points. As such, the proposed project could potentially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings. This issue will be examined further in the EIR.

d) Create new source of substantial light or glare that would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?

No Impact. The proposed project would involve replacing the existing reservoir with a buried concrete storage structure and planting the area atop the structure. During the construction phase, all activities would occur during daylight hours; no lighting would be used. During operation of the proposed project, no new lighting would be provided. No impact would occur, and no further study of this issue is required.

e) Create new source of substantial shade and shadow that would adversely affect daytime views in the area?

No Impact. The proposed project would involve replacing the existing reservoir with a buried concrete storage structure and planting the area atop the structure. The only aboveground structures would be a relatively small restroom/storage facility, vents, and access hatches. As such, there is no potential to create shade and shadow. No impact would occur, and no further study of this issue is required.

II. AGRICULTURE RESOURCES

Would the project:

a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?

No Impact. See discussion in item *c*, below.

b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?

No Impact. See discussion in item *c*, below.

c) Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in the conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use?

No Impact. There is no Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland) on or in the vicinity of the proposed project site. Therefore, there would be no potential for construction or operation of the proposed project to convert farmland, either directly or indirectly, to non-agricultural use. Upper Stone Canyon Reservoir is located in the Bel Air-Beverly Crest community of the City of Los Angeles in an area that is zoned [Q]OS-1XL (Open Space). The proposed project is located on a previously developed site owned by LADWP and used for drinking water

storage. The project site is not zoned for agricultural purposes and is not used for agricultural purposes. No Williamson Act contract applies to the site. Thus, the proposed project would not conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use or a Williamson Act contract. Replacing the reservoir with a buried concrete storage structure would not result in the conversion of farmland to non-agricultural use. No impact would occur, and no further study of this issue is required.

III. AIR QUALITY

Would the project:

a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan (e.g., the SCAQMD Plan or Congestion Management Plan)?

No Impact. The project site is located within the South Coast Air Basin (Basin), which is bounded by the San Gabriel, San Bernardino, and San Jacinto Mountains to the north and east, and the Pacific Ocean to the south and west. The air quality in the Basin is managed by the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD). The Basin has a history of recorded air quality violations and is an area where both state and federal ambient air quality standards are exceeded. Because of the violations of the California Ambient Air Quality Standards (CAAQS), the California Clean Air Act requires triennial preparation of an Air Quality Management Plan (AQMP). The AQMP analyzes air quality on a regional level and identifies region-wide attenuation methods to achieve the air quality standards, including regulations for stationary-source polluters; facilitation of new transportation technologies, such as low-emission vehicles; and capital improvements, such as park-and-ride facilities and public transit improvements. The most recently adopted plan is the 2007 AQMP, adopted on June 11, 2007. This plan is the SCAQMD's portion of the State Implementation Plan (SIP).

The SCAQMD accepts that Southern California is growing. As such, the AQMP accommodates population growth and transportation projections based on the forecasts made by the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG). Projects that are consistent with employment and population forecasts are considered by the SCAQMD to be consistent with the AQMP. The proposed project involves replacing an existing open reservoir with a buried concrete storage structure, planting the area atop the structure, and providing a trail system for passive recreation use. Covering or enclosing the reservoir is required by the EPA to meet water quality regulations. The total storage capacity of the reservoir would be reduced, but its operational capability and service area would not change. The proposed project would not involve new residential or businesses that could generate population growth or jobs. Therefore, the project is consistent with the growth expectations for the region, and it would not conflict with the AQMP. No impact would occur, and no further study of this issue is required.

b) Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?

Potentially Significant Impact. Demolition of the existing reservoir and construction of the buried concrete storage structure would generate short-term construction emissions. Emissions would be generated from demolition, site grading and other site preparation activities, construction equipment, and worker vehicle exhaust.

Construction activities would be short-term in nature and would not add to long-term air quality degradation. However, these emissions may exceed the SCAQMD daily emissions thresholds. Temporary construction emissions would, therefore, be considered potentially significant and will be analyzed further in the EIR.

Following construction of the buried concrete storage structure, no additional vehicle trips to and from the project site would be generated in relation to the water storage function, and the operation of the water storage facility would not require the use of pollutant-generating equipment. The proposed project would introduce new passive recreational uses. However, the small number of vehicle trips generated by this use is not anticipated to create significant impacts in relation to air quality standards or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation. Operation of the proposed project would not exceed the SCAQMD daily emissions thresholds or contribute substantially to an existing air quality violation. The impact would be less than significant, and no further analysis of this issue is required.

c) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)?

Potentially Significant Impact. The project site is located in the Basin, which is a non-attainment area for ozone (O_3), fine particulate matter ($PM_{2.5}$), and respirable particulate matter (PM_{10}). Construction activities for the proposed project would contribute to an increase in air quality emissions for which the region is non-attainment. As such, air quality impacts from construction of the buried concrete storage structure will be evaluated using the thresholds of significance established by the SCAQMD. Construction activities associated with implementation of the proposed project could result in increases in air pollutant emissions, which individually or cumulatively, would exceed established thresholds for these criteria pollutants. The impact is potentially significant and will be analyzed in the EIR.

Following construction of the buried concrete storage structure, no additional vehicle trips to and from the project site in relation to the water storage function would be generated beyond what currently occurs for the existing reservoir, and the operation of the water storage facility would not require the use of pollutant-generating equipment. The proposed project would introduce new passive recreational uses. However, the small number of vehicle trips generated by this use is not anticipated to create significant impacts in relation to a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment. Operation of the proposed project would create less than significant impacts, and no further analysis of this issue is required.

Currently there are no adopted thresholds of significance or specific methodologies established for determining impacts related to a project's potential contribution to global climate change in CEQA documents. As such, that the proposed project's contribution to global climate change will be addressed within the context of cumulative impacts until further guidelines, methodologies, and thresholds of significance are established. Therefore, this issue will be analyzed as a potentially significant cumulative impact in the EIR.

d) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?

Potentially Significant Impact. The proposed project would be bordered by sensitive receptors, namely residential uses. Since daily construction emissions could exceed the SCAQMD significance thresholds for daily emissions, the impact is potentially significant and will be analyzed in the EIR.

Following construction of the buried concrete storage structure, no additional vehicle trips to and from the project site in relation to the water storage function would be generated beyond what currently occurs for the existing reservoir, and the operation of the water storage facility would not require the use of pollutant-generating equipment. The proposed project would introduce new passive recreation uses. However, the small number of vehicle trips generated by this use is not anticipated to create significant impacts in relation to exposure of sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations. Operation of the proposed project would create less than significant impacts, and no further analysis of this issue is required.

e) Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?

Less Than Significant Impact. Any odors (e.g., odors from construction vehicle emissions) would be controlled in accordance with SCAQMD Rule 402 (Nuisance Emissions). Other than construction vehicle operation, no activities are anticipated to occur that would have the potential to cause odor impacts during the construction of the proposed project. Because use of construction vehicles would be temporary and no objectionable odors would remain after project construction, impacts would be less than significant. During project operation, there would be no odor-generating equipment or other activities. The impact would be less than significant, and no further analysis of this issue is required.

IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Would the project:

a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?

Potentially Significant Impact. See discussion in item *d*, below.

b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, and regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?

Potentially Significant Impact. See discussion in item *d*, below.

c) Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?

Potentially Significant Impact. See discussion in item *d*, below.

d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery/breeding sites?

Potentially Significant Impact. The majority of the Stone Canyon Reservoir complex is undeveloped and covered with vegetation. These undeveloped areas have the potential to include candidate, sensitive, or special status species or the vegetation communities on which they depend. Removal of the reservoir and construction of the buried concrete storage structure would require disturbance of previously undeveloped hillside areas within the reservoir property. This activity could have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on species identified as candidate, sensitive, or special status. In addition, the Mulholland Scenic Parkway Specific Plan has identified watercourses within the project site that may contain riparian vegetation, other sensitive natural community, or wetland. Removal or disturbance of these areas would be potentially significant. Further, there is potential for a substantial adverse effect on the movement of native resident or migratory wildlife species using the areas of the project site that may be disturbed during construction of the buried concrete storage structure. Biological surveys will be conducted and a detailed biological resources technical report will be prepared for the project to fully characterize the existing biological conditions at the site and evaluate the potential impacts associated with removing the reservoir and constructing a buried concrete storage structure. The technical report will be included as an appendix to the EIR, and the results of the biological resource surveys will be summarized and incorporated into the EIR. If necessary, mitigation measures will be provided in the technical report and the EIR to address potential impacts to biological resources resulting from the project.

e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance (e.g., oak trees or California walnut woodlands)?

Potentially Significant Impact. The majority of the site is undeveloped and includes vegetated areas with trees and shrubs. Removal of trees during construction of the proposed project could conflict with the City of Los Angeles Tree Protection Ordinance. This issue will be analyzed further in the EIR.

f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?

No Impact. The proposed project site is not part of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan. Therefore, no impacts would occur, and no further study of this issue is required.

V. CULTURAL RESOURCES

Would the project:

a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in California Code of Regulations Section 15064.5?

Potentially Significant Impact. Upper Stone Canyon Reservoir was constructed in 1954 and is more than 45 years of age. Due to the age of the reservoir and its role in the development of Los Angeles, it could potentially be eligible for listing as a historic resource. This issue will be analyzed in detail in the EIR.

b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to California Code of Regulations Section 15064.5?

Potentially Significant Impact. See discussion in item *c*, below.

c) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?

Potentially Significant Impact. There are areas with native topsoil located adjacent to the reservoir that could be disturbed during construction of the buried concrete storage structure. As such, there is the potential to uncover buried archaeological resources or destroy unique paleontological resources during project construction. This issue will be analyzed further in the EIR.

d) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?

Less Than Significant Impact. The proposed project would not impact known cemeteries, and no evidence of burials exists in the proposed project site or surrounding areas. Should any remains be discovered during project construction, LADWP would be required to stop excavation or disturbance of the affected site until satisfying the steps outlined in CEQA §15064.5(e). Compliance with existing regulations would ensure a less than significant impact, and no further study of this issue is required.

VI. GEOLOGY AND SOILS

Would the project:

a) Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:

i) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.

Less than Significant Impact. See discussion in item *ii*, below.

ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?

Less Than Significant Impact. Active faults do not cross through the proposed project site, and active faults are not located in the immediate vicinity of the proposed project site. The proposed project site is not located within an Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zone or within a Fault Rupture Study Area, as mapped by the City of Los Angeles and the California Geological Survey. The closest known fault to the proposed project site, the Hollywood Fault, is located approximately 2 miles to the southeast. Therefore, as with all of Los Angeles County, the project area is susceptible to high-intensity ground shaking that

affects all structures in the City. Thus, the buried concrete storage structure would be constructed in accordance with seismic requirements of the California Building Code for seismic safety. Compliance with established standards would reduce risks of structural failure or collapse to a less than significant level, and no further study of this issue is required.

iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?

No Impact. Liquefaction, essentially the transformation of the soil to a liquid state, results in lateral spreading, ground settlement, sand boils, and soil falls. Liquefaction typically occurs in areas with a high groundwater table. According to the City of Los Angeles Safety Element, the project site is not located in a liquefaction zone. As such, no impact would occur, and no further study of this issue is required.

iv) Landslides?

Less Than Significant Impact. According to the City of Los Angeles Safety Element, the project site is located in an area that is subject to landslides and has historically experienced landslides. Excavation work in areas surrounding the reservoir to provide material to bury the concrete storage structure could create adverse effects associated with landslides. Work in hillside areas would comply with the City Hillside Grading Ordinance, and the slopes would be stabilized as necessary to prevent landslides. Compliance with established standards would reduce risks associated with landslides to a less than significant level, and no further study of this issue is required.

b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?

Less Than Significant Impact. The proposed project would not result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil. Construction of the proposed project would result in ground surface disturbance during excavation and grading that could create the potential for erosion to occur. The topsoil from any onsite borrow areas would be stockpiled and replaced over the disturbed area during site restoration. Since the proposed project site is greater than one acre, LADWP's construction contractor must prepare and comply with a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP), which would include erosion control measures. In addition, LADWP's construction contractor must comply with a Storm Water Construction Activities General Permit and obtain a National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit. Compliance with existing regulations would reduce impacts due to soil erosion to a less than significant level. After construction of the buried concrete storage structure, the project site would be stabilized and landscaped, and no significant soil erosion or loss of topsoil is expected to occur. The impact would be less than significant, and no further study of this issue is required.

c) Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on-or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?

Less Than Significant Impact. As discussed above, the proposed project is located in an area identified as having the potential for landslides. The proposed site is not located within an area identified as having a potential for liquefaction. Lateral spreading generally occurs where soils are susceptible to soil liquefaction. As stated above, the buried concrete storage structure would be constructed in accordance

with requirements of the California Building Code. Excavation work in hillside areas would comply with the City Hillside Grading Ordinance, and the slopes would be stabilized as necessary to prevent landslides. Compliance with established standards would reduce risks associated with landslides to a less than significant level, and no further study of this issue is required.

d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial risks to life or property?

No Impact. Expansive soil is defined as soil that expands to a significant degree upon wetting and shrinks upon drying. Generally, expansive soils contain a high percentage of clay particles. The proposed project is not located on soils that are expansive, as described in Table 18-1B of the Uniform Building Code. No impact would occur, and no further study of this issue is required.

e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater?

No Impact. The proposed project may include restroom facilities in relation to the recreation function. However, these facilities would not use a septic system or similar systems. No impact would occur, and no further study of this issue is required.

VII. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

Would the project:

a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?

Less Than Significant Impact. See discussion under item *b*, below.

b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?

Less Than Significant Impact. Although construction may involve the transport, storage, use or disposal of some hazardous materials, such as onsite fueling/servicing of construction equipment, construction activities would be short-term. Such transport, use, storage, and disposal would not be expected to create a significant hazard to workers or the community. In addition, all construction activities involving hazardous materials would be subject to federal, state, and local health and safety requirements involving transport, use, storage, and disposal. The impact would be less than significant, and no further study of this issue is required.

As under current conditions, the buried concrete structure would be used for the storage of treated water. The existing chlorination station located onsite would continue to operate as under current conditions. The chlorination station would be fenced off to ensure the security of the facility. All chemicals used as part of the chlorination station would be secured and stored in accordance with local, state, and federal safety requirements. In the event of a release or accident associated with the chlorination station, the site would be closed to the public and LADWP would implement its standard emergency response and cleanup plan. Under unusual

circumstances, if additional disinfection is required, chemicals would be added to the storage structure. Similarly, chemicals would be applied to the structure when it is cleaned. These water treatment operations would be subject to federal, state, and local health and safety requirements. Thus, operation of the proposed project would not create an increased hazard to the public or the environment associated with the routine transport, use, storage, or disposal of hazardous materials, and the proposed project would not create a hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions. The impact would be less than significant, and no further study of this issue is required.

c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?

Less Than Significant Impact. There are no schools within one-quarter mile of the proposed project site. The closest school is Roscomare Road Elementary School, located approximately 0.4 miles to the west. Although construction may involve the transport, storage, use, or disposal of some hazardous materials, such as onsite fueling/servicing of construction equipment, construction activities would be short-term. Construction activities involving hazardous materials would be subject to federal, state, and local health and safety requirements involving the transport, use, and disposal. The impact would be less than significant.

After construction, the buried concrete structure would be used for the storage of treated water, similar to the existing reservoir. The impact to schools would be less than significant, and no further study of this issue is required.

d) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?

No Impact. The proposed project is not contained on lists compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the Government Code. No impact would occur, and no further study of this issue is required.

e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?

No Impact. See discussion under item *f*, below.

f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?

No Impact. The closest public airport to the project site is Bob Hope Airport located approximately 7.5 miles to the northeast. The closest general aviation airport to the proposed project site is the Van Nuys Airport, located approximately 5.5 miles to the north. As such, the proposed project is not located within an airport land use plan or within 2 miles of a public airport or a private airstrip such that it would pose a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area. No impact would occur, and no further study of this issue is required.

g) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?

No Impact. The proposed project would not impair or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or a local, state, or federal agencies emergency evacuation plan. The proposed project is the replacement of Upper Stone Canyon Reservoir with a buried concrete storage structure, planting the area atop, and providing a trail system for passive recreation use. No temporary or permanent street closures are planned as part of the project. Staging areas for construction would be located within the reservoir property; therefore, emergency access to the site or adjacent areas would not be adversely impacted during construction. No impact would occur, and no further study of this issue is required.

h) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands?

Less Than Significant Impact. According to the City of Los Angeles General Plan Safety Element, the project site is located in a High Fire Hazard District. The proposed project involves construction of a buried concrete storage structure, planting the area atop, and providing a trail system for passive recreation use. The undeveloped portions of the Stone Canyon complex contain vegetation that could catch fire. In accordance with local and state fuel modification requirements, the site is currently maintained to minimize the probability of wildfire. In accordance with the Los Angeles Public Safety Code, fire prevention procedures during project construction would include such measures as fire safety training of all construction workers, onsite water truck for rapid response, equipping construction equipment with spark arresters, and stopping construction during red flag alert conditions. Following project construction, the site would continue to be maintained to comply with and the Los Angeles Public Safety Code to minimize the risk of wildland fire. Compliance with existing regulations would ensure a less than significant impact, and no further study of this issue is required.

VIII. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY

Would the project:

a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?

Less Than Significant Impact. The construction and operation of the proposed project would not generate significant amounts of wastewater or significantly increase urban runoff entering existing storm drains. The primary objective of the proposed project is to improve drinking water quality in accordance with updated EPA rules regarding surface water treatment and water disinfection and disinfection byproducts. To convert the existing open reservoir to a buried concrete storage structure, the reservoir would be drained of all water, which has been treated with chlorine. To achieve this, the reservoir water level would initially be drawn down by normal consumption through the drinking water distribution system. Once the water level in the reservoir reaches an elevation of 923 feet (from a maximum operating level of 929 feet), the remaining water would be drained to the 3.4 billion gallon Lower Stone Canyon Reservoir.

In the event that dewatering of the site is required during project construction, all dewatering discharges would be carried out in accordance with applicable requirements of the Regional Water Quality Control Board, including compliance with the NPDES permit regulations.

During project operation, rain that currently falls on the reservoir surface and enters the drinking water distribution system would fall on the ground surface above the buried storage structure. Much of the rain water would percolate into the soil. Any runoff would flow into the existing storm drainage system, which empties into Lower Stone Canyon Reservoir. The proposed project must comply with NPDES requirements to maintain water quality during project operation. As such, construction and operation of the proposed project would not violate water quality standards or waste discharge requirements. Compliance with existing regulations would ensure a less than significant impact to water quality, and no further study of this issue is required.

b) Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level (e.g., the production rate of pre-existing nearby wells would drop to a level which would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted)?

Less Than Significant Impact. The proposed project is the construction and operation of a buried concrete storage structure in place of Upper Stone Canyon Reservoir and development and operation of the site for passive recreation. During construction, the reservoir would be drained for a period of approximately five years. However, the existing reservoir is paved with asphaltic concrete, which does not allow percolation to the groundwater supply. Thus, removing the reservoir would not interfere with groundwater recharge. Completion of the project would create more permeable surface area than is currently located at the project site because the asphaltic concrete reservoir would be removed and the area atop the buried concrete storage structure would be planted. A small parking lot and restroom/storage building provided for the recreational uses at the site would not add significant areas of impermeable surfaces. Construction of the buried concrete storage structure would maintain the same amount of operational water storage at the site that is currently provided by Upper Stone Canyon Reservoir. Thus, the proposed project would not indirectly deplete groundwater supplies. No impact to groundwater recharge or groundwater supply would occur, and no further study of this issue is required.

c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner, which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site?

Less Than Significant Impact. The proposed project involves the conversion of Upper Stone Canyon Reservoir from an open reservoir to a buried concrete storage structure, planting the area atop, and providing a trail system for passive recreation use. During construction, it would be necessary to remove soils from surrounding hillside areas within the Stone Canyon Reservoir complex property to bury the concrete storage structure. There are natural drainage courses located within the reservoir complex that could be altered during construction. However, the general drainage pattern at the site would not be altered in a manner that would increase the amount of erosion or siltation. Rain that currently falls on the reservoir surface and

enters the drinking water distribution system would fall on the ground surface above the buried concrete storage structure. Much of the rain water would percolate into the soil. Any runoff would flow into the existing storm drainage system, which empties into Lower Stone Canyon Reservoir. The proposed project must comply with NPDES requirements to maintain water quality during project operation.

As discussed above, all construction activities would comply with applicable requirements of the Regional Water Quality Control Board, including compliance with NPDES permit regulations. Best Management Practices (BMPs) would be employed during project construction to control any potential erosion or siltation impacts related to construction activities. The project site, including the hillside areas disturbed by excavation, would be planted with locally indigenous native vegetation to stabilize soils and reduce erosion and siltation. LADWP and LADRP would also comply with BMPs during project operation to prevent erosion and siltation. Compliance with NPDES requirements would ensure a less than significant impact, and no further study of this issue is required.

d) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner, which would result in flooding on- or off-site?

Less Than Significant Impact. The proposed project involves the conversion of Upper Stone Canyon Reservoir from an open reservoir to a buried concrete storage structure, planting the area atop, and providing a trail system for passive recreation use. During construction, it would be necessary to remove soils from surrounding hillside areas to bury the concrete storage structure. There are natural drainage courses located within the reservoir complex that could be altered during construction. However, the general drainage pattern at the site would not be altered significantly in a manner that would result in flooding on or offsite. As discussed above, the proposed project would continue to discharge storm water runoff into the existing storm drainage system. The amount of storm water runoff during construction or operation of the proposed project would not be expected to exceed the capacity of the existing storm water drainage system. During project operation, rain that currently falls on the reservoir surface and enters the drinking water distribution system would fall on the ground surface above the buried concrete storage structure. Much of the rain water would percolate into the soil. Any runoff would flow into the existing storm drainage system, which empties into Lower Stone Reservoir. Based on a maximum volume runoff from the surface area above the proposed buried concrete storage structure, the surface elevation of Lower Stone Reservoir would rise only approximately 2 to 3 inches. No flooding would result on or offsite. The impact would be less than significant, and no further study of this issue is required.

e) Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned storm water drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?

Less Than Significant Impact. The proposed project involves replacing Upper Stone Canyon Reservoir with a buried concrete storage structure, planting the area atop, and providing a trail system for passive recreation use. To convert the reservoir to a buried storage structure, it would be drained of all water, which has been treated

with chlorine. To achieve this, the reservoir water level would first be drawn down by normal consumption through the drinking water distribution system. Once the water level in the reservoir reaches an elevation of 923 feet (from a maximum operating level of 929 feet), the remaining water would be drained to the 3.4 billion gallon Lower Stone Canyon Reservoir. To maintain the stability of the reservoir dam, the rate at which the water would be drained would be limited to approximately 4 feet per day. At this controlled rate, the storage capacity of the Lower Reservoir and the associated storm drainage system would readily accommodate the water drained from the Upper Reservoir. In addition, if the volume and rate of flow were to exceed the capacity of the Lower Stone Canyon Reservoir, the Lower Reservoir water level would be lowered by drinking it down through the micro filtration plant to the potable water distribution system.

During project operation, rain that currently falls on the reservoir surface and enters the drinking water distribution system would fall on the ground surface above the buried concrete storage structure. Much of the rain water would percolate into the soil. Any runoff would flow into the existing storm water drainage system, which empties into Lower Stone Reservoir. Based on a maximum volume runoff from the surface area above the proposed buried concrete storage structure, the surface elevation of Lower Stone Reservoir would rise only approximately 2 to 3 inches. The proposed project must comply with NPDES requirements to maintain water quality during project operation.

Therefore, the construction and operation of the proposed project would not create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned storm water drainage system or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff. The impact would be less than significant, and no further analysis of this issue is required.

f) Otherwise substantially degrade water quality?

Less Than Significant Impact. Potential short-term erosion effects could occur during construction activities that could affect water quality with runoff. However, as discussed above, all construction activities would comply with applicable requirements of the Regional Water Quality Control Board, including compliance with NPDES permit regulations. BMPs would be employed during project construction to control any potential erosion or siltation impacts related to construction activities. After construction, storm water runoff would be collected and discharged into the existing storm drainage system. LADWP and LADRP would also comply with BMPs during project operation to maintain water quality. Compliance with NPDES requirements would ensure a less than significant impact, and no further study of this issue is required.

g) Place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map?

No Impact. Upper Stone Canyon itself is designated a 100-year flood hazard area according to the City of Los Angeles General Plan Safety Element. However, the proposed project does not involve the construction of housing and would not otherwise place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area. No impact would occur, and no further study of this issue is required.

h) Place within a 100-year flood area structures to impede or redirect flood flows?

No Impact. Upper Stone Canyon Reservoir itself is designated a 100-year flood hazard area according to the City of Los Angeles General Plan Safety Element. However, the proposed project involves the replacement of Upper Stone Canyon Reservoir with a buried concrete storage structure and would not place structures on site that would impede or redirect flood flows. No impact would occur, and no further study of this issue is required.

i) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam?

No Impact. The proposed project site is not located in an area susceptible to inundation from failure of upstream dams as none are located in the project vicinity. The proposed project would remove an open reservoir and replace it with a buried concrete storage structure, thereby reducing the potential for inundation of downstream areas. As such, the construction and operation of the proposed project would not increase the risk from flooding or inundation. No impact would occur, and no further study of this issue is required.

j) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow?

Less Than Significant Impact. The proposed project is not subject to tsunami-related inundation as it is not located within the range of a tsunami hazard zone. The project site is subject to seiches from the reservoir. However, replacement of the open reservoir with a buried concrete storage structure would reduce the risk of seiche at the proposed project site. The impacts would be less than significant, and no further study of these issues is required. The proposed project does not involve placing structures onsite that would increase the risk associated with mudflows. However, construction activities would require disturbance of the hillsides surrounding the reservoir and may increase the potential for mudflows during construction. As discussed above, LADWP's construction contractor would prepare and comply with a SWPPP, which would include erosion control measures and slope stabilization to minimize the potential for mudflows. In addition, LADWP's construction contractor would comply with the Storm Water Construction Activities General Permit and obtain a NPDES Permit. Compliance with existing regulations would reduce impacts due to mudflows to a less than significant level. No further study of this issue is required.

IX. LAND USE AND PLANNING

Would the project:

a) Physically divide an established community?

No Impact. The site is currently used and has historically been used as a reservoir. Removing the existing reservoir and replacing it with a buried concrete storage structure, planting the area atop, and providing a trail system for passive recreation use would not divide an established community. The proposed project would not create a physical barrier. The project would take place entirely within the Stone

Canyon Reservoir complex. No road closures would occur as a result of the project. No impact would occur, and no further study of this issue is required.

b) Conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project (including, but not limited to the general plan, specific plan, local coastal program, or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?

Less Than Significant Impact. The proposed project site is designated as Open Space in the City of Los Angeles General Plan. The proposed project site is located within the Bel Air-Beverly Crest Community Plan area. The zoning designation for the proposed project site is [Q]OS-1XL (Open Space). The City of Los Angeles Municipal Code Section 12.04.05 states that the purpose of the Open Space (OS) zone is to provide regulation for publicly owned land in order to implement the City's adopted General Plan. No building, structure, or land shall be used and no building or structure shall be erected, moved onto the site, enlarged or maintained, except as specified. The primary purpose of this zone is to protect and preserve natural resources and natural features of the environment; to provide outdoor recreation opportunities and advance the public health and welfare; to enhance environmental quality; to encourage the management of public lands in a manner which protects environmental characteristics; and to encourage the maintenance of open space uses on all publicly owned park and recreation land and open space public land which is essentially unimproved. Uncovered public water supply reservoirs and accessory uses which are incidental to the operation and continued maintenance of such reservoirs are permitted within the OS zone. The proposed project would bury the existing open reservoir and, as such, would not create new structures in an open space zone. The project would have the beneficial impact of creating new publicly-accessible passive recreation space. Operation of the proposed project site as a recreation area may require construction of accessory structures, such as restroom/storage facilities. Such facilities are conditionally permitted accessory structures within the OS zone, under the provisions of a Conditional Use Permit (CUP). Thus, the proposed project would not conflict with an applicable land use plan upon obtaining a CUP. The impact would less than significant, and no further study of this issue is required.

Construction of the proposed project may require removal of mature trees that are protected under the City of Los Angeles Tree Protection Ordinance. This impact is described in Section IV(e) and will be analyzed further as part of the EIR.

c) Conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan?

No Impact. The proposed project would not conflict with any habitat conservation plan. The site is not within a habitat conservation plan or a natural community conservation plan. No impact would occur, and no further study of this issue is required.

X. MINERAL RESOURCES

Would the project:

a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?

No Impact. See discussion in item *b*, below.

b) Result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan?

No Impact. The proposed project would not result in the loss of a locally important mineral resource. The project site is not located on significant mineral or energy deposits as mapped by the City or the state. No impact would occur, and no further study of this issue is required.

XI. NOISE

Would the project result in:

a) Exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of applicable standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?

Potentially Significant Impact. Noise from construction activities would include noise from heavy equipment, pavement removal, excavation, grading, and construction of the buried concrete storage structure. Construction of the proposed project is expected to last approximately 5.5 years. Construction activities would generally occur within delineated work areas Monday through Friday between 7:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. and Saturday between 8:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. However, project construction could potentially expose nearby sensitive receptors (i.e., residential uses) to noise levels above established standards. Further analysis of construction noise impacts will be included in the EIR.

During project operation, there would be no additional noise-generating pieces of equipment or personnel at the project site related to the water storage function. The proposed project would introduce passive recreation uses. However, these uses are not anticipated to significantly increase noise levels in the project vicinity. No impact would occur during project operation, and no further study of this issue is required.

b) Exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?

Potentially Significant Impact. The proposed project may result in excessive exposure of persons to or generation of groundborne vibration or noise levels during project construction. Excavation and grading activities could result in minor amounts of groundborne vibration for limited durations. Typical construction equipment, such as bulldozers, loaded trucks, and jackhammers would generate certain levels of groundborne vibration. Thus, nearby sensitive receptors may be subjected to vibration attributable to construction activities in excess of applicable standards. This impact is potentially significant and will be analyzed in the EIR.

During project operation, there would be no additional heavy equipment, truck traffic, or other activities at the project site that could create vibration impacts. No impact would occur during project operation, and no further study of this issue is required.

c) A substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?

Less Than Significant Impact. As described above, noise from construction activities includes noise from heavy equipment, pavement removal, excavation, and grading. Construction activities could generate substantial increases in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity through the duration of construction, but these will be temporary in nature and occur only during the construction period.

During project operation, there would be no additional noise-generating pieces of equipment or personnel at the project site related to the water storage function. The proposed project would introduce passive recreation uses. However, these uses are not anticipated to significantly increase noise levels in the project vicinity. The impacts would be less than significant during project operation, and no further study of this issue is required.

d) A substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?

Potentially Significant Impact. As discussed above, noise impacts associated with project construction could potentially result in temporary or periodic increases in daytime noise levels. This issue is potentially significant and will be analyzed in the EIR.

During project operation, there would be no additional noise-generating pieces of equipment or personnel at the project site related to the water storage function. The proposed project would introduce passive recreation uses. However, these uses are not anticipated to significantly increase noise levels in the project vicinity. No impact would occur during project operation, and no further study of this issue is required.

e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?

No Impact. See discussion in item *f*, below.

f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?

No Impact. The proposed project is not located within an airport land use plan or within 2 miles of an airport. The closest public airport to the project site is Bob Hope Airport located approximately 7.5 miles to the northeast. The closest general aviation airport to the proposed project site is the Van Nuys Airport, located approximately 5.5 miles to the north. As such, the proposed project would not expose people residing or working near the project area to excessive noise levels associated with airport uses. No impact would occur, and no further study of this issue is required.

XII. POPULATION AND HOUSING

Would the project:

a) Induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?

No Impact. The proposed project involves the replacement of Upper Stone Canyon Reservoir with a buried concrete storage structure in order to meet water quality standards. The proposed project is intended to ensure the reliability and safety of the existing water supply. The project does not involve increasing the amount of water that can be stored onsite such that additional water supply would be available. As such, the project would not induce substantial population growth in the area, either directly or indirectly. No impact would occur, and no further study of this issue is required.

b) Displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?

No Impact. See discussion in item *c*, below.

c) Displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?

No Impact. Construction and operation of the proposed project would occur within the LADWP Stone Canyon Reservoir complex property. There is no existing housing within the property, and the project does not require the removal of housing. Therefore, construction and operation of the proposed project would not have any impacts on the number or availability of existing housing in the area and would not necessitate the construction of replacement housing elsewhere. No impact would occur, and no further study of this issue is required.

XIII. PUBLIC SERVICES

a) Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services:

i) Fire protection?

No Impact. See discussion in item *ii*, below.

ii) Police protection?

No Impact. The proposed project is the replacement of Upper Stone Canyon Reservoir with a buried concrete storage structure, planting the area atop, and providing a trail system for passive recreation use. Fire service to the project site is provided by the City of Los Angeles Fire Department. Police protection services are provided by the City of Los Angeles Police Department. In addition, LADWP currently has security staff stationed onsite at all times and would continue to use security staff during and after project construction. Construction

of the proposed project would occur entirely within the Stone Canyon Reservoir complex property. No road closures would be required during project construction that would interfere with emergency response. The proposed passive recreation function would not generate significant additional fire or police protection needs at the site. As such, no new or expansion of existing fire or police protection facilities would be required, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts. No further study of this issue is required.

iii) Schools?

No Impact. See discussion in item *v*, below.

iv) Parks?

No Impact. See discussion in item *v*, below.

v) Other public facilities?

No Impact. The primary objective of the proposed project is to ensure the safety and reliability of the drinking water supply in accordance with updated EPA rules regarding surface water treatment and water disinfection and disinfection byproducts. No population increase in the project area would result from the construction and operation of the buried concrete storage structure. The proposed project would take place entirely within the Stone Canyon Reservoir complex property. No new housing or businesses would be constructed as part of the project to induce population growth. The proposed project would have the beneficial impact of creating new passive recreational space at the Stone Canyon Reservoir complex. No substantial adverse physical impact to local schools, parks, or other public facilities would occur, and no further study of this issue is required.

XIV. RECREATION

Would the project:

a) Increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?

No Impact. The proposed project is the replacement of Upper Stone Canyon Reservoir with a buried concrete storage structure, planting the area atop, and providing a trail system for passive recreation use. The proposed project would have the beneficial impact of providing new passive recreational space. It would not increase the use of existing park areas or other recreation facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of existing nearby parks would occur or be accelerated. No impact would occur, and no further study of this issue is required.

b) Include recreational facilities or require construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?

Less Than Significant Impact. Although the proposed project includes new recreational facilities, including a trail system and support functions such as

restrooms, maintenance storage areas, and parking, as discussed elsewhere in this document, the passive nature and scale of the recreational activity and the relatively small size of the facilities within the setting of the Stone Canyon Reservoir complex are not expected to generate significant long-term adverse physical environmental effects.

XV. TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC

Would the project:

a) Cause an increase in traffic that is substantial in relation to the existing traffic load and capacity of the street system (i.e., result in a substantial increase in either the number of vehicle trips, the volume-to-capacity ratio on roads, or congestion at intersections)?

Potentially Significant Impact. See discussion in item *b*, below.

b) Exceed, either individually or cumulatively, a level of service standard established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways?

Potentially Significant Impact. Based on the trips generated by construction activities, including the delivery of materials and supplies to the reservoir site and worker commutes, the proposed project could result in increased traffic that could be substantial in relation to existing traffic load and street capacity and could, individually or cumulatively, exceed established level of service standards for roads in the vicinity. Construction is anticipated to take 5.5 years to complete. This impact is potentially significant and will be analyzed in the EIR.

Following construction of the proposed project, no additional vehicle trips to and from the project site in relation to the water storage function would be generated beyond what currently occurs for the existing reservoir. The proposed project would introduce new passive recreation uses. However, the small number of vehicle trips generated by this use is not anticipated to create significant impacts in relation to existing traffic load and street capacity or level of service standards. Operation of the proposed project would create less than significant impacts, and no further analysis of this issue is required.

c) Result in a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that results in substantial safety risks?

No Impact. Construction and operation of the proposed project would not generate air traffic. The project would not include any high-rise structures that could act as a hazard to aircraft navigation. No impact would occur, and no further study of this issue is required.

d) Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?

Potentially Significant Impact. Construction of the proposed project would not require road closures. Construction activity and staging would occur entirely within the Stone Canyon Reservoir complex property. However, construction trucks turning into and out of the site could create a hazard to through traffic because of the slow speeds and blind corners on Mulholland Drive. During operation of the proposed

project, vehicles attempting to turn into and out of the project site could also create a hazard to through traffic on Mulholland Drive. These issues will be studied further in the EIR.

e) Result in inadequate emergency access?

Less Than Significant Impact. The proposed project would not hinder emergency access in the area, as no road closures are proposed as part of the project. All construction activities and staging would take place within the Stone Canyon Reservoir complex property. During project operation, the existing access road would provide emergency access to the site. Therefore, operation of the proposed project would not result in inadequate emergency access. The impacts would be less than significant, and no further study of this issue is required.

f) Result in inadequate parking capacity?

No Impact. During construction, worker vehicle parking would occur within the Stone Canyon Reservoir property. As such, construction activities would not result in inadequate parking capacity. During project operation, no additional employees would be located on the project site related to water storage functions. The site would be used for passive recreation. Parking within the reservoir property boundaries would be designed to accommodate the expected number of users related to this passive recreation use. No impact would occur, and no further study of this issue is required.

g) Would the project conflict with adopted policies supporting alternative transportation (e.g., bus turnouts, bicycle racks)?

No Impact. The proposed project would not conflict with adopted policies supporting alternative transportation. Construction activities would take place entirely within the Stone Canyon Reservoir complex property and would not require the removal or relocation of alternative transportation facilities (i.e., bus stops and bike lanes). Accordingly, no impacts to alternative transportation would occur, and no further study of this issue is required.

XVI. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS

Would the project:

a) Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board?

No Impact. The proposed project would not result in changes to facilities or operations at existing wastewater treatment facilities. The primary objective of the proposed project is to ensure the safety and reliability of the drinking water supply in accordance with updated EPA rules regarding surface water treatment and water disinfection and disinfection byproducts. No modification to a wastewater treatment facility's current wastewater discharges would occur. No impact to wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board would occur, and no further study of this issue is required.

b) Require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?

Less Than Significant Impact. Construction and operation of the proposed project would generate only minor amounts of wastewater. The proposed project involves replacing Upper Stone Canyon Reservoir with a buried concrete storage structure, planting the area atop, and providing a trail system for passive recreation use. Restroom facilities would be constructed at the site. However, the relatively small volume of wastewater generated at these facilities would not require the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities. The impact would be less than significant, and no further study of this issue is required.

c) Require or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?

No Impact. The proposed project involves replacing Upper Stone Canyon Reservoir with a buried concrete storage structure, planting the area atop, and providing a trail system for passive recreation use. To convert the reservoir to a buried concrete storage structure, it would be drained of all water. To achieve this, the reservoir water level would first be drawn down by normal consumption through the drinking water distribution system. Once the water level in the reservoir reaches an elevation of 923 feet (from a maximum operating level of 929 feet), the remaining water would be drained to the 3.4-billion gallon Lower Stone Canyon Reservoir. To maintain the stability of the reservoir dam, the rate at which the water would be drained would be limited to approximately 4 feet per day. At this controlled rate, the storage capacity of the Lower Reservoir and the associated storm drainage system would readily accommodate the water drained from the Upper Reservoir. In addition, if the volume and rate of flow would exceed the capacity of the Lower Stone Canyon Reservoir, the Lower Reservoir water level would be lowered by drinking it down through the micro filtration plant to the potable water distribution system.

During project operation, rain that currently falls on the reservoir surface and enters the drinking water distribution system would fall on the ground surface above the buried water storage structure. Much of the rain water would percolate into the soil. Any runoff would flow into the existing storm drainage system, which empties into Lower Stone Reservoir. Based on a maximum volume runoff from the surface area above the proposed buried concrete storage structure, the surface elevation of Lower Stone Reservoir would rise only approximately 2 to 3 inches.

Therefore, the construction and operation of the proposed project would not require or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects. No further analysis of this issue is required.

d) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed?

Less Than Significant Impact. The proposed project includes replacing Upper Stone Canyon Reservoir with a buried concrete storage structure, planting the area atop, and providing a trail system for passive recreation use. The buried concrete

storage structure would provide an equivalent operating capacity as the existing open reservoir. During project construction, the reservoir would be out of service for approximately 5 years. Potable water would be supplied to the Upper Stone Canyon Reservoir service area through a bypass line that would provide water from the LAAFP. LADWP would supplement its water supply with additional purchased water during the construction period to ensure that there would be adequate supply to meet peak demand. No shortage of water supply would be expected. The impact would be less than significant, and no further study of this issue is required.

e) Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?

No Impact. Construction and operation of the proposed project would generate only minor amounts of wastewater. The proposed project involves replacing Upper Stone Canyon Reservoir with a buried concrete storage structure, planting the area atop, and providing a trail system for passive recreation use. Restroom facilities would be constructed at the site. However, the relatively small volume of wastewater generated at these facilities would not result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider that it lacked adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments. No impact would occur, and no further study of this issue is required.

f) Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs?

Less Than Significant Impact. Construction debris would be recycled or transported to a landfill site and disposed appropriately. In accordance with AB 939, LADWP's construction contractor would ensure that source reduction techniques and recycling measures are incorporated into project construction. The amount of debris generated during project construction is not expected to significantly impact landfill capacities. Operation of the proposed project would not result in an increase in personnel at the project site in relation to the water storage functions. The site would be used for passive recreation. As such, operation would not generate significant volumes of solid waste. The impact would be less than significant, and no further analysis of this issue is required.

g) Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?

No Impact. During construction and operation of the proposed project, LADWP would comply with all City and state solid waste diversion, reduction, and recycling mandates, including compliance with the County-wide Integrated Waste Management Plan (IWMP) and the City of Los Angeles Municipal Code. No impact would occur, and no further study of this issue is required.

XVII. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE

a) Does the project have the potential to substantially degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal, or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?

Potentially Significant Impact. The analysis conducted in this Initial Study results in a determination that the proposed project could potentially degrade the quality of the environment by reducing the habitat of wildlife species, or eliminating a plant or animal community or important examples of the major period of California history, as discussed in Sections IV and V, above. The impact is potentially significant, and further analysis of these issues will be included in the EIR.

b) Does the project have environmental effects that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are significant when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects.)

Potentially Significant Impact. As discussed Section II, the proposed project could contribute to cumulative air quality impacts within a region that is non-attainment for O_3, PM_{10}, and $PM_{2.5}$. Cumulative noise and traffic impacts could also occur during project construction. These impacts are potentially significant. These issues will be discussed further in the EIR.

c) Does the project have environmental effects, which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?

Potentially Significant Impact. As discussed in the respective issue areas, the proposed project could have adverse effects on human beings related to aesthetics, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, noise, and traffic. These issues will be discussed further in the EIR.

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SECTION 4
LIST OF PREPARERS, ACRONYMS, AND REFERENCES

LEAD AGENCY

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Dave Kelly, Senior Biologist (Garcia and Associates)
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ACRONYMS

AQMP	Air Quality Management Plan
Basin	South Coast Air Basin
BMPs	Best Management Practices
CAAQS	California Ambient Air Quality Standards
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
DSOD	Division of Safety of Dams
EIR	Environmental Impact Report
EPA	United States Environmental Protection Agency
GHG	greenhouse gases
I-405	Interstate 405, San Diego Freeway
IWMP	Integrated Waste Management Plan
LAAFP	Los Angeles Aqueduct Filtration Plant
LADRP	Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks
LADWP	Los Angeles Department of Water and Power
MG	million gallon
MWD	Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
NOP	Notice of Preparation
NPDES	National Pollution Discharge Elimination System
O_3	ozone
OS	Open Space Zone
PM_{10}	respirable particulate matter
$PM_{2.5}$	fine particulate matter
SCAG	Southern California Association of Governments
SCAQMD	South Coast Air Quality Management District
SIP	State Implementation Plan
SWPPP	Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan

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