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NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT FOR THE DE SOTO TANKS AND PUMP STATION PROJECT

DATE: March 6, 2020

TO: Agencies, Organizations, and Interested Parties

SUBJECT: Notice of Availability of a Draft Environmental Impact Report for the De Soto Tanks and Pump Station Project

A Draft Environmental Impact Report (Draft EIR) has been prepared by the City of Los Angeles (City), as represented by the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) to evaluate potential environmental effects that would result from development of the proposed De Soto Tanks and Pump Storage Project (Proposed Project). LADWP is identified as the lead agency for the Proposed Project under the California Environmental Quality Act. The Proposed Project includes the replacement of the existing 3-million gallon (MG) water storage reservoir with two buried, pre-stressed circular concrete storage tanks immediately north of the existing reservoir site. The combined storage capacity upon completion of the new storage tanks will be approximately 20 MG. Construction of the De Soto Tanks Project would also require the installation of approximately 2,500 linear feet of new inlet pipelines. Upon completion of the De Soto Tanks, the existing De Soto Reservoir will be demolished and a new De Soto Pump Station will also be constructed to pump water to the 1305-ft pressure zone.

LADWP is requesting input from individuals, stakeholders, organizations, and agency representatives that may be interested in the Proposed Project regarding the content of the environmental analysis and information included in the Draft EIR.

PROJECT BACKGROUND

The existing De Soto Reservoir, located in the northwestern area of the San Fernando Valley, was built in 1941. The De Soto Tanks project is a water storage project to provide additional local storage and increase operational effectiveness, reliability, and flexibility; system redundancy; and emergency supply to the West San Fernando Valley.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The De Soto Tanks Project is a water storage project to provide additional local storage and increase operational effectiveness, reliability, and flexibility; system redundancy; and emergency supply to the West San Fernando Valley.

The project would functionally replace the existing 3 MG De Soto Reservoir, with two buried, pre-stressed circular concrete storage tanks immediately north of the existing reservoir site. The combined storage capacity upon completion of the new storage tanks would be approximately 20 MG.

The existing De Soto Reservoir, located in the northwestern area of the San Fernando Valley, was built in 1941. It has a base elevation of 1,100 feet above mean sea level and a high water level of 1,123 feet. In order to maintain appropriate operating pressure, the two proposed buried pre-stressed concrete tanks would have a base elevation of 1,100 feet, a high water level of 1,130 feet, and a top of tank elevation of 1,140 feet. Excavation at the proposed project site would be required to bury the tanks, which would be approximately 240 feet in diameter and 40 feet in height, below existing grade level in order to achieve these target elevations.

The construction of these tanks will require a temporary excavation to a depth of approximately 50 feet. This excavation will likely include 2:1 (horizontal:vertical) slope cuts and vertical walls of up to 40 feet with tie-backs as part of the shoring system.

Construction of the De Soto Tanks Project would also require the installation of approximately 2,500 linear feet of new inlet pipelines that would connect to the LADWP Rinaldi Trunk Line and outlet pipelines that would connect to the LADWP De Soto Trunk Line and Granada Trunk Line. In addition, a new pressure regulator station is needed to reduce the water pressure coming via Rinaldi Trunk Line from Los Angeles Aqueduct Filtration Plant UV Plant, 1,190-foot high water, to the De Soto Tanks which will have a 1,130-foot high water.

Upon completion of the De Soto Tanks, the existing De Soto Reservoir will be demolished and a new De Soto Pump Station will also be constructed to pump water to the 1305-ft pressure zone. Currently, the 1305-ft pressure zone is supplied by the Van Norman Pump Station No. 2, which pumps water to the 1445-ft pressure zone and is regulated at the Granada TL at De Soto Reservoir Regulator Station to the 1305-ft pressure zone. The new De Soto Pump Station will reduce dependence on Van Norman Pump Station No. 2 and improve water quality by allowing for better cycling of the Kittridge Tanks in the 1305-ft pressure zone.

PROJECT LOCATION

The proposed project is located in the City of Los Angeles, within the County of Los Angeles, at 11200 De Soto Avenue, in the Chatsworth community. The project site is generally bounded by the 118 Freeway to the north, De Soto Avenue to the west, and Rinaldi Street to the south and east. Adjacent to the property on the east side, is an undeveloped, privately-owned parcel of land that would be acquired to facilitate construction of the proposed project. The project is located in Council District No. 12 and in the Chatsworth Neighborhood Council area.

SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS

The Proposed Project would create short-term significant impacts to air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, hydrology and water quality, and noise requiring mitigation measures. Specific mitigation measures have been identified which would reduce impacts to air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, hydrology and water quality, and noise to a less than significant level. The Proposed Project would not lead to any long-term significant operational impacts.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

The 45-day public comment period for this Notice of Availability will commence on March 6, 2020, and conclude on April 20, 2020. The Draft EIR is available for review on the LADWP website at <http://www.ladwp.com/envnotices> and at the following locations:

- LADWP, Environmental Affairs Division
111 North Hope Street, Room 1044
Los Angeles, CA 90012
- Chatsworth Branch Public Library
21052 Devonshire Street
Chatsworth, CA 91321

Please submit comments in writing, or email, to the address provided below no later than **5:00 p.m. on April 20, 2020.**

Los Angeles Department of Water and Power
Environmental Affairs
James R. Howe
111 North Hope Street, Room 1044
Los Angeles, CA 90012
Email: James.Howe@ladwp.com

For all respondents, please provide contact information and provide comments on the environmental analysis included within the Draft EIR. PLEASE NOTE: LADWP's practice is to make the entirety of comments received a part of the public record. Therefore names, home addresses, home phone numbers, and email addresses of commenters, if included in the response, will be made part of the record available for public review. Individual commenters may request that LADWP withhold their name and/or home addresses, etc., but if you wish LADWP to consider withholding this information you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comments. In the absence of this written request, this information will be made part of the record for public review. LADWP will always make submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives of, or officials of, organizations or businesses, available for public inspection in their entirety.

PUBLIC MEETING

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

Date: Thursday, March 26, 2020
Time: 6:30 PM
Location: Chatsworth Branch Library – Meeting Room
21052 Devonshire Street
Chatsworth, CA 91311

Jane Hauptman for

Charles C. Holloway
Manager of Environmental Planning and Assessment



Project Site

- Existing Granada Trunkline
- Existing Rinaldi Trunkline
- Existing De Soto Trunkline
- Regulator Station

SOURCE: LADWP

LA Los Angeles Department of Water & Power

0 0.5 1.0 Feet

FIGURE 2-2
Site Plan
 LADWP De Soto Tanks Project



SOURCE: SOURCE: Bing, OpenStreetMap



FIGURE 2-1

Project Location

LADWP De Soto Tunnel Project