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Notice of Preparation of an Environmental Impact Report

Date: March 17, 2016

To: Agencies, Organizations, and Interested Parties

Subject: Notice of Preparation of an Environmental Impact Report for the Redmont Pump Station and Tank Project

This Notice of Preparation (NOP) has been prepared to notify agencies and interested parties that the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP), as the Lead Agency, is beginning preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for the proposed Redmont Pump Station and Tank Project (proposed Project).

The LADWP is soliciting input from interested persons and agencies as to the scope and content of the the EIR. In accordance with CEQA, the LADWP requests that agencies review the Project description provided in this NOP and provide comments on environmental issues related to the statutory responsibilities of the agency. The EIR will be used by the LADWP when considering approval of the proposed Project and by other Responsible and Trustee Agencies to support their discretionary actions related to the Project.

Project Location

The proposed site for the new Redmont Pump Station and Tank Project is located at 10501 Redmont Avenue, the site of the existing Redmont Pump Station and Reservoir. This site is at the intersection of North Tujunga Canyon Boulevard and Summitrose Street in the City of Los Angeles, CA (see Figure 1).

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Telephone: (213) 367-4211 www.LADWP.com

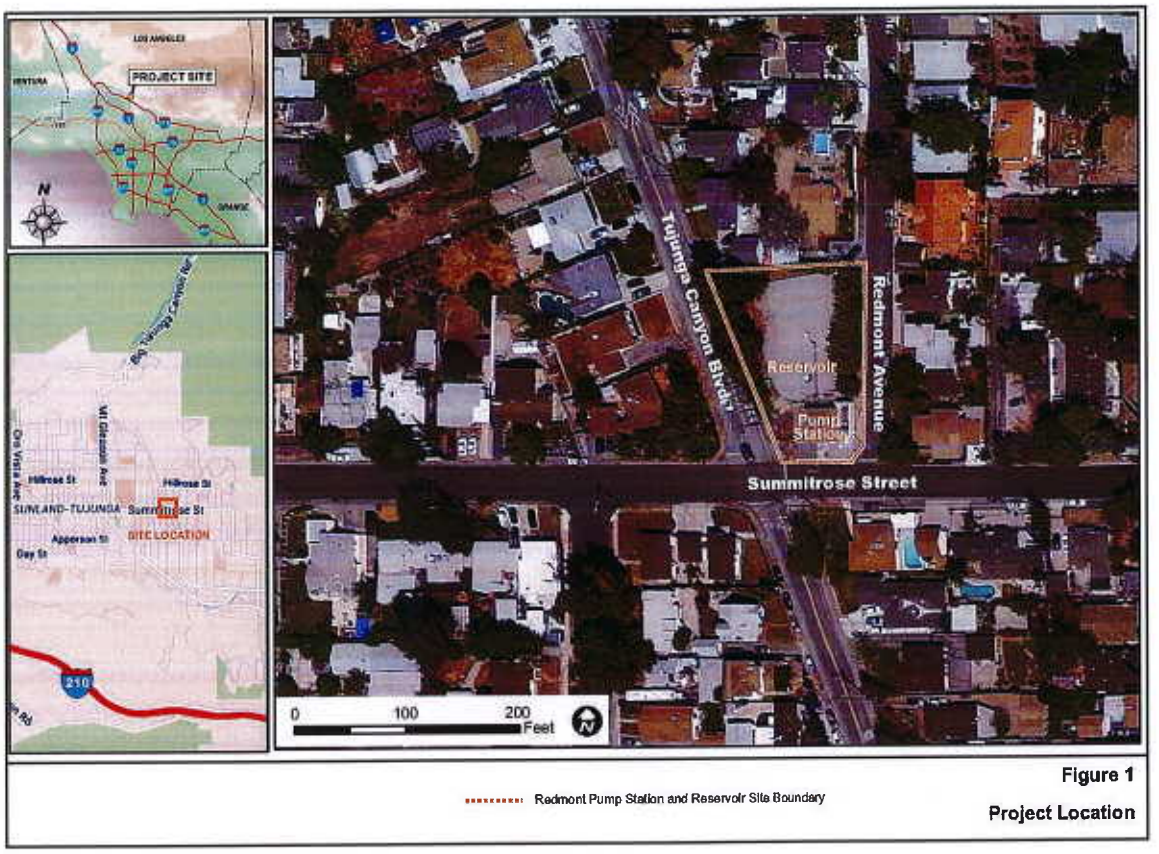

Figure 1
Project Location

Project Overview

The existing Redmont Pump Station was constructed in 1955 and serves the communities of Sunland and Tujunga in the City of Los Angeles; it is owned and operated by the LADWP. The existing Redmont Reservoir, located at the same facility, was built in 1920, and acquired by the LADWP in 1951. The existing reservoir is an excavated and concrete lined facility with a built up roof supported by redwood timber roof framing and 3/4 –inch thick redwood planking which houses 435,000 gallons of water. The pump station receives water from the existing Redmont located within the same property boundaries of the station, and pumps water to the Highway Highland and Apperson Tanks. The Highway Highland Tank is located approximately two miles southeast of the station, and the Apperson Tank is located approximately one mile east of the station.

The existing Redmont Pump Station site is approximately 19,196 square feet in size and includes the pump station itself, the existing Redmont Reservoir, and on-site parking for an estimated two to three vehicles. The "footprint" of the existing pump station is approximately 625 square feet in size, and is approximately 20 feet high. Enclosed within the station, there are three electric water pumps having a maximum operating rate of 5,000 gallons per minute (gpm) combined, and one 425 horsepower emergency backup diesel engine powered pump with an estimated flow rate of 3,300 gpm. On average two pumps are operated simultaneously, and three pumps are typically operated during peak water demand periods. Four water pipelines connect to the existing station; each pipeline is 20 inches in diameter and has a maximum operating pressure of 160 pounds per square inch gauge (psig). One pipeline supplies water to the pump station from the existing Redmont Reservoir, one pipeline supplies water from Foothill Pump Station, and the remaining pipelines transport water to the Highway Highland and Apperson Tanks.

During the summer months when water demands are high, the water elevation of the Redmont Reservoir drops and the existing pump station does not function efficiently. Due to reduced efficiencies under these circumstances it requires excessive system manipulation to distribute water to the communities of Sunland and Tujunga. Additionally, due to the age of the existing pump station (59 years), it routinely requires an inordinate level of maintenance. An inspection in 1992 found that the reservoir liner and roof were in an insufficient condition. Although repairs were made, the inspection recommended that the reservoir be replaced entirely to ensure safety and reliability.

To correct the operational weaknesses and vulnerabilities of the existing Redmont Pump Station, the LADWP proposes to replace it. The partially buried reservoir will be replaced with a 468,000 gallon steel bolt-in tank, and the existing Redmont Pump Station will be replaced with a dual pressure zone pump station consisting of six electric motor drive pumps and one emergency internal combustion engine driven pump.

Project Objectives

The objective of the proposed Project is to replace the LADWP's aging water storage and pump facilities that have had maintenance and operational issues. The Redmont Tank would be replaced with a 468,000-gallon steel tank, and the existing Redmont Pump Station would be replaced with a dual pressure zone pump station. The proposed replacement would improve the water system reliability in the Sunland-Tujunga community and would reduce the facility's operations and maintenance cost. The new dual zone pump station would also support water delivery to a future 1960-foot tank and meet the fire demand requirements placed on the 1960-system by the proposed Canyon Hills Development project (i.e., Tract 61672).

Project Components

Under the proposed Project, the LADWP would:

- Construct and operate a new water pump station to replace the existing Redmont Pump Station using a dual pressure zone pumping system.
- Construct and operate a 468,000 gallon tank to replace the existing Redmont Reservoir.
- Install and maintain water connection pipelines on-site.

Potential Environmental Impacts

In accordance with Section 15126 of the CEQA Guidelines, the EIR will assess the physical changes to the environment that would likely result from construction and operation of the Redmont Pump Station and Tank Project, including direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts, as well as growth-inducing effects. In accordance with CEQA Guidelines Section 15063 (a), the LADWP has determined that an EIR will clearly be required to satisfy environmental review for the Redmont Pump Station and Tank Project, and therefore no Initial Study is required. The EIR will analyze all environmental resources required by CEQA, and will identify mitigation measures if necessary to reduce potentially significant impacts of the proposed Project. The EIR also will discuss alternatives to the proposed Project, including the no project alternative [CEQA Guidelines Section 15126.6 (e)]. The alternatives discussion in the EIR will evaluate alternatives considered as a means for lessening or avoiding any potentially significant environmental impacts of the proposed Project.

The environmental effects to be analyzed in detail in the EIR will include, but are not limited to, the following:

Air Quality

The proposed Project area is located in the South Coast Air Basin (SCAB). The primary agencies responsible for regulations to improve air quality in the SCAB are the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) and the California Air Resources Board (CARB). The EIR will analyze consistency with federal and State ambient air quality standards. Construction of the proposed Project has the potential to result in maximum daily on-site emissions that would exceed the SCAQMD Localized Significance Thresholds (LSTs) for PM10 and PM2.5. No operational impacts to air quality are anticipated. The EIR will estimate

construction-related emissions and propose mitigation as needed to reduce potentially significant effects.

Noise

The EIR will analyze consistency with local noise ordinances. Potential noise and vibration from the Project would consist of two types: short-term generation from construction activities, and long-term (continuous and periodic) from operation and maintenance of the Project. Construction of the proposed Project has the potential to create a substantial temporary increase in ambient noise levels in the Project vicinity above levels existing without the Project. Maximum noise levels would likely not be continuous throughout the entire workday, but instead periodic and short-term. No operational impacts relating to noise are anticipated. The EIR will estimate construction-related noise, and evaluate the impact of the proposed Project as it relates to noise in the vicinity of the Project area.

Transportation and Traffic

Construction of the proposed Project has the potential to result in temporary, but significant impacts to traffic at certain intersections within the Project area. Temporary lane or road closures may be needed during specific construction phases (e.g., grading, concrete pours, demolition) in order to allow for proper site access and to ensure public safety. The frequency and length of the closures is anticipated to be minimal. On-street parking impacts are anticipated only when staging or access to the proposed project site occurs on Redmont Avenue, as that is the only street segment near the site with on-street parking. No operational impacts to transportation and traffic are anticipated. The EIR will evaluate the impact of the proposed Project on traffic and circulation in the vicinity of the proposed Project site and on local and regional roadways, and will propose mitigation as needed to reduce potentially significant effects.

The environmental effects to other resources included in Appendices F and G of the CEQA Guidelines will be considered in the EIR. The level of detail of the analysis will be commensurate with the significance of impacts as determined for each resource.

Public Review Period

The LADWP invites your comments on the scope and content of the EIR relevant to your agency's statutory responsibilities in connection with the proposed Project. Responsible and Trustee Agencies may need to use the EIR when considering permits or other discretionary approvals your agency may issue for the proposed Project. This NOP is being circulated for 30 days pursuant to CEQA guidelines.

Your comments must be received by 5:00 p.m. on April 16, 2016. Please indicate a contact name and return address in your comments, and submit your comments to:

Ms. Stephanie Eatinger
Environmental Planning and Assessment
Los Angeles Department of Water and Power
111 North Hope Street, Room 1044
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Please check the LADWP project website page, http://www.ladwp.com/envnotices, for copies of this NOP.If you require additional information regarding this notice, please contact Ms. Stephanie Eatinger at (213) 367-0968 or Stephanie.Eatinger@ladwp.com.

Sincerely,

Charles C. Holloway

Charles C. Holloway
Manager of Environmental Planning and Assessment