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NOTICE OF INTENT

DATE: December 1, 2010

TO: Interested Persons and Agencies

SUBJECT: Notice of Intent to Adopt a Negative Declaration for the Maclay Tanks and Reservoir Solar Project

Los Angeles Department of Water and Power

PURPOSE: The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) proposes to install and operate solar photovoltaic (PV) modules at the sites of the existing Maclay Tanks and Reservoir located in the community of Sylmar in Los Angeles. The proposed Maclay Tanks and Reservoir Solar Project would provide approximately 2.5 megawatts (MW) of generation capacity to help the City of Los Angeles meet its renewable energy goals. At the Maclay Tanks site, solar modules would be placed on the roof of the two existing concrete cylindrical tanks and on adjacent open ground. The total area to receive solar modules at this site would be approximately 210,000 square feet, which would provide about 1.6 MW of energy. At the Maclay Reservoir site, solar modules would be placed on the roof of the existing rectangular reservoir. The total area at the Maclay Reservoir site to receive solar modules would be approximately 80,000 square feet, which would provide about 0.9 MW of energy. LADWP, as Lead Agency, has prepared an Initial Study complying with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) of 1970 as amended, to determine if the project would have significant adverse environmental impacts. Based on the Initial Study, LADWP concludes that the proposed project will not result in any significant adverse impacts on the environment and is informing agencies and the public of its intention to adopt a Negative Declaration.

PROJECT LOCATION: The Maclay Tanks and Reservoir Solar Project would be located within LADWP's Maclay drinking water storage properties, which include two parcels of land located in the Sylmar community of Los Angeles between Fenton Avenue (to the southwest) and Eldridge Avenue (to the northeast) and separated by Astoria Street. The Maclay Tanks site, consisting of about 16.5 acres of land, is located at 13601 West Astoria Street, and the Maclay Reservoir site, consisting of about six acres, is located immediately southeast of the Maclay Tanks site, at 13651 North Eldridge Avenue.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The PV solar modules would be installed in rows on an aluminum framework that would be mounted according to the underlying surface (i.e., concrete tanks, metal reservoir roof, or ground). On Maclay Tanks, to avoid damage to the concrete cover, the aluminum framework would be attached to precast concrete blocks, which would act as ballast to stabilize the frame and modules.

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On the terraced area adjacent to the tanks, the most cost-effective support system would be used; i.e., the structural framework would either rest on anchors that would be screwed into the ground or be ballasted in a manner similar to that expected to be used on the tanks. The area beneath the panels would remain essentially permeable surface. The mounted panels would have a low profile, with the high end of the slightly tilted panel less than five feet above the ground. On Maclay Reservoir, the aluminum framework would be attached onto the structural metal framework of the roof, avoiding loading of the light-gauge metal roof itself. LADWP would perform seismic analysis to determine the best configuration for the existing reservoir roof system.

Inverters and transformers would be installed on the ground adjacent to the reservoir and would convert the direct current (DC) energy produced by the solar modules to alternating current (AC) prior to distribution from the site. The proposed project would connect to existing power lines on streets adjacent to the reservoir sites. The project would not require construction of any new offsite power lines.

FINDINGS: Based on the Initial Study, LADWP has determined that the proposed project could not have a significant effect on the environment, and a Negative Declaration will be adopted. No mitigation measures or Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program are required.

PUBLIC REVIEW: The LADWP has established a 37-day review and comment period for the Initial Study and Notice of Intent to Adopt a Negative Declaration. The public review and comment period starts on December 2, 2010, and ends on January 7, 2011. The electronic version of the Negative Declaration, which includes the CEQA Initial Study, may be reviewed online at www.ladwp.com/envnotices and copies are available for review at the following locations:

Los Angeles Department of Water and Power
111 North Hope Street, Room 1044
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Sylmar Branch Library
14561 Polk St.
Sylmar, CA 91342-4055

Written comments on the Negative Declaration should be submitted to the following:

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

Due to the time limits mandated by State law, any comments must be submitted (postmarked) no later than the last day of the review period (January 7, 2011). Questions regarding this notice should be directed to Julie Van Wagner at (213) 367-5295.

The Los Angeles Board of Water and Power Commissioners will consider the proposed project at a regularly scheduled future Board meeting at the LADWP hearing room at 111 North Hope Street, 15th Floor, Los Angeles, California 90012. The date for said meeting has not been determined; however, notification of the meeting date will be announced online at www.ladwp.com/envnotices. Board agendas can be accessed online at <http://www.ladwp.com/ladwp/cms/ladwp001861.jsp>, and are available at the actual Board meeting.

Signature: 
Mr. Charles Holloway
Manager of Environmental Planning & Assessment