

NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF A DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

Date: January 23, 2018

To: Affected Agencies, Organizations, and Interested Persons

Subject: Notice of Preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Report for the Power Plant 1 and Power Plant 2 Transmission Line Conversion 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, will prepare an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for the proposed Power Plant 1 (PP1) and Power Plant 2 (PP2) Transmission Line Conversion Project (proposed project).

LADWP is requesting input from interested individuals, organizations, and agencies regarding the scope and content of the environmental analysis to be included in the EIR for the proposed project. In accordance with CEQA, LADWP requests that agencies review the project description and provide comments on environmental issues related to the statutory responsibilities of the agency. A description of the project and preliminary determination of the environmental resource topics to be addressed in the EIR are included in the Initial Study for the proposed project.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The proposed project would involve replacing a 12-mile segment of an existing 115 kilovolt (kV) double circuit transmission line with a new 230 kV double circuit transmission line (hereafter referred to as the "115 kV line" and the "230 kV line," respectively). This process would involve demolishing the existing 115 kV line and constructing an approximately 12-mile segment of 230 kV lines and associated transmission structures generally adjacent to the existing 115 kV line. The 115 kV line and its associated transmission towers would be removed after the 115 kV line is terminated at Haskell Canyon Switching Station from the north. The existing line that would be replaced is located within an alignment that extends from Haskell Canyon Switching Station in the north to Olive Switching Station in the south (within the City of Los Angeles). The proposed new line would also originate at Haskell Canyon Switching Station but would instead terminate at Sylmar Switching Station. The project alignment is approximately 12 miles long and consists of LADWP-owned land and private properties within an LADWP right-of-way. The purpose of the proposed project is to increase the transmission capacity between Haskell Canyon Switching Station and Sylmar Switching Station so that additional renewable energy supplies can be transmitted to the Los Angeles basin.

PROJECT LOCATION

The project alignment is located within an established transmission corridor that has been used for electricity transmission since the early 1900s. The corridor is an LADWP right-of-way, consisting of LADWP-owned land and private property that is 250 feet in width and contains three existing transmission lines: a 500 kV DC line, the 115 kV line that is proposed for replacement as part of this project, and a 4-circuit 230 kV line.

The project alignment extends from Haskell Canyon Switching Station in the north to Sylmar Switching Station in the south. The southern extent of the alignment is located within the Granada Hills–Knollwood Community Plan area within the City of Los Angeles, immediately west of Interstate 5 (I-5), near the interchange of I-5 and I-210. The alignment then angles north before exiting the City of Los Angeles and extending through an undeveloped mountainous area in the San Gabriel Mountains, north of Sylmar and within an unincorporated area of Los Angeles County. The portion of the alignment that crosses the San Gabriel Mountains extends between State Route 14 (SR 14) to the west and the Angeles National Forest boundary to the east. Next, the alignment descends into the Santa Clara River basin in the City of Santa Clarita. The alignment then extends in a north–south orientation across the City of Santa Clarita, terminating at the Haskell Canyon Switching Station, located just south of the Angeles National Forest.

POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS

As determined by the analysis in the Initial Study, the potential environmental effects of the proposed project to be addressed in the Draft EIR will include, but may not be limited to the following:

- Aesthetics
- Air Quality
- Biological Resources
- Geology and Soils
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Noise
- Transportation and Traffic
- Tribal Cultural Resources

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING

LADWP will hold a scoping meeting to share information regarding the proposed project and environmental review process, and to receive written comments regarding the scope and content of the environmental analysis to be addressed in the EIR. LADWP encourages all interested individuals and organizations to attend this meeting. The date, time, and location of the public scoping meeting are provided below:

Wednesday, February 7, 2018
6:00 PM
City of Santa Clarita – The Centre – Sycamore Rooms A/B
20880 Centre Pointe Parkway
Santa Clarita, CA 91351

PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENTS

The public comment period for this NOP and review of the Initial Study will commence on January 24, 2018 and will conclude on March 9, 2018.

Please ensure that comments are postmarked or emailed on or before March 9, 2018.

The Initial Study is available for review at the locations below, or may be accessed electronically and/or downloaded at the following website: www.LADWP.com/envnotices.

LADWP Environmental Affairs
111 North Hope Street, Room 1044
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Old Town Newhall Library
24500 Main Street
Santa Clarita, CA 91321

Sylmar Branch Library
14561 Polk Street
Sylmar, CA 91342

Please mail or email your comments, and direct any questions to:

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Los Angeles Department of Water and Power
Environmental Planning and Assessment
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