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APR 28 2005

To: Interested Parties

LOS ANGELES, COUNTY CLERK

**Subject: NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY/NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT
AN INITIAL STUDY/PROPOSED NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR
THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF WATER AND POWER (LADWP)
NEENACH PUMPING STATION TURNOUT FACILITY PROJECT**

The LADWP is proposing to construct and operate a pumping station and turnout. The project location is where the First Los Angeles Aqueduct (FLAA) and the California Aqueduct cross, near the city of Lancaster. As Lead Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the LADWP has prepared an Initial Study/Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND), which evaluates the potential environmental effects of the proposed project.

Project Description: The project is the construction and operation of the Neenach pumping station turnout facility and surge tank to allow direct transfers of raw water from the California Aqueduct to Los Angeles via the FLAA to make up for reduced withdrawals from the eastern Sierras as well as to enhance existing system reliability by permitting an alternative means of making deliveries into the LADWP system. The turnout would consist of a pumping station and pipelines to withdraw water from the California Aqueduct and transfer it to the FLAA. The pumping station would consist of a covered, reinforced concrete vault approximately 60 feet by 30 feet and 21 feet deep, housing four 500-horsepower, 2300 VAC pumps each capable of producing a maximum flow of 35 cubic feet per second. The vault would be constructed below grade with its roof at the ground surface. Four 36-inch-diameter pipes, approximately 120 feet long, would be installed below ground between the vault and the California Aqueduct. These pipes would travel through the existing berm along the north side of the aqueduct. The four pumps would discharge into a single underground 42-inch-diameter pipeline that would connect to the FLAA approximately 300 feet to the west of the pumping station. The pipeline would be installed in a trench 5 feet deep and 5 feet wide.

The 42-inch-diameter pipeline would also be connected to a surge tank in order to reduce the potential for damage to the FLAA. The surge tank would be a cylindrical steel tank 45 feet long and 12 feet in diameter. It would be installed on an 18-inch-thick concrete slab and would be situated approximately 50 feet to the east of the pump vault. A concrete block wall 12 feet high may be constructed around the tank to protect it from vandalism.

Electrical service would be installed to provide power to the facility. The electrical service would be installed underground within the California Aqueduct right-of-way between the facility and an existing Southern California Edison utility pole on 250th Street West situated to the southeast of the turnout facility site. Approximately 5,000 linear feet of electrical cable would be installed within the existing dirt road that is situated along the northern edge of the right-of-way. Several transformers would be installed at the facility.

Water and Power Conservation ... a way of life

111 North Hope Street, Los Angeles, California 90012-2607 Mailing address: Box 51111, Los Angeles 90051-5700

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Project Location: The project location is near the intersection of Three Points Road and State Route (SR) 138 in the western Antelope Valley in northern Los Angeles County (Figure 1). The nearest incorporated city is Lancaster. The location is at approximately milepost 311.84 (Station 341+05.099) of the California Aqueduct where the FLAA crosses over Pool 44 of the East Branch of the California Aqueduct. The project site is within the State of California Department of Water Resources California Aqueduct right-of-way.

Public Review Period: The IS/MND is being made available for public review for a period of 30 days beginning April 28, 2005 and concluding May 26, 2005. The document may be viewed at the following website address: <http://www.ladwp.com/ladwp/cms/ladwp004156.jsp>. Copies are also available for review at the Los Angeles County Library in Lancaster (601 W. Lancaster Blvd., Lancaster, CA 93534). Comments on the IS/MND must be received in writing no later than 5:00 p.m., May 27, 2005 and sent to: Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, Environmental Services, Attention: Nadia Dale, 111 N. Hope Street – Room 1044, Los Angeles, CA 90012. Comments may also be faxed to (213) 367-4710.

All comments received in relation to issues discussed in the IS/MND will be included in the Final Mitigated Negative Declaration that would be forwarded to the Board of Water and Power Commissioners for final consideration. The Commissioners are tentatively scheduled to consider adoption of the Negative Declaration and approve the proposed project on June 21, 2005. The board date, time, and location can be verified closer to the tentatively scheduled date by visiting <http://www.ladwp.com/AboutLADWP> or by contacting Ms. Nadia Dale at the number below.

If you have any questions regarding the IS/MND, please contact Ms. Dale at (213) 367-1745.

ND:gc
c: Ms. Nadia Dale