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June 6, 2011

Affected Agencies, Organizations and Interested Persons

Ladies and Gentlemen:

**Subject: Notice of Availability (NOA) of a Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Upper Stone Canyon Reservoir Water Quality Improvement Project**

A Draft Environmental Impact Report has been prepared by the City of Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) for the proposed Upper Stone Canyon Reservoir Water Quality Improvement Project. LADWP is the Lead Agency, pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), responsible for preparation of this document.

#### **PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

To help ensure the quality, reliability, and stability of the City of Los Angeles drinking water supply and to ensure compliance with updated United States Environmental Protection Agency water quality standards, LADWP proposes to construct a new buried concrete-covered reservoir (buried reservoir) to replace the existing uncovered Upper Stone Canyon Reservoir (Upper Stone Reservoir). The new buried reservoir would be constructed in essentially the same location as the existing reservoir, although with a slightly reduced footprint. The buried reservoir would provide an equal amount of potable water storage (138 million gallons) as is available in the existing Upper Stone Reservoir. A maximum depth of 3 feet of topsoil would be placed over the buried reservoir, and shallow-rooting plant species typical of the canyon environment and surrounding area would be installed. After completion of construction, public access for passive recreation activities would be provided to the Stone Canyon Reservoir Complex. The recreation functions would be operated and maintained by the Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks (LADRP) and/or the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy.

#### **PROJECT LOCATION**

Upper Stone Reservoir is located approximately 0.5 miles south of Mulholland Drive between Roscomare Road and Beverly Glen Boulevard in the City of Los Angeles. The Stone Canyon Reservoir Complex property is owned and maintained by LADWP. Upper Stone Reservoir itself is accessed from Mulholland Drive via a non-public road located approximately 1.5 miles east of the San Diego Freeway (Interstate 405).

#### **SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS**

No impacts to agriculture and forestry resources, geology and soils, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, land use and planning, mineral resources, population

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and housing, public services and utilities, or recreation would occur as a result of the proposed project. The Draft EIR identified less than significant impacts for aesthetics, operational air quality and greenhouse gas emissions, operational noise, and operational traffic. Impacts to biological resources, and cultural resources would be less than significant with the implementation of mitigation measures. The proposed project would create significant and unavoidable impacts related to construction air quality, construction noise, construction traffic, and wildland fire during project operation. The proposed project would also contribute to significant and unavoidable cumulative impacts related to construction air quality and construction noise.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

The 45-day public comment period for this NOA will commence on June 9, 2011, and conclude on July 25, 2011. 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  
111 North Hope Avenue, Room 1044  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Westwood Branch Library  
1246 Glendon Avenue  
Los Angeles, CA 90024

Sherman Oaks Branch Library  
14245 Moorpark Street  
Sherman Oaks, CA 91423

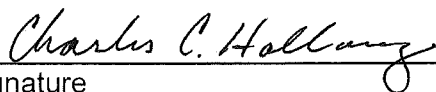
Please submit comments in writing to the address provided below. Comment letters must be received by 5:00 p.m. on **July 25, 2011**.

Los Angeles Department of Water and Power  
111 North Hope Street, Room 1044  
Los Angeles, CA 90012  
Attention: Julie Van Wagner  
Fax: (213) 367-4710  
Email: [Julie.VanWagner@ladwp.com](mailto:Julie.VanWagner@ladwp.com)

For any questions regarding the review of the EIR, please contact Ms. Julie Van Wagner at (213) 367-4466 (message box).

### **PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT**

LADWP will hold a public meeting in the month of July 2011. Further information regarding the date, time, and location of this meeting will be provided, including on the LADWP website at <http://www.ladwp.com/envnotices>. If any other interested parties would like to be added to our mailing list, we can be contacted by one of the methods above. The public is invited to attend this meeting and present comments regarding the Draft EIR.



Signature

Charles C. Holloway  
Manager of Environmental Planning and Assessment