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Notice of Availability of Draft Environmental Impact Report

DATE: May 3, 2019

TO: Affected Agencies, Organizations, and Interested Parties

SUBJECT: Notice of Availability (NOA) of a Draft Environmental Impact Report for the Power Plant 1 and Power Plant 2 Transmission Line Conversion Project

A Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) has been prepared by the City of Los Angeles (City), as represented by the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) to evaluate potential environmental effects that would result from development of the proposed Power Plant 1 and Power Plant 2 Transmission Line Conversion Project (Proposed Project). LADWP is identified as the lead agency for the Proposed Project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The Proposed Project includes replacing a 12-mile segment of an existing 115 kilovolt (kV) double circuit transmission line with a new 230 kV double circuit transmission line in order to increase transmission capacity between the Haskell Canyon Switching Station and Sylmar Switching Station so that additional renewable energy supplies can be transmitted from the Tehachapi Mountains and Mojave Desert to the Los Angeles Basin (LA Basin).

LADWP is requesting input from individuals, stakeholders, organizations, and agency representatives that may be interested in the Proposed Project regarding the content of the environmental analysis and information included in the Draft EIR.

PROJECT BACKGROUND

The 115 kV San Francisquito PP1 and PP2 transmission lines were built between 1917 and 1925 for the purpose of carrying power generated by water flow through the newly constructed Los Angeles Aqueduct. These lines are part of the first electrical power generation and transmission system constructed to provide electricity to the City. In recent years, additional renewable energy generating facilities have been developed in the desert areas to the north of the project alignment. Historically, energy generation was primarily concentrated in the LA Basin. The location of energy generation is changing, and the existing transmission lines extending south from Haskell Canyon Switching Station do not have sufficient capacity to transfer renewable energy supplies from the desert to the highly populated LA Basin. The Proposed Project would assist LADWP in adapting to these recent changes in the location of energy generation.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The project would be located within a linear alignment in northwestern Los Angeles County (LA County) that generally extends from Haskell Canyon to the community of Sylmar, located south of the City of Santa Clarita. The 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). The new 230 kV line would be strung with two 230-kV 3 phase circuits; however, only one circuit would be energized upon project completion. The second would be energized in the future, based on availability of future renewable energy supplies. The Proposed Project 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 most of its associated transmission towers would be removed from Haskell Canyon Switching Station in the north to the line's terminus at Olive Switching Station in the south. The new line would be installed and the old line would be removed within an existing alignment that extends from Haskell Canyon Switching Station in the north to Olive Switching Station and Sylmar Switching Station in the south. The proposed new line would also originate at Haskell Canyon Switching Station. The circuit that would not be energized would terminate at Olive Switching Station, and the energized circuit would 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 this 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 from the Tehachapi Mountains and Mojave Desert to the LA Basin.

PROJECT LOCATION

The proposed project would be located within an established corridor and within two existing electrical switching stations (Haskell Canyon Switching Station and Sylmar Switching Station). The transmission corridor has been used for electricity transmission since the early 1900s. The proposed 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. The land uses surrounding the transmission corridor and the two switching stations range from industrial areas to open space.

SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS

The Proposed Project would create short-term significant impacts to air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, hydrology and water quality, noise, tribal cultural resources, and transportation and traffic requiring mitigation measures. Specific mitigation measures have been identified which would reduce impacts to biological resources, hydrology and water quality, tribal cultural resources, and transportation and traffic to a less than significant level. With incorporation of mitigation measures, temporary construction impacts under CEQA related to air quality, cultural resources, and noise would be reduced to the greatest extent feasible, but would result in a significant unavoidable adverse impact. The Proposed Project would not lead to any long-term significant operational impacts.

May 3, 2019

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

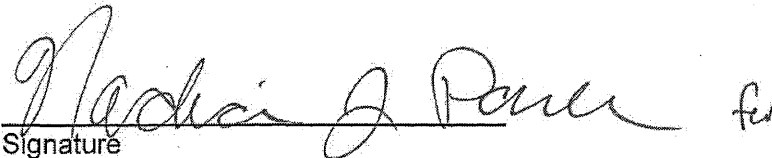
The 45-day public comment period for this NOA will commence on May 3, 2019, and conclude on June 17, 2019. The Draft EIR is available for review on the LADWP website at <http://www.ladwp.com/envnotices> and at the following locations:

- LADWP, Environmental Affairs Division (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 submit comments in writing, or email, to the address provided below no later than **5:00 p.m. on June 17, 2019.**

Los Angeles Department of Water and Power
Environmental Affairs
111 North Hope Street, Room 1044
Los Angeles, CA 90012
Attn: Ms. Kathryn Laudeman
Email: Kathryn.Laudeman@ladwp.com

For all respondents, please provide contact information and provide comments on the environmental analysis included within the Draft EIR.


Signature

Charles C. Holloway
Manager of Environmental Planning and Assessment