

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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May 5, 2022

Alfredo Magallanes
City of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
LA Sanitation & Environment – Safe Clean Water Implementation Division
1149 S. Broadway, 10th Floor MS: 1149/756
Los Angeles, CA 90015

RE: MacArthur Lake Stormwater
Capture Project – Notice of Preparation
of an Environmental Impact Report
(NOP)
SCH # 2022040153
GTS # 07-LA-2022-03904
Vic. LA - 10/PM: 14.641

Dear Alfredo Magallanes:

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the environmental review process for the above referenced NOP. The proposed project, led by Los Angeles Sanitation & Environment (LASAN) in partnership with the City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP), would implement a regional multi-benefit stormwater project in MacArthur Park as part of the region's efforts under Los Angeles County's Safe Clean Water Program (SCWP) to meet water quality total maximum daily load (TMDL) limits for the Ballona Creek watershed and the current National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. The proposed project would divert and treat portions of wet weather stormwater flows as well as dry weather flows from the existing underground storm drain system and discharge it into MacArthur Lake for storage or return it to the storm drain system. In-lake storage would decrease the use of potable water to maintain the lake water level. Some of the water that is stored in the lake would subsequently be discharged to the sanitary sewer system. The project would reduce the amount of stormwater and dry weather flows, and their associated pollutant loads, that enter Ballona Creek and, ultimately, Santa Monica Bay. Additionally, the proposed project would enhance the park by creating treatment wetlands and providing educational opportunities, such as signage and information boards about stormwater management and park wetlands. LASAN is the Lead Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

The Project Site is within the southwestern area of MacArthur Park and in the public right-of-way on adjacent streets southwest of the park and in the alley that parallels 7th Street. MacArthur Park is a public park located at 2230 W. 6th Street in the Westlake neighborhood of central Los Angeles, approximately 1 mile northwest of downtown. The Park is bound by 6th Street to the north, 7th Street to the south, Park View Street to the west, and Alvarado Street to

the east. Wilshire Boulevard extends east-west through the park, dividing it into northern and southern sections. The NOP states that the proposed project is not a development project or a land use project, as defined by Los Angeles Department of Transportation's (LADOT) Transportation Assessment Guidelines (TAG) and is not a transportation infrastructure project. Moreover, impacts from project construction are considered to be non-CEQA impacts per LADOT's TAG. Therefore, the preparation of a transportation assessment that evaluates the potential impacts of the proposed project on Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) is not required. We concur with the findings that the operation of the proposed project would not generate regular daily vehicle trips. Occasional trips for inspection, maintenance, and cleaning would occur. These trips would be minimal and would not exceed 250 or more daily vehicle trips. Therefore, the proposed project would not conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.3, Subdivision (b). Impacts related to VMT would be less than significant and no further evaluation in the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is required.

As a reminder, any transportation of heavy construction equipment and/or materials which requires use of oversized-transport vehicles on State Highways will need a Caltrans transportation permit. Caltrans recommends that the Project limit construction traffic to off-peak periods to minimize the potential impact on State facilities. If construction traffic is expected to cause issues on any State facilities, please submit a construction traffic control plan detailing these issues for Caltrans' review.

Finally, any work completed on or near Caltrans' right of way may require an encroachment permit. However, the final determination on this will be made by Caltrans' Office of Permits. This work would require additional review and may be subject to additional requirements to ensure current design standards and access management elements are being addressed. For more information on encroachment permits, see: <https://dot.ca.gov/programs/traffic-operations/ep>.

If you have any questions regarding these comments, please contact Ronnie Escobar, the project coordinator, at Ronnie.Escobar@dot.ca.gov, and refer to GTS # 07-LA-2022-03904.

Sincerely,



MIYA EDMONSON
LDR/CEQA Branch Chief

cc: State Clearinghouse