



NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF A DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

ARROYO SECO CANYON PROJECT AREAS 2 AND 3 3420 and 3500 North Arroyo Boulevard Pasadena, CA 91101

DATE: June 15, 2020

TO: Agencies, Organizations, and Interested Parties

FROM: City of Pasadena Department of Water and Power
150 South Los Robles Avenue, Suite 200, Pasadena, CA 91101

SUBJECT: Notice of Availability of a Draft Environmental Impact Report for the Arroyo Seco Canyon Project Areas 2 and 3

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: The City of Pasadena has completed the Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the proposed Arroyo Seco Canyon Project Areas 2 and 3 (Project). The Draft EIR has been prepared in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act of 1970 (CEQA) and the State CEQA Guidelines (California Code of Regulations Section 15000 et seq.). The Draft EIR is available for online public review and a hardcopy of the Draft EIR will be available by appointment only at the City of Pasadena Department of Water and Power (PWP) office during regular business hours. Written comments on the Draft EIR will be accepted by the City during the following public review period:

PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD: Monday, June 15, 2020 – Friday, July 31, 2020. Comments must be received in writing no later than 5:30 p.m. on Friday, July 31, 2020.

COMMENTS: Comments on the Draft EIR may be submitted in writing during the 46-day public review period noted above. Written comments must be sent to Elisa Ventura, P.E., Principal Engineer, 150 South Los Robles Avenue, Suite 200, Pasadena, CA, 91101, or eventura@cityofpasadena.net. For additional information, please contact Ms. Ventura at (626) 744-4465.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The Project site is located in the City of Pasadena within and at the base of the Arroyo Seco Canyon. Regional access to the Project site is via Interstate (I) 210, exiting Windsor Avenue and traveling northward for approximately 0.8-mile to the intersection of Windsor Avenue and Ventura Street. From this intersection, the Project site can be accessed via either Explorer Road, which leads to the City's open area (i.e., former Jet Propulsion Laboratory [JPL] East Parking Lot), or via a locked/gated entrance to North Arroyo Boulevard (aka Arroyo Seco Road).

The Project is being proposed to repair and replace the City's water infrastructure facilities in the Upper Arroyo Seco that were damaged by debris flows caused by storms following the 2009 Station Fire. Damage to these structures has greatly reduced the City's capacity to divert water from the Arroyo Seco for spreading and pumping credits. The proposed improvements would allow for increased utilization of the City's pre-1914 surface water rights from the Arroyo Seco and maximize the beneficial use of this important local water resource. The proposed Project includes improvements in two primary areas: Area 2, Diversion and Intake Replacement and Area 3, Spreading Basin Improvements. These areas are connected by the Gabrielino Trail/Access Road, which includes three bridge crossings over the Arroyo Seco in the vicinity of the Project site. The proposed Project involves construction activity and water infrastructure facility improvements in both areas, as well as construction truck traffic along portions of the Gabrielino Trail/Access Road.



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PROJECT LOCATION:



The proposed Project would also improve biological functions within the Arroyo Seco. For any future fish populations that may establish in the Arroyo Seco, the new intake would include fish screens to prevent fish populations from passing into the intake and conveyance system, and a roughened channel constructed downstream of the new diversion structure to allow upstream fish passage under certain conditions.

In Area 2, the Project would demolish and remove the following structures: (1) existing concrete diversion weir, associated masonry abutments, and rock wall built over concrete dam that extends under the trail; (2) intake structure, metal ladder and platform, and trash racks; (3) concrete slab

adjacent to the Gabrielino Trail/Access Road, and (4) excavations of soil/sediment, rocks, debris, and vegetation within the upstream diversion pool, downstream streambed, and on the adjacent slopes on the downstream side of the diversion weir.

The Project involves the construction of a new diversion weir and intake in the same location within the Arroyo Seco as the current facility. The proposed reinforced concrete diversion control structure would span the entire width of the existing channel and a 30-foot long operable weir crest gate would be located in a notched section of the structure and would be mechanically operated. Operation of the crest gate would be controlled by water depth measurements from a transducer located immediately upstream of the diversion. The crest gate would be raised to create a pool of water for diversion to the intake structure, and lowered to bypass diversions. During high flow conditions, the weir gate would be lowered to move sediment downstream and periodically restore the streambed elevation to the crest of the notch. An engineered roughened channel would be constructed in the section of stream directly downstream of the diversion structure. The new intake would be equipped with a trash rack and fish screens.

In Area 3, the proposed Project includes the reconfiguration and expansion of the spreading basins in order to accommodate the increased diversion of stream flows for infiltration into the Raymond Basin. Existing Ponds 1 and 2, and Basins 1 and 2, would be replaced with Basin A and six new/expanded



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spreading basins. Stream flows from the existing conveyance system would outlet to the new sedimentation basin (Basin A) or to new spreading Basin E located over the existing Pasadena Pond 1. Basin F would be adjacent to mature trees to be preserved and would be located at the site of the existing Pasadena Pond 2. Basins G, H, and I would be located at the site of the existing Basins 1 and 2 and a portion of the City's open area (i.e., former JPL East Parking Lot). Each new basin would have an access ramp for maintenance. The new basins would remain connected to the remaining existing downstream basins within the City's spreading basin system.

Upon completion of the proposed Project, the City intends to keep the existing structural bridge overlay on top of Bridge No. 3 into the foreseeable future, but the City may need to remove some or all of the bridge to protect public safety. During construction of the proposed Project, there may be times when portions of the Altadena Crest Trail, Gabrielino Trail/Access Road, Arroyo Seco Trail, and the unnamed trails/maintenance roads would be partially or fully closed to the public due to construction activities. Upon completion of the proposed Project, the temporarily disrupted trail network would be restored.

Long-term operations in Areas 2 and 3 would not be substantively different than the current conditions. No new employees or operations would be required to continue maintenance on the proposed facilities.

APPROVALS NEEDED: The City's discretionary actions include a Modification to Conditional Use Permit No. 6222 to allow for utility improvements within the Open Space Zone, and a Tree Removal Authorization. In addition, a Section 1600 Streambed Alteration Agreement by California Department of Fish and Wildlife, a Section 404 by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and a 401 Water Quality Certification by the Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region, is required. Additional permits and approvals from other outside agencies may potentially be required as well.

ANTICIPATED ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS: The Draft EIR analyzed the following environmental topics: Air Quality, Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Hydrology and Water Quality, Noise, Recreation, Transportation and Tribal Cultural Resources. The Draft EIR identified potentially significant effects related to the following topics: Biological Resources, Cultural and Tribal Cultural Resources, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, Noise, Recreation, and Transportation. With incorporation of mitigation measures, the Draft EIR determined that all potentially significant effects would be reduced to a less-than-significant level, with the exception of impacts related to Cultural Resources, which would remain significant and unavoidable after mitigation.

HAZARDOUS MATERIAL SITES: The nearest listed site to the Project site is NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) (EPA ID No. CA9800013030; Federal Facility Agreement Docket Number 1998-27). The JPL site at 4800 Oak Grove Drive in the City of La Canada-Flintridge (ID No. 19970008- Federal Superfund Site) is listed as an active site on the DTSC EnviroStor Database and (ID No. T0603703875-LUST Cleanup Site) is listed as an open cleanup status on the SWRCB GeoTracker database. The proposed Project requires mitigation that would reduce impacts related to hazards to less than significant.

AVAILABILITY OF ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION: The Draft EIR may be viewed on the City of Pasadena website at: <https://www.cityofpasadena.net/planning/environmental-notice/> and/or <https://ww5.cityofpasadena.net/water-and-power/arroyosecoproject/>. Due to City of Pasadena closures in response to public health and safety requirements concerning the coronavirus, a hardcopy will only be available for viewing at the PWP office (150 South Los Robles Ave. Suite 200, Pasadena) during regular business hours. An appointment for viewing the hardcopy may be requested by e-mail to vjimenez@cityofpasadena.net.