

LOS ANGELES GROUNDWATER REPLENISHMENT PROJECT

PROJECT UPDATE: THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ANALYSIS PROCESS FEBRUARY 2014

After several years of community engagement and participation, the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) and the Bureau of Sanitation (LASAN) have launched the environmental impact review process for the Los Angeles Groundwater Replenishment (GWR) Project. Following the guidelines of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), a draft environmental impact report (EIR) and a final EIR will be completed within the next 1 to 1½ years.

Project Background

The project proposes to use up to 30,000 acre-feet (more than 9.7 billion gallons) per year of purified recycled water from the Donald C. Tillman Water Reclamation Plant (DCTWRP) to replenish the San Fernando Groundwater Basin. This effort will help maintain the reliability of the City of Los Angeles' water supply and reduce the need for imported water.

The proposed project involves three steps:

1. **Treatment** – The construction of a new advanced water purification facility that will perform additional treatment of tertiary treated recycled water from the DCTWRP;
2. **Conveyance** – The use of existing and new pipelines to carry the purified recycled water from the DCTWRP to spreading grounds; and
3. **Replenishment** – Spreading the purified recycled water at the Hansen Spreading Grounds and the Pacoima Spreading Grounds for percolation; in addition, City staff will continue to consider installing injection wells to increase groundwater supply and supplement local water supplies.

A rough cost estimate for the project is as follows:

Capital Improvement:	\$400 million
Annual Operations and Maintenance:	\$19 million



What is the current status of the project?

On September 6, 2013, an initial study and notice of preparation of a draft EIR were issued. As part of this important step in the environmental process, three public scoping meetings were held to receive comments and input from the community about environmental aspects of the proposed project that they believe should be considered in the EIR.

Numerous comments were received during the 45-day public comment period, which ended October 21, 2013. Their comments will be included in the draft EIR.

How are Los Angeles residents involved in this process?

Since 2008, LADWP and LASAN have engaged members of the community in the conceptual discussions and preliminary planning stages of the GWR project. The project staff has presented the project to several audiences including the Recycled Water Forum participants, Neighborhood Councils, and the Recycled Water Advisory Group (RWAG), which is comprised of more than 60 independent stakeholder groups. More than four years later, the environmental impact evaluation process for the GWR project has been initiated.

Below is a summary of community engagement activities since 2008:

- 160 presentations and events (4,600+ participants)
- 1,600+ K-12 teachers and students reached in LAUSD
- 4 meetings of the Independent Advisory Panel of scientists and technical experts on GWR
- 60+ RWAG organizations engaged
- 50+ RWAG comments received on Recycled Water Master Planning documents
- 11 RWAG workshops
- 14 RWAG tours
- 7 Recycled Water Community forums



What happens next?

The draft EIR is being prepared and will be issued in late 2014. The document will incorporate all comments received from the scoping meetings, and will be available for review and open for public comment upon its release.

The final EIR will be issued in 2015. The final EIR will be submitted to the Board of Water and Power commissioners for adoption. If approved by the LADWP Board, the GWR project will proceed.



How can I be part of the project planning process?

As a valued stakeholder, you can participate in the process in many ways including:

1. Attend public meetings or submit written comments to participate in the draft EIR and EIR public comment processes.
2. Sign up to be part of the GWR mailing list by sending an email to recycledwaterinfo@ladwp.com.
3. Stay informed about the environmental impact analysis by visiting www.ladwp.com/envnotices
4. Get general information about the recycled water program, including our outreach efforts, at www.ladwp.com/recycledwater

What are others saying about the Los Angeles Groundwater Replenishment Project?

"The Panel supports the City's efforts on potable reuse in the San Fernando Basin, including the groundwater replenishment project based on the proposed full advanced treatment. Potable reuse provides a significant opportunity to provide a new and locally-controlled sustainable water supply for the residents of Los Angeles." -*Report of the Independent Advisory Panel on GWR (April 2013)*

"I have no hesitation over issues of safety and would happily consume Advanced Treated water engineered by the City of Los Angeles, and would recommend the same to others." - *Ken Murray, M.D. & RWAG Participant (July 8, 2013)*

"We, the undersigned members of the GreenLA Coalition, write to express our continued support for the Department of Water & Power's Recycled Water Program, including the Groundwater Replenishment Program." - *Members of the Green LA Coalition, including Sierra Club Angeles Chapter, Heal the Bay, TreePeople, Hollywood/L.A. Beautification Team, The River Project, Southern CA Watershed Alliance, and Pieter Severynen and Associates (July 26, 2013)*