

Los Angeles  Department of Water & Power

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General Manager

March 10, 2015

The Honorable City Council
c/o Office of the City Clerk
Room 395, City Hall
Mail Stop 160

Attention: Councilmember Felipe Fuentes
Chairperson, Energy and Environment Committee

Honorable Members:

Subject: Council File No. 13-1547 - Feasibility of Using Reclaimed Water in the
Los Angeles Freeway Irrigation System

This letter is in response to the November 19, 2013, motion made by Councilmembers Tom LaBonge and Mitch O'Farrell, requesting that the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) and California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) report the feasibility of using recycled water in the Los Angeles freeway irrigation system.

Background

The Los Angeles City (City) freeways are owned and maintained by Caltrans. Caltrans currently uses potable water to irrigate landscaping along the freeways with the exception of three locations within the LADWP service area where recycled water is used. These locations collectively offset 3 acre-feet per year (AFY) of potable water.

LADWP selects routes for existing and planned recycled water infrastructure based on the locations of large water demand customers, such as golf courses, parks, and schools. These high-demand customers are not typically adjacent to City freeways, creating limited opportunities for recycled water use at Caltrans facilities. Regardless, LADWP and Caltrans are partnering to identify more opportunities and study the feasibility of using recycled water for irrigation along City freeways.

Los Angeles Aqueduct Centennial Celebrating 100 Years of Water 1913-2013

111 N. Hope Street, Los Angeles, California 90012-2607 Mailing address: Box 51111, Los Angeles, CA 90051-5700
Telephone: (213) 367-4211 www.LADWP.com

Findings

LADWP's existing and planned recycled water infrastructure was cross-referenced with the City's freeway irrigation system to identify intersecting locations. These locations were then evaluated to determine the feasibility of providing recycled water for irrigation.

At some locations, Caltrans has reduced irrigation water consumption in an effort to conserve water. Thus, the low irrigation demands at most of the identified locations do not justify the capital cost to extend recycled water pipelines to those sites. However, preliminary evaluation of the identified sites shows favorable and potential recycled water use at three locations. These sites are named and described below.

170 Freeway – Chandler Boulevard Ramps

Located along the 170 Freeway north and south of Chandler Boulevard. Area contains landscaping along freeway ramps. Irrigating this area with recycled water would offset up to 4 AFY of potable water. Caltrans is assessing the feasibility of converting this area to use recycled water for irrigation. Recycled water will be available to this area through LADWP's North Hollywood Area Water Recycling Project scheduled to start construction in April 2015. (See Enclosure.)

170 Freeway – Magnolia Boulevard Ramps

Located along the 170 Freeway north and south of Magnolia Boulevard. Area contains landscaping along the freeway. Irrigating this area with recycled water would offset up to eight AFY of potable water. Caltrans is assessing the feasibility of converting this area to use recycled water for irrigation. Recycled water will be available to this area through LADWP's North Hollywood Area Water Recycling Project, scheduled to start construction in April 2015. (See Enclosure.)

110/5 Freeway Interchange

Located at the intersection of the 110 Freeway and Interstate 5. Area contains landscaping along freeway ramps. Irrigating this area with recycled water would offset less than two AFY of potable water. Recycled water will be available to this area through LADWP's future Elysian Park Water Recycling Project. (See Enclosure.)

Further evaluation by both Caltrans and LADWP is needed to justify the capital cost of extending recycled water pipelines to the above three locations. For example, Caltrans is implementing a water conservation program to re-landscape along City Freeways and

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significantly reduce water demand. Decreased demand may make bringing recycled water to the above locations cost-prohibitive or unnecessary.

If you have any questions or if further information is required, please contact me at (213) 367-1338, or Ms. Winifred J. Yancy, Director of Intergovernmental Affairs and Community Relations, at (213) 367-0025.

Sincerely,




Marcie L. Edwards
General Manager

GZ/JG

c/enc: Councilmember Bob Blumenfield, Vice-Chair, Energy and Environment Committee
Councilmember Tom LaBonge, Member
Councilmember Jose Huizar, Member
Councilmember Paul Koretz, Member
Councilmember Mitch O' Farrell
Mr. Adam R. Lid, Legislative Assistant

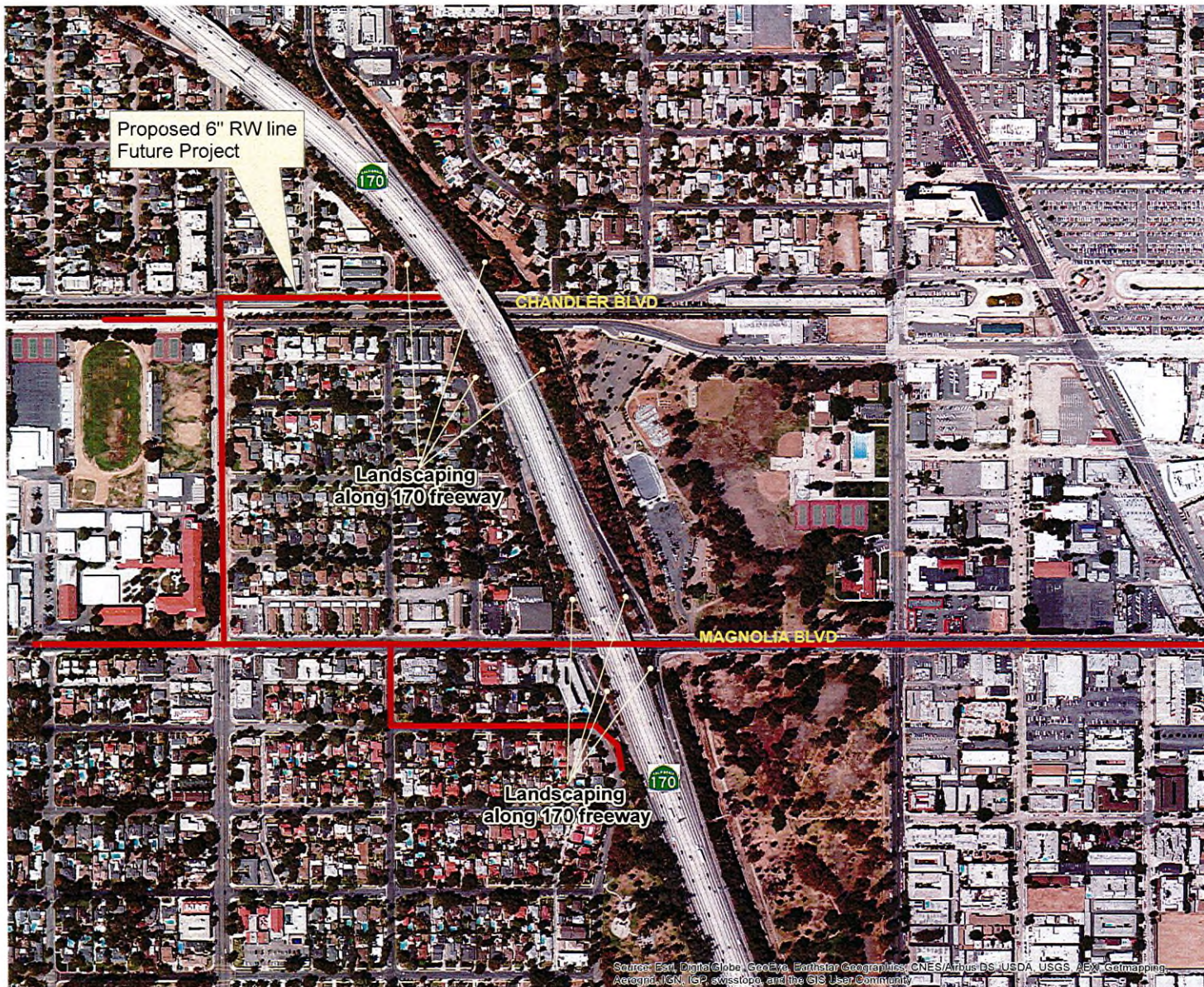
Ms. Winifred J. Yancy

170 Freeway Ramps at Chandler Blvd Magnolia Blvd Attachment 1


 North Hollywood Park
Water Recycling Project



0 337.5 675 1,350
Feet



110/5 Freeway Interchange Attachment 2

 Existing 16" RW line



0 360 720 1,440
Feet

NOV 19 2013

13-1547

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

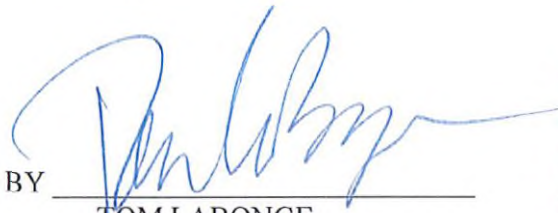
MOTION

The Southern California freeways are a network of interconnected freeways in Southern California, serving a population of 22 million people. Los Angeles County has 527 miles of freeway and 382 miles of conventional highway. On the average day, 92 million vehicle miles are driven in L.A. County. The City of Los Angeles is continuously finding ways to improve their freeway irrigation system for the purposes of maintaining landscape properties along parts of the freeways. These automated irrigation systems not only reduce safety hazards for maintenance workers but they are also designed to help conserve water.

An important part of the City's expanding emphasis on water conservation is the concept that water is a resource that can be used more than once. Because all uses of water do not require the same quality of supply, the City has been developing programs to use reclaimed water for suitable uses.

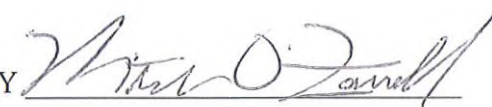
I THEREFORE MOVE that the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power be requested to work with CalTrans to study the feasibility of using reclaimed water in the Los Angeles freeway irrigation system.

PRESENTED BY



TOM LABONGE
Councilmember, 4th District

SECONDED BY



ORIGINAL



NOV 19 2013