

**CITY OF LOS ANGELES  
INTER-DEPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE**

**DATE:** July 17, 2015

**TO:** Honorable Paul Krekorian, Chair  
Honorable Mitchell Englander, Vice Chair  
Honorable Paul Koretz, Member  
Honorable Bob Blumenfield, Member  
Honorable Mike Bonin, Member  
Budget and Finance Committee

**FROM:** Enrique C. Zaldivar, Director  
LA Sanitation

**SUBJECT: LA SANITATION – REPORT BACK ON FY 2015-16 BUDGET MOTION NOS. 7 AND 17: THE SAN FERNANDO VALLEY GROUNDWATER RECHARGE SYSTEM ADVANCED WATER PURIFICATION FACILITY**

**Motion Nos. 7 and 17:** Report on prioritizing support for the San Fernando Valley Groundwater Recharge Systems Advanced Water Purification Facility and other capital projects to improve the reliability of recycled water production.

**Recommendation:** Amend the Fiscal Year 2015-16 Adopted Budget to add resolution authority for two positions, without funding, for one Sanitation Wastewater Manager II and one Environmental Engineer.

On May 21, 2015, during the City Council consideration of the Fiscal Year 2015-16 Proposed Budget, LA Sanitation (LASAN) was asked to report back on prioritizing support for the San Fernando Valley Groundwater Recharge Systems Advanced Water Purification Facility and other capital projects to improve the reliability of recycled water production. These motions were referred to the Budget and Finance Committee.

In April 2015, Mayor Garcetti released The Sustainable City pLAn, which calls for the reduction of purchased imported water by 50% by 2025. In order to achieve this goal, one of the strategies is to expand recycled water production and distribution to incorporate Indirect or Direct Potable Reuse (IPR/DPR). The Donald C. Tillman Water Reclamation Plant (DCTWRP) will be the site of the future San Fernando Valley Groundwater Recharge System Advanced Water Purification Facility (GWRS AWPf) that will provide advanced treated recycled water to the Hansen and Pacoima Spreading Grounds. The AWPf will produce 31 million gallons per day (35,000 acre-feet per year) of recycled water and is one of the top priority projects tracked by the Water Cabinet that was formed as a result of the Mayor's Executive Directive #5. In order to meet the Mayor's Goals and directive and bring the GWRS AWPf Project on line in a timely manner, LASAN has requested one Sanitation Wastewater Manger II and an Environmental Engineer for Fiscal Year 2015-2016.

This critical and complex project involves many sub-projects and tasks that must come together for successful delivery. In addition, multiple-agencies are involved in permitting, planning and execution of this project. Coordination of activities between these agencies is necessary, in order to ensure all regulatory permits are obtained and requirements are met. Following is a summary of the current efforts:

**AWPF Pilot Study.** In 2012, as a part of the Recycled Water Master Plan, a pilot study was performed that showed the water quality produced by the AWPf using DCTWRP secondary effluent meets and exceeds the regulatory requirement for groundwater recharge. Since 2012, Ground Water Recharge Reuse (GWRR) Regulations have become effective and new technologies have emerged that may yield more effective and less costly treatment process trains. This project will determine the most effective treatment strategy and establish the appropriate equipment, design criteria and preliminary equipment lay out. We will also work closely with the regulatory agencies to seek their advice and establish a smooth path for the regulatory approval. A Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) will be formed to give scientific guidance on this study. The results and conclusions of this study will be discussed and communicated with the Independent Advisory Panel (IAP) and Recycled Water Advisory Group (RWAG) who have been involved in City's water recycling efforts. This pilot accelerates the design and regulatory approval process and provides the data needed for public acceptance. This pilot began recently and will be completed by 2017. The Sanitation Wastewater Manager II requested will manage the pilot study efforts. The requested Environmental Engineer will supervise the engineering staff working with the consultants on the pilot team on a day to day basis. The Environmental Engineer will also coordinate the TAC, IAP and RWAG meetings and communications.

**Environmental Documentation.** LASAN and the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) are both co-proponents of the project and LADWP is the lead agency in preparing the Environmental Impact Report (EIR). Both agencies have been working diligently to complete the EIR process. The Draft EIR will be completed by December 2015 and the final certified EIR is expected in June 2016. In addition to the EIR for the GWRS AWPf, other environmental studies for the renewal of the DCTWRP lease and improvements to the berms surrounding DCTWRP's property are required. The requested Sanitation Wastewater Manager II will oversee preparation of these documents, public notification, response to comments and timely execution of the milestones. The Environmental Engineer will supervise the engineering staff that is responsible for gathering and preparing the required information for all environmental studies.

**Permitting.** LASAN is leading the permitting efforts for this project. An Engineering Report per June 2014 GWRR Regulations is currently being prepared by LASAN. This is the first step in the regulatory approval process for the ground water replenishment permits. During the pilot study, LASAN will work closely with the State Water Quality Control Board Division of Drinking Water (DDW) which sets the ground water recharge regulations. The Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) issues the Water Recycling Requirement (WRR) and Waste Discharge Requirements (WDR). The Sanitation Wastewater Manager II will oversee the permitting efforts. The Environmental Engineer will interact with the regulatory agencies to make sure all appropriate

applications, data and information for permitting purposes are gathered and submitted and comments are received and responded to in a timely manner. The Sanitation Wastewater Manager II will ensure proper coordination amongst the co-permittees (LA County Public Works and LADWP) has taken place and proper duties and responsibilities for all agencies are identified in the permits and agreements.

**Design/Construction.** The GWRS AWWPF design and construction is complex and this facility incorporates the most sophisticated treatment technologies available for water purification. DCTWRP staff will be closely involved in the design and construction to ensure operations and maintenance needs are met. This project must be properly coordinated to ensure minimum disruption to the plant's daily operation and smooth start up and commissioning. As mentioned earlier, the pre-design phase has already begun by initiating the pilot study. To support the GWRS AWWPF, new and upgraded maintenance and warehouse facilities are needed. In order to ensure timely completion of the project, design and construction of these facilities will be initiated. The pre-design for construction of the warehouse and upgrading of the maintenance facilities have begun. In addition, in order to meet the Army Corps of Engineers' Levee requirement, the berm surrounding the DCTWRP property needs to be raised and certain mitigation measures taken. Therefore, there will be multiple GWRS AWWPF-related capital projects taking place at DCTWRP which will also coincide with other capital projects unrelated to the GWRS AWWPF. Coordination of these capital projects is critical in ensuring proper, timely and successful delivery of these projects. The Sanitation Wastewater Manager II will manage and oversee the capital project efforts. The Environmental Engineer will oversee engineering staff that coordinate the daily operation between operations and contractors. The Environmental Engineer will also coordinate and participate in the review of design and submittals by consultants and contractors.

**Public Outreach.** LASAN and LADWP have been continually reaching out to the community to disseminate information regarding this project through IAP and RWAG. Many workshops and community meetings have already been held. However, there is a need to increase these efforts, as new treatment approaches are considered and planning and implementation efforts are accelerated. The Sanitation Wastewater Manager II will work with the LADWP managers overseeing the public outreach efforts to ensure information on the pilot study and the capital projects is made available for review and input from the stakeholders. The AWWPF Pilot Facilities will also be designed in a manner suitable for public tours and education. The Environmental Engineer will coordinate tours of the facility.

**Project Schedule and Cost.** Following is the overall project schedule for this project. With sufficient resources this project is on target to be on-line by 2022. LASAN has requested additional staff to ensure that milestones are met and the project is completed as planned.

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SFV GWR SCHEDULE										
PROJECT	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
APPROVALS										
CEQA										
NEPA										
ENGINEERING REPORT										
DCTWRP AWWP		PLANNING		DESIGN			B&A	CONSTRUCTION		
DISTRIBUTION										
BPS UPGRADE			PLANNING	DESIGN			B&A			CONSTRUCTION
HSG UPGRADE			PLANNING	DESIGN			B&A	CONSTRUCTION		
PSG Pipelines & Upgrades			PLANNING	DESIGN			B&A	CONSTRUCTION		

The GWRs AWWP Project cost is estimated at \$ 420 million. Once completed, this project will significantly contribute to increasing local water supply and its sustainability. The Sanitation Wastewater Manager II and Environmental Engineer positions requested for Fiscal Year 2015-16 are essential for successful and on-time delivery of this important project.

Thank you in advance for your continued support of LA Sanitation. If you have any questions or would like to discuss any of these items further, please feel free to contact myself or Lisa B. Mowery, LASAN’s Chief Financial Officer at (213) 485-2210.

RA/ECZ:dj

- c: Members of the City Council
- Ana Guerrero, Chief of Staff, Mayor’s Office
- Matt Szabo, Deputy Mayor, Mayor’s Office
- Barbara Romero, Deputy Mayor, Mayor’s Office
- Greg Good, Director of Operations–City Services, Mayor’s Office
- Ted Bardacke, Director of Infrastructure, Mayor’s Office
- Kevin James, President, BPW
- Heather Repenning, Commissioner, BPW
- Sharon Tso, CLA
- Miguel A. Santana, CAO
- Erika Pulst, Office of the City Clerk
- LASAN Executive Team
- Roshanak Aflaki