

ENERGY, CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE REPORT
relative to the feasibility of a floating solar system program in connection with the Lower Van Norman Reservoir.

Recommendation for Council action, pursuant to Motion (Englander - Koretz):

REQUEST the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) to report in regard to the following:

- a. The feasibility of a floating solar system program with next steps of implementation, on the optimal system size, including how much energy can be created, the environmental offsets, and the economic impact it would have on the City.
- b. Established floating solar companies and their qualifications.
- c. Reuse of the shade balls currently in use at the Lower Van Norman Reservoir.

Fiscal Impact Statement: Neither the City Administrative Officer nor the Chief Legislative Analyst has completed a financial analysis of this report.

Community Impact Statement: None submitted.

Summary:

On June 19, 2018, your Committee considered a Motion (Englander - Koretz) relative to the feasibility of a floating solar system program in connection with the Lower Van Norman Reservoir. According to the Motion the State Renewable Portfolio Standards (RPS), retail sellers and publicly owned utilities are required to procure 50 percent of their electricity from eligible renewable energy resources by 2030. To meet these goals the LADWP will be expanding their portfolio of renewable energy. Furthermore, the Federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) requires water utilities to cover open-air reservoirs that hold treated water in order to prevent contamination. In the past, LADWP has utilized shade balls, small black plastic spheres, to create a blanket cover over reservoirs.

Floating solar is an emerging and extremely efficient form of renewable clean energy. Standard photovoltaic panels are installed onto floating plastic bases and placed in large bodies of water such as drinking water reservoirs, lakes, ponds, and irrigation canals. By covering the surface area of a body of water, floating solar conserves water by reducing evaporation and prevents algae growth by blocking out sunlight. Additionally, because a floating solar system utilizes a body of water, there is no cost of land and there is greater efficiency output due to the cooling effect of water. Floating solar technology is being utilized all over the world today with large scale projects in China, Japan, and the United Kingdom.

The City has the opportunity to become a global leader by bringing floating solar to Los Angeles. The Lower Van Norman Reservoir (LVN), also known as the Los Angeles Reservoir, is an ideal candidate for a floating solar system. Located in Granada Hills, the LVN Reservoir is adjacent to two high voltage transmission lines and the Sylmar Converter Station making it possible to

connect solar energy directly to the grid. The LVN Reservoir is our first preference for a floating solar system to be implemented at, although all Los Angeles reservoirs should be considered. This type of renewable clean energy project is desperately needed in the Northwest Valley.

After consideration and having provided an opportunity for public comment, the Committee moved to recommend approval of the recommendations contained in the Motion as detailed in the above recommendation. This matter is now submitted to Council for its consideration.

Respectfully Submitted,

ENERGY CLIMATE CHANGE, AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE

MEMBER **VOTE**

MARTINEZ: YES
KORETZ: YES
KREKORIAN: YES
CEDILLO: YES
O'FARRELL: YES

ARL
6/19/18

-NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL COUNCIL ACTS-