



Notice of Preparation

TO:

Responsible and Trustee Agencies,
Organizations, and Interested Parties

FROM:

City of Pasadena
100 North Garfield Avenue
Pasadena, California 91101

SUBJECT:

Notice of Preparation of an Environmental Impact Report and
Public Scoping Meeting

PROJECT TITLE:

Arroyo Seco Canyon Project Areas 2 and 3

PROJECT APPLICANT:

City of Pasadena Department of Water and Power

PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD:

November 4, 2019 through December 6, 2019

SCOPING MEETING:

Thursday, November 21, 2019 from 6:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M.
Robinson Park Recreation Center
1081 N. Fair Oaks Avenue, Pasadena, CA 91103

Pursuant to Section 21165 of the California Public Resources Code and Section 15050 of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines, the City of Pasadena (City) is the Lead Agency for the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the proposed Arroyo Seco Canyon Project Areas 2 and 3 (Project). The Project would be implemented by the Pasadena Department of Water and Power (PWP). In accordance with CEQA Guidelines Section 15082, the City has prepared this Notice of Preparation (NOP) to provide responsible and trustee agencies, the Office of Planning and Research, and the County Clerk with sufficient information describing the Project and its potential environmental effects to enable the responsible agencies to make a meaningful response to this NOP.

The City is requesting specific and detailed input regarding the scope and content of the environmental information related to your agency's statutory responsibility that must be included in the Draft EIR. Pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15083, this NOP also serves to facilitate consultation with any persons or organizations that may be concerned with the environmental effects of the Project. Additionally, this NOP also serves as a notice for the public Scoping Meeting, which is held to expedite and facilitate the consultation process. An Initial Study has been prepared for the proposed Project pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15063 and is available for viewing online at <https://ww5.cityofpasadena.net/planning/category/environmental-notices/> and/or PWPweb.com/Arroyo and hardcopies are available for viewing at the PWP office located at 150 South Los Robles Avenue, Suite 200, in Pasadena.

PROJECT LOCATION: The Project site is located within the Arroyo Seco Canyon adjacent to North Arroyo Boulevard (i.e. Gabrielino Trail/Access Road), located in Township 1 North, Range 12 West on the Pasadena, California 7.5' USGS quadrangle map. The proposed Project consists of two primary areas, including Area 2, Diversion and Intake Replacement and Area 3, Spreading Basin Improvements. (See Figure 1)

PROJECT BACKGROUND: In October 2014, the City circulated the Arroyo Seco Canyon Project (ASCP) Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND), State Clearinghouse (SCH)

Number 2014101022, for a 30-day public review period from October 9, 2014 to November 8, 2014. The ASCP required approval of a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) #6222, which involved improvements to three areas, including Area 1, Arroyo Seco Headworks; Area 2, Arroyo Seco Intake; and Area 3, JPL East Parking Lot. The ASCP and IS/MND were approved by the City in 2015. In July 2015, a lawsuit (Court Case No. BS156207) was filed against the City challenging the approval. In June 2017, the Los Angeles Superior Court entered a Judgment that partially favored the petitioners. The Court found that the elements of the ASCP that related to increased diversions of water required the preparation of an EIR. The Court also ruled that the elements of the ASCP that did not relate to increased diversions were severable from the remainder of the ASCP and complied with CEQA and could proceed without additional CEQA review.

In accordance with the terms and provisions of the Judgment, as modified by a Settlement Agreement between the City and the petitioners, the City is preparing an EIR for the proposed Project. Because several components of the ASCP were allowed to proceed without any additional environmental review pursuant to CEQA, the proposed Project boundaries of Area 2 and Area 3 have been refined from those shown in the 2015 ASCP IS/MND.

PROJECT SUMMARY: The Project involves a requested modification to CUP #6222 in order to construct and operate proposed water infrastructure improvements in Areas 2 and 3. A description of the proposed Project is included in the Initial Study, and a brief summary of proposed Project components is provided below.

Area 2: Diversion and Intake Replacement- Improvements in Area 2 include the removal of the existing diversion/weir structure and the intake structure, which would be replaced with a new diversion/weir structure that could be operated to divert up to 25 cfs of creek flows through the new intake structure and into the existing conveyance system (a combination of tunnels and pipelines). The new intake would include a fish screening feature to prevent future fish populations from passing into the intake and conveyance system. A roughened channel would be constructed directly downstream of the new weir to allow for future fish passage upstream during moderate flow periods. Other improvements include a new service building to house the electrical and hydraulic controls for the diversion structure and new engineered streambed material along the eastern creek slope to prevent erosion adjacent to the Gabrielino Trail/Access Road. (See Figure 2)

Area 3: Spreading Basin Improvements- Improvements in Area 3 include the reconfiguration and expansion of the spreading basins in order to accommodate the increased flows for infiltration into the Raymond Basin. Various facilities would be demolished, including inlet/outlet structures, pipes and valves, fencing, and other small appurtenant structures, to allow for the reconstructed basins. Creek flows from the existing conveyance system would outlet to the new sedimentation basin or to new spreading Basin E located at the site of 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). New Basin J would be located between existing Basins 3 and 4, and Explorer Road. (See Figure 3)

During construction activities, the existing Gabrielino Trail/Access Road would provide for vehicular access to and from Areas 2 and 3, and Explorer Road would provide for vehicular access to and from Area 3. The former Travelling Screen and Chlorine Building adjacent to Area 2 and the Behner Water Treatment Plant adjacent to Area 3 would be used for temporary

construction materials and equipment staging. No new habitable structures would be constructed, and no new employees would be generated by the proposed Project.

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED: As identified in the Initial Study, the following topical areas have the potential to result in significant impacts and will be analyzed in the EIR: Air Quality, Biological Resources, Cultural Resources/Paleontological Resources, Hydrology and Water Quality, Noise, Recreation, Transportation, and Tribal Cultural Resources. Other topical areas have been assessed through the Initial Study, were determined to have no impacts or less than significant impacts, and will not be further evaluated in the EIR.

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING DATE AND LOCATION: A public Scoping Meeting will be held to share information regarding the proposed Project and the environmental review process and to receive written comments about the scope and content of the environmental analysis to be addressed in the Draft EIR. The Scoping Meeting is an information-gathering meeting, not a public hearing, and no public testimony or recordation of the meeting will occur. Attendees are encouraged to submit all comments in writing, which will be reviewed and considered by PWP as part of the environmental analysis of the proposed Project. No decisions about the Project will be made at the Scoping Meeting. A separate public hearing for entitlement requests will be scheduled after the completion of the EIR. The date, time, and location of the public Scoping Meeting are as follows:

Date: Thursday, November 21, 2019
Time: 6:00 to 8:00 P.M.
Location: Robinson Park Recreation Center
1081 N. Fair Oaks Avenue
Pasadena, CA 91103
(626) 744-7330

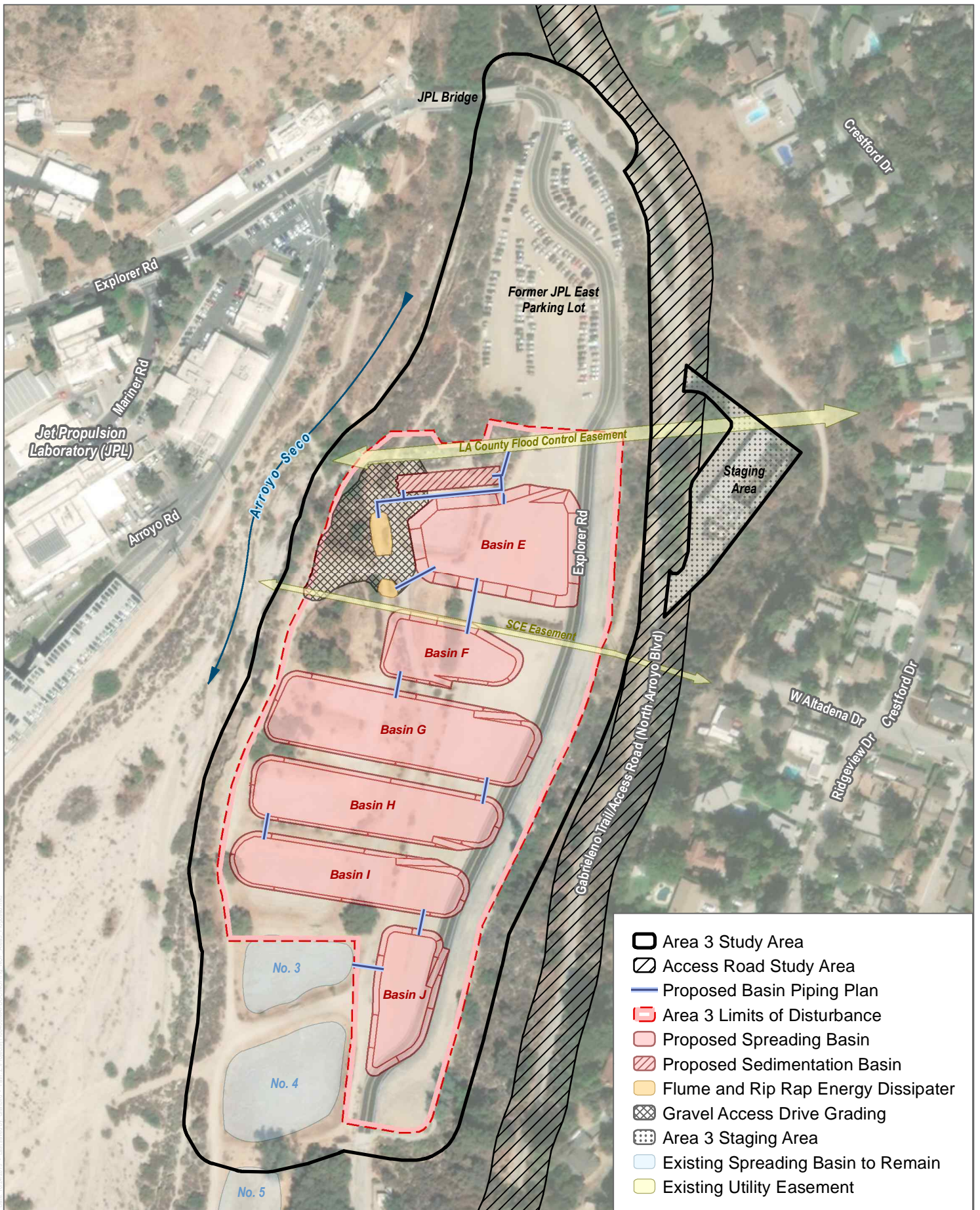
SUBMITTING COMMENTS: A copy of this NOP and the Initial Study may be viewed online at PWPweb.com/Arroyo and/or <https://ww5.cityofpasadena.net/planning/category/environmental-notice/>. The City will consider all written comments regarding the potential environmental effects of the Project received during the public review period. Written comments must be submitted in writing by 5:00 P.M., December 6, 2019. This public review period includes a 2-day courtesy extension to account for overlap with holidays. Written comments will also be accepted at the Scoping Meeting described above. Due to the time limits mandated by State law, your response must be sent at the earliest possible date but not later than 30 days after receipt of this NOP.

Please direct your written comments via email and/or postal service to:

Elisa Ventura, P.E.
City of Pasadena Department of Water and Power
150 South Los Robles Avenue, Suite 200
Pasadena, California 91101
E-mail: eventura@cityofpasadena.net

Attachments:

Figure 1: Local Vicinity and Regional Location
Figure 2: Area 2 Conceptual Design Overview
Figure 3: Area 3 Conceptual Design Overview



SOURCE: Esri, Digital Globe 2019



FIGURE 3
Area 3 Conceptual Design Overview

Arroyo Seco Canyon Project Areas 2 and 3