

Donald C. Tillman Reclamation Plant

Japanese Garden Discharge Reuse

California Environmental Quality Act Compliance



Project Background

The City of Los Angeles (City), by and through the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) and Los Angeles Sanitation and Environment (LASAN), plans to submit a petition under Section 1211 of the Water Code to the State Water Resources Control Board for authorization to change the place of use and purpose of use of up to 4,820 acre-feet per year of treated wastewater from the Donald C. Tillman Water Reclamation Plant (DCTWRP). This treated wastewater currently flows through the Japanese Garden Lake (Garden) located at DCTWRP and subsequently discharges to the Los Angeles River (LA River). This Project will reroute the treated wastewater from the Garden back into DCTWRP. This will enable the City to not only maintain the Garden, but also send advanced purified recycled water to the San Fernando Groundwater Basin to enhance local water supplies. The Project will bring the City closer to achieving its 2019 Green New Deal goals of recycling 100% of available treated wastewater and sourcing 70% of its water locally by 2035.

LASAN and LADWP Roles

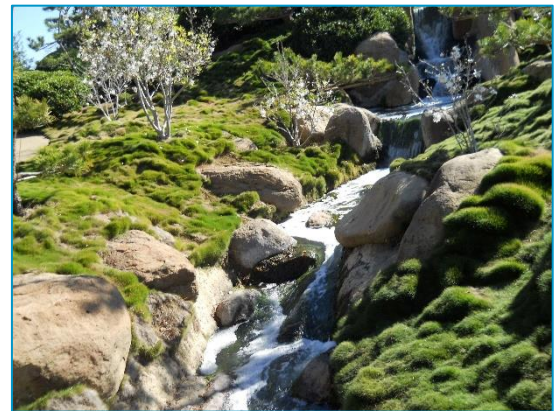
LADWP and LASAN are working together to maximize the production of advanced purified recycled water to replenish local groundwater basins and develop a locally controlled source of drinking water for the City.

LASAN is the owner and operator of the DCTWRP. Additionally,

LASAN oversees the City's Clean Water, Solid Resources and Watershed Protection programs. Through LASAN's efforts, Los Angeles has been at the forefront of environmental stewardship, from restoring Santa Monica Bay, to achieving one of the highest trash recycling rates among large cities in the nation, to implementing a Low Impact Development (LID) Ordinance for stormwater capture and infiltration.

LADWP is the City's agency responsible for managing and controlling all the City's water rights and delivering clean, reliable water supplies to the City's over four million residents. LADWP continues to develop a sustainable and reliable water supply portfolio by investing in stormwater capture, conservation, and water recycling programs.

LASAN and LADWP jointly prepared an Initial Study/Negative Declaration (IS/ND) for the Project, are conducting public review and enhanced outreach, and intend to submit a 1211 Petition to the State Water Resources Control Board.



Project Objectives

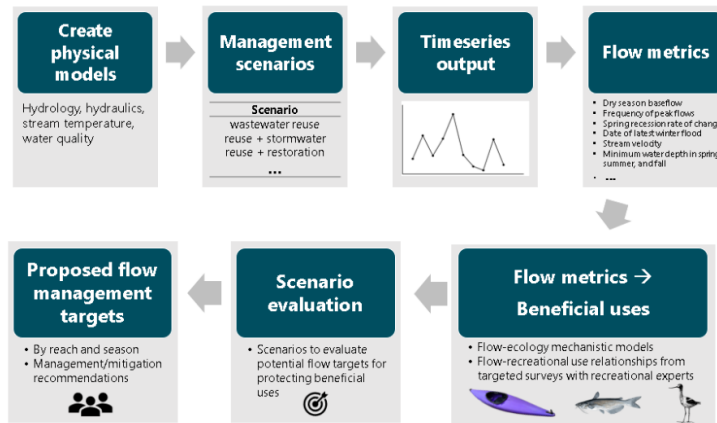
The Project would increase local groundwater supplies, and thereby enhance regional water reliability, especially during periods of drought and water scarcity (e.g. loss of snowpack in the Sierra Nevada Mountains, catastrophic interruptions of water supply and uncertain impacts of climate change). The Project is one component of the City's mission to provide safe and reliable water to the communities it serves through the following objectives:

- Increase groundwater storage in the San Fernando Basin;
- Enhance the reliability of the City's drinking water supply by using recycled water treated by advanced water treatment processes at an existing facility; and
- Increase the volume of recycled water available for potable use in the San Fernando Valley to reduce the City's use of purchased imported water.

Primary Environmental Concerns

In analyzing Hydrology, Water Quality, Biology, and Recreation, LASAN and LADWP utilized modeling tools developed by the Southern California Coastal Water Research Project (SCCWRP) in its 2021 *Los Angeles River Environmental Flows Study* (2021). In developing the tools, SCCWRP sought significant input from stakeholders such as the State Water Resources Control Board, LA Regional Water Quality Control Board, LASAN, LADWP, LA County Department of Public Works, Heal the Bay, LA Waterkeeper, The Nature Conservancy, recreational users, and others. LASAN and LADWP's analysis included:

- Obtaining SCCWRP model files
- Using the calibrated and validated model to predict changes due to:
 - The Project
 - The Project and other known projects likely to impact LA River flows, such as water reuse projects proposed by Burbank and Glendale and projects required to address dry weather flows to the LA River
- SCCWRP illustrative examples were referenced but impact analysis was project specific



Graphic Depiction of SCCWRP LA River Environmental Flows Study analytical framework

CEQA Determination (IS/ND)

- Less than significant impacts, no mitigation required
- Initial Study/ Negative Declaration is the appropriate CEQA document from perspective of impacts

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