

**NOTICE OF INTENT  
TO ADOPT A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION  
FOR THE PATH 46 TRANSMISSION LINE CLEARANCE PROJECT**

**Date:** October 7, 2019

**To:** Agencies, Organizations, and Interested Persons

**Subject:** Notice of Intent to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Path 46 Transmission Line Clearance Project

An Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) has been prepared by the City of Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) for the proposed Path 46 Transmission Line Clearance Project (Project). LADWP is the Lead Agency, pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), responsible for preparation of this document.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

LADWP is proposing the Path 46 Transmission Line Clearance Project to restore ground-to-conductor clearances that are out of compliance with transmission line safety and reliability standards. The project would address ground-to-conductor clearance issues along three existing overhead transmission lines located in San Bernardino County near Victorville, Barstow, and Baker, California: the 500 kilovolt (kV) McCullough-Victorville Lines 1 and 2 (MCV1 and MCV2) and the 287 kV Mead-Victorville Line 1 (MVL1). These transmission lines were installed in the 1930s to transmit power from Hoover Dam to Los Angeles. The proposed ground-to-conductor clearance activities would be undertaken to comply with the California Public Utilities Commission's General Order 95 Clearance Code Requirements as mandated by the North American Electric Reliability Corporation. Achieving the required clearances is necessary to ensure that the distance between the transmission line conductors and the ground or road surface below is sufficient to meet code requirements guiding the safe and reliable operation of transmission lines.

LADWP proposes to comply with the required clearances by grading the ground surface underneath transmission lines in 68 select work areas to achieve height consistency per code requirements. Additionally, LADWP has identified two locations where grading is infeasible due to topography. In these locations, LADWP proposes to raise existing transmission line towers to achieve height consistency. Two additional locations will involve

the installation of compacted soil barricades or other similar barrier systems to eliminate vehicle access to areas underneath a conductor where a clearance issue exists. Total acreage of grading would be approximately 7 acres, and total acreage of tower raising activities would be approximately 3.7 acres. The project would also involve improvements to portions of existing access roads to be used for site access, equipment staging and storage, and distribution of excavated soils. The project would primarily be located on federal land managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), but some work areas would be located within LADWP property or on private property.

The following federal, state, and local permits are anticipated to be required for the project: Bureau of Land Management – Federal Land Policy and Management Act Title V Right-of-Way Grant (Amendment); California Department of Fish and Wildlife Streambed Alteration Agreement; San Bernardino County Grading Permit (where applicable); State Water Resources Control Board Section 402 Storm Water Permit Associated with Construction Activities; Regional Water Quality Control Board Section 401 Water Quality Certification and Waste Discharge Requirements; and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Section 404 Nationwide Permit.

## **PROJECT LOCATION**

The proposed work areas are all located along the MCV1, MCV2, and MVL1 transmission line corridor, which extends in a southwest to northeast direction parallel to Interstate 15 through the Mojave Desert. The southwestern end of the corridor begins in Stoddard Valley (just northeast of Victorville) and extends east through Daggett (east of Barstow) and northeast into the Mojave Valley to the edge of the California–Nevada border. Pursuant to Section 15072 of the CEQA Guidelines, several properties within the project vicinity are listed on hazardous waste sites lists compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5. However, the project is located within an undeveloped desert environment, and ground disturbance would be limited in depth; as such, it is unlikely that hazardous materials sites would be encountered.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

The 30-day public comment period for this NOI will commence on October 7, 2019, and conclude on November 7, 2019.

The IS/MND is available for review on the LADWP website at:  
<http://www.ladwp.com/envnotices> and at the following locations:

LADWP  
Environmental Affairs Division  
111 North Hope Avenue, Room 1044  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Victorville City Library  
15011 Circle Drive  
Victorville, CA 92395

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Please submit comments in writing to the address provided below. Comment letters must be received by 5:00 p.m. on November 7, 2019.

Los Angeles Department of Water and Power  
111 North Hope Street, Room 1044  
Los Angeles, CA 90012  
Attn: Mr. Brian Gonzalez  
Fax: (213) 367-4710  
Email: [brian.gonzalez@ladwp.com](mailto:brian.gonzalez@ladwp.com)

All comments received related to issues discussed in the IS/MND will be included in the final package that is forwarded to the City of Los Angeles Board of Water and Power Commissioners for final consideration.

For any questions regarding the review of the IS/MND, please contact Mr. Brian Gonzalez of my staff at [brian.gonzalez@ladwp.com](mailto:brian.gonzalez@ladwp.com) or (213) 367-2612.



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Charles C. Holloway  
Manager of Environmental Planning and Assessment