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BUREAU OF SANITATION RELEASES DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT FOR WASTEWATER SYSTEM UPGRADES

Department Of Public Works Plans To Improve Quality of Life, Accommodate Aging Sewers and Meet Future Needs

LOS ANGELES (Dec. 1, 2005) — The Department of Public Works' Bureau of Sanitation announced today that the Draft Environmental Impact Report for the wastewater Integrated Resources Plan (IRP) is available for public comment until 5 p.m., Mon., Feb. 27, 2006.

The Bureau of Sanitation will hold four public hearings: at 7 p.m., Wed., Jan. 4, 2006 at the Van Nuys City Hall, 6262 Van Nuys Blvd. Van Nuys, CA 91401; at 11 a.m., Sat., Jan. 7, 2006 at the West Los Angeles Council District 11 Field Office, 7166 W. Manchester Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90045; at 10 a.m., Wed., Jan. 11, 2006 at the DWP-John Ferraro Building, 111 N. Hope St., Los Angeles, CA 90012; and at 6 p.m., Thurs., Jan. 12, 2006 at the Witherbee Auditorium, Los Angeles Zoo. 5333 Zoo Drive, Los Angeles, CA 90027.

The IRP Draft EIR can be obtained at: <http://www.lacity-irp.org/DraftEIR.pdf>; the Bureau of Sanitation, 2714 Media Center Drive, Los Angeles, CA 90065, contact Jawahar P. Shah, (323) 342-6253; or at the Bureau of Engineering, 650 S. Spring St., Room 574, Los Angeles, CA 90014, contact Dr. Ara Kasparian, (213) 847-8815.

Written comments can be submitted to Jawahar P. Shah at the above address, or electronically at <http://www.lacity-irp.org/Draft-EIR-Comments.htm>. The public may contact Shah at (323) 342-6253 or Debbie Pham at (323) 342-6256.

The IRP is a stakeholder-based planning effort that attempts to address the future wastewater, recycled water and stormwater needs for the next 20 years. After an extensive three-year process that was built on the stakeholder preferences, 21 initial alternatives were narrowed down to four alternatives.

The four alternatives will meet the projected increase in wastewater flow in 2020 while maximizing the beneficial reuse of recycled water and urban runoff, optimizing the use of our existing facilities and water resources, reducing pollution, and reducing our dependency on imported water.

The IRP Draft EIR describes the four alternatives and analyzes the environmental impacts of each of these alternatives including, but not limited to, traffic, noise, and air quality.

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Draft EIR

The Department of Public Works staff has met with stakeholders from Los Angeles, Glendale and Burbank in the development of the IRP and its Draft EIR. The IRP Draft EIR has incorporated ideas culled from approximately 70 public meetings. In addition to public meetings, the wastewater IRP was presented at the 2005 Congress of Neighborhoods.

“I am proud that the IRP has been such an inclusive process,” said Cynthia M. Ruiz, president of the Board of Public Works.

“The pre-draft EIR process does not legally require public meetings in the formation of an environmental document. Our staff has been very progressive in their thinking to include stakeholders at every step,” said Ruiz.

“The wastewater IRP’s goal is embodied in the Bureau of Sanitation’s mission “to protect public health and the environment,” said Rita Robinson, director of the Bureau of Sanitation. The IRP is a joint project of the Department of Public Works’ Bureaus of Sanitation and Engineering and the Department of Water Power.

The Department of Public Works is responsible for the construction, renovation and operation of public facilities and infrastructure, ranging from trash collection and graffiti removal to maintenance of sidewalks, bridges, sewers and streetlights; and management of wastewater treatment plants and building design.

For more information, call the Public Affairs Office at (213) 978-0333.

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