



NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF A PROGRAM ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

NOTICE OF A PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING

Date: August 28, 2025

To: Agencies, Organizations, and Interested Parties

Subject: Notice of Preparation of a Program Environmental Impact Report for the Pure Water Los Angeles Program

This Notice of Preparation (NOP) has been prepared in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines Section 15082 to notify agencies, interested parties, and members of the public that the City of Los Angeles (City) as the lead agency, represented by the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) and the Los Angeles Department of Public Works Bureau of Sanitation (LASAN), will prepare a Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) pursuant to CEQA for the proposed Pure Water Los Angeles Program (Program or proposed Program).

In accordance with CEQA Guidelines Section 15168, PEIRs may be prepared for a series of actions that can be characterized as one large project and are related geographically or as logical parts in a chain of contemplated actions. The Pure Water Los Angeles Program consists of a proposed framework to diversify the City of Los Angeles water supply portfolio and ensure a resilient future for the region by maximizing the production of purified recycled water. The Program includes project-level analysis for well-defined components of the Program along with program-level analysis for future anticipated projects where the specific project details are not yet known. This programmatic approach will better inform agencies and interested parties about the overall environmental considerations of the Program.

The City is requesting input from interested members of the public and agencies regarding the scope and content of the environmental analysis to be included in the PEIR. Agency and public input being requested includes, but is not limited to, the scope of alternatives, proposed level of treatment, and potential facility locations. A



description of the program and preliminary determination of the environmental resource factors to be addressed in the PEIR are included below.

Program Need

Pure Water Los Angeles Program is an ambitious initiative aimed at developing a sustainable and reliable local drinking water supply. This Program is a collaboration between LADWP and LASAN to purify recycled water through an advanced water purification system, addressing the pressing challenges such as climate change, seismic vulnerability, and water scarcity.

Over the past five years, Los Angeles has used an average of about 450 million gallons of water daily, yet local resources are insufficient to meet this demand. For the five-year average of 2019-2024, approximately 50 percent of this water comes from City managed sources on average, including groundwater, recycled water, and water from the Owens Valley and Mono Basin delivered by the Los Angeles Aqueduct. The remaining half is purchased from the Metropolitan Water District, which imports water from the Colorado River via the Colorado River Aqueduct and Northern California via the State Water Project. The effects of climate change are predicted to cause more frequent and potentially longer drought periods, impacting the reliability of water imports. Additionally, the risk of a major earthquake threatens the infrastructure that delivers imported water.

Pure Water Los Angeles aims to enhance the City's water independence by increasing its local water supply through purified, recycled water. The initiative seeks to produce purified recycled water from wastewater treated at the Hyperion Water Reclamation Plant (Hyperion) located in Playa Del Rey. Upon completion, this Program would provide up to 230 million gallons per day of purified recycled water.

The Program would significantly increase and optimize the City's local water supplies, supporting the transition to the 70 percent local water goal envisioned in the City's sustainability planning. It represents a major engineering feat, akin to the original Los Angeles Aqueduct completed in 1913. The Program is a testament to the City's investment in infrastructure and community, aiming to build a legacy of water security for Los Angeles.

Pure Water Los Angeles is more than just an infrastructure project; it is a crucial step towards securing the future of Los Angeles' water supply. By leveraging advanced purification technologies, the City is working to ensure sustainable water resources and environmental protection for generations to come.

Program Overview

LADWP and LASAN have partnered to implement the Program in a combined effort previously referred to as "Hyperion 2035" by LASAN, and "Operation NEXT" by LADWP. In early 2025, the Hyperion Program Implementation Plan and Pure Water Los Angeles



Master Plan were completed. Together, these documents established the foundational planning for the Program and provide details on initial cost, schedule, and phasing.

The Pure Water Los Angeles Master Plan outlines key concepts such as the treatment processes that purify recycled water to meet drinking water standards and the cost-effective distribution of the purified recycled water. The Hyperion Program Implementation Plan focuses on the required modifications at Hyperion as a potential location for advanced treatment infrastructure to accomplish production of purified recycled water. Additionally, the Hyperion Program Implementation Plan includes detailed engineering analysis of the potential treatment processes, the layout of new facilities at the Hyperion site, and necessary supporting infrastructure that could both provide high quality purified water and better protect Santa Monica Bay.

Both documents provide a phased construction approach to expedite production of purified recycled water for the City and provide cost estimates for Program implementation.

The Pure Water Los Angeles Master Plan and Hyperion Program Implementation Plan build on the findings of prior studies that evaluated the feasibility for expanding purified recycled water production and applications for the City and region, including the following:

- City of Los Angeles Recycled Water Master Plan (LADWP 2012)
- Hyperion Reuse Feasibility Study (LASAN 2016)
- Joint Los Angeles Basin Replenishment and Extraction Master Plan (Water Replenishment District and LADWP 2016)
- One Water L.A. Plan (LASAN 2018)
- Groundwater Development and Augmentation Plan (LADWP 2020)
- Operation NEXT Conceptual Study Report (LADWP 2021)

Program Description

The proposed Program would augment local water supplies by producing up to 230 million gallons per day of purified recycled water for the City and its customers. The amounts and locations of treatment will be determined through ongoing evaluation, but this programmatic document will include consideration of full-scale optimization of Hyperion resources. The Program considers groundwater replenishment as a key strategy due to the large, natural underground storage capacities available in the region, potential water quality and environmental benefits, strong regulatory support, and the opportunity to strengthen water resource management. Additionally, the Program's treatment strategies can include either Indirect Potable Reuse (IPR), Direct Potable Reuse (DPR) or a combination of both. IPR involves the advanced treatment of wastewater and introduces this supply into an environmental buffer, such as a groundwater basin, before it is extracted and treated again for potable use. DPR has additional engineered treatment processes to further purify water, allowing for the

timelier use of purified recycled water than utilizing an environmental buffer. The indirect potable reuse (IPR) and/or direct potable reuse (DPR) strategies would incorporate three key elements: treatment, conveyance, and groundwater recharge and extraction (Table 1).

Options under current consideration include but are not limited to:

Table 1. Program Elements and Options

Elements	Options	Level of Analysis
Treatment	- Hyperion Modifications - Phase 1A - Hyperion Membrane Bioreactor Facility Conversion - Advanced Water Purification Facilities - Extraction Wellfields Groundwater Treatment	Project-level Program-level Program-level Program-level
	- South-to-North Alignment Options to Connect the AWWP to the Los Angeles Aqueduct Filtration Plant - West to East Alignment Options - Connections to Metropolitan's Distribution System, Central Basin, and San Fernando Basin - Connections to Edward C. Little Recycling Facility - As-needed Connections to Existing Distribution System for DPR Water Supply	Program-level Program-level Program-level Program-level Program-level
	- Central Basin Injection and Extraction Wellfields - San Fernando Basin Injection Wellfield - San Fernando Basin Spreading Grounds - San Fernando Basin Stormwater Capture Parks	Program-level Program-level Program-level Program-level

Hyperion Water Reclamation Plant Modifications

Under Hyperion Phase 1A, LASAN would make necessary foundational infrastructure improvements at Hyperion to effectively achieve potable reuse. Hyperion Phase 1A would be a prerequisite for implementing the Hyperion Membrane Bioreactor Facility. It would also be a prerequisite for all purified recycled water treatment options in the Program. Modifications will include a new pump station, flow equalization tanks, a fine screen facility, and associated odor control facilities. These modifications alone would not result in the production of any purified recycled water, but any delays to Hyperion Phase 1A would delay the overall Program. Hyperion Phase 1A will enhance the efficient operation of the Hyperion Water Reclamation Plant.

Hyperion Water Reclamation Plant MBR Facility

The Hyperion MBR Facility would replace the existing secondary treatment facility which is over 30 years old. The Hyperion MBR Facility would remove ammonia by a biological nitrification and denitrification process and remove solids by using a membrane filtration process. These necessary pretreatment steps for the downstream advanced water purification processes would also result in a significant reduction of pollutants in plant discharges to Santa Monica Bay. The footprint of the Hyperion MBR Facility is significantly less than the footprint of the existing secondary treatment process. This would improve Hyperion's flexibility in space planning for future advanced water purification as well as other process modifications that may become necessary.

Advanced Water Purification Facilities

The Advanced Water Purification Facilities (AWPF) would be designed with flexibility to support either IPR or DPR as regulated by the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) Division of Drinking Water (DDW). Treatment processes may include but not limited to reverse osmosis, ozone-biological activated carbon (ozone-BAC), ultraviolet advanced oxidation process (UV/AOP) and post-stabilization to ensure water quality is suitable for intended use. Depending on final Program production and operational needs, these advanced treatment processes may be implemented at a single centralized AWPF or across multiple facilities. The Program proposes starting with an AWPF designed for IPR-level treatment, with the option to add DPR treatment capabilities at a separate facility or incorporate the DPR treatment processes into existing IPR AWPF in the future. The potential locations of the AWPF are currently being evaluated by LADWP and LASAN.

Groundwater Treatment

Groundwater treatment facilities would be needed at Central Basin (CB) and San Fernando Basin (SFB) to ensure that extracted groundwater meets federal and state drinking water standards. For CB, the conceptual treatment train may include, but is not limited to, adsorptive filtration, granular activated carbon (GAC) contactors, ion exchange (IX) resin sorption, chlorination, and the addition of fluoride and ammonia. For SFB, the proposed treatment approach is assumed to align with existing water treatment plants and may include UV/AOP followed by GAC. These treatment processes are preliminary and intended to support validation efforts; additional data collection and evaluation will be necessary to confirm the final treatment technologies and configurations.

Conveyance

For either IPR or DPR treatment processes, large diameter pipelines would be required to convey purified recycled water from the AWPF to groundwater recharge facilities and Los Angeles Aqueduct Filtration Plant. Three potential south-to-north alignments (Sepulveda, Cahuenga, and Griffith Park) and three potential west-to-east alignments

(Slauson, Florence, and Manchester) were identified in the Master Plan. Alignment options are illustrated in Figure 1. Additionally, existing infrastructure currently conveys secondary treated effluent from Hyperion to Edward C. Little Water Recycling Facility (ECLWRF), presenting an opportunity to leverage existing conveyance systems. This configuration could support potential advanced treatment at ECLWRF. The Program provides opportunities for partnering on water exchanges through interconnections, including connection to Metropolitan’s distribution system.

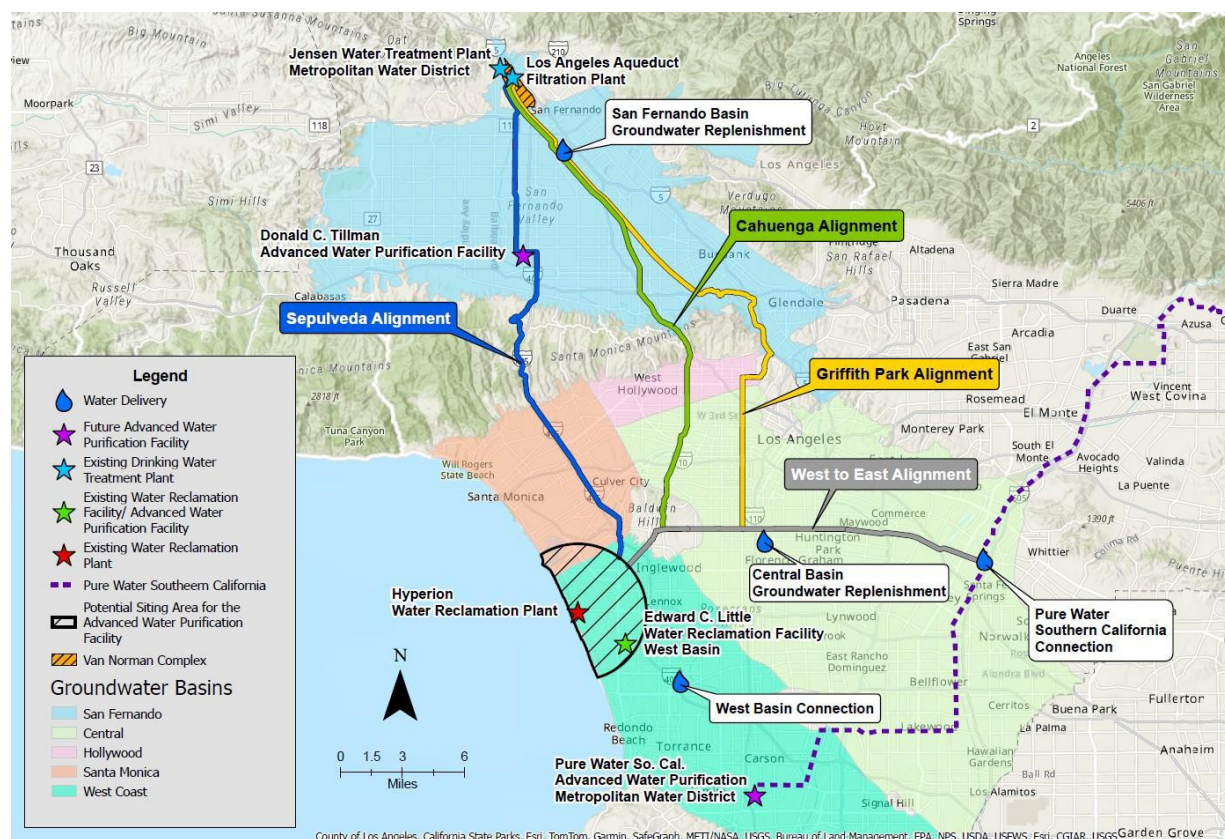


Figure 1. Program Elements and Alignment Options

Groundwater Recharge and Extraction

Groundwater recharge and extraction are key elements of the Program for both the CB and SFB. Injection-based recharge supports year-round operations, in contrast to spreading methods, which are seasonal and currently more feasible in the SFB. CB will require the construction of pilot test wells to confirm the wellfield details, including well depth and design criteria, well injection capacities, number of injection and extraction wells, and land requirements, whereas SFB has existing extraction infrastructure in place. The location of new injection and extraction wells would be selected based on land availability, the ability to maintain required residence time, and the capacity to recover recharged water. Additionally, SFB offers recharge opportunities through

existing spreading grounds at Pacoima, Hansen, and Tujunga, as well as stormwater capture parks in North Hollywood Infiltration Galleries 1 and 2.

Program Location

Hyperion Phase 1A modifications and potential MBR and AWWP may be located on or near the existing 144-acre Hyperion site near the Los Angeles World Airport and Dockweiler State Beach. Implementation of the proposed Program would require new infrastructure across the LADWP service area in regions overlying the Central, West Coast, and San Fernando Groundwater Basins (See Figure 1). Infrastructure may include pipelines for conveying water, wells for injecting and extracting groundwater, pump stations, tanks, new treatment facilities, treatment facility upgrades, power supply, and appurtenant facilities. New pipelines would be installed to transport the purified recycled water to groundwater recharge facilities and existing treatment and distribution facilities, as shown in Figure 1, and would encompass the local cities from the coast to as far north as Sylmar, as far south as Torrance, and as far east as Whittier. The location of the Program options would be refined as the system design progresses, and will consider factors currently under evaluation such as phasing, production, treatment approach, and overall operational strategy.

Probable Environmental Impacts

The City has determined that the proposed Program may create potentially significant impacts related to various environmental factors considered under CEQA. Therefore, a PEIR will be prepared for the Program. See Attachment A for more information on probable environmental effects. The potential environmental impacts that will be addressed in the PEIR will include:

- Aesthetics
- Agriculture and Forestry Resources
- Air Quality
- Biological Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Energy
- Environmental Justice
- Geology/Soils
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Groundwater
- Hazards & Hazardous Materials
- Hydrology & Water Quality
- Land Use/Planning
- Mineral Resources
- Noise
- Population/Housing
- Public Services
- Recreation
- Transportation
- Tribal Cultural Resources
- Utilities/Service Systems
- Wildfire
- Mandatory Findings of Significance

Public Scoping Meeting

LADWP and LASAN will hold three virtual Public Scoping Meetings to share information regarding the proposed Program and the environmental review process, and to solicit

comments regarding the scope and content of the environmental analysis to be addressed in the PEIR. LADWP and LASAN encourage all interested individuals and organizations to attend this meeting. The dates, times and details for the virtual Scoping Meeting are as follows:

Wednesday September 10, 2025	Friday September 12, 2025	Saturday September 20, 2025
6:00pm – 8:00pm	10:00am – 12:00pm	10am – 12:00pm

Format: Virtual via Zoom (scan QR code to register and obtain access information)
<https://bit.ly/PureWaterLAScoping>



Sign Language interpreters, translation services, assistive listening devices, or other auxiliary aids and/or services will be provided upon request. To ensure availability, you are advised to make your request at least 72 hours prior to the meeting. Due to difficulties in securing Sign Language interpreters, five or more business day notice is strongly recommended. To request accommodation, please call (213) 367-3541 or indicate your request when registering at the zoom link above.

Public Review and Comments

LADWP and LASAN invite comments on the scope and content of the environmental analysis to be included in the PEIR in connection with the proposed Program. The public comment period for this NOP will commence on August 28, 2025, and conclude on October 12, 2025. Please ensure that comments are postmarked or emailed on or before October 12, 2025.

The NOP is available for review can be accessed electronically and/or downloaded at the following website: <https://www.ladwp.com/envnotices>. A physical copy is available at:

LADWP Environmental Affairs
111 N. Hope Street, Room 1044
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Hyperion Water Reclamation Plant
Environmental Learning Center
12000 Vista Del Mar
Playa Del Rey, CA 90293

Please direct your comments or questions to the following:

Mr. Marshall Cyr
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Environmental Planning and Assessment
111 North Hope Street, Room 1044
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In the subject line of email or mail correspondence, please indicate if you are submitting a "Comment" or "Question". Please include your name and return address so that you can be added to the project mailing list for future project notifications. Written comments can be submitted via the project website, email, or hard copy by the methods described above.

Please note, the City's practice is to make the entirety of comments received a part of the public record. Therefore, names, home addresses, home phone numbers, and email addresses of commenters, if included in the response, will be made part of the record available for public review. Individual commenters may request that the City withhold their name and/or home addresses, etc., but if you wish the City to consider withholding this information, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comments. In the absence of this written request, this information will be made part of the record for public review. The City will always make submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, available for public inspection in their entirety.

Additional information regarding the proposed project can be found on the project website at www.ladwp.com/PureWaterLosAngelesCEQA.

Sincerely,



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