

NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF A PROGRAM ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

NOTICE OF A PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING

Date: September 15, 2026

To: Agencies, Organizations, and Interested Parties

Subject: Notice of Preparation of a Program Environmental Impact Report for the Substation 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 Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP), as the lead agency, will prepare a Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) pursuant to CEQA for the proposed Substation Program (Program or Proposed Program).

In accordance with CEQA Guidelines Section 15168, a PEIR is an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) which may be prepared on a series of actions that can be characterized as one large project and are related either geographically, as logical parts in the chain of contemplated actions, in connection with issuance of rules, regulations, plans, or other general criteria to govern the conduct of a continuing program, or as individual activities carried out under the same authorizing statutory or regulatory authority and having generally similar environmental effects which can be mitigated in similar ways. The Substation 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 PEIR will evaluate the broad, policy-level, and long-term environmental implications of the proposed Program, recognizing that subsequent site-specific actions may require additional CEQA review. PEIR will be used, as appropriate, when specific future projects are known pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Sections 15168(c) (use of a program EIR with activities), 15152 (tiering), 15162-15164 (subsequent or supplemental CEQA documentation and addenda), and/or other sections of the CEQA Guidelines that provide for streamlined environmental review.

LADWP 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. As outlined below, a description of the Program and preliminary determination of the environmental resource areas to be addressed in the PEIR are included in the Initial Study for the proposed Program, which is available for review.

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

LADWP is the nation's largest municipal power utility, with a diverse and vertically integrated power system that spans five western states and delivers power to more than four million people in the City of Los Angeles (City). The LADWP Power System consists of three main components: generation, transmission, and distribution. Power generation involves the production of electricity using energy sources such as natural gas, geothermal, hydro, wind, and solar. After generation, the electricity is stepped up to increase the voltage for more efficient, long-distance transmission. High voltage transmission lines (ranging from 138 kilovolts [kV] to 500kV) carry the electricity to receiving substations, where the distribution system begins, and high voltage electricity is stepped down to sub transmission level (34.5kV). From the receiving substations, sub transmission lines carry electricity to large end-users and to distributing substations, where the voltage is further reduced to distribution level (4.8kV). The electricity is then carried out of the distributing substation through feeders. Distribution transformers further step down the voltage to levels suitable for customer end-use (e.g., 120 volts [V], 240V).

LADWP's Power System Reliability Program evaluates and prioritizes maintenance and replacement of major power infrastructure components to maintain reliable electricity service to its customers now and in the future. The Power Infrastructure Plan details recent accomplishments and outlines future goals being implemented through the Power System Reliability Program, one of which is the long-term goal to expand capacity to address overloads and accommodate growth of electrification. Based on the goals of the Power System Reliability Program, LADWP has identified a need for new distributing substations and improvements to existing substations (i.e., distributing substations and receiving substations), which is essential to modernize the distribution system.

When assessing distribution system needs, LADWP evaluates load growth factors (e.g., extreme weather events, building growth rates, new interconnections, and increasing electrification in transportation and buildings) as well as load reduction factors (e.g., improved energy efficiency, local solar implementation, energy storage expansion, and demand response programs that reduce electricity use during peak demand periods). Distribution plans are created to address specific needs within the distribution system. These plans may include equipment re-rating, upgrades, load transfers, new circuits,

substation improvements, and construction of new substations. Even with current development plans for existing substations, capacity shortfalls are projected to remain significant. Electricity demand has been growing faster than LADWP's ability to increase distribution system capacity, resulting in equipment being operated above rated capacity limits. This sustained overloading poses risks, such as premature equipment failures, reduction in the useful life of the equipment, and limited operational flexibility. Based on the findings of the 2025 LADWP Distribution Load Forecast Report, distributing substations are currently experiencing a significant capacity shortfall that is projected to worsen over time. In 2024, 19 distributing substations exceeded their capacity. Despite ongoing and planned mitigation efforts, the collective shortfall across distributing substations is forecasted to reach 182 megavolt amperes (MVA) by 2045. However, needs and demand vary by service area, and an in-depth assessment was conducted to identify ways to reduce capacity shortfalls while maintaining reliability during times of high demand.

Receiving substations are also projected to face growing capacity challenges. By 2045, receiving substations are expected to face a collective capacity shortfall of 308 MVA. Additionally, the need for expansions at receiving substations is driven by the demand for additional circuit line positions. Unlike distributing substations, receiving substations serve large industrial and commercial customers with substantial individual loads. In some cases, existing circuit positions cannot accommodate the interconnection of new large-load customers, necessitating the addition of new circuit positions. As such, both MVA shortfalls and demand for new circuit positions affect the infrastructure needs at these facilities.

Accordingly, the Proposed Program focuses on alleviating the load on existing substations; modernizing aging equipment and infrastructure associated with the distribution system; and meeting the growing demand for electricity to ensure the delivery of reliable power throughout the City. By 2045, LADWP plans to build additional distributing substation capacity to provide load relief for existing distributing substations and meet forecasted capacity needs in stressed service areas. The construction of new distributing substations is not intended to replace existing substations. Rather, new substations would be constructed to alleviate overloaded substations, respond to increased demand, and enhance distribution system reliability. Existing substations would continue to operate and serve the area based on factors such as operational redundancy, safety, and cost-benefit analysis.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

LADWP proposes to modernize its electrical distribution system by constructing new distributing substations and improving existing substations, which consists of distributing substations and receiving substations. These efforts are necessary to meet projected

increases in electricity demand driven by increased population density within existing service areas, growth of energy-intensive industries, and the electrification of functions currently powered by the combustion of fossil fuels. Each new distributing substation would be an enclosed substation with a total bank capacity of 32 to 90 MVA. Improvements to existing substations would include replacing existing equipment, adding new equipment, and general upgrades to existing substations. The Proposed Program would enhance system reliability, provide redundancy, improve resiliency to extreme climate events, and support state and local mandates for clean energy. Modernization of the distribution system and its infrastructure is essential to meet current needs, address safety concerns, and prepare for future demand.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Proposed Program consists of planned improvements to the LADWP distribution system through the planning horizon year 2045. The Proposed Program includes the following components: construction of four new distributing stations (new development), expansion of existing substations which would extend beyond the existing substation footprint (expansion), minor improvements to existing substations (minor improvements), and other distribution system improvements.

Each component of the Proposed Program is further defined as follows:

- **New development:** Involves acquisition of real estate to construct a new distributing substation. Involves major construction activities using heavy equipment, including, for example, excavation, foundations, cabling, and, if necessary, demolition.
- **Expansion:** Involves the permanent installation of new equipment which would extend beyond the existing substation footprint and could involve acquisition of real estate. Involves moderate to major construction activities using heavy equipment, including, for example, excavation, foundations, cabling, and, if necessary, demolition.
- **Minor Improvement:** Involves the permanent installation of equipment within the existing substation property, replacement of existing equipment, modernization of equipment, addition of new equipment to vacant positions to meet the design capacity of the existing substation, as well as substation physical protection and security upgrades. Involves minimal construction effort, including minimal ground disturbance, shallow excavation, shorter construction duration, fewer pieces of heavy construction equipment, and fewer number of on-site daily workers.
- **Other Distribution System Improvements:** Involves upgrades to existing subtransmission lines, feeders, and underground cables, removal of existing pole-top transformer racks, deactivation of existing distributing substations, as well as other ancillary improvements.

PROGRAM LOCATION

The Proposed Program would be located in the LADWP in-basin area, which encompasses the City. The LADWP in-basin distribution system is divided into five primary service areas: West Valley, East Valley, Metro, West Los Angeles, and South Central. Existing distribution system infrastructure, including 21 receiving substations, 123 distributing substations, over 540 34.5kV circuits, and over 1,700 4.8kV feeders, are located throughout the five service areas within the City.

The Proposed Program includes four areas of consideration for the new proposed distributing substations: the Sun Valley Study Area, Silver Lake Study Area, Southeast Study Area, and Wilmington Study Area. Each study area is defined by an approximate one mile-radius around a location that was identified by LADWP as an ideal operational location for a new distributing substation. Expansions could occur at any existing substation within the City and would expand an existing substation footprint within the substation property, or if needed, into an adjacent acquired property. Minor improvements could occur at any existing substation within the City and would be limited to the existing substation property. Other distribution system improvements would be located along existing road rights-of-way, utility easements, or at sites containing existing distribution system infrastructure.

Figure 1 shows the study areas for the proposed new distributing substations.

POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

In accordance with CEQA Guidelines Section 15063, an Initial Study has been completed, and LADWP 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 Substation Program. The potential environmental impacts of the Proposed Program that will be addressed in the PEIR will include, but may not be limited to, the following resource areas:

- Aesthetics
- Air Quality
- Biological Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Geology and Soils
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Hazards & Hazardous Materials
- Noise
- Population and Housing
- Public Services
- Recreation
- Tribal Cultural Resources
- Wildfire

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETINGS

LADWP will hold two 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 encourages all interested individuals and organizations to attend a meeting. The dates, times and details for the virtual Public Scoping Meetings are as follows:

Tuesday September 29, 2026 6:00 PM	Thursday October 1, 2026 11:00 AM
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Format: Virtual via Zoom (scan QR code to register)

<https://zoom.us/join>

Webinar ID: 88938419741

Or by phone dial: +1 (669) 444-9171 /

Webinar ID: 88938419741

Or by QR Code:



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 you wish to attend. Due to difficulties in securing Sign Language interpreters, five or more business day notice is strongly recommended. To request an accommodation, please call (213) 367-3541.

PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENTS

LADWP invites 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 and review of the Initial Study will commence on **September 15, 2026**, and conclude on **October 16, 2026**. Please ensure that comments are postmarked or emailed on or before **October 16, 2026**.

The NOP and Initial Study are available for review and can be accessed electronically and/or downloaded at the following website: LADWP.com/CEQA under Current Projects Undergoing Environmental Review.

A physical copy of the NOP and Initial Study are available upon request at:

Los Angeles Department of Water and Power
Corporate Environmental Affairs
111 North Hope Street, Room 1044
Los Angeles, CA 90012

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Please direct your comments or questions to the following:

Ms. Jazmin Martin
Los Angeles Department of Water and Power
Environmental Planning and Assessment
111 North Hope Street, Room 1044
Los Angeles, CA 90012
Phone: (213) 367-1768
Email: SubstationProgram@ladwp.com

Please include your name and return address so that you can be added to the Program mailing list for future notifications. Written comments can be submitted via 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.

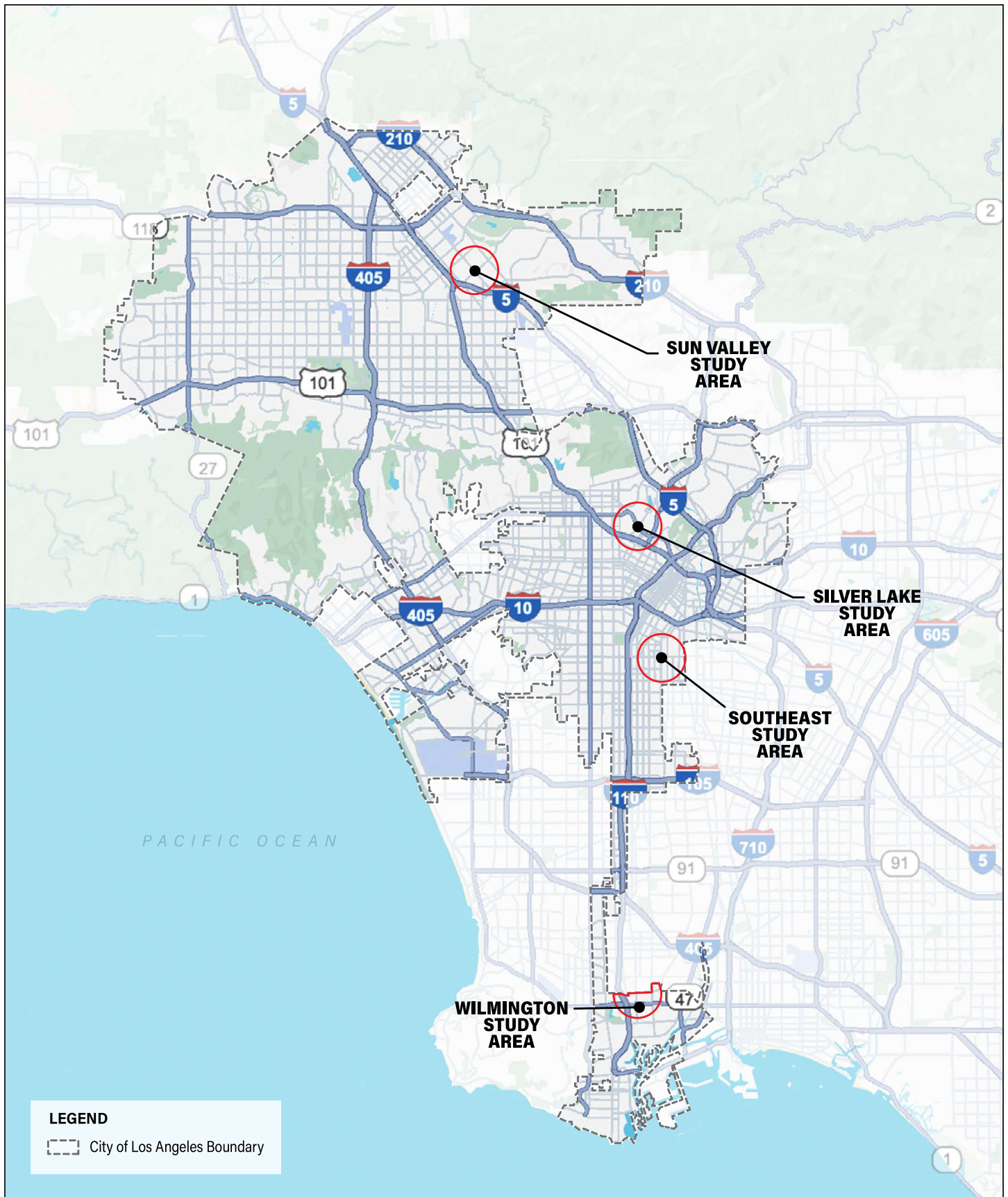
Additional information regarding the Substation Program can be found at LADWP.com/SubstationProgram.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Eduardo Cuevas for".

Jane Hauptman
Manager of Environmental Planning and Assessment

JM:ar
c: Ms. Jazmin Martin



Source: Google Earth Pro, January 2026

Study Areas for Proposed
New Distributing Substations



Substation Program

Figure 1