

Silver Lake Reservoir Frequently Asked Questions June 30, 2016 Community Meeting Update

REFILLING

Q: Is LADWP going to refill Silver Lake Reservoir?

A: Yes.

Q: What is LADWP's plan for refilling Silver Lake Reservoir?

A: LADWP is considering and planning for water sources other than drinking water such as the Los Angeles River, recycled water and/or stormwater, all of which require some amount of additional offsite infrastructure to be designed and built. LADWP remains committed to refilling the Reservoir with water following construction.

Q: When will the reservoir be refilled and how long will it take to fill to historic levels?

A: The reservoir will begin to be refilled in May 2017.

Q: What infrastructure needs to be constructed to bring water into the reservoir?

A: Offsite piping to connect the potential sources to the reservoir. Fortunately, we will be able to take advantage of recently abandoned facilities such as the Ivanhoe outlet tunnel, which will save considerable time and money.

Q: What level will it be filled?

A: It will be filled to a level that is consistent with historical levels and will be maintained to compensate for evaporation.

Q: Is there a timeline for the construction process?

A: Following the completion of design and permitting, offsite construction could take several months depending on final selected source water.

Q: Can you discuss the water tower you mentioned in Griffith Park as a possible water source?

A: Not a water tower, but connecting to the existing recycled water system in the park and leveraging the tank and piping now under construction.

Q: Would refilling the reservoir with potable water be the most cost effective plan?

A: While it would cost less money to fill the reservoir with potable water in the short run, Los Angeles is still in a drought and it is more responsible to expend the time and resources to construct new infrastructure to refill the reservoir with recycled water.

Q: Is LADWP designing a contingency/back-up plan to refill with potable water if there are delays in meeting the planned May 1st, 2017 start date to refill?

A: There is not a plan to fill the reservoir with potable water.

Q: Can you fill the bottom of the reservoir to make it more shallow?

A: Technically “yes,” however, it is unfortunately unrealistic. We calculated that it would take approximately 213,800 one way trucks trips (12 trucks each hour for 8 hours) hauling in dirt for more than 8 years to fill the reservoir to half full of its capacity.

Q: LADWP had originally assumed that Silver Lake Reservoir would be refilled with potable water. Did that change? When did you start planning for other water sources?

A: Yes. LADWP had originally planned to use drinking water as the source for refilling, which would become non-potable as soon as it entered the Reservoir. Because of the past five years of water shortage and the City and State’s strong focus on water use efficiency, LADWP has been planning for several years and looking at other non-potable sources. No matter what source of water is used to fill the reservoir, it then will become non-potable water since the reservoir will not be in service.

Q: Since you have a year to refill, can you pursue using LA River as an option?

A: The LA River always remains an option, although the permitting and other issues that need to be addressed before using LA River water would require a longer time frame to resolve and would not meet the target May 2017 date. However, the pipeline that would deliver available groundwater is the same pipe that could ultimately also deliver water from the river.

Q: What is the maintenance program for the water once the Reservoir is refilled?

A: The maintenance plan for the reservoir water would vary depending on the source of water. Possible maintenance plans would be pretreatment of the water, potential aeration, mixing, and monitoring of certain water quality parameters based on the water source.

Q: Was the drought a consideration when LADWP first committed to refilling the Reservoir?

A: The Final Environmental Impact Report for the Silver Lake Reservoir Complex Bypass Project was filed May 2006. At the time Los Angeles was not facing a drought. LADWP originally planned to refill the reservoir with approximately 400 million gallons of drinking water with the infrastructure that is in place. Since then, drought conditions have worsened. Consistent with our commitment to demonstrating water conservation in our water operations, we are exploring and have identified alternatives to drinking water to use to refill the lake.

Q: Why wasn't a drought contingency plan part of the 2013 EIR Addendum? Can you post the EIR?

A: A commitment was made to fill the reservoir, which will be fulfilled. The EIR and Addendum are on the LADWP website. Links are found on the Silver Lake Reservoir Complex Storage Replacement and the Silver Lake Reservoir Complex Bypass project pages, respectively.

FUTURE USE

Q: Who will be responsible for managing the Reservoir after construction ends?

A: LADWP owns and operates the Silver Lake Reservoir Complex property and will retain responsibility for the property after the reservoirs are removed and isolated from the drinking water system. The dams within the facility, along with other existing infrastructure need to be monitored and maintained by LADWP so long as they are in use. The ultimate responsibility of the property is based on the future type of usage of the area.

Q: Is LADWP considering changing the use of the space to recreational public space such as a swimming pool, drought-tolerant gardens, walking paths, etc.?

A: LADWP has no plans of its own to change the Silver Lake Reservoir Complex into a recreational public space. LADWP's commitment is to put water back in the reservoir and maintain the property in an appropriate manner until such time that a different future use is mapped out.

Any plans to change the use of the property would be part of a larger community planning process involving LADWP, but not led by us. LADWP's mission is to deliver water and power safely and reliably to the City of Los Angeles. Whatever future use is determined, LADWP would remain responsible for the operation of the water pipelines and appurtenances in the reservoir complex and oversight of the dams if they remained in place.

Q: What/how is the larger plan for gathering community input for the future use of the reservoir?

A: The efforts for a larger plan for the possible future use options will be led by the City Council 4 and 13 offices with LADWP Board. The process would include the City of Los Angeles council adopting a new use plan for the reservoir. Depending on the type of use another agency may take over the operational responsibilities.

Q: If the Reservoir is a historic cultural monument, can it be changed?

A: Given the historic resources designation, any type of proposed changes would require a review and approval process from the City's Planning Department- Office of Historic Resources.

PLANNING

Q: What happened to the proposals from 2003, based on the public input at Marshall HS?

A: A community workshop was held on November 16, 2002 at Marshall High School to obtain feedback from the community regarding alternatives to achieve compliance with the Long Term 2 Advanced Surface Water Treatment Rule. Four concepts were presented and community input was considered to further develop alternatives for the Silver Lake Reservoir Complex Project. Those concepts were discussed in the Draft EIR in Section 15.2.2 Preliminary Alternatives.

AESTHETICS

Q: How will the slopes/sides be maintained?

A: If LADWP removes a portion of the asphalt sidewalls where allowable (considering dam stability) and above a max water line, then DWP will provide a planting and maintenance plan to reduce slope erosion where asphalt has been removed.

Q: Can you change the steepness of the bank slopes?

A: The slopes can be flattened overall by either cutting back the slope, which would affect the reservoir patrol road and the surrounding public streets, or by filling in a portion of the reservoir to create a gentler slope. In either case the slopes would still need to be protected from damage associated with wave action and erosion.

Q: Can you take the fence down? If you can't take the fence down, can you make it more aesthetically pleasing?

A: At this time there are no plans to remove the fence when the reservoir is filled. The removal of the fence, along with making the fence more aesthetically pleasing, can be evaluated as part of the future plans for the reservoir.

Q: What will the Regulator Station look like? How high?

A: The regulator station, located on the northwest bank of the reservoir, will be buried and flush with the surrounding ground surface. There will be vault lids for access on the top of the regulator station and appurtenances surrounding the vault (air ventilation standpipes, instrumentation cabinets). A portion of the regulator station vault will be exposed from the existing reservoir side slope. However, this portion of the vault will be backfilled with soil and blended in with the existing reservoir side slope.

Q: When will the shade balls be removed?

A: The shade balls on Ivanhoe Reservoir will be removed at the end of construction and when it is taken out of service.

WILDLIFE/ENVIRONMENT

Q: What is happening regarding ducks that seem to be wondering around lost?

A: The biologists monitor the wildlife including the ducks regularly. Overall, the mortality rate of the ducks in the area are consistent with previous seasons.

Q: Concerned about the Great Blue Herons, in general. Is there a plan for a temporary water source for the Blue Heron's and other wildlife?

A: The Great Blue Herons are very resilient birds and returned to nest this year. Our biologist monitored their arrival and tracked their activity. An end of season report will be posted on the website later this year.

Q: Is there a plan for the conservation of wildlife?

A: After construction, our responsibilities are the maintenance of the reservoir property. We are confident the wildlife will adjust to the habitat and will be as vibrant as ever.

Q: Is LADWP considering a plan for gopher and other rodent hole relief caused by the empty reservoir?

A: The Property Management and Reservoir Surveillance groups are not aware of any increase in rodent activity at Silver Lake. This is an on-going issue that both groups work together to address. Remediation consists of traps in the rodent holes and no pesticides are used.

FIRE FIGHTING

Q: Will the aerial firefighting scooping planes be able to use Silver Lake?

A: Yes. In addition to the many other areas that are could be used for firefighting planes including Lake Hollywood, Echo Park and swimming pools.

OTHER

Q: Did you save money by constructing inside the reservoir?

A: The decision to construct within the reservoir was an effort to reduce costs and impacts to the local community, which would have otherwise seen years of on-street construction in order to complete the project. The financial savings from the reduced cost of the in-reservoir project allowed us to borrow less to fund the project and ultimately reduce potential water bills; it did not result in a savings of existing funds.