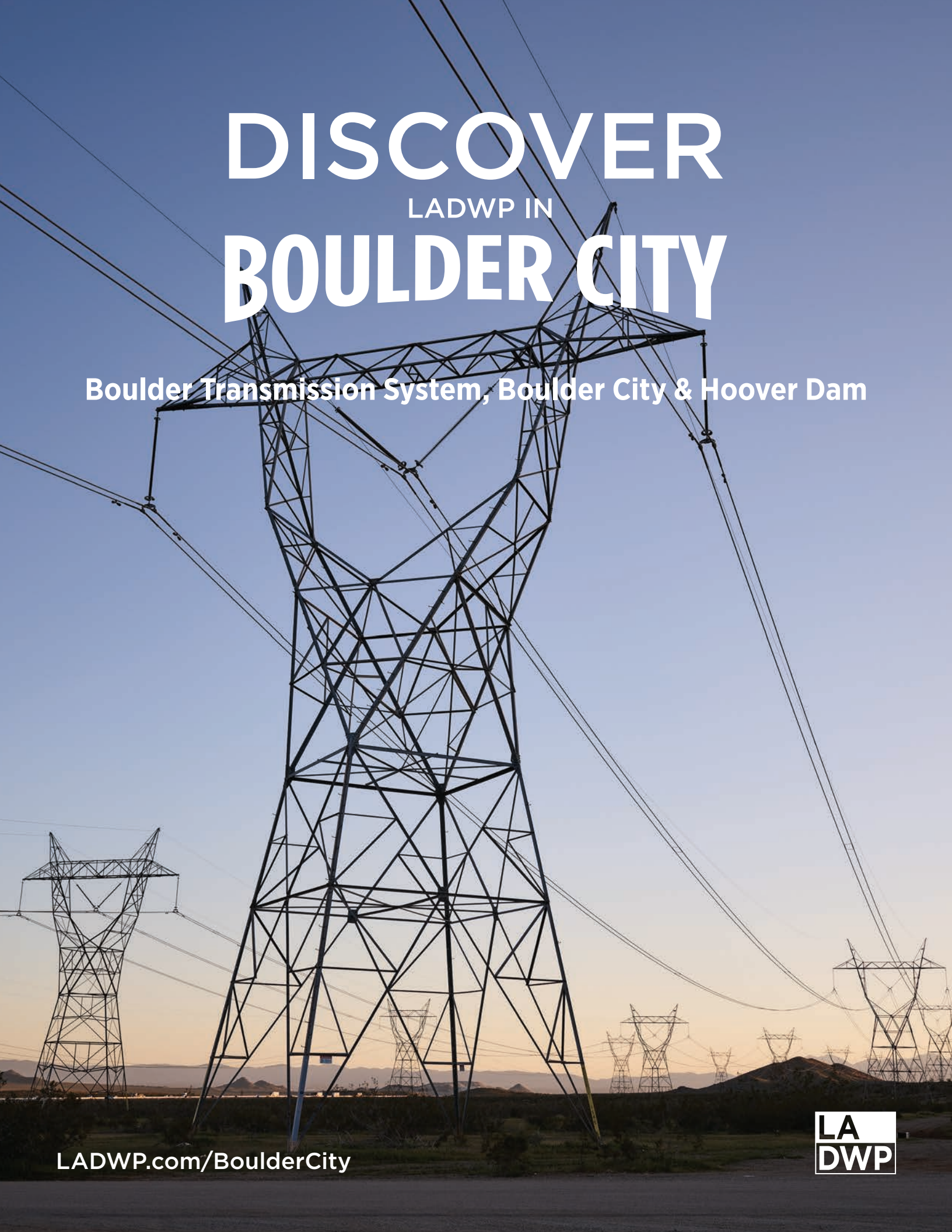
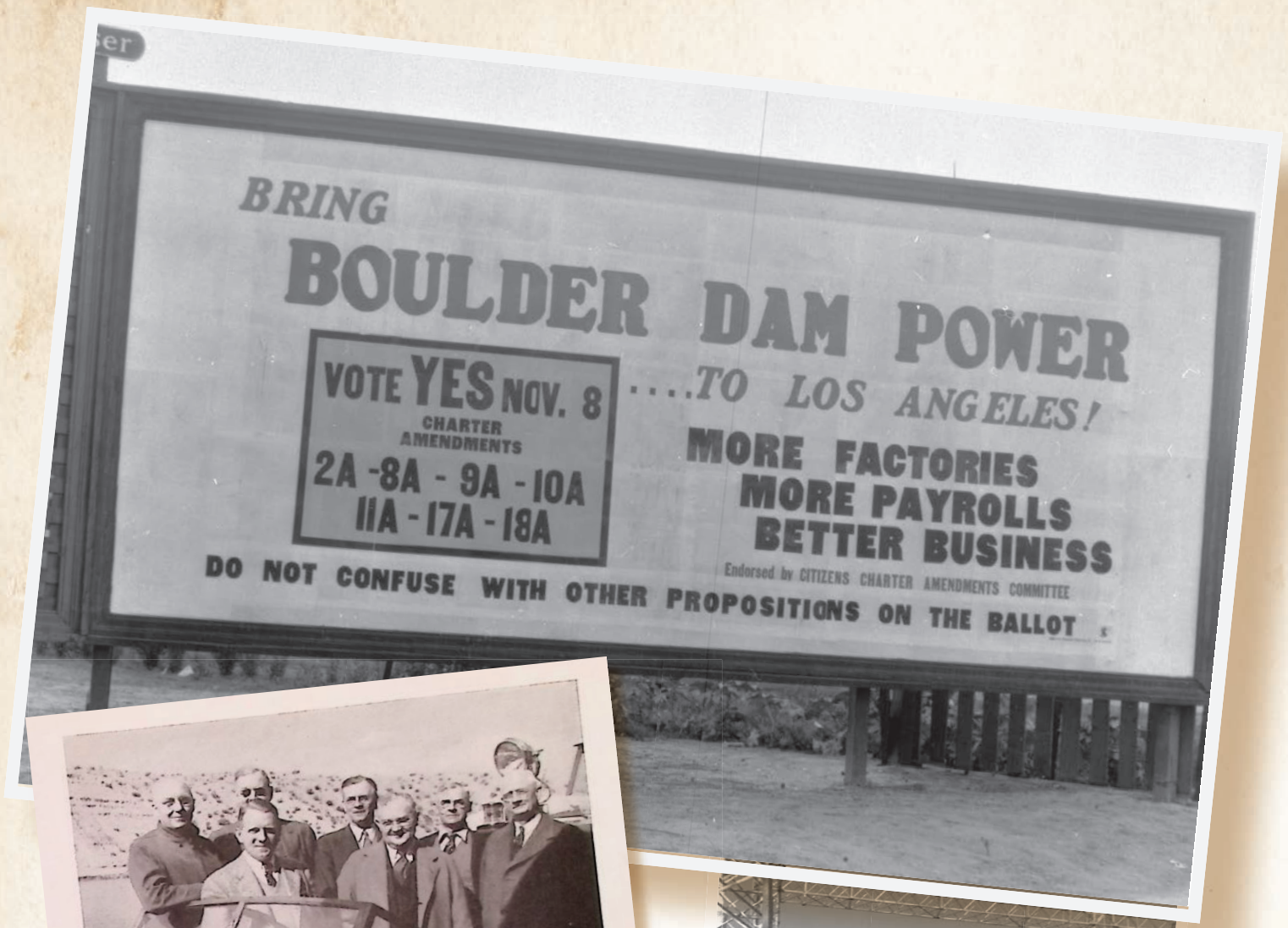

DISCOVER
LADWP IN
BOULDER CITY
Boulder Transmission System, Boulder City & Hoover Dam
LADWP.com/BoulderCity
LA
DWP



Boulder Dam power plant and the Department's Boulder transmission system were inspected this month by a party which included (front row, left to right) E. Clarke Keely, Mayor Fletcher Bowron, James B. Agnew; (rear) H. C. Gardett, H. A. Van Norman, William B. Himrod and Clinton E. Miller. The group was photographed aboard the Power Bureau's launch "Betty S."

BOULDER INSPECTION TRIP

MAYOR FLETCHER BOWRON, ACCOMPANIED by members of the Board of Water and Power Commissioners, the two General Managers and other Department officials, this month made an inspection tour of the city's Boulder power transmission system, the power plant and offices and housing facilities of the Power Bureau at Boulder City.

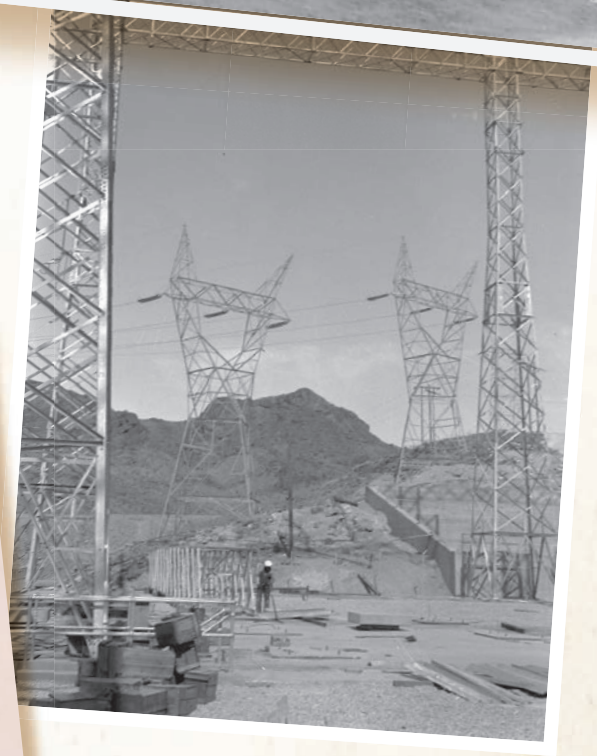
At the end of the two-day journey Mayor Bowron said he had been deeply impressed with what he had seen.

The party, which left Los Angeles by automobile Friday afternoon April 4 and returned the following Sunday, included Commissioners James B. Agnew, William B. Himrod, E. Clarke Keely and Clinton E. Miller; General Managers H. C. Gardett and H. A. Van Norman; Engineer of Operation and Distribution, Roy Martindale and Director of Public Relations G. M. Desmond.

Commissioner E. A. Dickson

Because he was in Washington, D. C. attending to Department business, Commissioner Edward A. Dickson was unable to join his colleagues on the tour of inspection.

E. P. Bryant, Superintendent of Boulder Power Plant for the Power Bureau, accompanied by E. A. Moritz, newly appointed Power Director at the dam for the Bureau of Reclamation, escorted the party through the power plant. Mr. Bryant also acted as guide when the group toured a portion of Lake Mead on Saturday.



Boulder Inspection Trip (Intake April 1941, Pg. 5)

NOTABLE PAST BOULDER INSPECTION TOURS & ATTENDEES

September 1933 Los Angeles Mayor Frank L. Shaw

December 1934 Hon. Albino Pasini, President of the municipally owned Milan Electric Company and official representative of the Italian government

February 1935 .. Los Angeles City Councilmember Edward L. Thrasher

March 1935 ..... Chief Engineer Morton Macartney of the Reconstruction Finance Corp.

April 1936..... President-elect Miguel Mariano Gomez of Cuba

June 1936..... 70 delegates from the American Institute of Electrical Engineers

March 1938 ..... Stuart Chase, noted economist, writer and lecturer

April 1939..... Crown Prince Frederik and Crown Princess Ingrid of Denmark

May 1939 ..... Crown Prince Olav and Crown Princess Martha of Norway

March 1940..... Engineers from the Hydro-Electric Power Commission of Ontario, Canada

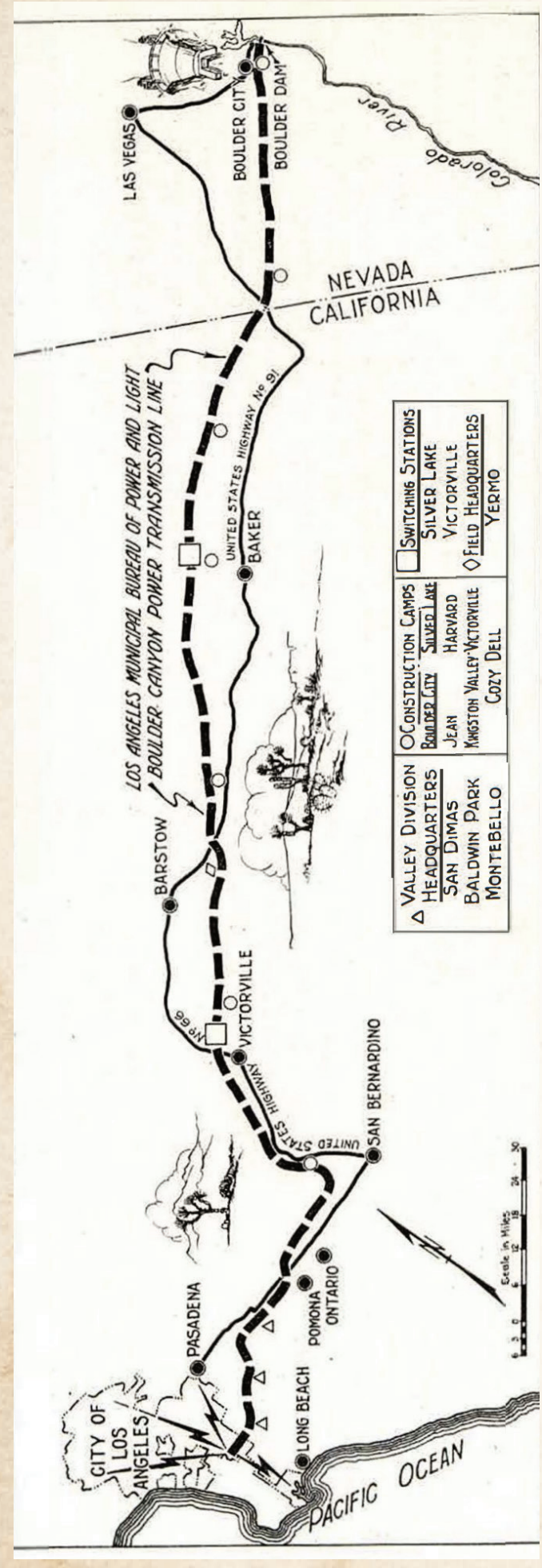
April 1941 ..... Los Angeles Mayor Fletcher Bowron

January 1946.... Los Angeles City Councilmembers Lloyd G. Davies, Harold A. Henry, George P. Cronk, Carl C. Rasmussen, Charles A. Allen, Ed J. Davenport, Meade McClanahan, John C. Holland and George H. Moore

August 1947..... Los Angeles Mayor Fletcher Bowron, United States Senators Robert A. Taft and William F. Knowland

August 1948..... Ford, Bacon and Davis engineering firm Department business survey

December 1957 Korean Electric Power Study Group



Boulder Transmission Map and Camps

WELCOME TO THE BOULDER INSPECTION TOUR

Thank you for joining the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) Power System Boulder Inspection Tour. This experience will immerse you in the history of how the LADWP Boulder Transmission System tied directly to Hoover Dam, forever shaping Los Angeles. We will highlight the engineering marvels, and the visionary leaders behind them, that linked the City of Los Angeles via a 266-mile dedicated corridor to Boulder City, Nevada. We will focus on the continued roles of the Boulder Transmission System and Hoover Dam in reaching LADWP's 100% carbon-free future.

LADWP maintains a diverse and vertically integrated power generation, transmission and distribution system that spans five Western States, and delivers reliable, cost-efficient power to more than four million people in Los Angeles. A key goal of this tour is to educate our stakeholders about the importance of protecting LADWP's Power System assets and provide an understanding of why LADWP's structure as a vertically integrated publicly owned utility is crucial for keeping electricity reliable and affordable for LADWP customers.

LADWP Boulder Transmission System History

Completed in 1936 and spanning 266 miles from Hoover Dam to Receiving Station "B" in South Los Angeles, the LADWP Boulder Transmission System took three years to construct. Similar to the water from the Eastern Sierra delivered via the Los Angeles Aqueduct, Hoover Dam and the Boulder Transmission System were critical to the growth and prosperity of Los Angeles through the delivery of power. Beginning with the initial delivery of inexpensive and abundant hydroelectric power, the Boulder Transmission System has served as a versatile and vital transmission pathway of renewable energy to Los Angeles for 90 years.

Working out of seven camps and four field headquarters, 1,608 LADWP employees supported the construction of the Boulder Transmission System across a desert landscape in scorching heat reaching up to 135 degrees. A third transmission line, spanning 258 miles and known as Boulder Line III, was completed in 1940 to address rapid load growth from new industry, electrification, and additional customers following LADWP's acquisition of the Los Angeles Gas & Electric Company in 1937. This third line terminates at Receiving Station "E" in North Hollywood.

For decades, the original lines of this system were known as Boulder Lines I, II, and III. Today, they are referred to by their individual line segments, which denote the start and end points between high voltage stations. While two of the original lines have been upgraded to 500 kilovolt (kV) using contemporary steel reinforced braided aluminum cable, most of the original 1930s era lattice steel towers remain standing today.

These towers and lines continue to carry power from Hoover Dam and also transmit energy from many other generation resources in the Western United States. This 1930s era City-owned infrastructure serves as a monument and testament to the ingenuity, design, engineering, and uncompromising construction standards of LADWP's first Chief Electrical Engineer Erza F. Scattergood and those who worked with him.

FOUNDING VISIONARIES OF WATER AND POWER

"The position of Los Angeles as an industrial center, as a progressive American municipality, as a world metropolis, is due in no small degree to the vision, the courage, the accomplishments of [Ezra Scattergood]."

– Fletcher Bowron, Mayor of Los Angeles (1938-1953)

Ezra F. Scattergood

Ezra F. Scattergood, known as the "father of municipal power," established Los Angeles' municipal electric system and served as its first Chief Electrical Engineer. Hired in 1906 as Consulting Electrical Engineer, he supervised the installation of equipment for the Los Angeles Aqueduct. By 1908, Scattergood was appointed Chief Electrical Engineer of the Bureau of Aqueduct Power, which became the Bureau of Power and Light in 1911 after voters supported municipal power distribution.

In 1920, Scattergood focused on harnessing the Colorado River to meet Los Angeles' growing electricity needs and was instrumental in the development of Hoover Dam. His efforts were key in securing the passage of the 1928 Boulder Canyon Project Act, authorizing the dam's construction. He also secured power purchase contracts to repay the $108 million construction cost within 50 years.

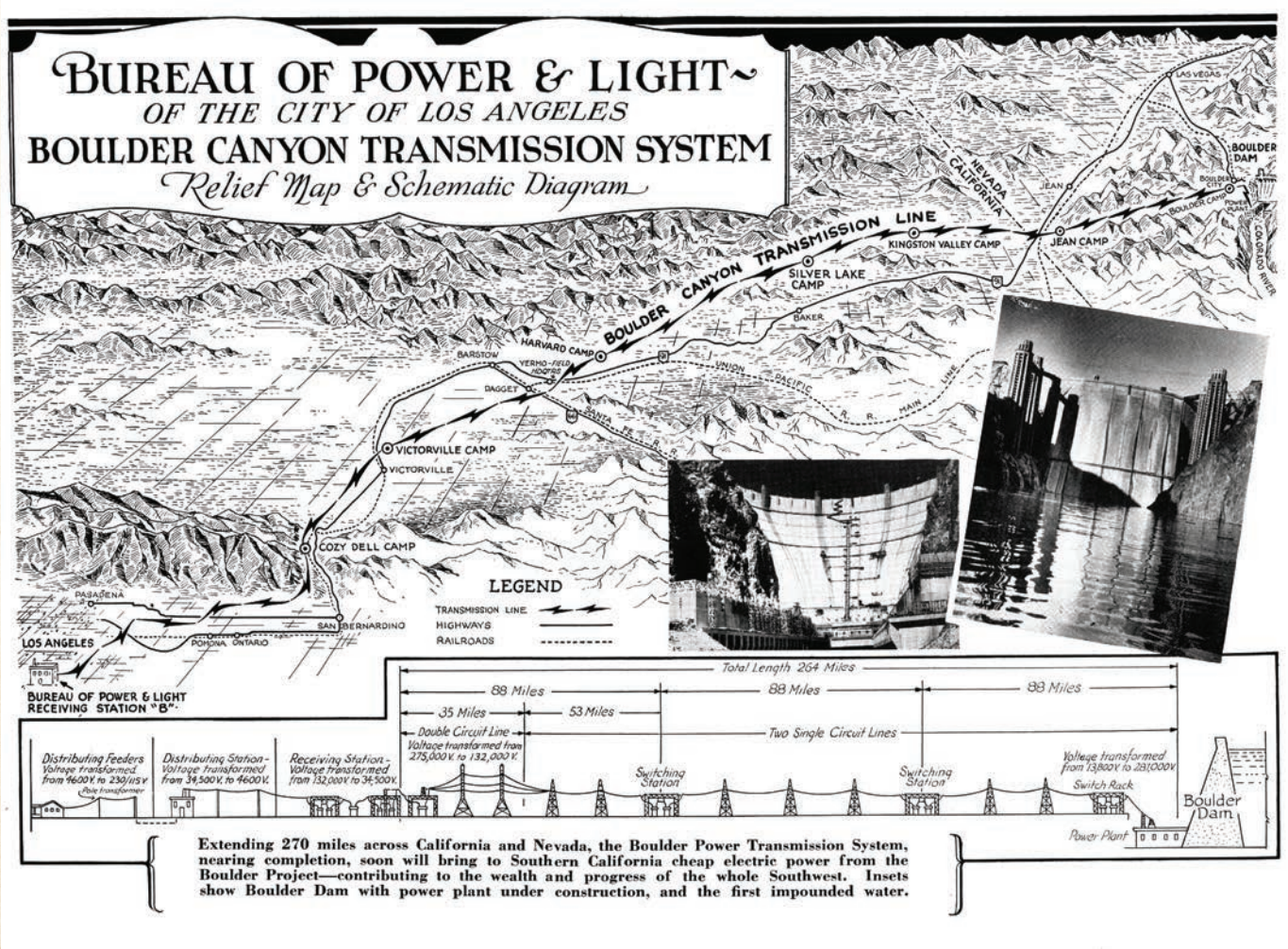
In 1933, Scattergood secured a $22.8 million loan from the federal Reconstruction Finance Corporation to build the 266-mile Boulder Transmission System to Los Angeles. He also assisted federal Bureau of Reclamation engineers in designing the Hoover Power Plant generating units.

The affordable hydropower spurred a 1930s LADWP building electrification campaign, leading to significant load growth and attracting large commercial and industrial customers to Los Angeles due to LADWP's low rates. This development marked the culmination of a more than two-decade-long battle between proponents of municipally owned power and private utility interests. Hoover Dam allowed LADWP to become the sole electricity provider within Los Angeles, initially supplying up to 97% of the City's power. Scattergood retired in 1940 but continued as Advisory Engineer at LADWP until his death in 1947.

William Mulholland

William Mulholland, the first Chief Engineer of LADWP's Bureau of Water Works and Supply, is the visionary behind the construction of the Los Angeles Aqueduct, which began delivering water from the Eastern Sierra to Los Angeles in 1913. When the City once again faced a water shortage following years of rapid growth, Mulholland initiated surveys and engineering investigations in October 1923 to assess the feasibility of constructing a new aqueduct. Beginning at Boulder Canyon, he led the original Colorado River Aqueduct surveys that ultimately covered 50,000 square miles.

In 1930, LADWP transferred its responsibilities for the Colorado River Aqueduct Project to the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, which had been formed in late 1928 by the City of Los Angeles and 12 other Southern California cities. The 242-mile Colorado River Aqueduct was completed in 1941.




939
GO
HARTS
FULLER PAINTS
OLD GOLD

THE ARRIVAL OF HOOVER DAM POWER IN LOS ANGELES

At 7:36 p.m. on October 9, 1936, Elizabeth Scattergood, daughter of LADWP Bureau of Power and Light Chief Electrical Engineer and General Manager Ezra F. Scattergood, activated the first power from Hoover Dam. The electricity surged over 266 miles to Los Angeles, creating a stunning display of light at Temple and North Spring Streets. Searchlights on the City Hall tower lit up the sky, and Broadway was illuminated, thrilling an estimated one million spectators in downtown Los Angeles.

This event, called "Light on Parade," featured a two-and-a-half-mile procession of electric floats, drill teams, and bands, marking the beginning of a "New Electrical Age." Few realized the years of planning, research, and dedication by LADWP that made this possible.

Before receiving power from Hoover Dam, Southern California Edison provided approximately 60% of LADWP's energy. Hoover Dam's power made the Los Angeles municipal electric system self-sufficient. In 1937, voters approved LADWP's acquisition of the private Los Angeles Gas & Electric Company, and in 1939, LADWP purchased remaining portions of the Southern California Edison system within the city. These acquisitions enabled LADWP to become the sole electricity provider in Los Angeles.

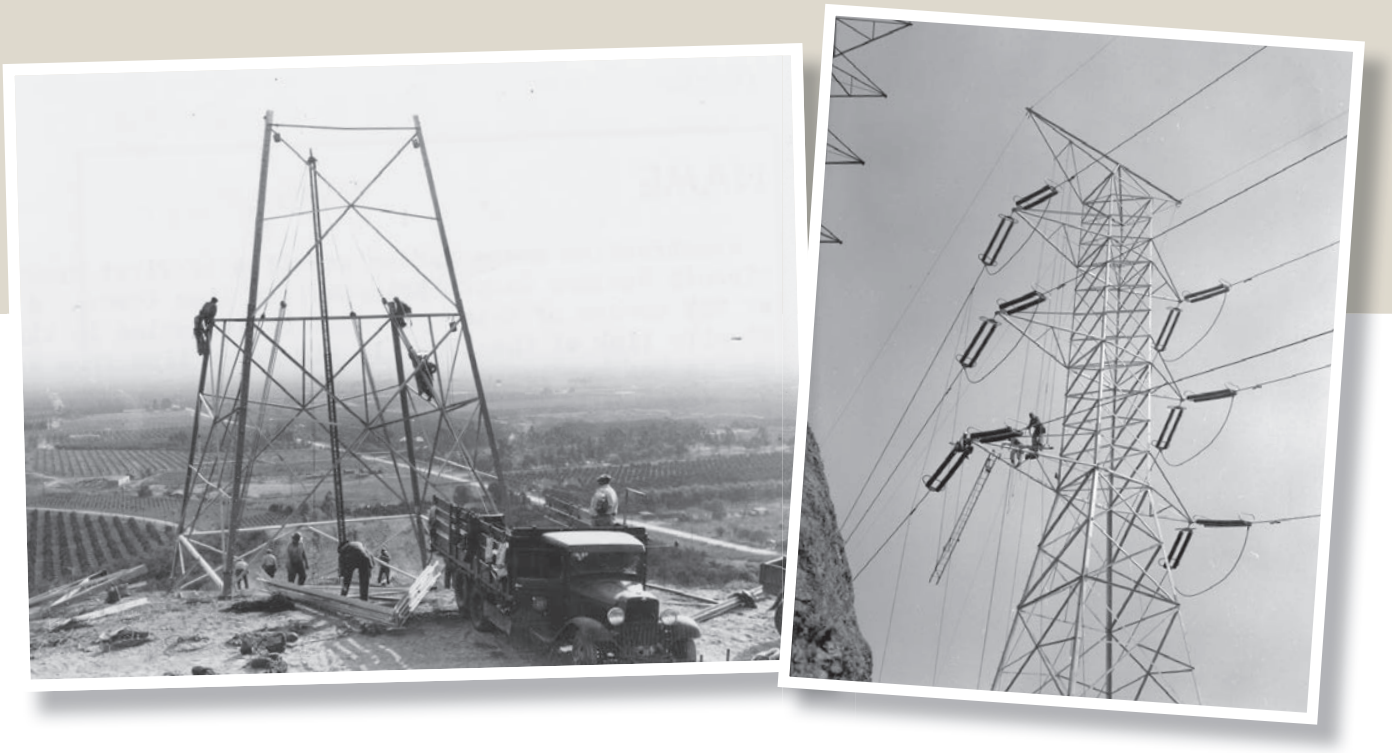
"My heartiest congratulations to the people of Los Angeles and Southern California. This inauguration of the distribution of power from Boulder Darn to your city and section should also give fresh impetus to your economic activities for it means not only water in plenty but cheap electrical power for industry, the home and the farm. I only wish that I could be there in person to celebrate with you."

– President Franklin D. Roosevelt (via telegram)

TRAVEL THE 266-MILE COPPER AND STEEL HIGHWAY TO BOULDER CITY

LADWP Construction Camps

There were seven LADWP construction camps used in building the Boulder Transmission System. Each camp was essentially a small town with its own dormitories, mess hall, water supply, electric lighting system, hospital, bath house, butane gas heating system, warehouse, gas station, and repair shop. The camp facilities were located approximately 30-miles apart along the transmission line construction route.



Montebello, Baldwin Park, and San Dimas Construction Headquarters Facilities

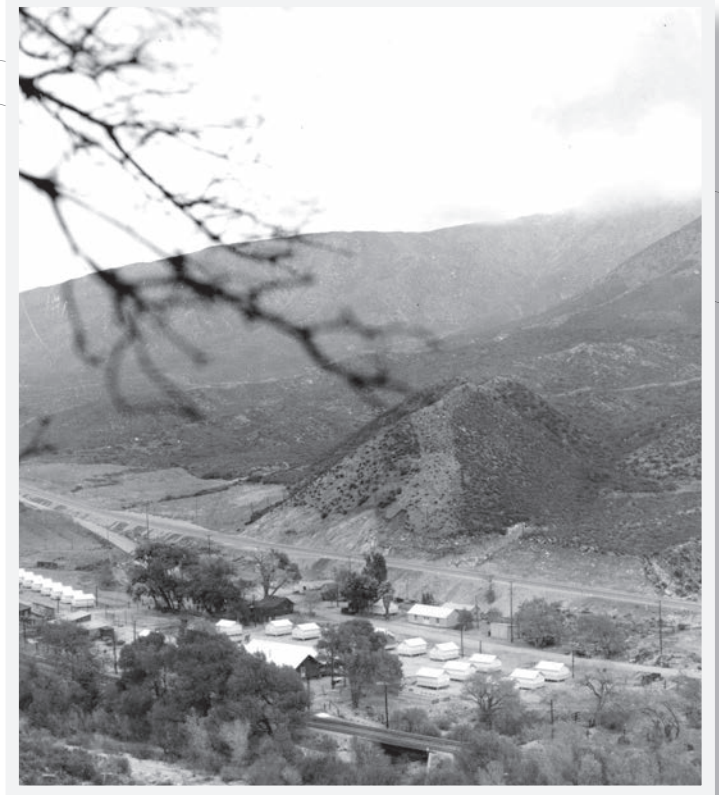
To support construction of the last 40.8 miles of Boulder Transmission Line into Los Angeles, three headquarters facilities were built by LADWP in Montebello, Baldwin Park and San Dimas. Each headquarters location included a warehouse, hospital, office, gas station, auto shop, blacksmith shop, grease rack, and wash rack. Due to the proximity to Los Angeles, no camps or bunkhouses were built to house employees on site.

Scattergood told his staff from the outset: *"Nothing shall be constructed that is not far in advance of the standards of the moment."*

Upland

Double Circuit Towers Transition to Two Parallel Single Circuit Towers

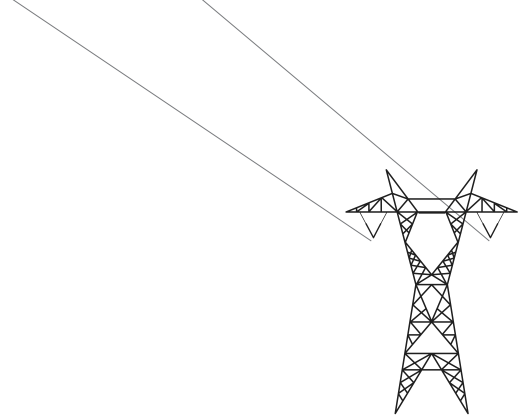
In the hills above Upland, the double circuit Boulder Transmission Lines transition to two parallel single circuit towers, only requiring a 120-foot-wide right-of-way, as opposed to the 450 feet needed for the parallel single circuit towers for the remaining 225-miles to Hoover Dam. This location in Upland is also the end point for the approximately 15-foot-wide dirt transmission patrol road that runs all the way to Boulder City.



Cajon Pass

Cozy Dell Camp and Transmission Line Section

The Cozy Dell Camp was home to 300 LADWP workers and was powered electrically. The Cozy Dell Section was the most challenging portion of the Boulder Transmission Line to build due to its rugged terrain and dense underbrush. Construction faced steep grades, requiring extensive blasting and hand labor. Delays arose from gaining right-of-way permissions and coping with extreme weather conditions.



Adelanto

Adelanto Camp

Boulder Line III's construction from 1938 to 1940 required reactivating three of the original construction camps. Additionally, three new camps were built between Victorville Switching Station and Receiving Station E in North Hollywood, which included Adelanto Camp that was located four miles west of Victorville Switching Station.

Adelanto Switching Station

The Adelanto Switching Station occupies most of this 315-acre site owned and operated by LADWP. It connects the converter station to the AC transmission network with four 500 kV AC lines. In 1995, a fifth 500 kV line from Boulder City, Nevada, was added.

Adelanto Converter Station

The Adelanto Converter Station, built in early 1983, facilitates power from the Intermountain Power Project in Delta, Utah. This power arrives via a 488-mile HVDC transmission line and is converted to AC for Los Angeles. Though operated by LADWP, the station is owned by the Intermountain Power Agency.

Adelanto Solar

Completed in 2012 and LADWP's first owned solar project, this 10-megawatt solar array within the LADWP Adelanto Switching Station created 150 clean energy jobs.

Victorville

Victorville Transmission Patrol Headquarters

Today, this facility continues to serve as the Victorville Transmission Patrol Headquarters, but LADWP employees no longer live on site. This location is also the home base for LADWP Victorville Telecom employees who maintain microwave sites and communications facilities for several transmission lines in the area.

Victorville 287.5kV Switching Station

The 10-acre site houses the original 287.5 kV Victorville Switching Station, a key part of the Boulder Transmission System. Completed in October 1936, the Victorville and Silver Lake Switching Stations, each costing $1 million, were state-of-the-art. They were designed for reliability and featured some of the largest and fastest oil circuit breakers built at that time.

Victorville 500 kV Switching Station

Construction on the 20.5-acre 500 kV switchyard began on February 9, 1972. Initially, it served as an interconnection between Victorville Switching Station and Southern California Edison's Lugo Switching Station in Hesperia, California. As a mitigation measure, 273 pine trees were planted around the property to provide aesthetic benefits to the community in 1972.


LOS ANGELES MUNICIPAL POWE
SWITCHING
STATION

Barstow

Barstow Transmission Patrol Headquarters

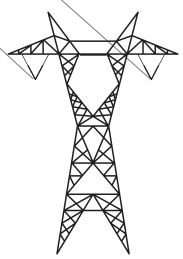
In early 1941, LADWP prepared plans for the Barstow Transmission Patrol Headquarters. The site included three double residences, a dormitory, and a combined office, garage, and storeroom. Personnel oversaw the transmission line between Victorville and Silver Lake.

Transmission Patrol

In the early years, the entire 266-miles of transmission was physically patrolled daily. In 1947, LADWP began evaluating the use of helicopters to make patrol responsibilities more efficient, which proved highly successful. This allowed the Barstow and Uplands Patrol Headquarters locations to be closed by the early 1950s. Today, in addition to being patrolled by helicopter, the Boulder Transmission System falls under the direct responsibility of LADWP transmission patrol crews based in Los Angeles, Victorville, and Boulder City.

Yermo

Yermo Field Office and General Headquarters

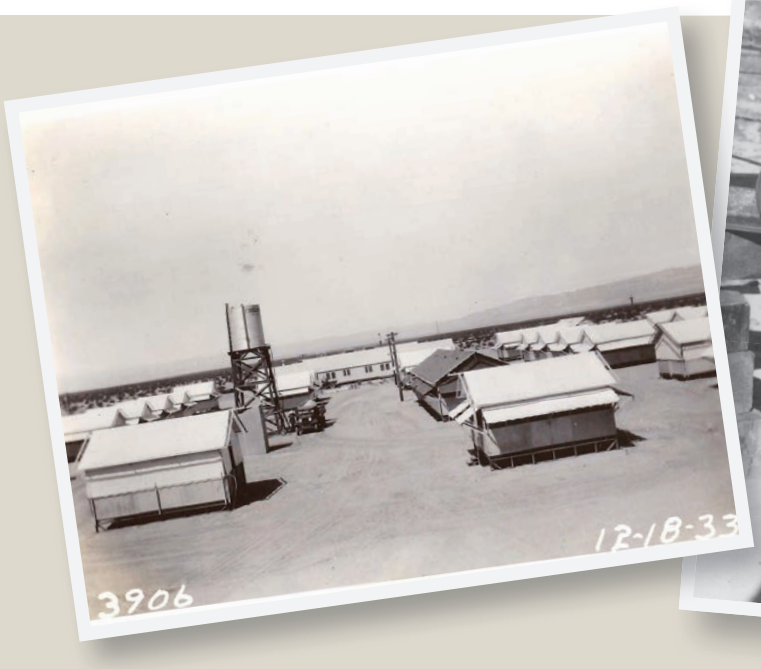


In summer 1933, LADWP established its Yermo Field Office and General Headquarters. During construction of the Boulder Transmission System, all clerical work was cleared through this facility, and it provided offices and lodging for the LADWP general construction superintendents, division superintendents, and chief clerks.

Harvard

Harvard Camp

East of Harvard, this camp had 17 bunk houses and housed 200 workers. It was the first to be built and the first to close. On September 15, 1933, Los Angeles Mayor Frank L. Shaw visited for a inspection tour of the Boulder Transmission Line and Hoover Dam construction. A strong advocate for public power, Mayor Shaw bought an electric range for his home in November 1933 to support LADWP's electrification campaign.



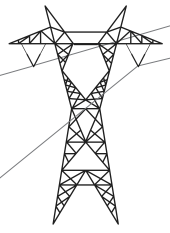
Construction Camp Speed Records

A friendly rivalry developed between the camps to see which could finish construction work the fastest. In spring 1934, Harvard Camp set the unofficial record of pouring 48 concrete footings for towers in a single shift.

Baker

Baker Survey Headquarters

During the initial transmission right-of-way surveys in 1933, headquarters were established in Baker to support the fourteen LADWP survey parties put into the field in to blaze a path for the construction crews.



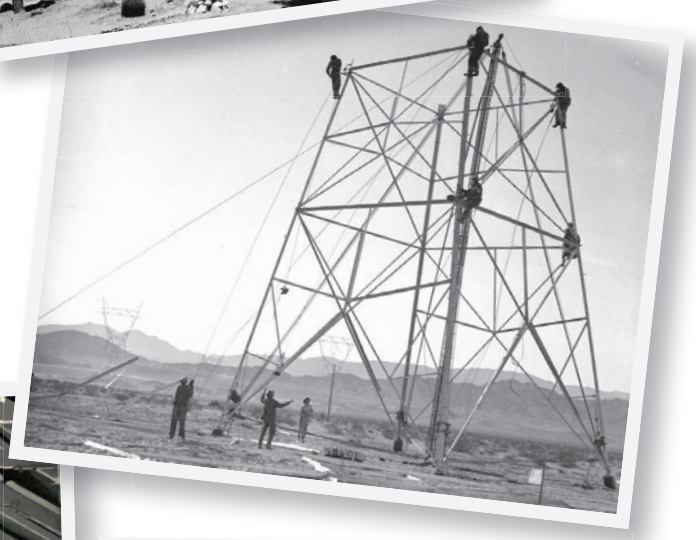
Silver Lake

Silver Lake Camp

Located approximately 9.5 miles north of Baker on a dry lake bed, Silver Lake was the last camp to be dismantled, as it was used to house workers who were finishing construction on the Silver Lake Switching Station.

Silver Lake Switching Station

Located north of Baker, the Silver Lake Switching Station served as the second circuit breaker on the Boulder Transmission System. Advancements in transmission technology rendered Silver Lake unnecessary, leading to its removal from LADWP's system in December 1970.



Kingston Valley

Kingston Camp

This camp was located at the base of Shadow Mountain, about 8 miles north of Baker. Kingston Camp was completed in July 1933. The first tower for the Boulder Transmission System was erected one mile east of the camp on December 19, 1933, before right-of-way surveys were completed in January 1934. Cable stringing operations began on March 18, 1935, at four construction camps: Harvard, Silver Lake, Kingston, and Jean, each with a crew of fifty men averaging three one-mile strands per working day.

State Line

Jean Camp

Situated a few miles south of Jean, Nevada, this construction camp was next to the old ghost town of Roach, near today's Primm, Nevada. Jean Camp was the second largest construction camp, setting a speed record for installing transmission tower lines.

Boulder City

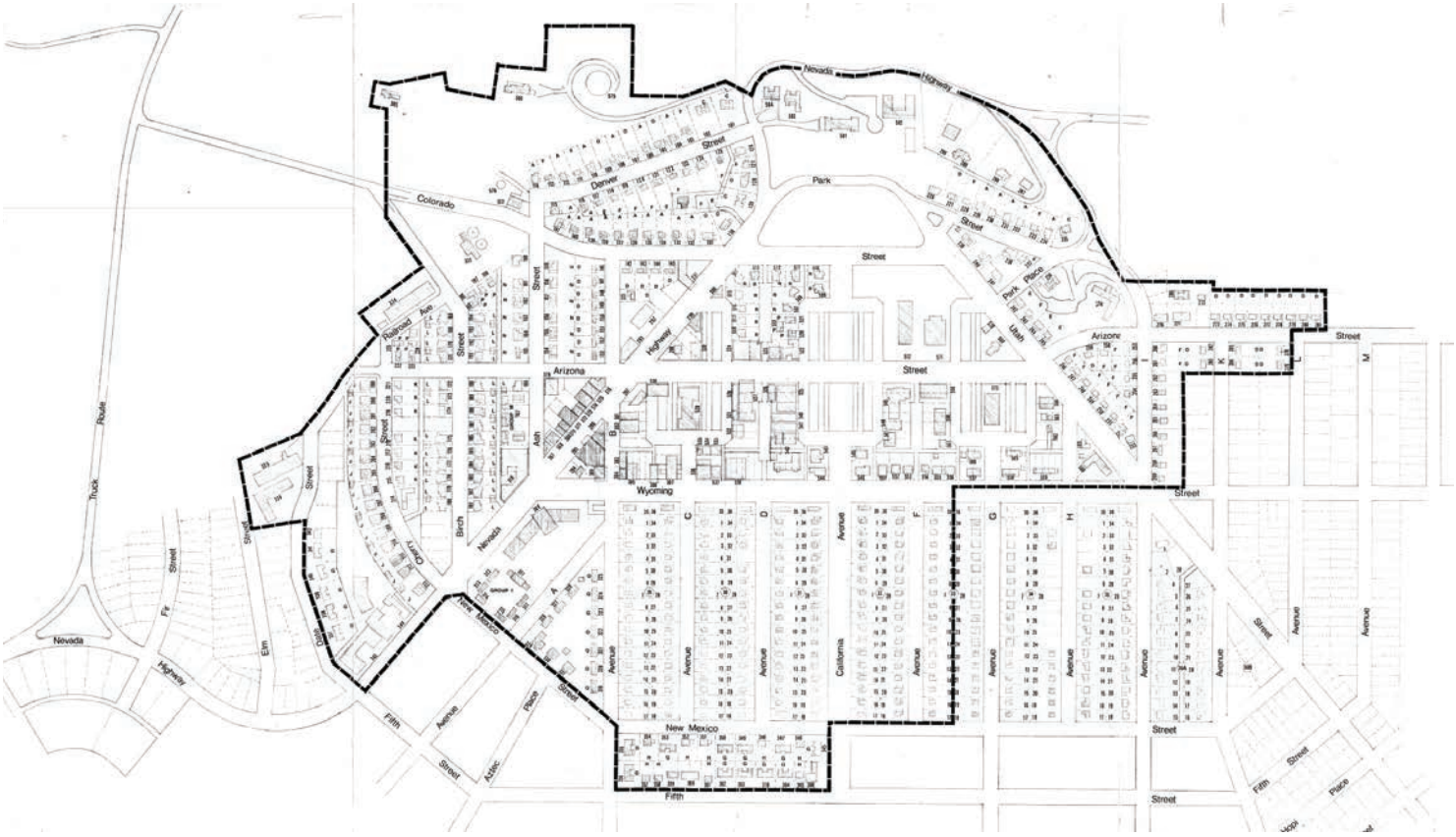
Boulder Camp

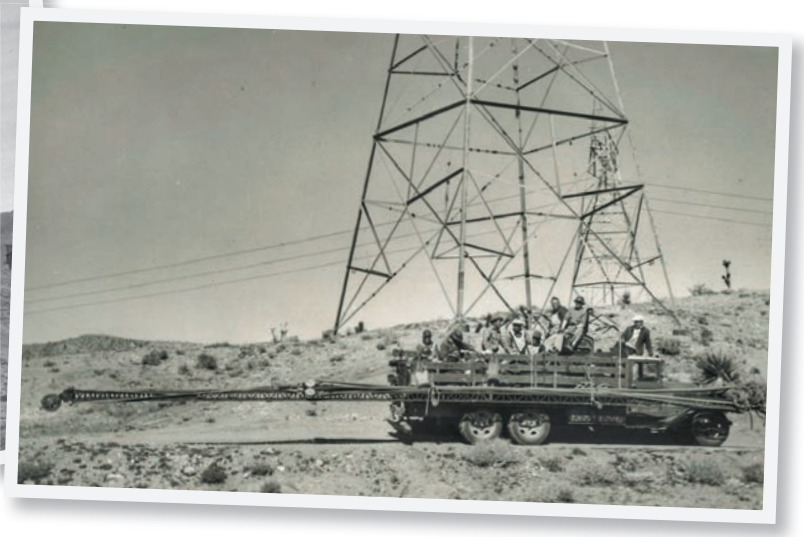
In 1933, LADWP established its first major presence in Boulder City by assembling a temporary construction camp on the outskirts of town to build the Boulder Transmission Line.

Boulder City Historic District

In 1983, Boulder City was listed on the National Register of Historic Places as the Boulder City Historic District. The district encompasses 514 buildings and structures, which were primarily constructed between 1931 and 1942. These dates correspond to the initial construction and operations phase of Boulder City's history. Today, there remains a strong emphasis on historic preservation locally.

Boulder City Historic District Map





Boulder Dam Hotel & Museum

This Southern Dutch Colonial style hotel was built during Hoover Dam's construction to cater to tourists and notable guests such as James Cagney, Bette Davis, Henry Fonda, Howard Hughes, and Will Rogers.

On April 15, 1939, Crown Prince Frederik and Crown Princess Ingrid of Denmark visited the Boulder Dam Hotel during their Hoover Dam tour. On May 13, 1939, Crown Prince Olav and Crown Princess Martha of Norway attended a luncheon on the hotel's East Terrace with guests including U.S. Senator Pat McCarran and LADWP Assistant Superintendent of Generation for Boulder Division, Ernest P. Bryant.

Today, the hotel operates as a 21-room hotel, restaurant, and museum. Sponsored by LADWP, the Boulder Dam Museum features an exhibit highlighting the unique history of the area and offers a local historical walking tour.

LADWP IN BOULDER CITY

LADWP established a permanent presence in Boulder City in October 1936 when it began operating the Hoover Power Plant and the Los Angeles Switchyard under a 50-year contract with the Bureau of Reclamation. LADWP also owned and maintained the Boulder Transmission System. Its personnel operated the turbine-generators, including all eight in Nevada and five in Arizona. Initially, 16 operators were assigned per shift, later reduced to seven. They covered three shifts, 24 hours a day for 50 years. Another group handled maintenance and repair, with up to 60 employees brought from Los Angeles for major overhauls.

Photo Credit: UNLV Libraries Special Collections and Archives

Starting with about 85 employees, LADWP Boulder City staffing grew to support additional Hoover Power units. Typically staffed with 125 personnel, peak operations required up to 150 employees during World War II.

In 1943, each Hoover generator operated continuously, with one nearly running non-stop for the entire year. Leading up to the end of the 50-year federal contract, LADWP tried to extend its operation of four Hoover units for another 10 years but couldn't reach an agreement. The department began downsizing, ensuring employees transitioned to other roles. When the contract expired on June 1, 1987, LADWP staffing was reduced to 45 personnel. From 1986 to 1989, LADWP auctioned off nearly all of its 80 remaining Boulder City residential properties.

Today, around two dozen Nevada-based LADWP employees work in the Boulder City area. Their roles include high voltage station operations, transmission patrol, telecommunications, and fleet maintenance. LADWP continues to operate the McCullough and Marketplace Switching Stations, Boulder Patrol Headquarters, and the historic Boulder Lodge.

FORMER LADWP PROPERTIES

LADWP owned more than 100 buildings and properties in Boulder City. In 1936, LADWP acquired 15 properties from Six Companies, Inc., including the Executive Lodge and Hoover Dam Superintendent Frank T. Crowe's hilltop home. Due to federal control of Boulder City, LADWP couldn't own the land until the Boulder City Act of 1958, which transferred land and allowed the city to incorporate in 1960.

LADWP acquired 14 homes from Babcock & Wilcox (B&W) Company, responsible for the fabrication and installation of the steel penstocks at Hoover Dam in 1936, plus the original 100-room B&W Company dormitory for employees working on the third Boulder Transmission Line. By 1997, only one B&W Company residence remained, purchased by LADWP in 1936 and sold in 1997.

Former LADWP Headquarters

On May 20, 1940, LADWP moved into a 28,000 square foot Spanish Colonial Revival building designed by Jack de Forest Griffin and built by Paul Webb. It featured offices, a radio station, an auditorium, a kitchen, and vehicle maintenance facilities. The standout feature was its octagonal entry lobby tower, inspired by the LADWP seal.

In 1995, through a land swap agreement, LADWP transferred the original building to the City of Boulder City, which is now leased to a non-profit and used for special events.

Jacques "Jack" de Forest Griffin, LADWP Architect

Jack de Forest Griffin, a prominent architect from Los Angeles, joined LADWP in 1929. He designed the LADWP Boulder City Headquarters and all the Department's homes, cottages, and duplexes in Boulder City from 1937 to 1942. Griffin also created similar Monterey style homes and facilities along the Boulder Transmission System, including those at the Silver Lake and Victorville Switching Stations.

Paul Stewart Webb, Construction Contactor

Paul Webb was a Los Angeles contractor famous for building opulent Beverly Hills homes in the late bid on a contract to build federal housing for Hoover Dam construction workers and went on to construct many early buildings in Boulder City, including the Boulder Dam Hotel and 12 B&W Company homes acquired by LADWP, and the LADWP Boulder City Headquarters.

Sun Dial Park

Sun Dial Park, located near the former LADWP headquarters, is a notable Boulder City landmark. This small park, originally maintained by LADWP, was sold to the City of Boulder City in 1990. It occupies the corner where the Six Companies Boulder City Company Store once stood during the construction of Hoover Dam.

Frank T. Crowe Memorial Park

Frank T. Crowe, a renowned civil engineer, was the General Construction Superintendent for Six Companies in 1931. The park named after him was initially the site of the Six Companies Clubhouse during Hoover Dam construction. The area then became a LADWP-operated park, sold to Boulder City in 1980. From 1954 to 1986, park hosted the annual LADWP Boulder Picnic, regularly attended by hundreds of LADWP employees and their families. The Frank T. Crowe Park memorial was dedicated on March 14, 1981, for Boulder City's 50th Anniversary.

Birch Street

Birch Street exemplifies the architectural standard set by LADWP in early Boulder City. Constructed in 1937 by contractor Eser Wikholm, Ltd. and designed by Jack de Forest Griffin, these 27 Monterey style homes feature red clay tile roofs, stucco walls, and flagstone porches.

12 LADWP Cottages

Built in 1942 during World War II, LADWP constructed 12 employee cottages using scarce materials. Nine of these cottages remain. These homes addressed a severe housing shortage in Boulder City, forcing LADWP employees to seek housing in Las Vegas.

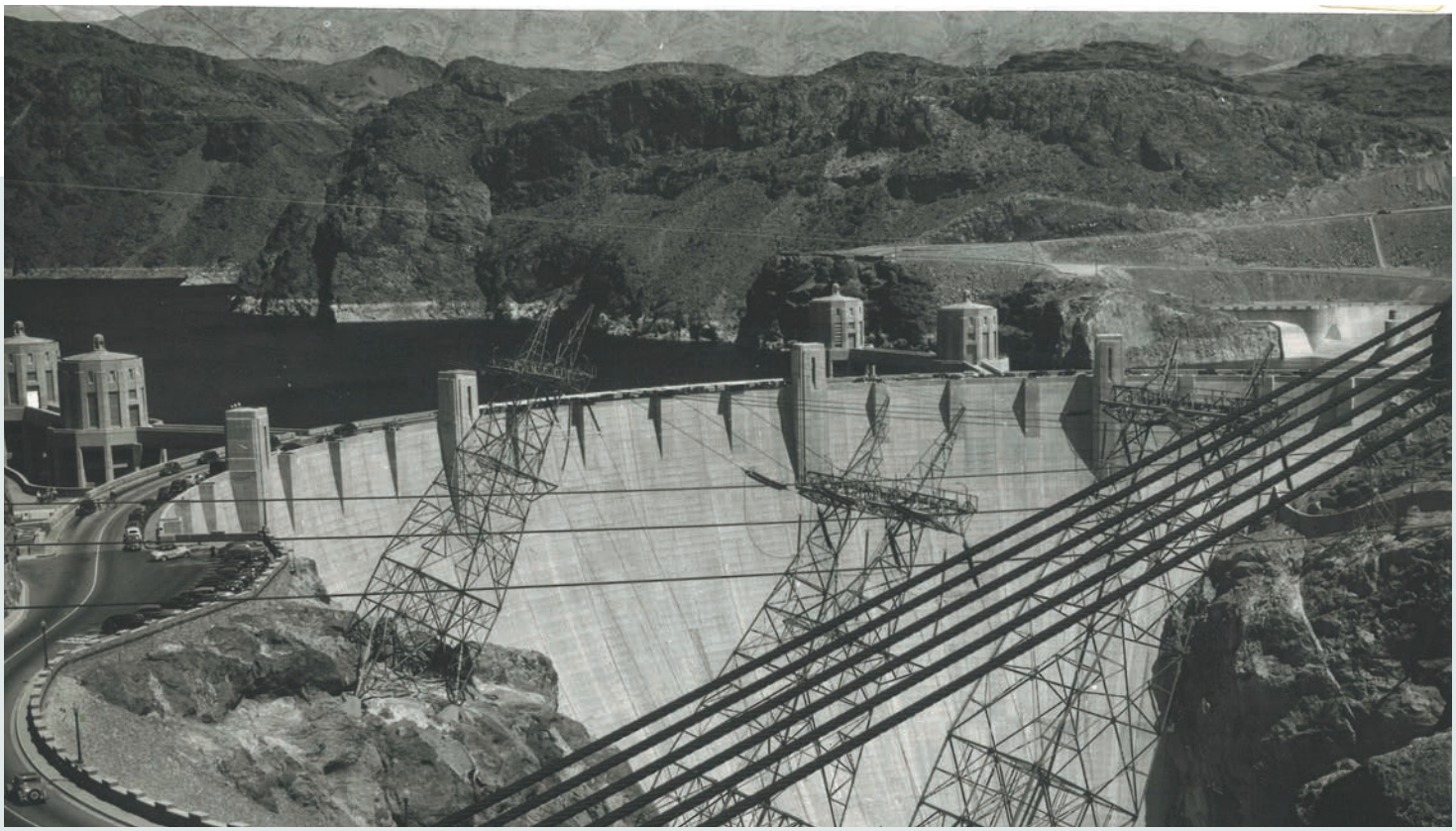
LADWP BOULDER LODGE

Completed in December 1931, the Spanish Colonial Revival Boulder Lodge was designed by architect George DeColmesnil. Initially used by Six Companies to host dignitaries, including President Herbert Hoover, it was acquired by LADWP in 1936. Boulder Lodge hosted various important figures, including Crown Prince Frederik and Crown Princess Ingrid of Denmark in April 1939.

Invitations to Boulder Lodge often included a tour of Lake Mead on the LADWP power boat. The original boat, “Betty S.,” was replaced by “Water and Power” in 1949. While LADWP no longer operates a boat on Lake Mead, Boulder Lodge is still used for hosting meetings and events. The original Monterey style furniture continues to furnish the lodge.

HOOVER DAM

The City of Los Angeles was the principal market for power from this multipurpose project, which also provided water for irrigation and domestic use, along with flood control. Confidence in Ezra F. Scattergood and LADWP's strong financial health were pivotal in the decision of the United States Congress to move forward with building Hoover Dam.



"If you had not built up your municipal Bureau of Power and Light as a corporation, the Boulder Dam appropriation would not have been passed. Congress did not have confidence in the City [of Los Angeles] as to a contract running 50 years. Congress did have confidence in the Department [of Water and Power], a going concern with sound resources, a surplus built up for emergencies and substantial annual net profits."

– Harold L. Ickes, United States Secretary of the Interior (1933-1946)

Six Companies, Inc.

Due to the Hoover Dam Project's scale, six construction companies formed Six Companies, Inc. to win the bid on March 11, 1931. Their bid of $48,890,955 was just $24,000 more than the Bureau of Reclamation's estimate. This consortium included Utah Construction Company, Morrison-Knudsen Company, J.F. Shea Company, Inc., Pacific Bridge Company, MacDonald and Kahn, Inc., and the partnership of W.A. Bechtel Company with Henry J. Kaiser Company. Over 5,000 employees worked on the project, and Six Companies built homes, dormitories, a post office, school, hospital, recreation facilities, and a store to support them.

In 1930, LADWP, on behalf of the City of Los Angeles, contractually committed to purchasing not only its own share of energy but all unsold energy from the plant for a term of 50 years. This financial commitment guaranteed repayment of the $108.8 million cost with interest to the federal government. This commitment was made without any infrastructure in place, insufficient financial resources to build a transmission line, and power purchase requirements that far exceeded the energy demands in the City of Los Angeles at that time.

Although the Hoover Power Plant is owned by the federal government, it was operated and maintained by LADWP and Southern California Edison (SCE) under contract with the Bureau of Reclamation from 1936 to 1987. Power Plant 2 on the Los Angeles Aqueduct provided hydropower efficiency data used in the initial design of Hoover Dam Power Plant and served as the training school for many of the LADWP employees.

LADWP controlled 91% of Hoover Dam's power output on behalf of all public power and allotees, while SCE operated four units on the Arizona side for itself and all the private utility participants.

Until 1941, LADWP received 95 percent of its electricity from Hoover Power Plant and hydroelectric plants along the Los Angeles Aqueduct. By 1950, Hoover Dam supplied about 75 percent of the City's energy needs. As the other public agencies begin utilizing their Hoover Power allotments, and Hoover Power decreased, LADWP began building in-basin generation. Drought conditions at Lake Mead in the 1950s further strained the availability of power from the Hoover Dam. By 1960, Hoover Dam met only about 7 percent of LADWP's total power requirements, dwindling down to approximately 2 percent today.

Original Hoover Dam Public Power Allotees

LADWP originally generated power on behalf of itself, the cities of Burbank, Glendale, Pasadena, the Metropolitan Water District, and the states of Arizona and Nevada. This included power for Las Vegas and Boulder City.

L.A.'S CLEAN ENERGY FUTURE

Hoover Dam and the Boulder Transmission System have powered Los Angeles reliably for nearly a century and continue to play a critical role in achieving L.A.'s renewable energy future goals. Today, Hoover Dam remains a sustainable, affordable power source essential for advancing LADWP's clean energy portfolio and supporting the City's commitments to accelerate the transition to 100 percent clean energy.

Originally constructed to deliver low-cost energy from Hoover Dam to Los Angeles, the transmission line now acts as a vital channel for green energy from across the Western U.S. In 2026, LADWP plans to invest $1.5 billion to update two 162-mile sections of the system to ensure ongoing delivery of reliable, affordable, clean energy to Los Angeles.

LADWP.com/BoulderCity