Los Angeles Department of Water & Power
BUILDING A STRONGER L.A.

Karen Bass, Mayor
Board of Commissioners
Allan T. Marks, President
Nurit D. Katz, Vice President
Rudy J. Ortega Jr.
Wilma J. Pinder
Benny B. Tran
Chante L. Mitchell, Secretary
David W. Hanson, Interim General Manager

# NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF A DRAFT SUBSEQUENT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT McCULLOUGH-VICTORVILLE TRANSMISSION LINES 1 AND 2 UPGRADE PROJECT

**Date:** July 16, 2026

**To:** Agencies, Organizations, and Interested Parties

**Subject:** Notice of Availability of a Draft Subsequent Environmental Impact Report for the McCullough-Victorville Transmission Lines 1 and 2 Upgrade Project

This Notice of Availability (NOA) 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, has prepared a draft Subsequent Environmental Impact Report (SEIR) for the proposed McCullough-Victorville Transmission Lines 1 and 2 Upgrade Project to evaluate potential environmental effects that may result from modifications to the project scope which is a change to the previously approved McCullough-Victorville Lines 1 and 2 Upgrade Project. The changes to the project scope are referred to here as the “Proposed Project”.

LADWP is requesting input from interested members of the public and affected agencies regarding the content of the environmental analysis and information included in the SEIR. A description of the project and environmental resource factors addressed in the SEIR for the Proposed Project, are available for review as outlined below.

## PROJECT HISTORY

LADWP had previously prepared an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the McCullough-Victorville (MCC-VIC) Transmission Lines 1 and 2 Upgrade Project (State Clearinghouse No. 2024040144). MCC-VIC Transmission Lines 1 and 2 are two existing 500 kilovolt (kV) electrical power lines which run parallel to each other and are supported on approximately 1,750 single-circuit towers and spanning over 160 miles from McCullough Switching Station in Nevada, through several mountain ranges, into the Mojave Desert and ending at the Victorville Switching Station in California. The previously-approved Project would upgrade the MCC-VIC Lines 1 and 2 circuits to newly rate them as 570kV from their current rating of 500kV, including significant upgrades of existing transmission tower steel members and foundation repairs as needed.

## PROJECT UPDATES

Since the certification of the MCC-VIC EIR, project design and evaluation of the condition of the existing transmission towers have determined that complete replacement of transmission towers is necessary to ensure long term reliability of power transmission through the lines. Implementation of the Proposed Project would ensure reliable and continued operation of the transmission lines for decades.

The modification of the existing MCC-VIC Transmission Lines would provide critical transmission capacity and is required to accommodate incoming renewable energy resources along the west of Colorado River Path 46 transmission corridor to ensure the continued safe and reliable operation of the lines. Both the Proposed Project and previously-approved project support LADWP's goal to transition to a clean energy future, with ongoing efforts to transition from coal to renewable energy, influenced by Los Angeles City Council's vote in 2021 to commit to 100 percent carbon-free energy. The additional 475 megawatts would contribute over 15 percent towards LADWP's Renewable Portfolio Standard as part of LADWP's commitment to be 100 percent carbon-free by 2035, 10 years ahead of the State's target.

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Proposed Project would require complete replacement of 1,750 existing transmission towers that span 162 miles from Boulder City, Nevada to the Victorville Switching Station in Victorville, California. The existing MCC-VIC Line 1 alignment will shift approximately 110 feet southeast for approximately 95 miles from the City of Victorville to the City of Baker. The Proposed Project would consist of installation of new foundations, replacement of existing insulators and hardware assemblies, replacing conductors, ground wire, and re-tensioning conductors, repairing/retrofitting existing main access roads and establishment of new spur roads.

Construction of the Proposed Project would require establishing a temporary work area at each transmission structure and pulling and tensioning sites along the entire length of the transmission lines. New foundations and tower footprints will be shifted 50 to 300 feet from existing tower sites along the existing centerlines. Access to the project site is available from various existing access routes along the MCC-VIC transmission line corridor.

Construction of the Proposed Project is anticipated to begin early to mid-2027 and continue through 2029. The upgraded transmission lines are anticipated to be fully operational by the end of 2029.

## PROJECT LOCATION

The Proposed Project is in Clark County, Nevada and San Bernadino County, California and would upgrade 162 miles of transmission line. The MCC-VIC Lines 1 and 2 run northeast/southwest, parallel to each other, for 162 miles from Boulder City, Nevada to Victorville, California. Approximately 138 miles of MCC-VIC are in the state of California, and the remaining 24 miles are in the state of Nevada (please see enclosed map).

## SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS

This draft SEIR provides further analysis determining that the Proposed Project would create short-term significant impacts to air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, tribal cultural resources, noise and geology and soils requiring mitigation measures. Specific mitigation measures have been identified which would reduce impacts to biological resources, tribal cultural resources and geology and soils to a less than significant level. Mitigation measures will be implemented to reduce air quality, noise and cultural resources impacts albeit not to a less than significant level during the construction period. The Proposed Project would not lead to any long-term significant environmental impacts from operation of the powerlines.

## PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENTS

LADWP invites comments on the content of the SEIR in connection with the Proposed Project. The 45 day-public comment period for this NOA and review of the SEIR will commence on **July 16, 2026**, and conclude on August 30, 2026. Please ensure that comments are postmarked or emailed on or before **August 30, 2026.**

The NOA and draft SEIR are available for review at the location listed below and may be accessed electronically and/or downloaded at the following website, And accessible via the following QR Code: https://www.ladwp.com/CEQA.

Please direct any comments or questions to the following:

Mr. Matthew Kerby
Los Angeles Department of Water and Power
Environmental Planning and Assessment
111 North Hope Street, Room 1044
Los Angeles, CA 90012
Phone: (213) 367-1795
Email: matthew.kerby@ladwp.com

Please remember to 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 email or hard copy by the methods described above. Please note, the City of Los Angeles' (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 https://www.ladwp.com/MCC-VIC.

Sincerely,

Jane Hauptman
Manager of Environmental Planning and Assessment