
State Water Resources Control Board

**NOTICE OF ADOPTION MEETING
NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT**

**CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSED ORDER FOR WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS
AND A WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION
FOR THE LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF WATER AND POWER
BARREN RIDGE RENEWABLE TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECT**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) will hold a public meeting to consider public comment on a proposed Order for a Water Quality Certification (Certification) and Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) for the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) Barren Ridge Renewable Transmission Line Project (Project). After hearing all comments, the State Water Board will take action on the proposed Order. The date, time, and location of the public meeting for consideration of adoption is:

Tuesday, May 19, 2015 – 9:00 a.m.
Joe Serna Jr. - CalEPA Headquarters Building
Coastal Hearing Room
1001 I Street, Second Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

BACKGROUND

The proposed Order has been prepared in response to an application for a Certification and WDRs submitted by LADWP on July 1, 2014. The Certification and WDRs are necessary to regulate proposed Project discharges of dredged or fill material to waters of the state. Staff worked with LADWP to obtain all required application information, which was deemed complete on February 25, 2015.

LADWP prepared a delineation report on November 19, 2014, showing waters of the state in the Project area that would likely be subject to federal regulation by the United States Army Corps of Engineers under section 404 of the federal Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. § 1344). The delineation report indicated that the northern half of the Project is located within the Antelope Valley watershed, which is a closed basin and therefore does not contain waters subject to federal jurisdiction. Nonetheless, these drainages are waters of the state, as defined by section 13050 of the California Water Code, and are therefore subject to state requirements. Therefore, this proposed Order would serve as both a water quality certification issued pursuant to section 401 of the federal Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. § 1341) for the federal waters impacted by the Project, and WDRs issued pursuant to Water Code section 13263, to regulate the proposed discharges to waters of the state outside of federal jurisdiction.

The purpose of the Project is to maximize the delivery of renewable wind and solar energy from the Tehachapi Mountains and Mojave Desert areas to the City of Los Angeles. The Project would allow energy generated by wind and solar resources to be transmitted to the Los Angeles Basin and could contribute approximately 22 percent of renewable energy to LADWP's resource mix. Additionally, implementation of the Project would assist LADWP meet peak electrical demand, interconnect and expand LADWP's renewable energy system, and provide increased reliability and flexibility of renewable energy resources.

The Project is located in Kern and Los Angeles Counties. It begins about 12 miles north of the unincorporated community of Mojave at the Barren Ridge Switching Station, slightly west of highway 14 off Pine Tree Canyon Road. The Project extends southwest through Fremont and Antelope Valleys, east of Barren Ridge and the Tehachapi Mountains. It continues into Angeles National Forest north of Santa Clarita, and terminates at the Rinaldi Substation. Overall, it traverses four miles of lands managed by the federal Bureau of Land Management (BLM), 13 miles of National Forest Service (NFS) lands, and 44 miles of private property. The Project falls within the jurisdictions of the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board and the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Boards) and is subject to the water quality control plans (Basin Plans) for these regions and other plans and policies.

The proposed Project consists of 61 miles of new double-circuit 230 kilovolt (kV) transmission line from the Barren Ridge Switching Station to the Haskell Canyon Switching Station and reconductoring of 76 miles of existing 230 kV transmission line from the Barren Ridge Switching Station to the Rinaldi Substation. For the majority of the new double-circuit 230 kV transmission line, two new 230 kV circuits will be placed on new double-circuit transmission towers, except for the approximately 1.5 mile-segment just north of the Haskell Canyon Switching Station. The circuits for this 1.5-mile segment will be placed on existing four-circuit structures that have three vacant positions. The existing towers will be utilized in this section for the transmission line instead of constructing new towers. For the reconductoring portion of the Project, existing conductors (954/2,312 thousand circular mil (kcmil)) will be replaced with new 1,433.6 kcmil "Merrimack" ACSS/TW/HS (aluminum conductor steel supported/trapezoidal wires/high strength) conductors. The larger diameter of the new conductors allows for greater electrical capacity.

The Project involves the proposed discharge of structural materials and/or earthen wastes (fill) to numerous ephemeral and intermittent drainages. These impacts could occur during construction, operation, maintenance, and decommissioning of the Project. Activities that could cause direct and indirect, and permanent and temporary impacts include improving existing access and spur roads, creating new access and spur roads, creating and using staging areas and disposal sites, clearing right-of-ways, clearing tower sites, installing conductors on existing towers (due to ground disturbances at tensioning and pulling sites), assembling and installing new towers, installing counterpoise and other grounding practices, and creating impervious surfaces. Direct impacts occur when any Project activities occur directly in waters of the state. Indirect impacts occur to waters immediately outside of the direct impact area or when Project activities occur outside of waters of the state, but close enough where they could still impact waters of the state.

Impacts from the Project could cause adverse effects to waters of the state by increasing erosion and sedimentation from hydro-modification of streams (i.e., any activity or structure that increases the velocity and volume (flow rate) and/or the timing of runoff), reducing base flows of streams due to decreased groundwater recharge from new impervious surfaces, introducing potential new sources of polluted storm water runoff and hazardous, loss of waters from direct

removal and/or filling of waters of the state (i.e., tower foundations), and generation of flooding from alteration of existing drainage patterns (e.g., placement of structures within a 100-year floodplain). Total Project impacts are summarized in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Total Project Fill/Excavation Quantity ¹						
Aquatic Resource Type	Temporary Impact			Permanent Impact		
	Acres	YD ³	LF	Acres	YD ³	LF
Stream Channel	11.010	0	11,876	1.710	378	4,957

¹ Cubic Yards (YD³); Linear Feet (LF)

LADWP will avoid direct impacts to waters of the state by selecting the environmentally preferred alternative as discussed in the Project’s Final Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (FEIR/S). This alternative has the shortest distance of all the alternatives analyzed in the FEIR/S, and results in fewer stream crossings. The preferred alternative also crosses fewer miles of steep slopes, which reduces the risk of erosion-related impacts. LADWP will minimize impacts by incorporating General Practices (GPs) into the design of the Project. Examples of GPs include using existing paved and unpaved highways and roads where possible; leaving all existing roads in a condition equal to or better than their condition prior to the construction of the transmission line; crushing vegetation instead of clearing and clearing only when necessary; revegetating; keeping all construction sites, material storage yards, and access roads in orderly condition; and cleaning trash daily; containerizing petroleum products. Also, LADWP incorporated seven mitigation measures into the Project that are specific to water resource impacts. LADWP has proposed to purchase mitigation credits from the Peterson Ranch Mitigation Bank/Elizabeth Lake Bank in the Santa Clara Watershed at a 1:1 ratio of permanent impacts to mitigation for permanent, unavoidable impacts.

SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN COMMENTS

The State Water Board will accept public comments on the proposed draft Order for a Certification and WDRs for the LADWP Barren Ridge Renewable Transmission Line Project, that was distributed and posted on Friday, April 17, 2015. Written comments must be received by **12:00 noon on Monday, May 18, 2015**, and addressed to:

Jeanine Townsend, Clerk to the Board
State Water Resources Control Board
1001 I Street, 24th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

Comment letters may be submitted electronically, in pdf text format (if less than 15 megabytes in total size), to the Clerk to the Board via e-mail at: commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov. If the file is greater than 15 megabytes in total size, then the comment letter may be submitted by fax at (916) 341-5620. Please indicate the subject line: “**Comment Letter - LADWP Barren Ridge.**”

Couriers delivering hard copies of comment letters must check in with lobby security personnel, who can contact Ms. Townsend at (916) 341-5600.

DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY

The proposed draft Order for a Certification and WDRs for the LADWP Barren Ridge Renewable Transmission Line Project and all related documents are available to view or download on the State Water Board’s Web site at: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/cwa401/notices/2015.shtml

Additional information on the meeting in Sacramento can be found on the State Water Board's Web site at http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_info/calendar/.

PROCEDURAL MATTERS

Participants are encouraged to submit written comments prior to the meeting, in accordance with the deadline specified above. At the meeting, participants will be given an opportunity to summarize and supplement their written materials with oral presentations. To ensure a productive and efficient meeting in which all participants have an opportunity to participate, oral presentations may be time-limited. For other presentation recommendations, go to: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_info/meetings/board_presentations.shtml.

PARKING AND ACCESSIBILITY

For directions to the Joe Serna Jr. (CalEPA) Building and public parking information, please refer to the map on the State Water Board Web site: <http://www.calepa.ca.gov/EPAbldg/location.htm>.

The CalEPA Building is accessible to persons with disabilities. Individuals requiring special accommodations are requested to call (916) 341-5880 at least five working days prior to the meeting. Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD) users may contact the California Relay Service at (800) 735-2929 or voice line at (800) 735-2922. An audio broadcast of the meeting will be available via the internet and can be accessed at: <http://www.calepa.ca.gov/broadcast/>.

All visitors to the CalEPA Building are required to sign in and obtain a badge at the Visitor Services Center located just inside the main entrance (10th Street entrance). Valid picture identification may be required. Please allow up to 15 minutes for receiving security clearance.

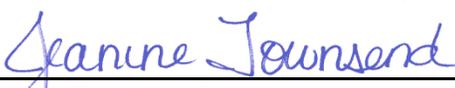
FUTURE NOTICES

The State Water Board will hold the public meeting at the time and place noted above. Any change in the date, time, and place of the public meeting and consideration of adoption will be noticed via e-mail subscription. Any person desiring to receive future notices concerning the proposed draft Order for a Certification and WDRs for the LADWP Barren Ridge Renewable Transmission Line Project, including any changes to the notice of consideration of adoption, must subscribe to the e-mail list using the E-mail List Subscription form at: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/email_subscriptions/swrcb_subscribe.shtml. Select the "CWA 401 Certification and Wetlands Program" e-mail list, located within the "Water Quality Topics" group.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Please direct questions about this notice to Ms. Jeanie Mascia at (916) 323-2871 (Jeanie.Mascia@waterboards.ca.gov).

April 17, 2015
Date



Jeanine Townsend
Clerk to the Board