



Los Angeles
Department of
Water & Power

RESOLUTION NO. 026 139

BOARD LETTER APPROVAL

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DATE: November 10, 2025

SUBJECT: Encino Reservoir Floating Solar Pilot Project Resolution for an Ordinance Requesting the Los Angeles City Council to Establish Engineer-Procure-Construct Criteria Pursuant to Section 371(b) of the Los Angeles City Charter

SUMMARY

The proposed Ordinance will authorize LADWP to let an Engineer-Procure-Construct (EPC) contract for the Encino Reservoir Floating Solar Pilot Project (Project). This will permit negotiations relating to engineering, procurement, and construction of the Project based on criteria established by the Ordinance. The Ordinance will authorize a term of five years with two one-year optional renewal periods for a total term not-to-exceed seven years.

Pursuant to a competitive–sealed proposal method, EPC criteria adopted by the Ordinance will permit an award to a proposer specialized in the design, procurement, construction, and maintenance of a floating solar island atop the Encino Reservoir. Per Los Angeles City Charter (Charter) Section 371(b), this selection method permits negotiations after proposals have been opened to allow clarifications and changes. Per Charter Section 371(a) and Los Angeles Administrative Code Section 10.47, the Local Business Preference Program will apply.

The approach will be to advertise one Request for Proposal (RFP) with the intent to award one agreement for services including, but not limited to, engineering a floating solar island of up to 5 megawatt (MW), and the option for a battery energy storage system (BESS) of up to 5 MW/ 20 MW hour (MWh) and 30 kilowatt (kW) ground mounted system at Encino Reservoir; procuring and delivering all necessary equipment; constructing and installing the system at Encino Reservoir; maintaining the floating solar

and BESS equipment (floats, anchors, panels, etc.) until the end of the contract; and providing training to LADWP personnel regarding system maintenance of the system.

Los Angeles City Council (City Council) approval is required according to Charter *Section 371(b) and Section 674*.

RECOMMENDATION

It is requested that the Board of Water and Power Commissioners (Board) adopt the attached Resolution recommending City Council approval of an Ordinance authorizing the use of the competitive - sealed proposal method to let a contract with a term of five years with two one-year optional renewal periods for a total term not to exceed seven years in length, in accordance with Sections *Section 371(b) and Section 674* of the Charter.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

This project requires unique and specialized personnel that is proficient in designing and installing a floating solar island. LADWP currently lacks the expertise to execute a project of this nature.

The proposed EPC contract through an RFP selection process allows LADWP the opportunity to choose from a pool of qualified and experienced firms, specializing in the design, procurement, and installation of this type of system.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

The total estimated cost for the proposed contract is approximately \$24,175,000. The contract duration is five years with two one-year optional renewal periods for a total term not-to-exceed seven years.

BACKGROUND

California Senate Bill 100 (SB 100)

On September 10, 2018, Governor Jerry Brown approved SB 100, which accelerates California's timeline for moving to renewable energy sources like solar and wind, and requires that all retail electricity be carbon free by 2045. SB 100 sets mandates for achieving renewable retail electricity of 33 percent by December 31, 2020, 44 percent by December 31, 2024, 52 percent by December 31, 2027, and 60 percent by December 31, 2030, and establishes a further goal to have an electric grid that is entirely powered by zero carbon energy by 2045, which could include other carbon-free sources like nuclear power that are not renewable. Furthermore, LADWP's LA 100 study targets 100 percent zero carbon energy to supply the grid by 2030.

LADWP's Utility Built Solar Program

The City of Los Angeles (City) has one of the nation's most aggressive utility-built local solar directive driven by the Resilient LA plan, LA's Green New Deal, and long-term strategic initiatives. Since 2001, LADWP has commissioned approximately 26 MW spread across 50 utility-built solar facilities throughout its service territory to meet the Renewable Portfolio Standards (RPS) Policy compliance targets and local solar needs. To meet current RPS goals, LADWP has proposed to install distributed energy resources on various City-owned facilities. This effort will expand the amount of solar and energy storage, which in combination, will provide non-wire alternative solutions to the local grid. This approval enables the expansion of these installations.

The expansion of local solar sites will help LADWP better meet its renewable energy goals, reduce reliance on out-of-basin transmission and generation, and reduce overall greenhouse gas emissions.

Encino Floating Solar

To meet LADWP's 100 Percent carbon-neutral mandate by 2030, in-basin solar capacity must be increased dramatically. The existing capacity of transmission infrastructure imposes a constraint on the amount of carbon neutral power that can be transmitted out-of-basin into the City. Utilizing City-owned property in-basin for the installation of renewable energy is a more financially viable option compared to expanding the transmission infrastructure. Floating solar serves a significant benefit for LADWP by yielding improvements in water conservation, efficient energy production, and optimization of land use that would not be present without this project.

Due to changing weather patterns and recurring natural events such as heat waves, wildfires, and the ever-present potential for earthquakes in Los Angeles, deployment of Distributive Energy Resources assets will provide City facilities and infrastructure with improved reliability and energy savings. These projects will allow LADWP to achieve its long-term commitment to a 100 percent clean renewable portfolio by 2045.

The Encino Floating Solar Pilot Project will be a multi-faceted project comprising of the design, procurement, and installation of a floating solar system of up to 5-MW along with a battery energy storage system of up to 5-MW/20 MWh and 30kW ground mounted solar system. This site was chosen as it is currently using non-potable water, and we selected locations for the proposed equipment that will have a minimum impact to the neighboring communities and the environment. The RFP will require the vendor to complete the installation of this project and provide all materials up to the point of interconnection. LADWP will own and retain all energy rights resulting from this project. This project is estimated to generate 4,950MW per hour annually which corresponds to removing 1415 metric tons of CO₂ each year, equivalent to powering 887 homes for one year or 359 vehicles not driven per year. The efficacy of this type of installation compared to a traditional ground-mount installation will be documented and used to influence the decision to expand to future projects. The impact a floating solar project

has on the water system, electricity generation, and cost will be studied as well. Installing distributed energy resources assets on existing City-owned property will help the City reach its renewable goals. If this pilot project is deemed successful, expansion of floating solar on the Encino Reservoir, as well as using additional reservoirs for floating solar, will be considered.

The City Administrative Officer (CAO) report dated May 16, 2025 is attached.

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION

Determine item is exempt pursuant to California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines Section 15060(c)(2). In accordance with this section, an activity is not subject to CEQA if it will not result in a direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment. The approval of the Ordinance will authorize the use of the competitive-sealed bid proposal method to secure an EPC contract and will not result in any physical change in the environment; therefore, the proposed action is not subject to CEQA. No contracts shall be awarded prior to full compliance with applicable CEQA requirements.

CITY ATTORNEY

The Office of the City Attorney reviewed and approved the Resolution and the Ordinance as to form and legality.

ATTACHMENTS

- Resolution
- Ordinance
- CAO Report