



Office of the Los Angeles City Attorney
Hydee Feldstein Soto

REPORT NO. R26-0070
FEB 04 2026

REPORT RE:

**DRAFT ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE BOARD OF WATER AND POWER
COMMISSIONERS TO AWARD AN AGREEMENT PURSUANT TO A COMPETITIVE
SEALED PROPOSAL METHOD, TO PERMIT NEGOTIATIONS RELATING TO THE
ENGINEERING, PROCUREMENT, AND CONSTRUCTION OF THE ENCINO
RESERVOIR FLOATING SOLAR PILOT PROJECT**

The Honorable City Council
of the City of Los Angeles
Room 395, City Hall
200 North Spring Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Council File No. 26-0053

Honorable Members:

This Office has prepared and now transmits for your consideration the enclosed draft ordinance, approved as to form and legality. This draft ordinance will authorize the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) to let one or more contracts pursuant to a competitive sealed request for proposal (RFP) method, pursuant to Charter Section 371(b), permitting negotiations for the design, engineering, procurement and construction of the Encino Reservoir Floating Solar Pilot Project (the Project), with a term not to exceed seven years in accordance with criteria outlined in the ordinance.

The City has one of the nation's most aggressive utility-built local solar directives driven by the Resilient LA Plan, LA's Green New Deal, and long-term strategic initiatives. To meet the current Renewable Portfolio Standards (RPS) goals, LADWP has proposed to install distributed energy resources on various City-owned facilities. 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. To meet LADWP's 100 percent carbon-neutral mandate by 2030, in-basin solar capacity must be increased dramatically. 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.

The Project will be a multi-faceted project comprising of the design, procurement and construction of a floating solar system at the Encino Reservoir of up to 5 MW with a battery energy storage system (BESS) of up to 5 MW/20 MWh and 30 kW of ground mounted solar system. The Encino reservoir was chosen for this Project since the reservoir is currently using non-potable water, and the Project will have a minimum impact on the neighboring communities and environment. After construction of the system, LADWP will retain all energy rights. This Project will remove 1,415 metric tons of CO₂ each year while generating 4,950 MW per hour annually, equivalent to powering 887 homes for one year or 359 vehicles not driven per year. As this is a pilot project, the efficacy of the installation compared to a traditional ground-mount installation will be documented and used to evaluate the LADWP's decision on whether to expand the use of floating solar in future projects. The impact the Project has on the water system, electrical generation, and cost will also be studied.

The floating solar installation will not prevent firefighting aircraft from using the reservoir for fighting wildfires. Further, as this reservoir is not used for potable water usage, water from the reservoir is currently not part of the water supplied to the fire hydrants and would only be used by firefighting aircraft which will not be affected by the floating solar panels.

If adopted, the engineering, procurement and construction criteria in the draft ordinance will permit an award to a specialized proposer experienced in the design, procurement, and construction to enable the implementation of the Project. The sealed proposal method, pursuant to Charter Section 371(b), permits negotiations after proposals have been opened to allow clarifications and changes to the proposal.

Pursuant to Charter Section 371(a) and Los Angeles Administrative Code Section 10.25, the Local Business Preference Program will apply. The term of the contract is necessary because the 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 30 kW ground mounted solar system. The Project is estimated to generate 4,950 MW per hour annually which corresponds to removing 1,415 metric tons of CO₂ each year and the extended period of time is necessary to evaluate the pilot project to ensure that it meets its goals.

Charter Compliance

This draft ordinance is transmitted for your approval pursuant to Charter Section 371(b). Charter Section 371(b) requires a vote of at least two-thirds of the City Council approving the contract selection criteria to award a contract using a competitive sealed proposal method.

CEQA Determination

This Office recommends that the City Council review and determine the Project is exempt pursuant to the 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 this draft ordinance will authorize the use of the competitive sealed bid proposal method to let a contract and will not result in any physical change in the environment; therefore, the proposed action is not subject to CEQA.

Council Rule 38 Referral

This draft ordinance has been approved by the Board of Water and Power Commissioners pursuant to Council Rule 38.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Deputy City Attorney Mark Reusch at (213) 367-4619. A member of this Office will be available when you consider this matter to answer questions you may have.

Sincerely,

HYDEE FELDSTEIN SOTO, City Attorney

By



MICHAEL J. DUNDAS
Chief Assistant City Attorney

MJD:MR:wyl
Transmittal