

MOTION

The City of Los Angeles continues to advance local water supply reliability and climate resilience, including significant investments in water recycling at the Donald C. Tillman Water Reclamation Plant, located in Council District 6. The Tillman facility represents a critical asset for the Northeast San Fernando Valley, and the City's leadership in water reuse positions Los Angeles as a national innovator in sustainable water management.

As the City expands its water recycling capabilities, it is essential to ensure that sufficient groundwater recharge capacity exists to maximize these investments and strengthen long-term water independence.

The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) has identified potential opportunities to expand groundwater recharge capacity in the San Fernando Valley, including evaluation of former aggregate mining sites such as properties owned by Vulcan Materials Company. Certain sites, particularly a deep excavation located near San Fernando Road and Branford Street, may be well-suited for recharge use due to favorable depth, location, and existing site conditions.

Facilities such as the Hansen Dam Spreading Grounds and Tujunga Spreading Grounds demonstrate the importance of spreading grounds in capturing and storing water locally.

LADWP has initiated preliminary evaluation efforts, including review of site data, conceptual design considerations, and engagement with the property owner.

I THEREFORE MOVE that City Council request LADWP to report back within 120 days on the following:

Project Status and Feasibility

- Any historical planning, land acquisition efforts, agreements, or prior evaluations undertaken by LADWP or the City during the 1940s and 1950s related to undeveloped land in the Sun Valley area for water collection, spreading, recharge, or storage purposes, particularly in proximity to the Hansen Dam and Tujunga Spreading Grounds, and whether such plans, agreements, or property interests remain active, applicable, or relevant to current groundwater recharge expansion efforts;
- The status of its evaluation of potential groundwater recharge expansion sites in the San Fernando Valley, including the identified Vulcan Materials property near San Fernando Road and Branford Street;
- Preliminary findings regarding site suitability, including soil conditions, depth, permeability, and water quality considerations;
- The anticipated use and operational concept for such a site, including how it could function as a spreading ground or recharge facility, its integration with existing water infrastructure, and its role in supporting increased recycled water supplies;
- Estimated costs associated with acquisition, design, site development (including necessary earthwork), and construction, including any proposals or cost estimates provided by Vulcan Materials Company;
- A projected timeline for key phases of the project, including evaluation, design, permitting, construction, and operation;


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Permitting, Environmental Review, and Risk

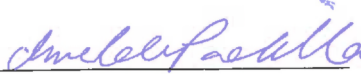
- Required permits, approvals, and coordination with regional and state agencies, including but not limited to the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board and other applicable regulatory entities;
- Identification of potential environmental risks, including the likelihood of soil or groundwater contamination, and any known or potential constraints associated with prior site uses;
- An assessment of potential liability risks to the City, including considerations under CERCLA (Superfund), and strategies to avoid or minimize such liability, including site due diligence, indemnification, regulatory oversight, or alternative ownership or partnership structures;

Funding, Implementation, and Community Integration

- Potential funding sources to support the project, including Measure W, state bond programs, and other local, state, or federal funding opportunities;
- Next steps required to advance the project and any actions the City Council could take to support or help expedite implementation;
- Opportunities to incorporate community-compatible design elements, where feasible, such as landscaping, visual buffering, or perimeter walking paths, to ensure the site contributes positively to the surrounding neighborhood while maintaining its primary water infrastructure function.

I FURTHER MOVE that City Council request LADWP to include in its report an assessment of how development of such a site would enhance long-term groundwater recharge capacity, improve water supply reliability, support the City's water reuse goals, and reinforce Los Angeles' leadership in sustainable water management.

PRESENTED BY:


IMELDA PADILLA
Councilmember, 6th District

SECONDED BY:



ORIGINAL