



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

"Parks Make Life Better!"

Norma E. García-González, Director

Alina Bokde, Chief Deputy Director

June 25, 2024

ADOPTED

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

53 June 25, 2024

Edward Yen
EDWARD YEN
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Dear Supervisors:

**AMENDMENT TO WATER PRODUCTION AGREEMENT TO DISCHARGE TREATED
WATER INTO THE WHITTIER NARROWS RECREATION AREA'S LEGG LAKES
(SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT 1) (3 VOTES)**

SUBJECT

Approval of the recommended actions will delegate authority to the Director of Parks and Recreation, or her designee, to execute an amendment to the water production agreement with the California Department of Toxic Substances Control and the Main San Gabriel Basin Watermaster, in order to extend the existing agreement for a period not to exceed 24 months.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE BOARD:

1. Find that the proposed approval of the amendment is categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act for the reasons stated in this Board Letter and in the record of the Agreement.
2. Delegate authority to the Director of Parks and Recreation, or her designee, to execute an amendment to a water production agreement with the California Department of Toxic Substances Control and the Main San Gabriel Basin Watermaster, upon approval as to form by County Counsel, to further extend the agreement for an additional one year term and 12 additional month-to-month options, for a maximum extension period not to exceed 24 months, for the sole purpose of negotiating a new long-term agreement.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

The Whittier Narrows Recreation Area is located at 750 S. Santa Anita Avenue, South El Monte, CA 91733. The three lakes at this park facility, which are collectively called Legg Lake, utilize water discharged from the Whittier Narrows Operational Unit (WNOU) to ensure the suitable water level for recreational activities and to preserve the lake's habitat values. The WNOU is a state-of-the-art ground water contamination treatment facility, which extracts and cleans contaminants from ground water. The California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) operates the WNOU for the purposes of treating groundwater.

The County of Los Angeles (County) Department of Parks and Recreation (Department) is part of a three-party water production agreement with the Main San Gabriel Basin Watermaster (Watermaster) and DTSC for the discharge of treated water into Legg Lake. The original 10-year agreement was scheduled to expire on June 2023. The agreement was amended to extend the term through June 30, 2024 for the sole purpose of negotiating a new long-term agreement.

The Department engaged Geosyntec Consultants, water-industry experts, to support the Department's negotiations with the Watermaster and DTSC. Geosyntec is currently conducting a hydrological modeling study of Legg Lake. The Department is also supported by County Counsel and outside counsel, who have expertise on water legal matters.

The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors' (Board) approval of the recommended actions will allow the Department to further extend the current agreement for a maximum period of 24 months. This will allow Geosyntec to complete their study and provide sufficient opportunity for the Department and County Counsel to coordinate with DTSC on its long-term plan for discharging treated water, which may include other jurisdictions and municipalities.

IMPLEMENTATION OF STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS

The recommended actions uphold the County's Strategic Plan Goals to Foster Vibrant and Resilient Communities, by sustaining and supporting thriving ecosystems, habitats and biodiversity (North Star 2.D.iii); Manage and Maximize County Assets, by maximizing the use of County assets, guide strategic investments (including real estate and space management) in ways that are fiscally responsible and align with the County's highest priority needs (North Star 3.G.ii)

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

There will be no impact to the County General Fund.

OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT

Based on the recommended actions, the Department does not anticipate any additional costs in the Department's Operating Budget.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

Your Board is authorized by the provision of Government Code Section 31000 to contract for special services that are consistent with public park and recreation purposes within Whittier Narrows and pursuant to the provisions of the Department of the Army Lease for Park and Recreational Purposes Whittier Narrows Flood Control Basin No. DAC W09-1-86-43 granted to the County by the Secretary of the Army under authority of the Flood Control Act of 1944, Section 4, as amended. The proposed Agreement is consistent with said purposes.

On March 10, 2009, the Board approved a long-term agreement with the Watermaster and EPA to continue the discharge of treated water into Legg Lakes. As required by the State of California, the DTSC took full responsibility of the WNOU after a ten-year period. In May 2013, the EPA transferred the operation and function of the WNOU to the DTSC.

On June 18, 2013, the Board approved a ten-year agreement with the Watermaster and DTSC to continue to discharge water into Legg Lakes from the WNOU, which is set to expire on June 30, 2023. The Agreement may be extended by mutual agreement by all parties and with the Board's approval. The Agreement, inasmuch as it pertains to the production of groundwater from the Main San Gabriel Basin, must be consistent with the Judgment in the Main San Gabriel Basin Groundwater Adjudication and the Main San Gabriel Basin Watermaster Rules and Regulations.

On June 27, 2023, the Board delegated authority to the Director of Parks and Recreation to execute an amendment to extend the agreement for an additional six months and six additional month-to month options for a maximum extension period of 12-months, and to change the terms of the agreement as necessary to limit the water discharge volume to an amount not to exceed 1,300 acre-feet per year.

ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

The proposed Amendment is for the purchase and utilization of recycled water at Whittier Narrows Recreation Area is not subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) in that the actions do not meet the definition of a project according to Section 15378 (b)(5) of the State CEQA Guidelines, because the actions are administrative activities which by their terms do not involve any commitments to any specific projects which may result in a potentially significant physical impact on the environment.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)


There are no impacts on other current services or projects associated with the proposed action.

CONCLUSION

Please instruct the Executive Officer-Clerk of the Board to forward three adopted copies of this letter to the Department of Parks and Recreation.

Should you have any questions please contact Ms. A'lana White at (626) 588-5260 or via email at awhite2@parks.lacounty.gov or Mr. Ruben Lopez at (626) 588-5278 or via email at rlopez@parks.lacounty.gov or Ms. Johanna Hernandez at (626) 588-5370 or via email at bjl@parks.lacounty.gov

Respectfully submitted,



Norma E. García-González
Director

NEGG:AB:MR
RL:AW:rc

c: Chief Executive Officer
County Counsel
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
California Department of Toxic Substances Control
Main San Gabriel Basin Watermaster