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L.A. DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS SEEKS PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT IN PLANNING CITY'S WATER FUTURE

LOS ANGELES (August 21, 2003) — The City of Los Angeles is encouraging public involvement at seven upcoming Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) Advisory Group meetings this month and in September concerning future water issues that will affect everyone who lives and works in the City.

Los Angeles is expected to grow by an additional 700,000 people in the next 20 years. Understanding how water, wastewater, stormwater and recycled water impact and influence each other is the first step in coming up with solutions needed to meet future needs. By attending and participating in Advisory Group Meetings being held city-wide, the public will learn what happens in the City's water systems every time they flush, water their lawns, take a shower or turn on the tap. They will also be part of making important water system planning decisions that will affect future generations.

The City has begun to plan for the additional demands that more people will create on water supply, wastewater, stormwater (runoff), and recycled water systems. The long-range planning effort, or IRP, recognizes the complex relationships that exist among all of the City's water resources activities and functions, and the need to create a comprehensive water resources plan for the Los Angeles area.

"How we manage the future demand for water, wastewater, stormwater, and recycled water is critical for our continued prosperity," said Board of Public Works President Valerie Lynne Shaw. "The City's community-led process will help build a sustainable plan which people can support."

The 64-member Advisory Group has direct input to a Steering Group of 116 stakeholders who have been reviewing and discussing technical information on water systems and issues facing Los Angeles. Their feedback has led to some initial recommendations on the best approaches or solutions for meeting those challenges.

"The Steering and Advisory groups' input has been vital to the Mayor, City Council and staff," Shaw added. "They know we are listening and they think more people need to be part of making these important decisions about water."

(More)

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The Advisory Group meetings are a place for the community to get more information about the various options to address the needs of each part of the water system and to voice their opinions and state their priorities for the Integrated Resources Plan. In future meetings, the community will hear more about various alternatives and opportunities to use existing and planned facilities – what they could cost, where they might be located, and how they can shape the water future of Los Angeles.

The next round of Advisory Group meetings are scheduled for the following dates and locations:

August 27 (Wednesday), Hollywood Recreation Center
1122 Cole Ave.
Los Angeles, CA
Time: 7 PM – 9 PM

August 28 (Thursday), Van Nuys State Building
6150 Van Nuys Blvd.
Van Nuys, CA
Time: 7 PM – 9 PM

September 4 (Thursday), San Pedro City Hall
638 Beacon Street
(near 6th Street)
San Pedro, CA
Time: 7 PM – 9 PM

September 9 (Tuesday), Los Angeles River Center
570 West Avenue 26
Los Angeles, CA
Time: 7 PM – 9 PM

September 11 (Thursday), Lake View Terrace Rec Center
11075 Foothill Blvd.
Lake View Terrace, CA
Time: 7 PM – 9 PM

September 16 (Tuesday), El Segundo Public Library
111 W. Mariposa Avenue
El Segundo, CA
Time: 7 PM – 9 PM

September 18 (Thursday), Ward AME Church
1177 W. 25th Street
Los Angeles, CA
Time: 7 PM – 9 PM

“Creating a community partnership for the water future of Los Angeles will be the basis for effective alternatives to manage and address our future demand for water, wastewater, stormwater, and recycled water,” said Public Works Commissioner Adriana Rubalcava. “It is the necessary component for the foundation of the Integrated Resources Plan. Community input will drive the alternatives for meeting these needs and possible future implementation.”

For more information, call the City’s Integrated Resources Plan project office at (323) 342-6233.

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