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August 31, 2017

NOTICE OF PREPARATION

To: Responsible Agencies, Trustee Agencies, Stakeholders and Interested Parties

From: City of Los Angeles
Department of Public Works, Bureau of Engineering
Environmental Management Group
1149 S. Broadway, 6th Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90015-2213

Subject: **Notice of Preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Report for the proposed Citywide Cat Program**

The City of Los Angeles (City) Bureau of Engineering (BOE) is preparing an environmental impact report (EIR) for the proposed Citywide Cat Program (proposed Project), which would be administered by the City's Department of Animal Services. The proposed Project focuses on public education and policy implementation in the City of Los Angeles (see attached Project Location Map). It does not include any physical construction of buildings or structures. More information is provided below regarding the proposed Project elements.

BOE welcomes your comments regarding the scope and content of the environmental analysis to support the EIR. We invite you to attend a public meeting to learn more about the proposed Project and participate in the environmental review process. BOE is serving as the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Lead City Agency for the proposed Project. Based on comments obtained through the scoping process, BOE will prepare an EIR to analyze the potential environmental impacts of the proposed Project and alternatives and identify any necessary mitigation measures.

The public comment period for the scoping process is from August 31, 2017 – October 30, 2017.

Background

In 2005, the City's Department of Animal Services began to implement a "trap, neuter, return" (TNR) policy and program for feral cats. The City also distributed vouchers to be used for feral cat spay or neuter surgeries, issued cat trapping permits, and otherwise provided support and referrals to community groups that engage in TNR programs. In 2008, the City was sued, and in 2010 the Los Angeles Superior Court issued an injunction which prohibited the City from further implementing the TNR policy and program without completing an environmental review process in compliance with CEQA (Case No. BS115483). The City prepared a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) in 2013 for a citywide cat program, but ultimately decided to modify the proposal and prepare an EIR for the current proposed Project. The contents of this Notice of Preparation (NOP) of a Draft EIR have been prepared in accordance with Section 15082 of the State CEQA Guidelines.



Proposed Project

At its meeting on April 11, 2017, the Board of Animal Services Commissioners considered and approved a revised description of major project elements that would be included in the proposed Project. This project description was subsequently approved the City Council on April 26, 2017, to be the focus of the EIR study.

The key components of the proposed Project include:

- Engaging in or providing funding for the spaying or neutering of free-roaming cats (feral or stray) to be returned where they are found.
- Use of City facilities to provide educational programming on any animal related topic, including free-roaming cats.
- Implementation of a Modified Trap, Neuter, Return ("Modified TNR") program, which includes establishing collaborative relationships with organizations engaged in TNR, utilizing Animal Services Centers for public outreach and training, guidance on how to address resident complaints regarding free-roaming cats, and waiving cat trap rental fees.
- Adopting changes to the City administrative and municipal codes related to accessing funds from the City's Animal Sterilization Fund to spay/neuter free-roaming cats; and allowing an increase in the currently permitted number of cats per household from three to five with certain restrictions.

A more detailed proposed Project description can be found here: <http://eng.lacity.org/citywide-cat-program-e1907610> and will be included in the Draft EIR. The proposed Project would be implemented within the boundaries of the 465 square miles of the City of Los Angeles.

Potential Environmental Effects

As permitted by State CEQA Guidelines Section 15060(d), the City has not prepared an Initial Study/Environmental Checklist, as it has determined that an EIR will be needed for the proposed Project. Based on the City of Los Angeles' *L.A. CEQA Thresholds Guide* (2006) and *CEQA Appendix G Guidelines* (2017), the following environmental issues will be discussed in the Draft EIR:

Aesthetics and Visual Resources	Agriculture and Forestry Resources	Air Quality
Biological Resources	Cultural Resources	Energy
Geology	Greenhouse Gas Emissions	Hazards
Land Use	Mineral Resources	Noise
Population and Housing	Public Services	Public Utilities
Transportation/Traffic	Tribal Cultural Resources	Water Quality

Scoping Meetings

Public scoping meetings will be held to receive input on the scope and content of the Draft EIR. The meetings will be held using an open house format to share information regarding the proposed Project and the environmental review process and to receive written comments. City staff and environmental consultants will be available, but no formal presentation is scheduled. You may stop by at any time during the meeting to view materials, ask questions, and provide written comments. The City encourages all interested individuals and organizations to attend one of the meetings. Written comments may be submitted, but there will be no verbal comments or public testimony taken.

The scoping meetings will occur:

- Thursday, September 28, 5:30 p.m.–7:30 p.m.
East Valley Shelter, 14409 Vanowen St., Van Nuys, CA 91405
- Tuesday, October 17, 11:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.
South LA, Chesterfield Square Shelter, 1850 W. 60th St., Los Angeles, CA 90047
- Monday, October 23, 5:30 p.m.–7:30 p.m.
Ramona Hall Community Center, 4580 N. Figueroa St, Los Angeles, CA 90065

Comments

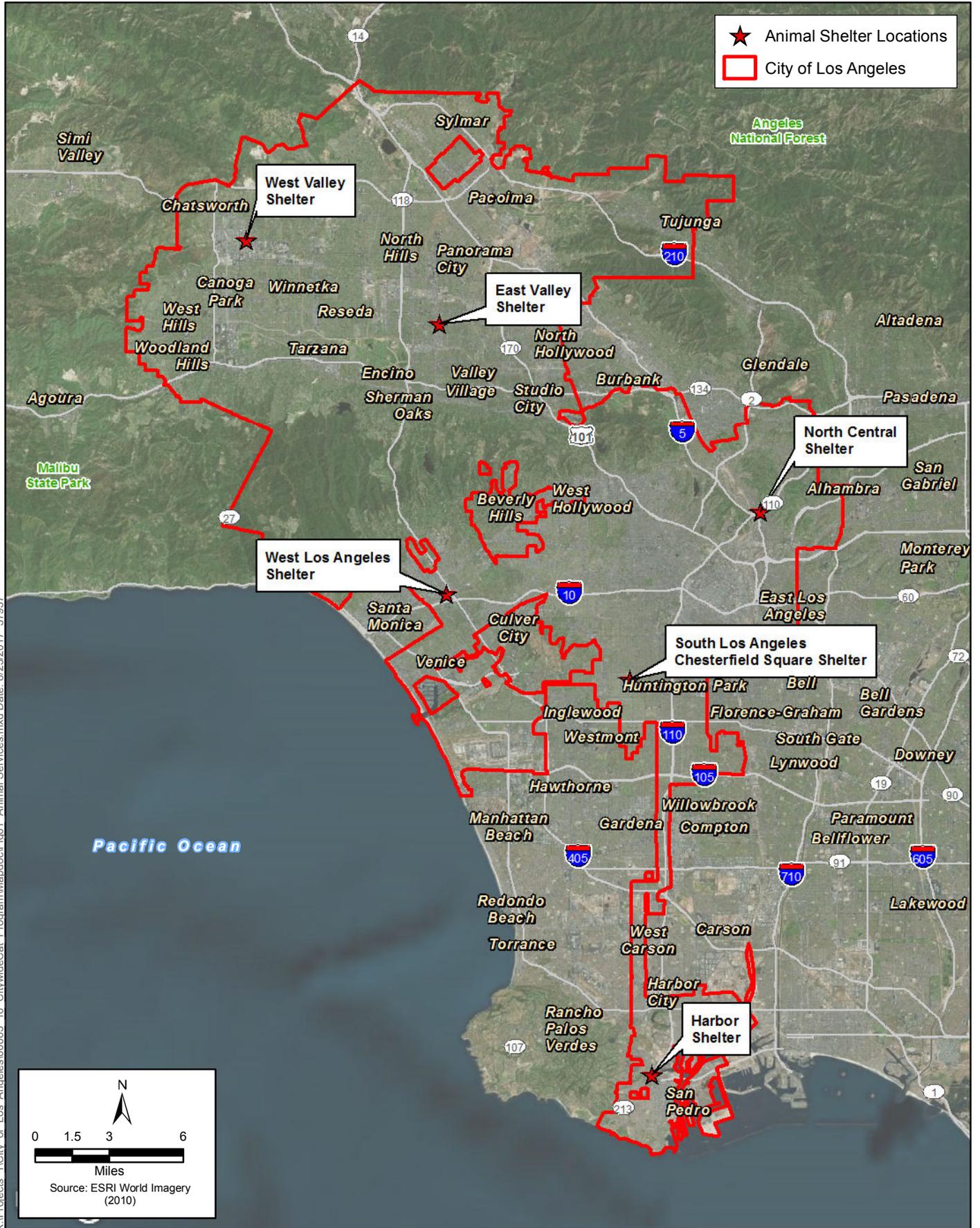
The City requests your written comments on the scope and contents of the EIR, including project alternatives and any necessary mitigation measures to reduce potential environmental effects from the proposed Project. You must submit your comments by **October 30, 2017**. Please include the name, telephone number, mailing address, and e-mail address of a person to contact if we have any questions regarding your comment.

Comments will be accepted:

- By email to Jan.Green.Rebstock@lacity.org (please include “Cat Program” in the subject line)
- By mail to:
Dr. Jan Green Rebstock
City of Los Angeles, Public Works
Bureau of Engineering, EMG
1149 S. Broadway, 6th Floor, MS 939
Los Angeles, CA 90015
- Comment cards will also be accepted at the public scoping meetings.

If you have any questions about the environmental review process for the proposed Project, please contact Dr. Jan Green Rebstock at 213.485.5761.

Attachment



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Figure 1
Project Location
City of Los Angeles Animal Shelters
Citywide Cat Program

