WILL THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROJECT REQUIRE DRAINING THE RESERVOIRS FULLY?

There are a variety of construction methods that would not require draining of the reservoirs in order to construct elements along the water’s edge or to modify the embankment. Temporary diversion barrier controls (e.g. cofferdams) allow for “working in the dry” when construction projects are within surface waters. They prevent water from entering work zones such as where excavation, concrete pouring, drilling, or other tasks are being conducted. They function by holding back water and creating a relatively dry area for construction activities.

WHAT TYPE BARRIER MIGHT NEED TO BE USED IN THE RESERVOIRS?

There are a variety of temporary barrier types, or cofferdams, available depending on the type of construction which will need to be undertaken to install park design elements. If large areas of water need to be diverted, cofferdams are typically made of steel. If small areas need to be diverted, they are often made of rubber. Any cofferdam used to construct the new park, will be engineered to ensure safety of workers and allow the realization of the design vision.

DOES THE MASTER PLAN DESIGN AFFECT THE USE OF DIVERSION BARRIERS?

Depending on the final design developed with the community, the selective use of cofferdams within the reservoir might be appropriate. For example, floating wetlands can be installed in a variety of water depths with little impact to the reservoir bottom and edges. Terraces and overlooks may require the use of cofferdams. The design team will be working with the community to understand potential construction impacts of various design elements in order to achieve our shared vision while minimizing construction impacts.

HAS THE DESIGN TEAM EVER USED DIVERSION BARRIERS IN PREVIOUS PROJECTS?

The Design Team and the City of Los Angeles has extensive experience with constructed projects in rivers, lakes, and along coasts which cannot be drained.