

DWP/Neighborhood Council Meeting
May 4, 2019
Highlights

Walter Hall, GVGC Representative
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- Representatives from DWP and LA Sanitation made a presentation on their joint Los Angeles Groundwater Replenishment (GWR) Project. The GWR Project will provide up to 30,000 acre-feet per year (AFY) – more than 9.7 billion gallons – of recycled water to replenish the San Fernando Groundwater Basin. (The City yearly consumes approximately 620,000 AF.) In particular they detailed the Initial Phase of the GWR Project which includes the Ozone Demonstration Project now scheduled to commence operation in 2019, pending final approval of funding from the Southern California Coastal Water Research Project. The Ozone Demonstration Project involves adding ozone to the existing, multi-step cleaning process at Donald C. Tillman Water Reclamation Plant. Up to 3,500 acre-feet per year, or 3.1 million gallons per day, of this treated water will be delivered through an existing pipeline to the Hansen Spreading Grounds where it will soak into the ground through soils, providing additional highly effective natural treatment through filtration and microbiological activity. The water will remain underground in the San Fernando Groundwater Basin for several years and will add to LA's future drinking water supply. (I'm unsure of the exact projected cost per acre-foot of water delivered, but it was cited as considerably less than the present market figure of around \$1000 per AF.)
- DWP's current estimate for costs associated with achieving fossil-free electricity for the City by 2045 was cited as 2 to 3 times the current rates, inflation discounted.
- The Hyperion Wastewater Recycling plan was briefly discussed. Its cost is now estimated to be \$8 billion and the cost of the water derived would be far in excess of the present market price.
- Presently the charging stations for electric vehicles being installed by DWP provide energy at no cost to the users. When all stations as presently planned are in-service, some estimate the costs for the electricity supplied will total \$100 million per year. (One commenter asked why rich Tesla owners should be given such a gift.)
- The City is proposing to rent certain DWP facilities for use in providing services to the homeless for \$1 per year and objection was voiced for having DWP ratepayers footing the bill and losing market-rate rents.)
- Fred Pickel, Ratepayer Advocate and Office of Public Accountability director, spoke briefly about the ongoing mid-term rate review. His office plans to issue its opinion on any rate adjustment on May 13. His understanding is that DWP will be asking for no base rate changes.