

Refilling Silver Lake Reservoir Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Is LADWP going to refill Silver Lake Reservoir?

A: Yes.

Q: What is LADWP's plan for refilling Silver Lake Reservoir?

A: LADWP is considering and planning for water sources other than drinking water such as the Los Angeles River, recycled water and/or stormwater, all of which require some amount of additional offsite infrastructure to be designed and built. LADWP remains committed to refilling the Reservoir with water following construction. The timing for the refill and water sources will be discussed at an upcoming community meeting hosted by Councilmembers David Ryu and Mitch O'Farrell.

Q: LADWP had originally assumed that Silver Lake Reservoir would be refilled with potable water. Did that change?

A: Yes. LADWP had originally planned to use drinking water as the source for refilling, which would become non-potable as soon as it entered the Reservoir. Because of the past five years of water shortage and the City and State's strong focus on water use efficiency, LADWP is looking further into potential non-potable sources. No matter what source of water is used to fill the reservoir, it then will become non-potable water since the reservoir will not be in service.

Q: Was the drought a consideration when LADWP first committed to refilling the Reservoir?

A: The Final Environmental Impact Report for the Silver Lake Reservoir Complex Bypass Project was filed May 2006. At the time Los Angeles was not facing a drought. LADWP originally planned to refill the reservoir with approximately 400 million gallons of drinking water with the infrastructure that is in place. Since then, drought conditions have worsened. Consistent with our commitment to demonstrating water conservation in our water operations, we are exploring alternatives to drinking water to use to refill the lake.

Q: Who will be responsible for managing the Reservoir after construction ends?

A: LADWP owns and operates the Silver Lake Reservoir Complex property and will retain responsibility for the property after the reservoirs are removed and isolated from the drinking water system. The dams within the facility, along with other existing infrastructure need to be monitored and maintained by LADWP so long as they are in use. The ultimate responsibility of the property is based on the future type of usage of the area.

Q: Is LADWP considering changing the use of the space to recreational public space such as a swimming pool, drought-tolerant gardens, walking paths, etc.?

A: LADWP has no plans of its own to change the Silver Lake Reservoir Complex into a recreational public space. LADWP's commitment is to put water back in the reservoir and maintain the property in an appropriate manner until such time that a different future use is mapped out. Any plans to change the use of the property would be part of a larger community planning process involving LADWP, but not lead by us. LADWP's mission is to deliver water and power safely and reliably to the City of Los Angeles. Whatever future use is determined, LADWP would remain responsible for the operation of the water pipelines and appurtenances in the reservoir complex and oversight of the dams if they remained in place.

Q: Did you save money by constructing inside the reservoir?

A: The decision to construct within the reservoir was an effort to reduce costs and impacts to the local community, which would have otherwise seen years of on-street construction in order to complete the project. The financial savings from the reduced cost of the in-reservoir project allowed us to borrow less to fund the project and ultimately reduce potential water bills; it did not result in a savings of existing funds.