

# SAVE STONE CANYON FROM THE DWP'S COLOSSAL PROJECT

The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power has initiated plans to demolish the uncovered Upper Stone Canyon Reservoir and replace it with a buried concrete storage structure, located within the existing reservoir area, but with 30% less storage capacity. After destroying the Upper Reservoir, the DWP intends to dig a giant hole and build three immense underground concrete storage tanks. After construction has been completed, the DWP intends to plant the area where the Upper Reservoir used to exist and open the area to the public for unsupervised passive recreation activities.

It is beyond dispute that the size, scope and cost of this colossal project will have a devastating impact on our community both during the period of construction and after the project has been completed. During the estimated 7-10 years of construction, the residents of the community will be forced to endure a substantial and unnecessary increase in noise, pollution and traffic. Our quality of life will be greatly diminished and our property values will likely decline. Wildlife will be displaced or destroyed, and the risk of a major wildfire would be vastly increased.

During a recent meeting with the community, the DWP confirmed that:

- The project will take **7-10 years to complete**.
- It will require **24,000 truck trips** and the grading of **29,000,000 cubic feet** of dirt within Stone Canyon.
- Construction activities will take place **6 days a week**, beginning at 7:00 a.m. on weekdays, and 8:00 a.m. on Saturdays.
- The estimated cost of the project has already jumped by nearly 50% and is now estimated to **cost \$235 million**. That number can be expected to double or triple before the project is completed.
- The DWP has rejected less burdensome and less costly alternatives, but has not explained why.

The proposed project is needlessly invasive, intrusive and disruptive of surrounding communities and their residents. The following excerpts are taken from the DWP's own initial analysis of the impacts the project will have on our community:

- **Excessive noise would be created** by construction activities arising from "heavy equipment, pavement removal, excavation, grading and construction of the buried concrete storage structure." Moreover, during the **5.5 years of the construction project**, "construction activities would

occur Monday through Friday between 7:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. and Saturday between 8:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.” *Source: LA DWP Initial Study, Upper Stone Canyon Reservoir Water Quality Improvement Project, June 20, 2008 (“Initial Study”), p. 3-17.* In a community meeting last March, **the DWP increased the length of the project to 7-10 years.**

- The project will generate “**substantial increases in ambient noise levels** in the project vicinity through the duration of construction.” *Source: Initial Study, p. 3-18.*
- The project could create a “**substantial**” **increase in traffic** given existing traffic conditions and street capacity during the years of the construction caused by construction activities, including the delivery of materials and supplies to the reservoir site and worker commutes. *Source: Initial Study, p. 3-21.*
- Because of “the slow speeds and blind corners on Mulholland Drive,” construction trucks turning into and out of the Stone Canyon site “could create **a hazard to through traffic.**” *Source: Initial Study, p. 3-21.*
- The project could “**potentially degrade the quality of the environment** by reducing the habitat of wildlife species, or eliminating a plant or animal community.” *Source: Initial Study, p. 3-25.*
- The project was originally estimated to require **15,000 truck trips** if soil is obtained on site, and even more truck trips if soil is required to be hauled to the site. *Source: LA DWP website: [www.ladwp.com/ladwp/cms/ladwp010219.jsp#P18\\_2006](http://www.ladwp.com/ladwp/cms/ladwp010219.jsp#P18_2006)* But in a community meeting last March, the DWP raised its estimate to **24,000 truck trips**. All of the trucks will enter and exit Stone Canyon through Mulholland Drive.
- The project was originally estimated to cost \$165,000,000. *Source: LA DWP website: [www.ladwp.com/ladwp/cms/ladwp010219.jsp#P18\\_2006](http://www.ladwp.com/ladwp/cms/ladwp010219.jsp#P18_2006)* But in a community meeting last March, **the DWP raised its estimate to \$235,000,000.**

In addition, the DWP has overlooked or ignored the greatly enhanced possibility of a **severe wildfire** in the area arising from construction activities. The devastating Bel Air fire of 1961 was apparently started by accident when a bulldozer hit a rock, causing a spark that ignited nearby brush and burned throughout Bel Air and Brentwood, including the entire Stone Canyon area. The proposed project will obviously entail the use of a substantial amount of heavy equipment in an area of heavy brush.

We have had a record number of fires over the past few years. The recent fire near the Getty Center started accidentally by a spark created during brush clearance

operations. The vegetation in Stone Canyon is dry and overgrown, and could be a wildfire disaster waiting to happen.

Converting the Upper Reservoir into an unsupervised passive recreation area following construction also greatly increases the danger of a major wildfire in the area. And in today's world, where we live with the constant threat of terrorism, it seems foolish to allow unsupervised public access to the area where our water supply is located.

This project will have a **negative impact on the local roads and schools**. The DWP has not considered the cumulative impact of 24,000 truck trips along Mulholland Drive, nor how Mulholland Drive is going to be maintained during this period, particularly since the City of Los Angeles has never been able or willing to repair chronic potholes on Mulholland. Given the City's current financial crisis, the street will likely remain in state of disrepair throughout the life of the project.

The narrow, winding road between the 405 and Stone Canyon was never designed to endure the type of traffic that it currently bears, let alone a new 10-year long, continuous assault by 18-wheelers. Thousands of people drive on a daily basis through the communities of Roscomare, Beverly Glen, and Mulholland, all of which connect the San Fernando Valley with Los Angeles. And many parents drive their children to and from the Roscomare Elementary School, as well as the seven other schools in the Mulholland corridor. These commuters will also be impacted by the traffic and inevitable deterioration of our local roads.

It is undeniable that excessive noise will be generated by this project for years to come from the trucks and construction equipment. But the DWP has not considered the acoustics and shape of the Canyon, because the noise will reverberate off the canyon walls and will be amplified to a great extent across many different communities, destroying the quiet enjoyment of our homes. Construction activities are set to begin every weekday at 7:00 a.m. and 8:00 a.m. on Saturdays. This intrusive schedule will spoil the quality of life in the area.

Given the estimated 7-10 years needed to complete the project, this is not just a "temporary" inconvenience. It will become a nearly permanent decade of anguish and distress for residents and commuters, assuming that the project is completed on time.

We do not believe that the DWP has fully considered or investigated less burdensome and less costly alternatives that will have far less of an impact on the environment. **We urge the DWP to consider placing the buried tanks in an area that would be far less disruptive to the community and less costly.**

**PLEASE JOIN US AND VISIT OUR WEBSITE:**

**[www.savestonecanyonreservoir.org](http://www.savestonecanyonreservoir.org)**

You can download a Petition, sign it and mail it in. Thank you for your support!

# PETITION TO STOP THE LA DWP FROM DESTROYING UPPER STONE CANYON AND THE SURROUNDING AREA

We, the undersigned, are residents of the community in the immediate vicinity of the Stone Canyon Reservoir.

We are familiar with the LA DWP's plans to demolish the uncovered Upper Stone Canyon Reservoir and replace it with a massive buried concrete storage structure, located within the existing reservoir area, but with 30% less water storage capacity. We are also aware that the DWP intends to plant the area above the concrete storage structure and create a pedestrian trail system open to the public for passive recreation activity.

We have numerous concerns about the size, scope and cost of this colossal "dig and pour" project and its devastating impact on our community. During the estimated 7-10 years of construction, the residents of the community would be forced to endure a substantial and unnecessary increase in noise, pollution, and traffic. Our quality of life would be greatly diminished and our property values will likely decline. Wildlife would be displaced or destroyed, and the risk of a major wildfire in the area would be vastly increased. Therefore, each of us opposes this project.

Mail this Petition to:

**Save Stone Canyon**  
**2934½ Beverly Glen Circle, No. 351**  
**Bel Air, California 90077**

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