

March 20, 2025

The Honorable City Council
c/o Petty F. Santos
Office of the City Clerk
Room 360, City Hall

COUNCIL FILE NO. 25-0006-S23 - Special Motion 23 / Infrastructure Status/ Affected City-Owned Facilities - 2025 Windstorm and Wildfire Recovery

SUMMARY

This report provides the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power - Power System's (LADWP) evaluation and assessment of City-owned infrastructure and facilities impacted by the fires during the January 2025 wildfires within the City of Los Angeles. Also, LADWP has included a report of LADWP's ongoing repair and rebuild efforts in the Palisades.

RECOMMENDATION

That the City Council RECEIVE AND FILE this report.

BACKGROUND

During January 2025, four different fires ravaged the City. The Palisades Fire located in Pacific Palisades and within LADWP's West Los Angeles District burnt 23,707 acres. The Sunset Fire located in Hollywood and within LADWP's Palms District burnt 43 acres. The Hurst Fire in Sylmar, and the Archer Fire in Granada Hills, both within LADWP's Van Nuys District, burnt 799 acres and 19 acres, respectively. These four fires caused the loss of power to approximately 35,800 customers. By January 31, 2025, all four fires were contained (fire.ca.gov).

On January 14, 2025, the City Council adopted Special Motion 25-0006-S23 which requested that the LADWP evaluate and report on the status of the infrastructure and facilities serving the community impacted by these fires, and that the LADWP report on the status of City-owned buildings, facilities, service yards, and other resources that may have been impacted by the fires.

DISCUSSION

POWER SYSTEM

Palisades Fire

LADWP Power System has estimated \$78 million in temporary rebuild costs from the January 2025 windstorm, wildfire, and rainstorms. This figure is inclusive of physical damages at Power

System facilities, staff time incurred during the immediate response to the events, and repair/rehabilitation work.

Immediately after it was safe to enter the Palisades fire area, LADWP secured the Palisades Recreation Center for use as a temporary facility for Palisades' restoration operations. This location is now known as the Unified Utilities Rebuild Operations Center (UUROC). The UUROC is a temporary home to utilities that serve the Palisades and adjacent communities. For the Palisades residents, the UUROC serves as a one-stop-shop for utilities related inquiries.

In parallel with the UUROC build out, LADWP Power System began an immediate damage assessment and repair of its facilities along PCH and throughout the Palisades. Out of 2,346 poles (crossarms, guys, insulators, etc.) inspected thus far, the initial assessment found that: 753 poles were completely damaged, 330 poles were partially damaged, and 1,257 poles had no visual damage. The poles with no visual damage will be scheduled for more intrusive testing performed to confirm their condition.

Over the last two months, LADWP has dedicated 25-40 crews per day to the restoration efforts in the Palisades. LADWP crews have been working diligently and daily to restore power to the Palisades in a safe and timely manner. To date, the LADWP has replaced approximately 895 complete poles (crossarms, guys, insulators, etc.), 133 overhead transformers, and 6 underground transformers. The LADWP has also replaced 178,000 feet of overhead conductor and 8,600 feet of underground cable.

At Distributing Station 29 (DS-29) in the Palisades, significant fire damage was discovered in the outdoor rack area. Immediate repairs, such as removal and replacement of damaged control wiring, lighting wiring, and cable trench covers have been completed. During the restoration of DS-29, feeder 1, which feeds the Emergency Command Center in the Palisades, and feeder 7, which feeds Marquez Knolls Pump Station, were prioritized and restored back into service. DS-29 has been restored to its pre-fire condition and is fully operational, serving load in the Palisades.

Power has been restored in the Palisades area to all customers who have requested to be served and who have undamaged or slightly damaged structures. There are 37 services ready for connection, pending a request from the service owner. The LADWP Power System continues to rebuild the infrastructure in the Palisades and is ready to provide temporary power as needed.

Archer Fire

No damage.

Sunset Fire

One downed overhead service drop.

Hurst Fire

No damage.

WATER SYSTEM

LADWP Water System has reported to the City Administrative Officer estimated costs of \$15.6 million in physical damages and \$1.3 million in staff time, resulting in an overall estimated damage of \$16.9 million to date from the January 2025 windstorm, wildfire, and rainstorms. This figure is inclusive of physical damages at Water System facilities and staff time incurred during the immediate response to the events and repair/rehabilitation work, including the imposition of the Do Not Drink (DND) order in the Pacific Palisades area; water connection shutoffs; extensive flushing and testing; and activation of the Water Emergency Command Center.

Immediate repairs, such as debris removal and removal of downed tree branches, have already been completed. Several damaged meters and meter boxes have already been replaced. Other damaged meters will be installed over the next few years and will be done in tandem with the rebuilding of homes in the Palisades.

Repairs to the Santa Ynez Reservoir floating cover, which had tears identified before the fire and sustained additional damage from embers, are expected to be completed by the end of April. Damage to some reservoir components, including treatment and some electrical equipment, are also currently undergoing repairs in order to bring the reservoir back into service. The reservoir is expected to be placed back in service in early May.

FISCAL IMPACT

Receiving and filing this report has no fiscal impact. This report describes activities needed to assess, repair, and reconstruct facilities and infrastructure damaged by the January fires. LADWP is working closely with the City Administrative Office (CAO) to provide cost estimates and support efforts to secure Federal and State reimbursement for eligible costs.

If you have any questions, please contact Paul Habib at Paul.Habib@ladwp.com or (213) 367-3846.

Respectfully submitted,



Janisse Quiñones
CEO and Chief Engineer

Cc: Hon. Traci Park, Councilmember, 11th District
Luis Gutierrez, Office of the Mayor