

7. PUBLIC AND AGENCY OUTREACH

7.1. INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY OF OUTREACH EFFORTS

Metro has initiated a comprehensive outreach program for the Proposed Project. The outreach program is focused on increasing Project awareness and education, disseminating Project information, garnering public input, and supporting the technical and legal environmental processes for the Proposed Project.

Scoping Meetings were a central element in the engagement process. To encourage public involvement, meeting notices were mailed both to key stakeholders and to property owners and occupants within 1,000 feet of the Project Site. Approximately 1,600 notices were distributed via First-Class Mail in addition to 13 e-blast notices to more than 500 e-mail addresses.

Using traditional and innovative outreach methods, the outreach activities conducted during the preparation of this Draft EIR yielded nearly 50 comments. As the Draft EIR was being prepared, outreach efforts targeted a list of stakeholders, which included elected officials, community leaders, and the general public. This chapter, together with the supporting information in Appendix A Scoping Report of this Draft EIR, documents the outreach efforts completed prior to Draft EIR circulation.

7.2. GOVERNMENT AND OTHER AGENCY CONSULTATION

The CEQA Guidelines promote efficient project management and enhanced opportunities for lead agencies to coordinate with other federal, State, local, and tribal government agencies and the public during project development. In accordance with these requirements, the initial NOP went out to approximately 80 agencies. The revised NOP was expanded to include meeting attendees and those that sent in comments, an approximate total of 130 agencies and stakeholders. Appendix A Scoping Report of this Draft EIR includes the complete list of noticed agencies and all responses received by Metro. Outreach also included meetings with the following committees and local councils. A summary of Proposed Project briefings and meetings are listed in Tables 7.1 and 7.2. Additionally, Metro made a concerted effort to provide Proposed Project update presentations and briefings, work with the established local community organizations, promote the scoping meetings, and obtain feedback. Table 7.2 represents these efforts.

Table 7.1. Elected Official Briefings

Elected Office	Date
City of Los Angeles Mayor Garcetti's Office	09/26/17, 12/01/18, 01/12/18
City of Los Angeles Councilmember Huizar's Office (Council District 14)	09/26/17, 12/01/17, 01/12/18, 2/13/18
County of Los Angeles Supervisor Solis' Office (District 1)	09/28/17

Table 7.2. Stakeholder Briefings

Organization	Date
City of Los Angeles Office of Historic Resources (OHR)	10/11/17, 12/21/17
Central City Association (CCA) Transportation, Infrastructure, and Environment Committee	10/12/17
Arts District Los Angeles Business Improvement District (ADLA BID) Board Meeting	10/13/17, 1/12/18
Historic Cultural Neighborhood Council (HCNC): Urban Design and Land Use Committee (LUC)	10/19/17
Little Tokyo Community Council (LTCC)	10/24/17
Metro Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)	11/1/17
Metro Union Station Area Roundtable	11/2/17, 1/18/18
Gabrieleno Band of Mission Indians - Kizh Nation	12/14/17, 1/31/18
Caltrans District 7	12/21/2017
Los Angeles Conservancy	01/26/18, 2/26/18
Los Angeles Cultural Heritage Commission (CHC)	02/02/18, 02/15/18
California Office of Historic Preservation	02/22/18

7.3. TRIBAL CONSULTATION

In compliance with AB 52, Metro consulted with Native American tribes. This process began by contacting the Native American Heritage Commission to request a search of the Sacred Lands File and a list of tribal groups to contact regarding the Proposed Project. The search of the Sacred Lands File by the Native American Heritage indicated the presence of Native American sites in the Project Area. No additional information about the nature or location of the site(s) was provided, but the Native American Heritage recommended contacting the Gabrieleno Band of Mission Indians – Kizh Nation and four other tribes for more information about the sites. Metro sent letters to all five tribes in September 2017. The Gabrieleno Band of Mission Indians – Kizh Nation was the only of the five groups to provide a formal written response, and they requested Native American monitoring during ground-disturbing activities. Initially, the Gabrieleno/Tongva San Gabriel Band of Mission Indians expressed interest in consultation for the Proposed Project via a phone conversation with Metro staff. No further response was received from the Gabrieleno/Tongva San Gabriel Band of Mission Indians, despite follow-up e-mails and an extension of the 30-day response period. Details regarding tribal outreach are provided in Appendix A Scoping Report of this Draft EIR.

7.4. HISTORIC RESOURCES CONSULTATION

Metro consulted with Historic Resources stakeholders. Metro met with the City of Los Angeles Bureau of Engineering (LABOE) on September 20, 2017, to discuss the First Street Bridge and Citizens Warehouse/Lysle Storage Company building (Pickle Works), because those resources were subject to a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) and a preservation covenant entered into by LABOE. Metro met with the Los Angeles Office of Historic Resources (OHR) on October 11, 2017, to introduce the Proposed Project and its likely effects

on all historical resources in the study area, including those identified by OHR's citywide historic survey, known as SurveyLA. Metro consulted with Caltrans District 7, LABOE, and OHR on December 21, 2017, to discuss the 1st Street Bridge and Citizen's Warehouse (Pickle Works) because of the MOA and preservation covenant. Metro consulted with the Los Angeles Conservancy on January 26, 2018 to introduce the Proposed Project, its likely effects on historical resources, and discuss concerns. Metro consulted with staff of the Cultural Heritage Commission (CHC) during a site visit to the 1st Street Bridge on February 2, 2018, to discuss proposed changes because it is under CHC's jurisdiction as a City of Los Angeles Historic Cultural Monument. Metro made a formal public presentation of the Proposed Project and its potential impacts on the 1st Street Bridge to the CHC on February 15, 2018, to provide information to the commissioners. On February 22, 2018, Metro consulted with the California Office of Historic Preservation, Caltrans District 7, and LABOE, to discuss the Citizens Warehouse/Lysle Storage Company building because of the preservation covenant on that property. In addition, Metro met with the Los Angeles Conservancy and OHR at the Project Site on February 26, 2018 to discuss the National Cold Storage facility and the Citizens Warehouse/Lysle Storage Company building.

7.5. COMMUNITY OUTREACH FOR CEQA SCOPING

7.5.1. Community Notification Tools

A variety of notification tools were used during the scoping phase to reach out to targeted audiences. Outreach methods included:

- Direct mail notification
- E-mail notification
- Newspaper legal notice
- Stakeholder briefings
- Project website
- Project hotline
- Social media – Facebook, Twitter
- Metro's The Source and El Pasajero blogs
- Door-to-door canvassing efforts

This set of notification tools was customized to promote maximum stakeholder participation. A variety of informational documents were made available to the public. These included fact sheets, frequently asked questions, meeting notices, electronic newsletters, and other collateral materials. In addition, a complete set of collaterals were developed and distributed at community meetings and stakeholder briefings, as well as electronically, when requested. These collateral materials were updated throughout the Proposed Project development process. These materials are included in Appendix A Scoping Report of this Draft EIR.

7.5.2. Notice of Preparation (NOP)

In compliance with the CEQA Guidelines Section 15082, a NOP was prepared and distributed on October 18, 2017 to the State Clearinghouse, various public agencies, and the general public for the required 30-day review and comment period, which ended on November 17, 2017. During this time, two open-house format public scoping meetings were held to alert interested parties of the preparation of the Draft EIR and invite public participation in the CEQA scoping process. The scoping meetings were attended by 47 public participants. A revised NOP was then circulated for another 30-day review period from January 3, 2018 to February 2, 2018 to notify interested parties of a revision to the Proposed Project description (i.e., the addition of 100-120 North Santa Fe for maintenance activities). The NOP and associated Scoping Report, including the NOP comment letters received by Metro, are contained in Appendix A. Meetings locations and dates are shown in Table 7.3.

Table 7.3. Public Scoping Meetings

Location	Date	Number of Attendees
Art Share L.A. 801 4 th Pl., Los Angeles, 90013	10/25/17	17
Japanese American Cultural & Community Center (JACCC) 244 S. San Pedro St., Los Angeles, 90012	11/08/17	30

These meetings included a robust public notification effort, including distribution of 1,608 tri-lingual (English, Spanish and Japanese) notices by mail. Metro also prepared and scheduled eight e-blasts that were distributed to a peak total of 504 unique e-mail addresses. In addition, Metro conducted targeted door-to-door outreach within the Little Tokyo/Arts District area to help spread the word about the upcoming meetings to key community stakeholders. Following the scoping meetings, Metro announced the Proposed Project revisions with a release of a revised NOP. This effort included five additional e-blast notices to 520 e-mail addresses to solicit additional comments.

During the scoping period, Metro accepted comments written on comment cards at meetings, via post-mailed letters, and e-mailed comments to the Metro Project Manager. Forty-seven (47) written public comments were received from agencies and the public, including business associations, residents, grassroots organizations, agencies, educational institutions, and local business owners. Of the comments received, 37 were collected during the initial NOP, while 10 were submitted in response to the revised NOP.

Some of the main themes resulting from the comments received were related to:

- Incorporation of a new transit station into the Proposed Project
- Historic resources
- Community effects (e.g., Los Angeles River and business accessibility)
- Construction and operational noise levels

- Construction-related air quality pollutant emissions
- Aesthetics of the Project Site's property line along Center Street

Comments were also received in support of the Proposed Project. Appendix A Scoping Report of this Draft EIR includes the scoping comment log, which lists all comments received during the scoping period.

7.6. ACCOMMODATIONS FOR PERSONS WITH LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY AND/OR DISABILITIES

Special outreach efforts were made to reach Limited English Proficiency populations and persons with disabilities. Announcements were provided in the Spanish-language *La Opinión* newspaper and the Japanese-language *Rafu Shimpo* newspaper. Collateral pieces such as meeting notices, project fact sheets, and frequently asked questions, were produced in English, Spanish, and Japanese to provide greater accessibility to project information and encourage participation from Spanish and Japanese speaking populations within the greater Project Area. To accommodate persons with disabilities, all venues for public meetings were compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act.