

Silver Lake/Ivanhoe Reservoir Master Plan Improvement Project

Phase I Status Report

By Mark Beall

Have you tried out the new path yet? Since the beginning of this year, you've been witness to the steady progress of the Phase I Master Plan Improvement Project. The scope of work for Phase I included the addition of a 12' wide decomposed granite path along the entire reservoir length of West Silver Lake Drive (WSLD) and a concrete path along the steeper section of Armstrong Avenue. Although these projects were to be completed by spring 2005, the record rainfall combined with unexpected soil conditions and fence fabrication problems caused delays.

The initial street work on WSLD proceeded smoothly and quickly with the cutting and removal of 12' wide portion of the street and the placement of a new raised curb. After the rains, work resumed and a



Community members lend a hand with the new path.

shiny new vinyl-coated chain link fence was installed. Once the fence was up, decomposed granite was added and trees were planted. However, the crosswalk ramps (curb cuts) at WSLD were on hold until August 1st in order to coordinate with the concrete work on the Armstrong path.

Armstrong Avenue's new path produced the most dramatic visual changes. Here the new path has been placed "inside" the former boundary by moving the fence back 40 feet and snaking a new concrete walk from the top the existing rock outcropping to Silver Lake Boulevard. When the overgrown trees and brush were cleared it changed the whole look and feel of this important link in the perimeter path. A previously shadowy and intimidating area transformed into bright and open space.

After clearing the trees and brush, the soil was tested and deemed "highly organic," normally a good thing but undesirable for the compaction needed to pour concrete. After further testing, it was determined that the soil was satisfactory, but then the fence installation caused further delays. As soon as the outer fence came down, people began to utilize the new open space even though the terrain was uneven. With the concrete poured and set, now joggers, walkers and parents with strollers can avoid being forced into the street on a blind hill with the opening of the new Armstrong path.

Although the entire project might not be completely finished, CSSLR is hosting an "Inaugural Walk" so that the community can celebrate this important milestone! Join us on the morning of September 24th at the reservoir. See the info box in this newsletter for details. □



Walk the Walk —

Saturday, September 24, 2005

10:00am to 12 noon

Please join CSSLR in celebrating the long-awaited completion of the pedestrian paths on Armstrong Avenue and West Silver Lake Drive

Begin at Silver Lake Boulevard and Armstrong Avenue or join along the way

Talk the Talk <

Saturday, September 24, 2005

after the walk until 3:00pm

Stop by the Silver Lake Recreation Center to view design proposals for a new pedestrian path on Silver Lake Boulevard and to provide input on the future use of the reservoir property

What is CSSLR?

Formed in 1988, the Committee to Save Silver Lake's Reservoirs is a non profit public benefit corporation dedicated to preserving the historical, aesthetic, ecological and recreational benefits of Silver Lake's open water reservoirs.

CSSLR is currently focused on the implementation of Master Plan improvements. Through its newsletters and community events, the all-volunteer committee is dedicated to keeping the community informed about reservoir-related developments.

For more information about CSSLR, the Silver Lake Master Plan or to volunteer your services, please contact us at: CSSLR, P.O. Box 39735, Los Angeles, CA 90039. Call our info line at 323 259-3919 or visit our website at www.csslr.org.

Did You Know...

CSSLR's website, www.csslr.org, is being redesigned to provide you with better access to more information concerning reservoir issues. Look for its re-launch in September 2005.

The Silver Lake reservoirs actually sit in both of our community's City Council Districts - CD4 and CD13.

CSSLR has submitted 40 pages of comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Report for the Silver Lake Reservoir Storage Replacement Project which will move Silver Lake's drinking water storage to buried tanks on the north side of Griffith Park.

CSSLR has sponsored a number of tours of Silver Lake's renowned modernist architecture and hopes to continue that tradition in 2006.



making waves

the newsletter of the Committee to Save Silver Lake's Reservoirs

Summer 2005

Editor: Shelley Marks

The Committee To Save Silver Lake's Reservoirs

Board of Directors

Dave Keitel, President
Maryann Kuk, Vice President
Beth Knox, Treasurer
Andrew Sears, Secretary
Mark Beall
Whitney Blumenfeld
Glen Dake
Jed Donaldson

Leslie Edmonds
Herb Gold
Jim Hunter
Penny Hunter
Shelley Marks
Lori Oddino
Marilyn Oliver
Michael Slater
Catherine Stafford

CSSLR
P.O. Box 39735
Los Angeles, CA 90039
info line: 323.259.3919
fax: 323.665.2125
www.csslr.org

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Glendale, CA
Permit N° 1248

FINISH THE PATH! PHASE 2 OF MASTER PLAN IMPROVEMENTS NOW BEING PLANNED FOR 2006

By Dave Keitel

The Silver Lake community's first priority for reservoir area improvements has always been the completion of a safe pedestrian path around the perimeter of the reservoirs. This was reflected in the community feedback provided at the Master Plan Workshops in 1999 and 2000 and was repeated at CSSLR's community meeting in late 2003 regarding options for Phase 1 improvements.

While it has certainly taken more time than expected, the Phase I work (the West Silver Lake Drive and Armstrong Avenue portions of the perimeter path) has been completed. It is hoped that the Phase 2 work (Silver Lake Boulevard) will move

forward more quickly and easily now. CSSLR has been very fortunate that Glen Duke, who recently left his position as CD13's "Green Deputy," has returned to the CSSLR board and will be leading this project.

The Phase I improvements were funded by \$2.3 million in State funds obtained by Assemblymember Dario Frommer in 2001. Glen Duke, with the assistance of Councilmembers Eric Garcetti and Tom LaBonge, was able to leverage these dollars with City of Los Angeles funds to complete Phase I. With just under \$1 million in State funds remaining, Councilmembers Eric Garcetti and Tom LaBonge

have allocated an additional \$700,000 from the City General Fund to complete Phase 2.

The Bureau of Engineering has retained RoTo Architects and Mia Lehrer + Associates to complete the design for the Silver Lake Boulevard pedestrian path. It is hoped that work can begin on the construction documents in October 2005 so that project work can begin by mid-2006. Please plan to attend a community meeting for Phase 2 to be held on Saturday, September 24th at the Silver Lake Recreation Center. It will be an "open house" style meeting. Stop by and learn more about the next phase of the Silver Lake Master Plan improvement project. □

Long-term Management of the Silver Lake Reservoir Complex

By Maryann Kuk

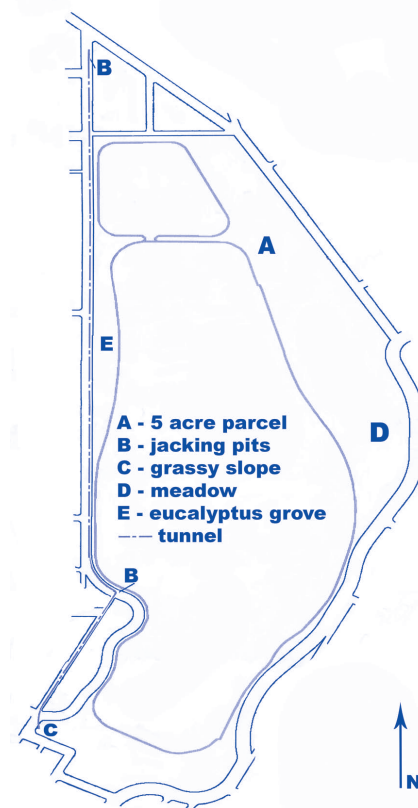
With the relocation of the Silver Lake Reservoirs' water storage to the Headworks site (adjacent to the Los Angeles River and Griffith Park), and the removal from service of Silver Lake Reservoir (as early as 2008) and Ivanhoe Reservoir (as early as 2012), discussions are underway about the long-term management of the Silver Lake reservoir property. The current state of the property's maintenance (or lack of) has been an ongoing struggle with the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP). It is hoped that as the LADWP begins to see the benefits of turning over the management of the property to another steward, that they will finally address much of the deferred maintenance on the site.

Consistent with the other open reservoirs taken out of service (e.g. Hollywood and Stone Canyon), the LADWP has agreed to maintain the dams and the water level, but prefers to turn over the management of the property to another entity. As with the other reservoirs that have been taken out of service, the LADWP has decided not to continue to chlorinate the water and has hired a limnologist to monitor and maintain the water in a healthy state. Additionally, the LADWP will no longer need their water operations facilities on the five acre parcel that was not included in the Master Plan Workshop discussions about five years ago, when it appeared that the water storage would be on site.

All of these changes present the community with many choices, decisions and trade offs which will be addressed in community meetings that will be

held starting in 2006. Briefly, these meetings will review the consensus reached when the Master Plan was prepared with regard to the use of the reservoir property. And, for the first time, the community will address what opportunities there are for the five acre site at the northeast corner of the property where the reservoir operations buildings now stand.

As the safe perimeter path called for by the Master Plan is being completed, CSSLR's focus will shift to the long-term management issues. In connection with this changing focus, the non-profit environmental group, People for Parks, has arranged for a consultant to work with CSSLR and the Silver Lake community to identify and analyze a range of long-term management options. Look for the opportunity to share your input on these important issues at CSSLR-sponsored community meetings in 2006. □



Status of the Threat to Cover the Reservoirs – The New Plan

By Andrew Sears

The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) no longer plans to cover the Silver Lake Reservoirs, build a filtration plant on the meadow, or build tanks underground narrowing the Silver Lake Reservoir. At the urging of the community and City Councilmember Tom LaBonge, LADWP looked off-site for their water storage needs. They discovered they have enough land along the same pipeline to build an underground storage tank that will hold 110 million gallons of water at the Headworks Spreading Ground, between the Los Angeles River and Forest Lawn Drive, near Travel Town, adjacent to Griffith Park.

For decades, LADWP hoped to use the Headworks property to replenish underwater aquifers by spreading storm runoff and river overflow across the site. Such plans were foiled by the presence of contaminants in the soil, and the site lay abandoned. The new reservoir tank, officially known as the Silver Lake Reservoir Storage Replacement Project (but often referred to as "Headworks") will take up slightly less than half of the 43-acre site. A small hydroelectric power plant will be built onsite to harness the energy of the water flowing into the tank. The remaining land will be restored by the Army Corps of Engineers as natural wetlands, receiving an influx of fresh water from the river. The entire property, complete with streams, hiking trails, and natural landscaping, will be a welcome addition to Griffith Park, and a major step in the naturalization of the Los Angeles River ecosystem.

While the Silver Lake community escaped having a massive reservoir construction project over a period of many years, it will not completely escape the local impacts of this plan. While LADWP is committed to maintaining the health and existing water levels of the reservoirs into the future,

they will no longer be a source of drinking water. Silver Lake Reservoir will be taken off-line as soon as mid-2008 and Ivanhoe will be removed from service around 2012 or 2013.

LADWP will no longer need to add chemicals to keep the water fresh and clear. This will ultimately result in a change in the color of the water to a darker blue or blue-green. Drinking water will no longer enter or exit the reservoir complex. A new pipeline will be built under West Silver Lake Drive (WSLD) to bypass the reservoirs. To minimize the impact, the line will be built using a tunneling method. Jacking pits to bring out the dirt will be dug at three locations: at Armstrong Avenue and WSLD, on WSLD at the bend in the road near Balmer, and on the grassy slope next to the Silver Lake Recreation Center. Construction on the pipeline is scheduled to begin in May 2007 and last until April 2009.

Additionally, to accommodate the high pressure flowing through the new pipeline, a regulating station will be built in a vault under the grassy slope. While the station will be buried, there will new lids and vents to allow for the daily operation and maintenance of the facility. The grassy slope will be under construction from the time the jacking pit is opened at the site to build the pipeline until construction on the regulating station is completed in November 2009.

Two relief stations will be built further downstream in case of excess pressure. One relief station will be built under the center of Silver Lake Boulevard (SLB), near the intersection of Effie. The construction at this location will necessitate the full or partial closure of SLB sometime between April and November 2009. The other relief station will be built under London street along SLB, and require closure of London or Dillon Street for a period of time. Construction on Dillon Street could begin as soon as next year.

The Draft Environment Impact Report is available at local libraries and online at <http://www.ladwp.com/ladwp/cms/ladwp007167.jsp>. The official public review period ends September 19. Comments submitted must be considered in the release of the final report, and the community is encouraged to participate in the review process. CSSLR has prepared a comprehensive commentary which was made available to the community at the Phase 2 Master Plan project community meeting on August 24th and can be viewed on the CSSLR website at www.csslr.org. □

Lots of Neighborhood Improvement Projects to Come

By Andrew Sears


The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) has announced a number of projects in Silver Lake that may result in street closures and other construction impacts over the next three to four years.

River Supply Conduit Replacement Project
The River Supply Conduit, which transports water from north of the Los Angeles River in Burbank, through Griffith Park, along Riverside Drive, up Glendale Boulevard, down Rokeby Street to the Ivanhoe Reservoir is old and needs to be replaced. The new pipeline will accommodate higher pressure flow from the new water storage facility to be built at the Headworks site (see accompanying article). Construction methods in the Silver Lake area will include trenching or tunneling to minimize impact to the surface streets. Nonetheless, there will be partial or complete street closures between the north end of Griffith Park and Ivanhoe Reservoir. Construction is slated to begin in Silver Lake as soon as late 2005 and last until the beginning of 2008.

Cement-lining Project
LADWP will be relining many of the aging water mains under our streets with a process known as cement-lining. They will excavate pits at intervals in the streets, cut into the water mains at the bottom of the pits, and send in a robotic device that chisels away corrosion inside the pipe and sprays a coat of cement as a fresh new liner. While this method is far less expensive and faster than completely replacing the water system, traffic and noise impacts are likely to occur between the end of 2005 through late summer 2006.

Slip-lining Project
The main water line that delivers Silver Lake Reservoir water to customers in Downtown and South Los Angeles needs repair. The method selected for this project is called Slip-lining. Similar to cement lining, pits are dug at intervals and pipes are cut open. A length of new pipe is pushed into the existing pipe, replacing the old system by becoming a pipe-within-a-pipe. The slip-lining project is scheduled to take place in two or three phases. Phase 1, on Coronado Street from Sunset Boulevard south to Bellevue near the 101 Freeway is slated to begin late in 2005 and be completed by mid-2006. Phase 2 will run along Sunset Boulevard from Coronado Street west to Parkman Avenue and is slated to begin in late-2006 and finish in summer 2007. Phase 3, if required, will run under Silver Lake Boulevard between Sunset Boulevard and Effie Street and is scheduled to last from late 2007 through summer 2008.

Cumulative Impacts
Due to the number of upcoming projects in the area, CSSLR and the Silver Lake Neighborhood Council have requested that LADWP work with the Department of Transportation and Caltrans to develop a comprehensive traffic plan for the neighborhood that will minimize the construction impacts. LADWP has been asked to conduct community meetings to address potential problems with inadequate detour routes and heavy commuter traffic. Community participation in this process is invaluable. No dates have been set for these meetings. Look for public announcements in the near future and for additional information at www.csslr.org. □

ECO-AUDIT Environmental Benefits Statement 		This newsletter is printed on New Leaf Everest, made with 100% post-consumer waste, processed chlorine free. Using this paper (640 pounds) saves:	
Using recycled paper made with post-consumer waste and bleached without the use of chlorine or chlorine compounds results in measurable environmental benefits ¹ .	8	Trees	
¹ Environmental benefits are calculated based on research done by Environmental Defense, the other members of the Paper Task Force, and Conservatree, who studied the environmental impacts of the paper industry. Contact ED for a copy of their report and the latest updates on their data. Hazardous Air Pollutants (HAPs), Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs), and Absorbable Organic Compounds (AOCs).	3,211	Gallons of water	
	355	Pounds of solid waste	
	5	Million BTUs of energy	
	702	Pounds of greenhouse gases	
	2	Pounds of air emissions (HAPs, VOCs, TRSs combined)	
	22	Pounds of hazardous effluent (BODs, TSSs, CODs, AOXs)	