

LADWP Power Pole Replacement Project Background

This project involves proposed replacement of 220 poles in a line that provides power to Pacific Palisades, located in canyon areas accessible only to hikers and running from upper Temescal Gateway Park to Mulholland Dr./Encino. The old wooden poles would be replaced with brown-painted steel poles. According to LADWP, the new poles will meet current Public Utilities Code construction standards and load requirements, and will increase power reliability and fire safety.

See 2019 Power Pole Replacement Project Fact Sheet, including map of the construction area (LADWP will provide updates): <http://pacpalicc.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Power-Pole-Replacement-fact-sheet-FINAL.pdf>.

LADWP explains that this pole line is one of two transmission lines providing power to Pacific Palisades -- with the other line running westward from points east along Sunset Blvd. to the Palisades. We are warned that if either line goes down, the entire Palisades will lose power. We understand that this project was initially proposed in 2019 but was paused temporarily in order to address concerns about possible harm to a federally-listed endangered plant species that exists only in the Santa Monica Mountains and a few other Southern California hillsides/mountain ranges (*Astragalus brauntonii* / Braunton's Milkvetch, also colloquially known as "Locoweed").

The pole replacement project requires California Coastal Commission (CCC) approval. LADWP seeks the CCC's permission for the project and advises that it will present a plan to mitigate harm to the endangered plant at the CCC's virtual meeting in November 2020. The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) is aware of the project. LADWP is asking for support from PPCC and will provide more information and answer questions at the 9/24 PPCC Board meeting.

*Chris Spitz, PPCC Secretary
September 18, 2020*