DWP Holiday Light Festival Goes Green

■ The popular annual festival of lights in Griffith Park made a number of changes to be environmentally friendly, including adding LED lights, and biking and walking opportunities.

DWP — The twinkle in Griffith Park that signals the start of the Christmas season in the City, is now more earth-friendly.

The DWP has made a number of changes to make its popular Holiday Light Festival better for the environment. The changes include:

- using energy-saving LED lights instead of the previous incandescent bulbs;
- making the first week of the festival exclusive to bikers and walkers

— energy-conservation tips throughout the event. "The DWP received a number of inquiries from neighborhood councils and community

groups to see if the festival could become more environmentally friendly and walking only," according to DWP spokeswoman Kim Hughes. "The DWP worked with the councils and groups in exploring options, and we are very proud to have put together a great strategy."

The festival begins with a "Bike Night" preview Nov. 19, and a traditional opening event in conjunction with L.A.'s BEST Nov. 20.

"We have greatly appreciated all of the input and suggestions the community has shared with us regarding the festival," Kim Hughes said. "We will evaluate our test pilot in the hope that it will be expanded. We will continue to seek ways to demonstrate our commitment to a green future."

An attraction at a previous DWP Holiday Light Festival.



DWP 2007 Holiday Light Festival:

"Walking Only" Test Pilot Program: Nov. 21-25

The DWP has designated the first five public days of the festival for walking only. From Nov. 21 to 25 from 5 to 10 p.m., the festival will be "walking only." Guests will be asked to park in parking lots at the L.A. Zoo and near the Griffith Park Merry-Go-Round. The DWP also will be using the parking lot near the train ride and pony rides, as well as the associated overflow lot.

Environmental Stewardship

In addition to making the change and initiating the walking plan, the DWP is tak-

ing a number of additional steps to make the festival more environmentally conscious. Some of those efforts include:

LED Light Bulbs

The DWP is supporting environmental responsibility by converting all of the light bulbs in the one-mile Holiday Light Festival to LED technology. This will save two-thirds the amount of energy needed

over standard conventional light bulbs. Once installed, the department will measure the energy reduction and advise the public on the specific energy savings.

Tips and Energy Conservation Message

Energy conservation messaging, including energy and water-saving tips, will be included in the 2007 Holiday Light Festival Program. The customized program is distributed to all light festival attendees. In addition, it is available at City libraries, Rec and Parks facilities and other locations throughout the City.

Bike Night:

Mon., Nov. 19 (bicycles and pedestrians)

As another way to demonstrate a commitment to a green L.A., the DWP will again host a "bicycle only" night as part of the 2007 Holiday Light Festival Mon., Nov. 19. This will be a preview night. The street will be completely closed off from 6 to 8 p.m.

Information: www.ladwp.com

