



## **Glendale Library,**

### **Arts & Culture**

Glendale Library, Arts and Culture. Glendale  
Central Library History Room

222 E. Harvard Street

Glendale, California 91205

Phone: (818) 548-2037

Email: [glendalehistoryroom@glendaleca.gov](mailto:glendalehistoryroom@glendaleca.gov)

<https://www.eglendalelac.org/>

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## **Finding Aid for the *Grayson Power Plant Collection, 1909-2011***

### **Collection Overview**

**Title:** Grayson Power Plant Collection

**Dates:** 1909-2011

**ID:** GPP

**Primary Creator:** Larry Moorehouse

**Extent:** 11 Boxes

**Arrangement:** n/a

**Forms of Material:** Paper Records, Photographs, Ephemera

**Language of Materials:** English

### **Abstract**

The Grayson Power Plant Collection is comprised of photographs, slides, legal documents, blueprints, maps, and other ephemera related to the Grayson Power Plant and other Glendale Water and Power facilities.

### **Administrative History**

In 1909, Glendale took control of its own power needs when it purchased Glendale Light and Power from L.C. Brand and Pacific Light and Power. This new concern was originally named the Glendale Public Service Department. In 1937, Glendale became a signatory for the Hoover Dam Generating Plant and the Colorado River Aqueduct. With the city's growth in this time, it was determined that the city establish its own steam-electric generation plant in 1941; named the Grayson Power Plant. Most of the facilities located at the Grayson Power Plant were completed between 1941 and 1977. In 1998 the Glendale Public Service Department rebranded as Glendale Water & Power (GWP). It currently uses coal, natural gas from Scholl Canyon Landfill, and hydro generating resources.

In 2022, GWP proposed to rebuild substantial portions of the plant by replacing old generating units with new ones. Claiming “new repowered units will be cleaner, more energy efficient, and will greatly increase the reliability of Glendale’s power grid.” This decision caused controversy due to customer rate increases and the potential environmental impact. This is at odds with California Air Resources Board and the Governor’s 2022 climate roadmap to build no new gas plants, therefore making this likely the last gas plant to be built in California.

## Scope and Contents

The Grayson Power Plant Collection documents various parts of said entity’s history. Employee records, public events, tours of the Grayson power plant. It tracks Glendale’s growing need for power from a smaller agricultural area into a medium sized city during the 1940s and 1950s industrial boom. This included investments in the abandoned Sundesert Nuclear Power Plant in the late 1970s, the use of sodium lights, and the public’s reaction to environmental impacts of how the city gets its power. The combination of newspaper clippings with corresponding internal documents offers multiple views on the same events.

## Subjects/Access Terms

**Corporate Name:** Grayson Power Plant  
**Topical Terms:** Power-Plants  
Gas power plants  
Grayson Power Plant  
Hoover Dam (Ariz. and Nev.)  
Natural gas  
Water-power--United States  
**Geographic Names:** Glendale (Calif.)  
Los Angeles County (Calif.)

## Administrative Information

**Processing Information:** Adam Payne, 2024

**Conditions Governing Use:** Copyright for unpublished materials authored or otherwise produced by the creator(s) of this collection has been transferred to Glendale Library, Arts & Culture. Transmission or reproduction of materials protected by U.S. Copyright Law beyond that allowed by fair use requires the written permission of the copyright owners. Works not in the public domain cannot be commercially exploited without permission of the copyright owners. Responsibility for any use rests exclusively with the user.

**Conditions Governing Access:** The collection is open for research use.

**Preferred Citation** *Grayson Power Plant Collection*. Glendale Central Library History Room. Glendale Library, Arts & Culture.

**Acquisition:** Larry Moorehouse, former superintendent of the Grayson Power Plant, donated these materials shortly before his retirement in 2008. Materials were stored in a library storage room until they were relocated to the History Room. The origin of the 2 folders of post-2008 materials is unknown.

## **Collection Contents**

### **Box 1**

**Folder 1:** Topical Files: Blueprints & Maps, 1960s-2000s

**Folder 2:** Data and Reports #1, 1960s-2000s

**Folder 3:** Data and Reports #2, 1970s-2000s

**Folder 4:** Data and Reports #3, 1938-1980

### **Box 2**

**Folder 1:** Employees and Staff, 1967-1977

**Folder 2:** Events, 1974-2009

**Folder 3:** Newspapers, 1940s-1970s

**Folder 4:** Photographic Negatives, 1950s-2000s

**Folder 5:** Photographs, 1940s-2000s

### **Box 3**

**Binder 1:** Glendale Light and Power Company Purchase Paperwork, 1909

**Binder 2:** Glendale Light and Power Company Purchase Paperwork, 1912

**Log Book 1:** Operations Record. Meter Readings. Lubrication Record, 1941-1942

**Log Book 2:** Control Room Log Book. Operating Orders and Records, 1941-1942

**Log Book 3:** Equipment Service Records, 1941-1942

### **Box 4**

**Folder 1:** Glendale Water & Power AKA Glendale Public Service 1909-1949

**Folder 2:** Glendale Water & Power AKA Glendale Public Service 1950-1969

**Folder 3:** Glendale Water & Power AKA Glendale Public Service 1970s

**Folder 4:** Glendale Water & Power AKA Glendale Public Service 1980-1989 #1

**Folder 5:** Glendale Water & Power AKA Glendale Public Service 1980-1989 #2

**Folder 6:** Glendale Water & Power AKA Glendale Public Service 1990-1999

**Folder 7:** Glendale Water & Power AKA Glendale Public Service 2000-2010

**Folder 8:** Glendale Water & Power AKA Glendale Public Service 2011-

### **Box 5**

**Item 1:** Photograph of GWP Staff, 1964

### **Box 6**

**Folder 1:** Employees and Staff, 1967-1977

**Folder 2:** Events, 1974-2009

**Folder 3:** Newspapers, 1940s-1970s

**Folder 4:** Photo Negatives, 1950s-2000s

**Folder 5:** Photographs, 1940s-2000s