



LOS ANGELES COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT



REVISED NOTICE OF PREPARATION  
OF A PROGRAM ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT  
PACOIMA RESERVOIR RESTORATION PROJECT

COMMENT PERIOD EXTENSION

SEPTEMBER 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023

The Los Angeles County Flood Control District (LACFCD) is the lead agency in preparing a Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for the proposed Pacoima Reservoir Restoration Project (Project or PRRP). The proposed PRRP includes three separate phases. Phase 1 proposes removal of 1.5 million cubic yards (MCY) of sediment from Pacoima Reservoir over a period of up to five years. Phase 2 proposes removal of up to 4.0 MCY of sediment from Pacoima Reservoir, the amount of sediment sufficient to restore 8.0 MCY of storage capacity in the reservoir. Phase 3 will involve establishing a long-term sediment maintenance program, removing approximately 1.1 MCY of sediment approximately every 10 years. The PRRP would restore flood control and water conservation capacity to the reservoir; increase the reliability of operations and safety of Pacoima Dam; and create a long-term, safe, and reliable means of access to the reservoir. The Project would include activities such as reservoir access, reservoir dewatering, sediment excavation, sediment transportation and sediment placement.

LACFCD has received request to extend the comment period of the Notice of Preparation (NOP). In response to this request, LACFCD is granting an extension by doubling the comment period for an additional 30 days from **Friday, September 15, 2023 through Monday, October 16, 2023**.

In accordance with CEQA, agencies are requested to review the NOP and provide comments on environmental issues related to the statutory responsibilities of the agency. The PEIR will be used by LACFCD and the Responsible Agencies when considering approval of the Project.

Comments must be postmarked or received no later than Monday, October 16, 2023, by 5:00 P.M. Comments should be titled with "Pacoima Reservoir Restoration Project" in the subject line, and the commenter's name, or the name of a contact person for public agencies and other organizations providing comment should be included. All written comments received by the LACFCD according to the timeframe set forth above will be included in the proposed PRRP's administrative record and will be included in an Appendix to the Draft PEIR document. Written comments may be submitted in the following ways:

**Mail:** Los Angeles County Public Works  
Stormwater Engineering Division  
P.O. Box 1460  
Alhambra, CA 91802-1460  
Attn: PRRP, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor

**Email:** [reservoircleanouts@pw.lacounty.gov](mailto:reservoircleanouts@pw.lacounty.gov)



**LOS ANGELES COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT**  
**NOTICE OF PREPARATION**  
**OF A PROGRAM ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT**  
**NOTICE OF SCOPING MEETING**



**PACOIMA RESERVOIR RESTORATION PROJECT**

**August 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

To the State Clearinghouse/Office of Planning and Research, responsible agencies, trustee agencies, federal agencies, and interested organizations and individuals:

Notice is hereby given pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), specifically Public Resources Code (Section 21080.4[a]) and the California Code of Regulations (CCR, Title 14, Section 15082), the Los Angeles County Flood Control District (LACFCD), as the lead agency under CEQA, is preparing a Draft Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) for the proposed Pacoima Reservoir Restoration Project (PRRP).

This Notice of Preparation (NOP) has been prepared because the LACFCD is seeking input from responsible and trustee agencies, and other agencies required to receive this notice. The LACFCD requests the submittal of comments regarding the scope and content of the environmental information to be included in the Draft PEIR related to each responsible/trustee agency's statutory responsibility, pursuant to Section 15082(b) of the State CEQA Guidelines.

The LACFCD anticipates that responsible and trustee agencies will also rely on the PEIR when considering whether to issue permits and/or other approvals for the proposed PRRP (CEQA Guidelines, Section 15096). For all interested agencies, organizations, and persons, this notice allows for an early opportunity to provide comments on the PRRP scoping, pursuant to Section 15083 of the State CEQA Guidelines.

The general Project Description, the location of the PRRP, and the probable environmental effects of the PRRP that will be studied in the Draft PEIR are summarized in the attached materials entitled "Proposed Pacoima Reservoir Restoration Project Overview," which is included as part of this NOP. Pursuant to Section 15063(a) of the State CEQA Guidelines, an Initial Study has not been prepared because the LACFCD determined that the proposed PRRP may have a significant effect on the environment and a PEIR is the appropriate CEQA document, pursuant to Section 15064(a)(1) of the State CEQA Guidelines; therefore, an Initial Study is not required. All environmental topics will be discussed in the Draft PEIR.

Phase 1 will be analyzed at a project-level, as the scope of Phase 1 is known, and sufficient detail is available to fully analyze the impacts. However, for Phase 2, less detailed information is available at this time to identify a project and fully analyze its potential impacts and alternatives. As such, Phase 2 will be analyzed at a program-level. Additionally, it is noted that there is an urgency to Phase 1 to regain reservoir capacity for flood control and water conservation purposes as soon as possible.

The NOP and the "Proposed Pacoima Reservoir Restoration Project Overview" are available for viewing at the following locations:

- Los Angeles County Public Works, 900 South Fremont Avenue, 2nd Floor, Alhambra, CA 91803
- Lake View Terrace Public Library, 12002 Osborne Street, Lake View Terrace, CA 91342
- San Fernando Public Library, 217 Maclay Avenue, San Fernando, CA 91340

- Sylmar Public Library, 14561 Polk Street, Sylmar, CA 91342

An electronic file of the NOP and the attached Proposed Pacoima Reservoir Restoration Project Overview are available for online viewing at: [www.pw.lacounty.gov/wrd/Projects/Pacoima/](http://www.pw.lacounty.gov/wrd/Projects/Pacoima/)

**NOTICE OF PREPARATION REVIEW PERIOD**

The 30-day review period for the NOP will begin on Wednesday, August 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023 and will end on Thursday, September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Written comments on the scope and content of the environmental information to be included in the Draft PEIR should be sent in writing to the LACFCD at the earliest possible date but must be postmarked or received by the LACFCD no later than the close of business on Thursday, September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

Comments should be titled with "Pacoima Reservoir Restoration Project" in the subject line and include the commenter's name. For public agencies and other commenting organizations, the name of a contact person should be included. All written comments that address potential significant environmental effects of the project that are received by the LACFCD according to the timeframe set forth above will be addressed in the Draft PEIR and will be included in an Appendix to the Draft PEIR document. Written comments may be submitted in the following ways:

**Mail:** Los Angeles County Public Works  
 Stormwater Engineering Division  
 P.O. Box 1460  
 Alhambra, CA 91802-1460

**Email:** [reservoircleanouts@pw.lacounty.gov](mailto:reservoircleanouts@pw.lacounty.gov)

**SCOPING MEETINGS FOR PROPOSED PACOIMA RESERVOIR RESTORATION PROJECT**

The LACFCD, as lead agency under CEQA, will conduct scoping meetings in compliance with Section 15082(c) of the State CEQA Guidelines. The scoping meetings will provide an opportunity for responsible agencies, trustee agencies, and interested organizations and individuals to hear a summary of the proposed PRRP and to provide written comments regarding the scope and content of the environmental information to be included in the PEIR. The meeting will be offered twice, in-person and virtually via zoom. The location for the in-person meeting and the link for the virtual meeting are provided, below:

<p><b>In-Person Meeting</b>                  August 31, 2023, 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM                  13100 Hubbard St. Sylmar, CA 91342</p>	<p><b>Virtual Meeting (Zoom)</b>                  August 30, 2023, 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM  <a href="https://pwlacounty.zoom.us/j/84724719173?pwd=b1gvKzRRQkxMVjJMUVFkejFHNUxZz09">https://pwlacounty.zoom.us/j/84724719173?pwd=b1gvKzRRQkxMVjJMUVFkejFHNUxZz09</a>                  Passcode: 035139</p>
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Si desea obtener más información o necesita que la notificación sea traducida a otro idioma, por favor enviar un correo electrónico a [reservoircleanouts@pw.lacounty.gov](mailto:reservoircleanouts@pw.lacounty.gov)



Upon 72 hours' notice, the Los Angeles County Public Works can provide program information and publications in alternate formats or make other accommodations for people with disabilities. In addition, program documents are available at our main office in Alhambra (900 South Fremont Avenue), which is accessible to individuals with disabilities. To request accommodations ONLY, or for more Americans with Disabilities Act information, please contact our departmental Americans with Disabilities Act Coordinator at (626) 458-4081 or by TTY at (626) 282-7829, Monday through Thursday, from 7:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.



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**PROPOSED PACOIMA RESERVOIR RESTORATION PROJECT OVERVIEW**

**August 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

The Los Angeles County Flood Control District (LACFCD), as Lead Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), proposes to implement the proposed Pacoima Reservoir Restoration Project (PRRP), which consists of removing accumulated sediment within Pacoima Reservoir. Exhibit 1 depicts the regional location of the Project.

**SUMMARY OF PROPOSED PACOIMA RESERVOIR RESTORATION PROJECT**

The PRRP includes three separate phases. Phase 1 proposes removal of 1.5 MCY of sediment; construction is anticipated to start in late 2025 with site preparation and vegetation removal; sediment removal activities will start in spring 2026. Phase 1 is planned to be implemented over a period of up to five years. Phase 2 proposes removal of the amount of sediment sufficient to restore 8.0 MCY of storage capacity in the reservoir, currently estimated to be up to 4.0 MCY (see Exhibits 2 through 4). Phase 3 of the Project will involve establishing a long-term sediment maintenance program for removing approximately 1.1 MCY of sediments approximately every 10 years to avoid the need for future large-scale projects. The Phase 3 long-term sediment maintenance program is anticipated to begin in Spring of 2041.

The proposed PRRP would restore flood management and water conservation capacity to the reservoir; increase the reliability of operations and safety of Pacoima Dam; and create a long-term, and reliable means of access to the reservoir.

The PRRP is anticipated to include various components, as depicted on Exhibits 2 and 4. The following proposed activities would occur annually during the dry season, over the course of the approximate 15-year implementation schedule:

- Reservoir Access
- Reservoir Dewatering
- Sediment Excavation
- Sediment Transportation
- Sediment Placement

LACFCD anticipates that the proposed PRRP Project Description will be further developed and refined through the scoping process.

## **PACOIMA RESERVOIR RESTORATION PROJECT LOCATION**

Pacoima Dam is located approximately 2 miles northeast of El Cariso Community Regional Park in the City of Los Angeles and approximately 3 miles northeast of City of San Fernando in the County of Los Angeles, California.

Pacoima Creek refers to the drainage upstream of Pacoima Reservoir, and the drainage downstream of the Pacoima Dam is referred to as Pacoima Wash. Pacoima Reservoir is an impoundment of Pacoima Creek and has a tributary watershed of 28.2 square miles. The natural watercourse below the reservoir terminates approximately 2 miles downstream at the Lopez Basin, which is owned and operated by the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). Downstream of the Lopez Basin is the Pacoima Wash Channel, a fully improved concrete channel. The Pacoima Wash Channel flows south by LACFCD's Lopez and Pacoima Spreading Grounds, then confluences with the Los Angeles River, which continues south to the Pacific Ocean.

## **BACKGROUND AND NEED FOR SEDIMENT REMOVAL**

Sediment accumulates in LACFCD reservoirs through natural erosion from upstream areas and must be periodically removed to maintain the reservoir's capacity to provide flood protection and water conservation. Other dam operational circumstances that may dictate the need to remove sediment from a reservoir include, but are not limited to, the following:

- The dam's structural stability may be compromised due to the height of the sediment against the dam, as sediment weighs more than water and increases the forces against the dam.
- The function of the outlet works may be hindered by accumulated sediment that can cause blockage and/or damage to outlet works. If a dam's outlet works are blocked or damaged, the outlet works will be unable to properly regulate storm flows or make other controlled releases from the reservoir.

During the Marek (2008), Sayre (2008), Station (2009), and Sand (2016) Fires, approximately 96 percent of the tributary watershed that drains into Pacoima Reservoir was burned by at least one fire, and large areas have been burned multiple times. Due to the burned watershed conditions, subsequent storm events have resulted in larger debris flows and have deposited higher than normal quantities of sediment in the reservoir, thereby decreasing storage capacity and increasing the chances of the outlet works becoming plugged with sediment or debris. In its current condition, there is a high risk of the outlet works becoming buried, e.g., if the reservoir experiences a year of high sediment deposition.

## **Proposed Sediment Removal Schedule**

All proposed PRRP activities, including access road construction, dewatering, sediment removal operations, and staging, would be conducted annually during drier months, typically from April 16 to October 14, with possible work extending into November as weather permits. During dryer years, work could potentially start earlier and/or continue later. Phase 1 will involve the removal of approximately 1.5 MCY of the sediment and is expected to take up to five years to complete. Phase 1 is anticipated to start in late 2025 with site preparation and vegetation removal, and sediment removal activities anticipated to commence in the spring 2026. Phase 2 will remove up to 4.0 MCY of sediment, is estimated to begin in spring 2031, and is planned to take up to 10 years to complete. After completion of Phase 2, Phase 3 will consist of a long-term maintenance plan involving the removal of approximately 1.1 MCY of sediment every 10 years or when the capacity of the reservoir falls below 6.8 MCY. Other proposed PRRP-related activities conducted outside of Pacoima Reservoir and/or Wash, including equipment set-up and break-down and sediment transport/placement activities, would occur concurrently with sediment

removal activities and could extend into the rainy season, as needed. Pacoima Dam and Reservoir would annually resume operations for flood management and water conservation during each storm season.

### **Reservoir Access**

Pacoima Reservoir currently has no vehicular access. The previously used seasonal access road connecting the back of Pacoima Reservoir to Little Tujunga Canyon Road has been degraded by storm and debris flows. The PRRP would reestablish the access road alongside and within Pacoima Creek to provide access for vehicles and equipment from Little Tujunga Canyon Road, which is approximately 1.5 miles upstream of the reservoir. Maintenance activities for the access road would occur during construction. The proposed access road would accommodate two-way traffic and would be designed and constructed to avoid as much sensitive vegetation as feasible. It is anticipated that the road would be reestablished prior to the start of work each season as significant portions of the access road are likely to be within the high-water mark of the creek. The LACFCD has acquired two properties along Little Tujunga Canyon Road that will provide access to the reservoir. Ingress/egress routes will be upgraded and/or constructed on these properties to allow construction equipment and haul trucks to access the reservoir.

### **Reservoir Dewatering**

For Phase 1 a complete dewatering of the reservoir is necessary to allow excavation to occur at the face of the dam. For this phase, dewatering would occur via valve and/or other dam releases and pumping.

For the initial work seasons of Phase 2 a complete dewatering of the reservoir is also necessary to allow excavation to occur at the face of the dam. For this phase, the dewatering mechanism would be determined based on the sediment elevation at the time dewatering begins; however, it would still be conducted through valve and/or other dam releases and pumping. In subsequent work seasons, a full dewatering may not be required once all sediment at the face of the dam is removed. For partial dewatering, the dam's valves can be used to lower the reservoir to the necessary level to allow for construction work to be done.

For Phase 3 the scope and method of dewatering will depend on the location of the sediment removal for the maintenance activities. Excavation work near the dam face will require a complete dewatering (using a combination of valve releases and pumping), while excavation further upstream of the reservoir may only require a partial dewatering.

To address potential concerns regarding high turbidity from dewatering flows, it may be necessary to install temporary sediment control structures. Additionally, during each year of sediment removal, a surface water diversion plan, which would likely be reviewed by multiple permitting agencies, will be implemented.

## **Sediment Excavation**

The reservoir access road would be used to deliver earthmoving equipment to Pacoima Reservoir. Equipment would include bulldozers, front loaders, excavators, tender trucks (for maintenance), and water trucks. Pumps would also be brought in to remove any perched groundwater encountered within the excavation area. The equipment in the reservoir would remain operational through the duration of each year's work season (approximately April through October or November if weather permits) and would be removed seasonally to allow the facility to resume flood control and water conservation operations during the storm season. Some boulders or materials could be reclaimed for reuse and stockpiled onsite within LACFCD property (stockpile area to be determined) or removed and transported via the access road in the back of the reservoir, to an off-site location.

## **Sediment Transportation**

Due to current site constraints and an urgency to complete Phase 1, the only feasible sediment transportation method for Phase 1 is to haul the sediment from the back of the reservoir. Haul trucks would use the reestablished access road to enter the reservoir. The sediment would then be loaded on the haul trucks, which would exit to Little Tujunga Canyon Road to transport the sediment to disposal sites. There are two bridges on the eastbound route of Little Tujunga Canyon Road that would need to be upgraded to handle the weight of the haul trucks. The bridges are currently proposed for replacement, separate from this Project. However, if the bridges cannot be replaced in time for Phase 1, the haul trucks would need to exit the reservoir and go westbound on Little Tujunga Canyon Road toward Placerita Canyon Road.

For Phases 2 and 3, additional transport mechanisms or alternatives such as conveyor belt, trucking to upstream and downstream sediment placement sites, and trucking to existing landfills and pits will be considered and analyzed in the PEIR.

## **Sediment Placement**

The sediment disposal options for Phase 1 only include hauling the material to existing landfills and aggregate pits. Potential landfills and aggregate pits identified include: Sheldon Pit, Boulevard Pit, and Glenoaks Landfill (also known as Sun Valley Landfill) in Sun Valley (approximately 14 miles southeast of the reservoir); Sunshine Canyon Landfill in the San Fernando Valley (approximately 15 miles west of the reservoir); Chiquita Canyon Landfill in the Santa Clarita Valley (approximately 22 miles northwest of the reservoir); Lancaster Landfill and Palmdale Landfill in the Antelope Valley (approximately 34 miles northeast of the reservoir); Kincaid Pit, Manning Pit, Durbin Pit, and United Rock Pit 3 in Irwindale (approximately 41 miles east of the reservoir); and Azusa Land Reclamation in Azusa (approximately 42 miles east of the reservoir).

For Phase 2, a new sediment placement site (SPS) could be constructed, as Pacoima Dam does not currently have a designated SPS for disposal of excavated sediment from the reservoir. The new SPS would likely be located near the reservoir, thus eliminating the need to haul the sediment over long distances. Potential SPSs have been identified downstream and upstream of the dam. Downstream of the dam, the North and South Canyons have been identified as potential SPS locations. The canyons are located on privately-owned property; therefore, the parcels would need to be acquired by the LACFCD to implement this option. Upstream of the dam, two canyons have been identified as potential SPSs in the 2005 Angeles National Forest Land Management Plan. These are Bear Divide and Maple Canyons. Preliminary calculations indicate Bear Divide has an ultimate fill capacity of 8.2 MCY, and Maple Canyon has an ultimate fill capacity of 30 MCY. Approval from the Forest Service would be required to implement these options.

Dam Maintenance Activities

While the reservoir is completely dewatered there is potential for concurrent minor dam maintenance activities to occur such as a hydraulic line replacement, sluiceway rehabilitation, repairs to the outlet tunnel, and debris rack rehabilitation for both the sluiceway and outlet towers. This work could be done as part of Phases 1, 2, and/or 3.

**ALTERNATIVES TO BE ANALYZED IN THE PROGRAM ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT**

In accordance with Section 15126.6 of the CEQA Guidelines, a PEIR, with project-level analysis for Phase 1, will be prepared and will assess a range of reasonable alternatives to Phase 1 of the proposed PRRP and a range of options for Phases 2 and 3. The range of alternatives to Phase 1 of the Project will include the No Project Alternative, which is required by CEQA. The alternatives to a project must avoid or substantially reduce any significant effects of the project even if these alternatives would impede attainment of project objectives or be costly. The PEIR document will consider alternate means of sediment removal as well as alternate locations for sediment placement (e.g., nearby canyons).

The following tables identify the alternatives and options for each of the PRRP phases. While Phase 1 (project level analysis) includes alternatives, Phases 2 and 3 (program level analysis) include options to maintain a level of flexibility needed for these phases.

**Pacoima Reservoir Restoration Project, Phase 1 (Project Level Analysis)**

The following table presents the alternatives for Phase 1, including the No Project Alternative, required by CEQA, as well as alternatives in terms of haul routes and SPSs.

PHASE 1 (PROJECT LEVEL ANALYSIS)			
	Proposed Project	Alternative 1 (No Project)	Alternative 2
Method	Dry excavation	N/A	Dry excavation
Transport	Truck from back of reservoir	N/A	Truck from back of reservoir
Placement and Haul Routes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SCL and/or Vulcan Facilities (Glenoaks Blvd/Sheldon/Boulevard Pits)</li> <li>• Kincaid Pit</li> <li>• Manning Pit</li> <li>• United Rock Pit 3</li> <li>• Unnamed Potential SPS</li> </ul>	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SCL/Sun Valley Pits: shortest route to each SPS, using Little Tujunga Canyon Road and Placerita Canyon Road</li> <li>• SCL/Sun Valley Pits: "Route Loop", one-way route</li> <li>• Unnamed Potential SPS: Shortest route through Sand Canyon Community</li> <li>• Manning/Kincaid/URP 3: Alternate use of freeways</li> </ul>



**Pacoima Reservoir Restoration Project, Phase 2 (Program Level Analysis)**

Given the level of uncertainty in identifying a “proposed project” for Phase 2 and details such as the locations of SPSs, Phase 2 will be analyzed at a program level and will be presented as options, one of which will be identified in the future as a “proposed project” for Phase 2. This approach will provide a degree of flexibility that implementation of Phase 2 may need.

PHASE 2 (PROGRAM LEVEL ANALYSIS)				
	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3	Option 4
<b>Method</b>	Dry excavation	Dry excavation	Dry excavation	Dry excavation
<b>Transport</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Truck from back of reservoir</li> <li>Conveyor belt to Lopez SG, truck to pits</li> </ul>	Truck from back of reservoir	Truck from back of reservoir	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Truck from back of reservoir</li> <li>Conveyor belt</li> </ul>
<b>Placement</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SCL and/or Vulcan Facilities</li> <li>Kincaid Pit</li> <li>Manning Pit</li> <li>United Rock Pit 3</li> <li>Unnamed Potential SPS</li> </ul>	Maple Canyon	Bear Divide Canyon	North/South Canyons

**Pacoima Reservoir Restoration Project, Phase 3 (Program Level Analysis)**

Similar to Phase 2, this phase will be analyzed in the same fashion and will be presented as options. Placement options in Phase 3 will likely be dependent on selected project for Phase 2.

PHASE 3 (PROGRAM LEVEL ANALYSIS)					
	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3	Option 4	Option 5
<b>Method</b>	Wet excavation	Dry excavation	Dry excavation	Dry excavation	Dry excavation
<b>Transport</b>	Truck from back of reservoir	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Truck from back of reservoir</li> <li>Conveyor belt to Lopez SG, truck to pits</li> </ul>	Truck from back of reservoir	Truck from back of reservoir	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Truck from back of reservoir</li> <li>Conveyor belt</li> </ul>
<b>Placement</b>	All options for Phase 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SCL and/or Vulcan Facilities</li> <li>Kincaid Pit</li> <li>Manning Pit</li> <li>United Rock Pit 3</li> <li>Unnamed Potential SPS</li> </ul>	Maple Canyon	Bear Divide Canyon	North/South Canyons

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## ANTICIPATED DISCRETIONARY ACTIONS AND OTHER AGENCY APPROVALS

The following discretionary actions and permits are anticipated for the proposed Project (all phases).

### U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)

- Section 404 Permit

### U.S. Forest Service (USFS)

- Special Use Permit

### California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW)

- Section 1600 Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement

### California Department of Transportation

- Transportation Permit

### State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB)

- Construction General Permit

### Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB)

- Section 401 Water Quality Certification

### City of Los Angeles

- Overload Permit

## ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED

The LACFCD has determined that there is evidence that significant impacts may occur from the proposed PRRP, thereby necessitating the preparation of an EIR. It was determined that a Program EIR (PEIR) would be the appropriate CEQA document for the proposed Project in light of the Project's three phases. The PEIR document will address the potential project-specific and cumulative impacts of the proposed PRRP on the environment. The PEIR document will focus on the topical areas, presented below, that may have potentially significant impacts pertaining to sediment removal activities, sediment hauling, and sediment placement activities. Measures will be included to mitigate impacts that are determined to be potentially significant. A Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP) will also be developed for any mitigation measures recommended to be incorporated in the project.

- **Aesthetics.** Sediment excavation, removal, and placement activities are anticipated to change views of the reservoir and the SPSs. However, no scenic views of the Project site and potential SPSs would be available from public vantage points. Additionally, even though Little Tujunga Canyon Road is a Scenic Drive under the Antelope Valley Area Plan, no improvements would occur on or near the said roadway. The PEIR analysis will use visual simulations to discuss and analyze the potential impacts emanating from changes in the visual quality of the site and the new sources of light and glare, as relevant.
- **Air Quality.** The proposed sediment removal activities are anticipated to result in construction (e.g., re-establishing the access road alongside and within Pacoima Creek; reservoir dewatering; sediment excavation; sediment transport; and sediment placement) air quality emissions, which

would be quantified at a regional and location level and compared with the South Coast Air Quality Management District's (SCAQMD) CEQA mass emissions thresholds. The PEIR will assess potential conflicts with applicable State, regional, and local plans, policies, or regulations adopted for the purpose of reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

- **Biological Resources.** Project development could affect a variety of biological resources, including riparian vegetation and habitat that could support rare, threatened, or endangered plants and wildlife species. One State and federally endangered species has been documented within the lower Pacoima Creek area of the Project site. The PEIR will analyze effects on listed and all other potentially impacted special status species; wetland, riparian, and other sensitive habitats; the movement of native or migratory fish and wildlife; and waters under the jurisdiction of the USACE, the CDFW, and the RWQCB that could result from Project implementation.
- **Cultural Resources.** Even though the Pacoima Dam dates back to 1929, per the assessment conducted in 1995, it was determined not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Although no significant archaeological resources are anticipated on the surface of the Project area, there is a possibility that historical and/or archaeological material would be uncovered during necessary sediment removal and ground-disturbing activities. The potential discovery of such resources during sediment removal activities will be discussed in the PEIR, which will also discuss the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) search of the Sacred Lands File to determine if cultural resources important to Native Americans have been recorded in the Project area. The analysis will also address the possibility of unearthing undiscovered remains.
- **Energy.** The Energy section of the PEIR will include a quantified analysis of anticipated energy usage (i.e., electricity, gasoline, and natural gas) associated with all components of the sediment removal activities and determine if the usage amounts are efficient, typical, or wasteful. The Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions sections of the PEIR will include construction emissions and feasible mitigation measures, that will be applicable to the energy analysis.
- **Geology and Soils.** The PEIR will include a discussion of on-site soils and bedrock materials; groundwater conditions; location relative to flood hazard zones and fault zones; stability of existing slopes and erosion potential; and access road. Location relative to known active earthquake faults; anticipated ground shaking from earthquakes; geologic conditions of the Project site and vicinity; liquefaction characteristics; and other secondary effects from earthquakes will be evaluated as well. The site being in Southern California region, may be subject to strong ground shaking from an earthquake; however, no habitable structures are proposed. Potential impacts pertaining to landslides induced during an earthquake event will be evaluated. Further, the Geology and Soils section of the EIR will discuss and analyze the geologic structure of the Project site to determine if the proposed activities could disturb paleontological (i.e., fossil) resources.
- **Greenhouse Gas Emissions.** Implementation of the proposed Project is anticipated to result in short-term GHG Emissions during various stages of sediment removal activities. The GHG Emissions section of the PEIR will discuss and analyze the emissions from sediment removal; hauling equipment exhaust; haul trucks, worker vehicular trips; and energy and natural gas consumption during this process. The PEIR will assess the potential conflicts with applicable State, regional, and City plans, policies, or regulations adopted for the purpose of reducing GHG emissions.

- **Hazards and Hazardous Materials.** The PEIR analysis will include a discussion of potential hazards to the public through routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials or the potential creation of a hazard through release of hazardous materials. Operation of the Project is not anticipated to involve the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials beyond what is used for the current maintenance activities of the Pacoima Reservoir and Dam. Additionally, the Project site is not identified on the Cortese List of hazardous waste sites, and sediment removal activities are not anticipated to encounter hazardous materials in soils. It is also noted that none of the alternatives for all phases of the Project is on the Cortese List of hazardous waste sites.

The Project is not anticipated to impair the Los Angeles County Emergency Operations Plan or the City of Los Angeles Emergency Operations Master Plan. The Project site is not within a ¼-mile of a school, and no impacts are expected. The analysis will also include a discussion related to exposure of people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires. No structures will be constructed as part of the Project, and the Project does not involve activities that would expose people to risk of fire. The Project will comply with standards and requirements, including Uniform Fire Code.

- **Hydrology and Water Quality.** Implementation of the Project is not expected to violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or degrade surface or groundwater quality. The Project would be subject to the requirements of the Construction General Permit. The Project is not anticipated to result in alteration of the existing drainage pattern. Also, due to the distance of the Pacoima Dam and Reservoir to the Pacific Ocean (approximately 22 miles to the southwest) and the numerous structures in between, there is no risk of on-site hazard due to tsunamis (seismically induced waves). The Pacoima Reservoir may be susceptible to experiencing a seiche in the event of an earthquake. However, during sediment removal activities, the reservoir would be dewatered and as such there would be no seiche potential during that time.
- **Land Use and Planning.** Project implementation is not expected to change any land uses within the site that would have potential incompatibility implications. Additionally, the Project is sediment removal and does not propose a development that would replace an existing community, as none exists on the site. The PEIR will also include a consistency analysis with the local and regional land use plans, policies, and programs, including, but not limited to, City and County of Los Angeles General Plans; Antelope Valley Area Plan; and the Angeles National Forest Land Management Plan.
- **Noise.** The proposed Project is anticipated to result in short-term sources of noise during sediment removal and placement activities. The potential noise impacts, including noise from on-site stationary and mobile/vehicular sources, on the existing sensitive receptors will be analyzed. The assessment will take into account compliance with the standards in the County and City's Noise Elements and the municipal codes.
- **Public Services.** The proposed Project is anticipated to increase the demand for fire protection services during sediment removal activities and associated tasks, as the activities would involve use of equipment that could generate sparks or embers and thus could ignite wildland vegetation or other flammable material. Implementation of the Project could generate a very slight increase in demands for police protection. LACFCD and/or its contractors would be responsible for operational security of their own equipment and trucks, and off-road construction equipment would be locked. The above analysis will be based on coordination with service providers to determine whether the Project can be adequately served. The proposed Project is not anticipated to increase demand for schools, parks, and libraries, as no development is proposed.

- **Recreation.** Demands for parks and recreation facilities are generated by the populations within those facilities' service areas. The Project would not add population to the area, and therefore is not anticipated to generate increased demand for parks. Thus, the analysis of parks and recreation facilities would focus on potential impacts to facilities in proximity to the Project site. Project implementation is not anticipated to interfere with use of any developed recreation facilities adjacent to the Project site, including the SIBL fields, El Cariso Community Regional Park, and El Cariso Golf Course. Abundant areas are available for passive recreation near the Project site.
- **Transportation.** Project implementation is anticipated to result in some short-term impacts due to increased truck trips during sediment removal activities. In terms of alternative modes of transportation, no impacts are anticipated due to the nature of the Project, as it will not create a demand for alternative transportation systems and public transit services.

Additionally, the Project is not anticipated to result in impacts related to Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT), as the Project is not a land development project. The Project is a short-term, construction-based activity and is not anticipated to generate any long-term change in traffic conditions.

- **Tribal Cultural Resources.** The Project will comply with the agency-to-agency tribal consultation requirements under AB 52. Based on information available through the record searches at the SCCIC and the NAHC, there is no information available that indicates there are tribal resources within the APE that would be significant, pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resource Code Section 5024.1. However, the PEIR will discuss the possibility of exposure of undiscovered resources during sediment removal activities that could result in significant impacts.
- **Utilities and Services Systems.** The proposed Project is a sediment removal and restoration project and by its nature, is not anticipated to generate a substantial amount of wastewater. Temporary employees contracted for the proposed Project would generate wastewater and portable toilets will be provided at the sediment removal project areas. Similarly, due to the nature of the Project, use of dry utilities (i.e., electric power, natural gas, or telecommunication) is not anticipated to result in relocation or construction of new or expanded facilities.

The Project would require water for the control of fugitive dust on access roads and at SPSs. Water storage tanks will be placed onsite and filled by water trucks transporting water. Use of water for the Project is not anticipated to result in impacts pertaining to water supplies. Additionally, sediments removed from the reservoir would be hauled off site or deposited in SPSs, as such the Project is not anticipated to generate a stream of solid waste that would require landfill capacity.

- **Wildfire.** A major portion of the Project site, including some of the potential SPSs are within a VHFHSZ established as either a State Responsibility Area (SRA) or a Local Responsibility Area (LRA). The PEIR will discuss the exposure to pollutant concentrations from wildfire; the emergency response or evacuation plan; and the potential landslides and flooding due to runoff, post-fire slope instability; and drainage changes.

In addition to the topics discussed above, the PEIR will include an analysis pertaining to the Mandatory Findings of Significance as included in Appendix G of the State CEQA Guidelines, including the potential for cumulative impacts in each environmental impact area.

The proposed PRRP is not anticipated to have significant impacts on the topics of agriculture and forestry resources, as the site is not used or zoned for agricultural purposes; it is not subject to a Williamson Act contract; and it does not contain Prime Farmland or Farmland of Statewide Importance; population and

housing, as the Project would not generate population or result in direct or indirect growth that would affect housing availability; and mineral resources, as there are no mining activities within the Project area, and no mining operations would be affected by the Project. However, these topics will be assessed within the PEIR document and rationale will be provided for the Project's anticipated lack of potential impacts to the extent that analysis supports no impacts.