Notice of Preparation of an Environmental Impact Report and Public Scoping Meeting Arroyo Seco Water Reuse Project

TO: Responsible and Trustee Agencies, Organizations, and Interested Parties

SUBJECT: Notice of Preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Report and Public Scoping Meeting

The City of Pasadena (Pasadena) is the designated Lead Agency for the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Arroyo Seco Water Reuse Project (Project) pursuant to an agreement between Pasadena and the City of South Pasadena (South Pasadena) in accordance with State CEQA Guidelines Section 15051(d). The Project would be implemented by the City of Pasadena Department of Public Works in cooperation with the City of South Pasadena Department of Public Works.

In accordance with CEQA Guidelines Section 15082, Pasadena has prepared this Notice of Preparation (NOP) to provide responsible and trustee agencies, organizations, interested persons, the Los Angeles County Clerk, and the State Clearinghouse with sufficient information describing the Project and its potential environmental effects to enable these parties to make a meaningful response. For public agencies, Pasadena requests your agency's views on the scope and content of the environmental information relevant to your agency's statutory responsibilities in connection with the proposed Project, in accordance with CEQA Guidelines Section 15082(b). For organizations and interested parties, Pasadena requests your comments and concerns regarding the environmental issues associated with construction and operation of the proposed Project, in accordance with CEQA Guidelines Section 15083. Additionally, this NOP serves as a notice for the public Scoping Meeting, which is held to facilitate the consultation process.

PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD: Pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15082(b), the NOP will be available for public review and comment for a 30-day period, from **Thursday, May 15, 2025 through Friday, June 13, 2025**.

PROJECT LOCATION: The Project site encompasses a total of approximately 3.7 acres on two sites in the Lower Arroyo Seco that are situated adjacent to the Arroyo Seco Channel – the northern, San Rafael site (1.5 acres) in the City of Pasadena; and the southern, San Pascual site (2.2 acres), in the cities of South Pasadena and Los Angeles (see Exhibit 1, Regional Location and Local Vicinity). Both sites are within the County of Los Angeles; and both sites are comprised of vacant, open space-zoned lands primarily within the cities of Pasadena and South Pasadena, respectively, with a portion of the San Pascual site (approximately 0.53-acre) within the City of Los Angeles. Both sites are immediately adjacent to the concrete Arroyo Seco Channel (Channel) that is under the jurisdiction of the Los Angeles County Flood Control District (LACFCD). The two sites are approximately 850 feet (0.16 mile) apart at the closest points.

The San Rafael site is situated southwest of the San Rafael Avenue overpass of the Channel, on the west side of the Channel, and adjacent to Pasadena's southern boundary. The San Rafael site includes a linear feature that is within the limits of the San Rafael Creek easement under LACFCD jurisdiction. The San Pascual site is situated southeast of the San Pascual Avenue overpass of the Channel and on the east side of the Channel. The San Pascual site is bound by San Pascual Avenue on the north and Stoney Drive on the east. The sites are regionally accessible via State Route 134 (SR 134), which is located approximately 1.25 miles north of the San Rafael site; and SR 110, which is located approximately 0.10 mile south of the San Pascual site.

PROJECT SUMMARY: The proposed Arroyo Seco Water Reuse Project would develop two regional stormwater capture and treatment facilities (man-made treatment wetlands and infiltration basins) located within existing open space-zoned areas near the Arroyo Seco Channel. Additionally, as part of the Project, an off-site water harvester and related infrastructure would be installed within the existing, gated maintenance yard at the public Arroyo Seco Golf Course in South Pasadena. The Project would provide water quality benefits for multiple jurisdictions within the 5,005-acre drainage area in which the two sites are located. For both sites, the Project would include native landscaping; hardscape elements including reclaimed wood log benches, post-and-rail fencing, and concrete seat walls faced with natural stone; informational signs as a watershed education opportunity; and expand the existing trail network to enhance regional trail connectivity through the Lower Arroyo Seco.

The Project sites are located within the Upper Los Angeles River (ULAR) Watershed. Runoff from this watershed drains to and runs through over 50 linear miles of the Los Angeles River and then to the Pacific Ocean. The Arroyo Seco Channel is a major tributary to the Los Angeles River. On July 9, 2010, the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) adopted resolution No. R10-007 incorporating a total maximum daily load (TMDL) for indicator bacteria in the Los Angeles River watershed. A TMDL is the calculation of the maximum amount of a pollutant allowed to enter a waterbody and not affect that waterbody's ability to meet and

maintain water quality standards. Outfalls along the Arroyo Seco Channel were modeled for indicator bacteria and the San Rafael Creek outfall was identified as a priority outfall; these outfalls have routine problematic discharges that drive the total bacteria load. Runoff in San Rafael Creek would be diverted into the San Rafael site, pre-treated, and a portion of this runoff infiltrated for groundwater recharge. The portion not infiltrated would be treated, discharged into the Channel, and then diverted downstream into the San Pascual site for infiltration and additional treatment prior to discharge back to the Channel. The operation of these two regional stormwater management sites would result in an annual average water supply benefit of 320 acre-feet (af). Of this, there would be approximately 258 af of groundwater recharge and approximately 30 af (or less than 10 percent of captured water) would be captured off-site for irrigation reuse at the golf course to reduce potable water demand.

In addition to fulfilling regulatory obligations placed on Pasadena to provide cleaner water in the Arroyo Seco and Los Angeles River channels, other Project benefits include increased habitat and reestablishment of natural plant communities, improved trails, increased public access to open space areas, and educational opportunities utilizing interpretive materials focused on hydrology and native habitat.

POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS: Consistent with CEQA Guidelines Section 15060(d), Pasadena conducted a preliminary review of the Project to focus the EIR on the potentially significant effects of the project. Pasadena anticipates the following topical areas have the potential to result in significant impacts: Aesthetics, Air Quality, Biological Resources, Cultural Resources (including Paleontological Resources), Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Hydrology and Water Quality, Land Use and Planning, Noise, Public Services (parks), Recreation, Tribal Cultural Resources and Wildfire. The following topical area are expected to result in no impacts or less than significant impacts: Agriculture and Forestry Resources, Energy, Geology and Soils (except Paleontological Resources), Hazards and Hazardous Resources, Mineral Resources, Population and Housing, Public Services (law enforcement, fire protection, schools, and other public services), Transportation, Utilities and Service Systems.

SCOPING MEETING: A public Scoping Meeting will be held to share information regarding the Project, the environmental review process, and to receive comments about the scope and content of the environmental analysis to be addressed in the Draft EIR. The Scoping Meeting is an information-gathering meeting, not a public hearing, and no public testimony or recordation of the meeting will occur. Attendees may submit comments in writing at the Scoping Meeting or submit anytime during the public review period.

No decisions about the Project will be made at the Scoping Meeting. A separate public hearing for entitlement requests and consideration of certification of the EIR will be scheduled after the completion of the Final EIR. The date, time, and location of the public Scoping Meeting are as follows:

DATE: Wednesday, May 28, 2025

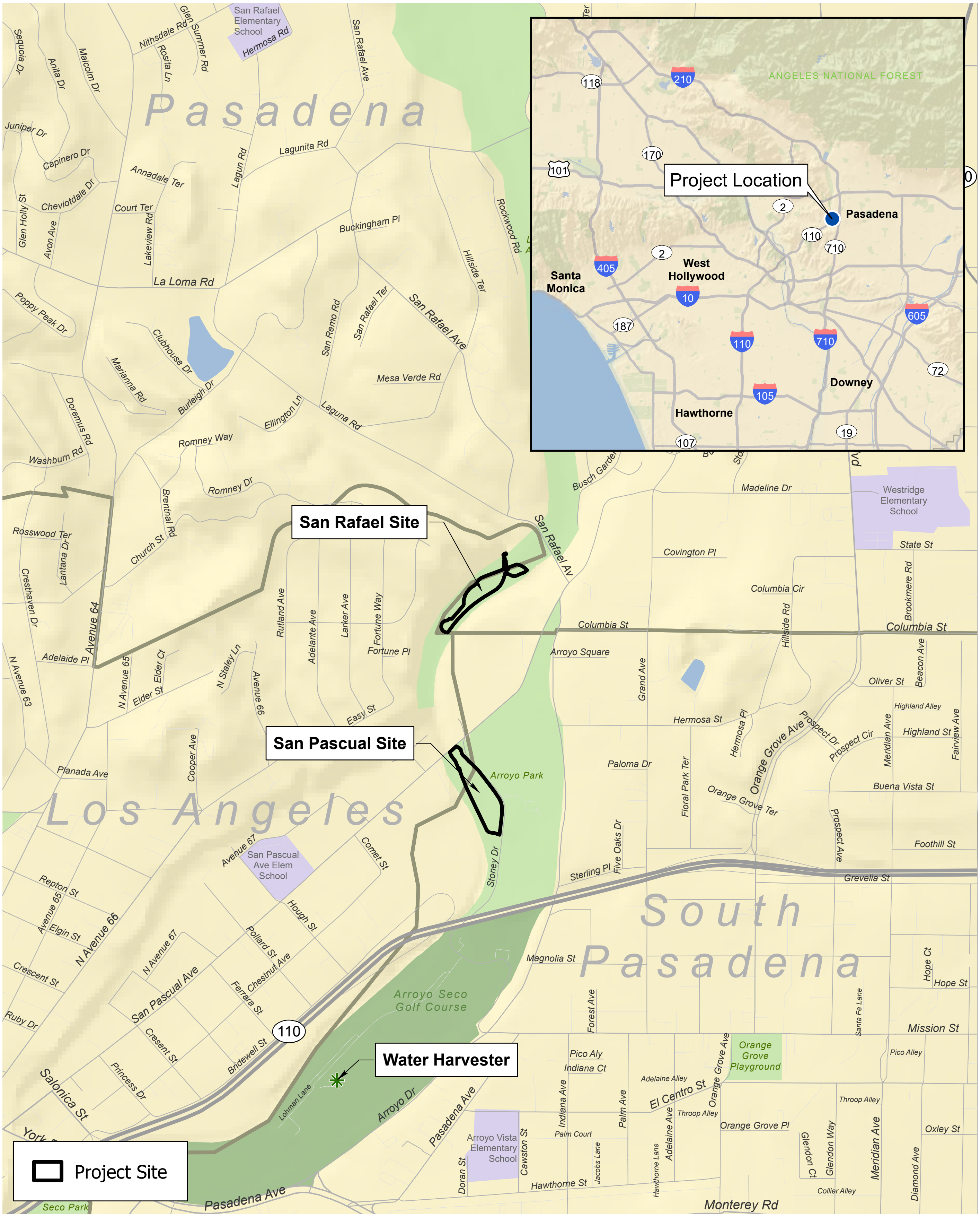
TIME: 6:00 PM–8:00 PM

LOCATION: South Pasadena Community Room
1115 El Centro Street
South Pasadena, CA 91030

SUBMITTING COMMENTS: A copy of this NOP may be viewed online at https://www.cityofpasadena.net/planning/arroyo-seco-water-reuse-project/ and will be available for viewing during regular business hours at the City of Pasadena Permit Center (175 North Garfield Avenue, Pasadena, CA 91101); the San Rafael Library (1240 Nithsdale Road, Pasadena, CA 91105); the South Pasadena Public Library (1100 Oxley Street, South Pasadena, CA 91030); and the Arroyo Seco Regional Branch Library (6145 North Figueroa Street, Los Angeles, CA 90042).

The City will consider all written comments regarding the potential environmental effects of the Project received during the scoping period. Written comments, including e-mails, must be submitted in writing by 5:00 PM on June 13, 2025. Written comments will also be accepted at the Scoping Meeting described above. Due to the time limits mandated by State law, your comments must be received by Pasadena no later than 30 days after receipt of this NOP. Please direct your written comments via e-mail and/or U.S. mail to:

Christina Monde, P.E.
City of Pasadena Department of Public Works
100 North Garfield Avenue, Suite N306
Pasadena, CA 91101
E-mail: CMonde@cityofpasadena.net



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Regional Location and Local Vicinity

Exhibit 1

Arroyo Seco Water Reuse Project

N W E S

1,000 500 0 1,000 Feet

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