



NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF A DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

ARROYO SECO WATER REUSE PROJECT LOWER ARROYO SECO CHANNEL

DATE: May 4, 2026

TO: Agencies, Organizations, and Interested Parties

FROM: City of Pasadena Department of Public Works
100 North Garfield Avenue, Pasadena, CA 91101

SUBJECT: Notice of Availability of a Draft Environmental Impact Report for the
Arroyo Seco Water Reuse Project

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: The City of Pasadena has completed the Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the proposed Arroyo Seco Water Reuse Project (Project). The Draft EIR has been prepared in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act of 1970 (CEQA) as amended (Section 21000 et. seq. of the Public Resources Code) and the State CEQA Guidelines (Section 15000 et. seq. of the California Code of Regulations). The Draft EIR is available for online public review and a hardcopy of the Draft EIR will be available for public review at the City of Pasadena Permit Center, City of Pasadena San Rafael Branch Public Library, Arroyo Seco Regional Branch Public Library, and City of South Pasadena Public Library during regular business hours (see below under “Availability of Environmental Documentation”). Written comments on the Draft EIR will be accepted by the City during the following public review period.

PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD: Monday, May 4, 2026 – Wednesday, June 17, 2026. Comments must be received in writing no later than 5:30 P.M. on Wednesday, June 17, 2026.

COMMENTS: Comments on the Draft EIR may be submitted in writing during the 45-day public review period noted above. Written comments must be sent to:

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

PROJECT LOCATION: The Project site encompasses a total of approximately 3.6 acres on two sites in the Lower Arroyo Seco that are situated adjacent to the Arroyo Seco Channel – the northern, San Rafael site (1.4 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 0.5-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 DESCRIPTION: 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 native plant communities, improved trails, increased public access to open space areas, and educational opportunities utilizing interpretive materials focused on hydrology and native habitat.

APPROVALS NEEDED:

City of Pasadena: The City of Pasadena is expected to use the information contained in this EIR for consideration of approvals related to and involved in Project implementation. Actions to be considered by the City, after implementation of the CEQA process, include, but may not be limited to: Certification of the Final EIR for the Arroyo Seco Water Reuse Project; Approval of the Arroyo Seco Water Reuse Project; Urban Forestry Advisory Committee Review¹, Award of contract for construction of the Arroyo Seco Water Reuse Project; and other discretionary and ministerial permits and approvals that may be deemed necessary, including but not limited to, grading permit, foundation permit, and building permit.

¹ UFAC (Urban Forestry Advisory Committee) review is not a discretionary action, but this body's review is used as part of Pasadena's discretionary decision-making regarding removal of trees on public lands.

City of South Pasadena: Pursuant to the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Pasadena and South Pasadena executed in 2020, South Pasadena would rely on Pasadena's actions as Lead Agency under CEQA, including approval of the Project and adoption of the EIR, and to award and oversee the contract for construction of the Project. However, South Pasadena would be required to issue a tree removal permit for Project implementation.

City of Los Angeles: Similar to the MOU with South Pasadena, the City of Los Angeles will enter into an agreement with Pasadena and will rely on Pasadena's actions to implement the Project. This agreement establishes that Pasadena can have access to construct that portion of the San Pascual site within Los Angeles without additional discretionary actions by Los Angeles. The agreement also establishes that South Pasadena and Pasadena would have access to operate and maintain the portion of the San Pascual site within Los Angeles in perpetuity.

Other agency approvals and requirements include: Clean Water Act / Streambed Alteration Agreement (California Department of Fish and Wildlife); Prop 68 Urban Counties Per Capita Program (California Department of Parks and Recreation); Mosquito Abatement (Greater Los Angeles County Vector Control District); Measure W Safe, Clean Water Program (Los Angeles County); Major Modification Permit, Discharge Permit, Use and Maintenance Agreement (Los Angeles County Flood Control District); Cross Connection and Water Pollution Control Program (Los Angeles County Department of Public Health); Clean Water Act / Section 401 Water Quality Certification (Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board); Construction General Permit (State Water Resources Control Board); and Clean Water Act / Section 404 Permit (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers).

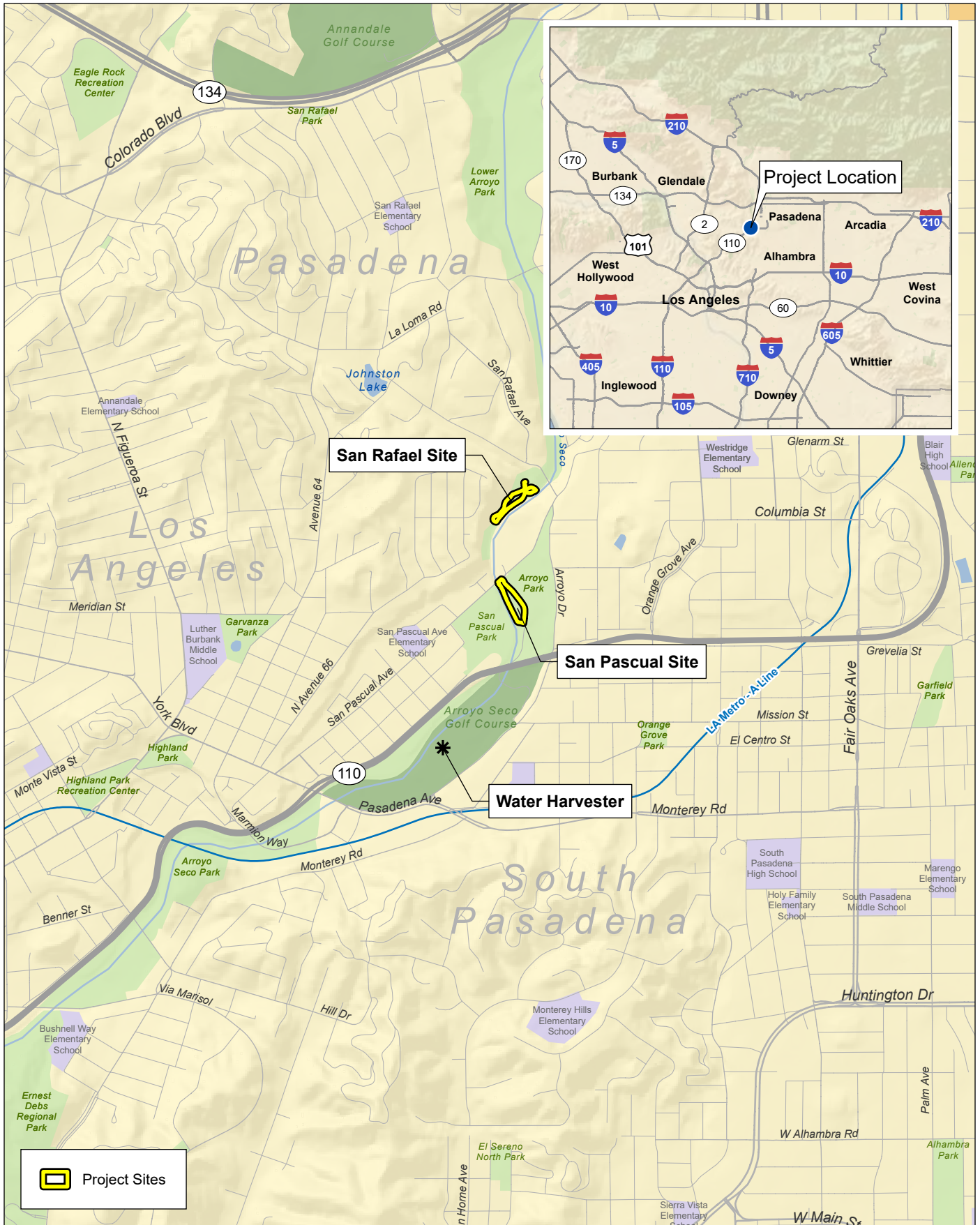
ANTICIPATED ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS: The Draft EIR analyzed the following environmental topics: Aesthetics, Air Quality, Biological Resources, Cultural and Paleontological Resources, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Hydrology and Water Quality, Land Use and Planning, Noise, Public Services and Recreation, Tribal Cultural Resources, and Wildfire. The Draft EIR identified potentially significant effects related to the following topics: Biological Resources, Cultural and Paleontological Resources, Noise, and Tribal Cultural Resources. With incorporation of mitigation measures, the Draft EIR determined that all potentially significant effects related to these four topics would be reduced to a less than significant level.

HAZARDOUS MATERIAL SITES: The Project site is not identified on the lists of hazardous waste sites compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the *California Government Code*.

AVAILABILITY OF ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION: The Draft EIR may be viewed on the City of Pasadena website at: [<https://www.cityofpasadena.net/planning/environmental-notice/>]. Hardcopies are available during regular business hours at the following locations:

- City of Pasadena Permit Center, 175 North Garfield Avenue, Pasadena, CA, 91101 (Monday through Thursday and alternate Fridays from 10:00 A.M. through 3:00 P.M.);
- San Rafael Branch Library, 1240 Nithsdale Road, Pasadena, CA, 91105 (Monday through Saturday from 10:00 A.M. through 6:00 P.M.);
- Arroyo Seco Regional Branch Library, 6145 North Figueroa Street, Los Angeles, CA, 90042 (Monday through Thursday 10:00 A.M. through 8:00 P.M.; Friday and Saturday from 9:30 A.M. through 5:30 P.M.; and Sundays from 1:00 P.M. through 5:00 P.M.); and
- South Pasadena Public Library, 1100 Oxley Street, South Pasadena, CA, 91030 (Mondays, Fridays, and Saturdays from 10:00 A.M. through 6:00 P.M.; Tuesday through Thursday from 10:00 A.M. through 8:00 P.M.; and Sundays from 1:00 P.M. through 5:00 P.M.)

ADA: In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990, listening assistive devices are available with a 24-hour advance notice. Please call (626) 744-4009 or (626) 744-4371 (TDD) to request use of a listening device. Language translation services may be requested with 48-hour advance notice by calling (626) 744-4009.



Regional Location and Local Vicinity

Exhibit 1

Arroyo Seco Water Reuse Project

