

CITY OF SANTA BARBARA
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, ENGINEERING DIVISION



**NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF
DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT
STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NO. 2025110233
AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC ENVIRONMENTAL HEARING ON JUNE 24, 2026,
FOR THE VIC TRACE RESERVOIR REPLACEMENT PROJECT**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Santa Barbara Public Works Department, as Lead Agency, has prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Report (Draft EIR) for the Vic Trace Reservoir Replacement Project (Project). The Draft EIR analyzes the potential environmental effects associated with the proposed Project in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). In accordance with Section 15087 of the CEQA Guidelines, the City of Santa Barbara (City) has prepared this Notice of Availability (NOA) to provide responsible agencies, trustee agencies, and other interested parties with notice of the availability of the Draft EIR and to solicit comments and concerns regarding the environmental issues associated with the proposed Project. A Final EIR (Response to Comments) will be prepared following public review and comment. The City will consider this information when deliberating on the Project.

DATE: June 8, 2026

PROJECT TITLE: Vic Trace Reservoir Replacement Project, Project No. 41510

LEAD AGENCY / PROJECT SPONSOR AND CONTACT:

City of Santa Barbara
Public Works Department, Engineering Division
630 Garden Street, Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Contact Person:

Kelly Bourque, Senior Project Engineer
Phone: (805) 564-5579
Email: VicTrace@SantaBarbaraCA.gov

PROJECT LOCATION:

The Project site encompasses the Vic Trace Reservoir parcel and various water infrastructure improvements in the Alta Mesa neighborhood in the City of Santa Barbara (City), California.

The Vic Trace Reservoir parcel covers approximately 15 acres (14.726 acres) and is located on City-owned property at 740 Dolores Drive, Santa Barbara (Assessor's Parcel Number [APN] 035-033-031). The parcel contains existing drinking water infrastructure facilities, existing City communication facilities, and La Coronilla Park. Access to the Vic Trace Reservoir parcel is from La Coronilla Drive between residences at 1617 and 1633 La Coronilla Drive via an existing 20-foot-wide easement through the 1617 La Coronilla Drive property.

Improvements would also occur within nearby public rights-of-way, including La Coronilla Drive, Dolores Drive, Ricardo Avenue, La Vista Del Oceano, and Meigs Road. A City-owned property located at 1633 La Coronilla Drive would be used for temporary construction offices.

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PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The proposed Project would replace aging water infrastructure and implement improvements to enhance the reliability, resiliency, and operational flexibility of the City's water system.

The Project would involve demolition of the existing 10-million-gallon Vic Trace Reservoir and construction of two new 5-million-gallon reservoirs at the same site. The new reservoirs would be fully buried below finished grade with soil cover. Additional onsite improvements include replacement of the existing Valve Building with a new facility housing pumps, disinfection systems, and electrical equipment; re-abandonment of an existing oil well in accordance with current regulatory standards; construction of new access roads, landscaping, and site infrastructure; and potential installation of renewable energy generation and storage systems.

Offsite improvements include installation, replacement, and relocation of underground water pipelines within surrounding streets; construction of a new underground pressure reducing valve (PRV) station and abandonment of the existing PRV station; and temporary use of a City-owned residential property for construction offices.

Project construction would occur over an approximately three-year period and would include demolition, grading, excavation, pipeline installation, and facility construction activities.

SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS:

The Draft EIR analyzes potential environmental impacts associated with the proposed Project in accordance with CEQA. The analysis concludes that construction of the Project would result in significant and unavoidable impacts related to construction noise, including temporary increases in noise levels from on-site construction equipment and construction-related truck traffic, as well as cumulatively considerable contributions to regional construction noise.

The Draft EIR also identifies impacts that would be less than significant with implementation of mitigation measures. These include potential impacts to air quality from construction emissions; biological resources, including special-status species, sensitive habitats, and protected trees; cultural and tribal cultural resources; paleontological resources; and transportation associated with temporary construction-related traffic disruptions. Mitigation measures are identified to reduce these impacts to less than significant levels.

All other environmental topic areas evaluated in the Draft EIR, including aesthetics, greenhouse gas emissions, hazards and hazardous materials, and utilities and service systems, were determined to result in less than significant impacts.

DRAFT EIR PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENT PERIOD:

The Draft EIR has been released for a 45-day public review/comment period, from **June 8, 2026, to July 30, 2026**. All comments on the Draft EIR must be received by the City by 5:00 p.m. on July 30, 2026, in order to be considered in the Final EIR. Written comments on the Draft EIR can be e-mailed to Kelly Bourque at VicTrace@SantabarbaraCA.gov using subject line "Vic Trace Reservoir Replacement Project" or mailed to:

Kelly Bourque, Senior Engineer
City of Santa Barbara, Public Works Department, Engineering Division
630 Garden Street, Santa Barbara, CA 93102

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DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY

The Draft EIR is available for public review online at <https://santabarbaraca.gov/VicTrace>.

The Draft EIR is also available for public review in hard copy at the following locations:

- City of Santa Barbara, Public Works Department
630 Garden Street, Santa Barbara, CA
- Santa Barbara Public Library
40 East Anapamu Street, Santa Barbara, CA

PUBLIC MEETINGS:

The Santa Barbara Department of Public Works will hold an in-person public meeting on the Vic Trace Reservoir Replacement Draft EIR on Wednesday, June 24, 2026, from 5:30 – 6:30 p.m. at 1633 La Coronilla Drive, Santa Barbara, California.

A virtual meeting will be held via Zoom on Thursday, June 25, 2026, from 5:30 – 6:00 p.m. Register by visiting the Project website at <https://santabarbaraca.gov/VicTrace>. The virtual meeting will be recorded and posted to the website the following day.

Planning Commission Hearing:

A hearing to receive public comments on the Draft EIR will be held before the Planning Commission on Thursday, July 9, 2026, at 1:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 735 Anacapa Street, Santa Barbara, California. Meetings can be viewed live on City TV-18 or streamed online at <https://SantaBarbaraCA.gov/CityTV>. Meeting agendas, minutes, and videos are available at <https://SantaBarbaraCA.gov/PC>.

HAZARDOUS WASTE SITES: The following statement is required to be included in this notice pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15087(c)(6). The Draft EIR location contains no hazardous waste sites as enumerated under California Government Code Section 65962.5.

AMERICAN WITH DISABILITIES ACT: In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to gain access to, comment at, or participate in this meeting, please contact the Planning Division Office at (805) 564-5470, extension 4535. If possible, notification at least 48 hours prior to the meeting will enable the City to make reasonable arrangements in most cases.