

City of SANTA BARBARA

ONE WATER
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PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
WATER RESOURCES DIVISION

VIC TRACE RESERVOIR REPLACEMENT PROJECT

PRELIMINARY DESIGN REPORT AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH UPDATES

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VIC TRACE RESERVOIR REPLACEMENT PROJECT

City of Santa Barbara

Previous Water Commission Updates:
May 18, 2023
April 18, 2024

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Presentation Topics:

- Project Status Updates:
 - Design
 - Outreach
 - Environmental
 - Communication Leases & IT
- Timeline
- Funding & Budget
- Upcoming Milestones



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Vic Trace Reservoir

- Built in 1956
- Critical facility
- Stores 10 million gallons of treated drinking water
- Serves 60,000 people or 70% of the City: Downtown, Westside, and Mesa neighborhoods



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Vic Trace Reservoir

Critical facilities:

- Transmission Main
- Reservoir
- PRV Station
- City Communications (Police & Water)

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Vic Trace Reservoir

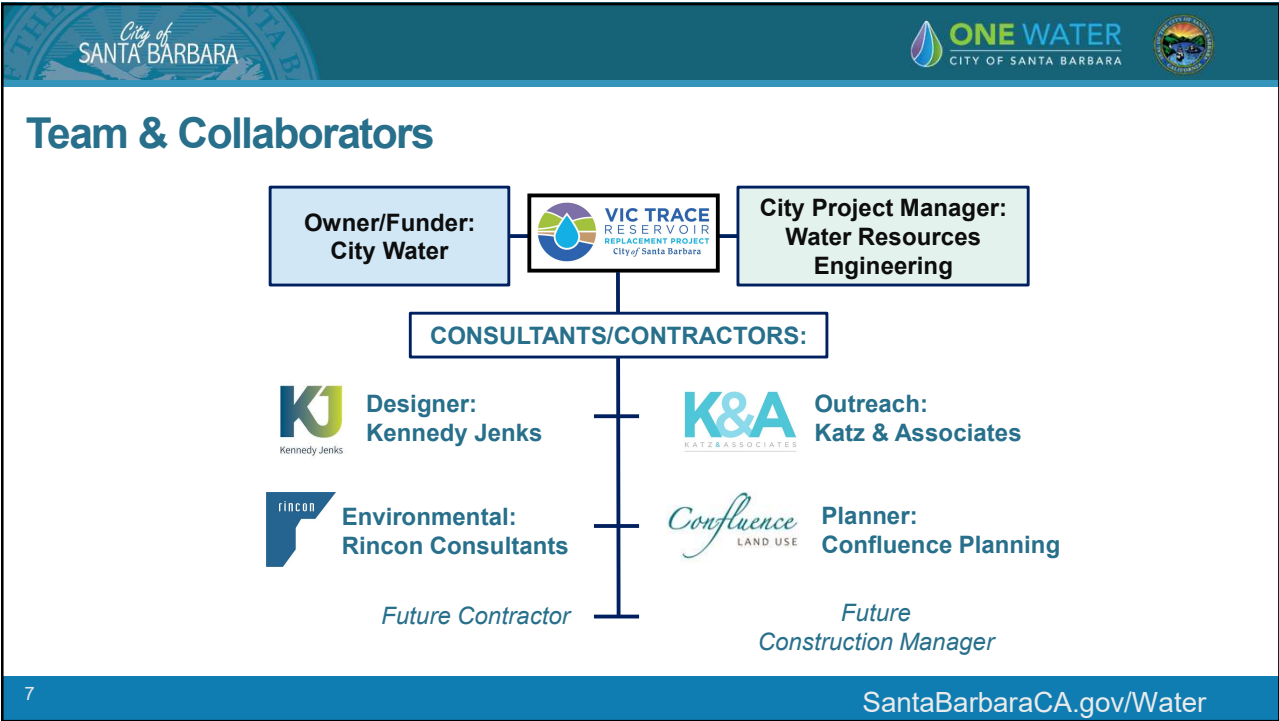
Why Replace?

- Aging infrastructure
- Increasing repair needs
- Seismic risk
- Outdated design
- Maintaining water quality
- Enhancing stormwater drainage
- Tighten site security
- Resilience

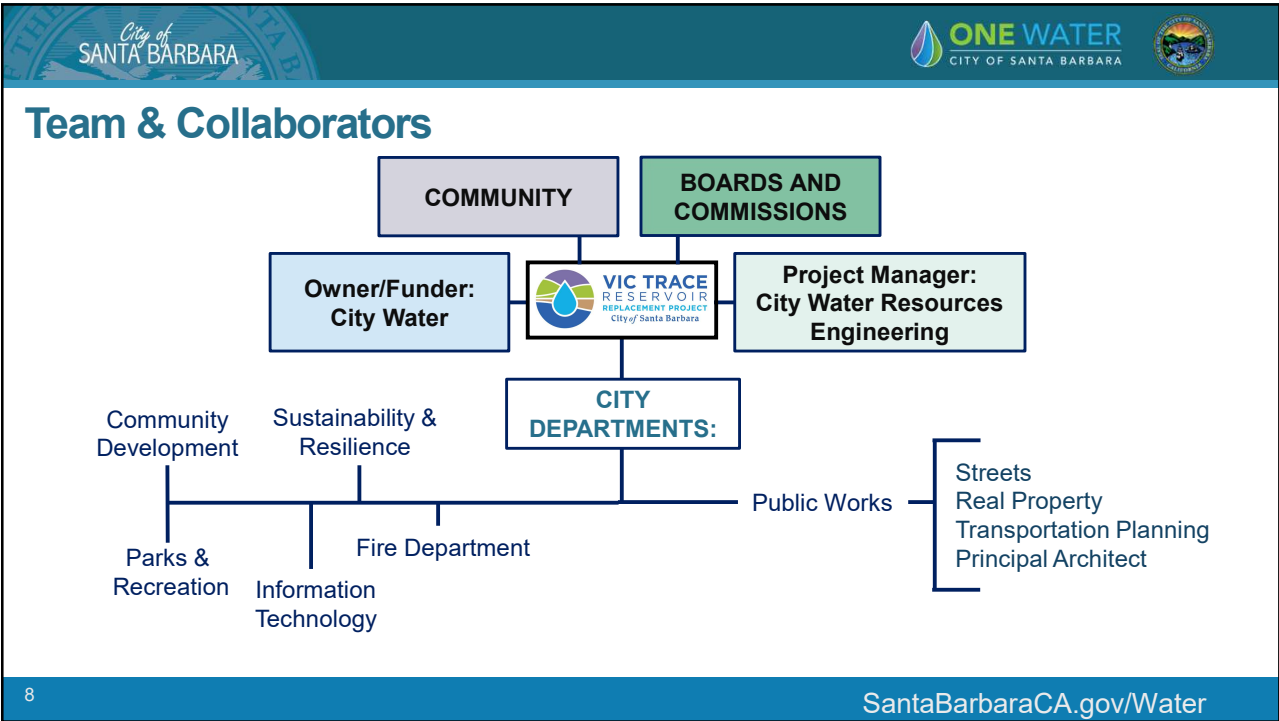
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Project Status Updates: Design

- Completed:
 - Seismic evaluation
 - Geotechnical study
 - Reservoir replacement design alternatives
 - Site layouts
 - Preliminary construction trips and routes
 - Hydraulic modeling
 - Funding research
 - Construction cost estimates

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Project Status Updates: Design

- Preliminary Design Report Highlights - **What we know today:**
 - Roof and slope stability concerns
 - Burying the reservoirs
 - Maintaining one viable entrance
 - New terraces, access roads, and drainage
 - Landscaping and hardening to meet updated fire codes
 - Relocating Transmission Main and pipelines, valves, etc.
 - Increasing site security
 - Co-locating IT communications facilities

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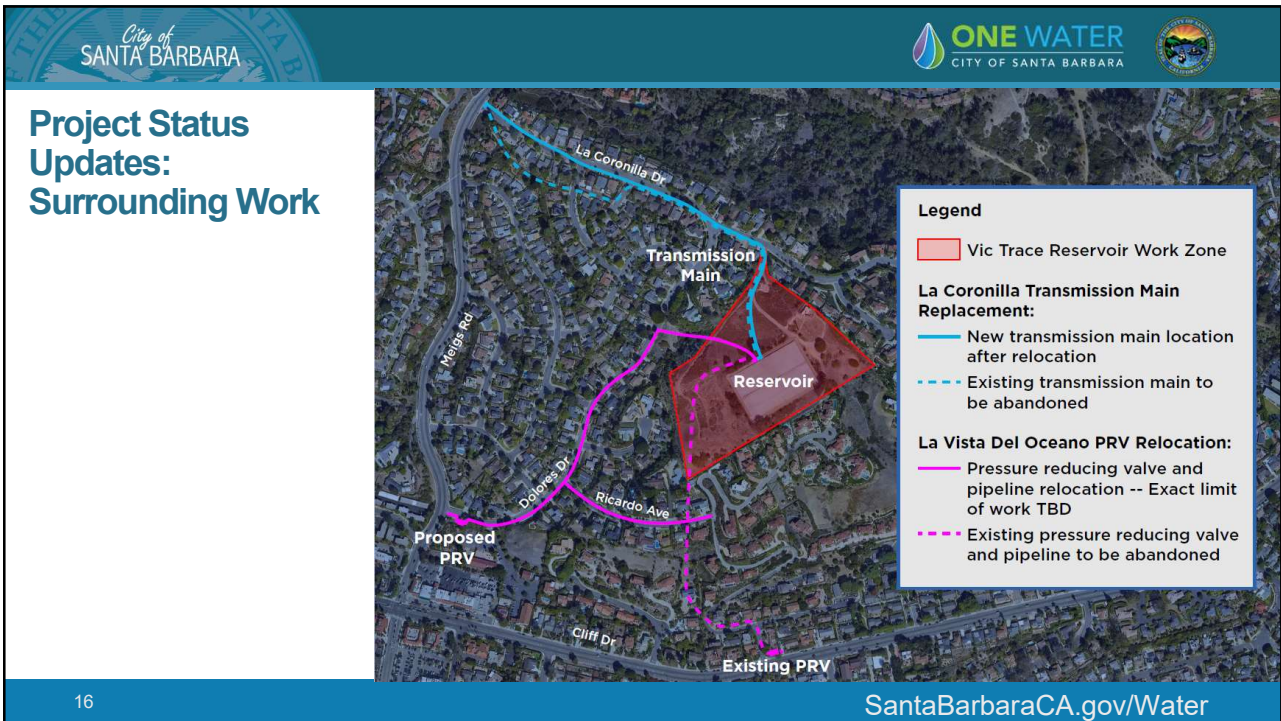
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Project Status Updates: Design

Major items to address and next steps – **What we need to learn next:**

1. Vic Trace Reservoir Demolition/Construction Plan
 - Operating Scenarios: Wildfire, Summer Peak Demands, etc.
2. Oil Well Investigation
3. Water Energy Master Plan
4. Construction Sequencing and Optimization
5. Construction Traffic and Hauling Routes

Exploring different contracting methods: Construction Manager at Risk

Project Status Updates: Outreach

- Completed:
 - Strategic Communications Plan
 - Messaging, Materials, Website
- Upcoming:
 - Communication Engagement Workshop
 - In-Person: Thursday, May 1, 2025, 5:30 PM to 7:00 PM
 - Webinar: Wednesday, May 7, 2025, 5:30 PM to 6:30 PM
- Workshop:
 - Presentation
 - Open House – Posterboards, Staff Q&A, Comment Cards



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Project Status Updates: Outreach

- Posterboard & Feedback Topics:
 - What is Vic Trace Reservoir?
 - Water System Resilience
 - Water Supply & Fire Safety
 - Surrounding Work & Traffic
 - Sustainability & Landscaping
 - Site Security
 - Next Steps and CEQA



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Project Status Updates: Outreach

- Future Workshop Topics:
 - Final Design
 - Reservoir Construction
 - Construction Routes
 - Construction Impacts, Mitigations and BMPs
 - Schedule and Sequencing
 - CEQA Meetings



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Project Status Updates: Environmental

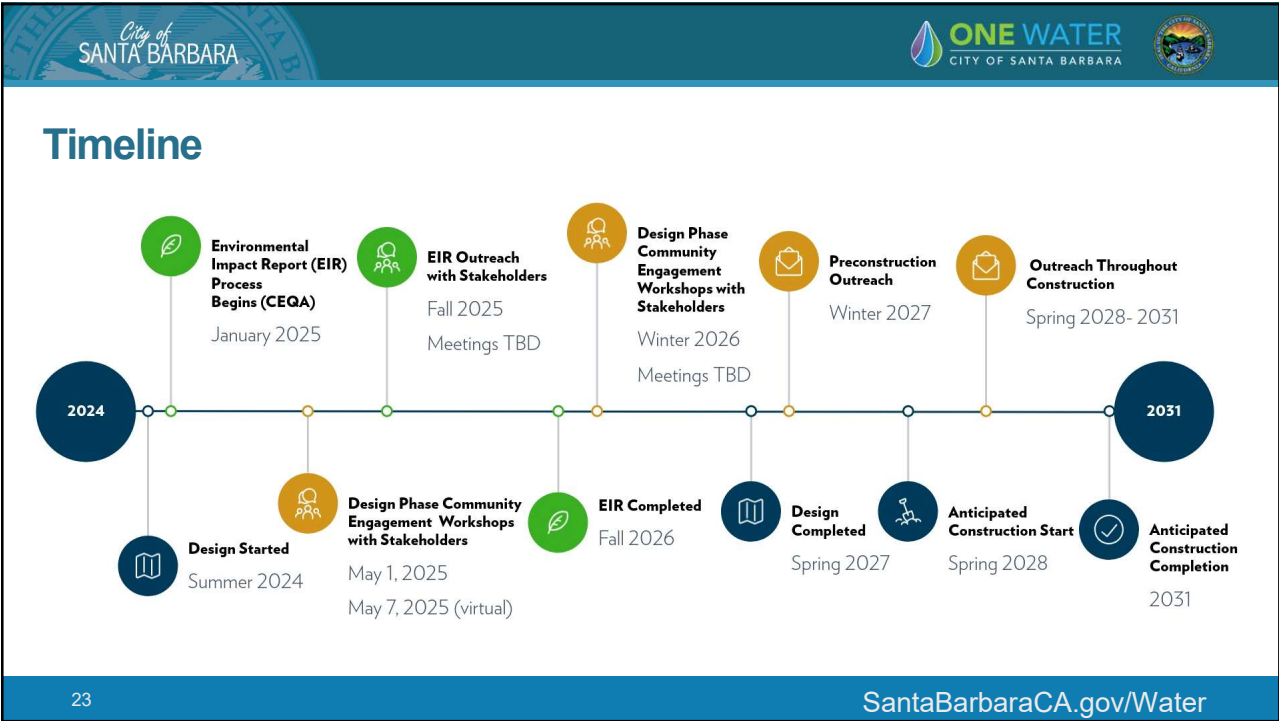
- CEQA EIR process
 - Initial Study circulating Fall 2025
 - Public Scoping Meeting late Fall 2025
 - Draft EIR Spring 2026
 - Final EIR Fall 2026
- Resource Areas of Note
 - Air Quality
 - Biology
 - Cultural
 - Noise
 - Hazardous Materials – Oil Well
 - Sustainability – Climate Action Plan



Project Status Updates: IT Communications

- Status of lessees:
 - County of Santa Barbara – removed
 - SoCalGas – removed
 - SB Amateur Radio Club – Oct. 31, 2025
 - AT&T – Oct. 31, 2025
- City IT Communications work
 - Future antenna consolidation
 - Relocating IT building





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Funding & Budget

Activity	WDIP* Estimate	Pre-Design Estimate	Current Estimate
Design	\$4M	\$5M	\$5M
Outreach	\$1M	\$1M	\$1M
Environmental/CEQA	\$3M	\$1M	\$1M
Construction	\$35M	\$70M	\$113M
TOTAL	\$43 million	\$77 million	\$129 million

*WDIP Water Distribution Infrastructure Plan (2019)

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Upcoming Milestones

- Thursday, May 1 – Community Engagement Workshop IN-PERSON
 - *Monroe Elementary School (431 Flora Vista Drive) 5:30 PM to 7:00 PM*
- Wednesday, May 7 – Community Engagement Workshop WEBINAR
 - *Zoom Webinar 5:30 PM to 6:30 PM*
- Summer and Fall 2025
 - *Award of Final Design Contract*
 - *Tentative Award of Construction Manager at Risk Contract*
 - *First Public Meeting – CEQA EIR Initial Study Public Scoping Meeting*



Questions?

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