

Environmental Impact Report (EIR) Scoping Meeting



VIC TRACE
RESERVOIR
REPLACEMENT PROJECT
City of Santa Barbara



Wednesday, December 3, 2025, 5:30 P.M. to 7:00 P.M.

Welcome!



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RESERVOIR
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Agenda

1. Introductions
2. Scoping Meeting Purpose
3. Project Details
4. CEQA Overview
5. Initial Study Summary
6. Open House Questions and Comments

Introductions:



Kelly Bourque
Acting Supervising Engineer
Vic Trace Project Manager



Matthew Ward
Water System
Manager



Philip Maldonado
Acting Principal
Engineer



Patsy Price
Case Planner



Beth Anna Cornett
PW Senior Planner

- Amanda Antonelli, Senior Environmental Planner
Rincon Consultants (Vic Trace Environmental Consultant)
- Mat Rojas, Spanish Translation Services, Project Engineer

Scoping Meeting Purpose

- Summarize the Vic Trace Reservoir Replacement Project
- Review CEQA and environmental permitting process
- Question and Answer Open House
- Welcome environmental impact comments from the public





Vic Trace Reservoir

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

Existing Site Conditions



Existing Site Conditions



La Coronilla Entrance



View from Dolores Drive

Project Objectives

- **Replace and upgrade aging water infrastructure** to ensure safe and reliable drinking water
- Improve existing facilities and install new facilities to enhance the **operational reliability and resiliency**, minimize the risk of future facility failures, and optimize hydraulics and operations of Vic Trace Reservoir and the City's water system
- **Maintain critical demand capacity** (e.g., peak demands, structure fires, human consumption) and system pressure city-wide

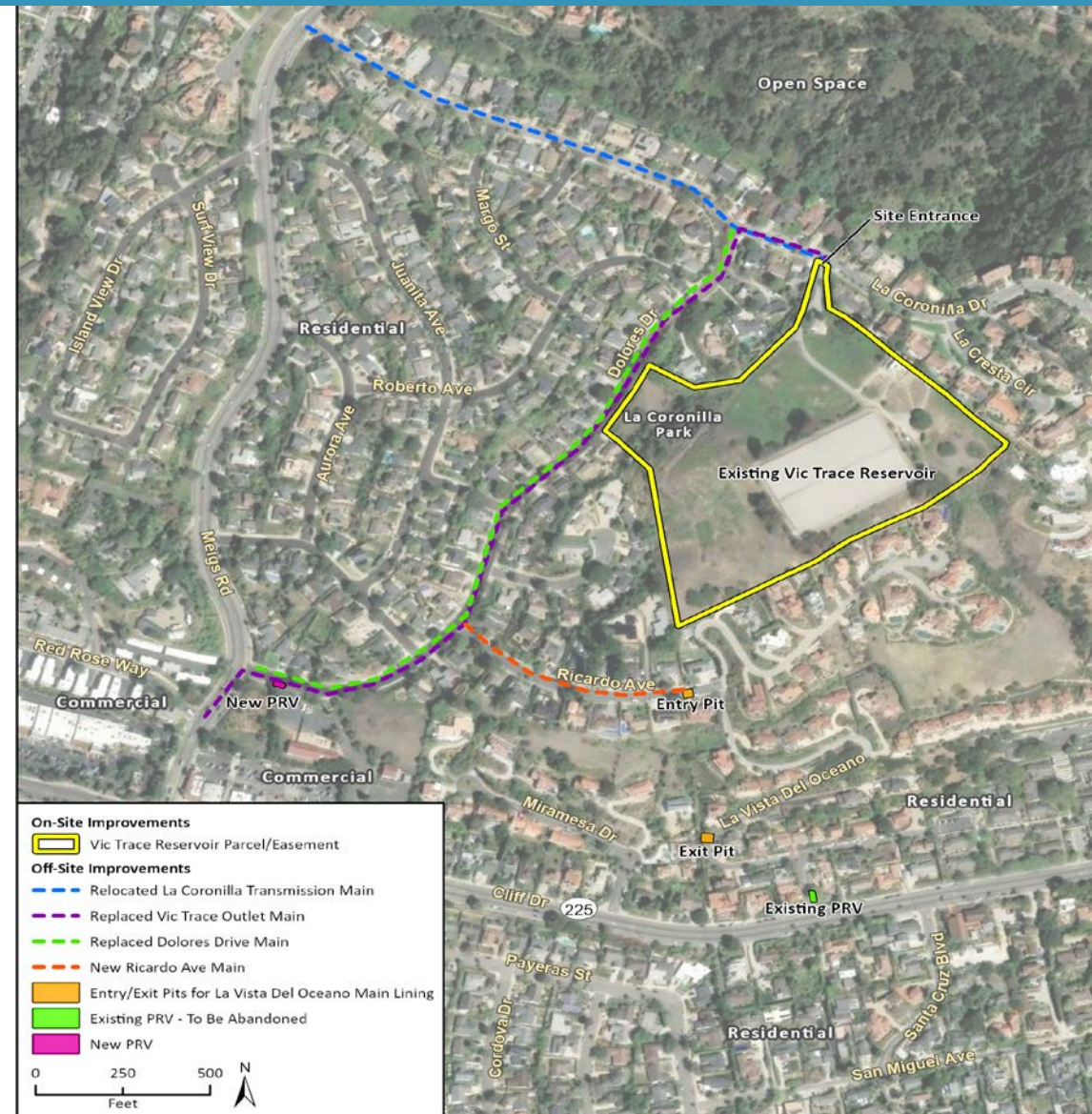
Project Objectives

- Address updated federal regulations that require more robust **security for water infrastructure**
- Maintain the City's ability to **store a large amount of water locally**, which is a key element of Santa Barbara's strategy to remain resilient and resistant to local emergencies or other climate change related issues (e.g., drought, storms, wildfires).

Project Components

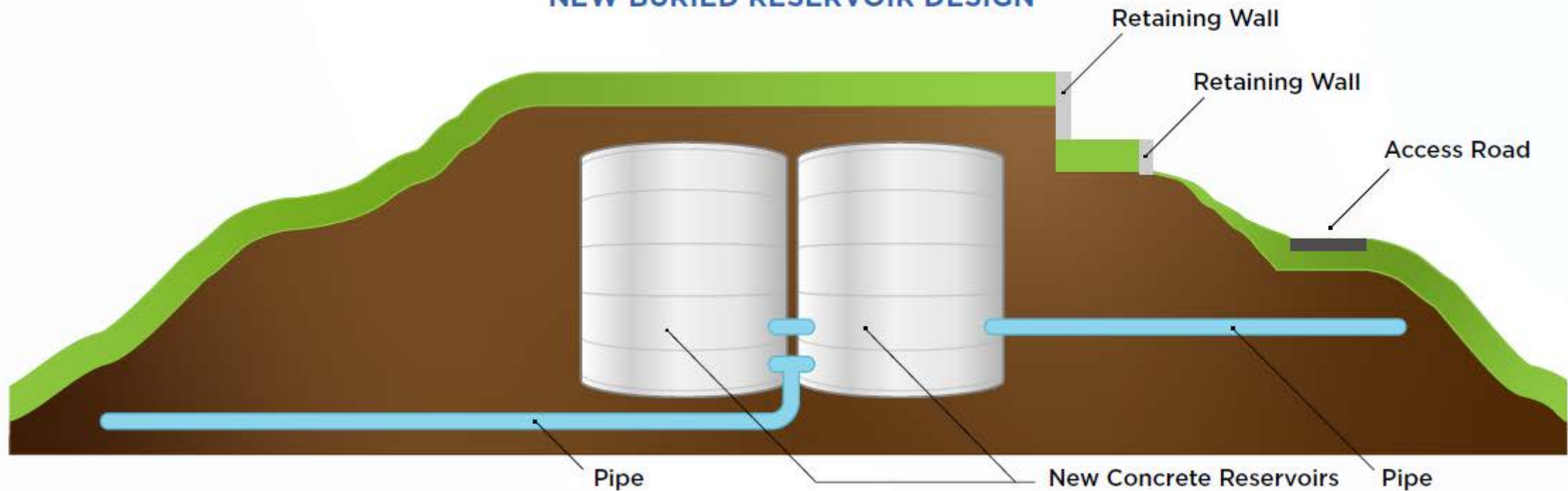
- **Vic Trace Reservoir Parcel Improvements:**
 - Replacement of the existing Vic Trace Reservoir with two reservoirs at the same site; possible renewable energy generation and storage.
- **Offsite Improvements:**
 - Underground Water Mains
 - Underground Pressure Regulating Valve (PRV) Station Relocation

Project Components



Reservoir Replacement

NEW BURIED RESERVOIR DESIGN



Proposed Design Rendering



Proposed Design Rendering



Construction Schedule

- Three Years – Summer 2028 through Summer 2031
- Construction activities would generally occur from 7:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., Monday through Friday
- Not all construction activities happening for three years
- Construction sequencing to be optimized to minimize disruption
- Future community engagement on these topics

Community Engagement

Past Community Outreach:

- May 2025 Design Workshop – Early design feedback
- October 2025 Neighborhood Meet & Greet
- Today – December 3, 2025
 - CEQA Environmental Impact “Scoping” Meeting

Future Outreach:

- Future Meet & Greets at project site
- Draft CEQA EIR Review and Public Meeting
- City Design Approval Public Hearings/Meetings
- Continuous feedback always welcome



CEQA Overview

- The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) is the State's primary **environmental protection law**.
- CEQA requires that public agencies **disclose environmental impacts of projects** that have a physical effect on the environment.

CEQA Environmental Topics

■ Agriculture and Forestry Resources

■ Biological Resources

■ Cultural Resources

■ Geology and Soils

■ Energy

■ Wildfire

■ Public Services

■ Transportation

■ Land Use and Planning

■ Hydrology and Water Quality

Hazards and Hazardous Materials ■

Tribal Cultural Resources ■

Population and Housing ■

Aesthetics/Visual ■

Recreation ■

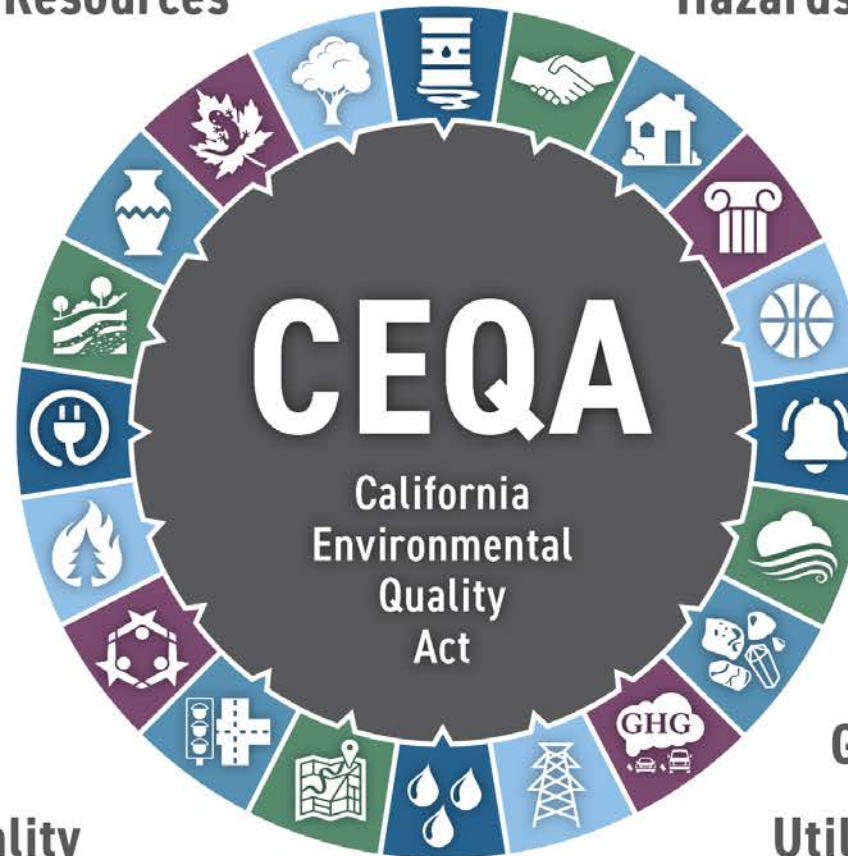
Noise ■

Air Quality ■

Mineral Resources ■

Greenhouse Gas Emissions ■

Utilities and Service Systems ■



CEQA Process



Initial Study Summary

- Project would result in a **less than significant impact**, or **no impact**, to:
 - Agriculture and Forestry Resources, Energy, Hydrology and Water Quality, Land Use and Planning, Mineral Resources, Population and Housing, Public Services, Recreation, Wildfire
- Project would result in a **potentially significant** impact to:
 - Aesthetics, Air Quality, Biological Resources, Cultural and Tribal Cultural Resources, Geology and Soils, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, Noise, Transportation, and Utilities and Service Systems
- EIR will identify potential **mitigation measures** and determine final significance conclusion for each environmental topic analyzed in the EIR.

What is an EIR?

- An **informational document** that discloses the adverse effects a proposed Project could have on the environment.
 - **Identifies mitigation measures**
 - Describes feasible alternatives to the proposed Project
- Must be certified prior to Project approval

EIR Contents

- Introduction and Summary
- Project Description
- Setting, Impacts, and Mitigation
- Alternatives
- Growth-Inducing and Irreversible Impacts



Each topic area includes:

- Baseline and Environmental Setting
- Potential Impacts
- Mitigation Measures (where potential significant impacts are identified)

How to Provide Comments

Deadline: No later than 5:00 p.m. on December 18

Please submit written comments to:

Kelly Bourque, Senior Project Engineer

City of Santa Barbara, Public Works Department, Engineering Division

PO Box 1990 Santa Barbara, CA 93102

Email: VicTrace@SantaBarbaraCA.gov



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Contact Us:

Subscribe - [SantaBarbaraCA.gov/VicTrace](https://www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov/VicTrace)

Email - VicTrace@SantaBarbaraCA.gov

805-564-5579 Kelly Bourque, Project Manager