

Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) Public Review Meeting



VIC TRACE
RESERVOIR
REPLACEMENT PROJECT
City of Santa Barbara



In-Person: Wednesday, June 24, 2026, 5:30 P.M. to 6:30 P.M.

Virtual: Thursday, June 25, 2026, 5:30 P.M. to 6:00 P.M.

Introductions:



Kelly Bourque
Vic Trace PM



Joshua Haggmark
Water Resources
Director



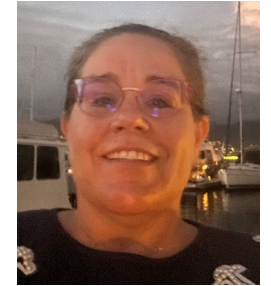
Matt Ward
Water System
Manager



Philip Maldonado
Principal Engineer



Patsy Price
Case Planner



Beth Anna Cornett
PW Senior Planner

- Amanda Antonelli, Supervising Environmental Planner
Rincon Consultants (Vic Trace Environmental Consultant)
- Mathew Rojas, Spanish Translation Services, Project Engineer
- Granite Construction and Tierra Contracting

Public Review Meeting Purpose

- Present key findings of the Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR)
- Provide an overview of:
 - Environmental impacts
 - Mitigation measures
- Provide information on how to submit comments before July 30, 2026



WHERE YOUR WATER COMES FROM





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



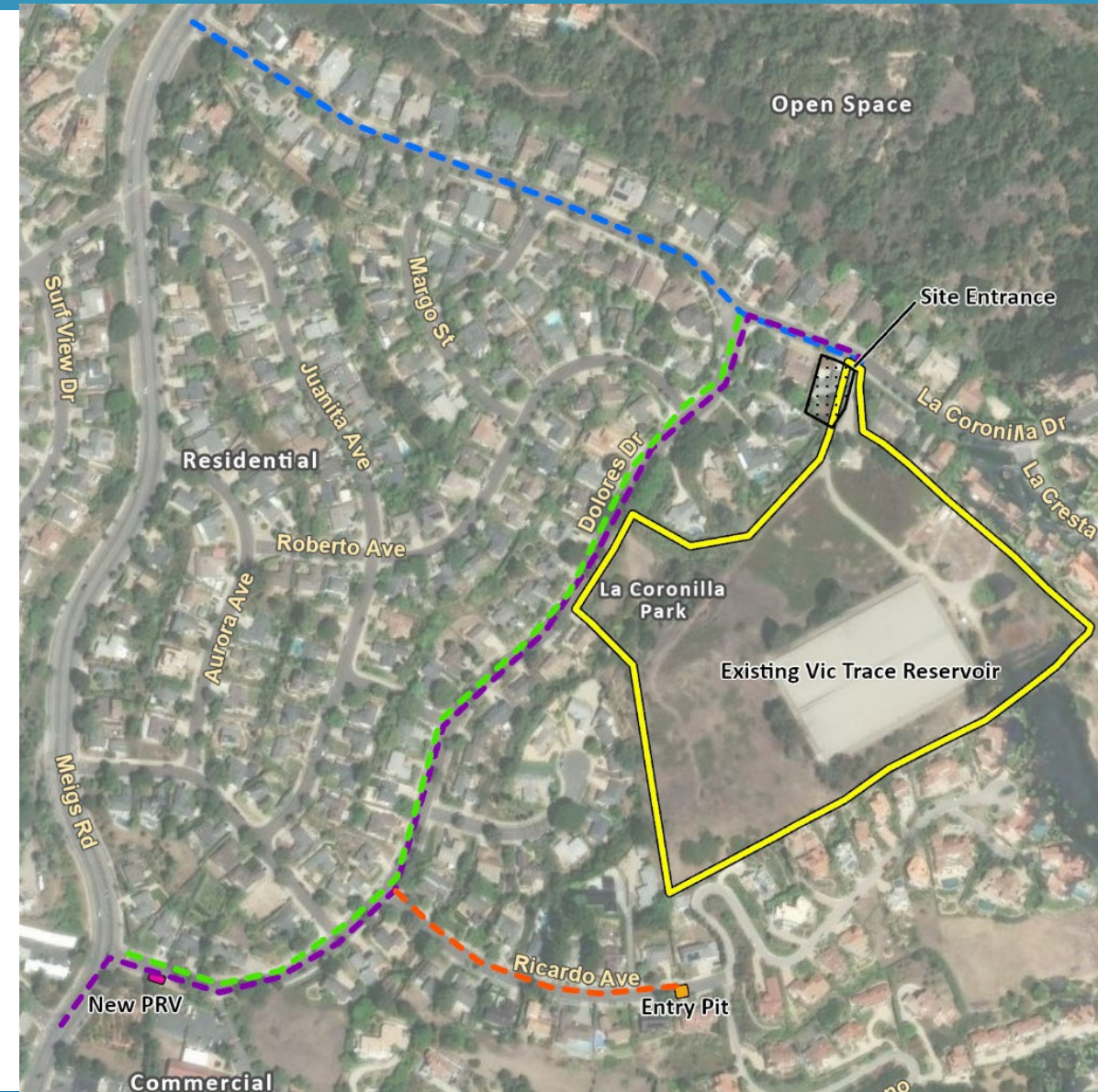
Project Objectives

- ✓ Replace aging infrastructure
- ✓ Maintain critical water pressure/demands
- ✓ Store water locally
- ✓ Strengthen site security
- ✓ Enhance reliability and resiliency



Proposed Project Design & Components

- **Onsite Reservoir Replacements:**
 - Vic Trace Reservoir
 - Valve/Pump Station Building
 - Stormwater, fencing, access roads, landscaping
 - Possible renewable energy generation and storage
- **Offsite Replacements:**
 - Water Main Replacement
 - Pressure Regulating Valve (PRV) Station

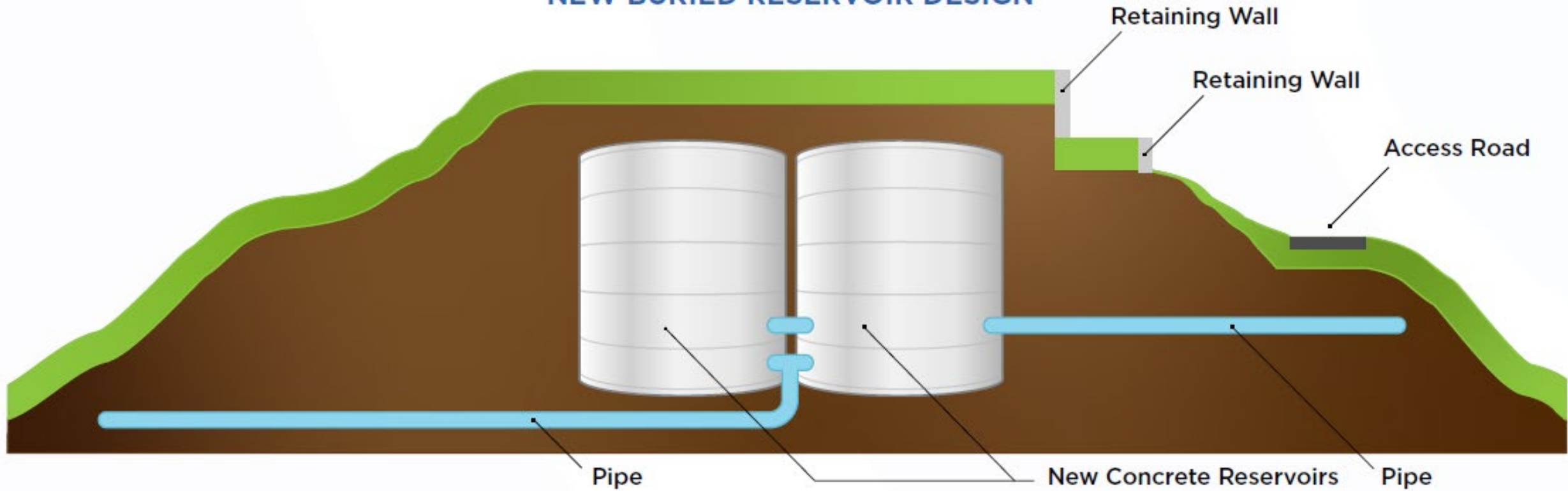


Proposed Design Rendering



Reservoir Replacement

NEW BURIED RESERVOIR DESIGN



Construction Schedule

Street Pipeline Construction (2028)



Reservoir Excavation & Construction (2029-2030)



Community Engagement

Past Community Outreach:

- May 2025 Design Workshop
- October 2025 Meet & Greet
- December 2025 CEQA Scoping Meeting
- January 2026 Meet & Greet
- April 2026 Meet & Greet

Today:

- **CEQA Draft EIR Public Meeting (June 24, 2026)**

Future Meetings:

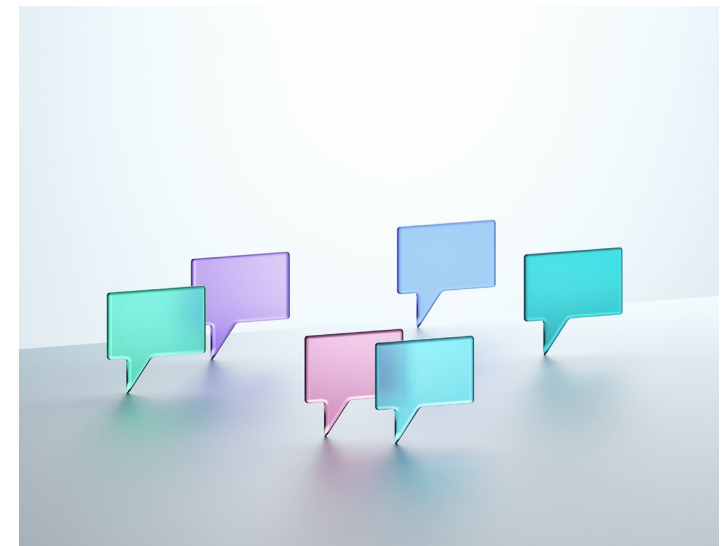
- Planning Commission (July 9, 2026)
- Planning Commission CUP & EIR Approval (Jan. 2027)
- City Design Approval Public Hearings/Meetings



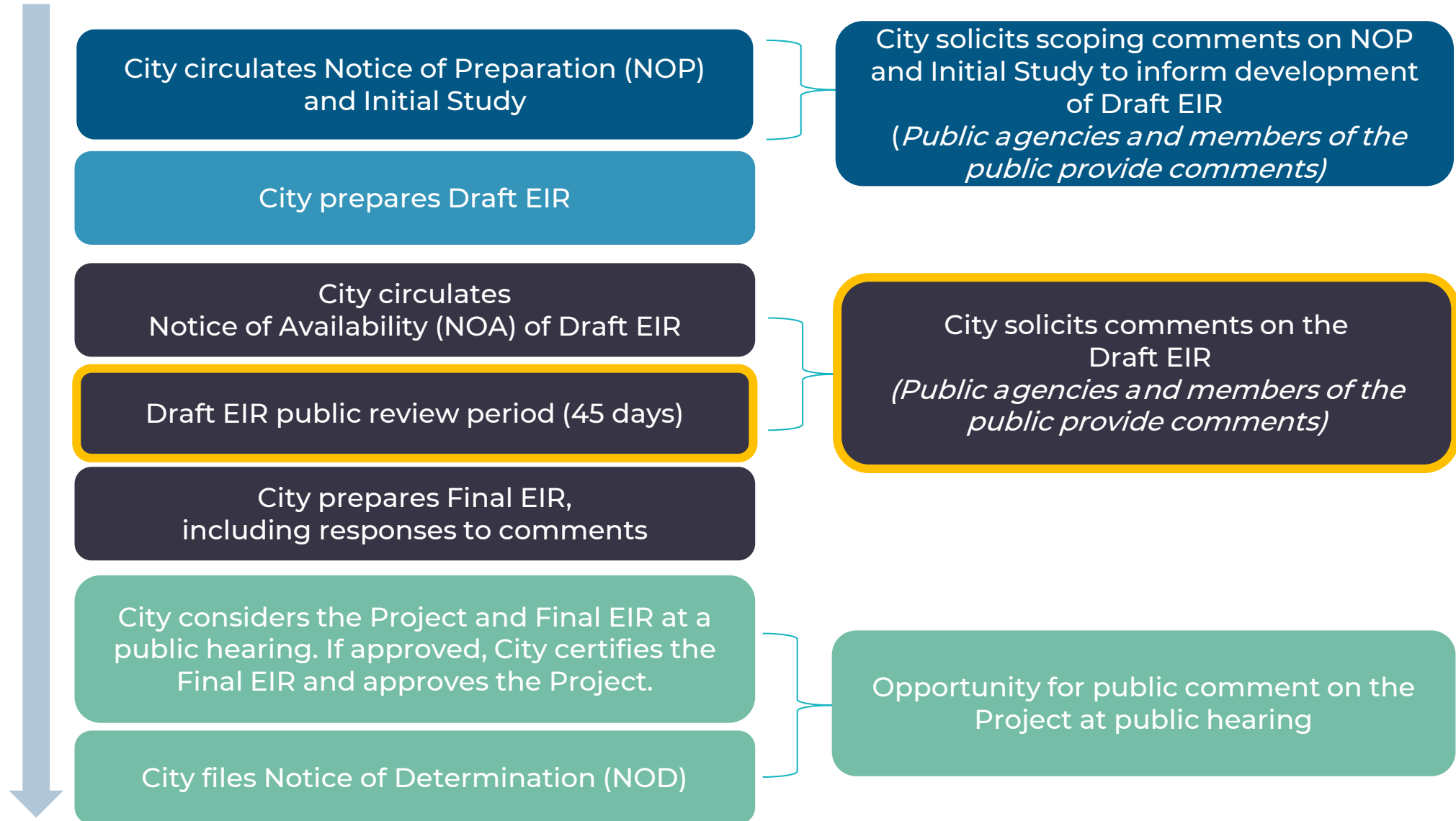
California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

Purpose of CEQA:

- Disclose significant environmental impacts of proposed projects
- Avoid or reduce environmental impacts
- Consider feasible alternatives
- Enhance public participation



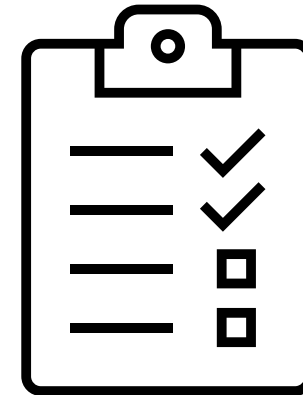
CEQA Process



Environmental Impact Overview

Environmental impacts can be categorized as:

- No impact
- Less than Significant Impact
- Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation
- Significant and Unavoidable Impact



Initial Study Summary

No Impact or Less than Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Impact <i>Warranting Further Analysis in EIR</i>
<i>Agriculture and Forestry Resources</i>	Aesthetics
<i>Energy</i>	Air Quality
<i>Hydrology and Water Quality</i>	Biological Resources
<i>Land Use and Planning</i>	Cultural and Tribal Cultural Resources
<i>Mineral Resources</i>	Geology and Soils (Paleontological Resources)
<i>Population and Housing</i>	Greenhouse Gas Emissions
<i>Public Services</i>	Hazards and Hazardous Materials
<i>Recreation</i>	Noise
<i>Wildfire</i>	Transportation
	Utilities and Service Systems (Solid Waste)

Draft EIR - Mitigation Measures

Air Quality

- Clean construction equipment (up to Tier 4)



Biological Resources

- Worker training
- Nesting Bird Management Plan
- Pre-construction wildlife surveys
- Biological monitoring
- Lemonade berry scrub replacement
- Tree Protection Plan & replacements



Cultural and Tribal Cultural Resources

- Worker training
- Archaeological and Native American monitoring for work near Meigs Rd./Dolores Dr.
- Unanticipated discovery procedures



Paleontological Resources

- Worker training
- Paleontological monitoring in native (undisturbed) soils
- Fossil discovery procedures



Transportation

- Enhanced Traffic Control Plan (driveway access maintenance, community notifications, detours)



Noise

- Low-vibratory construction equipment near residences
- Construction Noise Control Plan developed with input from surrounding neighborhood

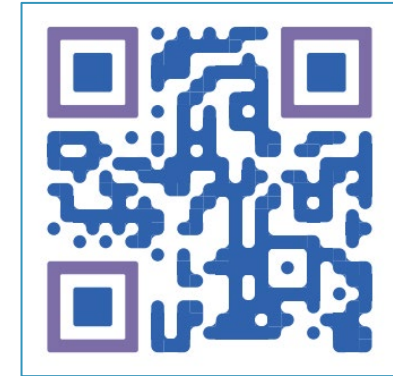


Draft EIR - Impact Findings

Environmental Resource	Level of Significance
Aesthetics	Less than Significant
Air Quality	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated
Biological Resources	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated
Cultural and Tribal Cultural Resources	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated
Geology and Soils	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated
Hazards and Hazardous Materials	Less than Significant
Noise	Significant and Unavoidable
Transportation	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated
Utilities and Service Systems	Less than Significant

Draft EIR Available for Review and Comment

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



- Comments on the Draft EIR can focus on:
 - Accuracy and completeness of the environmental analysis
 - Adequacy and feasibility of mitigation measures

How to Provide Comments

- Submit comments:
 - By comment card today
 - By email: VicTrace@SantaBarbaraCA.gov
 - By physical mail:

*Kelly Bourque, Project Manager
City of Santa Barbara Public Works Department
Attn: Vic Trace Reservoir Replacement Project
630 Garden Street, Santa Barbara, California 93101*
- **Deadline:** No later than 5:00 p.m. on July 30, 2026