PASADENA WATER AND POWER

Notice of Preparation of an EIR and Public Scoping Meeting for the Sunset Complex Project

TO:

Responsible and Trustee Agencies,
Organizations, and Interested Parties

FROM:

City of Pasadena
100 North Garfield Avenue
Pasadena, California 91101

DATE:	April 7, 2022
SUBJECT:	Notice of Preparation of an Environmental Impact Report and Public Scoping Meeting
PROJECT TITLE:	Sunset Complex Project
PROJECT APPLICANT:	City of Pasadena Department of Water and Power
PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD:	April 7, 2022 through May 9, 2022
SCOPING MEETING:	Thursday, April 21, 2022 from 5:00 P.M. to 7:00 P.M. Robinson Park Recreation Center 1081 N. Fair Oaks Avenue, Pasadena, CA 91103

Pursuant to Section 21165 of the California Public Resources Code and Section 15050 of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines, the City of Pasadena (City) is the Lead Agency for the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the proposed Sunset Complex Project (Project). The Project would be implemented by the Pasadena Department of Water and Power (PWP). In accordance with CEQA Guidelines Section 15082, the City has prepared this Notice of Preparation (NOP) to provide responsible and trustee agencies, the Office of Planning and Research, the County Clerk, and interested persons and organizations with sufficient information describing the Project and its potential environmental effects to enable the interested parties to make a meaningful response to this NOP.

For public agencies, the City requests your agency's views on the scope and content of the environmental information related to your agency's statutory responsibilities in connection with the proposed Project, in accordance with CEQA Guidelines Section 15082(b). For other interested organizations and parties, the City requests your comments and concerns regarding the environmental issues associated with construction and operation of the proposed Project, as pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15083, this NOP also serves to facilitate consultation with any persons or organizations that may be concerned with the environmental effects of the Project. Additionally, this NOP also serves as a notice for the public Scoping Meeting, which is held to expedite and facilitate the consultation process.

An Initial Study has been prepared for the proposed Project pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15063 and is available for viewing online at https://ww5.cityofpasadena.net/water-and-power/sunsetcomplex/ or https://www.cityofpasadena.net/planning/environmental-notices/. Hardcopies will be available for viewing at the following four locations in Pasadena:

- PWP Office, 150 South Los Robles Avenue, Suite 200
- La Pintoresca Branch Library, 1355 North Raymond Avenue
- City of Pasadena Office of the City Clerk, 100 North Garfield Avenue, Room S228
- City of Pasadena Permit Center, 175 North Garfield Avenue

PWP is not providing hardcopies of the Initial Study for the public to take for viewing off-site. The hardcopies will only be made available for viewing at the above locations and must be returned when completed.

The Project is proposed by and would be implemented under the direction of the City of Pasadena. Although the Project is being initiated by the City, the Project would be subject to review and approval by City decision makers, who would consider the need for and benefits of the Project in addition to the potential environmental effects of its construction and operation.

PROJECT LOCATION: The Project site is located in western Pasadena at the intersection of Sunset Avenue and West Mountain Street (Assessor's Parcel Number 5728 021 916). The Project site is bordered by residences to the north, Sunset Avenue to the east, West Mountain Street to the south, and City of Pasadena buildings to the west. Surrounding land uses also include Brenner Park to the south, Interstate 210 (I-210) to the west, and residential uses on all sides (See **Figure 1**, *Regional Location,* and **Figure 2**, *Project Vicinity Map*). All proposed Project components under the scope of the Project would be located within the boundary of the existing site, with the exception of pipeline, mechanical and street improvements, and landscaping enhancements that would occur within the public right-of-way on Sunset Avenue and Mountain Street adjacent to the reservoir property.

PROJECT BACKGROUND: PWP currently imports approximately 65 percent of the potable water for the City from Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) as a member agency. MWD imports water from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta (Delta) via the State Water Project (SWP) and from the Colorado River Aqueduct (CRA). The remaining approximately 35 percent of the City's potable water is supplied from the Raymond Basin aquifer. A minimal, varying portion of potable water is purchased from neighboring water agencies, which includes a combination of surface and groundwater. The overall intent of the Project is to replace aging and insufficient water storage and build new treatment infrastructure to ensure that the City can reliably provide safe drinking water.

PROJECT SUMMARY: The Project would construct two replacement reservoirs and associated appurtenances including piping connections through the floor of the tank with concrete encasement beneath the floor, a removable silt stop, exterior and interior ladders with safety devices, two access hatches on the roof of each tank, guardrails at the roof ladder, and a roof center vent. The existing reservoirs (Sunset Reservoir 1 [SR1] and Sunset Reservoir 2 [SR2]) each have several cracks in the walls that leak depending on water levels. Additionally, recent seismic evaluations have identified necessary seismic improvements for the reservoirs' roofing system. Therefore, due to the age and condition of the existing reservoirs, Pasadena Water and Power (PWP) plans to replace these reservoirs with two new prestressed concrete reservoirs in the same location. Prestressed Concrete Tank Reservoir 1 (Reservoir 1) would have a capacity of 4.9 million gallons (MG) and Prestressed Concrete Tank Reservoir 2 (Reservoir 2) would have a capacity of 6.1 MG (See **Figure 3**, *Site Plan*).

In addition, the Project would install a new on-site groundwater treatment plant (GWTP) to be able to treat for perchlorate and volatile organic carbons (VOCs) and utilize the City's local groundwater supply. This would provide PWP with greater water supply reliability and

operational flexibility. The GWTP would be installed in two phases. Phase 1 would allow for a total treatment capacity of up to 3,000 gallons per minute (gpm) and would treat for perchlorate and volatile organic compounds such as 1,2,3 Trichloropropane (TCP). The second phase, Buildout, would increase the total treatment capacity to 4,500 gpm and may include up to 800 gpm of side stream biological nitrate treatment.

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED: As identified in the Initial Study, the following topical areas have the potential to result in significant impacts and will be analyzed in the EIR: Aesthetics, Air Quality, Cultural Resources, Energy, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Noise, and Tribal Cultural Resources. Other topical areas have been assessed through the Initial Study, were determined to have no impacts or less than significant impacts and will not be further evaluated in the EIR.

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING DATE AND LOCATION: A public Scoping Meeting will be held to share information regarding the Project and the environmental review process and to receive written comments about the scope and content of the environmental analysis to be addressed in the Draft EIR. The Scoping Meeting is an information-gathering meeting, not a public hearing, and no public testimony or recordation of the meeting will occur. Attendees are encouraged to submit all comments in writing, which will be reviewed and considered by PWP as part of the environmental analysis of the Project. No decisions about the Project will be made at the Scoping Meeting. A separate public hearing for entitlement requests and consideration of certification of the EIR will be scheduled after the completion of the final EIR, which will include all public comments received during public review of the draft EIR and the City's corresponding responses. The date, time, and location of the public Scoping Meeting are as follows:

Date: Thursday, April 21, 2022

Time: 5:00 to 7:00 P.M.

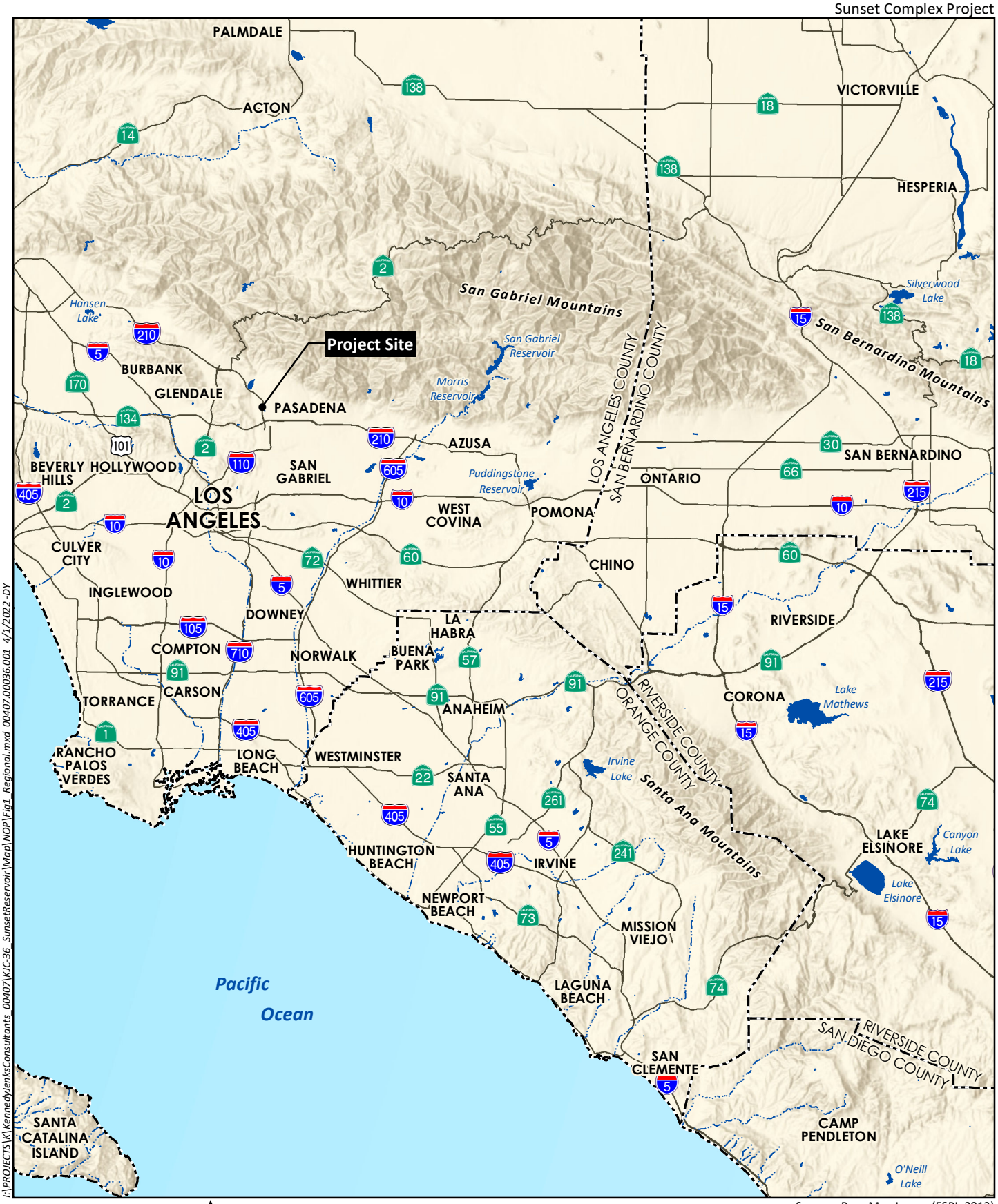
Location: Robinson Park Recreation Center
1081 N. Fair Oaks Avenue
Pasadena, CA 91103
(626) 744-7330

SUBMITTING COMMENTS: A copy of this NOP and the Initial Study may be viewed online at https://ww5.cityofpasadena.net/water-and-power/sunsetcomplex/ or https://www.cityofpasadena.net/planning/environmental-notices/. Hardcopies will be available for viewing at the PWP office, La Pintoresca Branch Library, City Clerk's office, and City Permit Center. The City will consider all written comments regarding the potential environmental effects of the Project received during the public review period. Written comments, including e-mails, must be submitted in writing by 5:00 P.M., May 9, 2022. Written comments will also be accepted at the Scoping Meeting described above. Due to the time limits mandated by State law, your comments must be received by PWP no later than 30 days after receipt of this NOP.

Please direct your written comments via email and/or postal service to:

Mr. Michael Lin, P.E.
City of Pasadena Department of Water and Power
150 South Los Robles Avenue, Suite 200
Pasadena, California 91101
E-mail: mlin@cityofpasadena.net

ATTACHMENTS:
Figure 1: Regional Location
Figure 2: Project Vicinity Map
Figure 3: Site Plan



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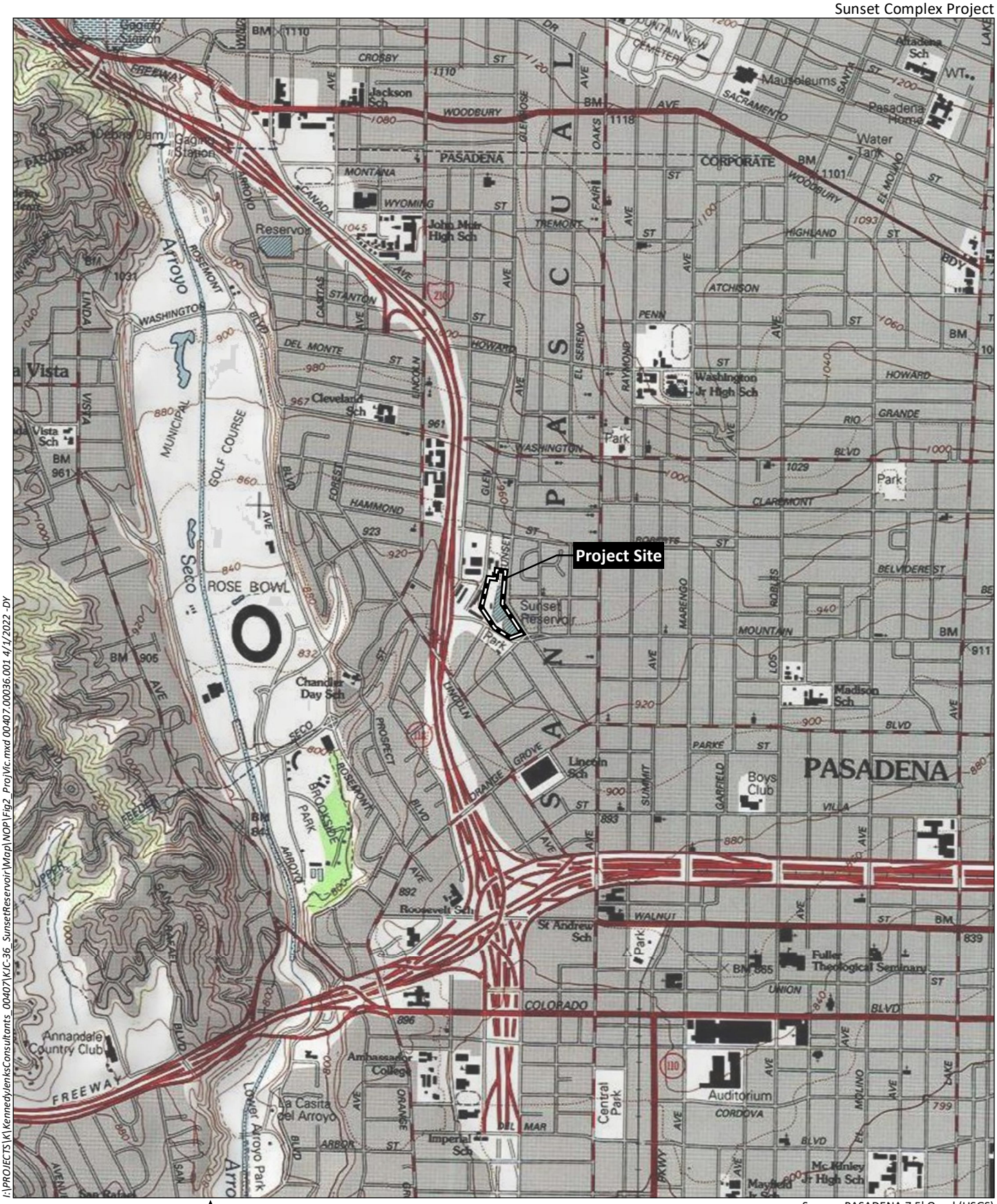
0 10 Miles

Source: Base Map Layers (ESRI, 2013)

HELIX Environmental Planning

Regional Location

Figure 1



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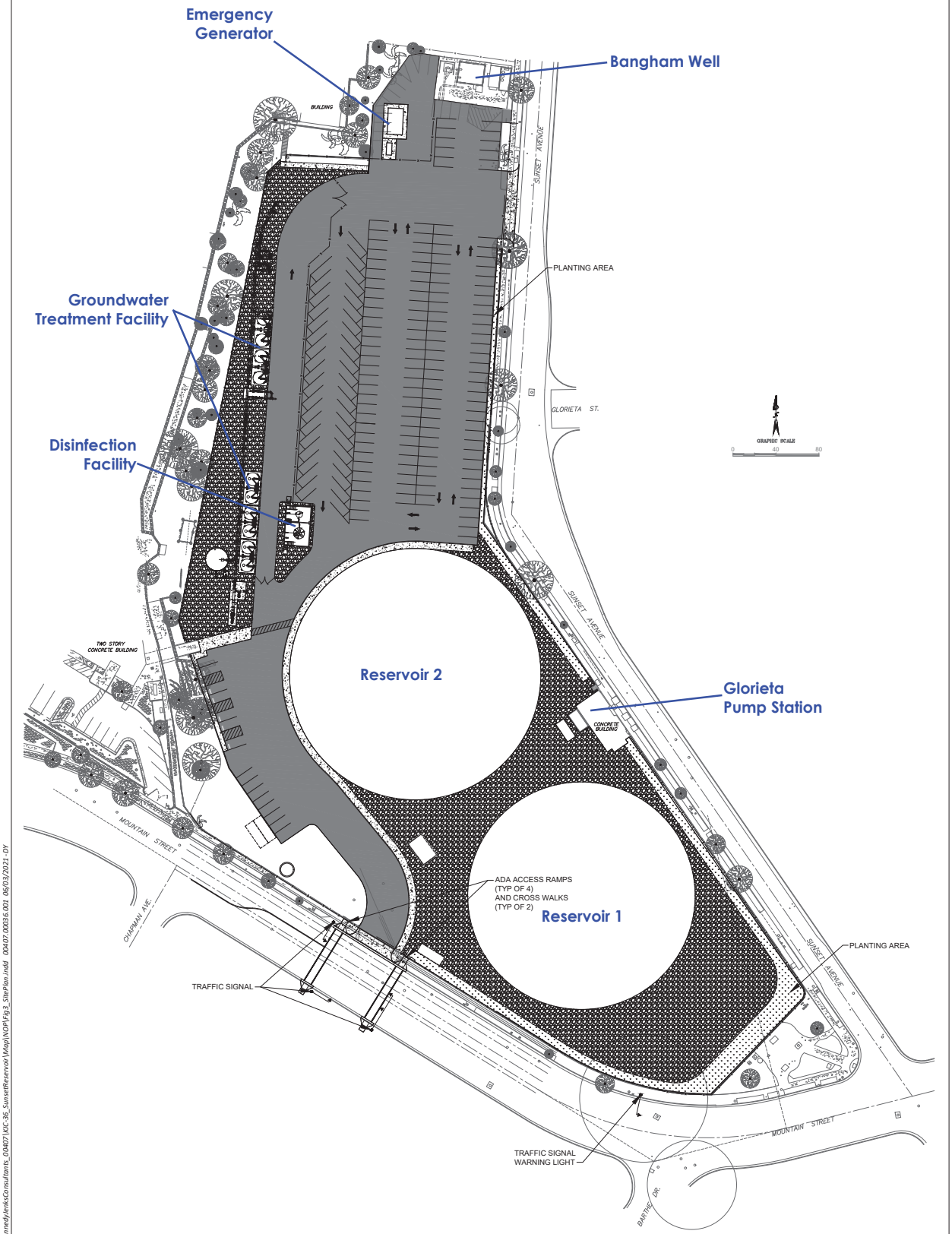
Source: PASADENA 7.5' Quad (USGS)

HELIX Environmental Planning

Project Vicinity Map

Figure 2



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Source: City of Pasadena (2021)