Pacoima Reservoir Sediment Removal Project

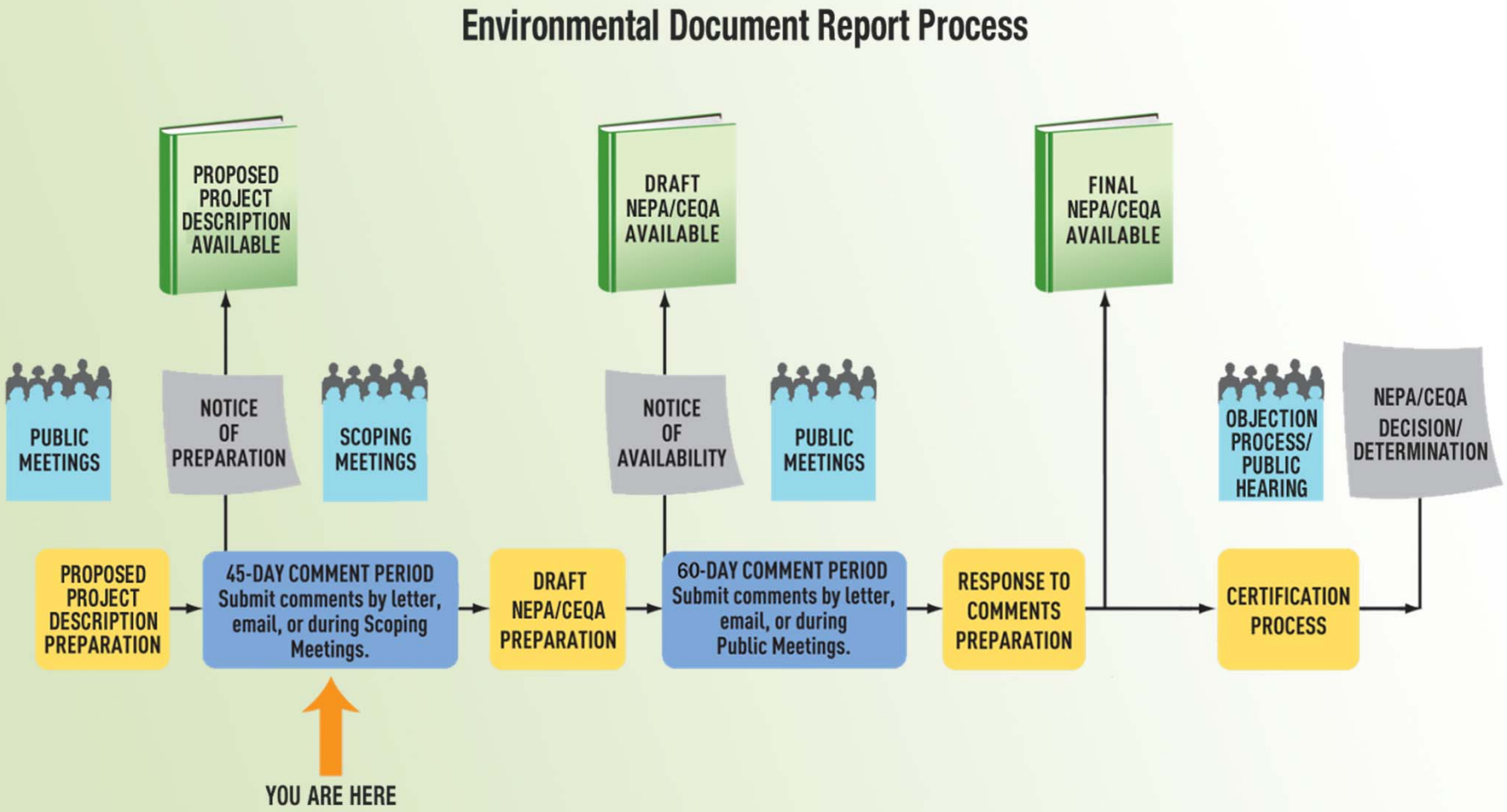
Scoping Meetings
March 25, 26, & 28, 2015

Presented by:
Los Angeles County Flood Control District
USDA Forest Service

Scoping Meeting Agenda

1. Welcome and Introductions
    - Please sign in
    - Spanish translation available
2. Slideshow Presentation
    - Meeting Guidelines and Format
    - Overview and Functions of Flood Control District and Pacoima Dam and Reservoir
    - Sediment Concerns
    - Project Options
    - Purpose of CEQA, NEPA, and Scoping Meeting
    - CEQA/NEPA Topics, Requirements, and Process
    - Opportunities for Public Input
    - Next Steps
3. Community Input

Overview of Environmental Process



Meeting Guidelines and Format

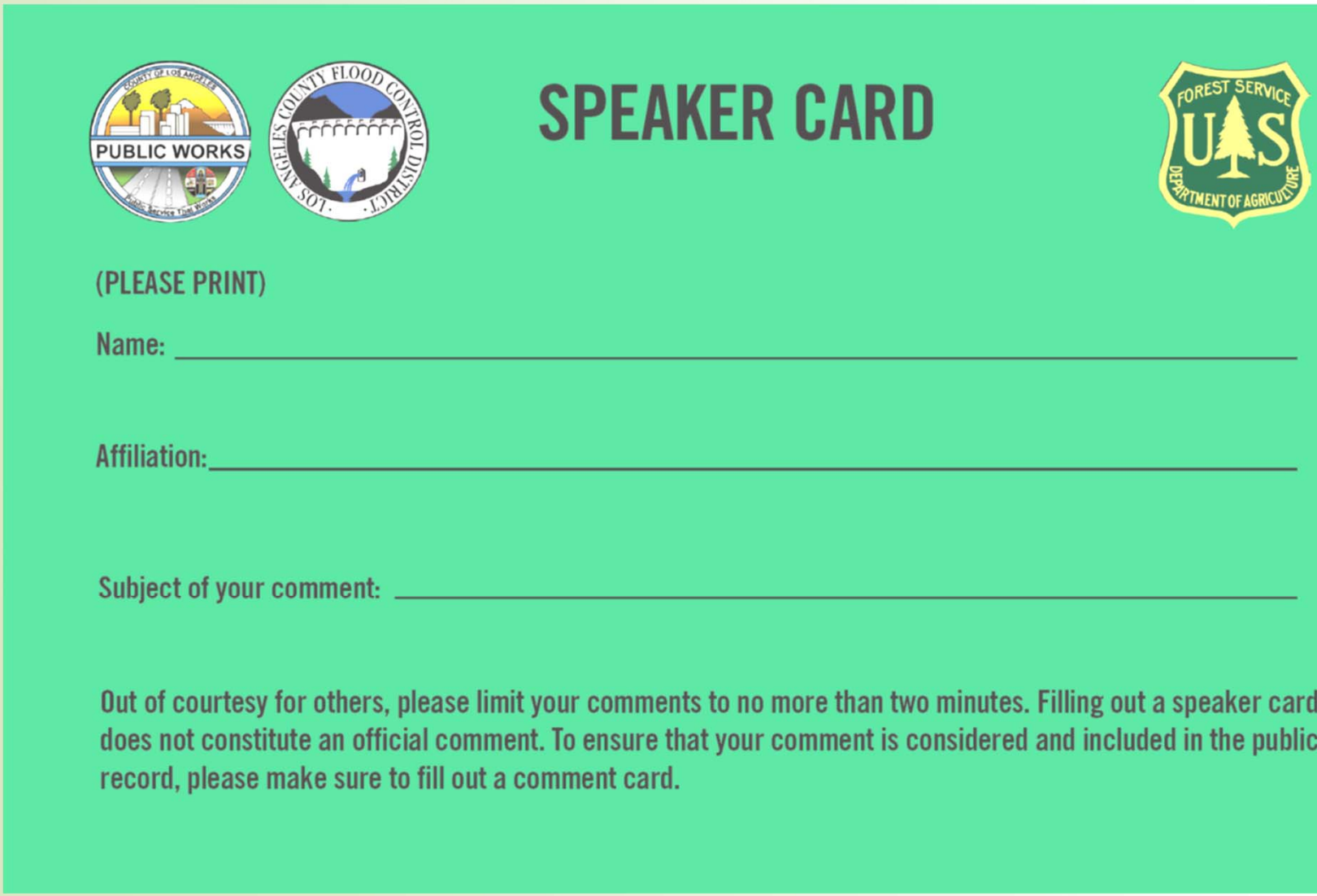
Flood Control District Presentation

- Please hold questions/comments until after the presentation
- Please turn off cell phones and minimize side discussions

Community Input

- Please complete a speaker card
- Each speaker will have 1-2 minutes total for comments
- Please focus comments on CEQA/NEPA related topics
- Please submit any/all comments **in writing** (see Comment Cards)
- Please respect all speakers (no interruptions)
- Meeting will end at designated time

Meeting Guidelines and Format



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Meeting Guidelines and Format

PACOIMA RESERVOIR SEDIMENT REMOVAL PROJECT
NOTICE OF PREPARATION
OF A JOINT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT
AND NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT DOCUMENT
MARCH 25, 26, & 28, 2015

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Comments: _____

_____

_____

_____

_____

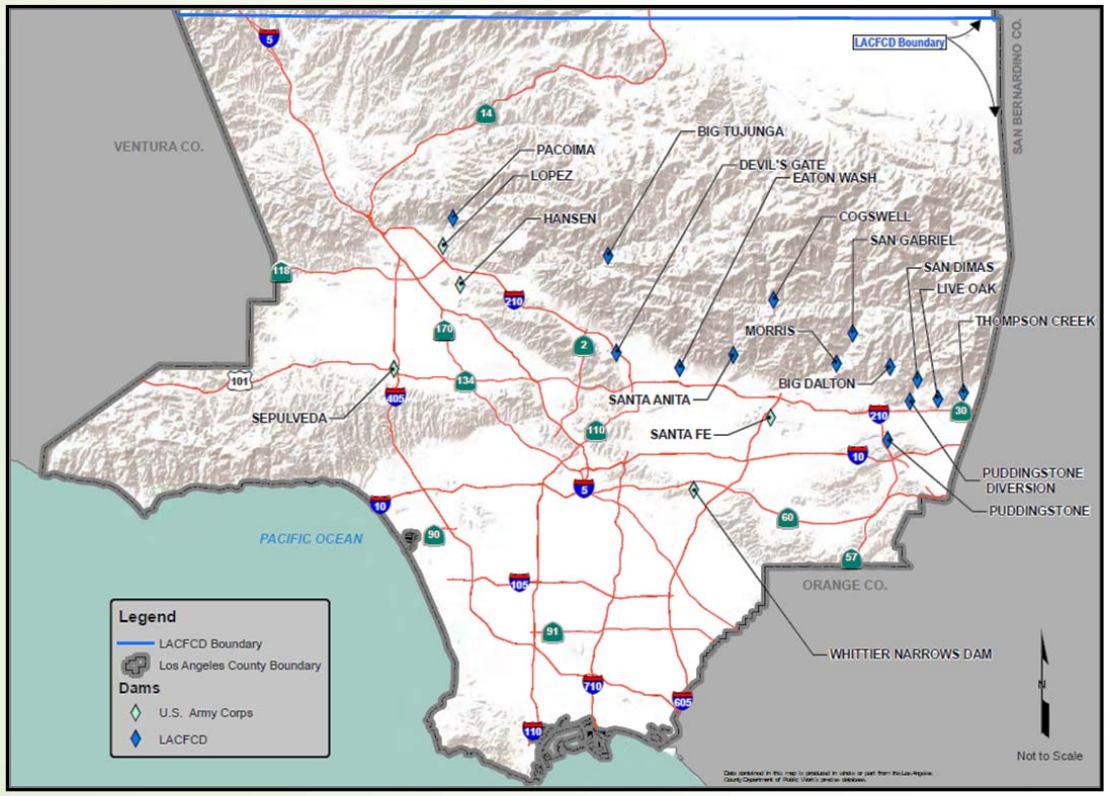
Comments on the scope and content of the environmental information to be included in the Draft EIR and NEPA document should be sent in writing to the LACFCD at the earliest possible date, but must be postmarked or received by the LACFCD no later than the close of business on Thursday, April 9, 2015. Comments can be mailed, emailed to reservoircleanouts@dpw.lacounty.gov, or faxed to (626) 979-5436. Emailed and faxed comments should include "PRSR Project" in the subject line.

☐ Please contact me with future updates about the project.

Flood Control District

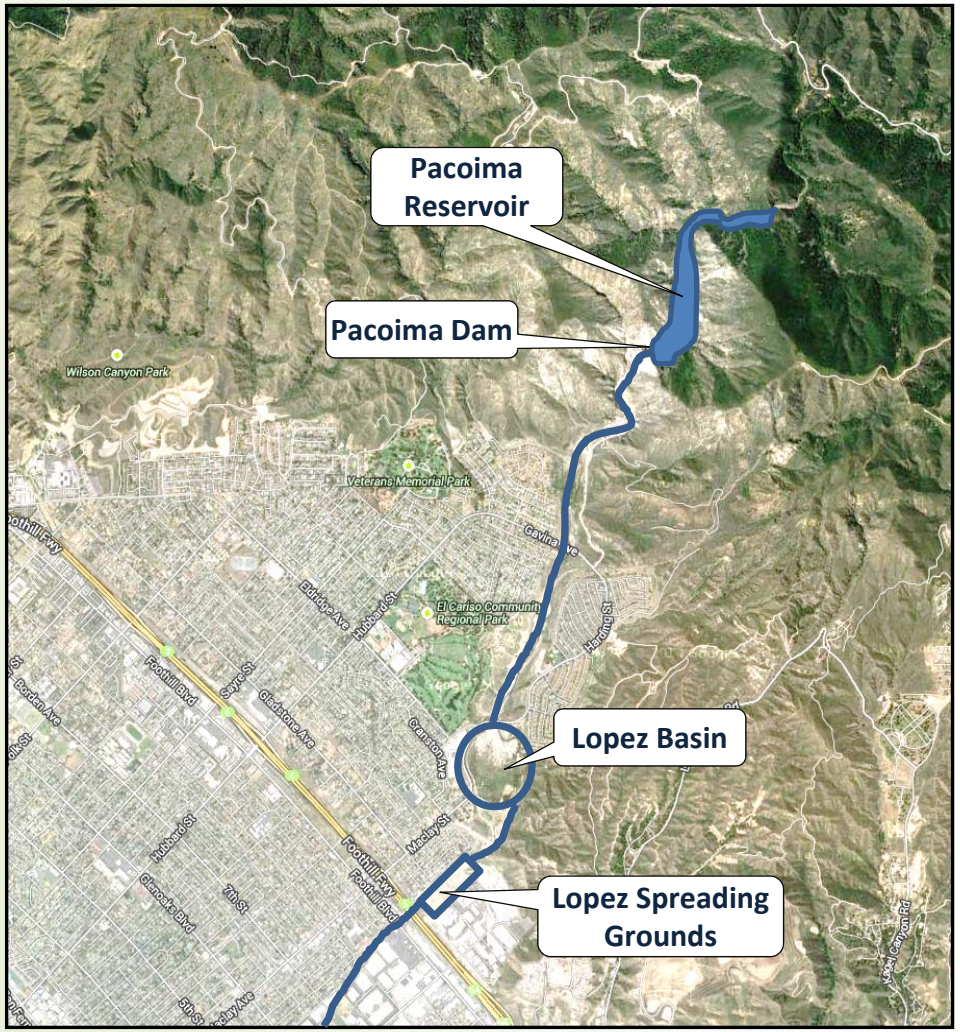
Owns and operates complex flood protection and water conservation systems that include:

- 14 major dams
- 162 debris basins
- 500 miles of open channels
- 36 sediment placement sites
- 27 groundwater recharge facilities

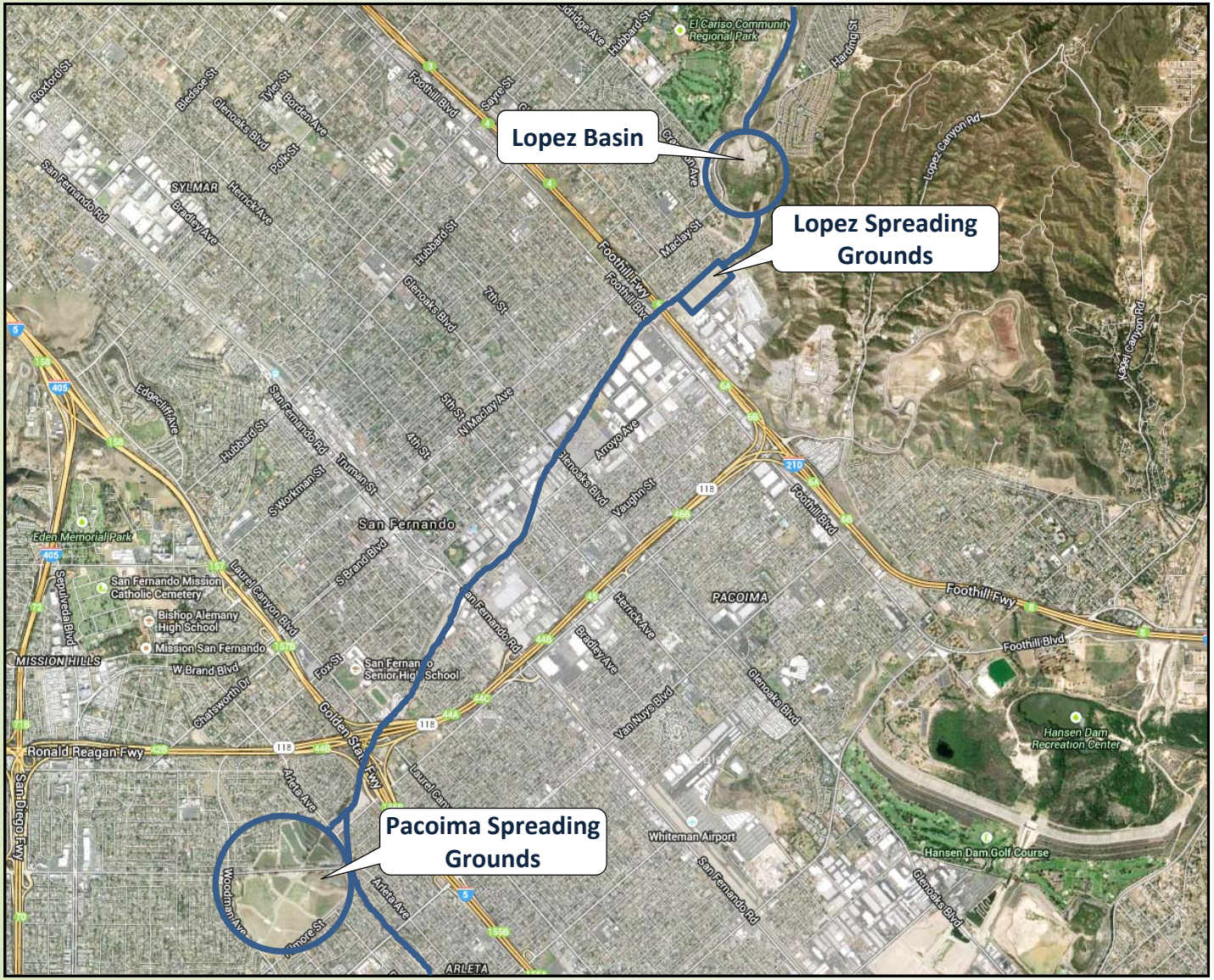


Pacoima Dam and Reservoir

- Construction in 1929
- Pacoima Dam is 3 miles northeast of San Fernando, CA
- Provides flood protection to downstream communities
- Provides water conservation of 1.8 billion gallons per year
- Water flows to Pacoima Reservoir from Pacoima Creek. Pacoima Wash continues downstream of the Dam and flows into the Los Angeles River



Pacoima Dam and Reservoir

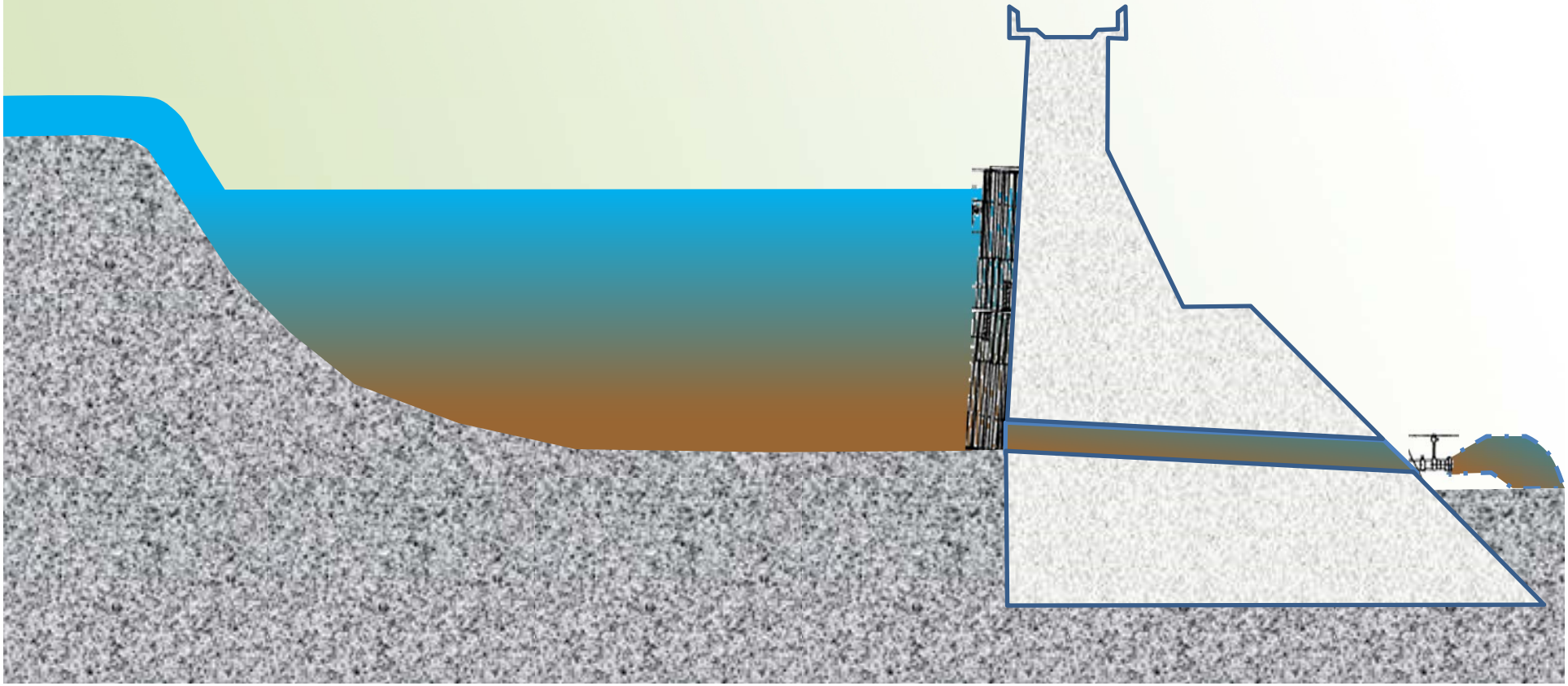


Pacoima Dam and Reservoir

Dam Operations

A minimum pool in the reservoir is always maintained.

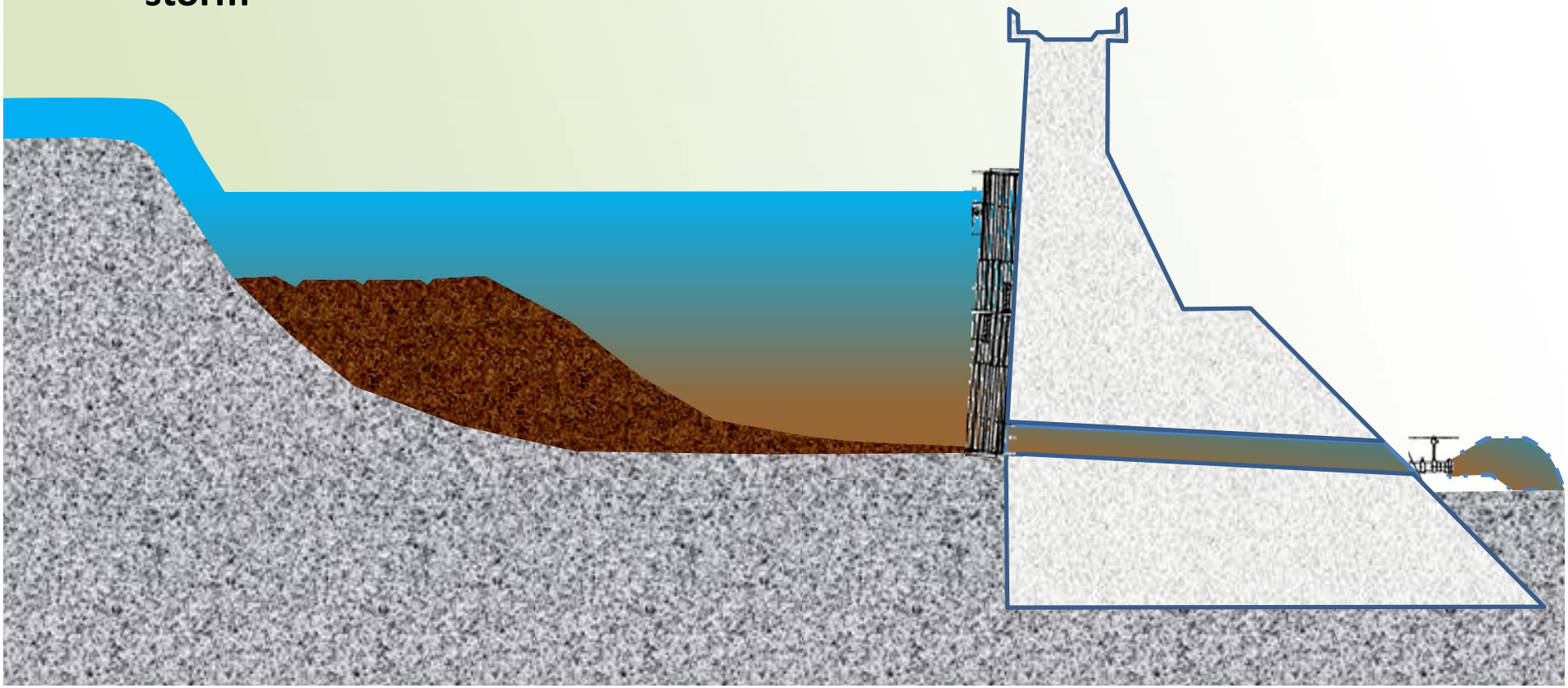
Outlet flows can be controlled by the dam.



Dam Operations

Sediment and debris is left behind once reservoir is drained to minimum pool.

Sediment continues to build with each storm



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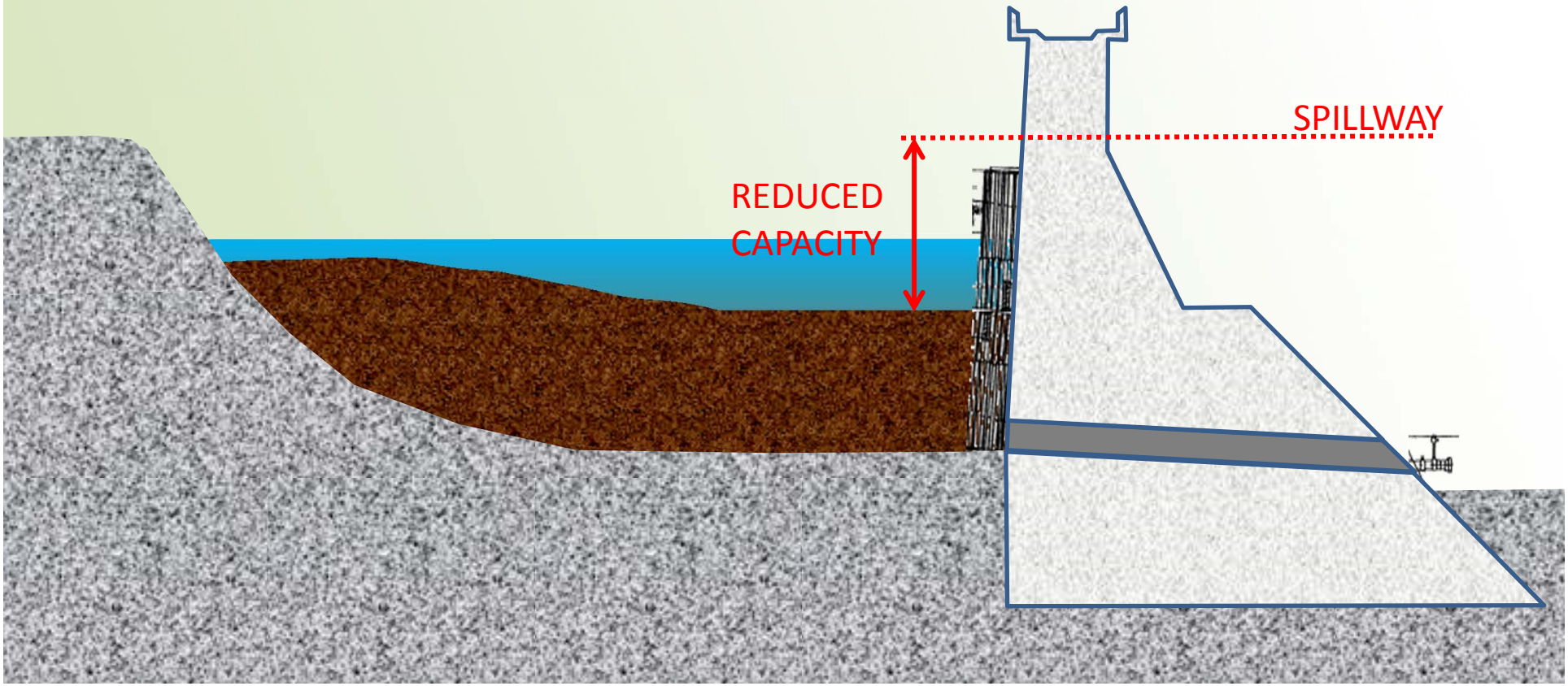


Pacoima Reservoir Watershed

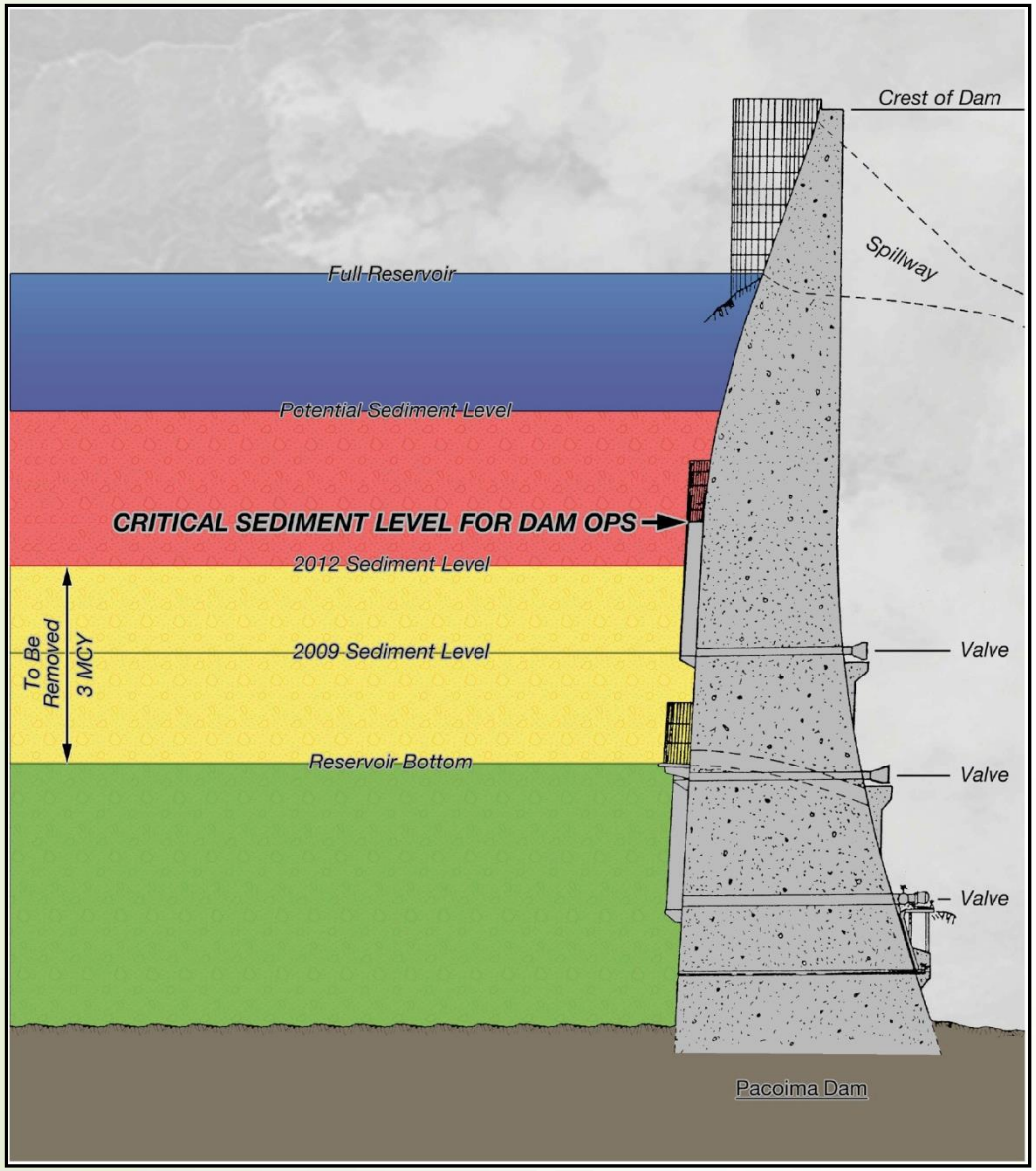
The 2008 Sayre and Marek Fires and the 2009 Station Fire burned approximately 80% of Pacoima Reservoir's watershed

Burned Pacoima Watershed after 2009 Station Fire

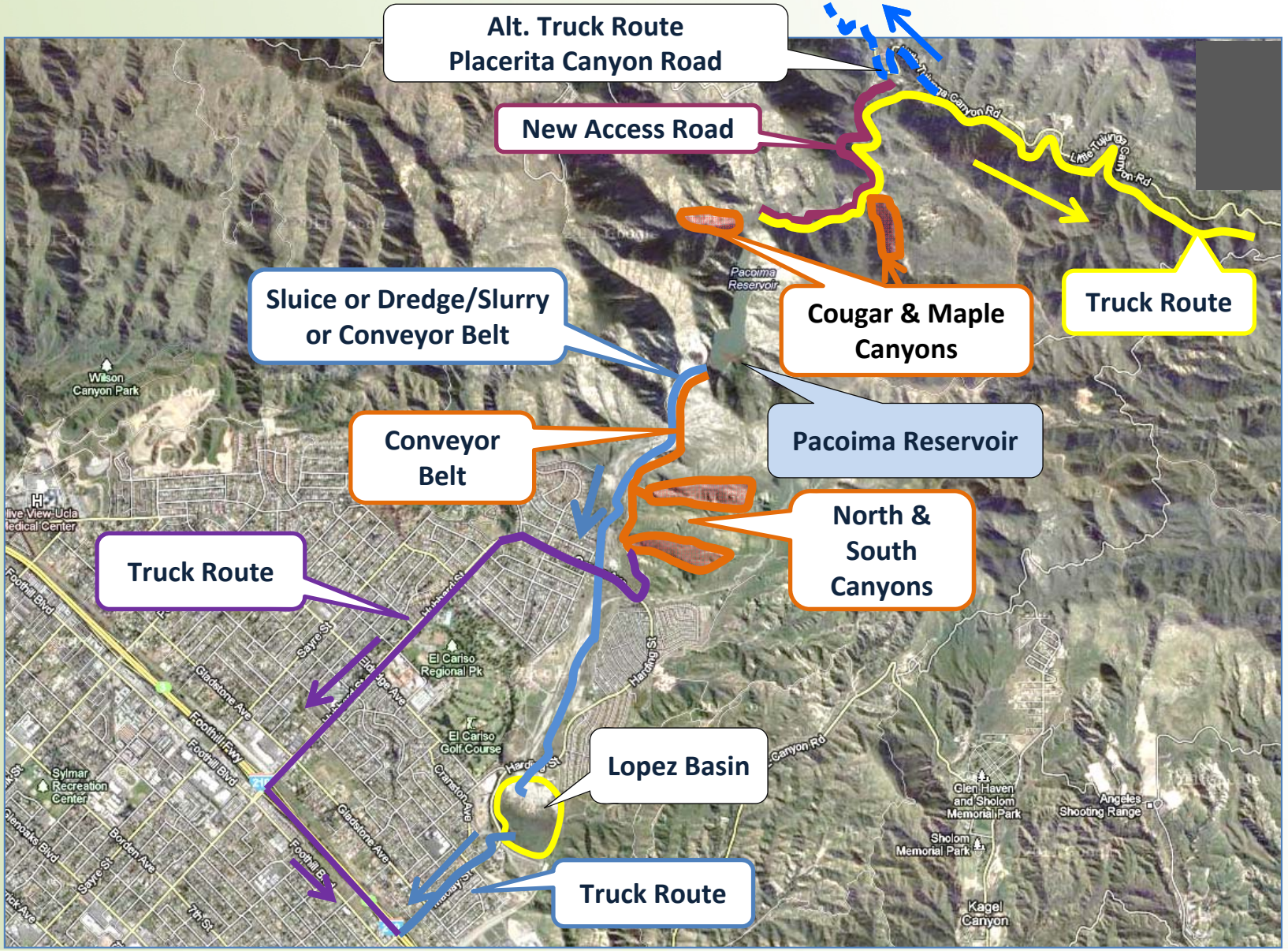
Pacoima Reservoir with sediment and debris after storm following the 2009 Station Fire

Sediment Concerns

- Reduced flood control and water conservation capacity in the Reservoir.
- Threatens reliability of operations and safety of the Dam.



Previously Presented Project Options



What We've Heard - Feedback

- Trucking sediment on Hubbard Street could be major traffic impact
- Consider trucking out back of reservoir to Little Tujunga Canyon Road and Placerita Canyon Road
- Concern with creating new sediment placement sites in the community
- Consider use of Maple and Cougar Canyons in the Forest
- Avoid use of May SPS for Pacoima Reservoir sediment
- Air quality concerns related to truck emissions and wind blown sediment
- Impacts to recreation including hang gliders' landing area
- Concern with reservoir sediment quality

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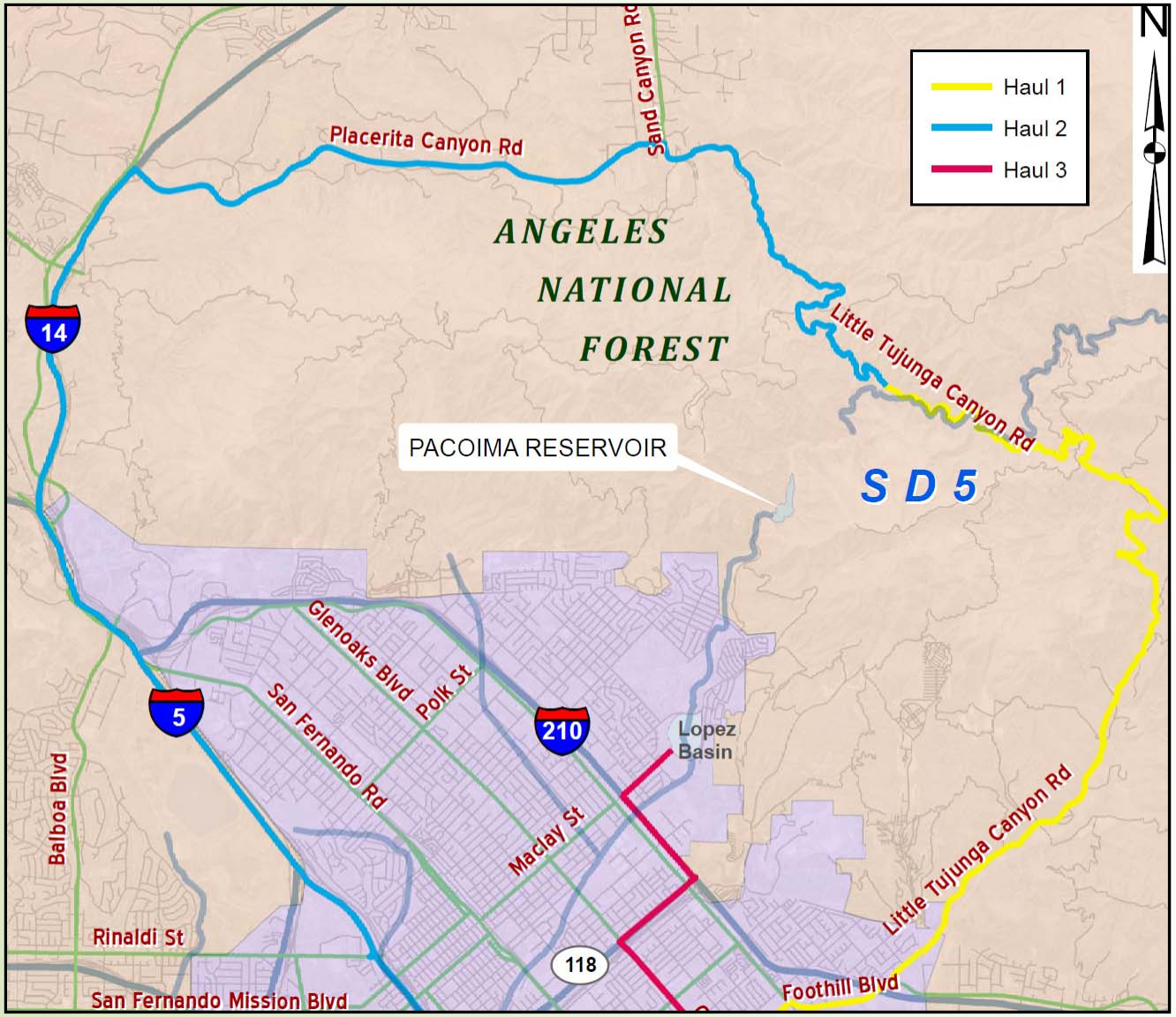

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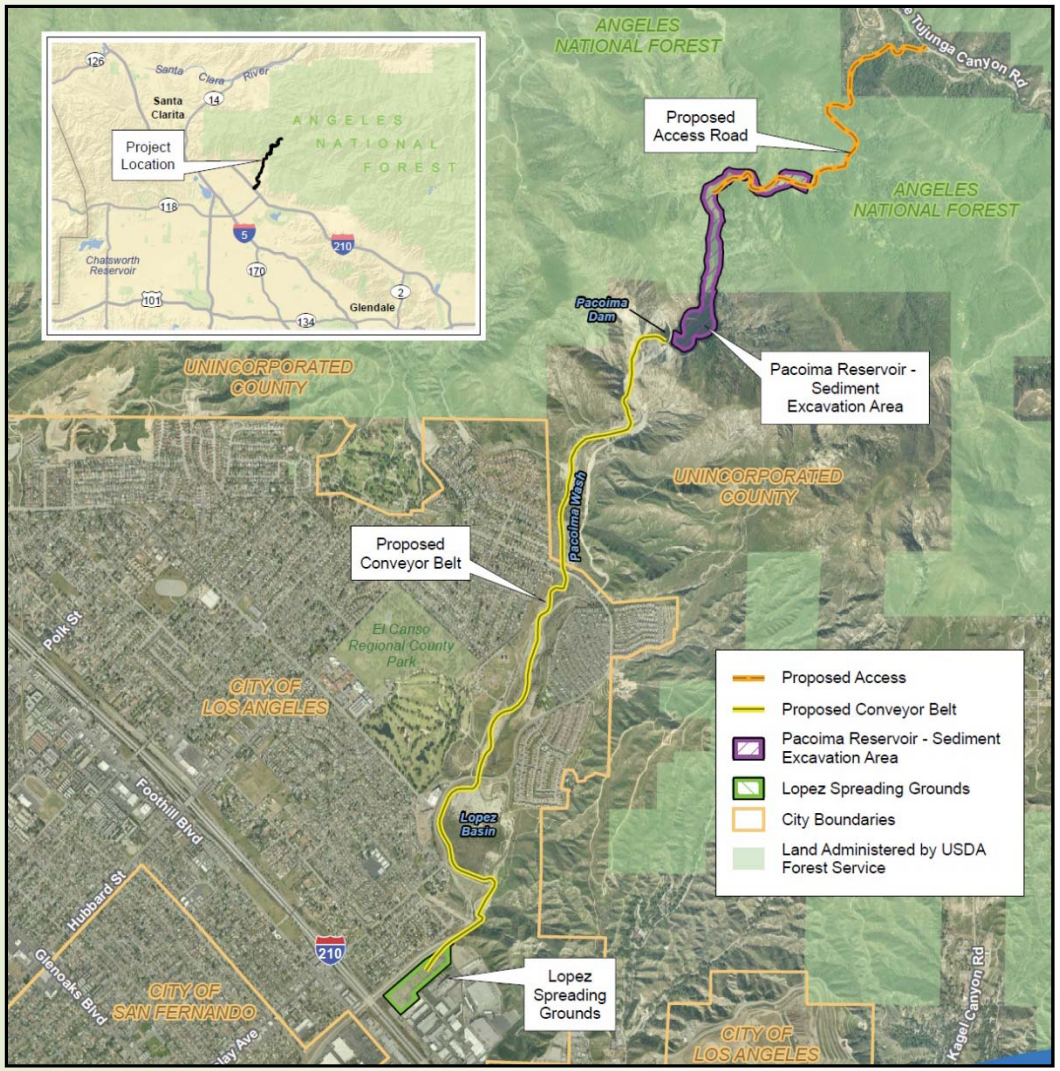
Soil Testing in Pacoima Reservoir

- In 2009, environmental soil testing was performed in Pacoima Reservoir.
- Based on soil test results, **concentrations of detected metals and volatile organic compounds are below State and Federal thresholds that are harmful to human health.**
- Additional soil testing will be performed.

Proposed Project Option

- Access road construction/rehabilitation and operation
- Reservoir dewatering
- Conveyor belt assembly, operation, and partial disassembly
- Sediment excavation and removal
- Sediment staging and transport for placement



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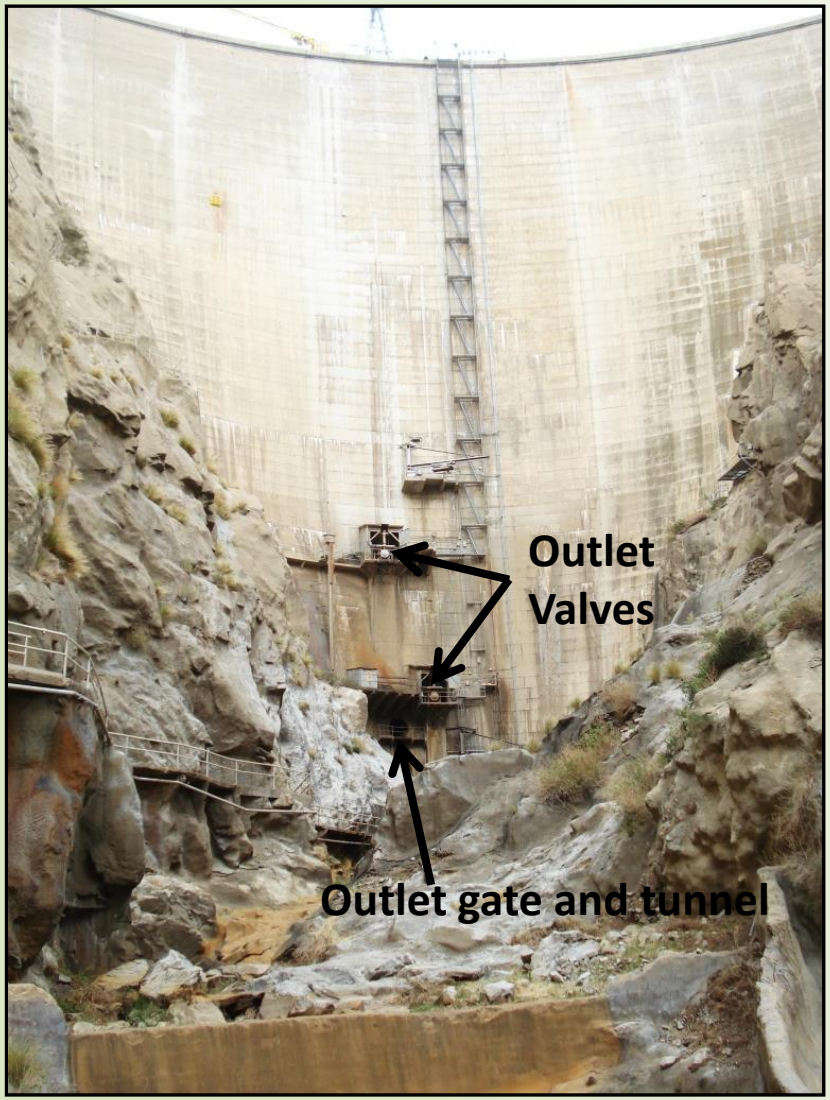


Downstream side of Pacoima Dam

- Pacoima Reservoir has no vehicular access road.
- The proposed project would construct and maintain a new access road through Pacoima Creek and alongside where feasible.

Upper Pacoima Reservoir

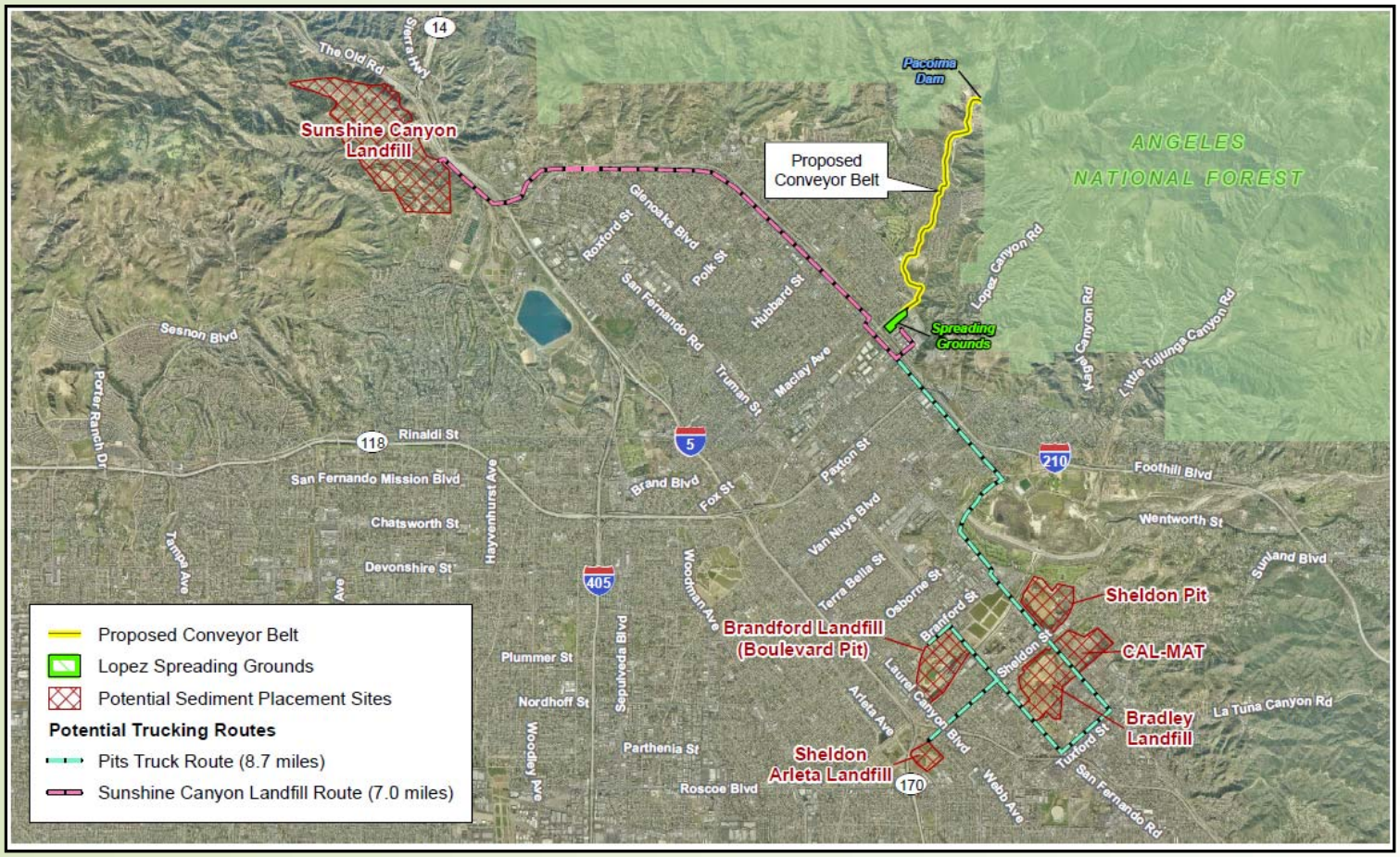
Proposed Project Option

Conveyor belt alignment would pass around the outer edges of Lopez Basin and transport sediment to Lopez Spreading Grounds.

Typical Conveyor Belt

Lopez Basin (above) and Lopez Spreading Grounds (below)

Proposed Project Option



- Conveyor Route approximately 3 miles from dam to Lopez Spreading Grounds
- Sunshine Canyon Landfill approximately 6.5 miles from Lopez Spreading Grounds
- Sun Valley Pits approximately 5.5 miles from Lopez Spreading Grounds

Project Challenges

- No vehicular access to reservoir
- Sediment level is approximately 65 ft above the outlet gate and tunnel
- Sediment Placement
- Work occurring in active flood control facility
- Sediment removal would take approximately 5 years
- Coordinating with multiple regulatory agencies:
  - U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
  - U.S. Fish and Wildlife
  - U.S. Forest Service
  - CA Department of Fish and Wildlife
  - CA Department of Transportation
  - State Water Resources Control Board
  - Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board
  - City of Los Angeles

Joint CEQA/NEPA Document

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

- Lead Agency: LACFCD
- Environmental Impact Report (EIR)

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

- USDA Forest Service: Either EA/FONSI or EIS
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers: Separate EA/FONSI

Joint CEQA/NEPA Documentation is encouraged to:

- Reduce delays and paperwork
- Reduce duplication of efforts (i.e. planning, research, meetings)
- Improve interagency cooperation
- Simplify process for public to navigate

Purpose of CEQA/NEPA Scoping

Purpose of CEQA/NEPA:

- Inform decision-makers and public about significant environmental effects;
- Identify ways to avoid or reduce environmental impacts;
- Prevent significant avoidable impacts through feasible alternatives and/or mitigation; and
- If a project is approved with significant impacts, disclose to the public the reasons why.

Purpose of Scoping:

- Consult with agencies and the public to determine the **scope and content** of the environmental analysis.

Roles and Responsibilities

CEQA/NEPA Consultant:

- Works on behalf of the LACFCD/USFS to prepare the joint CEQA/NEPA document
- Document must be supported by scientific and factual data
- Does not advocate for any particular position

LACFCD and USDA Forest Service:

- Determine significant effects based upon careful judgment, substantial evidence, in light of the whole record
- Circulate a CEQA/NEPA document that reflects their independent judgment
- After review of public comments, consider approval of the Project and the CEQA/NEPA document

Environmental Topics

- Aesthetics
- Agriculture & Forestry Resources
- Air Quality
- Biological Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Geology & Soils
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Hazards & Hazardous Materials
- Hydrology & Water Quality
- Land Use & Planning
- Mineral Resources
- Noise
- Population & Housing
- Public Services
- Recreation
- Transportation & Traffic
- Utilities & Service Systems
- Other: Energy

What Must A Joint CEQA/NEPA Document Include?

1. Environmental Setting (baseline for impact analysis)
2. Project Objectives, Purpose and Need, and Project Description
3. Analyze direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts from construction (short-term) and operation (long-term) activities
4. Determine significance based on substantial evidence (provide mitigation measures)
5. Disclose any significant unavoidable adverse impacts
6. Consider a reasonable range of feasible alternatives

CEQA/NEPA Process

Notice of Preparation and Scoping

- NOP 45-day public review period
- February 23rd through April 9th
- Scoping Meetings (March 25th, 26th 28th)

Prepare Joint CEQA/NEPA Document

- Includes consideration of input from NOP/Scoping
- Prepare document from Spring 2015 through Spring 2016

60-Day Public Review of Draft CEQA/NEPA Document

- Available for public review and comment
- Anticipated Spring 2016

CEQA/NEPA Process (continued…)

Final CEQA/NEPA Document

- Draft CEQA/NEPA Document and Errata
- Responses to all comments received
- Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program

Findings and Statement of Overriding Considerations

- If impacts are significant/unavoidable, provides rationale for finding.

Anticipated Winter 2016

- For CEQA: Public Hearings at Board of Supervisors
- For NEPA: 45-Day Objection Period

Opportunities for Public Input

2013 Community Meetings

Opportunity #1:
45-Day NOP Review Period and Scoping Meetings
February 23rd through April 9th, 2015

Opportunity #2:
60-Day Draft CEQA/NEPA Review Period
(Anticipated Spring 2016)

Opportunity #3:
CEQA Public Hearings- Board of Supervisors
(Anticipated Winter 2016)

Opportunity #4:
NEPA 45-Day Objection Period
(Anticipated Winter 2016)

Submit Your Written Comments

COMMENT CARDS AT SCOPING MEETINGS

Wednesday, March 25, 2015, 6:30 – 8:30 pm
Los Angeles Mission College – Culinary Arts Institute Bldg.
13356 Eldridge Avenue, Sylmar, CA 91342

Thursday, March 26, 2015, 6:30 – 8:30 pm
Santa Clarita Valley Senior Center
22900 Market Street, Santa Clarita, CA 91321

Saturday, March 28, 2015, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm
Los Angeles Mission College – Culinary Arts Institute Bldg.
13356 Eldridge Avenue, Sylmar, CA 91342

EMAIL reservoircleanouts@dpw.lacounty.gov
Include "Pacoima Reservoir Sediment Removal Project" in the subject title.

WRITTEN Los Angeles County Department of Public Works
Attn: Water Resources Division - Reservoir Cleanouts
P.O. Box 1460, Alhambra, CA 91802-9974

Community Input