

PACOIMA RESERVOIR RESTORATION PROJECT



BENEFITS OF PROJECT:

- 1 Restore reservoir capacity for:
 - flood management
 - water conservation
- 2 Build climate change resilience
- 3 Increase reliability and safety of dam



OVERVIEW

Pacoima Dam provides crucial water conservation and flood protection for the Cities of Los Angeles and San Fernando. It is located approximately 4 miles north of the 210 Freeway in Sylmar.

As a result of a series of fires (Station, Marek, Sayre, and Sand) followed by subsequent storms over the past 15 years, the Pacoima Reservoir has excess sediment buildup and is at risk of becoming inoperable. This sediment will need to be removed in order to restore capacity for flood management and water conservation. To do this, the Los Angeles County Flood Control District (LACFCD) is planning a Reservoir Restoration Project, tentatively starting construction in late 2025.

PROJECT TIMELINE

This Project is planned to be divided into 3 main phases of operation in order to reduce community-impact.

Planning: California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) planning documents will begin preparation in 2023. These documents will assess potential environmental impacts as well as evaluate measures that can best reduce or avoid them.

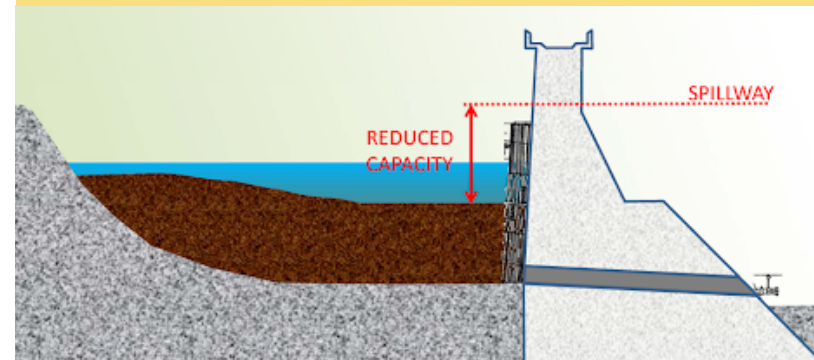
WHY IS THIS PROJECT NEEDED?

What Is Sediment And Why Is It An Issue?

- Sediment is made of soil, sand, and rock that is eroded by storms and carried from hillsides into streams and reservoirs. Over time it accumulates within a reservoir, reducing water storage capacity, and blocking the dam's intake gates, risers, and valves.
- The Pacoima Reservoir's lowest outlet valve is currently buried under 80 feet of sediment. If 20 additional feet of sediment builds up, all of the Reservoir's other outlet valves used for storm operations will be blocked and the Reservoir will become inoperable.
 - If this were to occur, the dam's ability to provide flood protection will be compromised.

How will the Pacoima Reservoir Restoration Project help?

- **This Project aims to remove at least 5.5 million cubic yards of sediment over the course of 15 years.**
- This removal will allow us to defend local communities against flooding caused by future extreme weather events.
- Capacity will be restored within the Reservoir to maximize stormwater capture during storm events and support local sustainable water supplies. Stormwater captured in Pacoima Reservoir is released and diverted into downstream spreading grounds for recharge of the San Fernando Groundwater Basin.



Why is This Needed Now?

- A series of wildfires - Marek (2008), Sayre (2008), Station (2009) and Sand (2016) - have burned 96% of the area draining to the Reservoir.
- Heavy storms then washed the debris created by these fires into the Reservoir, causing an above-average buildup of sediment.

Phase 1:

- **Construction is tentatively planned to begin in late 2025.**
- 1.5 million cubic yards of sediment will be removed over the course of 5 years or less.
- There will be controlled releases of water into Pacoima Wash, before the sediment is then excavated and trucked to nearby landfills or gravel pits.
- An access road from Little Tujunga Canyon Road to the Reservoir will be restored.

Phase 2:

- An additional 2.2-4 million cubic yards of sediment will be removed over the course of 10 years or less.
- Sediment will be moved by either trucks and/or a conveyor belt system.

Phase 3:

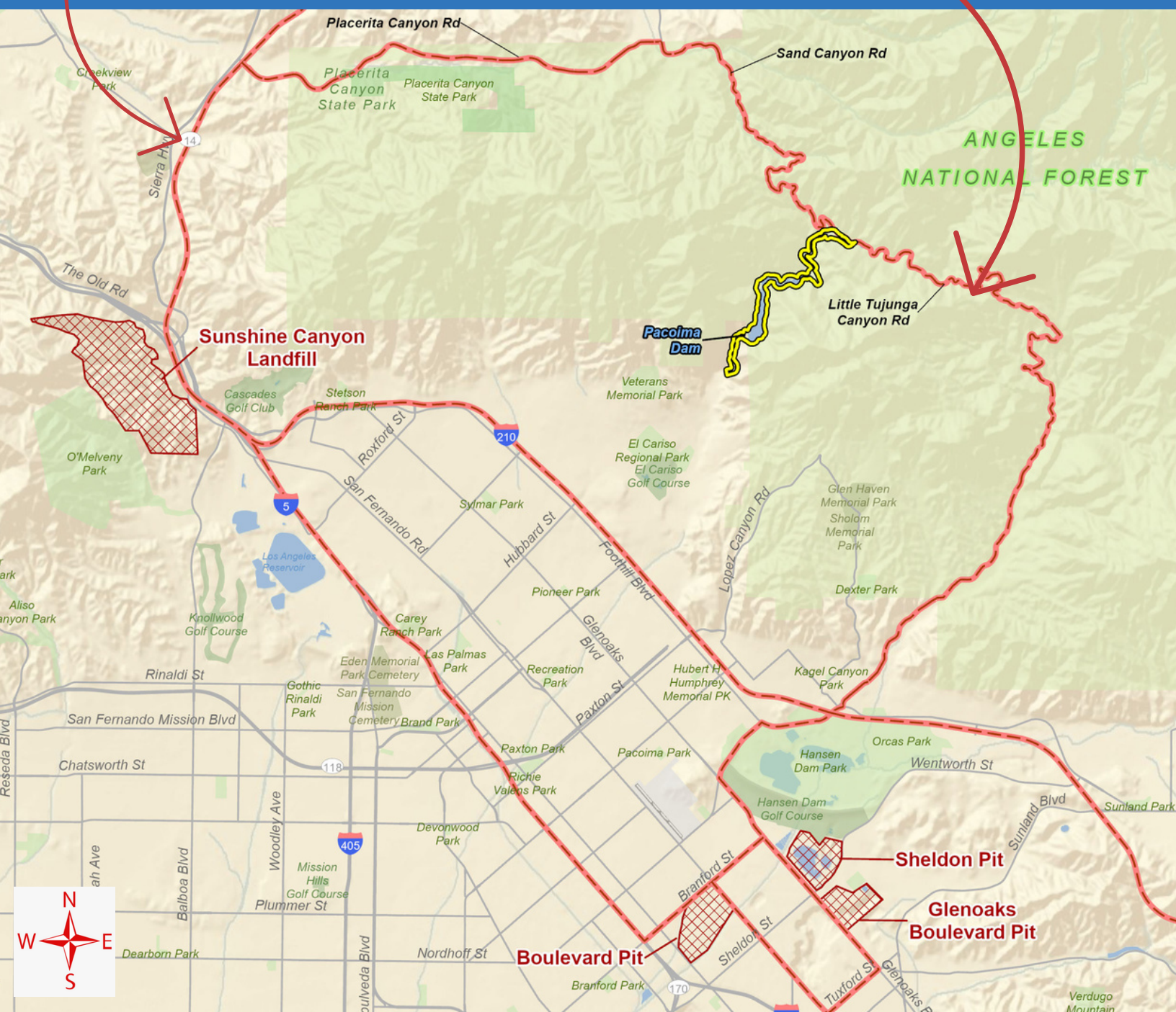
- A long-term maintenance plan will be implemented in order to reduce the need for further large-scale sediment-removal Projects such as this one.



MINIMIZING COMMUNITY IMPACT

The best measures to reduce or avoid community impacts will be determined through the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) process.

- The Project will be divided into phases so as to disperse and reduce community impact over several periods.
 - Use of a phased approach was requested by surrounding communities in the 2013 and 2015 outreach efforts.
 - This approach will reduce the volume of sediment being transported via truck at any given time.
- The Project's proposed truck routes have been strategically chosen to minimize the number of houses passed and to reduce transportation-based disruptions within the community. In Phase 1, the trucks may take several potential routes, including:
 - By Placerita Canyon Road to the Sunshine Canyon landfill.
 - By Little Tujunga Canyon Road to either Sheldon, Glenoaks Boulevard, or Boulevard Pit.



HOW TO GET INVOLVED

Give input, sign up for our next community meeting, and get project updates on the Pacoima Reservoir Restoration Project using the QR code or by visiting PacoimaProject.com



Questions, Comments, or Concerns?

Please reach out to Project Manager Alex Ho at reservoircleanouts@pw.lacounty.gov to get your questions answered and sign up for our periodic e-newsletter.

OTHER PROJECTS IN YOUR AREA

Here are a few other ongoing community Projects in the area.

Pacoima Spreading Grounds Improvement Project



- This Project will increase the water storage capacity of the Pacoima Spreading Grounds, and in turn, increase the Spreading Grounds' capacity to recharge the San Fernando Groundwater Basin. It will also establish a new community bike-path nearby.
- Learn more at pw.lacounty.gov/wrd/Projects/PacoimaSG/index.cfm

The Big Tujunga Wash Mitigation Area



- This Project seeks to clean up walking trails and preserve natural wildlife in the Big Tujunga Wash.
- Learn more at pw.lacounty.gov/wrd/Projects/BTWMA/index.cfm