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April 7, 2022

NOTICE OF PREPARATION

TO: Responsible Agencies, Trustee Agencies, Stakeholders, and Interested Persons

FROM: City of Los Angeles Department of Public Works,
LA Sanitation & Environment/Safe Clean Water Implementation Division
1149 S. Broadway, 10th Floor MS 1149/756, Los Angeles, CA 90015

**SUBJECT: NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF A DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT FOR
THE MACARTHUR LAKE STORMWATER CAPTURE PROJECT**

The MacArthur Lake Stormwater Capture Project¹ (proposed project), led by the City of Los Angeles (City) Department of Public Works, Los Angeles Sanitation & Environment (LASAN) in partnership with the City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP), would implement a regional multi-benefit stormwater project in MacArthur Park as part of the region's efforts under Los Angeles County's Safe Clean Water Program (SCWP) to meet water quality total maximum daily load (TMDL) limits for the Ballona Creek watershed and the current National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. LASAN is the Lead Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and will prepare an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the proposed project. The proposed project would divert and treat stormwater flows from the existing underground storm drain system and discharge it into MacArthur Lake for storage or return it to the storm drain system. Some of the water stored in the lake would subsequently be discharged to the sanitary sewer.

The City requests your agency's views on the scope and content of the environmental information relevant to your agency's statutory responsibilities in connection with the proposed project, in accordance with California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Section 15082(b). Your agency may need to use the EIR when considering any permit or other approval that your agency must issue for the proposed project. In addition, the City requests comments from other interested parties, stakeholders, and the general public on the scope of the environmental issues related to the proposed project.

Project Description: The proposed project would occur within the southwestern area of MacArthur Park and in the public rights-of-way on adjacent streets southwest of the park and in the alley that parallels 7th Street. MacArthur Park is a public park located at 2230 W. 6th Street in the Westlake neighborhood of central Los Angeles, approximately 1 mile northwest of downtown. The park is bound by 6th Street to the north, 7th Street to the south, Park View Street to the west, and Alvarado Street to the east. Wilshire Boulevard extends east-west through the park, dividing it into northern and southern sections. The

¹ In the SCWP funding application, the project was referred to as the MacArthur Lake Rehabilitation Project.

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general location of the project is shown in **Figure 1**. Aboveground features of the project would consist of a new, lined treatment wetlands near the southwest corner of the park and some equipment within and/or adjacent to an existing pump house located south of the lake. The underground diversion, capture, and pretreatment structures would be located in Lake Street south of the park and in an adjacent alley. An additional underground stormwater treatment unit would be located along the southern edge of the park. Underground pipelines would be located in the park and in Lake Street, Grand View Street, 7th Street, and in a small portion of the alley that parallels 7th Street. The proposed project components are illustrated in **Figure 2**.

The proposed project would divert and treat portions of wet weather stormwater flows as well as dry weather flows from the existing underground storm drain system and discharge it into MacArthur Lake for storage or return it to the storm drain system. In-lake storage would decrease the use of potable water to maintain the lake water level. Some of the water that is stored in the lake would subsequently be discharged to the sanitary sewer system. General conceptual flows during wet weather and dry weather are illustrated in **Figure 3** and **Figure 4**, respectively. The project would reduce the amount of stormwater and dry weather flows, and their associated pollutant loads, that enter Ballona Creek and, ultimately, Santa Monica Bay. Additionally, the proposed project would enhance the park by creating treatment wetlands and providing educational opportunities, such as signage and information boards about stormwater management and park wetlands.

Construction of the proposed project is expected to last for approximately 22 months. One or two non-native mature trees and three recently-planted trees in the footprint of the treatment wetlands would be removed and replaced elsewhere within the park. In addition, installation of subsurface pipelines would require the removal and replacement of an additional tree within the park and four street trees along 7th Avenue and Lake Street. All tree removals and replacements in the park would be conducted in accordance with RAP policies; all removals and replacements of street trees would be conducted in accordance with policies of StreetsLA.

Environmental Impact Report: The EIR will evaluate the potential environmental impacts resulting from construction and operation of the proposed project, identify feasible potential mitigation measures, and analyze potentially feasible alternatives to the proposed project that could reduce or avoid identified significant impacts while still achieving most of the basic project objectives. The Initial Study has determined that the potential impacts associated with the proposed project include air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, greenhouse gas emissions, hydrology and water quality, construction noise and vibration, and tribal cultural resources.

Public Review Period: The Notice of Preparation/Initial Study (NOP/IS) will be circulated for a 30-day review period beginning on April 7, 2022, and ending on May 9, 2022. The document is available for review at the following locations:

- Online at <http://www.lacitysan.org/ceqa>
- MacArthur Park Community Center 2230 W. 6th Street, Los Angeles, CA 90057
- Felipe De Neve Branch Library, 2820 W. 6th Street, Los Angeles, CA 90057
- City Public Works building, LA Sanitation & Environment–Receptionist Desk, 1149 S. Broadway, 9th Floor, Los Angeles, CA 90015

Comments: LASAN is requesting input during the NOP public review period from interested agencies, organizations, and private citizens regarding the scope and content of environmental information to be included in the EIR. In the future, public agencies receiving this notice may use the EIR prepared by LASAN when considering their permits or other approvals for the proposed project. All comments received during the public review period will be considered in the preparation of the EIR.

For your comments to be considered in the EIR process, please send your written comments on the NOP/IS to LASAN by one of the following delivery methods. In your comments, please include your name, email address, telephone number, address, and the subject line **“RE: MacArthur Lake Stormwater Capture Project NOP/IS Comments.”**

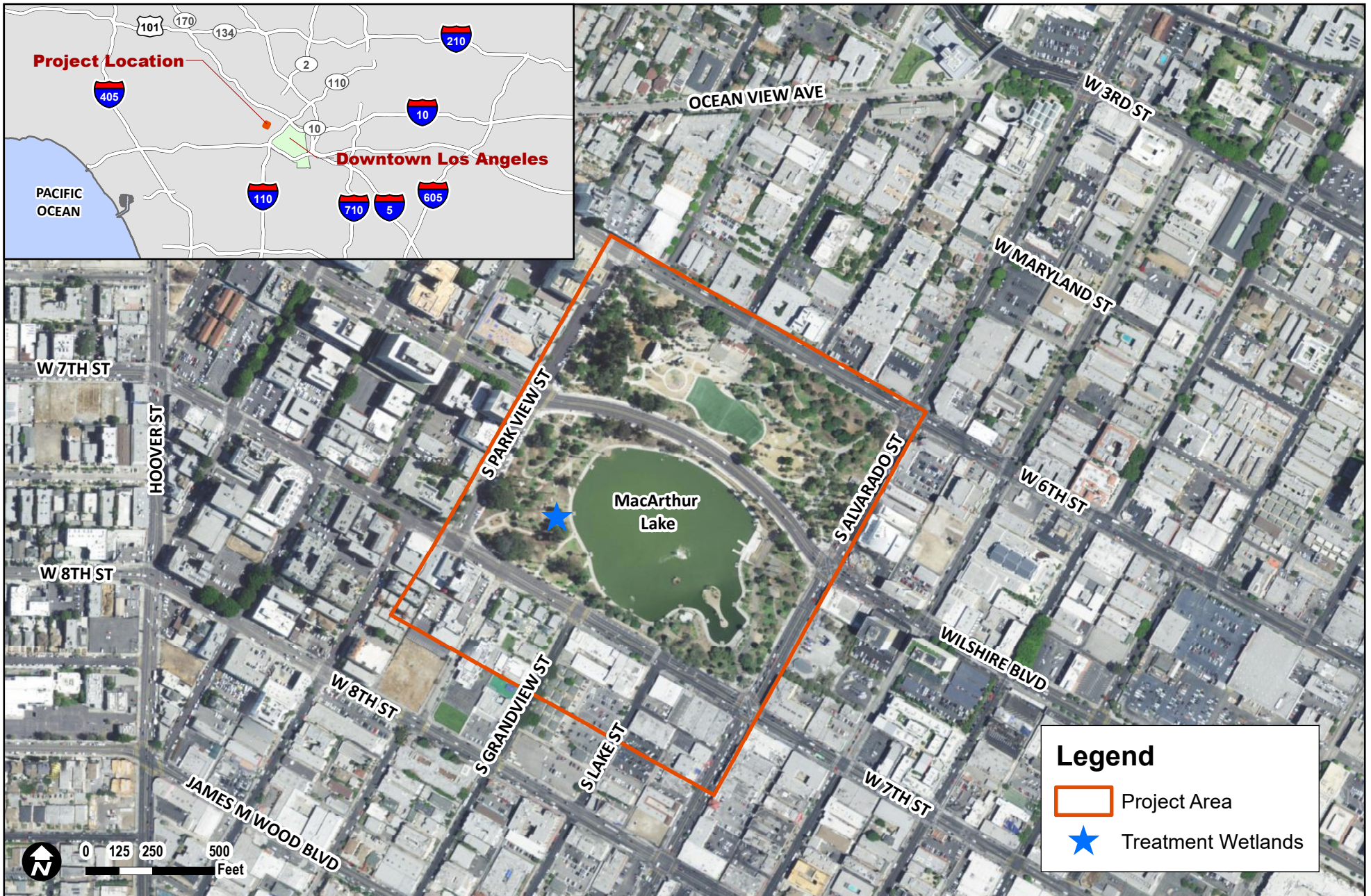
- Mail comments to: LA Sanitation & Environment – Safe Clean Water Implementation Division
Attention: Alfredo Magallanes
1149 S. Broadway, 10th Floor MS: 1149/756
Los Angeles, CA 90015
- Or email comments to san.safecleanwater@lacity.org (please include “MacArthur Lake Stormwater Capture Project NOP/IS Comments” in the subject line)

Written comments must be received no later than 5:00 p.m. on Monday, May 9, 2022.

Scoping Meeting: Two virtual public scoping meetings will be held to obtain input on the scope of the contents of the EIR, as well as to present information on the proposed project. No decisions regarding the proposed project will be made at the scoping meetings. One meeting will be held in English and one will be held in Spanish. The purpose of the meetings is to provide information and answer questions on the proposed project and the environmental analysis to be included in the EIR. Questions raised in the meetings will not be considered to be official scoping comments. Official comments must be submitted in writing as described above. The meeting dates and time are as follows:

- English-language meeting: **Tuesday, April 26, 2022**, 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- Spanish-language meeting: **Tuesday, April 26, 2022**, 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

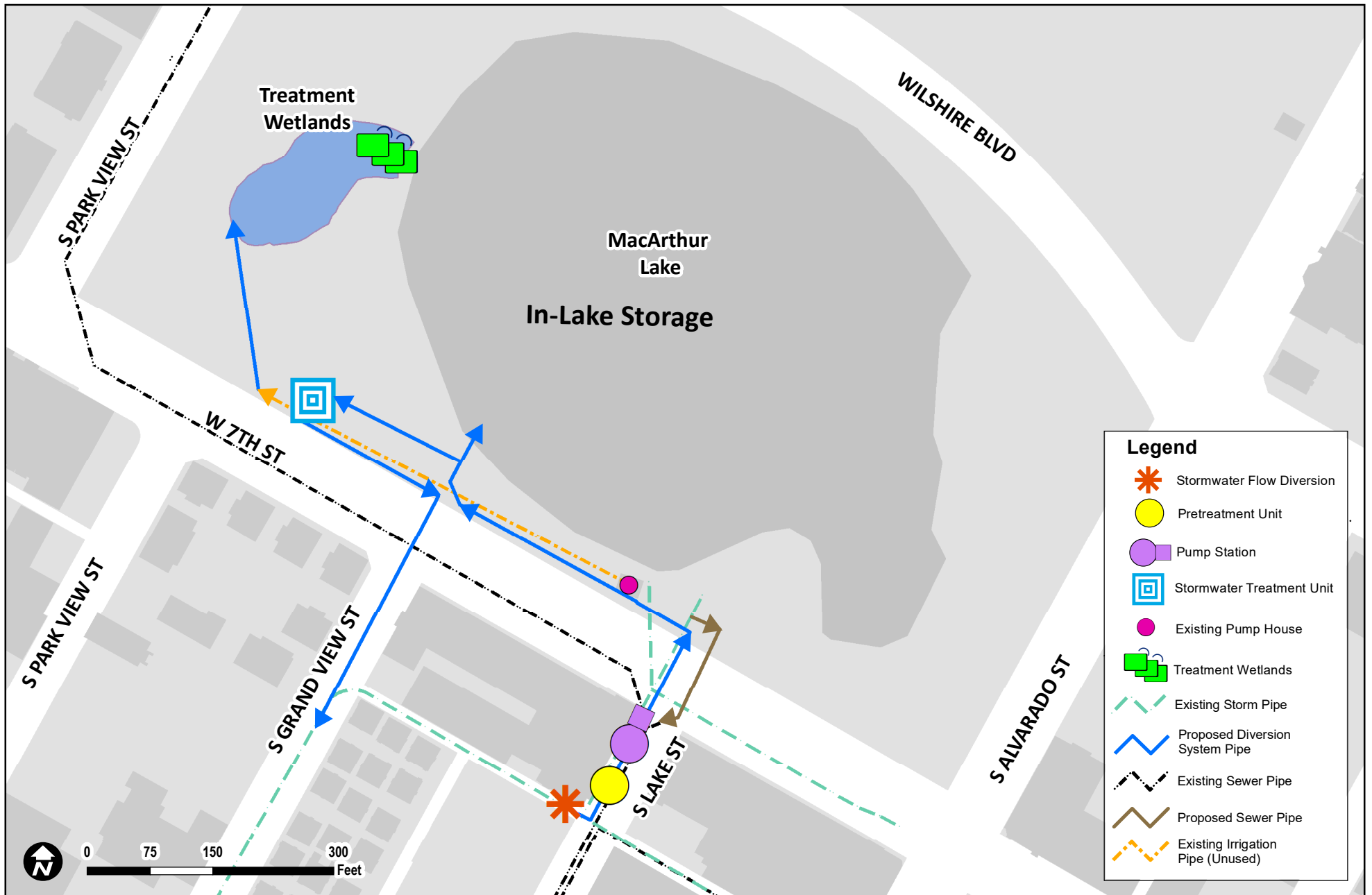
More information regarding the meetings is provided on LASAN’s website at <http://www.lacitysan.org/ceqa>.



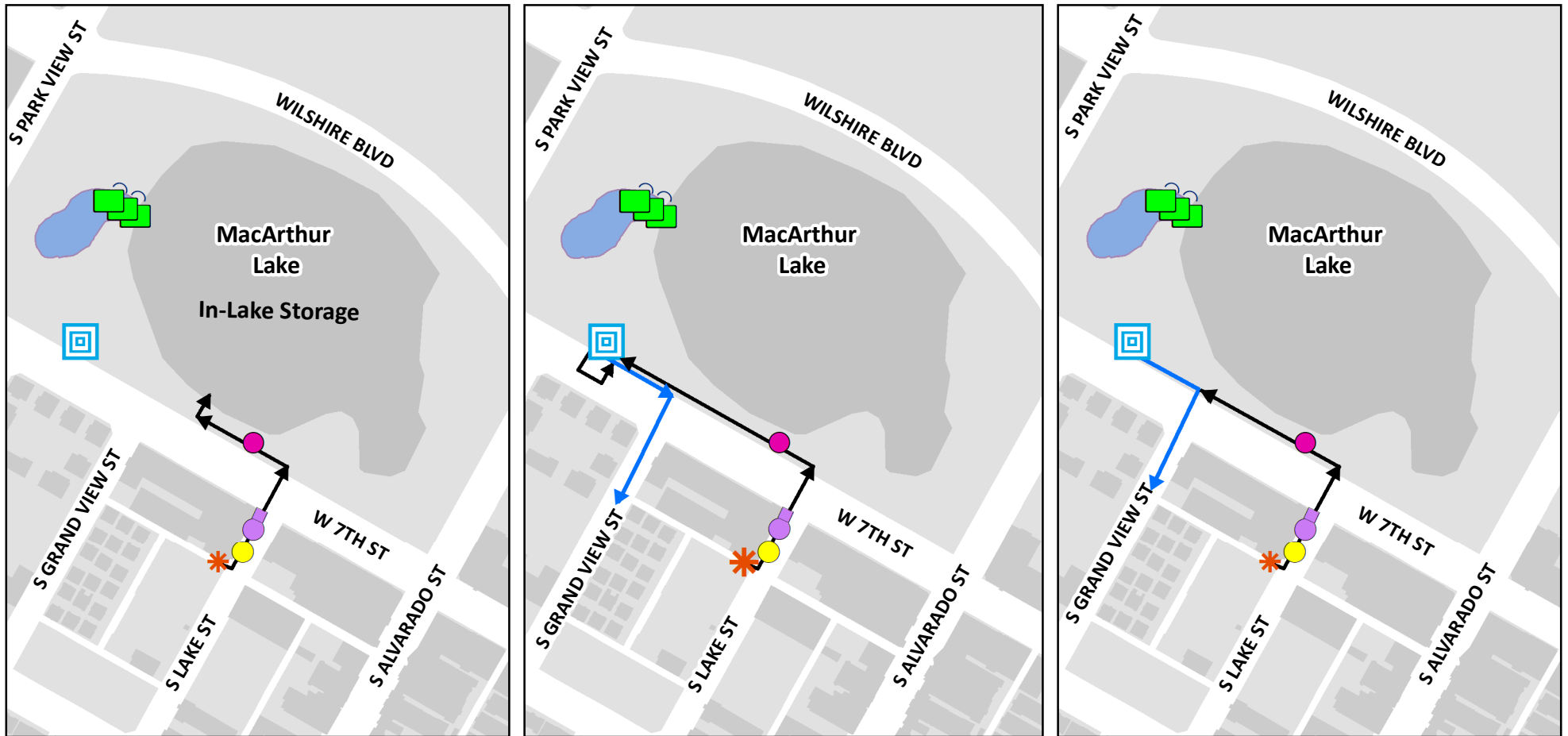
Sources: CDM Smith, 2022; Aerial Sources: Esri, United States Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency, 2022
 Prepared by: CDM Smith, 2022

MacArthur Lake Stormwater Capture Project

Figure 1
PROJECT AREA



Sources: Cordoba Corporation, 2022; Navigate LA, 2022; Base Layer Source: Los Angeles GeoHub, 2022
 Prepared by: CDM Smith, 2022



Step 1: In a storm event, the initial 5 AF (217,800 cf) of stormwater flow from the confluence of two storm drain pipes (30-inch pipe along Lake Street and 45-inch pipe along the alley) would be diverted to a pretreatment unit and then pumped into MacArthur Lake for storage.

Step 2: When MacArthur Lake is at capacity, after passing through the pretreatment unit, up to 6.9 cfs of the diverted stormwater flow would be directed to a stormwater treatment unit in the park and then be discharged to an existing 54-inch storm drain pipe along Grand View Street.

Step 3: When MacArthur Lake is at capacity, after passing through the pretreatment unit, diverted stormwater flow in excess of 6.9 cfs would be blended with treated stormwater from Step 2 and then discharged to the 54-inch storm drain pipe along Grand View Street.

Legend

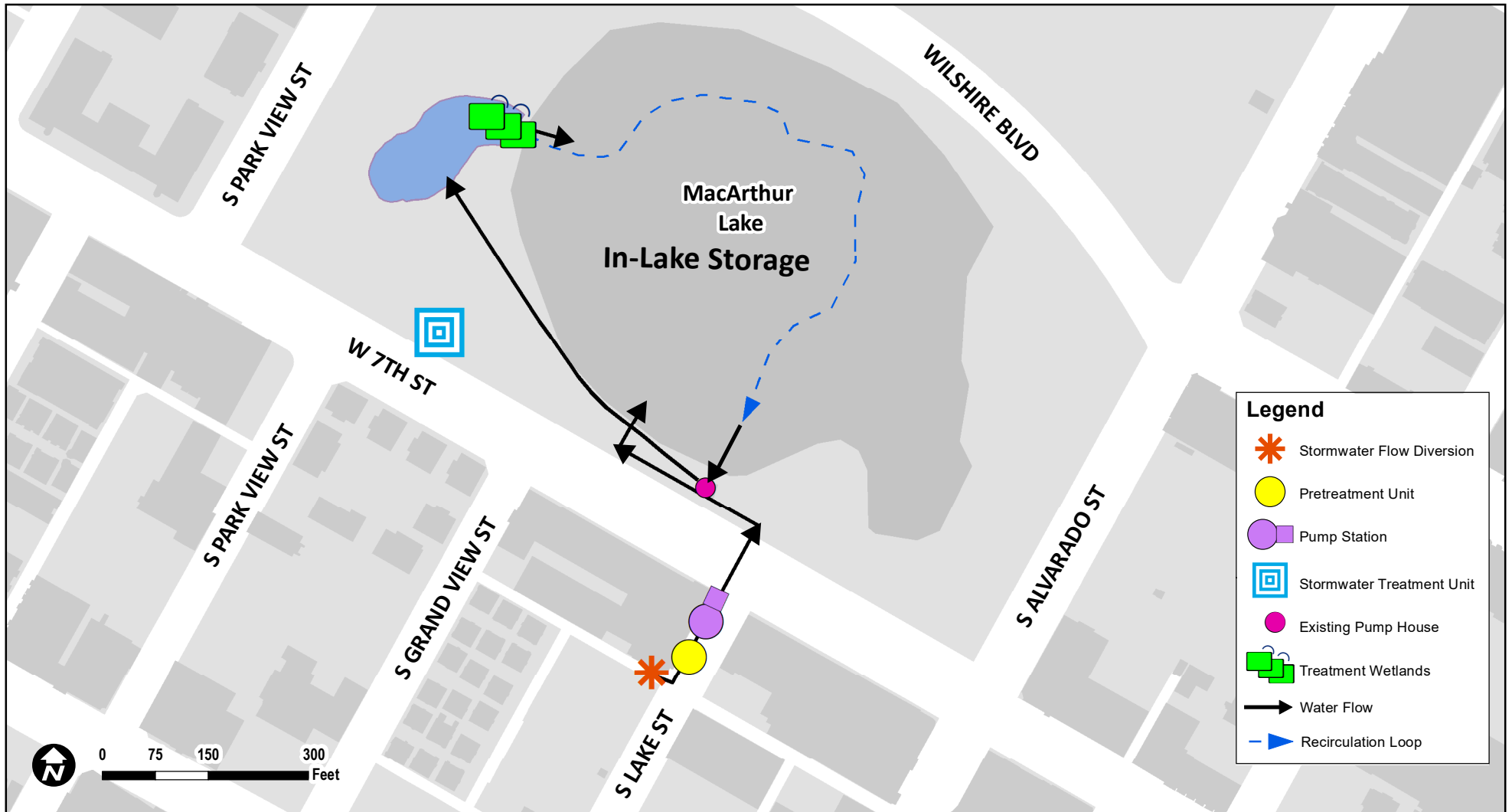
- ★ Stormwater Flow Diversion
- Pretreatment Unit
- Pump Station
- Stormwater Treatment Unit
- Existing Pump House
- Treatment Wetlands
- Water Flow
- ~ Proposed Diversion System Pipe (Storm Drain Return)

Notes:
 AF = acre feet
 cfs = cubic feet per second

0 75 150 300 Feet



Sources: Cordoba Corporation, 2022; Base Layer Source: Los Angeles GeoHub, 2022
 Prepared by: CDM Smith, 2022



In dry weather conditions, water flow from the confluence of two storm drain pipes (30-inch pipe along Lake Street and 45-inch pipe along the alley) would be diverted to a pretreatment unit and then pumped into MacArthur Lake for storage. Lake water would be recirculated from the lake and through a pipeline to a treatment wetlands on the west side of the lake. The water would flow through the treatment wetlands and back into the lake.

Sources: Cordoba Corporation, 2022; Base Layer Source: Los Angeles GeoHub, 2022
 Prepared by: CDM Smith, 2022