

300 Richards Boulevard, Third Floor
Sacramento, CA 95811

DATE: March 25, 2022

TO: Interested Persons

FROM: Scott Johnson, Senior Planner
Community Development Department

RE: NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT
AND SCOPING MEETING FOR THE GROUNDWATER MASTER PLAN
WELL REPLACEMENT PROGRAM

COMMENT PERIOD: March 25, 2022 through April 25, 2022

SCOPING MEETING: April 13, 2022

INTRODUCTION

Pursuant to section 21166 of the California Public Resources Code and section 15162 of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines, the City is the Lead Agency for preparation of a Program Environmental Impact Report (Program EIR) for the proposed City of Sacramento Groundwater Master Plan Well Replacement Program.

The Program EIR is being prepared in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act. The City, as Lead Agency, is issuing this Notice of Preparation (NOP) to inform trustee and responsible agencies, as well as the public, of its decision to prepare a Program EIR for the City of Sacramento's Groundwater Master Plan Well Replacement Program. The purpose of the NOP is to provide information describing the projects and their potential environmental effects to those who may wish to comment regarding the scope and content of the information to be included in the Program EIR. Agencies should comment on such information as it relates to their statutory responsibilities in connection with the project.

SUBMITTING COMMENTS

Comments and suggestions as to the appropriate scope of analysis in the Program EIR are invited from all interested parties. Written comments or questions concerning the Program EIR for the proposed project should be directed to the environmental project manager at the following address by 5:00 p.m. on April 25, 2022. Please include the contact person's full name and address in order for staff to respond appropriately:

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300 Richards Blvd., Third Floor
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E-mail: srjohnson@cityofsacramento.org

SCOPING MEETING

A public scoping meeting will be held on April 13, 2022, from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. via the following Zoom link: https://cityofsacramento.org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_dOhBh888R6ahFqBmp2XWqQ, or by phone at (669) 900-6833 (Webinar ID 942 7841 6721).

Responsible agencies and members of the public are invited to attend and provide input on the scope of the Program EIR. There will be a presentation by the City to introduce the proposed project, followed by an opportunity for public comment.

PROJECT LOCATION/SETTING

The proposed Project is the replacement of 38 groundwater wells throughout the City of Sacramento. The replacement well locations are at sites within residential, commercial, and industrial areas, schools, parks, and existing public facilities (such as existing City well sites, water storage facilities, and water treatment facilities). Figure 1 is an overview map of the well sites and Table 1 lists each proposed location. Appendix A of the CEQA Initial Study, provided at the City's website link provided on page 3 of this NOP, shows maps and well site layouts for each of the 38 well sites.

PROJECT PURPOSE

The purpose of the proposed Well Replacement Program is to replace City municipal wells that are at the end of their useful life. Due to climate change, extremely dry years are expected to be more frequent and intense, and maintaining the City's capability to extract groundwater more reliably will allow the City to diversify its water supply portfolio. In addition, the frequency of wildfires within the upstream watershed is causing surface water treatment challenges. Climate and regulatory changes may impact future availability of surface water, and reliable groundwater supply is needed to ensure long-term sustainability of both supplies. For these reasons, the City is also supporting and participating in regional conjunctive use programs that store and manage groundwater to improve long-term water supply reliability in the region.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Well Replacement Program involves the long-term (up to 15 years or potentially longer) replacement of up to 38 municipal groundwater wells that are at or near the end of their useful life. The program is an outgrowth of the City's *Groundwater Master Plan* and identifies where, when, and how certain municipal production wells should be replaced, given current economic, regulatory and water quality constraints as well as variations in hydrologic and climate conditions affecting reliability of the City's surface water supply. Replacement wells are located within the City's water service area, which overlies the North American and South American Subbasins of the Sacramento Valley Groundwater Basin. Replacement planning was found to be necessary because many of the current well locations are too small to accommodate same-site well replacement, and groundwater quality concerns may affect the ability to use many of the City's existing wells. As such, new locations are required for most replacement wells. An example of a proposed well site layout for construction is shown in Figure 2 and an example of an existing well site is shown in Figure 3.

The proposed Project includes the construction, operation and long-term maintenance of 38 wells, including above-ground wellhead facilities, such as pumps and a chlorination/ fluoridation system housed within a one-story concrete block wall structure, as well as below ground sanitary sewer and drinking water distribution system connections. Replacement wells would be constructed to produce approximately 1,250 gallons per minute of groundwater when in full operation. Wells in areas with groundwater quality concerns would require the construction and operation of necessary treatment systems. The Project also includes destruction of the 38 existing City wells and would take place after the replacement well is fully operational.

ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS AND SCOPE OF THE PROGRAM EIR

The Program EIR will focus on environmental resource topics that were found to be potentially significant in the CEQA Initial Study. The following resource topics will be analyzed in the Program EIR: Aesthetics, Air Quality, Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, Energy, Geology and Soils, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, Hydrology and Water Quality, Noise, Transportation and Traffic, and Tribal Cultural Resources. The Program EIR will include a section on effects found not to be significant that will describe the resource topics that were identified by the CEQA Initial Study as having no impacts or less than significant impacts, which will not be further addressed in the Program EIR. These topics are Agricultural and Forestry Resources, Land Use and Planning, Mineral Resources, Population and Housing, Public Services, Utilities and Service Systems, and Wildfire. Potential cumulative impacts and potential for growth inducement will be evaluated as well as alternatives to the proposed Project including the No Project Alternative.

Environmental documents related to the project may be reviewed on the Utilities Department web site at: <http://www.cityofsacramento.org/Utilities/Water/Current-Projects/Groundwater-Well-Replacement>

And on the Community Development Department, Environmental Impact Report webpage at: <https://www.cityofsacramento.org/Community-Development/Planning/Environmental/Impact-Reports>

Table 1: Replacement Well Locations and Attributes

Replacement Well Number ¹	City's Existing Well Number	Location Description	Subbasin	Well Capacity (gallons per minute [gpm])	Well Depth (feet)
Well 1	Well 112B	Residential; Mark Hopkins Elementary School	South American	1,250	350
Well 2	Well 138B	Residential; William G Chorley Park	South American	1,250	350
Well 3	Well 114B	Mixed use residential and commercial; Collis P Huntington Elementary School	South American	1,250	350
Well 4	Well 94B	Residential; North end of Tahoe Park near baseball diamonds	South American	1,250	350
Well 5	Well 146B	Residential; Glenn Hall Park near Glenn Hall Pool	South American	1,250	350
Well 6	Well 151B	Residential; Glenbrook Park	South American	1,250	350
Well 7	Well 155B	Commercial; Granite Regional Park	South American	1,250	397
Well 8	Well 127B	Residential; Camellia Park	South American	1,250	350
Well 9	Well 93B	Mixed use residential and commercial; Danny Nunn Park	South American	1,250	350
Well 10	Well 123B	Residential; Grant Union High School	North American	1,250	370
Well 11	Well 131B	Residential; Robla Reservoir	North American	1,250	500
Well 12	Well 120B	Commercial; near 43rd Avenue and 88 th Street	South American	1,250	350
Well 13	Well 144B	Commercial; end of Asher Lane off of Elder Creek Road	South American	1,250	350

¹Replacement well numbering is based on a prioritization of the top 10 wells needing replacement, followed by sequential number for the remaining wells. Also, note Well 18 does not exist due to a typo in the City's *Groundwater Master Plan* (2017).

Replacement Well Number¹	City's Existing Well Number	Location Description	Subbasin	Well Capacity (gallons per minute [gpm])	Well Depth (feet)
Well 14 ²	Well 167	Mixed use residential & commercial; 2 nd well at Shasta Reservoir	South American	1,250	1,200
Well 15	Well 92B	Residential; Fong Ranch Road near Discovery High School	North American	1,250	400
Well 16	Well 91B	Mixed use residential and commercial; 66th Street Fire Station	South American	1,250	350
Well 17	Well 111B	Residential; Johnston Park	North American	1,250	400
Well 19	Well 109B	Residential; Elkhorn Tank Site	North American	1,250	600
Well 20	Well 125B	Residential; El Centro Tank Site	North American	1,250	600
Well 21	Well 129B	Mixed use residential and commercial; near intersection of Rio Linda Blvd and Altos Ave	North American	1,250	300
Well 22	Well 124B	Mixed use residential and commercial; Robertson Park	North American	1,250	308
Well 23	Well 159B	Residential; Gardenland Park	North American	750	375
Well 24	Well 139B	Commercial; near intersection of Commerce Circle and Lathrop Way	North American	1,250	255
Well 25	Well 156B	Commercial; Fee Drive near Tribute Road	North American	1,250	380
Well 26	Well 134B	Residential; near intersection of Bell Ave and Baumgart Way	North American	1,250	513
Well 27	Well 126B	Residential; Hagginwood Park	North American	1,250	432

² The second well at the Shasta Reservoir site (Well 167) has been installed, but is not yet operational, and is thus being addressed in this document only for operational impacts.

Replacement Well Number¹	City's Existing Well Number	Location Description	Subbasin	Well Capacity (gallons per minute [gpm])	Well Depth (feet)
Well 28	Well 154B	Mixed use residential and commercial; near intersection of Dry Creek Road and Ascot Drive	North American	1,250	1,000
Well 29	Well 133B	Mixed use residential and commercial; Located behind 4590 Pell Drive	North American	1,250	514
Well 30	Well 143B	Mixed use residential and commercial; near intersection of Acacia Ave and Rio Linda Blvd	North American	1,250	330
Well 31	Well 122B	Mixed use residential and commercial; near intersection of Del Paso Blvd and Juliesse Ave	North American	1,250	422
Well 32	Well 137B	Residential; near intersection of Del Paso Blvd and Los Robles Blvd	North American	1,250	1,000
Well 33	Well 107B	Residential; Rio Cazadero High School	South American	1,250	350
Well 34	Well 158B	Commercial; Sacramento Fire Department Station 19	North American	1,250	318
Well 35	Well 110B	Commercial; 2 nd well at Granite Regional Park	South American	1,250	350
Well 36	Well 141B	Mixed use residential and commercial; 2 nd well at Danny Nunn Park	South American	1,250	350
Well 37	Well 157B	Commercial; 2 nd well near 43rd Avenue and 88 th Street	South American	1,250	350
Well 38	Well 142B	Commercial; 2 nd well at E.A. Fairbairn Water Treatment Plant	South American	3,000	314
Well 39	Well 116B	Mixed use commercial and residential; Capitol Gateway Reservoir well	North American	1,250	400

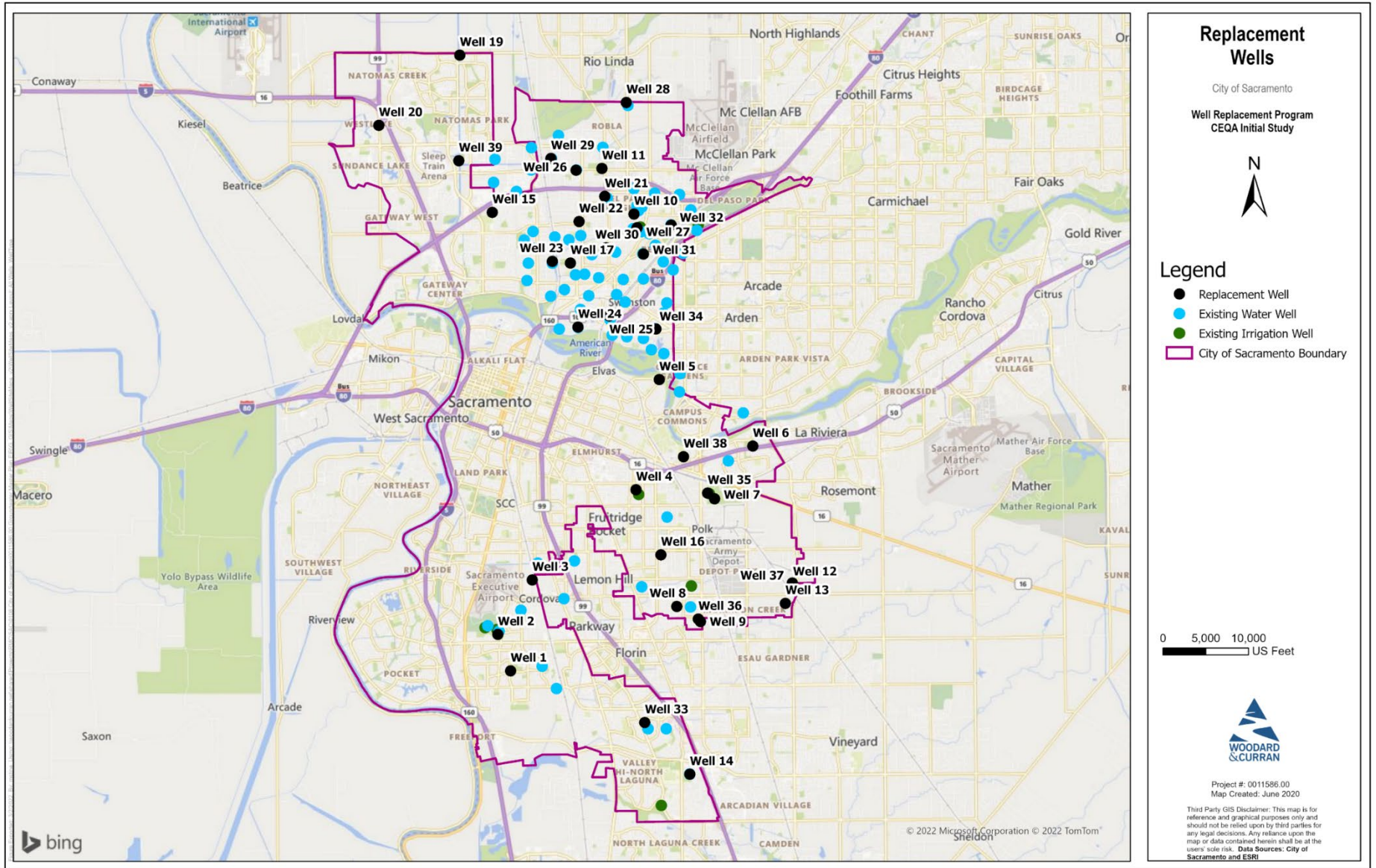


Figure 1: Replacement Well Locations

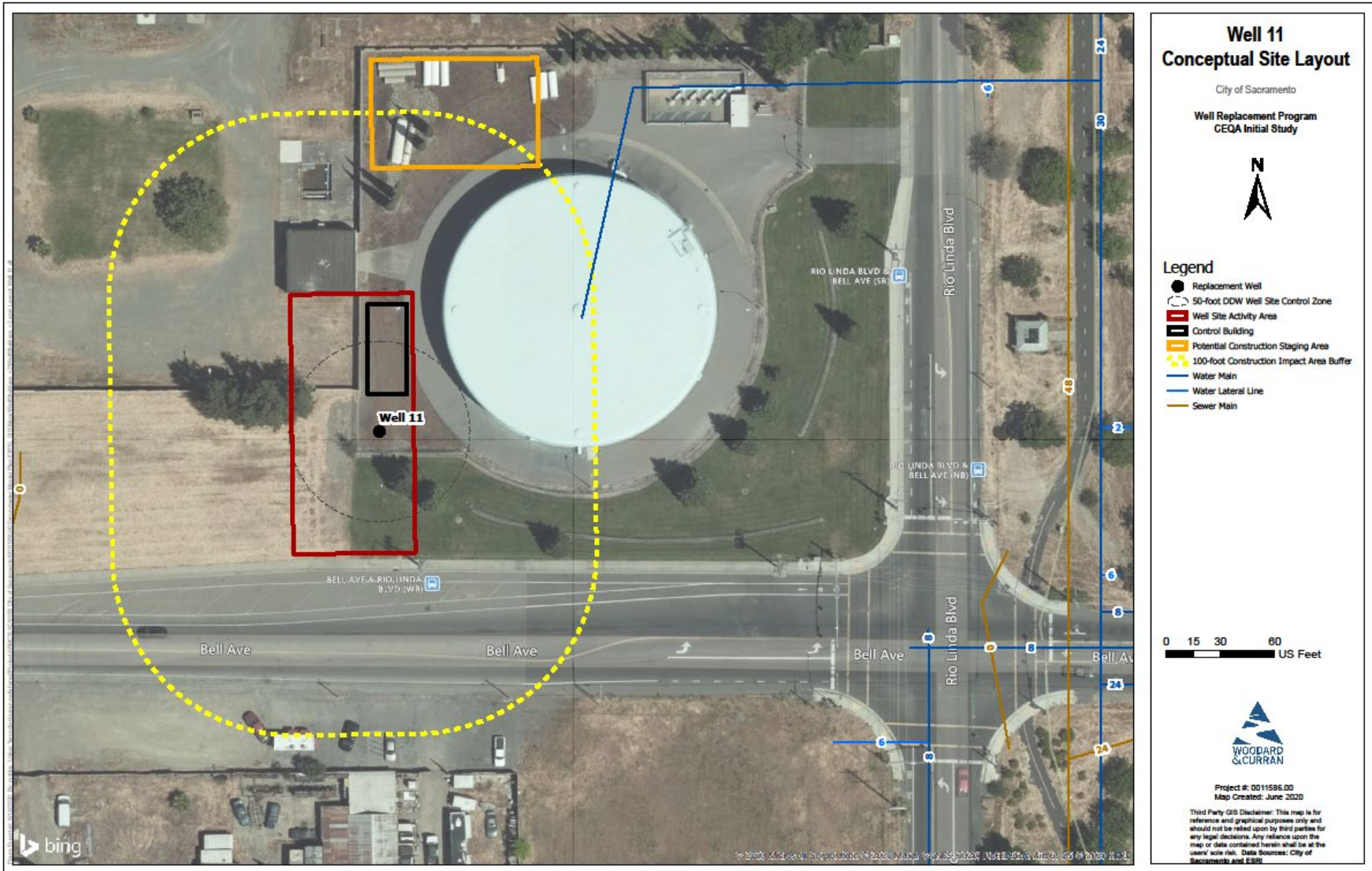


Figure 2: Example of Proposed Well Facility Layout for Construction



Figure 3: Example of an Existing Well Site