U.S. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
Office of Construction & Facilities Management
Washington DC 20420

October 19, 2023

SUBJECT: **Scoping for an Environmental Assessment for Proposed Bakersfield Community-Based Outpatient Clinic**

Dear Valued Stakeholder:

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) proposes to construct and operate, under a long-term build-to-suit lease, a new community-based outpatient clinic (CBOC) in Bakersfield, California (Figure 1). The new CBOC is proposed to be constructed on an approximately 10-acre site that is currently undeveloped and will consist of an approximately 40,000-gross-square-foot building with associated parking and other site improvements (Figure 2). The purpose of this Proposed Action is to provide a modern, state-of-the-art medical facility to serve Veterans in Bakersfield and surrounding communities.

VA is preparing an environmental assessment (EA) to assess the potential environmental impacts of the Proposed Action. VA is preparing the EA in accordance with the regulations implementing the procedural provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) (42 U.S. Code 4321-4370h), as implemented by the Council on Environmental Quality regulations (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] 1500-1508), and VA's NEPA regulations (38 CFR Part 26).

If you have comments on the scope of the EA, the range of alternatives, and environmental issues for in-depth analysis, please email your comments to vacoenvironment@va.gov with the subject line "Bakersfield CBOC EA" by November 22, 2023. For additional information or questions, please contact Christine Modovsky, VA Environmental Engineer, at christine.modovsky@va.gov. Reference "Bakersfield CBOC EA" in your correspondence.

VA anticipates publishing the Draft EA for a 30-day public review and comment period in early 2024. VA will notify stakeholders, publish a notice of availability of the Draft EA in the *Bakersfield Californian*, and invite comments on the Draft EA at that time.

Respectfully,

Christine Modovsky

Digitally signed by Christine Modovsky
Date: 2023.10.19 11:36:55 -07'00'

//for//
Kathryn Domm
Director, Environmental Program Office
Office of Construction & Facilities Management

Figure 1. Project Location

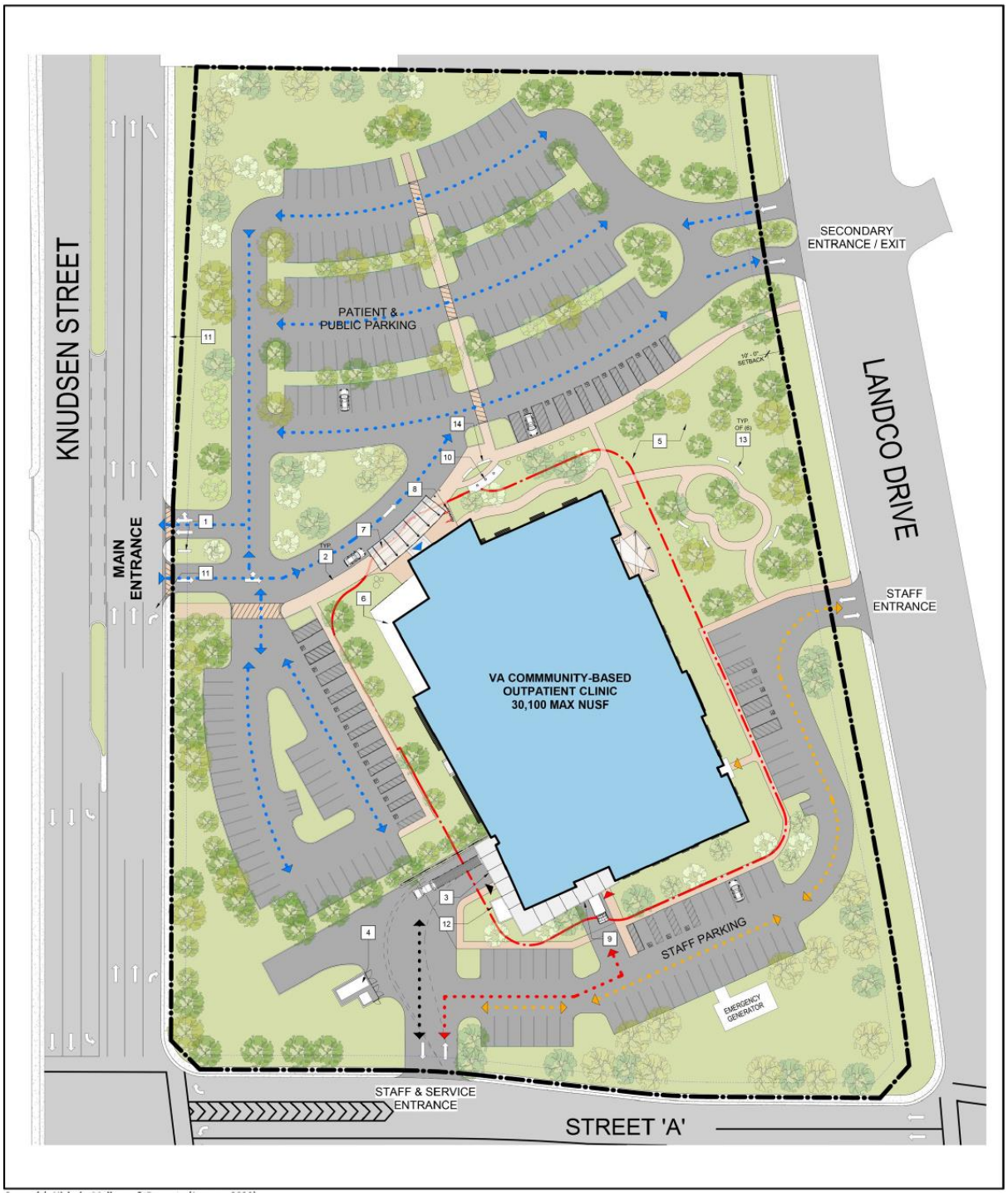

Figure 2. Proposed Development