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

August 9, 2023

SUBJECT: **Scoping for an Environmental Assessment for Construction and Operation of a Spinal Cord Injury and Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Building at the Tibor Rubin VA Medical Center, Long Beach, California**

Dear Valued Stakeholder:

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) proposes to construct and operate an approximately 460,000-square-foot four-story spinal cord injury/disease, physical medicine and rehabilitation, and prosthetics services ("SCI-PMR") facility at the Tibor Rubin VA Medical Center (VAMC) at 5901 East Seventh Street, Long Beach, CA (Figure 1). The project would also provide for parking adjacent to the new facility and renovate Building 150, the current on-campus location of these services, for outpatient clinics, support services, and administrative uses. The purpose of the Proposed Action is to provide the specialized SCI-PMR inpatient and outpatient services, as well as the outpatient clinic services, from facilities that meet VA's current space, design, seismic, and accessibility requirements. The Proposed Action is needed because Building 150 lacks adequate space and infrastructure capacity for these services and requires seismic and accessibility renovations. Figure 2 shows the project location on the Tibor Rubin VAMC campus.

VA is preparing an environmental assessment (EA) to assess the potential environmental impacts of the Proposed Action. VA will prepare the EA in accordance with 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 "VA Long Beach EA"" within 30 days of receipt of this notice. For additional information or questions, please contact Ms. Christine Modovsky, VA Environmental Engineer, at Christine.Modovsky@va.gov. Reference "VA Long Beach EA" in your correspondence.

VA anticipates publishing the Draft EA for a 30-day public review and comment period in late 2023. VA will notify stakeholders, publish a notice of availability of the Draft EA in the *Long Beach Press-Telegram*, and invite comments on the Draft EA at that time. The Draft EA will be available for review at the Long Beach Public Library at 200 W. Broadway and on the VA website www.cfm.va.gov/environmental.

Respectfully,

PATRICK READ

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Date: 2023.08.09 14:22:35 -04'00'

Patrick Read
Acting Director, Environmental Program Office
Office of Construction & Facilities Management

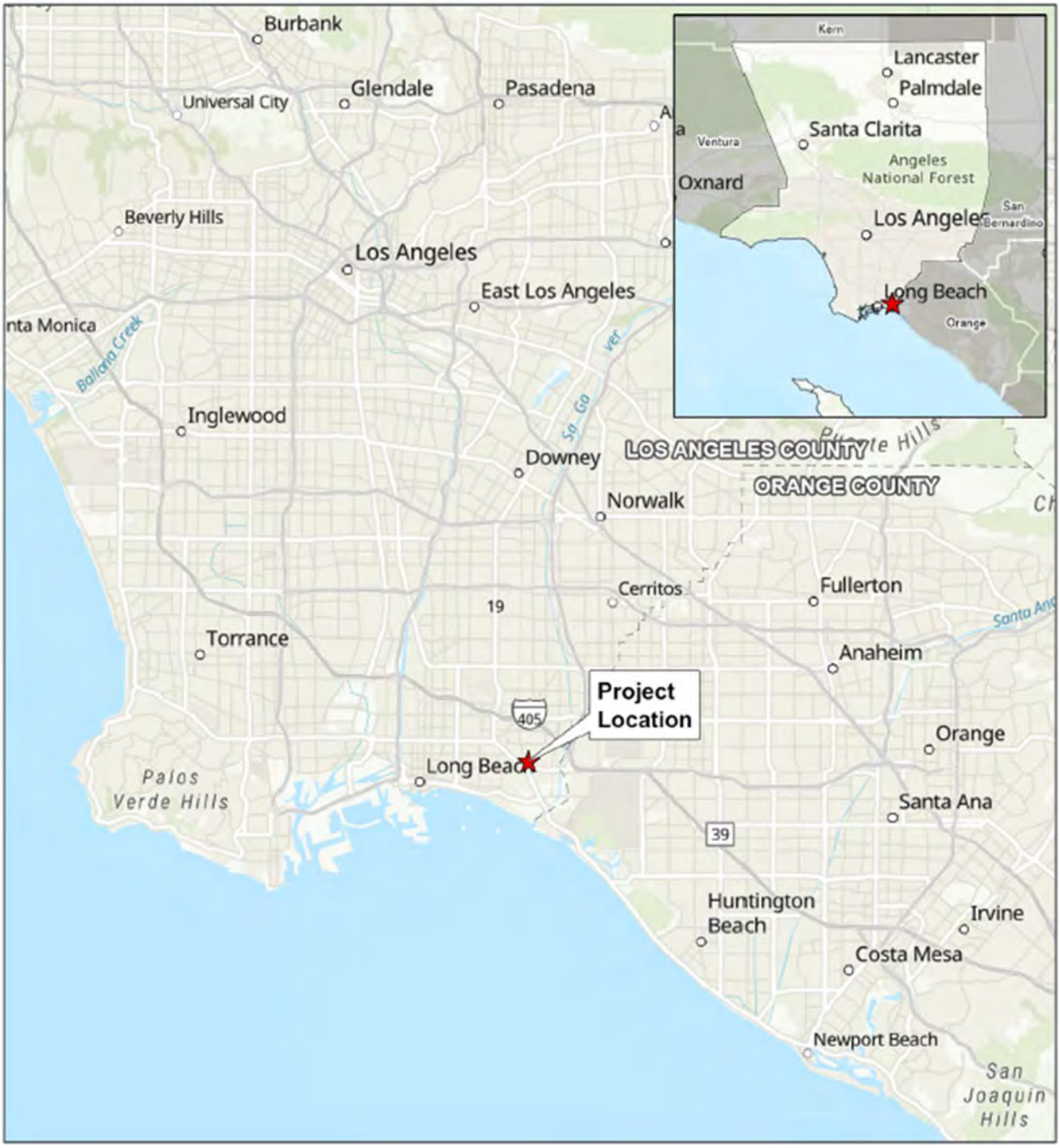

Figure 1. Location of Tibor Rubin VA Medical Center, Long Beach, CA

Figure 2. Location of the Proposed SCI-PMR Project (red polygons)