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FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Construction and Operation of a Spinal Cord Injury and Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Building
Long Beach, California
Tibor Rubin VA Medical Center

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Office of Construction & Facilities Management

October 2025

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Finding of No Significant Impact
Spinal Cord Injury and Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Building
Tibor Rubin VA Medical Center

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) proposes to construct and operate a spinal cord injury/disorder, physical medicine and rehabilitation, and prosthetics services (SCI-PMR) facility, and make related improvements, at the Tibor Rubin VA Medical Center (VAMC) in Long Beach, California. As required by the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA; 42 U.S. Code 4321-4370) and VA's NEPA-implementing regulations (38 Code of Federal Regulations Part 26), VA prepared an environmental assessment (EA) evaluating the Proposed Action. The Final EA was completed in October 2025 and is incorporated by reference.

Purpose and Need

The purpose of the Proposed Action is to provide 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.

Proposed Action

The Proposed Action consists of constructing and operating a new SCI-PMR facility, renovating and reusing Building 150, and constructing and operating surface parking and other related infrastructure. Following construction, existing SCI-PMR services would relocate from Building 150 to the new SCI-PMR facility (tentatively Building 401), and existing Women's Health Clinic and other specialty services would consolidate and relocate from Building 100 and other campus locations to the renovated Building 150.

Alternatives

The EA examined two alternatives—the Proposed Action and the No Action alternative—defined as follows:

- VA would construct and operate the Proposed Action.
- VA would not implement the Proposed Action but would continue to provide SCI-PMR services at Building 150, with continued service shortcomings and seismic risks.

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Potential Environmental Effects

The potential environmental effects associated with implementing the alternatives as analyzed in the Final EA are summarized in Table 1. The terms “effects” and “impacts” have the same meaning in this NEPA review.

Table 1. Potential Environmental Effects

Resource	Proposed Action	No Action
Aesthetics	Less than significant adverse impact	Less than significant adverse impact
Air Quality	Less than significant adverse impact	Less than significant adverse impact
Cultural and Historic Resources	Less than significant adverse impact	No impact
Floodplains, Wetlands, and Coastal Zone Management	No impact	No impact
Geology and Soils	No impact to geology and less than significant adverse impact to soils	No impact to geology and less than significant adverse impact to soils
Hydrology and Water Quality	Less than significant adverse impact	No impact and less than significant adverse impact to water quality
Wildlife and Habitat	Less than significant adverse impact	No impact
Community Services	Beneficial impact	Less than significant adverse impact
Land Use	No impact	No impact
Noise and Vibration	Less than significant adverse impact	No impact
Socioeconomics	Beneficial impact	No impact
Solid Waste and Hazardous Materials	Less than significant adverse impact	Less than significant adverse impact
Traffic, Transportation, and Parking	Beneficial impact	Less than significant adverse impact to traffic or transportation, and less than significant adverse impact to parking
Utilities	No impact	No impact
Growth-Inducing Impacts	No impact	No impact

No mitigation measures were required to be included in the Proposed Action to ensure impacts would be below a level considered significant. Regulatory compliance is part of the Proposed Action and would contribute to environmental resource protection during project implementation; regulatory and agency policy compliance requirements are listed in Appendix A

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Public Comment and Agency Consultation

VA requested scoping input in August 2023 and published the Draft EA for public comment on September 7, 2025. Notices were published in the *Long Beach Press Telegram* and VA notified agencies, Native American tribes, and other stakeholders via email. VA received two scoping comment submissions and received no substantive comment submissions on the Draft EA. Comments were considered in developing the EA. Responses to each comment submission are included in the Final EA.

VA consulted under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act with the California State Historic Preservation Office and federally recognized tribes on potential effects of the Proposed Action on historic properties. The Final EA includes the consultation correspondence and summarizes the outcome of the consultation. The Proposed Action will comply with the 2024 Memorandum of Agreement (MOA), Amendment 1 to the 2015 MOA, and the appendices to the MOA including the 2017 Revised Historic Property Treatment Plan.

Finding of No Significant Impact

Based on the analyses in the Final EA, which is summarized and incorporated by reference herein, VA concludes that implementing the Proposed Action would not have a significant adverse impact on the quality of the human environment within the meaning of Section 102(2)(C) of NEPA. Therefore, preparation of an environmental impact statement is not required.

CHRISTINE MODOVSKY

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Medical Center Director
VA Long Beach Health Care System

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Appendix A
Environmental Permit and Compliance Requirements Incorporated into the Proposed Action

The Proposed Action would comply with all relevant federal, agency, state, and local environmental laws, regulations, requirements, and ordinances. This includes obtaining the following necessary environmental permits, licenses, or other agreements to implement the Proposed Action.

Requirement	Compliance Action(s)
South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) Rules and Regulations	VA and the contractor will follow SCAQMD dust suppression, idling, and other construction controls. New stationary sources will require SCAQMD permits and VA will comply with conditions.
EPA's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Construction General Permit, per Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. section 1251 et seq.)	The contractor will obtain permit coverage including preparing a stormwater pollution prevention plan; VA will ensure best management practices and monitoring requirements required by the permit are implemented.
2015 Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) prepared in compliance with National Historic Preservation Act (section 6, 54 U.S.C. section 3001 et seq.)	VA has completed Section 106 consultation with the CA State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). The Proposed Action will comply with the 2015 MOA, Amendment 1 to the 2015 MOA, and the appendices to the MOA including the 2017 Revised Historic Property Treatment Plan (HPTP).
Revised HPTP for the Portion of the Puvungna Indian Villages District within the Veterans Affairs Long Beach Healthcare System Campus And Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (25 U.S.C. Chapter 32)	If workers encounter human remains, VA will notify the local county coroner's office immediately upon discovery. If the coroner determines that the remains are not of recent history and potentially of Native American origin, VA will inform tribes and the CA SHPO and consult on their disposition.
State Water Resources Control Board Water Quality Order No. 2012-0006-DWQ, NPDES General Permit No. CAS000002	The construction contractor will implement measures required by the permit to reduce potential for construction-related stormwater runoff and sedimentation.
VA Construction & Facilities Management Temporary Environmental Control (PG-18-1 Section 01 57 19)	The construction contractor will comply with VA construction specifications.
Veterans Health Administration Directive 7715 – Healthy Worksite During Construction	VA will maintain a healthy worksite through risk assessments, hazard inspections, safety training, and life safety and infection control measures.
Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) regulations (40 CFR 260–268, 273, and 279)	VA and the contractor will store, handle, recycle, and dispose of waste per RCRA and is implementing regulations, using permitted facilities and maintaining required records.
Universal Waste and Used Oil Management Standards (40 CFR Parts 273 and 279; California Title 22)	Universal waste (for example, batteries, fluorescent lamps) and used oil will be stored, labeled, transported, and recycled/disposed of per federal and California requirements.
U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Hazard Communication Standard (29 CFR 1910)	VA and the contractor will ensure proper labeling, handling, storage, and communication of hazardous materials per OSHA requirements.

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Requirement	Compliance Action(s)
Title 8 California Code of Regulations §5194	VA and the contractor would classify the hazards of chemicals and provide information to their employees about the hazardous chemicals to which they may be exposed, by means of a hazard communication program, labels and other forms of warning, safety data sheets, and information and training.
California Code of Regulations, Title 22 – Environmental Health Standards for the Management of Hazardous Waste	VA and the contractor will determine waste status, manifest and transport per Title 22, and meet accumulation and container management standards.
City of Long Beach Construction and Demolition Debris Recycling Program	The contractor will prepare waste plans, meet diversion rates, and submit documentation to the city.
Los Angeles County Code Title 20.87 – Construction and Demolition Debris Recycling and Reuse Requirements	The contractor will meet county diversion/reuse rates and submit documentation for verification.
U.S. Department of Transportation Hazardous Materials Transportation Regulations (49 CFR Parts 171–180)	Hazardous materials will be packaged, labeled, and transported by trained personnel using authorized transporters.
National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP) – Asbestos (40 CFR 61, Subpart M)	If asbestos is present, a certified contractor will remove it per NESHAP, including notifications and approved disposal.
California Code of Regulations, Title 8, Section 1529 – Asbestos	Asbestos work will follow state worker training, exposure, and containment requirements.
OSHA Lead in Construction Standard (29 CFR 1926.62)	All lead containing components will be handled per OSHA's construction industry Lead Standard.
California Code of Regulations, Title 8, Section 1532.1 – Lead	Work will be performed per California's requirements for worker protection, exposure assessment, air monitoring, engineering controls, hygiene facilities, and waste disposal.
Solid Waste Disposal Facility Standards (40 CFR 258)	Asbestos and lead waste will be disposed of at Subtitle D-compliant landfills.
California Title 24 Building Energy Efficiency Standards	The facility will meet Title 24 energy efficiency requirements and use Low Impact Development strategies.
VA HVAC Design Manual	HVAC systems will be designed per VA requirements, including air filtration levels based on space use.
VA Handbook H-18-8, Seismic Design Requirements	The project design will meet VA seismic design requirements.
VA Directive 7512, Seismic Safety of VA Buildings	The project design will meet VA seismic safety requirements.
Executive Order 13717, Establishing a Federal Earthquake Risk Management Standard	The project design will comply with federal earthquake risk management standards.