



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

October 30, 2024

*Sent via email*

**SUBJECT: Notice of Availability of Supplemental Draft Environmental Assessment for Proposed Bakersfield Community-Based Outpatient Clinic, Bakersfield, CA**

Dear Valued Stakeholder:

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has prepared a Supplemental Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) to analyze the potential environmental impacts associated with a Proposed Action to construct and operate, under a long-term build-to-suit lease, a new community-based outpatient clinic (CBOC) in Bakersfield, California (see Exhibit 1, Project Location). 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 (see Exhibit 2, Proposed Development). The Supplemental Draft EA identifies and evaluates an additional element of the Proposed Action compared to the elements evaluated in the Draft EA that was previously published for public comment: the developer of the proposed new clinic may provide an interim location in an existing building from which clinic services would be offered until construction of the proposed new CBOC is complete.

VA prepared the Supplemental Draft EA according to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S. Code 4321-4370) (NEPA) and the NEPA-implementing regulations of the Council on Environmental Quality (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] 1500-1508) and VA (38 CFR Part 26). Exhibit 3 summarizes the NEPA process, including public engagement, for your reference in responding to this request. The Supplemental Draft EA examines the potential environmental effects from implementing the Proposed Action and the No Action Alternative.

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. The Proposed Action is needed to address current and future projected health care needs of Veterans in Kern County.

Concurrent with this mailing, a Notice of Availability has been published in The Bakersfield Californian to inform and solicit input from the public. The Supplemental Draft EA is available on the VA website at [www.cfm.va.gov/environmental](http://www.cfm.va.gov/environmental). A hard copy of the Supplemental Draft EA is also available for public review at Beale Memorial Library, located at 701 Truxtun Avenue, Bakersfield, California.

Please submit any requests for additional information, questions, or comments on the Supplemental Draft EA via email to [vacoenvironment@va.gov](mailto:vacoenvironment@va.gov) with the subject line "Bakersfield CBOC EA" no later than December 2, 2024. Comments previously submitted on the Draft EA do not have to be resubmitted. VA will summarize and address substantive comments in the Final EA.

Respectfully,

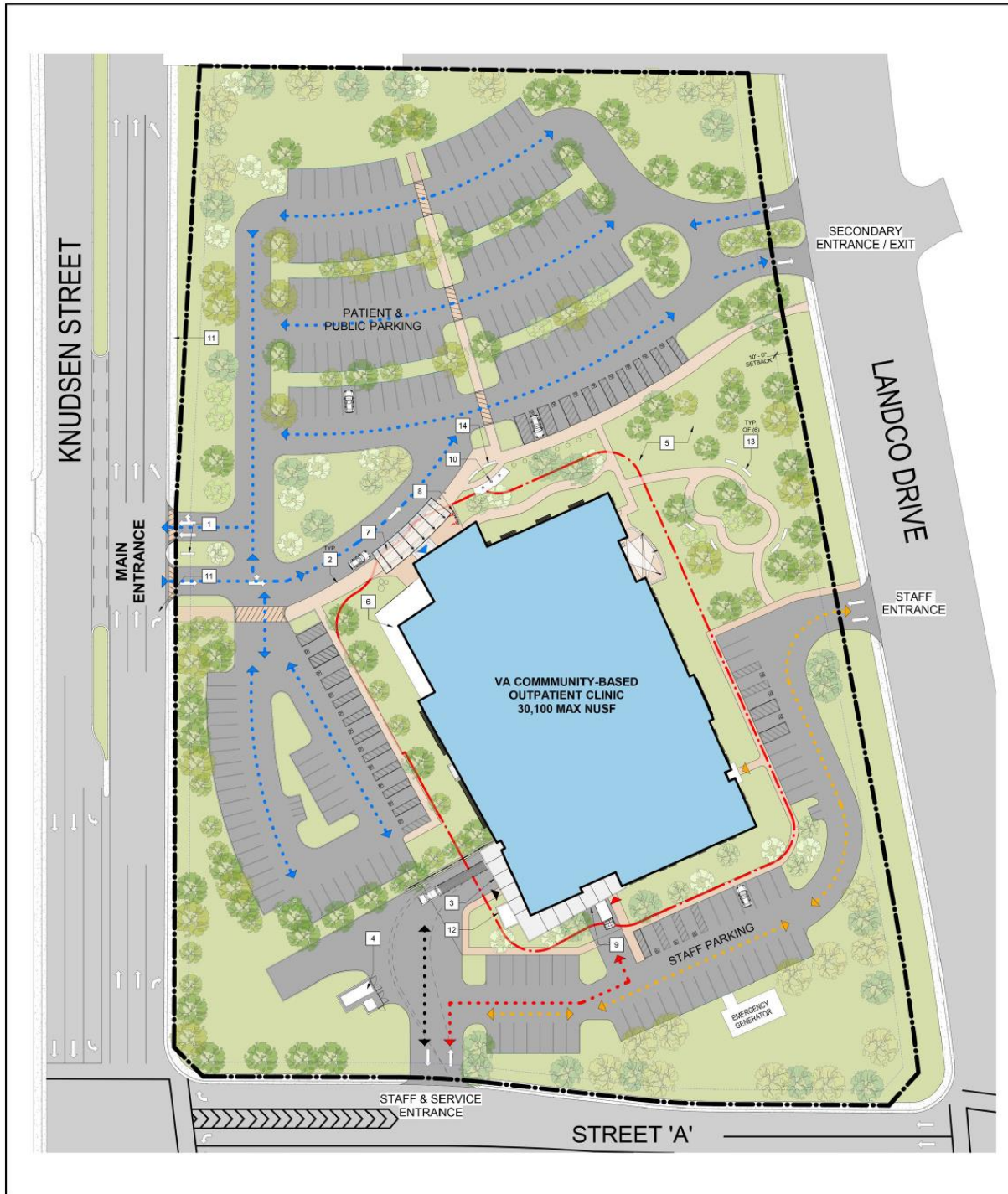
Glenn Elliott  
Director, Project Development Services Division  
Office of Construction & Facilities Management

# Exhibit 1. Project Location





## Exhibit 2. Proposed Development



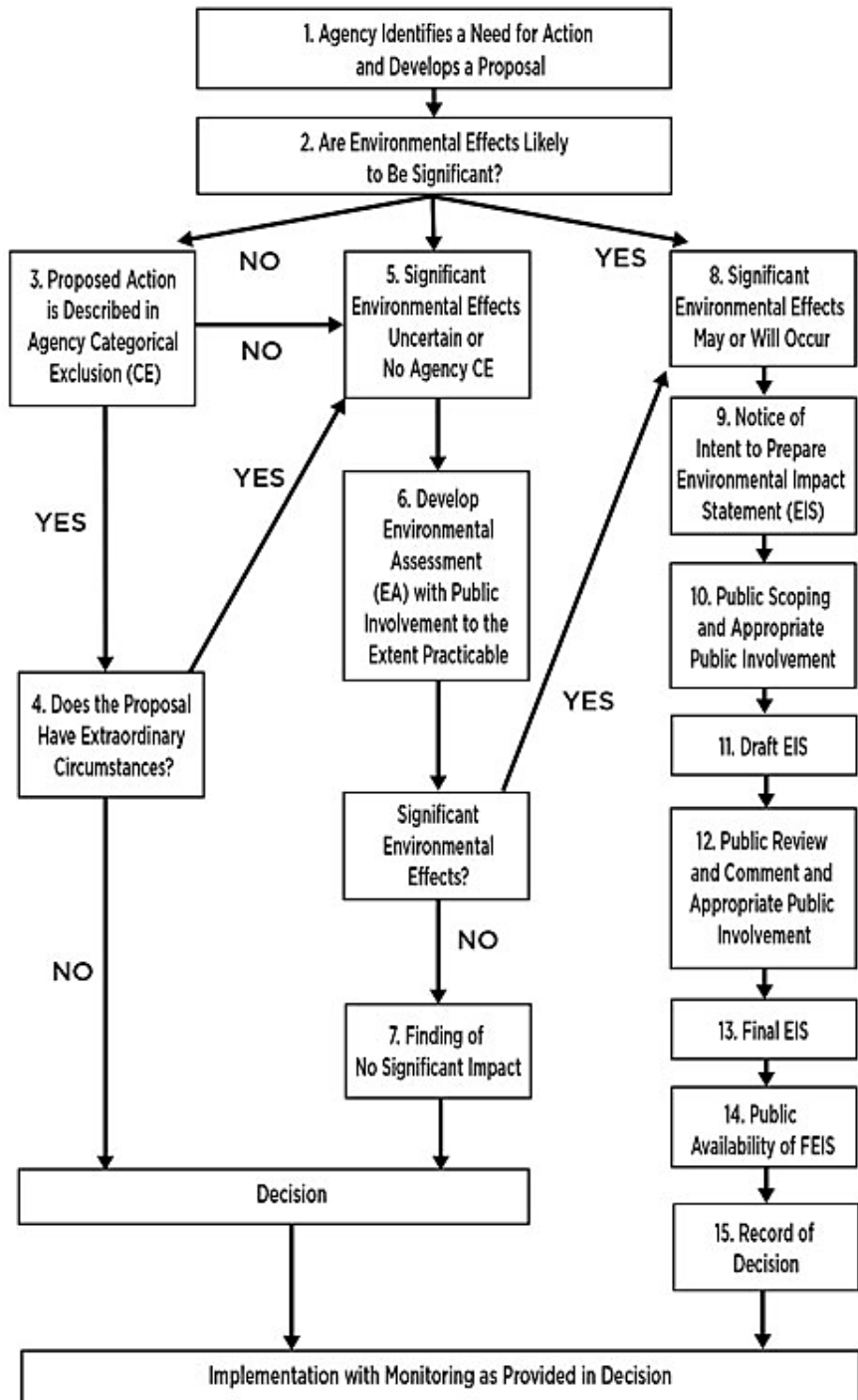
### Exhibit 3. Overview of NEPA Process

This exhibit provides an overview of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process. NEPA encourages better decisions by requiring federal agencies to consider the environmental effects of their proposed actions in making their decisions. NEPA also informs the public about federal agencies' decision making and, by way of invitations such as this one, requests your input and comments on these environmental reviews.

Federal agencies prepare environmental assessments (EAs) and environmental impact statements (EISs) to provide an opportunity to the public to learn about and be involved in the environmental reviews that are part of the federal agency decision-making process.

Comments may be the most important contribution from the public because they promote informed decision making. Comments should provide sufficient detail for the agency to understand the commenter's position and why the issues raised are important to the decision. Accordingly, comments should be clear, concise, relevant to the analysis of the proposed action, and submitted during the public comment periods.

It is important to understand that commenting on a proposal is not a "vote" on whether the proposed action should take place. Nonetheless, the information you provide during the EA and EIS process can influence the decision makers and their final decisions because NEPA requires that federal decision makers be informed of the environmental consequences of their decisions.



Source: *A Citizen's Guide to NEPA – Having Your Voice Heard* ([https://ceq.doe.gov/get-involved/citizens\\_guide\\_to\\_nepa.html](https://ceq.doe.gov/get-involved/citizens_guide_to_nepa.html)). Please see full document for more information.