APPENDIX A
Notices and Public Involvement

A-1. Scoping Report

A-2. CCWD CEQA Notice of Completion

A-3. Reclamation Notice of Availability

A-1 SCOPING REPORT

LOS VAQUEROS RESERVOIR EXPANSION PROJECT

Scoping Report

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation
Mid-Pacific Region

CONTRA COSTA WATER DISTRICT

April 2008

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1.0 Introduction

Contra Costa Water District (CCWD) proposes the expansion of its existing Los Vaqueros Reservoir to make additional storage available in a strategic location that could benefit local, state and federal interests for environmental protection and water supply reliability. The U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation, Mid-Pacific Region (Reclamation) and the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) have joined with CCWD to evaluate various expansion alternatives. CCWD as the Lead Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and Reclamation as the Lead Agency under the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) are preparing a joint Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR). DWR is a Responsible Agency under CEQA and will rely on the EIS/EIR for any decisions it makes related to the proposed project. As part of the public involvement process for the EIS/EIR, the lead agencies asked for input on the scope of the environmental review for the project through a series of workshops and hearings and a written comment period. This report presents a summary of the issues raised during scoping and provides a blueprint for how these issues will be addressed in the EIS/EIR.

2.0 Proposed Action

The San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Estuary is the largest estuary on the West Coast and provides essential habitat for a diverse array of fish and wildlife. It is also the critical hub in the conveyance of drinking water supplies to over two-thirds of the California population and irrigation supplies to 7 million acres of agricultural lands. The chairman of the Governor's Delta Vision Blue Ribbon Task Force summarized the state of the Delta as follows:

> "The Delta is in crisis, and each day brings us closer to a major disaster, be it from flooding, from the decline of important fish species, or from court-ordered reductions in the amount of water that can be pumped for the state's water supply." (Resources Agency, 2007)

CCWD's existing Los Vaqueros Reservoir is an off-stream storage reservoir that is strategically located adjacent to the Delta and in close proximity to the major state and federal water system facilities exporting water from the Delta. CCWD currently pumps water from the Delta into this 100 thousand acre-foot (TAF) capacity reservoir through state-of-the-art fish screens. Having this storage capacity allows CCWD to adjust the timing of its Delta water diversions throughout the year to both maximize water quality and minimize impacts to fish. Expanding the Los Vaqueros Reservoir in this strategic location presents an opportunity to expand its benefits and immediately

begin addressing some of the central issues fueling the Delta crisis. Reservoir expansion could reduce impacts to Delta fisheries resulting from current state and federal water system export practices, provide water to improve environmental conditions in the Delta and its associated tributary rivers and wetlands, and improve water supply reliability for Bay Area water users.

The proposed action includes expanding the reservoir from its current 100 TAF to as large as 275 TAF[1], expanding Delta diversion capacity, expanding conveyance to the Reservoir and adding, in some alternatives, conveyance to State Water Project facilities serving Bay Area communities.

Figure 1 presents the study area for the project. The primary study area includes the Los Vaqueros watershed and associated dam, reservoir, and support facilities, which are situated in eastern Contra Costa County, in the coastal foothills west of the Delta and east of San Francisco Bay; the central and south Delta; and the service areas of certain Bay Area water agencies that may be directly affected by the project. These agencies include CCWD as well as the three agencies that receive their State Water Project water via the South Bay Aqueduct (SBA): Alameda County Flood Control and Water Conservation District, Zone 7 (Zone 7 Water Agency); Alameda County Water District; and Santa Clara Valley Water District. Other agencies that may be affected include the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission or other Bay Area water agencies.

Project Objectives

The proposed project has two primary objectives and one secondary objective. The wording of the objectives has been refined since the scoping meetings in 2006, but the underlying objectives remain the same.

Primary Objectives:

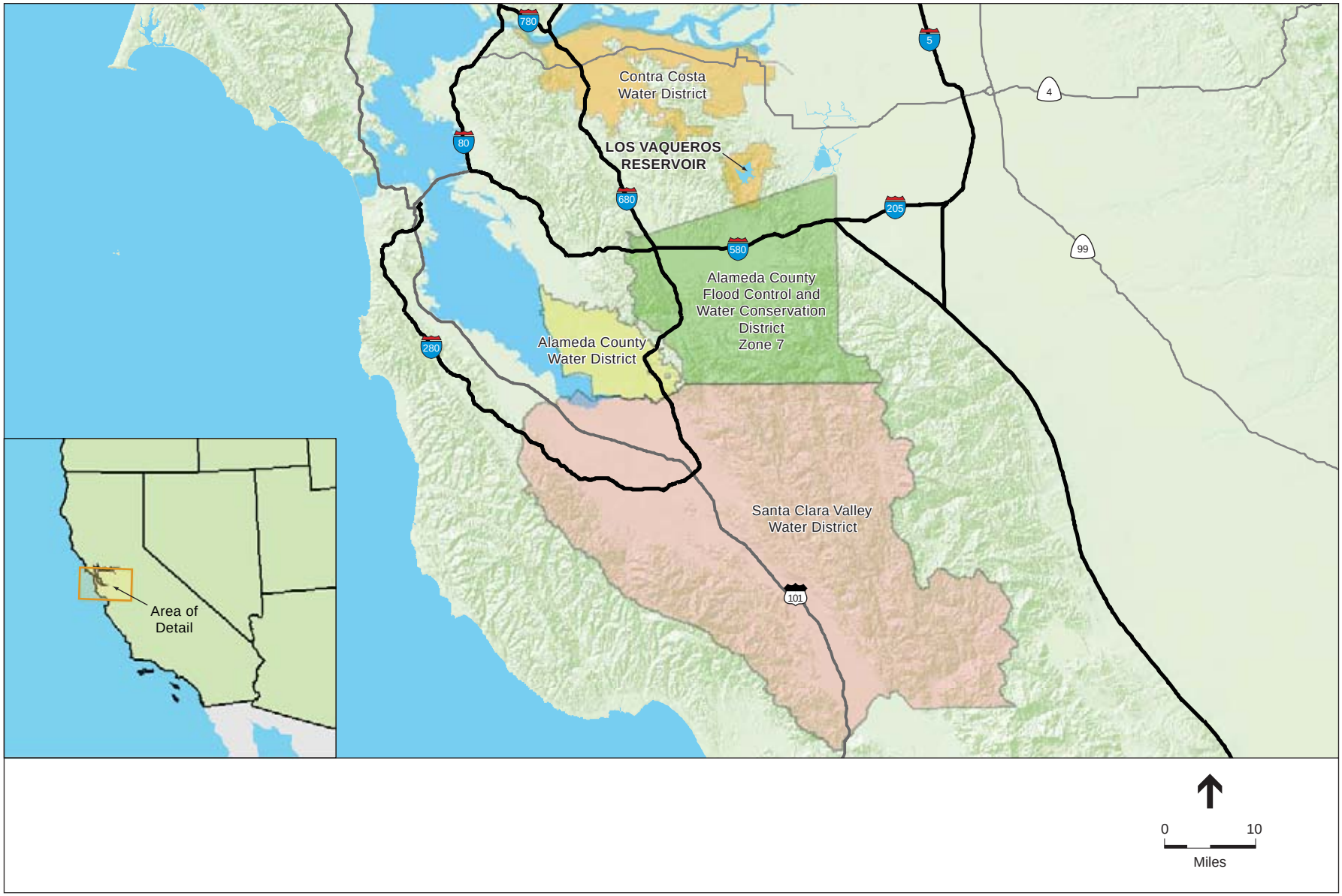
1. Develop water supplies for environmental water management that supports fish protection, habitat management and other environmental water needs.

2. Increase water supply reliability for water providers within the San Francisco Bay Area, to help meet municipal and industrial water demands during drought periods and emergencies or to address shortages due to regulatory and environmental restrictions.

Secondary Objective:

1. Improve the quality of water deliveries to municipal and industrial customers in the San Francisco Bay Area, without impairing the project's ability to meet the environmental and water supply reliability objectives state above.

[1] At the time of scoping for the project, the maximum size reservoir under consideration was 500 TAF. Based on preliminary feasibility and environmental studies, the maximum size under consideration is now 275 TAF.



SOURCE: USGS, 1993 (base map); and ESA, 2008

Figure 1
Project Study Area

In addition to these objectives, CCWD Board of Directors' Resolution No. 03-24, June 25, 2003, provides important guidance for identifying and evaluating plans involving the expansion of Los Vaqueros Reservoir. The Resolution is included as Appendix H.

Reservoir Expansion Alternatives

Delivery Objectives and Operations

A range of reservoir expansion alternatives has been developed for further detailed evaluation. The alternatives are summarized in Table 1. It should be noted that the maximum reservoir capacity being considered is 275 TAF. During scoping, a larger reservoir of 500 TAF was presented as a possible alternative. Based on preliminary feasibility and environmental analyses, this alternative has been eliminated from further study. Additionally, an alternative with a direct connection to the South Bay Aqueduct has also been eliminated based on preliminary feasibility and environmental analyses.

TABLE 1
ALTERNATIVES UNDER CONSIDERATION

Alternative	Primary Objective	LV Storage Capacity (TAF)	Delivery Connection	Maximum Delta Diversion Capacity (CFS)
No Action	NA	100	NA	320
1	Environmental water and Bay Area reliability	275	Pipeline to Bethany Reservoir	1000
2 [(a)]	Environmental water	275	Pipeline to Bethany Reservoir	1000
3	Environmental water and Bay Area reliability	275	Existing interties	670
4	Bay Area reliability	160	Existing interties	320

(a) Alternative 2 has the same facilities as Alternative 1 but would be operated differently to achieve different objectives.

The expanded reservoir would be operated in a manner similar to the current operation of Los Vaqueros Reservoir: when surplus high-quality water is available in the Delta, it would be diverted from the Delta for storage in the expanded reservoir. CCWD now uses Los Vaqueros Reservoir to capture high-quality flows from the Delta, typically available each year during and following the wet season, to blend with more saline Delta supplies that typically occur during the dry season. An expanded reservoir would allow more high-quality water to be diverted into storage when surplus water (in excess of all other needs) is available in the Delta and when fish impacts are low.

Currently, the reservoir operation is controlled by CCWD's water quality needs, and this would remain a key operational factor for the expanded reservoir. Like the current reservoir, an expanded reservoir would also be operated in accordance with other Delta operations, water-rights permits, the requirements of applicable biological opinions issued by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service for Endangered Species Act

compliance, and memoranda of understanding issued by the California Department of Fish and Game for species protection.

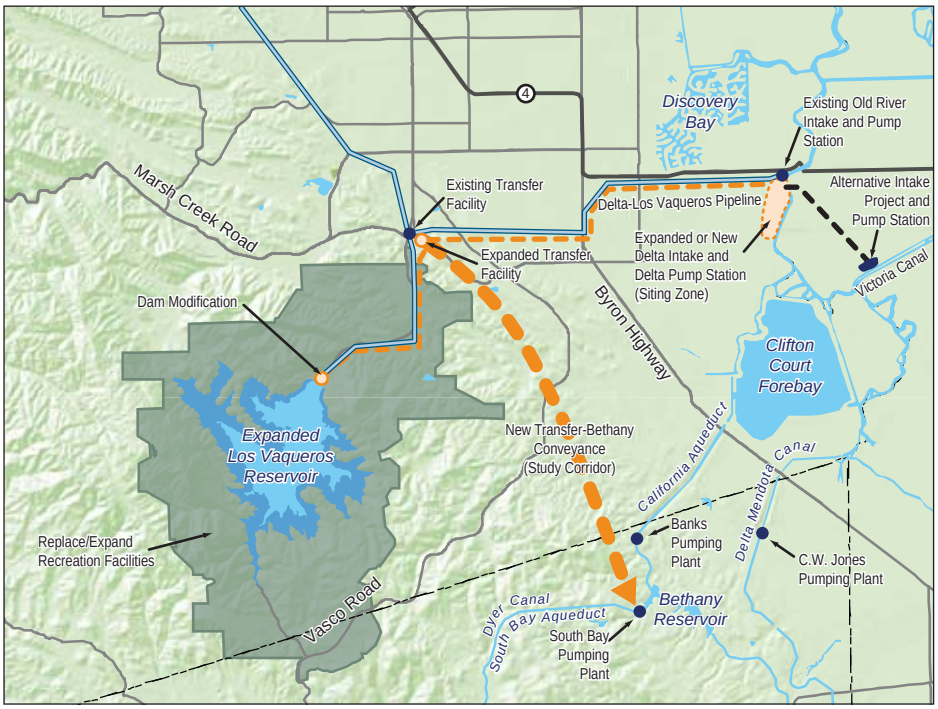
Required Facilities

The facilities required for reservoir expansion are listed below and shown on Figure 2. The size and/or location of some of the proposed facilities will vary, depending on the alternative. The range of alternative facility sizes and locations currently under consideration is described here.

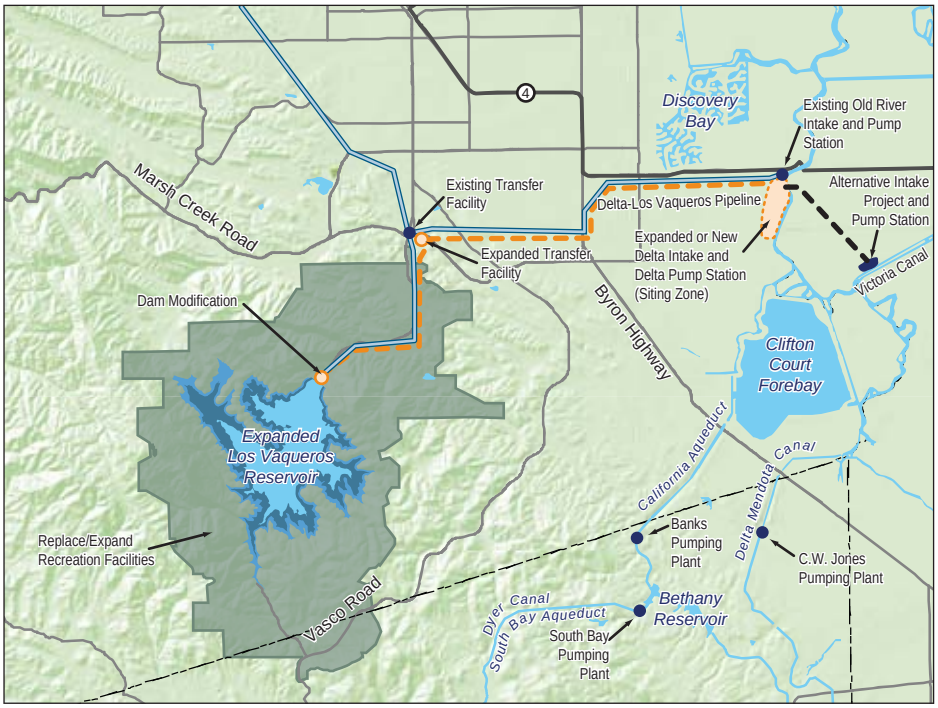
- **Delta Intakes**. Additional screened intakes in the Delta at Old River are being considered. The total intake capacity proposed for the expanded reservoir ranges up to 1,000 cubic feet per second (cfs) and would include CCWD's current 250 cfs intake capacity at Old River plus its approved 250 cfs Alternative Intake Project, with an additional intake capacity up to 500 cfs to be constructed as part of the expansion project along Old River.
- **Delta Pump Station**. A new or expanded Delta pump station and pipelines to connect the current and new Delta intakes to the new/expanded Delta pump station would be constructed. The total pumping capacity proposed for this pump station would match the total Delta intake capacity.
- **Delta - Los Vaqueros Pipeline.** A Delta - Los Vaqueros pipeline would be constructed to deliver water from the Delta pump station to the expanded reservoir via an expanded Transfer Facility. Installation of either one or two parallel pipelines with diameters ranging up to approximately 12 feet is under consideration.
- **Dam Modification and Reservoir Expansion**. Raising the dam and expanding the current 100,000-acre-foot capacity reservoir up to a maximum total capacity of 275,000 acre-feet is under evaluation.
- **Transfer - Bethany Reservoir Pipeline**. A pipeline connecting the expanded Transfer Facility to Bethany Reservoir that would deliver water from either Los Vaqueros Reservoir or the Delta for environmental purposes or for SBA Water Agencies.
- **Recreational facilities** relocation and expansion: marina, fishing piers, trails, picnic areas, and the interpretive center.

Other Alternatives

A No Action/No Project Alternative will be defined to characterize existing and probable future environmental conditions given the continued operation of existing water resource projects or facilities, such as the SWP and CVP, in combination with planned water resource projects or facilities that are approved or are authorized but not yet implemented.



Alternatives 1 and 2



Alternatives 3 and 4

Existing Facilities
New Facilities
CCWD Watershed Administrative Boundary
160TAF Inundation Area
275TAF Inundation Area
0
2
Miles

SOURCE: USGS, 1993 (base map); and ESA, March 2008

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Figure 2

Proposed Project Facility Alternatives

3.0 Opportunities for Public Comment

Notification

Reclamation and CCWD prepared and distributed several notification packages to inform interested parties of the scoping period and upcoming public scoping meetings.

On Tuesday, December 20, 2005, Reclamation published a Notice of Intent (NOI) in the Federal Register to advise interested agencies and the public that an EIS would be prepared. On January 10, 2006, CCWD published and distributed a Notice of Preparation (NOP) to advise interested agencies and the public that an EIR would be prepared. CCWD distributed the NOP to approximately 80 agencies, elected officials, and interested parties.

Interested parties were also notified about the public scoping meetings through a press release, general notification flyer, newspaper display advertisement, legal advertisement, and the project websites. The NOI, NOP, press release, display advertisements, legal advertisement, general notification flyer, and the project website notifications are presented in Appendices A, B, and C. Notifications provided basic project information; date, time, and location of meetings; and a brief explanation of the public scoping process and encouraged recipients to attend the open house/public scoping meetings. Reclamation distributed a press release on January 5, 2006. Reclamation prepared and CCWD mailed a notification flyer to approximately 2,000 interested organizations, agencies, elected officials, and residents on January 12, 2006.

CCWD published a display advertisement in the Central Zone and East Zone editions of the *Contra Costa Times*, a newspaper with regional distribution, on Wednesday, January 18, 2006, and Sunday, January 22, 2006. In addition, a legal advertisement was published Thursday, January 19, 2006. An electronic copy of the meeting display advertisement was posted on the CCWD project website, www.lvstudies.com, and the Reclamation project website, www.usbr.gov/mp/vaqueros.

The comment period extended through February 28, 2006. The public could submit written comments on the scope, content, and format of the environmental document by mail, fax, or email to representatives at CCWD and Reclamation.

Information Open House and Public Scoping Meetings

Reclamation and CCWD conducted four formal scoping meetings to gather input and comments prior to the development of the EIS/EIR. The tabulation below shows the dates and locations of the four meetings. Approximately 55 people attended the four meetings.

Sacramento, CA
Tuesday, January 24, 2006
1:30 to 3:30 p.m.
Department of Water Resources
Bonderson Building
(Public Hearing Room – 1st Floor)
901 P Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Antioch, CA
Tuesday, January, 24, 2006
6:00 to 8:00 p.m.
Veteran's Memorial Building, Legion Hall
403 West 6th Street
Antioch, CA 94509

Livermore, CA
Wednesday, January 25, 2006
6:00 to 8:00 p.m.
Martinelli Event Center
Agricultural Center
3583 Greenville Road
Livermore, CA 94550

Concord, CA
Thursday, January 26, 2006
6:00 to 8:00 p.m.
Contra Costa Water District
1331 Concord Avenue
Concord, CA 94520

The format of each public meeting program was identical and began with a 45-minute open house during which participants could view exhibit boards with project information including an overview of the regional context, project objectives and purposes, alternatives, environmental issues, the environmental review process, and the project schedule. Participants were also encouraged to ask informal questions of project team members to understand the project objectives and alternatives.

Participants were encouraged to sign in and were provided with materials including an agenda, open house program, presentation slides, comment card, and speaker card. Copies of the NOI and NOP were available upon request.

A formal 15-minute presentation focused on the process, schedule, and role of public comments. Following the presentation, 60 minutes were allotted for public comments on the scope, content, and format of the environmental document. Comments were accepted in writing; a court reporter recorded oral comments.

Appendix D presents the informational materials, presentation slides, and exhibit boards used during the scoping meetings. Written and oral scoping comments, attendance sheets and meeting summaries are presented in Appendices E and F.

4.0 Summary of Scoping Comments

During the public scoping meetings held January 24, 25, and 26, 2006, participants were able to comment on the scope of issues to be included in the Los Vaqueros Reservoir Expansion Project EIS/EIR. Written comments were also collected throughout the public comment period. Appendix E presents transcripts of the oral comments received and Appendix F contains copies of the written comments received.

Commenting Parties

Comments were received from the following individuals and parties in response to the notices and opportunities provided.

TABLE 2
PARTIES SUBMITTING COMMENTS
DURING THE LOS VAQUEROS RESERVOIR EXPANSION PROJECT EIS/EIR SCOPING PROCESS

Name	Title	Organization
Written Comments		
John Negrete	Individual	
Robert Doran	Board President	Town of Discovery Bay CSD
John Nejedly	State Senator, Retired	
William Marshall	Chief, Storm Water Section	CA Regional Water Quality Control Board
Michael R. Williams	President	Mt. Diablo Audubon Society Conservation Committee
Brad Olson	Environmental Programs Manager	East Bay Regional Park District
Paul Piraino	General Manager	Alameda County Water District
Stanley Williams	CEO	Santa Clara Valley Water District
Dale Myers	General Manager	Zone 7 Water Agency
Seth Adams	Director of Land Programs	Save Mount Diablo
Katherine Osborn	Individual	
Lech Naumovich	East Bay Conservation Analyst	California Native Plant Society
Lori Clamurro	Environmental Scientist	Delta Protection Commission
Dennis O'Bryant	Acting Assistant Director	Department of Conservation Division of Land Resource Protection
Waltraud Heinritz	Individual	The Wolf Company
Oral Comments		
Bill Bennett	Chief, Office of Water Use Efficiency and Transfers	CA Department of Water Resources
Vicki Fry		Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District
Janess Hanson		Sierra Club - Delta Group
Karen Sweet		Alameda County Resource Conservation District
Gene Broadman	Individual	
Manuel Perry	Individual	
Pete Margiotta		California Waterfowl Association and Safari Club International
Lech Naumovich		California Native Plant Society
Tomi Van de Brooke		California Alliance for Jobs

Comments Received During the Scoping Process (Written and Oral)

Comments received during scoping are summarized in the list below. The comments are categorized by topic areas to enable easier review.

Project Description including Reservoir Operations

- Clarify who will construct, operate, and control an expanded reservoir.
- Identify location of proposed Delta Pump Station.

- Identify source of electrical power for pump stations and route of electrical lines.
- Coordinate facility siting with future city and county projects/expansions.
- Discuss the benefits and impacts of the current Los Vaqueros Reservoir as basis for evaluating the expanded reservoir project.
- Discuss the amount of material needed to construct a larger dam.

Alternatives

- Compare the project to other potential water storage projects identified by CALFED as warranting further study.
- Discuss alternative of terminating certain agricultural water supply contracts in the Central Valley and redirecting supply to domestic use.
- Evaluate alternatives that focus upon Delta levee repairs and water conservation measures instead of a reservoir expansion.
- Consider alternative that maintains the current reservoir and relocates the Delta intake facilities to Middle River.
- Review alternative that connects the existing Los Vaqueros Reservoir to the State Water Project at Bethany Reservoir instead of expanding Los Vaqueros Reservoir.
- Consider alternative of 25 TAF additional capacity to the existing Los Vaqueros Reservoir.
- Evaluate an alternative with a comprehensive conservation program.
- Assess alternatives that maintain consistency with assurances promulgated by the CCWD Board of Directors, including providing long-term environmental benefits to the Delta ecosystem and enhancing terrestrial habitat and recreational opportunities.

Biological Resources (including Fish Resources)

- Address impact on Pacific waterfowl migration from any unnatural rafting in the reservoir.
- Provide detailed information on impacts to protected plants and wildlife (including habitat and dispersal corridors), including direct and indirect effects to individual species and vegetative communities. In particular, consider effects on *Calochortus pulchellus* and *Thysanocarpos radians*. Consider permanent effects from inundation and temporal effects from construction of pipelines and project facilities.
- Discuss effects of managing for fish health on all ecosystems.

- Discuss impacts to endemic and migrating wildlife species from altering the landscape and attracting other wildlife species, including the introduction of invasive species (plants and avian species) and expansion of ranges of predatory species such as bullfrogs and predatory fish.

- Explain the impacts to areas with existing conservation easements and how those easements are addressed.

- Identify pipeline routing in Vasco Caves and Brushy Peak preserves, and discuss effects on conservation easements if applicable.

- Address mitigation needs including measures addressing compensation for previous mitigation implemented for the original Los Vaqueros Project.

- Evaluate effects of the project on habitat and aquatic species in local watersheds of the SBA where supplies are currently released.

- Address impacts on mitigation lands and feasibility of in-kind and in-watershed mitigation for sensitive species and habitat.

- Discuss impacts of additional pumping on fish resources, and Bay and Delta ecosystems.

- Expand Delta benefit beyond protection of Delta fish species.

- Assess effects on Delta species from operations of Reclamation/CCWD facilities at Old River, Mallard Slough, and Rock Slough.

Cultural/Historical Resources

- Include an evaluation of the potential impacts to cultural and historical resources in the watershed (including Vasco Caves and Brushy Peak) and conveyance corridors.

Surface Water Hydrology and Water Quality

- Discuss effects of levee failure on water quality in project area.

- Include impacts to the Delta and other Delta water users resulting from increased diversions at intake.

- Evaluate effect on flow from Discovery Bay wastewater discharge pipeline.

- Discuss impacts to water quality, including dissolved oxygen levels in the Delta.

- Discuss increased salinity intrusion due to global warming.

- Identify potential changes to water quality in the SBA including bromide, TOC, TDS, turbidity, pH, dissolved oxygen, taste and odor, algae, alkalinity and temperature.

- Evaluate effects of water quality changes on ability of SBA water users to treat water at their respective water treatment plants.

- Discuss potential effects of project on current and planned operations of the Del Valle Reservoir including effects on water quality in the Reservoir.

Water Supply

- Address potential construction and operational effects of the project on the SBA and water supplies.

- Discuss potential changes to daily, monthly and average SBA conveyance delivery capacity and SBA water supply reliability.

- Discuss potential effects of project on current and planned operations of the Del Valle Reservoir, including effects use of the reservoir for storage of local water supplies.

- Assess effects of project on potential SBA water supply outages resulting from major earthquakes or other reasons.

- The potential for Delta levee failure should be addressed in regard to project operations and reliable water supply.

Recreation

- Discuss impacts to current and proposed recreational facilities adjacent to the Los Vaqueros watershed, including regional trail systems and use.

- Evaluate opportunities to connect to surrounding recreational facilities.

- Include impacts to recreational activities dependent on the SBA.

- Consider relocation of recreational facilities in vicinity of habitat for special-status species.

- Discuss any potential policy changes to water quality standards at neighboring reservoirs that allow body contact.

Geology

- Investigate potential movements in the fault planes of the Delta and how they relate to project structures, as well as their effect on water quality.

- Evaluate potential effects of new facilities on seismic reliability and the potential for outages.

Land Use

- Discuss any potential impacts to agricultural lands (including range lands) or necessary acquisitions.
- Include a discussion of coordination and potential conflicts with the East Contra Costa Habitat Conservation Plan, including in particular the potential for mitigation land purchases for the expansion project to affect the cost of land acquisition for the HCP.
- Discuss whether Williamson Act contract termination would result from the project and whether such termination would affect nearby agricultural lands.
- Include potential benefits for agricultural operations.
- Use LESA model to determine significance.
- Identify potential impact that may occur in the Primary Zone of the Legal Delta resulting from activities occurring in the Secondary Zone and outside the Delta.

Transportation and Circulation

- Discuss impacts to local roadways, including Vasco Road, and necessary mitigation.
- Discuss mitigation for impacts to surrounding residents.

Construction-Related Issues

- Discuss construction-related effects to water quality.
- Include impacts during construction on surrounding residents.
- Discuss impact to recreational resources from closure of reservoir during construction.
- Discuss impacts of noise, dust, and glare on open space/rural environment.
- Evaluate traffic (including Highway 4 and local roadways), air quality and visual impacts during construction.
- Discuss access to Discovery Bay wastewater treatment facility during pipeline construction.
- Discuss construction disturbance to native plant populations.
- Discuss impact to water quality (salinity) when the existing reservoir is taken out of operation and CCWD diverts water out of Middle River (to the extent this might occur).

Growth-Inducing Effects

- Evaluate potential growth-inducing impacts.

Cumulative Effects

- The EIS/EIR should address the cumulative impacts from all freshwater diversion projects and pumping (from the Delta).
- Evaluate cumulative impacts to the Bay-Delta system considering other water users' activities.

Institutional Issues

- Discuss precedential effect of eliminating or changing conservation easement areas.
- Explain who will construct and operate the project and be responsible in the event of future dam failure.

Cost

- Provide detailed economic feasibility analysis.
- Discuss how funding will be secured even with a change in government administration.
- Analyze change in water treatment costs for SBA contractors.

General Comments

- Explain how the dam could be enlarged when previous studies indicated that was not possible.
- Include recreational hunting in the reservoir watershed.
- Include bike and horse access to trails.
- Coordinate with Contra Costa County to provide an emergency flood plan for incorporation into the County Emergency Plan.
- Evaluate funding needed to protect Delta levee system.
- Show that CCWD's commitments from the original Los Vaqueros Project will be followed.
- Include a discussion of planned coordination with agencies/organizations regarding permitting and mitigation plans.
- Consider potential to deliver agricultural water to the Livermore Valley.

- Discuss whether the project will facilitate the building of a peripheral canal.
- Consider formation of a long-term public agency to respond to levee failures and associated program for levee management and funding.
- Consider provision of multi-use regional trail within proposed rights of way of pipelines from Los Vaqueros to the SBA.
- Allow Byron and Discovery Bay residents access to reservoir recreational facilities to offset impacts from noise, dust and traffic delays.
- Discovery Bay prefers no pipeline or above ground structures at intersection of Discovery Bay Boulevard and Highway 4.

5.0 Consideration of Issues Raised in Scoping Process

A primary purpose of this Scoping Report is to document the process of soliciting and identifying comments from interested agencies and the public. The Scoping Process provides the means by which Reclamation and CCWD can determine those issues that interested participants consider to be the principal areas for study and analysis. Significant environmental issues that have been raised during scoping will be addressed in the EIS/EIR.

The following discussion identifies the issues raised in scoping that will be addressed in the EIS/EIR and provides a brief explanation for those issues that will not be considered in the document.

Project Description including Reservoir Operations

Issues pertaining to the ownership, operations, and control of the expanded reservoir will be summarized in the EIS/EIR.

The EIS/EIR will identify the location of facilities to the extent they are known. In the case of linear features like pipelines and power lines, a corridor is usually identified for purposes of the environmental analysis. The pipeline or power line would be specifically sited within this corridor during project design. Similarly, the Delta pump station location will be generally identified for purposes of the environmental analysis, and then specifically located within the area evaluated during project design.

The project will be described at a level of detail appropriate to the environmental analysis and will include an estimate of the quantity of material needed for the dam as well as sizes of facilities and equipment. Sources of power will also be identified.

The current Los Vaqueros Reservoir and related facilities will be described as background and as required to explain changes as a result of the expansion project.

Alternatives

The EIS/EIR will describe and discuss the direct and indirect environmental effects of implementing the proposed project and alternatives. The alternatives consist of a combination of optional physical features and operational scenarios, including facility sizes, locations, water supply purposes, and beneficiaries. A rigorous alternatives screening process has been undertaken to identify the alternatives to be included in the EIS/EIR. This process, including the full range of alternatives evaluated, screening criteria and outcomes will be summarized in the EIS/EIR and fully documented in an Appendix. Alternatives raised during scoping have been included in this screening process.

As part of the evaluation of alternatives, the EIS/EIR will address a No-Action Alternative. The existing environmental conditions will be described as a baseline condition. This description will include describing the current Los Vaqueros Reservoir and its associated benefits and impacts. The existing conditions will be the basis for evaluating future potential impacts of the expanded Los Vaqueros Reservoir.

Note: for each resource category listed below, the EIS/EIR will address the potential direct and indirect effects, as well as cumulative effects, associated with both construction and operation of the proposed project and alternatives. Mitigation measures will be recommended where appropriate to avoid, minimize, or offset significant environmental impacts.

Biological Resources (including Fish Resources)

The EIS/EIR will address the potential impacts on plants and wildlife that may occur as result of implementing the project alternatives. Specific attention will be placed on species protected by federal or state law or regulations.

The potential for induced invasive species and the potential for expansion of predatory species will be addressed, including introduced plants and avian species that may occupy the project area.

Mitigation will be identified and discussed, as appropriate. These measures will be developed in consultation with federal and state resource management agencies with regulatory authority over project implementation. Mitigation to compensate for impacts to previous mitigation efforts implemented to address the effects of the original Los Vaqueros Project facilities will be addressed, including discussion of the conservation easements that may be affected by the reservoir expansion.

Potential impacts on aquatic species and habitats, including the effects of changes in the timing and amounts of water diversions and pumping of Delta water supplies, will be addressed. The combined effect of operating the Old River, Mallard Slough, and Rock Slough diversions as well as the Alternative Intake Project, currently under construction, will be addressed to the extent that they will be altered with implementation of project alternatives or contribute to cumulative effects. Benefits of the project to aquatic species and habitats will also be described.

To the extent feasible, the EIS/EIR will consider whether the project will affect habitat and aquatic species or local watersheds where supplies are currently released.

Cultural/Historical Resources

The cultural and historical resources that may be affected by reservoir expansion facilities, including conveyance pipelines and inundation areas, will be assessed in accordance with the requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, NEPA and CEQA.

Surface Water Hydrology and Water Quality

The EIS/EIR will assess potential changes in Delta hydrology and water quality using numerical models developed for the Sacramento-San Joaquin River/Delta system and commonly accepted for purposes of water resource planning and evaluation. The DSM2 model will be used to estimate changes in Delta water quality. This model uses electrical conductivity as an indicator of Delta water quality. The analysis will include water quality changes in the Delta as well as those affecting SBA users and reservoirs. The EIS/EIR will include a discussion of the effects of climate change on water quality and the potential for levee failure in the Delta to degrade water quality in the project area. The potential of the proposed project to affect flow from the Discovery Bay waste discharge diffuser will also be assessed.

Water Supply

The EIS/EIR will address potential changes to water volume to SBA users that may occur during short-term facility construction and long-term operations. The analysis will address changes to water supply reliability of SBA users. The CALSIM II model will be used to estimate changes to water supply and Delta flow conditions.

The SBA water users' water conveyance and storage systems will be assessed to determine changes in operations and effects on local supplies. Potential risk of facility outages due to earthquakes or other reasons will be assessed in comparison to existing facilities. The potential for levee failure to affect project operations and supply reliability will also be discussed.

Recreation

The EIS/EIR will discuss adverse effects on recreational facilities in the project area and potential adverse effects on nearby facilities and regional recreational trail systems. The environmental effects of re-locating existing facilities within the Los Vaqueros Watershed as a result of the expansion project will be evaluated.

The document will also address adverse effects on recreation facilities in other water storage reservoirs that could be affected by the expansion project alternatives.

Geology

The EIS/EIR will discuss potential impacts related to seismic ground shaking and seismic-related ground failure including liquefaction and landslides as well as issues related to seismic reliability.

Land Use

The potential effect of converting agricultural land to non-agricultural uses because of the expansion project will be assessed using U.S. Department of Agriculture Form AD-1006. Federal Site Assessment Scoring Criteria will be used to fill out the Farmland Conversion Impact Rating Form (AD-1006) and meet Farmland Protection Act (FPPA) requirements. Thorough consideration was given to using the California Department of Conservation Land Evaluation and Site Assessment (LESA) model in lieu of the federal model. Like the FPPA system, LESA is a point-based approach for rating the relative importance of agricultural land resources based upon specific measurable features. According to the Department website, the California LESA Model was developed to provide lead agencies with an optional methodology to ensure that potentially significant effects on the environment of agricultural land conversions are quantitatively and consistently considered in the environmental review process. However, because the EIS/EIR is a federal document, and because LESA model was designed primarily to evaluate single sites proposed for urban development rather than multiple sites and pipeline corridors, the federal system was selected for the agricultural impact evaluation.

Other agricultural issues such as potential effects on Williamson Act contracts will also be evaluated. The expansion project will be assessed for its effects on or consistency with the East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservation Plan. Additionally, consistency of the project with the Delta Protection Act and Delta Protection Commission guidelines will be evaluated.

Transportation and Circulation

Potential impacts to local roadways, including Vasco Road, which may occur during project construction, will be evaluated. As appropriate, mitigation will be identified to minimize project-related impacts.

Construction-Related Issues

The EIS/EIR will address construction-related issues in each resource category, and will include evaluation of the impact of construction on surrounding residents and land uses as well as mitigation to minimize these impacts.

The EIS/EIR will also address the potential impact of construction on terrestrial and aquatic biological resources including special-status plant populations and water fowl in the area.

Growth-Inducing Effects

Potential growth-inducing effects of constructing and operating an expanded Los Vaqueros Reservoir will be addressed in the EIS/EIR. This discussion will include potential growth-inducing effects in the SBA water users' service areas and areas near the reservoir.

Cumulative Effects

For each resource category, the EIS/EIR will include analysis of cumulative effects of the expanded Los Vaqueros Reservoir in combination with other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future projects affecting the same resources. Where applicable, this analysis will

address other diversion, pumping, utility and development projects in the geographic areas relevant to each resource.

Other Issues

Other issues to be addressed include the need to coordinate and plan for emergency conditions such as flooding. The document will include a summary of permitting requirements; a separate Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan will also be prepared. The relationship of the proposed expansion project to other programs to improve the Delta habitat and fisheries, increase water supply reliability or improve water quality will be described in the EIS/EIR.

Other issues to be addressed, to the degree feasible, include the interaction and relationship of global warming on project operations and Delta resources.

Comments beyond the scope of the EIS/EIR

Comments related to feasibility and funding of the project that are not directly related to physical impact discussions within the environmental impact analysis will be addressed in the EIS/EIR to the extent required under NEPA and CEQA, and as relevant for each specific issue. Project benefits will be described qualitatively in the EIS/EIR.

Comments regarding changing future recreational uses in the watershed (e.g. allowing hunting) and access (e.g., extending customer benefits to non-customers) are policy issues for the CCWD Board of Directors and are not included in the environmental impact analysis.

Comments related to managing and funding Delta levees are not related to the environmental impact analysis and will not be addressed in the EIS/EIR. If appropriate, impacts related to levee improvement programs will be considered under cumulative impacts.

Appendix A
Notice of Intent

management, invasive species management, energy and minerals management, travel management, wilderness, wild horse herd management, cultural resource management, and other issues as appropriate.

These meetings are open to the public. The public may present written comments to the RACs. Each formal RAC meeting will also have time, as identified above, allocated for hearing public comments. Depending on the number of persons wishing to comment and time available, the time for individual oral comments may be limited.

Dated: December 14, 2005.

Juan Palma,

Las Vegas Field Manager, Designated Federal Officer for the Mojave Southern Great Basin RAC.

[FR Doc. 05–24241 Filed 12–19–05; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310–HC–M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Reclamation

Los Vaqueros Reservoir Expansion Investigation, Contra Costa County, CA

AGENCY: Bureau of Reclamation, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

SUMMARY: Pursuant to section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) will prepare an EIS to evaluate expanding the existing Los Vaqueros Reservoir and alternatives to improve water supply reliability and water quality for Bay Area water users, particularly those receiving water from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta; and contribute to lower cost implementation of the CALFED Environmental Water Account (EWA). Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act, Contra Costa Water District will prepare an EIR on the proposed project concurrent with the EIS preparation. A joint EIS/EIR document will be prepared.

Reclamation was directed in Public Law 108–7, (Omnibus Appropriations Act of 2003) to conduct a feasibility-level investigation of the potential expansion of Los Vaqueros Reservoir.

DATES: Four scoping meetings will be held to solicit public input on the scope of the environmental document, alternatives, concerns and issues to be addressed in the EIS. The scoping meeting dates are:

- Tuesday, January 24, 2006, 1:30 to 3:30 p.m., Sacramento, CA.
- Tuesday, January 24, 2006, 6 to 8 p.m. Antioch, CA.
- Wednesday January 25, 2006, 6 to 8 p.m., Livermore, CA.
- Thursday, January 26, 2006, 6 to 8 p.m., Concord, CA.

Submit written comments on the scope of the environmental document to Reclamation at the address below by February 28, 2006.

ADDRESSES: The scoping meeting locations are:

- Sacramento—Department of Water Resources, the Bonderson Building, 901 P Street, Public Hearing Room first floor, Sacramento, CA 95814.
- Antioch—Legion Hall, Veteran's Memorial Building 403 West 6th Street, Antioch, CA 94509.
- Livermore—Martinelli Event Center, Agricultural Center, 3585 Greenville Road, Livermore, CA 94550.
- Concord—Contra Costa Water District, 1331 Concord Ave., Concord, CA 94520.

Written comments on the scope of the environmental document should be sent to Ms. Patricia Roberson, Bureau of Reclamation, Mid Pacific Regional Office, 2800 Cottage Way, Sacramento CA 95825–1898; by e-mail at *proberson@mp.usbr.gov*; or faxed to (916) 978–5094. Further information on the investigation, including the interim results, can be found at *http://www.usbr.gov/mp/vaqueros/.*

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Patricia Roberson, Reclamation Project Manager at the above address, (916) 978–5074; or Ms. Marguerite Naillon, Project Manager, Contra Costa Water District, P.O. Box H2O, Concord, CA 94524, (925) 688–8018. If you would like to be included on the EIS/EIR mailing list, please contact Jennifer Allen, CirclePoint, at (415) 227–1100 ext. 33 or *j.allen@circlepoint.com.*

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

One of the five potential surface storage projects described in the CALFED Bay-Delta Program's long-term plan is the expansion of the existing Los Vaqueros Reservoir, an existing 100,000-acre-foot off-stream surface storage facility, located in Contra Costa County, California. The existing facility is owned and operated by the Contra Costa Water District (CCWD).

The primary study area includes the Los Vaqueros Reservoir watershed and associated dam and reservoir facilities, which are situated in the coastal foothills west of the Delta and east of the Bay Area, the central and south Delta, and service areas of Bay Area water agencies that may be directly affected by the project. The Bay Area water agencies that may be directly affected include Contra Costa Water District, Alameda County Water District, Santa Clara Valley Water district, and Alameda County Flood Control and Water Conservation District—Zone 7. Due to the potential influence on other programs and projects, an extended study area is defined to include the service area of the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission and the Central Valley of California.

Planning studies to date have focused on identifying water resources problems, needs, and opportunities in the primary study area, developing a set of planning objectives to help guide the remainder of the feasibility study, and formulating a set of initial alternatives. These elements of the study are summarized below.

Problems, Needs, and Opportunities

Water Supply Reliability. Deliveries of imported water to the Bay Area for drinking water supply are significantly reduced during dry years and critically dry years. Periods of multiple dry years can also occur, such as the droughts of 1928–1935 and 1976–1977, and most recently 1987–1992. These dry periods cause most local supplies, such as groundwater and locally stored runoff, to be depleted. At the same time, deliveries of imported water from the SWP and CVP are curtailed. Bay Area water agencies need to improve water supply reliability not only to reduce deficiencies during a drought, but also as an alternative supply in case of a catastrophic event or emergency in the Delta, such as a chemical spill or levee failure.

Environmental Opportunities. The Sacramento/San Joaquin Delta is the largest estuary on the West Coast and provides essential habitat for a diverse array of fish and wildlife. A variety of factors have contributed to the decline of fish species in the Delta, including the loss of habitat and water resources development. Water deliveries from the Delta have been curtailed in recent years to help protect threatened and endangered fish populations and their habitats. However, while pumping curtailments and other actions in the Delta have been beneficial to fish, they often have had adverse impacts on cities, farms, and businesses that depend on water supplies pumped from or through the Delta. Consequently, the Environmental Water Account (EWA) was developed to provide water project

operators with additional flexibility in meeting or exceeding fishery requirements in the Delta.

Water Quality. Although State water quality standards have been maintained, the quality of water supplies from the Delta has generally declined because of salinity intrusion resulting from water resources development; polluted runoff from urban, agricultural, and other development; and changes to the physical environment. Because Bay Area water agencies typically blend water from various sources to attain a desired quality, water quality in the study area is a function of both water source and volume. Water providers in the study area use imported supplies from the Delta and local groundwater and surface water supplies.

Planning Objectives

The planning objectives identified below were developed based on the problems, needs, and opportunities in the study area.

- Increase water supply reliability for water providers within the study area, principally to help meet municipal and industrial water demands during drought periods, with a focus on enlarging Los Vaqueros Reservoir.
- Use an expanded Los Vaqueros Reservoir to develop replacement water supplies for the long-term EWA, if the cost of water provided from an expanded reservoir is found to be less than the cost of water for continued implementation of that program.
- To the extent possible through pursuit of the water supply reliability and environmental water objectives, improve the quality of water deliveries to municipal and industrial customers in the study area.

In addition to the study objectives, various planning constraints, principles, and criteria were identified and are being used to help guide the investigation. These criteria include the Contra Costa Water District's principles of participation.

Initial Alternatives

From the Planning Objectives, a number of water resources management measures were identified. The most effective of these measures were used to formulate a set of initial alternatives. The initial action alternatives, still under refinement, include the following elements:

- Different ways to increase reservoir capacity: Raise the existing dam in-place or replace it completely with a new dam;
- Different ways/points of connection to deliver water to Bay Area users via facilities of the State Water Project;
- Different reservoir expansion sizing and operations geared to meet the project objectives: Water supply reliability, EWA needs, and/or water quality.

Specific measures and combinations of measures in these initial alternatives will likely change in future studies and some may be combined with others or dropped from further consideration. Other measures and combinations of measures may emerge during the scoping process and warrant development into alternatives. In addition to the action alternatives, the No Action alternative will also be evaluated. Additional information on these initial alternatives is contained in the Los Vaqueros Expansion Investigation, California, Initial Alternatives Information Report at *http://www.usbr.gov/mp/vaqueros/.*

Additional Information

The environmental review will be conducted pursuant to NEPA, the Endangered Species Act, and other applicable Federal law, to analyze the potential environmental impacts of implementing a range of feasible alternatives, including Los Vaqueros Reservoir expansion. Public input on the range of alternatives to be considered will be sought through the initial public scoping meetings.

Our practice is to make comments, including names and home addresses of respondents, available for public review. Individual respondents may request that we withhold their home addresses from public disclosure, which we will honor to the extent allowable by law. There also may be circumstances in which we would withhold a respondent's identity from public disclosure, as allowable by law. If you wish us to withhold your name and/or address, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comment. We will make all submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, available for public disclosure in their entirety.

Frank Michny,

Regional Environmental Officer, Mid-Pacific Region.

[FR Doc. E5–7541 Filed 12–19–05; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310–MN–P

INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION

[Investigation Nos. 731–TA–344, 391–A, 392–A and C, 393–A, 394–A, 396, and 399–A (Second Review)]

Certain Bearings From China, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Singapore, and the United Kingdom

AGENCY: United States International Trade Commission.

ACTION: Revised schedule for the subject investigations.

EFFECTIVE DATE: December 9, 2005.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Debra Baker (202–205–3180), Office of Investigations, U.S. International Trade Commission, 500 E Street, SW., Washington, DC 20436. Hearing-impaired persons can obtain information on this matter by contacting the Commission's TDD terminal on 202–205–1810. Persons with mobility impairments who will need special assistance in gaining access to the Commission should contact the Office of the Secretary at 202–205–2000. General information concerning the Commission may also be obtained by accessing its Internet server (*http://www.usitc.gov*). The public record for these investigations may be viewed on the Commission's electronic docket (EDIS) at *http://edis.usitc.gov*.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On October 12, 2005, the Commission established a schedule for the conduct of the final phase of the subject investigations (70 FR 60556, October 18, 2005). Subsequently, the Commission received a request from an interested party to change the scheduled date for the public hearing. The Commission, therefore, is revising its schedule.

The Commission's new schedule for the investigations is as follows: requests to appear at the hearing must be filed with the Secretary to the Commission not later than April 20, 2006; the prehearing conference will be held at the U.S. International Trade Commission Building at 9:30 a.m. on April 25, 2006; the prehearing staff report will be placed in the nonpublic record on April 7, 2006; the deadline for filing prehearing briefs is April 21, 2006; the hearing will be held at the U.S. International Trade Commission Building at 9:30 a.m. on May 2, 2006; the deadline for filing posthearing briefs is May 11, 2006; the Commission will make its final release of information on June 6, 2006; and final party comments are due on June 8, 2006.

For further information concerning these investigations see the

Appendix B
CEQA Agency Consultation and Public Scoping

ESA

Appendix B-1
Notice of Preparation

ESA

NOTICE OF PREPARATION

Environmental Impact Report for the Los Vaqueros Reservoir Expansion Project

1.0 Introduction

The Contra Costa Water District (CCWD) is the lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act[1] (CEQA) for preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) on the proposal to expand Los Vaqueros Reservoir. The reservoir, owned and operated by CCWD, is a 100,000-acre-foot off stream surface storage facility, located in Contra Costa County, California.

Expansion of Los Vaqueros Reservoir (project) is one of the potential surface storage projects described in the CALFED Bay-Delta Program's long-term plan that was recommended for additional study. The CALFED long-term plan recognized that additional storage at Los Vaqueros Reservoir could contribute to improving the quality of Bay Area drinking water supplies delivered from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta (Delta), the reliability of Bay Area water supplies, and Delta fisheries resources adversely affected by actions taken to manage the Delta's water resources. While the CALFED long-term plan provides some planning background, this project analysis does not tier from the CALFED Plan Programmatic EIS/EIR and the project is proposed independent of any decision to proceed with any other project within the CALFED plan.

The U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) is the lead agency under the National Environmental Policy Act[2] (NEPA) for preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and, in conjunction with CCWD, will prepare a joint EIS/EIR document for the project.

This Notice of Preparation (NOP) describes the currently proposed project alternatives under consideration for review in the EIS/EIR and identifies the main environmental issue areas to be addressed during the environmental review. However, project alternatives are still under development and will be refined further during the EIS/EIR preparation process. Agencies and interested members of the public are invited to provide input on the scope of the environmental analysis and the range of alternatives to be evaluated.

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1 California Public Resources Code §§21000–21178

2 Pub. L. 91-190, 42 USC 4321-4347, January 1, 1970, as amended by Pub. L. 94-52, July 3, 1975, Pub. L. 94-83, August 9, 1975, and Pub. L. 97-258, § 4(b), Sept. 13, 1982)

1.1 Opportunities for Public Participation

The public is invited to submit oral and/or written comments on the scope of issues to be included in the EIS/EIR. **The comment period extends through February 28, 2006.** Interested persons and organizations are invited to call Jennifer Allen at CirclePoint, 415-227-1100, ext. 33, or to email her at lvstudies@hotmail.com to be included on the mailing list for public meetings or to receive other correspondence concerning the project.

Scoping Meetings

Scoping meetings have been scheduled between January 24 and January 26, 2006, at the four locations shown below:

- **Sacramento, CA**
  Tuesday, January 24, 2006
  1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.
  Public Hearing Room, first floor
  Bonderson Building
  901 P Street
  Sacramento, CA 95814

- **Antioch, CA**
  Tuesday, January 24, 2006
  6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
  Legion Hall
  Veteran's Memorial Building
  403 West 6th Street
  Antioch, CA 94509

- **Livermore, CA**
  Wednesday, January 25, 2006
  6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
  Martinelli Event Center
  Agricultural Center
  3585 Greenville Road
  Livermore, CA 94550

- Concord, CA
  Thursday, January 26, 2006
  6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
  CCWD Board Room
  1331 Concord Avenue
  Concord, CA 94520

Written Comments

Please submit any comments by the end of the public comment period on February 28, 2006 by 5 p.m. Written comments on the scope, content, and format of the environmental document can be emailed, using the link from the website, www.lvstudies.com, and clicking on "Contact and Comment." Written comments may be also mailed or faxed to representatives at the following addresses:

Ms. Marguerite Naillon, Project Manager
Contra Costa Water District
P.O. Box H20
Concord, CA 94524-2099
Phone: 925 688-8018
Fax: 925 686-2187
Website: www.lvstudies.com

Ms. Patricia Roberson, Project Manager
Bureau of Reclamation
2800 Cottage Way
Sacramento, CA 95825-1898
Phone: 916 978-5074 TDD 916 978-5608
Fax: 916 978-5094
Website: www.usbr.gov/mp/vaqueros

2.0 Proposed Project

2.1 Project Planning

During 2002 and 2003, preliminary engineering, environmental, and cost assessment studies were conducted that culminated with the preparation and distribution of the draft *Los Vaqueros Reservoir Expansion Studies Planning Report* (Planning Report) in April 2003. The Planning Report describes the reservoir expansion concept including the facilities required, sizing options, operations, and the potential benefits and objectives such a project could achieve, as well as an initial evaluation of the potential environmental impacts of expansion. An extensive series of public workshops was held during the development of the report. Comments received as a result of the public workshop and responses were incorporated into the final Planning Report in April 2004. The Planning Report and other studies completed to date are available for review at CCWD's office and can be downloaded from the Los Vaqueros Reservoir Expansion Project website at www.lvstudies.com.

Reclamation was directed by federal law (PL 108-7) to conduct a feasibility-level evaluation of the potential expansion of Los Vaqueros Reservoir. Reclamation is proceeding with preparation of a federal Feasibility Study for the project. The first step in the development of the Feasibility Study was the preparation of an Initial Alternatives Information Report, published in November 2005 (available for review at CCWD's office and online at www.lvstudies.com and www.usbr.gov/mp/vaqueros). As part of that study effort, the project objectives were refined and potential project alternatives recommended for further evaluation were identified.

Figure 1 presents the study area for the project. The primary study area includes the Los Vaqueros watershed and associated dam, reservoir, and support facilities, which are situated in eastern Contra Costa County, in the coastal foothills west of the Delta and east of San Francisco Bay; the central and south Delta; and the service areas of Bay Area water agencies that may be directly affected by the project. These agencies include CCWD as well as the three agencies that receive their State Water Project (SWP) water via the South Bay Aqueduct (SBA): Alameda County Flood Control and Water Conservation District, Zone 7; Alameda County Water District; and Santa Clara Valley Water District. Other agencies that may be affected include the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission or other Bay Area water agencies. Due to the potential influence on other programs and projects, an extended study area for this project encompasses the Central Valley region.

2.2 Project Objectives

This project has two primary objectives and one secondary objective:

Primary Objectives:

1. Use an expanded Los Vaqueros Reservoir to develop replacement water supplies for a fisheries protection program such as the long-term Environmental Water Account (EWA) program or an equivalent program, if the cost of water provided from an

SOURCE: USGS, 1993 (base map); and ESA, 2005

Los Vaqueros Reservoir Expansion Project EIS/EIR . 201110

Figure 1
Regional Study Area

expanded reservoir is found to be less than the cost of water from other sources for continued implementation of that program.

2. Increase water supply reliability for water providers within portions of the San Francisco Bay Area including those served by the South Bay Aqueduct (SBA), principally to help meet municipal and industrial water demands during drought periods, with a focus on enlarging Los Vaqueros Reservoir.

Secondary Objective:

3. To the extent possible through the pursuit of the water supply reliability and environmental water objectives, improve the quality of water deliveries to municipal and industrial customers in the San Francisco Bay Area study area.

In addition to these objectives, various planning constraints, principles, and criteria were identified to help guide the investigation. CCWD Board of Directors' Resolution No. 03-24, June 25, 2003, provides important guidance for identifying and evaluating plans involving the expansion of Los Vaqueros Reservoir.

Environmental Opportunities—Reduce Cost of Water Supplies Available for Fisheries Protection

Introduction

The Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, the largest estuary on the West Coast, provides essential habitat for a diverse array of fish and wildlife. A variety of factors have been identified as potential contributors to the decline of fish species in the Delta, including the loss of habitat, introduced species, pollutants entering the Delta, and water resources development. Prior to 2001, water deliveries from the Delta were curtailed at times to help protect threatened and endangered fish populations and their habitats. However, while such pumping curtailments and other actions in the Delta were beneficial to fish (by reducing entrainment and injury at the pumps), they occasionally had adverse impacts on cities, farms, and businesses that depend on water supplies pumped from or through the Delta. Consequently, a program called the Environmental Water Account (EWA) was developed in August of 2000 as part of the CALFED Program to provide additional flexibility in the protection and recovery of certain fish species in the Delta.

Improving Delta fisheries by supporting a fisheries protection program such as the EWA is a chief objective of the proposed project. The EWA program has currently been authorized to operate through 2007 and a proposal for long-term extension of the EWA program through the year 2030 is now under state and federal environmental review. The current EWA program is described here to explain how such a fisheries protection program works and how an expanded reservoir project could meet the needs of and improve such a program. If, for any reason, the current EWA program is not extended for long-term implementation, the reservoir expansion project would remain committed to supporting an equivalent type of fisheries protection program.

Existing Environmental Water Account (EWA) Program

The purpose of the EWA is to provide water for the protection and recovery of at-risk native fish species of the Bay-Delta estuary beyond water available through existing regulations and fishery restoration programs. Initially a four-year program that began operating in 2001, the EWA was recently extended for three additional years to December 31, 2007. A long-term EWA program proposal to extend this program through the year 2030 is now under environmental review.

The EWA is a cooperative management program that authorizes curtailment of State Water Project (SWP) and Central Valley Project (CVP) exports to benefit fisheries by acquiring water supplies, called EWA assets, from willing sellers throughout California and by using operational flexibility of the CVP and SWP facilities to pump and store EWA water. EWA water is then used to augment stream flows, augment Delta outflows, and replace project water supplies reduced during export pumping curtailments.

To date, the EWA has obtained the great majority of its water through annual transfer agreements with willing sellers, and is developing longer-term agreements with some of its transfer partners. The EWA can also use excess capacity at the SWP Banks Pumping Plant to obtain water from the Delta in excess of the flows required to maintain current water quality standards and water rights demands, can capture certain releases of environmental flows that reach the Delta, and can also use dedicated capacity of 500 cubic feet per second (cfs) at the SWP Banks Pumping Plant to move transfer supplies though the Delta in July through September.

The state and federal EWA Agencies have a goal of developing additional longer-term water transfer/supply agreements and obtaining dedicated facility and water right assets to increase water supply reliability and reduce market-dependent annual cost fluctuations. South-of-Delta storage capability, along with the ability to fill that storage without reliance on the SWP and CVP Delta pumps and a means of returning the stored water to the projects to offset pumping curtailments, would substantially benefit the EWA. An expanded Los Vaqueros Reservoir could provide additional south-of-Delta storage capacity for the EWA or equivalent type of program. Such an arrangement would allow more reliable supply acquisition, would increase flexibility in returning water to the projects, and would help prevent stored assets from being spilled (displaced) from SWP or CVP reservoirs.

Need to Increase Water Supply Reliability

Diversion of Delta water supplies is significantly reduced during dry years and critically dry years. Periods of multiple dry years can also occur, such as the droughts of 1928–1935, 1976–1977, and 1987–1992. These dry periods cause most local supplies, such as groundwater and locally stored runoff, to be depleted. At the same time, deliveries of Delta water via the SWP (operated by the California Department of Water Resources) and federal CVP (operated by Reclamation) are curtailed. Bay Area water agencies need to improve water supply reliability not only to reduce deficiencies during drought, but also as an alternative supply in case of a catastrophic event or emergency in the Delta, such as a chemical spill or levee failure.

As an example of drought period reductions in Delta water supply, SWP deliveries can be reduced from an average of 68 percent of the contracted water supply (Table A) to about 4 percent of the contracted water supply during a single dry year with conditions similar to those in 1977.[3] A four-year drought, similar to the period of 1931 to 1934, would result in reducing SWP deliveries to about 32 percent of full Table A deliveries. Extended droughts may result in some Bay Area water agencies being unable to meet fully current or future water demands, even with the use of aggressive demand management techniques.

Need to Improve Drinking Water Quality

Although state water quality standards have been met under most conditions, the quality of water supplies from the Delta has generally declined because of salinity intrusion resulting from water resources development; polluted runoff from urban, agricultural, and other development; and changes to the physical environment. Because Bay Area water agencies typically blend water from various sources to attain a desired quality, water quality in the study area is a function of both water source and volume. Water providers in the study area use imported water supplies from the Delta along with local groundwater and surface water. Seasonal variations as well as longer-term degradation of Delta water quality result in elevated salinity, total dissolved solids, bromide, total organic carbon, and algae concentrations and high levels of hardness and turbidity. As a result, some drinking water supplies originating in the Delta are subject to water treatment challenges for utilities, taste and odor problems for consumers, and possible increased health risks for some individuals.

2.3 Project Alternatives

As noted in the Introduction of this document, project planning studies performed to date have developed a range of potential project alternatives for analysis in the EIS/EIR. These potential project alternatives are described below.

Reservoir Expansion Alternatives

Delivery Objectives and Operations

A range of reservoir expansion alternatives has been developed for further detailed evaluation. The alternatives include the following elements:

- Different reservoir expansion sizing and operations geared to meet different combinations of the two primary project objectives: improve supply reliability and provide environmental water, and

- Different conveyance options (i.e., pipeline or tunnel) and alternative points of connection to deliver water to Bay Area users via facilities of the SWP (i.e., connect to the SBA at Dyer Canal or Bethany Reservoir).

[3] Department of Water Resources, 2005. The State Water Project Water Reliability Report–Public Review Draft. November 2005 (Table B-2).

The expanded reservoir would be operated similarly to the existing Los Vaqueros Reservoir: high-quality water would be diverted from the Delta for storage in the expanded reservoir. CCWD now uses Los Vaqueros Reservoir to capture high-quality flows from the Delta to blend later with more saline Delta supplies. An expanded reservoir would allow more high-quality water to be diverted into storage when surplus water (in excess of all other needs) is available in the Delta and when fish impacts are low. This situation would typically occur in the wetter months.

Currently, the reservoir operation is controlled by the water quality needs of CCWD and this would remain a key operational factor for the expanded reservoir. Like the current reservoir, an expanded reservoir would also be operated in accordance with other Delta operations, water-rights permits, the requirements of applicable biological opinions issued by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service for Endangered Species Act compliance and memoranda of understanding issued by the California Department of Fish and Game for species protection.

Required Facilities

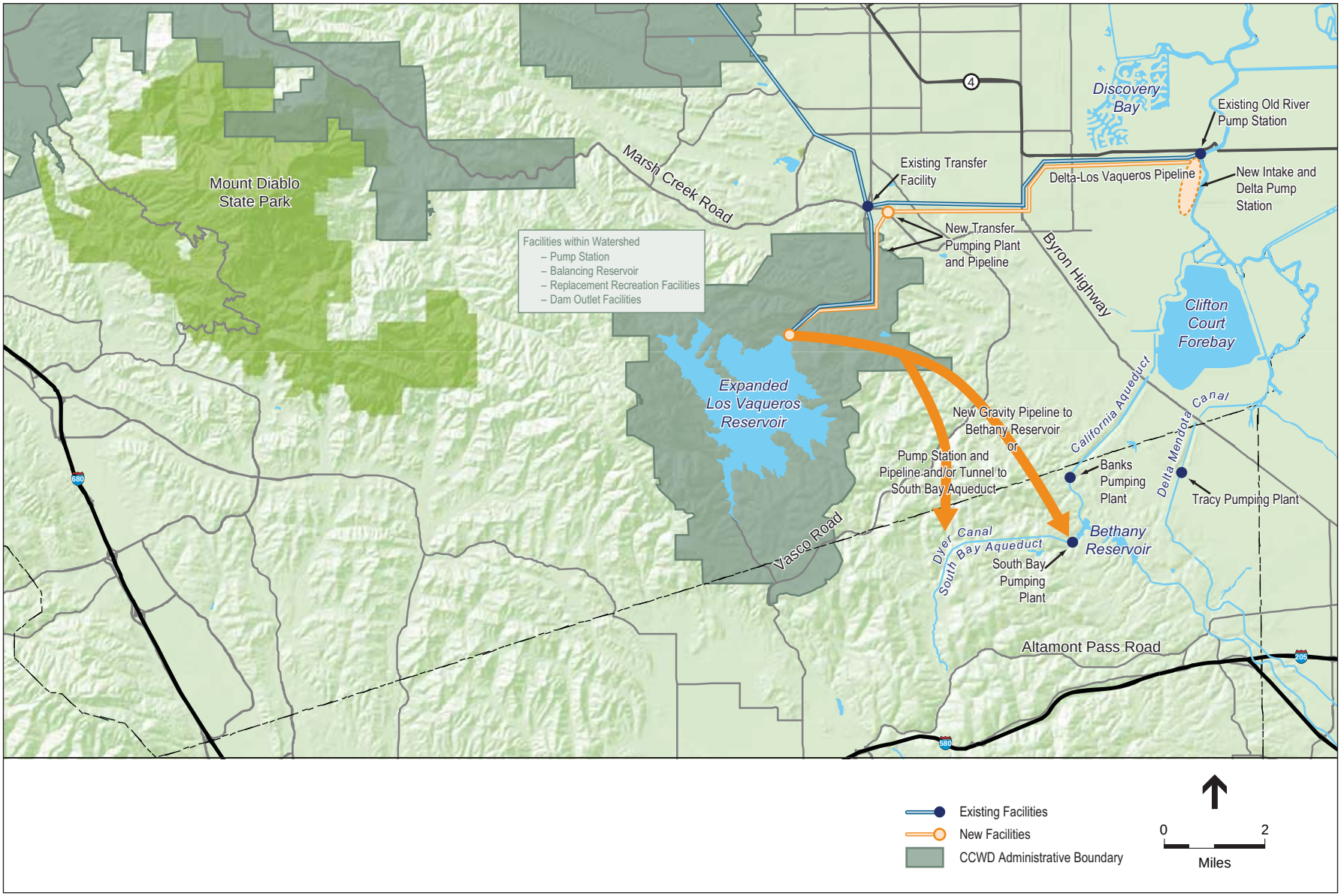
The facilities required for reservoir expansion are listed below and shown on Figure 2. Section 3.0 describes the current Los Vaqueros Reservoir Project facilities and provides background on reservoir operations. The size and/or location of some of the proposed facilities will vary, depending on the alternative. The most appropriate size and location of each facility under each alternative is still being refined and this will be presented in the EIS/EIR. The range of alternative facility sizes and locations currently under consideration is described here.

- **Delta Intakes**. Additional screened intakes in the Delta at Old River are being considered. The total intake capacity proposed for the expanded reservoir ranges from 1,250 cfs to 1,750 cfs and would include CCWD's current 250 cfs intake capacity at Old River plus its proposed 250 cfs Alternative Intake Project (described below) with up to an additional 1,250 cfs of intake capacity to be constructed as part of the expansion project along Old River.

- **Delta Pump Station**. A new Delta pump station and pipelines to connect the current and new Delta intakes to the new Delta pump station would be constructed. The total pumping capacity proposed for this pump station would match the total Delta intake capacity.

- **Delta-Los Vaqueros (Delta-LV) Pipeline.** A Delta-LV pipeline would be constructed to deliver water from the Delta pump station to the expanded reservoir. Installation of either one or two parallel pipelines with diameters ranging up to approximately 12 feet is under consideration.

- **Dam Modification or Replacement and Reservoir Expansion**. The options of either raising the existing dam or replacing it with a new dam are both under evaluation to expand the current 100,000-acre-foot capacity reservoir up to a maximum of 500,000 acre-feet. A range of expanded reservoir sizes between



SOURCE: USGS, 1993 (base map); and ESA, 2005

Los Vaqueros Reservoir Expansion Project EIS/EIR . 201110

Figure 2

Proposed Project Facility Alternatives

100,000 acre-feet and 500,000 acre-feet is being evaluated. Figure 3 shows the inundation footprints for expanded reservoirs totaling 300,000 acre-feet and 500,000 acre-feet. Table 1 summarizes several key physical features for the current and an expanded reservoir.

- **Los Vaqueros Watershed Recreational Facilities.** Current facilities, including the marina, fishing piers, trails, picnic areas, and the interpretive center, would be relocated and expanded.

- **Dam Outlet Facilities.** A dam outlet pipeline, flow control station, and balancing reservoir to deliver water from the expanded reservoir to CCWD's existing pipelines would be needed.

- **Los Vaqueros – South Bay Aqueduct (LV-SBA) Pipeline**. Facilities include either a pump station and an LV-SBA pipeline connecting the expanded Los Vaqueros Reservoir directly to the SBA at Dyer Canal, a combination pump station/tunnel/ pipeline connecting the expanded reservoir to the SBA at Dyer Canal, or a gravity pipeline (without pump station) connecting to the SBA pumping plant at Bethany Reservoir that would convey water to the Bay Area water agencies served by the SBA.

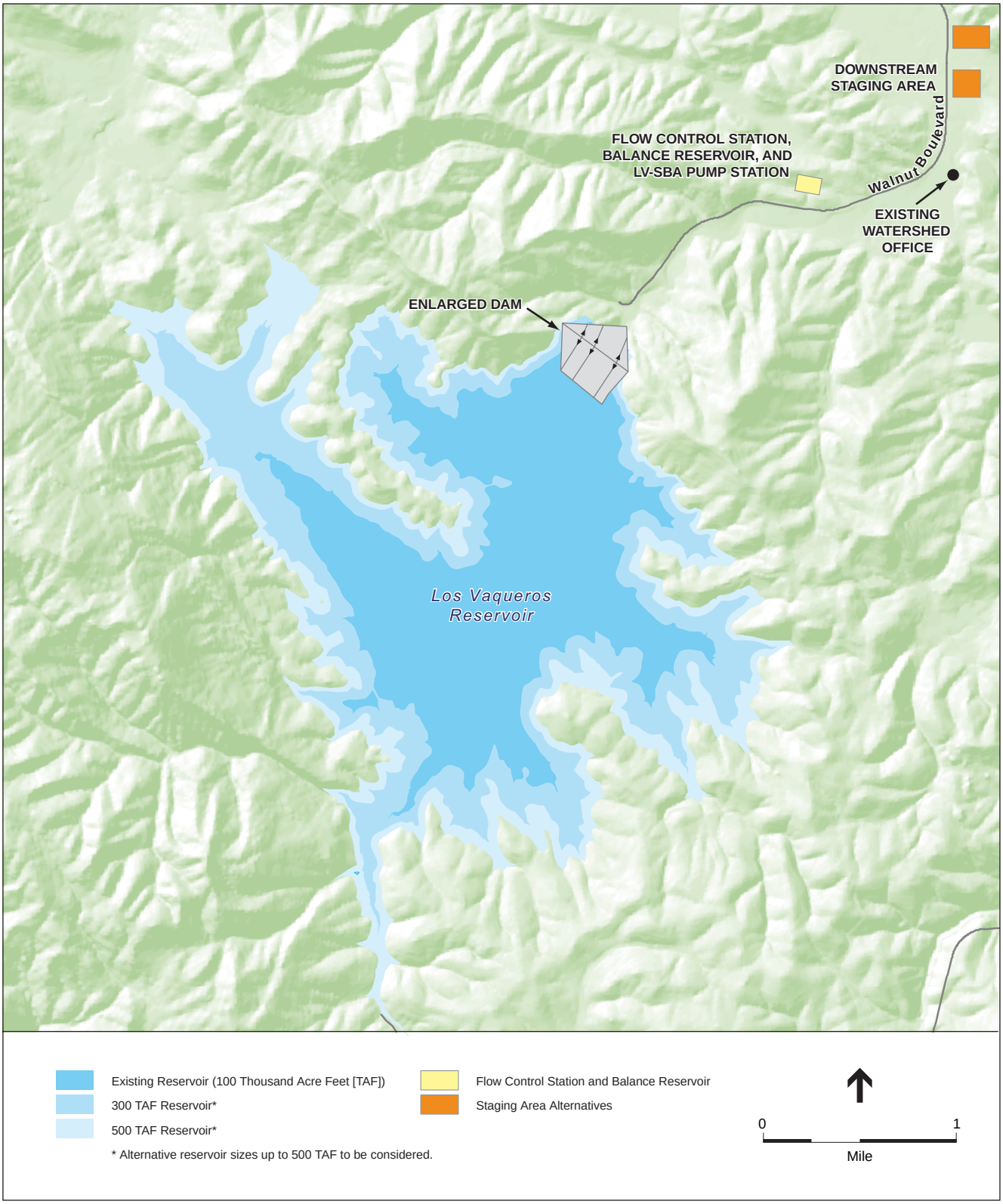
CCWD and Reclamation are now conducting CEQA/NEPA review on CCWD's proposed Alternative Intake Project (AIP). The AIP is a water quality improvement project to construct a new intake in the Central Delta on Victoria Canal to be used when water quality is better at the new intake than at the existing Old River Intake. The AIP is being designed for use with CCWD's current water supply system and is proposed independently from an expanded Los Vaqueros Reservoir. An expanded reservoir project may increase total diversions at the combined intakes at Old River and the AIP intake, as well as make use of the new intakes on Old River proposed as part of the expansion project. The effects of such changes in timing and quantity of diversions will be addressed in the EIR/EIS for the project.

Construction of a new dam would take three to four years to complete, depending on the size of the dam being constructed. The construction of other major facilities, such as the Delta-LV pipeline and LV-SBA pipeline alternatives, could take up to three years. Based on these estimates, the overall project construction could reasonably take up to five years when contractor mobilization and demobilization activities are included.

Other Alternatives

Public and agency input during the scoping process for the EIS/EIR may identify other alternatives for consideration. These will be evaluated in comparison to the proposed reservoir expansion project. Ongoing analysis as part of the federal Feasibility Study will determine if there are any other alternatives to reservoir expansion that should be evaluated further.

In addition, in accordance with the requirements of both CEQA and NEPA, the EIS/EIR will evaluate a No Action/No Project Alternative. A No Action/No Project Alternative will be defined



SOURCE: USGS, 1993 (base map); and ESA, 2005

Los Vaqueros Reservoir Expansion Project EIS/EIR . 201110

Figure 3

Alternative Expanded Reservoir Sizes

TABLE 1
COMPARISON OF ALTERNATIVE RESERVOIR SIZES

Comparison Feature	Current 100,000-Acre-Foot Reservoir (No Project Alternative)	300,000-Acre-Foot Expanded Reservoir	500,000-Acre-Foot Expanded Reservoir
Maximum Water Surface Elevation (Feet Above Mean Sea Level)	472	567	636
Total Reservoir Acreage (Acres)	1,500	2,600	3,300
Net Acreage Increase of Reservoir (Acres)	–	1,100	1,800
Volume of Dam Embankment (Cubic Yards)	2,850,000	10,750,000	18,500,000

SOURCE: CCWD, Los Vaqueros Reservoir Expansion Studies Planning Report, 2004

to characterize current and probable future environmental conditions, given the continued operation of water resource projects or facilities, such as the SWP and CVP, in combination with planned water resource projects or facilities that are approved or are authorized but not yet implemented.

3.0 Description of Existing Los Vaqueros Project

The current Los Vaqueros Reservoir, as shown in Figure 4, is located in eastern Contra Costa County, California. CCWD owns and operates the facility for the benefit of its customers. The reservoir and ancillary features were placed into operation in 1998.

The Contra Costa Canal and Los Vaqueros Project constitute CCWD's principal water supply and delivery system. Water is diverted at the Old River Intake/ Pump Station, where it is either conveyed to the reservoir for storage or to the CCWD service area for direct use.

The current Los Vaqueros Project consists of a storage reservoir behind a 200-foot-high dam, more than 18 miles of 72- to 96-inch piping, a screened intake at Old River, and two pump stations (the Old River Pumping Plant and the Transfer Facility) with a capacity of 250 cfs.

Figure 4
Current Los Vaqueros Reservoir

The current Los Vaqueros Reservoir has a storage capacity of up to 100,000 acre-feet. Water diverted from the Delta is conveyed to the reservoir when high-quality supplies are available. This water is later released and blended with more saline Delta water supplies to meet CCWD's water quality objectives. The CCWD Board of Directors has adopted water quality objectives in order to keep constituents of major health concern at the lowest levels that are technically feasible and provide its customers with a consistent supply of safe, aesthetically-pleasing, high-quality water.

Additional facilities, including recreational facilities that make available both water-oriented and upland recreational opportunities, have been constructed and are operational.

CCWD uses the Los Vaqueros Project to capture high-quality flows from the Delta to blend with CVP supplies when Delta water quality is degraded by either salinity intrusion or by discharges into the Delta and its tributary streams. With the Los Vaqueros Project, CCWD can reduce or eliminate Delta diversions during sensitive periods for Delta fisheries, increase diversions when fish are not in abundance, and shift diversions between intakes. The reservoir also provides important emergency storage that can be used if, for any reason, CCWD is unable to divert water from the Delta.

The operation of Los Vaqueros Reservoir is controlled by CCWD's water quality and supply needs, in accordance with Delta operations, water-rights permits, the requirements of biological opinions issued by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service and a memorandum of understanding with the California Department of Fish and Game. The biological opinions identify measures that were adopted as part of the Los Vaqueros Project to mitigate or avoid impacts to federally listed threatened or endangered species.

4.0 Environmental Issues to Be Addressed in the EIS/EIR

Following is an overview of the environmental issues that the EIS/EIR will address for the project. The EIS/EIR will examine the potentially significant environmental effects in each of the environmental issue areas outlined below, identify mitigation measures, and evaluate whether such measures can reduce impacts to a less-than-significant level.

The studies completed to date (the 2004 Planning Report and the 2005 Initial Alternatives Information Report, available for review from CCWD or online at www.lvstudies.com) have provided a preliminary assessment of the environmental effects of the project. The EIS/EIR will fully analyze all potential environmental effects of the project alternatives in accordance with NEPA and CEQA requirements.

4.1 Aesthetic Resources (Visual Resources)

Effects on visual quality associated with implementation of the proposed project would primarily result due to the siting of new or modified facilities. Under the proposed project a larger dam than

now exists would be constructed and the expanded reservoir would inundate a larger area of grassland and oak woodland. New facilities, including a new Delta pump station and new in-bank intake facilities would be constructed in the Delta area. Construction activities would result in short-term visual changes associated with equipment and materials storage and movement as well as earthwork. Potential effects to be evaluated include:

- Degradation or obstruction of scenic views and designated scenic resources
- Creation of new sources of light and/or glare

4.2 Agricultural Resources

Siting of new or modified facilities in the Delta and eastern Contra Costa County could affect agricultural lands by removing agricultural soils from production. Project siting studies to date have endeavored to minimize effects on agricultural lands. Construction activities could cause short-term impacts to agricultural activities. Operation of proposed facilities is not expected to result in ongoing impacts to neighboring agricultural activities. Potential effects to be evaluated include:

- Loss of farmland
- Impacts or conflicts with existing or planned agricultural activities

4.3 Air Quality

Effects on air quality from implementation of the project would largely be associated with facility construction activities and, as such, would be temporary and short term. Construction activities would result in short-term increases in air pollutant emissions and dust generation due to earthwork, construction equipment movement, and vehicle emissions. In addition, new pump stations may involve backup energy supply sources that will be evaluated for air emissions. Potential effects to be evaluated include:

- Construction emissions, including dust
- Consistency with regional air quality plans

4.4 Biological Resources

Construction of the project would have impacts resulting in the loss of habitat due to the expansion of the reservoir inundation area and, to a lesser extent, the siting of new or modified facilities. Project construction would also disturb terrestrial habitats and wildlife as a result of short-term effects such noise, vibration, dust, and erosion.

Expanding Los Vaqueros Reservoir up to a 500,000-acre-foot facility could inundate up to approximately 1,960 acres, affecting mostly grassland habitat and other habitats as well as the plant and animal species that now occupy these lands. Construction of new or modified facilities in addition to reservoir expansion could affect up to another approximately 200 acres, again primarily grassland. Several special-status plant and animal species are known or are expected to

reside in the watershed, inundation area, and other project construction zones. These species are designated for special management and protection according to federal and state statutes. Potential effects to be evaluated include:

- Changes in the extent of habitat or habitat quality for terrestrial plants and wildlife
- Effects on special-status species
- Effects on species populations and the ability to maintain self-sustaining levels
- Interference with wildlife species movement corridors or migration

4.5 Cultural Resources (Including Historic Resources)

Project facilities could have potential adverse effects on known cultural resources. There is also the potential to affect previously unknown buried cultural resources, especially near creeks and other sensitive areas. Based on previous evaluations, there are 74 known cultural resources and one sensitive location within the Los Vaqueros Reservoir expansion study area, including the watershed and alternative conveyance pipeline corridors. Potential effects to be evaluated include:

- Effects on archaeological resources
- Effects on historic/architectural resources
- Effects on Indian Trust assets and Native American resources

4.6 Fisheries

The reservoir expansion project has been designed to address one of the primary objectives of providing protection for Delta fisheries. Potential effects on fish of altering the timing and location of current Delta water diversion pumping for the Bay Area water users will be evaluated. The effect of constructing new diversion facilities in the Delta will also be evaluated for potential effects on aquatic habitat and short-term effects on fisheries resources. Potential effects to be evaluated include:

- Changes in the extent of habitat or habitat quality
- Changes in a fish population that cause it to drop below self-sustaining levels
- Effects on special-status species
- Interference with the movement of any native or migratory fish species

4.7 Geology and Soils (Including Mineral Resources)

Potential geologic hazards will be assessed to determine if the implementation of the expansion alternative would pose a threat or increase the severity of a hazard to human populations. The potential effect of accelerated soil erosion will be assessed. Both the short-term erosion potential anticipated during construction and the long-term erosion potential that may occur from reservoir shoreline wave action will be addressed. Potential effects to be evaluated include:

- Seismic hazards to the water system and/or increased exposure of people and structures to seismic hazards
- Increased exposure of people or structures to geologic hazards (such as liquefaction, poor soil conditions, or unstable slopes)
- Erosion potential

4.8 Hazards and Hazardous Materials

Construction of the expanded reservoir would involve the use of hazardous materials that could pose an environmental threat if accidentally released. In addition, earthwork activities, such as pipeline trenching, could encounter hazardous waste materials that require proper removal and disposal. Finally, the dam safety will also be evaluated. Potential effects to be evaluated include:

- Potential to encounter hazardous materials or waste during construction or potential to release hazardous materials during construction
- Potential to accidentally release chemicals during facility operations or cause changes with respect to the risk of upset
- Potential to expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss or injury involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam.

4.9 Hydrology and Water Quality

The proposed reservoir expansion project has been designed to avoid significant impacts to other beneficial Delta water uses including other Delta water diverters. The EIS/EIR will evaluate the effects of proposed changes in the timing and/or amount of Delta diversions. Construction activities could cause short-term, temporary effects on local streams and drainages. Potential effects to be evaluated include:

- Changes in surface water flows and water levels and resulting adverse effects on beneficial uses (including instream uses such as aquatic habitat and fisheries, and recreation and consumptive uses)
- Changes in surface water quality from program operation or construction activities
- Alteration of existing drainage patterns
- Exposure of people to and/or increasing risk of flooding, seiche, or tsunami hazards

4.10 Land Use

Most of the proposed facility improvements or additions would occur within existing facility sites and rights-of-way, and the project is expected to be consistent with applicable land use plans, policies, and regulations. Potential effects to be evaluated include:

- Substantial conflict with any applicable land use plans, policies, and/or regulations of an agency with jurisdiction over the project, adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect

- Disruption of an established community
- Conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan

4.11 Noise and Vibration

Noise and vibration effects from implementation of the project would largely be associated with facility construction activities and, as such, would be temporary and short term. The EIS/EIR will also evaluate potential changes in system operation that could result in long-term noise effects affecting adjacent land uses. Potential effects to be evaluated include:

- Construction noise and vibration
- Effects of operations on noise levels

4.12 Recreation

Construction of the expanded reservoir and associated facilities would result in short-term disruption of recreational activities primarily within CCWD's Los Vaqueros watershed and in the relocation of some watershed recreational facilities, such as the marina and some trails. The project has been designed to fully restore and enhance the recreational opportunities provided within the Los Vaqueros watershed. In addition, construction of additional intake facilities in the Delta may have short-term impacts on boating in the immediate vicinity of the construction site. Potential effects to be evaluated include:

- Effects on water-based recreational facilities and activities
- Effects on land-based recreational facilities and activities due to the siting or operations of proposed facilities or construction activities (e.g., short-term effects due to noise, dust, access restrictions)

4.13 Transportation and Circulation

Effects on traffic, transportation, and circulation resulting from the project would largely be associated with facility construction activities and, as such, would be temporary and short term. Construction activity would increase car, truck, and equipment traffic in the project area and could also result in temporary road restrictions and closures where Project facilities need to be installed within traffic lanes or rights-of-way. No long-term effects on traffic and circulation are expected. Potential effects to be evaluated include:

- Effects on the regional transportation network or facilities
- Effects of adding new vehicle trips and contributing to increased traffic congestion during construction and/or operation of proposed facilities
- Effects on traffic safety

4.14 Utilities and Public Services

The construction of the project facilities could encounter utility systems including electric power distribution lines, gas transmission pipelines, and wind power generation systems. The project would not result in a long-term change in public service or facilities needs. Potential effects to be evaluated include:

- Disruption of services (such as water or power) during construction
- Effects on other utilities (such as the need for relocation)
- Need for additional services during construction (such as increased police and/or private security services for site security and traffic control)
- Need for additional services for project operation, specifically power service requirements.

4.15 Growth-Inducing and Cumulative Effects

The potential for the project alternatives to remove an obstacle to future population growth and development will be evaluated in the EIS/EIR. To the extent that the project has growth-inducement potential, the EIR will evaluate the secondary effects of growth in accordance with CEQA requirements.

Potential cumulative effects will also be evaluated in relation to the effects of the project in light of other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future projects that may act in combination with expanding Los Vaqueros Reservoir to produce effects that are cumulatively significant.

5.0 Mitigation Measures

Measures available to offset, avoid, reduce, or otherwise minimize the severity of potential impacts will be identified and discussed in the EIS/EIR. These measures will include those that can be employed during construction to reduce the effects of temporary construction activities and may include the acquisition of habitat capable of supporting special-status species to offset the loss of those lands inundated by the expanded reservoir.

6.0 Topics Eliminated from Discussion in the EIS/EIR

Based on the results of studies performed to date, no environmental topics will be excluded from discussion in the EIS/EIR.

Appendix B-2
Notice of Preparation Mailing List

ESA

Formal Notification	Interested Parties	Source: CP List	Source: CCWD AIP - NOP Mailing	Last Name	First Name	Title	Organization Name	Address	City	State	Postal Code
X				Sorenson	James	Director	Alameda County Community Development Agency	224 West Winton Ave, Room 110	Hayward	CA	94544
X				LaBelle	Donald	Director	Alameda County Public Works Agency	399 Elmhurst Street	Hayward	CA	94544
	X	X		Cartwright	Eric		Alameda County Water District	P.O. Box 5110	Fremont	CA	94537
	X	X		Sandkulla	Nicole		Bay Area Water Supply & Conservation Agency	155 Bovet Road, Suite 302	San Mateo	CA	94402
	X		X	Eckart	Bob	Environmental Affairs	Bureau of Reclamation	2800 Cottage Way	Sacramento	CA	95825
	X		X	Kegel	Erika		Bureau of Reclamation	2800 Cottage Way	Sacramento	CA	95825
	X	X		Roberson	Patricia		Bureau of Reclamation	2800 Cottage Way	Sacramento	CA	95825
	X		X	Gilmore	Rick	General Manager	Byron Bethany Irrigation District	P.O. Box 160	Byron	CA	94514
	X	X		Darling	Cindy		CA Bay-Delta Authority	650 Capitol Mall, 5th Floor	Sacramento	CA	95814
	X	X		O'Bryant	Dennis		CA Department of Conservation	801 "K" Street, MS 13-71	Sacramento	CA	95814
	X	X		Holmes	Anna		CA Department of Fish and Game	4001 N. Wilson Way	Stockton	CA	95205
	X	X		Starr	James		CA Department of Fish and Game	4001 N. Wilson Way	Stockton	CA	95205
	X	X		White	Jim		CA Department of Fish and Game	1416 Ninth Street	Sacramento	CA	95814
X			X	Floerke	Rob	Regional Manager, Central Coast Region	CA Department of Fish and Game	P.O. Box 47	Yountville	CA	94599
X				Morey	Sandy	Regional Manager, Sacramento Valley Sierra Region	CA Department of Fish and Game	1701 Nimbus Road	Rancho Cordova	CA	95670
	X		X	Healey	Mike		CA Department of Fish and Game	1701 Nimbus Road, Suite A	Rancho Cordova	CA	95670
	X			Dumas	Tom	Chief, Office of Intermodal Planning	CA Department of Transportation	P.O. Box 2048	Stockton	CA	95201
	X			Sable	Timothy	District Branch Chief	CA Department of Transportation	111 Grand Avenue, P.O. Box 23680	Oakland	CA	94623
	X	X		Cimperman	Stephen		CA Department of Water Resources	P.O. Box 942836	Sacramento	CA	95814
X			X	Kelly	Kathy		CA Department of Water Resources	P.O. Box 942836	Sacramento	CA	94236
	X	X		Roberts	Steve		CA Department of Water Resources	P.O. Box 942836	Sacramento	CA	95814
	X	X		Vogelsang	Chuck		CA Department of Water Resources	P.O. Box 942836	Sacramento	CA	94236
X			X	Sanders	Dwight	Division Chief, Environmental Planning	CA State Lands Commission	100 Howe Ave Suite 100 South	Sacramento	CA	95825
	X	X	X	Farrell	Anne		Central Contra Costa Sanitary District	5019 Imhoff Place	Martinez	CA	94553
	X		X	Nomellini, Sr.	Dante	General Manager and Co-Counsel	Central Delta Water Agency Nomellini, Grilli & McD	235 E. Weber Ave., P.O. Box 1461	Stockton	CA	95201
	X	X		Birk	Serge		Central Valley Project Water Association	11861 Parey Road	Red Bluff	CA	96080
	X	X		Stackhouse	Robert		Central Valley Project Water Association	1521 "I" Street	Sacramento	CA	95814
X			X	Landau	Ken	Assistant Executive Officer	Central Valley Region Water Quality Control Board (CVRWQCB)	11020 Sun Center Drive #200	Rancho Cordova	CA	95670
X				Pinkos	Thomas	Executive Officer	Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Boa	11020 Sun Center Drive # 200	Rancho Cordova	CA	95670-6114
	X	X		Harrington	Phil	Director of Public Works	City of Antioch	P.O. Box 5007	Antioch	CA	94509
	X		X	Carniglia	Victor	Deputy Director	City of Antioch Planning Department	P.O. Box 5007	Antioch	CA	94531
	X	X		Eldredge	Paul		City of Brentwood	708 Third Street	Brentwood	CA	94513
	X		X	Leana	Mike	Planning Department	City of Brentwood Planning Department	708 Third Street	Brentwood	CA	94513
	X		X	Graves	Jeremy	Director	City of Clayton Planning Department	6000 Heritage Trail	Clayton	CA	94517
	X		X	Forsberg	Jim	Director of Planning & Economic Development	City of Concord Planning Department	1950 Parkside Drive	Concord	CA	94519
	X		X	Pearson	Richard	Deputy Director	City of Martinez Planning Department	525 Henrietta Street	Martinez	CA	94553
	X		X	Willis	Rebecca	Director	City of Oakley Planning Department	3639 Main Street	Oakley	CA	94561
				Fuller	John	Director	City of Pittsburg Pubic Works Department	65 Civic Avenue	Pittsburg	CA	94565
	X		X	Jerome	Randy		City of Pittsburg Planning Department	65 Civic Avenue	Pittsburg	CA	94565
	X		X	McCann	Casey	Deputy Director	City of Pleasant Hill Planning Department	100 Gregory Lane	Pleasant Hill	CA	94523

	X		X	Meyer	Sandra	Planning Manager	City of Walnut Creek Planning Department	1666 No. Main Street	Walnut Creek	CA	94596
X			X	Barry	Dennis	Community Development Director	Contra Costa County	651 Pine Street, 4th Floor - North Wing	Martinez	CA	94553
	X	X		Goulart	Roberta		Contra Costa County Community Development De	651 Pine St., 4th Floor, North Wing	Martinez	CA	94553
X				Shiu	Maurice	Director	Contra Costa County Public Works Department	255 Glacier Drive	Martinez	CA	94553
	X	X	X	Darling	Gary	General Manager	Delta Diablo Sanitation District	2500 Pittsburg-Antioch Highway	Antioch	CA	94509-1373
X			X	Fiack	Linda	Executive Director	Delta Protection Commission	14215 River Road	Walnut Grove	CA	95690
	X		X	Yeraka	Mike	General Manager	Diablo Water District	2107 Main Street	Oakley	CA	94561
	X	X		Campbell	Brian		East Bay Municipal Utility District	375 11th Street	Oakland	CA	94607
	X	X		O'Brien	Pat	General Manager	East Bay Regional Park District	P.O. Box 5381	Oakland	CA	94605
	X	X		Preston	Larry	General Manager	East Contra Costa Irrigation District	P.O. Box 696	Brentwood	CA	94513
	X		X	Leonard	Dick	Superintendent	Golden State Water Company	53-B Manor Drive	Bay Point	CA	94565
	X	X	X	Williams	Tom	District Manager	Ironhouse Sanitary District	450 Walnut Meadows Drive	Oakley	CA	94561
	X		X	Neudeck	Christopher		Kjeldson Sinnock Neudeck	P.O. Box 844	Stockton	CA	95201
	X	X		Oppenheim	Bruce		National Marine Fisheries Service	650 Capitol Mall, Suite 8-300	Sacramento	CA	95814
	X		X	Aceituno	Michael		National Marine Fisheries Service	650 Capitol Mall, Suite 6070	Sacramento	CA	95814
	X	X		Windham	Diane	Recovery Coordinator	National Marine Fisheries Service	650 Capitol Mall, Suite 8300	Sacramento	CA	95814
	X		X	Conway	Jeff		Reclamation District 800	P.O. Box 262	Discovery Bay	CA	94514
X				Chrisman	Mike	Secretary for Resources	Resources Agency	1416 Ninth Street	Sacramento	CA	95814
	X	X		Levin	Ellen		San Francisco Public Utilities Commission	1155 Market St., 4th Floor	San Francisco	CA	94103
	X		X	Sullivan	Kerry	Community Development Director	San Joaquin County	1810 East Hazelton Avenue	Stockton	CA	95205
	X	X		Kao	Cindy		Santa Clara Valley Water District	5750 Almaden Expressway	San Jose	CA	95118
	X	X		Maher	Joan		Santa Clara Valley Water District	5750 Almaden Expressway	San Jose	CA	95118
	X			Ligon	Tracy		Santa Clara Valley Water District	5750 Almaden Expressway	San Jose	CA	95118
	X		X	Herrick	John		South Delta Water Agency	4258 Pacific, Ste. 2	Stockton	CA	95207
X				Donaldson	Milford	State Historic Preservation Officer	State Historic Preservation Office	P.O. Box 942896	Sacramento	CA	94296-0001
X				Rabbon	Peter	General Manager	State Reclamation Board	P.O. Box 942836	Sacramento	CA	94236
X			X	Wilson	Greg	Division of Water Rights	State Water Resources Control Board	P.O. Box 2000	Sacramento	CA	95812
X				Wilson	Craig	Division of Water Quality	State Water Resources Control Board	P.O. Box 100	Sacramento	CA	95812
	X	X	X	Koehne	Virgil	General Manager	Town of Discovery Bay	1800 Willow Lake Road	Discovery Bay	CA	94514
	X		X	Guthrie	Bill		U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	1325 J Street	Sacramento	CA	95814-2922
	X	X	X	Finan	Michael		U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	1325 "J" Street	Sacramento	CA	95814
	X			Eldridge, Comn	Kevin	Rear Admiral	U.S. Coast Guard - 11th District	Commander PCP Building 42, Coast (	Alameda	CA	94501-5100
	X	X	X	Monroe	Michael		U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	75 Hawthorne Street	San Francisco	CA	94105
	X	X	X	Yale	Carolyn		U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	75 Hawthorne Street	San Francisco	CA	94105
	X	X	X	Bartoo	A. Leigh		U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service	2800 Cottage Way W-2605	Sacramento	CA	95825
	X	X		Littlefield	Mark Littlefield		U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service	2800 Cottage Way W-2605	Sacramento	CA	95825
	X		X	Guinee	Roger	Supervisor, Water Operations	U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service	2800 Cottage Way, Room W-2605	Sacramento	CA	95825
	X		X	Nichols	Graydon	Business Manager	Victoria Island Farms	P.O. Box 87	Holt	CA	95234
	X		X	Knight	Russel		Western Area Power Administration	114 Parkshore Drive	Folsom	CA	95630
	X	X		Wong	Vincent		Zone 7 Water Agency	5997 Parkside Drive	Pleasanton	CA	94588

Appendix B-3

Office of Planning and Research Filing Acknowledgement

ESA

Notice of Completion & Environmental Document Transmittal

Appendix C

Mail to: State Clearinghouse, P. O. Box 3044, Sacramento, CA 95812-3044 (916) 445-0613
For Hand Delivery/Street Address: 1400 Tenth Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

SCH # _____

RECEIVED
JAN 10 2006
STATE CLEARING HOUSE

Project Title: Los Vaqueros Reservoir Expansion Project

Lead Agency: Contra Costa Water District — Contact Person: Marguerite Naillon

Mailing Address: P.O. Box H20 — Phone: (925) 688-8018

City: Concord, CA — Zip: 94524-2099 — County: Contra Costa

Project Location:

County: Contra Costa and Alameda County(s) — City/Nearest Community: Brentwood, Byron

Cross Streets: Multiple Steets — Zip Code: 94513, 94514

Assessor's Parcel No.: Multiple Parcels — Section: _____ Twp.: 02S, 03S Range: 02E, 03E Base: M.D.B. & M.

Within 2 Miles: State Hwy #: 4 — Waterways: Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, Kellogg Creek

Airports: Bryon Airport — Railways: _____ Schools: _____

Document Type:

CEQA: ☒ NOP ☐ Draft EIR
☐ Early Cons ☐ Supplement/Subsequent EIR
☐ Neg Dec (Prior SCH No.)_____
☐ Mit Neg Dec ☐ Other _____

NEPA: ☐ NOI ☐ EA ☐ Draft EIS ☐ FONSI

Other: ☐ Joint Document ☐ Final Document ☐ Other_____

Local Action Type:

☐ General Plan Update ☐ Specific Plan
☐ General Plan Amendment ☐ Master Plan
☐ General Plan Element ☐ Planned Unit Development
☐ Community Plan ☐ Site Plan

☐ Rezone ☐ Prezone ☐ Use Permit ☐ Land Division (Subdivision, etc.)

☐ Annexation ☐ Redevelopment ☐ Coastal Permit ☒ Other Reservoir and related facilities

Development Type:

☐ Residential: Units_____ Acres_____
☐ Office: Sq.ft._____ Acres_____ Employees_____
☐ Commercial: Sq.ft._____ Acres_____ Employees_____
☐ Industrial: Sq.ft._____ Acres_____ Employees_____
☐ Educational _____
☐ Recreational _____
Total Acres (approx.)_____

☒ Water Facilities: Type Storage Reservoir/Pipelines/Pumps MGD Up to 500 TAF
☐ Transportation: Type_____
☐ Mining: Mineral _____
☐ Power: Type_____ MW_____
☐ Waste Treatment: Type_____ MGD_____
☐ Hazardous Waste: Type_____
☐ Other:_____

Project Issues Discussed in Document:

☒ Aesthetic/Visual
☒ Agricultural Land
☒ Air Quality
☒ Archeological/Historical
☒ Biological Resources
☐ Coastal Zone
☒ Drainage/Absorption
☒ Economic/Jobs
☐ Fiscal
☒ Flood Plain/Flooding
☐ Forest Land/Fire Hazard
☒ Geologic/Seismic
☒ Minerals
☒ Noise
☐ Population/Housing Balance
☒ Public Services/Facilities
☒ Recreation/Parks
☐ Schools/Universities
☐ Septic Systems
☐ Sewer Capacity
☒ Soil Erosion/Compaction/Grading
☐ Solid Waste
☒ Toxic/Hazardous
☒ Traffic/Circulation
☒ Vegetation
☒ Water Quality
☒ Water Supply/Groundwater
☒ Wetland/Riparian
☒ Wildlife
☒ Growth Inducing
☒ Land Use
☒ Cumulative Effects
☐ Other _____

Present Land Use/Zoning/General Plan Designation:

Multiple land use designations inluding agriculture and open space

Project Description: *(please use a separate page if necessary)*

Construct and operate an expanded Los Vaqueros Reservoir with a storage capacity of up to 500 thousand acre-feet, associated intake, pump stations, pipelines, and related facilities suitable to develop replacement water supplies for a fisheries protection program such as the long-term Environmental Water Account (EWA) program or an equivalent program, increase water supply reliability for water providers within portions of the San Francisco Bay Area, and to the extent possible through the pursuit of the water supply reliability and environmental water objectives, improve the quality of water deliveries to municipal and industrial customers in the San Francisco Bay Area study area.

Note: The State Clearinghouse will assign identification numbers for all new projects. If a SCH number already exists for a project (e.g. Notice of Preparation or previous draft document) please fill in.

Revised 2004

Appendix C
Public Notice and Meeting Advertisement

Appendix C-1
Reclamation Press Release

ESA

Mid-Pacific Region
Sacramento, CA

MP-06-???

Media Contact: Jeffrey McCracken 916-978-5100
jmccracken@mp.usbr.gov

For Release On: January 5, 2006

Public Scoping Meetings Scheduled on the Los Vaqueros Reservoir Expansion Investigation

The Bureau of Reclamation, along with the Contra Costa Water District, will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR) for the Los Vaqueros Reservoir Expansion Investigation. A Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare the EIS was published in the Federal Register on Tuesday, December 20, 2005.

Four public scoping meetings are being held to solicit public input on topics to be addressed in the EIS/EIR, including resources to be evaluated, alternatives to be considered, and significant concerns and issues. The meetings will begin with a 45-minute open house during which participants will have the opportunity to interact directly with the study team, followed by a brief presentation by the lead agencies. The second hour of the scoping meetings will consist of a facilitated comment period. The meetings are scheduled as follows:

- Tuesday, January 24, 2006, 1:30 to 3:30 p.m., Department of Water Resources, the Bonderson Building, 901 P Street, Public Hearing Room first floor, Sacramento, CA 95814
- Tuesday, January 24, 2006, 6 to 8 p.m. Legion Hall, Veteran's Memorial building 403 West 6th Street, Antioch, CA 94509
- Wednesday January 25, 2006, 6 to 8 p.m., Martinelli Event Center, Agricultural Center, 3585 Greenville Road, Livermore, CA 94550
- Thursday, January 26, 2006, 6 to 8 p.m., Contra Costa Water District, 1331 Concord Ave., Concord, CA 94520

The EIS/EIR will evaluate expanding the existing Los Vaqueros Reservoir and alternatives to improve water supply reliability and water quality for Bay Area water users, particularly those receiving water from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta; and contribute to lower cost implementation of the Environmental Water Account. Contra Costa Water District is the lead agency for preparation of the EIR.

Written comments on the scope of the environmental document are due by close of business February 28, 2006, and should be sent to Ms. Patricia Roberson, Bureau of Reclamation, 2800 Cottage Way, Sacramento CA 95825-1898. For additional information, please contact Ms. Roberson at 916-978-5094, TDD 916-978-5608, or e-mail proberson@mp.usbr.gov.

Reclamation is the largest wholesale water supplier and the second largest producer of hydroelectric power in the United States, with operations and facilities in the 17 Western States. Its facilities also provide substantial flood control, recreation, and fish and wildlife benefits. Visit our website at http://www.usbr.gov.

Appendix C-2

Reclamation/CCWD Notification Flyer

ESA

Los Vaqueros Reservoir Expansion Project

Please join us for

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETINGS

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation
Mid-Pacific Region

CONTRA COSTA WATER DISTRICT

Los Vaqueros Reservoir Expansion Project
EIS/EIR PUBLIC SCOPING MEETINGS

The Contra Costa Water District *(CCWD)* and Bureau of Reclamation *(Reclamation)* are currently evaluating if an expanded Los Vaqueros Reservoir could:

- Improve **water supply reliability** for Bay Area water users
- Improve **water quality** for Bay Area water users
- Provide lower cost water for the Environmental Water Account to **protect Delta fish species**

We are now in the environmental review phase. To meet Federal and State requirements, Reclamation and CCWD will prepare a joint Environmental Impact Statement / Environmental Impact Report *(EIS/EIR)* to evaluate alternatives to meet project purposes.

Please join us for public scoping meetings.

CCWD and Reclamation want to hear your input on topics to address in the EIS/EIR, including resources to be evaluated, alternatives to be considered, and significant concerns and issues. At each of the scoping meetings, participants will have an opportunity to:

- View updated project information in an **Open House** format and interact with the project team *(45 minutes)*
- Hear a **Brief Presentation** focused on project updates and schedule *(15 minutes)*
- Participate in a facilitated **Public Comment Period** *(60 minutes)*

Meetings will be held at the following locations:

Please note that the program for each meeting is identical.

SACRAMENTO

Tuesday, January 24, 2006
1:30 to 3:30 p.m.
Dept. of Water Resources
Bonderson Building
(Public Hearing Rm - 1st flr.)
901 P Street

ANTIOCH

Tuesday, January 24, 2006
6:00 to 8:00 p.m.
Veteran's Memorial
Building, Legion Hall
403 West 6th Street

LIVERMORE

Wednesday January 25, 2006
6:00 to 8:00 p.m.
Martinelli Event Center
Agricultural Center
3583 Greenville Road

CONCORD

Thursday, January 26, 2006
6:00 to 8:00 p.m.
Contra Costa Water District
1331 Concord Avenue

Written comments on the scope of the environmental document are due by close of business February 28, 2006. To submit written comments or if you have any other questions, please contact:

Marguerite Naillon
Contra Costa Water District
P.O. Box H20
Concord CA 94524
925 688-8018
FAX 925 686-2187
lvstudies@hotmail.com

OR

Patricia Roberson
Bureau of Reclamation
2800 Cottage Way
Sacramento CA 95825-1898
916 978-5074 FAX 916 978-5094
TDD 916 978-5608
proberson@mp.usbr.gov

Please visit our project websites at **www.lvstudies.com** or **www.usbr.gov/mp/vaqueros** to find project information including the Notice of Intent *(NOI)* and the Notice of Preparation *(NOP)*.

Appendix C-3
CCWD Newspaper Advertisement

ESA

Notice of Public Scoping Meetings
Los Vaqueros Reservoir Expansion EIS/EIR

The Contra Costa Water District (CCWD) and Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) are in the environmental review stage of evaluating the potential expansion of Los Vaqueros Reservoir from 100,000 acre-feet up to 500,000 acre-feet to provide lower cost water for the Environmental Water Account (a fisheries protection and restoration program) and improve water supply reliability and water quality for Bay Area water users. CCWD and Reclamation will host four public scoping meetings to hear input on topics to be addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement / Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR), including resources to be evaluated, alternatives to be considered, and significant concerns and issues. At each of the scoping meetings, participants will have an opportunity to: view updated project information in an **Open House** and interact with the project team, hear a **Brief Presentation** focused on project updates and schedule, and participate in a facilitated **Public Comment Period**.

The scoping meetings will be held at the following locations and times:

Sacramento, Tuesday, January 24, 2006, 1:30 – 3:30 p.m., Bonderson Building (Public Hearing Rm. – 1st floor) 901 P Street**,** Sacramento, CA 95814;

Antioch, Tuesday, January 24, 2006, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.**,** Veteran's Memorial Building, Legion Hall**,** 403 West 6th Street**,** Antioch, CA 94509;

Livermore, Wednesday, January 25, 2006, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.**,** Martinelli Event Center**,** Agricultural Center**,** 3585 Greenville Road**,** Livermore, CA 94550;

Concord, Thursday, January 26, 2006, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.**,** Contra Costa Water District, Board Room, 1331 Concord Avenue**,** Concord, CA 94520.

We encourage you to attend one or more meetings! Please note that the program for each meeting is identical.

Visit our web sites at **www.lvstudies.com** and **www.usbr.gov/mp/vaqueros** for more information. CCWD facilities and meetings comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act. If special accommodations are needed for you to participate, please contact the Project Manager as soon as possible, but preferably at least two days prior to the meeting.

Questions? Please contact Marguerite Naillon, CCWD Project Manager at (925) 688-8018 / lvstudies@hotmail.com.

Appendix C-4
CCWD Letter to Elected Officials

ESA

January 4, 2006

Name
Address
City, State Zip Code

Subject: Los Vaqueros Reservoir Expansion Studies Public Scoping Meetings

Dear :

In 2004, the voters of the Contra Costa Water District (CCWD) approved the District proceeding with studies to expand Los Vaqueros Reservoir by a vote of 62% to 38%. CCWD is coordinating with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)/Environmental Impact Report (EIR) on the potential expansion of the Los Vaqueros Reservoir. Expansion of Los Vaqueros Reservoir is one of the potential surface storage projects described in the CALFED Bay-Delta Program's long-term plan that could contribute to improving the quality and reliability of Bay Area drinking water supplies and Delta ecosystems. Over the last four years, CCWD has completed a series of environmental and operational studies on an expansion, while keeping the public and stakeholders informed through a comprehensive outreach program. CCWD and Reclamation are now entering the next environmental review phase and have scheduled a series of public scoping meetings.

The purpose of the scoping meetings is to bring people up to date on the Studies, including upcoming reports for the environmental review. The meetings are also an opportunity to gather formal public scoping comments on the potential environmental impacts of the project. The scoping meetings will be January 24, 25, and 26, 2006, at the four locations shown below. The meetings will begin with an open house, during which participants will have the opportunity to view exhibits and interact directly with members of the project team. A brief presentation will follow with a formal public comment period.

Sacramento Tuesday, January 24, 2006 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. Bonderson Building, Public Hearing Rm. (first floor) 901 P Street Sacramento, CA 95814	**Antioch** Tuesday, January 24, 2006 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Legion Hall, Veteran's Memorial Building 403 West 6th Street Antioch, CA 94509
Livermore Wednesday, January 25, 2006 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Martinelli Event Center, Agricultural Center 3585 Greenville Road Livermore, CA 94550	**Concord** Thursday, January 26, 2006 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Contra Costa Water District Center 1331 Concord Avenue Concord, CA 94520

All those interested are invited to provide comment on the scope of the environmental analysis. This public comment period will extend through February 28, 2006. Please join us to learn more about the Studies and provide your comments. If you have any questions, please contact Marguerite Naillon, Project Manager at (925) 688-8018 or mnaillon@ccwater.com. Please visit the project website for project information updates at www.lvstudies.com. CCWD will keep you informed on the progress of the EIS/EIR.

Sincerely,

Joseph L. Campbell
President

JLC/MN:ps

CONTRA COSTA
WATER DISTRICT

1331 Concord Avenue
P.O. Box H20
Concord, CA 94524
(925) 688-8000 FAX (925) 688-8122

January 5, 2006

The Honorable Federal Glover
Supervisor/Dist 5
Contra Costa County
315 E. Leland Road
Pittsburg, CA 94565

Subject: Los Vaqueros Reservoir Expansion Studies Public Scoping Meetings

Dear Supervisor ~~Glover:~~ Federal-

In 2004, the voters of the Contra Costa Water District (CCWD) approved the District proceeding with studies to expand Los Vaqueros Reservoir by a vote of 62% to 38%. CCWD is coordinating with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)/Environmental Impact Report (EIR) on the potential expansion of the Los Vaqueros Reservoir. Expansion of Los Vaqueros Reservoir is one of the potential surface storage projects described in the CALFED Bay-Delta Program's long-term plan that could contribute to improving the quality and reliability of Bay Area drinking water supplies and Delta ecosystems. Over the last four years, CCWD has completed a series of environmental and operational studies on an expansion, while keeping the public and stakeholders informed through a comprehensive outreach program. CCWD and Reclamation are now entering the next environmental review phase and have scheduled a series of public scoping meetings.

The purpose of the scoping meetings is to bring people up to date on the Studies, including upcoming reports for the environmental review. The meetings are also an opportunity to gather formal public scoping comments on the potential environmental impacts of the project. The scoping meetings will be January 24, 25, and 26, 2006, at the four locations shown below. The meetings will begin with an open house, during which participants will have the opportunity to view exhibits and interact directly with members of the project team. A brief presentation will follow with a formal public comment period.

Sacramento
Tuesday, January 24, 2006
1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Bonderson Building, Public Hearing Rm.
(first floor)
901 P Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Antioch
Tuesday, January 24, 2006
6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Legion Hall, Veteran's Memorial Building
403 West 6th Street
Antioch, CA 94509

Livermore
Wednesday, January 25, 2006
6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Martinelli Event Center, Agricultural Center
3585 Greenville Road
Livermore, CA 94550

Concord
Thursday, January 26, 2006
6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Contra Costa Water District Center
1331 Concord Avenue
Concord, CA 94520

All those interested are invited to provide comment on the scope of the environmental analysis. This public comment period will extend through February 28, 2006. Please join us to learn more about the Studies and provide your comments. If you have any questions, please contact Marguerite Naillon, Project Manager at (925) 688-8018 or mnaillon@ccwater.com. Please visit the project website for project information updates at www.lvstudies.com. CCWD will keep you informed on the progress of the EIS/EIR.

Sincerely,

Joseph L. Campbell
President

JLC/MN:ps

Appendix D
Scoping Meeting Materials

ESA

Appendix D-1
Open House Program/Agenda

ESA

LOS VAQUEROS RESERVOIR EXPANSION EIS/EIR

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETINGS

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETINGS
Sacramento, Antioch, Livermore, and Concord, CA
January 24 -26, 2006

AGENDA

6:00 – 6:45 **Informational Open House**

6:45 – 7:00 **Presentation**
- Welcome / Meeting Purpose, *Charles Gardiner*
- Overview of Environmental Review (CEQA / NEPA), *Marguerite Naillon, CCWD & Patricia Roberson, Reclamation*
- Study Schedule – *Charles Gardiner*

7:00 – 8:00 **Public Comments**
- Facilitated Public Comment Period*

** Please submit a Speaker Card if you wish to provide oral comments at the meeting. A court reporter will be present to document your comments.*

Open House Program

General Project Overview/ Background

Station 1: Welcome & Sign-in

Welcome to the information open house and public meeting. Please sign-in and collect the meeting handouts.

Station 2: Regional Context

Review background information describing the Delta challenges, the storage program, and the Environmental Water Account.

Specific Project Information

Station 3: Project Overview/Purposes and Objectives

Review project purposes and local needs for each objective.

Station 4: Alternatives

Learn about alternatives development and evaluation.

Station 5: Environmental Issues

Learn about impacts in the immediate expansion area, impacts related to facility construction, and impacts to Delta operations.

Next Steps

Station 6: Study Process/Schedule

Learn about the environmental review process, feasibility report process, and overall schedule. Learn who to contact with comments and questions and where you can find additional information.

Appendix D-2
Open House Exhibit Boards

ESA

Welcome to the Los Vaqueros Reservoir Expansion EIS/EIR Public Scoping Meetings

Sacramento
Tuesday, January 24, 2006

Antioch
Tuesday, January 24, 2006

Livermore
Wednesday, January 25, 2006

Concord
Thursday, January 26, 2006

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

CONTRA COSTA WATER DISTRICT

OVERVIEW OF BAY-DELTA SYSTEM

Delta Challenges

The Sacramento – San Joaquin Delta supplies water to more than twenty-three million water users in California. At the same time, the Delta provides essential habitat for a diverse array of fish and wildlife. We currently face many challenges to maintain a balance between water use and the environment including:

Ecosystem Restoration

A variety of factors have contributed to the decline of fish species in the Delta including loss of habitat and increased demand on water resources from the Delta.

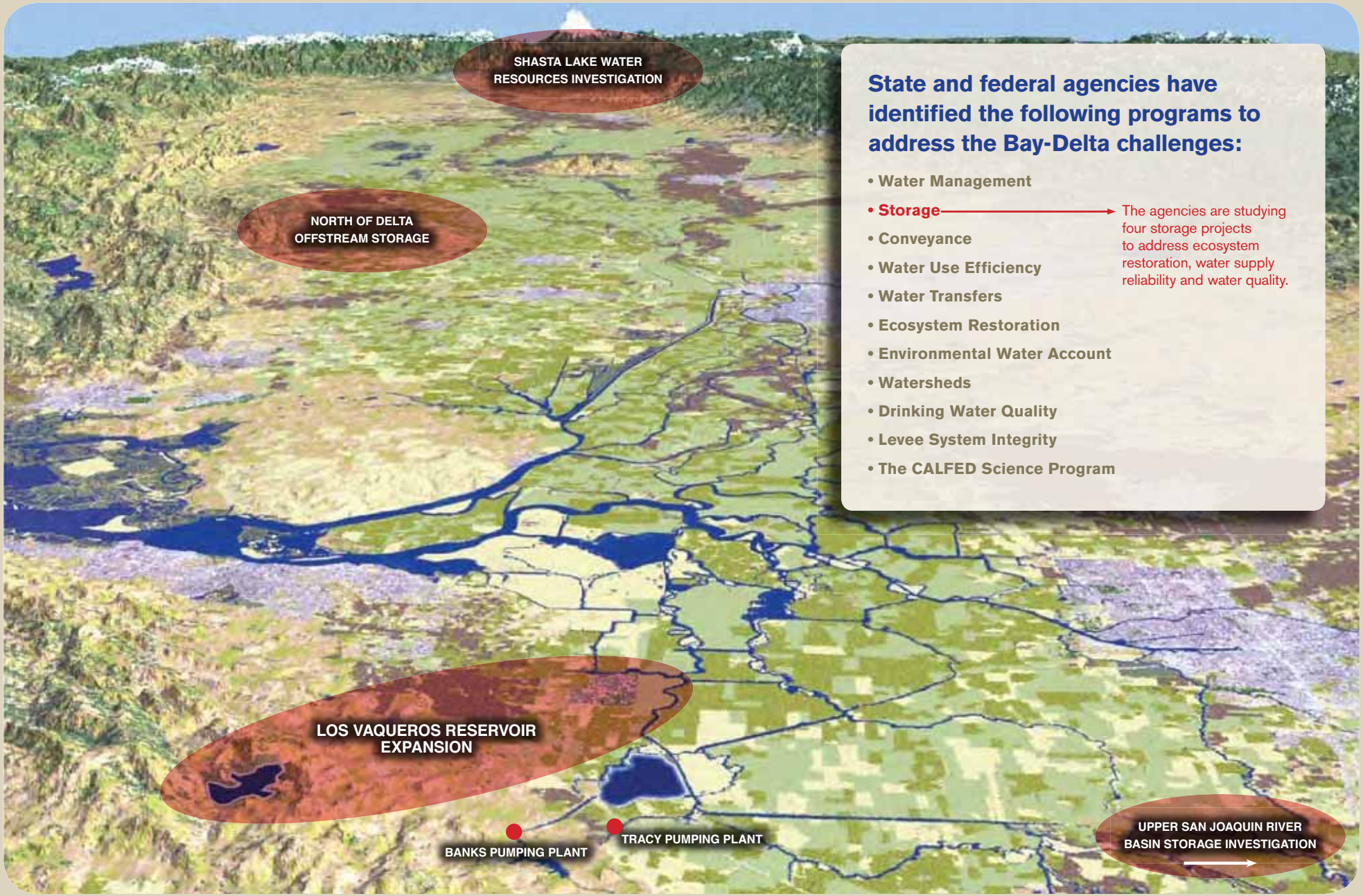
Water Quality

The quality of water from the Delta has generally declined due to salinity intrusion from the Bay, polluted runoff from urban, agricultural and other developments, increases in water demand, and changes to the physical environment.

Water Supply Reliability

Delivery of Delta water supplies decreases significantly during dry and critically dry years. Water agencies need to consider strategies to improve reliability to fill deficiencies during a drought or in an emergency such as a levee failure or spill in the Delta.

ONGOING STORAGE PROJECT STUDIES



State and federal agencies have identified the following programs to address the Bay-Delta challenges:

- Water Management
- **Storage** → The agencies are studying four storage projects to address ecosystem restoration, water supply reliability and water quality.
- Conveyance
- Water Use Efficiency
- Water Transfers
- Ecosystem Restoration
- Environmental Water Account
- Watersheds
- Drinking Water Quality
- Levee System Integrity
- The CALFED Science Program

ENVIRONMENTAL WATER ACCOUNT

What is the Environmental Water Account?

The EWA contributes to the protection and recovery of at-risk native Delta-dependent fish species. EWA works by reducing pumping from the Delta when fish are most at risk and repaying that water to the state and federal water projects so users' water supplies are not reduced.
Two primary elements of the EWA include: acquiring and managing water assets; and using these assets to repay the water projects when actions are taken to protect Delta fish.

ASSETS

- Water Purchases
- Operational Flexibility

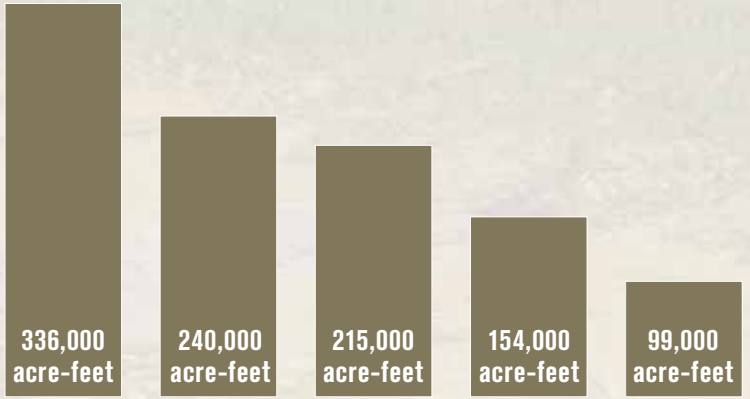
ACTIONS

- Pumping Curtailments
- In-Stream Flow Augmentation
- Delta Cross Channel Closures
- Delta Out-Flow Augmentation

AGENCIES

- Bureau of Reclamation
- Department of Water Resources
- National Marine Fisheries Service
- US Fish and Wildlife Service
- CA Department of Fish and Game

Historic EWA Water Purchases



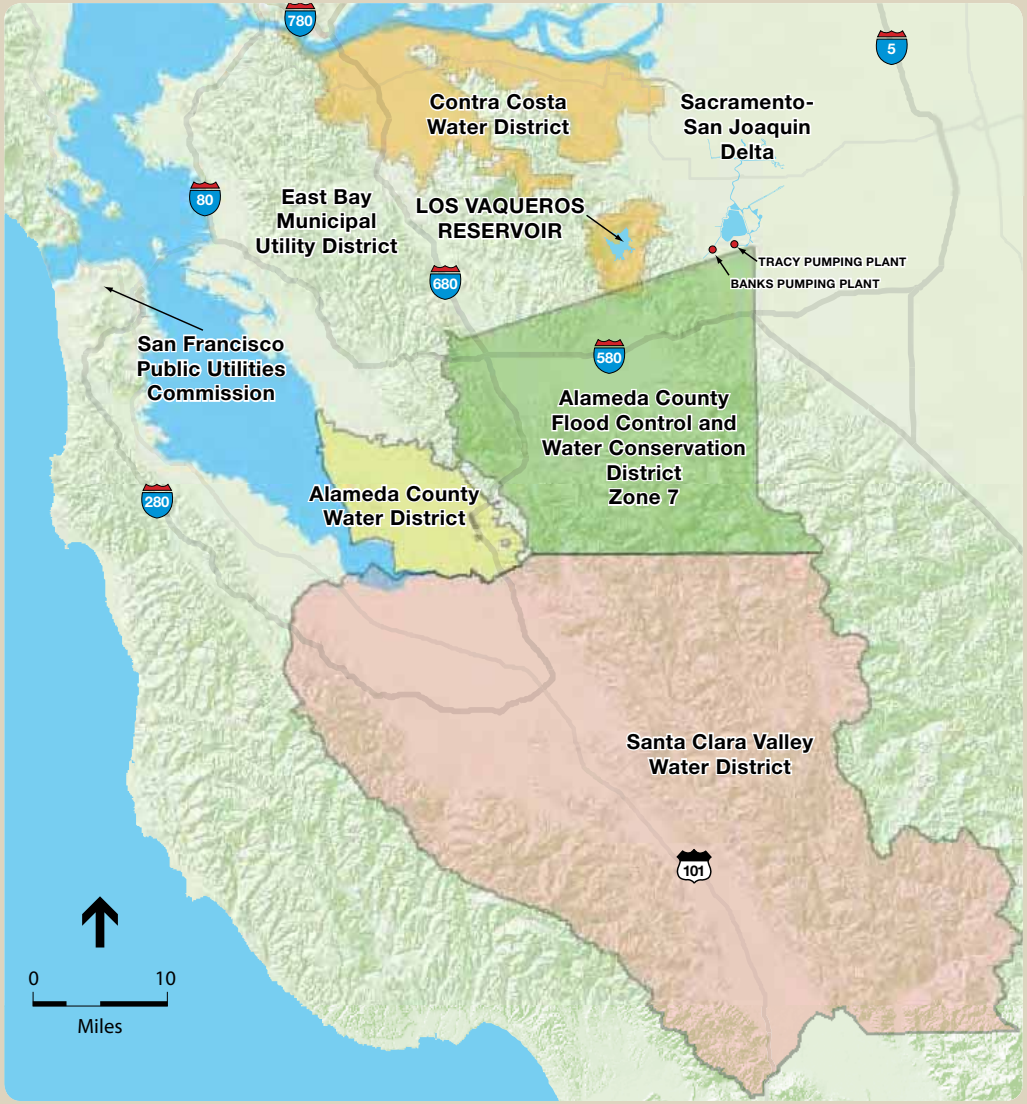
* 2005 data is preliminary and subject to change pending final accounting for the year.

How do Pumping Curtailments Work?

- Reduce pumping at state and federal pumps to reduce impacts to fish
- Use EWA assets to make up water supplies for state and federal water projects

PROJECT PURPOSES

Districts that could be served by an expanded reservoir.

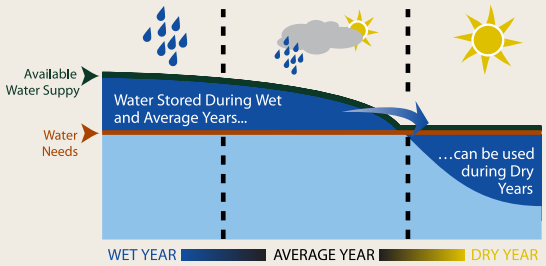


Environmental Water

Use an expanded Los Vaqueros Reservoir to develop replacement water supplies for a fisheries protection program such as the long-term Environmental Water Account (EWA) program or an equivalent program.

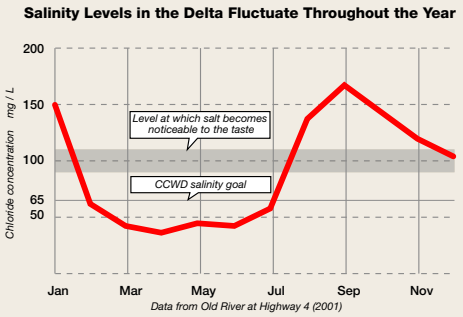
Water Supply Reliability

Increase water supply reliability for Bay Area water providers to help meet municipal and industrial water demands during drought periods.



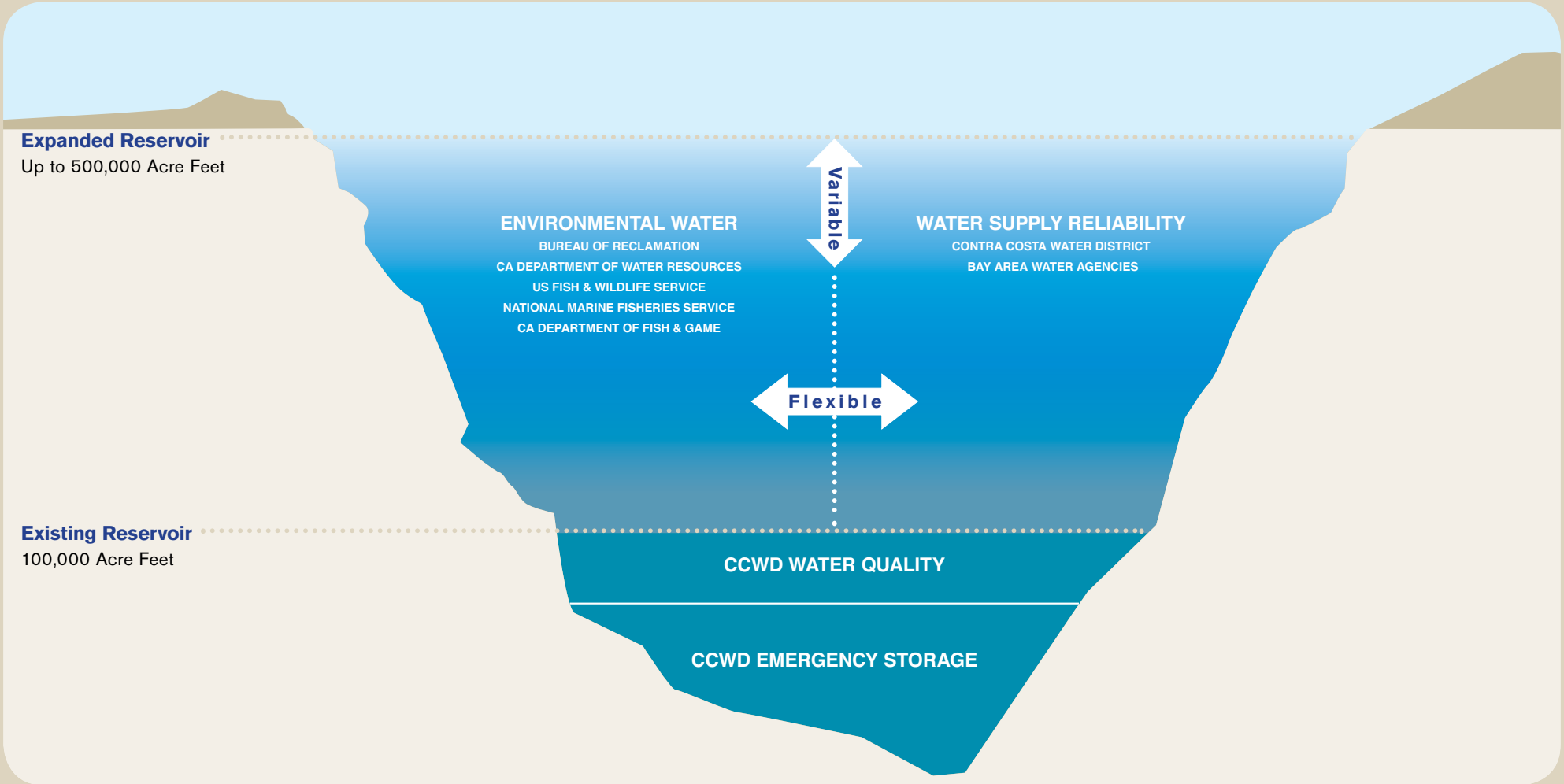
Water Quality

While meeting water supply reliability and environmental water objectives, improve the quality of water deliveries to municipal and industrial customers in the Bay Area.

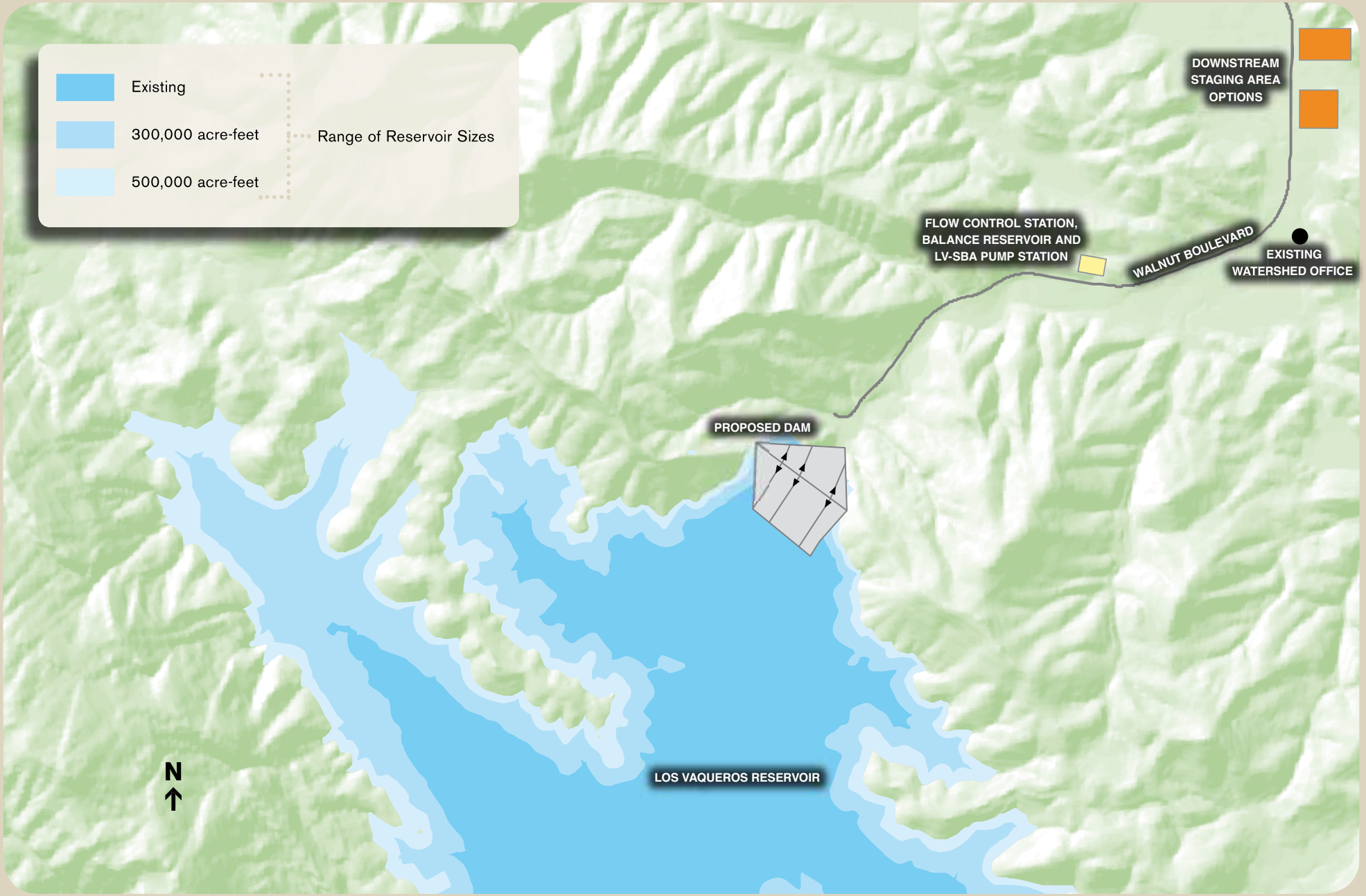


WATER USES

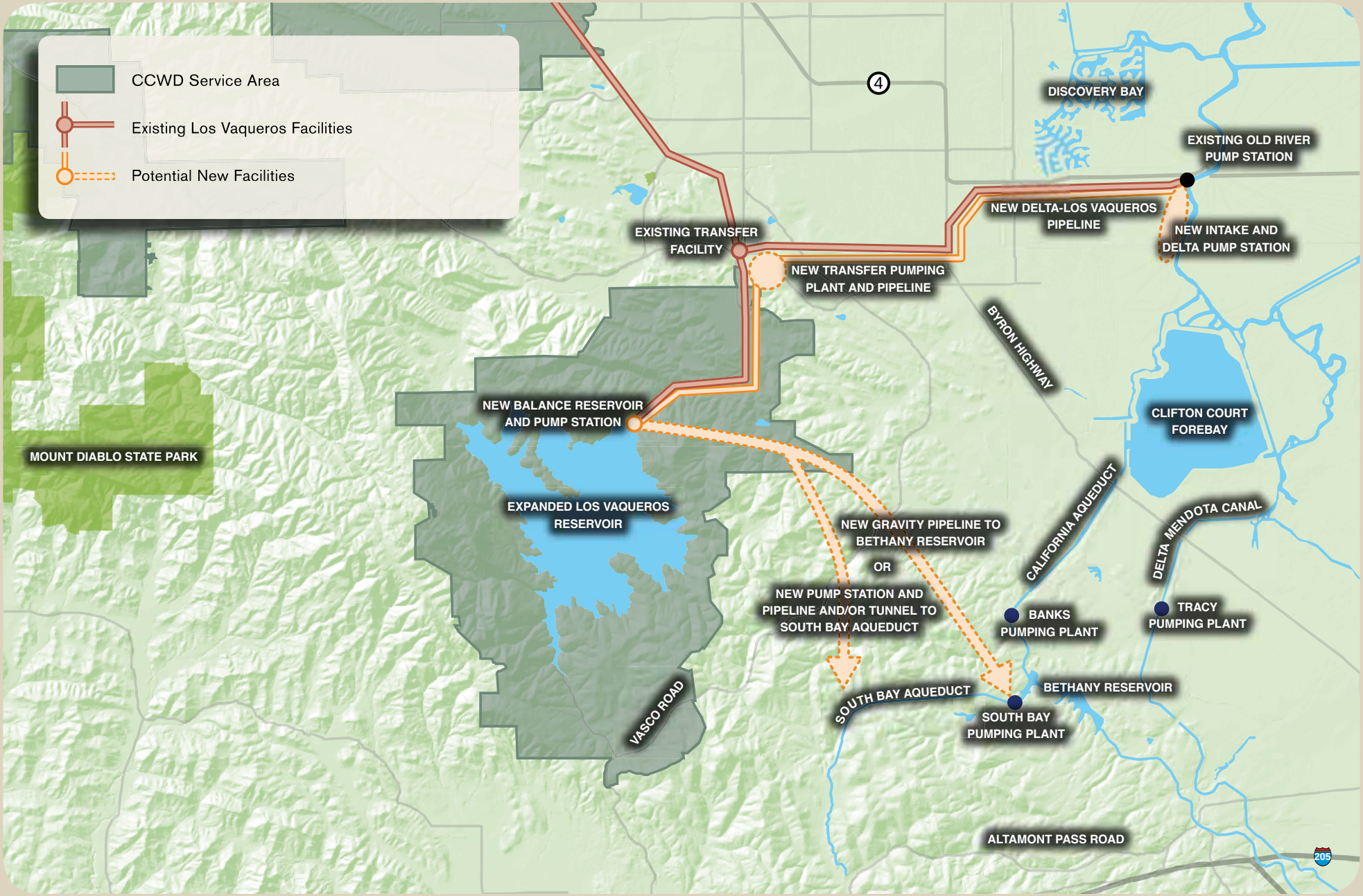
The water stored in an expanded Los Vaqueros Reservoir would be used for environmental water, water supply reliability and water quality. The level of participation by potential project partners will determine the uses of water from the reservoir.



RESERVOIR FACILITIES

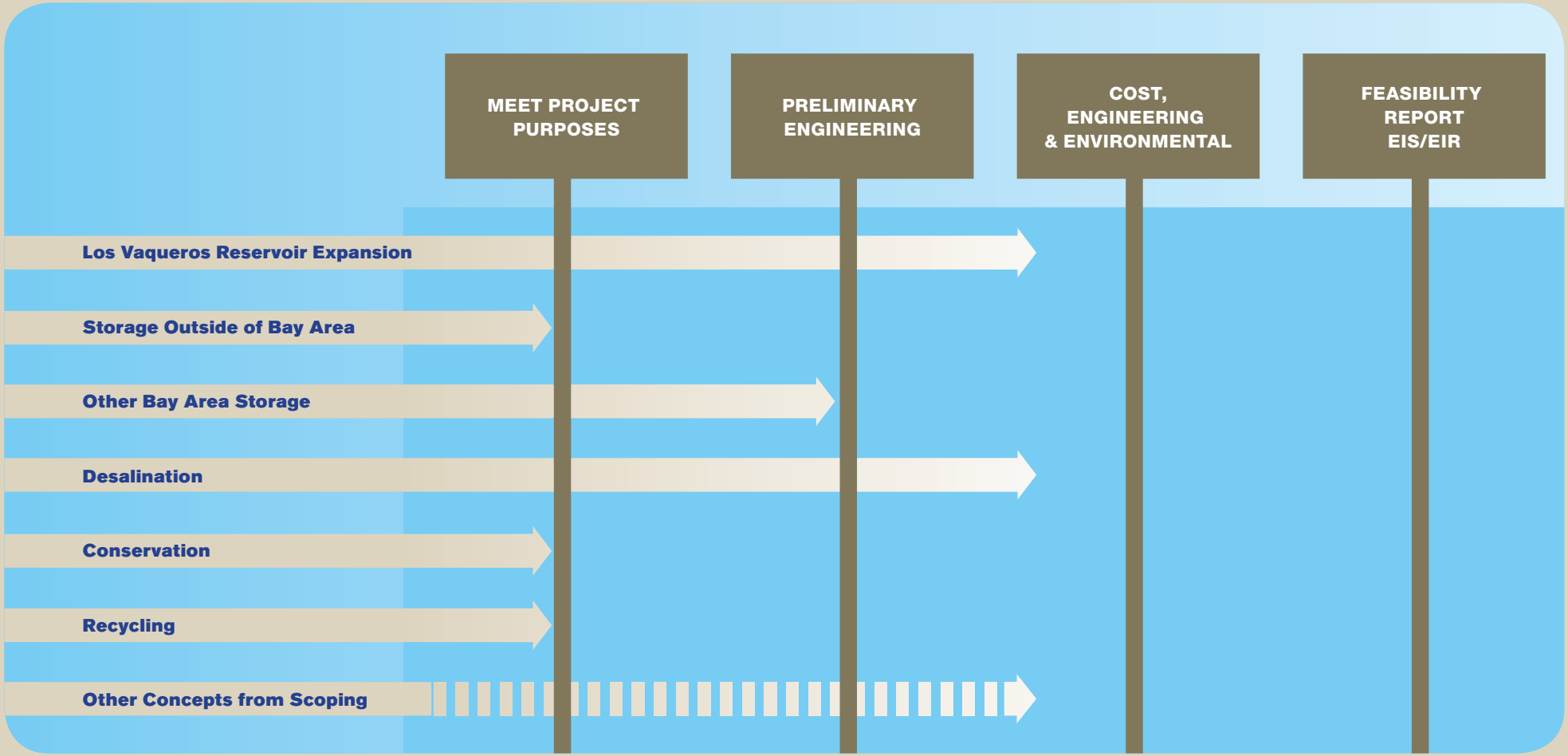


CONVEYANCE FACILITIES



ALTERNATIVES DEVELOPMENT

The agencies are developing and refining alternatives.



ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES - INUNDATION

Vegetation Resources

- Grasslands
- Oak Woodlands

PROPOSED DAM

Wildlife Species

- Special Status Species
- Terrestrial Plants and Wildlife
- Wildlife Migration Corridors

Recreation

- Short-term Disruption of Recreational Activities
- Relocation of Marina, Interpretive Center and Some Existing Trails

Cultural Resources

- Archaeological Resources
- Historical/Architectural Resources

Visual Resources

- Aesthetics

Existing

300,000 acre-feet

500,000 acre-feet

Range of Reservoir Sizes

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES - FACILITY CONSTRUCTION