



— BUREAU OF —
RECLAMATION



Friant-Kern Canal Middle Reach Capacity Correction Project

Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact
Report

Public Scoping Meeting

December 18, 2019

Agenda

- Introductions
- Purpose of Scoping Meeting
- Project Location and Background
- Purpose and Need and Project Objectives
- Project Alternatives
- Environmental Review Process
- Project Schedule
- Public Input



Introductions

- **Bureau of Reclamation (NEPA Lead Agency)**

Rain Emerson – Supervisory Natural Resources Specialist

Josh Newcom – Public Affairs Specialist, San Joaquin River Restoration

Adam Nickels – Deputy Program Manager, San Joaquin River Restoration

- **Friant Water Authority (CEQA Lead Agency)**

Doug DeFlitch – Chief Operating Officer

- **Stantec Project Team**

Heather Waldrop – Lead Environmental Planner

Craig Moyle – Public Affairs Specialist

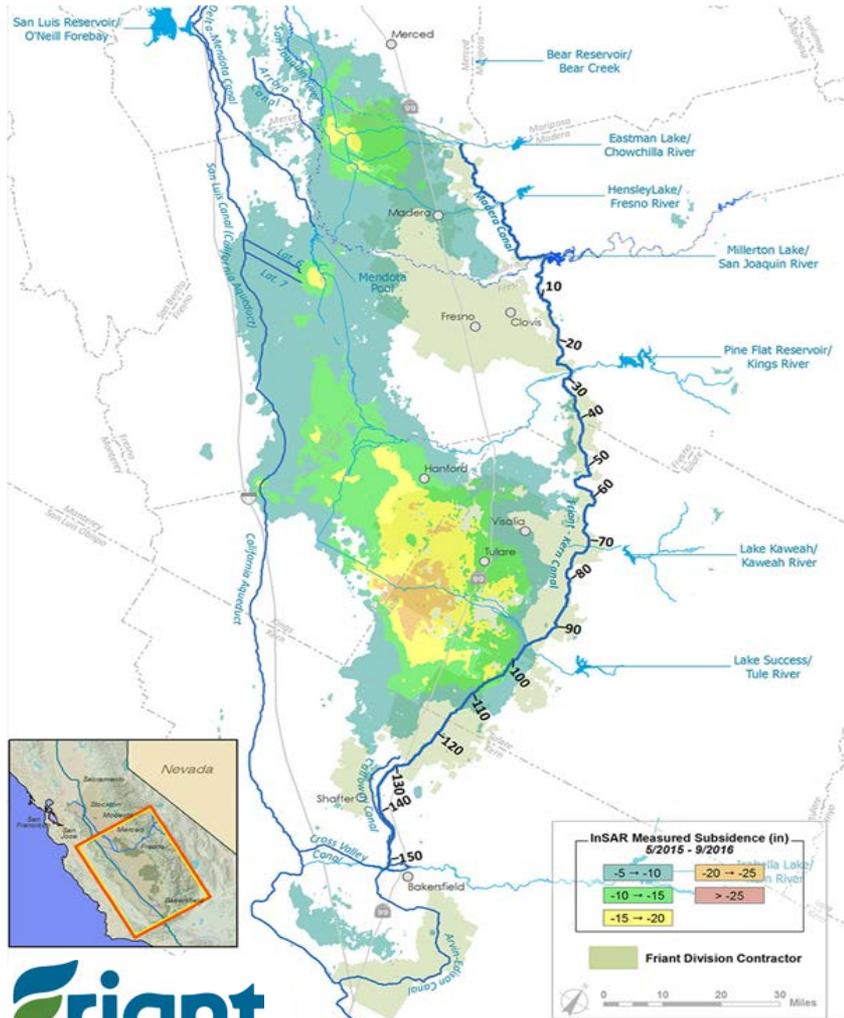


Purpose of the Scoping Meeting

1. Provide project information
2. Accept comments on the scope of the Environmental Impact Statement/Report (EIS/R)
3. Gather input to assist in framing the analysis and focus of the EIS/R



Regional Land Subsidence

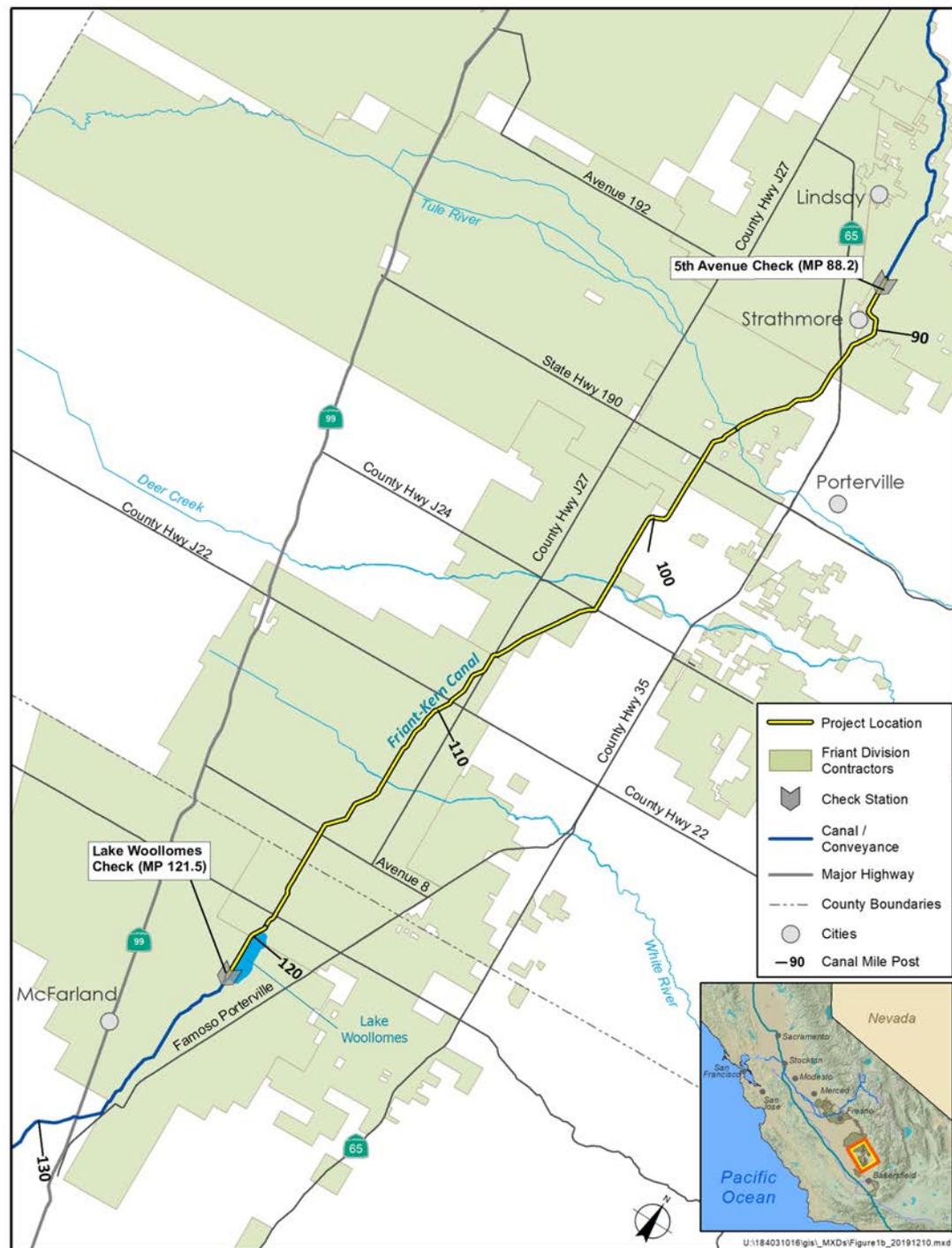


- Groundwater pumping increased during recent drought
- Subsidence occurred at a rate of about 1 inch per month during 2015 - 2016
- Over 50% capacity reductions within and below the Middle Reach of the FKC

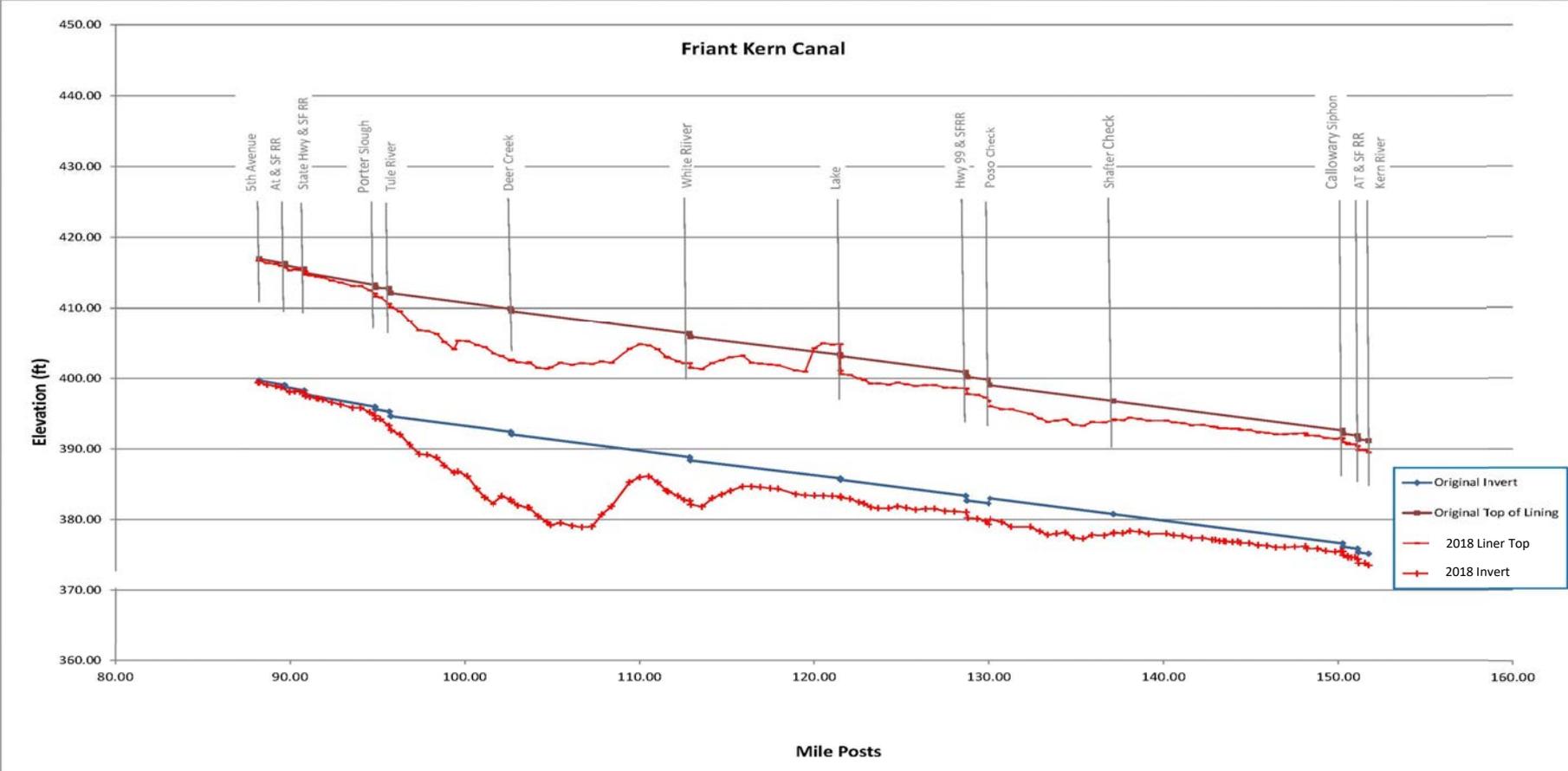


Friant-Kern Canal Middle Reach

- 33-mile canal segment in Tulare and Kern Counties
- 5th Avenue to Lake Woollomes (MP 88.2-121.5)
- Passes by community of Strathmore and City of Porterville



Recent Conditions v. Original Construction



Purpose and Need (NEPA)

The FKC Middle Reach has lost over 50 percent of its original design capacity due to a design deficiency and regional land subsidence. This has resulted in water delivery impacts on Friant Division long-term contractors, reduced ability of the FKC to convey flood waters during wet years, and reduced ability to implement provisions of the Water Management Goal as described in Paragraph 16 of the Settlement.

The purpose and need of Reclamation's Proposed Action is to restore the conveyance capacity of the FKC Middle Reach to such capacity as previously designed and constructed by Reclamation, as provided for in Public Law 111-11, Section 10201.



Project Objectives (CEQA)

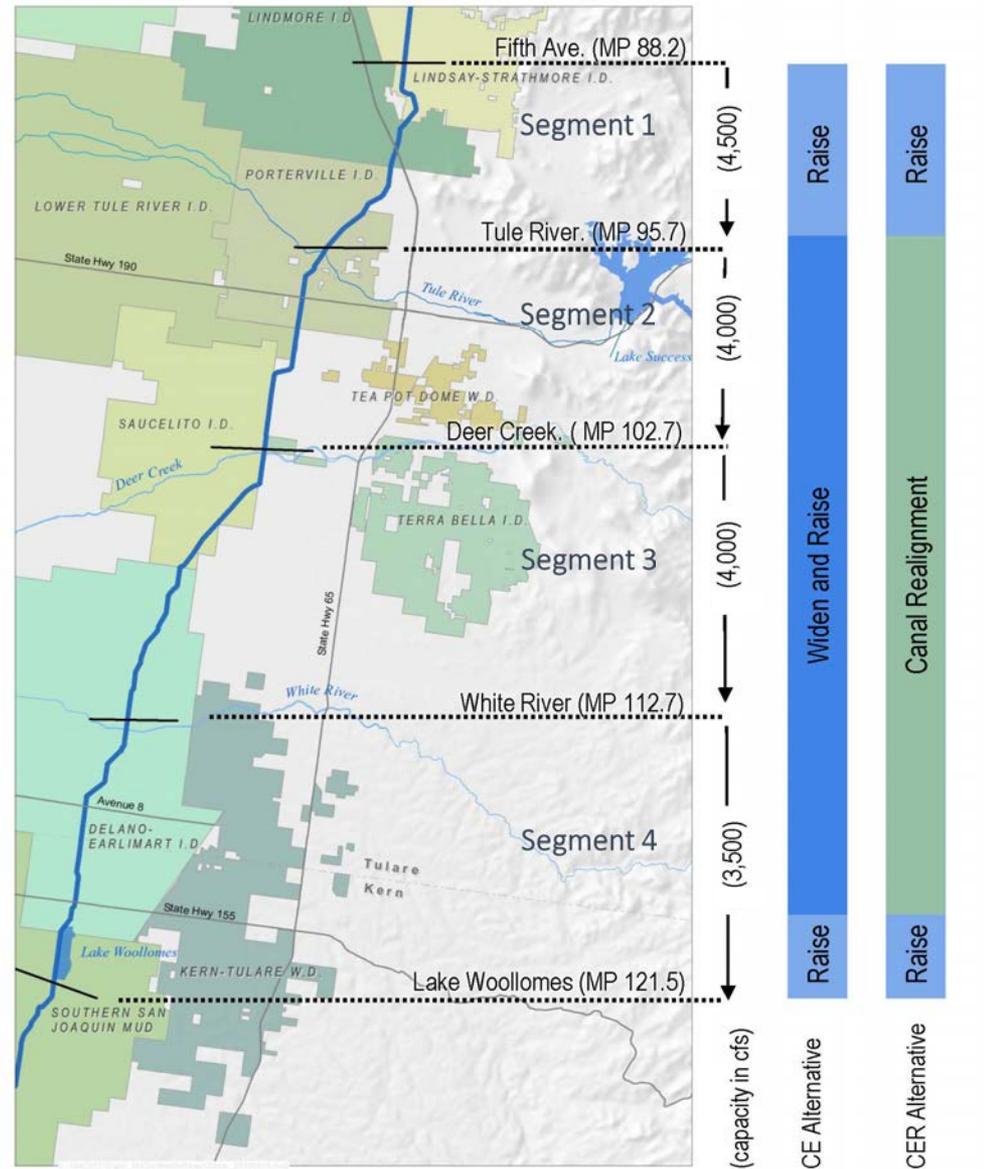
- Restore capacity to original design levels that meet the water supply delivery requirements of the Central Valley Project contracts of long-term contractors;
- restore capacity to convey water for the short-term conveyance of flood flows or non-CVP project water as well as provide potential surface water supplies for other users through exchanges and transfers;
- facilitate accommodation of potential future reductions in conveyance capacity caused by continued subsidence following Project implementation; and
- restore capacity to the maximum extent using the original gravity conveyance design that avoids reliance on additional mechanical facilities and increased energy demands.



Project Alternatives

- Canal Enlargement and Realignment (CER)*
- Canal Enlargement (CE)
- No Project/No Action

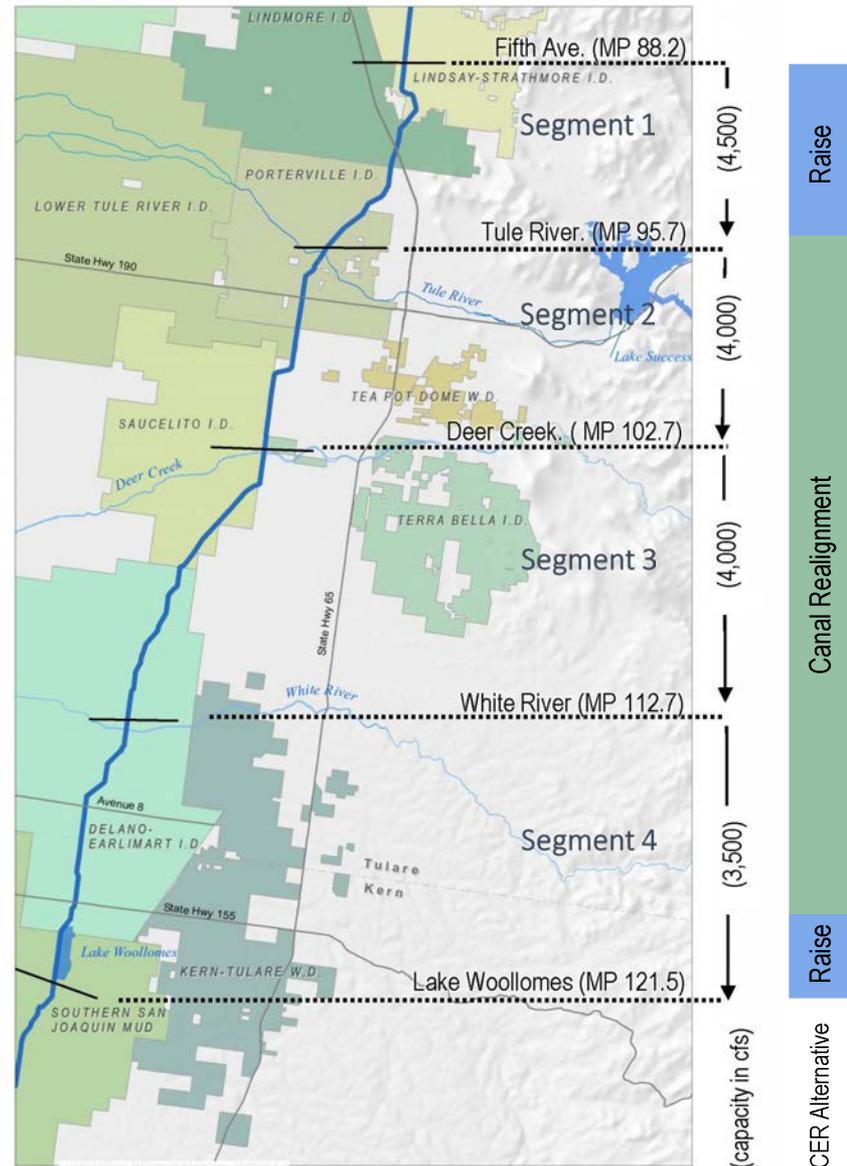
*For CEQA purposes Friant has identified the CER as the "Proposed Project." Reclamation has not identified a Preferred Alternative.



Canal Enlargement and Realignment (CER)

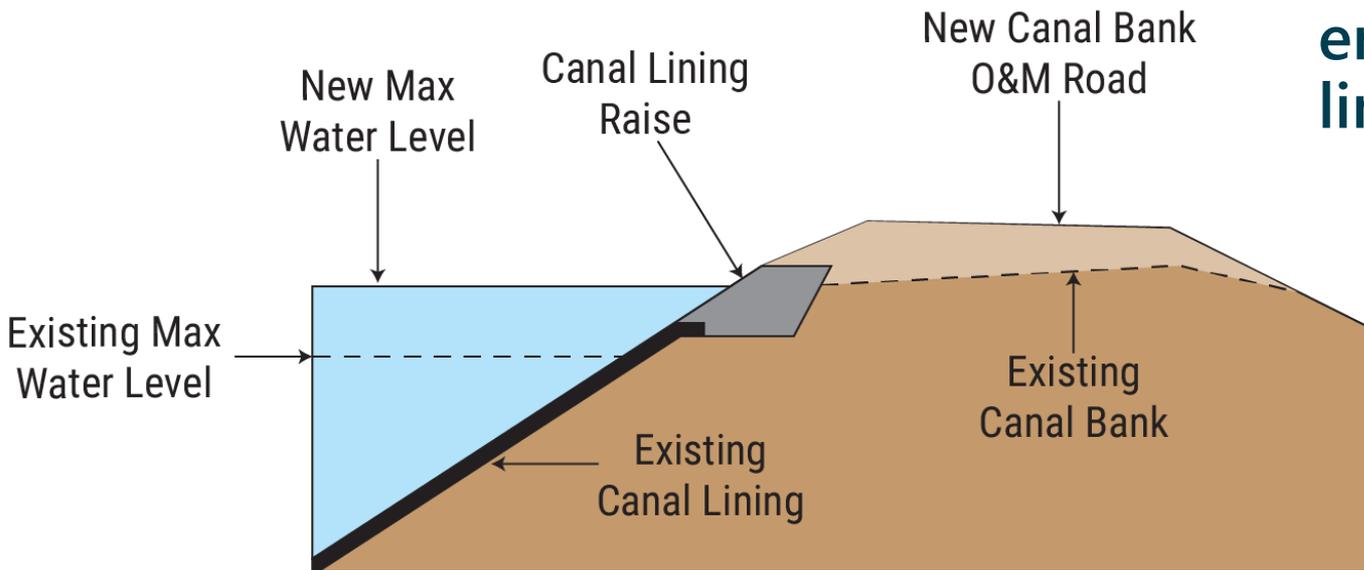
Major components:

- Enlargement consists of raising 10 - 12 miles of FKC
- 21 - 23 mile canal realignment

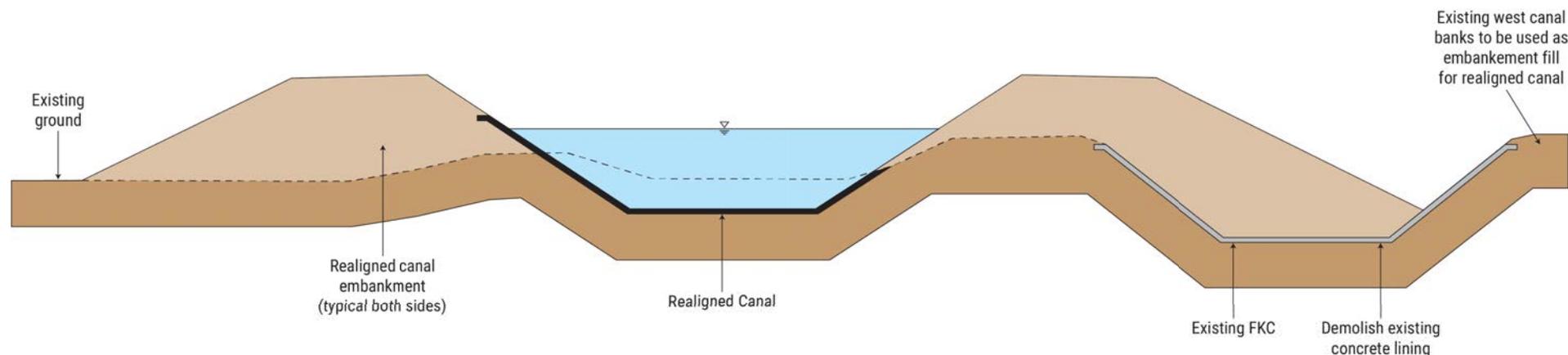


CER Alternative - Canal Raise

Segments 1 & 4
would be enlarged
with a canal
embankment and
lining raise



CER Alternative - Realigned Canal



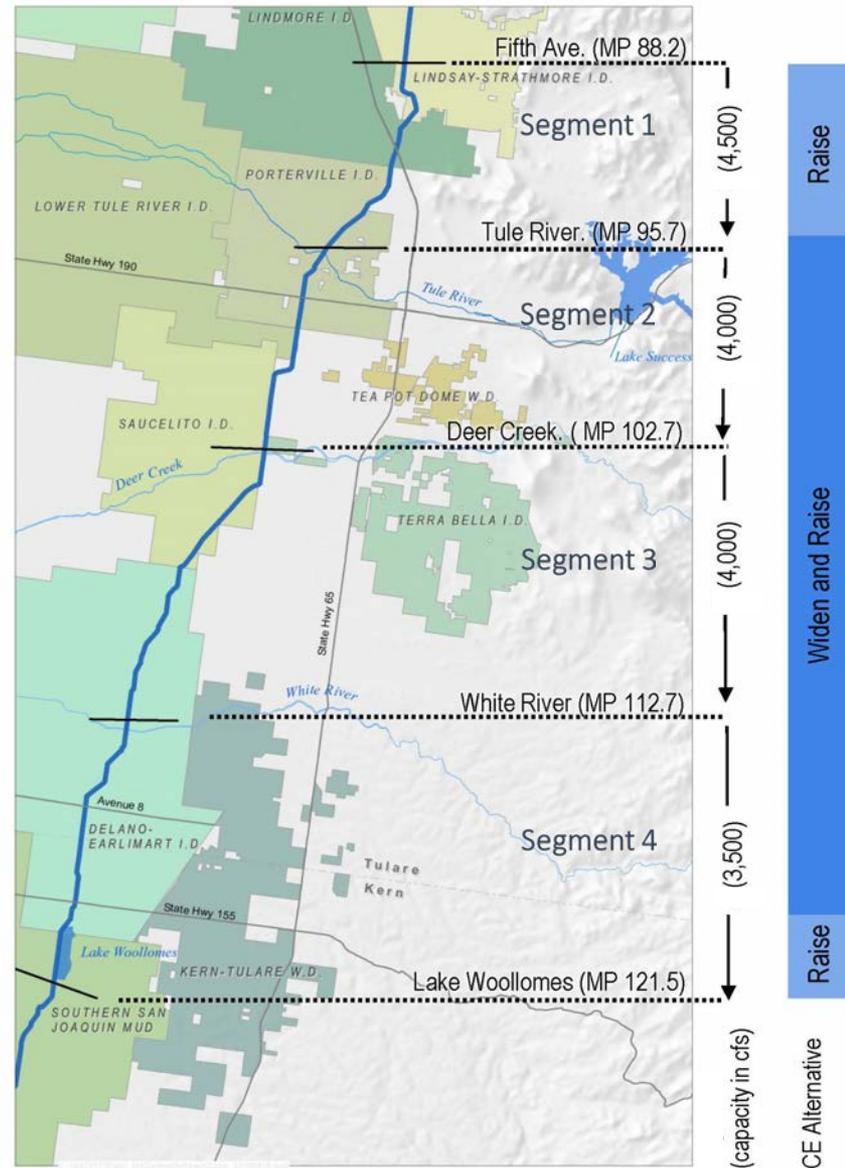
Starting at Ave. 152, new canal alignment would head south, east of the existing FKC, and reconnect to the FKC



Canal Enlargement Alternative (CE)

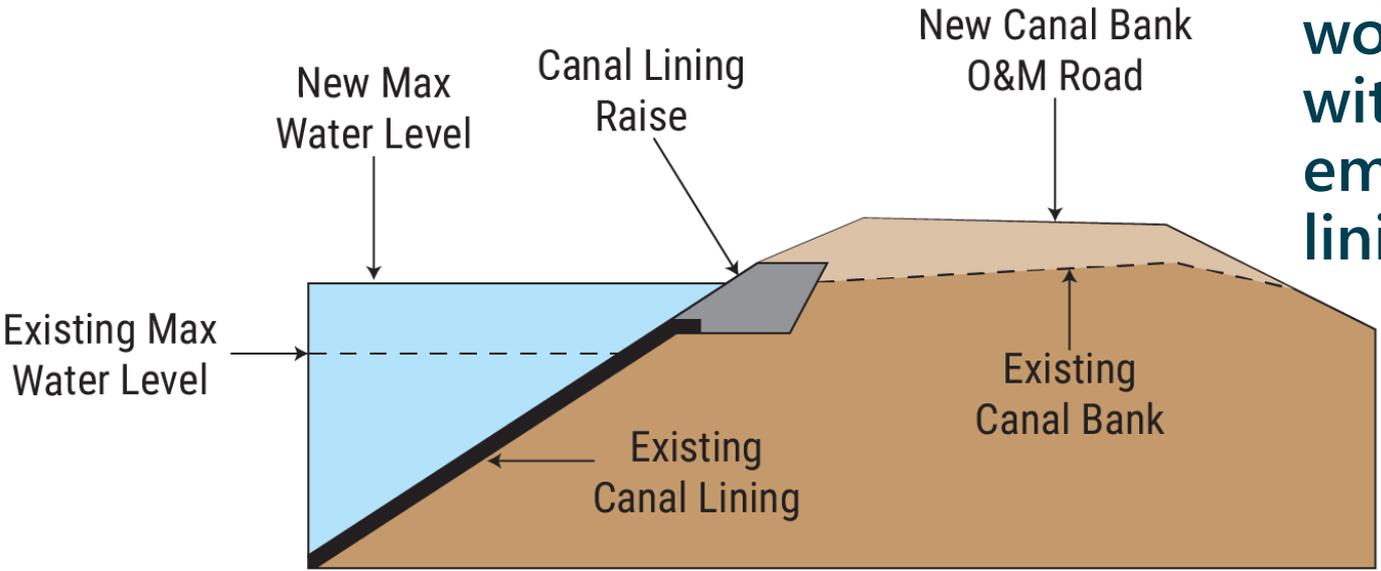
Major components:

- Enlargement consists of raising 10 – 12 miles of FKC and raising and widening 21 - 23 miles of FKC
- About 4 miles of bypass canal to accommodate pumped turnouts

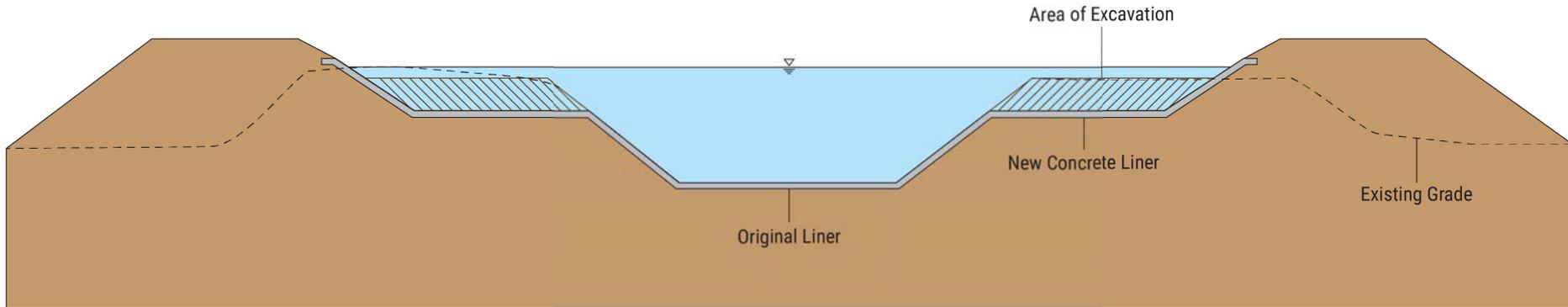


CE Alternative - Canal Raise

Segments 1 & 4 would be enlarged with a canal embankment and lining raise



CE Alternative - Canal Widening and Raise



- 28-foot (max) bench cut into the existing grade for slope stability and flow capacity
- Raise embankment up to 15 feet

Features Common to Both Alternatives

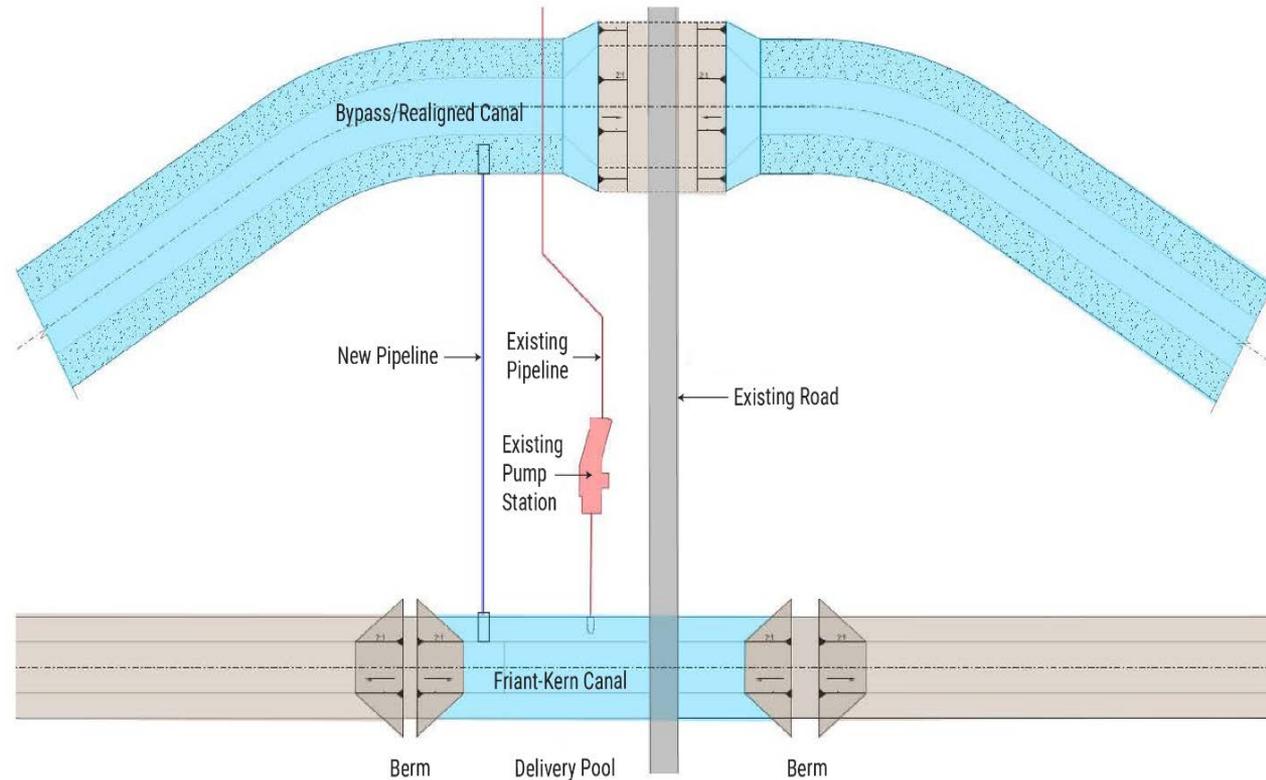
- Canal raise
- Borrow
- Turnouts
- Road crossings
- Check structures
- Utilities
- ROW



Turnouts

Four designs depending on location;

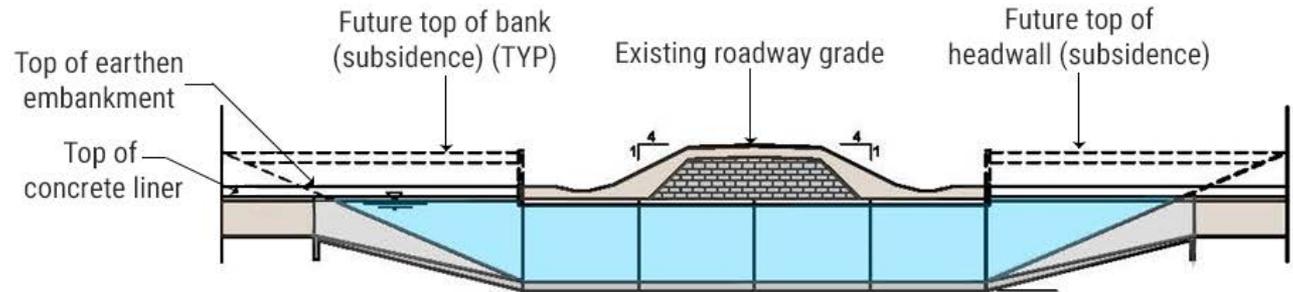
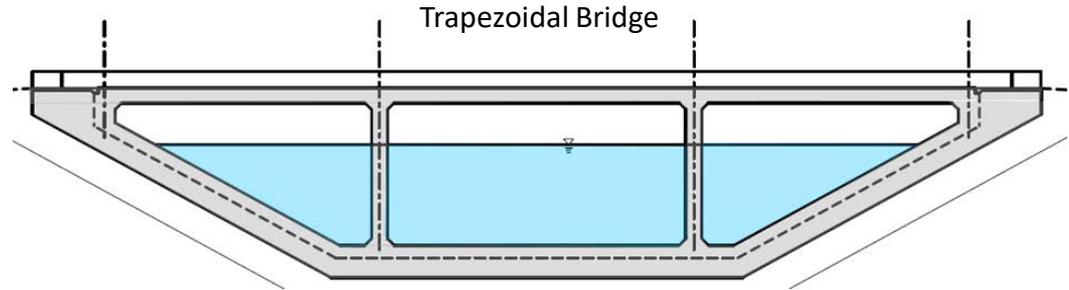
1. No modifications
2. New delivery pool turnout
3. New turnout
4. Deck raise



Road Crossings

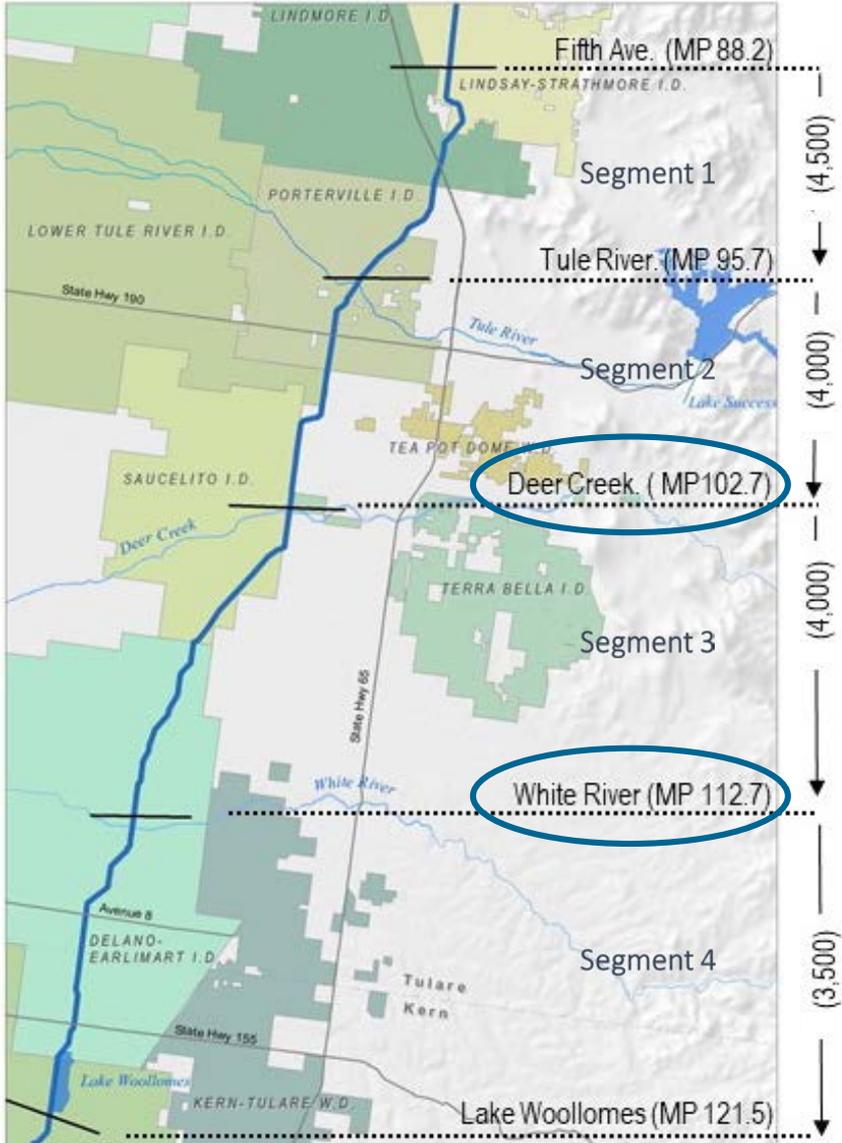
Three designs depending on location:

1. Leave in place
2. New trapezoidal bridge*
3. Replace with concrete box siphon



*only applicable to CE Alternative

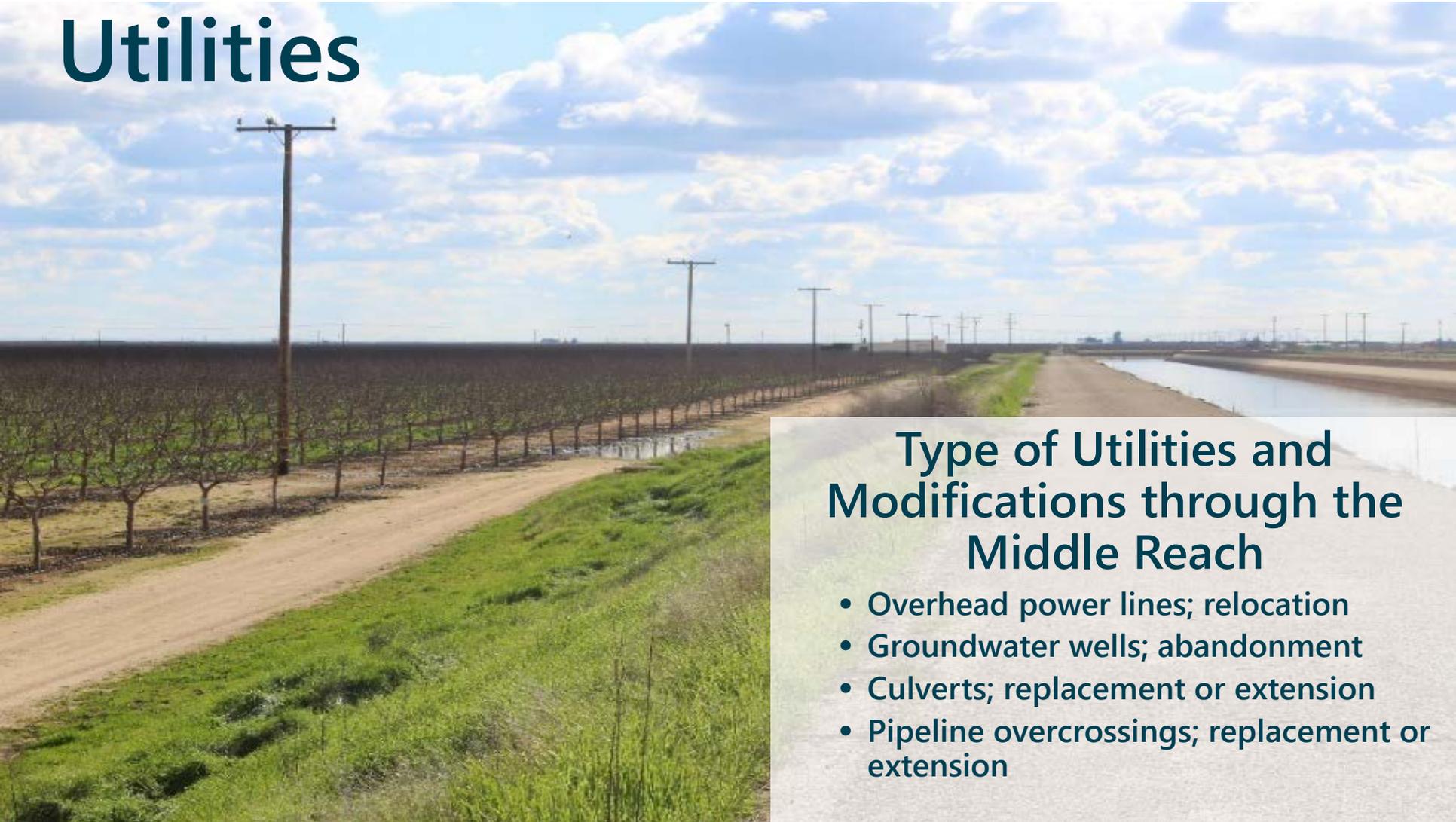
Check Structures



5 check structures in Middle Reach – 2 require replacement



Utilities

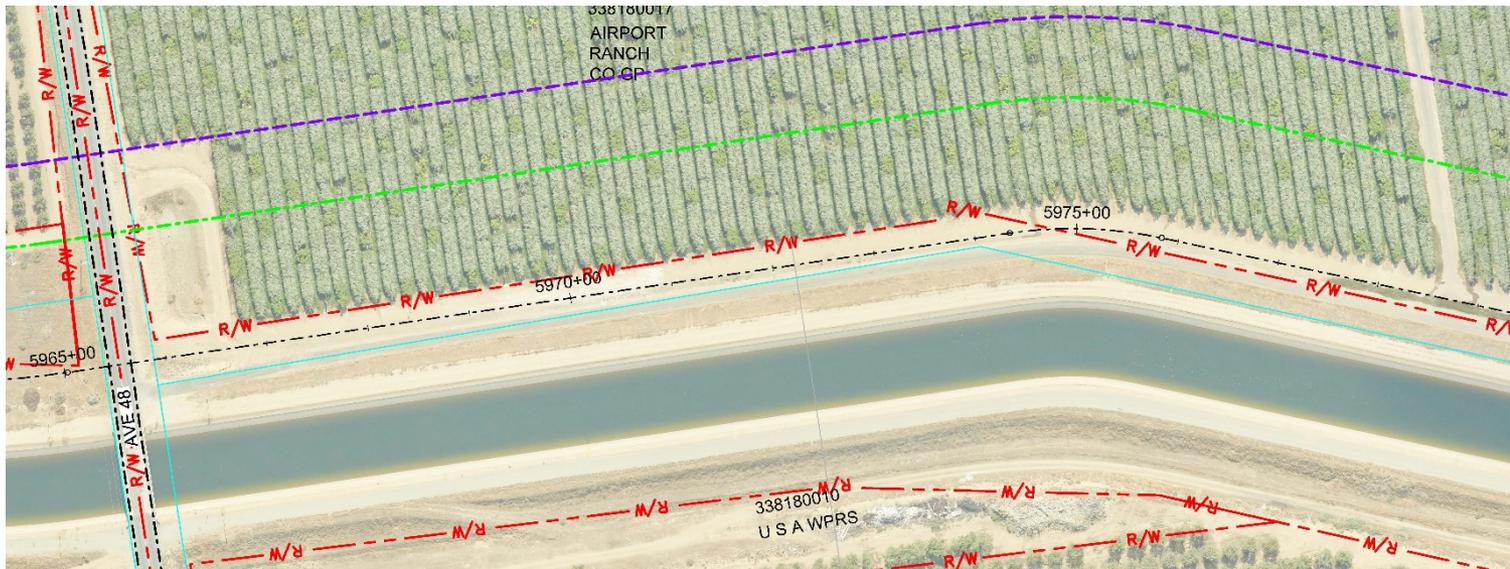


Type of Utilities and Modifications through the Middle Reach

- Overhead power lines; relocation
- Groundwater wells; abandonment
- Culverts; replacement or extension
- Pipeline overcrossings; replacement or extension



Right of Way (ROW) Acquisition



- Land acquisition under the alternatives would range between approximately 150 to 510 acres

Environmental Review Process – Preliminary Analysis

- An Environmental Assessment/Initial Study (EA/IS) was prepared, and is available for review:
 - <https://friantwater.org/projects>
 - https://www.usbr.gov/mp/nepa/nepa_project_details.php?Project_ID=41341.
- Reclamation and FWA are in the process of preparing an EIS/R
- The following resources were eliminated from detailed review in the EIS/R – Aesthetics, Mineral Resources, Population and Housing, Public Services, Recreation, Environmental Justice and Socioeconomics.

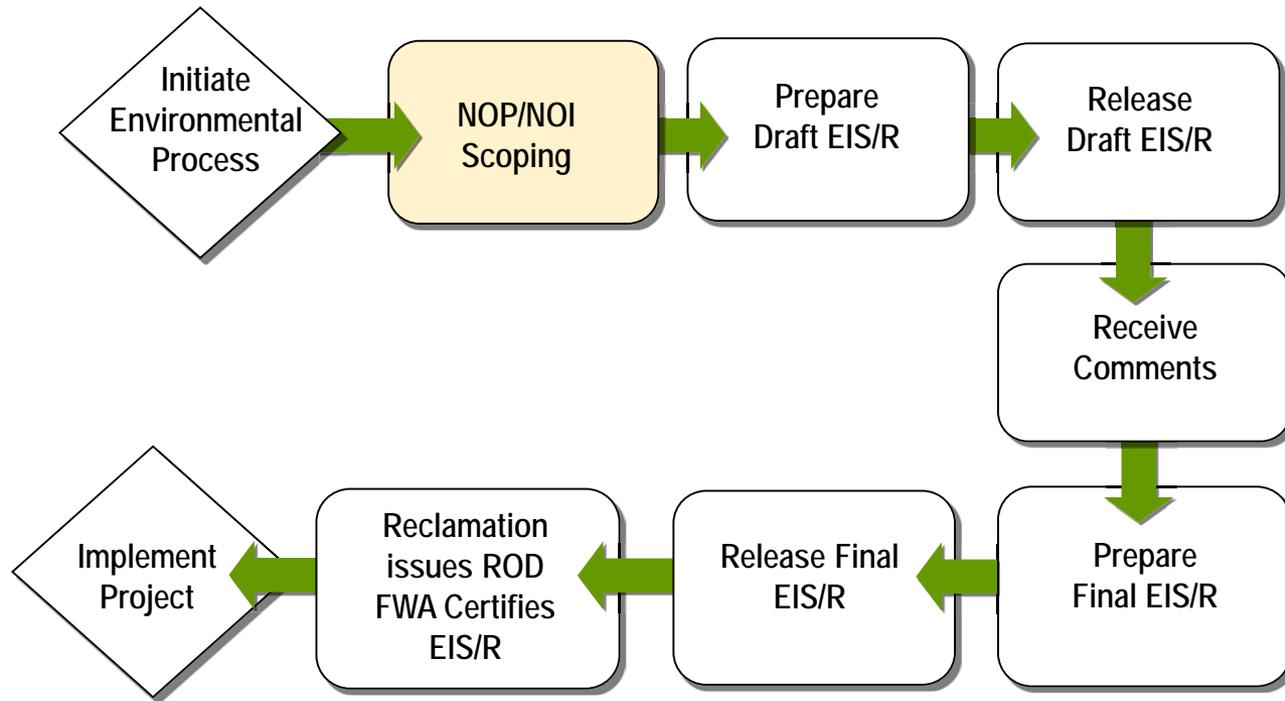


Resources to be Further Analyzed in the EIS/R

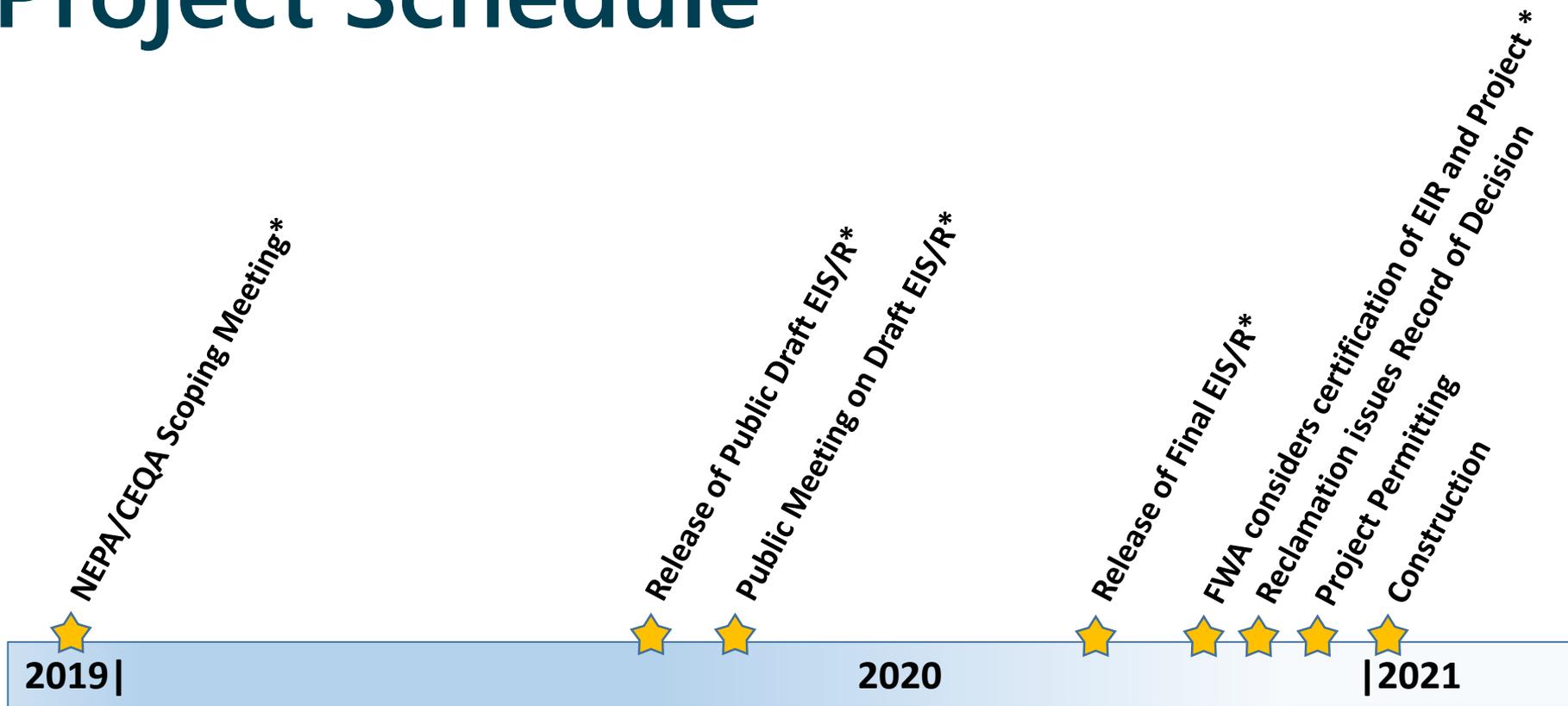
- Air Quality and Greenhouse Gases
- Biological Resources
- Cultural and Tribal Cultural Resources
- Geology and Soils
- Hazards and Hazardous Materials
- Hydrology and Water Quality
- Land Use and Planning and Agricultural Resources
- Noise
- Public Services and Utilities and Energy
- Transportation
- Wildfires



NEPA/CEQA Environmental Review Process



Project Schedule



*Opportunity for public input



Public Scoping Input

- **Methods to submit comments on the project**
 - Speaker comment cards
 - Oral comments
 - Written comments are due by January 2, 2020 – please send comments to:

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[https://www.usbr.gov/mp/nepa/nepa_project_details.php?Project_ID=41341.](https://www.usbr.gov/mp/nepa/nepa_project_details.php?Project_ID=41341)

<https://friantwater.org/projects>





Thank you