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Attachment B

Scoping Meeting Materials

**2021 Reinitiation of Consultation on the Coordinated Long-Term
Operation of the Central Valley Project and State Water Project**



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Public Scoping Meeting

Long-Term Operation of the Central Valley Project
and State Water Project

March 2022

Agenda

- Meeting Logistics
- Meeting Purpose
- Opening Remarks
- Overview Presentation
 - Project
 - Environmental Impact Statement
 - Project Scope
 - Process
- Public Comment



Shasta Dam and Lake (2013)



Welcome and Meeting Logistics

- Welcome!
- Meeting materials and project information are posted on our [Bay-Delta Office website](https://www.usbr.gov/mp/bdo) at <https://www.usbr.gov/mp/bdo>
- Meeting is being recorded and transcribed. If you do not wish to be recorded, please submit written comments to either address provided below. All comments, both verbal and written, are subject to the Freedom of Information Act.

Cynthia Meyer

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation Bay-Delta Office

801 I Street, Suite 140, Sacramento, CA 95814-2536

Email: sha-MPR-BDO@usbr.gov



Providing Verbal Comments

- We will ask for public comments following a brief presentation.
- On your laptop or smart phone screen, use the "raise hand" feature on the Microsoft Teams' tool bar to let us know you have a comment.



- From your touch tone pad on your telephone, you may raise hand by pressing *5



Providing Verbal Comments – cont.

- Comments will be taken in order and will be allowed 3 minutes; if you need additional time, you may raise your hand again to be placed back in the queue
- On the Microsoft Teams' tool bar, you can turn on closed captions by clicking the ellipses and scrolling down to "Turn on live captions"



Meeting Purpose

- Encouraging public comments
 - Verbally today, or
 - Email or mail until March 30, 2022.
- Hearing your insights and specific local information related to issues for the Environmental Impact Statement.
- Sharing actions you believe should be analyzed as part of the Long-Term Operation of the Central Valley Project and State Water Project.



Opening Remarks



Shasta Dam and Lake (2013)



What is this Project?

- Reclamation intends to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement to analyze potential modifications to the Long-Term Operation of the Central Valley Project and State Water Project.
- Reclamation proposes to evaluate alternatives that continue the operation of the CVP and the SWP, for authorized purposes, in a manner that:
 - Meets requirements under applicable federal and state laws;
 - Satisfies Reclamation contractual obligations and agreements; and
 - Implements authorized CVP fish and wildlife project purposes.



What is this Project? - cont.

- Operation of the CVP and SWP is needed to provide flood control and navigation; water supply; fish and wildlife mitigation, protection, and restoration and enhancement; and power generation.



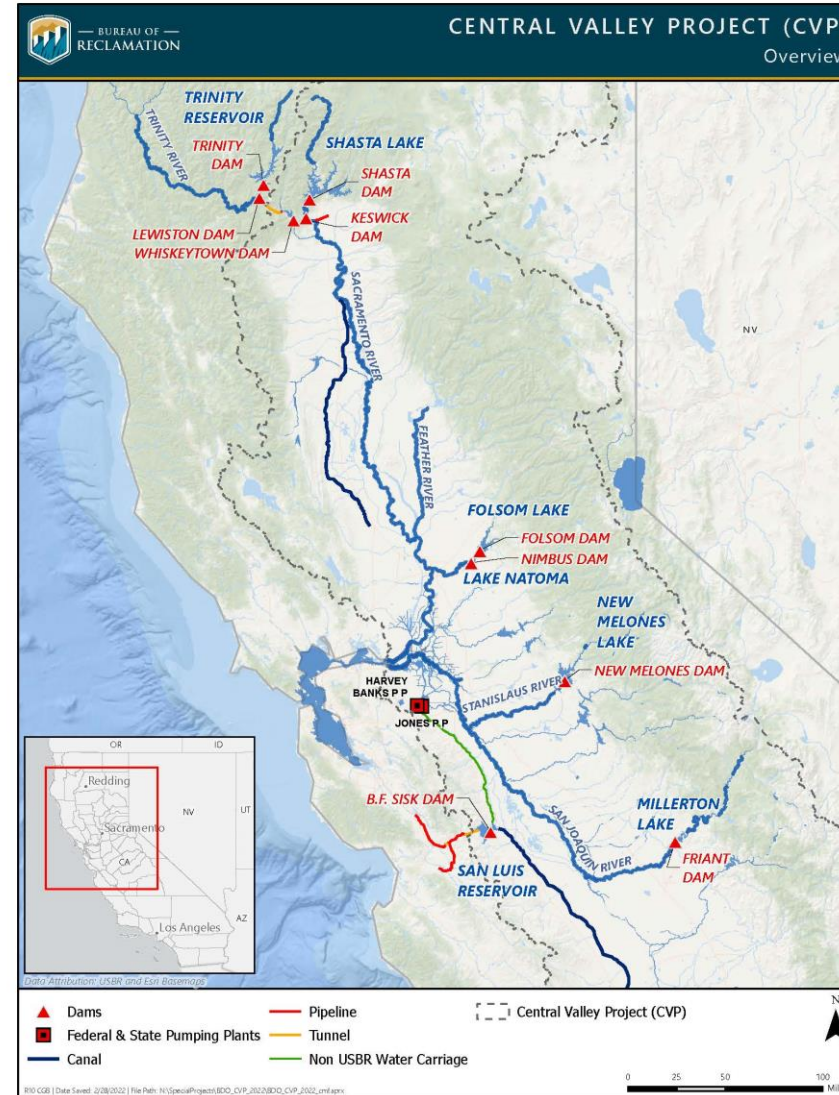
What is the Purpose of an Environmental Impact Statement?

- Ensure agencies consider the environmental impacts of their actions in decision making.
- Provide full and fair discussion of significant environmental impacts and inform decision makers and the public of reasonable alternatives that would avoid or minimize adverse impacts or enhance the quality of the human environment.
- Provide information for public review and comment.



Project Scope

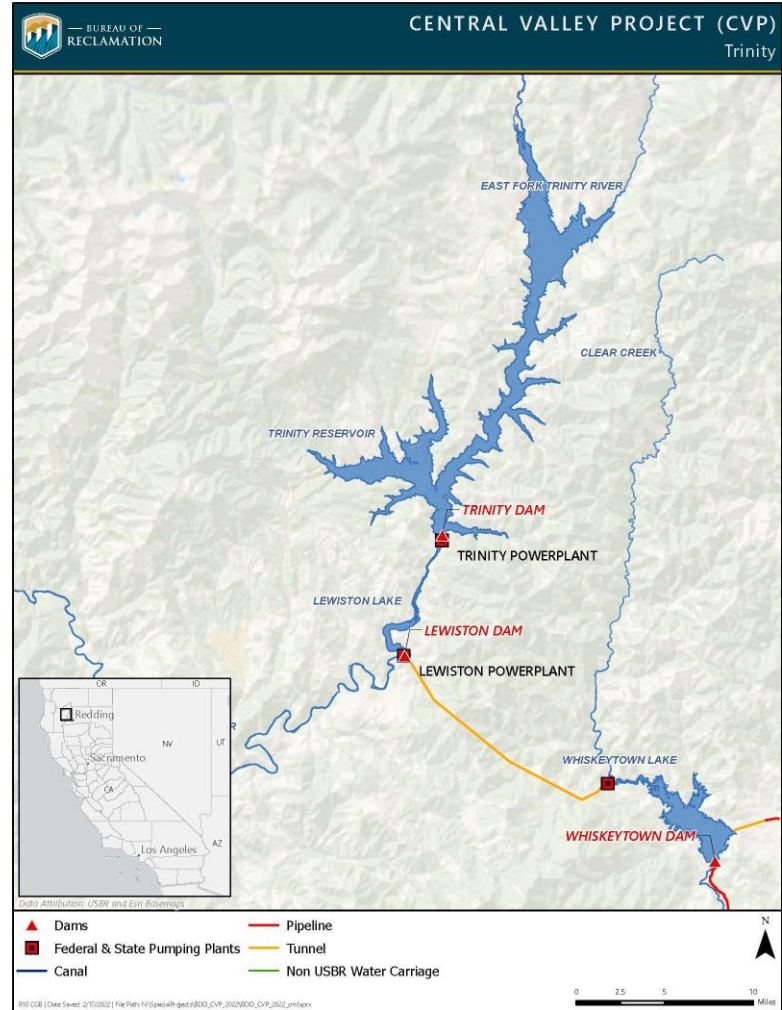
- Trinity River Division
- Shasta and Sacramento River Divisions
- American River Division
- Friant Division
- Eastside Division
- Delta Division



Trinity River Division

Key Facilities

- Trinity Dam
- Lewiston Dam
- Clear Creek Tunnel
- Whiskeytown Dam



Shasta and Sacramento River Divisions

Key Facilities

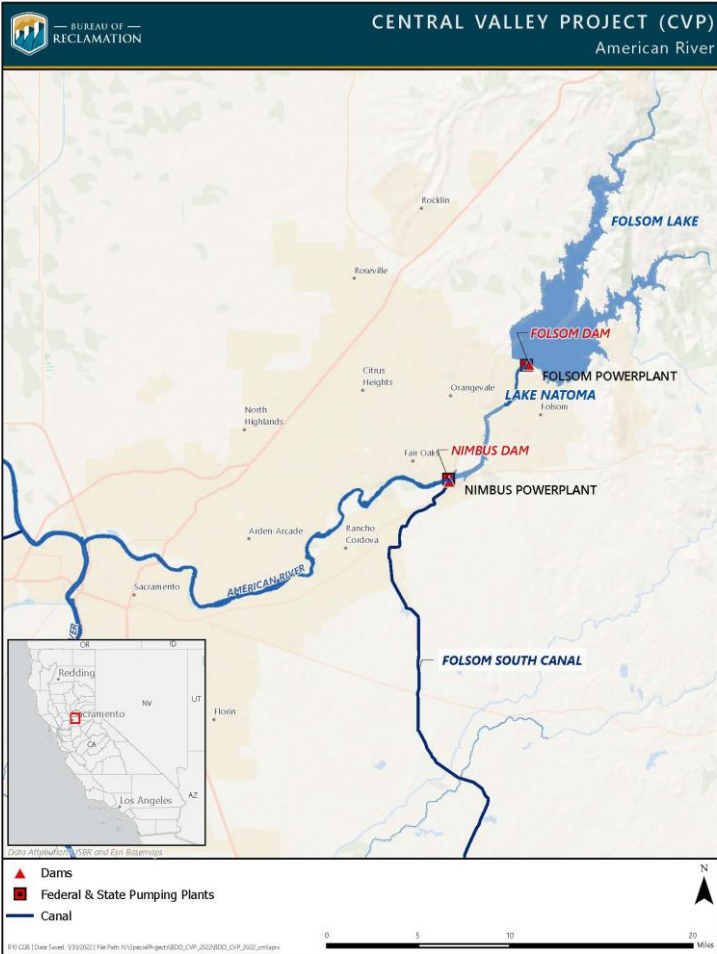
- Shasta Dam
- Keswick Dam
- Red Bluff Pumping Plant



American River Division

Key Facilities

- Folsom Dam
- Nimbus Dam
- Folsom South Canal



Friant Division

Key Facilities

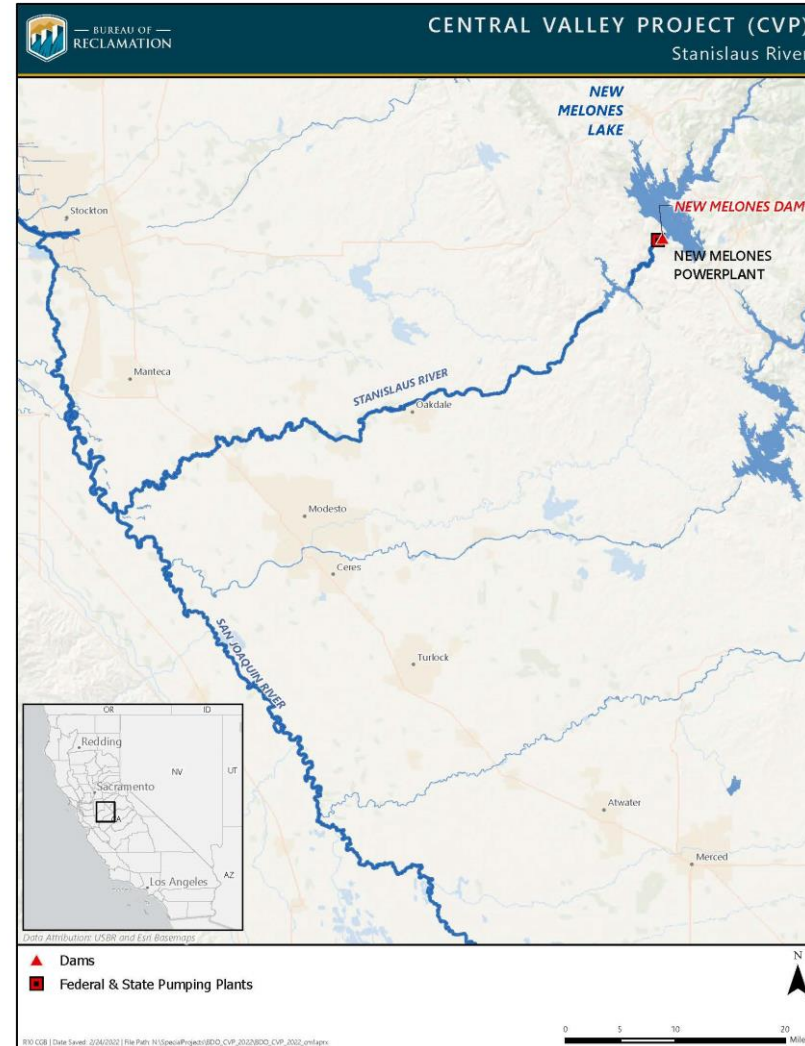
- Friant Dam
- Madera Canal
- Friant-Kern Canal



Eastside Division

Key Facilities

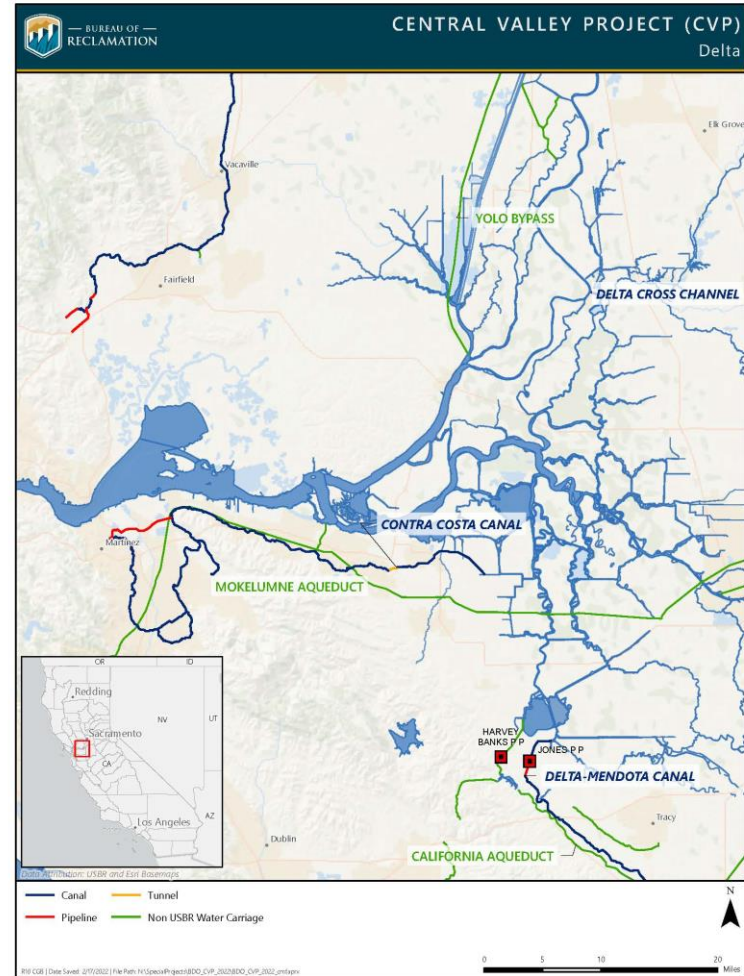
- New Melones Dam



Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta

Key Facilities

- Delta Cross Channel
- Tracy Fish Collection Facility
- Jones Pumping Plant
- Delta Mendota Canal
- San Luis Reservoir
- San Luis Canal



Public Input During the Scoping Process

- Your input will help shape the Environmental Impact Statement
 - What actions should be considered?
 - What environmental issues should be evaluated?
- What happens to comments?
 - Comments will be compiled in a Scoping Report which will be made available to the public on Reclamation's website: www.usbr.gov/mp/bdo
- Comments due March 30, 2022



Timeline

- **Submit additional comments by March 30, 2022, via email or mail:**
Cynthia Meyer
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation Bay-Delta Office
801 I Street, Suite 140, Sacramento, CA 95814-2536
Email: sha-MPR-BDO@usbr.gov
- **Scoping report – anticipated in 2022**
- **Public Draft Environmental Impact Statement – anticipated in 2023**
- **Final Environmental Impact Statement and Record of Decision – anticipated in 2024**



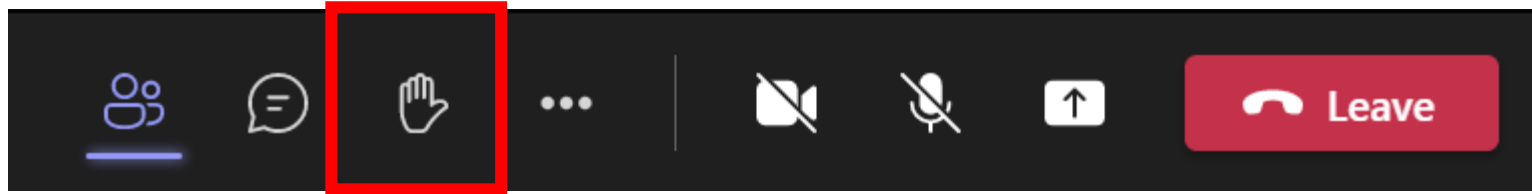
Public Comment Guidelines

- Identify yourself and your affiliation. Please spell out your name for the court reporter
- Honor time limits to ensure everyone's participation
- All comments are recorded
- Meeting materials and project information are posted on our website: www.usbr.gov/mp/bdo



Public Comment Guidelines – cont.

- Online: use the raise hand function



- By phone: press *5 to raise your hand



Thank You!



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Public Input During Scoping

What is Scoping?

The scoping process is an opportunity for the public to identify topics to be covered in the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and provide recommendations to Reclamation. Your input will help Reclamation to identify:

- Significant topics to be analyzed in the EIS.
- Topics that have already been adequately addressed in prior environmental reviews.
- Potential alternatives to develop the reasonable range of alternatives.
- Potential mitigation measures for the proposed action
- People or organizations who are interested in the 2021 Reinitiation of Consultation on the Coordinated Long-Term Operation of the Central Valley Project and State Water Project (2021 ROC on LTO).

How Can I Get Involved?

Reclamation encourages the public to be involved throughout the EIS process for the 2021 ROC on LTO. For this public scoping phase, comments are being accepted through March 30, 2022.

Ways to provide comments:

- Verbal comments at Scoping Meetings
- Mail: Cindy Meyer, Project Manager, Bay-Delta Office, 801 I Street, Suite 140, Sacramento, CA 95814-2536 Email: sha-MPR-BDO@usbr.gov.

For additional information, please visit the [Bay-Delta Office website](#).

What Should I Consider When Developing my Comments?

- What topics are of greatest concern to you and why?
- Are there additional topics that should be evaluated?
- What alternatives or mitigation measures do you think would help to lessen or avoid impacts?

- Can you suggest information resources?

What Issues Might be Addressed in the EIS?

- Water resources, including groundwater, water quality, and climate change
- Land use, including agriculture
- Socioeconomics
- Biological resources, including fish, wildlife, and plant species
- Cultural and historic resources
- Air quality and greenhouse gas emissions
- Soils, geology, and mineral resources
- Visual, scenic, or aesthetic resources
- Transportation
- Recreation
- Indian Trust Assets
- Environmental justice

2021 ROC on LTO Scoping Meetings, March 2022, Frequently Asked Questions

Submitting Comments

- How can I submit a comment?
 - If on Microsoft Teams, use the “hand raise” function to get into the queue to provide a comment. Commenters will be called upon and will have a chance to verbally state your comment, which will be captured by the court reporter.
 - If on the telephone, use the “hand raise” function by pressing *5 when directed to. This will get you into the queue to provide a comment. A Reclamation representative will call on you to verbally state your comment, which will be captured by the court reporter.
 - Mail comments to Cindy Myer, Project Manager, Bay-Delta Office, 801 I Street, Suite 140, Sacramento, CA 95814-2536
 - Email comments to sha-MPR-BDO@usbr.gov.
- What sort of input are you looking for?
 - Alternative ideas
 - Scope ideas
 - Issues you have with the existing operations of the CVP / SWP - areas to focus on for the 2021 ROC on LTO
 - Concerns Reclamation or DWR should be aware of

NEPA/ESA Topics

- What is NEPA? ○ National Environmental Policy Act, the federal law that requires federal agencies to disclose the environmental effects of their action
- What is a No Action Alternative (NEPA)? ○ The alternative without the project, that is compared to all of the alternatives (with the project).
- What is an alternative (NEPA)? ○ A way to operate the CVP and SWP that meets Reclamation’s purpose and need
- What is a purpose and need (NEPA)? ○ A formal statement that determines why Reclamation is doing the project. All alternatives must address the purpose and need.
- Why is Reclamation doing NEPA on the operation of the CVP and SWP?
- NEPA is required when a federal action is taken that may have impacts on the human and natural environment. Federal actions are those that require Federal funding, permits, policy

decisions, facilities, equipment, or employees. In this case, coordinated operation of the CVP and SWP is a major federal action.

- What is the ESA?
 - Endangered Species Act, passed in 1973, requires federal agencies to conserve endangered species
- What is reinitiation (ESA)? Why is Reclamation doing it?
 - Reinitiation is re-doing the Endangered Species Act Section 7 consultation process for the operation of the CVP and SWP. Reclamation after coordination with DWR and the Federal and state fishery agencies, reinitiated due to anticipated modifications to the previous Proposed Action that may cause effects to ESA-listed species or designated critical habitat not analyzed in the current 2019 Biological Opinions. Modifications to the Proposed Action would address the review of the 2019 Biological Opinions required by Executive Order 13990 Protecting Public Health and the Environment and Restoring Science to Tackle the Climate Crisis, and voluntarily reconcile CVP operating criteria with requirements of the SWP under the California Endangered Species Act.
- Is this about Delta Smelt?
 - For ESA, we consider all of the endangered or threatened species and the CVP / SWP operation's effects on them. This includes the Delta Smelt, Winter-run Chinook salmon, Spring-run Chinook salmon, Green Sturgeon, and several terrestrial species.
- Did Reclamation recently complete an EIS on the Coordinated Long-term Operation of the CVP & SWP?
 - Yes, we signed a Record of Decision in 2020. However, in September 2021, Reclamation, after coordination with DWR and the Federal and state fishery agencies, reinitiated consultation due to anticipated modifications to the previous Proposed Action that may cause effects to ESA-listed species or designated critical habitat not analyzed in the current 2019 Biological Opinions, as well to meet Executive Order 13990 and voluntarily reconcile CVP operating criteria with requirements of the SWP under the California Endangered Species Act.
- How can Reclamation do NEPA and ESA at the same time?
 - Reclamation will slightly lead with ESA, and will continue with NEPA in order to aid in the alternatives development. Your early input is appreciated. The NEPA and ESA processes will inform each other
- What is the difference between the No Action Alternative and the environmental baseline?
 - The No Action Alternative is the NEPA term for the current management of the project without the Proposed Action. The environmental baseline is the ESA term for the without-project condition, which must include the past and present impacts of all projects from federal, state, or local agencies with completed ESA consultation.

- What is the No Action Alternative for the EIS?
 - Under the No Action Alternative, Reclamation would continue to operate as described under the USFWS and NMFS 2019 biological opinions and 2020 Record of Decision.
- How can Reclamation and DWR be doing separate NEPA/CEQA documents for the same project?
 - While we often do joint documents, each agency is responsible for its own compliance and DWR determined to do a separate document for its CEQA compliance.
- What is the EIS process (NEPA)?
 - An agency publishes a Notice of Intent in the Federal Register, which informs the public of upcoming environmental analysis and how they can be involved. This starts the scoping process which is the period where the public and the federal agency can define the range of issues and alternatives to be addressed in the EIS. A draft EIS is developed and published for public review and comment for 45 days. The agency considers substantive comments and conducts further analysis if necessary. A final EIS is then developed and published, and the agency must wait 30 days before making a final decision on the proposed action. The EIS process then ends with a Record of Decision.
- How does Reclamation get to a Record of Decision and what does it include (NEPA)?
 - Reclamation follows the EIS process described above. The Record of Decision will explain the agency's decision, describe the alternatives the agency considered, and discuss the agency's plans for mitigation and monitoring if necessary.
- What opportunities will the public have to provide input during the EIS process (NEPA)?
 - The public will have the opportunity to provide comments during the initial scoping phase and during the public review period for the draft EIS.

2021 ROC on LTO Scope

- What will the ROC on LTO cover?
 - Operations and habitat restoration across the CVP and SWP service areas.
- Is this related to California WaterFix/Bay-Delta Conservation Plan/Tunnels?
 - California WaterFix and the 2021 ROC on LTO will undergo their own respective ESA consultation process.
- Is Friant included?
 - Yes, to the extent they are not already covered by other NEPA/ESA documents, Friant is included in the current scoping phase.

- Is Trinity included?
 - Yes, Trinity is included in the current scoping phase.
- Will climate change be addressed?
 - Yes, climate change will be addressed. We will have multiple scenarios with different climate change effects to account for the uncertainty in the extent of the effects.
- Is Reclamation looking to support ESA- listed species?
 - As stated in our draft purpose and need, we are trying to operate the CVP and SWP according to federal, state, and local laws, satisfy our contractual agreements, and implement authorized fish and wildlife project purposes. We also want to obtain a non-jeopardy Biological Opinion. This will require balancing the water supply and fish needs of the system.