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Clean Water • Healthy Environment • Flood Protection

Pacheco Reservoir Expansion Project

Draft Environmental Impact Report – Virtual Public Meeting
January 13, 2022

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California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Process and Meeting Purpose

California Environmental Quality Act Process

Ongoing Agency & Public Input

- Initial Study
- Notice of Preparation
- Initial Public & Agency Comment Period
- Public & Agency Scoping Meeting/ Additional Public & Agency Comment Period
- Draft Environmental Impact Report
- **45-Day (minimum) Public Comment Period/Public Meeting**
- Final Environmental Impact Report (EIR)
- Final Environmental Impact Report Certification
- Notice of Determination

- Consider scoping comments received
- Identify Alternatives
- Describe Baseline Conditions
- Identify Potential Effects
- Determine Significance
- Develop Mitigation Measures

- Prepare Responses to Public Comment
- Revise Draft EIR as Necessary
- Finalize Mitigation Measures

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Pictured above: Pacheco Creek below Existing North Fork Dam

Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) Public Meeting Purpose

- Provide an overview of the Pacheco Reservoir Expansion Project (Project) Draft EIR
- Provide methods for submitting written comments on the Draft EIR
- Provide opportunities for questions and clarifications on the Project and CEQA process

Key EIR Dates

2017

Notice of Preparation/Initial Study

Release: August 7, 2017
Comment period closed: October 5, 2017
(following extension of comment period)

Early 2021

Additional Scoping Period

Re-opened: February 8, 2021
Scoping meetings: February 24 & 25, 2021
Comment period closed: March 12, 2021

Late 2021 – Early 2022

Draft EIR

Release: November 17, 2021
Public meeting: January 13, 2022
Comments due: February 15, 2022

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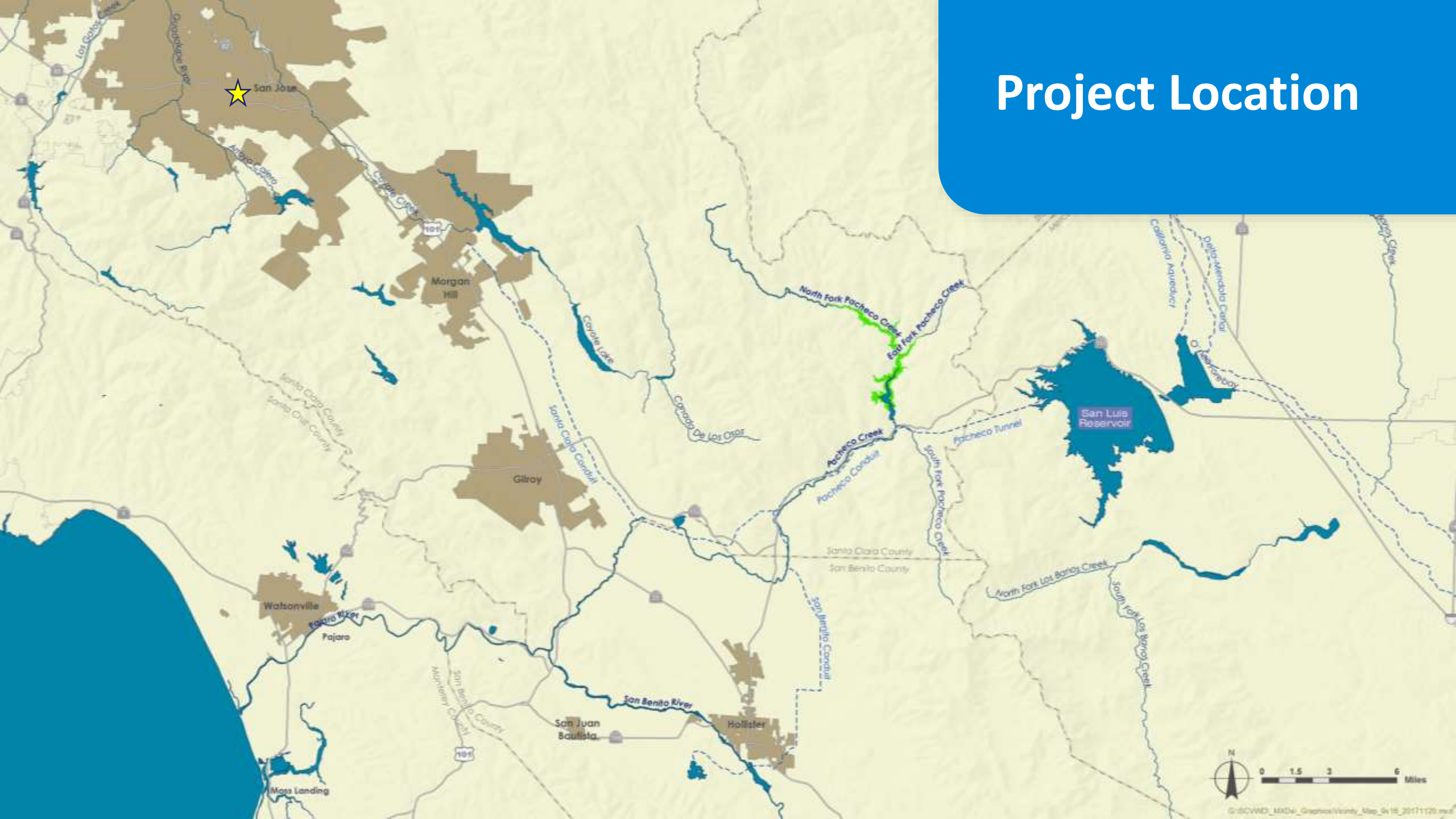
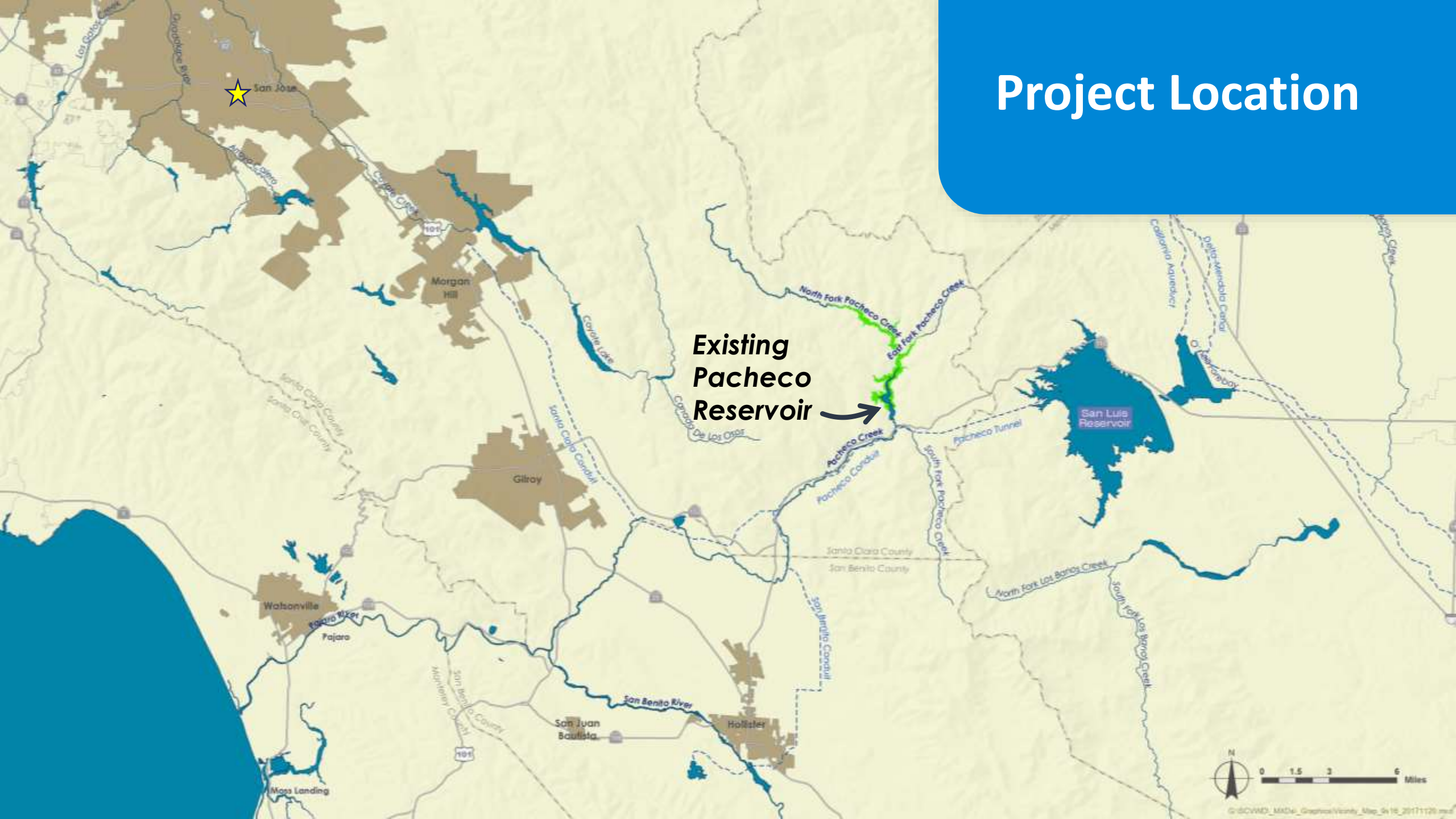
Background

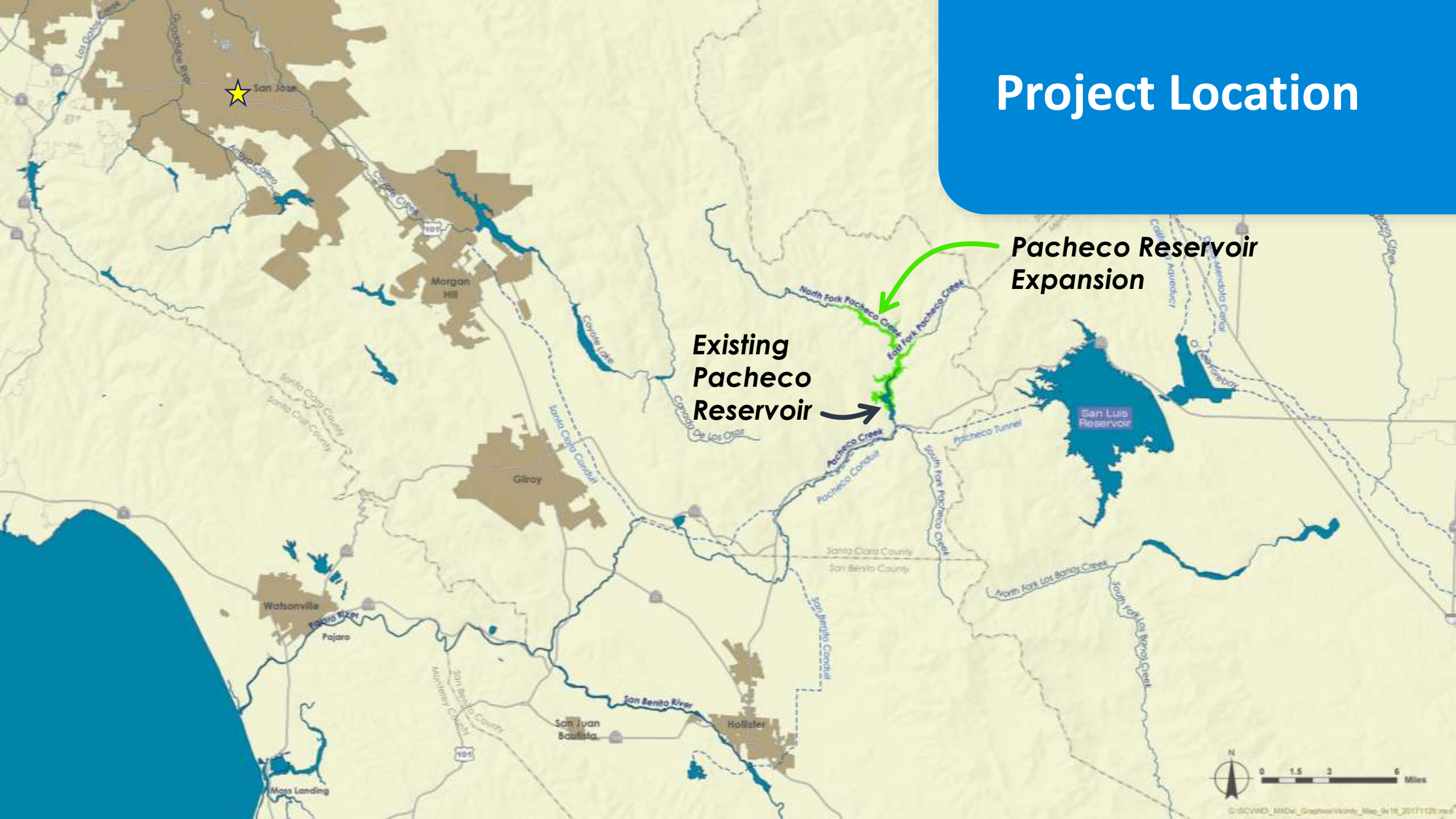
Project Location



Project Location



Project Location



Existing North Fork Dam and Pacheco Reservoir

Dam

- 100-foot-tall earthen embankment dam
- 0.4 miles upstream of North Fork Pacheco Creek and South Fork Pacheco Creek confluence
- Construction completed in 1939

Reservoir

- Current capacity: 5,500 acre-feet
- Operated for groundwater recharge along Pacheco Creek by Pacheco Pass Water District

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Planning Objectives

Needs for Pacheco Reservoir Expansion Project

Improve Resiliency and Emergency Water Supply

45% of water supply imported from Delta; **66%** chance of Delta earthquake in next 50 years

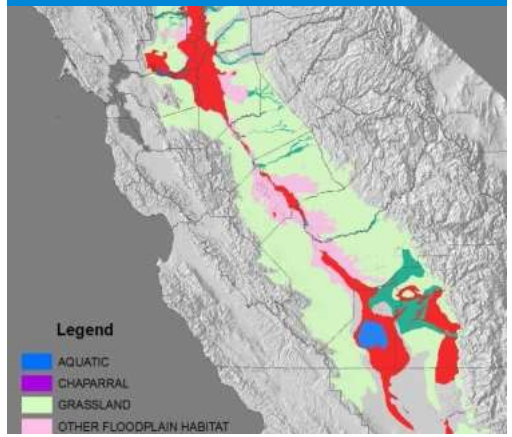
Restore Federally Threatened Steelhead Fish Habitat

90% population decline in Pajaro watershed from 1960s to 1990s

Avoid Water Quality Issues from San Luis Reservoir

Water quality issues during summer months in **57%** of years

Improve Delta Watershed Wetlands



90% of Delta watershed wetlands have disappeared

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Project Objectives

Primary Objectives

- Increase municipal and industrial and agricultural water supply reliability including emergency response
- Increase suitable habitat in Pacheco Creek for federally threatened South-Central California Coast steelhead

Secondary Objectives

- Improve drinking water quality and minimize supply interruptions from San Luis Reservoir
- Increase water supplies for Incremental Level 4 wildlife refuges

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Proposed Project and Alternatives

Pictured above: Existing Pacheco Reservoir

Proposed Project and Alternatives Overview

Six alternatives are assessed:

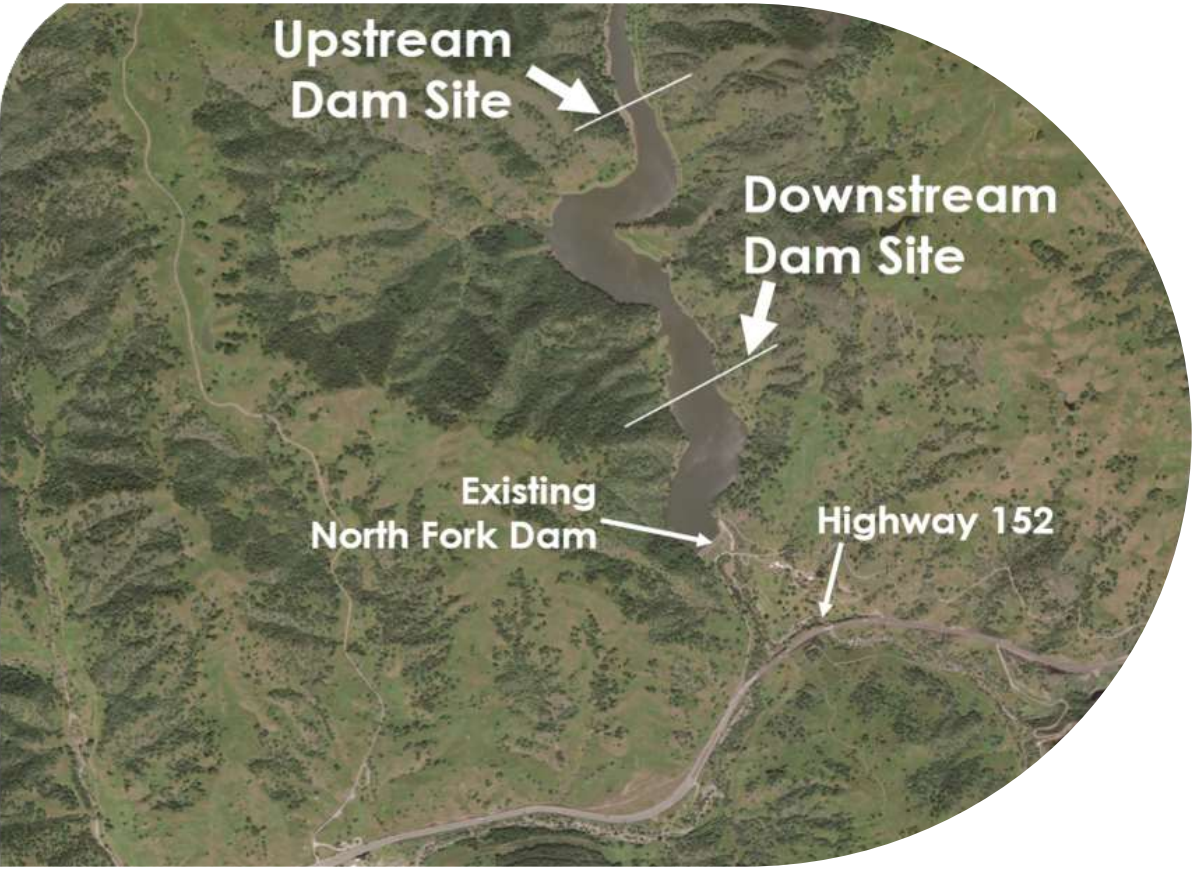
- Proposed Project
- Alternatives A, B, C and D
- No Project Alternative

Pictured above: Pacheco Creek at Cedar Creek Confluence

Common Project Components

Proposed Project and Alternatives A through D each include:

- Facilities
- Construction
- Operations and Maintenance
- Design and Implementation Features
  - Valley Water Best Management Practices (BMP)
  - Project-Specific Avoidance and Minimization Measures (PAMM)



Pictured above: Proposed Upstream and Downstream Dam Sites of Pacheco Reservoir

Key Variations Between Alternatives

Facilities

- Dam Site Location
  - Upstream & Downstream
- Reservoir Size
  - 140,000 acre-feet & 96,000 acre-feet
- Dam Type
  - Hardfill & Earthfill
- State Route 152 Access Improvements
  - Overpass (temporary and permanent) & At-grade Crossings (temporary)

Long-Term Operations

- Target Flows in Pacheco Creek
  - Variable Flow Schedule & Fixed Flow Schedule
- Participation by San Benito County Water District
  - 0% & 10% participation levels

Proposed Project and Alternatives

Alternative	Facilities				Long-Term Operations	
	Dam Site Location	Expanded Reservoir Size	Dam Type	SR 152 Access Improvements	Pacheco Creek Target Flows	SBCWD Participation
Proposed Project	Upstream	140 TAF	Hardfill	Permanent tight diamond interchange	Variable	10%
Alternative A	Upstream	140 TAF	Earthfill	Temporary overcrossing	Fixed	0%
Alternative B	Upstream	96 TAF	Earthfill	Temporary at-grade intersection with traffic signal and roundabout	Fixed	0%
Alternative C	Downstream	140 TAF	Hardfill	Temporary at-grade intersection with traffic signal and widening of SR 152	Variable	10%
Alternative D	Downstream	140 TAF	Earthfill	Permanent tight diamond interchange	Fixed	0%

Key:
AF = acre-feet
CEQA = California Environmental Quality Act
SBCWD = San Benito County Water District
SR = State Route
TAF = thousand acre-feet

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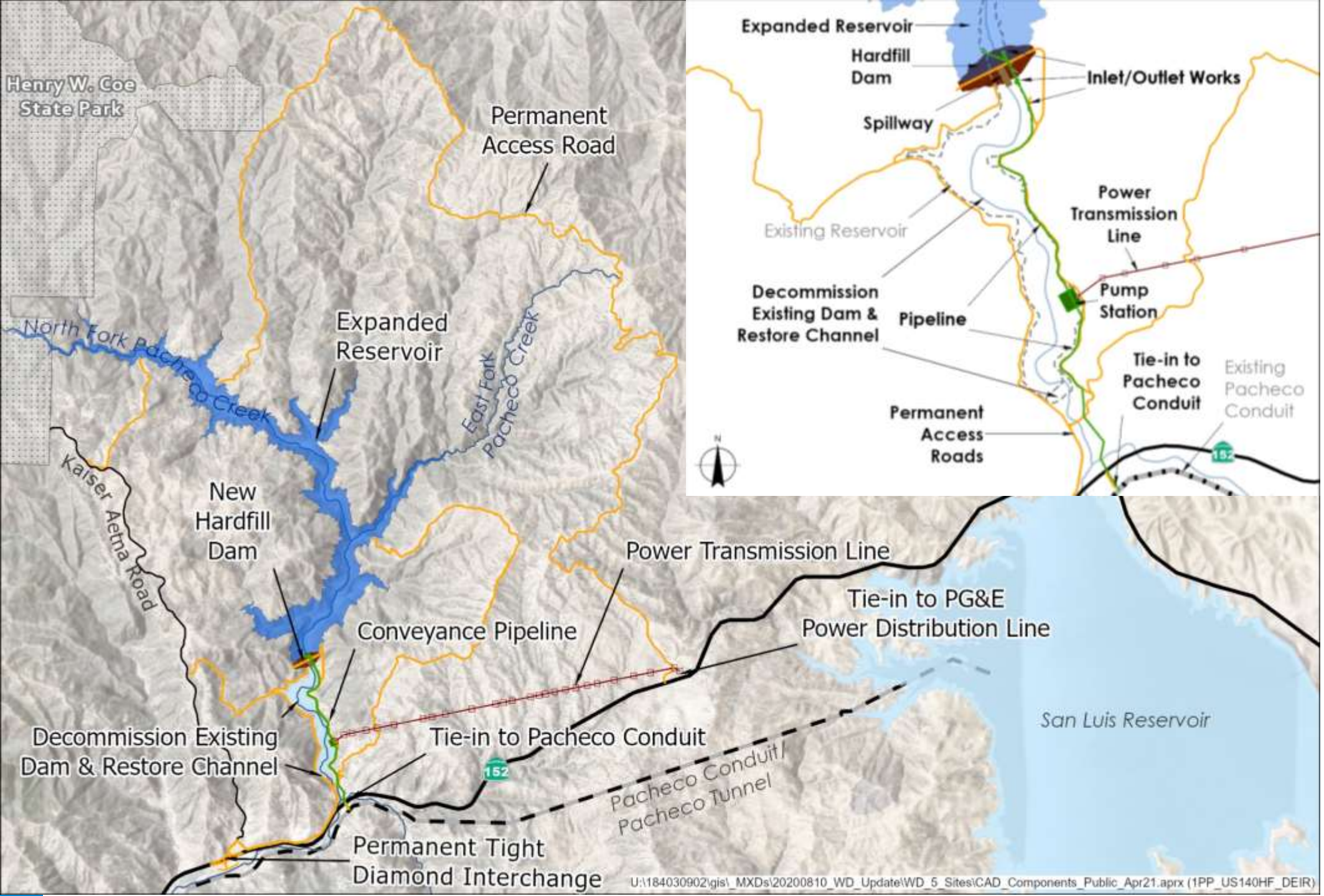
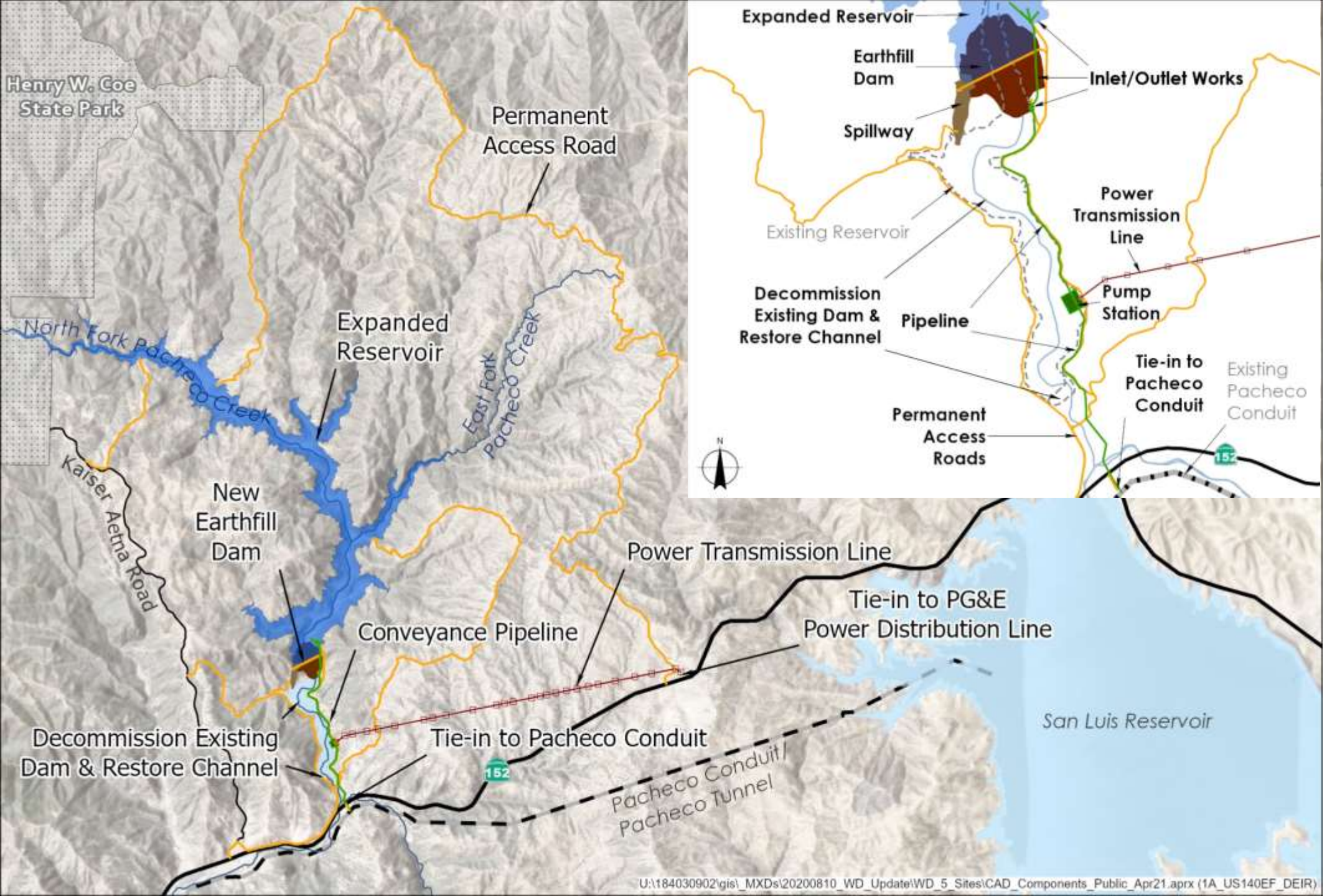


Proposed Project

Upstream Hardfill Dam 140, 000 acre-feet Reservoir

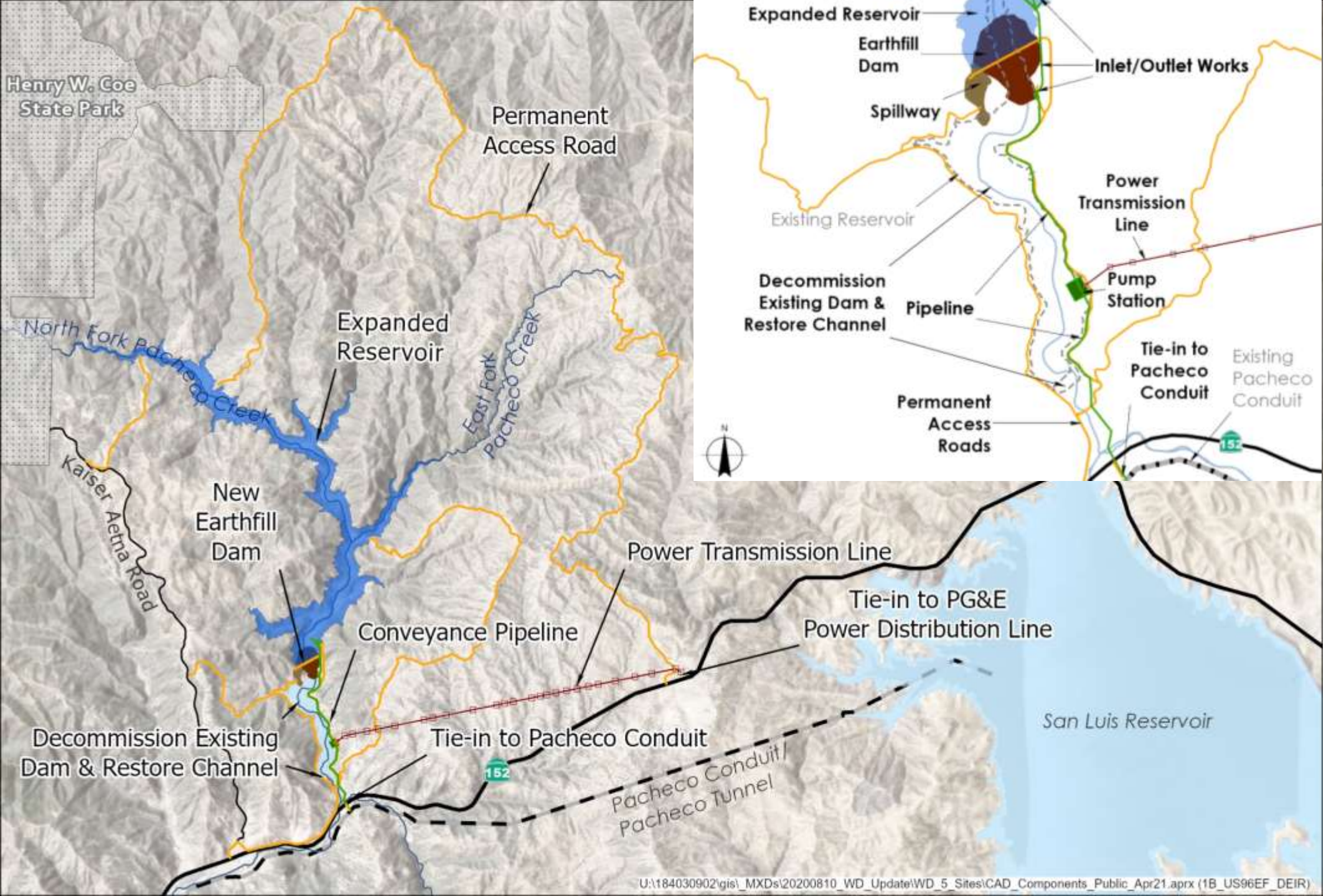
Alternative A

Upstream Earthfill Dam 140, 000 acre-feet Reservoir



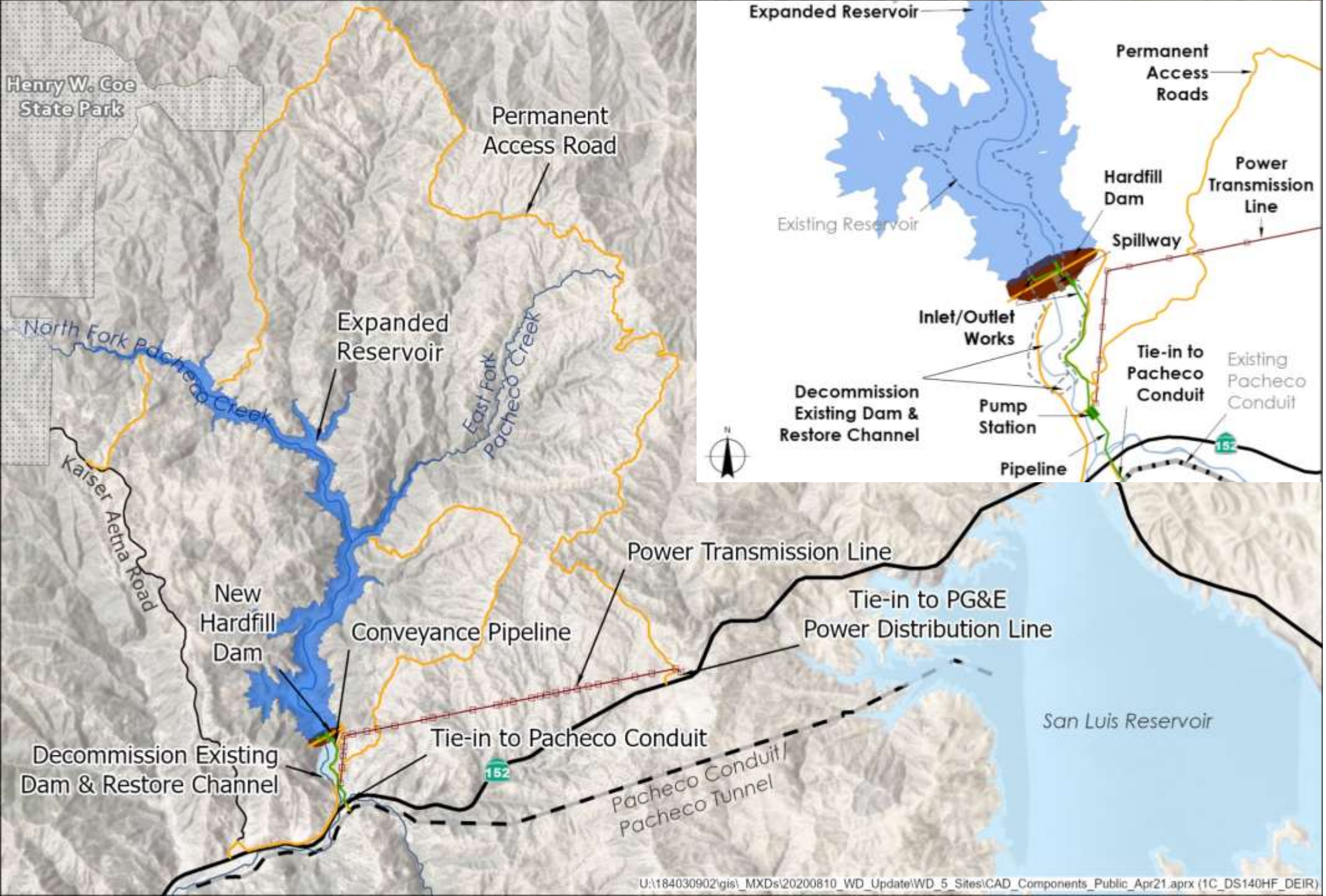
Alternative B

Upstream Earthfill Dam 96,000 acre-feet Reservoir



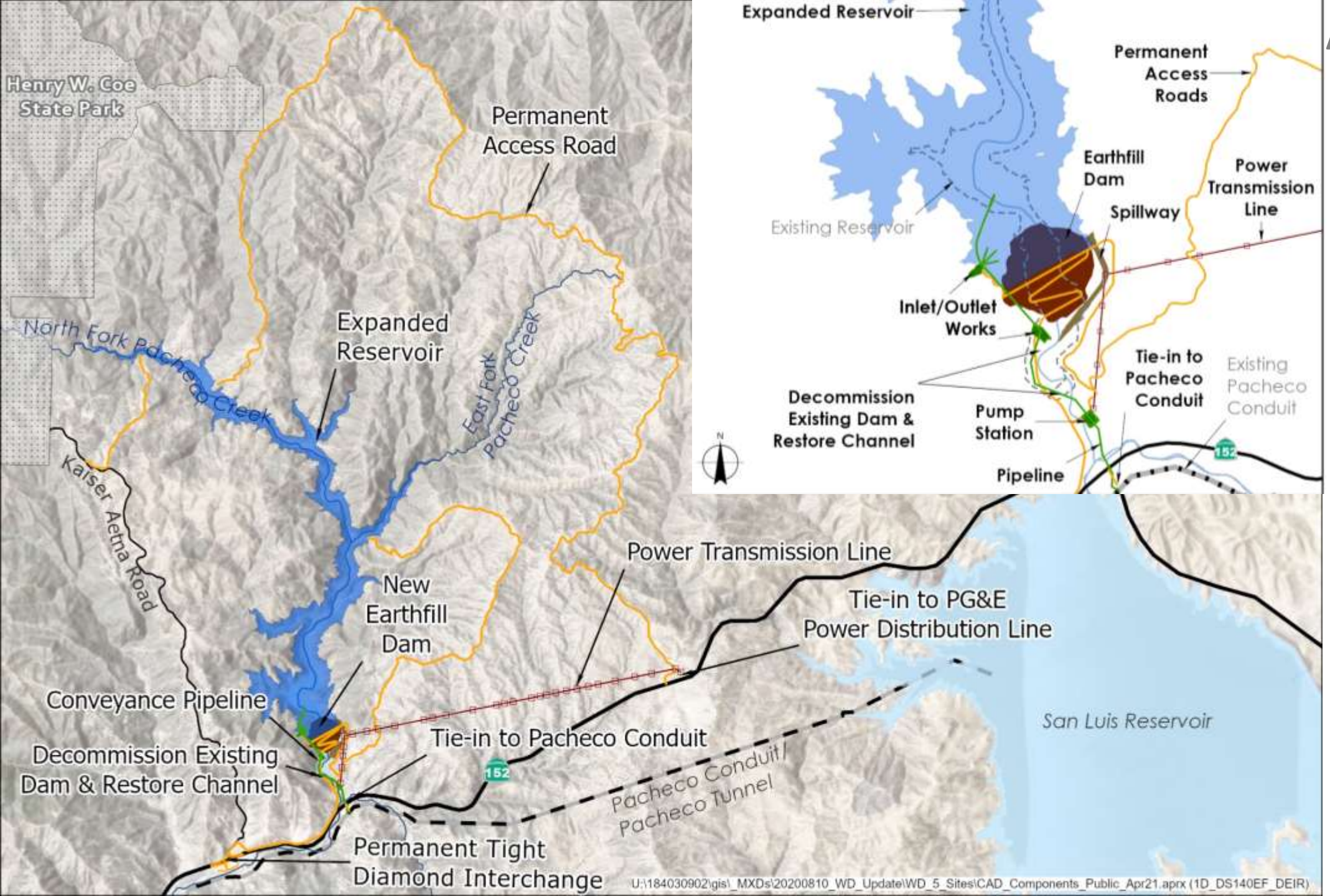
Alternative C

Downstream Hardfill Dam 140, 000 acre-feet Reservoir



Alternative D

Downstream Earthfill Dam 140, 000 acre-feet Reservoir



Draft EIR Contents

Draft EIR Main Body Outline

- Executive Summary
- Chapter 1. Introduction
- Chapter 2. Project Description and Alternatives to the Proposed Project
- Chapter 3. Environmental Setting, Impacts, and Mitigation
  - Note: Twenty resources areas are evaluated in this chapter
- Chapter 4. Other CEQA Considerations
- Chapter 5. References
- Chapter 6. List of Preparers

Draft EIR Appendices Outline

- Public and Agency Scoping Process Appendix
- Alternatives Development and Project Description Appendix
- Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Emissions Appendix
- Biological Resources – Botanical/Wildlife Appendix
- Cultural Resources and Tribal Cultural Resources (Confidential)
- Hazards and Hazardous Materials Appendix
- Noise Appendix
- Transportation Appendix

Pictured above: Pacheco Creek at Cedar Creek Confluence

Physical Environment *(EIR Section)*

- *Aesthetics (3.2)*
- *Agriculture and Forestry Resources (3.3)*
- *Air Quality (3.4)*
- *Energy (3.8)*
- *Geology, Soils, Mineral Resources, and Paleontological Resources (3.9)*
- *Greenhouse Gas Emissions (3.10)*
- *Hazards and Hazardous Materials (3.11)*
- *Hydrology and Water Management (3.12)*
- *Water Quality (3.20)*
- *Wildfire (3.21)*

Pictured above: Existing Pacheco Reservoir

Biological Resources

- *Botanical/Wildlife (3.5)*
- *Fisheries (3.6)*

Pictured above: Agricultural Fields/Vineyards Adjacent to Pacheco Creek

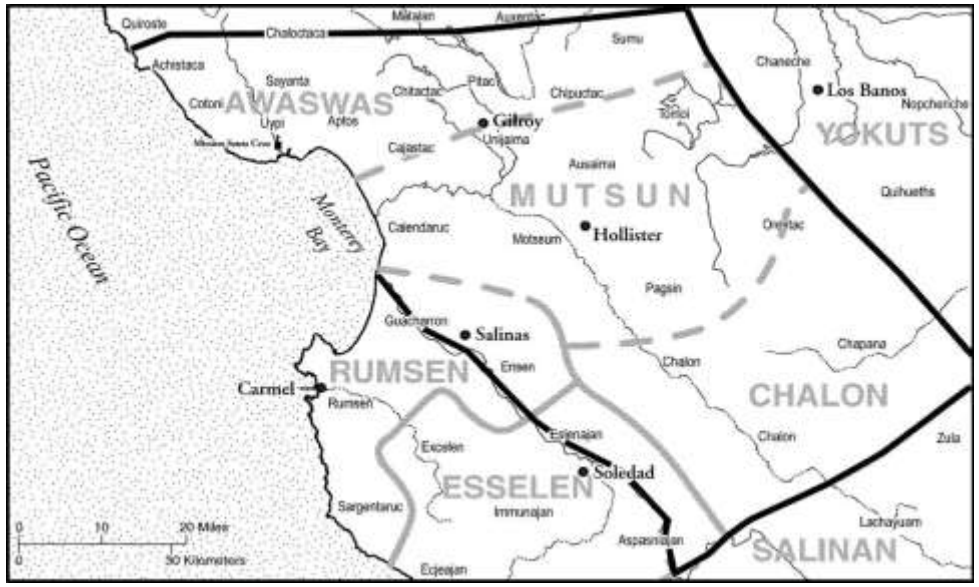
Human Environment

- *Land Use and Planning (3.13)*
- *Noise (3.14)*
- *Population and Housing (3.15)*
- *Public Services (3.16)*
- *Recreation (3.17)*
- *Transportation (3.18)*
- *Utilities and Service Systems (3.19)*

Pictured above: Upstream of Existing North Fork Dam

Cultural Resources and Tribal Cultural Resources

- *Cultural Resources and Tribal Cultural Resources (3.7)*



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Impact Evaluations and Considerations

Pictured above: Existing Pacheco Reservoir inundation area

Draft EIR Impact Analysis Overview

Types of Impacts

- Beneficial
- No impact
- Less than significant
- Less than significant with mitigation
- Significant and unavoidable

Draft EIR Impact Analysis Overview

Mitigation Measures

- Developed to avoid or reduce the significant environmental impacts associated with the Proposed Project and Project alternatives
- Feasible mitigation measures were developed for:
  - Aesthetics
  - Air Quality
  - Biological Resources: Botanical/Wildlife
  - Cultural Resources
  - Tribal Cultural Resources
  - Geology
  - Greenhouse Gas Emissions
  - Noise
  - Recreation
  - Water Quality
  - Wildfire

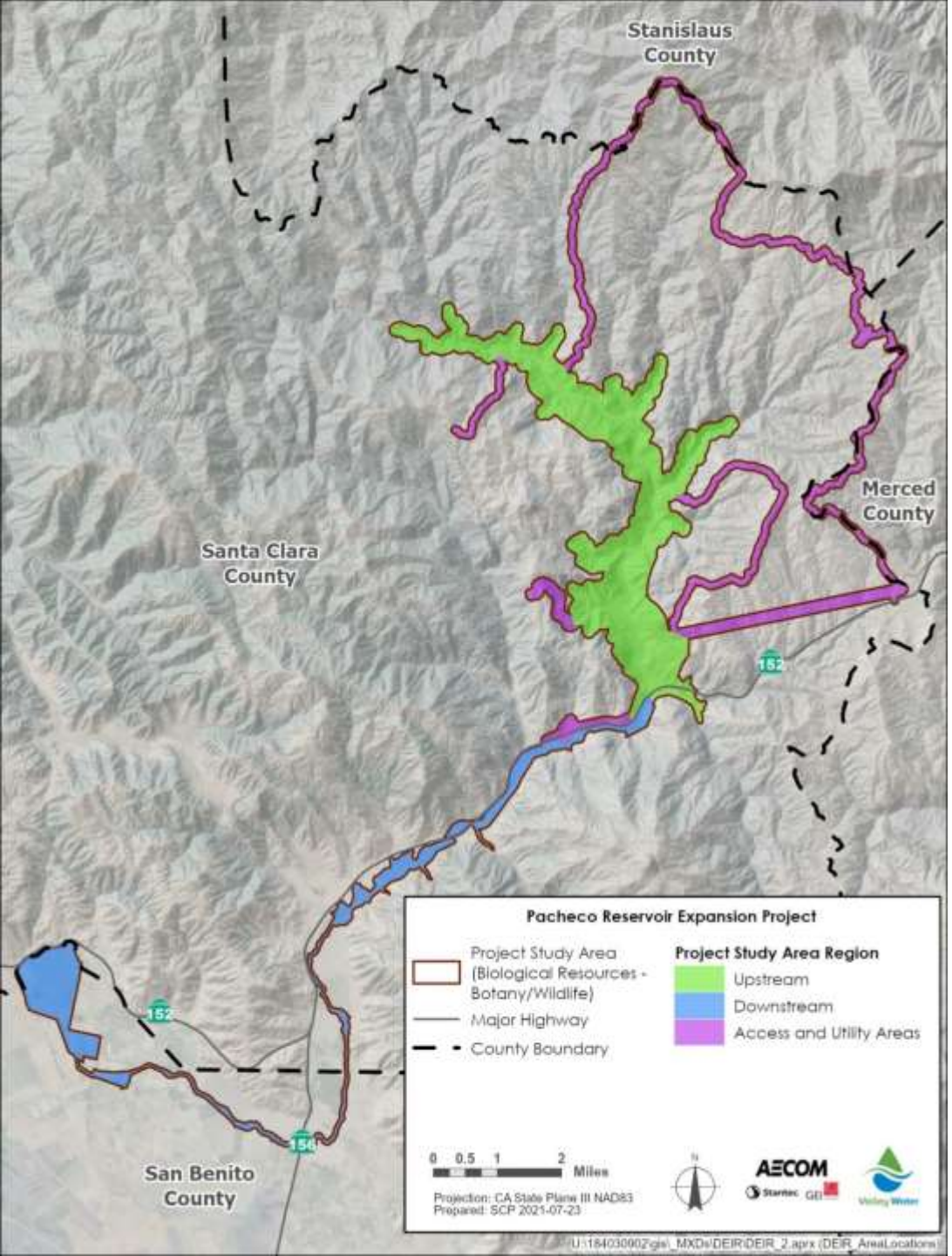
Key Draft EIR Impact Analysis Considerations

Level of Detail

- The Proposed Project and Alternatives A through D were all evaluated at a similar level of detail

Impact Evaluations Related to Water Operations

- The Proposed Project and Alternatives A through D were compared to both the existing conditions baseline (2017) and future conditions baseline (2030)
    - For **existing conditions**, a 2017 level of development is assumed with a simulation period that reflects the **historical hydrology** of 1922–2003
    - For **future conditions**, a 2030 level of development used a simulation period of historical hydrology from 1922–2003 perturbed by **projected climate change** for a 30-year period centered at 2030



Location of Impacts

Project Study Area:

- Defined for each of the twenty resource areas in consideration of impacts from construction and long-term operations and maintenance
- Varies amongst resource areas

Example: Biological Resources: Botanical/Wildlife Project Study Area

- *Upstream (primary construction areas, new reservoir inundation areas, channel restoration areas)*
- *Access and Utility Areas (additional construction areas for roads and power lines)*
- *Downstream (no construction activities but changes in stream flows and temperatures)*

Duration of Impacts

Pictured above: Earthfill Dam Construction in Bay Area

Temporary

- Occurs during construction

Short-term

- Occurs during construction and could last from the time construction ceases to within three to five years after construction

Long-Term

- Longer than five years after the completion of construction
- In some cases, a long-term impact could be a permanent impact (e.g., impact that is long-term but does not change over time)

Comment Process on Draft EIR

How to Comment on the Draft EIR

Access to full e-version documents:
https://www.valleywater.org/project-updates/a1-pacheco-reservoir-expansion-project

Email written comments to:
PachecoExpansion@valleywater.org

Mail written letters to:
Todd Sexauer, Senior Environmental Planner
Santa Clara Valley Water District
5750 Almaden Expressway
San Jose, CA 95118

We invite you to provide your contact information:

- ❑ **Name**
- ❑ **Affiliation/job title, if applicable**
- ❑ **Email address**
- ❑ **Mailing address**
- ❑ **Contact number**

Comments will be most helpful if they focus on significant environmental impacts of the Proposed Project or alternatives, and feasible ways to mitigate them.

Draft EIR Comments Due: February 15, 2022

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Additional Information

https://www.valleywater.org/pachecoexpansion

Questions?
Email: PachecoExpansion@valleywater.org

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Pictured above: Existing North Fork Dam and Pacheco Reservoir

Public Questions for This Meeting

- Questions about the **Project**
- Questions about the **CEQA process**

Draft EIR Written Comments Due: February 15, 2022