

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

West False River Drought Salinity Barrier Project

CEQA Environmental Impact Report – Public Scoping Meeting

March 9, 2022



Robert Trang, Project Manager

Agenda

- Purpose of Meeting
- Drought Conditions Summary
- CEQA Project Overview
- Project Location and Design
- Need and Benefit
- CEQA Process
- Anticipated CEQA Schedule
- Public Comments

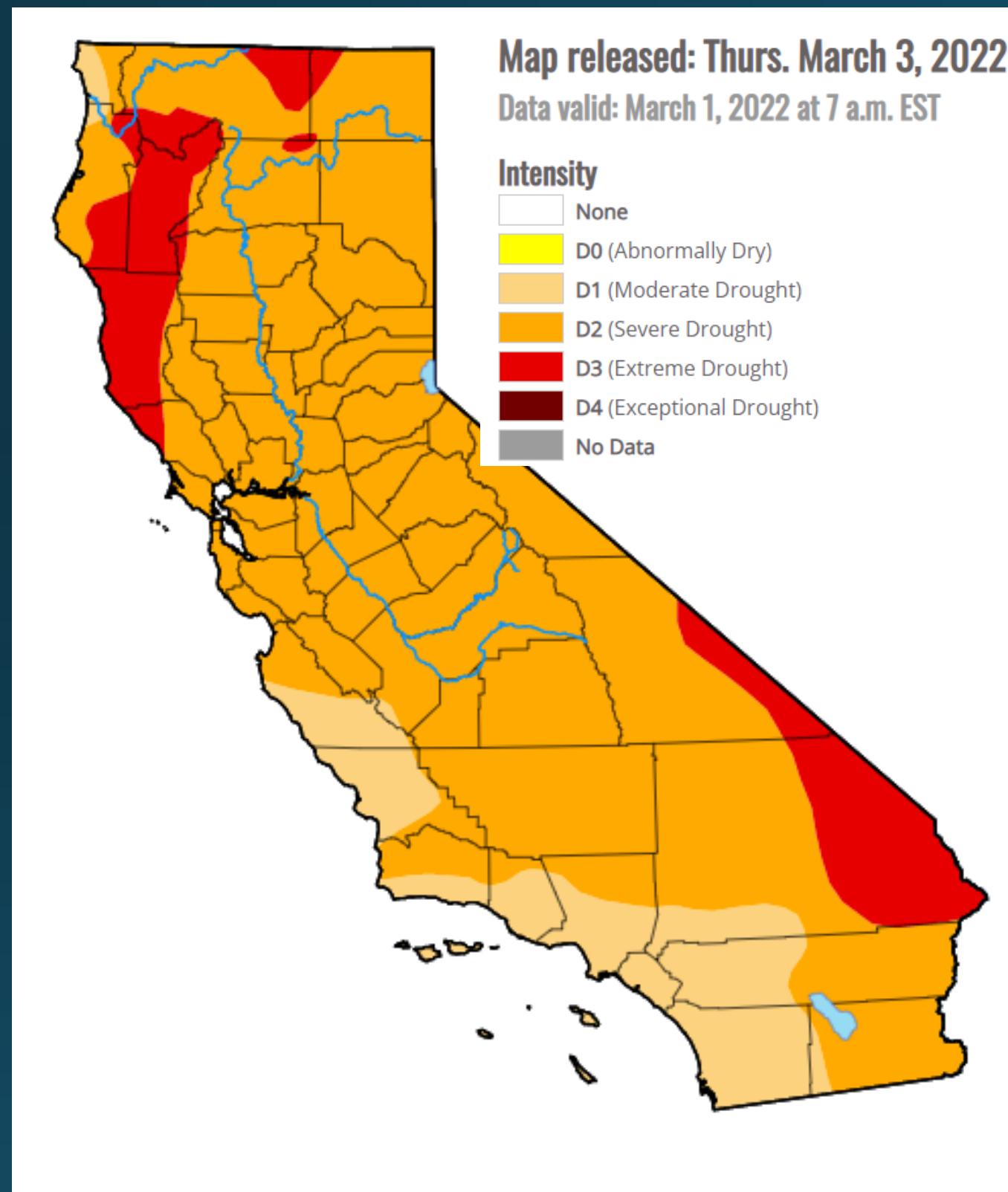


Purpose of Meeting

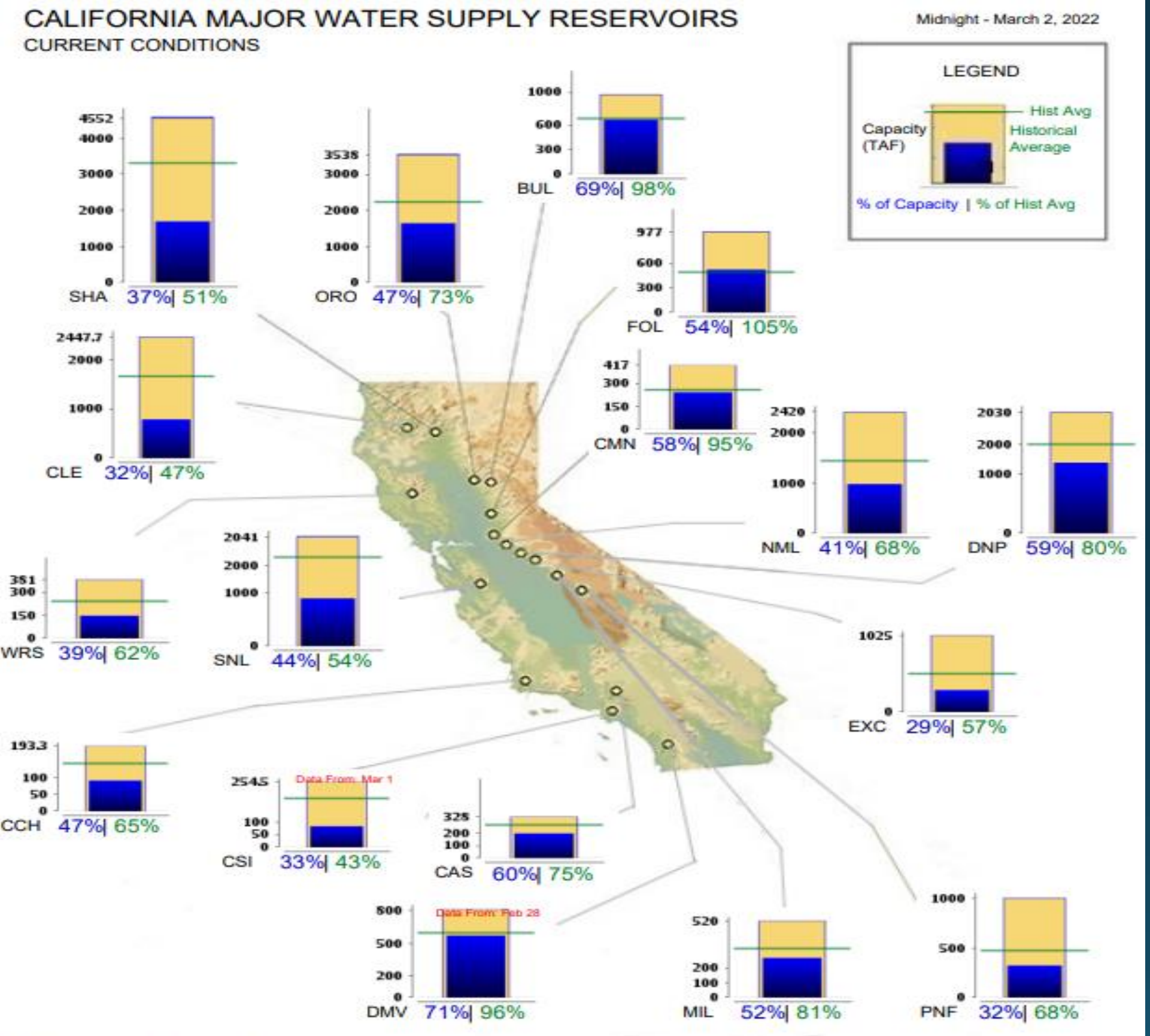
- Receive public and agency input on scope and content of the Draft Environmental Impact Report (Draft EIR)
- DWR will consider comments received in preparing the Draft EIR
- Input can be provided by:
 - Verbal comment during the scoping meeting
 - Mail
 - E-mail



Drought Conditions



CURRENT RESERVOIR CONDITIONS



Updated 03/03/2022 08:48 AM



CEQA Project Overview

Install temporary West False River drought salinity barrier up to two times over 10 years (2023-2032), including consecutive years, should drought conditions occur

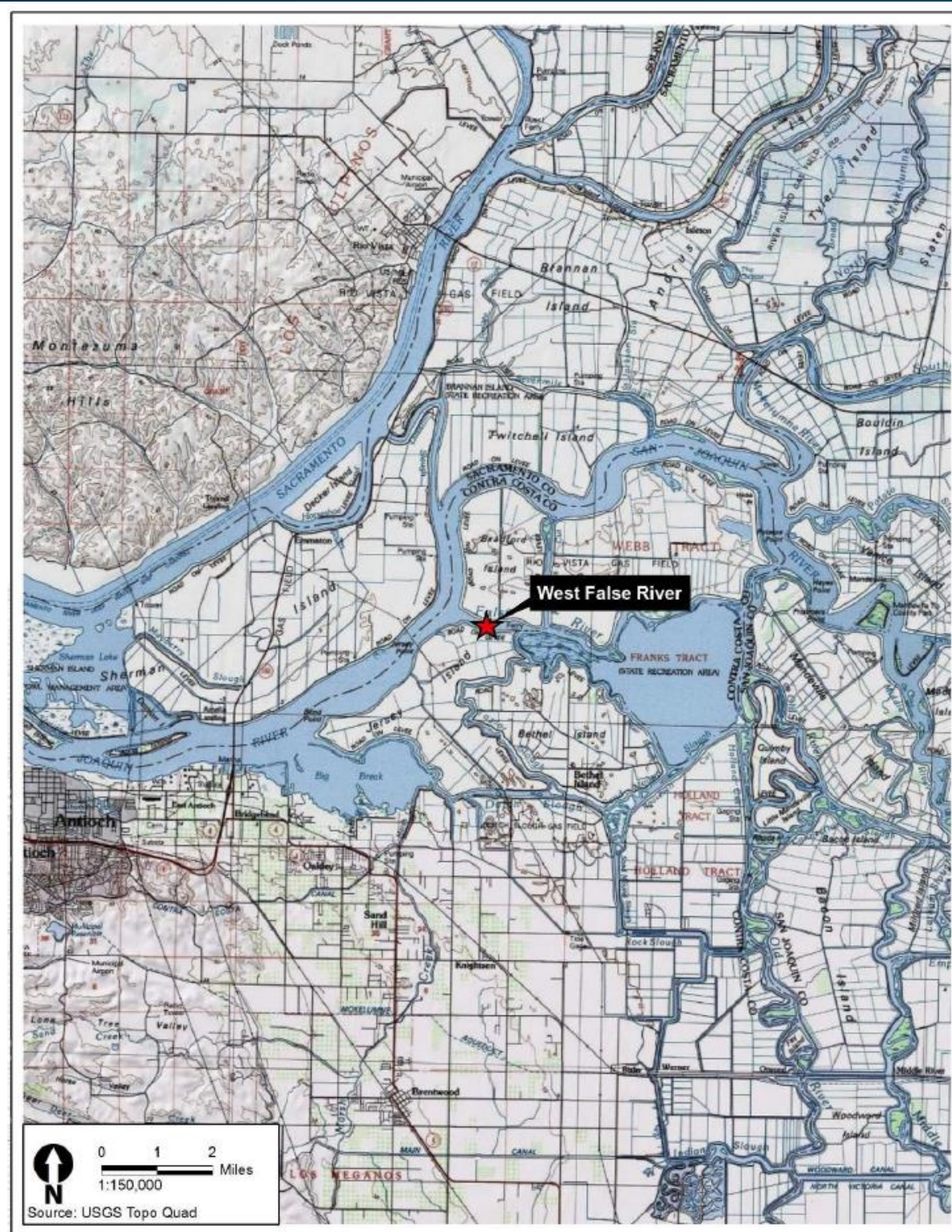
- Install no sooner than April 1 and remove by November 30 the same year or the following year
- Possibility to construct a notch in the middle portion of the barrier in January after the second installation year and refill the notch as early as the first week of April
- Transport of rock from a quarry in Marin County or from DWR stockpile sites in Rio Vista or in Stockton to the West False River barrier location in Contra Costa County
- Includes installation of three new water quality monitoring stations in Woodward Cut and Railroad Cut in San Joaquin County

Why up to two installations in 10 years?

- Potential effects after 10 years are speculative
- Consistent with federal permitting durations
- To better respond to severe drought



Project Location



Legend

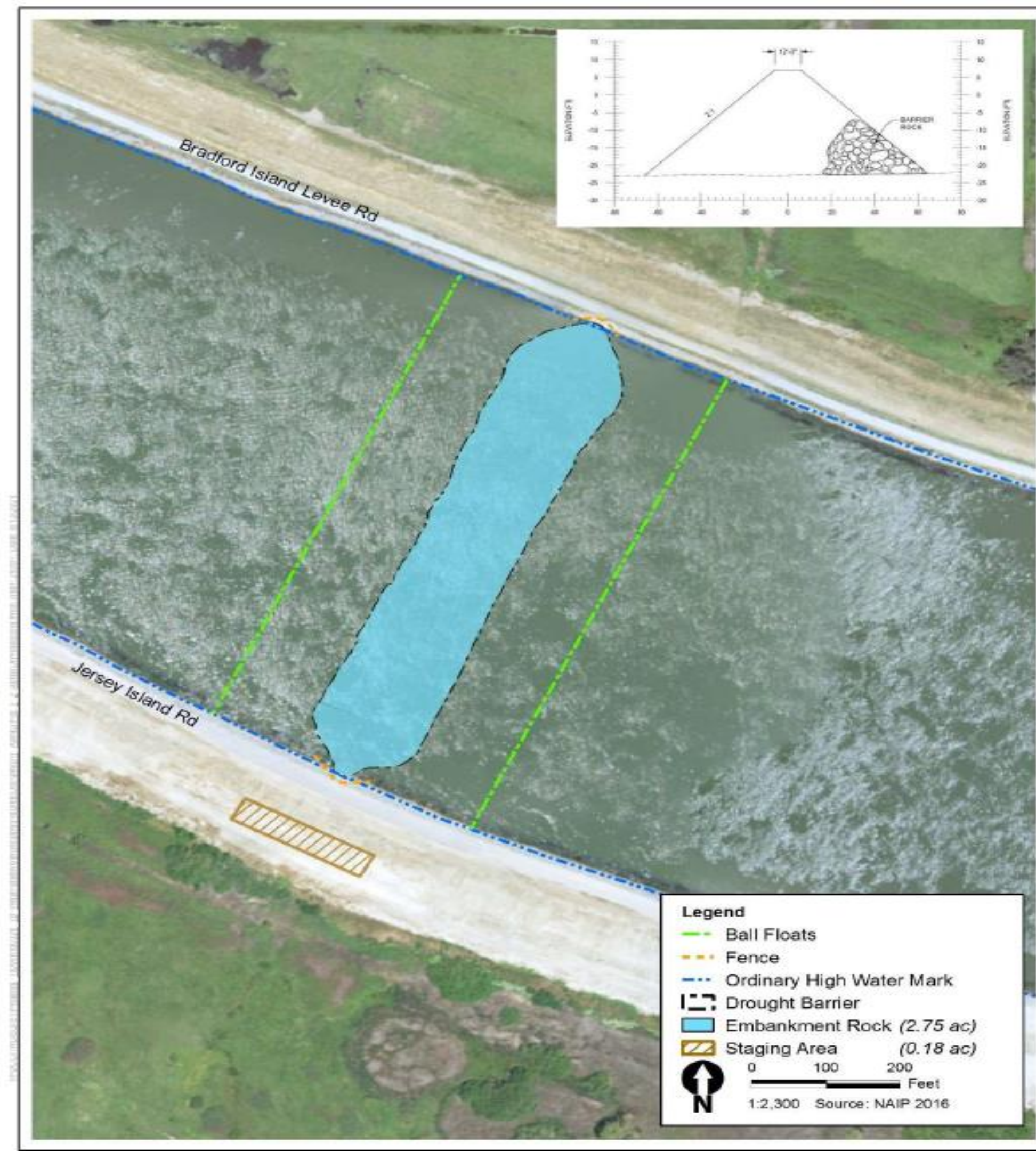
- WFRDSB
- Water Quality Monitoring Stations
- ▭ Stockpile Location
- ▭ Offloading Site
- ▭ Weber Stockpile and Offloading Site
- ▭ San Rafael Rock Quarry

0 2 4 Miles
1:450,000
Source: ESRI Topo



Drought Salinity Barrier Design

- Positioned perpendicular to the channel
- 200' Wide Base x 800' Long x 12' Top Width
- Slope of 2 Horizontal Units to 1 vertical Unit (2:1)
- Approximately 84,000 cubic yards of fill
- Aquatic Impact Footprint (All Temporary):
2.75 Acres



Need and Benefit

- **Drought Salinity Barrier Installation**
 - Protects the beneficial uses of the interior Delta water by reducing saltwater intrusion while preserving the use of critically needed reservoir water

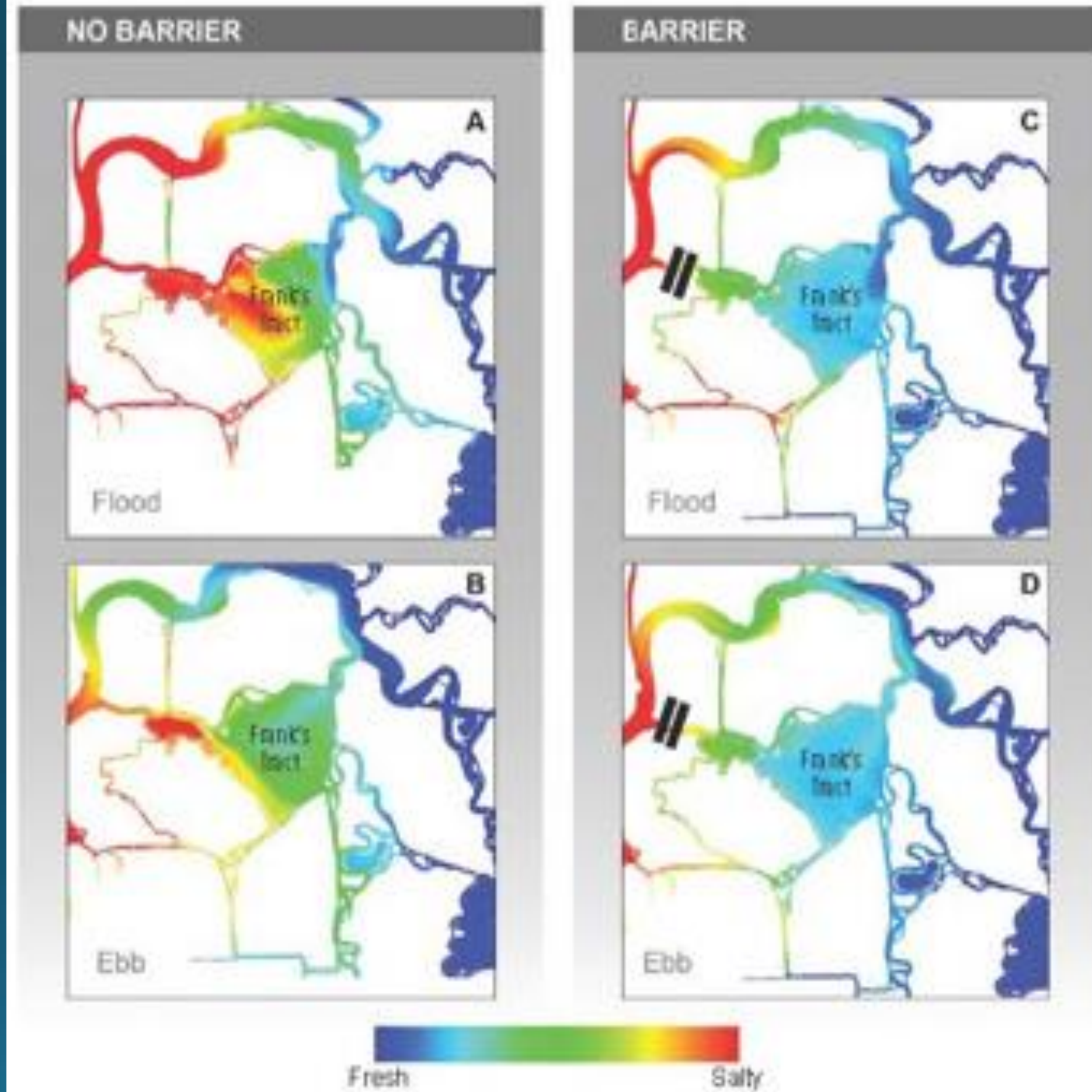


Figure 1-1
Conceptual Illustration of Salinity Near Franks Tract (Center) On Flood and Ebb Tide
for No Barrier and a West False River Barrier, Based on the Bay-Delta
SCHISM Model for a Low Net Delta Outflow Index Forecast



CEQA Process

- DWR is CEQA Lead Agency
- Public comment period on the NOP
 - February 23 to March 25, 2022
- Scoping meeting: March 9, 2022
- Comments on scope and content of the Draft EIR
 - No later than 5:00 p.m. on Friday, March 25, 2022
- DWR will consider all comments in preparing the Draft EIR



CEQA Process

- The Draft EIR will be circulated for agency and public review and comment
- DWR will host another public meeting that will coincide with the release of the Draft EIR to receive comments on that document
- Written responses to comments on the Draft EIR will be prepared and included in the Final EIR
- CEQA Responsible and Trustee agencies will use the EIR for their required CEQA action prior to approving project
- Information will be posted on DWR's website at:
<https://water.ca.gov/Water-Basics/Drought>



Anticipated CEQA Schedule 2022

- February-March – Tribal Engagement AB 52
 - Engage tribes/prepare letters
- February-March – NOP released
 - Notice to State Clearinghouse and County Clerks
 - Newspaper notice (Contra Costa Times and Sacramento Bee)
 - Post on DWR website
- February-June – Draft EIR preparation
- July-August – 45-day Draft EIR public review
- August-October – Final EIR preparation
- October-November – Final EIR certified and Release of Notice of Determination (NOD)



Public Comments

- Address written comments by **March 25, 2022**, to:
California Department of Water Resources
Robert Trang, South Delta Branch
1516 9th Street, 2nd Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814
- Email address: wfrdsb_ceqa@water.ca.gov
- Note: All comments received will be made available for public review in their entirety in the Draft EIR, including the names and addresses of the respondents. Individual commenters may request that DWR withhold their name and/or home addresses, etc., but if you wish DWR to consider withholding this information you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comments.



Contact Info

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