

December 6, 2021

# Delta Conveyance Project: *Annual Tribal Informational Meeting*

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# New Normal Reinforces Need to Modernize Delta Conveyance



- Less snow and more rain expected over shorter and less predictable durations
- Frequent drought and flood cycles expected
- Our goal: capture water when it is available to potentially store for later use and drought
- Adding diversions—creating flexibility—promotes a more resilient and flexible State Water Project in the face of unstable future conditions





# Project Objectives: Modernize Infrastructure to Minimize Risks

## Purpose

- Modernize the aging SWP infrastructure in the Delta to restore and protect the reliability of SWP water deliveries in a cost-effective manner, consistent with the State's Water Resilience Portfolio.

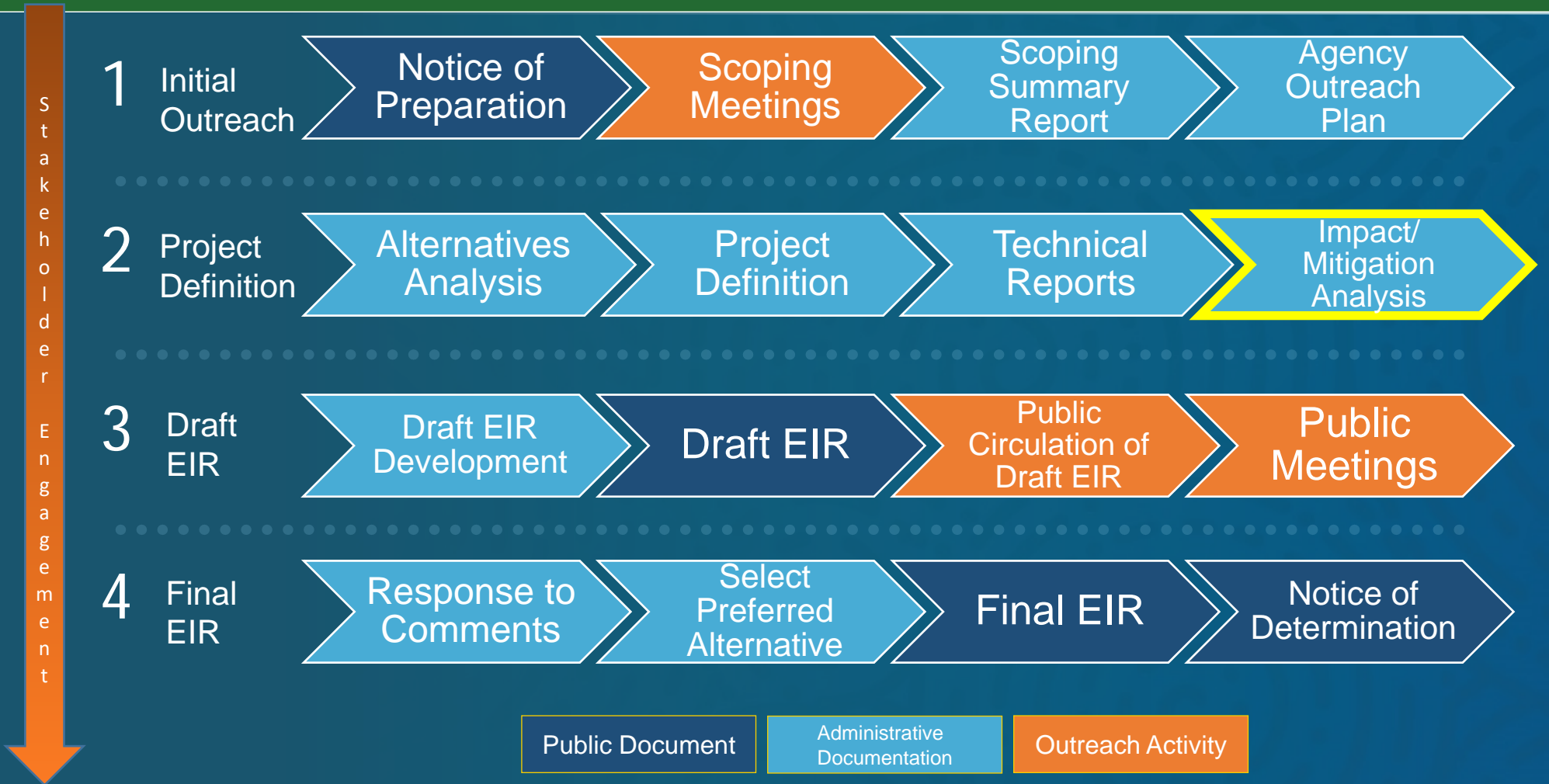
## Objectives

- **Address** sea level rise and climate change
- **Minimize** water supply disruption due to seismic risk
- **Protect** water supply reliability
- **Provide** operational flexibility to improve aquatic conditions



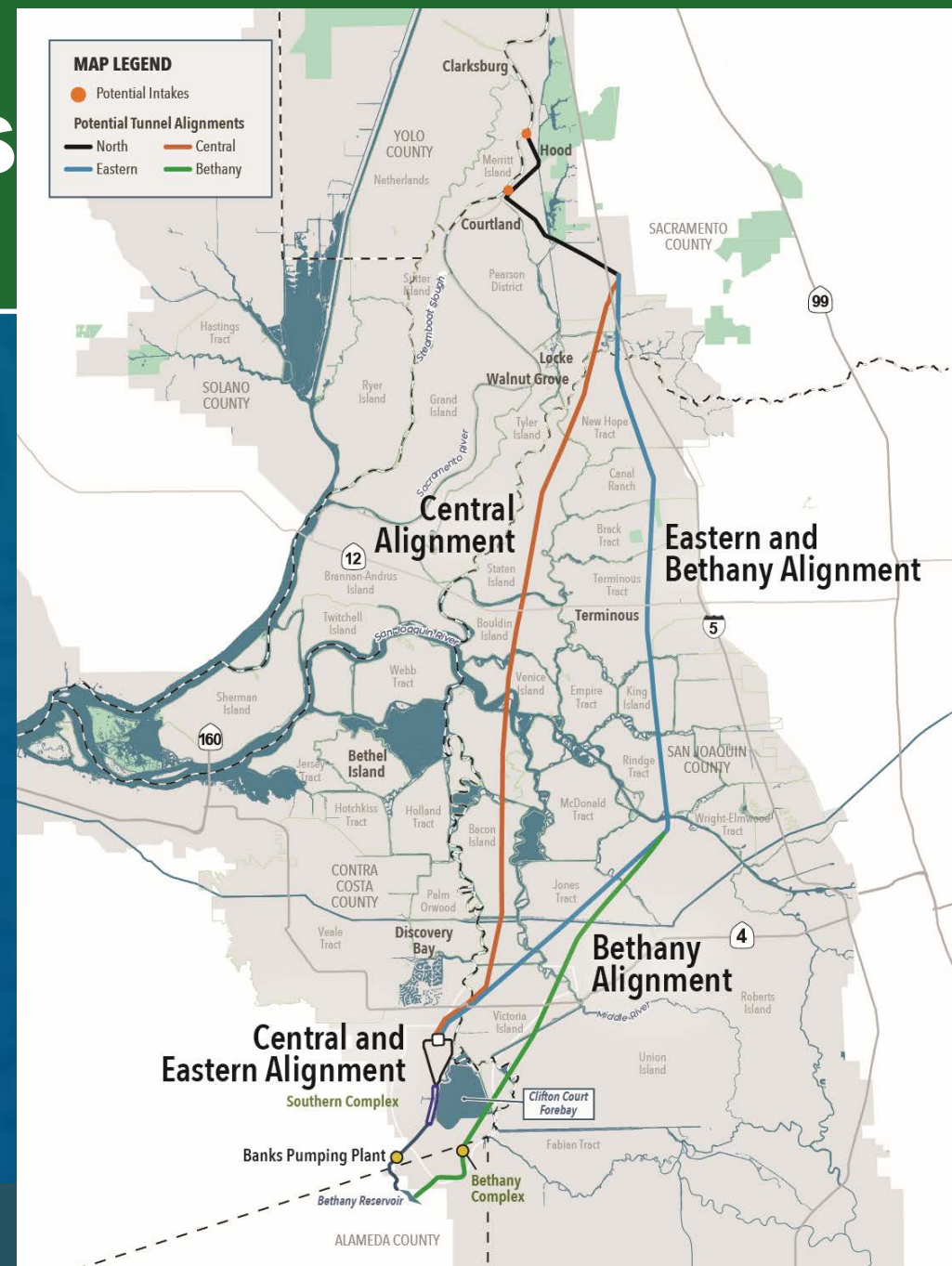
# Delta Conveyance Project CEQA Process

DWR will identify, analyze and disclose the potential significant adverse environmental impacts of the project, and assess feasible mitigation measures and alternatives to avoid or reduce such effects.

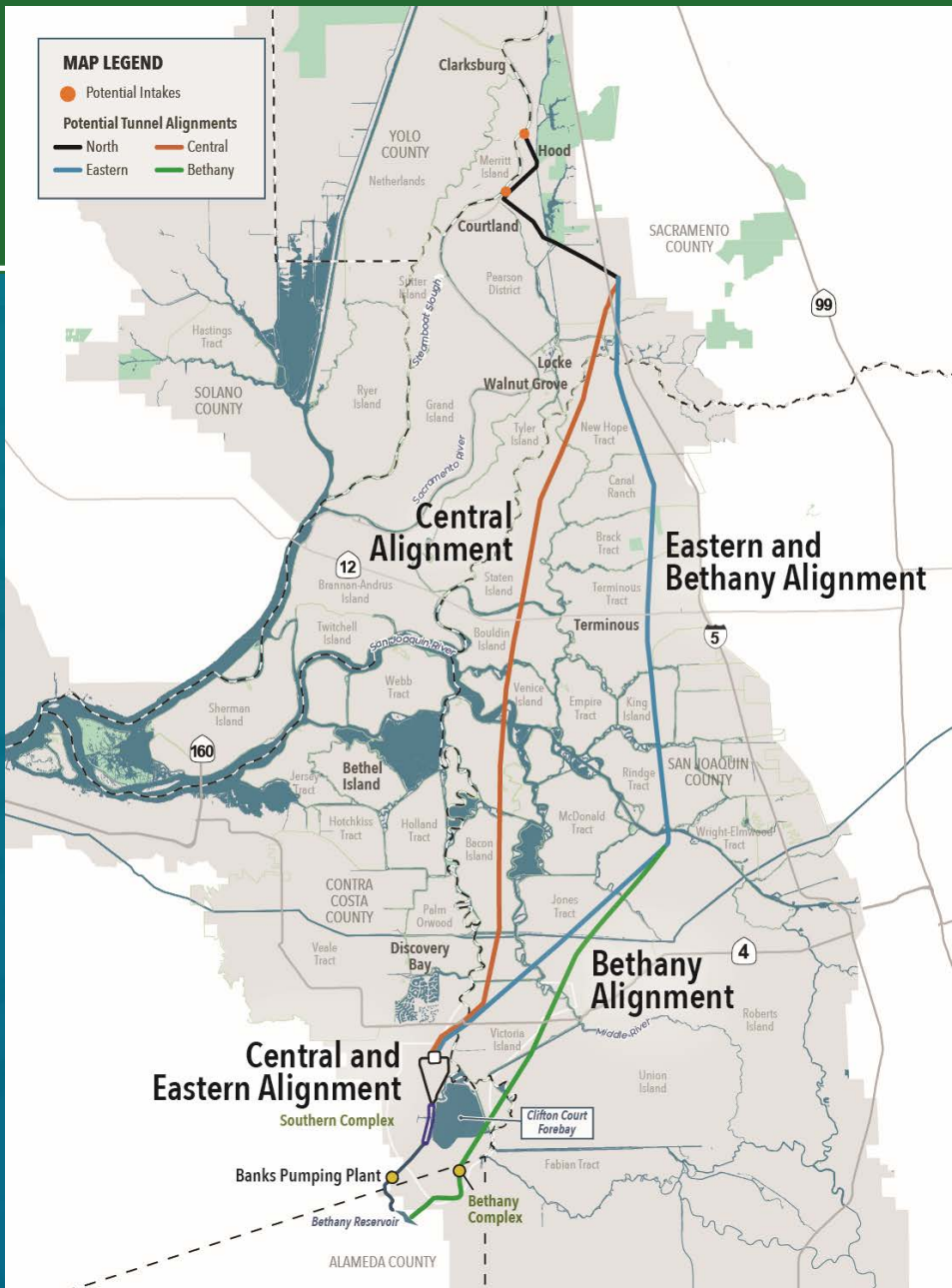


# Development of Alternatives

- All potential alternatives went through screening process
- Alternatives that will be analyzed in detail in EIR
  - Central Alternative (similar to California WaterFix)
  - Eastern Alternative
  - Bethany Alternative (Proposed Project)
- No Project Alternative will include an assessment of other potential actions that water agencies could take if DCP does not move forward



# CEQA Proposed Project: Bethany Alternative



- DWR has identified the Bethany Alternative as the proposed project that will be identified in the Draft EIR because it has the least impacts to wetlands and waters
- DWR sent a letter to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to amend DWR's Section 404 permit application to make the application consistent with the proposed project
- This letter is available [here](#), with a Q&A available [here](#)



# 2021 - Year in Review

- CEQA/NEPA: development of EIR/EIS to assess potential impacts, as well as identify mitigation measures to reduce impacts
- Tribal Consultation: DWR consulted with Tribes regarding Tribal Cultural Resources and conducted Tribal surveys to accessible parcels
- ESA/CESA: Collaborate with regulatory agencies to develop operational criteria and identify tools to assess potential effects
- Water rights: coordinate EIR analysis with State Water Board as a CEQA Responsible Agency, prepare to petition for a change in point of diversion in late 2022
- Delta Plan Consistency: coordinate with Delta Stewardship Council staff through early consultation
- Public Webinars: DWR hosted informational webinars to provide background information related to preparation of the Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR).



# 2021 Community Benefits Program Input and Development

A defined set of commitments made by project proponents and created in coordination with the local community to create tangible and potentially significant economic and social benefit to the residents, businesses, and organizations facing project impacts.

- Concept Paper
- Interviews with Community Members
- Interview Summary Report
- Public and Tribal Community Benefits Program Workshops
- Case Study Workshop
- A Draft Community Benefits Program Framework will be included as an appendix to the Draft EIR





# Impact Analysis

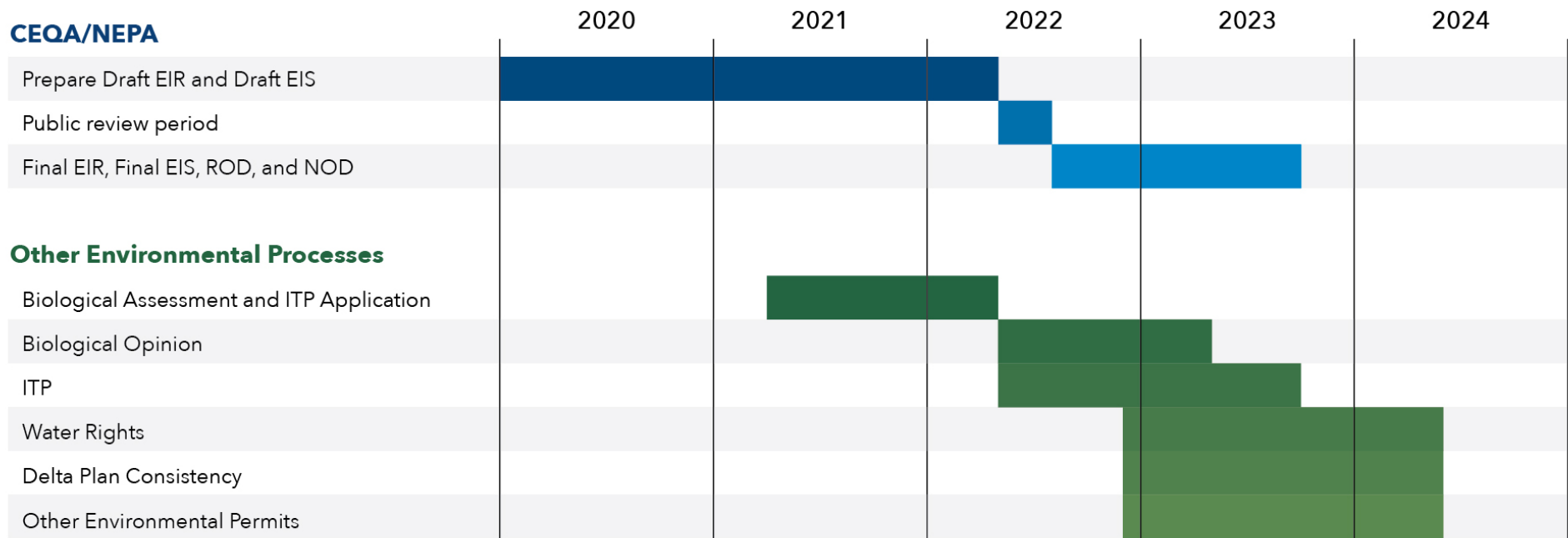
- Analysis underway to consider potential impacts and mitigation for the project alternatives
- Assessment of impacts from construction, operations and maintenance
- Analysis of construction impacts is driven by conceptual designs from the DCA
- Analysis of operational effects uses modeling tools
  - Existing conditions (basis for CEQA determinations)
  - Future conditions including changes in land use, urban growth, climate change, and sea level rise





# Current Project Schedule

## Delta Conveyance Project Schedule





# Public Outreach and Community Engagement Plan for 2022

Public outreach in 2022 will focus on the release of the Draft EIR

## Public Information

- Provide informational resources to help the public review, understand and react to the DEIR.
- Videos, website updates, fact sheets, graphics, social media, flyers, eblasts.

## Public Outreach + Engagement

- Proactive outreach to inform and engage.
- Encourage and assist in participation.
- Emails, phone calls, meetings, briefings, presentation.

## Public Participation + Notification

- Provide meaningful opportunities to access public review documents and respond through formal public input processes.
- Workshops, publicity, flyers, libraries, translations.



# Dual Conveyance Operations

- Preliminary operations discussed during technical webinars
- Proposed North Delta Diversion (NDD) intakes would operate in conjunction with the existing south Delta intakes (Dual Conveyance)
- Potential flexibility in using either south or north Delta intakes with proposed NDD
- Current assumptions:
  - Use NDD to augment excess flow diversions on top of permitted diversions at south Delta intakes – winter/spring
  - Use NDD to manage salinity and realize potential carriage water savings – summer/fall
  - Maximizes benefits while minimizing impacts

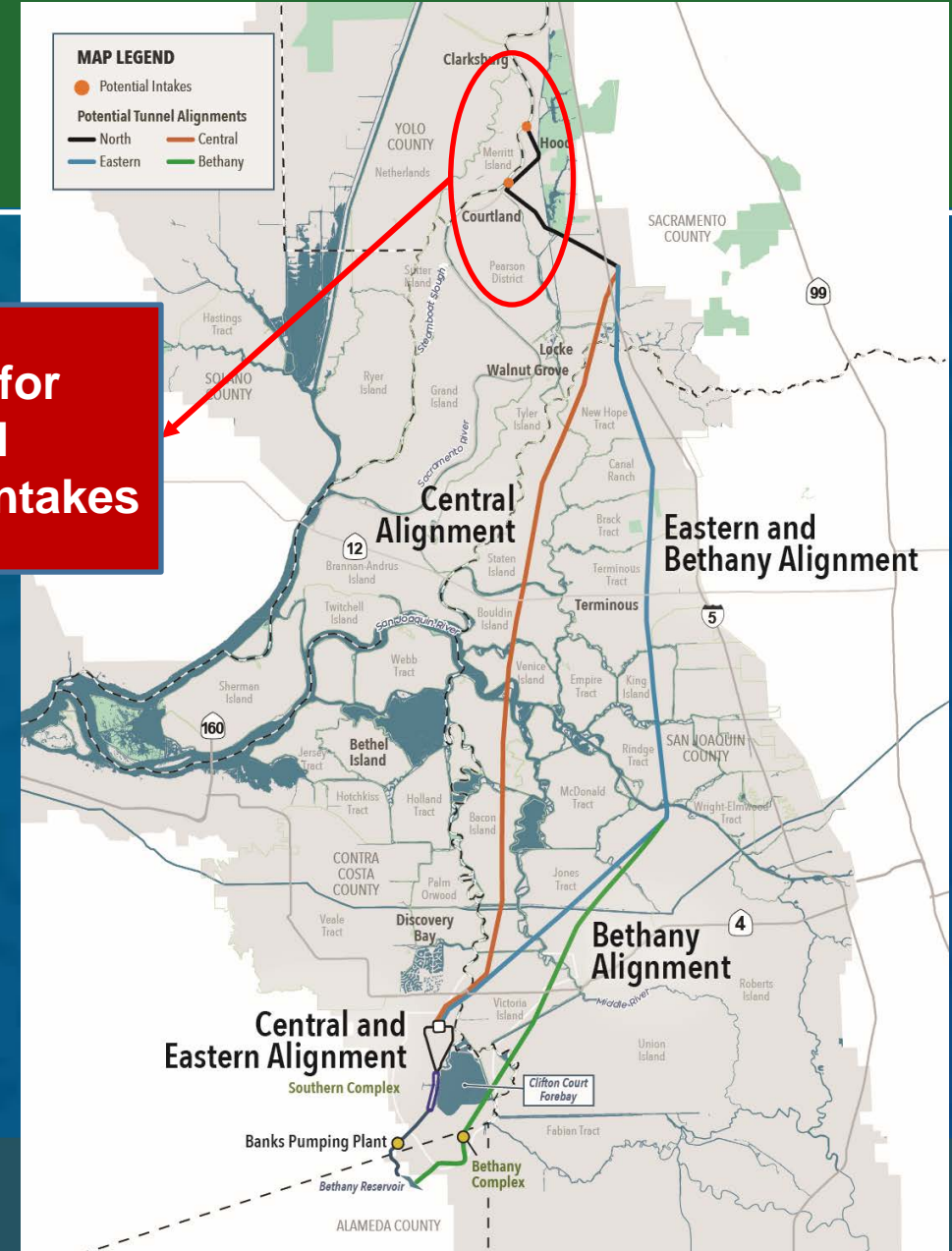


# Operational Criteria for New Intakes

## Existing Delta Operations (Use 2020 ITP Criteria)

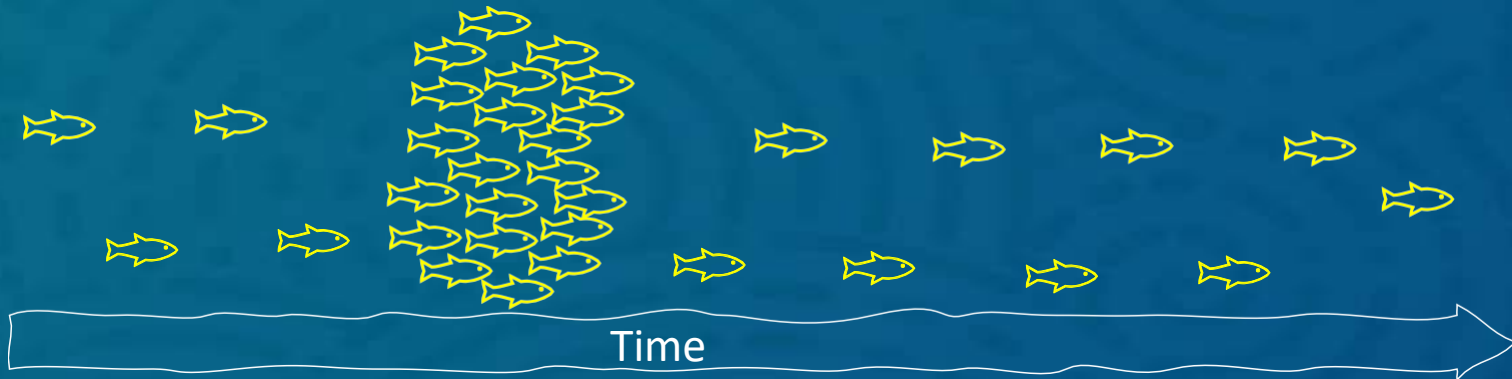
- Delta Outflow Requirements
- D-1641 E/I Ratio computation (Account for ND diversion as part of export)
- OMR
- Export limits

**New Criteria for the proposed North Delta Intakes**

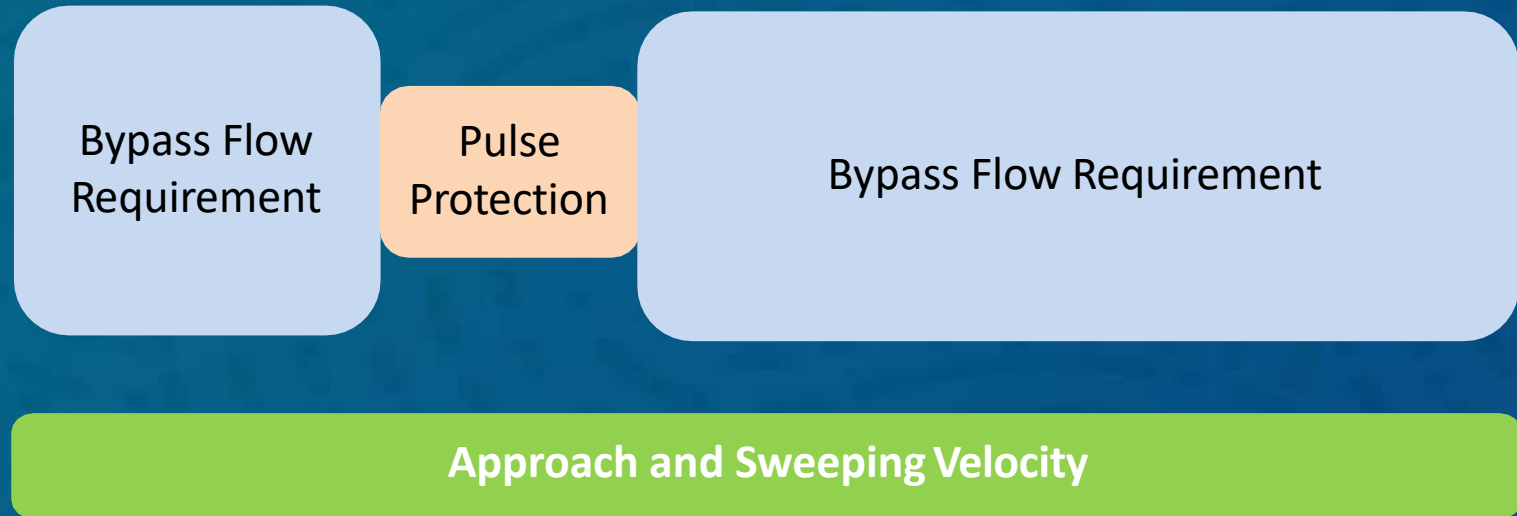



# NDD Operations Criteria Concepts

## Concept of Fish Migration in the Intake Reach



## Layering of Protections for NDD Operations





# Additional Information and Public Outreach

- Delta Conveyance Project Website
  - [Homepage](#)
  - [Delta Conveyance Updates](#)
  - [Public Information](#)
  - [Environmental Planning](#)
  - [Subscribe for updates](#)



# Ways to Stay Informed



[water.ca.gov](http://water.ca.gov)

- Programs
  - State Water Project
    - Delta Conveyance



Project Hotline

866.924.9955



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