

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

West False River Drought Salinity Barrier Project

CEQA Draft Environmental Impact Report – Public Meeting

July 27, 2022



Robert Trang, Project Manager

Meeting Format and Ground Rules

- Presentation
- Facilitated Verbal Comment Session
 - No direct responses to comments
 - No question/answer session
 - Please do not submit comments using the chat feature, instead email or mail written comments
- Commenters called on in order of registration
- Send a message via chat or raise hand if you would like to make a comment but did not pre-register



How to Access the DEIR

Review the DEIR online on the following websites:

- **DWR (under the “DWR Activities” tab):**
<https://water.ca.gov/Water-Basics/Drought>
- **California State Clearinghouse CEQAnet Web Portal**
(search by project name or State Clearinghouse #2022020528):
<https://ceqanet.opr.ca.gov/>

Copies of the DEIR are available for review during normal business hours at:

- **California Department of Water Resources**
Division of Operations and Maintenance, WPPM Delta Planning Section
1516 9th Street, 2nd Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814
- **Sacramento Public Library, Central Branch**
828 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95814



Agenda

- Purpose of Meeting
- Drought Conditions Summary
- Project Objectives
- CEQA Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR)
 - CEQA Project Overview
 - Project Location and Design
 - Environmental Review of Project
 - Alternatives
- CEQA Timeline
- Public Comments



Purpose of Meeting

- Provide an overview of DWR's West False River Drought Salinity Barrier Project
- Provide an overview of the CEQA process and West False River Drought Salinity Barrier Project DEIR
- Receive public and agency input
- Input can be provided by:
 - Verbal comment during the virtual public meeting
 - Mail
 - E-mail



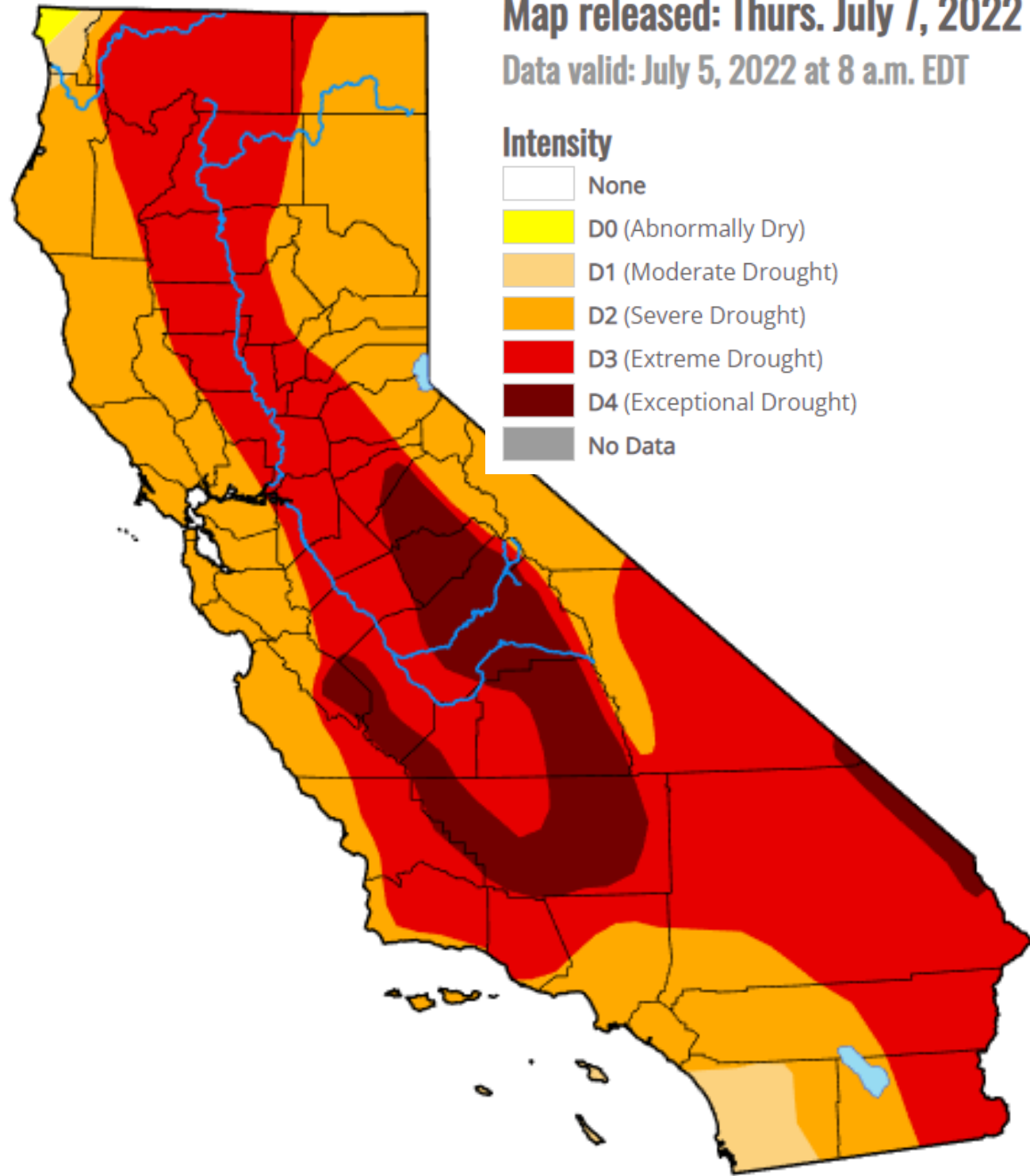
Drought Conditions

Map released: Thurs. July 7, 2022

Data valid: July 5, 2022 at 8 a.m. EDT

Intensity

- None
- D0 (Abnormally Dry)
- D1 (Moderate Drought)
- D2 (Severe Drought)
- D3 (Extreme Drought)
- D4 (Exceptional Drought)
- No Data

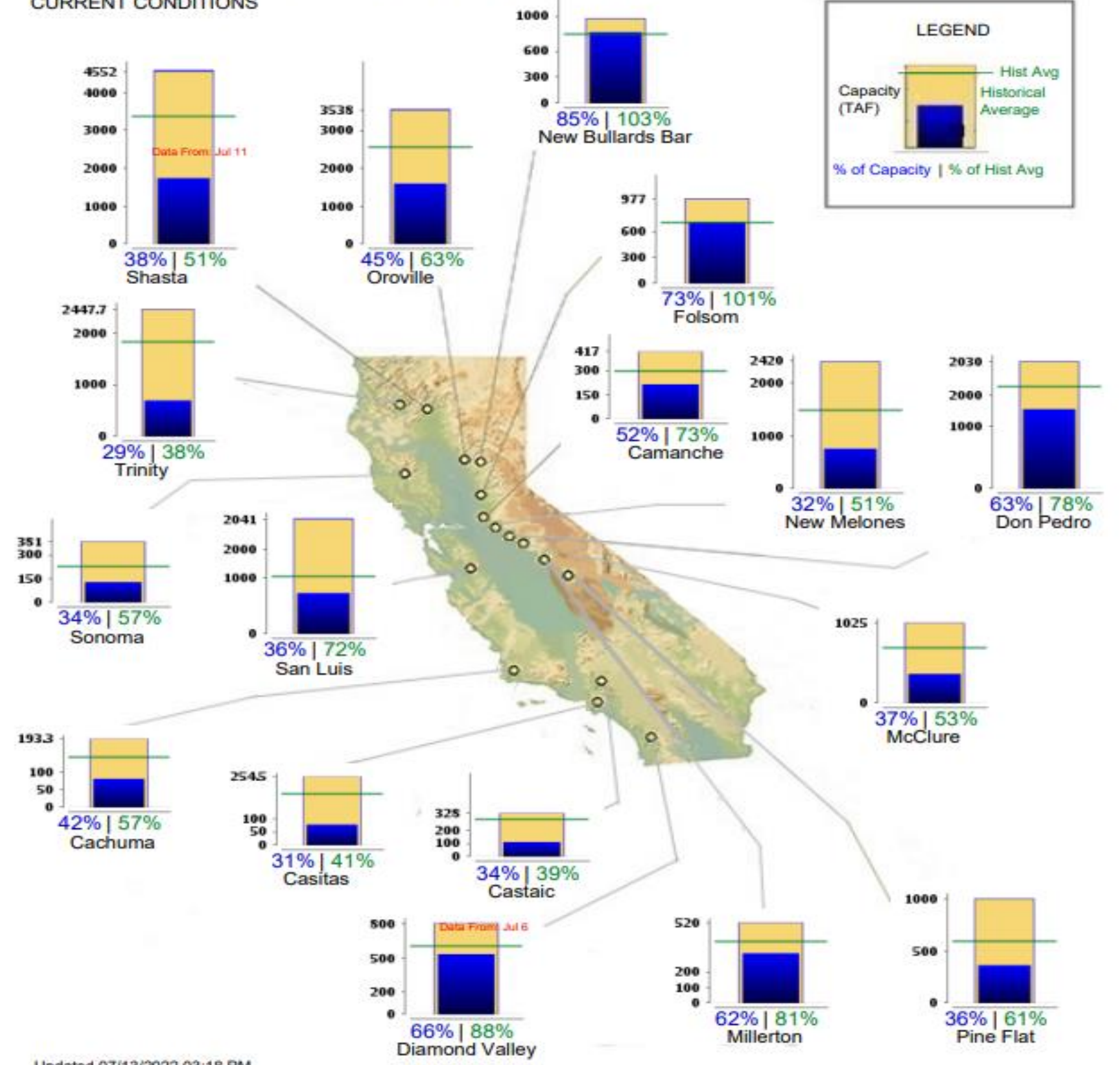
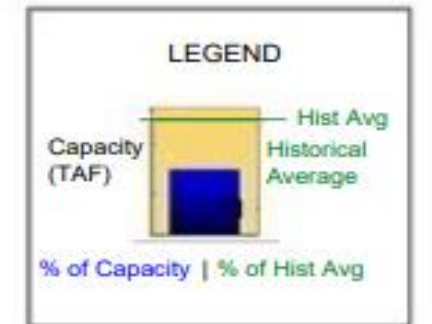


CURRENT RESERVOIR CONDITIONS

CALIFORNIA MAJOR WATER SUPPLY RESERVOIRS

Midnight - July 12, 2022

CURRENT CONDITIONS

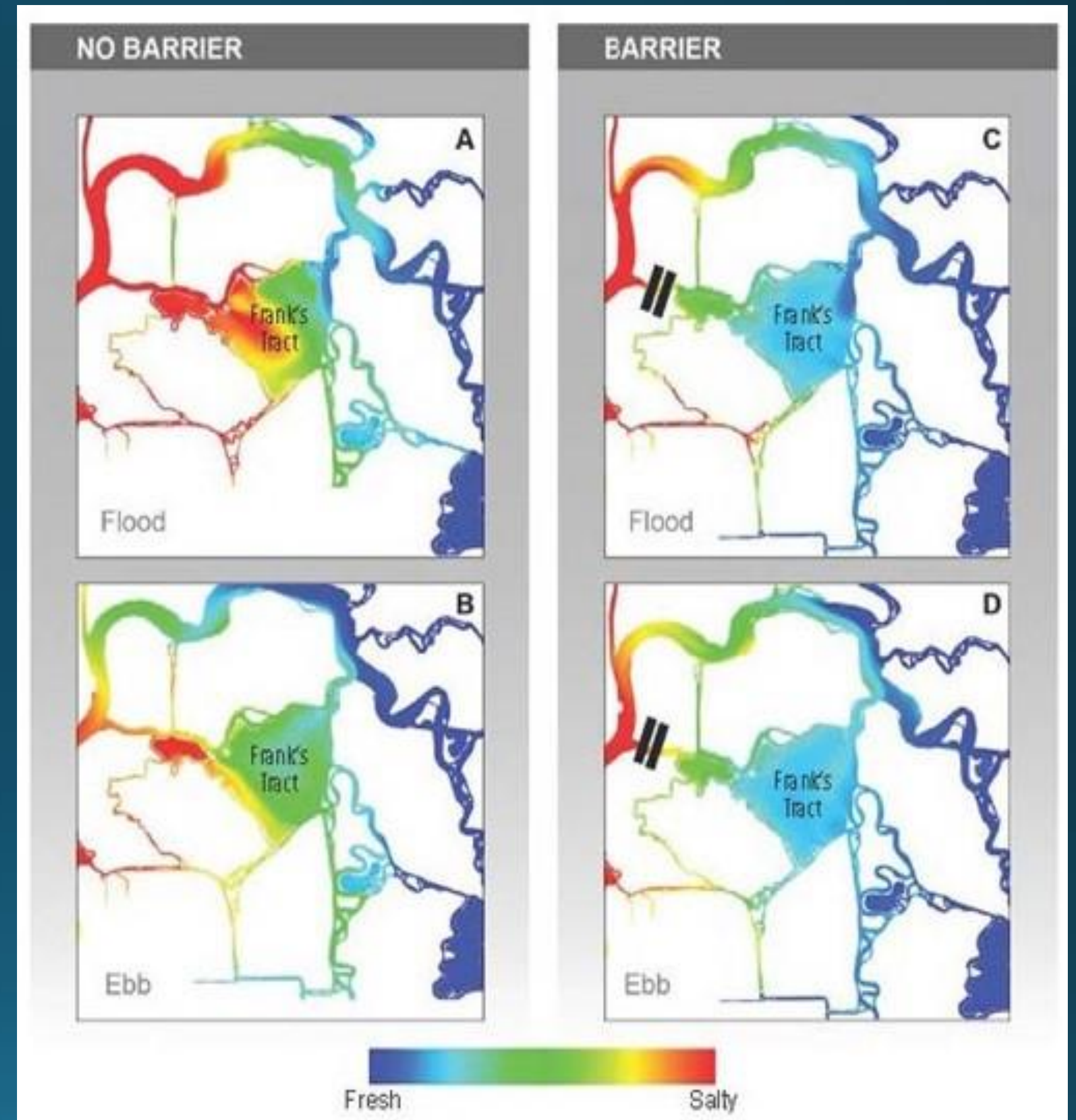


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Project Objectives

- Install a drought salinity barrier to protect water quality in the Central and South Sacramento–San Joaquin Delta (Delta), based on need demonstrated by drought conditions and low upstream reservoir storage.
- Install a drought salinity barrier in the Central or South Delta up to two times over 10 years, including consecutive years, should a drought occur during the period from 2023 to 2032.
- Minimize the impacts of salinity intrusion on the beneficial uses of interior Delta water during persistent drought conditions through the installation of a drought salinity barrier in the Central or South Delta.



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 Model for a Low New Delta Outflow Index Forecast



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

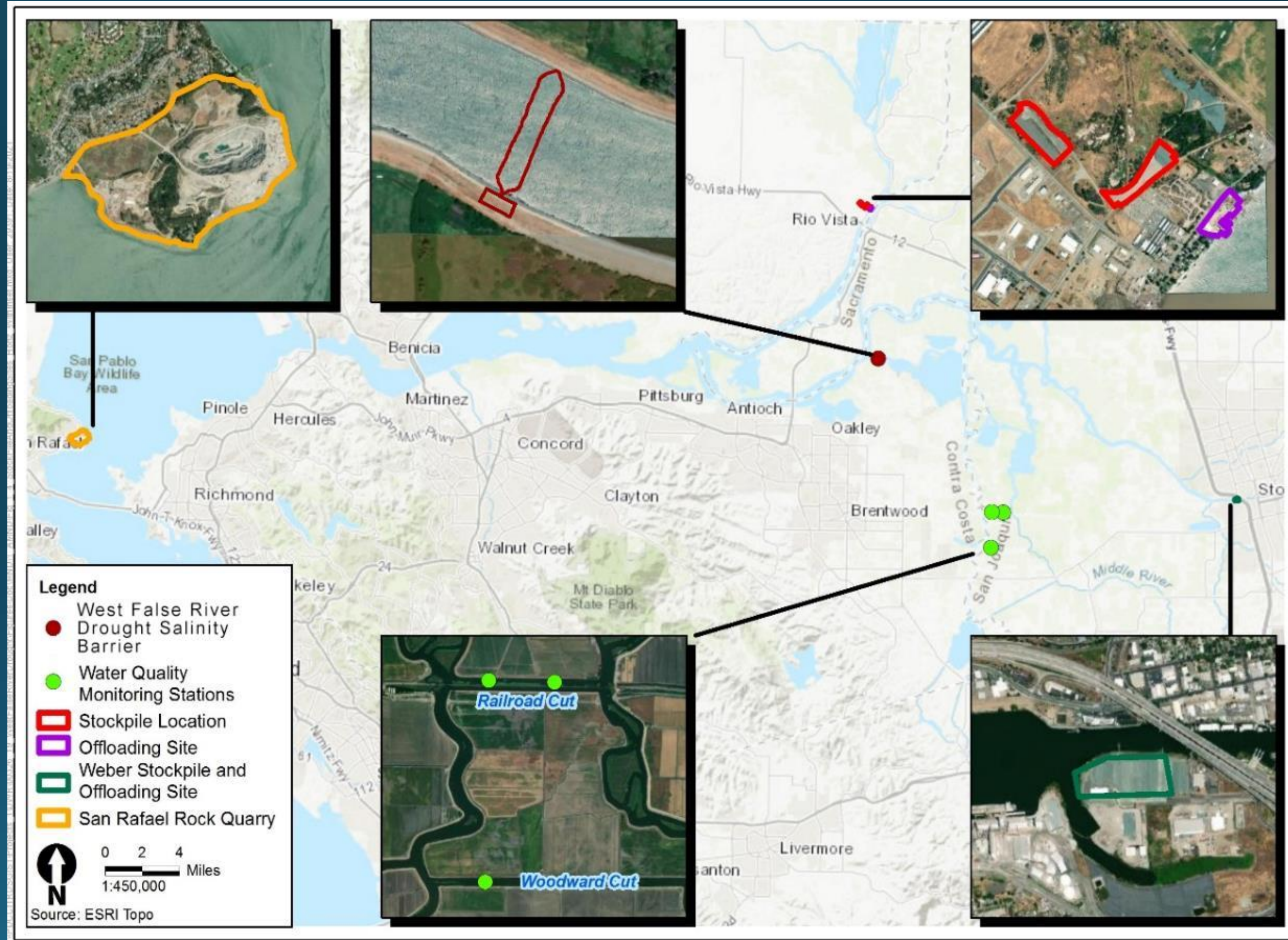
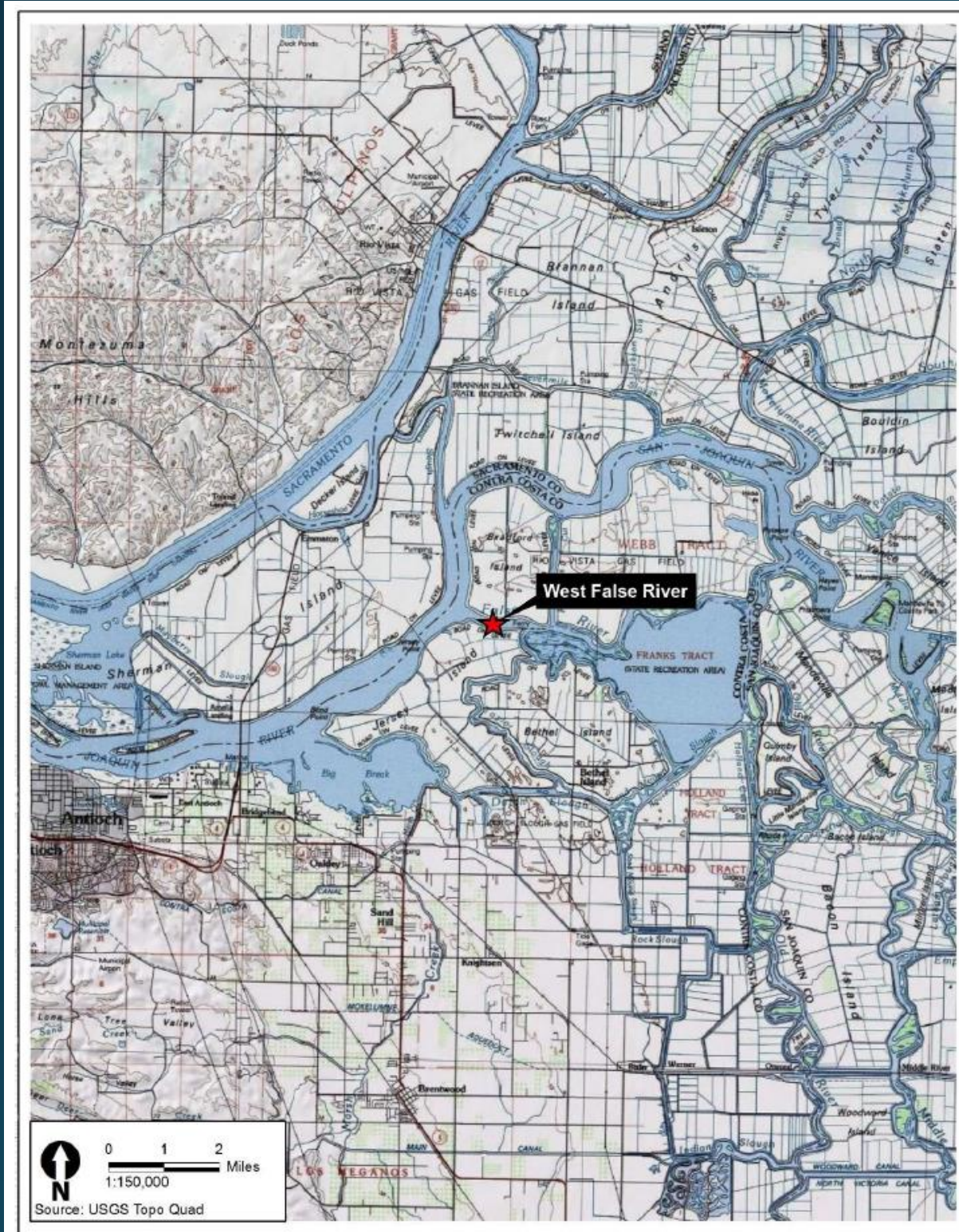
- Install no sooner than April 1 and remove by November 30 the same year or the following year
- Possibility to construct a notch in the middle portion of the barrier in January after the second installation year and refill the notch as early as the first week of April
- Transport of rock from a quarry 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

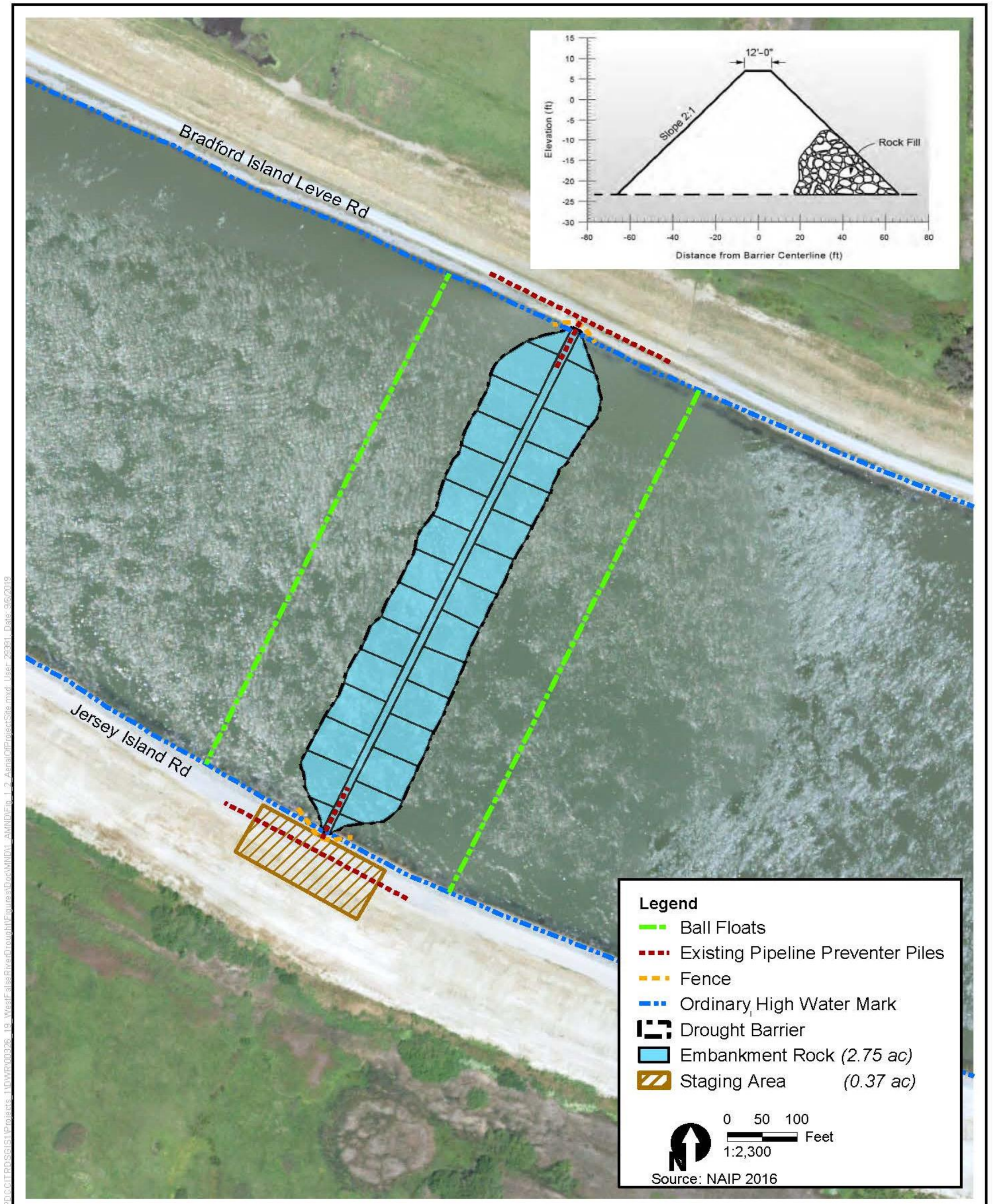


Project Location



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



CEQA Environmental Review for the Proposed Project

The DEIR addresses the following environmental resource topics:

- Air Quality, Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Climate Change
- Biological Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Hydrology and Water Quality
- Recreation
- Tribal Cultural Resources



Alternatives Evaluated in the DEIR

- No Project Alternative
- Barge-Mounted Operable Barrier Alternative
- Single-Tube Inflatable Rubber Dam Alternative

Alternatives considered but rejected from further consideration in the DEIR:

- Reduced Rock Alternative
- Other Materials Alternative
- Off-Site Alternatives



CEQA Timeline

- Public comment period on the Notice of Preparation: February 23 to March 25, 2022
- Virtual scoping meeting: March 9, 2022
- **DEIR out for public review July 7, 2022 through August 22, 2022**
- Virtual DEIR public meeting: July 27, 2022



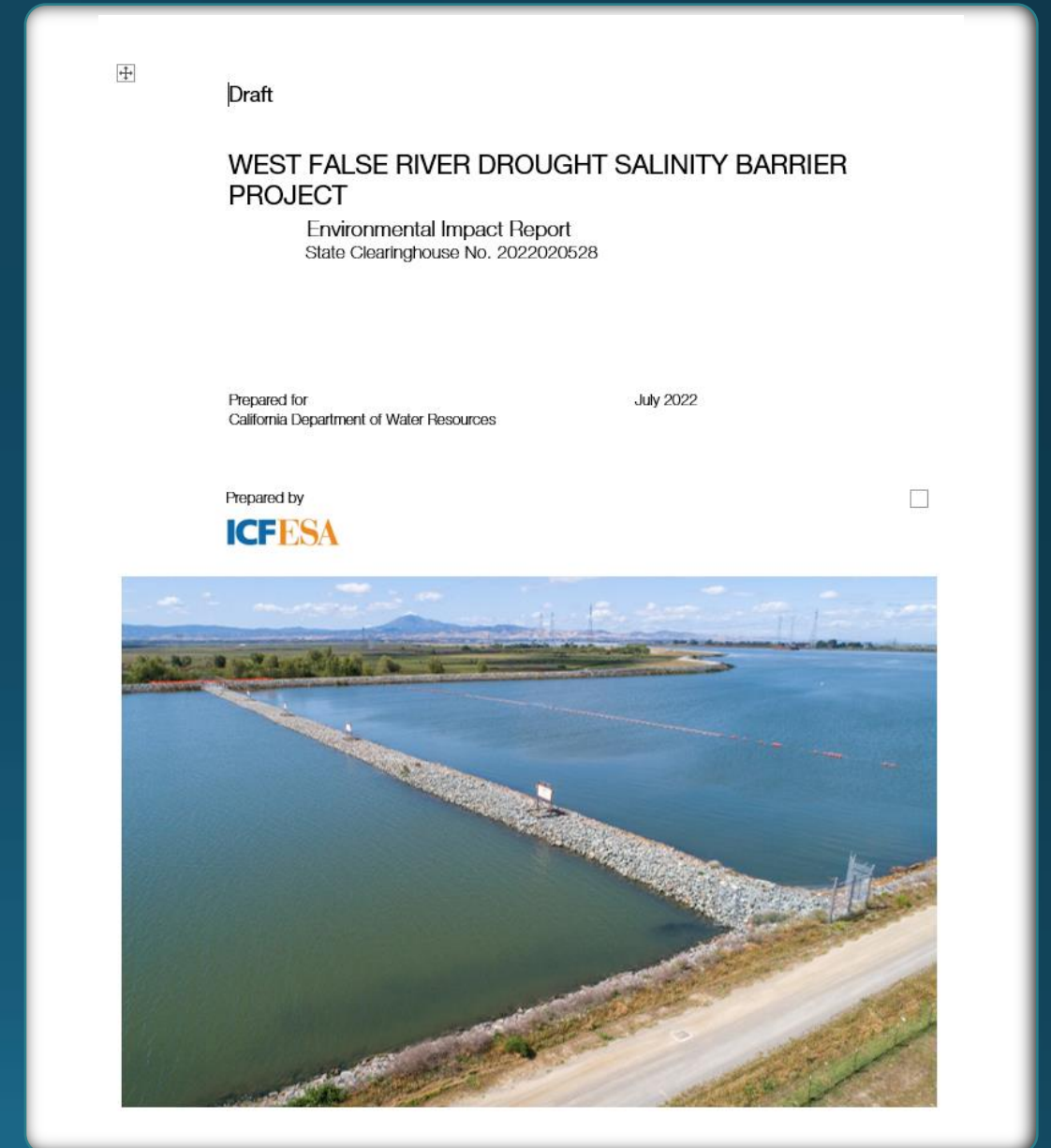
CEQA Timeline

- Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR), including responses to comments – Fall 2022
- EIR certification – Fall 2022
- Notice of Determination filed with the State Clearinghouse – Within 5 days of DWR's approval of the proposed project
- Project information will be posted on DWR's website (under the "DWR Activities" tab) at:
<https://water.ca.gov/Water-Basics/Drought>



Public Comment on the West False River Drought Salinity Barrier Project DEIR

DEIR comments should focus on any significant environmental issues associated with the proposed project (State CEQA Guidelines Section 15088).



DEIR Public Comments

- Submit written comments on the DEIR by **Monday, August 22, 2022:**
California Department of Water Resources
Robert Trang, Manager
WPPM Delta Planning Section
1516 9th Street, 2nd Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814
- Email address: wfrdsb_ceqa@water.ca.gov
- Note: Comments received will be made available for public review in their entirety in the FEIR, 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

California Department of Water
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