

The Los Vaqueros Reservoir Expansion Project

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Contra Costa Water District

California Water Commission

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The Challenge



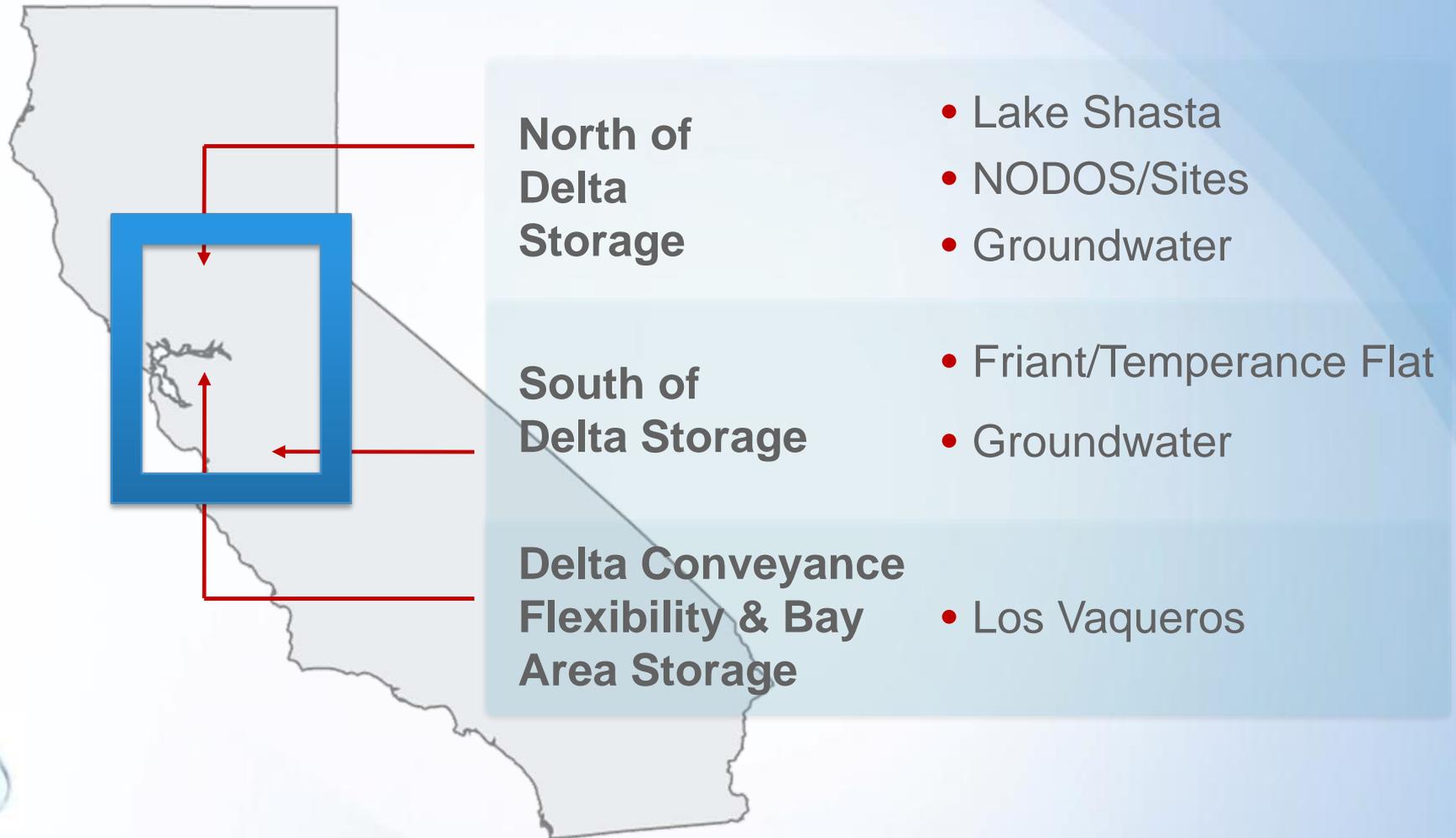
Delta Decline

- Ecosystem decline
- Insufficient flow
- Flow requirements changing
- Failure risk
- Lack of storage and flexibility
- Climate change threat
- Beneficial uses of water at risk





Water Operations Flexibility





The Concept



Project Location





Existing Los Vaqueros Project

- Provides Emergency Storage
Protects against a catastrophe in the Delta
- Improves Water Quality
Changes the timing and location of diversions
Stores water for blending when Delta water quality is poor
- Enhances Delta Environment
State-of-the-art fish screens
Flexible timing and location of diversion
- Provides Watershed Resource Management
Protects Water Quality
Protects Sensitive Resources
Provides Appropriate Recreation
- Provides Flood Control Protection





Highlights of the Los Vaqueros Watershed

Features

- 100,000 acre-foot reservoir
- 20,000 acres of protected watershed
- Interpretive Center and educational programs

Recreational Activities

- Picturesque fishing with 12 varieties of fish
- Electric boating
- 55 miles of hiking trails
- Cycling
- Horseback riding





Existing Los Vaqueros Reservoir



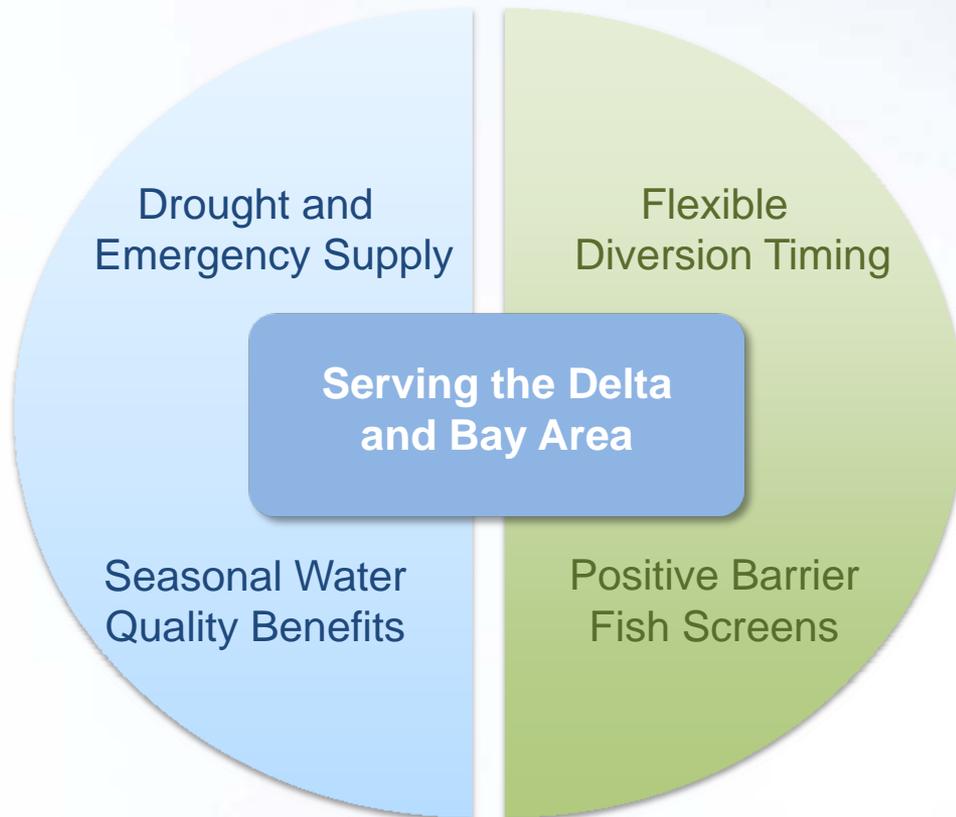
Off-stream Storage completed in 1998 to provide local and Delta benefits:

- Drinking Water Quality
- Fish Protection
- Emergency Supply





Reservoir Expansion Concept



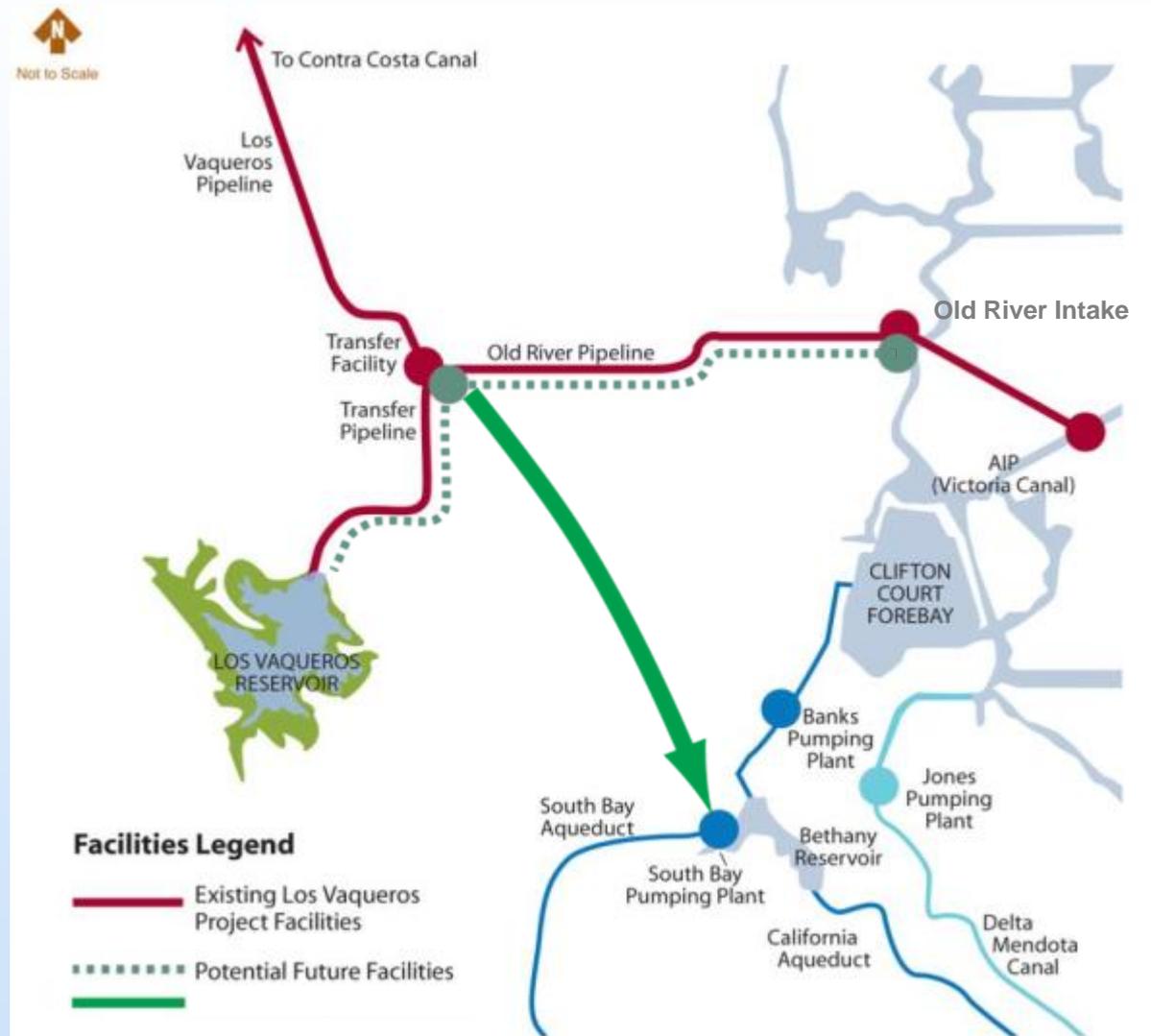
Expand the benefits for the Delta and regional water supply:

- Water Supply Reliability
- Fish Protection
- Drinking Water Quality





Existing and Expansion Project Facilities



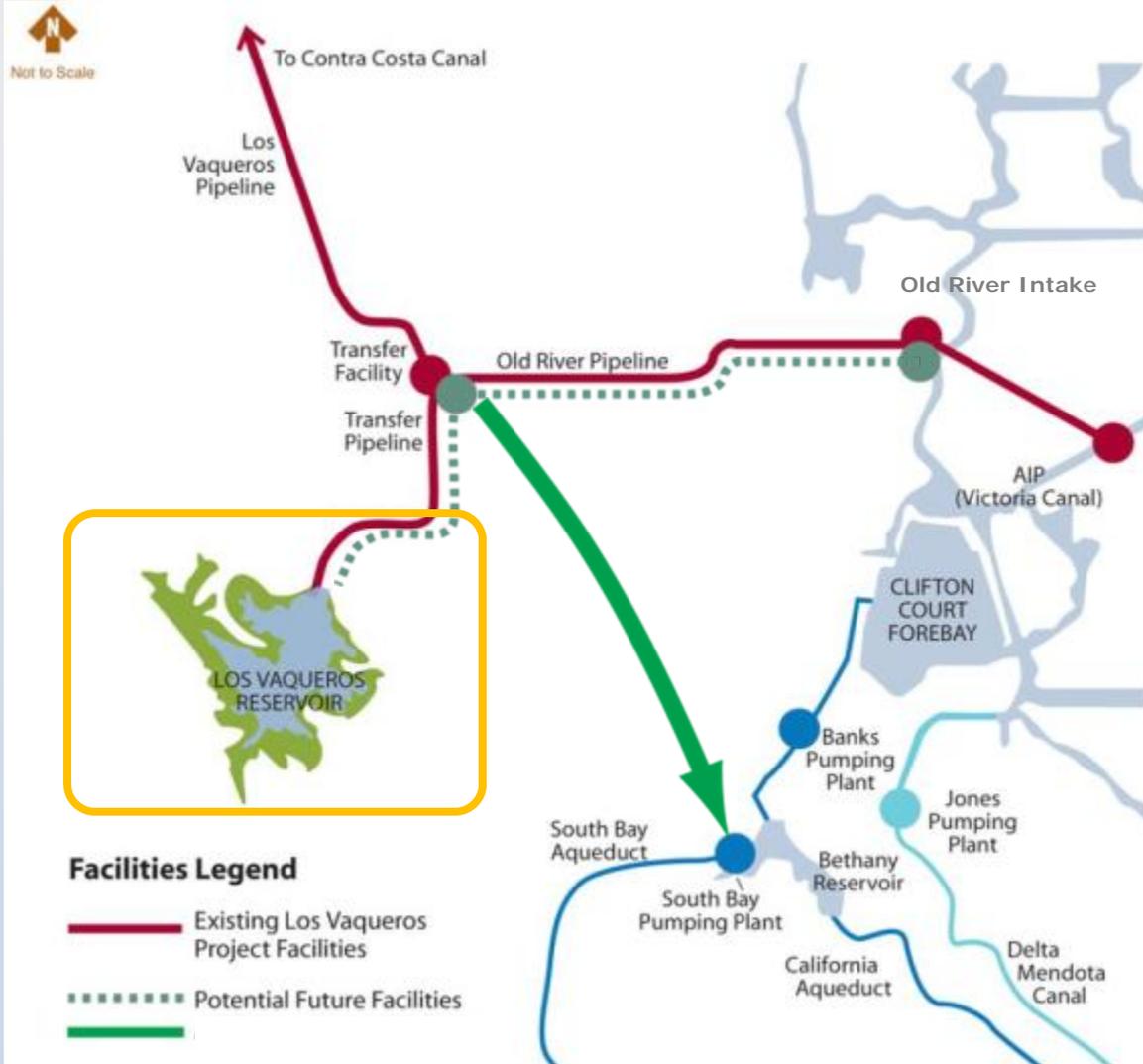


The Opportunity



Increased Storage

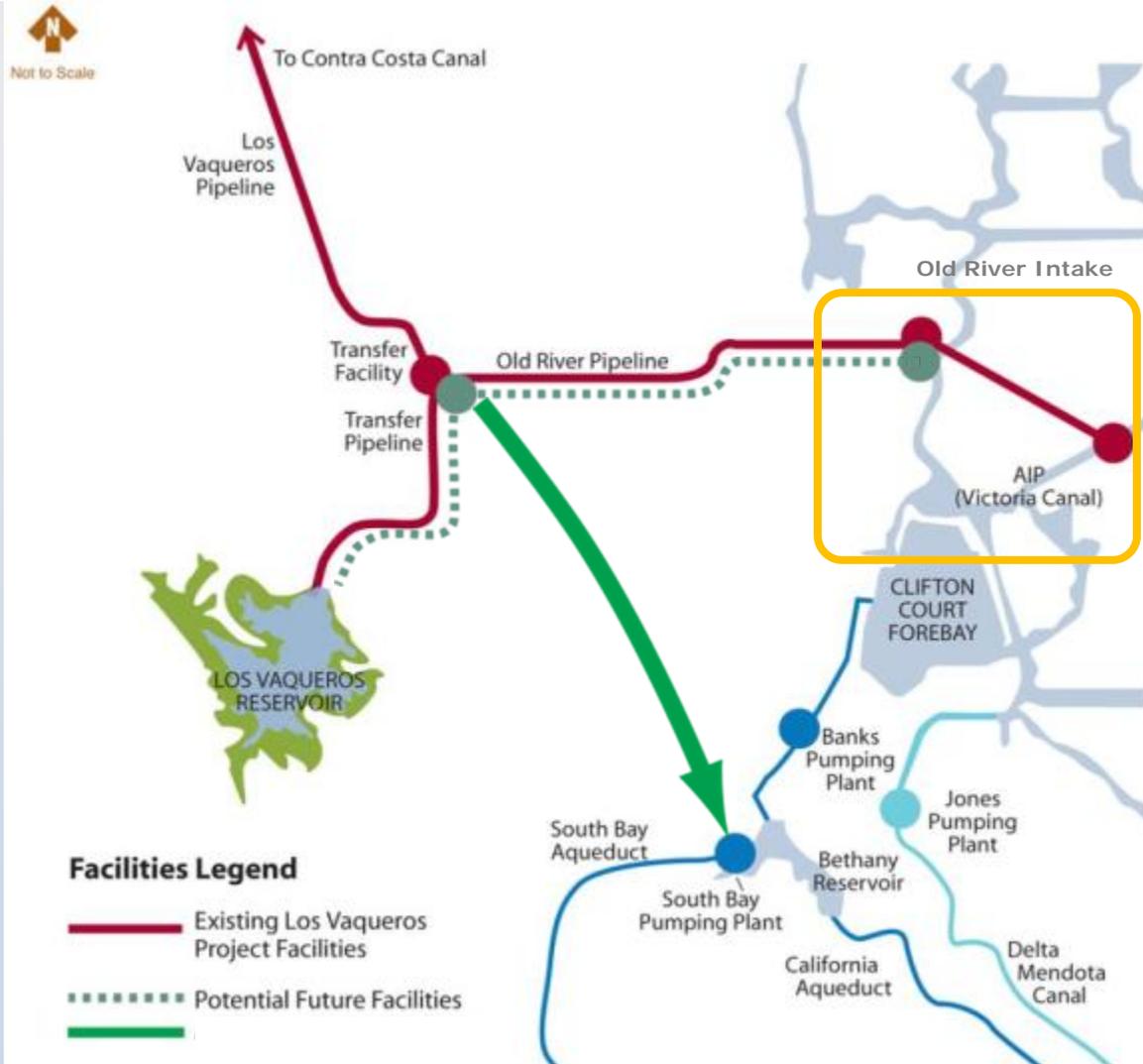
- Allows diversion timing flexibility
 - Avoid fish take
 - Store highest quality water for urban use
- Stores water for drought or emergencies





Multiple Diversion Locations with Positive Barrier Fish Screens

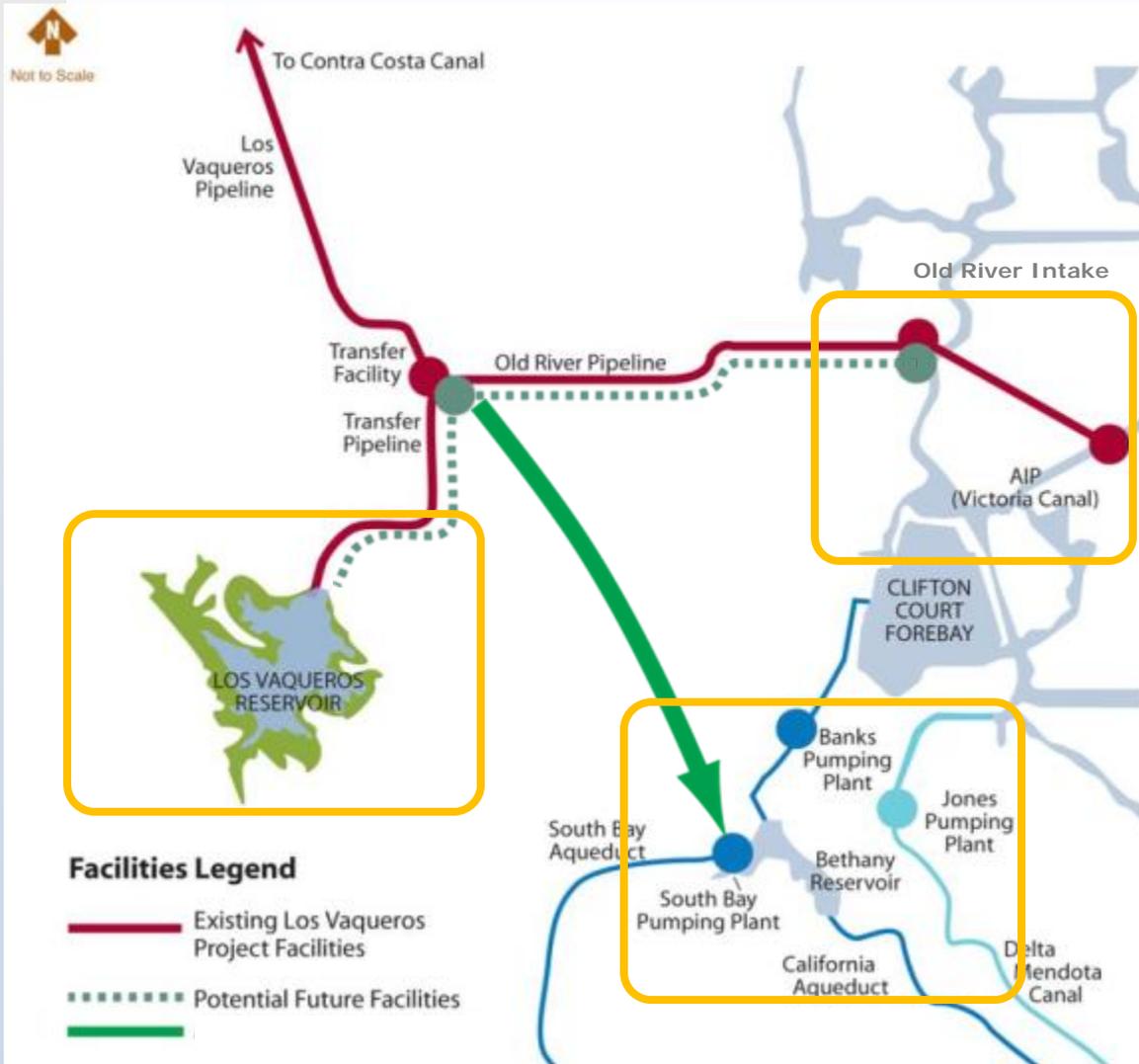
- Allows flexibility in location and timing of diversions
- Removes Bay Area diversions from south Delta pumps
- Eliminates fish take





Strategic System Location

- Increases flexibility in CVP and SWP
 - Supply
 - Water quality
- Provides environmental water to reduce fish impacts of south Delta pumps
- Supports co-equal goals for the Delta





Public Support

- More than 65 public meetings
- Customer/Stakeholder Feedback Group
- 2004 public vote supporting expansion
- Only 60 comments on Draft EIS/EIR
- Final EIS/EIR completed and certified
- No significant opposition to approved project
- No legal challenge to EIR



Media

SPARKLING LAKE NEAR LIVERMORE



Expanding Los Vaqueros

On March 31, the Contra Costa Water District's board of directors is scheduled to consider a \$120 million plan to expand Los Vaqueros Reservoir.



'Perfect time' for bigger basin

A RESERVOIR OF HOPE



LOS VAQUEROS RESERVOIR in Contra Costa County is 100,000 acre-feet. A report released Monday states that increasing the reservoir to 275,000 acre-feet could stabilize Bay Area water supplies and lead to less Delta fish being killed at pumping stations near Tracy.

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Expansion could cure water woes

By Mike Taugher

STAFF WRITER

Enlarging an eastern Contra Costa reservoir to nearly three times its current size could alleviate some of the Delta's environmental problems and stabilize water supplies in the Bay Area, according to an environmental report released Monday.

The report, by the Contra Costa Water District and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, says if other Bay Area water agencies hook into Los Vaqueros Reservoir, fewer fish will be killed at massive pumping stations near Tracy that are run by

the state and federal governments.

The protective intake screens at the reservoir near Livermore, which was completed in 1997, are much less destructive to fish than the larger Delta pumping stations, which date to the 1940s.

And beyond that, a larger reservoir could also stabilize water supplies in the Bay Area during droughts, the report said.

Despite recent rains, California's biggest reservoirs are only about half as full as normal for this time of year and the

See RESERVOIR, Page 15



CHUCK CHRISTIE/STAFF

WATER LEVELS at Los Vaqueros Reservoir have dropped from 81 percent of capacity last year to 71 percent this year, despite the recent rainfall.

STAFF FILE 2006
percent.

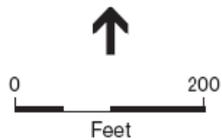
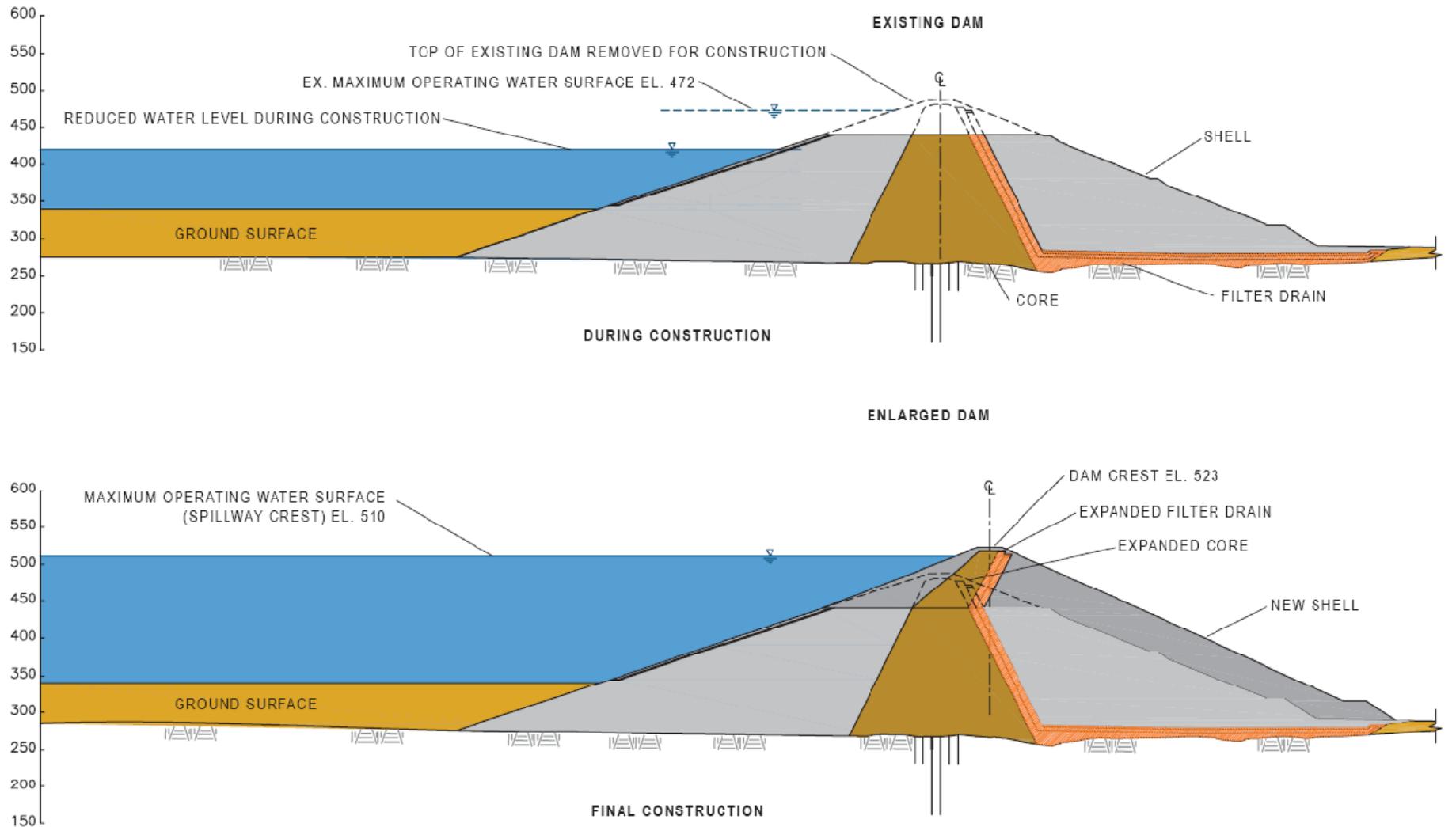
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First Phase of Expansion Moving Forward

- CCWD Board approved expansion to 160 TAF in March 2010
 - Primarily to meet CCWD needs
- Cost effective design
- Design and permitting completed
- Construction beginning in March 2011
- Complete construction mid-2012
- Future expansion to 275 TAF not precluded





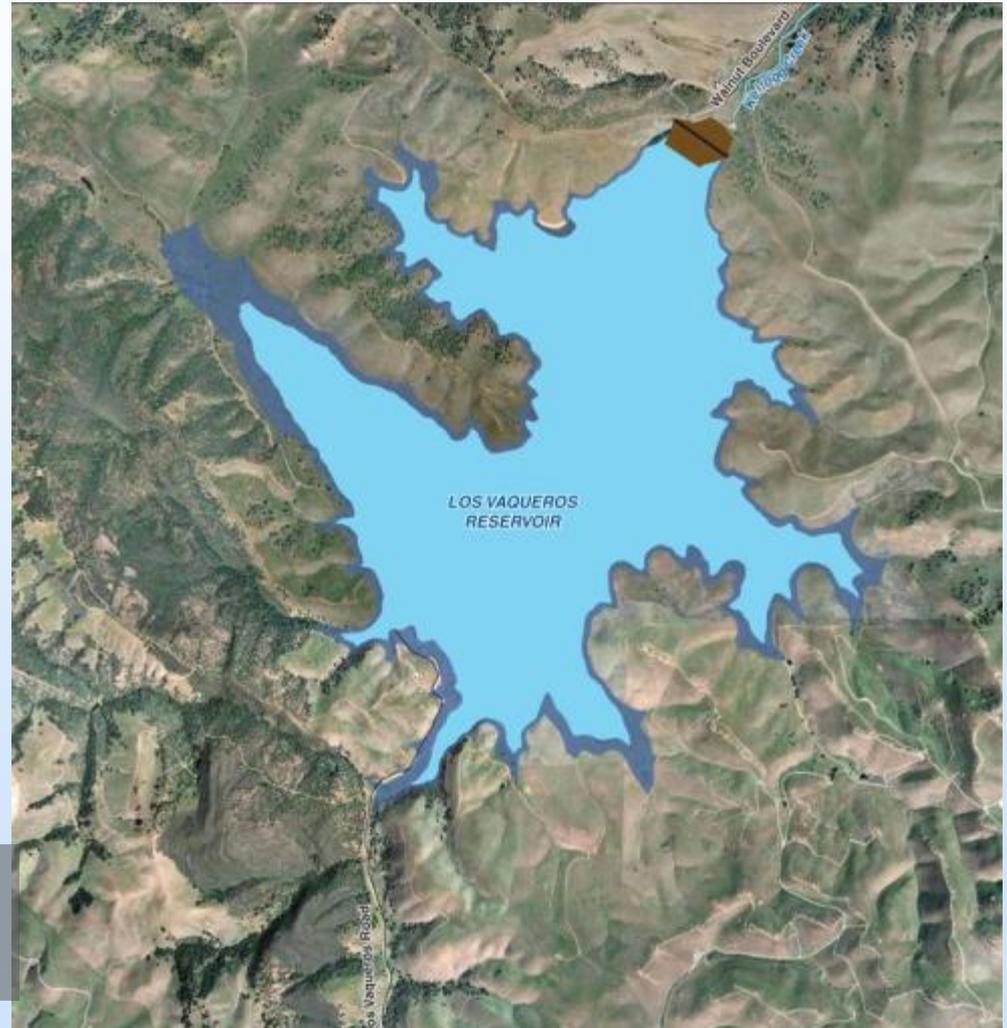
160 TAF Reservoir Dam Raise



Impacts & Mitigation

Impacts	Mitigation
Grassland: 410 acres (direct), 285 acres (indirect)	Avoid and minimize impacts during construction
Other terrestrial habitat: 40 acres	Strategic purchase of lands for conservation

160 TAF expansion inundation





Key Species

- Red legged frog
- California tiger salamander
- San Joaquin Kit Fox
- Alameda Whipsnake
- Western Pond Turtle
- Burrowing Owl
- Raptors / Golden eagle
- Oak trees
- Native plants
- Delta smelt
- Longfin smelt
- Chinook salmon (winter, spring, fall and late-run)
- Steelhead
- Green sturgeon





The Benefits



Expansion Project Provides Public Benefits

- Bond Requirements
 - Improves the operation of the state water system
 - Cost effective
 - Provide a net improvement in ecosystem and water quality conditions





Eligible Public Benefits

Eligible Public Benefits	Expansion Project Delivers
Ecosystem Improvements	✓
Water Quality Improvements (Delta, river, or groundwater)	✓
Flood Control Benefits	✓
Emergency Response	✓
Recreation	✓





What It Takes

- Decisions on Delta conveyance
- Continued state and federal funding for feasibility studies
- Partnership and cost share agreements
- Continued outreach and stakeholder coordination
- Resource agency engagement and support
- Comprehensive approach on permitting and mitigation
- Strong leadership and advocacy
- Patience and endurance





Conclusions

- Existing reservoir operates to meet environmental and local urban water needs
- Expansion increases operational flexibility of south Delta pumps
- Supports co-equal goals
- Meets public benefits requirements

✓ **Ready to go**





Thank You

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