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MINUTES
ENGINEERING AND OPERATIONS
COMMITTEE MEETING
Thursday, May 6, 2021, 9:00 A.M.
Board Room

UWCD, 1701 North Lombard Street, Oxnard CA 93030

In addition to its public Engineering and Operations Committee meeting, UWCD provided virtual access to the meeting via the Webex virtual meeting platform.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Director Edwin T. McFadden III (participated via Webex)
Director Lynn E. Maulhardt, chair

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

Director Daniel C. Naumann

STAFF ATTENDING

Dr. Maryam Bral, chief engineer
Brian Collins, chief operations officer
Anthony Emmert, assistant general manager
Evan Lashly, assistant ecologist
Craig Morgan, senior engineer
Robert Richardson, senior engineer (participated via webex)
Adrian Quiroz, associate engineer (participated via webex)
Zachary Hanson, hydrogeologist (participated via webex)
Erik Zvirbulis, GIS analyst (participated via webex)
Josh Perez, human resources manager
Zachary Plummer, IT administrator
Linda Purpus, environmental services manager (participated via webex)

PUBLIC PRESENT

Burt Handy (participated via webex)
Betsy Cooper (participated via webex)

OPEN SESSION: 9:00 a.m.

Chair Maulhardt called the Engineering and Operations Committee Meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Committee Members Roll Call

Administrative Assistant Destiny Rubio commenced Roll Call.

Committee members: Chair Maulhardt and Director McFadden were present.

1. Public Comment

Chair Maulhardt asked if there were any public comments for the Committee. None were offered.

2. Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the Minutes from the March 4, 2021 Engineering and Operations Committee meeting, Director McFadden; Second, Chair Maulhardt. Roll call vote, two ayes (Maulhardt, McFadden); none opposed; one absent (Naumann). Motion carried, 2/0/1.

Chief Engineer Maryam Bral stated that item 3.2 will no longer be on the agenda.

3. May 12, 2021 Board Meeting Motion Agenda Items

3.1 2020 Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP) – Public Hearing

Dr. Bral informed the Committee of a request to hold a public hearing at the May 12, 2021 Board meeting for the purpose of receiving public comment on the 2020 UWMP and Water Shortage Contingency Plan (WSCP) for the Oxnard Hueneme (OH) pipeline system. She asked the committee to consider recommending approval of the motion item to the full Board. The committee members agreed to recommend approval of the motion item to the full Board.

3.2 Approving the draft Agreement for construction and operation of the State Water Project Interconnection Pipeline between the City of San Buenaventura, Casitas Municipal Water District, United Water Conservation District, and Calleguas Municipal Water District

Motion item removed from agenda and was not discussed.

3.3 Approving the CEQA Notice of Categorical Exemption Determination for the Emergency Power Supply for UWCD Drinking Water Treatment and Supply Facilities Project

Dr. Bral addressed the Committee regarding the request to recommend approval of the CEQA Notice of Categorical Exemption Determination for the Emergency Power Supply for UWCD Drinking Water Treatment and Supply Facilities Project. She asked the committee to consider recommending approval of the motion item to the full Board. The committee members agreed to recommend approval of the motion item to the full Board.

4. Project Highlights

4.1 Engineering Department Monthly Update

Dr. Bral provided updates and slides (see attached) on the Engineering department's activities for the month. Chair Maulhardt inquired if there was anything fundamentally wrong with the concrete shown in photos for the Grand Canal Headworks Project slide since grass and buildup of dirt were visible. Senior Engineer Craig Morgan stated that there is nothing fundamentally wrong with the concrete, it is a buildup of silt.

Chair Maulhardt asked if the project includes adding additional piping or is it simply a reconstruction of the canal with no change in the piping. Mr. Morgan stated that the piping will be removed, and staff is adding three reinforced concrete boxes that will increase the capacity from 375 cfs to 500 cfs.

Chair Maulhardt inquired about the total cost of the PTP Meter Replacement Project. Dr. Bral stated that the total cost is \$1,612,388. Chair Maulhardt asked if this operation is sustainable economically because of the cost of the mandates and maintenance which will be passed on to the users. Chair Maulhardt also asked if staff had completed an analysis of the projected life of the meters and if staff had figured out if the costs can be amortized over the life of the meter.

Chief Operations Officer Brian Collins stated the expected life of the meter is 20 years. Chair Maulhardt stated that if you take \$1 million over 20 years, that is \$50,000 a year plus maintenance, which is \$60,000 a year. Chair Maulhardt then asked what would happen to users' pump charges for this cost. Mr. Collins stated that he would defer this question to Joseph Jereb and added that this current year United significantly exceeded project deliveries so there was a surplus of funds that will be applied next year to offset some of the costs. He added the \$1.6 million dollar budget was not specifically for the meters, and was related to the easement acquisition rollout. He also clarified that all costs are not associated with the meter project. Chair Maulhardt suggested staff separate what portion of the budget is for meters and what portion is for other services. Dr. Bral stated that staff will identify what the consultants' fee is versus the cost of each turnout.

Director McFadden asked how many turnouts there are and what does the \$22,000 include. Dr. Bral stated that there is a total of 61 turnouts in the PTP system and the cost of the turnout includes installation and the purchase of the meters. Assistant General Manager Anthony Emmert stated that this project does not add any new charges to the PTP users, the existing charges are reflective of this project.

Dr. Bral stated that pilot testing for the Coastal Brackish Groundwater Extraction Treatment Project will be conducted on the Port Hueneme Harbor Site. Chair Maulhardt inquired if the geology in that area is similar to where the facility is planned to be constructed over in Point Mugu and if so, will it be a valid test.

Dr. Bral stated there are some logistics that staff needs to explore and assess, which includes feed water. She added that the water will ultimately be treated from the Oxnard and Hueneme basins under the Mugu Base. Dr. Bral stated that staff has explored this issue and have looked to see if there are any wells at Port Hueneme or the Hueneme base to represent the water staff will be working with. Staff found there were no options therefore there were discussions with the Navy to see if water could be transferred from Point Mugu to Hueneme, but staff is still analyzing the issues and logistics.

Dr. Bral provided updates on the Rice Avenue Grade Separation Project. Chair Maulhardt asked if the agreement will be CalTrans or if it will be some other agency's responsibility. Dr. Bral stated that staff has not received any agreement or draft agreement and that is why staff will meet with the County to discuss the cost of the replacement. The City of Oxnard or CalTrans have not accepted the fact that this relocation or reinforcement should be a part of the project citing the fact that United does not have superior rights or easements. Staff plans to meet with the County to raise these issues and have been directed to work on the engineering matters related to who is paying and who would be liable for future maintenance.

Chair Maulhardt inquired about the size of the State Water Interconnection Pipeline. Dr. Bral stated that it has not been determined but the baseline for the pipe size is to deliver 13 cfs by gravity from Ventura to Calleguas, she added the project would probably end up with a diameter from 30-36 inches, but this has not been determined and is stated as such in the agreement. Chair Maulhardt expressed concern about the crossing of the pipeline and the impacts on future development now that there will be an easement in the middle of a property and there is a water line under it. Dr. Bral stated that the draft agreement was presented to the Ventura Water Commission in February and they were in support of it. She added the plan is to get the draft agreement approved by the other three agencies including United.

4.2 2021 Freeman Diversion Sediment Management

Assistant Ecologist Evan Lashly provided updates and slides (see attached) on Sediment Management at the Freeman Diversion. Director McFadden asked about the environmental concerns of the riverbed during the month of August until September 15. Mr. Lashly stated it would be the end of the bird nesting season, which ends September 15.

Chair Maulhardt asked what staff is asking in terms of feedback. Mr. Lashly stated that this item is an informational item which provides the opportunity for the Board to provide comments. In future, staff will be coming to the Board for items related to this. Chair Maulhardt challenged staff to create a Plan B, which is a larger ask for a longer period of time. Mr. Lashly stated that this presentation is staff's way of going for the larger ask. He added, he believes that if staff can get the full suite of programs permitted, it will provide the freedom United needs. Chair Maulhardt also asked what the minimum program would be that is worth staff effort? He then specifically asked if a five-year recurring permit would be worth all of the time and effort put forth by staff? Chair Maulhardt recommended that staff do an analysis of various scenarios, challenging staff to think like an irrigator and how they are planning to control the volume of water. Mr. Lashly stated that staff is considering including those options in the project package.

Director McFadden asked how far east of the Freeman Diversion does United have control over the riverbed? Mr. Lashly stated staff has access easements on the entire Lloyd Butler parcels upstream of the Freeman. Mr. Collins stated that the upstream easement is approximately 27 acres.

5. Future Agenda Topics

No future agenda topics were offered.

ADJOURNMENT 10:41 a.m.

Chair Maulhardt adjourned the Engineering and Operations Committee meeting at 10:41 am.

I certify that the above is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Engineering and Operations Committee Meeting of May 6, 2021.

ATTEST:


Lynn Maulhardt, Chair

Motion Item 3.3

Emergency Power Supply for Drinking Water Treatment Plant Project

Community Power Resiliency Allocation to Special Districts Program

- ❖ Received Notice of Award in March 2021
- ❖ Total Grant Amount: \$198,612

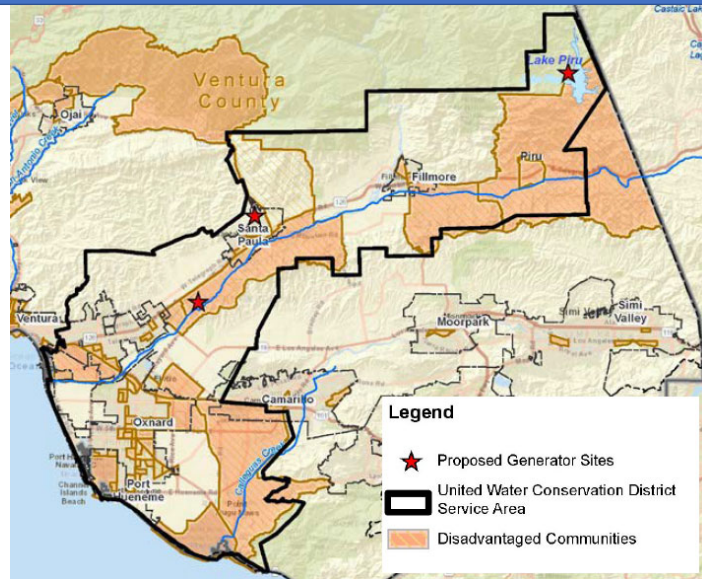
Emergency Generator Installation – 3 Critical Facilities

- ❖ Lake Piru Water Treatment Plant (125 kW)
- ❖ Flocculation Building (60 kW)
- ❖ Santa Paula Tower (17kW)

All generators will be installed by OPS and can be mobile

Motion Item 3.3

- ❖ Resolution 2021-09 – Adopt CEQA NOE for project
- ❖ Project Categorically exempt from CEQA per section(s): 15301, existing facilities



ENGINEERING AND OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING

MAY 6, 2021

1

Projects under Construction



2



Grand Canal Construction

- DOD mobilized to the site on April 28
- Will be complete by the end of the FY

3

OH System Backup Generator



Engineering submitted two requests to CalOES: Time extension & Budget Increase. The 2nd Quarterly Report and the 2nd Reimbursement Request were submitted in April.

Staff executed an agreement with Phoenix Civil Engineering for Construction Management Services

Operations completed removal of the old generator

Engineering is involved with the Project Management

Notice to Proceed was issued to Oilfield Electric & Motor on April 2, 2021

Construction is currently underway

4

OH Water Well No. 19

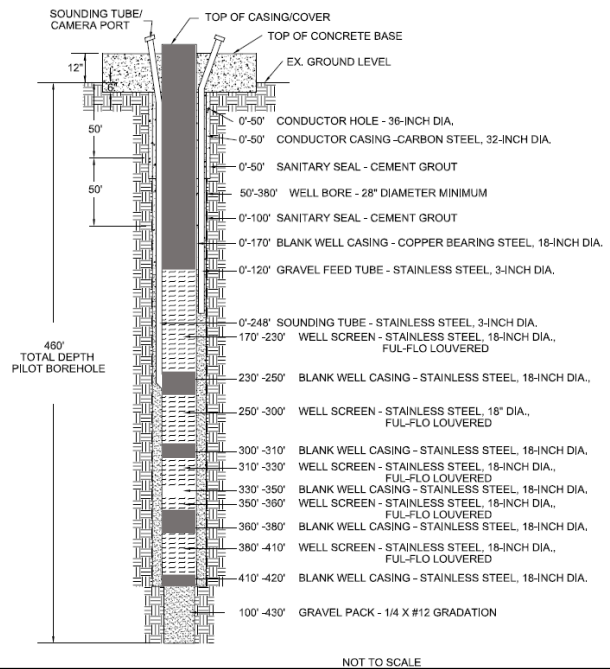
Progress

- Best Drilling completed the installation of the well in April.

Next Steps

- Complete Hydraulic Development
- Destruction of Well No. 6
- Pipe Installation
- Electrical Connections
- New Pump and Motor Installation

WELL NO. 19 CONSTRUCTION



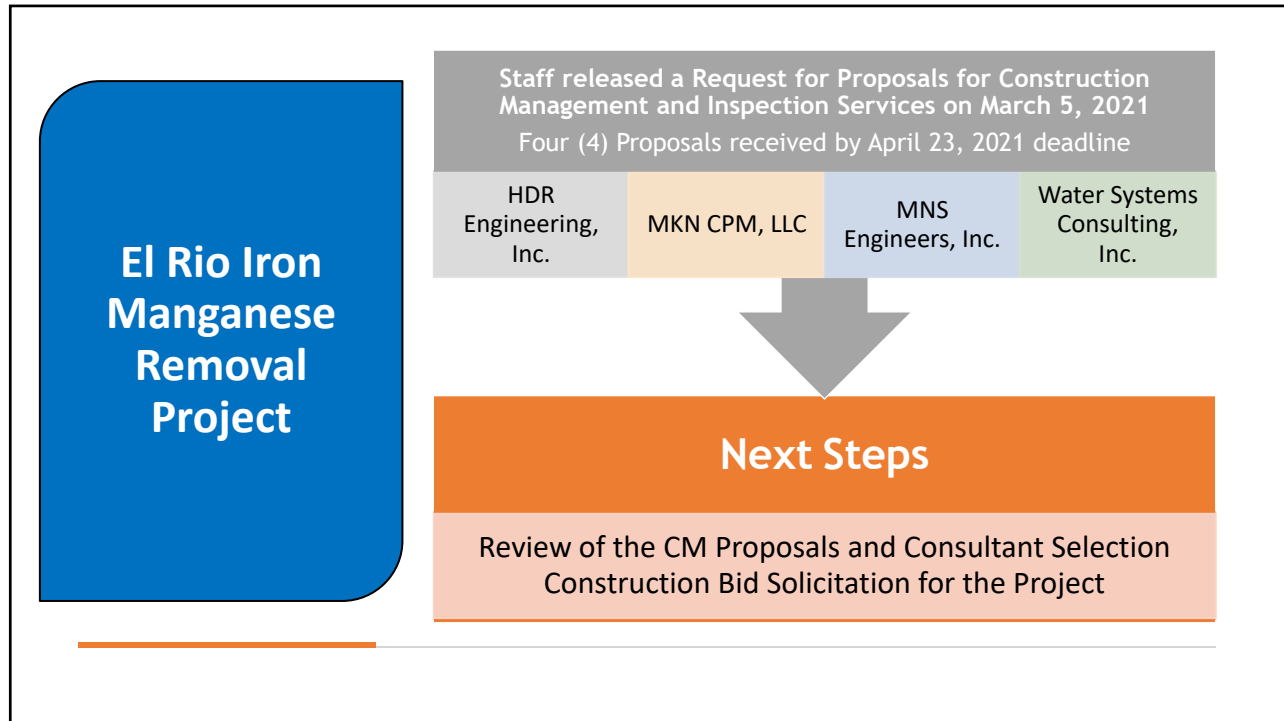
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OH Water Well No. 19

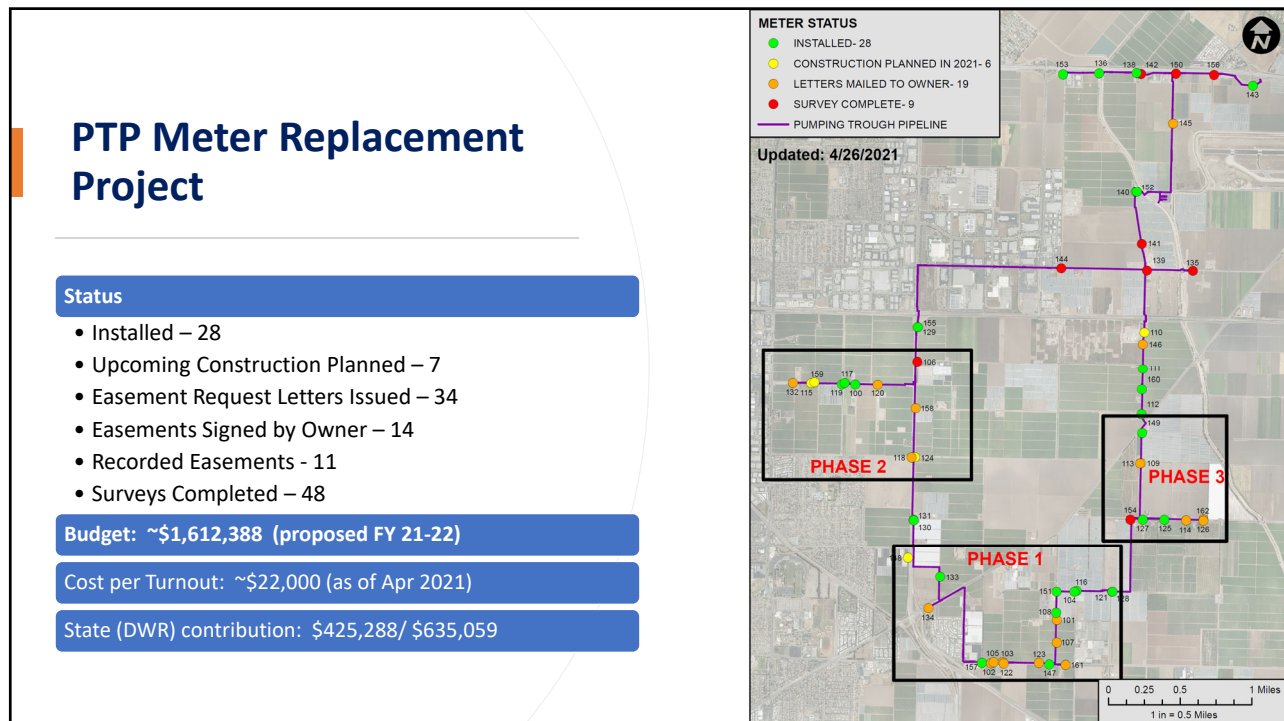
Next steps

- Complete hydraulic development
- Well no. 6 destruction
- Pipe installation
- Electrical
- Pump and motor installation

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Coastal Brackish Groundwater Extraction Treatment Project



RP/Q for CEQA Documentation and Processing released on April 23, 2021



An agreement with Trussell Technologies was executed for extended desktop modeling analysis and pilot testing plan



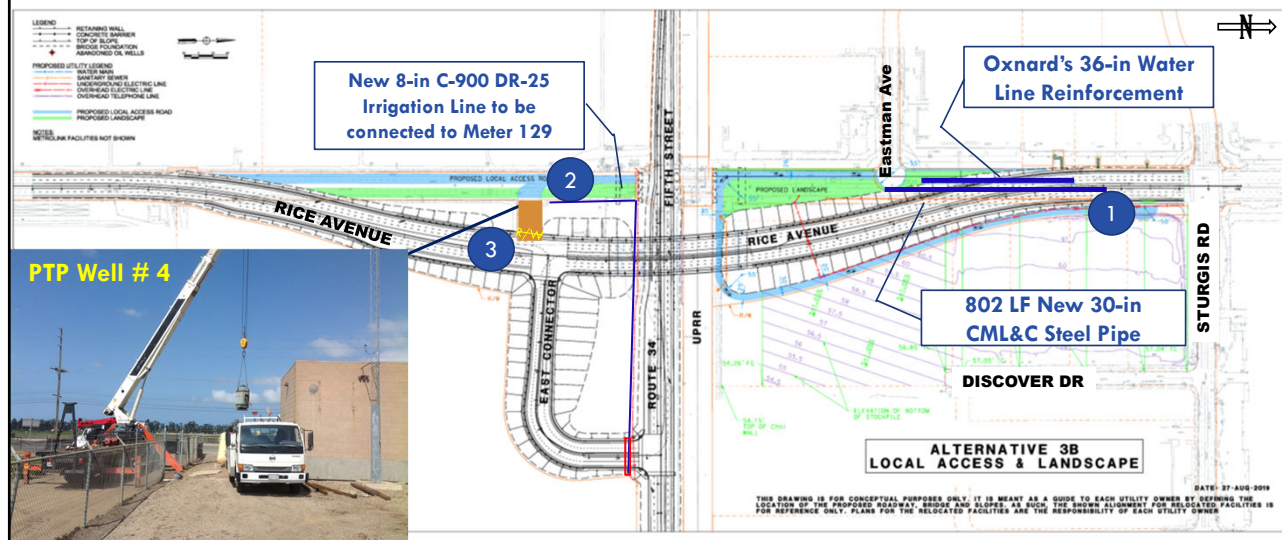
Groundwater Modeling in Progress



Leadership meeting scheduled for May 26, 2021

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Rice Avenue Grade Separation Project Impact On PTP System




10

Rice Avenue Grade Separation Project Activities


DESIGN REVIEW

- 


May 26, 2020

Staff provided review comments on utility relocation plans
- 


Aug 02, 2020

United received a revised plan set for review and additional comments
- 


September 23, 2020

City's Consultant requested United's comments on the 65% relocation plans
- 

October 10, 2020

United requested utility access and other features to be added to the design
- 

March 15, 2021

City Consultant provided United the 95% design plans and specifications
- 


May 2021

United will provide comments on the 95% plans and specs


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Rice Avenue Grade Separation Project Activities


SITE ACCESS

- 

June 4, 2020

United granted the City access to PTP Well 4 for conducting additional survey
- 

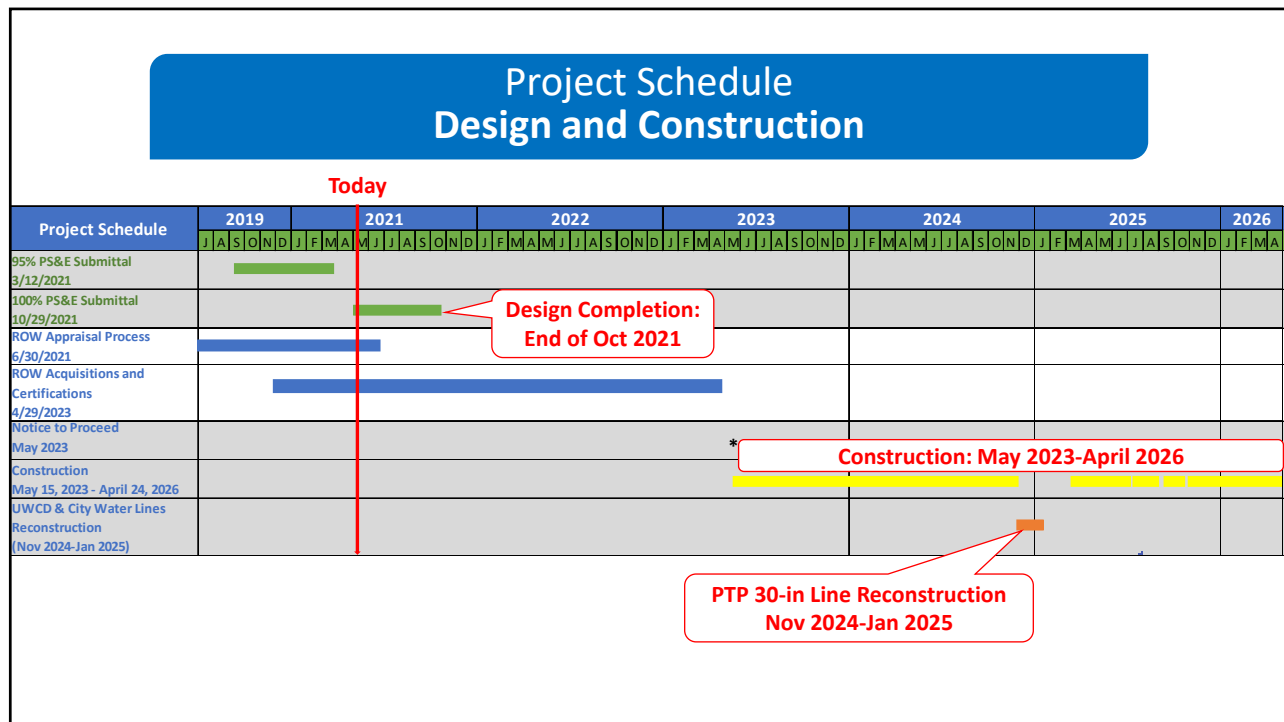
July 15, 2020

United received a letter from Riggs and Riggs (Appraiser) on behalf of CalTrans requesting site access for appraisal of PTP Well No. 4
- 

July 30, 2020

Appraiser conducted a site inspection

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A teal-colored background with a wavy, textured pattern resembling water or sand dunes.

Sediment Management at the Freeman Diversion

Engineering and Operations Committee Meeting
May 6, 2021

1

A teal-colored background with a wavy, textured pattern resembling water or sand dunes.

Presentation Overview

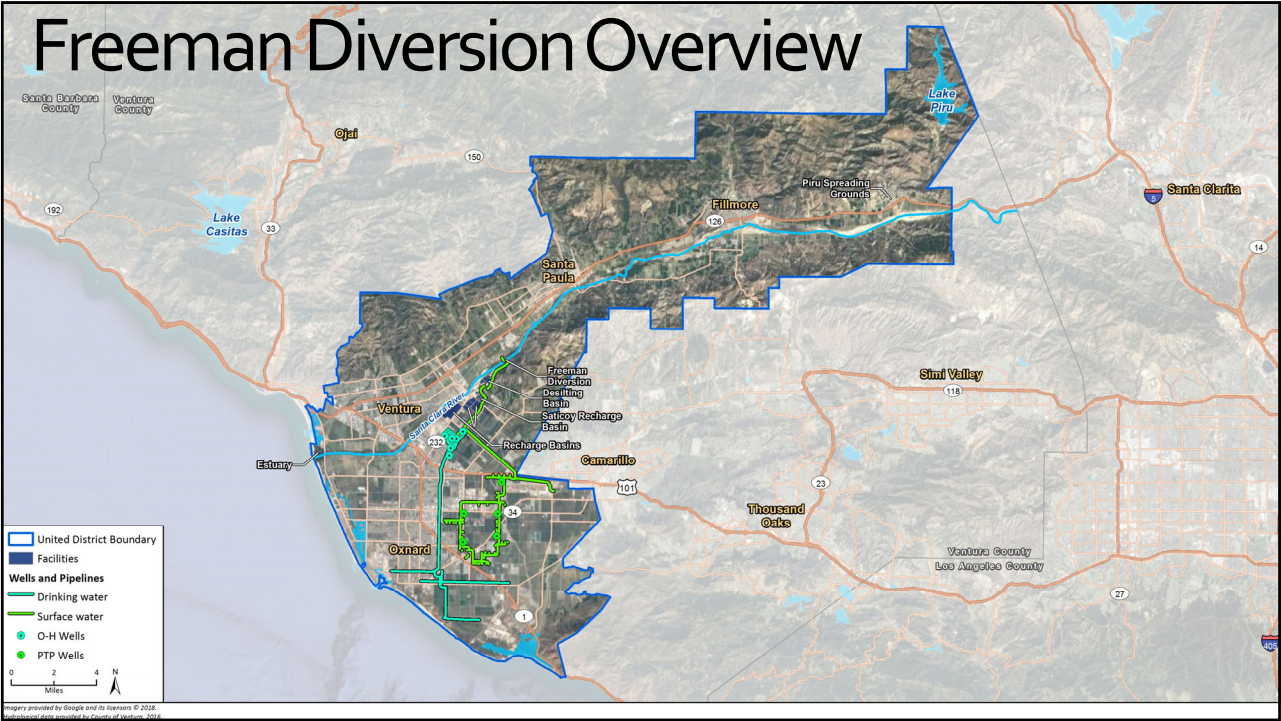
- Project background and need
- Existing Permits/Agreements
- Conceptual project overview
- Anticipated permit paths

2

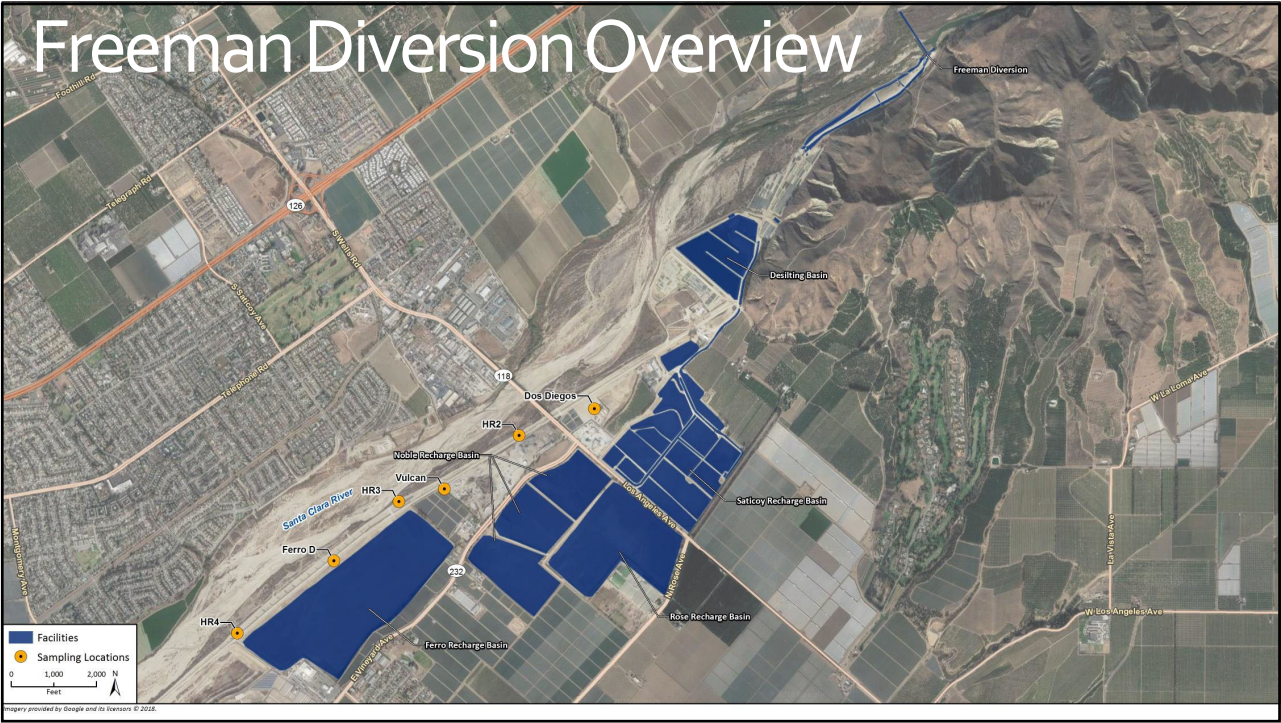
Background and Need

- Freeman Diversion overview
- Sediment dynamics
- 2019 Pilot channel project provided short-term benefit but did not realize long-term goal

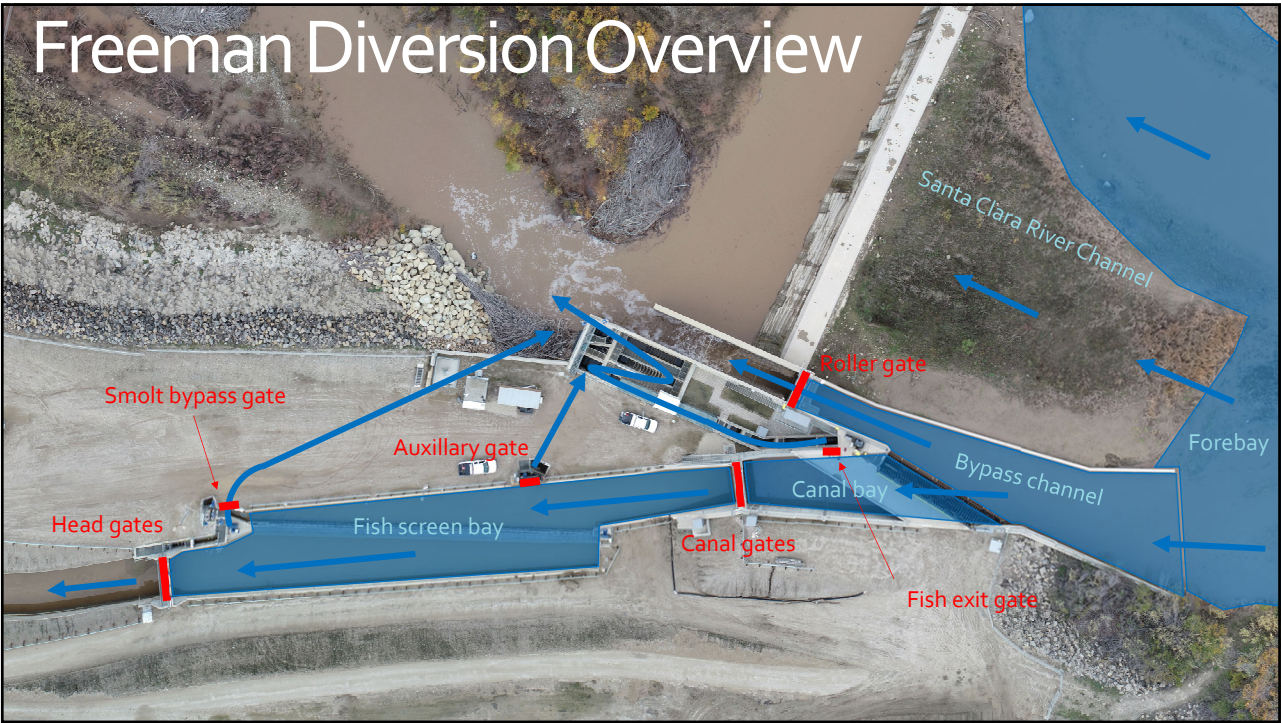
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2019 Pilot Channel

12/26/2019 ~1,000 cfs

4/6/2020 ~3,200 cfs

~39% conveyance capacity recovered for winter of 2019-20

only achieved ~50% of design capacity (3,000 cfs)

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Short-term needs

- Address encroaching south bank
 - Recover bypass channel conveyance
- Address developing island
 - Homogenize flow pattern for measurement accuracy

Long-term goals

- Develop program for sediment management to address changing conditions through time

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Fish and Game Code §1600

<h3>Routine Maintenance</h3> <p>1600-2013-0223-R5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• originally issued 8/19/2014• extended 9/27/2019 (expires 9/27/2023)• amended 9/15/2015<ul style="list-style-type: none">• one-time approval to conduct geotechnical investigation and bypass channel repair• amended 12/13/2019<ul style="list-style-type: none">• one-time approval to excavate pilot channel	<h3>Targeted Sediment Removal (dredge)</h3> <p>1600-2020-0143-R5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• originally issued 8/7/2020<ul style="list-style-type: none">• one-time approval to conduct approximately 25 dredging events• request to extend denied• amended 10/15/2020<ul style="list-style-type: none">• addition of algae management techniques
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10

Clean Water Act §401 & 404

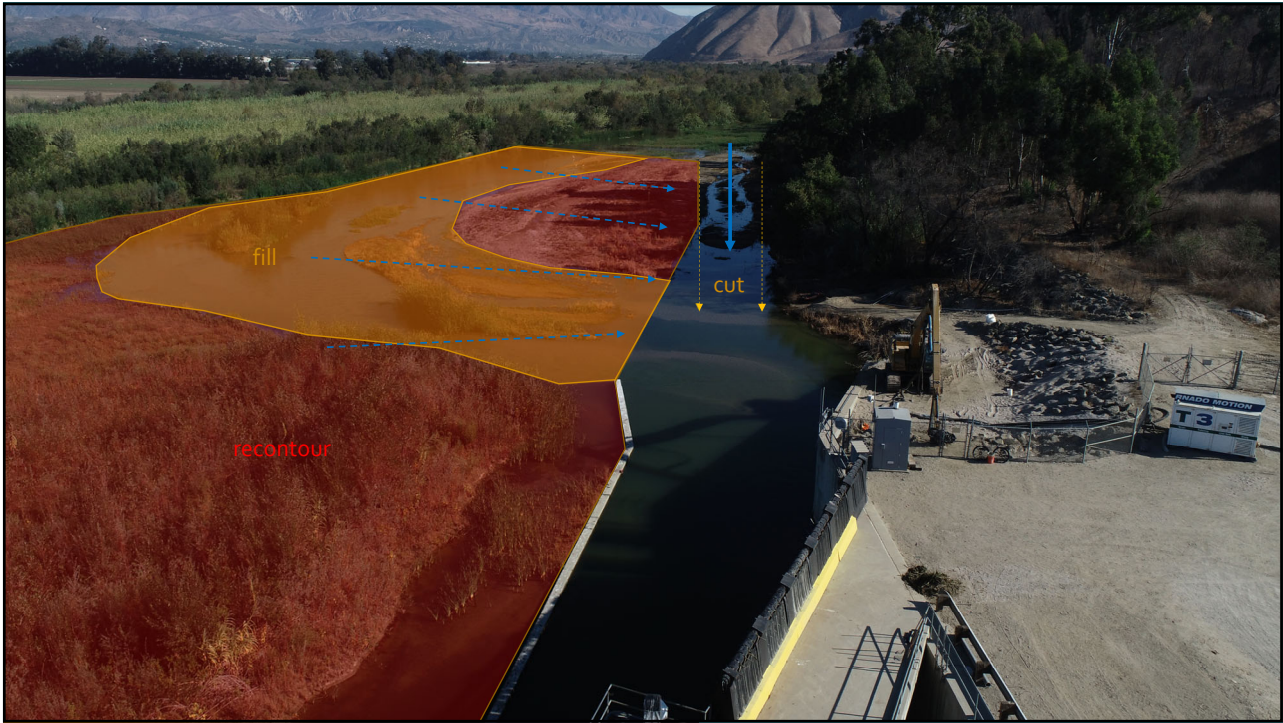
Routine Maintenance
USACE Individual Permit ~ SPL-2013-00171-EBR

- issued 12/18/2019 (expires 12/18/2024)
 - includes similar dewatering/flow rerouting/earthwork with differences in scope
 - NMFS letter of concurrence – considering complete avoidance of *O. mykiss*
 - USFWS letter of concurrence – considering seasonal (nesting) avoidance
- 401 requirement waived on 10/23/2019 due to lack of response from LARWQCB

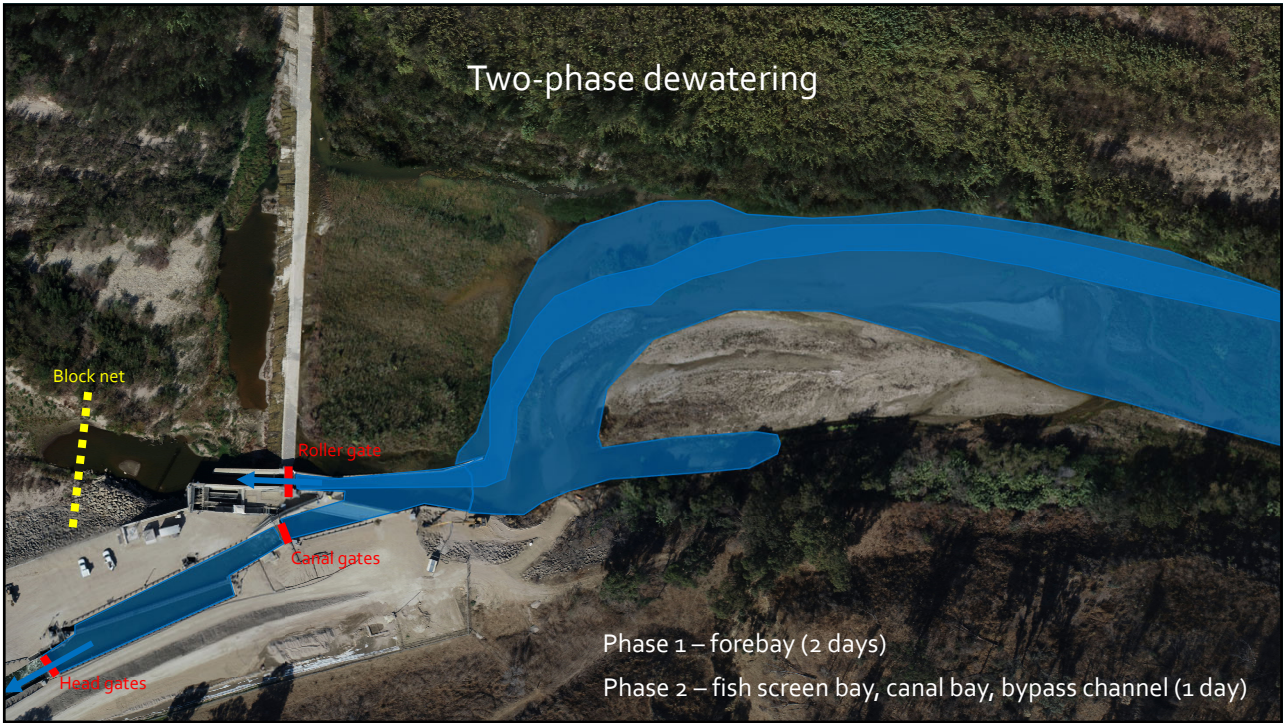
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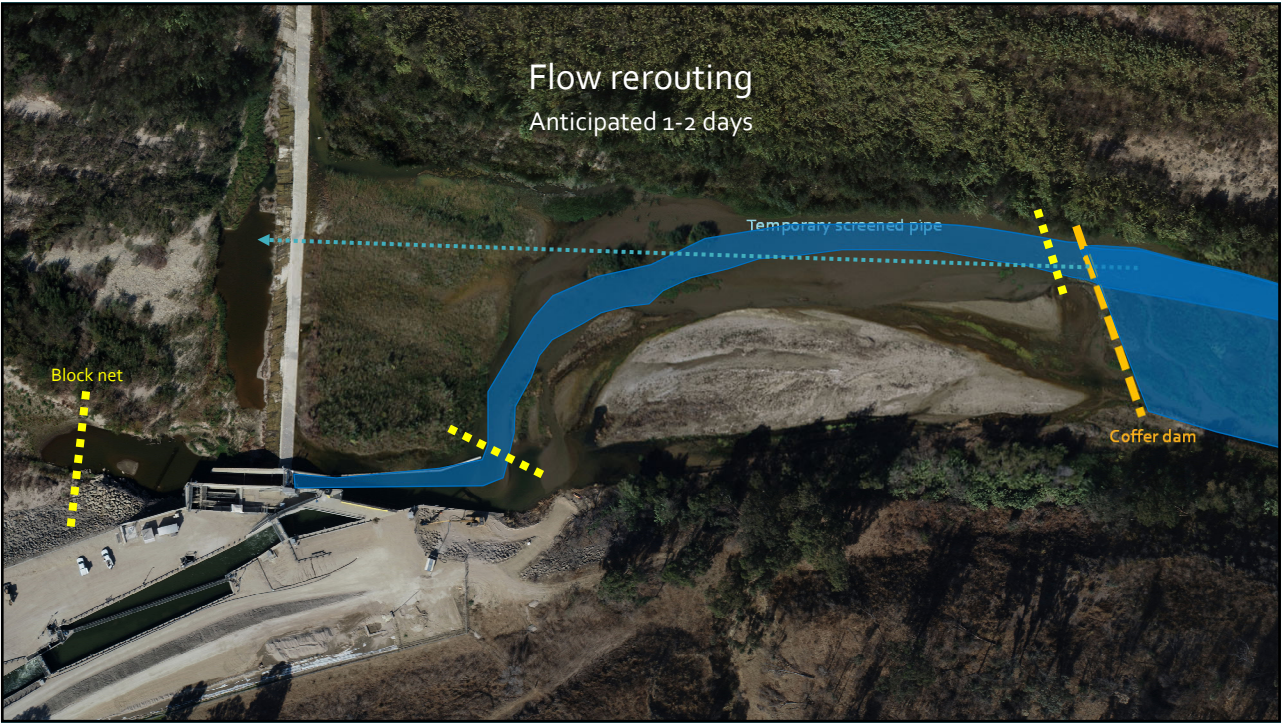
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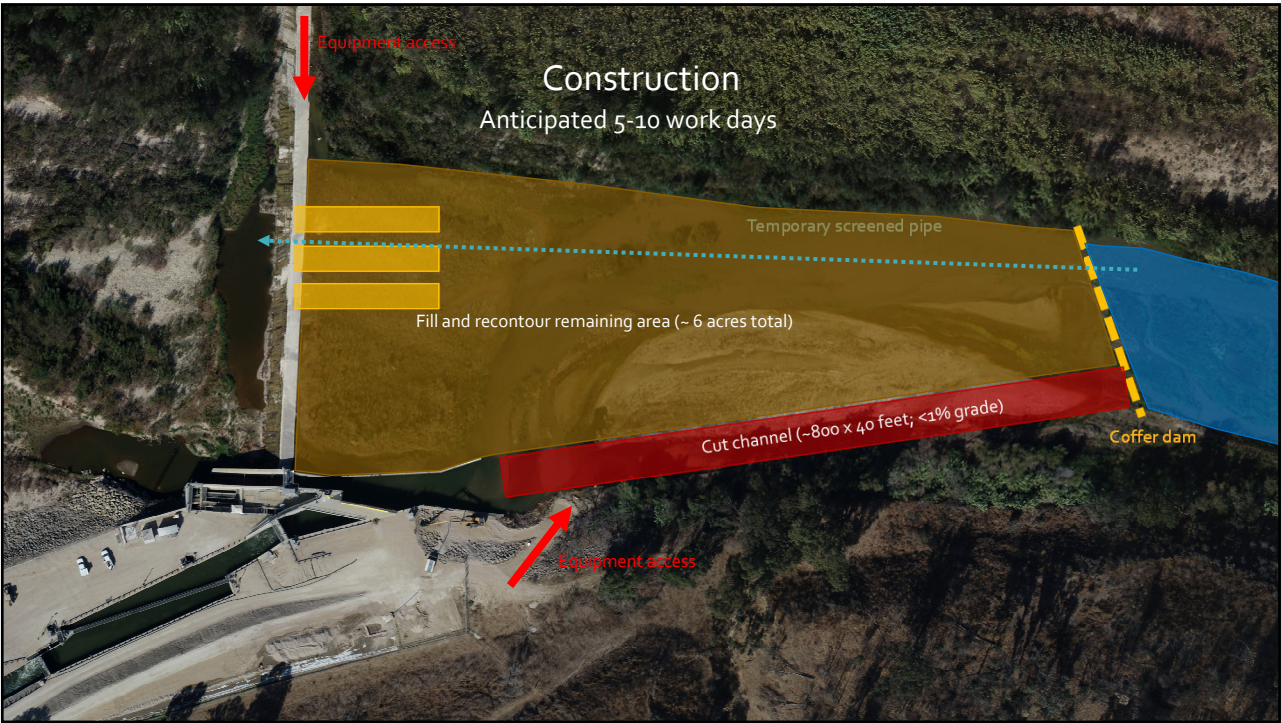
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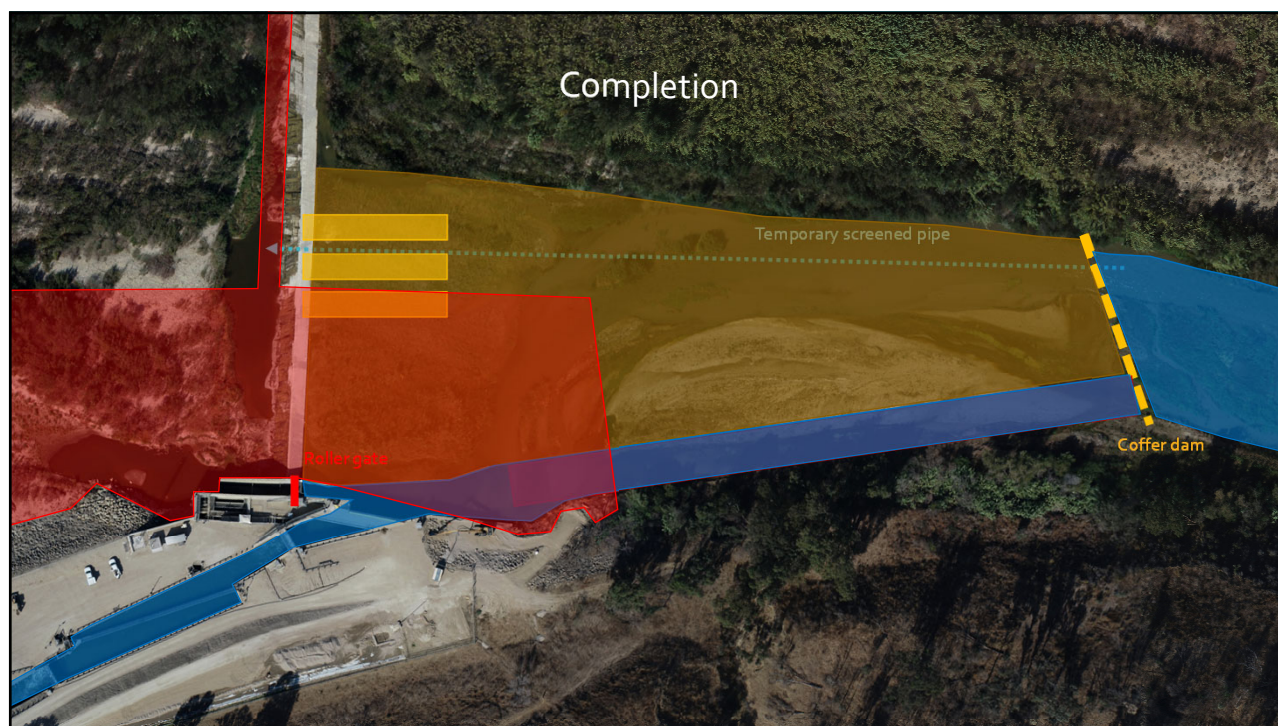
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Construction Summary

- Two-phase dewatering
- Installation of a coffer dam (earthen? 200 feet bank to bank?)
- Installation of a temporary water diversion via screened pipe (size?)
- Excavation of a new channel 800 feet long, 40 feet wide at its base, <1% slope – estimated 8,000 cubic yards
 - Steeply sloped south bank, gradually sloped north bank
- Recontouring the remaining work area – 6 acres total
- Rewatering the work area and diverting all water through the work area (precluding turbid flow downstream)
- Expected 10 total working days (??2019 pilot channel was 5 days)

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Avoidance/Minimization/Mitigation Summary

- Two-phase dewatering
 - Aquatic wildlife rescue and relocation in all locations during all phases
- Seasonal avoidance (nesting season and steelhead migration season)
 - Target “preferred maintenance window” of Sept 15 – November
 - Avoid Jan 1 – Sept 15
- Preclude turbid water from flowing downstream upon project completion
- Package activities for initial event as repeatable program components
- Mitigate as a permanent effect

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Possible Mitigation?

Three United owned parcels

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Hypothesized Permitting Paths

- CEQA IS-MND
- CDFW – New 1600 agreement (CESA?)
- RWQCB – New 401 application
- USACE – Amended IP?
 - Reinitiate consultation with NMFS regarding steelhead
 - USFWS LoC possibly still valid considering seasonal avoidance?

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Questions?



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