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Upper San Joaquin River Basin Storage Investigation Frequently Asked Questions from Residents and Landowners

Project Site

Q: Could the current dam site be relocated so that it is not viewable from the Hidden Lake Estates community?

A: Reclamation evaluated 22 potential locations for water supply projects since 2001. By 2005, we narrowed the evaluation to four potential locations: three in the San Joaquin River between Friant and Kerckhoff Dams, and a fourth in Fine Gold Creek. The current site was selected based, in part, on the surrounding geology, water supply options, environmental impacts, and hydroelectric production. Other locations allow for smaller reservoirs but larger dams.

Waste Area

Q: Why is a Millerton Lake cove being identified as a “waste area” for tunneling debris? Are there other options?

A: The area locally known as Sea Scout Cove was initially identified as the least cost alternative for disposal of the dirt and sand from tunneling and powerhouse construction. Results of recent geologic investigations indicate that less disposal area would be required; therefore the cove disposal site and associated haul road are no longer included in the proposed project. Excavation materials would be used for cofferdam construction or to reclaim construction areas.

Utility Corridor

Q: How was the utility corridor selected in the project area?

A: Six potential utility corridors were evaluated for the project. The current alignment was selected to avoid critical habitat, including vernal pools and raptor habit, topographic issues, tribal resources, and existing residential land-use, as well as to reduce the cost.

Construction Haul Routes

Q: Would traffic by residents, cyclists and others be affected during construction?

A: A detailed traffic management plan would be prepared during the final design phase to minimize traffic conflicts during construction. Depending on the type and extent of construction activities, plans typically include detours and lane control features such as signage, lighting, and flag persons. If the project is authorized the plan would be implemented during all construction activities affecting traffic routes in the vicinity of the primary study area.



Project EIS

Q: Can additional comments be submitted for inclusion in the Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)?

A: The formal public review and comment period on the Draft EIS closed on Oct. 27, 2014. Additional public comments cannot be included in the Final EIS. Additional public comment and review could occur when a California Environmental Quality Act document is circulated, or if supplemental National Environmental Policy Act compliance is needed to address changes in the project as a result of Congressional authorization, changed conditions, or new information.

Q: Could the project be modified after the Secretary of the Interior submits the Final EIS to Congress?

A: Congress may or may not authorize one of the alternatives considered in the Feasibility Report and Final EIS. If Congress authorizes a project, the Secretary and Reclamation will review the authorization and provide supplemental analysis and documentation if needed to identify the potential benefits and impacts of the authorized project.

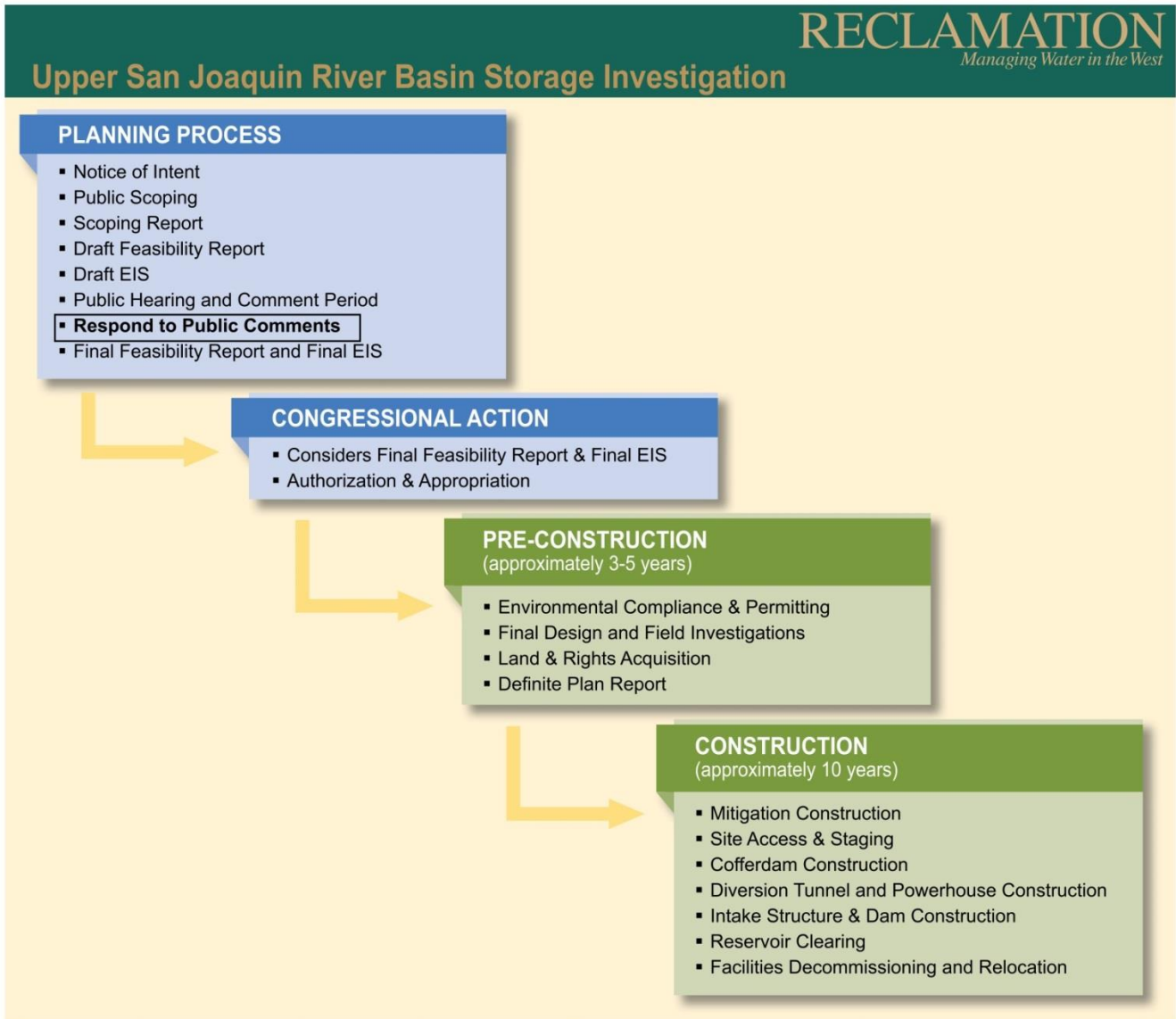
Q: What are the next steps in the planning process?

A: The Final Feasibility Report, Final EIS, and supporting documents will be submitted to the Secretary of the Interior. After approval by the Office of Management and Budget, in accordance with Executive Order 12322, the Secretary will transmit the Final Feasibility Report and Final EIS to Congress for consideration.

Q: Would Temperance Flat Dam and Reservoir be eligible for Prop 1 Bond Funding?

A: Prop 1, "Water Bond. Funding for Water Quality, Supply, Treatment, and Storage Projects," includes \$2.7 billion for storage projects. Eligible projects for funding include surface storage projects like the Upper San Joaquin River Basin Storage Investigation. The California Water Commission is developing the criteria and competitive process to select projects to fund. Based upon information available to-date, it is possible that this project would meet the basic eligibility requirements for bond funds.

Next Steps



Resources & Contact Information

For more information please contact Melissa Harris, Project Manager, Reclamation, Planning Division, 2800 Cottage Way, Sacramento, CA 95825-1893. Ms. Harris can also be contacted by phone at 916-978-5075 (TTY 800-877-8339), fax at 916-978-5094, or email at sha-mpr-usjrbsi@usbr.gov. Additional information is available at the project website: <http://www.usbr.gov/mp/sccao/storage/index.html>.