



San Luis Low Point Improvement Project

PUBLIC SCOPING OPEN HOUSE – SEPTEMBER 2008

Purpose of Public Scoping

Public scoping is a vital component of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) processes. Public scoping serves to include agencies, stakeholders, and interested public in the decision-making process and to allow full environmental disclosure and provide decision makers with insight on the analyses that agencies, stakeholders, and interested public believes should be considered as part of the environmental review process. For the San Luis Low Point Improvement Project, the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) is the agency lead for the NEPA process and the Santa Clara Valley Water District (SCVWD) is the agency lead for the CEQA process. These scoping meetings will assist Reclamation and the SCVWD in obtaining information that will focus the Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR) on significant issues.

Scoping allows agencies, stakeholders, and interested parties to identify or suggest:

- resources to be evaluated
- issues that may require environmental review
- reasonable alternatives to consider
- potential mitigation (ways to reduce or avoid environmental impacts) if significant adverse effects are identified

Meeting Format

During the Open House public scoping meetings, agency personnel from Reclamation and SCVWD, along with consultant staff, will be present at the various information stations to discuss the project alternatives and gather public comments. Participants can visit information stations and ask representatives questions and/or provide comments. You can provide comments at each station on the flip charts provided, on the comment card, or you can fax comments to (916) 978-5114 Attn. Louis Moore.

Information Stations

- Project Orientation
- What is a NEPA/CEQA?
- The Low Point Issue
- Project Objectives
- Comprehensive Plans Under Consideration
- Environmental Issues/Resources Addressed
- Comment Station. Fill out Comment Cards in person and leave in the box provided. You may also mail, fax or email it back to us by SEPTEMBER 30, 2008 (contact information provided on card).

Contact Information

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation

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PROJECT OVERVIEW AND STATUS – SEPTEMBER 2008

Project Description

Jointly owned and operated by the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) and the California Department of Water Resources (DWR), San Luis Reservoir is one of California's largest reservoirs and a key component of the state's water supply system. Water from California's Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta (Delta) is delivered to San Luis Reservoir for temporary storage during the rainy season and is released during the dry season for use by Central Valley Project (CVP) and State Water Project (SWP) contractors located south of the Delta. San Luis Reservoir water is delivered to CVP and SWP contractors east of the reservoir via the Delta-Mendota Canal (DMC), the San Luis Canal, and the California Aqueduct, and west to the San Felipe Division, which includes the Santa Clara Valley Water District and the San Benito County Water District.

Project Objectives

Optimize the water supply benefits of San Luis Reservoir while reducing additional risks to water users by:

- Avoiding supply interruptions when water is needed by increasing the certainty of meeting the requested delivery schedule throughout the year to south-of-Delta contractors dependent on San Luis Reservoir
- Increasing the reliability and quantity of yearly allocations to south-of-Delta contractors dependent on San Luis Reservoir.
- Announcing higher allocations earlier in the season to south-of-Delta contractors dependent on San Luis Reservoir without sacrificing accuracy of the allocation forecasts.

The San Luis Low Point Improvement Project may provide opportunities for ecosystem restoration.

Project Status

Using a multi-phase screening process, the Study Team has identified three alternatives that could address the San Luis Reservoir low-point issue:

- Extending and lowering the San Felipe intake pipe
- Expand the existing Pacheco Creek reservoir. The new dam and reservoir would inundate the existing 6,000 acre-foot Pacheco Reservoir, owned and operated by the Pacheco Pass Water District.
- A combined solution, which could include multiple structural components and management measures to maximize operational flexibility and supply reliability in the San Felipe Division.
- No Project Alternative, as required under CEQA and NEPA, serves as a baseline against which the action alternatives will be compared.

The three alternatives and No Project Alternative are undergoing further evaluation in a draft EIR/EIS which is scheduled for release and public review in mid 2009. Completion of the EIS/EIR is anticipated for early in 2010.

Timeline

