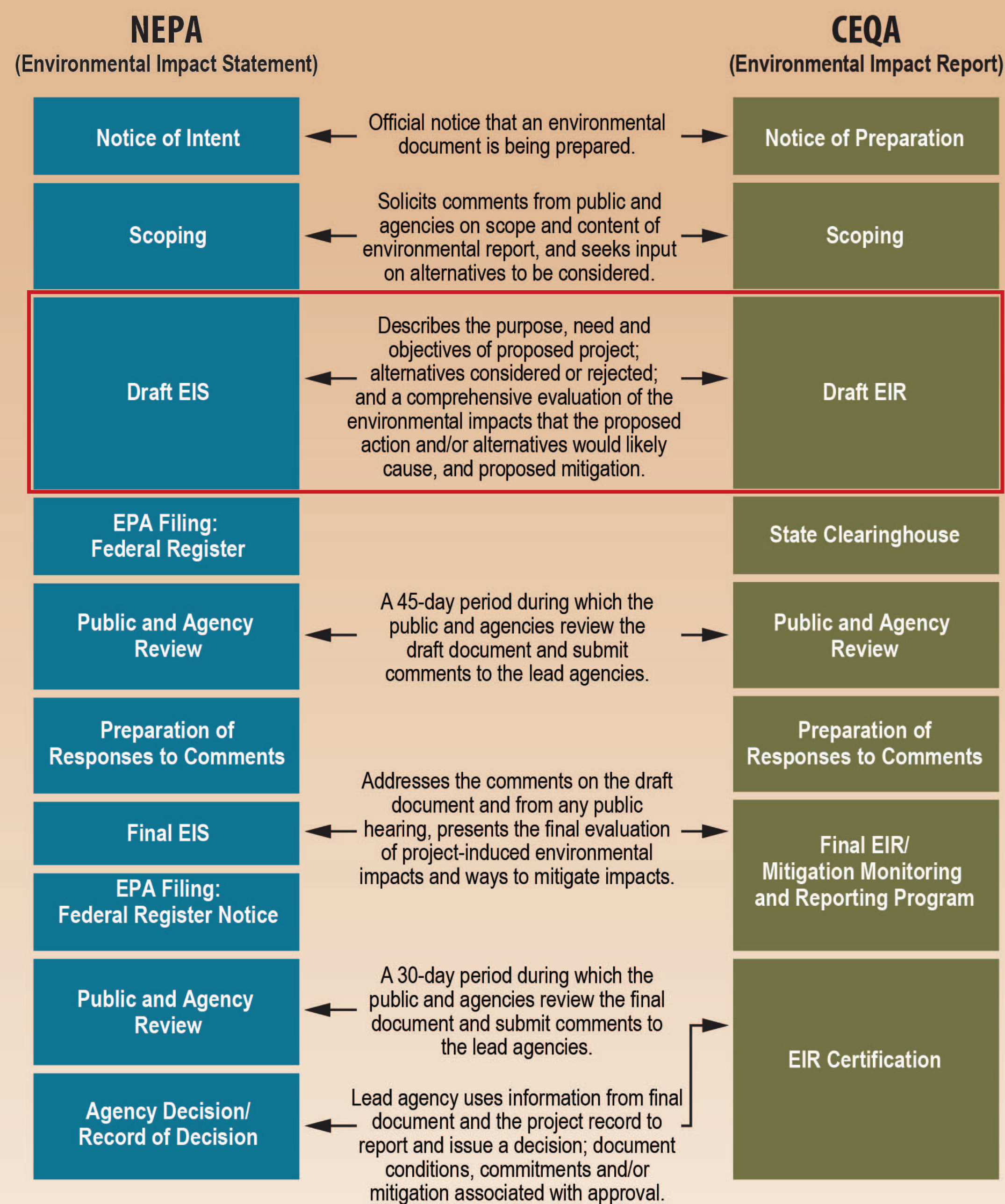


Understanding the environmental review processes



NEPA = National Environmental Policy Act
CEQA = California Environmental Quality Act
EIR = environmental impact report

EIS = environmental impact statement
EPA = U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
ROD = record of decision

Environmental Topics Addressed:

Air Quality, Noise, Traffic and Water Quality

- Temporary effects during construction.
- Best management practices and environmental commitments for construction will reduce localized construction effects.

Biological Resources

- Compliance with Corps Levee Safety policy requires vegetation to be removed from the levees, however:
 - Acquisition of a variance from the policy would allow vegetation to remain on the lower waterside slopes to protect habitat for listed species.
 - Locals will implement a Systemwide Improvement Framework (SWIF), to allow vegetation to be addressed on a “worst-first” basis.
 - Vegetation will only be impacted in the construction footprint; approximately the upper half of the levee slope.
- Vegetation removal could adversely impact listed species, such as the valley elderberry longhorn beetle and Swainson’s hawk.
- Other construction activities could adversely impact giant garter snake, vernal pool crustaceans, and listed fish species such as salmon, steelhead, sturgeon, and Delta smelt.

Cultural Resources

- Potential effects on archaeological resources. A Programmatic Agreement between the Corps, the CVFPB, and State Historic Preservation Officer will govern the phased approach to comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.
- Ongoing coordination with tribal representatives will continue throughout implementation of the Programmatic Agreement.