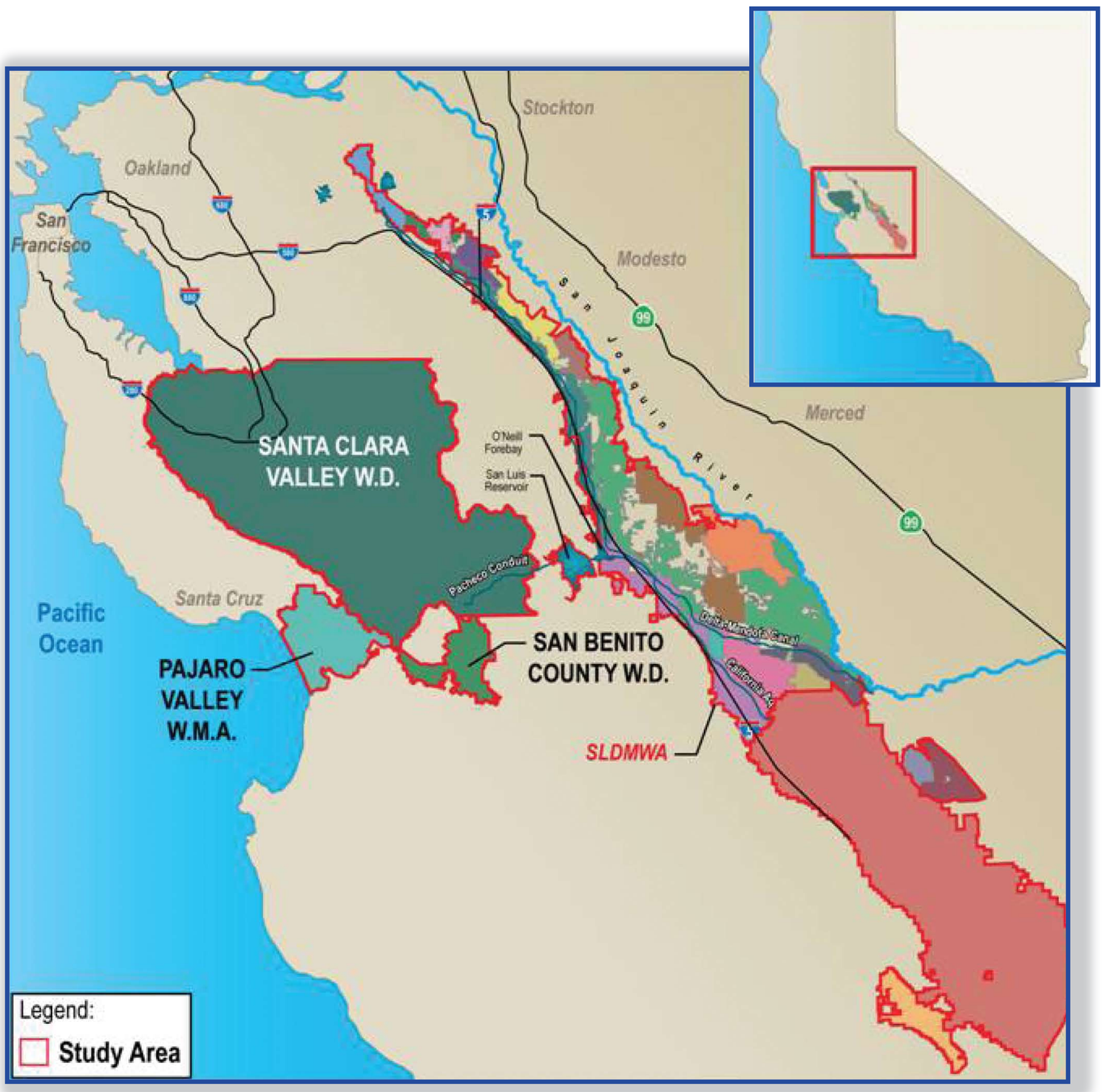
San Luis Low Point Improvement Project

Project Orientation – San Luis Reservoir

With a storage capacity of over 2 million acre-feet, San Luis Reservoir is one of California's largest off-stream reservoirs and is a key element of the State's water supply system.

Water from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta is delivered to San Luis Reservoir via the California Aqueduct and Delta-Mendota Canal for storage. In the summer months, water is released from San Luis Reservoir for use by the Federal and State water projects.

EIS/EIR Study Area



The Study Area for the San Luis Low Point Improvement Project consists of:

- San Luis Reservoir;
- The San Felipe Division of the Central Valley Project (CVP), which includes Santa Clara Valley Water District, San Benito County Water District, and Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency; and
- The CVP service areas of the San Luis and Delta-Mendota Water Authority (SLDMWA).

What is NEPA/CEQA?

Environmental Review Purpose

Compliance activities associated with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) will:

- Evaluate reasonable alternatives that could reduce or avoid environmental impacts
- Provide information for public review and comment
- Identify significant environmental impacts
- Develop mitigation (ways to reduce or avoid environmental impacts)
- Communicate to decision makers the impacts, mitigation, and public comments

What is Scoping?

Public scoping serves to include agencies, stakeholders, and the interested public in the decision-making process and to allow full environmental disclosure. The Bureau of Reclamation (NEPA lead) and the Santa Clara Valley Water District (CEQA lead) invite stakeholder and public input on environmental considerations as part of the scoping process of the Draft EIS/EIR.

Scoping helps to identify and refine:

- Potential options and alternatives
- Potential environmental impacts
- Potential mitigation measures

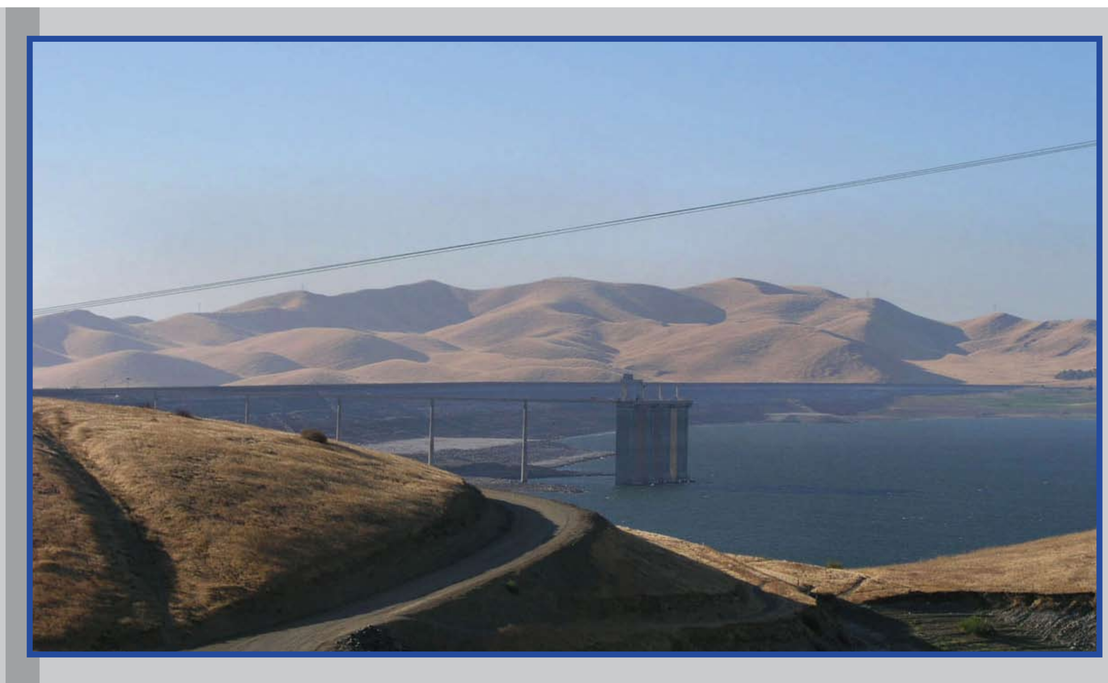
Summer	Fall	Winter	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter	Spring
Public Scoping Meetings	Impact Analysis		Draft Feasibility Study Report/ EIS/EIR	Public Comment Period and Public Hearings		Final Feasibility Study and EIS/EIR	Record of Decision/ Notice of Determination
08			09				10

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.



Environmental Issues/ Resources Addressed

Hydrology and Water Quality

- Water deliveries
- Water quality

Biological Resources

- Impacts to Federal and State listed species and habitat
- Habitat Conversion
- Impacts to Wetlands

Construction Impacts

- Dust and Air Quality
- Noise

Land Use and Socioeconomics

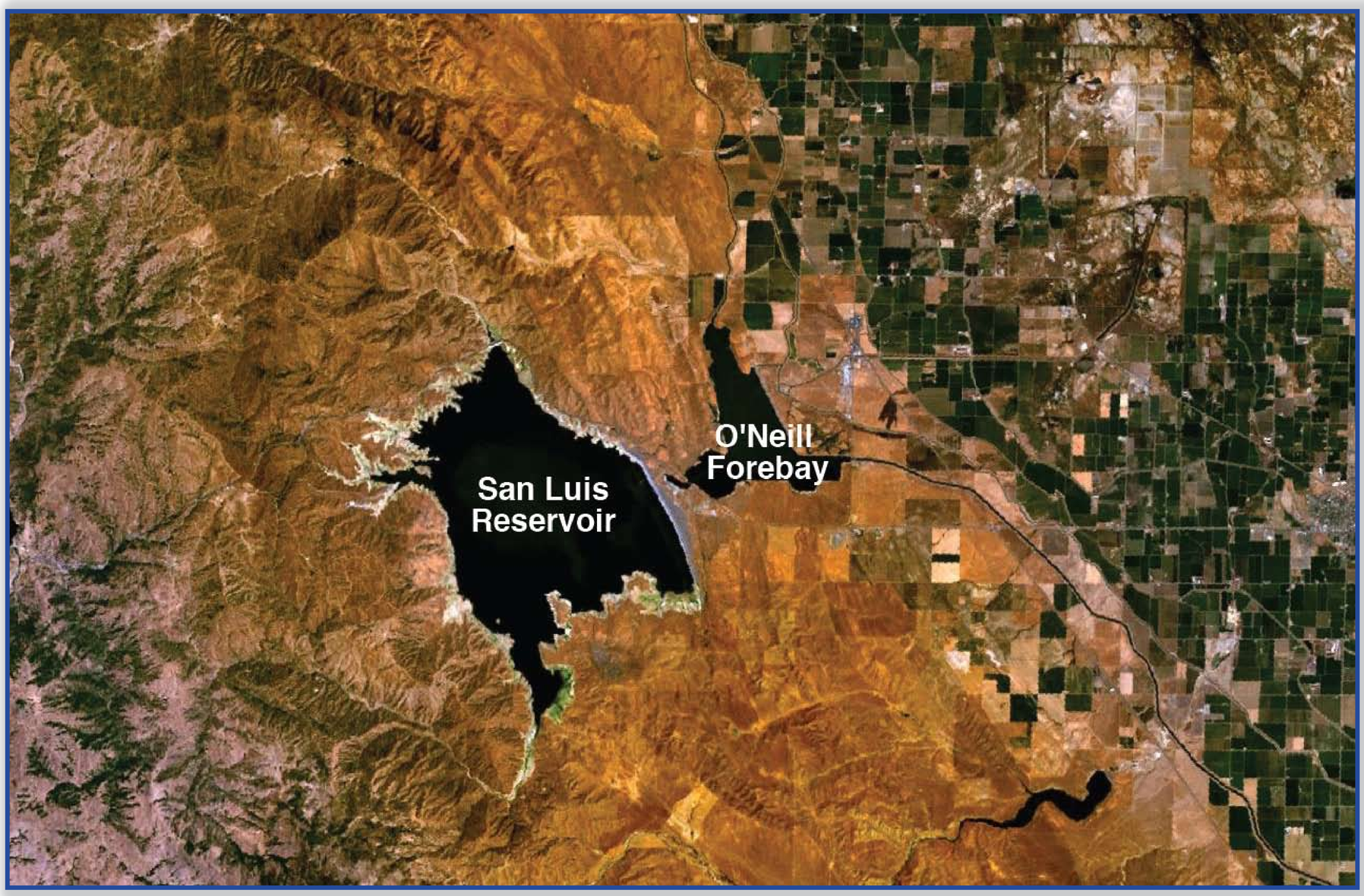
- Agricultural Land Conversion
- Recreation
- Cultural Resources

Traffic Impacts

Physical Resources

- Geology, soils, and seismicity
- Visual resources
- Air quality

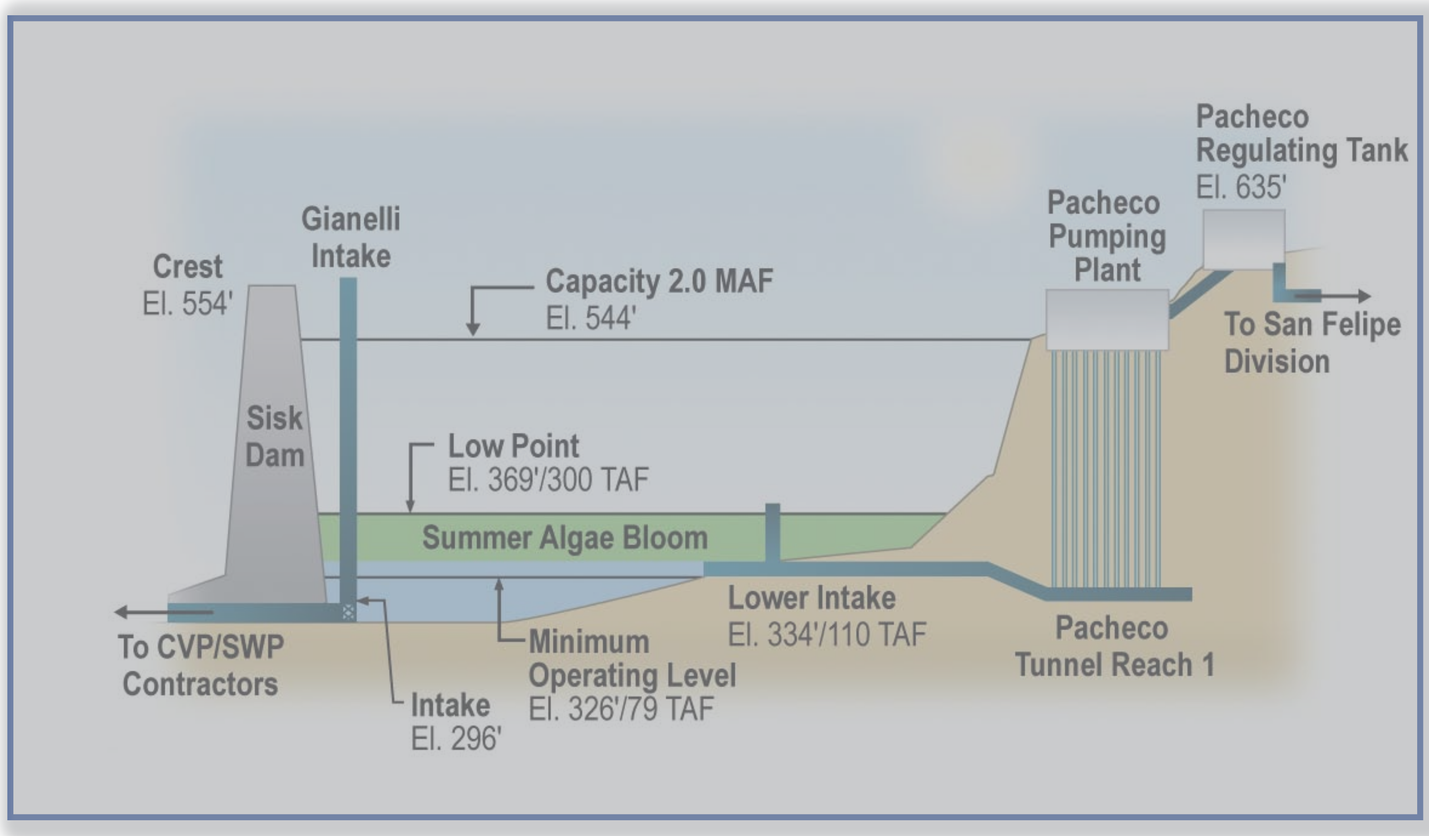
Cumulative Effects



The Low Point Issue

Under regular operations, water is released from San Luis Reservoir to the State Water Project (SWP), the Central Valley Project (CVP), and the San Felipe Division (SFD) of the CVP.

- As the San Luis Reservoir is drawn down during the summer and into the late fall (when water supplies are needed most), a thick layer of algae (as much as 35 feet thick) grows on the surface.
- As the water level lowers, this algae gets captured by SFD intakes.
- The algae degrades water quality and makes water more difficult to treat.
- As a result, **San Felipe Division deliveries can be interrupted when the reservoir falls below 300,000 acre-feet.**
- These delivery interruptions are critical because the San Luis Reservoir is the only CVP water source that SFD contractors can access.



Potential effects of these issues include:

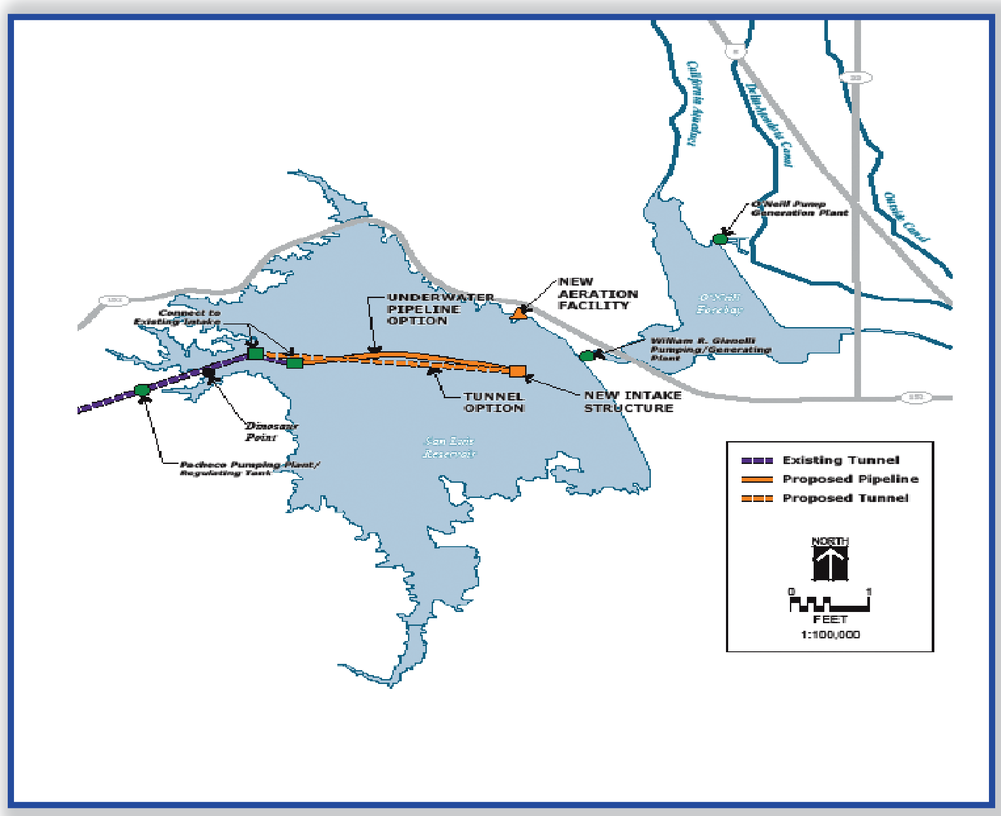
- Interruption of water deliveries to domestic, industrial, and agricultural users
- Interruption of water deliveries used to replenish groundwater supplies
- Blockage of agricultural irrigation systems
- Reduced ability to treat water effectively
- Increased water treatment costs
- Taste and odor problems

Comprehensive Plans Under Consideration

A range of 88 management measures were identified through initial studies and public input. These measures were combined into 17 alternatives and further screened for their feasibility and their ability to meet project objectives. This list represents the four alternatives that are the result of a multi-level screening process and will be fully analyzed in the environmental review process.

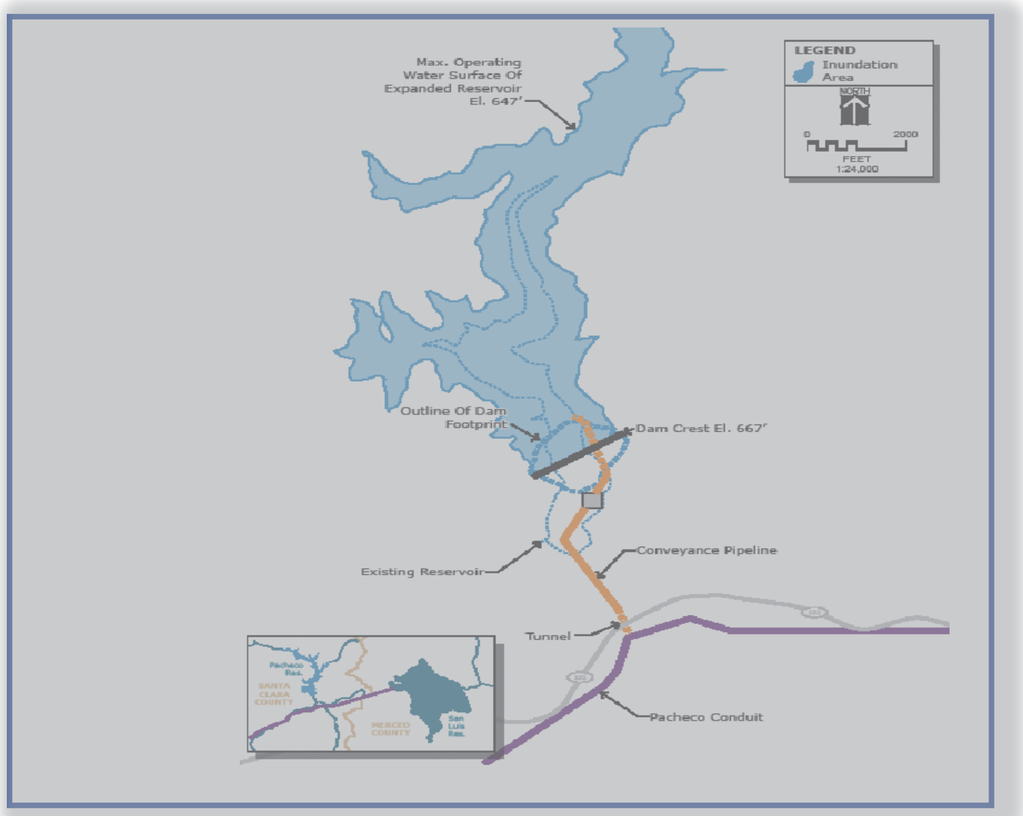
Lower San Felipe Intake

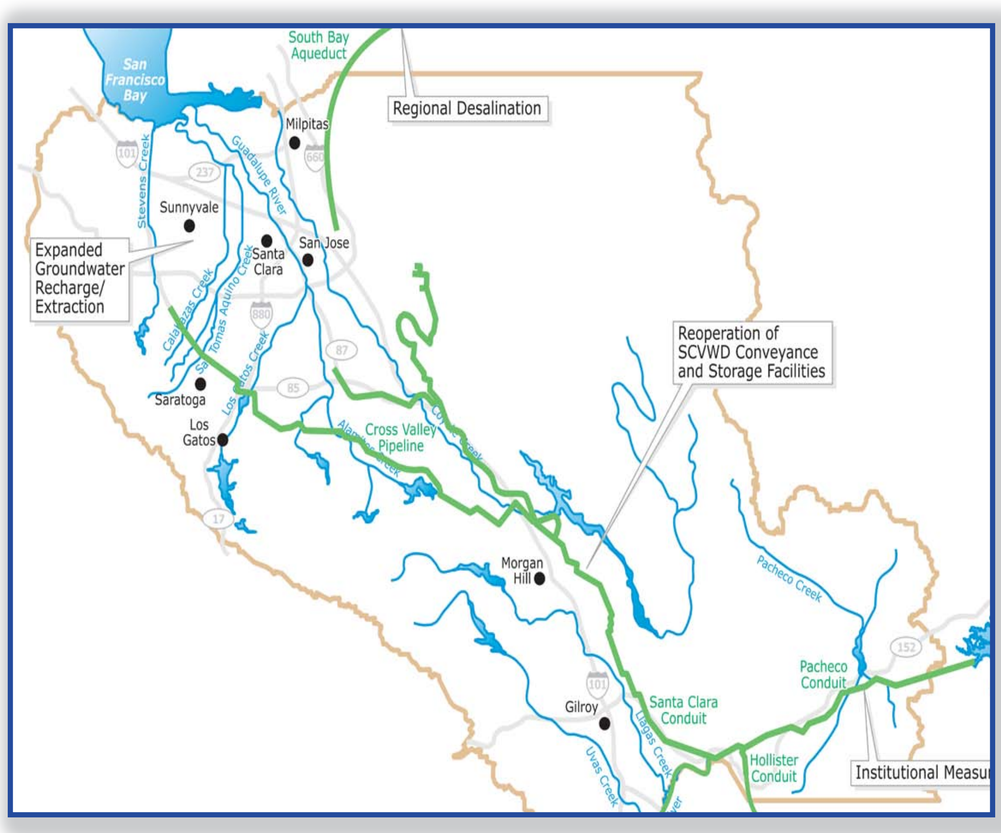
- A new intake would be constructed and connected to the existing San Felipe Division Intake to allow operation of San Luis Reservoir below the 300,000 acre-foot level without creating the potential for a water supply interruption to the San Felipe Division.



Pacheco Reservoir Expansion

- A new dam and reservoir would be constructed on Pacheco Creek to store San Felipe Division supplies for delivery during low point months. The new dam and reservoir would inundate the existing 6,000 acre-foot Pacheco Reservoir, owned and operated by the Pacheco Pass Water District. Two alternative sizes are being considered; an 80,000 acre-foot reservoir and a 130,000 acre-foot reservoir. The new reservoir would permit full exercise of San Luis Reservoir while avoiding supply interruptions.





Combination Comprehensive Plan

- Includes multiple structural components and management measures to maximize operational flexibility and supply reliability in the San Felipe Division, including increased groundwater aquifer recharge and recovery capacity, desalination, re-operation of Santa Clara Valley Water District raw and treated water systems, and institutional measures. The Combination Comprehensive Plan relies on these new local supplies and stored reserves in the San Felipe Division during low point supply interruptions to meet demands and allow full exercise of San Luis Reservoir.

No Project/ No Action

- Examines the impacts of taking no action (or not implementing the project).