



FKC Middle Reach Capacity Correction Project

Final Environmental Impact Report
and Approval of Proposed Project

October 22, 2020



Agenda

- Introduction to the Project Team
- Purpose of CEQA and of the Presentation/Hearing
- Review Project Alternatives
- Overview of California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) process and Final Environmental Impact Report (Final EIR)
- Proposed Board Actions
- Questions

Introduction to the Project Environmental Team

Friant Water Authority (CEQA Lead Agency)

- *Doug DeFlicht/Chief Operating Officer*
- *Johnny Amaral/Chief External Affairs*
- *Alex Biering/ Government Affairs Manager*
- *Don Davis/BWS Law*
- *Stephen Velyvis/BWS Law*

Bureau of Reclamation (NEPA Lead Agency)

- *Adam Nickels/Deputy Program Manager, San Joaquin River Restoration*
- *Rain Emerson/Supervisory Natural Resources Specialist*

Stantec Team

- *Bill Swanson/Principal in Charge*
- *Janet Atkinson/Project Manager*
- *Craig Moyle/Public Affairs*
- *Heather Waldrop/CEQA/NEPA Lead*
- *Mark Wuestehube/Permitting Lead*

Purposes of CEQA and this Hearing

CEQA Purposes

The basic purposes of CEQA are to:

- (1) Inform governmental decision makers and the public about the potential significant environmental effects of a project;
- (2) Identify ways that environmental damage can be avoided or significantly reduced;
- (3) Prevent significant, avoidable damage to the environment by requiring changes to a project or the imposition of feasible mitigation measures; and
- (4) Disclose to the public the reasons why the agency approved the project if significant environmental effects are involved.

Purposes of the Hearing

Purpose

- Complete the CEQA process
- Provide information on the Project and Alternatives
- Provide information on the CEQA/NEPA Process
- Board Actions expected:
 - Adopt Resolution certifying the Final EIR
 - Adopt CEQA Findings and Statement of Overriding Considerations
 - Adopt Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program
 - Approve the Project - Canal Enlargement and Realignment Alternative
 - Approve Project Implementation



Review Project Alternatives

Project Objectives

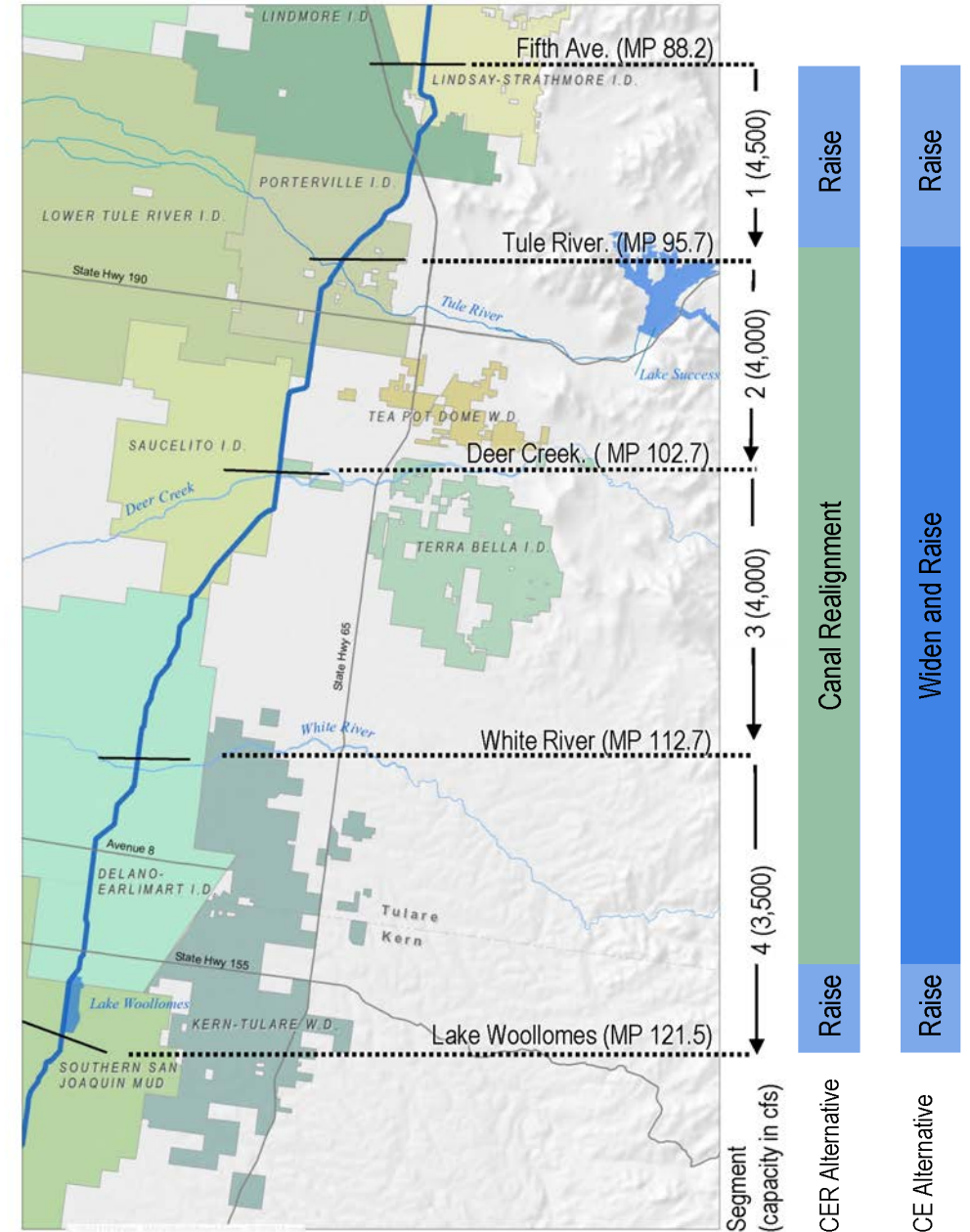
The primary goal for the Project is to restore the original design capacity of the Middle Reach of the FKC. The objectives of the Project are as follows:

- restore capacity to original designed and constructed levels that meet the water supply delivery requirements of the CVP contracts of long-term contractors;
- restore capacity to convey water for the short-term conveyance of flood flows or non-CVP project water as well as provide potential surface water supplies for other users through exchanges and transfers;
- facilitate accommodation of potential future reductions in conveyance capacity caused by anticipated continued subsidence following Project implementation by designing and maintaining the restored capacity for a service life of at least 50 years; and
- restore capacity to the maximum extent using the original gravity conveyance design that avoids reliance on additional mechanical facilities and increased energy demands.

Alternatives Evaluated in the Final EIR

Alternatives

- No Project/No Action
- Proposed Project - Canal Enlargement and Realignment (CER)
- Canal Enlargement (CE)

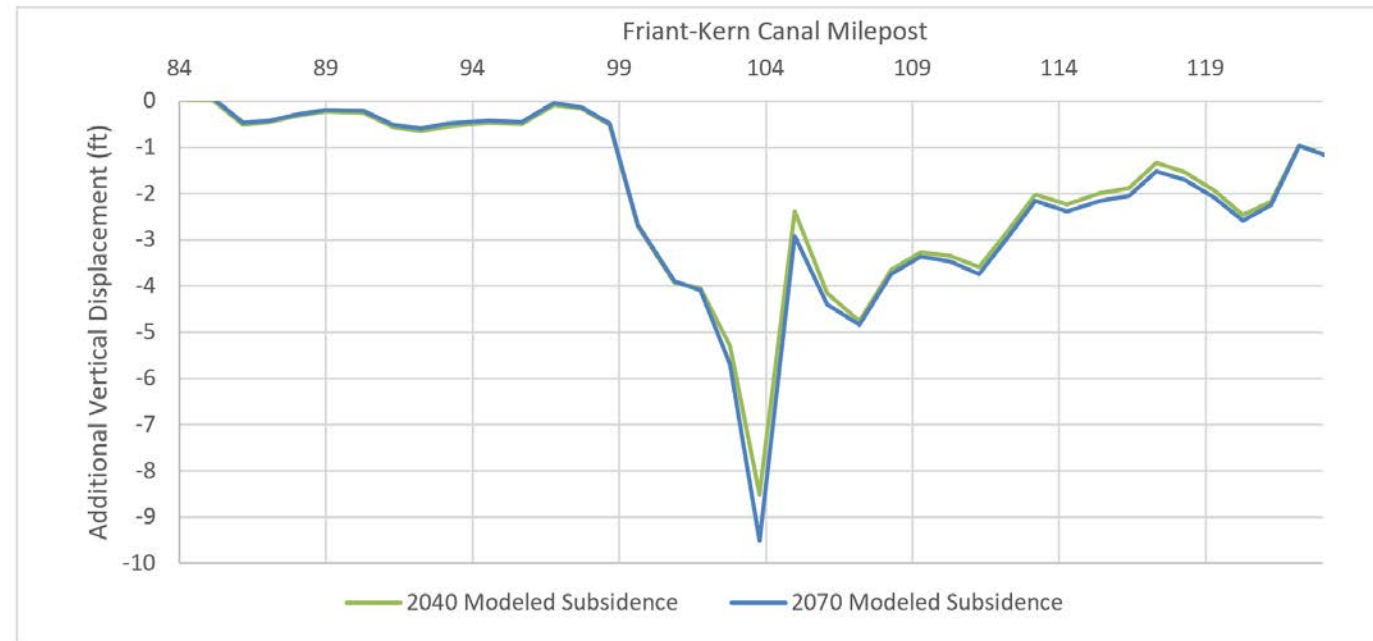


No Action/Project Alternative

Alternatives

Four reasonably foreseeable actions that could occur in the year 2070 include:

- Annual Restoration Flow volume would increase through 2025;
- Projected additional subsidence will further reduce the FKC Middle Reach capacity;
- Full compliance with the state's Sustainable Groundwater Management Act by 2040
- Friant Contractors would attempt to minimize water delivery impacts to avoid spills at Millerton Lake

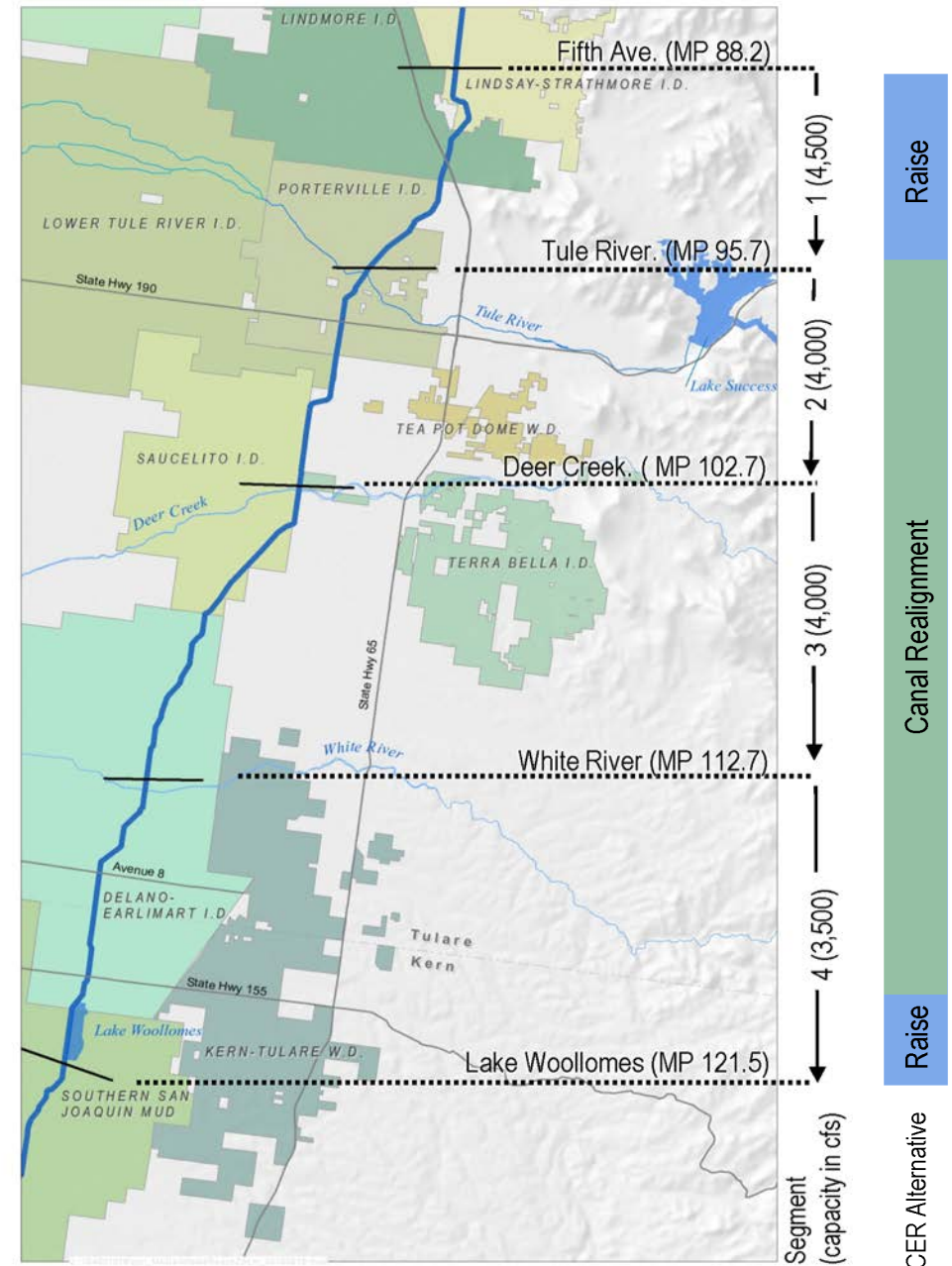


Proposed Project - Canal Enlargement and Realignment Alternative

Alternatives - CER

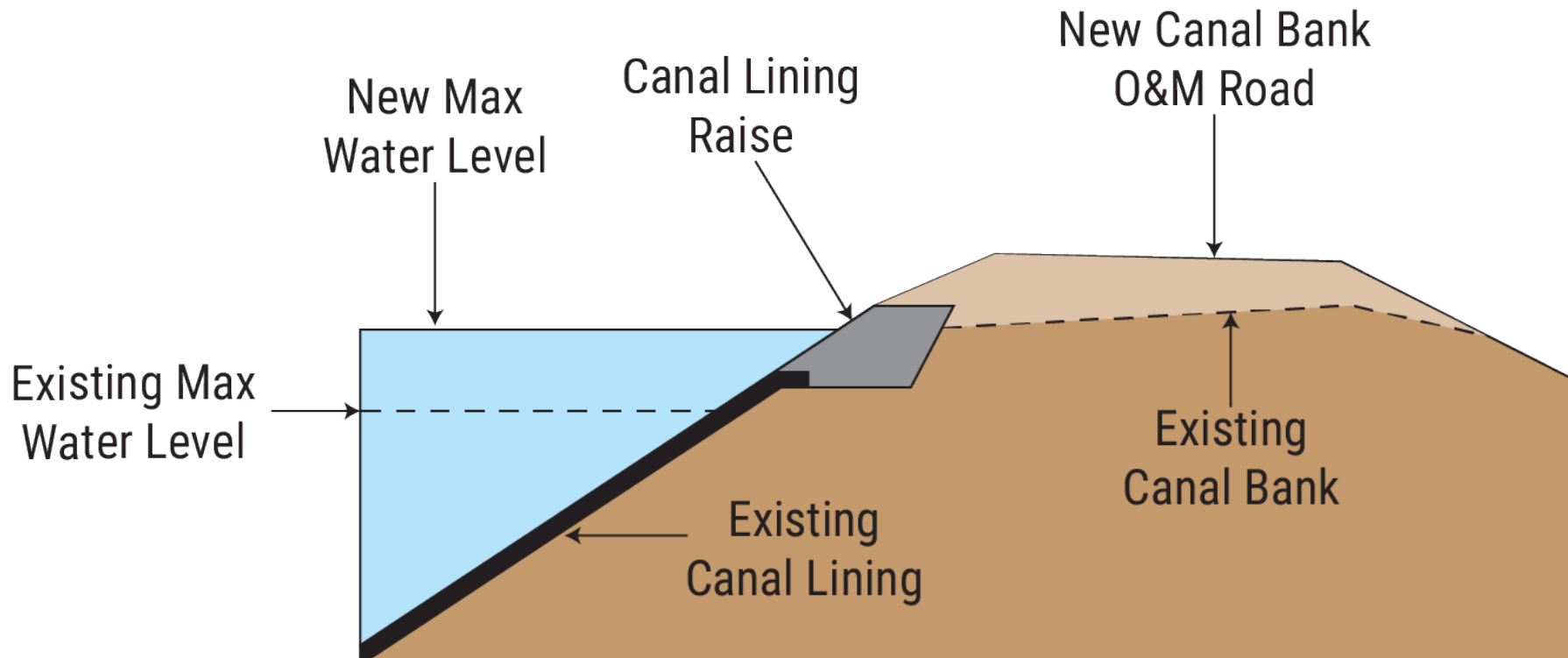
Major components:

- Raise ~ 13 miles of the FKC
- Realign ~ 20 miles of canal, located east of existing FKC



Canal Raise

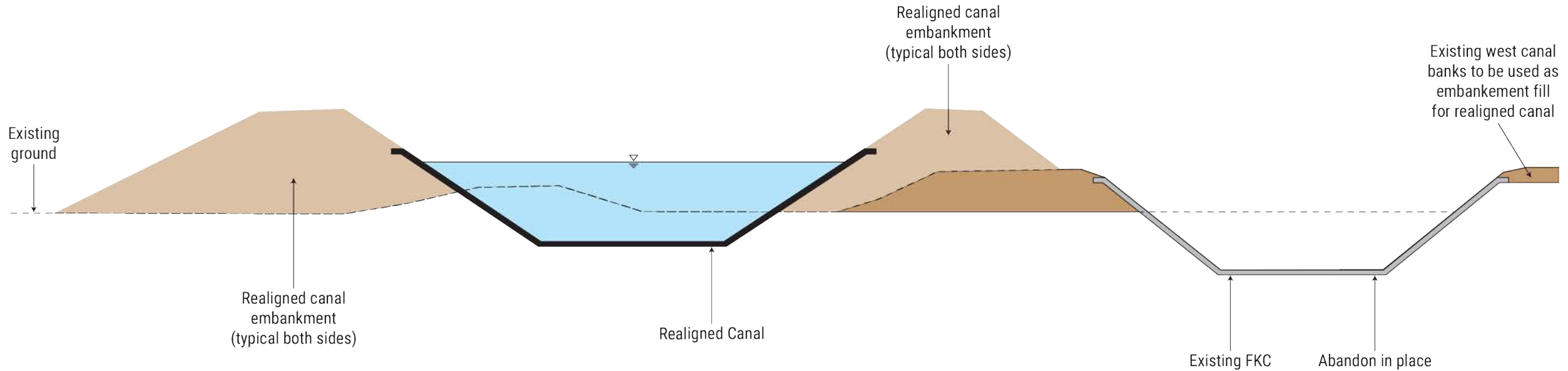
Alternatives - CER



Segments 1 & 4 would be enlarged with a canal embankment and lining raise

Realigned Canal

Alternatives - CER



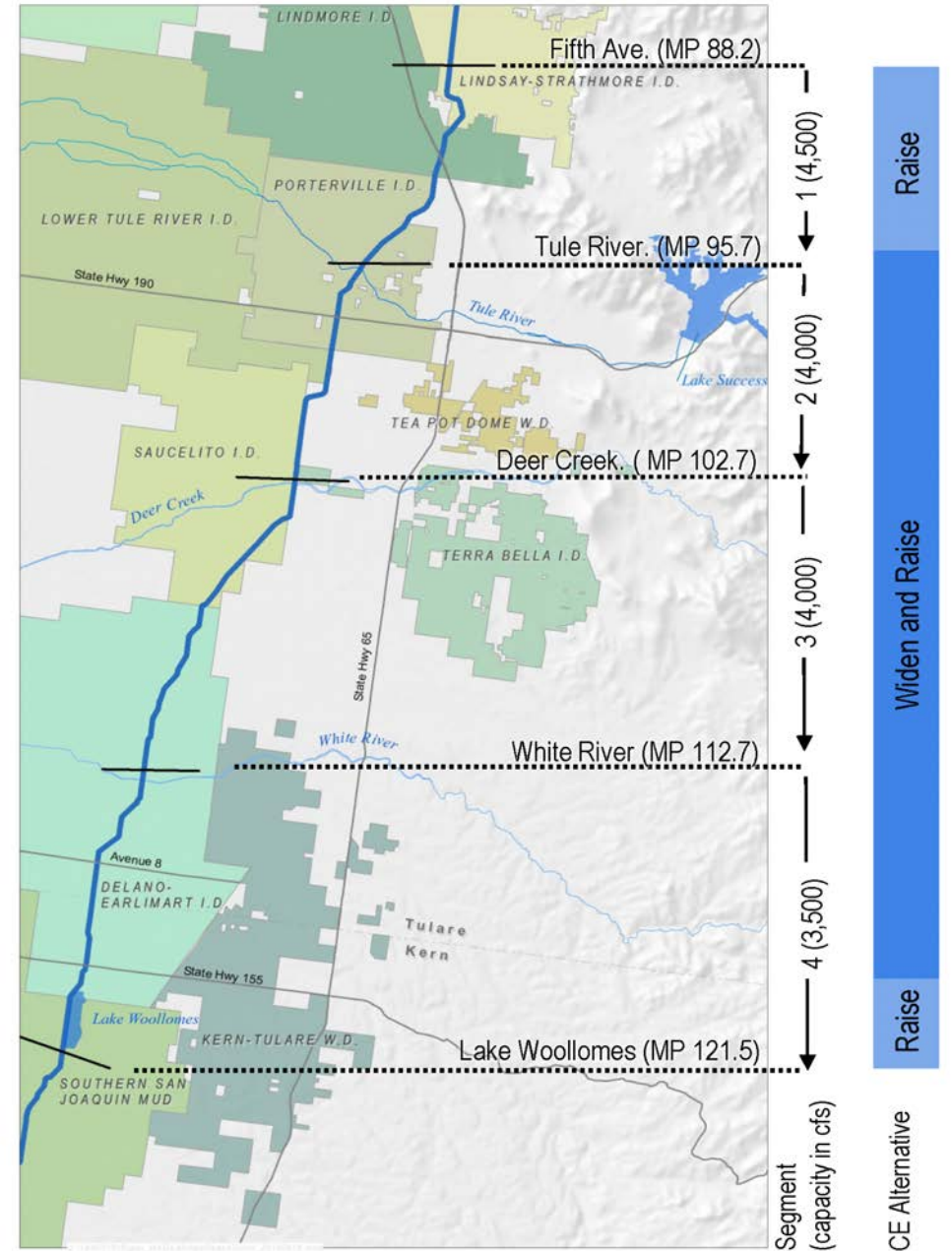
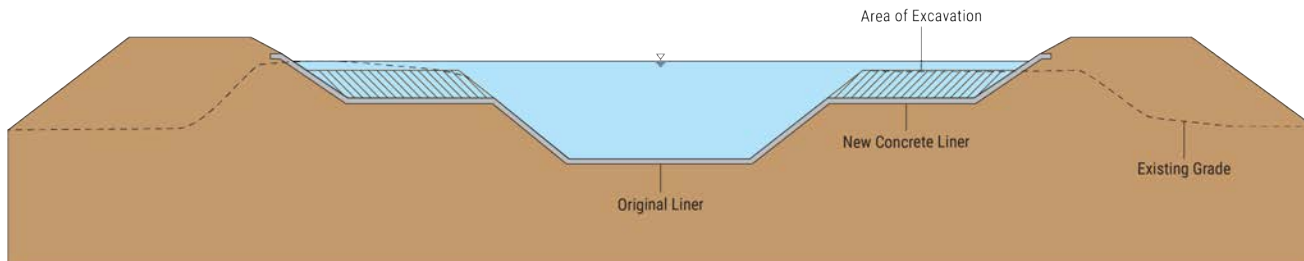
Starting at Ave. 152 (south of Tule River), new canal alignment would extend south up to 20 miles

Canal Enlargement Alternative

Alternatives - CE

Major components:

- Raise ~13 miles of FKC
- Widen and raise ~ 20 miles of FKC
- Install ~ 4 total miles of bypass canal segments east of the FKC to accommodate pumped turnouts and road crossings

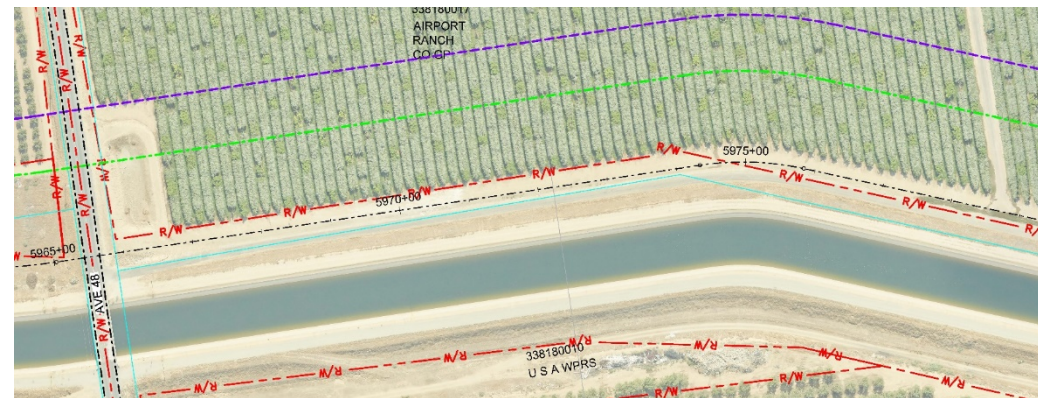
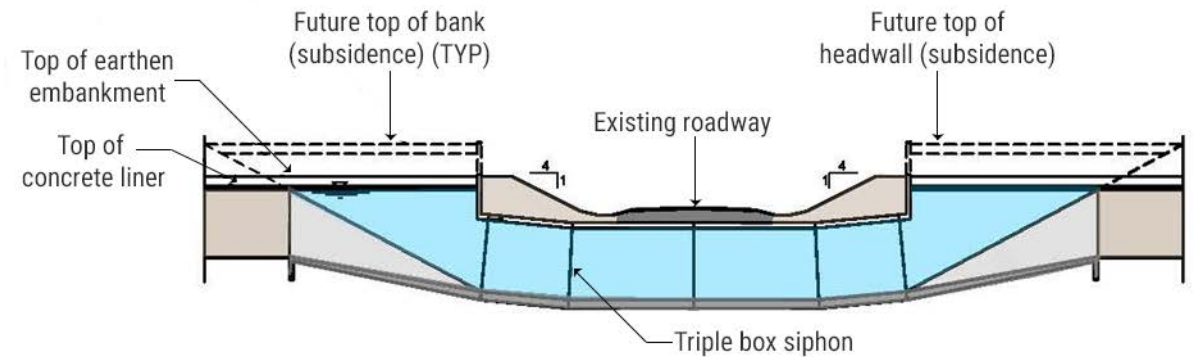


Features Common to Both Alternatives

Alternatives

Modification or replacement of features within the 33-mile Action area:

- Canal Raise
- Turnouts
- Road crossings
- Check structures, wasteways, and siphons at Deer Creek and White River
- Utilities
- Private land acquisition (new right of way)
- Borrow material
- Environmental commitments/mitigation measures



Overview of California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)
process and Final Environmental Impact Report (Final EIR)

Environmental Review Process

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

- ❑ Federal Lead Agency – Bureau of Reclamation
- ❑ Environmental Impact Statement/Record of Decision

NEPA requires full disclosure of the potential effects of major actions proposed by Federal agencies and accompanying alternatives, impacts, and possible mitigation.

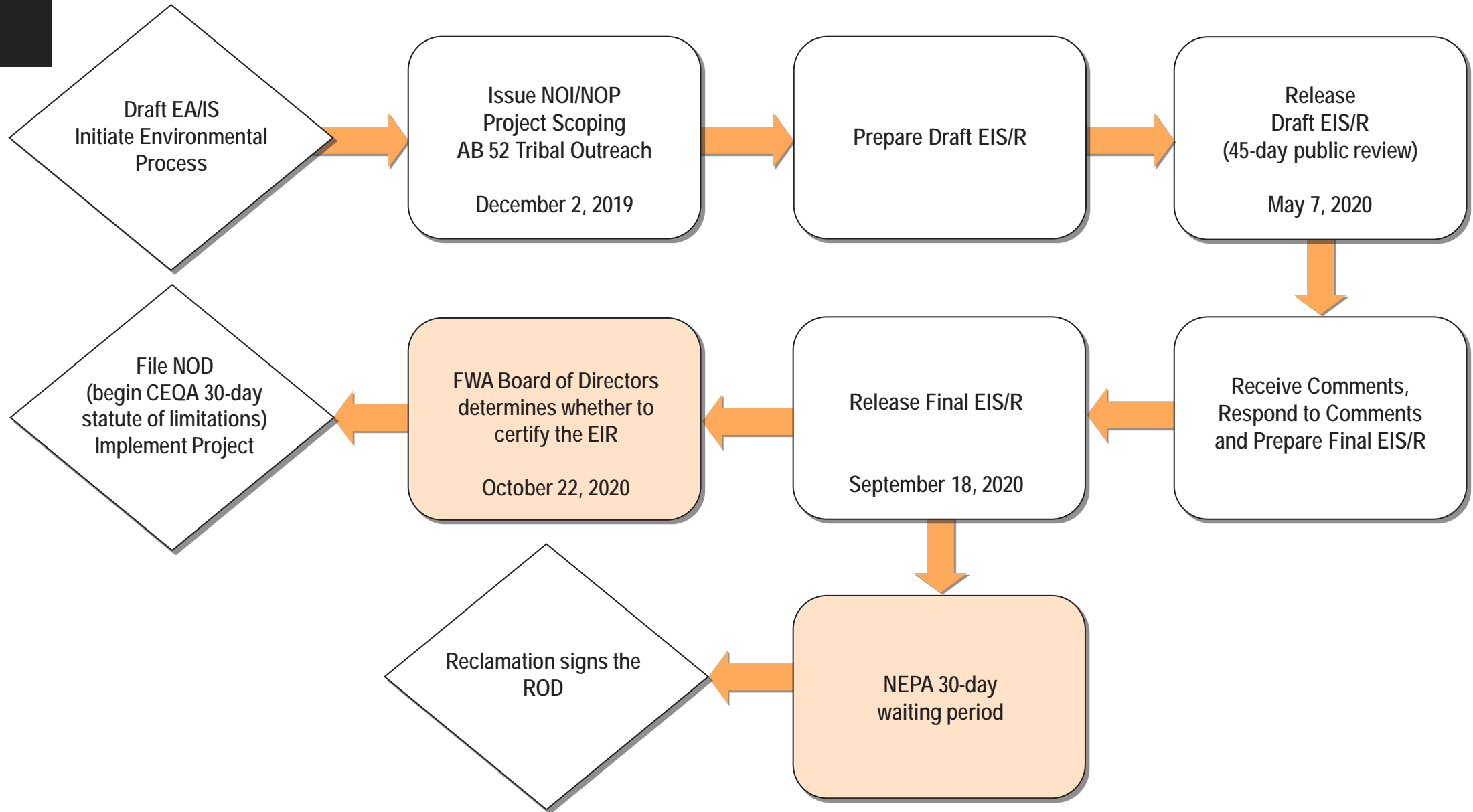
California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

- ❑ State Lead Agency – Friant Water Authority
- ❑ Environmental Impact Report/Notice of Determination

CEQA requires that agencies of the state government which regulate activities of private individuals, corporations, and public agencies which are found to affect the quality of the environment, shall regulate such activities so that major consideration is given to preventing environmental damage.

NEPA/CEQA Process

CEQA Overview



Public and Stakeholder Engagement

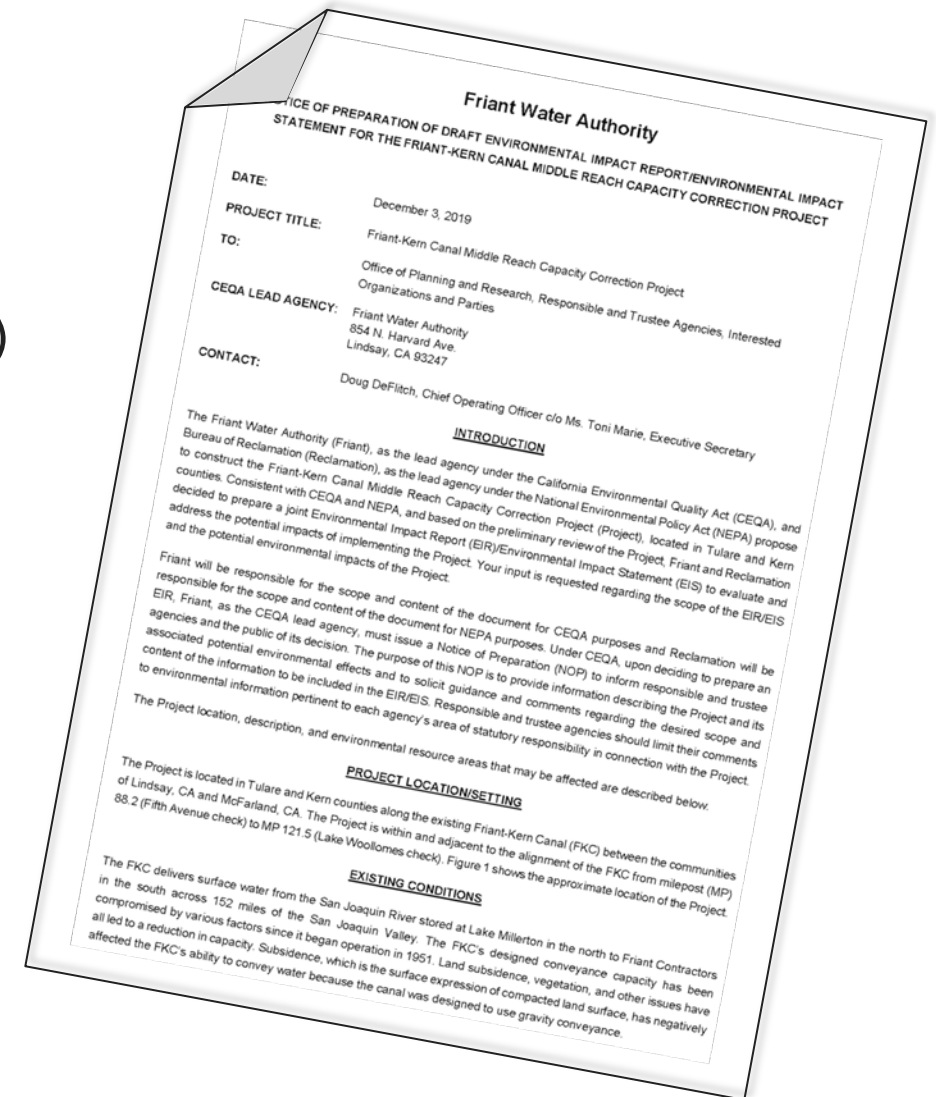
CEQA Scoping (December 2019)

Public Meeting on Draft EIS/R (June 2020)

Board Hearing to decide on Project and EIR (October 2020)

Other Landowner/Stakeholder Engagement:

- Landowner engagement (July 2019)
- Right-of-Entry requests (September 2019)
- Open House (September 2019)
- Cooperating Agency outreach (August 2019)



Resources Analyzed in Final EIR

- Air Quality*
- Biological Resources*
- **Cultural*** and Tribal Cultural Resources*
- Geology and Soils*
- Greenhouse Gases
- Hazards and Hazardous Materials and Wildfires*
- Hydrology and Water Quality*
- Land Use and Planning and **Agricultural Resources***
- Noise*
- **Transportation***
- Utilities and Service Systems and Energy*

*Resources that have significant impacts and require implementation of Environmental Commitments/Mitigation Measures

Resources shown in **orange** were determined to have significant and unavoidable impacts

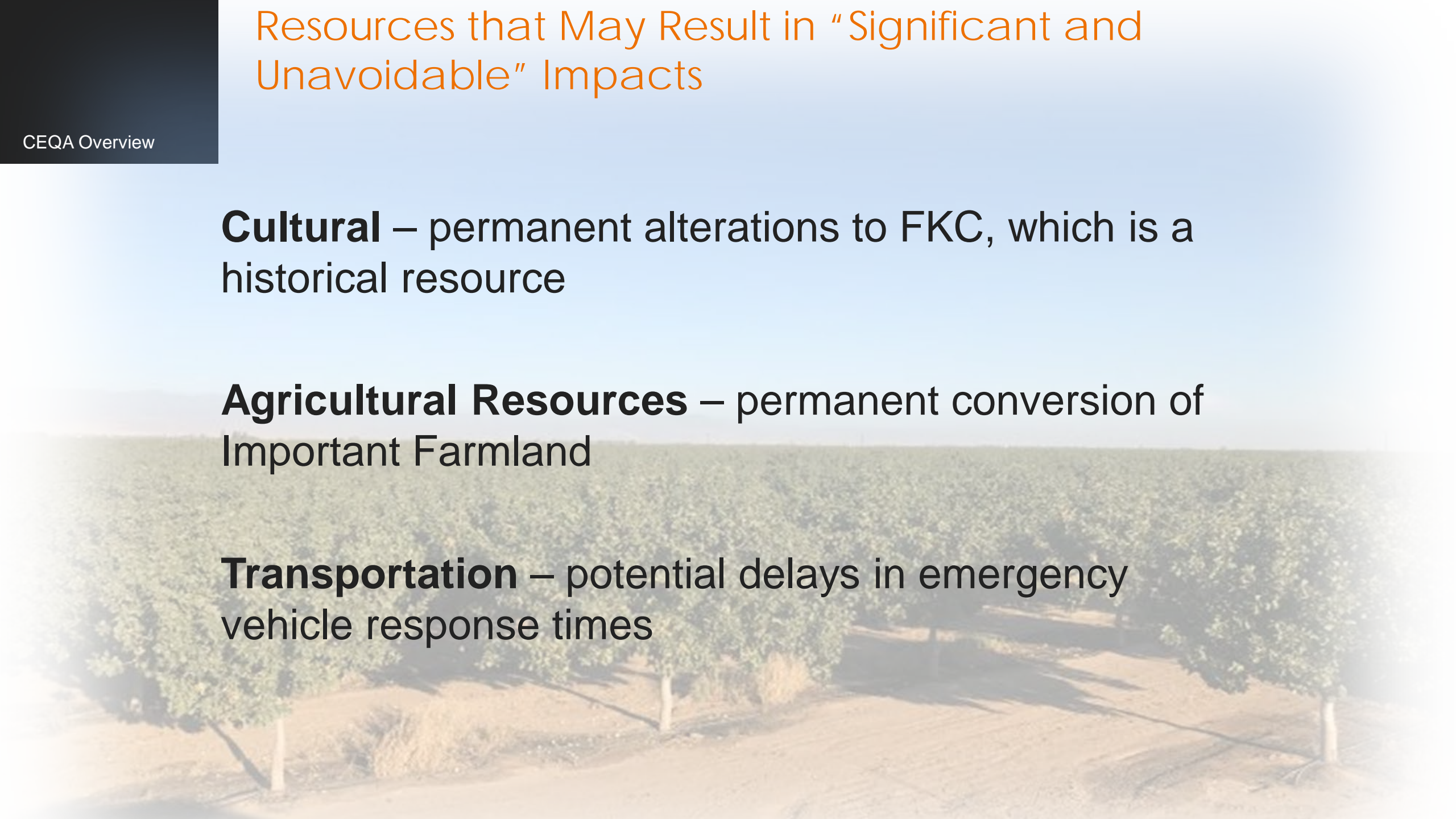
Resources that May Result in “Significant and Unavoidable” Impacts

CEQA Overview

Cultural – permanent alterations to FKC, which is a historical resource

Agricultural Resources – permanent conversion of Important Farmland

Transportation – potential delays in emergency vehicle response times



Comparison of Alternatives and Identification of Environmentally Superior Alternative

Alternative	Impacts	Meets Project Objectives?
No Action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air quality • Biological resources • Geology and soils • Groundwater sustainability • Land use 	No
Proposed Project (Canal Enlargement and Realignment Alternative)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction duration about 3 years • Air Quality • Biological resources • Cultural resources • 2.5 million cubic yards of borrow • Permanent conversion of important farmland • Emergency vehicle access due to road closures 	Yes
Canal Enlargement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction duration about 10 years • Air Quality (greater overall than the project) • Biological resources • Cultural resources • 6 million cubic yards of borrow • Permanent conversion of important farmland • Emergency vehicle access due to road closures 	Yes

Board Actions

Board Actions

Board Action

- ✓ Certify Final EIR

Board Actions

Board Action

- ✓ Adopt Findings and Statement of Overriding Considerations
- ✓ Adopt Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program

Board Actions

Board Action

- ✓ Approve the Canal Enlargement and Realignment Alternative as the Project
- ✓ Approve implementation of the Project

Questions

