

Public Meeting
NRCS Draft Watershed Plan-Environmental Assessment

Matanzas Creek Dam Rehabilitation

Lead Agency: Natural Resources Conservation Service

Sponsor: Sonoma County Water Agency

Sonoma County, CA

August 11, 2026



Questions, Comments and Information:

Comment Cards

At door

Email

commentsCAwatersheds@usda.gov

Mail

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

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Website

<https://matanzascreekdamrehab.com/>

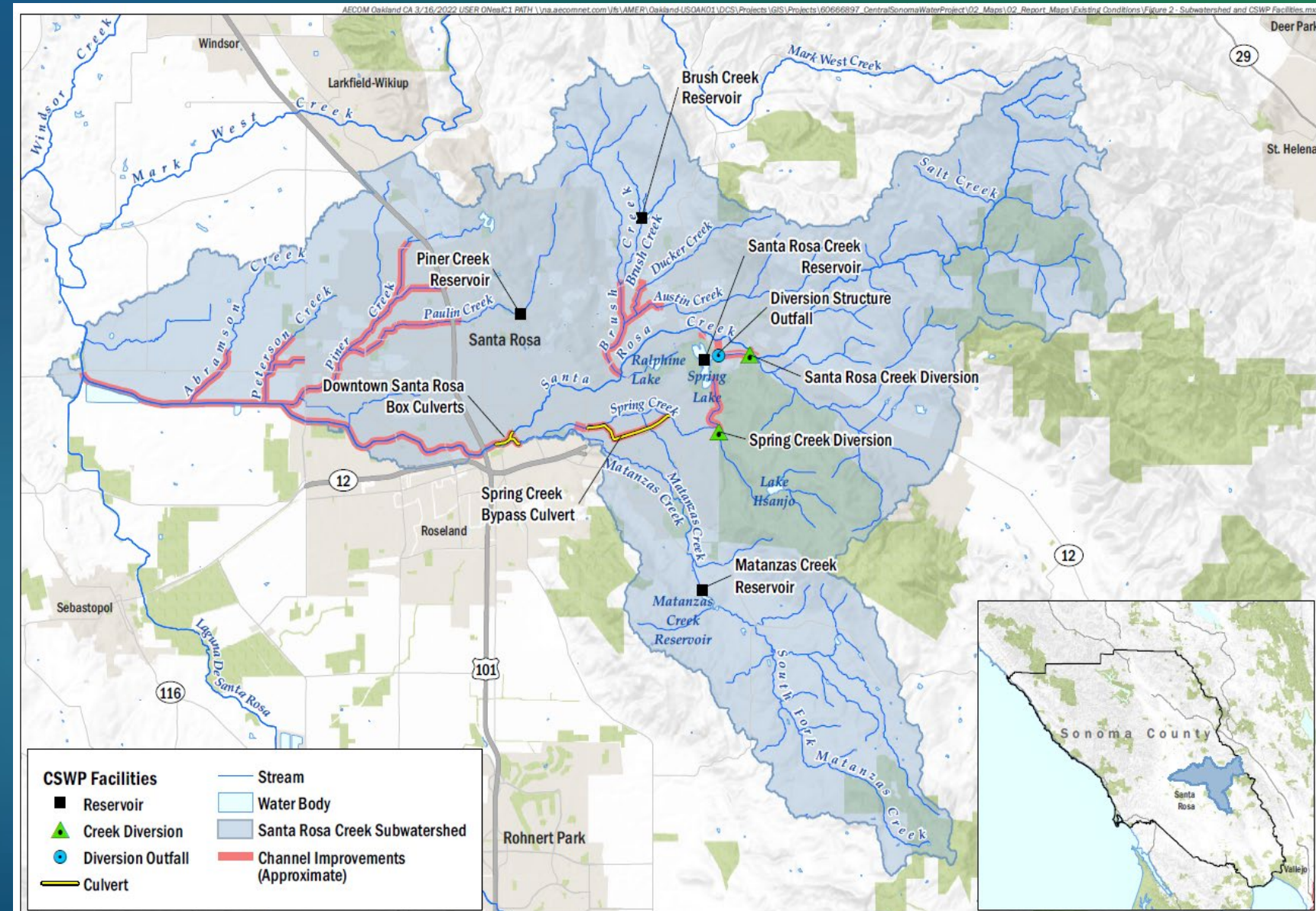
Presentation

- Matanzas Creek Dam Background
- Project Purpose & Need
- Meeting Purpose
- Alternatives
- National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Process
- Project Effects
- Schedule

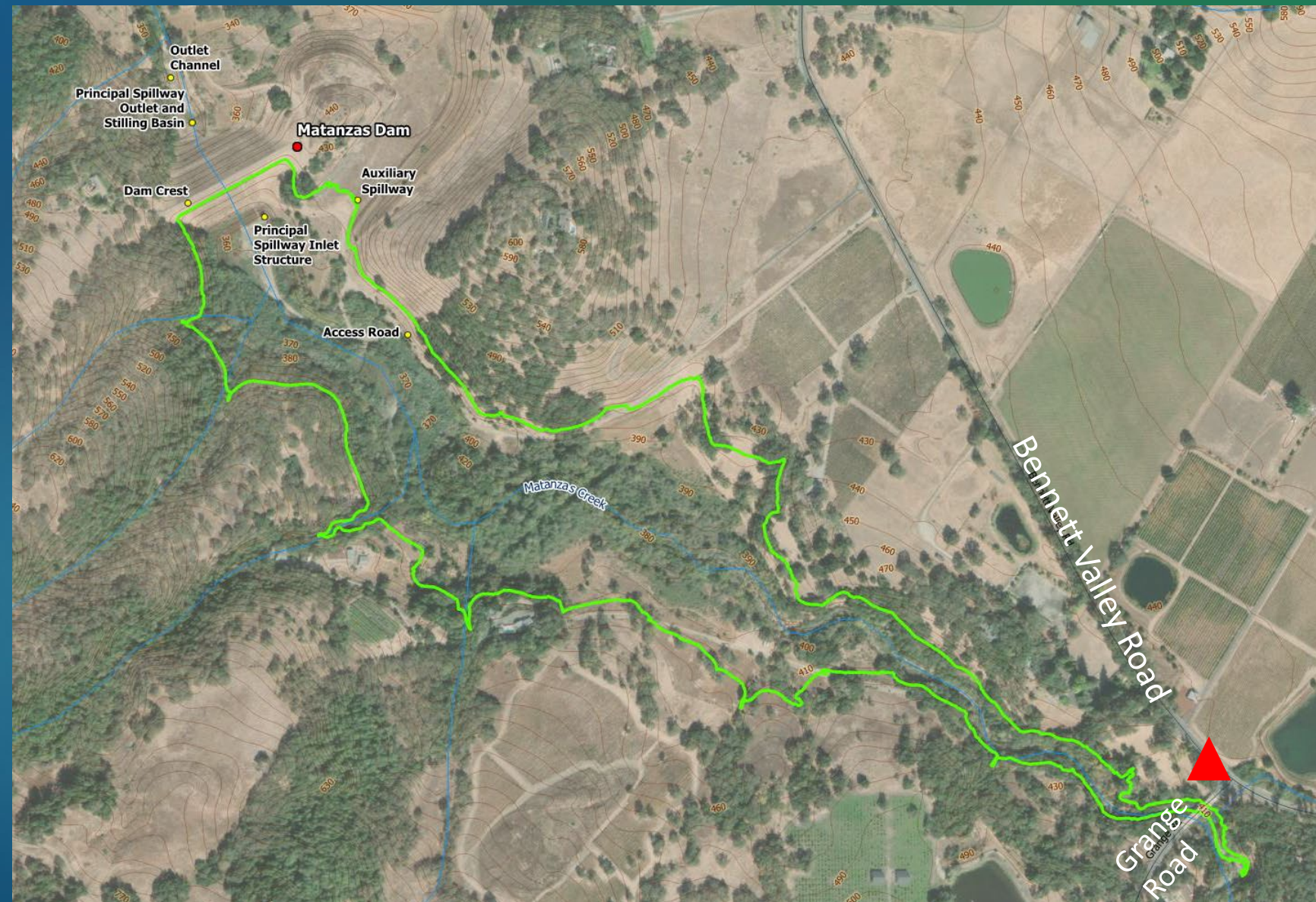
Q&A Session

Central Sonoma Watershed Project

- Infrastructure
 - 26 miles of channel improvements
 - 3 downtown culverts
 - 2 diversion structures
 - 4 detention basins
- Constructed 1962- 1968
- Protects City of Santa Rosa



- Bennett Valley
- Constructed in 1964
 - 95-foot-tall earthen embankment (dam)
 - 1,440 acre-foot detention basin (flood storage)
 - Concrete principal spillway inlet/outlet structures
 - Vegetated auxiliary (emergency) spillway
- Flood protection



Matanzas Creek Dam Background





Auxiliary Spillway Crest (Weir)



Looking down Auxiliary Spillway

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
CALIFORNIA STATE OFFICE

CALIFORNIA DAM ASSESSMENT FOR MATANZAS CREEK DAM SONOMA COUNTY, CA

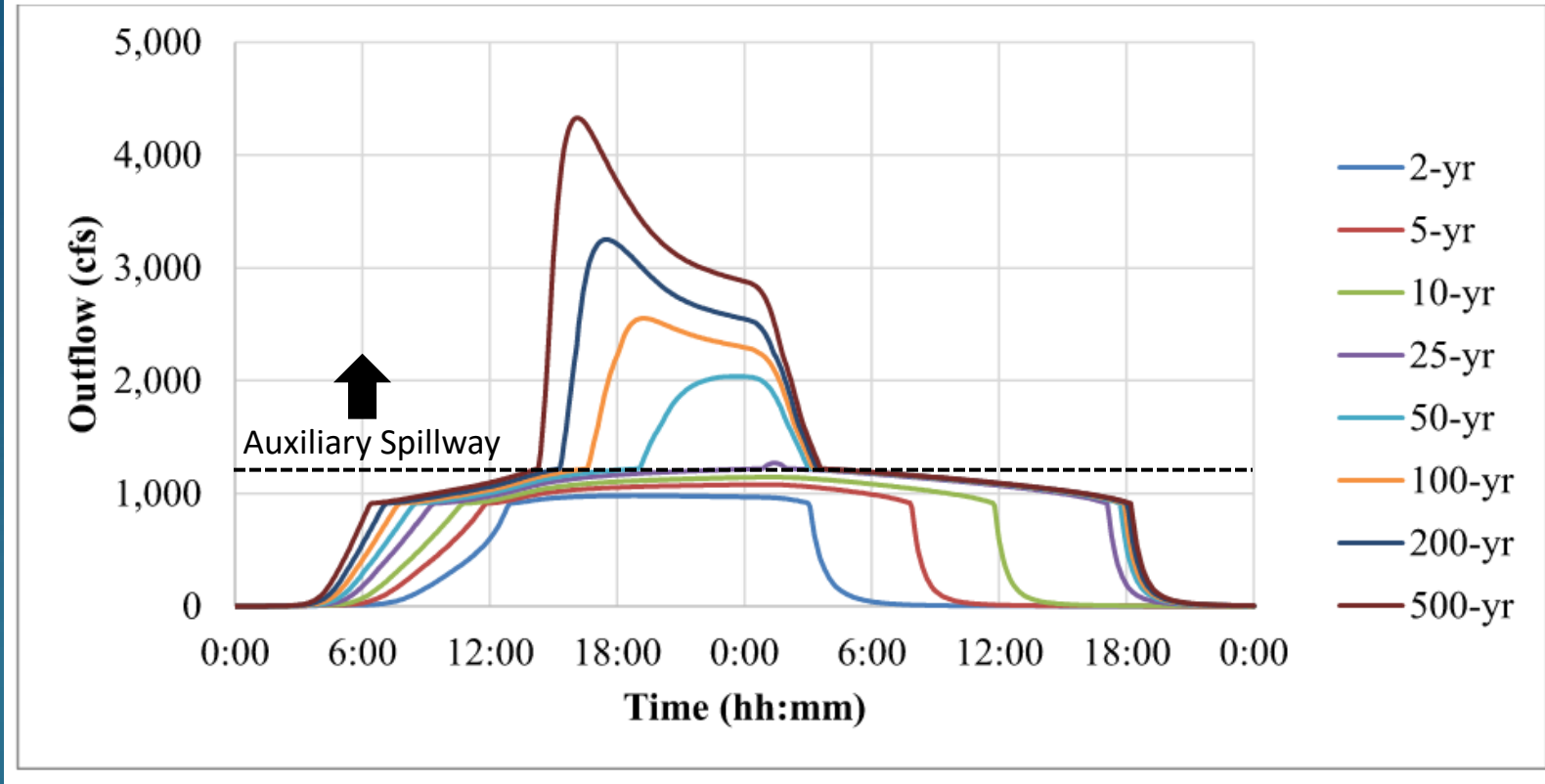


HDR | Kleinfelder JV
California
April 2016

ORIGINAL DOCUMENT
SONOMA COUNTY WATER AGENCY

SEP 01 2016

CF/15-1-11 Central Sonoma Watershed Project (CSWP) – Dams
(ID 326)



Outflow Hydrograph

Comprehensive Assessment

- Existing Conditions
- Geologic Investigations
- Soil Mechanics
- Hazard Classification
- Hydrology
- Spillway Stability & Integrity Analysis
- Alternatives Development and Hydraulic Design
- Conceptual Design
- Cost Estimates
- Economic Analyses
- Impact Analyses

Deficiencies (Need for Project)

- Auxiliary spillway activates too frequently (confirmed)
- Auxiliary spillway susceptible to erosion
- Sediment capacity insufficient for 50-yr design life
- Embankment susceptible to seismic-induced liquefaction and deformation



Purpose

The purpose of the project is to bring the Matanzas Creek Dam into compliance with NRCS and California Division of Safety of Dams (DSOD) standards and continue to provide flood protection and sediment reduction downstream of Matanzas Creek Dam in the most efficient manner.

Need

The dam does not meet NRCS and DSOD standards.

- Vegetated auxiliary spillway activates during ~25-year event.
- Auxiliary spillway is susceptible to erosion.
- Available sediment storage capacity is less than 50 years.
- Embankment is susceptible to liquefaction and deformation during design seismic event.

Meeting Purpose

- NRCS is providing funding for portions of the Project through the Watershed Program & Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act of 1954 (PL 83-566).
- Federal actions/funding require environmental analysis to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)
- A Draft Watershed Plan Environmental Assessment (Plan-EA) has been prepared and is currently out for public review and comment.
- This meeting is to provide interested parties information on the Project including alternatives considered, results of the environmental assessment, and to answer questions and solicit comments on the Draft Plan-EA.

Alternatives

PL-566 Standard Alternatives:

1. Federal Decommissioning – Removal of dam to federal requirements. (Combined with acquiring, relocating, floodplain reconnection, & other downstream flood proofing)
2. Non-Structural – Making other improvements that do not require rehabilitating the existing structure (e.g., acquire and relocate).
3. No Federal Action – If no improvements are made, what action will be required due to non-compliance.
4. Rehabilitation – Modifying, upgrading, or altering the existing dam structure or associated features so it will comply with the design criteria.

Alternative 1

Seismic Buttresses

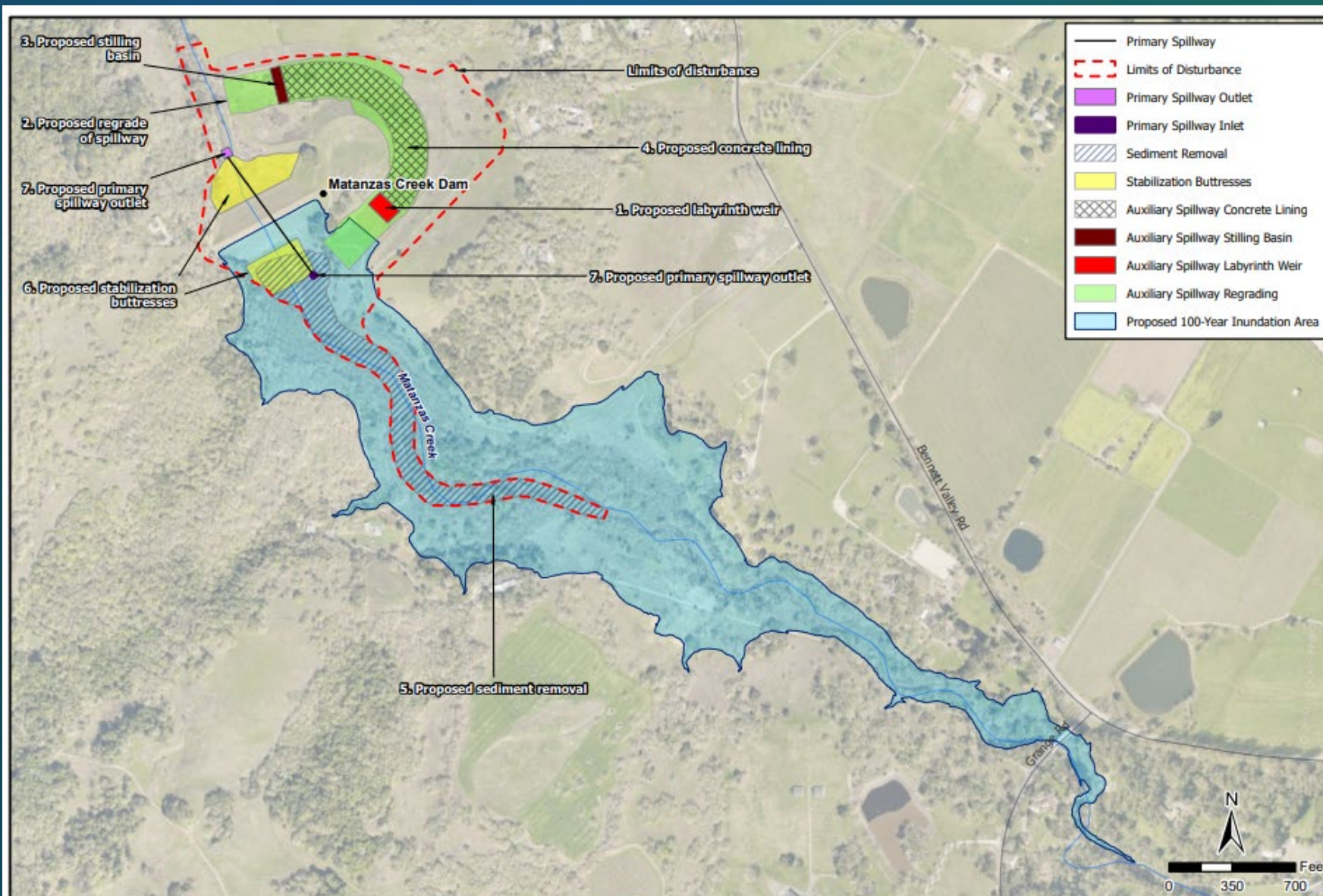
Sediment Removal

Raise Auxiliary Spillway ~5 feet

Structural Spillway

Flood Storage: 25-yr 24-hour

Cost: \$44,000,000



Alternative 2

Seismic Buttresses

Sediment Removal

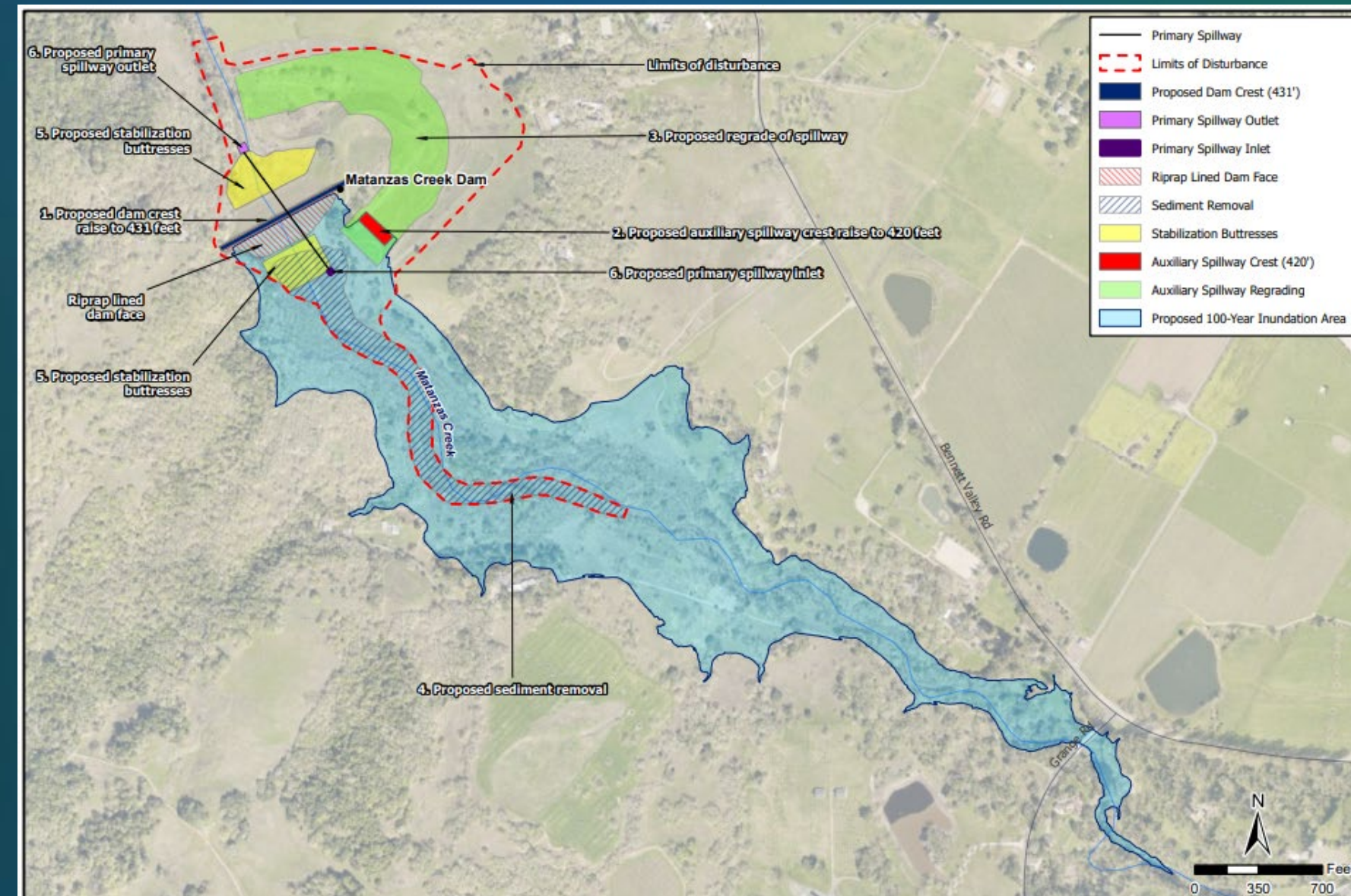
Raise Dam Crest ~3.4 feet

Raise Auxiliary Spillway ~7.4 feet

Regrade Auxiliary Spillway

Flood Storage: 50-yr 24-hour

Cost: \$30,000,000



Alternative 3

Seismic Buttresses

Sediment Removal

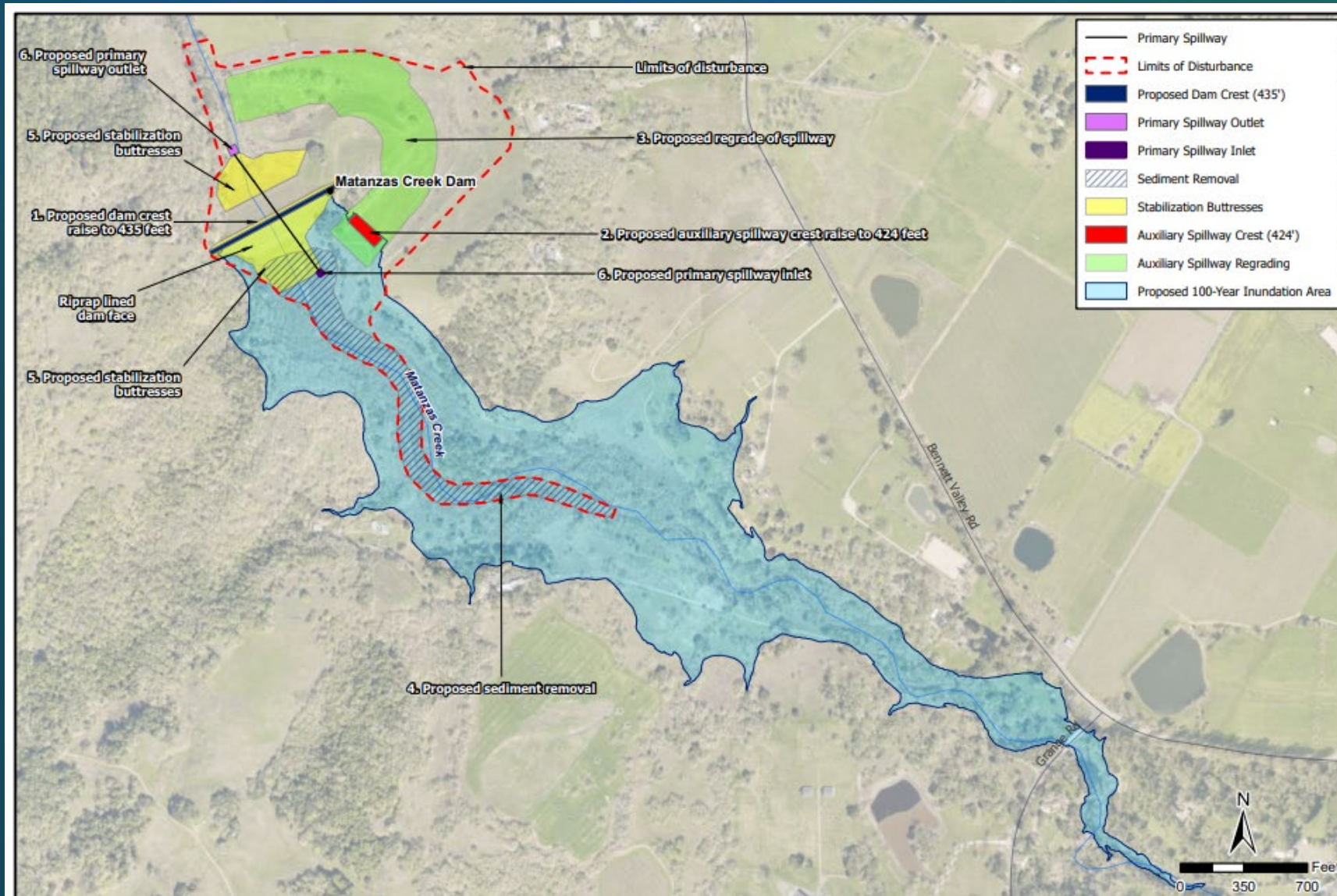
Raise Dam Crest ~7.4 feet

Raise Auxiliary Spillway ~11.4 feet

Regrade Auxiliary Spillway

Flood Storage: 100-yr 24-hour

Cost: \$32,000,000



Draft Plan-EA

Chapter 1 – Introduction

Chapter 2 – Purpose and Need

Chapter 3 – Scope of the Environmental Assessment

Chapter 4 – Affected Environment

Chapter 5 – Alternatives

Chapter 6 – Environmental Consequence

Chapter 7 – Consultation, Coordination, and Public Participation

Chapter 8 – The Preferred Alternative

Chapter 9 – References

Chapter 10 – List of Preparers

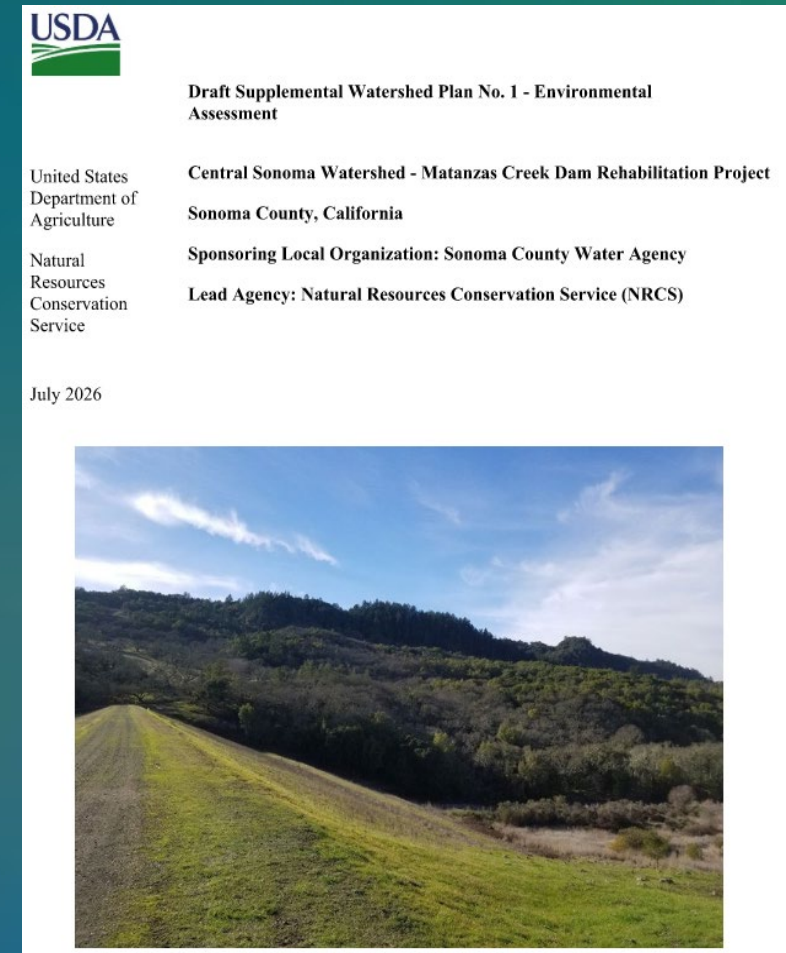
Chapter 11 – Distribution List

Chapter 12 – Acronyms, Abbreviations, and Short Forms

Currently in Public Review!

EA: Less impactful & minor effects

EIS: effects are significant



- > 6.1 Air Quality
- > 6.2 Cultural and Historic Resources
- > 6.3 Endangered and Threatened Species
- > 6.4 Fish and Wildlife
- > 6.5 Floodplain Management
- > 6.6 Invasive Species
- > 6.7 Land Use
- > 6.8 Noise Levels
- > 6.9 Prime and Unique Farmlands
- > 6.10 Public Health and Safety
- > 6.11 Riparian Areas
- > 6.12 Socioeconomic Factors
- > 6.13 Soil Resources
- > 6.14 Vegetation
- > 6.15 Water Quality
- > 6.16 Waters of the U.S.
- > 6.17 Wetlands

Effects of Note

Air Quality

Cultural & Historical Resources

Habitat & Vegetation

Riparian Area

Wetlands

Water Quality

Endangered & Threatened Species

Public Health & Safety



Air Quality



Cultural Resources



Visual Resources



Policy and Regulation



Water Resources



Land Uses



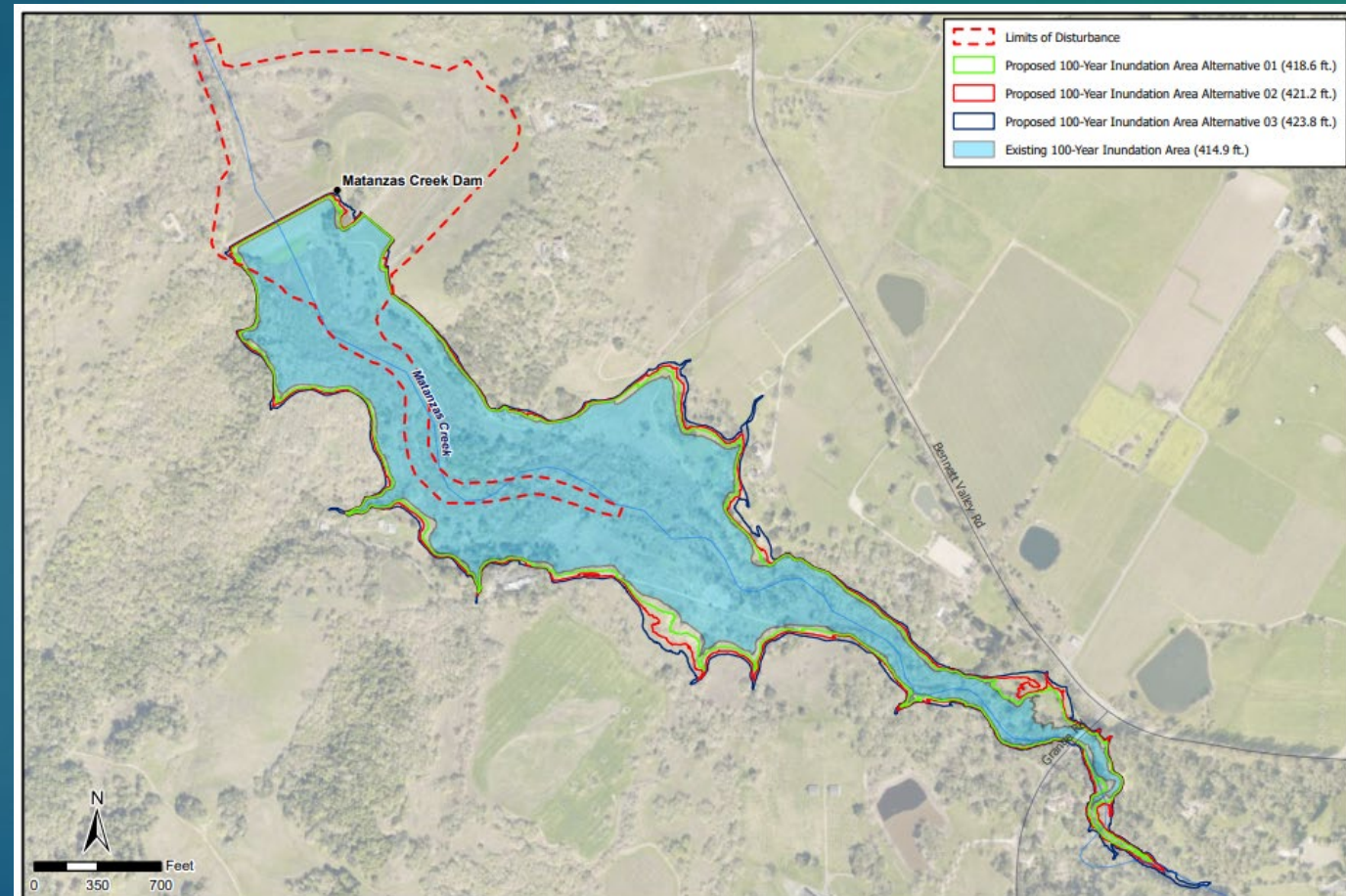
Economics



Wildlife

Similar Action Alternatives

- Alternatives 1, 2, & 3 are similar in project area, activity, and impact.
- Therefore, impacts of all three alternatives were combined into one effects evaluation to reduce redundancy
- Another effect evaluation was completed for the "No Action Alternative"
- I will summarize and focus on effects that are most relevant to the action alternatives



Air Quality

- The action alternatives will generate emissions & dust from machine use, ingress, & egress
- Sonoma County is in non-attainment for PM 2.5 & Ozone
- Results of emission calculation estimates are well below the federal thresholds
- To further reduce effects, various measures will be carried out to reduce dust and emissions.
- Some measures include wetting soil, speed limits, revegetating bare soil areas, & use of properly operating machines.

Cultural & Historical Resources

- Due to the amount of disturbance caused to complete the project, impacts are possible.
- Background review, onsite surveys, & identification of findings were done.
- NRCS reviewed identified findings and effects & determined there would be no adverse effects.
- NRCS section 106 consultation resulted in SHPO & applicable tribes concurrence with the no adverse effects determination. See section 6.2.2 Plan EA for more detail.
- The project will follow measures in appendix E. 6, if unanticipated discoveries occur during construction.

Habitat & Vegetation

The action areas include several types of habitats that will be disturbed in

- Construction areas
- Sediment removal areas
- Equipment access and operation areas

Areas disturbed predominantly Include:

- 36.2 acres of grassland & other uplands
- 5 acres of wetlands
- 6.9 acres of riparian habitat

These habitats will be re-established through reseeding, replanting, and natural revegetation

Unfeasible Re-establishment Areas

A few areas might not be feasible to re-establish on site.

- Approximately 0.62 acres of wetlands and 0.3 acres of riparian habitat might not be restorable.
- Proper permits and, if needed compensatory mitigation, will be obtained through associated regulatory agencies for any habitat losses.

Water Quality

Vegetation disturbance could lead to erosion & sedimentation

Use of Machine equipment in an around waterways could lead to discharge of pollutants into downstream areas.

To reduce impacts to water quality:

- Re-vegetation practices will reduce these effects once vegetation is established
- If Needed Dewatering measures will be conducted (Table A-1 Dewatering 1)
- Spill avoidance measures will be implemented (Table A-1 Water Quality 1)
- A SWPPP (CWA 402) will be established and implemented to further reduce effects (Table A-1 Water Quality 2)
- Requirements of any other associated permits obtained (CWA 401, 404 etc.) will be followed to further reduce effects.

Wildlife

Various wildlife species could occur in the habitats of the site

As explained earlier, revegetation measures will restore disturbed habitat.

Other measures to reduce impacts to wildlife include:

- Preconstruction surveys & spatial/temporal buffers for nesting bird and roosting bats (Table A-1 Wildlife 1 & 2)
- In channel dewatering & in channel work measures (Table 1-A Wildlife 3 & 4)
- Wildlife entrapment avoidance measures (Table 1-A Wildlife 5)

Threatened and Endangered Species

A thorough evaluation of effects to protected species was conducted.

There is potential for Red-legged Frog to occur in aquatic areas of the site.

- Occurrence and effects are unlikely.
- An evaluation and Consultation was conducted with USFWS.
- Conclusion: measures and requirements of NRCS section 7 programmatic agreement & measures in the EA will be followed to reduce chances of effects.
- Refer to section 6.3.2.2 of Plan EA for details

Other protected species either do not use the area or will be avoided through the various conservations measure being implemented

Risk of the No Action Alternative

- Higher likelihood of future dam failure (Flood & seismic events)
- Lower flood storage capacity & increased chance of flood damage
- Higher likelihood of flood hazards & damages to downstream businesses, homes, & social facilities (Economic, social, threat to life)
- Alternative 3 is most suitable for addressing these concerns

Summary of NEPA Next Steps

- Release of Draft Plan-EA
- Public Comment Period (July 26th – August 25th)
- Address Public Comments and Revise Plan-EA
- Finalize & Publish Plan-EA and FONSI (Finding of No Significant Impact)

	Sediment Removal	Seismic Stability Berms	Lined Spillway	Dam/Aux Crest Raise (ft)	Flood Storage	Design and Construction Cost
Alternative 1	✓	✓	✓	0/0-	~25-Year	\$44 M
Alternative 2	✓	✓	-	3.4/7.4	~50-year	\$30 M
Alternative 3 (Preferred)	✓	✓	-	7.4/11.4	~100-year	\$32 M

Basis for Preferred Alternative

Similar/Identical Impacts as Alt 1 & 2

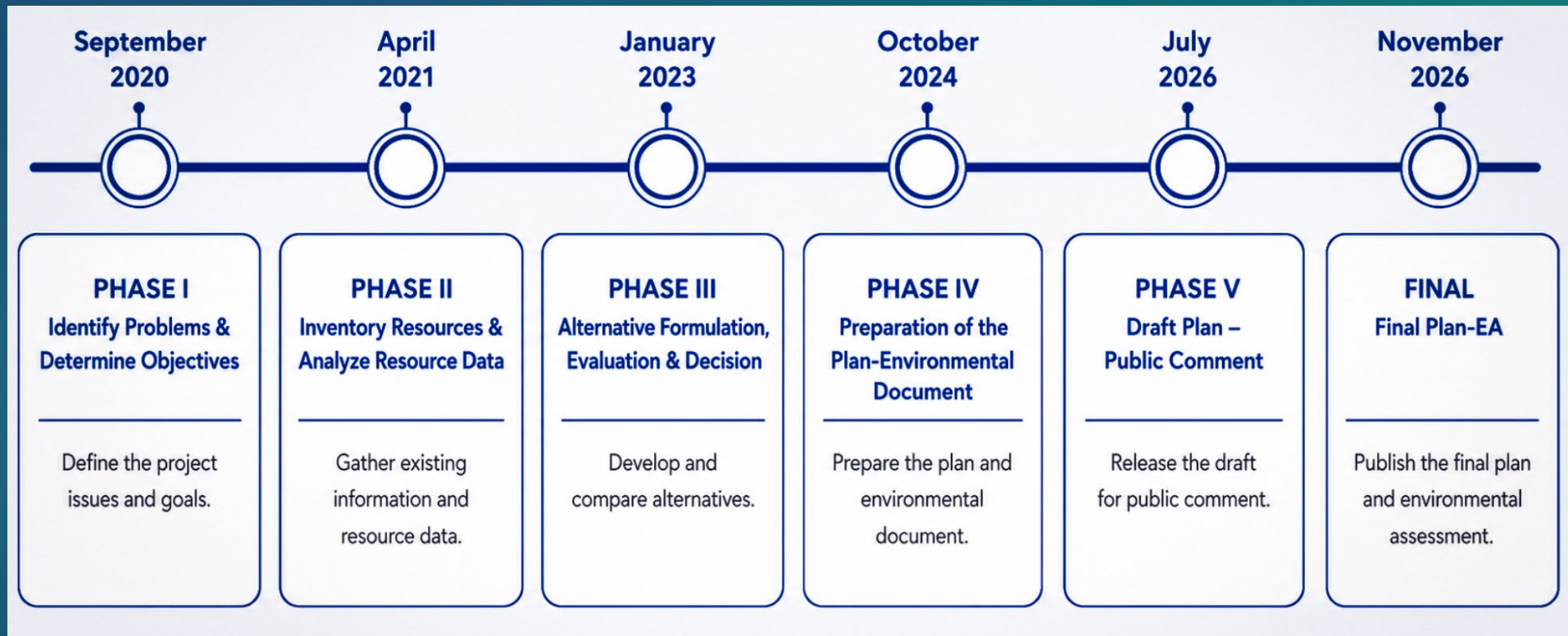
Meets purpose and need

Increases resilience to seismic events

Most adaptable to future climate where rainfall is expected to increase

Maximizes flood storage without impacting upstream structures

Marginally more expensive for the additional flood storage



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