

Butano Creek Channel Reconnection and Resilience Project Public Meeting



Lead Agency: San Mateo Resource Conservation District

May 17, 2018



Meeting Agenda

1. Project Background
2. Project Overview
3. California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)
4. Key Findings of the IS/MND
5. How to Comment
6. Receive Public Comments



Project Background



This project will...

1. Restore access to 10.1 mi of Butano Creek for steelhead and coho salmon via improved fish passage.
2. Reduce flooding at Pescadero Creek Road.
3. Improve salmonid survival (reduce fish kills):
 - creating access to oxygen-rich freshwater refuge during times of low water quality; and
 - reducing anoxic conditions by preventing percolation and movement of freshwater from Butano Creek through and across the marsh.

This project may...

- Improve habitat for freshwater marsh species from beneficial re-use of dredge material.
- Improve survival of salmonids by strategically placing dredge material
 - reduce the area of the marsh that is creating anoxic conditions
 - reduce the ability of anoxic water to rapidly flood the lagoon
 - reduce opportunities for fish to seek refuge in areas of poor water quality.
- Inform ecological restoration of the marsh.

This project will not...

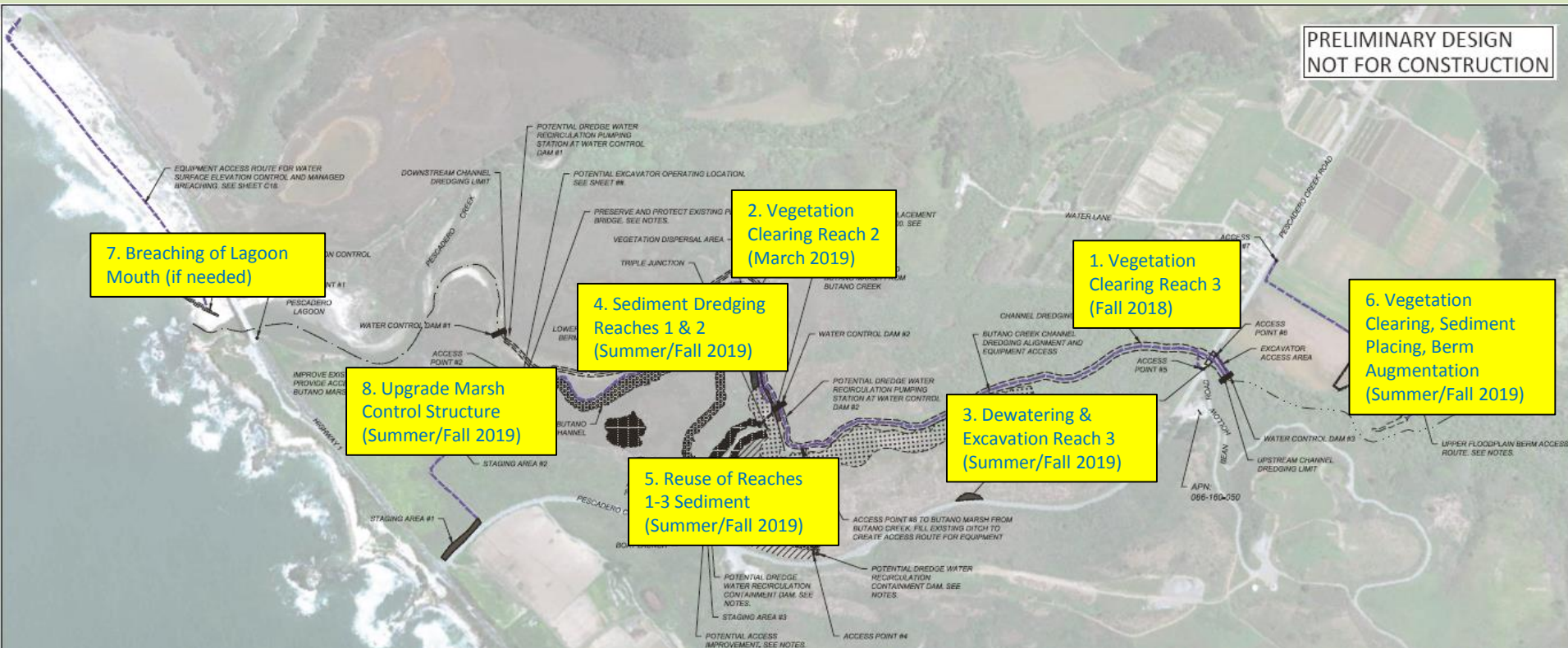
- Restore habitat for all species.
- Provide comprehensive ecosystem restoration.
- Remove the community from the floodplain or eliminate flooding to the community.
- Address any flooding from Pescadero Creek.
- Eliminate all flooding from Butano Creek.



Project Area and Overview



Project Construction Overview



Purpose of CEQA

- Disclose to public and decision-makers the significant environmental effects of proposed activities.
- Identify ways to avoid/reduce environmental effects.
- Consider alternatives and application of feasible mitigation (if necessary).
- Public disclosure of agency decision making and reasons for approval if there are significant effects.
- Foster inter-agency coordination and include public participation in planning process.
- There are different CEQA compliance document types, including (categorical exemption, IS/ND, IS/MND, EIR).

Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) Process

**Publish IS/MND
and Notice of
Intent**
May 2018

**30 Day Public
Review Period**
May 2018

**Consider Public
Comments on
IS/MND**
June 2018

**RCD Board
Considers
IS/MND and
MMRP**
July 2018

**File Notice of
Determination
(NOD)**
July 2018

IS/MND Resource Evaluations for Project

- Aesthetics
- Air quality
- Biological resources
- Cultural resources
- Geology and soils
- Greenhouse gas emissions
- Hazards and hazardous materials
- Hydrology and water quality
- Land use and planning
- Noise
- Recreation
- Transportation/Traffic
- Tribal cultural resources
- Public services
- Utilities
- Cumulative impacts

IS/MND – Key Findings

- **Air Quality:**

- Temporary increase in NO_x emissions would exceed BAAQMD thresholds. Impacts can be mitigated to less-than-significant (LTS) through use of: Tier-IV engines, altering construction phasing, use new equipment models, etc.

- **Biological Resources:**

- Temporary reduction in habitat quality for special-status species (CA red-legged frog, San Francisco garter snake, steelhead, tidewater goby) due to ground-disturbing activities.
- BMPs would reduce potential for construction impacts on special-status species from being significant.
- Post-construction effects would be beneficial overall for special-status species due to improved water quality conditions and expansion of freshwater habitat.

IS/MND - Key Findings (cont'd)

- **Cultural Resources:**

- Two known archaeological sites located within APE. Known sites would be delineated as environmentally sensitive areas subject to conditions to avoid adverse effects. The levee system was recorded as a historic resource. The existing levee system would not be modified. Impacts would be less than significant (LTS).

- **Hydrology and Water Quality:**

- In-water dredging activities would temporarily increase turbidity and dissolved oxygen (DO) levels. Implementation of mitigation measures would require that turbidity and DO levels are monitored to ensure that such levels do not exceed RWQCB's Basin Plan standards.

IS/MND - Key Findings (cont'd)

- **Noise:**

- Temporary haul trucks passing homes located along Pescadero Creek Road would briefly exceed County's exterior level threshold during construction of upper floodplain berm. Impact would be LTS.

- **Traffic/Transportation:**

- The presence of slow-moving construction equipment and vehicles on public roads could increase traffic safety hazards. Implementation of a traffic management plan would reduce such impacts to LTS.



Next Steps and Timeline

Public Review and Comment:	May 3 rd – June 1 st
RCD Considers Public Comments:	June 2018
RCD Board Decision/NOD Filing:	July 2018



How to Comment

Submit oral or written comments tonight. Written comments can be submitted on available form.

After tonight, written comments can be sent via mail or email. Send comments to:

Naftali Moed

625 Miramontes Street, Suite 103

San Mateo Resource Conservation District

Half Moon Bay, CA 94019

email: Naftali Moed at Naftali@sanmateoRCD.org

Comments accepted until **5:00 p.m. on Friday, June 1, 2018.**

Meeting Protocol for Oral Comments

- Please silence cell phones.
- One person speaks at a time; please do not interrupt a speaker.
- Make clear and succinct comments in order for RCD team to effectively capture the comment in notes.
- Be respectful of each other and differing points of view.