

Butano Creek Channel Reconnection and Resilience Project CEQA Process



Lead Agency: San Mateo Resource Conservation District

June 27, 2018



Outline

1. Brief Project Overview
2. Project Timeline
3. CEQA Objectives/Requirements
4. Initial Study (IS)
5. CEQA Next Steps



Project Objectives



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:
 - 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.

Project Area and Overview



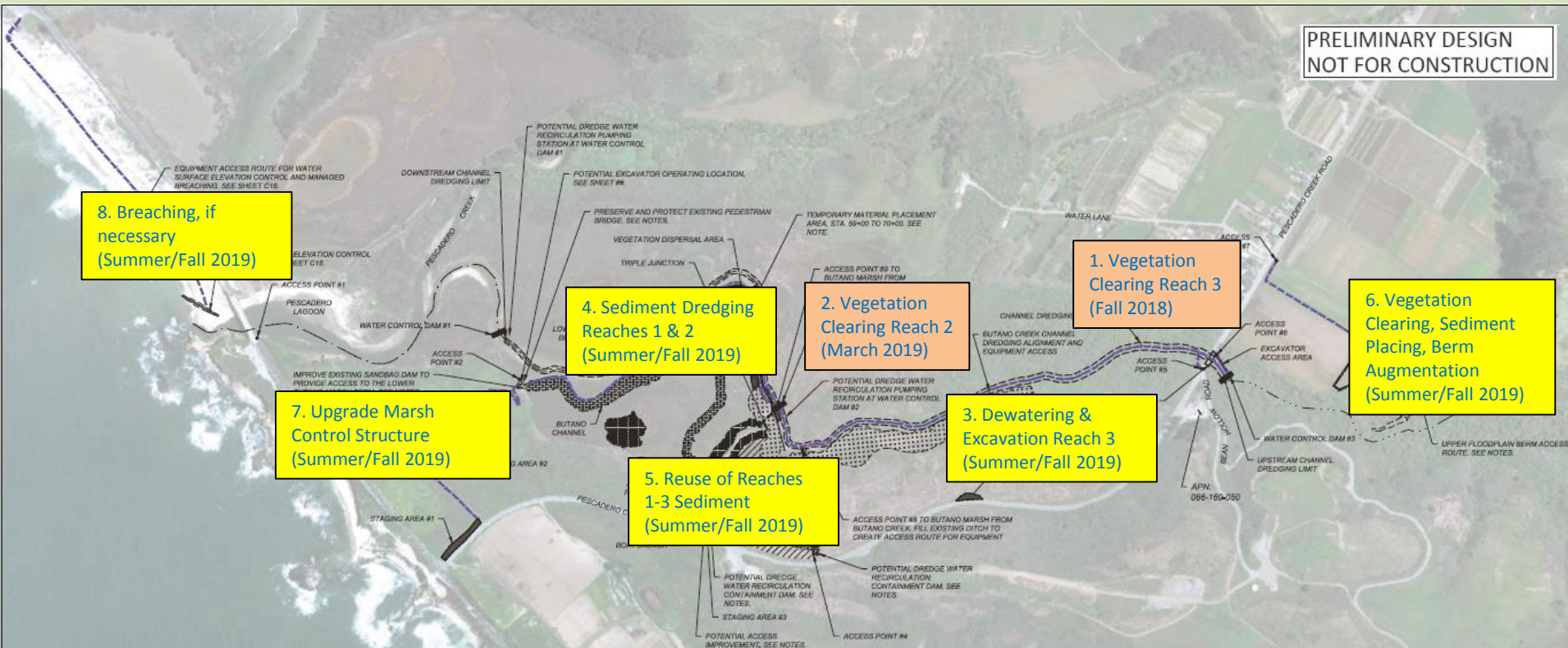
Project Overview



1. Dredging and excavation of ~46,300 cubic yards of sediment from Butano Creek channel (7,400 linear feet).
2. Beneficial reuse of sediment in Butano Marsh to fill artificial open water areas (drainage channels, isolated pools, relic borrow pits) and construct natural levee analog along upper reach of Butano Creek (Reach 3)..
3. Berm augmentation upstream of Pescadero Creek Road to increase controlling elevation of right bank floodplain.
4. Marsh control structure (existing sandbag dam) upgrades
5. Mechanical breaching for water quality, if necessary



Project Construction Overview



Project Timeline



1. PLANNING: Complete CEQA, complete 100% designs and specs, obtain permits (**Summer 2018**)
2. PHASE 1: Vegetation clearing in Reach 3 (**Fall 2018**).
3. PHASE 2: Vegetation clearing in Reach 2 (March 2019).
4. PHASE 3: (Summer/Fall 2019).
 - Sediment excavation in Reach 3 and dredging in Reaches 1 & 2
 - Beneficial reuse of sediment in Butano Marsh.
 - Upstream floodplain berm augmentation activities.
 - Upgrade marsh control structure.
 - Mechanical breaching of lagoon mouth, as-needed, to maintain water levels during dredging activities.

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA):

- Disclosure to public and decision-makers the significant environmental effects of proposed activities.
- Identify ways to avoid/reduce potentially harmful effects.
- Consideration of 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.

CEQA Initial Study Sections



- 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

FINDING: NO SIGNIFICANT, UNAVOIDABLE IMPACTS

CEQA Process



1. RCD publish Public Draft IS/MND, with draft Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP), and public notices (NOI, NOC) (May 3, 2018).
2. Public review period (30 days).
3. RCD/Horizon holds public meeting in Pescadero to solicit input on the Public Draft IS/MND (May 17, 2018).
4. RCD considers public comments on IS/MND and develops "response to comments" memo.
5. RCD Board considers comments and approval of IS/MND, adoption of MMRP, and approval of project.
6. RCD/Horizon files NOD.

CEQA Decision-making Process



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

**30 Day Public
Review Period**
May-June 2018

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

**SMRCD Board
Considers
IS/MND and
MMRP**
June 2018

File NOD
June 2018