Butano Creek Channel Reconnection and Resilience Project
CEQA Update

Lead Agency: San Mateo Resource Conservation District

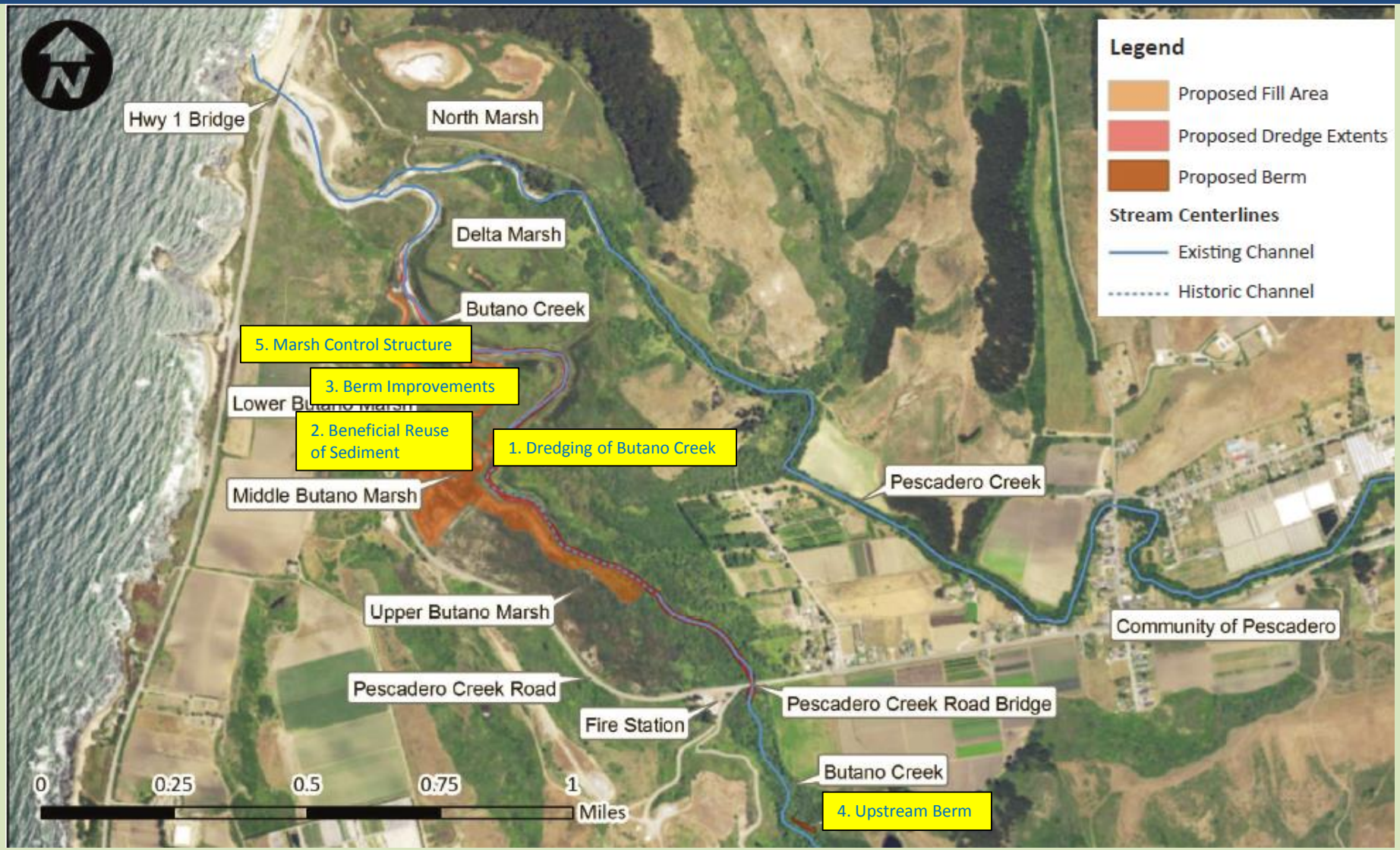
April 19, 2018

Outline

1. Project Overview
2. CEQA Requirements
3. Initial Study (IS) Process
4. Draft IS Findings
5. CEQA Next Steps

Project Area and Overview

SAN MATEO RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT



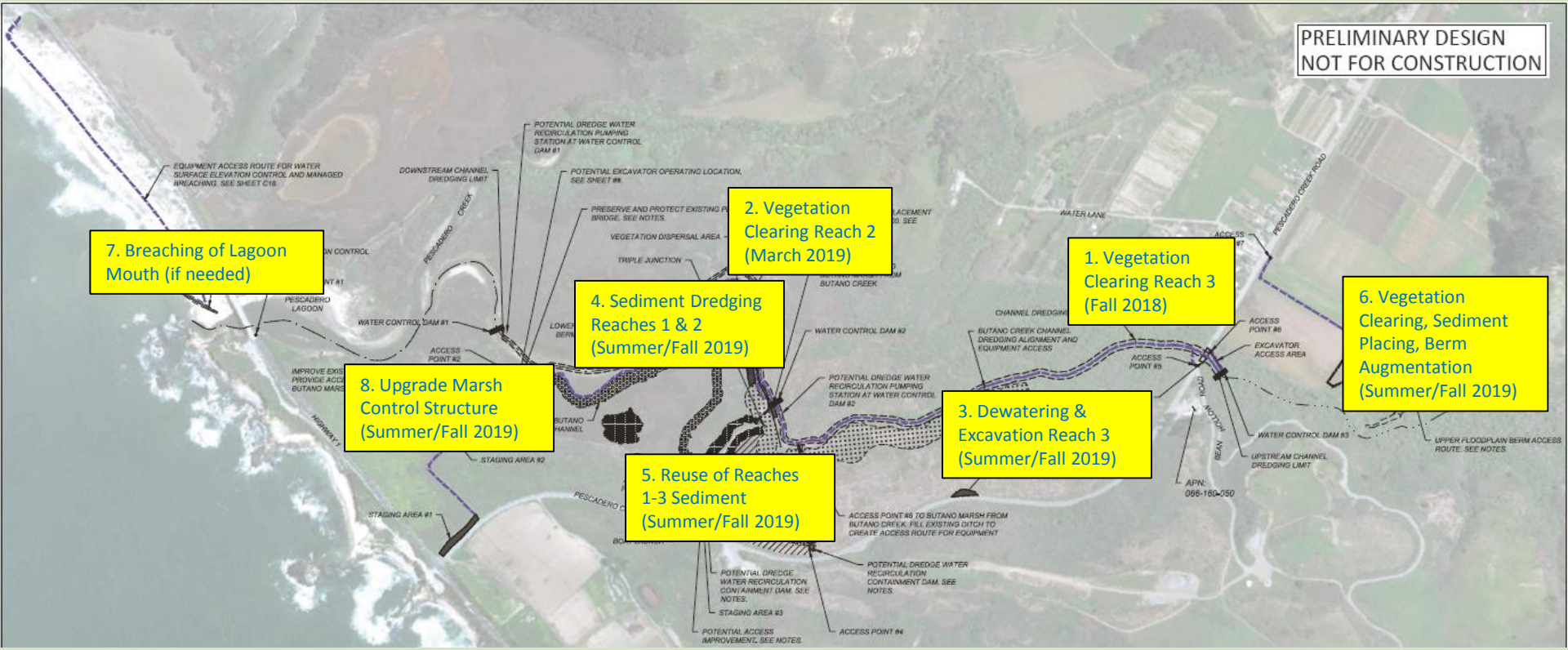
Project Overview

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 improvements at two locations in Butano Marsh to limit hydrologic connectivity between Butano Creek and Butano Marsh.
4. Berm augmentation upstream of Pescadero Creek Road to increase controlling elevation of right bank floodplain.
5. Marsh control structure upgrades.

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 Construction Overview



Project Construction Overview

1. Vegetation clearing in Reach 3 (Fall 2018).
2. Vegetation clearing in Reach 2 (March 2019).
3. Dewatering and terrestrial sediment excavation in Reach 3 (Summer/Fall 2019).
4. Sediment dredging in Reaches 1 & 2 (Summer/Fall 2019).
5. Temporary placement of Reach 3 excavated sediment at Staging Area #3; reuse of sediment (Reaches 1-3) in Butano Marsh (Summer/Fall 2019).
6. Vegetation clearing to access upstream floodplain berm site, temporary placement of Reach 3 excavated sediment at Stockpile/Handling Area, and berm augmentation activities (Summer/Fall 2019).
7. Manual breaching of Pescadero Lagoon mouth as-needed to maintain water levels during dredging activities.
8. Upgrade marsh control structure with articulated concrete blocks & geotextile fabric (Summer/Fall 2019).

CEQA Objectives/Requirements

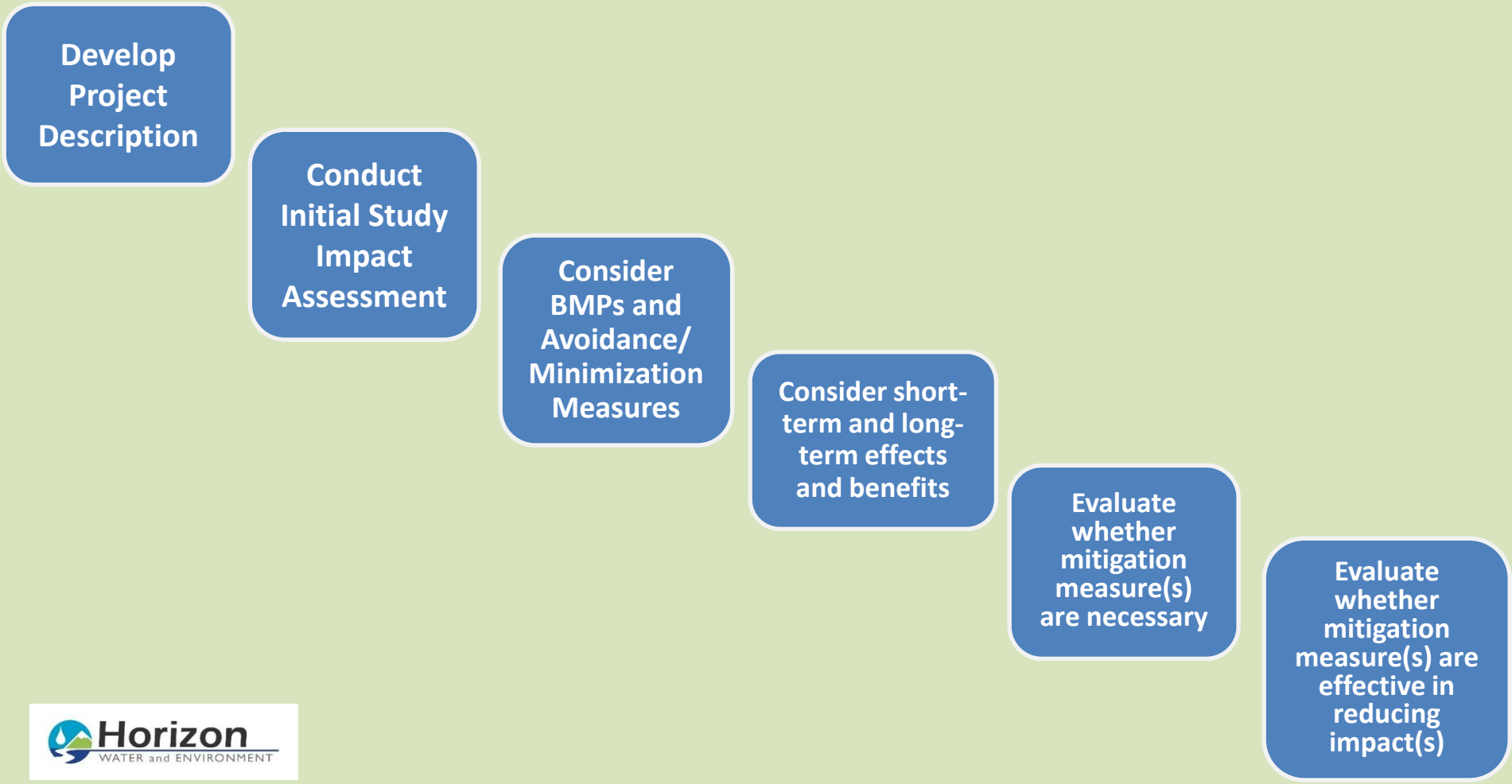
California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA):

- 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 – Different Compliance Documents

- Categorical Exemptions
- Negative Declarations /Mitigated Negative Declarations
- Environmental Impact Report

Initial Study 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

Draft Findings of Initial Study

- **Air Quality:**
  - Temporary increase in NOx 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 (CRLF, SFGS, 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.

Draft Findings of Initial Study (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 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.

Draft Findings of Initial Study (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.

CEQA Next Steps

1. Horizon completes Administrative Draft IS/MND
2. RCD/Alnus review IS/MND.
3. Horizon revises/finalizes Admin Draft IS/MND.
4. RCD/Horizon publish Public Draft IS/MND, with draft Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP), and public notices (NOI, NOC).
5. Public review period (30 days).
6. RCD considers public comments on IS/MND.
7. RCD Board considers approval of IS/MND, adoption of MMRP, and approval of project.
8. 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
July 2018

File NOD
July 2018