
Sobrante Water Treatment Plant

Sobrante Water Treatment Plant Reliability Improvements Project Update and Final EIR

Planning Committee

May 13, 2025

Jae Park, Associate Civil Engineer

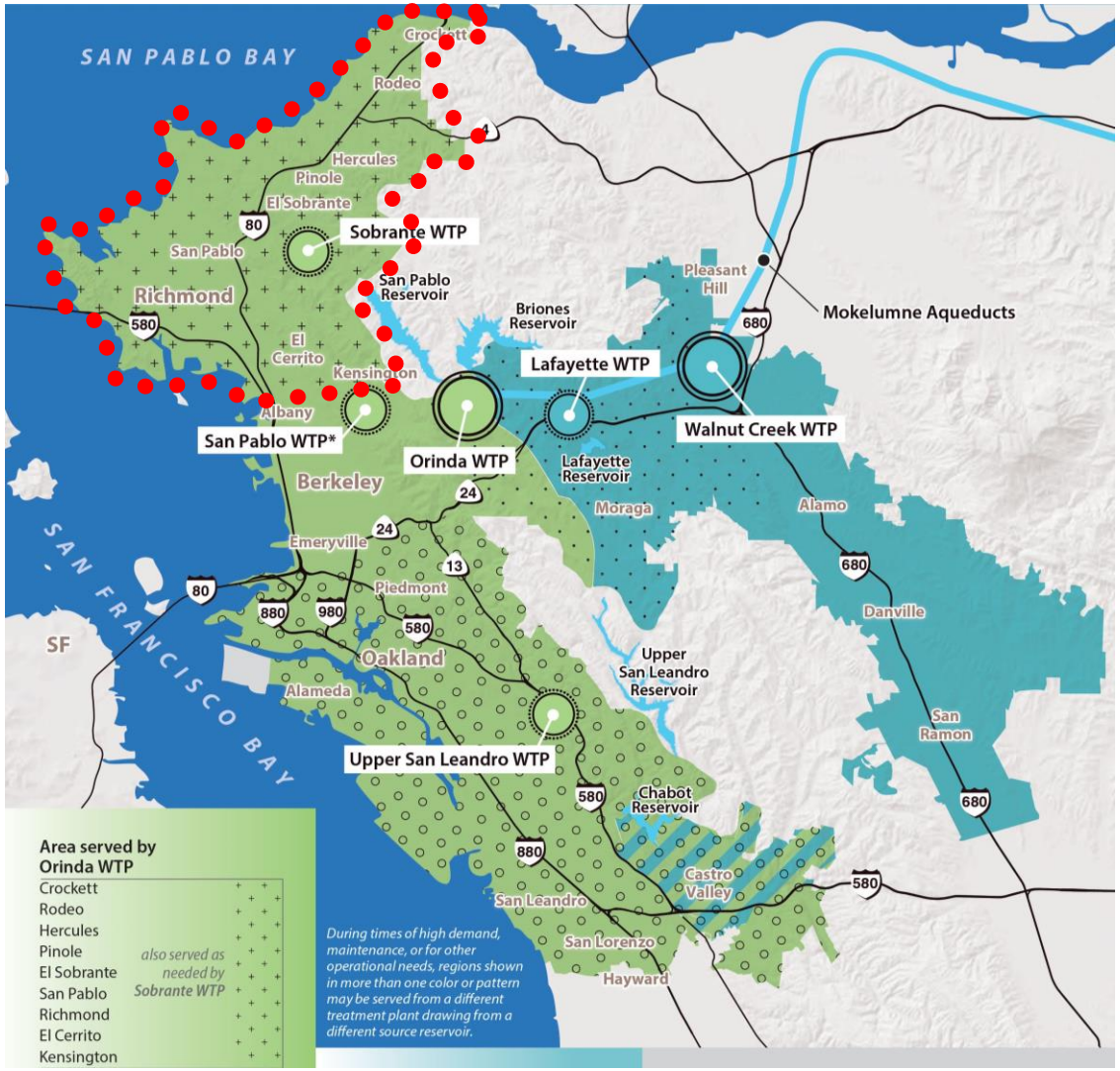
EIR = Environmental Impact Report

Agenda

- Need and Objectives
- Location and Description
- Draft EIR Analysis, Public Outreach and Comments
- Key Mitigation Measures
- Final EIR
- Next Steps

Need for Project

- Critical facility – summer operation, drought operation, and outages
- Continue to treat water supply from San Pablo Reservoir
  - Local runoff
  - Sacramento River (drought operation)
- Need reliable treatment capacity into the future



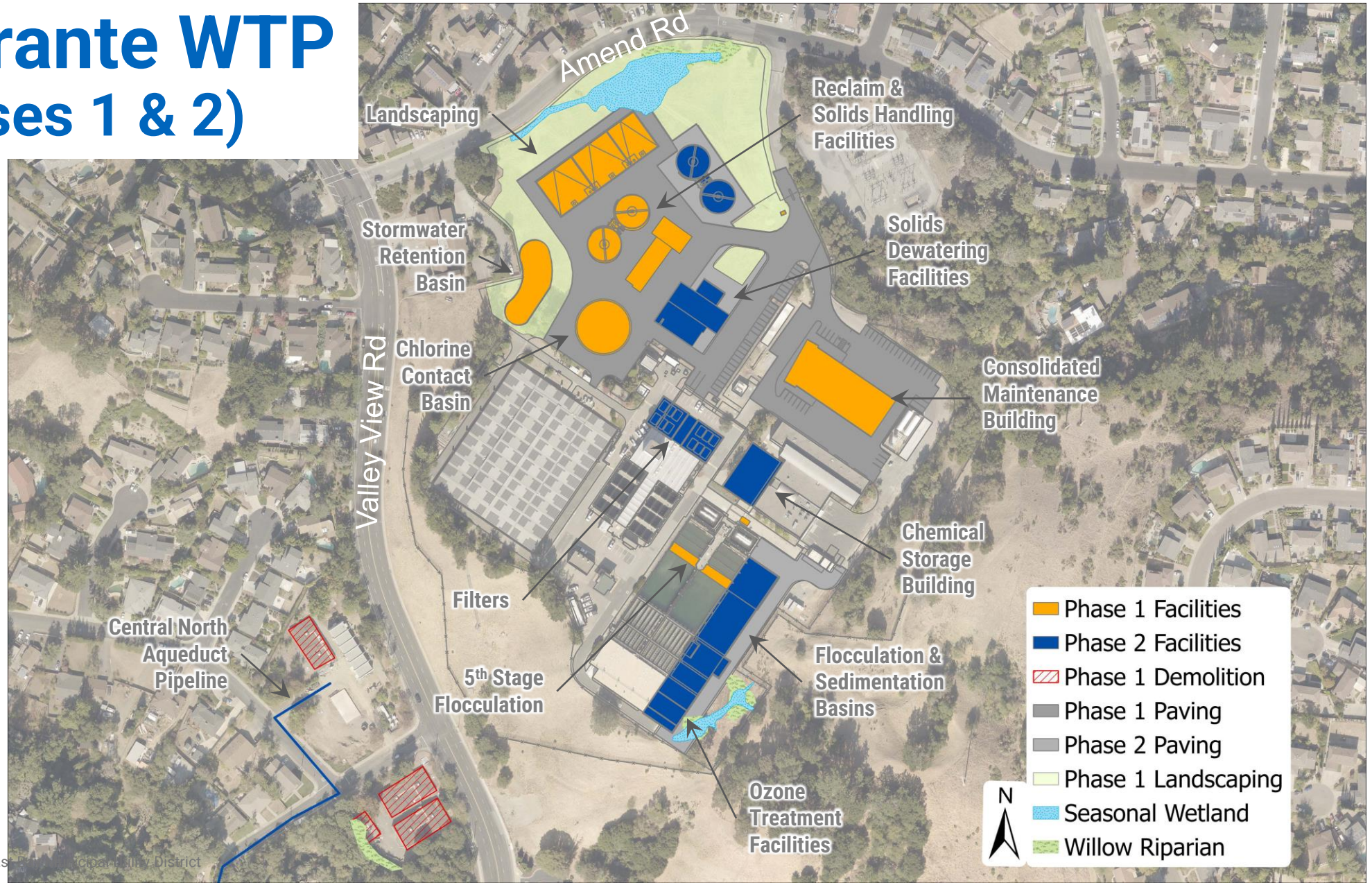
WTP = Water Treatment Plant

Project Objectives

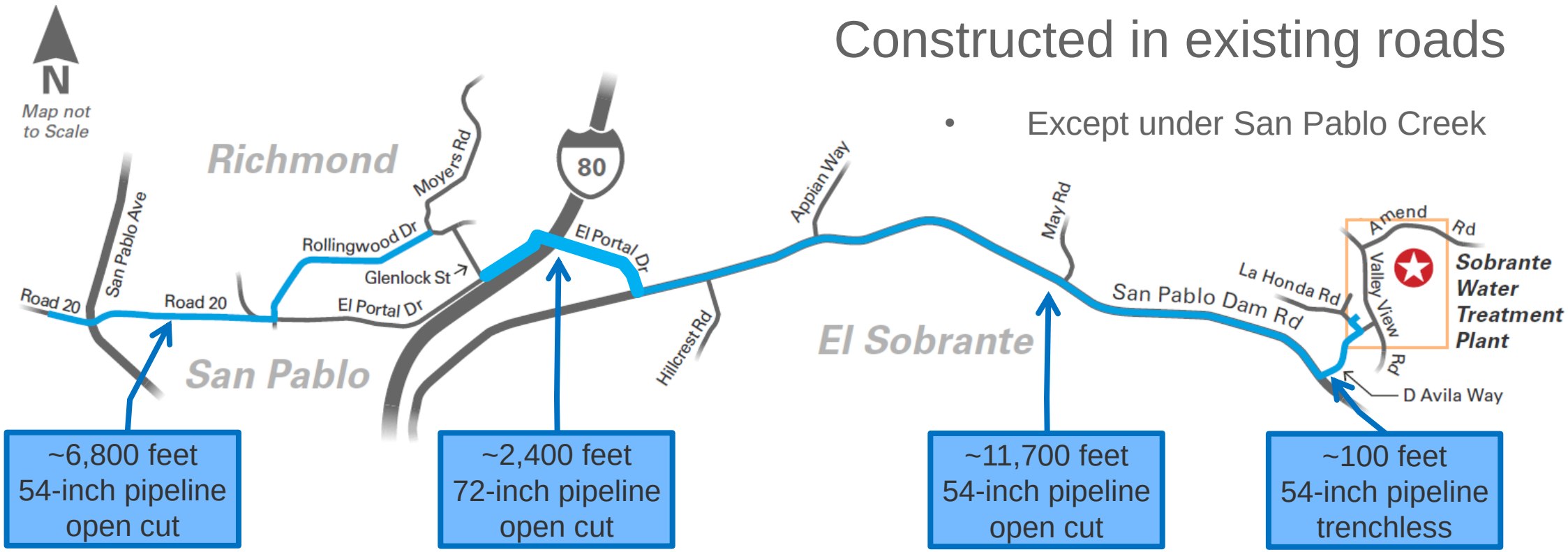
- Replace aging infrastructure
- Restore reliable treatment capacity to full capacity
- Reduce disinfection byproducts
- Improve efficiency of operations and maintenance
- Maintain flexibility to treat water from supplemental supplies
- Increase treatment capacity as needed to meet future demands

Project Location

Sobrante WTP (Phases 1 & 2)



Central North Aqueduct Pipeline
(Phase 2)



Constructed in existing roads

- Except under San Pablo Creek

Draft EIR

Environmental Factors	Less than Significant	Less than Significant with Mitigation	Significant and Unavoidable
Aesthetics		√	
Air Quality	√		
Biological Resources		√	
Cultural Resources		√	
Energy	√		
Geology & Soils		√	
Greenhouse Gas Emissions	√		
Hazards & Hazardous Materials	√		
Hydrology & Water Quality	√		
Land Use and Planning	√		
Noise			√
Transportation		√	
Tribal Cultural Resources		√	
Wildfire	√		

Outreach to Agencies and Public

- Contra Costa County
- City of Richmond
- City of San Pablo
- Richmond Fire Department
- General Public
- Neighboring Residents
- County Supervisor John Gioia
- Richmond City Council
- El Sobrante Municipal Advisory Council

- Letters to 56 agencies
- 1,700 Postcards to local residents
- Next Door
- Project website
- East Bay Times Newspaper
- Three local libraries

Sobrante WTP (Phases 1 & 2)

Comments on Draft EIR

- Aesthetics
- Traffic, noise, biological during construction
- Coordination with planned public works projects
- Permit requirements
- Stormwater drainage
- Cultural resources
- Odors
- Potential utility conflict

Mitigation Measures

Environmental Factors	Mitigation Measures	Location
Aesthetics	Landscape maintenance • One year after planting, replace any project trees that are damaged, diseased, or fail to grow • For five years after planting, provide supplemental irrigation	Sobrante WTP
Biological	Willow riparian and seasonal wetland habitat protection & restoration • Avoid areas of willow riparian and seasonal wetland habitats, where feasible • If unavoidable, then restore any impacted areas • Permanently impacted areas shall be compensated through enhancement or creation of habit at onsite or offsite locations California red-legged frog and western pond turtle • Install temporary exclusion fences	Sobrante WTP Central North Aqueduct pipeline (at San Pablo Creek)

Mitigation Measures

Environmental Factors	Mitigation Measures	Location
Cultural, Tribal Cultural, and Geology & Soils	Archaeological, tribal, and paleontological monitoring • In vicinity of previously recorded archaeological site - Archaeological and tribal monitor to be present two days per week • Project excavations in Orinda Formation - Retain a professional paleontologist	Sobrante WTP and Central North Aqueduct pipeline
Transportation	Heavy truck traffic, AC Transit, bicycle safety, and pedestrian access • Heavy truck traffic limited from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. • At schools on Valley View Rd and Camino Pablo, heavy truck traffic limited from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. • At schools on Road 20, heavy truck traffic limited from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. • Temporary closure of bus stops and rerouting of bus lines will be coordinated with AC Transit • As feasible avoid designated bikeways, else post detour signs. • As feasible maintain one crosswalk at signalized intersections.	Sobrante WTP Central North Aqueduct pipeline

Mitigation Measures

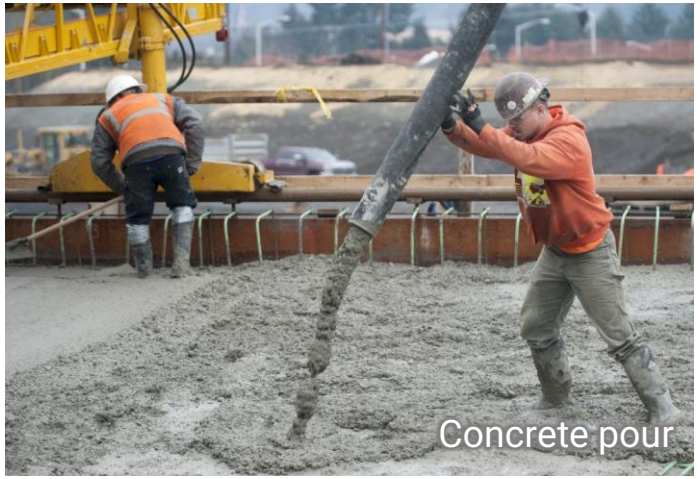
Environmental Factors	Mitigation Measures	Location
Noise	Sound barriers • Install temporary sound barriers - Amend Road, 16-ft tall - Demolition area, 12-ft tall - Gravity thickeners, 12-ft tall - Trenchless pipeline, 12-ft tall Limit hours and off-site lodging • In Contra Costa County, limit hours for excavation and grading activities from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., where feasible • Offer off-site lodging during nighttime construction (10:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m.) at intersections & tie-ins - When required by encroachment permit or when limiting construction to daytime is infeasible - Offer off-site lodging to residences	Sobrante WTP and Central North Aqueduct pipeline (at San Pablo Creek) Central North Aqueduct pipeline

Noise: Significant and Unavoidable

Sobrante WTP

- Pile driving of I-beams for spent filter backwash basins is anticipated to exceed noise limits
  - Phase 1 for 20 days
- Concrete pouring prior to 7:00 a.m. (as early as 6:00 a.m.)
  - Phase 1 for 36 days and Phase 2 for 33 days
  - To complete concrete pours in a single day


I-beam installation


Concrete pour

Noise: Significant and Unavoidable

Central North Aqueduct Pipeline

- Construction at San Pablo Creek is anticipated to exceed noise limits for 42 days
- Construction in roadways is anticipated to exceed noise limits for 5 days at each location
- Nighttime construction at intersections and tie-ins for 5 to 10 days at each location


Trenchless construction


Open cut construction

Final EIR

Revisions to the Draft EIR

- Added Caltrans to list of potentially required permits
- Updated Project construction schedule to reflect the proposed Capital Improvement Program
- Minor clarifications
  - Chlorine is not a new source of odors at Sobrante WTP
  - Disruption of water service is not expected during construction
  - Short section of the Central North Aqueduct pipeline will be constructed in an easement adjacent to San Pablo Creek

Schedule and Next Steps

- Board considers Final EIR and Project Approval --> May 13, 2025
- Design --> 2036 to 2039
- Construction Phase 1 --> 2039 to 2043
- Construction Phase 2 --> 2054 to 2056
  - May be delayed or may not occur if water demands are not realized
- Future Outreach

Community Outreach Plan on Projects Where Construction was Deferred and CEQA was Completed

- Re-engage with community for projects that were deferred five years or more between completion of CEQA and start of construction
- Initiate additional community outreach during 30 percent design
  - Renotify community of schedule changes
  - Hold community meetings to review project
  - Request feedback
- Hold a pre-construction community meeting to present and obtain input on the contractor's draft plans (such as for hazardous materials handling), as needed
- Consider public input when reviewing the draft plans
- Continue to update project website and community notification through design and construction

CEQA = California Environmental Quality Act

Questions

Visual simulation of Sobrante WTP

Collaborative Project Delivery

Dewatering Improvements Project

Planning Committee

May 13, 2025

Kevin Jim, Associate Civil Engineer

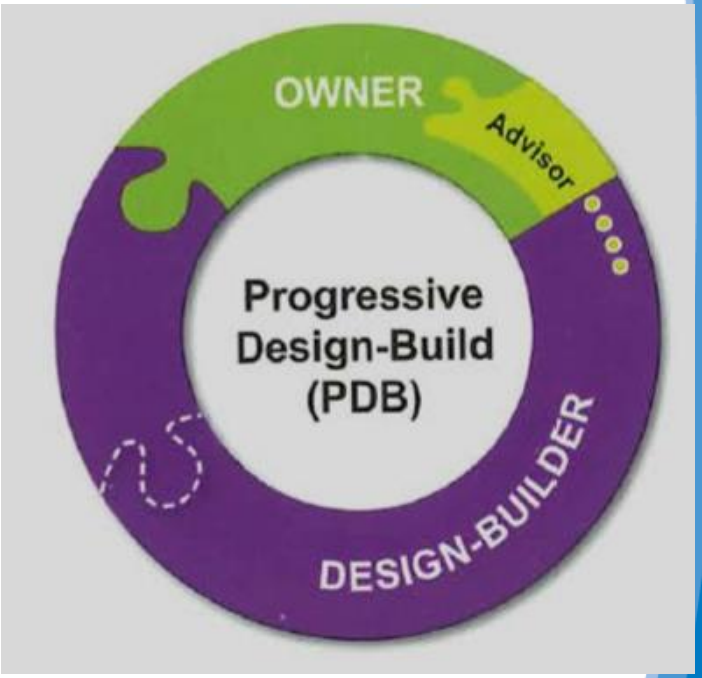
Agenda

- Collaborative Project Delivery
- Progressive Design-Build (PDB) Overview
- Pilot PDB Project: Dewatering Improvements Project
- Driver for Using PDB at EBMUD

EBMUD

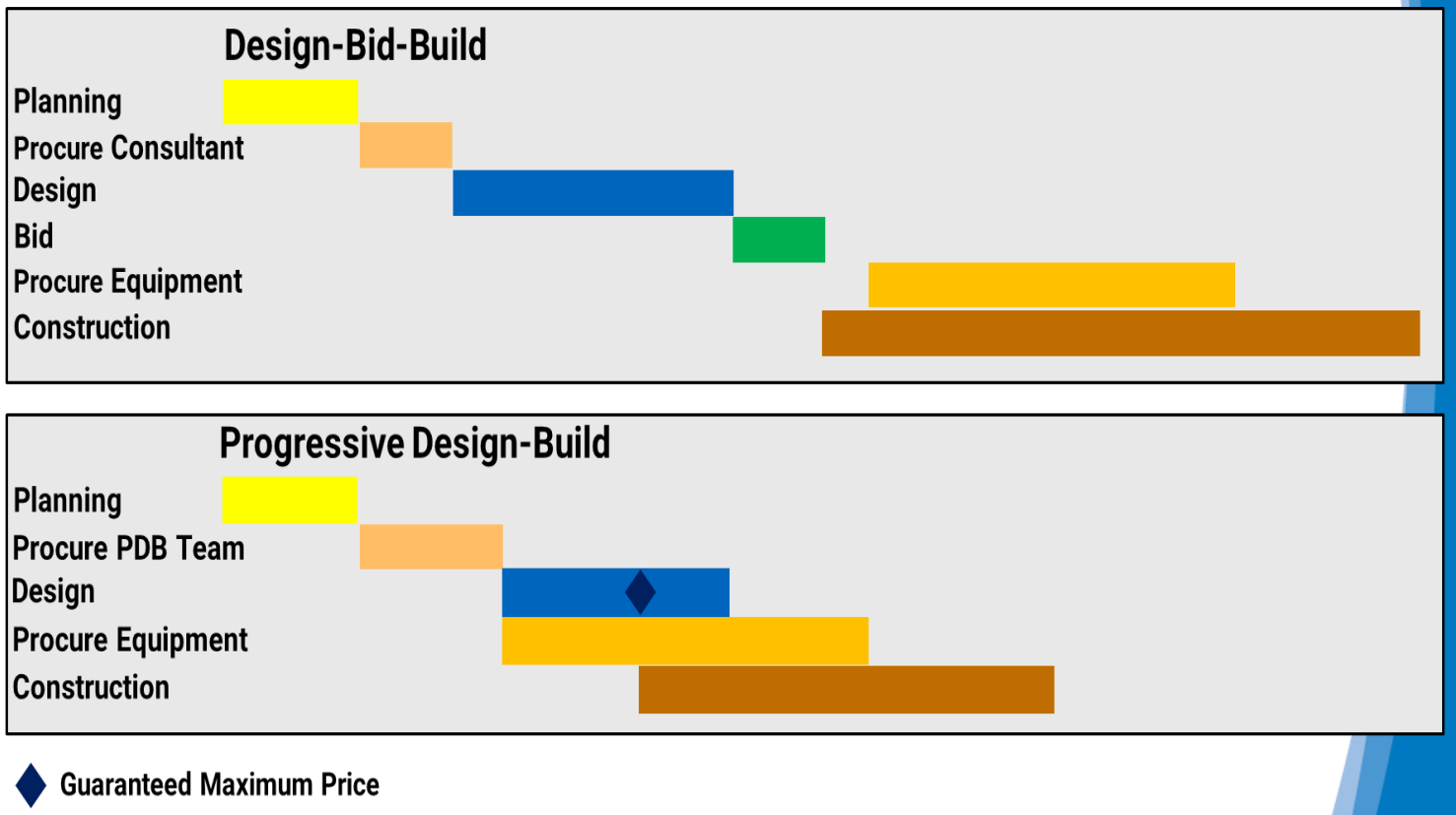
Progressive Design-Build

- **Owner Advisor (OA)**
  - Hired by owner for guidance and technical support
  - Critical for OA to have PDB experience and the right interpersonal skills to encourage collaboration and facilitate quick, decisive action
- **Two-Phase Delivery Method**
  - Phase 1: The project's final scope of work, design, cost estimate, and construction schedule are developed
    - When the Owner and Design-Builder agree to those things, a guaranteed maximum price (GMP) is determined
    - Can include some early procurement of materials & equipment
  - Phase 2: If Owner and Design-Builder agree on the GMP, the Design-Builder proceeds with construction



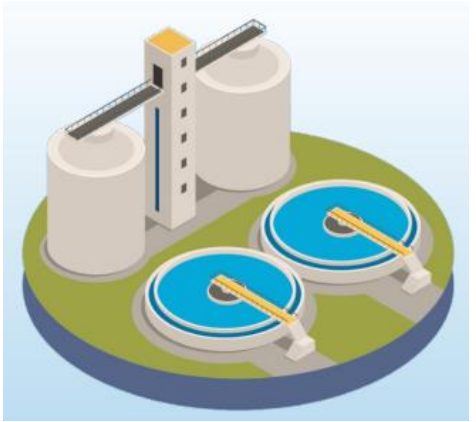
Progressive Design Build

- **Potential for Reduced Schedule**
  - Contractor has more input on design, versus putting together price in 6- to 8-week bid period
  - Minimizes risks and contingencies
  - Contractor encouraged to suggest innovations and collaborate
  - Early procurement of long lead equipment



Progressive Design-Build

- **Legal authorization**
  - CA SB 991 enacted in 2023
  - Law explicitly authorizes PDB for local water agencies for projects >$5 million
  - PDB becoming the preferred project delivery method for owners and contractors nationwide



CA = California; SB = Senate Bill

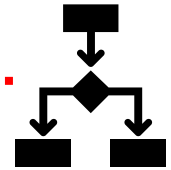
Weighing the Benefits and Challenges

Benefits

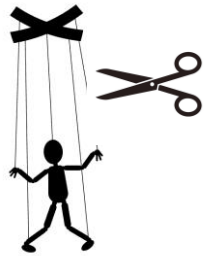
- Qualification based selection instead of low-bid
- Increase transparency of project cost and cost certainty earlier in project
- Collaboration between owner and design-builder
- Risk sharing – Contractor helps mitigate risks during design
- Potential to streamline schedule
- Promotes better CEP participation

Challenges

New procurement process and contract documents for District



Requires significant owner engagement and timely decision during the design process



Requires Owner to give up some control of the process in favor of overall better outcome (best value)

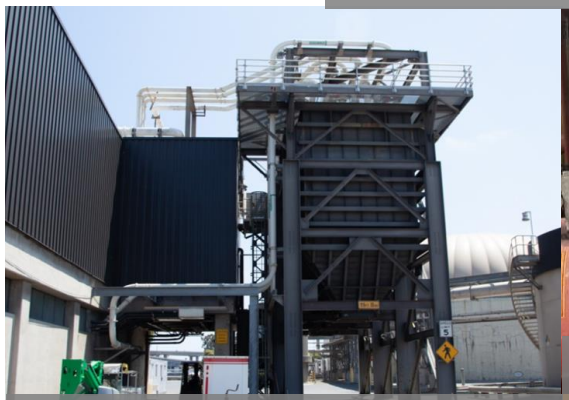
CEP = Contract Equity Program

EBMUD

Pilot Project: Dewatering Improvements Project

- **Driver:**
  - Existing facility in deteriorating condition and failing frequently
- **Urgency:**
  - Project needs to be completed on an accelerated schedule
- **Scope:**
  - Completely new dewatering building at MWWTP

High Maintenance



Seismic Deficiencies

Failing Equipment

Failing Pipes

KEY TAKEAWAY

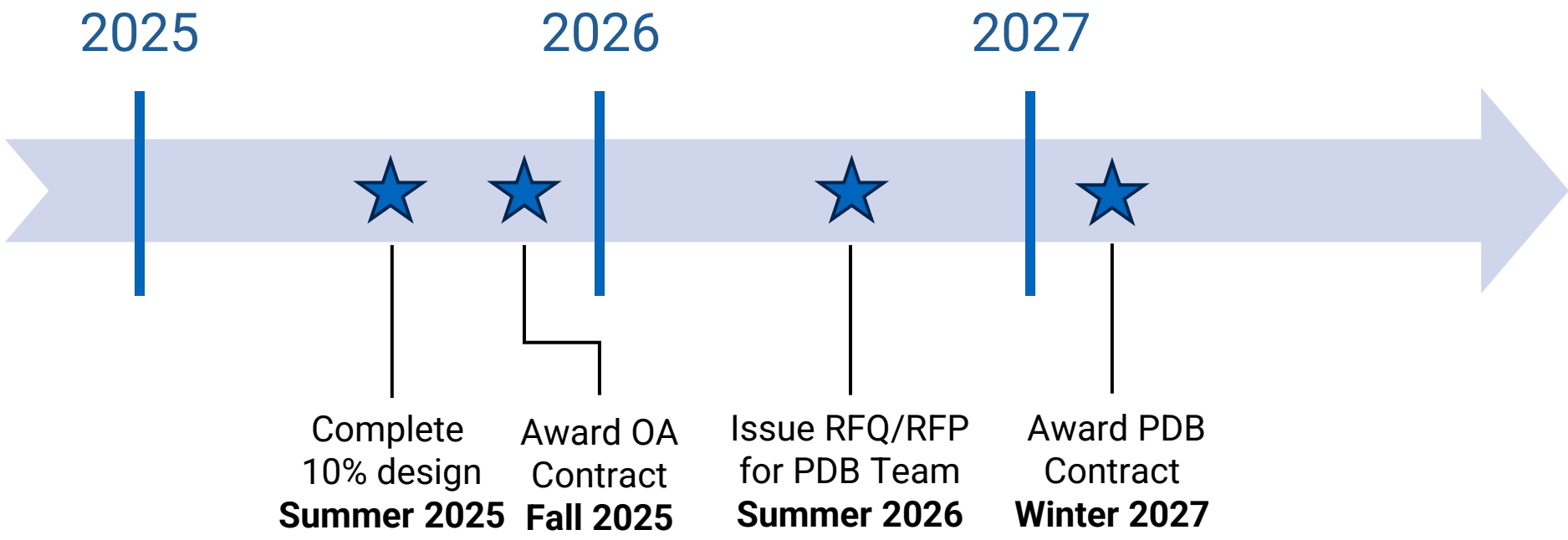
The Dewatering Project's scale, complexity, and greenfield nature make it an ideal candidate for piloting PDB.

MWWTP: Main Wastewater Treatment Plant

Potential Future Wastewater PDB Projects

- **Nutrient Removal Project**
  - $200 million, expected start Fiscal Year 2031
- **Future Interceptor Rehab Projects**
  - Up to $125 million, total projected spending from Fiscal Year 2028 to Fiscal Year 2035
- **Others To Be Determined**

Next Steps



RFQ = Request for Qualifications; RFP = Request for Proposals

Questions

EBMUD

Flowing into the Future

San Pablo Reservoir Sunrise

Annual Watershed and Recreation Report

Planning Committee

May 13, 2025

Chuck Beckman, Manager of Watershed & Recreation

Scott Hill, Manager of Watershed & Recreation

EBMUD

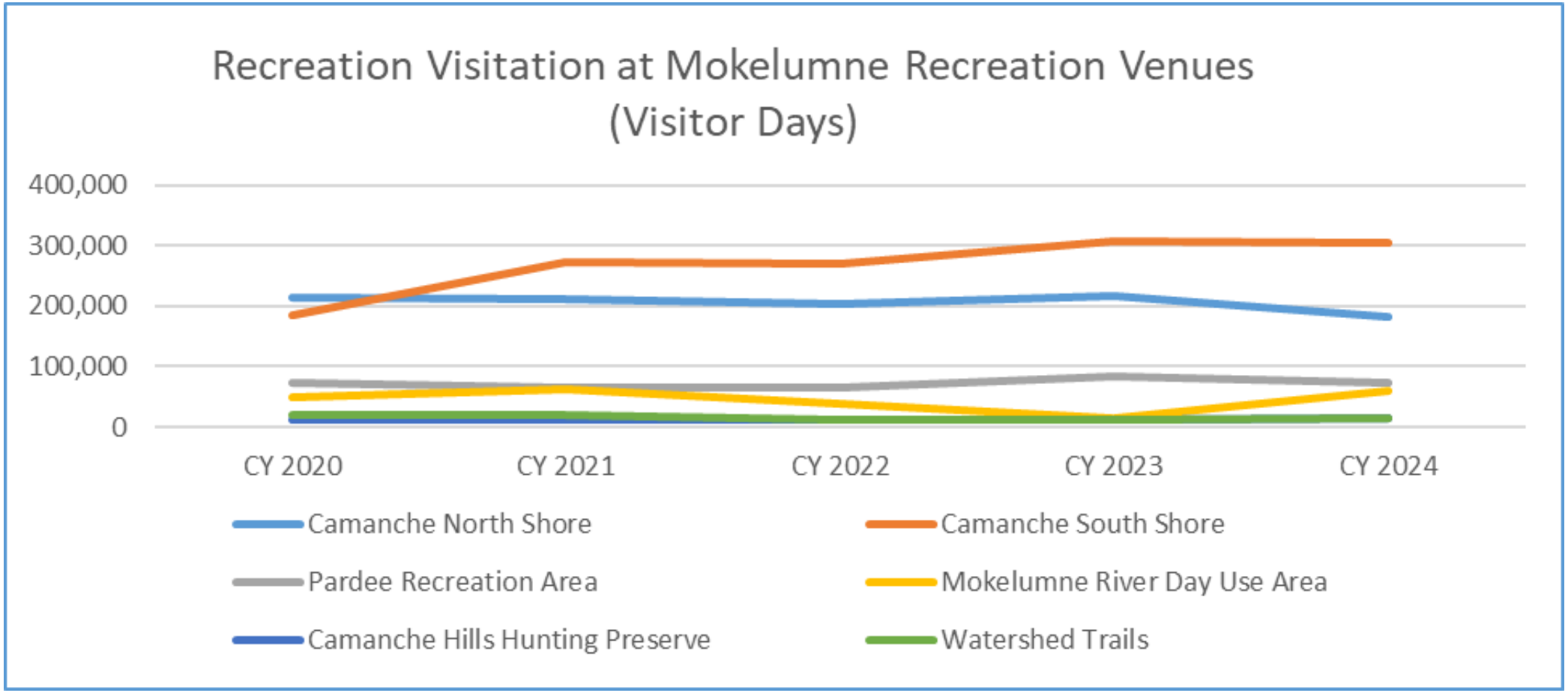
Agenda

- Mokelumne and East Bay programs
- Major activities and initiatives in calendar year 2024
- Anticipated calendar year 2025 activities

Mokelumne Watershed and Recreation

- Four developed Recreation Areas plus over 35 miles of trails
- More than 600,000 visitors in a typical year
- Implementing Mokelumne Watershed Master Plan

Mokelumne Recreation Visitation



Calendar Year (CY) is January 1 – December 31

Upcountry Improvements

Wildermuth House Granary before repointing

Wildermuth House Granary after repointing

Concrete picnic table at Camanche North Shore

John Bull Prescribed Burn

Rangers on John Bull Prescribed Burn

John Bull Prescribed Burn

Environmental Education

Fossil Presentation at
World of Wonders Museum

Calaveras High School Forestry Class

Golden Mussel Response and 2025 Activities

Alcohol Prohibition Sign at Camanche Recreation Area

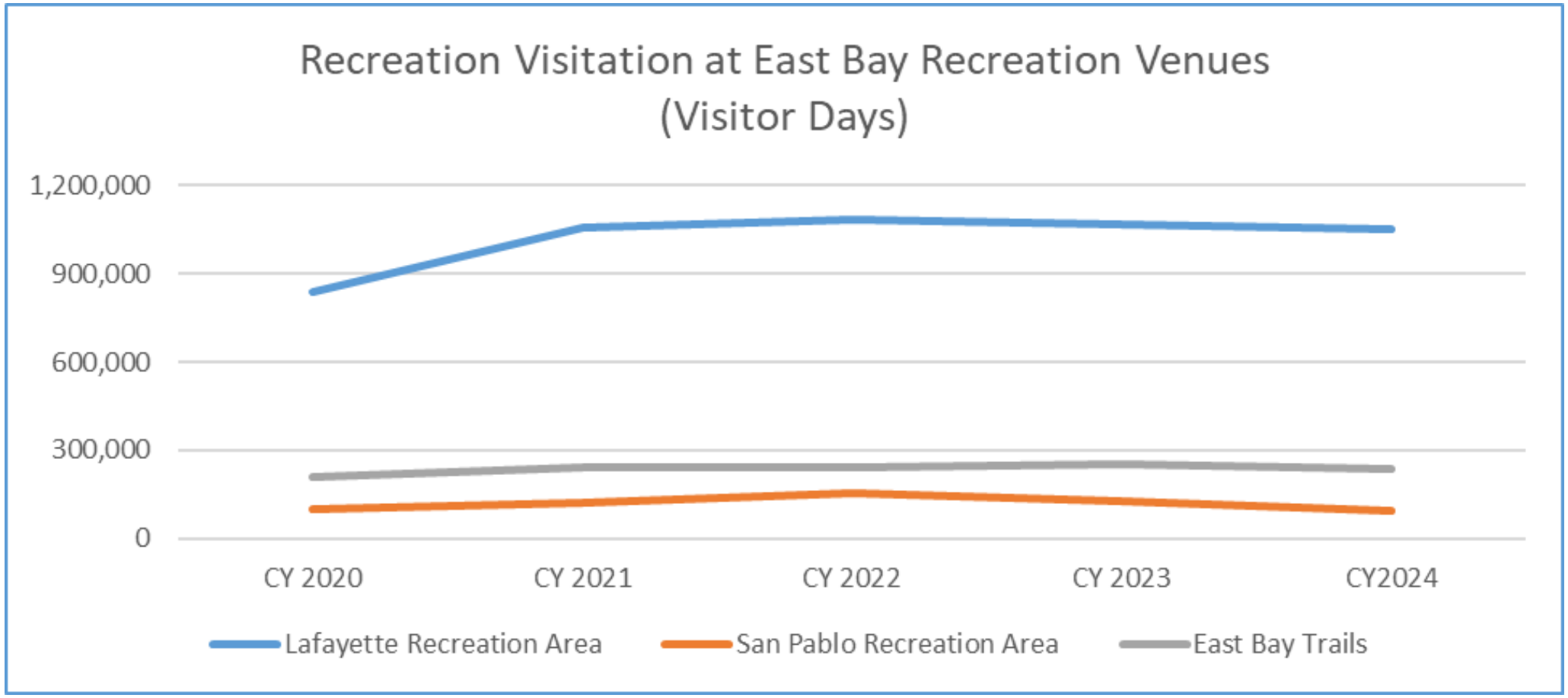
Boat Launch Closure Sign at Camanche South Shore

- Possession of alcohol was prohibited at Camanche Recreation Area as of May 1, 2025.
- To prevent the spread of golden mussels to EBMUD reservoirs, public boat launching at Camanche, Pardee, and San Pablo reservoirs was closed in November 2024.

East Bay Watershed Recreation

- Lafayette and San Pablo Reservoir Recreation Areas: Fishing, boating, biking, and walking
- Watershed Trail System: 90 miles of trails for hiking, horseback riding, and limited mountain biking
- Over 1 million visitors annually

East Bay Watershed Recreation Visitation



Calendar (CY) Year is January 1 – December 31

Grizzly Peak Fuel Management

Before

After

Lafayette Reservoir Water Walks & Education

Lindsay Wildlife Museum staff on Big Oak Trail

5th graders from Oakland's Bridges Academy Elementary School

East Bay Recreation Areas

New pay station in hourly parking lot at Lafayette Reservoir

- Parking pay station upgrades
- Newly developed picnic site

New picnic tables and shade structure at San Pablo Reservoir Launch Ramp

Questions?


Pardee Reservoir from Gunsight Pass