



Almaden Lake Improvement Project

Public Meeting: Draft Environmental Impact Report

January 8, 2020

Agenda

1. Meeting Purpose
2. Valley Water's Mission
3. Project Background and Overview
4. Project Schedule
5. Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) Summary
6. Next Steps/Public Comments on DEIR

Meeting Purpose

Provide project updates and discuss:

1. Proposed Project
2. Draft Environmental Impact Report review process

Meeting Guidelines

- Please silence cell phones
- Please hold all questions to the end of the presentation
- Microphone is available if you wish to speak
- Comment cards are available at the front table

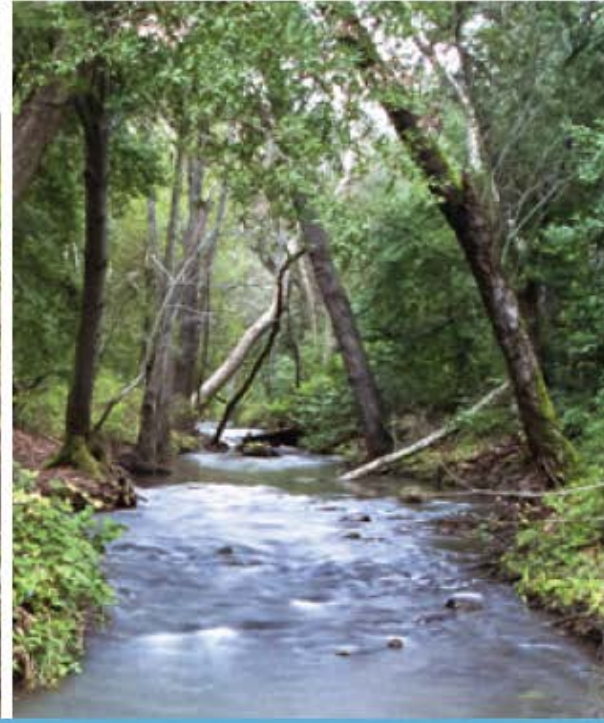
Valley Water core services



Clean, Reliable
Water



Flood Protection



Healthy Creeks &
Ecosystems

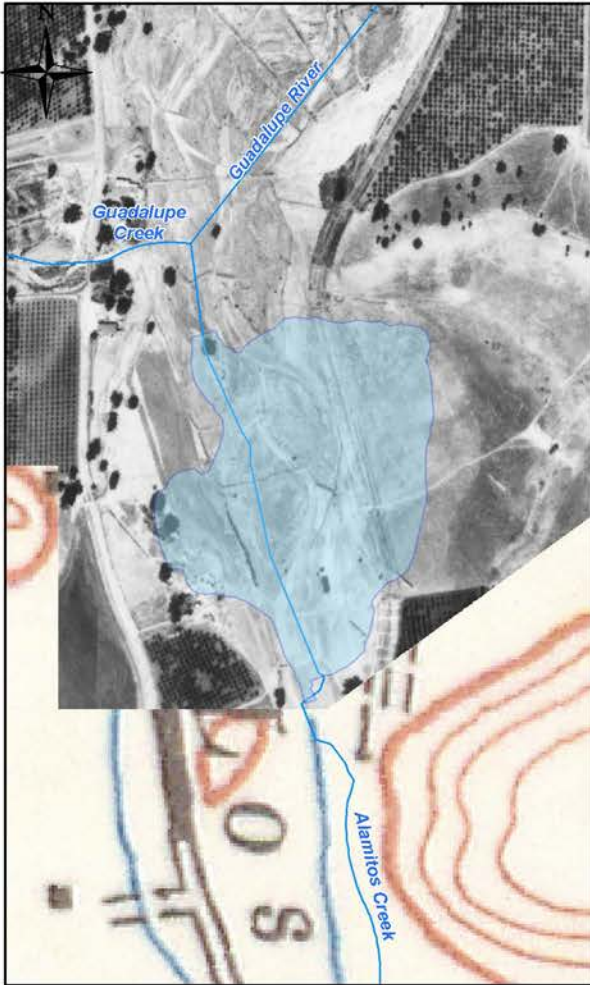
Our Mission

- Manage an integrated water resources system on behalf of Santa Clara County's 1.8 million residents
- Provide wholesale water and groundwater management services
 - 10 dams and surface reservoirs, three treatment plants, a state-of-the-art water quality laboratory, nearly 400 acres of groundwater recharge ponds
- Provide flood protection
 - 275 miles of streams
- Stewardship of streams
 - In 2012, County voters approved the Safe, Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection Program, which funded "Priority D4" Fish Habitat and Passage Improvements

Project Location



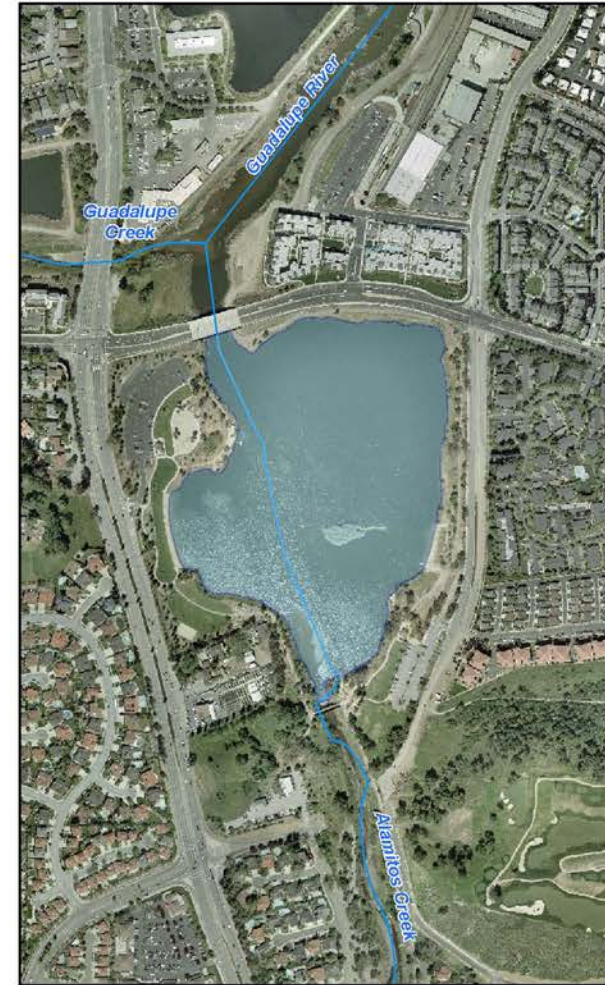
Almaden Lake Location at Several Points in Time



Aerial Photo - July 1939,
USGS "Los Gatos" - 1940



Aerial Photo - May 1976,
USGS "Santa Teresa Hills" - 1980



Aerial Photos - April 2001

Note: Existing streams (as of 2000) and extent of Almaden Lake (as of April 2001) used for overlay



An Impaired Water Body

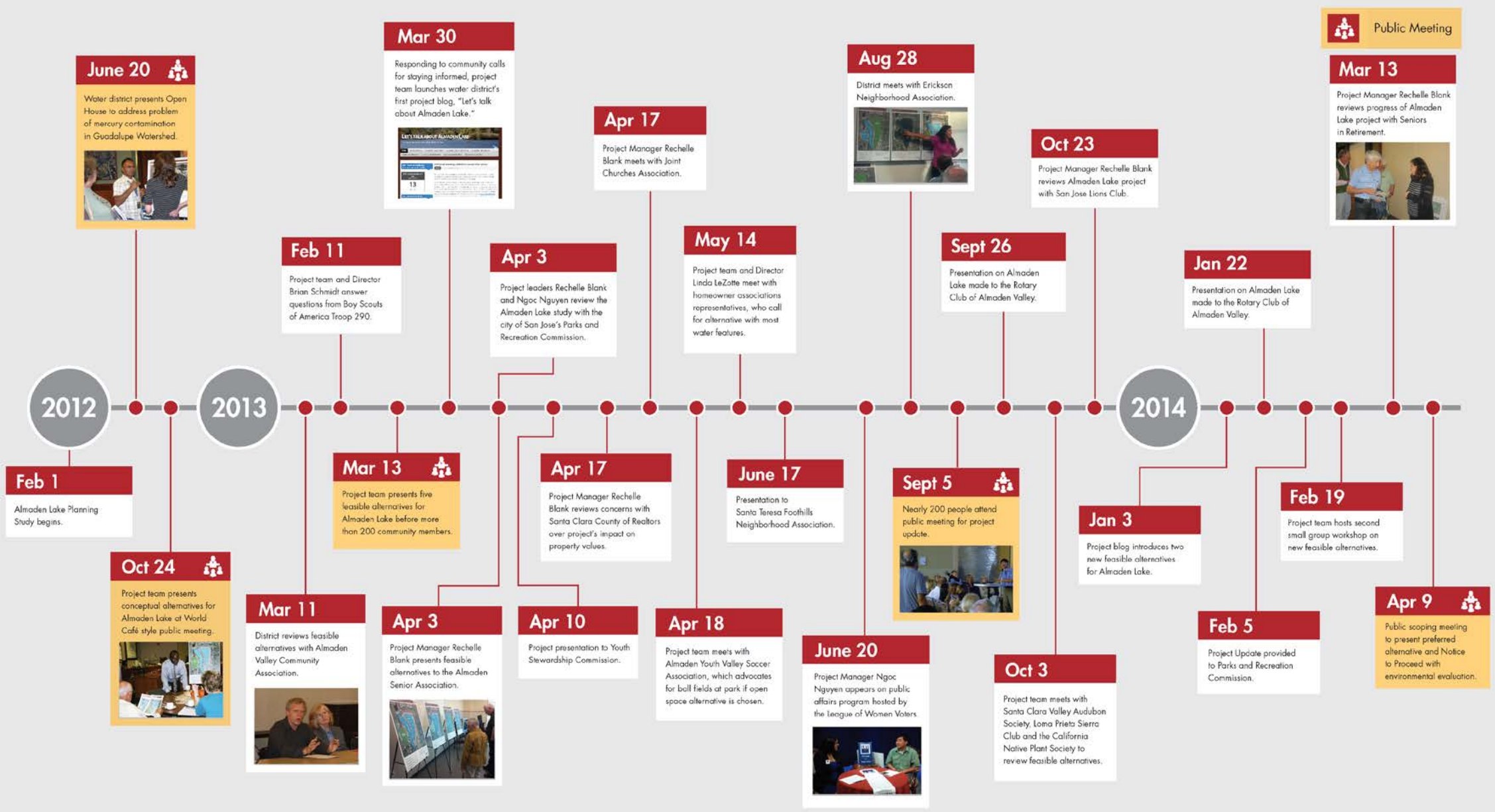
Almaden Lake does not function ecologically as a lake should, and the lake further disrupts the ecological functions of the Guadalupe River and Alamitos Creek corridor system.

- Methylmercury is being produced and released from Almaden Lake into the creek system resulting in its designation as an impaired water body.
- The lake warms creek water and has low dissolved oxygen and high nutrient levels which introduces poor water quality to the creek system.
- Native fish may lose their way in the lake which is harmful to their migratory passage.
- Native fish become vulnerable to non-native fish that live in the lake.

Project Objectives

- Separate Alamos Creek from Almaden Lake.
- Reduce production of methylmercury and mercury in fish in Almaden Lake to meet applicable water quality objectives.
- Remove potential lake entrainment and impacts from predatory fish to cold-water fish.
- Improve temperature conditions for native fish.
- Minimize impacts to existing recreational features.

Project Input



Project Site

- Existing lake footprint
- New levee tie-in locations
- Existing west beach area



Proposed Project

- Restore Alamos Creek channel section
- Construct new levee with dual maintenance road/walking trail on top
- Re-grade and cap lake bottom
- Provide new water source to the lake
- Create new island and stabilize existing island
- Create new park area



A View of project from Winfield Boulevard.



Before



After

B View of project from Almaden Expressway.

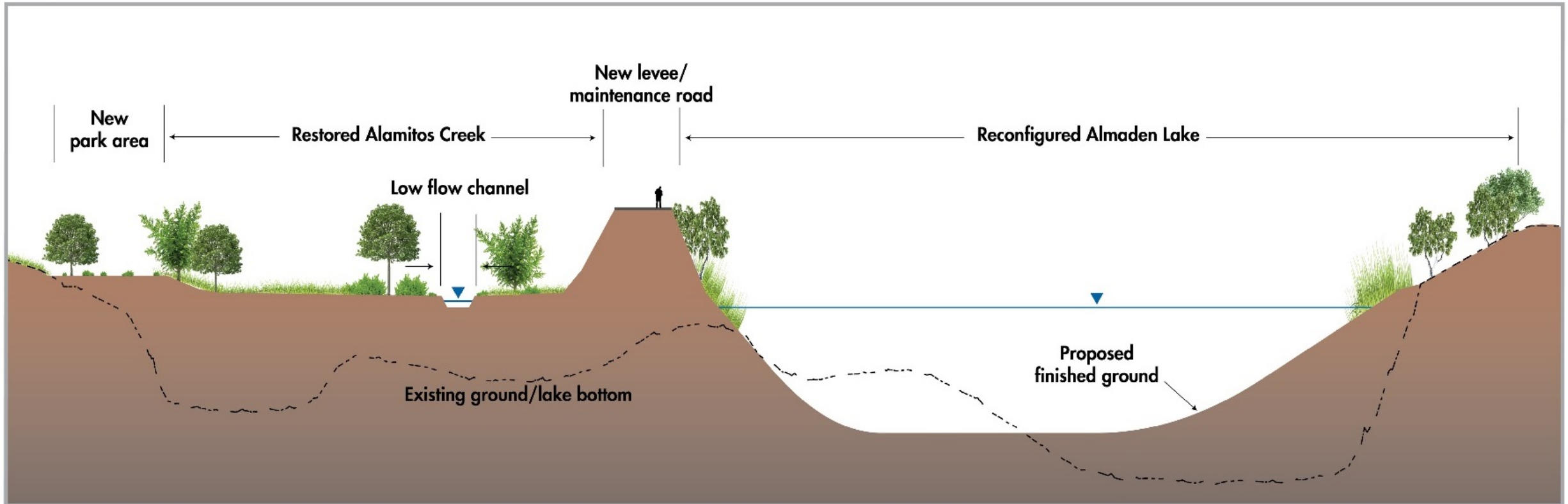


Before



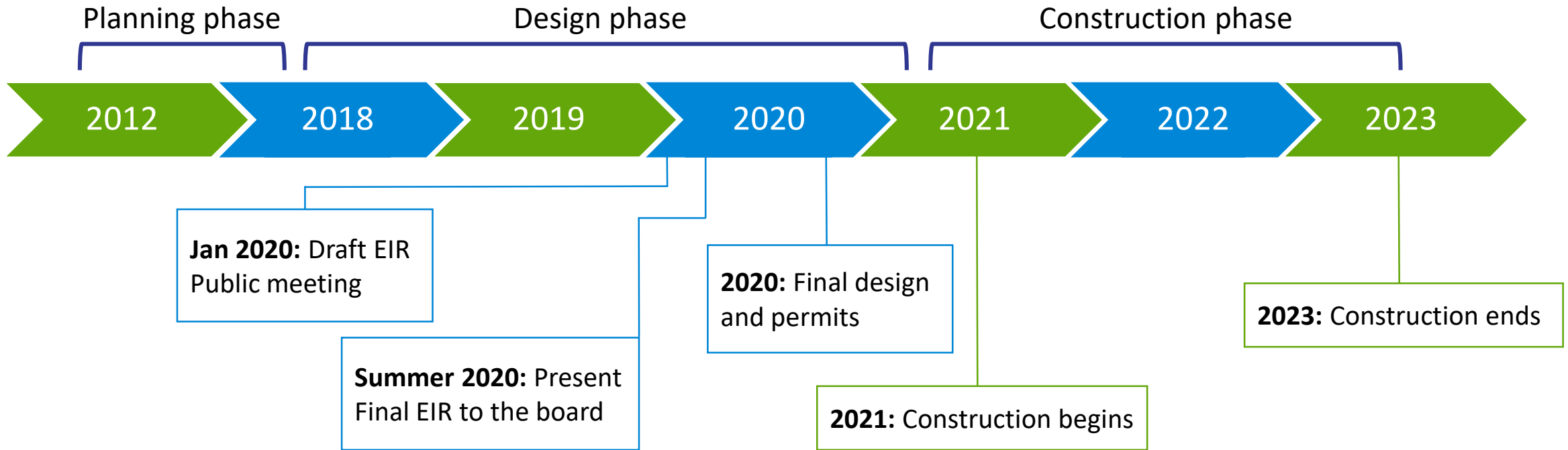
After

c Profile view of new park area, facing downstream of Almaden Lake.



Not to scale. Vegetation may vary by location.

Project Timeline



EIR Purpose

An Environmental Impact Report (EIR) has been prepared as required by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

The EIR evaluates the potential environment effects of the project to:

1. Inform the Board and the public of the likely impacts from constructing and operating the project
2. Suggest measures to avoid or minimize the environmental impacts from the project

The EIR does NOT consider economic or social impacts from the Project.

Air Quality / Energy

- Wind-blown dust from exposed surfaces.
- Exhaust from construction equipment and trucks could cause an exceedance of standards for nitrogen oxides (NO_x).
- Diesel particulate matter could cause a cancer risk in excess of BAAQMD thresholds.
- Wasteful or inefficient use of energy fuels.

Mitigation Measures:

- *Require U.S. EPA Tier 4 Engines*
- *Implement BAAQMD Construction / Dust Measures*



Biological Resources

- Disruption to nesting birds and roosting bats during construction
- Damage of trees would conflict with local policies related to tree removal or disturbance
- Impacts to native fish from dewatering and fish relocation

Mitigation Measures:

- *Surveys for birds / bats. Required buffer zones around nests / roosts*
- *Tree protection measures*
- *Native Fish Capture and Relocation Native Fish Capture and Relocation*

Cultural Resources and Tribal Cultural Resources

21

- Low potential for archaeological resources and human remains to be uncovered during ground disturbing activities.

Mitigation Measures:

- *Pre-construction Training and Cultural Resource Monitoring / Protocols for Accidental Discovery of Resources*

Hydrology and Water Quality

- Disturbance of bottom during the draining of the lake stirring up mercury concentrated sediments
- Flood risk constriction could result in accidental release of flows into the Almaden Lake work area

Mitigation Measures:

- *Monitoring and Management of Lake Discharges to Creek*
- *Final Siting of Sheet Pile System*

Noise

- Exceed noise threshold criteria associated with construction traffic
- Noise from water pump station could exceed operational noise threshold for residential uses

Mitigation Measures:

- *Construction Noise Logistics Plan*
- *Fully Enclose Pump Station*

Aesthetics

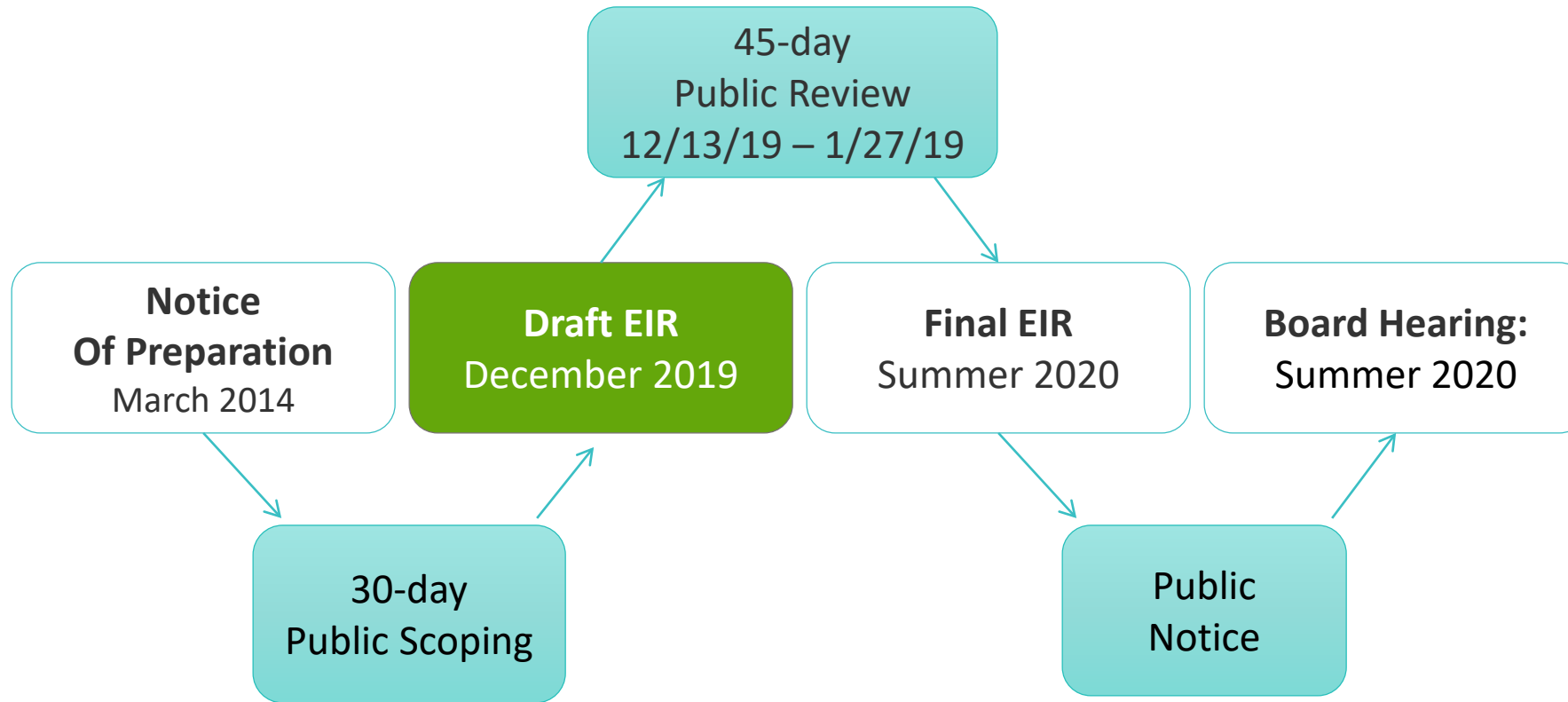
- Diminish the visual character of the Project site until restoration planting are established. (*Significant Unavoidable Impact*)

Measures:

- *Fencing of Construction Site*
- *Planting of Larger Vegetation where possible*

CEQA Process and Schedule

25



valleywater.org

Effective Commenting

- Public input is valued and important
- Keep comments substantive and focused on the CEQA analysis
- Comments may be provided in writing during the public review period on public comment cards here or via mail or email.

How to Comment

Comments due **January 27, 2020 at 5:00 pm**

Send written comments to:

Michael Martin
Santa Clara Valley Water District
5750 Almaden Expressway
San Jose, CA 95118
Phone: (408) 630-3095
Email: michaelmartin@valleywater.org

Please include a name, address, contact number, and email address for future correspondence related to this CEQA process

QUESTIONS





Valley Water

Clean Water • Healthy Environment • Flood Protection