



Fish and Aquatic Habitat Collaborative Effort

Final Environmental Impact Report--Board of Directors Public Meeting
Tuesday, August 8, 2023

Integrated water resources management



CLEAN, RELIABLE WATER



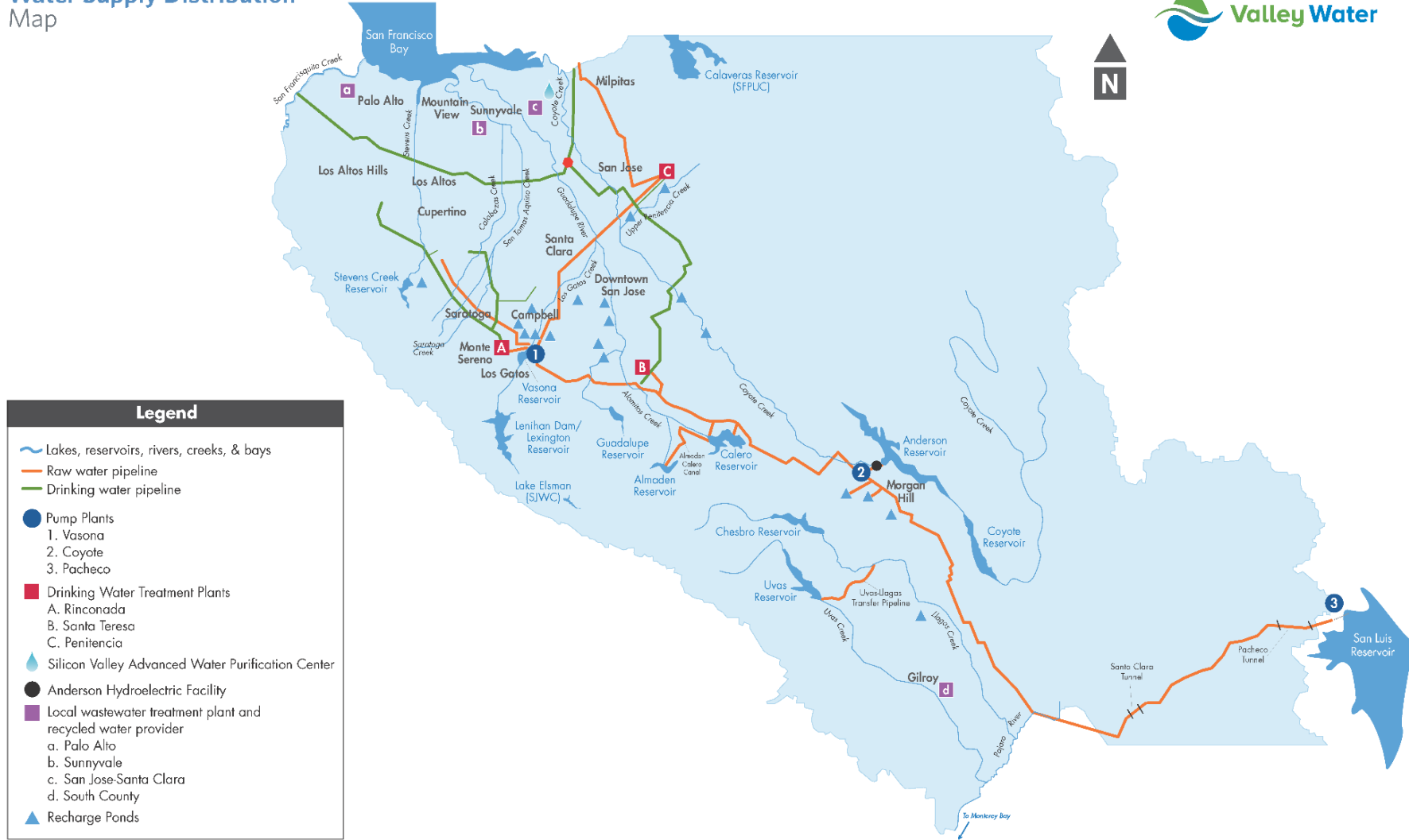
FLOOD PROTECTION



HEALTHY CREEKS & ECOSYSTEMS

Complex and integrated system

Water Supply Distribution Map



Legend

- Lakes, reservoirs, rivers, creeks, & bays
- Raw water pipeline
- Drinking water pipeline
- Pump Plants
 - 1. Vasona
 - 2. Coyote
 - 3. Pacheco
- Drinking Water Treatment Plants
 - A. Rinconada
 - B. Santa Teresa
 - C. Penitencia
- Silicon Valley Advanced Water Purification Center
- Anderson Hydroelectric Facility
- Local wastewater treatment plant and recycled water provider
 - a. Palo Alto
 - b. Sunnyvale
 - c. San Jose-Santa Clara
 - d. South County
- Recharge Ponds



FAHCE Program Major Milestones

1996 - Complaint filed with State Water Resources Control Board.

1998 - Ongoing

- Early implementation of select Fish and Aquatic Habitat Collaborative Effort (FAHCE) measures.

2003 - Settlement Agreement initialed.

2015

- North County Water Rights Change Petitions filed.
- Notice of Preparation filed.

2018 - FAHCE monitoring program started.

2019 - Coyote Creek watershed Phase 1 FAHCE measures moved to the Anderson Dam Seismic Retrofit Project (ADSRP) Environmental Impact Report (EIR).

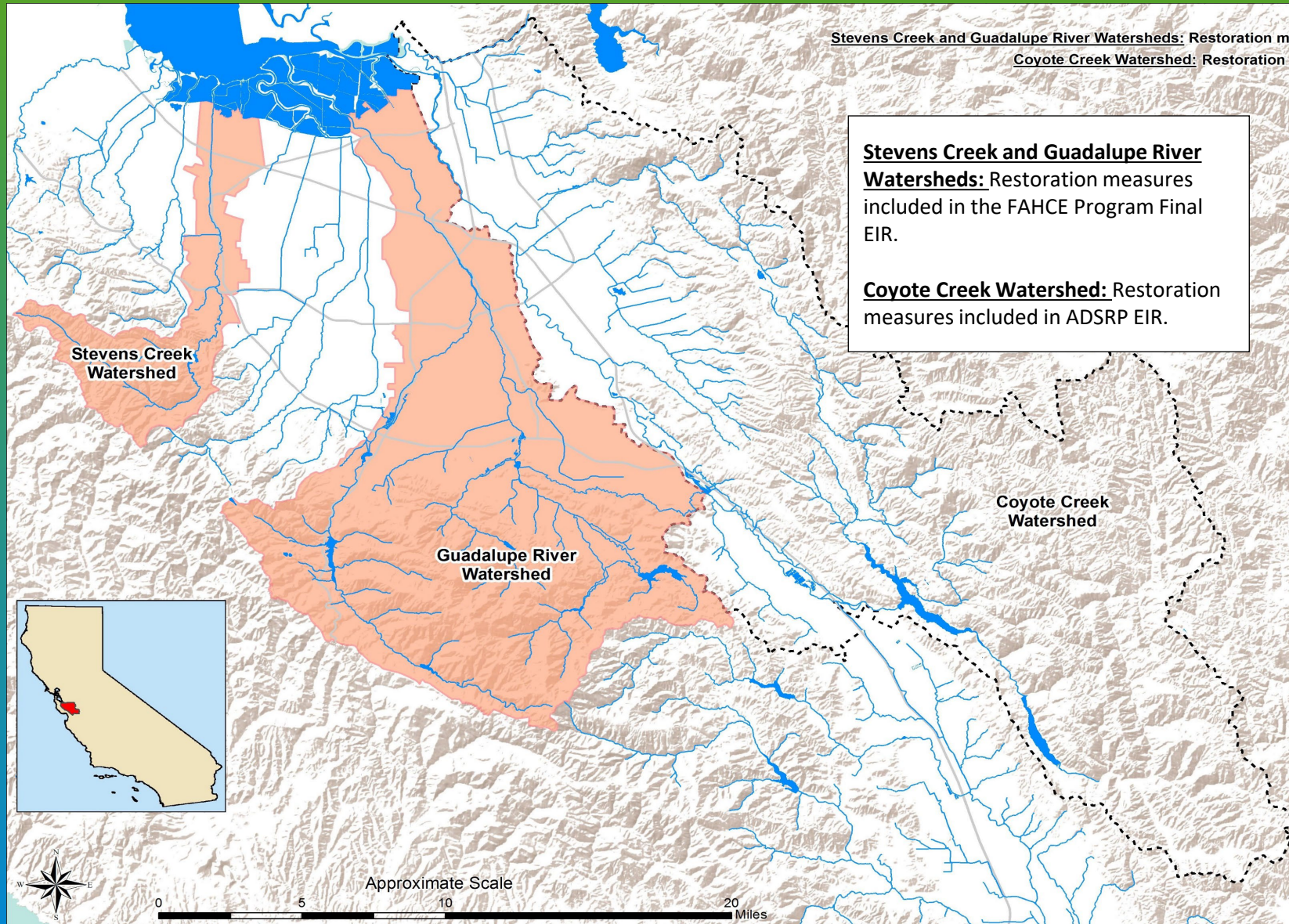
2020

- FAHCE Adaptive Management Team.
- Three-Year FAHCE-plus Pilot Flow Implementation Started.

2021 - FAHCE: Draft Program EIR released for public review.

2023 - FAHCE Final Program EIR

FAHCE Program Geography



A. Scoping Process

- Notice of Preparation: Circulated February 2 - March 3, 2015
- Scoping Meeting: June 19, 2017
- Tribal Consultation: Notifications provided to tribal representatives
- Additional agency and stakeholder engagement outside formal California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) process

B. Draft EIR

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- Draft EIR released for public review and comment June 30, 2021
- Draft EIR public meeting held on July 21, 2021
- Extension of comment period to October 15, 2021 per requests from agencies

B. Final EIR

- Responses prepared for all comments received
- Revisions to EIR and FHRP, including more detailed information about FAHCE-plus rule curves
- Final EIR released June 30, 2023
- Final errata sheet prepared July 2023

B. Project Objectives Summary

- Restore and maintain a healthy steelhead population in the Stevens Creek watershed by providing:
 - Suitable spawning and rearing habitat below Stevens Creek Dam within a cold-water management zone (CWMZ) determined on an annual basis through the development of an operations plan
 - Adequate passage for adult steelhead to reach suitable spawning and rearing habitat and for outmigration of juveniles



B. Project Objectives Summary, continued

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- Restore and maintain healthy steelhead and Chinook salmon populations in the Guadalupe River watershed by providing:
 - Suitable spawning and rearing habitat for steelhead and Chinook salmon in Guadalupe Creek from below Guadalupe Dam to Guadalupe River
 - Suitable spawning and rearing habitat for Chinook salmon below Calero and Almaden Dams to Lake Almaden
 - Suitable spawning and rearing habitat for Chinook salmon in Los Gatos Creek from Camden Avenue to Guadalupe River
 - Adequate passage for adult steelhead and Chinook salmon to reach suitable spawning and rearing habitat and for outmigration of juveniles

B. Project Objectives Summary, continued

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- Maintain flexible and reliable groundwater recharge to support current and future water supply and water deliveries for municipalities, industries, agriculture, and the environment in a practical, cost-effective, and environmentally sensitive manner so that sufficient water is available for any present or future beneficial use

B. Project Objectives Summary, continued

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- To help attain the Settlement Agreement's overall management objective to restore and maintain healthy steelhead trout and salmon populations in the Guadalupe River, Stevens Creek, and Coyote Creek watersheds, all specific FAHCE Settlement Agreement flow and nonflow measures will be adaptively managed in all three watersheds to effectively mitigate adverse fisheries and habitat impacts that may result from Valley Water's ongoing water supply facilities and operations.

C. Proposed Project

- Fish Habitat Restoration Plan (FHRP) Phase 1 Measures
 - Stevens Creek and Guadalupe River watersheds
 - ADSRP EIR will include Coyote Creek Phase 1 measures
- Adaptive Management Program (AMP)
 - Adaptive management of restoration measures for all Three Creeks, including measurable objectives, monitoring programs and adaptive management framework.
- Amendments to water rights
 - *Domestic and irrigation to Municipal, addition of fish and wildlife preservation and enhancement as Purpose of Use*

C. Program EIR Scope

- Program EIR with some project-level CEQA analysis
 - Project-level analysis - flow measures
 - Programmatic analysis - non-flow measures
- Current Baseline (2015) v. Future Baseline (2035)
- Adaptative Management Program
 - Adaptive management of restoration measures
 - Impacts of foreseeable Phase 1 monitoring, maintenance, and adaptive actions that would be part of AMP implementation.

C. Program EIR Scope, continued

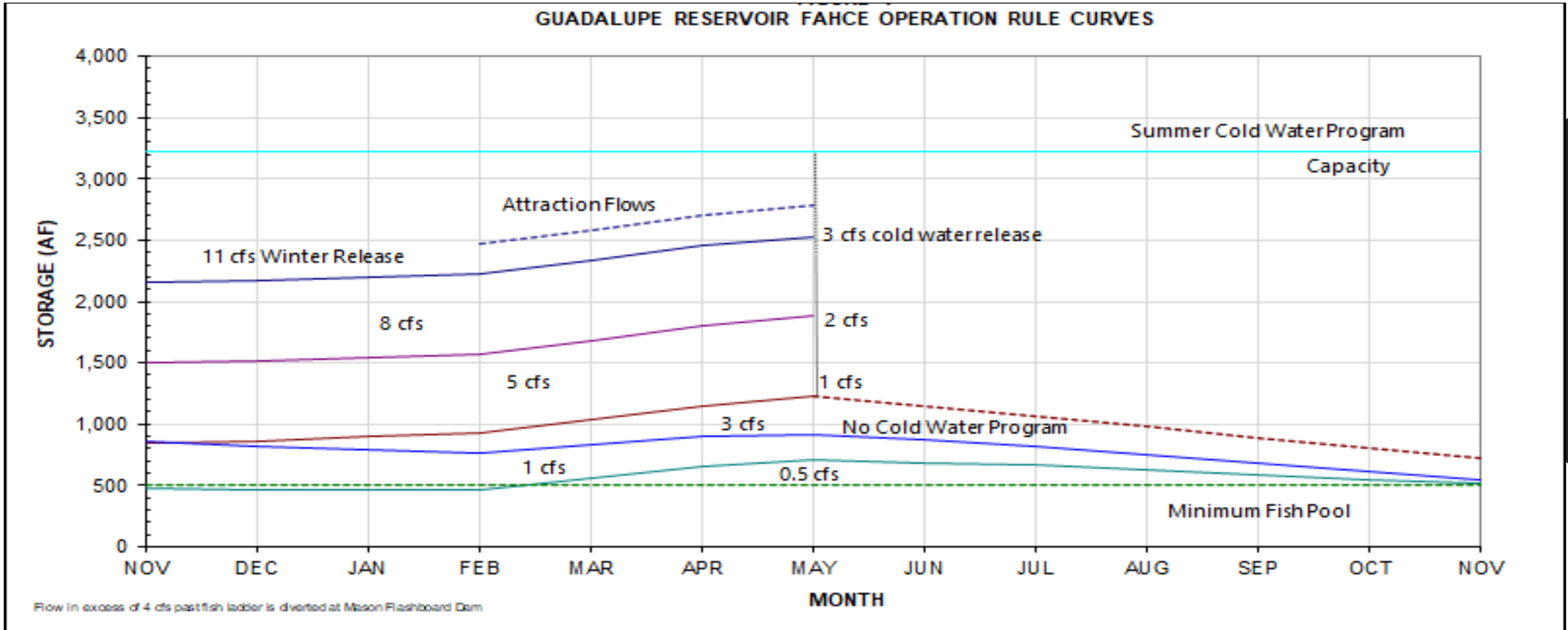
- Alternatives Evaluated in the Draft EIR

Project or Alternative	FAHCE Non-flow Measures	Operations Rule Curves: FAHCE	Operations Rule Curves: FAHCE-plus
Proposed Project	Yes	Yes	No
No Project Alternative	No	No	No
Non-flow Measures Only Alternative	Yes	No	No
FAHCE-plus Alternative	Yes	No	Yes

C. Reservoir Re-operation Rule Curves

- Developed by FAHCE Technical Advisory Committee
- Operational criteria that benefit the life-cycle needs of steelhead, Chinook salmon, or both
- Maximize water in channel during migration and over-summer rearing flows within CWMZ
- Minimum rate met in 90 percent of historic water year conditions

C. Rule Curves Example: Guadalupe Reservoir



C. FAHCE-plus Reservoir Re-operation Rule Curves

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- Developed in coordination with FAHCE Technical Work Group
- Similar winter and summer rule curves as FAHCE
- Additional pulse flow releases for migration



C. Non-flow Measures

- Fish Passage Barrier Remediation and Maintenance
- Spawning and Rearing Habitat Improvements
- Advanced Recycled and Other Urban Water Plan

Stevens Creek Watershed-specific Measures

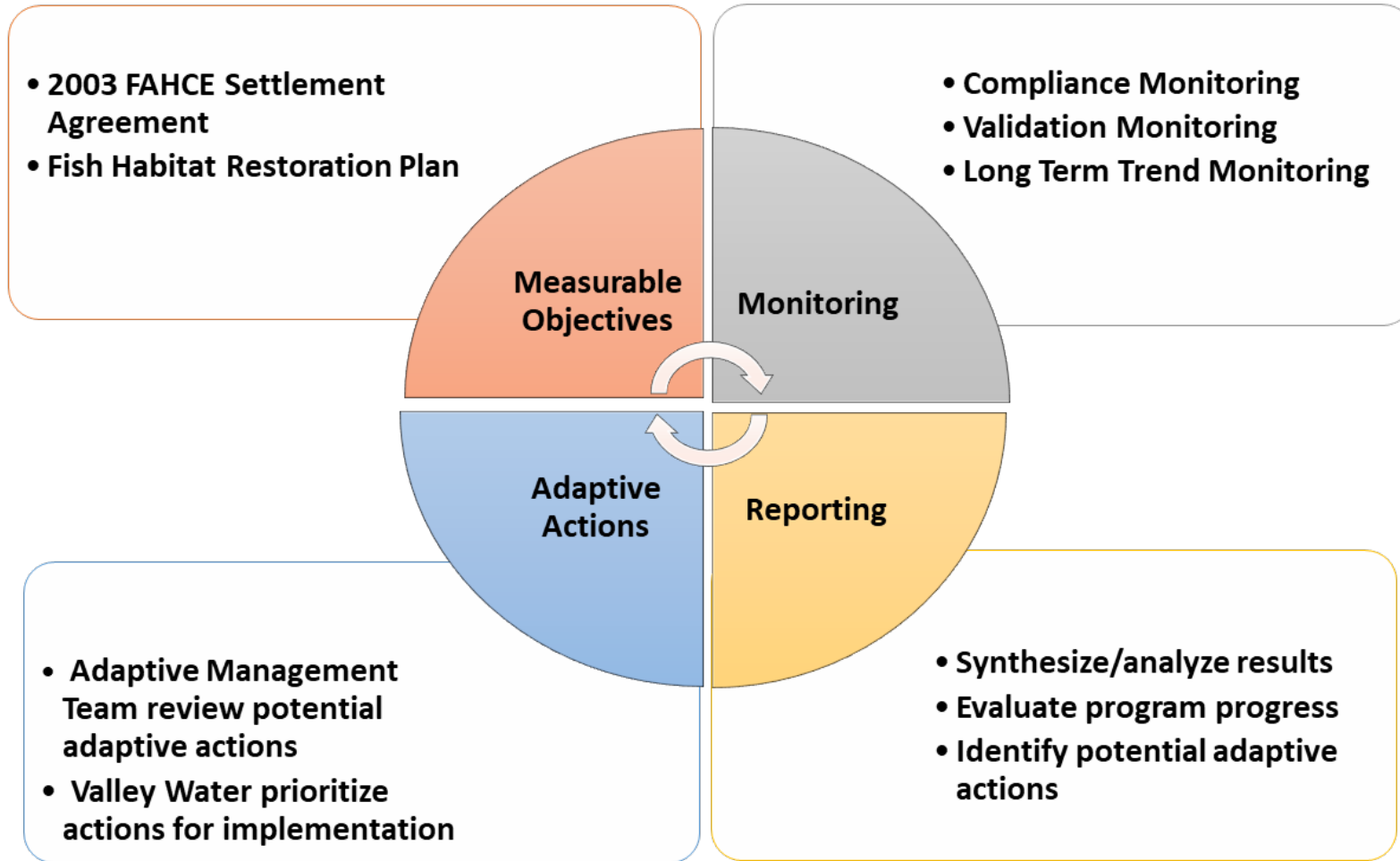
- Stevens Creek Reservoir Multiport Outlet
- Stevens Creek Trap and Truck Feasibility Study

Guadalupe Watershed-specific Measures

- Alamitos Creek Facilities Plan
- Guadalupe Watershed Geomorphic Function Enhancement Projects



C. Adaptive Management Program



E. Summary of Findings—Adverse Impacts

	FAHCE (Proposed Project)	No Project Alternative	Non-Flow Only Alternative	FAHCE-plus Alternative
Hydrology		Significant & Unavoidable (Flow Measures)		
Terrestrial Biological Resources	Significant but Mitigable (Non-Flow Measures)		Significant but Mitigable (Non-Flow Measures)	Significant but Mitigable (Non-Flow Measures)
Cultural Resources	Significant & Unavoidable (Non-Flow Measures)		Significant & Unavoidable (Non-Flow Measures)	Significant & Unavoidable (Non-Flow Measures)
Tribal Cultural Resources	Significant & Unavoidable (Non-Flow Measures)		Significant & Unavoidable (Non-Flow Measures)	Significant & Unavoidable (Non-Flow Measures)
Geology & Soils (Paleontology)	Significant but Mitigable (Non-Flow Measures)		Significant but Mitigable (Non-Flow Measures)	Significant but Mitigable (Non-Flow Measures)
Noise	Significant & Unavoidable (Non-Flow Measures)		Significant & Unavoidable (Non-Flow Measures)	Significant & Unavoidable (Non-Flow Measures)

E. Summary of Findings—Beneficial Impacts

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	FAHCE (Proposed Project)	No Project Alternative	Non-Flow Only Alternative	FAHCE-plus Alternative
Water Quality	Beneficial (Flow and Non-Flow Measures)		Beneficial (Flow and Non-Flow Measures)	Beneficial (Flow and Non-Flow Measures)
Aquatic Biological Resources	Beneficial (Flow and Non-Flow Measures)		Beneficial (Flow and Non-Flow Measures)	Beneficial (Flow and Non-Flow Measures)
Terrestrial Biological Resources	Beneficial (Flow and Non-Flow Measures)		Beneficial (Flow and Non-Flow Measures)	Beneficial (Flow and Non-Flow Measures)

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E. Key Distinctions: FAHCE v. FAHCE-plus

- Impacts across most resource topics were found to be relatively comparable
- A few key distinctions were found in Aquatic Biological Resources:
 - The FAHCE-Plus Alternative would improve habitat conditions and migration potential for steelhead to the largest extent
 - Both FAHCE and the FAHCE-plus Alternative would improve habitat conditions overall and migration potential for the Chinook salmon

Environmentally Superior Alternative: FAHCE-plus

Summary of Today's Requested Actions

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- Certify the Final PEIR as complying with CEQA
- Adopt CEQA Findings of Fact for each Significant Impact
- Adopt a Statement of Overriding Considerations for significant unavoidable impacts
- Approve FAHCE-plus Alternative as the FAHCE Project for Guadalupe River and Stevens Creek Watersheds