

Basin Plan amendment to support nutrient reductions to San Francisco Bay

July 23, 2026



Kevin Lunde, Nutrient Project Lead

Agenda

Part 1: Public Workshop

- Project background
- Proposed project
- Informal Q&A

Part 2: CEQA Scoping Meeting

- Purpose & proposed project
- Process & requirements
- Alternatives, reasonably foreseeable methods of compliance, and schedule



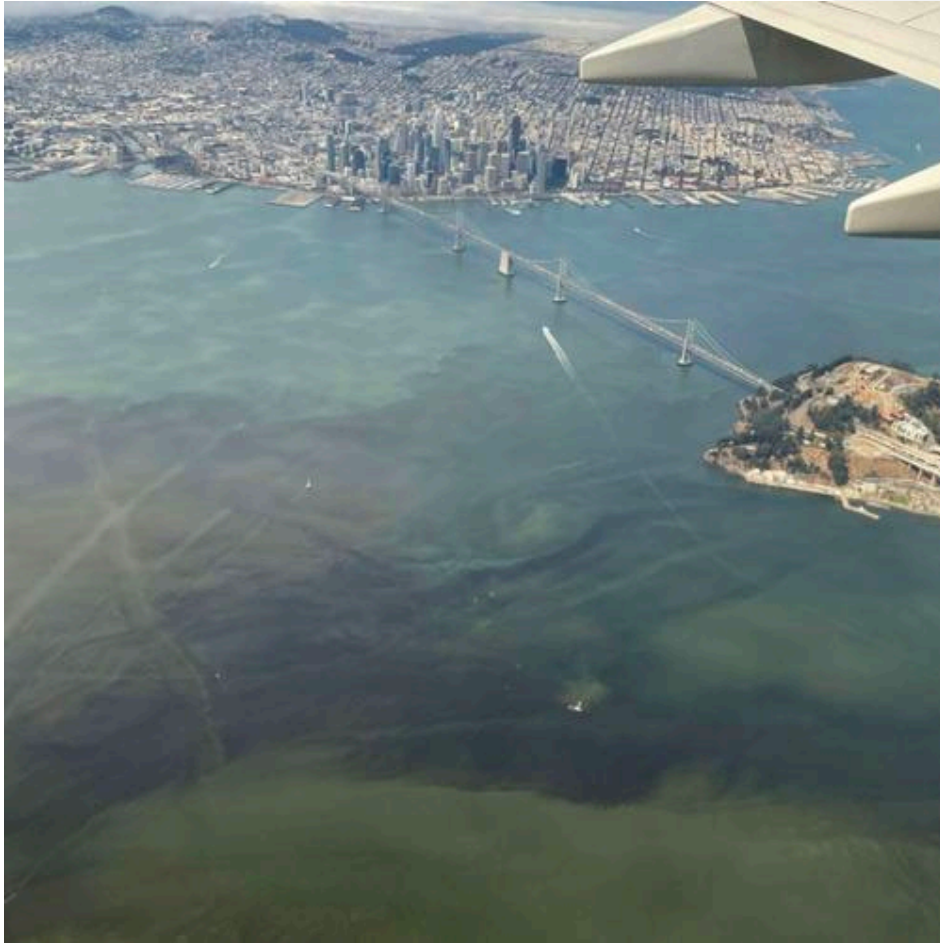
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Part 1 Public Workshop

July 23, 2026



Harmful Algae Bloom (2022)



Water Board Response to 2022 Bloom

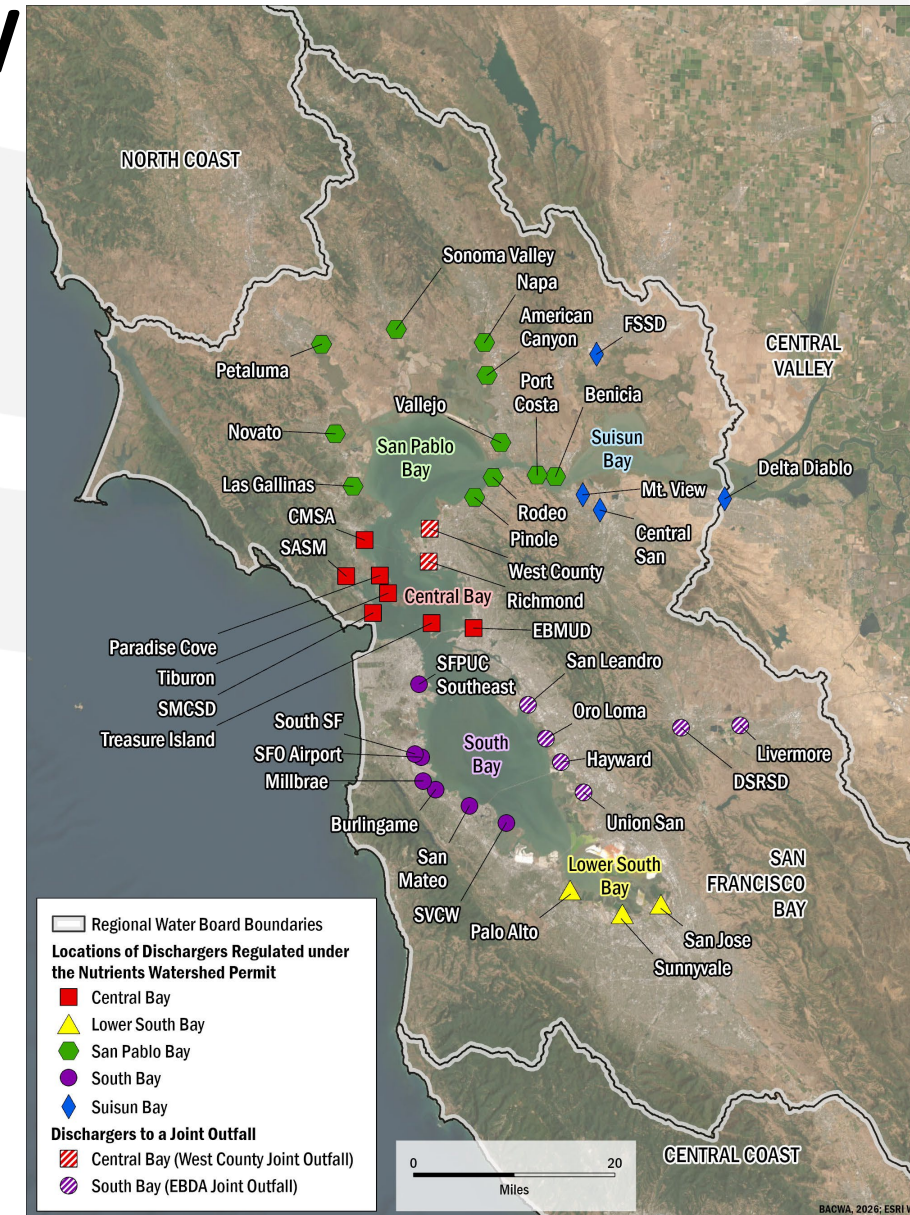
- Permit required 40% nitrogen reductions from POTWs by 2034
- Passed Resolution to consider regulatory tools to allow more than 10 years for specific projects
- Decided to undertake a Basin Plan amendment to grant us authority to extend compliance schedules



The Proposed Project - Overview

Amendment to the Basin Plan to support nutrient reductions from POTWs

- Describes conditions for Water Board to potentially extend compliance schedules to achieve the 40% Bay-wide nutrient reduction
- Describes information required to justify such an extension
- Requires compliance as soon as possible
- Defines the projects that may be granted more time and sets a maximum duration for extensions



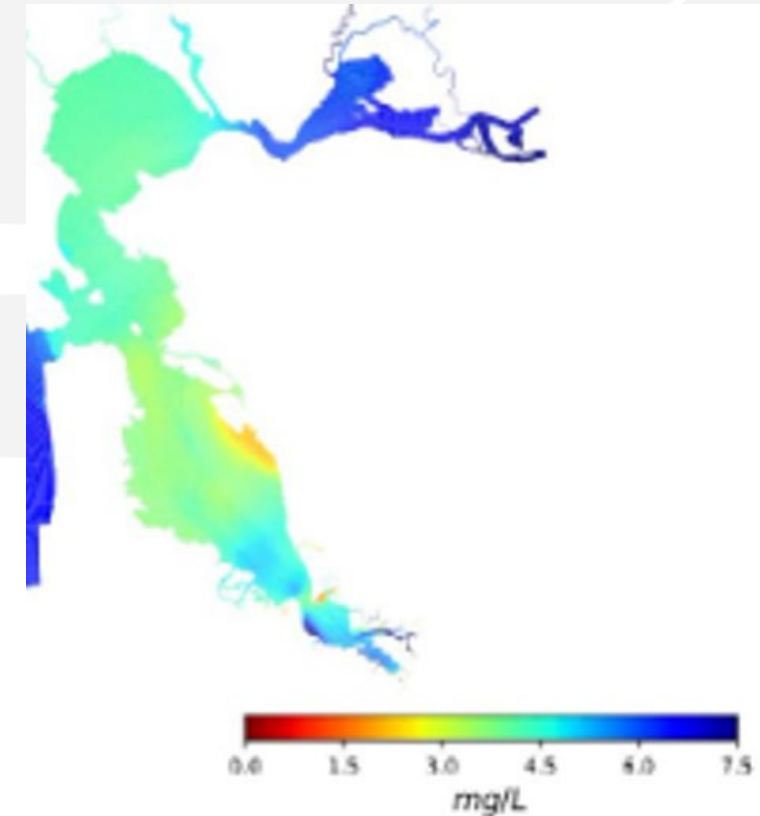
The Basin Plan

- Master policy document for the Water Board
- Includes beneficial uses and water quality objectives
- Revisions from this Basin Plan amendment are presented in Chapter 4: Implementation Plans



Types of Qualifying Projects

- Qualifying Special Projects (max. 5-year extension)
 - Nature-based solutions
 - Water recycling projects
 - Innovative projects that require pilot testing
 - Projects reducing well below 20.5 mg/L nitrogen
- Qualifying Conventional Projects (max. 5-year extension)
 - Rely on conventional biological nutrient removal techniques
 - Cannot be built by October 1, 2034
 - Due to sequencing constraints
 - Due to pursuing an innovative project that failed
- Union Sanitary District Project



Public Workshop Question and Answer Session



Basin Plan amendment to support nutrient reductions to San Francisco Bay

Part 2 CEQA Scoping Meeting

July 23, 2026



Kevin Lunde, Nutrient Project Lead

Purpose of the CEQA Scoping Meeting

Solicit comments on the scope of the
environmental analysis

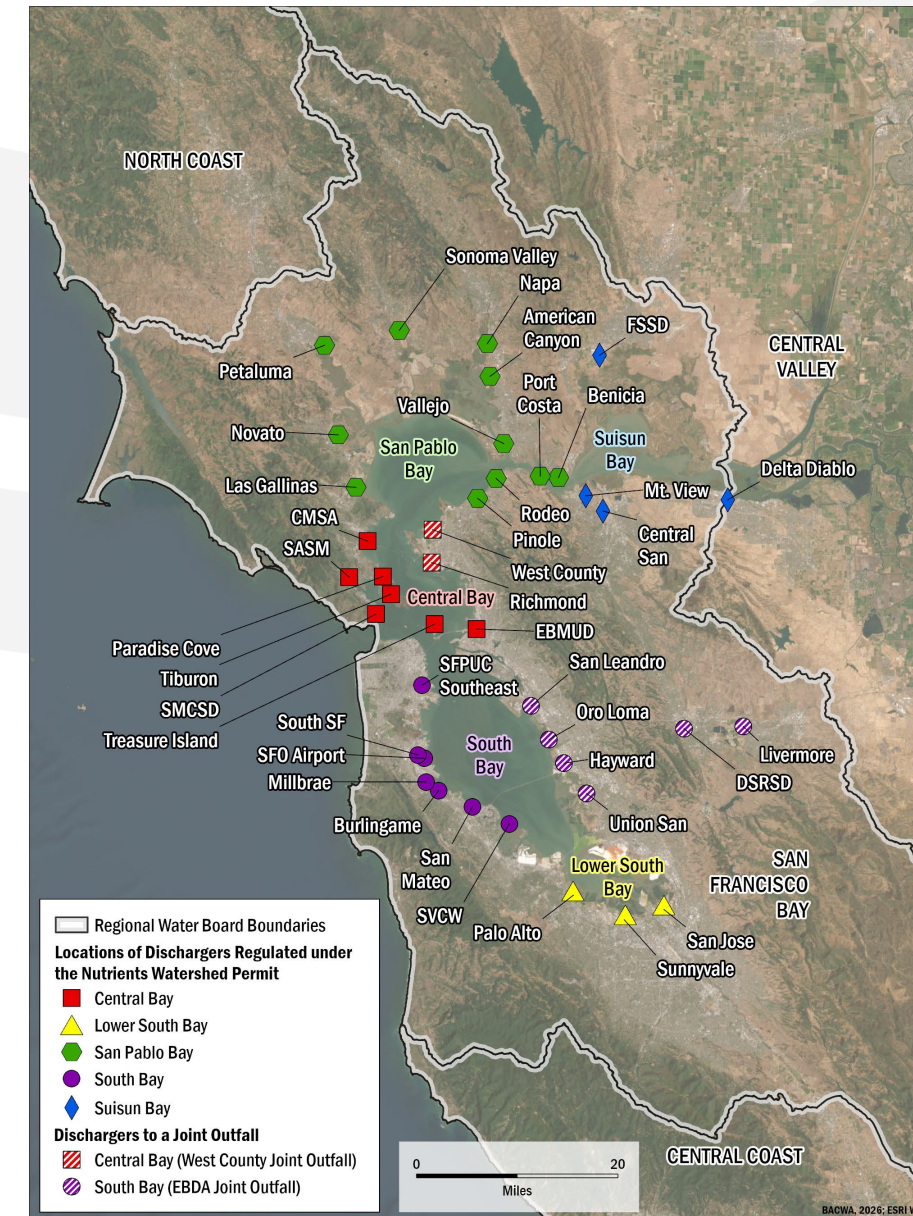
- Provide comments today verbally
- Provide written comments by 5 p.m. on
August 6, 2026
 - Email: Kevin.Lunde@waterboards.ca.gov
 - U.S. Mail: 1515 Clay Street Suite 1400
Oakland CA 94612 Attn: Kevin Lunde



The Proposed Project—Overview

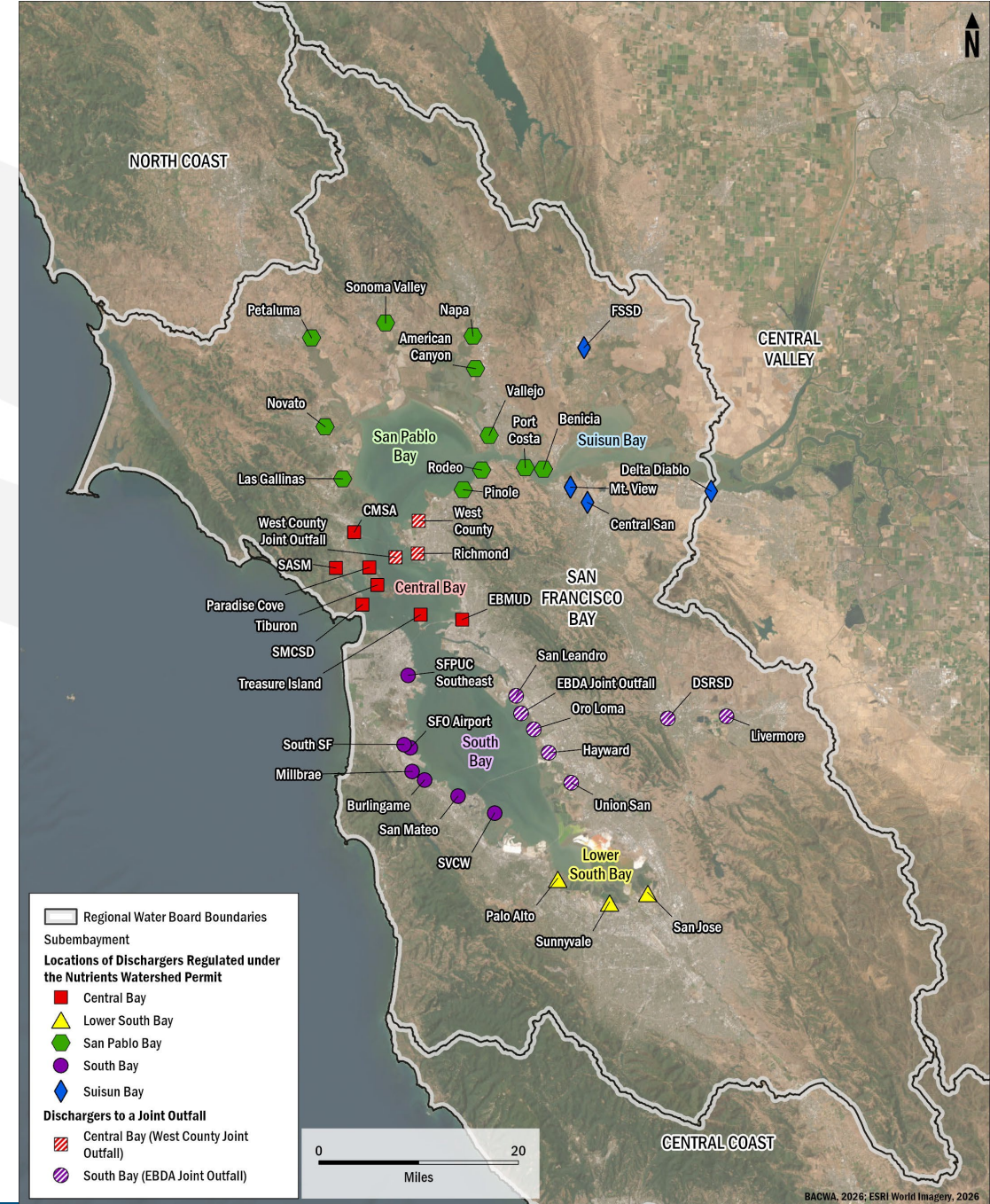
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Plan Area

- San Francisco Bay Water Board Region
- Environmental effects occur at or near POTW facilities



CEQA Process for Basin Planning

- Basin Plan amendment process is a “Certified Regulatory Program”
- Exempt from Environmental Impact Report, Negative Declaration, or Initial Study
- Water Board prepares:
 - Substitute Environmental Document (SED)
 - CEQA Environmental Checklist
- Programmatic review/ not project-specific



CEQA Requirements

- Identify potentially significant environmental impacts that could result from Reasonably Foreseeable Methods of Compliance
- Discuss alternative(s) to proposed Basin Plan amendment
- Identify mitigation measures to reduce severity of potential impacts
- Provide full public disclosure of documents and decision-making process



Alternatives

- Proposed Project: Basin Plan amendment including qualifying special projects, qualifying conventional projects, Union Sanitation District
- No Project Alternative: what would occur in the absence of the Basin Plan amendment
- Project Alternative: multi-benefit Qualifying Special Projects



Impacts Considered

Will Consider:

- Direct and indirect physical changes in the environment
- Short-term and long-term impacts
- Construction/operation impacts associated with Reasonably Foreseeable Methods of Compliance

Will **NOT** Consider:

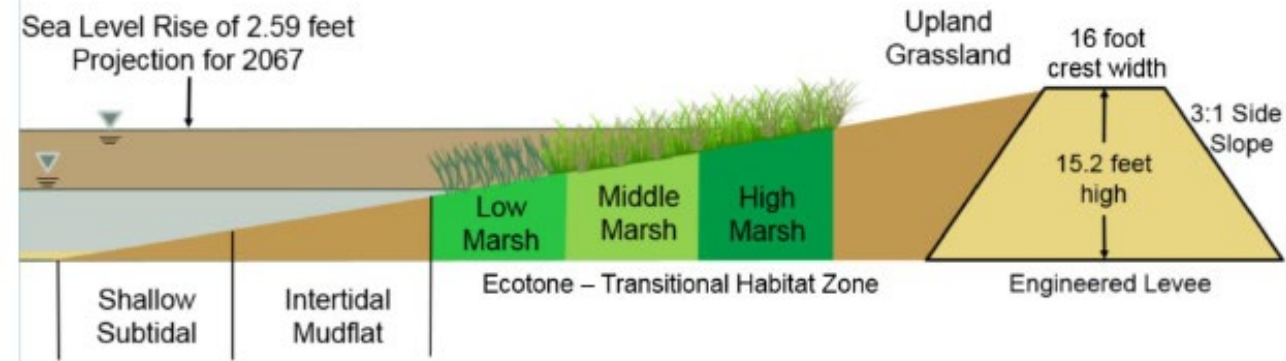
- Speculative changes and speculative activities
- Changes that would occur regardless of the Basin Plan amendment

Reasonably Foreseeable Methods of Compliance

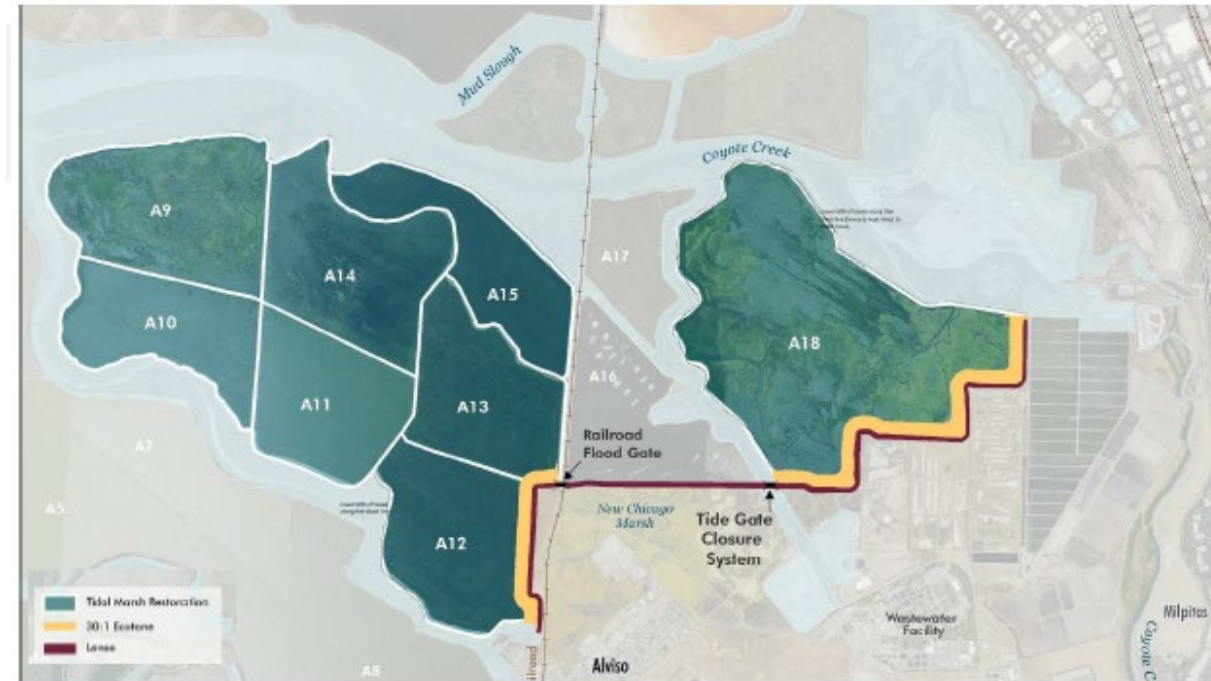
Qualifying Special Projects

1. Nature-based solutions (NBS)
2. Recycled water facilities
3. Innovative technology
4. Projects reducing nutrients well below the final effluent limit

Horizontal Levee

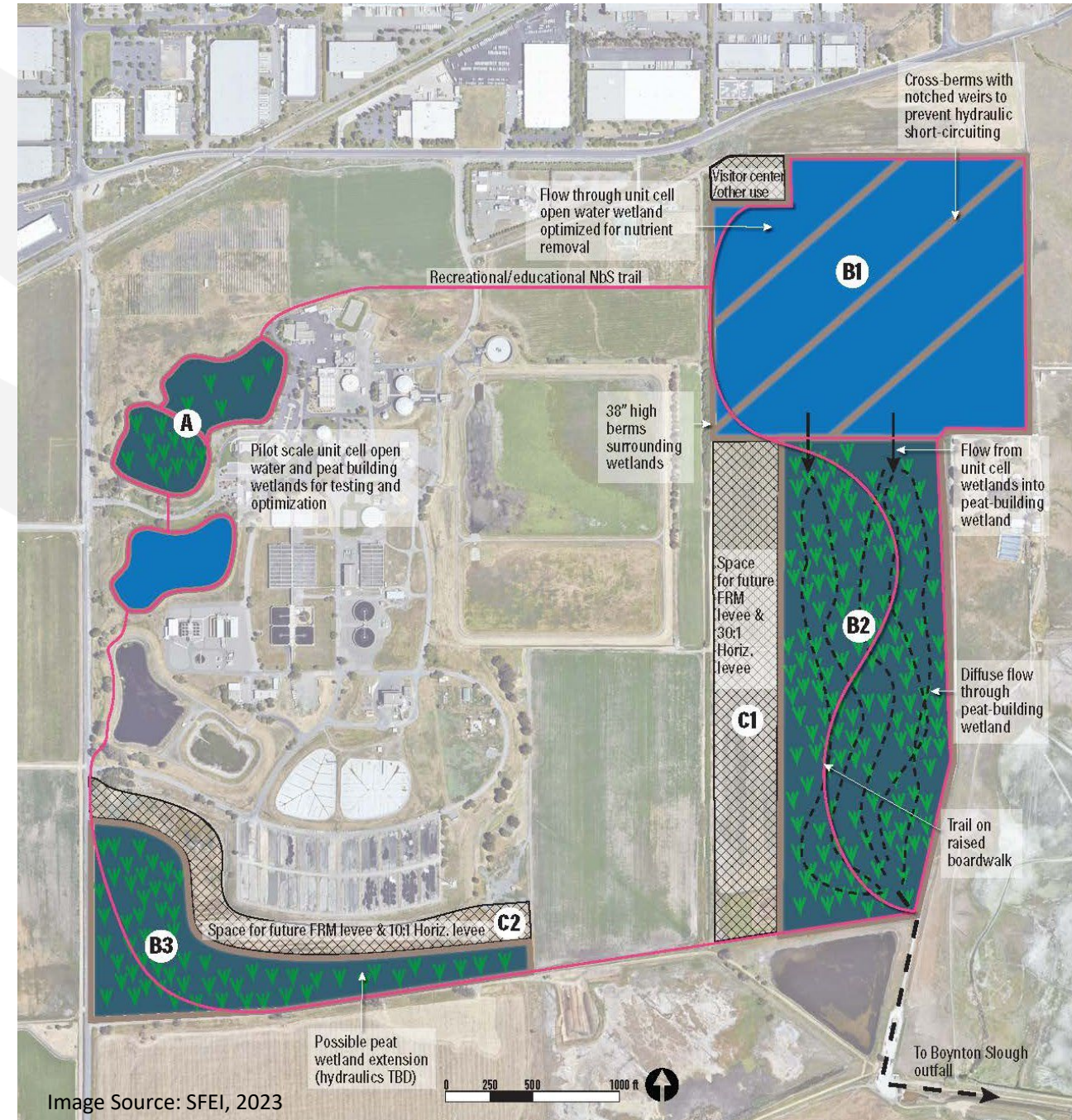


- Typically located in or adjacent to existing wastewater treatment plant
- Polished water flows into water body



Open Treatment Wetland

- Typically located in or adjacent to existing wastewater treatment plant
- Can discharge directly into waterway or back into wastewater treatment process



Recycled Water Facilities

- Located in or adjacent to existing POTW
- Includes construction of underground pipeline distribution systems and pump stations

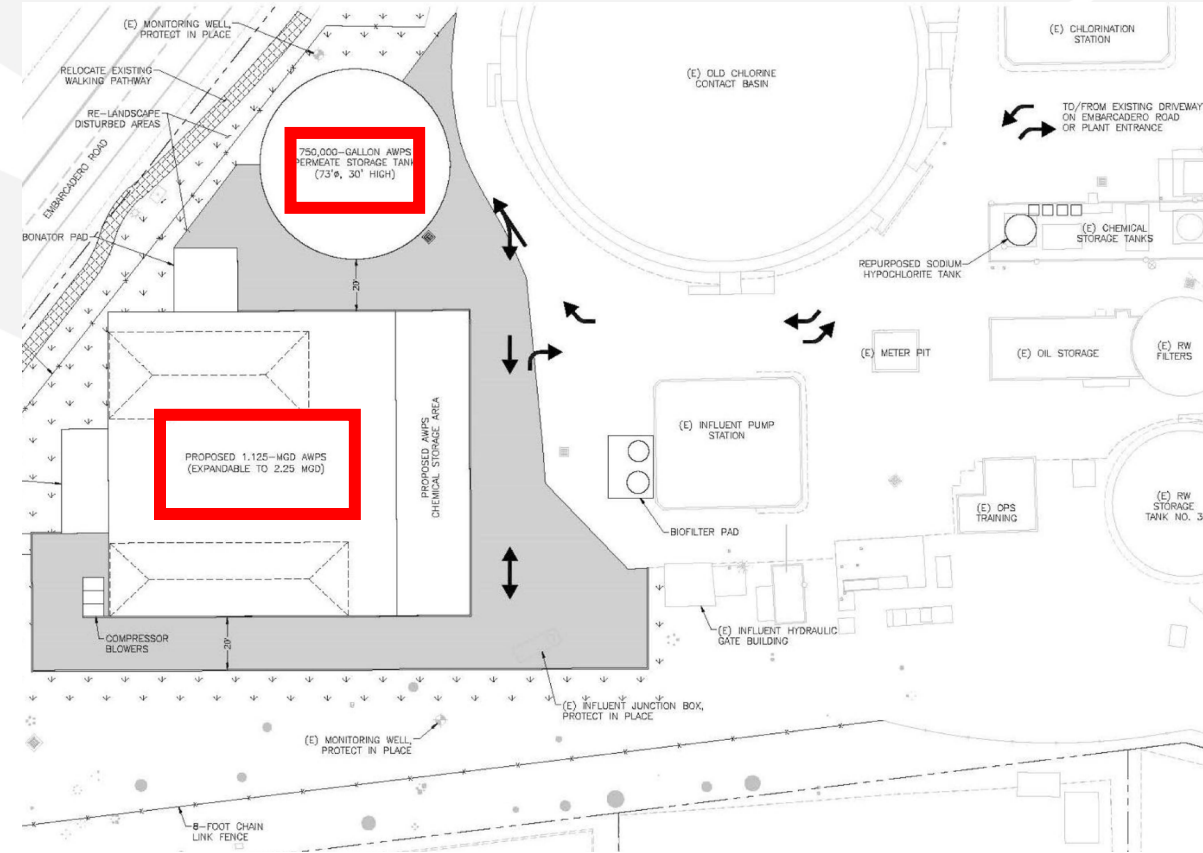


Image Source: SFEI, 2023

Innovative Technology

- Typically located in existing facility and part of existing wastewater treatment process
- Need extensive time for pilot testing
- Provide environmental co-benefits

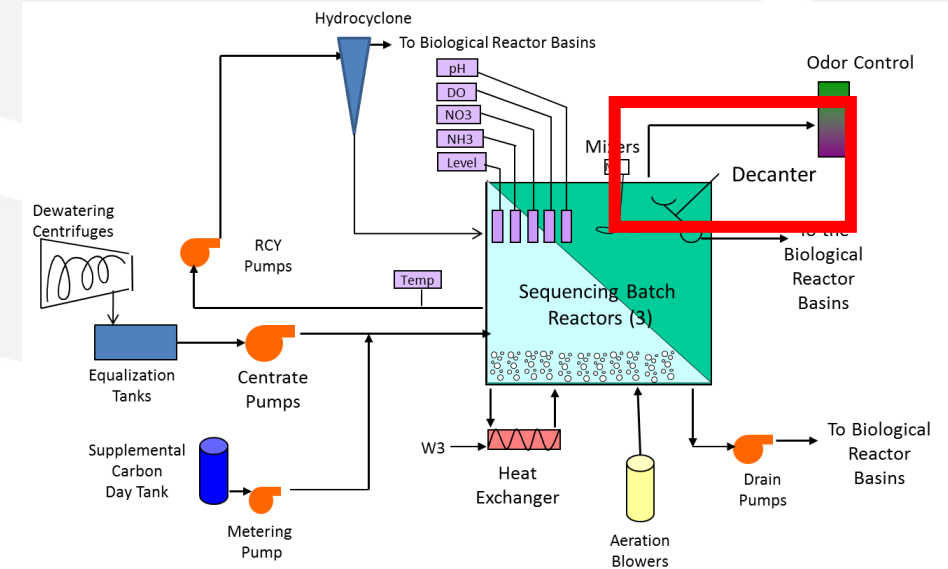


Image Source: USEPA, 2021

Projects Reducing Nutrients Well Below the Final Effluent Limit

- 2024 limit is set to 20.5 mg/L nitrogen
- Treatment well below 20.5 mg/L can be achieved by conventional nutrient removal

Reasonably Foreseeable Methods of Compliance

- Qualifying Conventional Projects
- Union Sanitary District Project



Conventional Plant at East Bay Municipal Utility District, photo SFEI 2025

Environmental Checklist Topics

- Aesthetics
- Agricultural resources
- Air quality
- Biological resources
- Cultural resources
- Geology/soils/paleontology
- Greenhouse gas emissions
- Hazards and hazardous materials
- Water quality and hydrology
- Land use/planning
- Mineral resources
- Noise
- Population/housing
- Public services
- Recreation
- Transportation/traffic
- Tribal Cultural Resources
- Utilities/service delivery systems
- Wildfire

Level of Impacts

Impacts will be evaluated in the SED, and the following determination will be made:

- Potentially significant
- Less-than-significant with mitigation measures incorporated
- Less than significant
- No Impact



Schedule

- CEQA Scoping Meeting: July 23, 2026
- Draft Staff Report / SED: Winter 2026-2027
- 45-day Public Review and Comment Period
- Regional Board Adoption Meeting:
Spring/Summer 2027
- Followed by State Board, OAL, and U.S. EPA reviews



Part 2

CEQA Scoping Meeting

Verbal Scoping Comments

Or provide written comments by 5 p.m. on August 6, 2026

Email: Kevin.Lunde@waterboards.ca.gov

U.S. Mail: 1515 Clay Street, Suite 1400 Oakland CA 94612

Attn: Kevin Lunde