



CALFED  
BAY-DELTA  
PROGRAM



## Los Vaqueros Reservoir Expansion Studies

California Bay-Delta Public Advisory Committee  
Water Supply Subcommittee

Greg Gartrell - CCWD Assistant General Manager

January 21, 2004

# Extensive Environmental Review Completed

## CALFED EIS/EIR

- Five-year public effort
- \$50 million EIS/EIR
- Included all storage projects
- Delta impacts
  - Water quality
  - Fisheries
- Requires Mitigation for all CALFED Projects
  - No redirected impacts
  - Mitigation of impacts
  - Mitigation strategies
- Program Biological Opinion
  - Protects endangered species

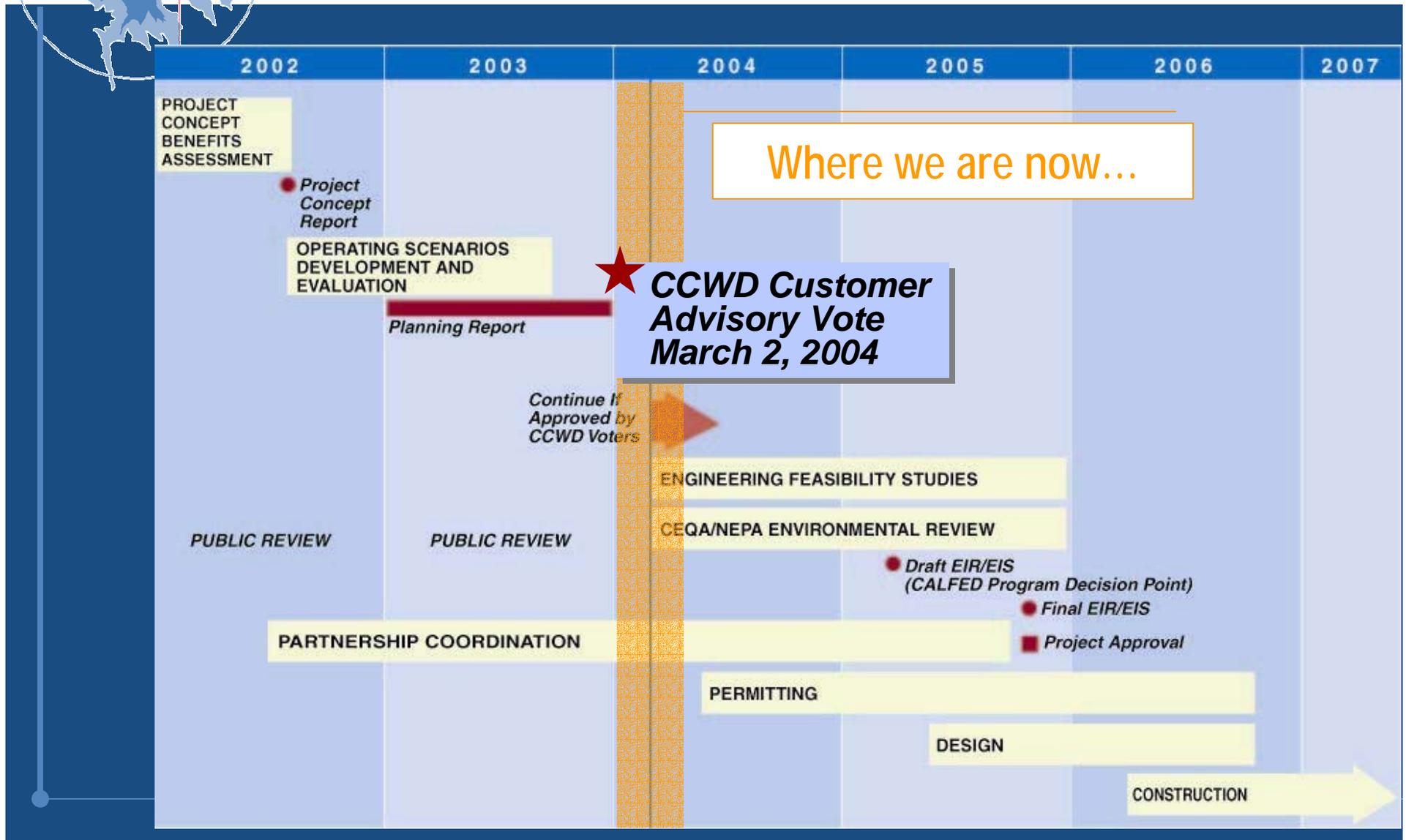
## CALFED Los Vaqueros Reservoir Expansion Studies

- Three-year effort
- \$8 million in studies completed
  - Facilities
  - Costs
  - Benefits
  - All environmental impacts
    - Delta
    - Terrestrial
  - Mitigation strategies
  - Financing
  - Institutional arrangements

# Extensive Outreach Provided

- 15 Public Workshops (January – June 2003)
  - Sacramento, Antioch, and Concord
  - Over 210 attendees
- Over 80 comment letters and emails received since January 2003
- Over 250 comment cards Project Brochure and On-Tap (Fall and Winter 2003) received
- Over 10,000 visitor sessions recorded for project web site (since July 2002)
- Copies of project reports available at 24 repositories within Contra Costa County and on project website
- Over 75 presentations made to stakeholder groups requesting project information

# Project Schedule





# Advisory Vote Fulfills Commitment to Hear from Customers First

- Board adopted advisory vote principle
  - The proposal would be placed before the voters of the Contra Costa Water District
- A positive vote does not authorize funding or construction
  - Allows CALFED to move forward with environmental review, permitting and approval by regulatory agencies
- Project authorization and funding would come from state and federal legislation and project partners
- A “no” vote would have the practical effect of stopping the CALFED expansion project

# Advisory Ballot Measure Language

*March 2, 2004*

Shall Contra Costa Water District work with public water agencies to expand Los Vaqueros Reservoir, at no cost to District ratepayers, to: (1) increase water supplies for drought protection; (2) improve drinking water quality; and (3) protect endangered fish in the Delta, on condition that: (a) CCWD water rates will not increase; (b) no water will be exported to Southern California or a peripheral canal; and (c) CCWD will still operate the expanded reservoir?



## Assurances, Commitments and Requirements Confirmed with an Advisory Vote

- Assurances, commitments & requirements establish CCWD's conditions for any project to proceed
  - Clearly established before CALFED starts the permitting process
  - Allows parties to develop alternatives and begin permitting
  - Allows project partners to begin negotiations with a clear understanding of the requirements that protect the interests of CCWD and its customers.
  - Ensures that alternatives considered in the formal environmental process remain consistent with the voter-approved assurances



## Assurances, Commitments & Requirements Protect Interests of CCWD Customers

### The Reservoir Expansion Project must:

- Improve drought supplies and water quality for CCWD customers
- Not increase water rates for CCWD customers
- Reimburse the financial investment of CCWD's customers
- Provide long-term environmental benefits to the Delta ecosystem
- Enhance terrestrial habitat and recreational opportunities
- Ensure CCWD ownership and control remain
- Adhere to CALFED's commitment of "beneficiaries pay"
- Not export water to Southern California or a peripheral canal

# Frequently Asked Questions

- How would an expansion benefit CCWD customers and potential partners?
- How would an expanded reservoir help meet Bay Area water needs?
- Could conservation and water recycling meet the same goals?

# Frequently Asked Questions

- How would an expansion impact the Delta environment and Delta species?
- How would an expanded reservoir effect wildlife and wildlife corridors?
- Would an expansion project send more water to Southern California?



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# Contact Information

- The Draft Planning Report and summaries of detailed information are available on the project website.

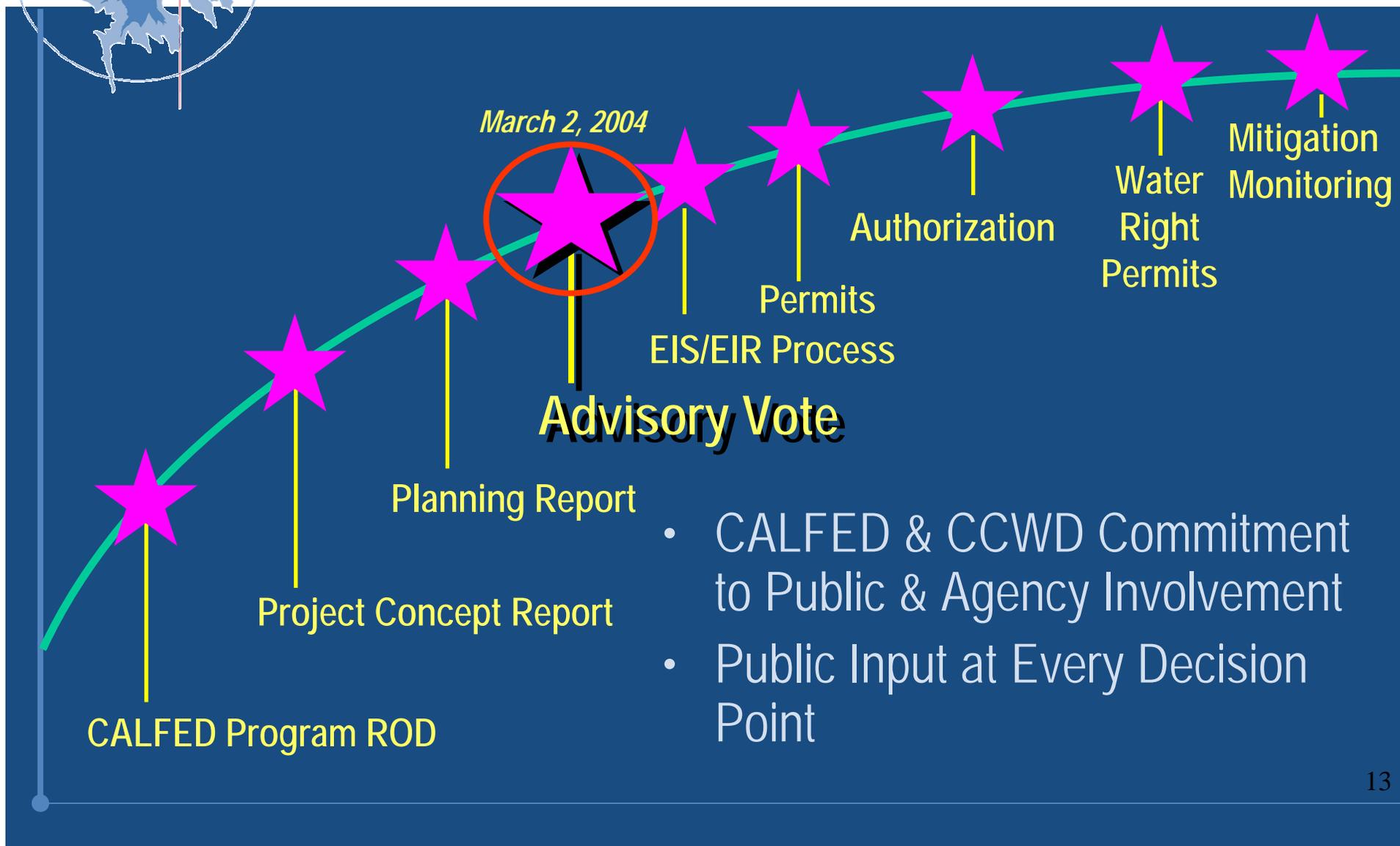
Marguerite Naillon  
Project Manager  
CALFED Los Vaqueros Reservoir Expansion Studies  
c/o Contra Costa Water District  
P.O. Box H20  
Concord, CA 94524  
Phone: (925) 688-8018  
Fax: (925) 686-2187  
email: [lvstudies@hotmail.com](mailto:lvstudies@hotmail.com)  
[www.lvstudies.com](http://www.lvstudies.com)

[www.calwater.ca.gov](http://www.calwater.ca.gov)



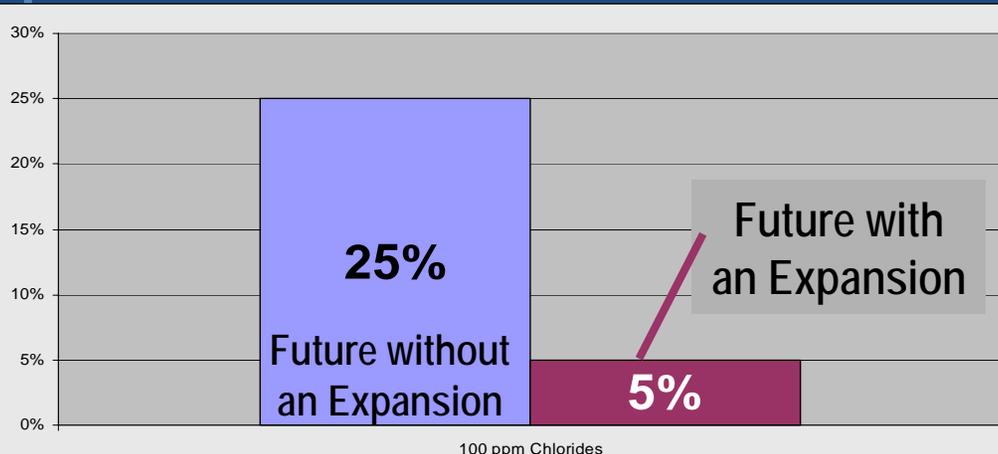


# Public & Agency Input Continues Through Project Decision Process



# Opportunities for Bay Area Water Agencies

- Improves drought supplies and water quality for South Bay water agencies without diverting more water from the Delta
- Lowers treatment costs
- Provides improved drought supplies
- Shifts diversions from dry to wet periods



**Percent of time water exceeds salt taste  
threshold**

- Provides opportunity for more local control
- Improves efficiency by sharing facilities

# Opportunities for Delta Enhancement

- Expanded Los Vaqueros Reservoir Enhances Delta Environment



- Reduces impacts to fisheries from existing South Bay Aqueduct diversion

- State-of-the-art fish screens
- Flexible timing of diversion

- Creates storage and flexibility for Environmental Water that could allow

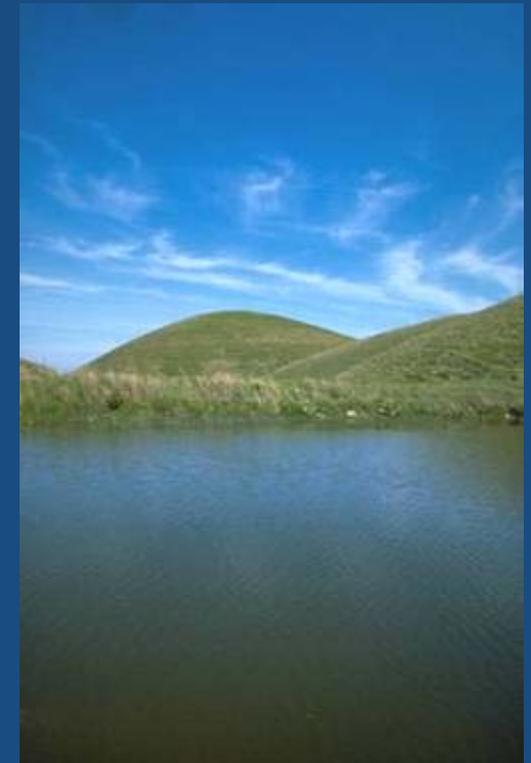
- Shut downs at state and federal pumps when fish are present (up to 160,000 acre-feet per year)
- Water for wildlife refuges
- Water for in-stream flows upstream of Delta

# Opportunities for Habitat Mitigation and Enhancement

- Acquire and protect a substantial amount of additional land
  - Restore and enhance strategic locations with high regional conservation value
  - Protect habitats/ecosystems – improve quality
  - Increase species populations and use
- Restore and enhance existing protected lands
  - Enhance and restore habitats
    - grassland
    - oak woodland
    - wetlands
  - Further increase species populations and use

# Opportunities for CCWD

- Water Quality
  - High quality blending water to last through a 6-year drought
- Reliability
  - Up to 20,000 acre-feet of reliable water supplies in each year of an extended drought
  - Up to 120,000 acre-feet total of reliable water supplies over an extended drought
- Reimbursement
  - Up to \$200 million to purchase additional benefits or reduce debt on the existing project



# Frequently Asked Questions

- Is the reservoir expansion part of a peripheral canal, peripheral pipe or the first step for one?
- How would CCWD meet the water quality and reliability needs of its customers during construction?
- What assurances exist to ensure the interests of CCWD customers are protected if the vote is positive?
- What agreements will be in place to protect ownership entitlements of CCWD and other local agencies from being taken over by the Federal or State interests?

# Frequently Asked Questions

- How would the recreation lands surrounding the reservoir be replaced if they were inundated by an expanded reservoir?
- When would the formal environmental review be completed?