



Castroville & Eastside Canals and Alternatives Preliminary Feasibility Study

MCWRA Board of Directors Meeting
February 17, 2026



Collaborative Effort

Castroville & Eastside Canals and Alternatives Preliminary Feasibility Study (C&E FS)

- Prepared by Montgomery & Associates, MBK Engineers, Wallace Group, Denise Duffy & Associates
- Produced for Salinas Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency and Monterey County Water Resources Agency

Castroville and Eastside Canals and Alternatives Roadmap

- Focused on Permit 11043; inclusive of other water right alternatives
- Identify project concepts to divert surface water from the Salinas River
- Four groundwater goals

Timeline:

June 2025 – Sep 2025

October 2025 – March 2026

Historical review and
identification of
potential project
components

Identify and develop
project scenarios

High level feasibility
assessment of key
project scenarios

Phase 1 Deliverables

1. Permit 11043 document review and evaluation of feasibility of modification or a new water right **(MBK)**
2. Historical document review of proposed projects **(M&A & WG)**
3. Technical components identification for project concept development **(WG)**
4. Historical flows analysis to estimate approximate timing and amount of surface water available for diversion **(M&A)**

Available here: <https://svbgsa.org/castroville-and-eastside-canals-and-alternatives/>



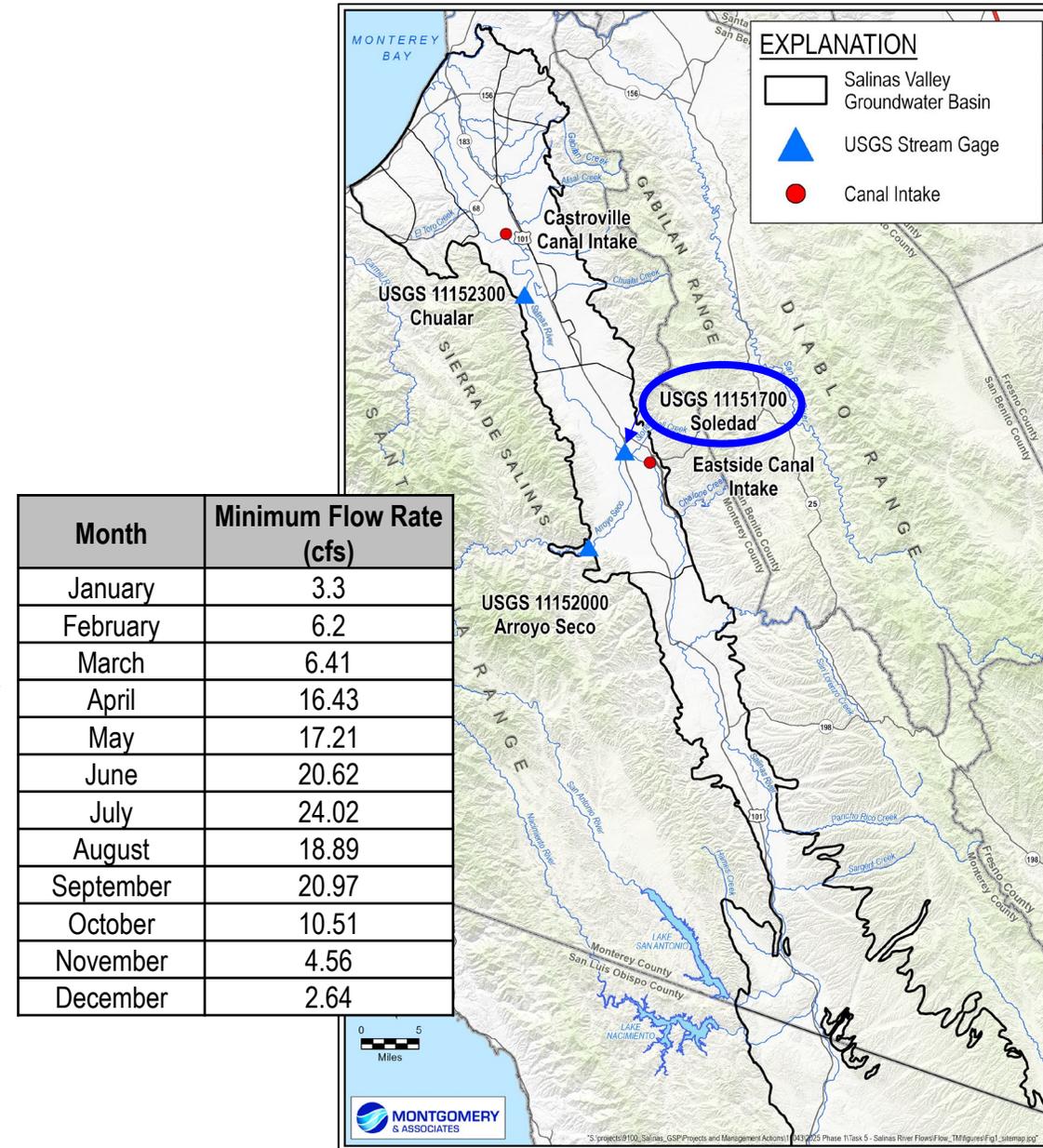
WALLACE GROUP

Permit 11043 Review

- Priority date 1949, permit issued in 1957
- Direct diversion (does not authorize storage)
- Points of diversion: Castroville Canal Intake and Eastside Canal Intake locations
- Purposes of use: irrigation and municipal
- Have been potential revocation efforts since issuance
- 2013 settlement agreement, partial revocation to 135,000 AFY

Permit 11043 Review

- Permit allows diversion up to 400 cfs, up to 135,000 AF annually
- Divertible water limited to portion of excess, natural flows (i.e. NOT reservoir releases intended to meet requirements or SRDF demand)
- Specifies minimum flow rate to bypass the Soledad Gage
- Outstanding petitions for change and extension of time



Permit 11043 Review

- Permit currently has outstanding Petitions with the SWRCB
 - Petition for Extension of Time
 - Petition for Change

} Related to timeline/milestones, recommended by SWRCB
- Modified permit cannot be used until:
 - Petitions are updated (e.g. adding underground storage, further extending time, removing/adjusting unapplicable permit terms)
 - Petitions are approved - CEQA process is completed, public protests are resolved (may involve SWRCB hearing)

Groundwater Goals – Potential Project Scenarios

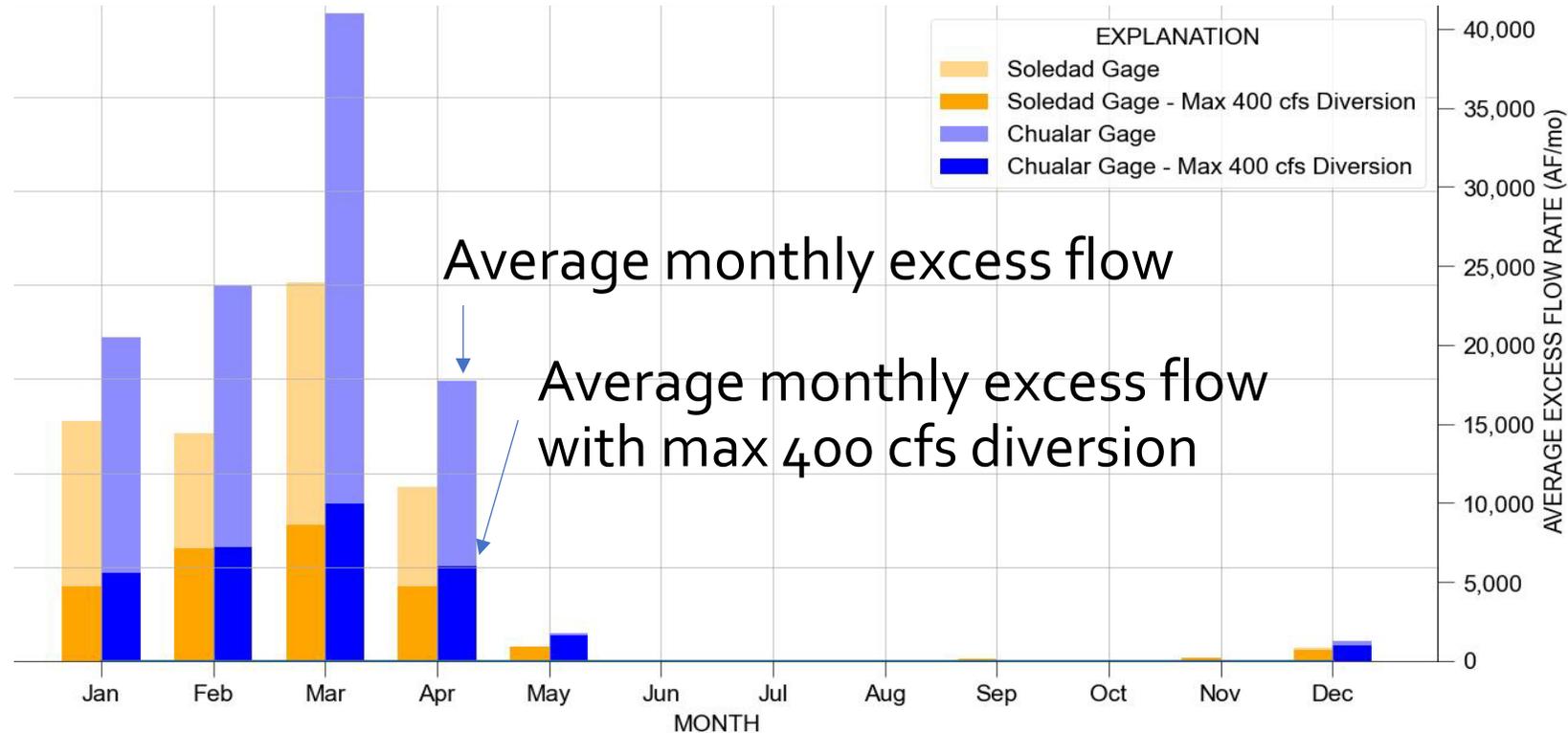
1. Raise groundwater levels in Central/Southern 180/400 and Eastside Subbasins
2. Raise groundwater levels in Northern Eastside Subbasin
3. Stop seawater intrusion
4. Provide in-lieu supply to reduce pumping from seawater intruded areas and Deep Aquifers

* C & E could partially meet one or more GW goals. *

All Project Scenarios: Available Salinas River Flows

- Permit allows diversion up to 400 cfs, up to 135,000 AF annually
- Divertible water limited to portion of excess, natural flows (i.e. NOT reservoir releases intended to meet downstream flow requirements)
- Project cannot interfere with existing operations.
 - Stored reservoir water is already committed to existing projects
 - Shallow well fields would have to be pumped after downstream flow requirements are met
 - Others

All Project Scenarios: Permit and Infrastructure Constraints

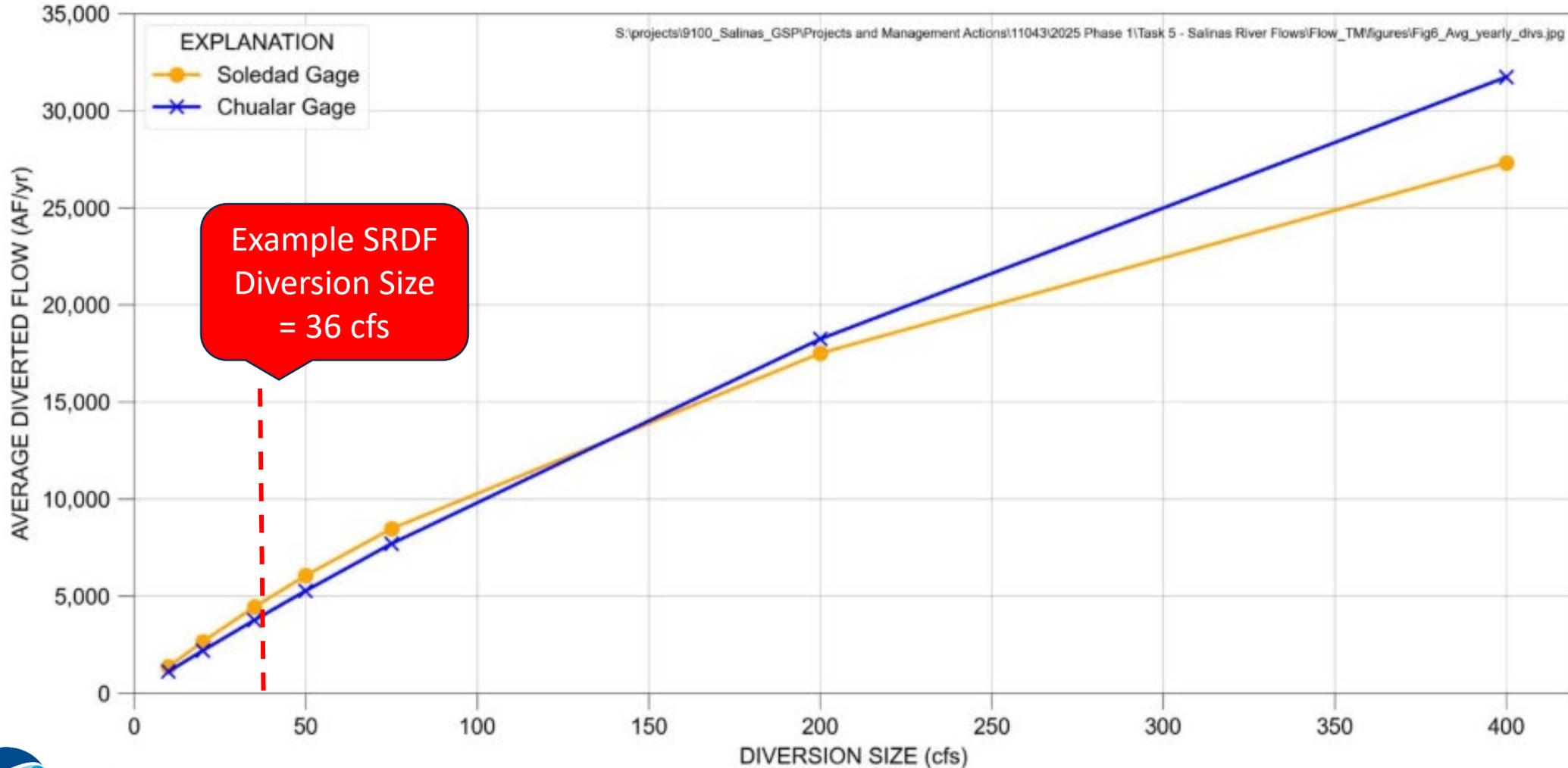


Average for Water Years 2000 - 2024

On average
roughly 120,000
acre-feet per
year flowing to
the ocean

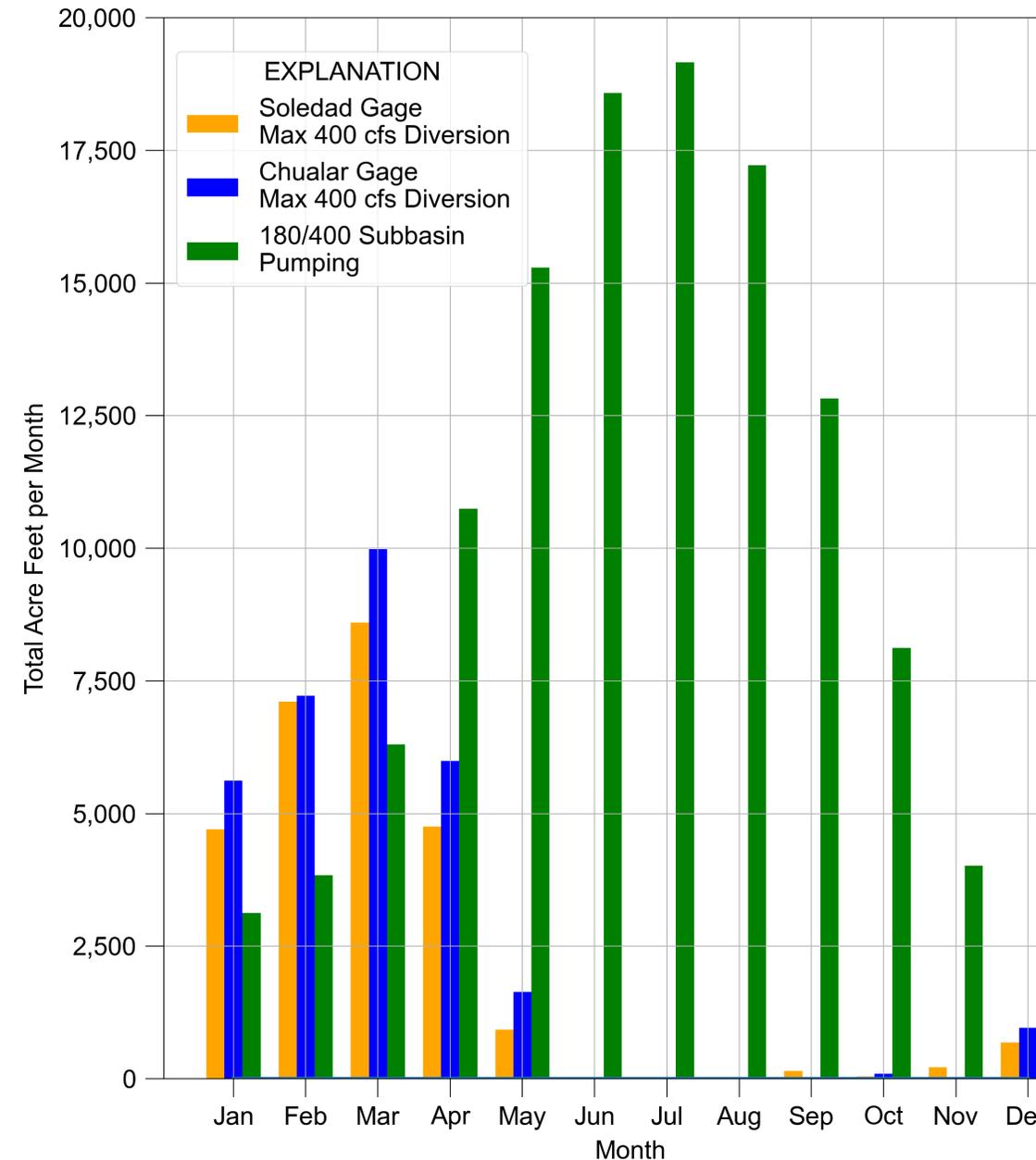
Above 400 cfs
diversion - not
"usable flow"

All Project Scenarios: Diversion Size Determines Maximum Diversion Volume



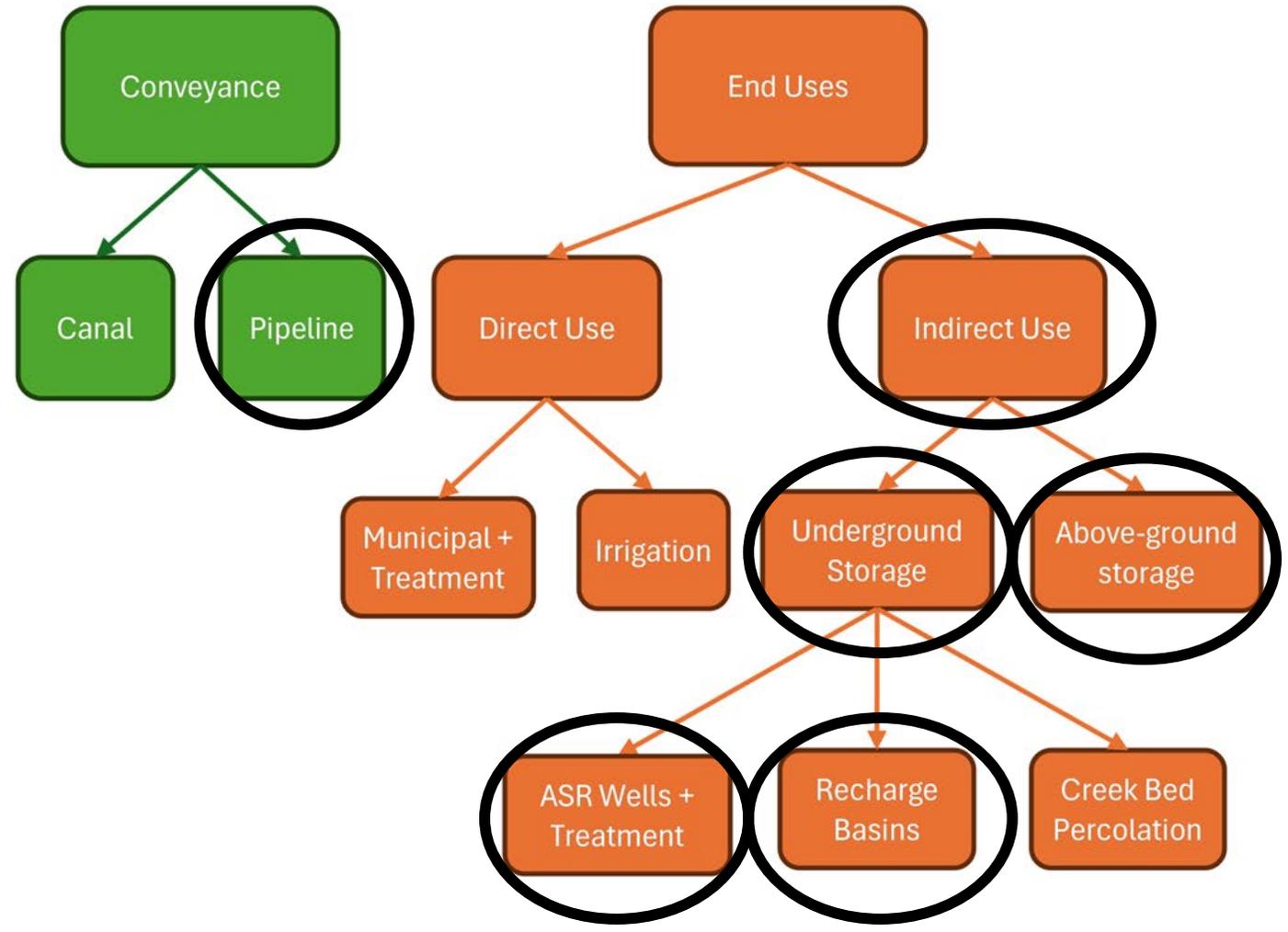
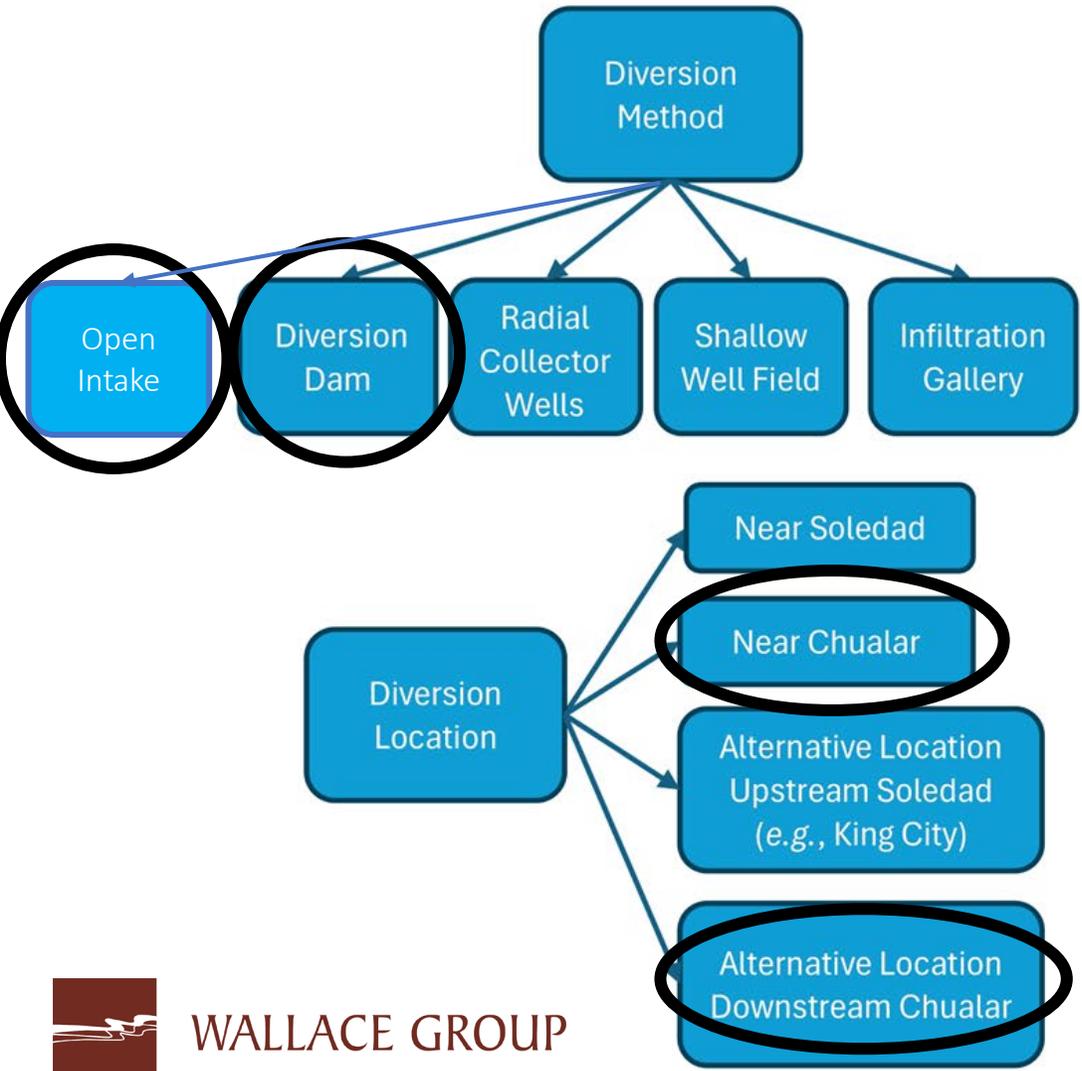
Excess Flows in Winter When Demand is Low

- Timing of excess flow and 180/400 Subbasin extraction is offset
- Diversion varies year to year, with no potential flow available to divert in some years
- Further studies will refine estimates of potential diversion amounts



All Project Scenarios: Project Scenarios: Technical Considerations

Used in 4
Project
Scenarios



All Project Scenarios: Infrastructure Evaluation

Streamflow → Storage → Treatment

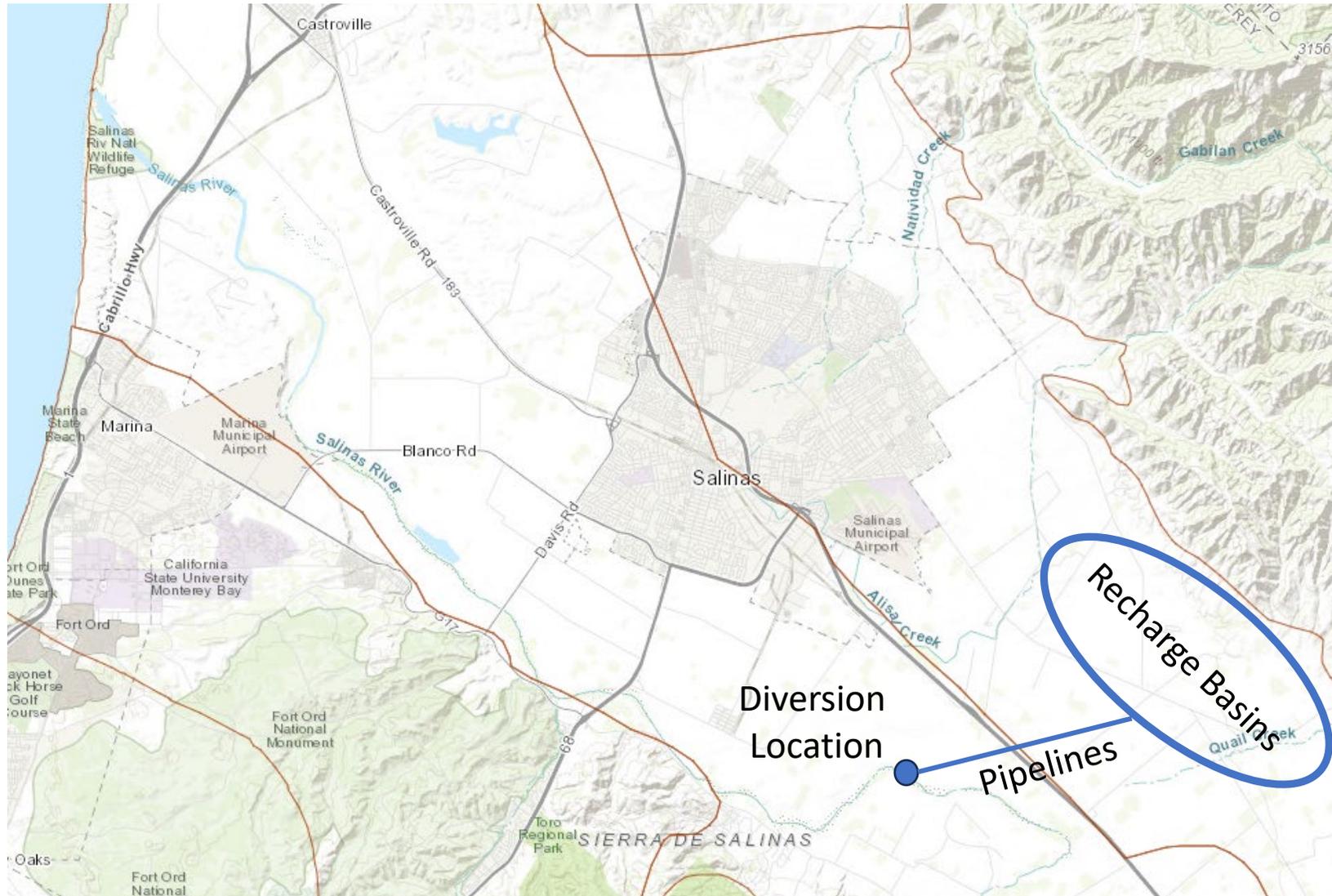
Streamflow → if seasonal or variable, increase storage

Storage → if limited, increase size of treatment facility

Treatment → if limited (budget), increase storage

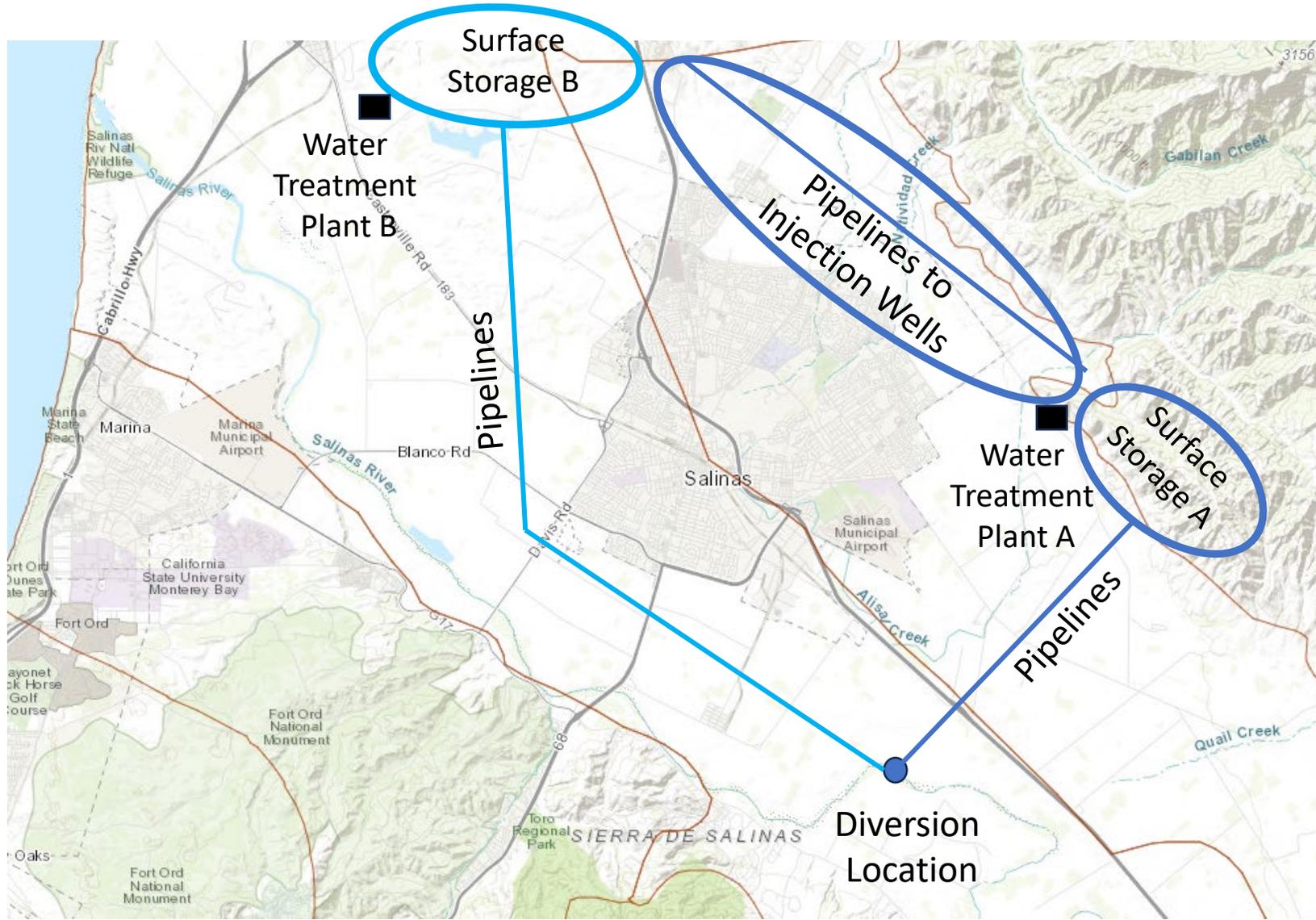
Rate of treatment and injection rates influence required storage

Scenario 1. Raise groundwater levels in Central Eastside Subbasin



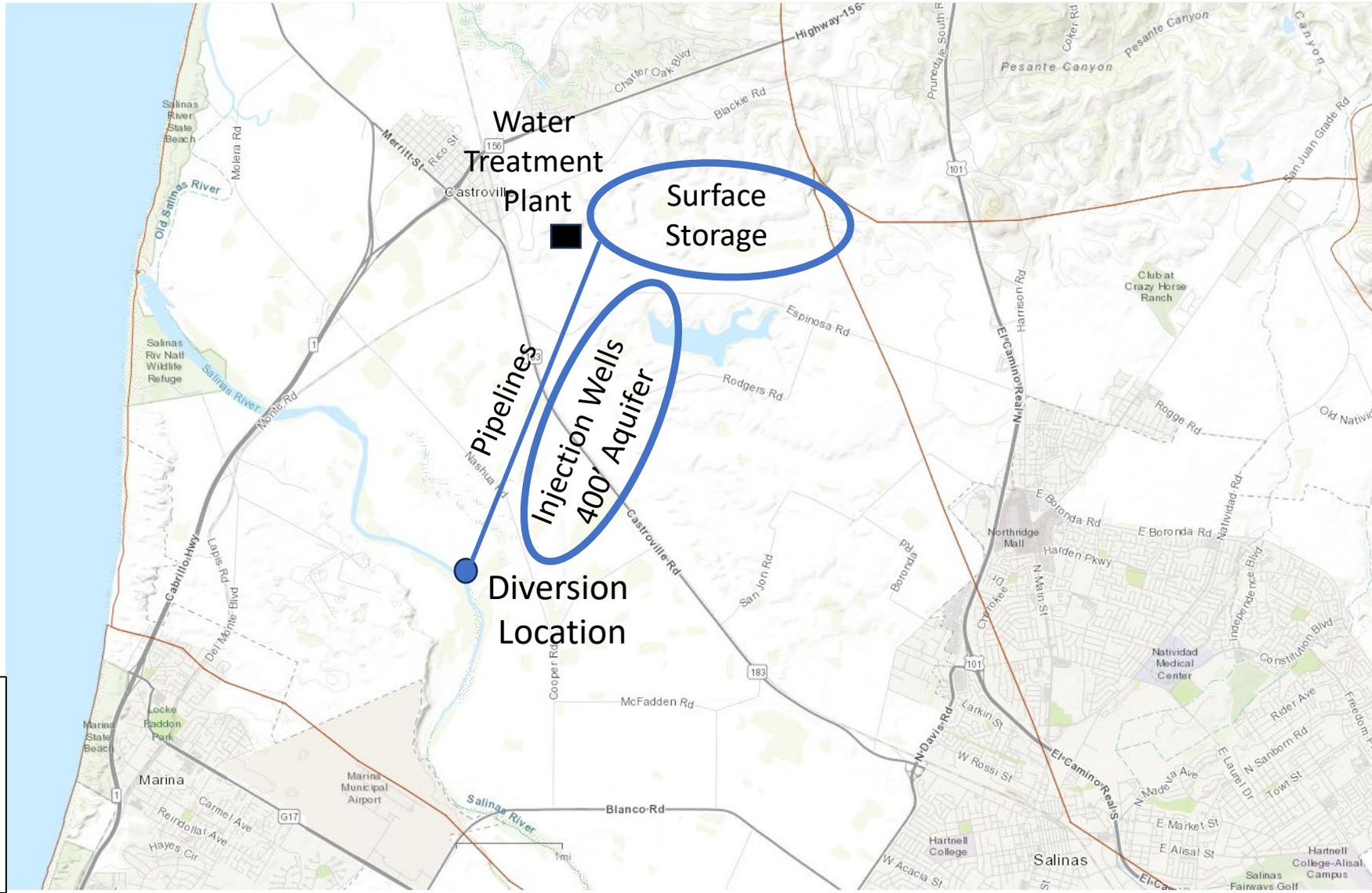
All locations of project scenario components are draft and under development

Scenario 2. Raise groundwater levels in Northern Eastside Subbasin (2 versions)



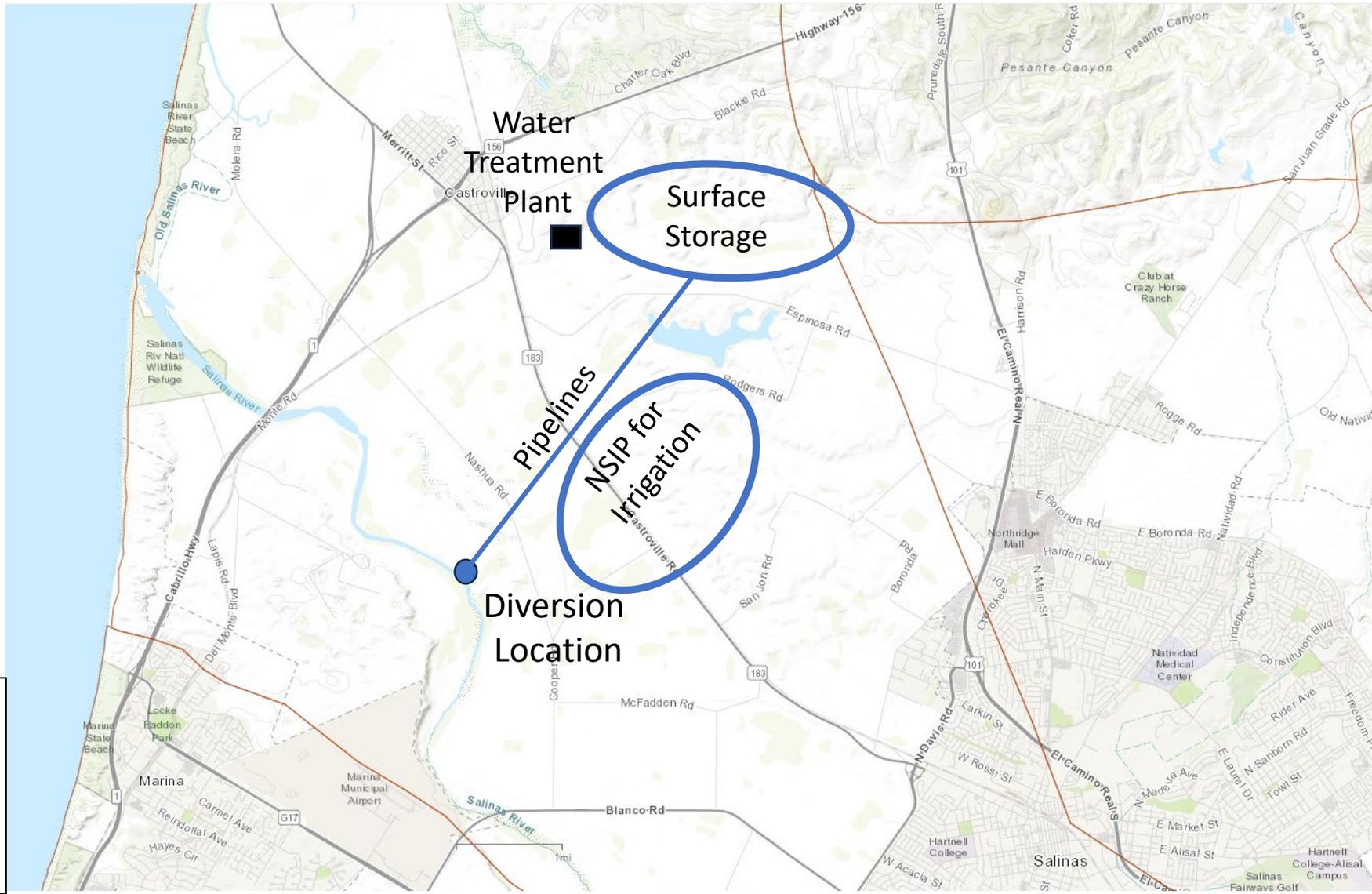
All locations of project scenario components are draft and under development

Scenario 3. Stop Seawater Intrusion in 400' Aquifer



All locations of project scenario components are draft and under development

Scenario 4. Provide in-lieu supply to reduce pumping from seawater intruded areas and Deep Aquifers



All locations of project scenario components are draft and under development

Next Steps and Environmental Review

- **Project scenarios need to be evaluated through current conditions and regulatory and environmental requirements.**
 - Permit 11043 doesn't include current physical constraints and environmental requirements. Bypass requirements may be reanalyzed.
 - A barrier style diversion structure will have additional environmental requirements.
- Conduct high-level engineering feasibility and cost analysis of key scenarios
- Model project scenario impacts on groundwater conditions relative to Sustainable Management Criteria (SMC)
- Complete feasibility study and submit to DWR
- Incorporate findings into Integrated Implementation Strategy



Questions and Comments

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