

# Introduction to Potter Valley Project Two-Basin Solution Fisheries Studies

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# Today's Presentation

- Listing and Status of Salmonids in Both Basins
- Huffman Ad Hoc Fish Passage Evaluation – Dec 2019
- Fisheries and Ecosystem Responses – April 2021
- Scott and Cape Horn Dam Removal Alternatives – Nov 2021
- Cape Horn Dam Fish Passage Improvements – Nov 2021



# Final Coastal Multispecies Recovery Plan

October 2016

- California Coastal Chinook Salmon
- Northern California Steelhead
- Central California Coast Steelhead

*Photo: Justin Smith*



**WEST  
COAST  
REGION**

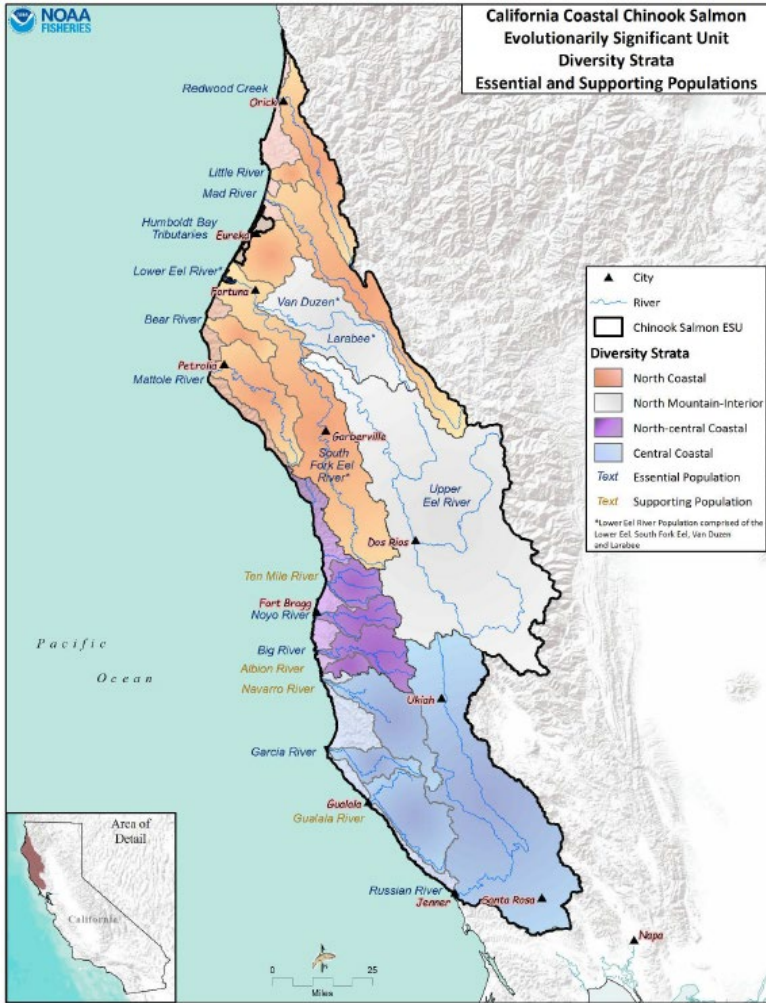
Santa Rosa, California



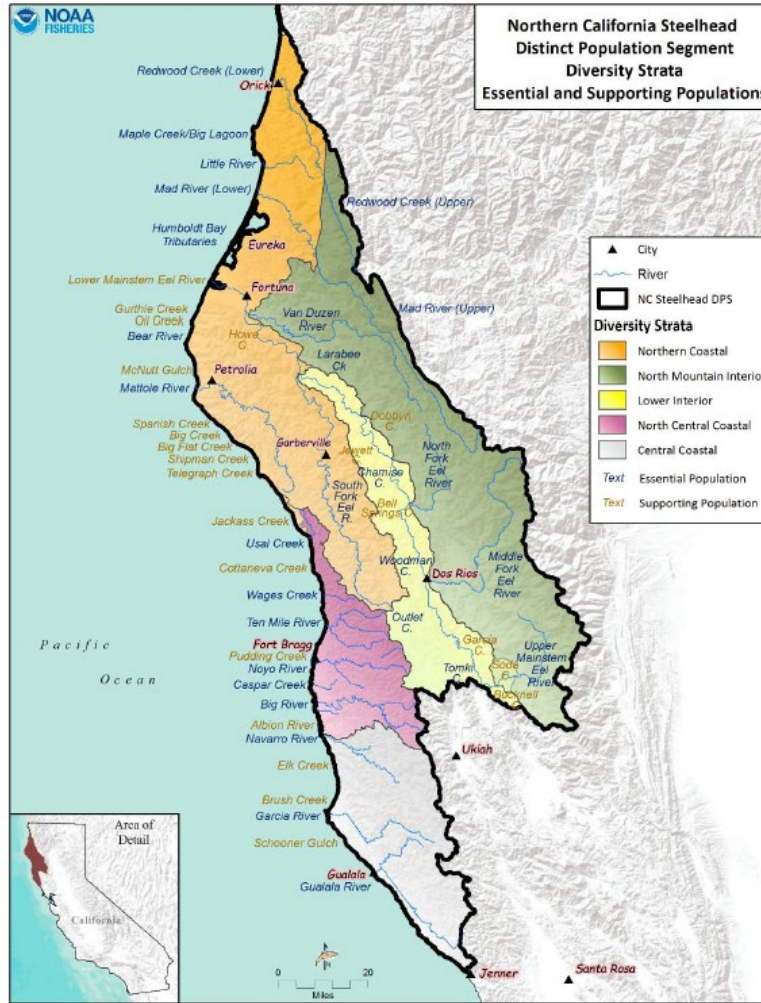
**NOAA  
FISHERIES**

U.S. Department of Commerce | National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration | National Marine Fisheries Service

# CC Chinook



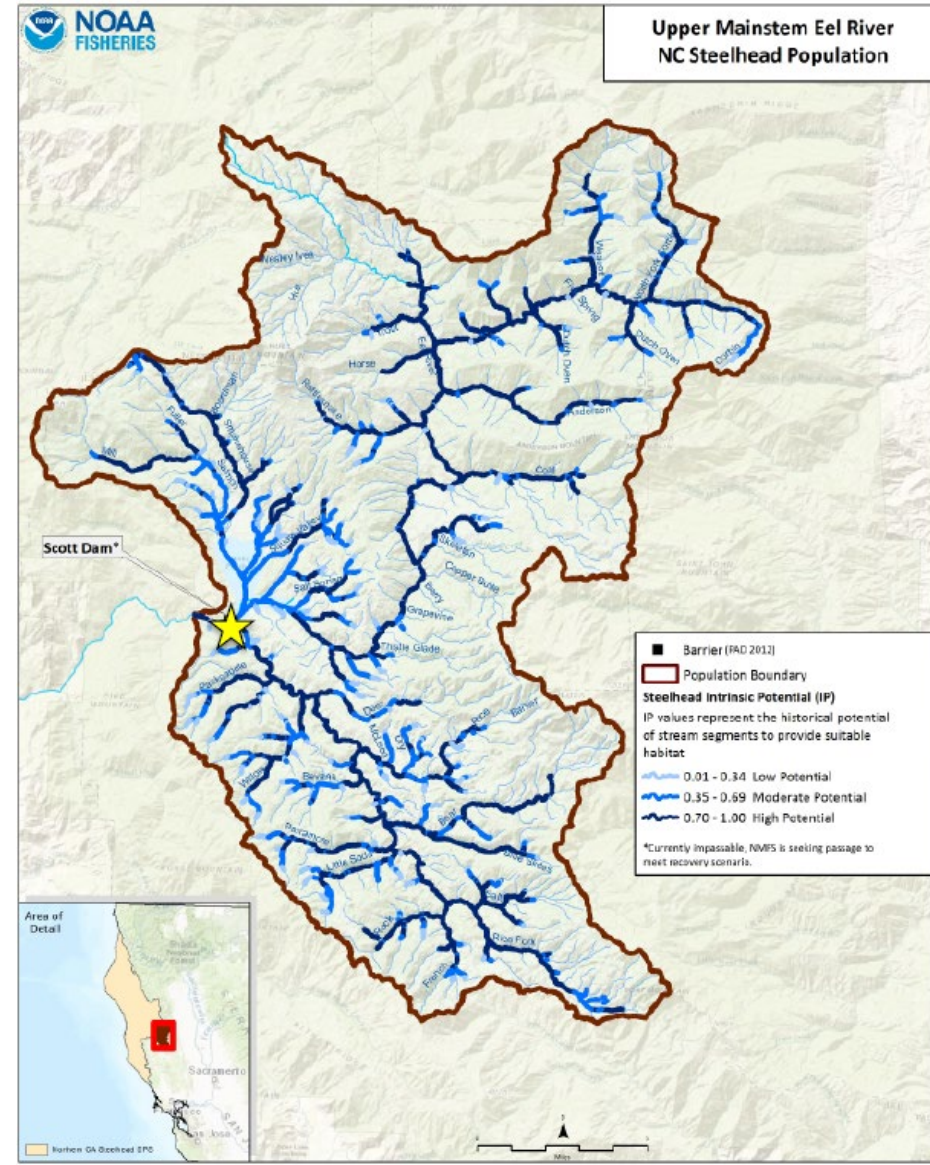
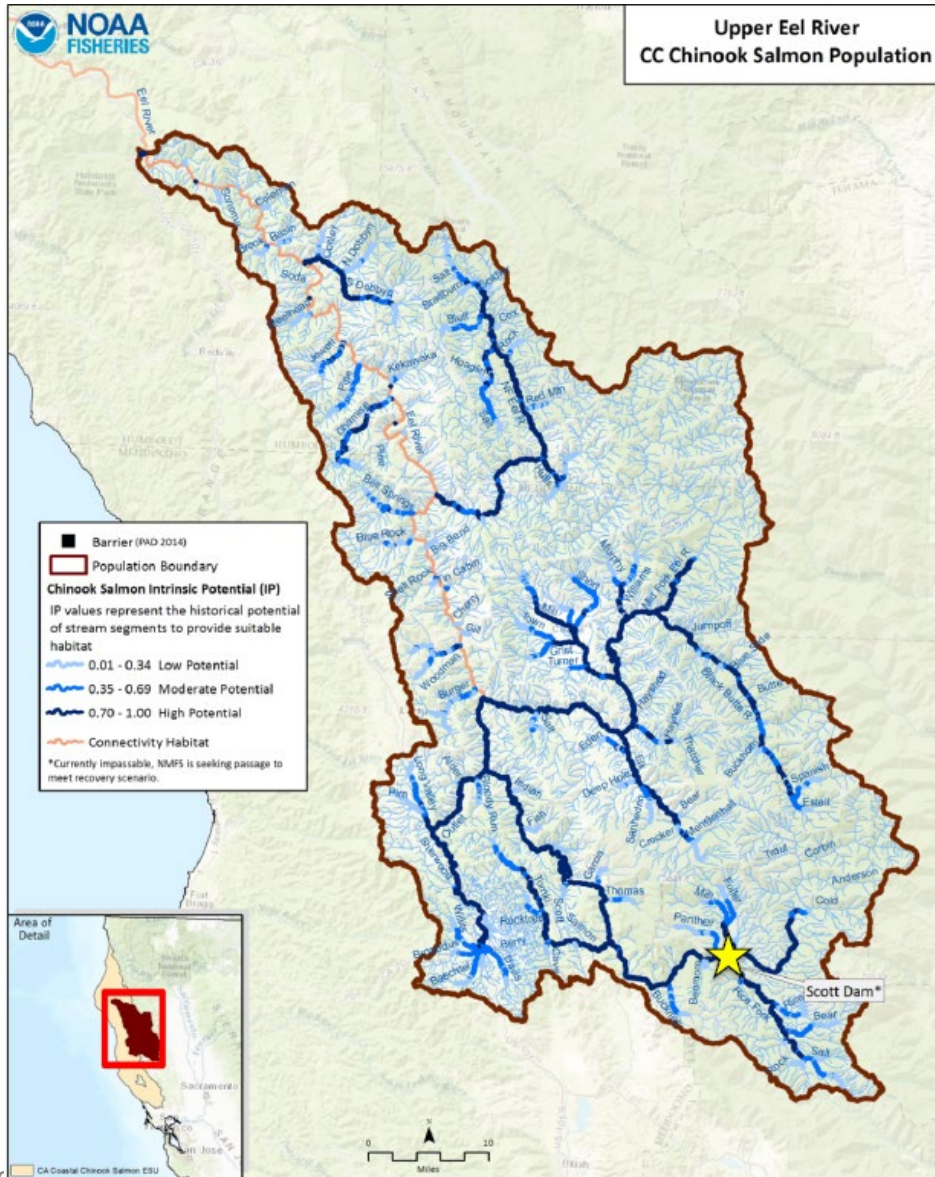
# NC Steelhead



# CCC Steelhead



# Upper Eel River Chinook and Steelhead Habitat



# CC Chinook Eel River (interior) & Russian River

Diversity Strata	CC Chinook salmon Populations	Historical Population Status	Population's Role In Recovery	Current Weighted IP-km	Spawner Density	Spawner Abundance
North Mountain Interior	Lower Eel River ~ Larabee Creek/ Van Duzen River*	I	Essential	144.0	20.0	2,900
	Upper Eel River	I	Essential	528.5	20.0	10,600 ★
<b>North Mountain Interior Diversity Stratum Recovery Target</b>						<b>13,500</b>
Central Coastal	Garcia River	I	Essential	56.2	36.0	2,000
	Gualala River	I	Supporting	175.6	6-12	1,052-2,105
	Navarro River	I	Supporting	131.5	6-12	787-1,576
	Russian River	I	Essential	465.2	20.0	9,300 ★
<b>Central Coastal Diversity Stratum Recovery Target</b>						<b>11,300</b>
<b>CC Chinook ESU Recovery Target</b>						<b>52,800</b>

# Upper Eel River (Cape Horn) Chinook

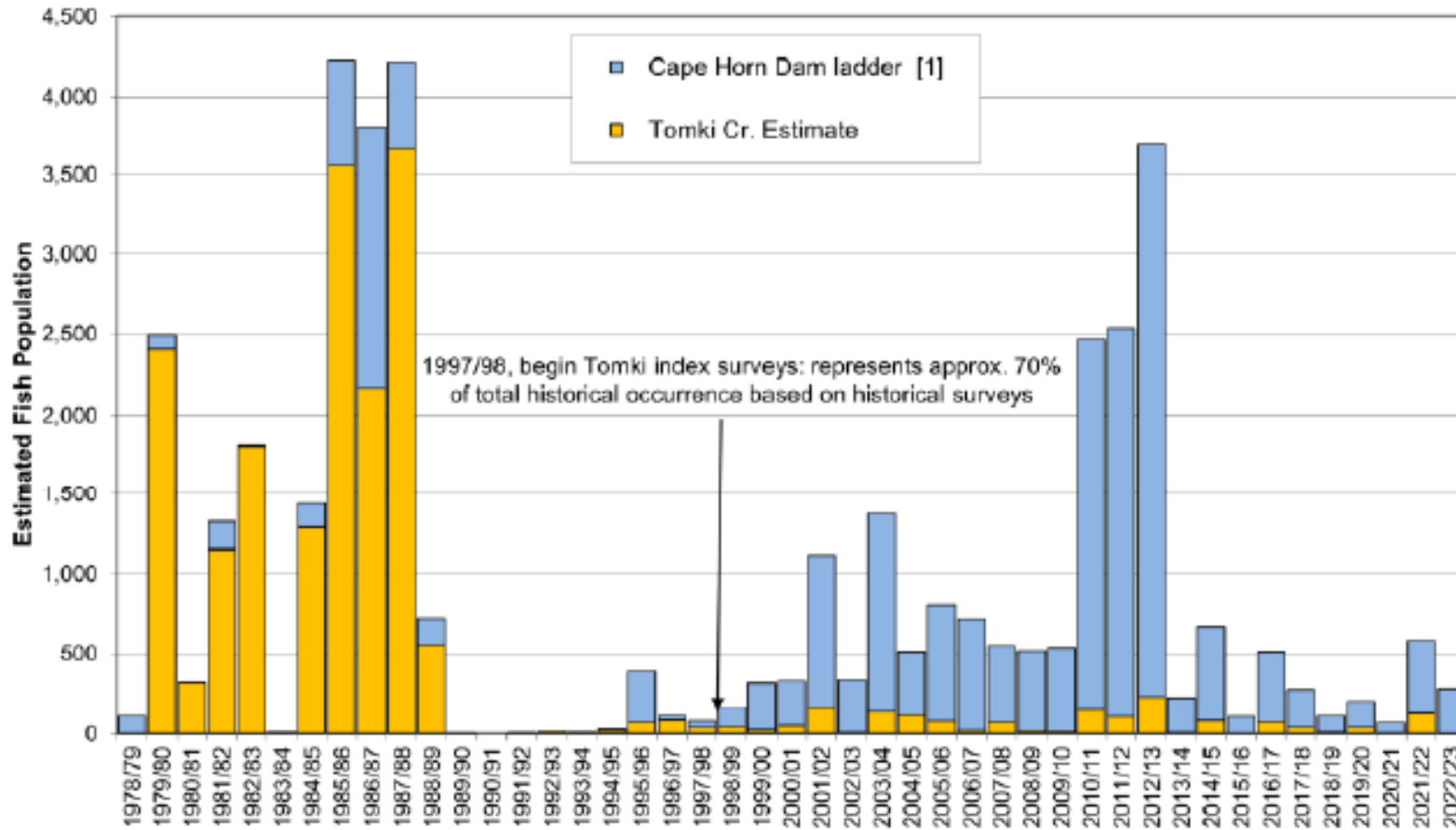


Figure 2. Historical adult Chinook salmon returns to the upper Eel River at the Cape Horn Dam fish ladder and Tomki Creek. PG&E Potter Valley Project 2023 Annual Agency Meeting.

# Russian River Chinook

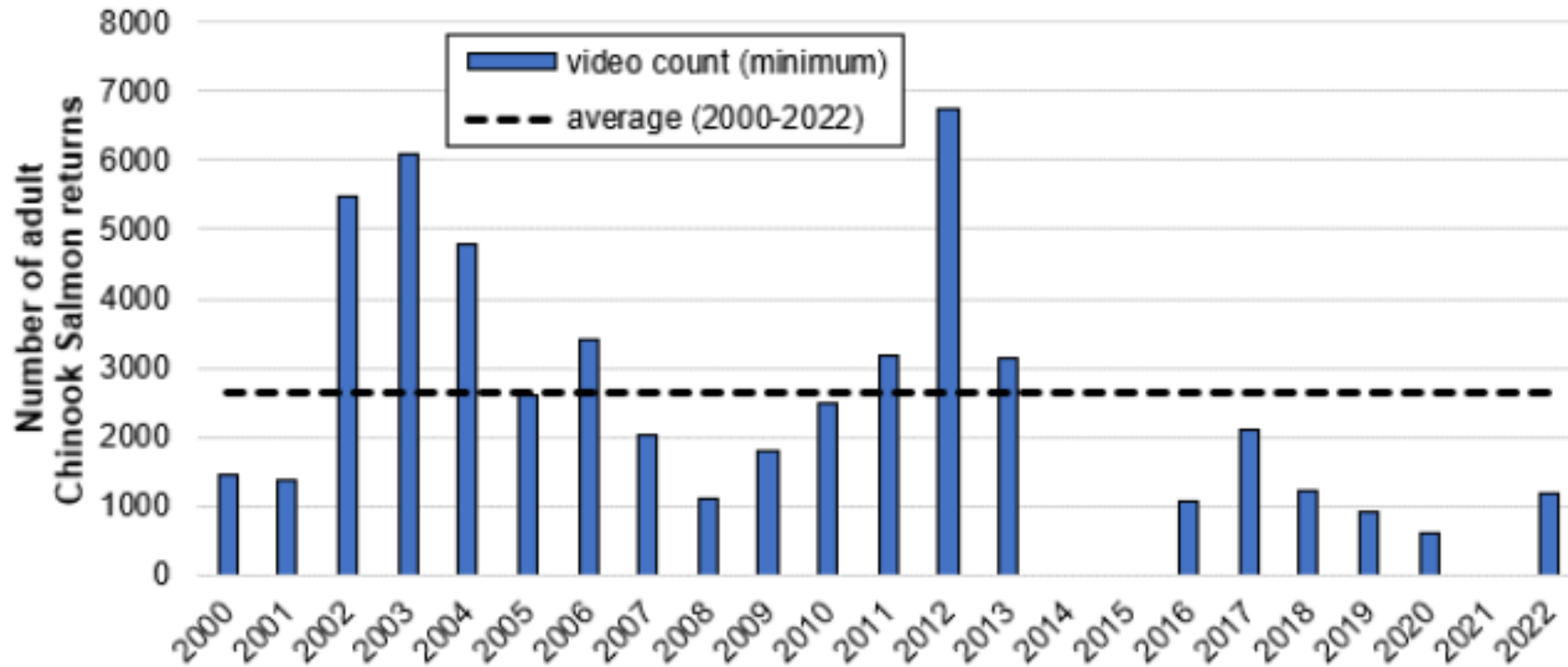



Figure 4. Video counts of adult Chinook salmon passing through the fish ladder at Mirabel Dam on the lower Russian River (Sonoma Water 2022).



# NC Winter Steelhead Eel River (interior populations)

Diversity Strata	NC winter-run steelhead populations	Historical Population Status	Population's Role In Recovery	Current Weighted IP-km	Spawner Density	Spawner Abundance
	Middle Fork Eel River	I	Essential	472.4	20.0	9,400
	North Fork Eel River	I	Essential	315.7	20.0	6,300
	Redwood Creek (Humboldt Co) (Upper)*	I	Essential	86.2	30.2	2,600
	Upper Mainstem Eel River	I	Essential	317.5	20.0	6,400 
	Van Duzen River	I	Essential	312.2	20.0	6,200
<b>North Mountain Interior Diversity Stratum Recovery Target</b>						<b>39,300</b>

# Upper Eel River (Cape Horn) Steelhead

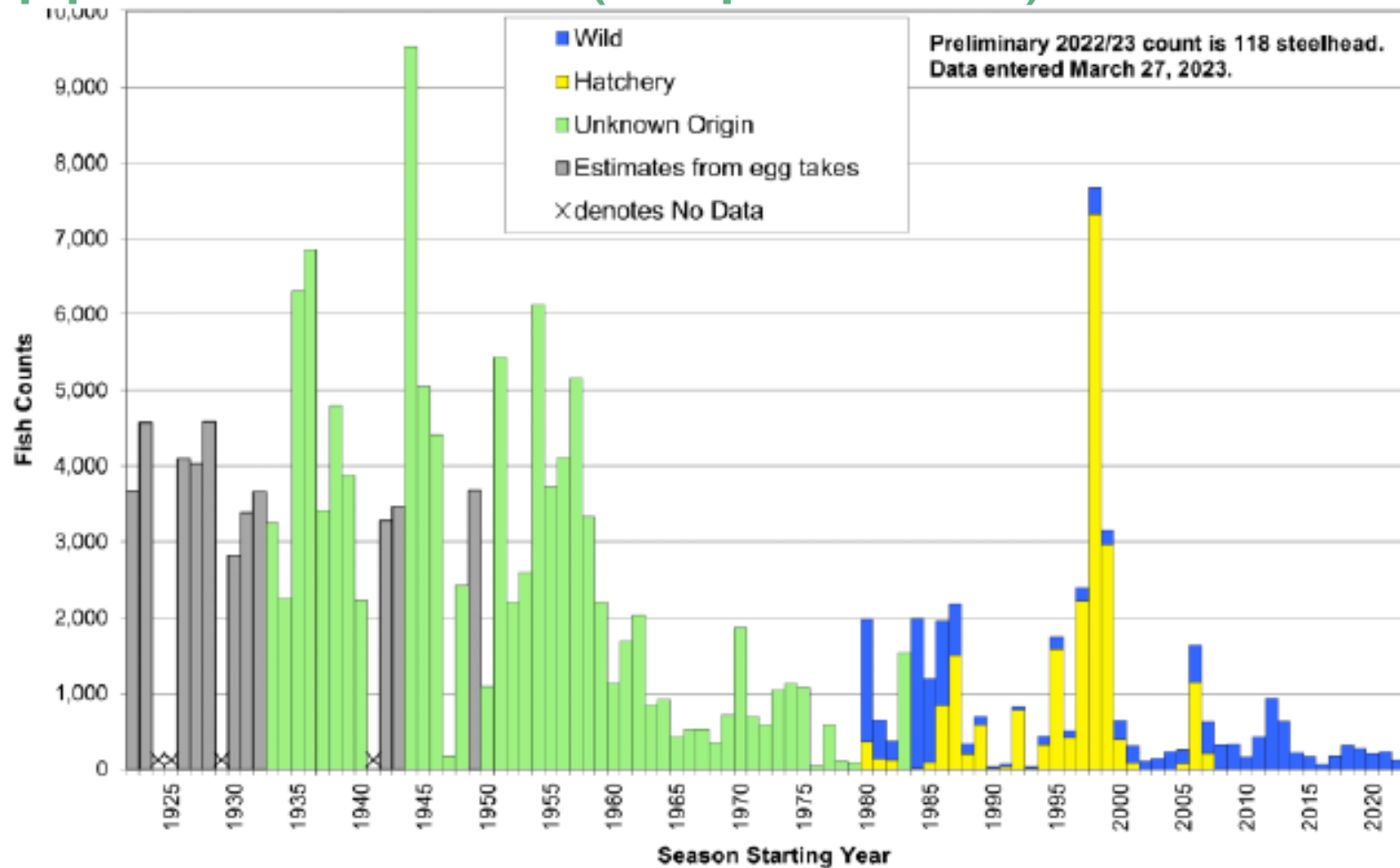



Figure 1. Historical adult steelhead counts at the Eel River Van Arsdale (Cape Horn Dam) Fisheries Station. PG&E Potter Valley Project 2023 Annual Agency Meeting.

# CCC Steelhead Russian River (interior populations)

Diversity Strata	CCC Steelhead Population	Historical Population Status	Population's Role In Recovery	Current Weighted IP-km	Spawner Density	Spawner Abundance
Interior	Crocker Creek	D	Supporting	4.5	6-12	25-52
	Dry Creek	I	Essential	116.7	26.0	3,000
	Gill Creek	D	Supporting	7.2	6-12	41-84
	Maacama Creek	I	Essential	76.2	31.6	2,400
	Mark West Creek	I	Essential	164.2	20	3,300
	Miller Creek (Russian)	D	Supporting	3.1	6-12	17-35
	Sausal Creek	D	Supporting	11.1	6-12	65-131
	Upper Russian River	I	Essential	423.9	20	8,500 
	Interior Diversity Stratum Recovery Target					

# Russian River Steelhead

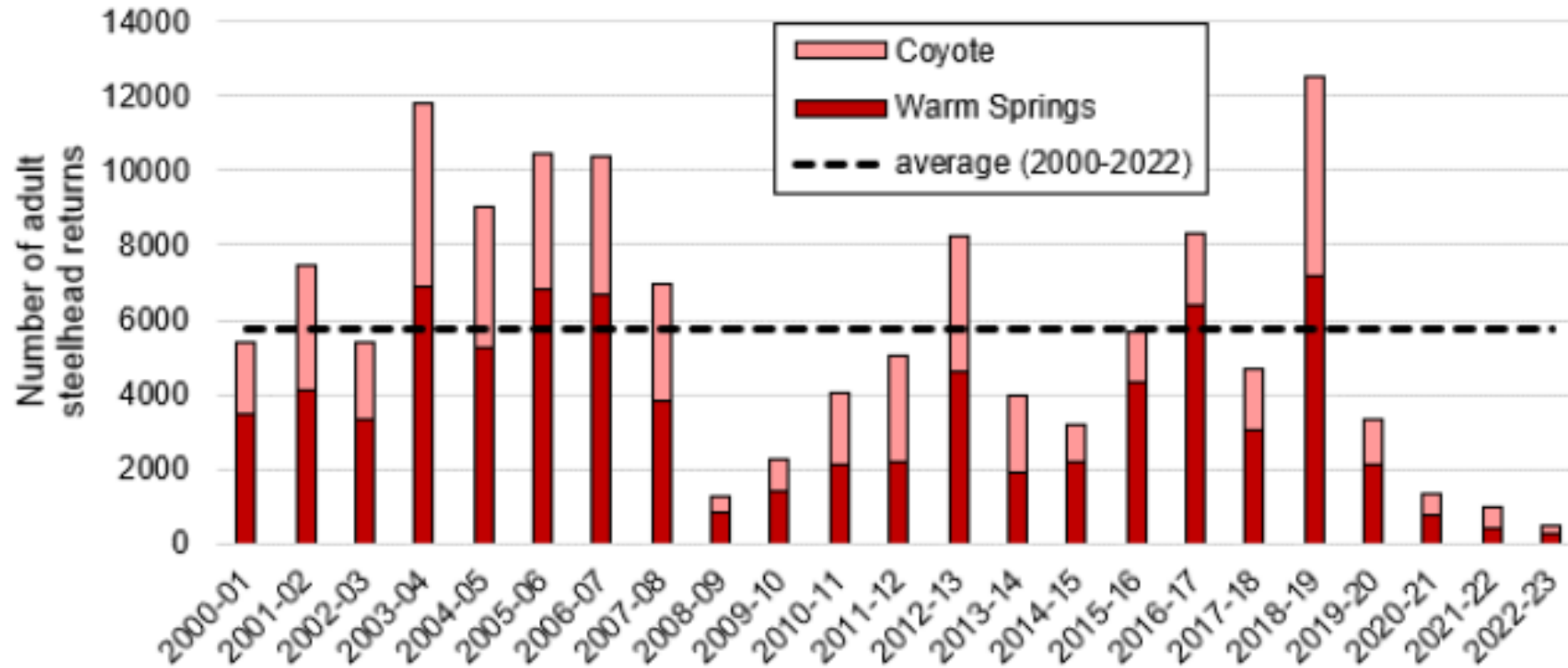


Figure 3. Adult steelhead returns to Russian River hatcheries at Coyote Valley Dam/Lake Mendocino and Warm Springs Dam/Lake Sonoma (Sonoma Water 2022).



Potter Valley Project Ad Hoc Committee

## Fish Passage Profiles Evaluation Report

December 2019

Developed by the Fish Passage Working Group

### Fish Passage Working Group Report Contributors

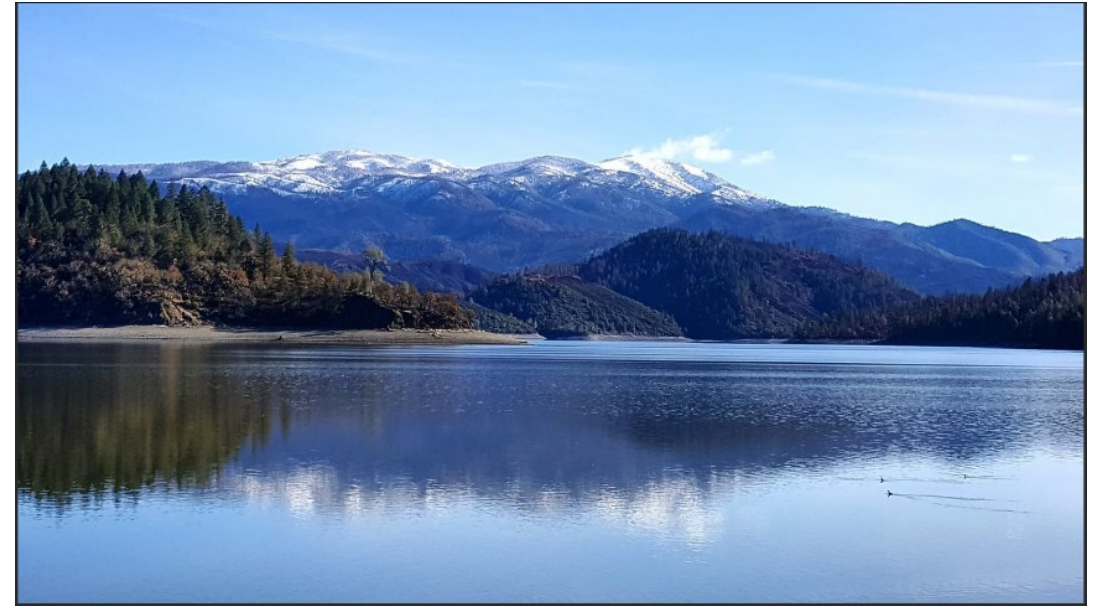
#### Scenarios and Options Subgroup

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Paul Kubicek (PG&E)  
Jon Mann (CDFW)  
David Manning (Sonoma Water)  
Scott McBain (Consultant to RVIT)  
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# Scott Dam and Lake Pillsbury



# PVP Ad Hoc Alternatives

## Fish Passage Scenarios and Options Summary Table

This table provides a summary of the various options for each fish passage scenario that the working group developed and evaluated.

Scenarios	1 Fishway at Existing Scott Dam	2 Trap & Haul	3 Partial Scott Dam Removal	4 Remove Scott Dam and Modify Cape Horn Dam
Options	<p>1.1 Semi-Natural, Low-Gradient Bypass Channel</p> <p>1.2 Conventional Fishway                      1.2a <a href="#">Mead &amp; Hunt Study</a>                      1.2b Modified Mead &amp; Hunt</p>	<p>2.1 Trap &amp; Haul, Van Arsdale to Scott Dam</p> <p>2.2 Trap &amp; Haul, at Scott Dam</p>	<p>3.1 Lower Scott Dam to 80' ~ Meets current PVID water demand and <a href="#">NMFIS 2002 BiOp</a> RPA environmental flows</p> <p>3.2 Lower Scott Dam to 50' ~ Retain and manage accumulated sediment, no water storage within Lake Pillsbury</p>	<p>4.1 Remove Scott Dam and Modify Cape Horn Dam Diversion to East Branch Russian River with modified Cape Horn Dam infrastructure</p> <p>4.2 Remove both Scott Dam and Cape Horn Dam With alternative diversion infrastructure</p>

# Species Life History Stages and Timing

Table 4-2. Adult Migration and Smolt Outmigration Timing (Source: Stillwater Sciences et al. 2021).

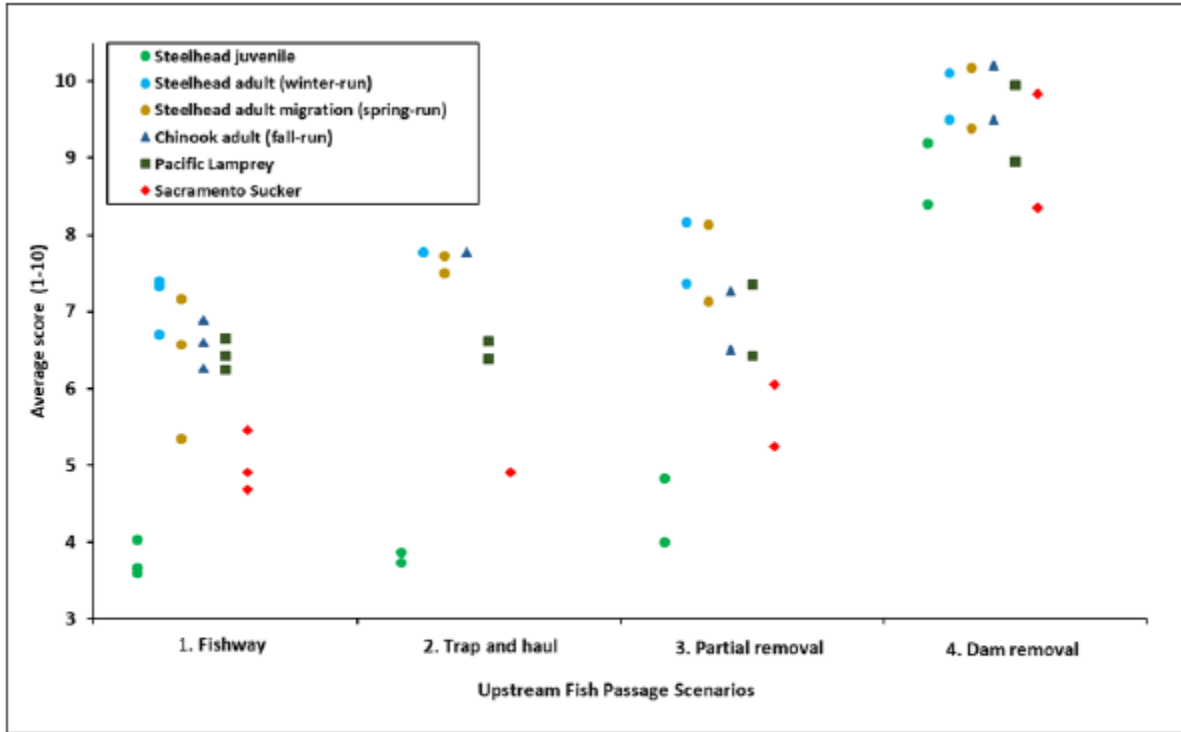
Species	Life Stage	Month											
		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Chinook Salmon (Fall-run)	Adult Migration												
	Smolt Outmigration												
Steelhead (Summer- and Winter-run)	Adult Migration (Winter-Run)												
	Adult Migration (Summer-Run)												
	Smolt and Kelt Outmigration												
Coho Salmon*	Adult Migration												
	Smolt Outmigration												
Pacific Lamprey	Adult Migration												
Sacramento Sucker	TBD												



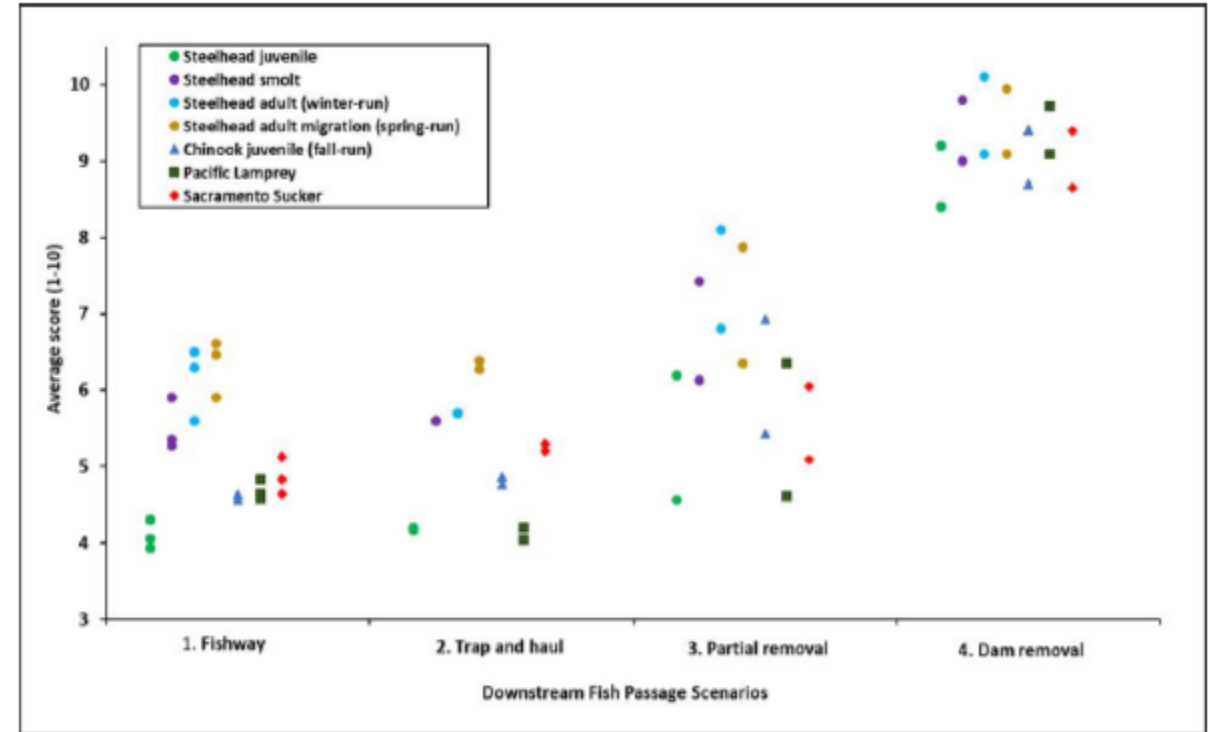
# PVP Ad Hoc Scoring Matrix for Alternatives

Fish Passage Scenario Scoring Key	Score Range									
	1				5					10
<b>Biological Feasibility for Upstream Passage</b>										
Reservoir navigability	Difficulty finding tributary					Success finding tributary				
Passage efficiency (fishway, etc.)	Migration delay/low success					No delay/high success				
Predation	Likely to be consumed					Successfully avoids predators				
<b>Biological Feasibility for Downstream Passage</b>										
Reservoir navigability	Difficulty finding way out of lake					Successfully finds route through lake				
Passage efficiency (fishway, etc.)	Delay/Low success past dam crest					No delay/high success past dam crest				
Predation	Likely to be consumed					Successfully avoids predators				
<b>Habitat and Water Quality</b>										
Habitat upstream of Scott Dam	Poor spawning/rearing habitat					Good spawning/rearing habitat				
Water quality within reservoir	Warm temp/low dissolved O <sub>2</sub>					Cool temp/high dissolved O <sub>2</sub>				
Habitat downstream of Scott Dam	Poor spawning/rearing/holding habitat					Good spawning/rearing/holding habitat				
Water quality below reservoir	Warm temp/low dissolved O <sub>2</sub>					Cool temp/high dissolved O <sub>2</sub>				
<b>Hydrologic Implications</b>	Unnatural flow timing and duration					Natural flow timing and duration				
<b>Biological Viability (Spatial Structure &amp; Diversity)</b>	Limited natural seasonal movement and life history expression (due to human intervention)					Natural seasonal movement and life history expression (no human intervention)				

# PVP Ad Hoc Upstream and Downstream Passage Scoring Results

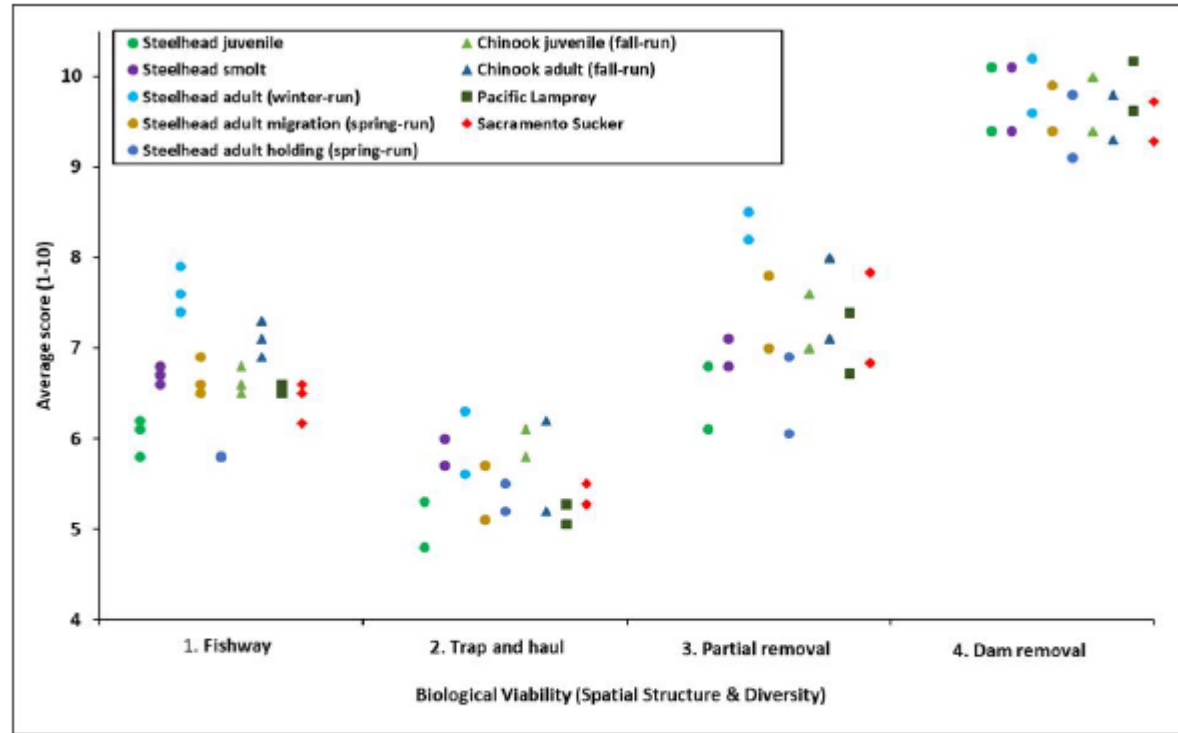


*Figure 1. Biological feasibility for upstream fish passage is the ability for targeted species and associated life stages to successfully find the fishway and migrate to spawning/rearing tributaries above Scott Dam (upper Eel River, Rice Fork, and Salmon Creek, etc.). Allows for the potential benefit to the species by reestablishing occupancy of habitats, thereby promoting ecological and evolutionary processes responsible for local adaptation and diverse life histories.*



*Figure 2. Biological feasibility for downstream fish passage is ability for targeted species and associated life stages to successfully migrate from spawning/rearing tributaries above Scott Dam (upper Eel River, Rice Fork, and Salmon Creek, etc.) to the lower Eel River and ocean. Allows for the potential benefit to the species by reestablishing occupancy of habitats, thereby promoting ecological and evolutionary processes responsible for local adaptation and diverse life histories.*

# PVP Ad Hoc Biological Viability (behavior, life history expression)



*Figure 3. Biological viability (spatial structure and diversity) refers to the natural behavior and life history expression of a focal species life stage relevant habitat access and a fish passage option. The passage option allows adult fish to make choices related to spawning location and timing (e.g., site fidelity, mainstem or tributary, no delays). The passage option allows juvenile fish to imprint on natal streams and express diverse rearing and migration strategies. The extent of which the fish passage option includes selective pressures (e.g., degree of human intervention, unnatural environmental constraints, etc.) that could limit life history adaptation and phenotype or genotype expression.*

TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM • NOVEMBER 2021

## Scott Dam and Cape Horn Dam Removal Alternatives



PREPARED FOR

Two-Basin Solution Partners  
California Trout  
Humboldt County  
Mendocino County Inland Water and Power Commission  
Round Valley Indian Tribes  
Sonoma County Water Agency

PREPARED BY

McMillen Jacobs Associates  
1471 Shoreline Drive, Suite 100  
Boise, ID 83702

# Preliminary Scott Dam Removal Cost (rapid S-1 and phased S-2)

Table 2-1. Scott Dam Removal Alternatives Cost Estimate Summary.

Division	Item	Cost	
		Alternative S-1	Alternative S-2
1	GC's & Mobilization	\$15,940,000	\$25,665,000
2	Demolition	\$46,980,000	\$47,230,000
5	Metals	\$50,000	\$50,000
31	Earthwork	\$1,700,000	\$350,000
32	Exterior Improvements	\$1,500,000	\$1,000,000
35	Marine and Waterway	\$2,900,000	\$2,700,000
<b>Total Construction Price</b>		<b>\$69,070,000</b>	<b>\$76,995,000</b>
<b>Taxes, Overhead, Profit &amp; Bond</b>			
Overhead		\$4,144,200	\$4,619,700
Profit		\$8,288,400	\$9,239,400
Division	Item	Cost	
		Alternative S-1	Alternative S-2
	Construction Bonds and Insurance	\$2,196,426	\$2,448,441
	California Sales Tax	\$5,007,575	\$5,582,138
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$19,636,601</b>	<b>\$21,889,679</b>
<b>Contingency</b>			
	Contingency	\$17,267,500	\$19,248,750
	<b>Total Contingency</b>	<b>\$17,267,500</b>	<b>\$19,248,750</b>
<i>Median Construction Cost</i>		<i>\$105,974,101</i>	<i>\$118,133,429</i>
<i>Total Construction Cost Range (-50%)</i>		<i>\$52,987,051</i>	<i>\$59,066,714</i>
<i>Total Construction Cost Range (+100%)</i>		<i>\$211,948,202</i>	<i>\$236,266,857</i>

WORKING DRAFT TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM • APRIL 2021

## Potter Valley Project Feasibility Study: Potential Ecosystem and Fisheries Responses to Project Alternatives



### PREPARED FOR

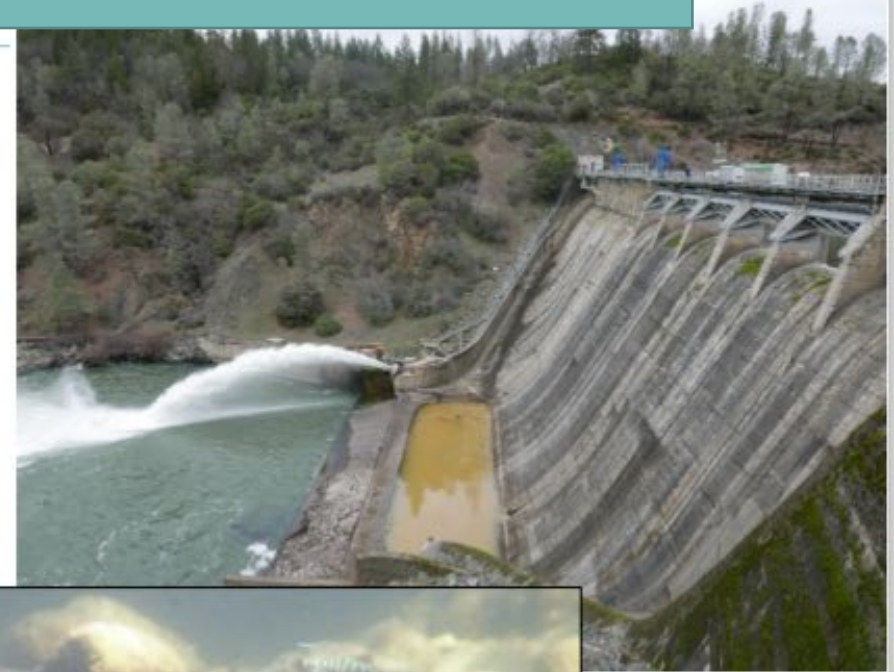
Potter Valley Project Planning Agreement Parties  
California Trout  
Humboldt County  
Mendocino County Inland Water and Power Commission  
Round Valley Indian Tribes  
Sonoma County Water Agency

### PREPARED BY



# Two-Basin Partnership Project Plan = Run of the River, no Scott Dam

- Volitional Passage Above Scott Dam
- Minimize Impacts of Sediment on Biota and Habitat
- Restore Natural Processes (hydrology, geomorphology, water quality)
- Improve Cape Horn Dam Fish Passage
- Improve Van Arsdale Flow Bypass and Fish Screens



TWO-BASIN  
PARTNERSHIP  
POTTER VALLEY

# Spring Flow Recession With and Without Scott Dam

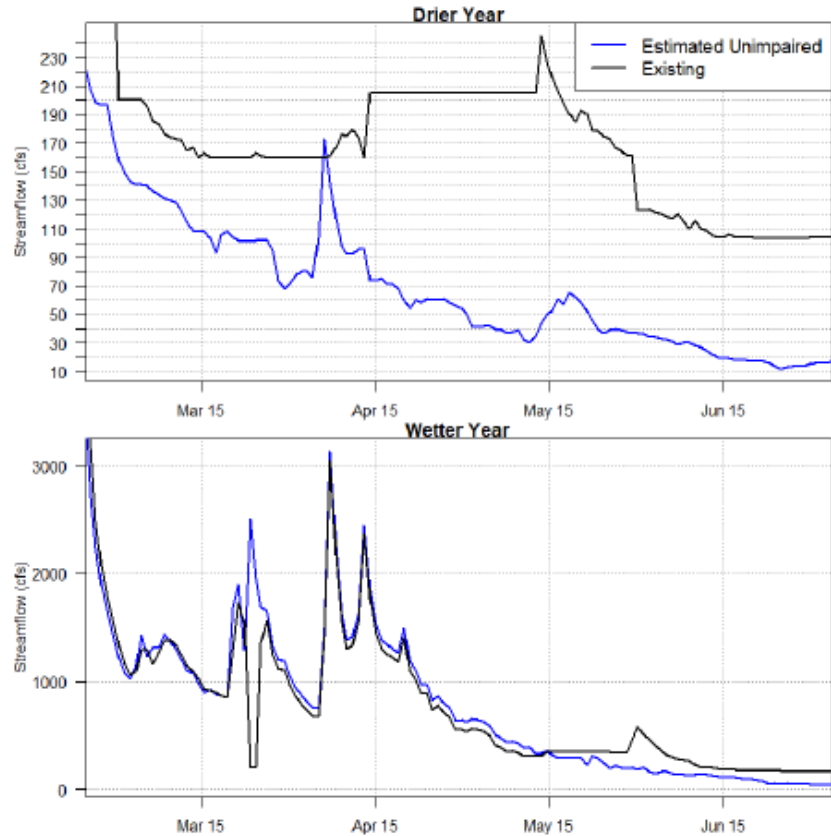


Figure 5. Spring recession hydrographs comparing modeled existing and modeled unimpaired flows for between Scott Dam and Cape Horn Dam for an example drier year (2015) and wetter year (2017).

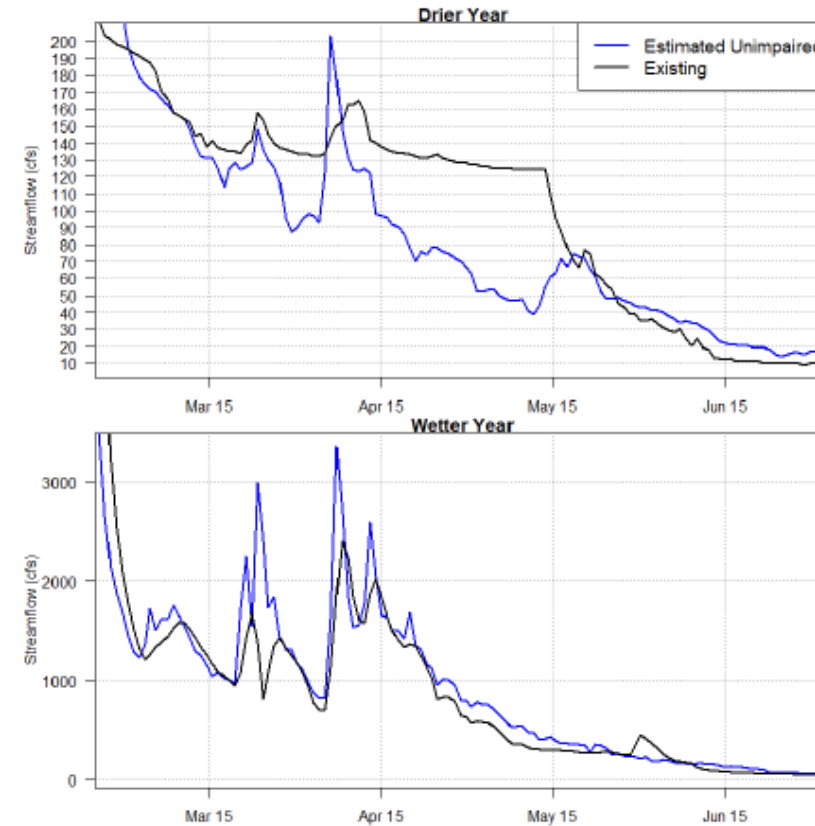


Figure 6: Spring recession hydrographs comparing modeled existing and modeled unimpaired flows for below Cape Horn Dam using the same example drier (2015) and wetter water (2017) year used in Figure 5.



# Steelhead Response to Project Plan

## • Juvenile Rearing and Smolts Below Scott Dam

- Natural lower flow and warmer water = reduced carrying capacity, survival, productivity

## • Juvenile Rearing and Smolts Below CHD

- Minor changes in summer water temperatures = small change in productivity

## • Adult Spawning, Juvenile Rearing, and Smolts Above Scott Dam

- 200-300 miles of habitat
- Coldwater historical habitat = increased productivity
- Access for summer run steelhead = increased genetic diversity



# Chinook Salmon Response to Project Plan

## • Spring Juvenile Outmigration

- Natural higher flow and warmer water = natural outmigration timing & better survival

## • Fall Adult Migration

- Lower flow = restricted passage & limited early season spawning – dry years may be problematic

## • Productivity of Habitat Above Scott Dam

- 100 miles of habitat = greater juvenile life history diversity and population resiliency

## • Productivity of Habitat Below Scott Dam

- Varies by water year – little change most years



# Ecological & Fisheries Responses to Project Plan (Huffman Ad Hoc Water Supply Scenario 2)

Positive      Neutral or Unclear      Negative

Parameter	Eel River	Russian River
Water Quality	Positive, Neutral or Unclear	Positive
Geomorphic Function	Positive	Neutral or Unclear
Riparian Habitat	Positive	Positive
Aquatic Insects and Fish Energetics	Positive	Neutral or Unclear
Salmonid Flow/Habitat Relationships	Negative, Neutral or Unclear, Positive	Neutral or Unclear
Fish Passage	Positive, Negative	Neutral or Unclear
Non-Native Predators	Positive	Negative
Herpetofauna	Positive	Neutral or Unclear
Lamprey	Neutral or Unclear	Neutral or Unclear
Salmonid Productivity Below Scott Dam	Positive, Negative	Neutral or Unclear
Salmonid Productivity Above Scott Dam	Positive	Neutral or Unclear



TWO-BASIN  
PARTNERSHIP  
POTTER VALLEY

# Non-Native Predator Response to Project Plan

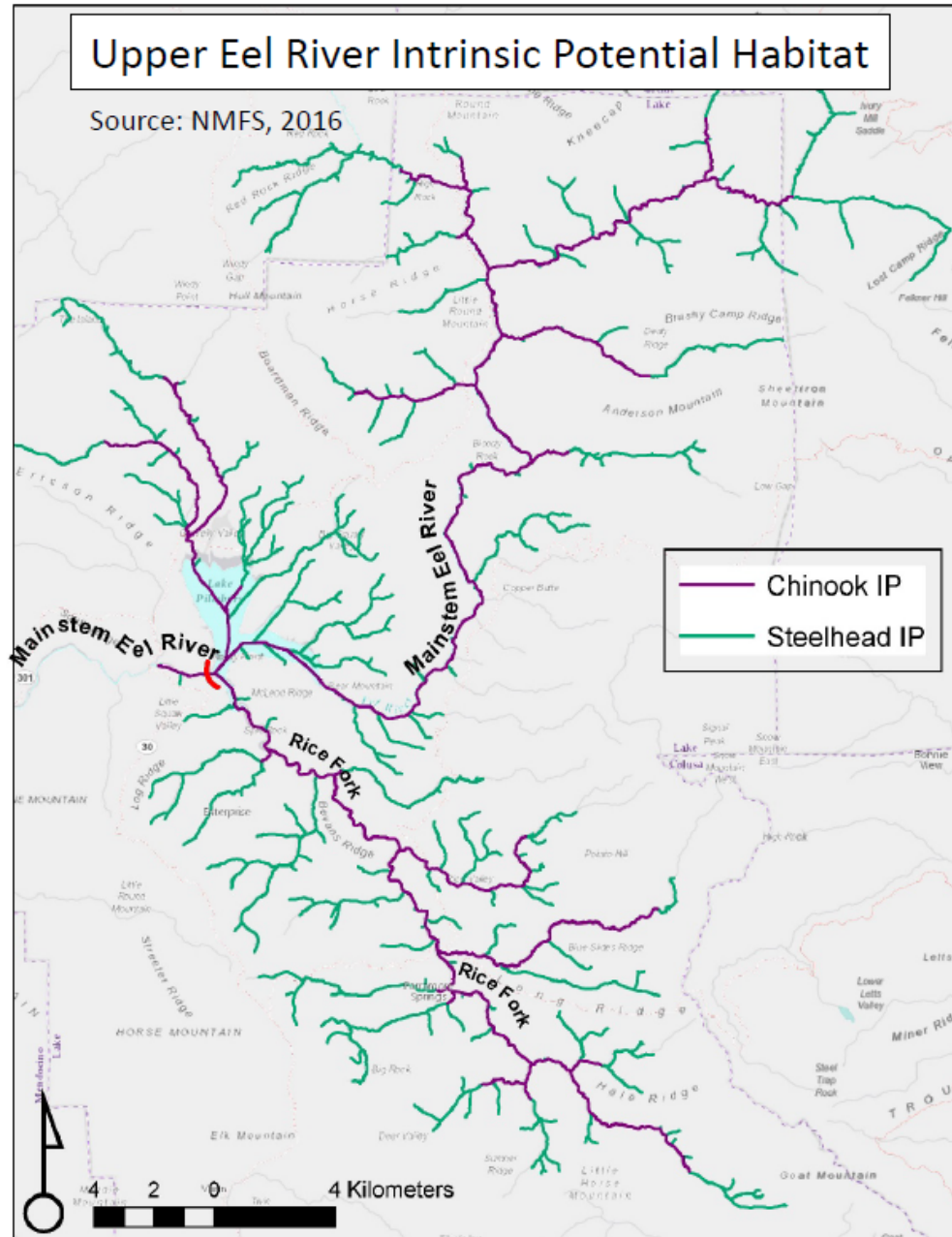
- Scott Dam/Lake Pillsbury removal reduces habitat for Pikeminnow & Bass
- Access to habitat above Scott Dam reduces overlap between predators and salmonids
- Lower flow & warmer water below Scott Dam could increase interactions between predators and salmonids
- Predation risk remains high at CHD/Van Arsdale



# Salmonid Productivity & Project Plan

*“In conclusion, any potential declines in both Steelhead and Chinook Salmon population productivity resulting from dam removal would be compensated for by the increased productivity resulting from access to the extensive, high-quality, coldwater habitats in the upper Eel River and tributaries upstream of Scott Dam.”*

-Stillwater Sciences Team



## Cape Horn Dam Fish Passage Improvements



PREPARED FOR

Two-Basin Solution Partners  
California Trout  
Humboldt County  
Mendocino County Inland Water and Power Commission  
Round Valley Indian Tribes  
Sonoma County Water Agency

PREPARED BY

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# Cape Horn Dam Existing Conditions



# Existing Pool and Weir Fish Ladder





# Cape Horn Dam After High Flow in 2019

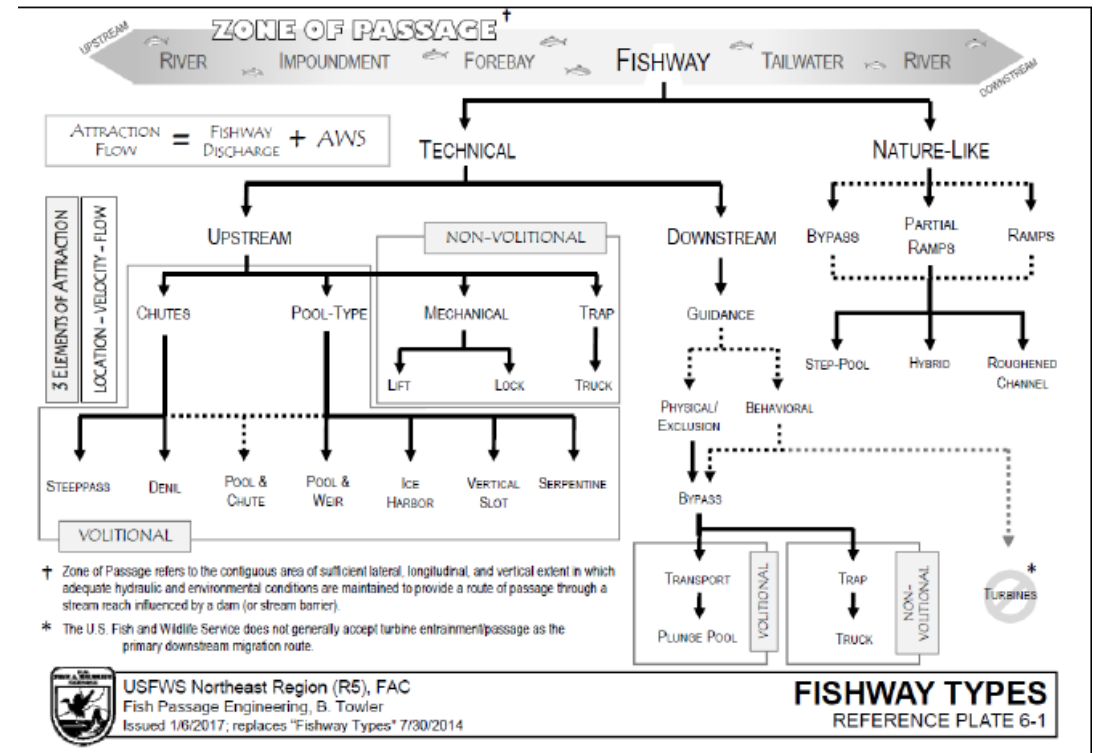


# Cape Horn Dam Fish Hotel and Ladder with Debris



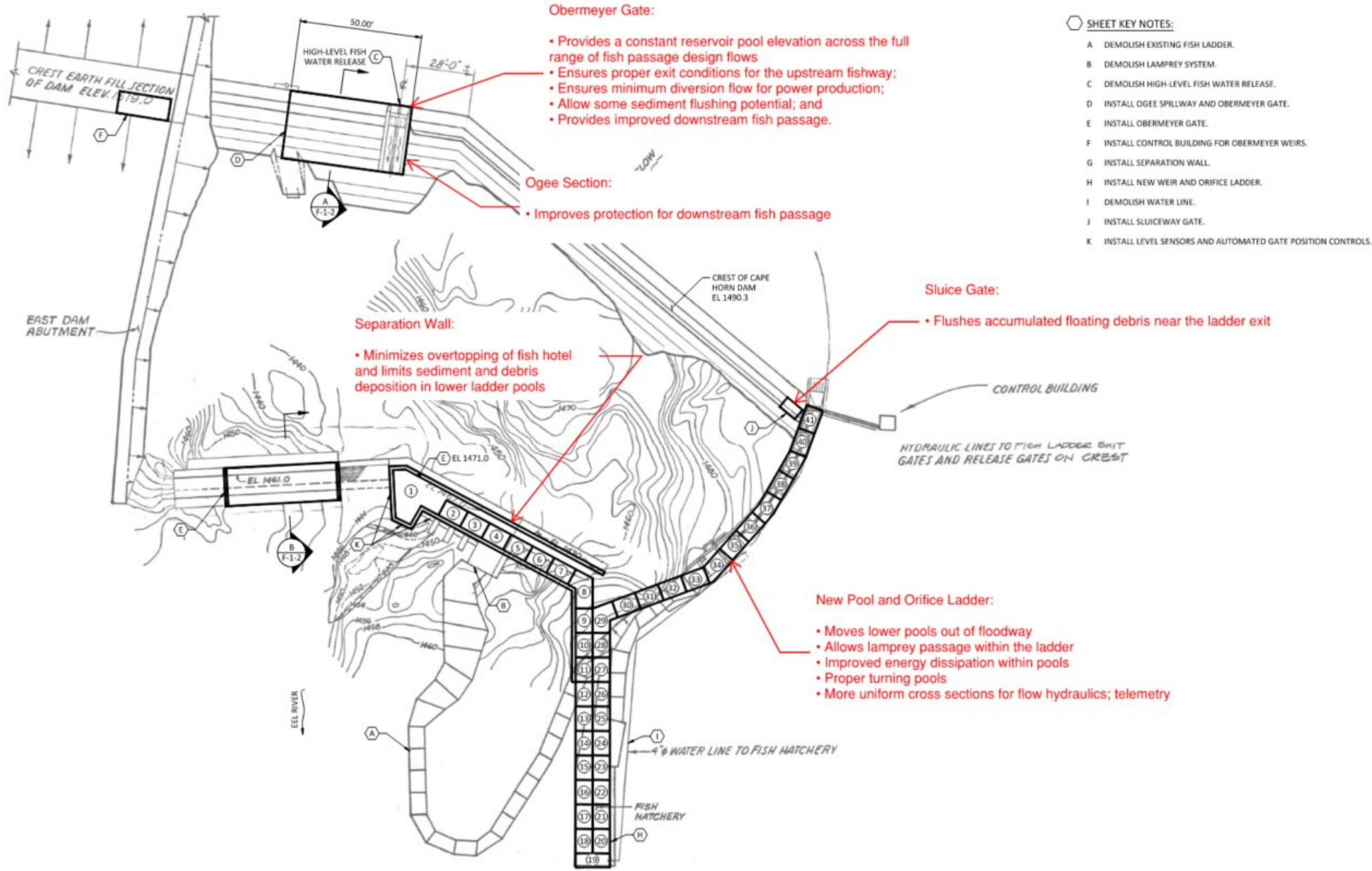
# Fish Passage Improvements at Cape Horn Dam

- New Fish Ladder
- Dam Removal with Pump Station
- Dam Removal with Roughened Channel
- Dam Removal with Upstream Diversion



# New Fish Ladder and Dam Crest Alternative 1

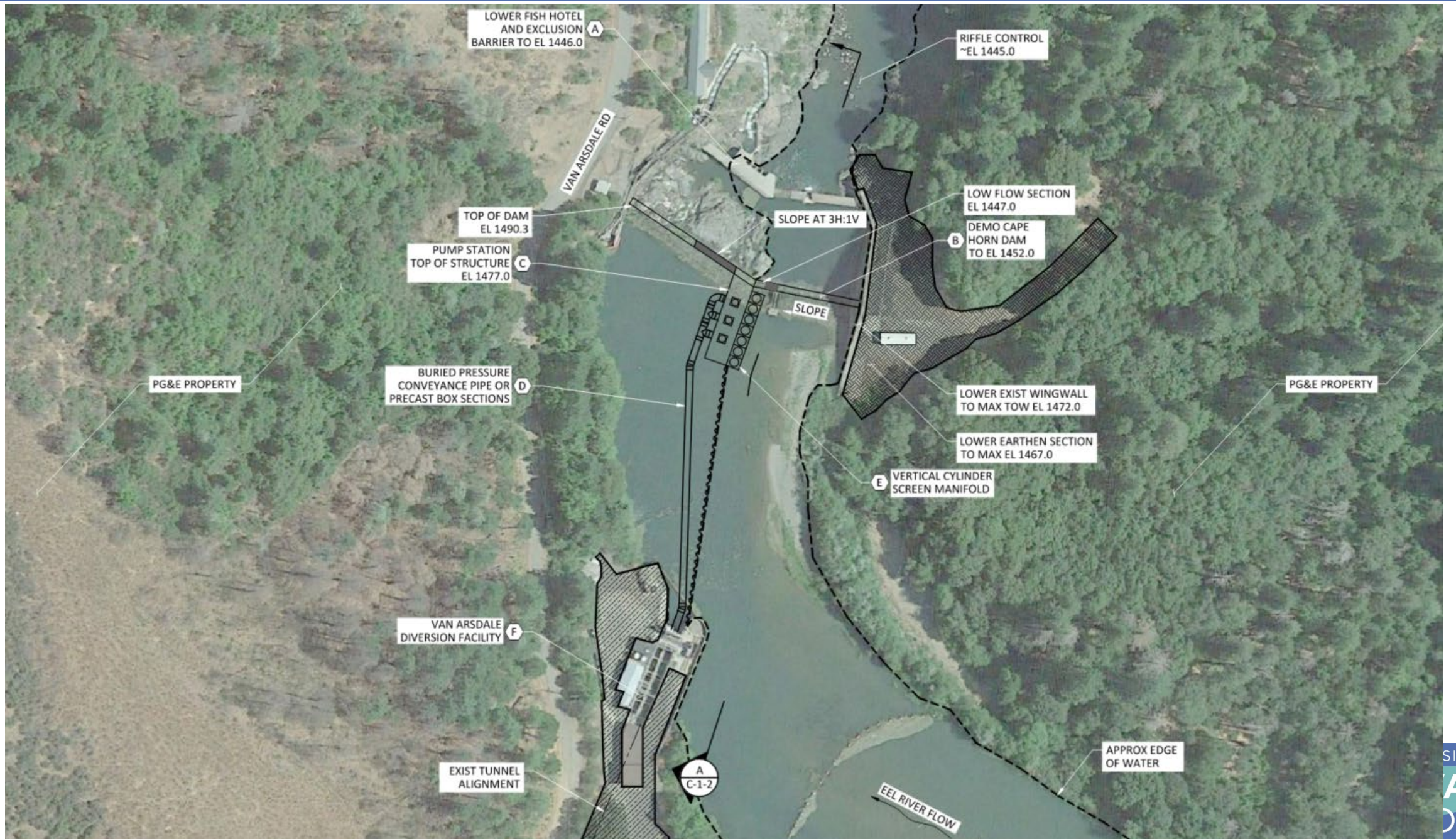
- Keep Cape Horn Dam and gravity diversion
- Construct new fish ladder for NMFS/CDFW compliance
- Improve upstream and downstream passage with inflatable bladder weirs
- Improve downstream passage with ogee section on dam face
- Provide sluicing capability at the ladder exit
- Protect lower ladder pools from debris and sediment accumulation
- Re-rate Van Arsdale fish screens to convey up to 300 cfs
- Modify bypass to discharge entrained fish back to the river
- Install suction dredging operation to address sediment load from Scott Dam removal



- SHEET KEY NOTES:**
- A DEMOLISH EXISTING FISH LADDER.
  - B DEMOLISH LAMPREY SYSTEM.
  - C DEMOLISH HIGH-LEVEL FISH WATER RELEASE.
  - D INSTALL OGEE SPILLWAY AND OBERMEYER GATE.
  - E INSTALL OBERMEYER GATE.
  - F INSTALL CONTROL BUILDING FOR OBERMEYER WEIRS.
  - G INSTALL SEPARATION WALL.
  - H INSTALL NEW WEIR AND ORIFICE LADDER.
  - I DEMOLISH WATER LINE.
  - J INSTALL SLUICeway GATE.
  - K INSTALL LEVEL SENSORS AND AUTOMATED GATE POSITION CONTROLS.

# Cape Horn Dam Removal with Pump Station Alternative 2

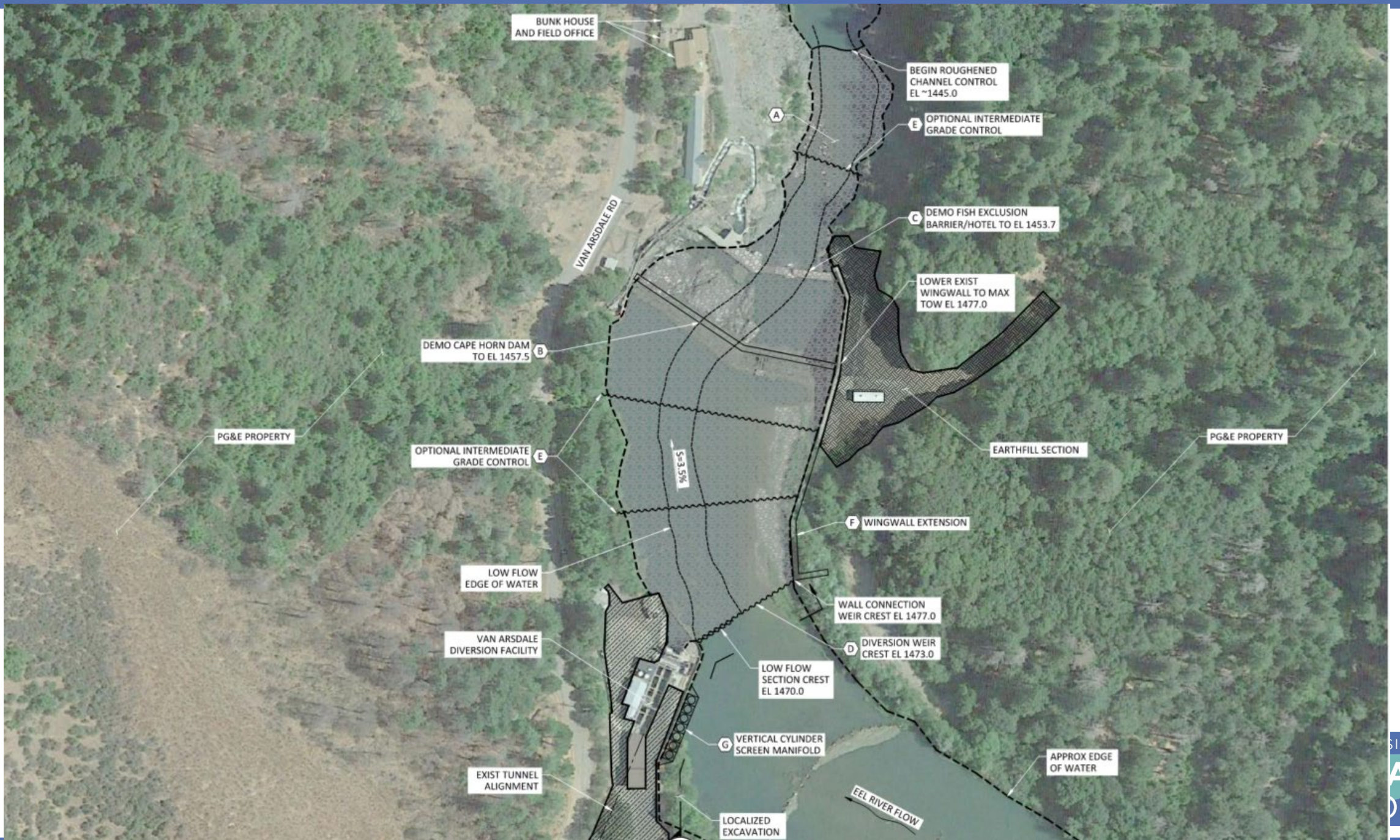
- Remove a section of the dam close to level of existing downstream hydraulic control: existing CHD crest El. 1,490 to El. 1,447 = 43.3 ft.; riffle downstream El. 1,445 ft.
- Lower the fish barrier as needed (to El. 1,446) to serve as additional hydraulic control
- Construct new pump station to pump Eel River water to the existing Van Arsdale Diversion via large diameter pipeline
- Potentially install Obermeyer check structure to create submergence; alternatively, install low flow section
- Install array of vertical cylindrical screens to divert water and to screen fish
- Remove Van Arsdale Diversion fish screens and reconfigure to receive pumped water



# Cape Horn Dam Removal with Roughened Channel Alternative 3

- Lower gravity portion of dam to achieve target roughened channel slope: CHD crest El. 1,490 to channel crest El. 1,470; channel from 1,470 to 1,445 (3.1% grade, 800 ft. long, depth 10-15 ft., large boulders)
- Build out roughened channel “skeleton” using combination of sheetpile and existing concrete structures
- Install roughened channel beginning downstream near riffle control and extending upstream to existing diversion
- Install low flow section in upstream diversion weir
- Reconfigure diversion to include array of vertical cylindrical screens along outside guide wall



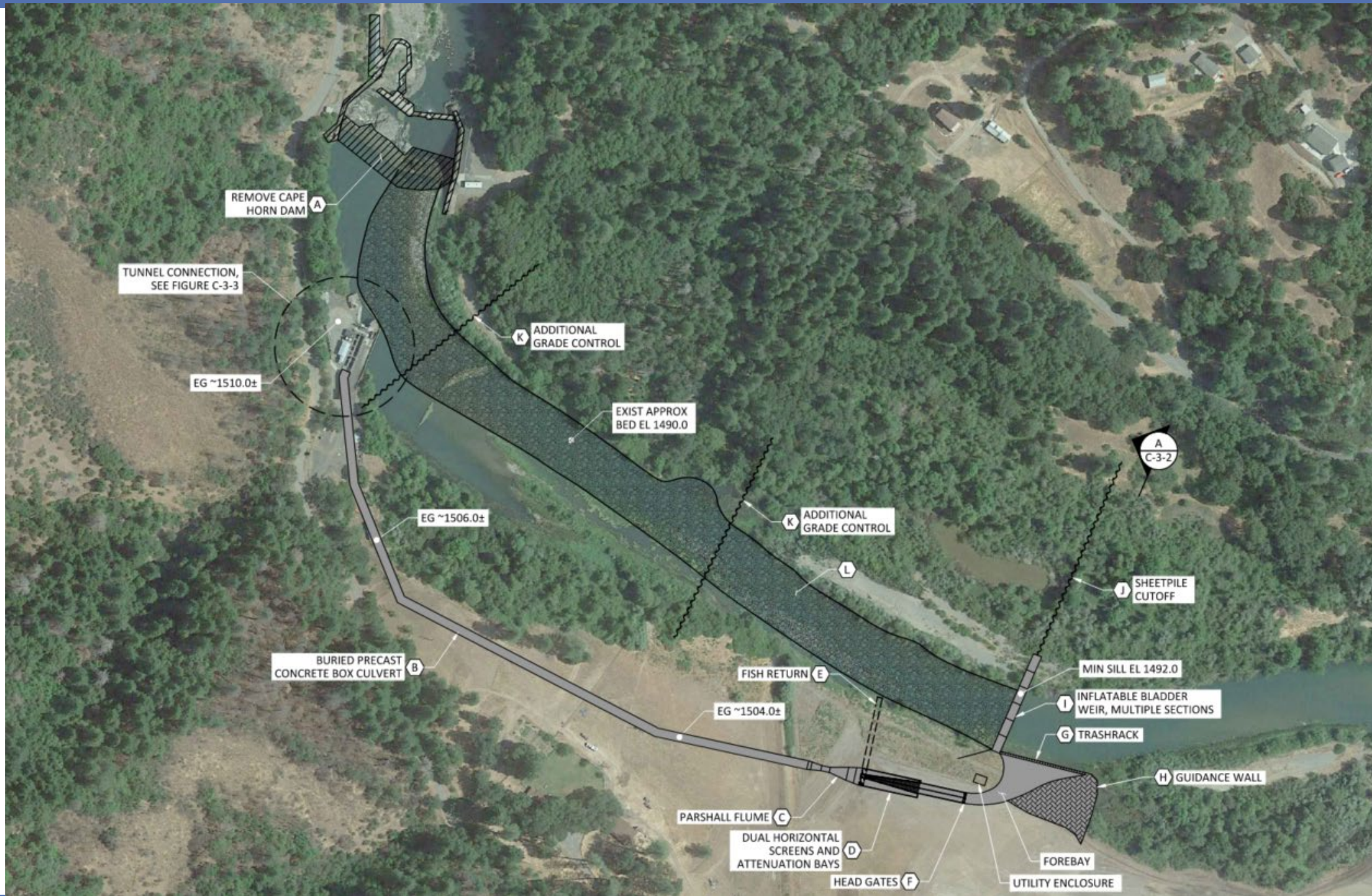


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# Upstream Diversion with Gravity Supply

## Alternative 4:

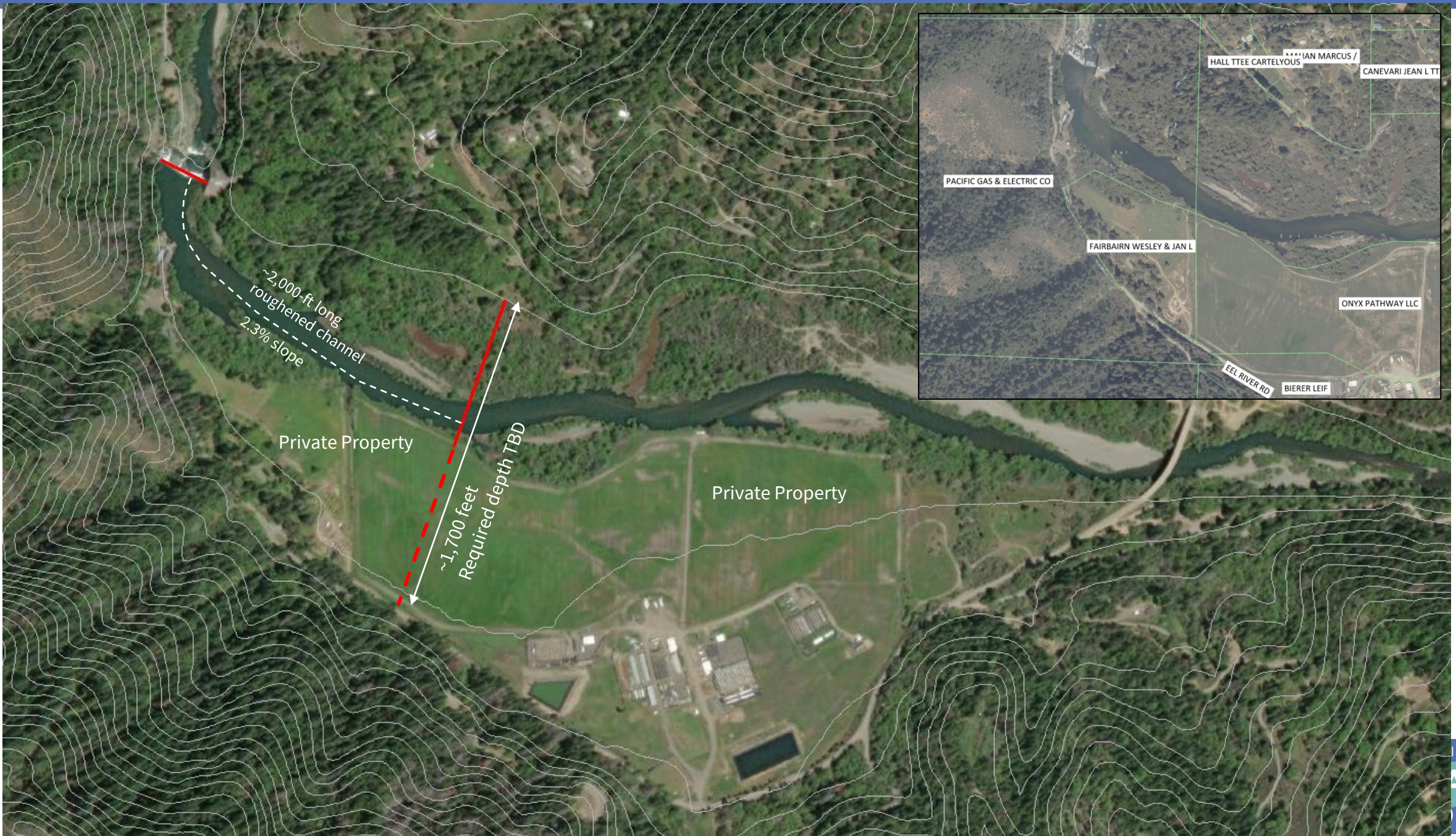
- Lower gravity portion of dam to appropriate elevation to achieve target roughened channel slope
- Build out roughened channel “skeleton” using combination of sheetpile and existing concrete structures
- Install roughened channel beginning downstream near riffle control and extending upstream to existing diversion
- Install low flow section in upstream diversion weir
- Reconfigure diversion to include array of vertical cylindrical screens along outside guide wall



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## Alternative 4 Summary of Issues

- Lateral control may be needed for the entire valley width of approximately 1,700 feet into order to prevent avulsion; alternatively, substantial bank armoring may be needed.
- Maintains reservoir upstream, with implications to passage efficiency (particularly juveniles)
- Does not allow river to “evolve” post-project
- Substantial length (2,000 ft) of over-steepened channel (2.3%) may require several intermediate vertical controls to prevent formation of barriers
- Material requirements for roughened channel would include ~3-ft diameter D50 over 9 acres; may require significant maintenance
- Sited on private property; would require easement or property transfer
- Unknown geotechnical conditions
- Most expensive



# Report has Evaluation Matrix no Preferred Alternative

Potter Valley Project Feasibility Study

Cape Horn Dam Fish Passage Improvements

Table 7-1. Evaluation Matrix.

Criteria	Evaluation			
	Alternative 1 New Fish Ladder	Alternative 2 Control Section with Pump Station	Alternative 3 Roughened Channel with Gravity Supply	Alternative 4 Upstream Diversion with Gravity Supply
<b>Biological Efficiency</b>				
Volitional Upstream Passage	Low	High	Medium	High
Volitional Downstream Passage	Low	High	Medium	Medium
Energy Expenditure	High	Low	Medium	Low
Stress Factor	High	Low	Low	Low
<b>Constructability</b>				
Site Access	Medium	High	High	Low
Rock Excavation	Medium	Low	High	Low
Cofferdam Challenges	Medium	Medium	High	Medium
Dewatering Challenges	Low	Medium	Medium	Medium
<b>Environmental Considerations</b>				
Sediment Management	High	Low	Medium	Low
Footprint Impact	Low	Low	Medium	High
Permitting Effort	Low	Medium	Medium	High
<b>Operation</b>				
Mechanical Equipment	High	Medium	Low	Medium
Screen O&M Effort	Low	Medium	High	Low
Pump O&M Effort	NA	High	NA	NA
Gate(s) O&M Effort	High	Low	Low	Medium
<b>Design Approach</b>				
Proven Technology	Medium	High	Medium	Low
Ability to Meet Fish Passage Goals	High	High	High	High
Design Complexity	Medium	Low	High	High
<b>Safety</b>				
Safety Concerns	High	Medium	Low	Medium
<b>Cost</b>				
Construction Cost	Low	Medium	High	High
O&M Cost	Low	High	Low	Low

# Preliminary Cost Estimates

*Potter Valley Project Feasibility Study*

*Cape Horn Dam Fish Passage Improvements*

<b>Line Item</b>	<b>Alternative 1</b>	<b>Alternative 2</b>	<b>Alternative 3</b>	<b>Alternative 4</b>
Contingency – 10%	\$ 1,272,899	\$ 1,987,311	\$ 3,513,731	\$ 4,803,844
<b>Median Const. Cost</b>	<b>\$ 17,620,742</b>	<b>\$ 27,510,348</b>	<b>\$ 48,640,573</b>	<b>\$ 66,499,606</b>
-30%	\$ 12,334,520	\$ 19,257,244	\$ 34,048,401	\$ 46,549,724
+50%	\$ 26,431,114	\$ 41,265,522	\$ 72,960,859	\$ 99,749,409

# Next Steps

- CA Dept. of Water Resources (DWR) Grant - underway
  - Water Form
  - Potter Valley Water Resources Investigation
  - Van Arsdale / Cape Horn Diversion Facility Assessment
    - 3 Alternatives to 20-30% design
    - Technical Advisory Group
- Application to new US Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Program
  - Grant awards announced late 2023/early 2024
  - Technical Advisory Group preferred alternative
  - 1 Alternative to 60% design





Thank You

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