



Authorize executing an agreement to complete environmental and technical studies for agricultural water recovery project

Water Planning and Stewardship Committee
August 17, 2009
Item 7-5

Current Action

- Appropriate \$350,000
- Authorize execution of an agreement with Semitropic Water Storage District to complete environmental and technical studies

Benefits of Project

- Provides new, firm supply south of Delta
 - 11,000 AF/year
 - Two, ten-year terms with option to extend
- Promotes partnership with agriculture
- Addresses long-standing regulatory and sustainability concerns
- Uses commercially available technology

San Joaquin Valley Shallow Groundwater

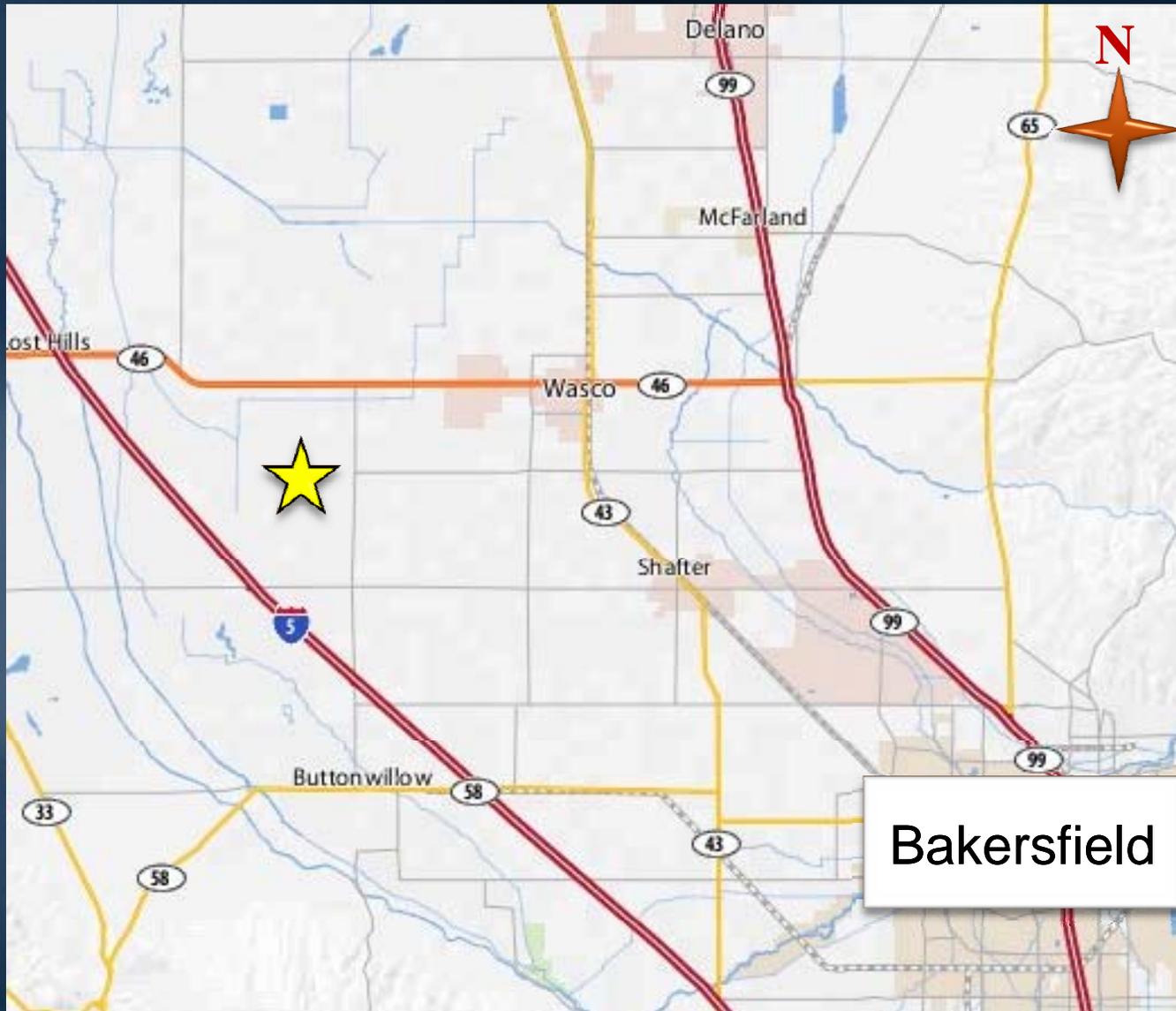
- Irrigation in San Joaquin Valley results in shallow groundwater high in dissolved solids
- Shallow groundwater unusable to agricultural districts and problematic to discharge



Progress to Date

- Identified Semitropic as first partner
 - Interest in partnering with MWD
 - Ability to expeditiously advance project
 - Ability to exchange recovered water
- Discussed key terms of agreement
- Scoped environmental issues
- Developed conceptual size and cost
 - 11,000 AF/year
 - \$400 - 600/AF

Project Location



Technical Approach

From wells



Pre-treatment



Reverse Osmosis



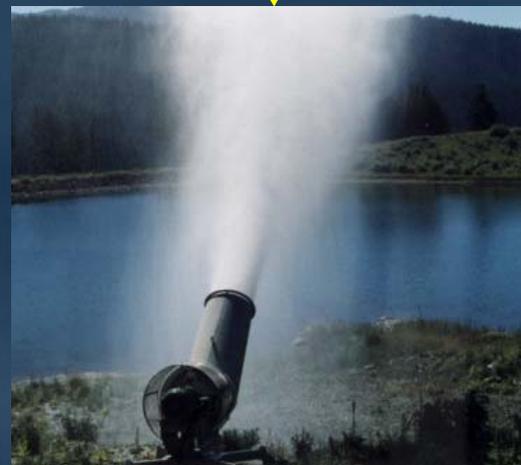
On-farm use

(to MWD via exchange)



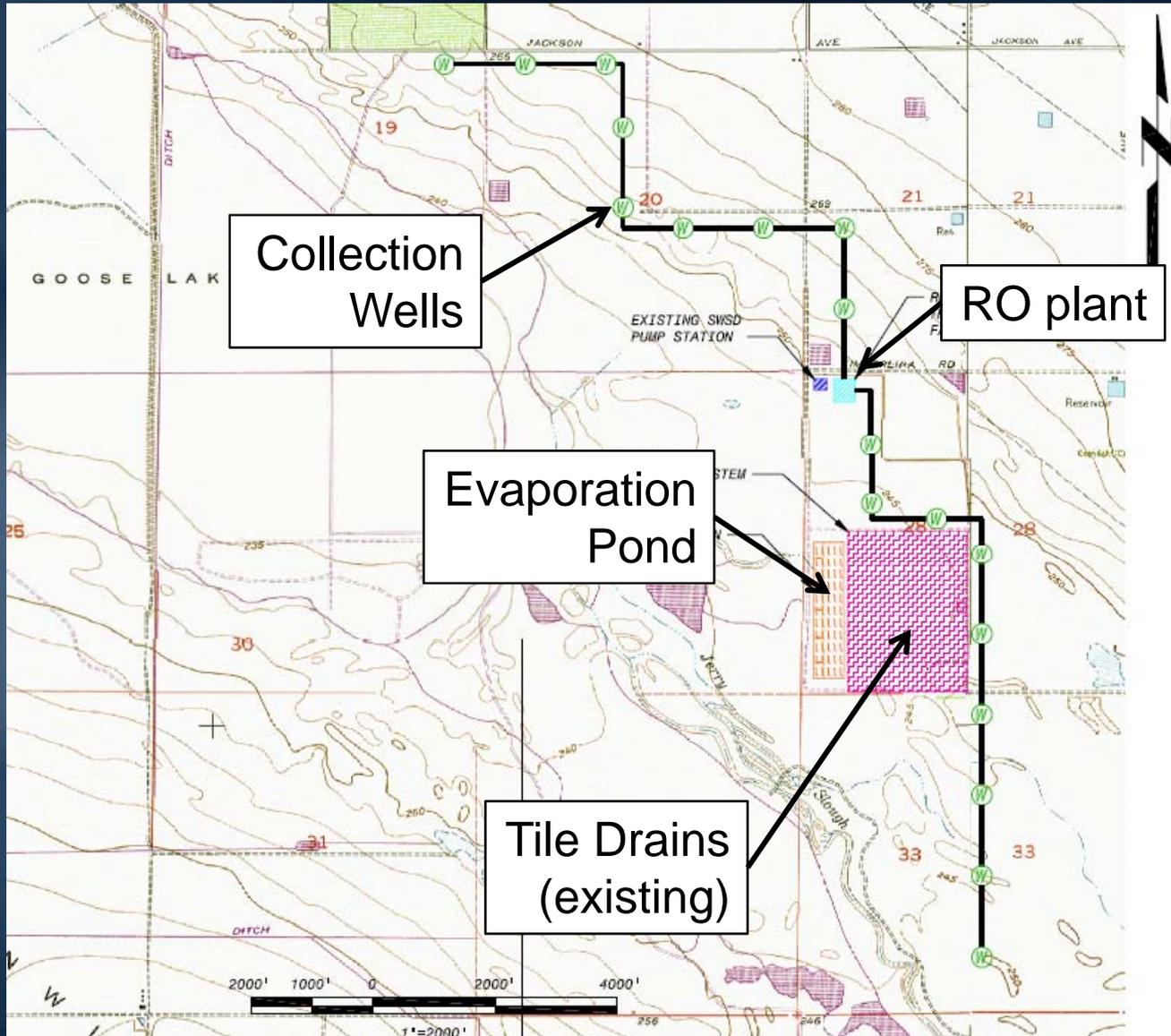
Brine

Enhanced Evaporation Pond



Salt to landfill

Project Features



Description of Proposed Work

- Semitropic lead agency for CEQA
 - Completes technical studies/environmental analysis
 - Obtains any permits
- Agreement between MWD and Semitropic
 - Finalize project description and scope of work
 - Semitropic responsible for consultants
 - MWD reviews and approves all tasks

Next Steps

- Finalize first agreement with Semitropic for studies/permitting
- Pursue external funding for project
- Develop terms for full project
 - Ownership of assets
 - Operational terms
- Return to board for approval of project deployment (early 2010)

Requested Funds

Labor	\$50,000
Materials & supplies	--
Incidental expenses	--
Professional/technical services	--
Equipment use	--
Contracts	\$250,000
<u>Remaining budget</u>	<u>\$50,000</u>
TOTAL	\$350,000

Board Options

- Option # 1:
 - Adopt the CEQA determination
 - Authorize GM to enter into an agreement with Semitropic to complete technical studies and environmental documentation
 - Authorize an appropriation of \$350,000
- Option # 2:
 - Do not proceed with environmental documentation for the project at this time

Staff Recommendation

- Option #1