



Certify Supplemental EIR for Shutdown and Inspection of the Foothill Feeder

Engineering & Operations Committee

Item 7-1

March 12, 2018

Current Action

- Certify Final Supplemental EIR for planned shutdown & inspection of the Foothill Feeder
- Authorize GM to enter into agreement with the Mountains Recreation & Conservation Authority (MRCA) for mitigation required by California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) & state and federal Endangered Species Acts

Distribution System



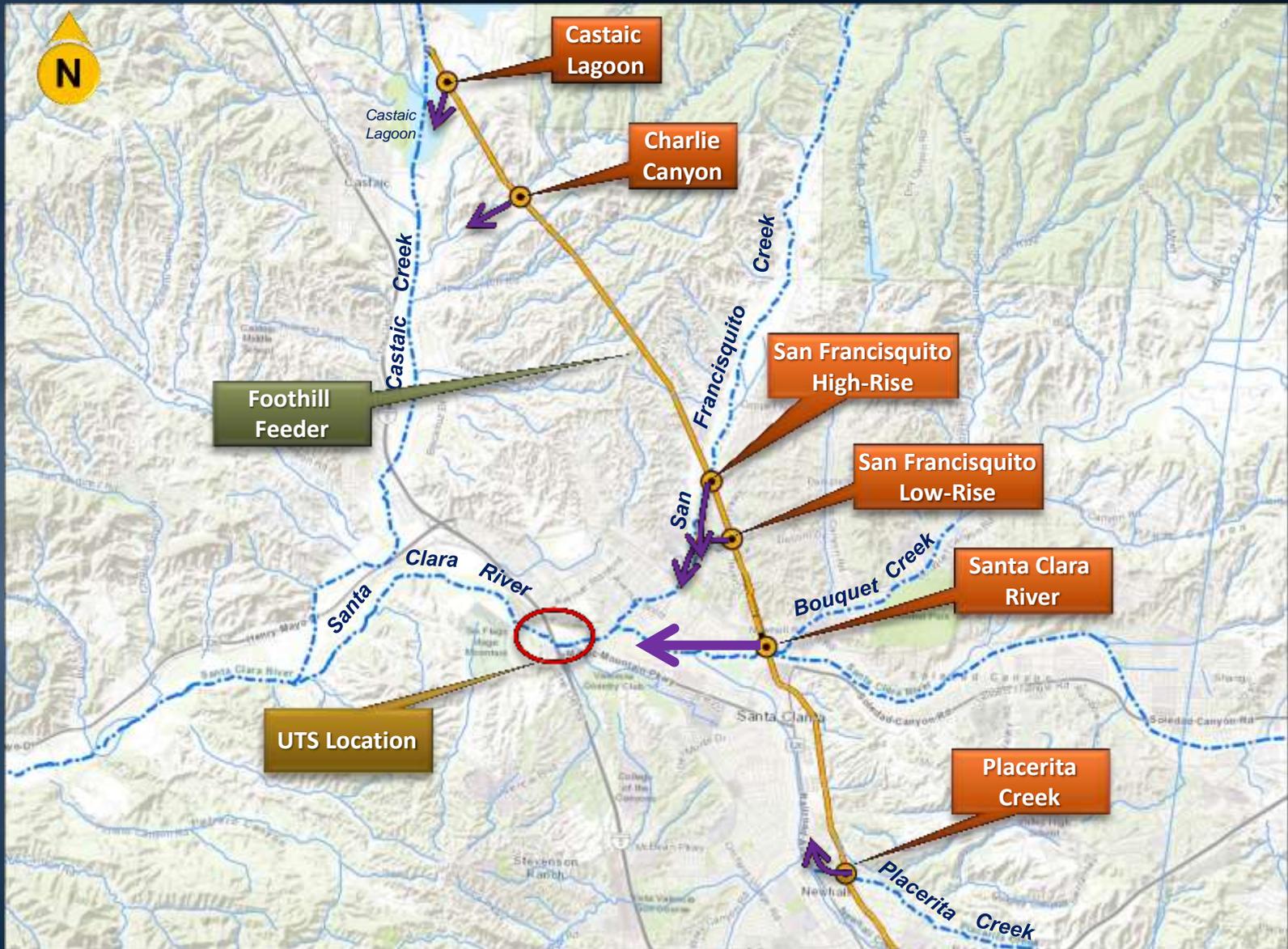
Background

- 2015 Calif. Supreme Court Ruling
 - *CBD v. CDFW* (Newhall Ranch Case)
 - Rescuing Unarmored Threespine Stickleback (UTS) considered prohibited take
- 2016 Assembly Bill 2488
 - Allows Calif. Dept. of Fish & Wildlife to issue permit to Metropolitan for incidental take of UTS under certain conditions
 - In accordance with 2005 EIR & supplemental document



Unarmored Threespine
Stickleback (UTS)

Foothill Feeder Blow-off Locations



Proposed Project

- 2018 Supplemental EIR
 - Preparation & dewatering as described in 2005 EIR
 - Take of UTS (handling, rescue/relocation, mitigation)
 - Dewatering for unplanned repairs
 - Extension of dewatering window (Nov-Mar)
 - Minor additional work

Draft Supplemental EIR Review

- 45-day review period through Jan 2018
 - Govt & regulatory agencies & environmental groups
 - Local libraries
 - Metropolitan website
- Public comments received
 - Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency
 - Calif. Dept. of Fish & Wildlife

Other CEQA Requirements

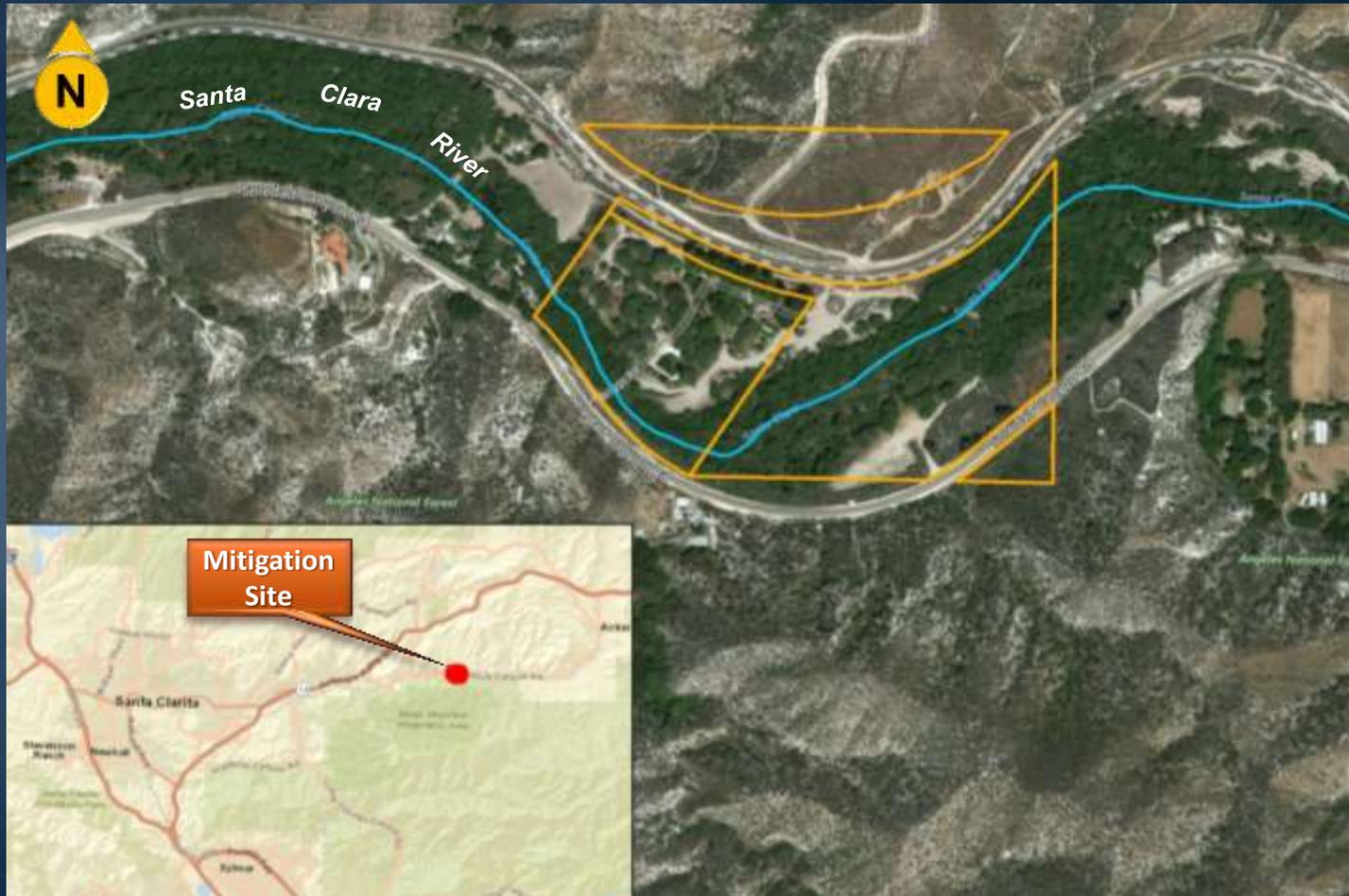
- Certification of Supplemental EIR includes adoption of:
 - Mitigation Monitoring & Reporting Program
 - Noise
 - Air quality
 - Biology
 - Hydrology
 - Findings of Fact
 - Statement of Overriding Considerations
 - Noise
 - Air quality

Incidental Take Permits

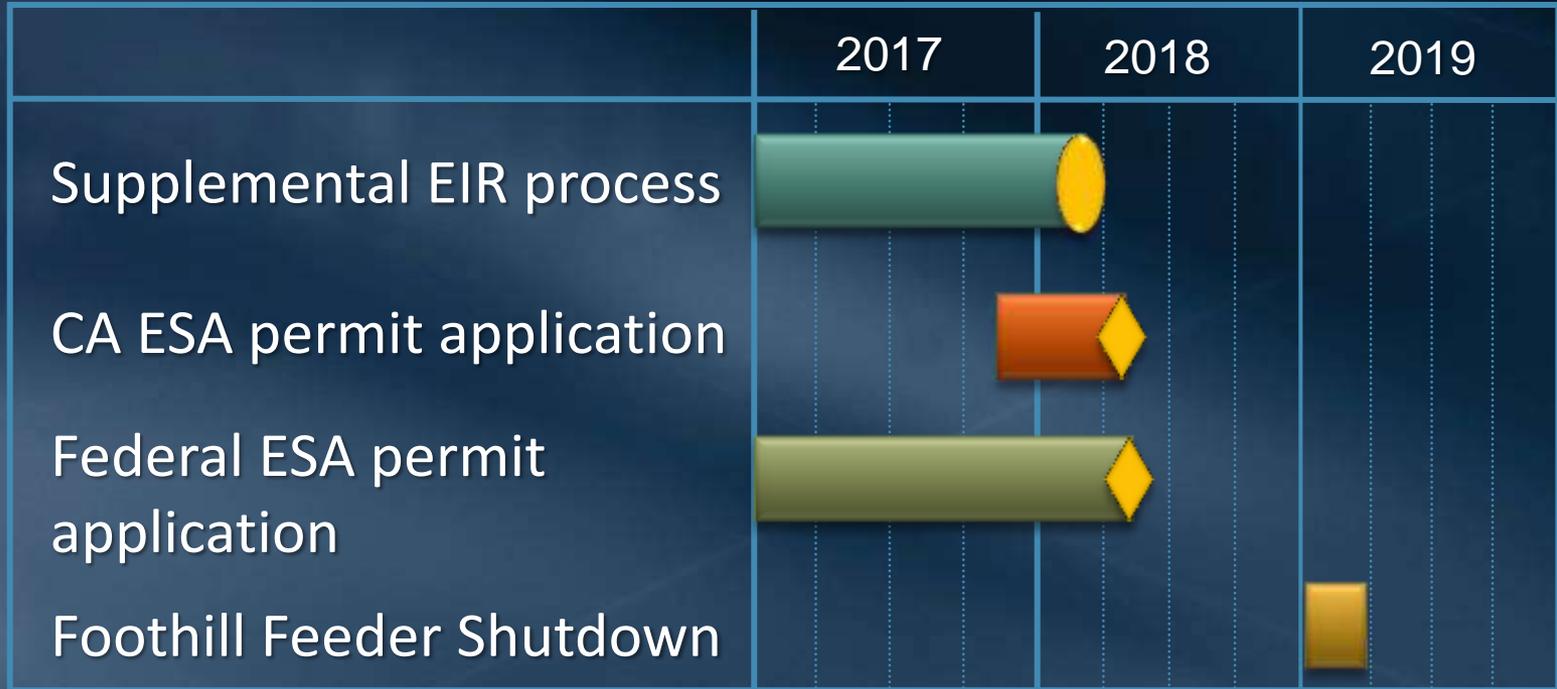
- **Federal Endangered Species Act**
 - Applied to US Fish & Wildlife Service for Section 10 Incidental Take Permit in July 2014
 - Permit pending issuance of Incidental Take Permit by Calif. Dept. of Fish & Wildlife
- **California Endangered Species Act**
 - Applied to Calif. Dept. of Fish & Wildlife for Incidental Take Permit in Dec 2017
 - Permit issued after certification of Supplemental EIR
 - Requires mitigation for impacts to UTS

Mitigation

- Mountains Recreation & Conservation Authority
 - Preserves & manages open space & wildlife habitat
 - \$1.12 million for conservation & long-term management



Schedule



Board Action



Completion

Board Options

- Option #1

Adopt the CEQA determination as follows: Certify Final Supplemental EIR for planned shutdown & inspection of the Foothill Feeder; adopt the FOF, SOC, & MMRP; approve the project for the purposes of CEQA; & authorize agreement with Mountains Recreation & Conservation Authority for implementation of mitigation required by regulatory agency permits

- Option #2

Do not certify the Final Supplemental EIR & do not enter into an agreement with the Mountains and Recreation Authority at this time

Staff Recommendation

- Option #1

