

North Bay Aqueduct Alternate Intake Project

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The North Bay Aqueduct (NBA) is part of the State Water Project and provides 40% of the municipal water supply to over 400,000 people in cities in Solano and Napa Counties. The NBA consists of a pump station in the Cache Slough area in the Delta and a 28 mile underground pipeline that delivers water to city water treatment plants, intermediate pump stations and ancillary facilities.

The NBA State Water Project provides about 50% of the municipal and industrial water use in Solano County and about 40% of the municipal and industrial water use in Napa County. This water supply to Napa and Solano Counties is a critical resource and is expected to provide future water for planned growth in both counties. The following cities either currently use (or can use in the future) NBA water: Benicia, Dixon, Fairfield, Suisun City, Vacaville, Vallejo, Rio Vista, American Canyon, Napa and Calistoga.



Solano County Water Agency

810 Vaca Valley Parkway, Ste 203

Vacaville, CA 95688



The North Bay Aqueduct Alternate Intake Project will serve:
Solano County: Benicia, Dixon, Fairfield, Rio Vista, Suisun City, Vacaville, and Vallejo.
Napa County: American Canyon, Calid toga, and Napa.

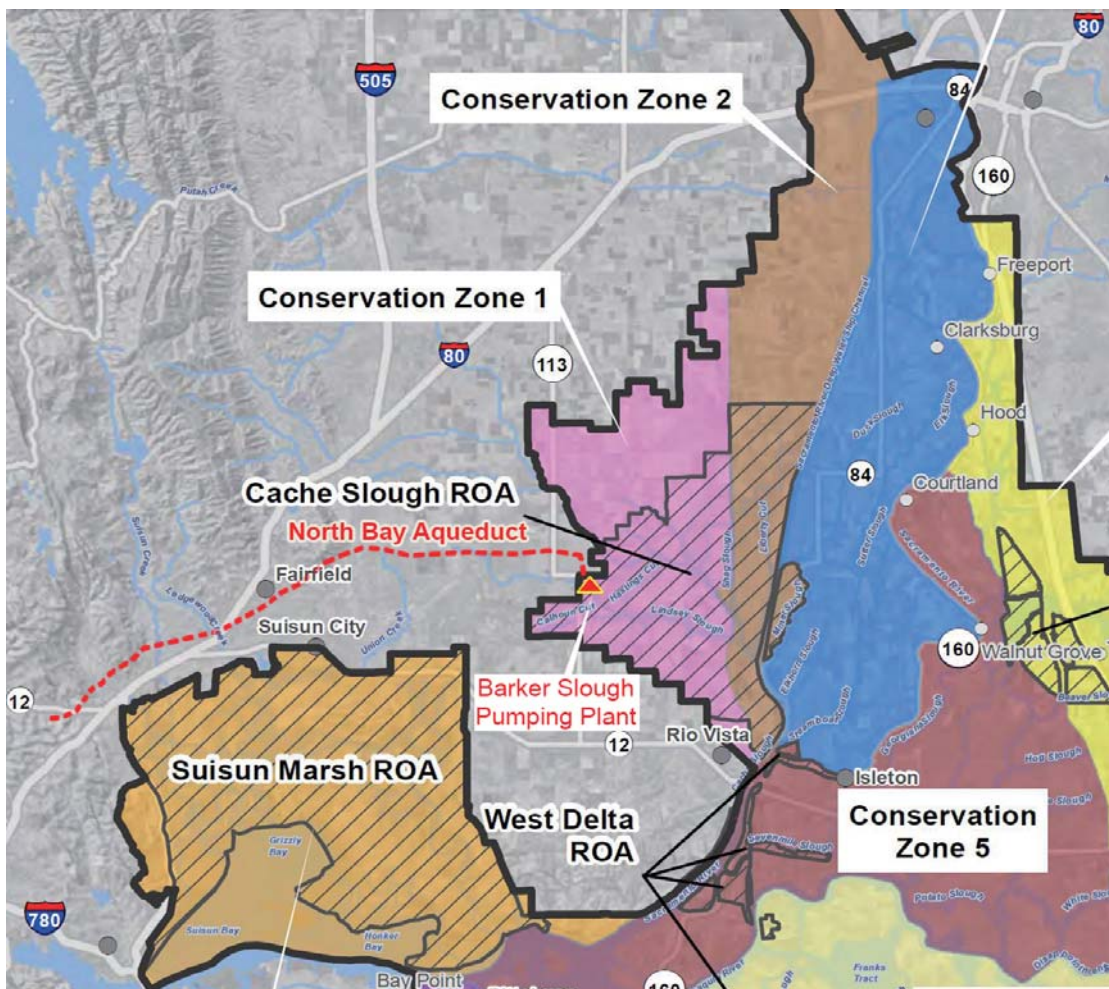
DELTA ISSUES

The North Bay Aqueduct cannot be discussed without consideration of other broad issues that impact the Delta. Because of the Delta's statewide importance for water supply, the Delta is the center of many plans and proposals for change, some of which could have local adverse impacts. The Cache Slough and Yolo Bypass area, in particular, is proposed for changes that could result in conversion of agricultural land to habitat and flood management improvements. Solano public agencies have developed policies and statements on many of these potential adverse local impacts. For example, conversion of agricultural land to tidal wetlands could have adverse impacts to the local agricultural economy, agricultural water diversions, agricultural and drinking water quality and flood control. With proper planning and local coordination these changes could provide statewide benefits from agriculture friendly habitats, adaptability to sea level rise and flood plain management. While this paper only addresses the impacts to the NBA, these other issues are all important and any adverse impacts must be mitigated.

WATER QUALITY AND SUPPLY PROBLEMS

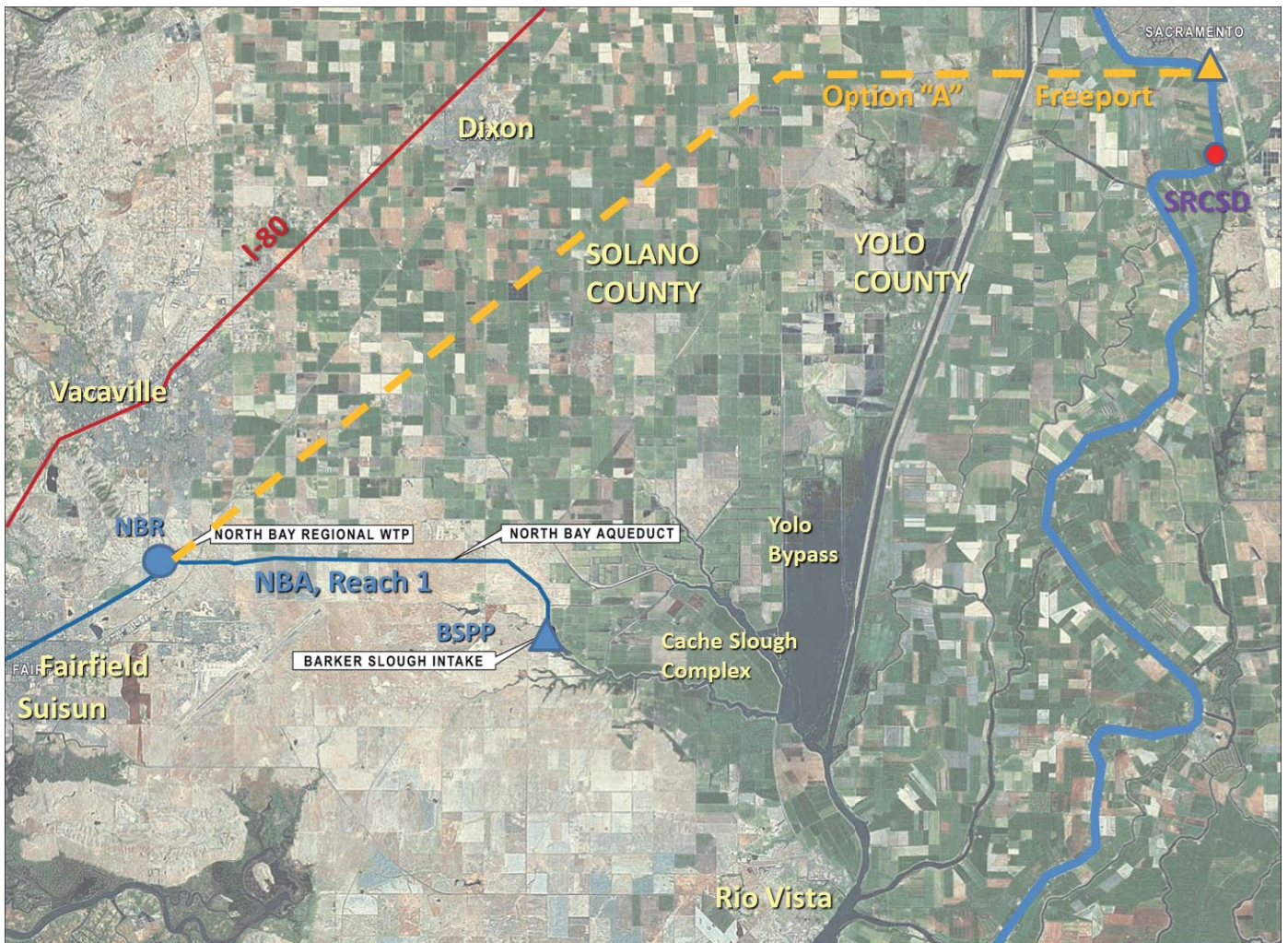
The North Bay Aqueduct pumps water from the Sacramento River via Cache Slough in the Delta. The NBA has been identified as having the poorest drinking water quality in the State Water Project. Among the problems is its high organic carbon and high turbidity. Organic carbon reacts with disinfection chemicals to form byproducts that are associated with cancer. High turbidity also causes water treatment challenges, including higher usage of chemicals to reduce turbidity. New tidal wetland habitats can create other pollutants, such as methyl mercury that will further degrade drinking water quality at the NBA. Ever changing drinking water quality regulations make it increasingly difficult to treat NBA water.

The Cache Slough area and Lower Yolo Bypass have been identified as areas for aquatic habitat improvements. For instance, there are existing pumping restrictions on the NBA that are intended to protect Delta smelt and longfin smelt. New potential tidal wetland projects are planned for construction in the next ten years to meet the permitting requirements of existing operations of the State Water Project and the Central Valley Project. Additionally, other State plans call for potentially thousands of additional acres of tidal wetland habitat in this area, contributing to worsening drinking water quality. When restoration occurs in this area, expected increased fish populations, including those identified as endangered, will be susceptible to entrainment at the NBA pumps.



ALTERNATE INTAKE PROJECT

The North Bay Aqueduct Alternate Intake Project calls for the construction of a new pumping station on the Sacramento River south of West Sacramento and pipeline to connect to the existing North Bay Aqueduct. Operating in conjunction with the existing NBA pumping plant in the Cache Slough area, the Alternate Intake will provide a second source of drinking water supply for the NBA when endangered fish are present in Cache Slough and when Cache Slough water quality is poor. A feasibility study, funded by a State grant, has been completed. The California Department of Water Resources is currently preparing an EIR and obtaining permitting for the project. The EIR and permitting is funded by a Prop 84 grant and SCWA and Napa County contributions.



NBA ALTERNATE INTAKE COSTS - FUNDING

The NBA Alternate Intake project capital costs are estimated at about \$550 million. Since the NBA is part of the State Water Project, the project is expected to be financed by the State Water Project with revenue bonds. However, all costs associated with the project would be assessed to SCWA and Napa County. Full payment by SCWA and Napa County would be a significant financial burden to our rate payers.

The proposed tidal wetland habitat projects planned by the State Water Project, the Central Valley Project and water contractors will adversely impact drinking water quality at the NBA. The NBA pumping plant will be more susceptible to pumping restrictions to protect endangered fish species in Cache Slough. The NBA Alternate Intake Project benefits the public by providing a safer drinking water quality source to the more than 400,000 people it serves and will also provide statewide benefits by improving the habitat for endangered fish species. Coordination with other changes in this area of the Delta will allow for meeting multi-purpose objectives of habitat, flood management and water supply.

STATE FUNDING THROUGH A WATER BOND

Improving and protecting water quality is a public health issue that justifies state funding of some of the costs of the NBA Alternate Intake Project. One of the adjunct benefits is that endangered species will be protected. NBA water users propose that not less than 50 % of the capital costs of the project be provided by the State. Proponents of the habitat projects that adversely impact the NBA should be expected to provide the funding to offset some of the Alternate Intake Project costs as mitigation for proposed habitat projects.

One vehicle to provide funding is through a State Water Bond. Any bond measure should provide assurances for funding public benefit local water supply infrastructure projects.

For further information contact:

David Okita, General Manager
Solano County Water Agency
810 Vaca Valley Parkway Suite 203
Vacaville, CA 95688
(707) 455-1103
dokita@scwa2.com



SCWA Web page: www.scwa2.com