

Hemphill Diversion Structure Project Environmental Impact Report

ONLINE PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING

SEPTEMBER 21, 2020



Introductions:

Chris Stabenfeldt:
ECORP Consulting
(Presenter)

Tonia M. Tabucchi
Herrera P.E.:
Nevada Irrigation
District (NID Project
Manager)

Purpose of Tonight's Meeting

1. Provide background information on purpose and need for the Hemphill Diversion Structure Project.
2. Describe the Proposed Project alternatives.
3. Explain the environmental review process.
4. Solicit input from the public on the scope and content of the environmental review.

Environmental Review Process



- NOP and Initial Study Circulated for Public Review (September 3, 2020)
- Public Scoping Meeting (September 21, 2020)
- Close of NOP Comment Period (October 5, 2020)
- Circulate Draft EIR for Public Review and Comment (Target April 2021)
- Public Meeting to present Draft EIR for public comment
- Prepare Written Responses to Comments on the Draft EIR
- Certify Final EIR and Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan

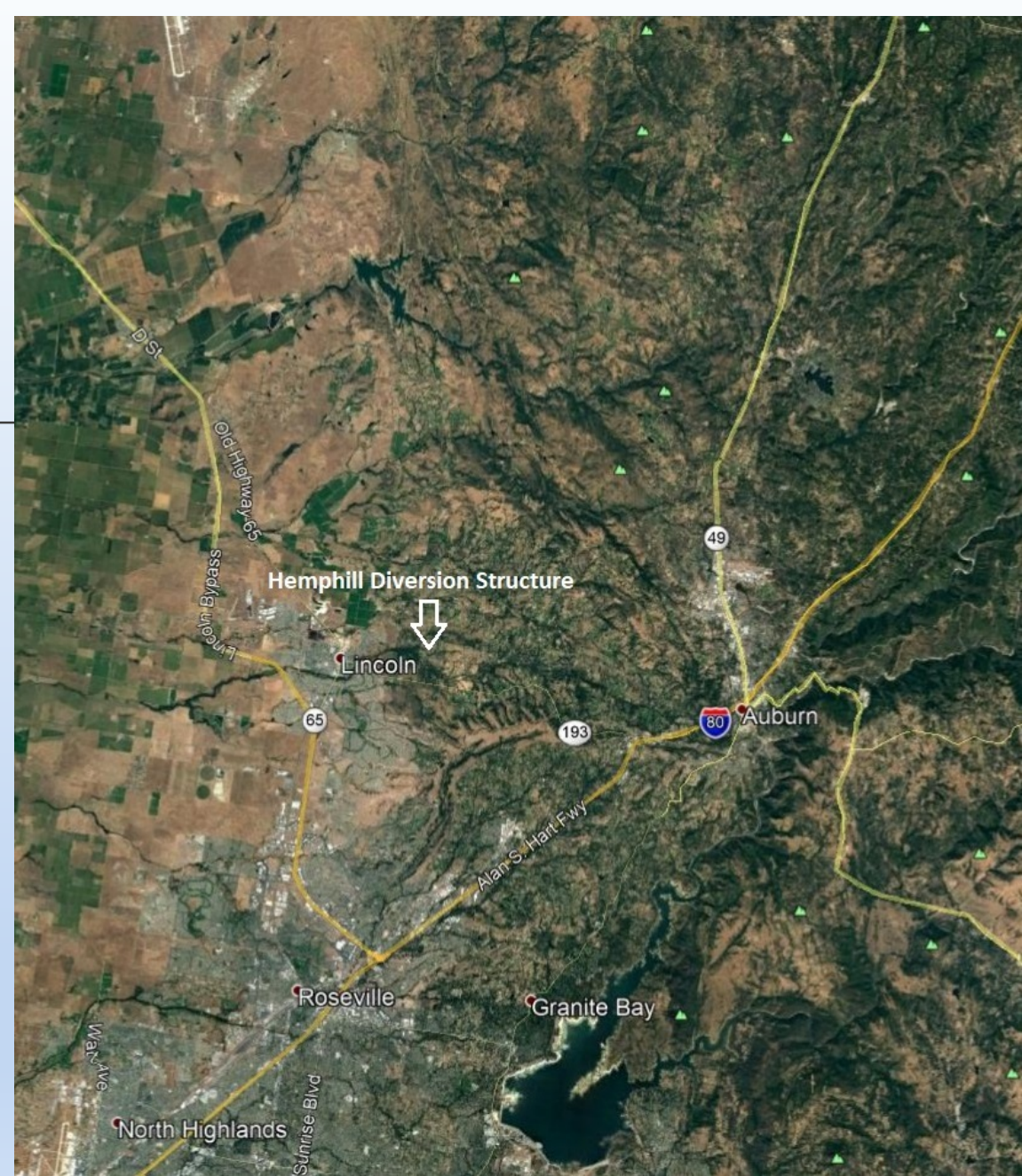
Opportunities for Public Comment

- ❑ Comments or questions pertaining to the Proposed Project or environmental process may be submitted during this presentation. Please use the “Raise your hand” function or press *9 to notify us and you will be called upon to state your comment.
- ❑ Written comments may also be submitted by mail or email to Nevada Irrigation District at the address provided at the end of this presentation.

Project Location

The Hemphill Diversion is located on Auburn Ravine northeast of the City of Lincoln, California.

The structure diverts water from Auburn Ravine into the Hemphill Canal located south of the ravine for delivery to NID raw water customers.



Project Background

The Hemphill Diversion Structure has been operated by NID since its purchase in 1933. The diversion structure is concrete and approximately eight feet high, with an approximately 40-foot-long concrete apron extending downstream. During irrigation season (mid-April through mid-October), three-foot flashboards are installed on top of the structure to divert flow into the Hemphill Canal, which is located just upstream of the diversion structure along the south bank of Auburn Ravine.

Auburn Ravine upstream of the Hemphill diversion structure provides salmon and steelhead habitat, and the structure has been identified as a barrier to fish passage. The District proposes to eliminate this barrier by either removing the structure or constructing a fish passage facility around the structure. NID is considering four alternatives to achieve this goal.

Proposed Project Alternatives

The four alternatives being considered are:

- 1) Riverbank Infiltration Gallery Alternative,
- 2) Fish Passage Alternative,
- 3) Pipeline Alternative, and
- 4) Abandonment of Hemphill Canal Alternative.

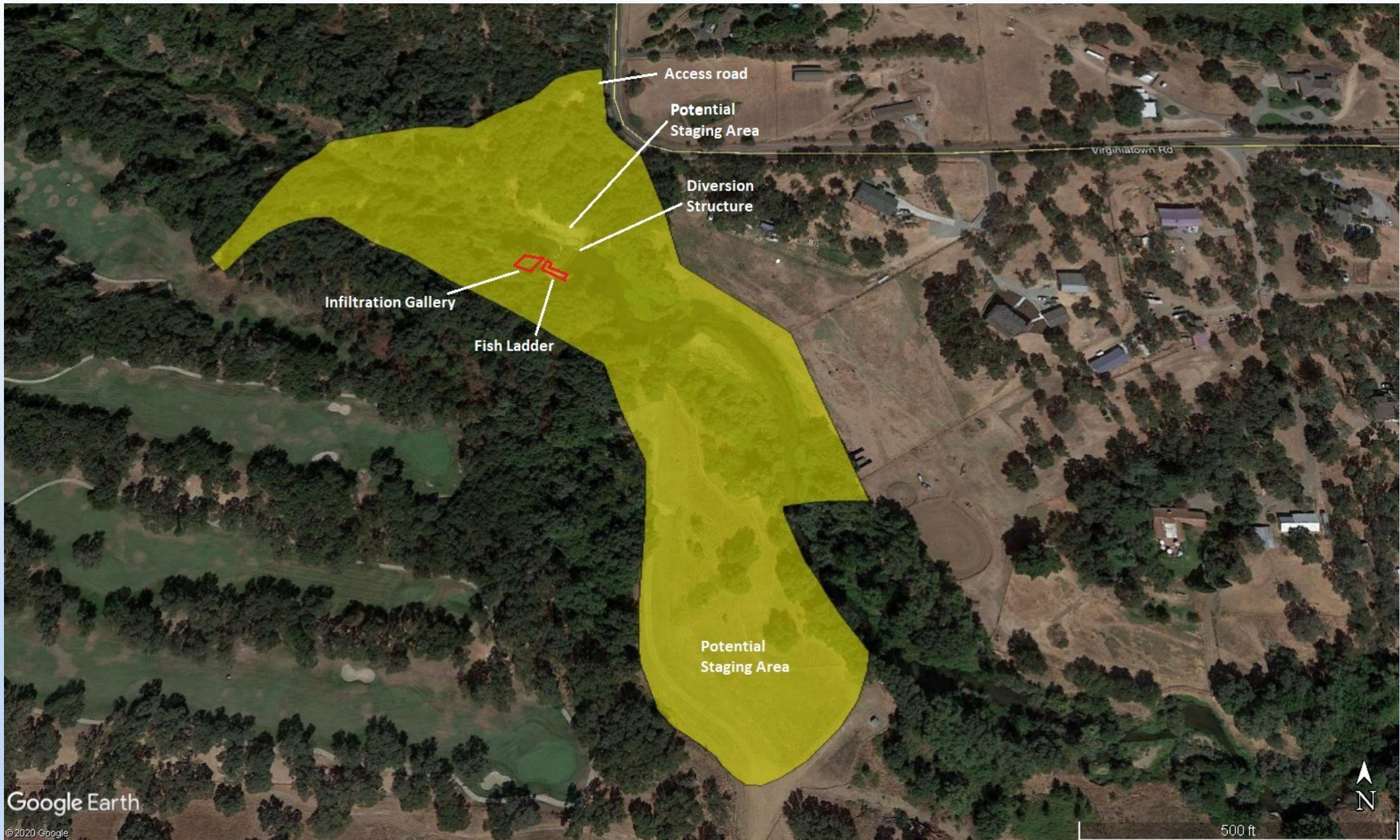
Alternatives 1, 3, and 4 include removal of the diversion. Alternative 2 includes modification of the diversion. The alternatives vary as far as construction attributes and areas of potential disturbance. All of these alternatives are designed to allow for fish passage beyond the Hemphill Diversion Structure on Auburn Ravine.

Alternative 1- Riverbank Infiltration Gallery Alternative

The Riverbank Infiltration Gallery Alternative would remove the Hemphill Diversion Structure and construct an infiltration gallery within the north or south bank of Auburn Ravine to facilitate continued water deliveries to Hemphill Canal. The gallery would be located approximately 75 feet downstream of the existing diversion structure.

Alternative 2- Fish Passage Alternative

The Fish Passage Alternative would install a fish ladder within Auburn Ravine. A feasibility analysis of this approach was completed by Placer County in 2009, with consideration of four alternatives. Of the four alternatives, two provided year-round passage for fish – either a bypass or two-stage fish ladder. As Auburn Ravine is identified for both fall run salmon and steelhead, selection of one of the two year-around passages would improve anadromous fish migration conditions. The two-stage fish ladder is more desirable as it does not significantly increase the footprint of NID's operation. Due to the existing condition of the diversion structure, it is possible that the existing Hemphill Diversion Structure may need replacement or modification to construct a viable fish ladder facility.



Google Earth

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Access road

Potential Staging Area

Virginatown Rd

Diversion Structure

Infiltration Gallery

Fish Ladder

Potential Staging Area



500 ft

Alternative 3- Pipeline Alternative

The Pipeline Alternative would remove the existing diversion structure and construct an underground pipeline extending from existing NID facilities on Gold Hill Road to Hemphill Canal. The alternative would install a 24-inch raw water pipeline in the Fruitvale Road, Fowler Road and Virginiatown Road ROWs. This alternative would also construct an above-ground stream crossing downstream and west of the existing diversion. Under this alternative, water would be diverted at NID's Placer Yard instead of the Hemphill Diversion resulting in decreased flows in Auburn Ravine from the Gold Hill to Hemphill Diversions during the irrigation season.



Potential Staging Areas

Virginiatown

Potential Staging Areas

Google Earth

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4000 ft



Alternative 4- Abandonment of Hemphill Canal Alternative

The Abandonment Alternative would remove the Hemphill Diversion Structure and decommission Hemphill Canal. This alternative would abandon the Hemphill Canal. NID would fill in the canal with soil through the leveling of existing berms or the importing of soil to level out the canal area if fill is requested by the adjacent property owners. Fill would extend from Auburn Ravine to SR 193. South of SR 193, the canal is undergrounded, so no leveling of the canal is required beyond that point. During the preparation of the DEIR alternatives for raw water delivery will be evaluated. Additionally, the impacts of the reduced flows into Auburn Ravine during irrigation season will be evaluated.



Google Earth

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Topaz Ln

193

Lincoln-Newcastle Hwy

1000 ft



Key Issues for Evaluation in the EIR

- ❑ Construction-related Impacts (Air Quality, Cultural Resources, Biological Resources, Paleontological Resources, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Noise, and Tribal Resources)
- ❑ Biological Resources
- ❑ Hydrology and Water Quality
- ❑ Water Supply

Comments on the NOP and Initial Study will be accepted until October 5, 2020

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In this meeting:

Please “Raise your hand” or press *9 to notify us and you will be called upon to state your comment.