

Smith Canal Gate Project



Welcome!

**Smith Canal Gate Project
Environmental Impact Report
Scoping Meeting**

July 16, 2014

About the Smith Canal Gate Project

The San Joaquin Area Flood Control Agency (SJAFCA) is proposing the Smith Canal Gate Project (project) to design and construct a gate-type closure structure at the mouth of Smith Canal adjacent to the San Joaquin River/Stockton Deep Water Ship Channel (DWSC) in and adjacent to the city of Stockton.

The proposed project is needed because the existing levees along Smith Canal are heavily encroached upon and cannot be certified as meeting Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) standards or the state's Urban Levee Design Criteria. Consequently, approximately 8,000 properties and approximately 24,000 people face an increased flood risk.

The proposed project would conform to Federal and state flood risk reduction criteria by isolating Smith Canal from the San Joaquin River during high water events, causing existing Smith Canal levees to function as a secondary means of reducing flood risk. As described at Station 2, SJAFCA has developed three alternatives for analysis in the EIR. However, public and agency input is needed during the scoping period (June 24, 2014 to July 25, 2014) to influence and inform both the design and environmental analysis of the project.

While this area does not have a history of extreme flood events, SJAFCA is being proactive in its approach to increase the level of flood risk reduction for the region. Property owners approved an Assessment District in 2013 to fund a portion of a flood risk reduction project for Smith Canal. Implementing this project will:

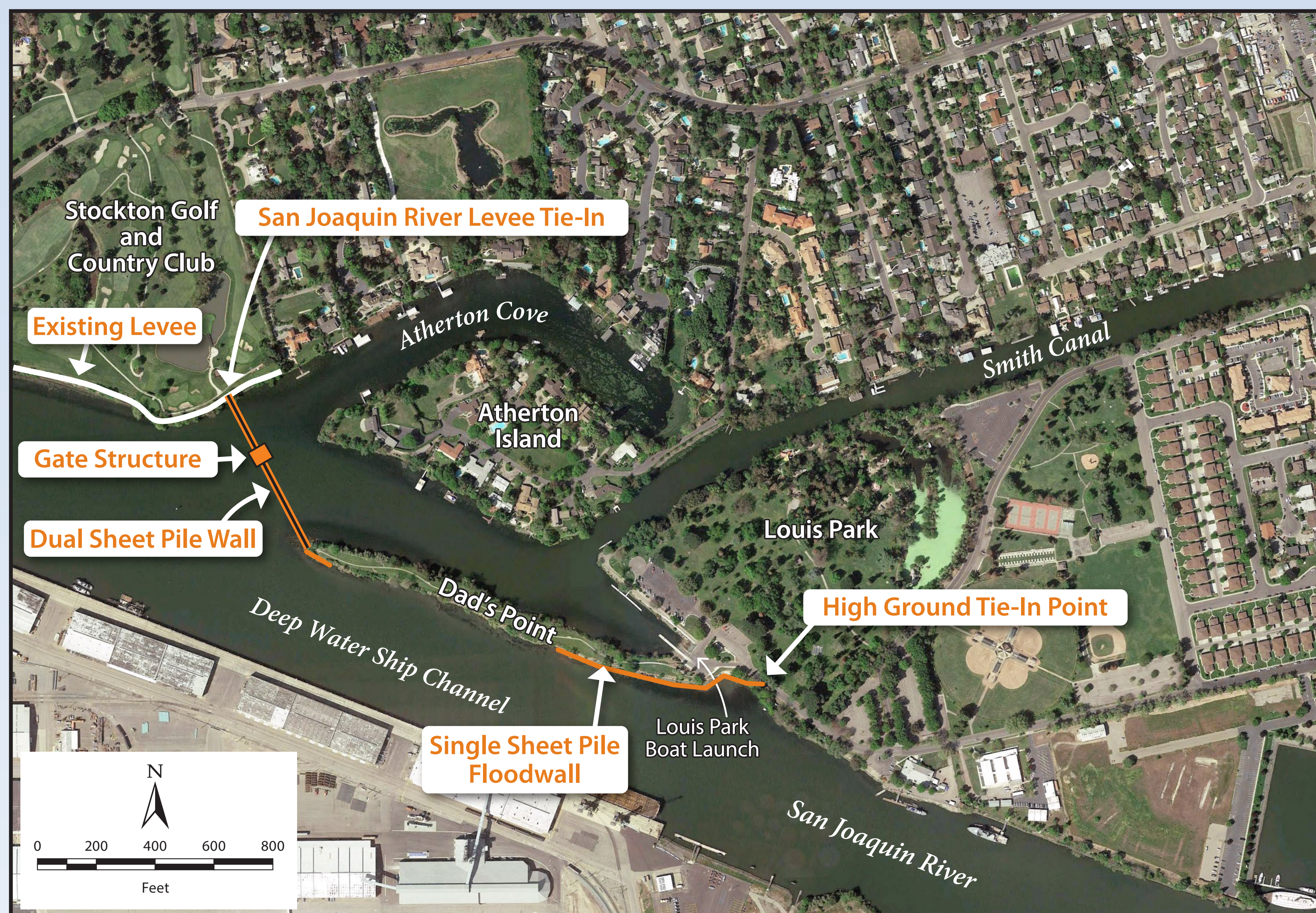
- ☐ Achieve removal of the affected region from the FEMA 100-year floodplain (a "100-year flood event" is one that has a 1% chance of occurring in any given year)
- ☐ Contribute toward 200-year protection, in combination with other projects
- ☐ Secure FEMA accreditation and eliminate mandatory flood insurance

Smith Canal Gate Project Location Map



Smith Canal Gate Project

Alternative #1: Single Gated Wall to Dad's Point

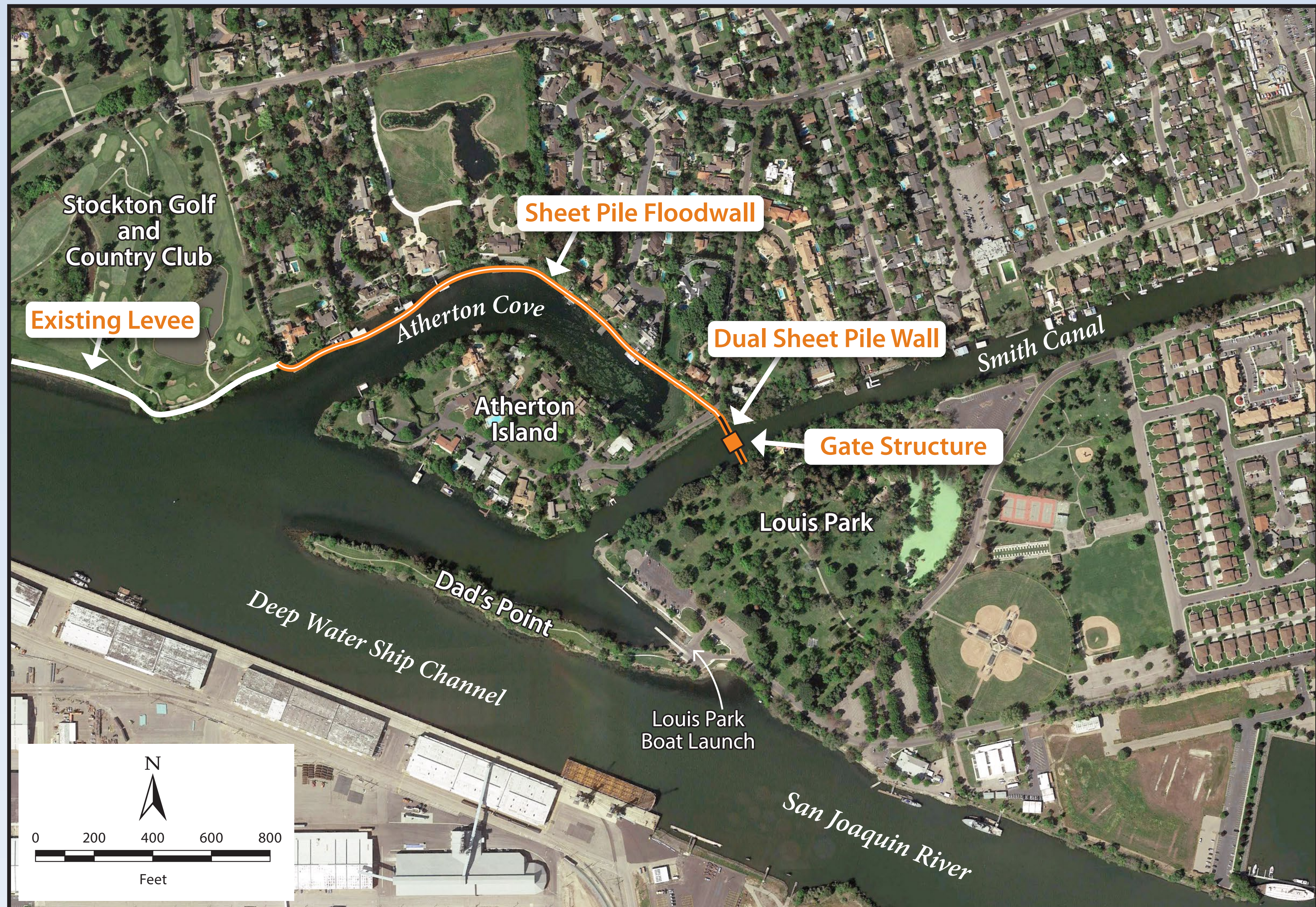


This alternative would isolate Atherton Cove and Smith Canal from the San Joaquin River, reducing flood risk through the use of a gated fixed wall structure. The fixed dual sheet pile wall would extend approximately 800 ft from the north tip of Dad's Point Levee to the San Joaquin River right bank at the golf course and would feature a 50-ft gate that could be closed during high water events. The gate would be closed only as needed for flood control, remaining open to allow for recreation, navigation and tidal movement of water in Smith Canal.

Additionally, approximately 1,000 ft of Dad's Point would be modified to tie into high ground at Louis Park through installation of a sheet pile flood wall.

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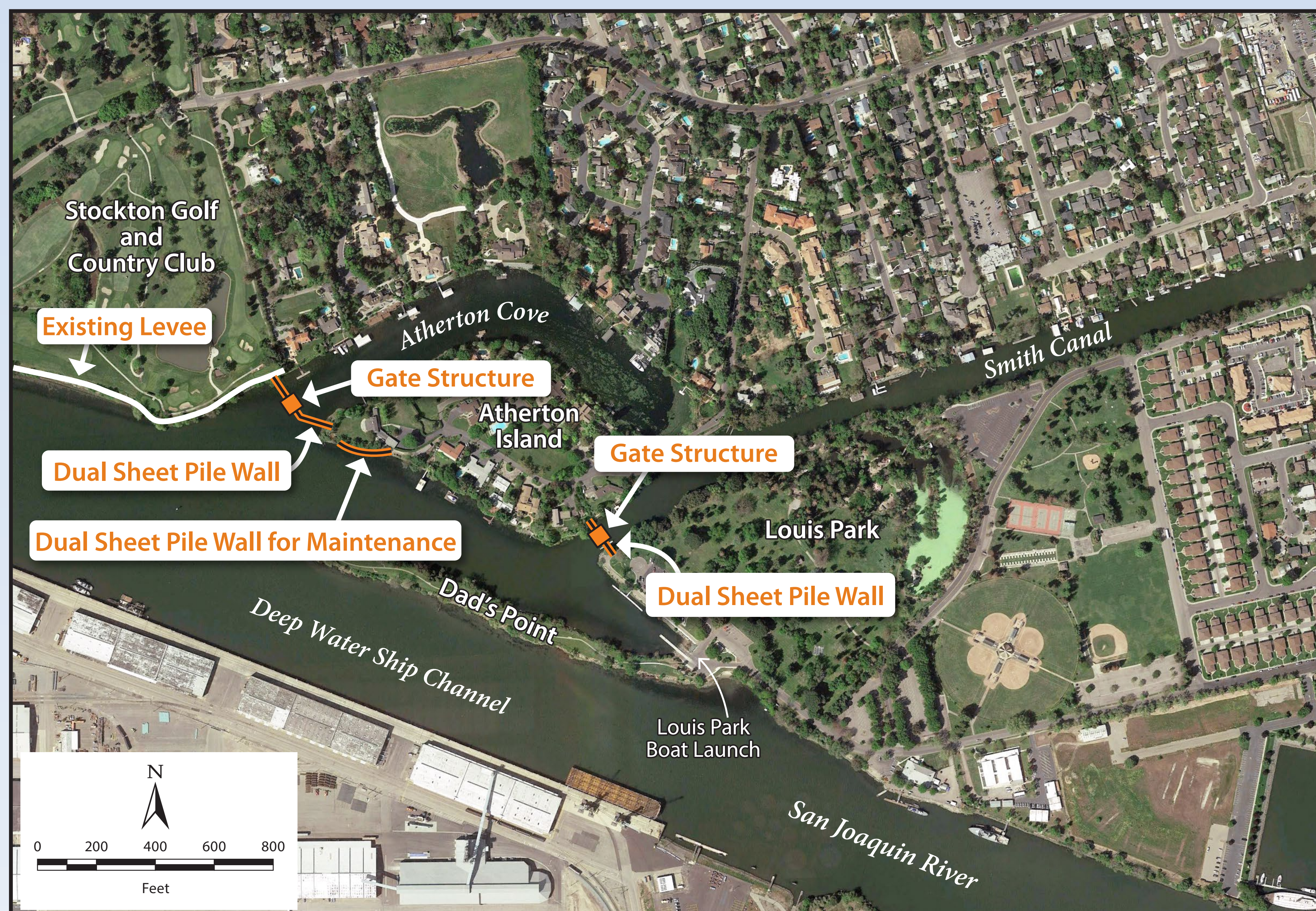
Alternative #2: Atherton Cove Flood Wall with Smith Canal Gate



This alternative would reduce flood risk by constructing a 2,300-ft sheet pile floodwall along the waterside of the existing levee abutting the north side of Atherton Cove, tying into the existing FEMA-accredited levee at the golf course. Alternative 2 would also use a gated fixed wall structure to isolate Smith Canal from the San Joaquin River, extending 225 ft across Smith Canal from Louis Park to Moreing Road. As in Alternative 1, the fixed dual sheet pile wall would feature a 50-ft gate that could be closed during high water events. The gate would be closed only as needed for flood control, remaining open to allow for recreation, navigation and tidal movement of water in Smith Canal.

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Alternative #3: Dual Gated Walls to Atherton Cove and Smith Canal



This alternative would isolate Atherton Cove and Smith Canal from the San Joaquin River, reducing flood risk through the use of separate gated fixed wall structures. One gated dual sheet pile wall would extend across Smith Canal approximately 250 ft from Louis Park to Atherton Island. A second gated wall would extend approximately 650 ft across Atherton Cove from the northwest side of Atherton Island to the golf course, tying into the existing FEMA-accredited levee.

Both fixed walls would feature 50-ft gates that could be closed during high water events. The gates would be closed only as needed for flood control, remaining open to allow for recreation, navigation and tidal movement of water in Smith Canal.

The California Environmental Quality Act

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) is a state law enacted to ensure a proposed activity's (project) potential significant effects on both the natural and built environments are analyzed and disclosed to the public. Analysis of the project's alternatives and development of mitigation measures to reduce effects are also required.

This analysis is presented in an Environmental Impact Report (EIR). An EIR discloses a project's potential environmental effects to assist decision makers in weighing the consequences of a proposed project and making an informed decision. The San Joaquin Area Flood Control Agency (SJAFCA) is the lead agency and project proponent under CEQA for the Smith Canal Gate Project. Based on a preliminary analysis, SJAFCA has determined that the proposed project may have significant effects on the environment, triggering the need for an EIR to analyze and disclose those effects.

Overall, CEQA and the EIR process serve to inform decision makers; increase public awareness and input on projects that would impact their communities; and increase collaboration amongst different agencies. Other Federal, state, and local agencies will participate in the proposed project as decision makers, including the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, California Department of Water Resources, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Central Valley Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Flood Protection Board, County of San Joaquin, City of Stockton, and others.

About the Scoping Process

Scoping is an important part of the CEQA process; its purpose is to inform the public of a proposed activity, a “project,” that must be approved by a governmental body. It provides the public an opportunity to comment and share local information related to the range of alternatives being analyzed, the effects of those alternatives, and/or issues of concern related to the proposed project.

Scoping can be particularly informative in a flood risk reduction project because the local residents could have unique knowledge about flood history, specific locations of high flood risk, deficiencies in current flood risk reduction features/measures, and other valuable insights related to environmental resources that could inform the project.

The comments received from public scoping will be used to inform the development of the alternatives; define the environment and resources potentially affected by the alternatives; and analyze the effects resulting from the alternatives. The affected environment broadly includes physical, biological, and social, and economic topic areas. Effects of both project construction and long-term operations and maintenance are analyzed.

Ways to comment on what is analyzed in or considered when developing the EIR:

1. Send written comments to
[Megan Smith, ICF International](#)
[630 K Street, Suite 400, Sacramento, CA 95814](#)
2. Via email to megan.smith@icfi.com
3. Fill out a [comment card](#) and leave it with a project team member tonight
4. Mail in a [self-addressed comment card](#) by July 25

All comments must be received by July 25, 2014.

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Environmental Resources Analyzed

The environmental impact report for the Smith Canal Gate Project will examine the effects the project could have on the built and natural environments. It will also identify mitigation measures to reduce these effects or avoid them when possible.

Resources analyzed will include but not be limited to:

Air quality

Population & housing

Cultural resources

Public services

Fish & aquatics

Recreation

Flood management

Transportation & navigation

Geomorphology

Vegetation & wetlands

Groundwater

Visual resources

Land use & planning

Water quality

Noise

Wildlife

Based on public feedback on the project to date, issues of expected controversy will likely include the risk of reduced aesthetics/effects to the visual viewshed; reductions in water circulation/quality; and impedance of recreational uses of Atherton Cove and Smith Canal.

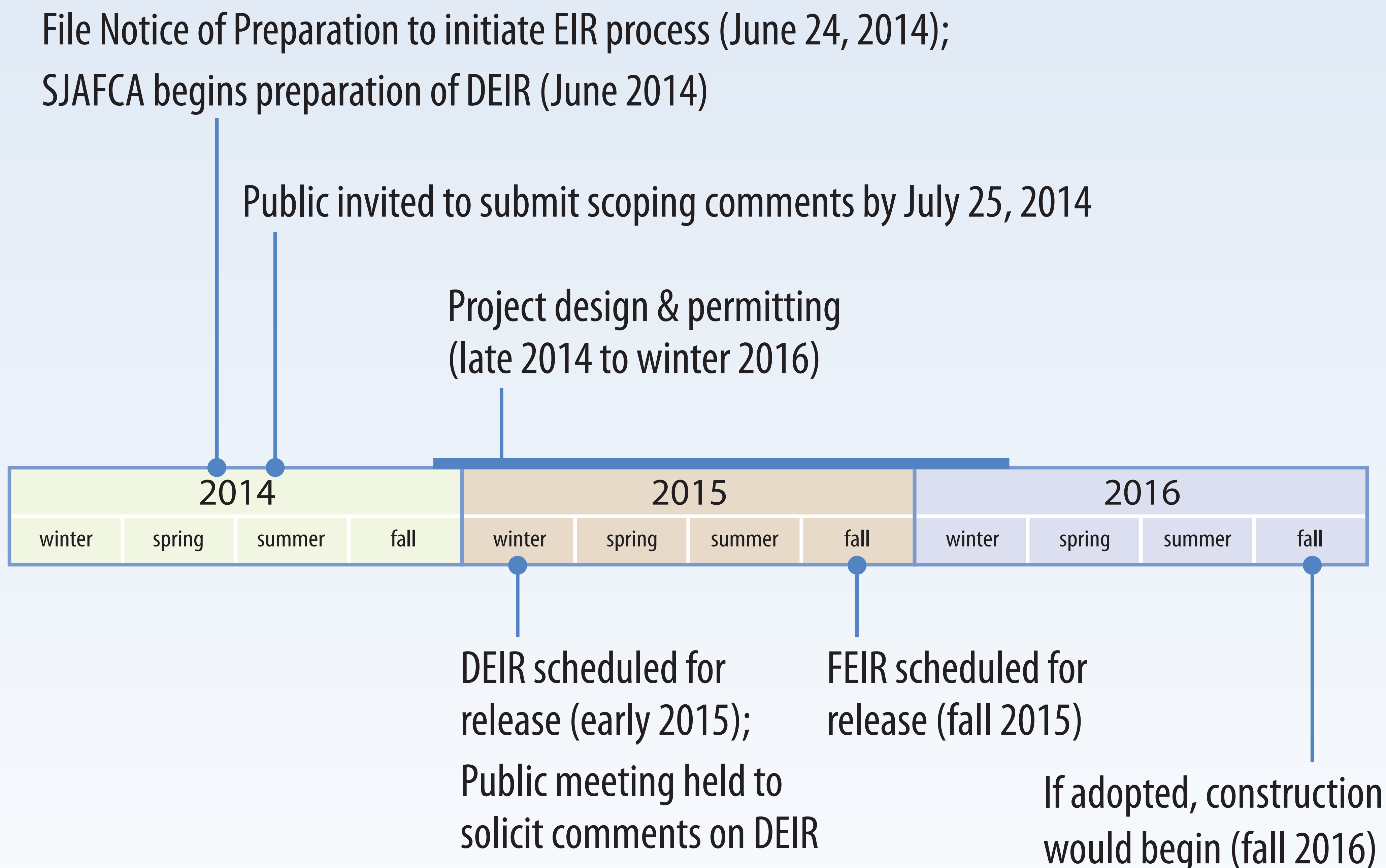
Funding and Proposed Timeline

Funding

The San Joaquin Area Flood Control Agency (SJAFCA) has received a state grant of \$2.4 million for design and environmental work for the Smith Canal Gate Project (project). The Assessment District approved by property owners in 2013 will share 50% responsibility for funding this project; the other 50% will come from the state. This includes project design, environmental compliance, and construction.

The SJAFCA Board of Directors authorized \$3.5 million to be spent on design and environmental compliance.

Timeline



Comments

**Please fill out a comment card
to provide input
on the scope of the
Smith Canal Gate Project EIR**

**Comments Will Be Accepted
through July 25, 2014**