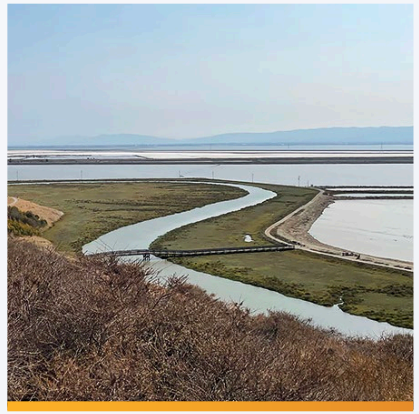

Cargill Mixed Sea Salts Processing and Brine Discharge Project

Draft EIR Public Meeting

January 24, 2023

EBDA
EAST BAY DISCHARGERS AUTHORITY

Introductions

Lead Agency: East Bay Dischargers Authority

Jackie Zipkin, PE, General Manager

Environmental Consultant: Ascent Environmental, Inc.

Andrea Shephard, PhD, Project Manager

Jamie Kirchner, Zoom Meeting Coordinator

Meeting Housekeeping

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- Thank you for attending!
- The presentation is being recorded to facilitate an accurate transcript of comments.
- All video cameras for participants will be off and microphones muted during the presentation.
- At the end of the meeting, we will provide an opportunity to raise your hand and you will be unmuted to provide oral comments.
- Written comments will be accepted by mail or email until February 17, 2023.
- Having issues with Zoom or need project description clarification during the meeting, send a message using the Q&A feature.

This slide presentation is available at ***https://ebda.org/projects/cargill-partnership***

How to Participate

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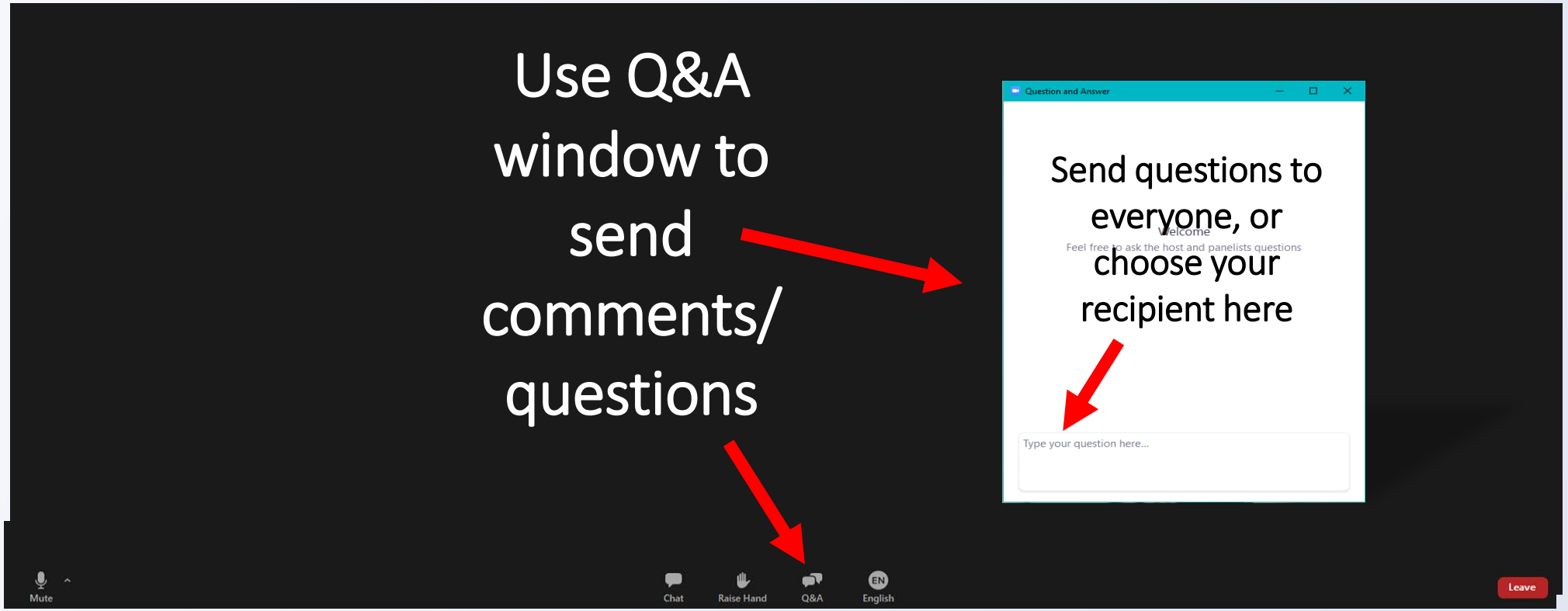
? Zoom Comments/Questions? Send message using Q&A.

Submit Comments/Questions
During the Meeting

Having Issues With Zoom
During the Meeting?

USE THE Q&A FEATURE AT THE BOTTOM OF YOUR SCREEN

Zoom Meeting Controls - Desktop



? Zoom Comments/Questions? Send message using Q&A.

Zoom Meeting Controls - Mobile Device

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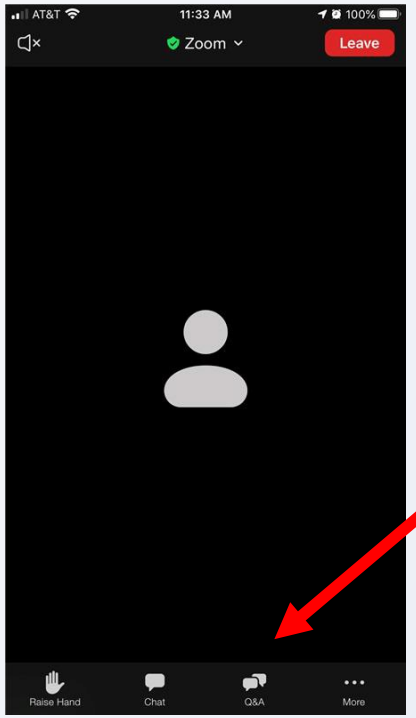
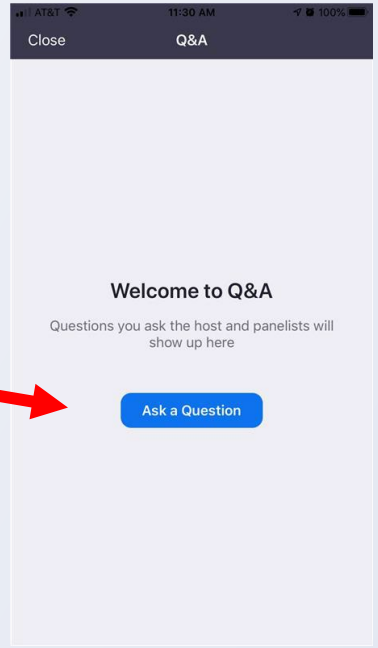


First click, "More"

Access the Q&A window to send comments/ questions



? Zoom Comments/Questions? Send message using Q&A.

Overview of Presentation

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- Background and overview of the proposed project
- Summary of Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) conclusions
- Receiving comments on the adequacy of the Draft EIR
- Note: No consideration or action on the project will occur at today's meeting

PROJECT BACKGROUND

Lead Agency: East Bay Dischargers Authority

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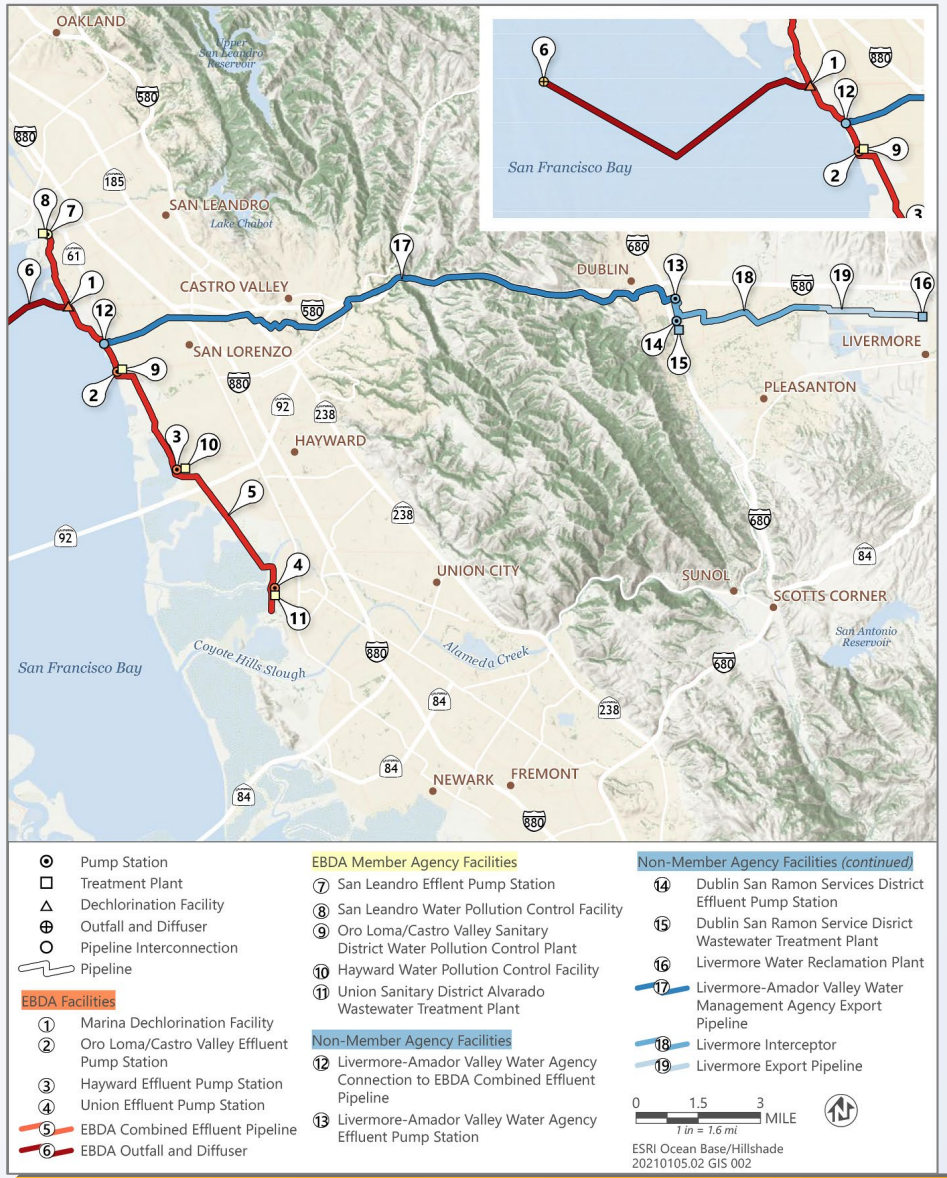

- Joint Powers Public Agency consisting of five local agencies
  - City of San Leandro
  - Oro Loma Sanitary District
  - Castro Valley Sanitary District
  - City of Hayward
  - Union Sanitary District
- Manages treated effluent from member agencies and LAVWMA and discharges through a common outfall and diffuser into deep-water portion of central SF Bay under NPDES permit
  - Three effluent pump stations
  - Dechlorination facility
  - Combined effluent pipeline/force main and outfall

Project Proponent: Cargill, Inc.

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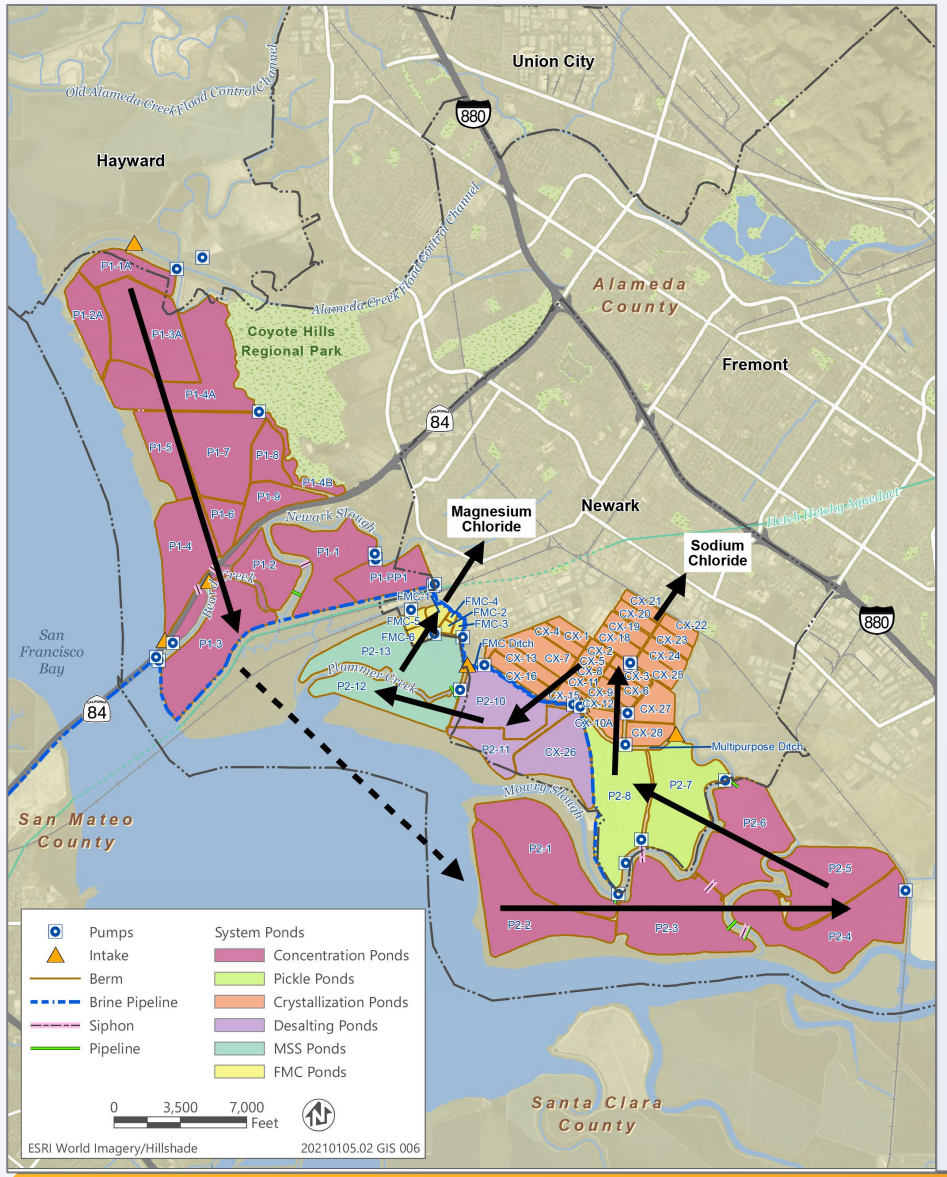

- Operates solar sea salt production facility (Solar Salt Facility) in Newark, CA
- Harvests two salts (NaCl and $MgCl_2$) through solar evaporation of sea water in series of salt ponds along margin of SF Bay
- Produces approx. 500,000 T/yr of NaCl and 150,000 T/yr of liquid bittern
- Remaining brine contains MSS, including addt'l liquid bittern, generated at rate of approx. 60,000 T/yr
- Current MSS inventory is approx. 6 million tons stored in ponds adjacent to SF Bay

PROPOSED PROJECT

Proposed Project

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- Use innovative technology to enhance extraction of additional liquid bittern from MSS inventory at Cargill Solar Salt Facility
- Then dissolve residual MSS in Bay water to produce a brine
- Pump MSS brine (at rate of up to 2 mgd) into EBDA's combined effluent conveyance system where it would be blended/diluted with EBDA Member Agency effluent
- Discharge back into Bay in accordance with EBDA's NPDES permit
- In event of a future berm failure or overtopping from increased wind and wave action triggered by sea level rise, removal of MSS stored in ponds would reduce potential for release of high-salinity brine into SF Bay

Solar Salt Facility Improvements

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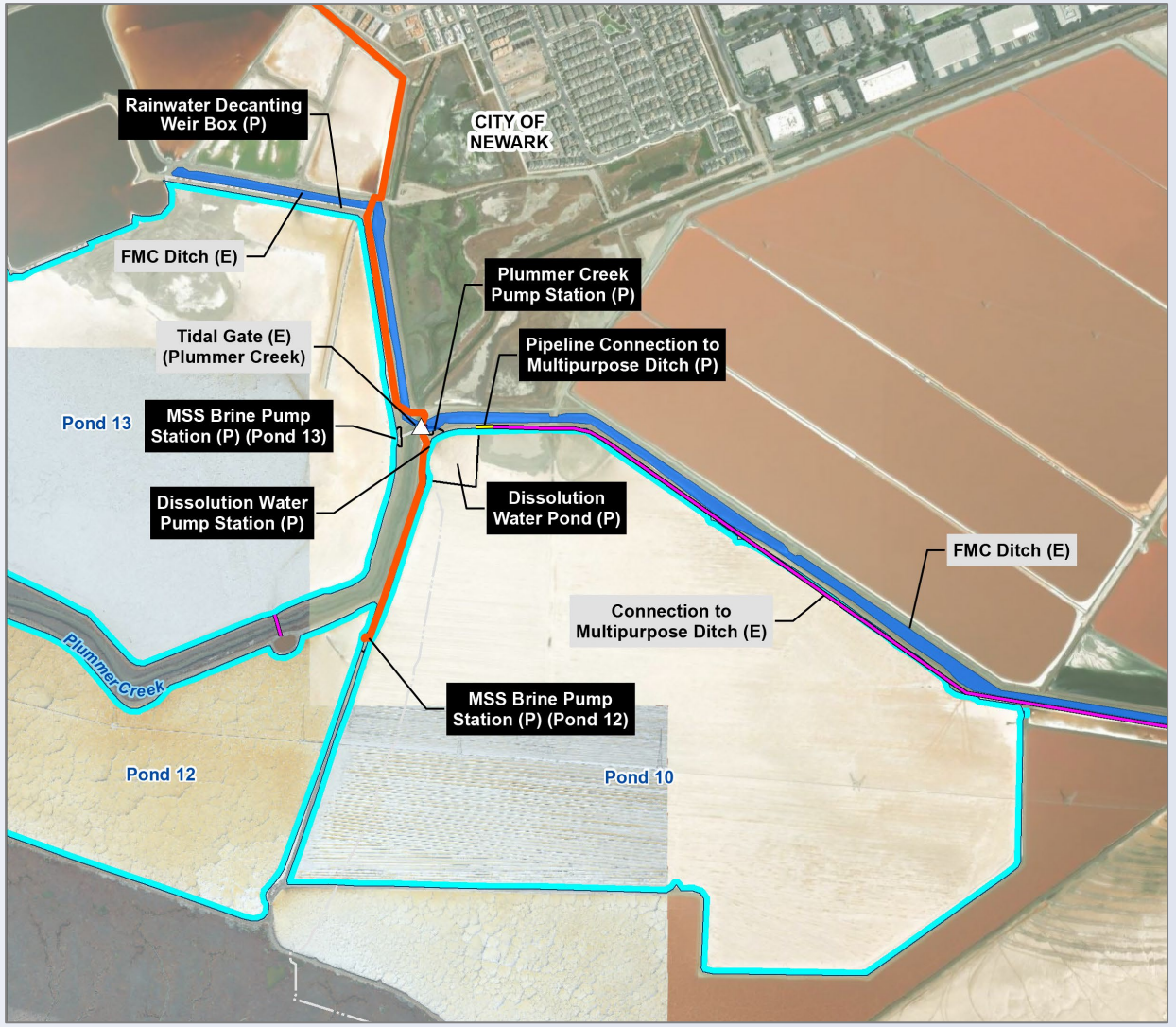
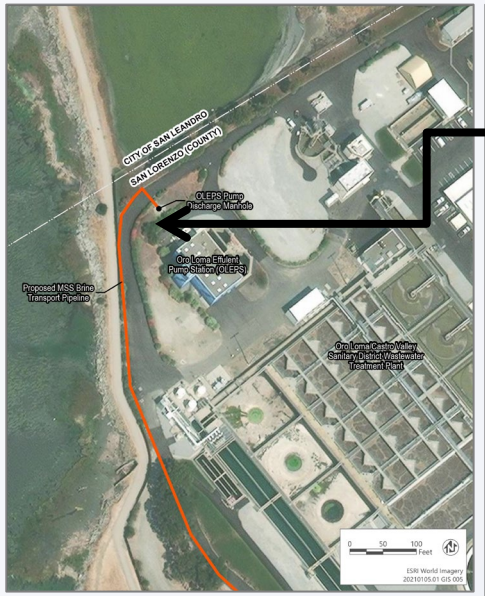
- Dissolution water pond and Plummer Creek Pump Station
- Dissolution water pump station and distribution system
- Two MSS brine pump stations
- Liquid bittern recovery pumps



MSS Brine Transport Pipeline



- Approx. 16 miles of MSS brine transport pipeline primarily in roadway rights-of-way
- Discharge to EBDA combined effluent conveyance system downstream of OLEPS at OLSD/CVSD WPCP in San Lorenzo

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

What is CEQA?

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- California Environmental Quality Act
- Public disclosure process
- Avoid or reduce significant environmental impacts

What is an EIR?

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- Environmental Impact Report
- An informational document
- Discloses potential effects of proposed project on environment
- Identifies mitigation measures
- Describes feasible alternatives to proposed project
- Must be certified for a project to be approved

EIR Review Process

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- **Notice of Preparation**
  - 30-day public review (completed in 2022)
  - Received public comments that informed the analysis in the Draft EIR
- **Draft EIR** (released January 4; available at *https://ebda.org/projects/cargill-partnership*)
  - 45-day public review (thru February 17)
  - Public meeting (today)
- **Final EIR** (expected to be released Spring 2023)
  - Responds to comments received on Draft EIR
- **Consideration of Cargill MSS Processing and Brine Discharge Project for approval and certification of the EIR** (late Spring 2023)

Issue Areas Scoped out of the Draft EIR

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- Aesthetics
- Agricultural and Forestry Resources
- Energy
- Land Use and Planning
- Population and Housing
- Public Services
- Transportation
- Utilities and Service Systems
- Wildfire

Environmental Topics Addressed in Draft EIR

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- **Air Quality**
- **Biological Resources**
- **Cultural and Tribal Cultural Resources**
- Geology, Soils, Mineral Resources, and Paleontological Resources
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Climate Change
- **Hazards and Hazardous Materials**
- **Hydrology and Water Quality**
- **Noise and Vibration**
- **Recreation**

Bold = *at least one significant impact requiring mitigation*

Underline = *one impact would remain significant and unavoidable after mitigation*

Alternatives Evaluated in the EIR

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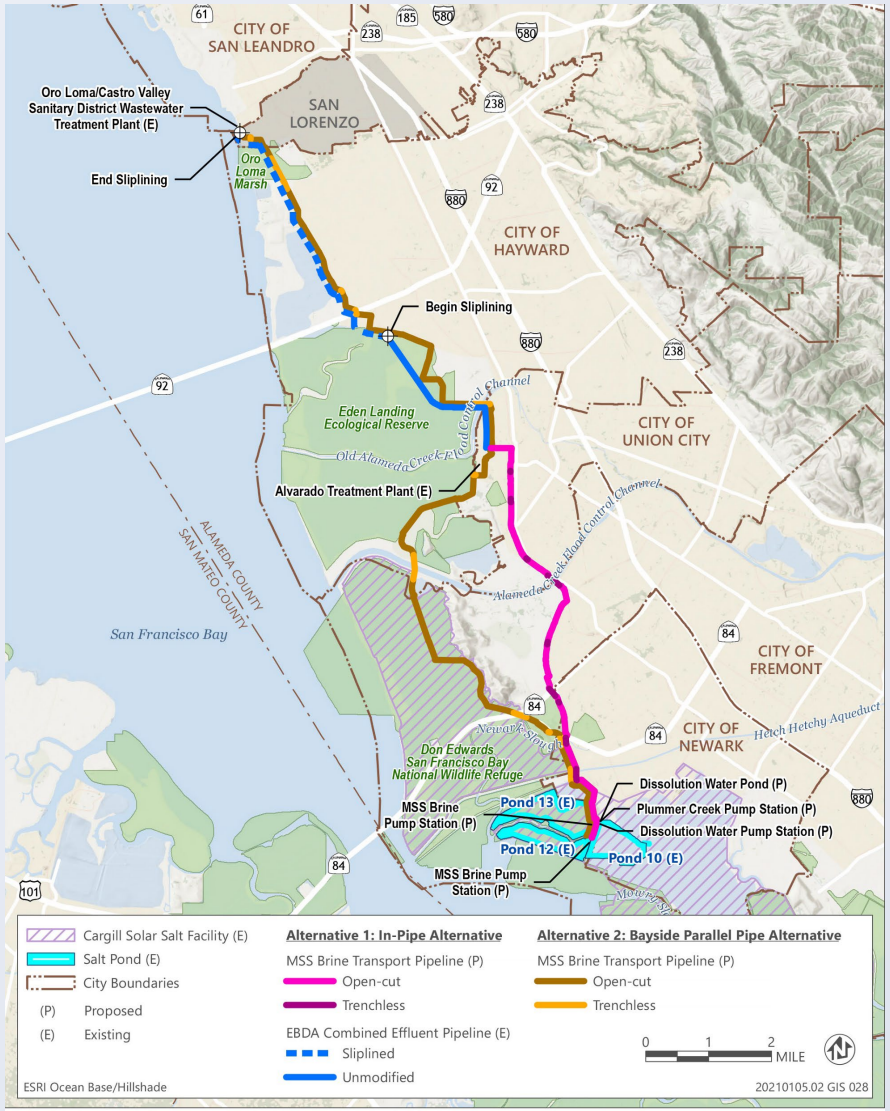
- **No Project – No Development Alternative**
  - No construction impacts
  - Would not meet any project objectives
- **Alternative 1: In-Pipe Alternative**
  - Reduced excavation and ground disturbance
  - Greater disruption to EBDA operations and disturbance to ecological reserve and Oro Loma Marsh
  - Slip-lining only protects a portion of EBDA system
- **Alternative 2: Bayside Parallel Pipe Alternative**
  - Fewer nearby sensitive receptors
  - Greater disruption to recreational users
  - Greater disturbance to sensitive habitat requiring extensive permitting process



PUBLIC INPUT

How to Provide Comments on Draft EIR

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- To provide oral comment, raise Zoom Hand; to raise hand on phone, press Star (*) 9
- Enter written comment into the Zoom Chat
- Mail or email written comments by 5:00 pm on February 17, 2023, to:

MAIL

East Bay Dischargers Authority
2651 Grant Avenue
San Lorenzo, CA 94580
Attn: Jackie Zipkin, General Manager

EMAIL

jzipkin@ebda.org

Providing Oral Comments Today

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- Begin by clearly stating name/organization
- Comments are being recorded
- Focus comments on the adequacy of the environmental analysis
- Comments will be limited to 3 minutes

Providing Oral Comments via Zoom

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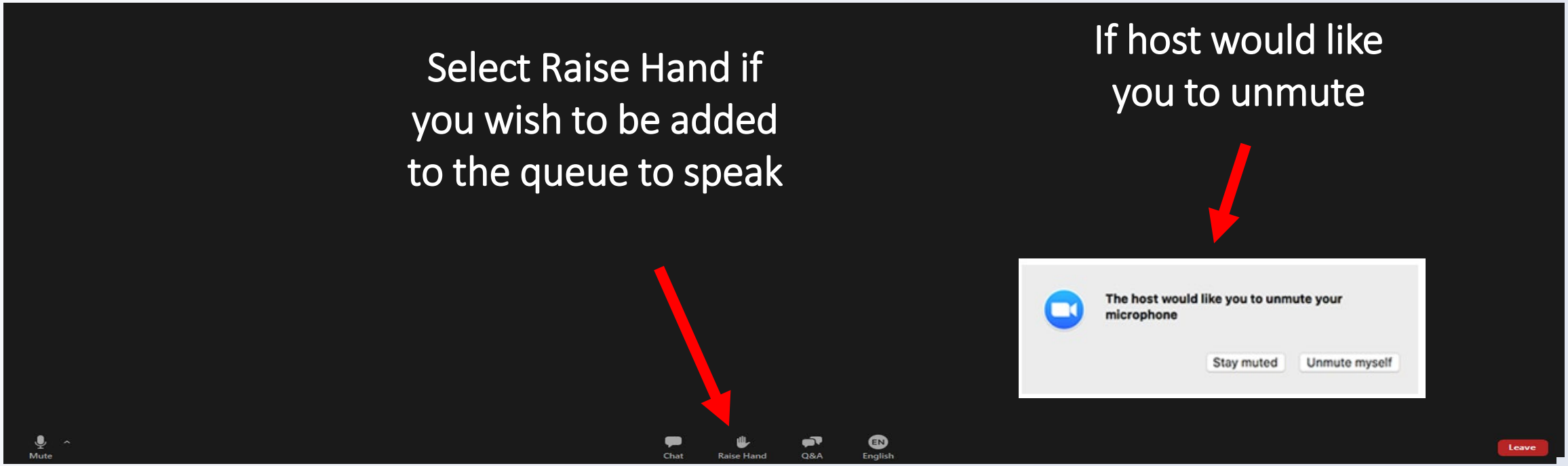

? Zoom Comments/Questions? Send message using Q&A.

Providing Oral Comments via Phone

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- Press Star (*) 9 to raise your hand
- Listen for your phone number to be called and the message: “The host would like you to unmute your microphone. You can press Star (*) 6 to unmute.”
- Press Star (*) 6 to unmute
- Please identify yourself first and then begin your comment.
- After providing your comment, please press Star (*) 6 to remute.
- Please limit comments to 3 minutes. There will be a warning sound at 30 seconds and 10 seconds remaining. You will be muted after 3 minutes.

How to Provide Comments on Draft EIR

EBDA
EAST BAY DISCHARGERS AUTHORITY

- Draft EIR is available for download at https://ebda.org/projects/cargill-partnership
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Thank you!