



Wildlife Damage Management EIR/EIS



Public Scoping Meeting

October 13, 2020

DUDEK

**This meeting webinar is being recorded
and will be posted on the website:
www.CaliforniaWDM.org**

Welcome

Steve Peterson, Dudek

Lisa Marie Alley, Kearns & West

Wildlife Damage Management EIR/EIS Scoping Meeting

Project Team

**United States
Department of
Agriculture,
Animal and Plant
Health Inspection
Service**

Dennis Orthmeyer
Wildlife Services
State Director

**California Department of
Food and Agriculture**

Dr. Annette Jones
State Veterinarian

**Dudek EIR/EIS
Consultant Team**

Steve Peterson
Dudek, Project Manager

Lisa Marie Alley
Kearns & West,
Project Outreach
and Facilitation

Chris Carr, Esq.
Baker Botts,
Project Counsel

- 01** Opening Remarks and Meeting Logistics
- 02** EIR/EIS Overview and Timeline
- 03** Questions & Answers
- 04** Public Comments
- 05** Closing Remarks

01

Opening Remarks

Dennis Orthmeyer, USDA

Dr. Annette Jones, CDFA

01

Meeting Logistics: Purpose, Agenda & Ground Rules

Lisa Marie Alley

Meeting Purposes

Inform the public and agencies about the proposed project

Inform the public and agencies about the EIR/EIS process and scope

Explain how to submit comments and share future opportunities for project input

Receive written and oral comments on the Notice of Preparation, the Notice of Intent, and the EIR/EIS scope of work

Meeting Agenda

**5:30 p.m. –
6:15 p.m.**

Opening
Remarks and
Meeting
Logistics/
EIR/EIS
Overview &
Timeline

**6:15 p.m. –
6:45 p.m.**

Question &
Answer Session

**6:45 p.m. –
8:20 p.m.**

Opportunity
for Public
Comments

**8:20 p.m. –
8:30 p.m.**

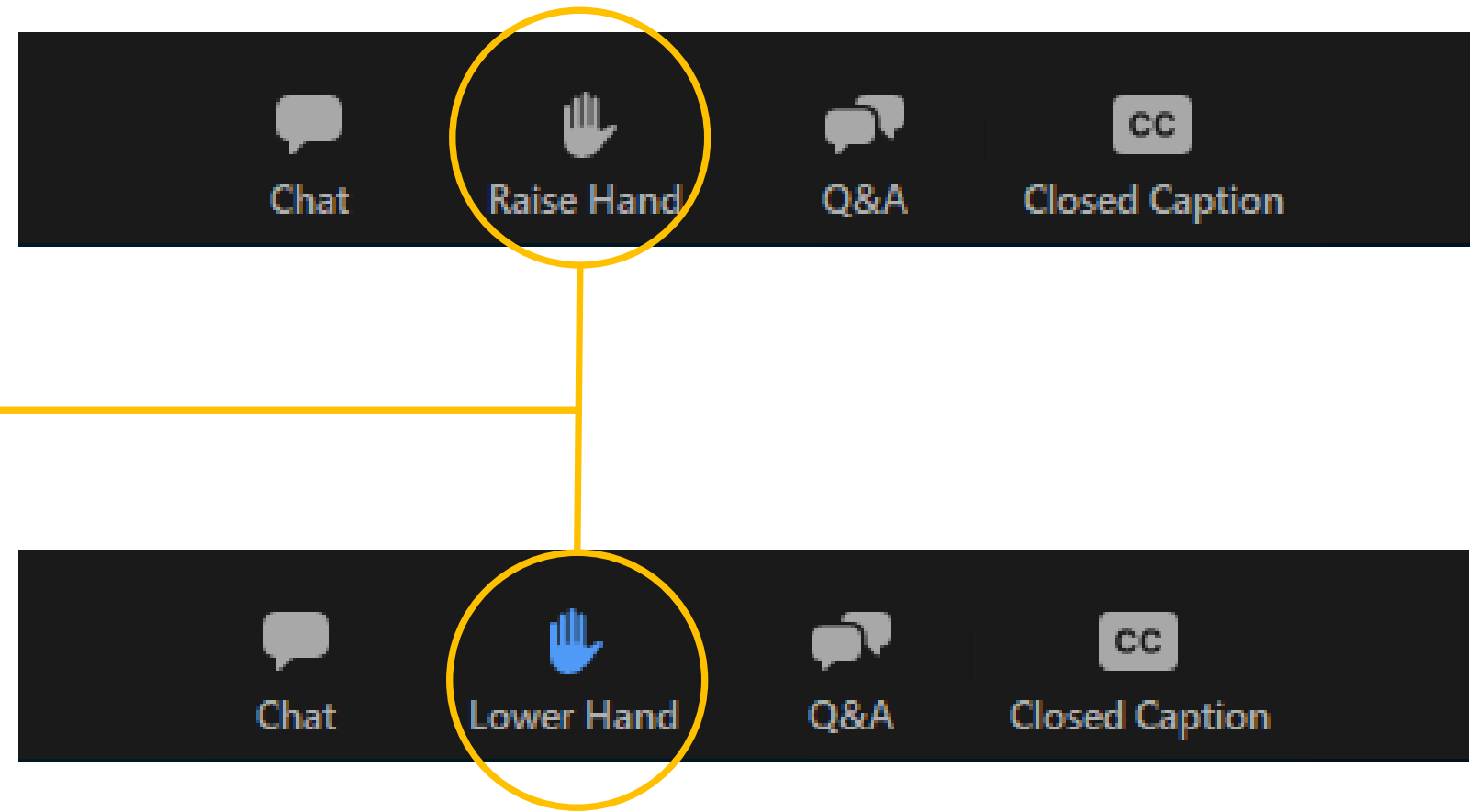
Closing Remarks
(may follow last
public
comment)

How to Participate

Participant's audio and video are automatically turned off.

If you have a question, click on the **Raise Hand** button.

If you are joining by phone, **push *9**.



How to Participate

The moderator will call on you when it is your turn to speak and unmute your line.

Please keep your devices on mute when you are not speaking. This ensures the best possible audio quality for all participants.

How to Participate

Please be respectful.

Threatening, profane, or other inappropriate language is not allowed.

Disruptive participants will be removed from the webinar.

02

Wildlife Damage Management EIR/EIS Overview and Timeline

Steve Peterson

Chris Carr

The CDFA and USDA Wildlife Services-California (WS-California) entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in April 2017 to facilitate this project.

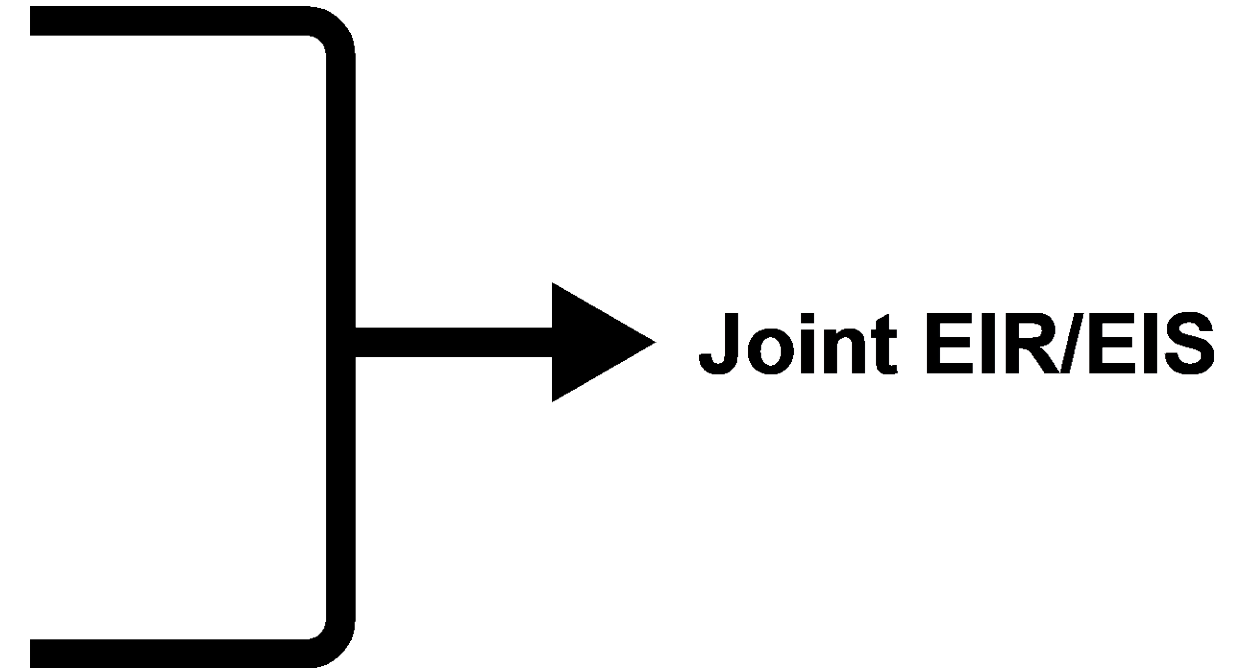
The MOU provides a framework for coordination and cooperation on statewide integrated wildlife damage management activities.

This review process includes CDFA's compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and WS-California's compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

**The CDFA serves as the CEQA “Lead Agency”
and WS-California serves as the NEPA
“Lead Agency” for this joint Programmatic
CEQA Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and
NEPA Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).**

California Environmental Quality Act (**CEQA**)
Environmental Impact Report (**EIR**)

National Environmental Policy Act (**NEPA**)
Environmental Impact Statement (**EIS**)



The CDFA is mandated to protect California's agricultural industry. As part of this mandate, CDFA must prevent the introduction and spread of any animals that are dangerous or detrimental to the agricultural industry of the State.

The CDFA is also authorized to employ hunters and trappers to manage and eradicate harmful predatory animals.

The CDFA primarily serves in an oversight and support capacity by providing data and recommendations.

California has a “unique system” of County Agricultural Commissioners, and the Legislature has specified that where CDFA and County Agricultural Commissioners have joint responsibilities, wildlife damage management is performed at the County level by County Agricultural Commissioners.

Counties are authorized to work with CDFA to perform wildlife damage management activities and may work directly with WS-California to conduct these activities without need of CDFA's involvement.

The CDFA may also undertake rapid response activities to respond to an emergency or high-risk wildlife to promptly abate and prevent harm to the agricultural industry, human health and safety, or natural resources.

The WS-California currently provides advice on:

- wildlife damage prevention and management;**
- information on sources of wildlife damage management materials;**
- depredation investigations;**
- training on the use of damage management methods, and;**
- technical assistance.**

WS-California receives requests for assistance from the public, private entities, other agencies and governmental bodies, and Native American Tribes.

The program will consider all Counties as potential Wildlife Damage Management Program participants, including those Counties that do not currently conduct or participate in these activities.

County Wildlife Damage Management Programs



The CDFA portion of the program would encompass the following core functions:

Statewide Wildlife Damage Management Protocols	County- Level Activities	Rapid Response	Information Processing and Adaptive Management	Program Education and CEQA Support
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The USDA portion of the program would encompass the following core functions:

Resolve Wildlife
Conflicts

Protect people, pets,
and livestock from
wildlife-borne diseases

Guard natural resources,
such as timber, from
wildlife damage and
educate the public about
wildlife and wildlife
damage management

Support local agriculture
- approximately
75 percent of
WS-California's
cooperative agreements
are with California small
farmers and ranchers

Respond to
Emergencies

Protect human health
and safety at airports,
collaborating closely
with the Federal Aviation
Administration,
Department of Defense,
and other Government
agencies

Protect Threatened
and Endangered
Species

Monitoring and
Controlling Wildlife
Diseases

Protecting food safety
and public health
through wildlife disease
monitoring

It is the objective of the EIR/EIS to analyze and, if necessary, guide:

- County Agricultural Commissioners**
- WS-California,**
- and/or CDFA**

in modifying wildlife damage management activities to mitigate environmental impacts.

The program identified in the EIR/EIS will streamline CEQA environmental review for County-level wildlife damage management programs.

The CDFA and WS-California support the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation and the principle that wildlife resources are owned collectively and held in trust by Government for the benefit of present and future generations.

The defined Wildlife Damage Management Response process is endorsed by CDFA and WS-California and will be considered as part of the EIR/EIS analysis process.

Wildlife Damage Response Process



The EIR/EIS will consider a range of reasonable alternatives:

An alternative that continues WS-California's current wildlife damage management and conflict management activities (the no action alternative)

Alternatives with restrictions on integrated wildlife damage management to reduce environmental impacts (e.g., no use of toxicants)

Alternatives that require varying levels of nonlethal wildlife damage management; and No CDFA or WS-California involvement alternative

Additional alternatives may be identified through the public scoping process

EIR/EIS Overview/Issues for Detailed Analysis

- Aesthetics (Scenic Resources)/ Visual Resources
- Agricultural Resources/Forestry Resources (Agricultural Economics, Rangeland)
- Air Quality, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, & Energy (Global Climate Change)
- Biological Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Environmental Justice
- Environmental Toxicology/Human Health Risk Assessment
- Tribal Cultural Resources (Concerns of Native American Tribes)
- Geology/Soils and Paleontological Resources
- Hazards and Hazardous Materials

EIR/EIS Overview/Issues for Detailed Analysis (continued)

- Hydrology
- Water Quality
- Land Use/Planning
- Mineral Resources
- Noise
- Population/Housing
- Public Services
- Recreation
- Socioeconomics
- Transportation
- Utilities/Service Systems
- Wildfire
- Cumulative Impacts
- Required CEQA Sections
 - Growth Inducement
 - Cumulative Impacts
 - Alternatives
- Required NEPA Sections
 - Purpose and Needs Statement
 - Public Health and Safety

Within the analyses described above, the following issues will be considered:

Impacts on wildlife populations
and habitats

Effects on non-target animal
populations including species
protected by the federal and
California Endangered Species
Acts and other applicable wildlife
laws and regulations;
Impacts on ecosystem processes
(e.g., trophic cascades)

Impacts on Special Management Areas, including Wilderness and Wilderness Study Areas

Humaneness
of methods

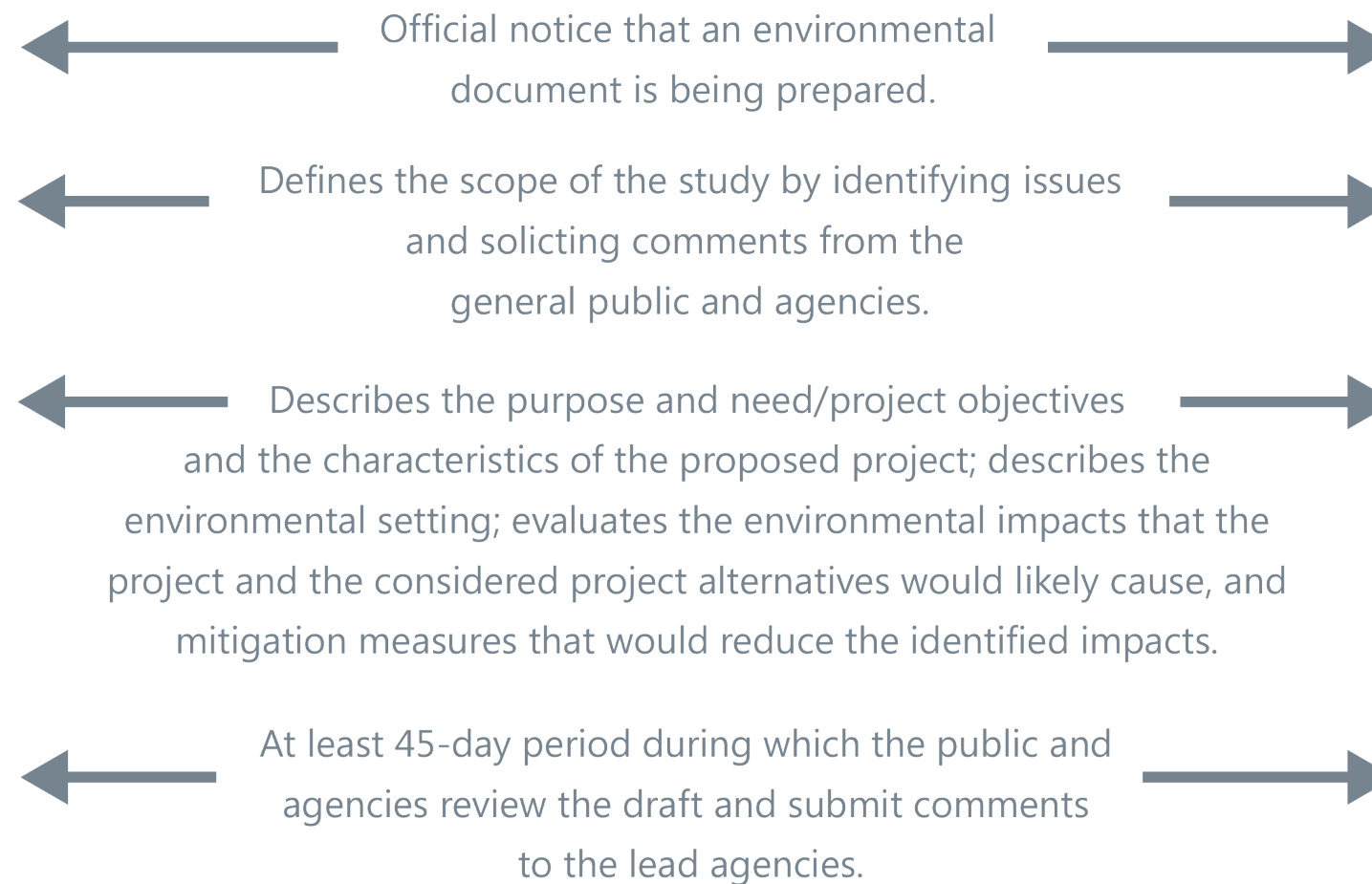
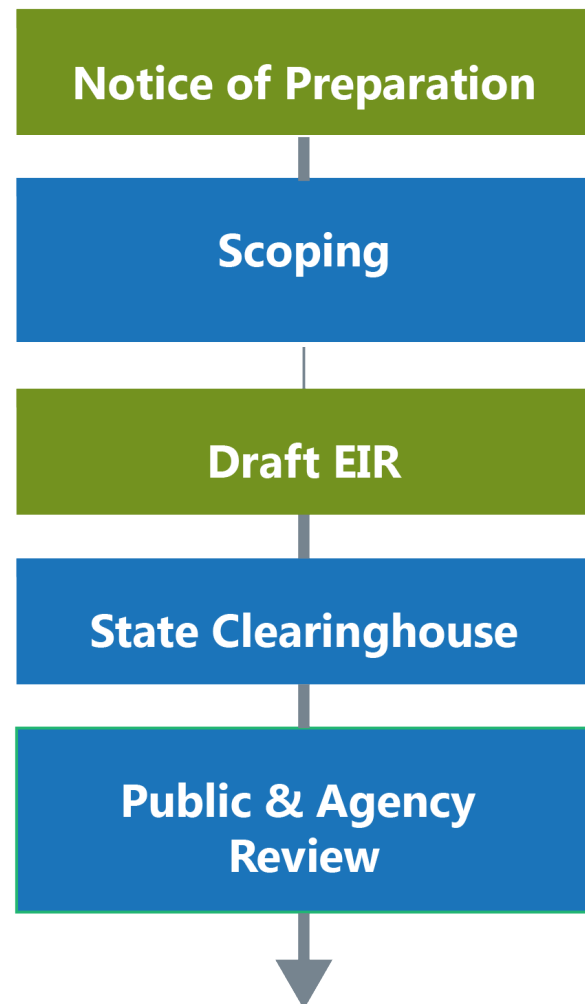
Impacts of the
alternatives on Native
American culture and
resource uses

Risks and
benefits to
human and pet
safety

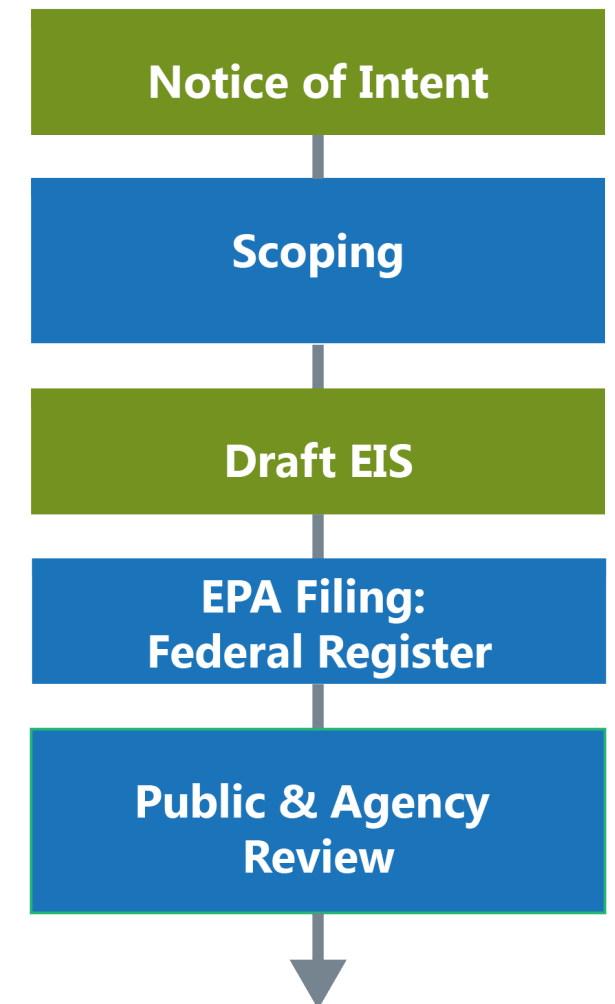
EIR/EIS Overview/Document Development Process

KEY ■ Documentation and disclosure ■ Public and stakeholder participation

CEQA (Environmental Impact Report)



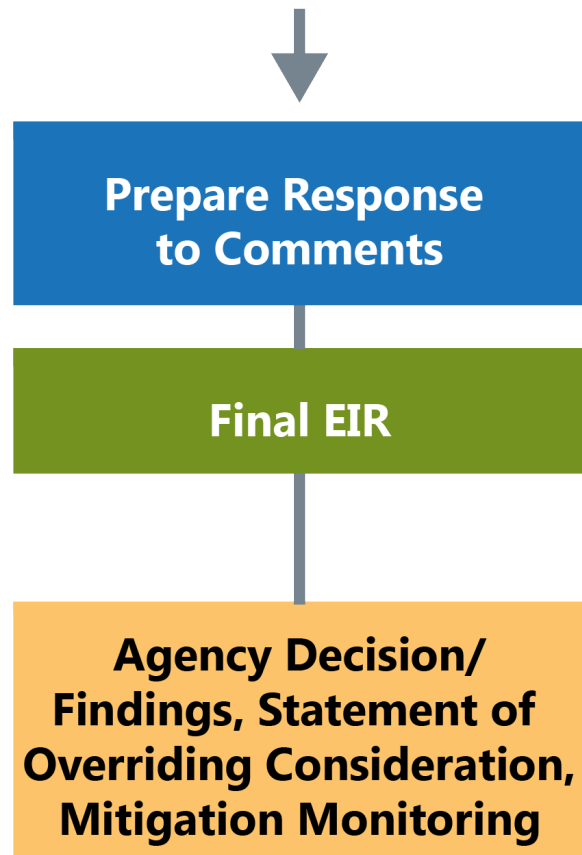
NEPA (Environmental Impact Statement)



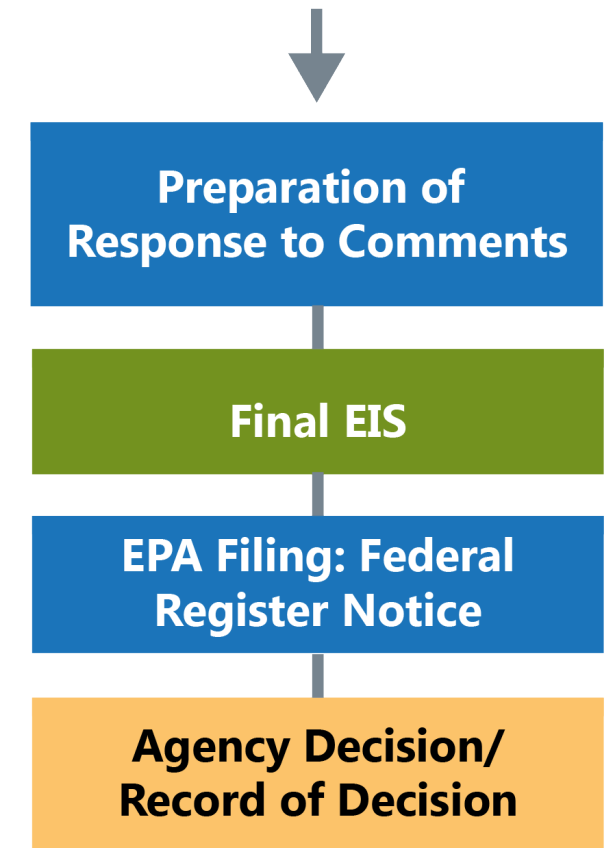
EIR/EIS Overview/Document Development Process (continued)

KEY ■ Documentation and disclosure ■ Public and stakeholder participation ■ CEQA/NEPA compliant fully informed decision

CEQA (Environmental Impact Report)



NEPA (Environmental Impact Statement)

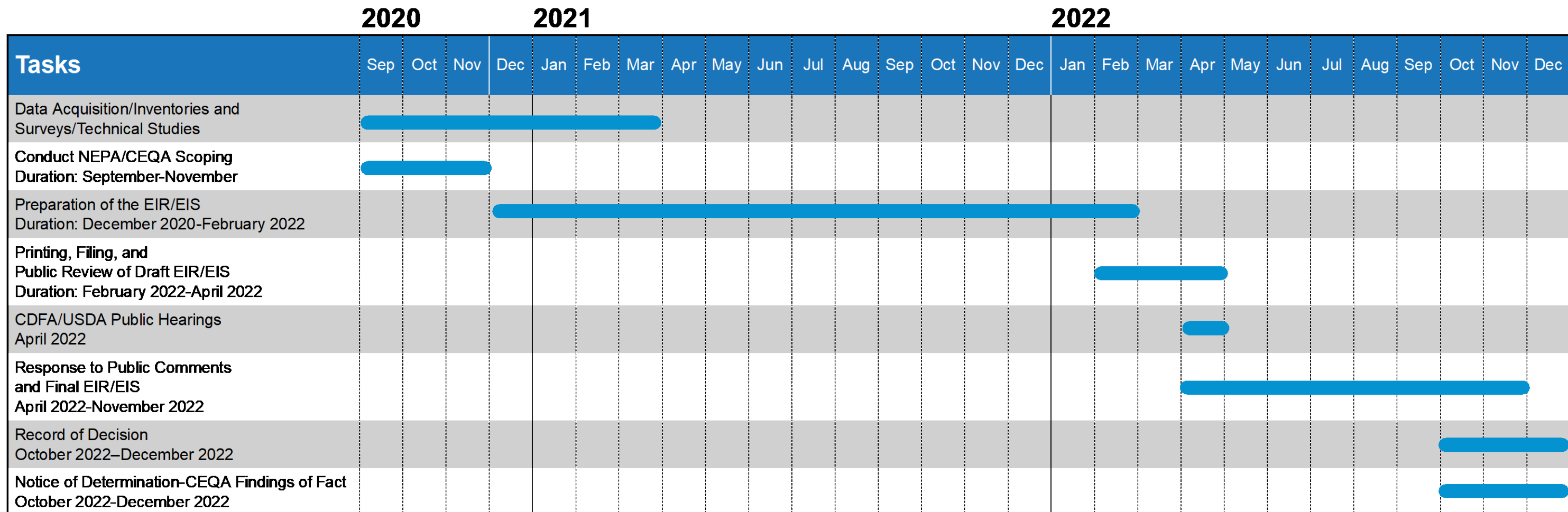


← Comments on the EIR/EIS considered by the lead agencies. →

← Addresses the comments on the draft document and from any public hearing, presents the final evaluation of project-induced environmental impacts and ways to mitigate significant impacts. →

← Lead agency uses information from the final document and the project record to issue a decision and document commitments and mitigation. →

Timeline



03

Questions & Answers

Lisa Marie Alley

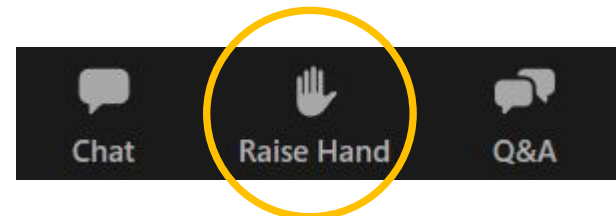
Steve Peterson

Questions & Answers

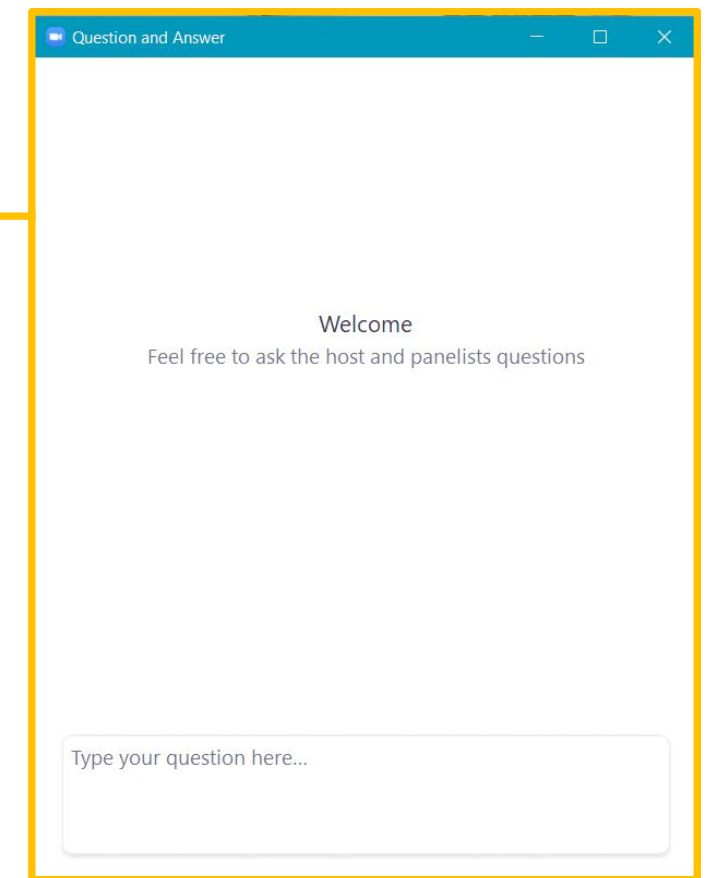
Click the **Q&A** button and type in your question.



If you are unable to type, click on the **Raise Hand** button and we will take your question verbally.



If you are joining by phone, **push *9** to raise your hand.



04

Public Comments

Lisa Marie Alley

Public Comments



Public Comment Period: Sept 10-Nov 10



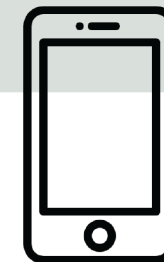
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Closing Remarks

Steve Peterson

Thank You

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