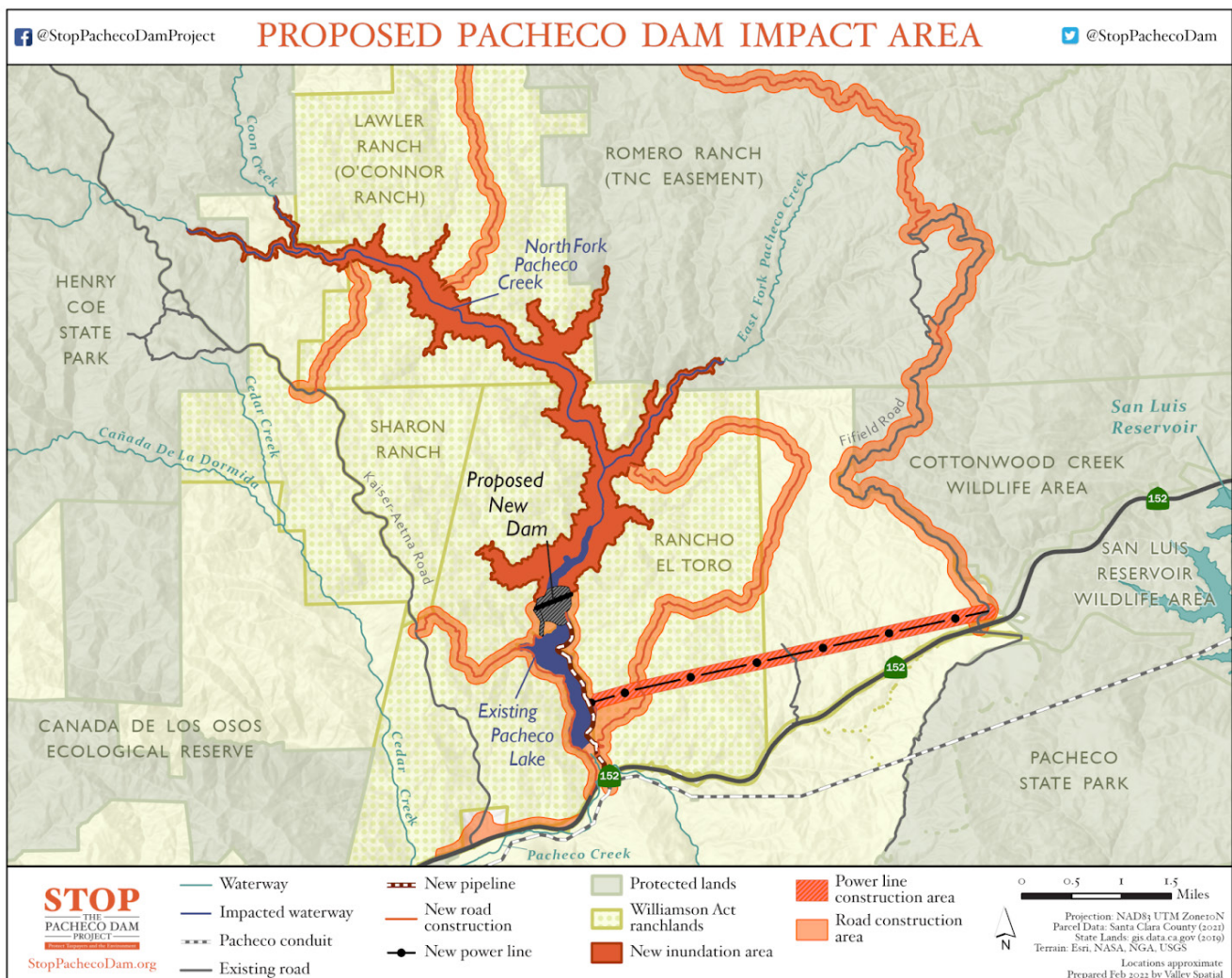




Stop the Pacheco Dam Expansion Project

The Pacheco Reservoir Expansion project is a proposal to build a much larger new reservoir to replace the existing Pacheco Reservoir, located in Santa Clara County. The proposed new location will inundate the North Fork Pacheco Creek into the eastern portion of Henry Coe State Park. Pacheco Dam was built in 1939. Pacheco Reservoir's operational capacity is currently 5,500 acre-feet. The Pacheco Reservoir Expansion project would significantly enlarge the footprint of the reservoir, flooding an additional 1,500 acres.



Courtesy of Stop the Pacheco Dam Project

The project is currently in the planning phase. Located 60 miles southeast of San Jose, construction is expected to start in 2024 or 2025, and finish in 2032. The proposed Pacheco Dam Expansion Project is expected to cost \$2.5 billion or more. Moreover, it is unclear whether the expansion will actually provide a reliable supply of water. The project is also unnecessary. Santa Clara Valley Water District (Valley Water), the project proponent, is pursuing alternative projects that would improve water reliability through conservation measures, recycled water, and other storage projects. Other than the Delta tunnel, it's the most expensive project currently being considered by Valley Water. In addition, while Valley Water is assuming that it can locate project partners to share in at least 20 percent of the cost, those project partners have not yet materialized; so local ratepayers and state-wide taxpayers will ultimately be responsible for project costs.

Impacts to Environment and Wildlife

The draft environmental impact report states approximately 5,609 acres and 28,078 acres of designated critical habitat are within the project study area and the assessment area, which is within one mile of the project study area. The environmental impact of this project will be much greater than any supposed environmental benefits to fish on Pacheco Creek and wildlife refuges in San Joaquin Valley. The project will result in the loss of hundreds of acres of oak and sycamore forest and acres of riparian habitat, as well as threaten federally protected species such as golden eagles. The project will introduce poor quality Central Valley Project (CVP) water into Pacheco Creek, the Pajaro River, and the Monterey Bay which will likely harm water quality and therefore fish and other water dependent species in these ecosystems.



How is Pacheco Dam Related to the Delta Tunnel?

The San Francisco Bay Delta is the largest natural estuary on the West Coast. It provides breeding grounds and habitat for a range of animals, including Chinook salmon and the endangered Delta smelt. The proposed Pacheco expansion project relies on exports from the San Francisco Bay-Delta. This could strain the already fragile ecosystem and in no way will “advance the long-term objectives of restoring

ecological health and improving water management for beneficial uses of the Delta.¹ Dam construction is proposed to begin the same year as the Delta Conveyance construction would begin. The Department of Water Resources has admitted that they have not looked at the cumulative impacts of the tunnel and other projects in the area.

¹[California Water Code §79757](#)