

A photograph of the Lake Purdy Dam, showing a stone masonry wall on the right, a concrete spillway with a metal gate in the center, and a concrete walkway on the left. The dam is surrounded by lush green trees and a clear blue lake in the background. A red flag is visible on a pole near the gate.

# Lake Purdy Dam Stability Improvement Project

**Community Meeting  
November 19, 2024**

# Agenda

1. System Overview
2. Project Overview
3. Project Approach
4. Road Improvements and Environmental Mitigation

# About Lake Purdy Dam

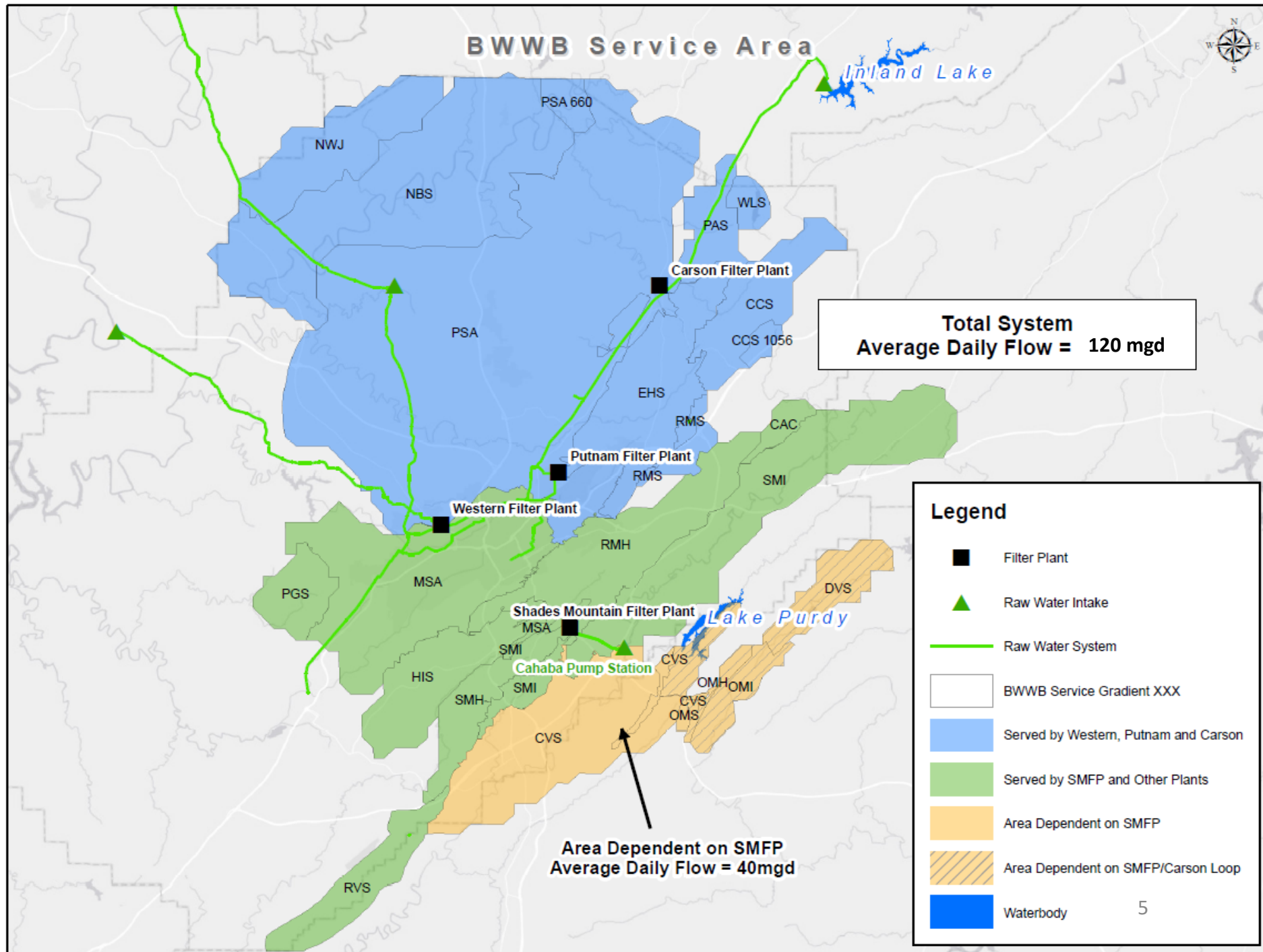
- Constructed between 1906-1910 to create Lake Purdy which is fed by the Little Cahaba River
- Overflow gravity dam constructed of locally mined limestone and dolomite reinforced with Portland Cement
- Dam was raised 20 feet between 1927-1929 and is 445 wide and 73 feet high
- Lake Purdy Reservoir has a surface area of 1,100 acres
- Used as a raw water source for Shades Mountain Filter Plant, the largest filtration plant in the State of Alabama
- Overall Project Costs: \$86.3 million





# System Overview

# System Overview- Pressure Gradients



# System Overview – Water Plants & Intakes


Treatment Plant	Source Water	Description	Approved Capacity (MGD)	Average Daily Flow (MGD)
Shades Mountain Filter Plant	Cahaba River and Lake Purdy	The Shades Mountain Filter Plant can only be supplied with raw water from the Cahaba River system.	80	55
Western Filter Plant	Sipsey and Mulberry Forks	The Mulberry and Sipsey intakes and associated transmission systems provide water to the Western Filter Plant. During drought conditions, production can be shifted from the Shades Mountain Filter Plant to the Western Filter Plant and the H.Y. Carson Filter Plant.	60	30
Putnam Filter Plant	Inland Lake, Sipsey Fork, and Mulberry Fork	Inland Lake and the associated transmission system provide water to the Putnam Filter Plant. The Sipsey system is considered a secondary water supply for the Putnam Filter Plant and raw water customers.	24	15
H.Y. Carson Filter Plant	Inland lake	The H.Y. Carson Filter Plant and most of the raw water customers are supplied from Inland Lake. During an emergency, BWWB can deliver up to approximately 20 MGD from the Sipsey or Mulberry systems to the H.Y. Carson Filter Plant, in addition to the feed to the Western and Putnam Filter Plants and the industrial raw water customers. During drought conditions, production can be shifted from the Shades Mountain Filter Plant to the Western Filter Plant and the H.Y. Carson Filter Plant.	25	15

# System Overview: Current Assets

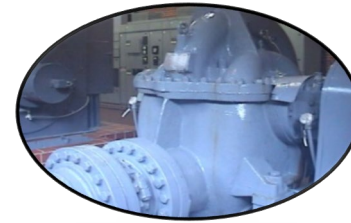
OUR GOAL IS TO MAINTAIN EXISTING ASSETS IN ORDER TO PRODUCE THE NATION'S HIGHEST QUALITY WATER



4 Treatment Plants  
4 Raw Water Plants  
2 Sludge Facilities



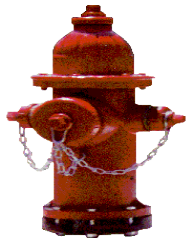
FY23(4,123) – FY24(4,137) Miles of Water Main  
Note: 229 Miles > 100 yrs. old  
1,000 Miles of Service Lines



51 Distribution Pump Stations  
41 Pressure Reducing Valves (PRV)



73 Potable and Raw Water Tanks



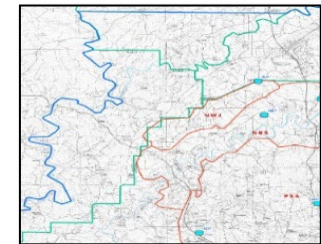
56,000 valves  
15,000 hydrants



154 Buildings



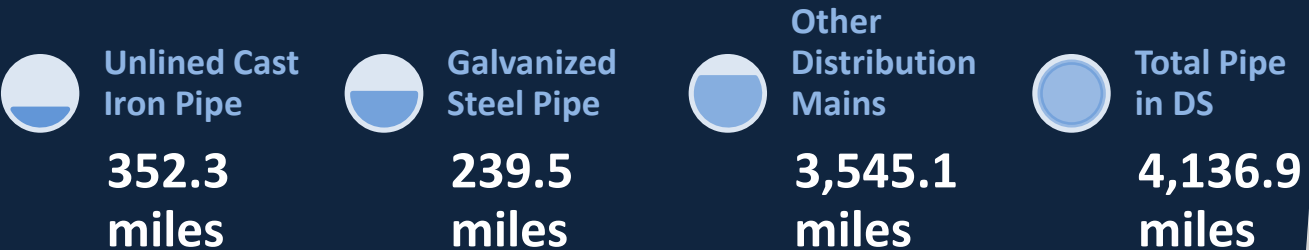
6 Impoundments (Dams)



20 Pressure Gradients  
Over 220,000 Meters/Connections

# System Overview

Driver: Leakage is driven by Galvanized Steel and Un-Lined Cast Iron Pipes



- ✓ ***Galvanized Steel and Unlined CI account for only 14.3% of the system***
- ✓ **Galvanized Steel Pipe and Unlined CI Pipe Accounts for 67% of our Maintenance Activity**





# System Overview – GIS Pipeline Dashboard

BWWB Distribution System Dashboard

Zoom to Service Gradient  
None

Age of GS - +90yrs - 95.24mi

80-90yrs - 7.94mi

70-80yrs - 29.46mi

60-70yrs - 59.25mi

50-60yrs - 34.97mi

0-50yrs - 12.57mi

Age of CI - +90yrs - 240.52mi

80-90yrs - 1.19mi

70-80yrs - 0.63mi

60-70yrs - 105.14mi

50-60yrs - 0.27mi

0-50yrs - 4.23mi

Galvanized Steel

Map Extent - 239.5 mi

Total System - 239.5 mi

Unlined Cast Iron

Map Extent - 352.2 mi

Total System - 352.3 mi

All Pipe

Map Extent - 4,133.9 mi

Total System - 4,136.9 mi

Hydrants

14.4k

Valves

56.3k

Tanks

80

Pump Stations

76

Detail Pages

2.4k



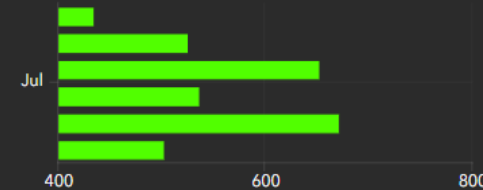
Esri, TomTom, Garmin, SafeGraph, FAO, METI/NASA, USGS, EPA, NPS, USFWS

Powered by Esri

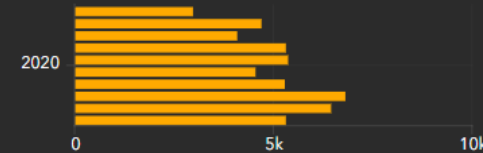
Leak Notifications this Year

5,277

Leak Notifications last 6 Months

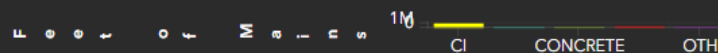


Leak Notifications by Year

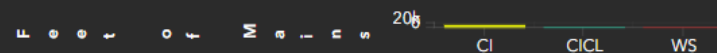


228.8 mi of Pipe over 100yr/old

Potable Water Mains over 100yr/old



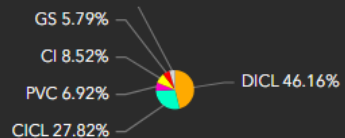
Raw Water Mains over 100yr/old



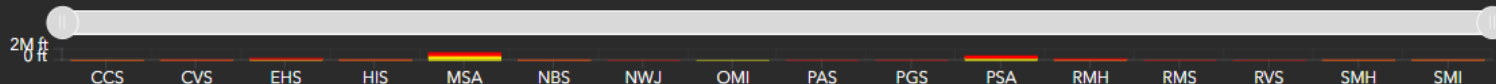
GIS Leaks by Year



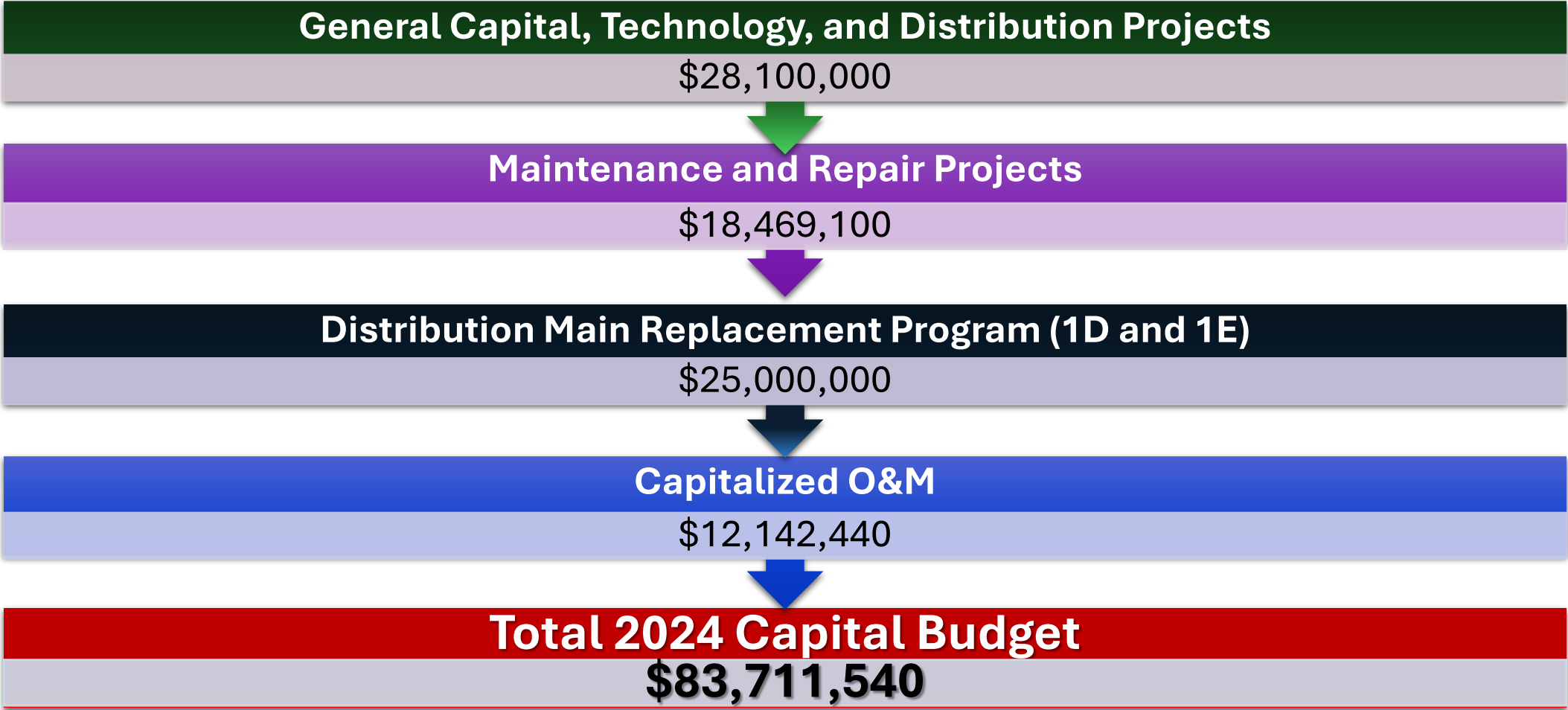
Total System - Pipe Material Breakdown



Galvanized Steel and Unlined Cast Iron by Gradient



# FY2024 Capital Budget





# Project Overview

# State of Lake Purdy Dam

- High Hazard Classification (per US Army Corps of Engineers)
- Alabama adopted *Dam Safety Program* in December 2023
- Improvements needed to renew the life of the Dam to meet current standard of care for Dam Safety in the United States.



# Project Overview and Outcomes



1. The project is **essential to maintaining the public health** in Birmingham by ensuring a reliable supply of clean water to support overall community.



2. Rehabilitating the Lake Purdy Dam will **strengthen the structure and increase resiliency** against extreme climate events.



3. This **project supports and stimulates Birmingham's economy** by ensuring a consistent water supply, vital for the businesses in the city, especially those in the downtown area.

# Lake Purdy Dam Design and Project Team

## **BWWB Representatives:**

- Chief Engineer and Engineering Manager – Hattye D. McCarroll, PE
- Principal Engineer / Project Manager – Wanda Ervin, PE
- Assistant Project Manager – Matt Rocksvold, EI

## **Design Engineer:**

- Arcadis
- Schnabel Engineering
- AG Gaston Engineering and Construction
- CE Associates

## **BWWB Independent Support Services:**

- Field Services & Material Testing Firm: Bhate
- Environmental Compliance Oversight: TTL, Inc & Sidney May PE, LLC

## **Contractor:**

- Thalle Construction Company



# Project Approach

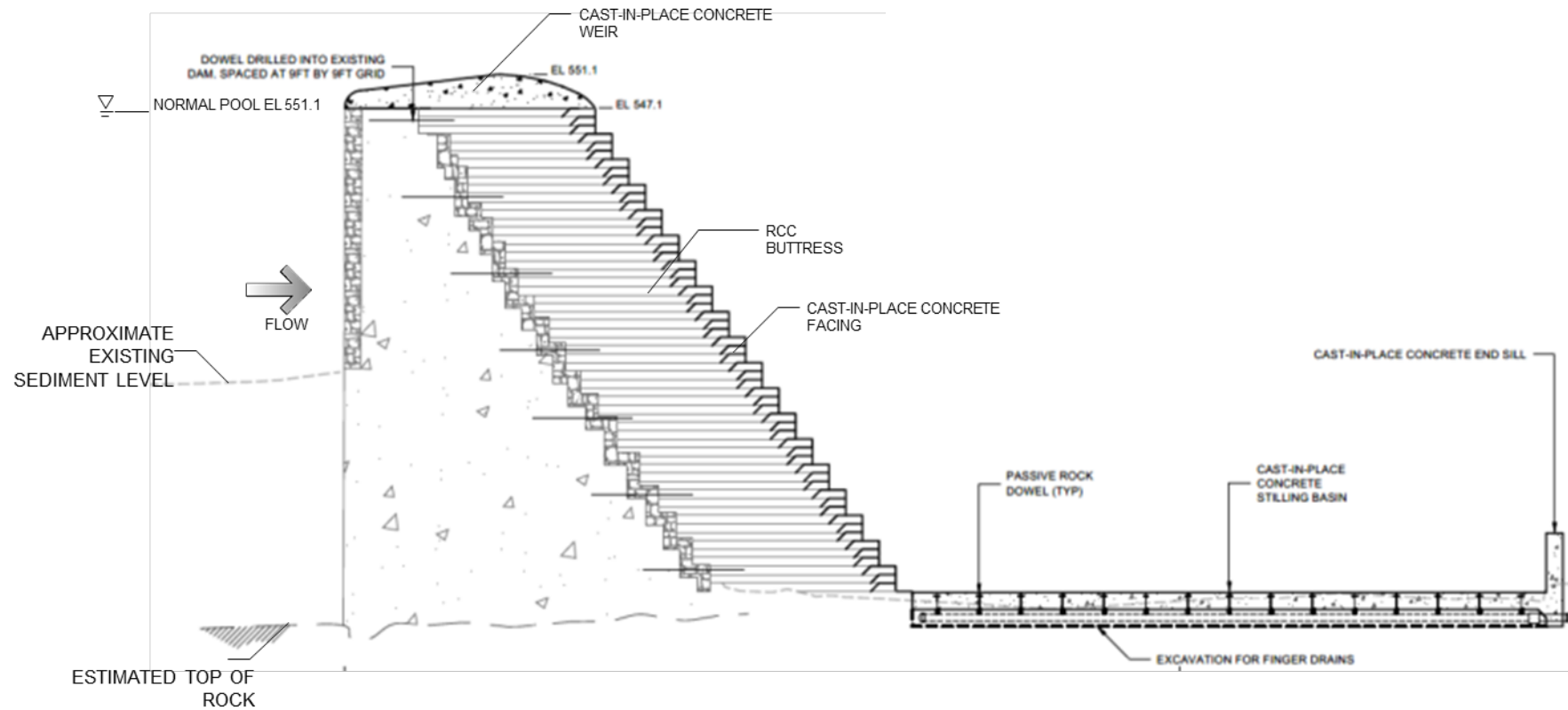
# Project Objectives

- Improve Structural Stability to Meet Full Range of Loading Conditions
- Mitigate Seepage Visible at Foundation and Abutments through Foundation Grouting
- Improve Spillway Capacity
- Raise Non-Overflow Section of the Walls to Train Flow to the Spillway
- Rehabilitate the Valve House and replace valves.

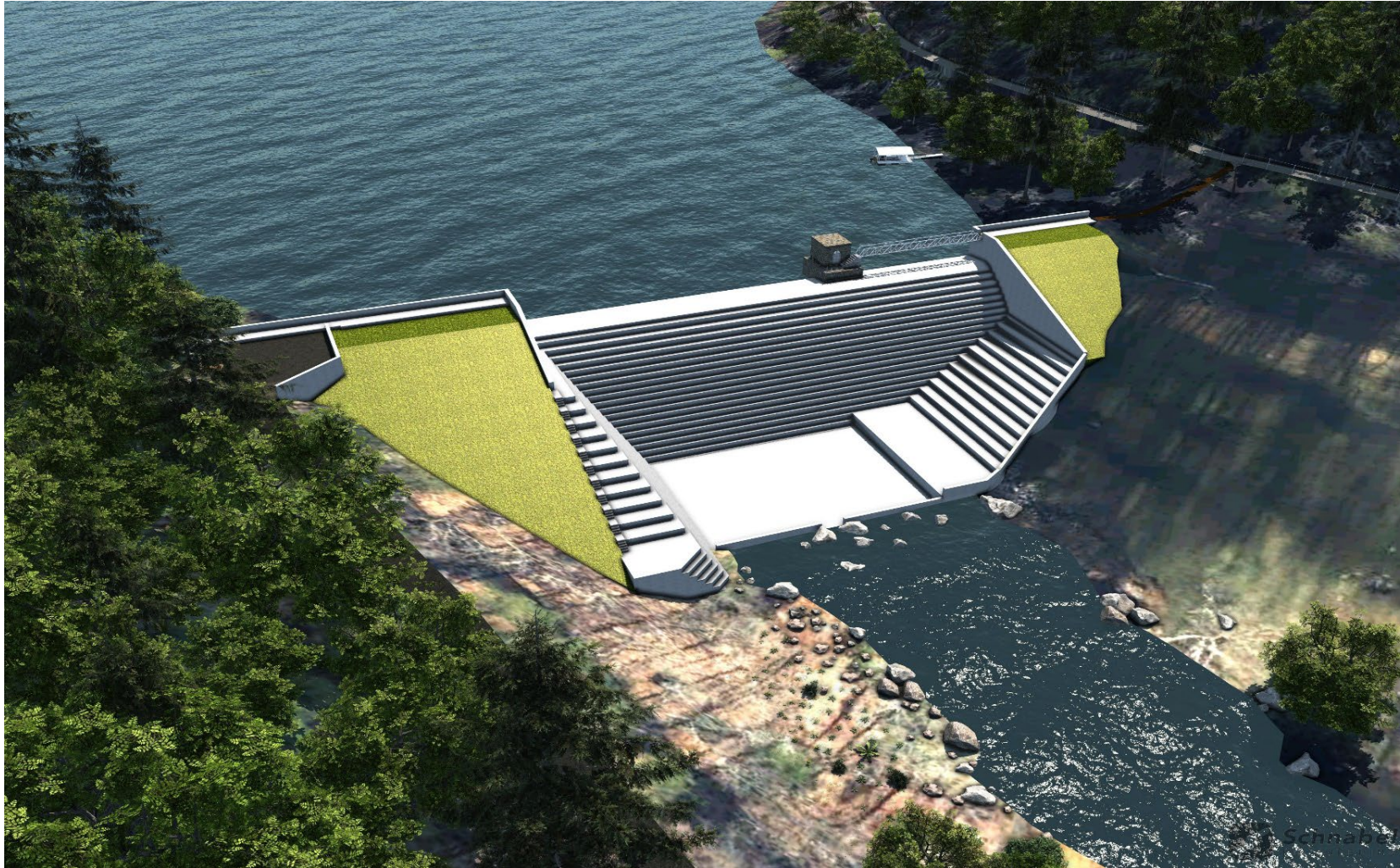




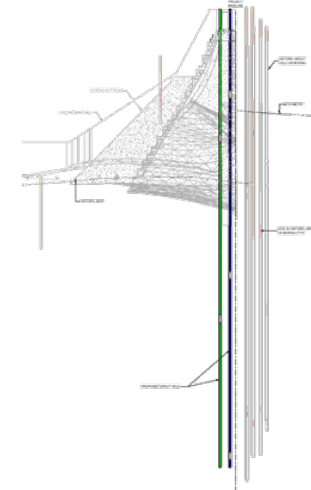
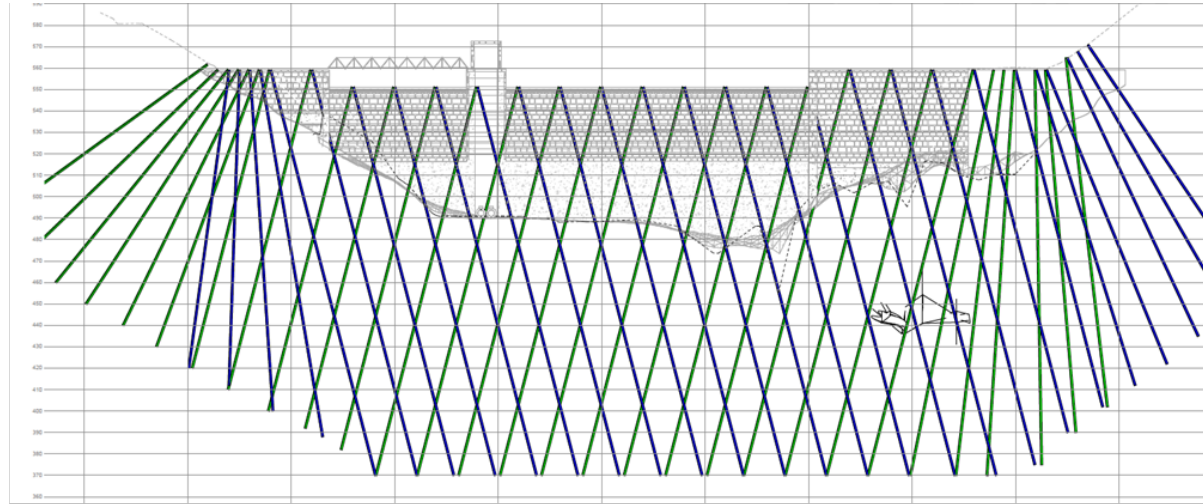
# Structural Stability – RCC Buttress at Spillway



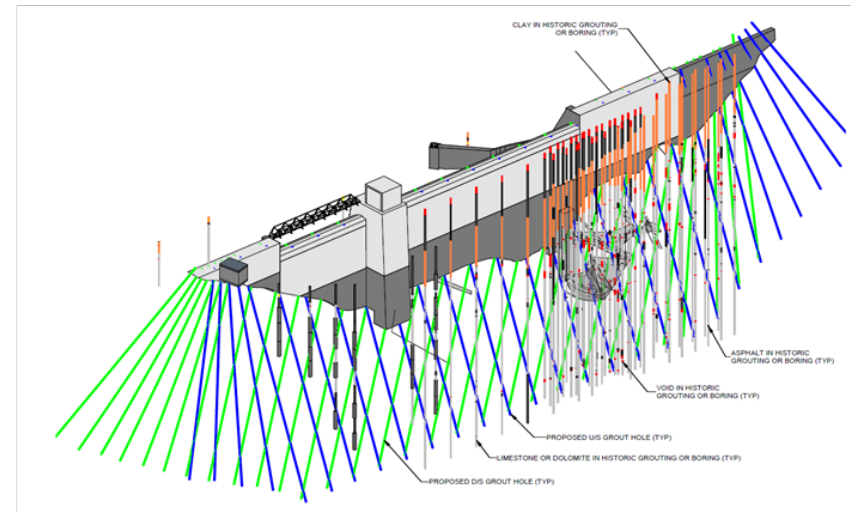
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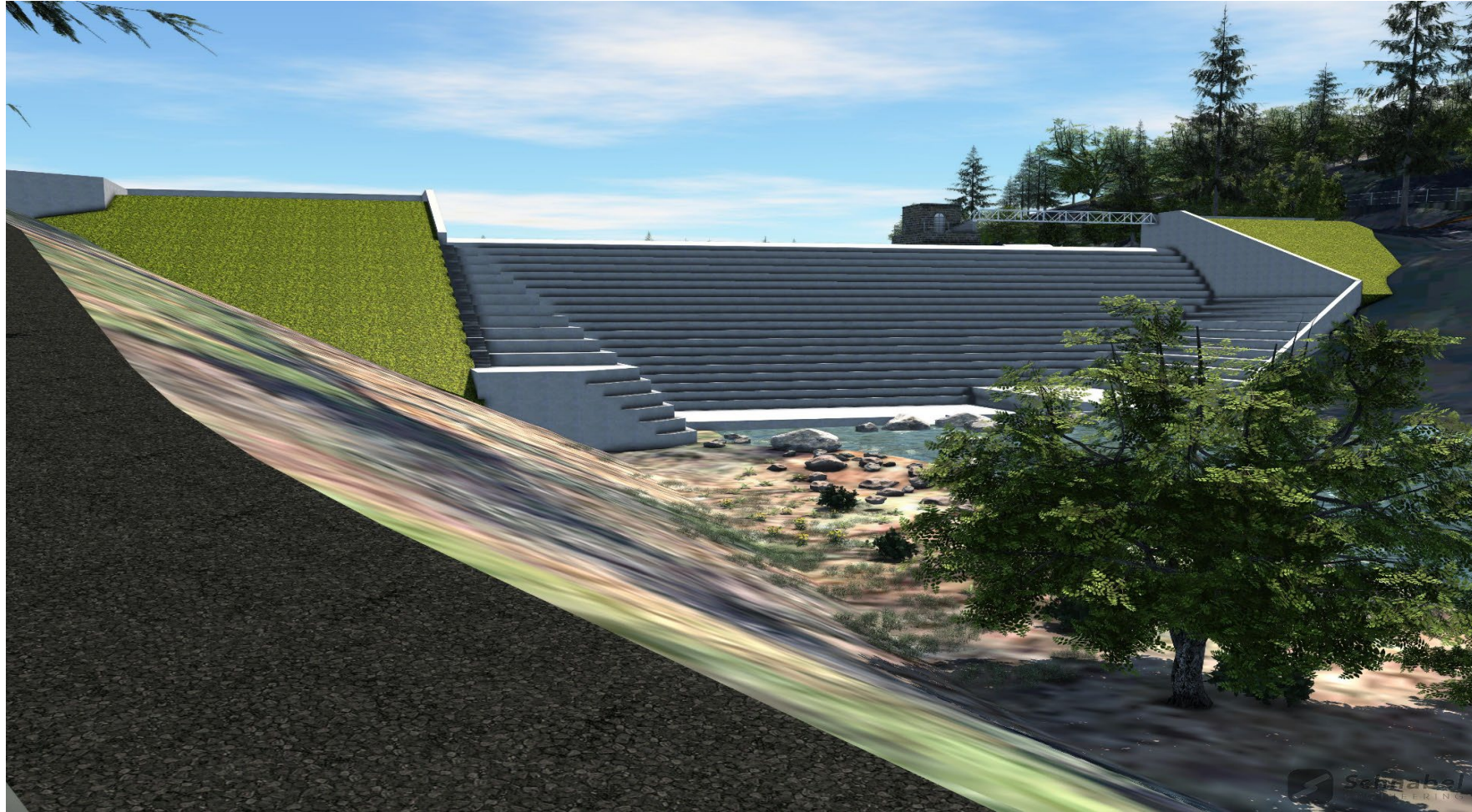
# Seepage - Grouting



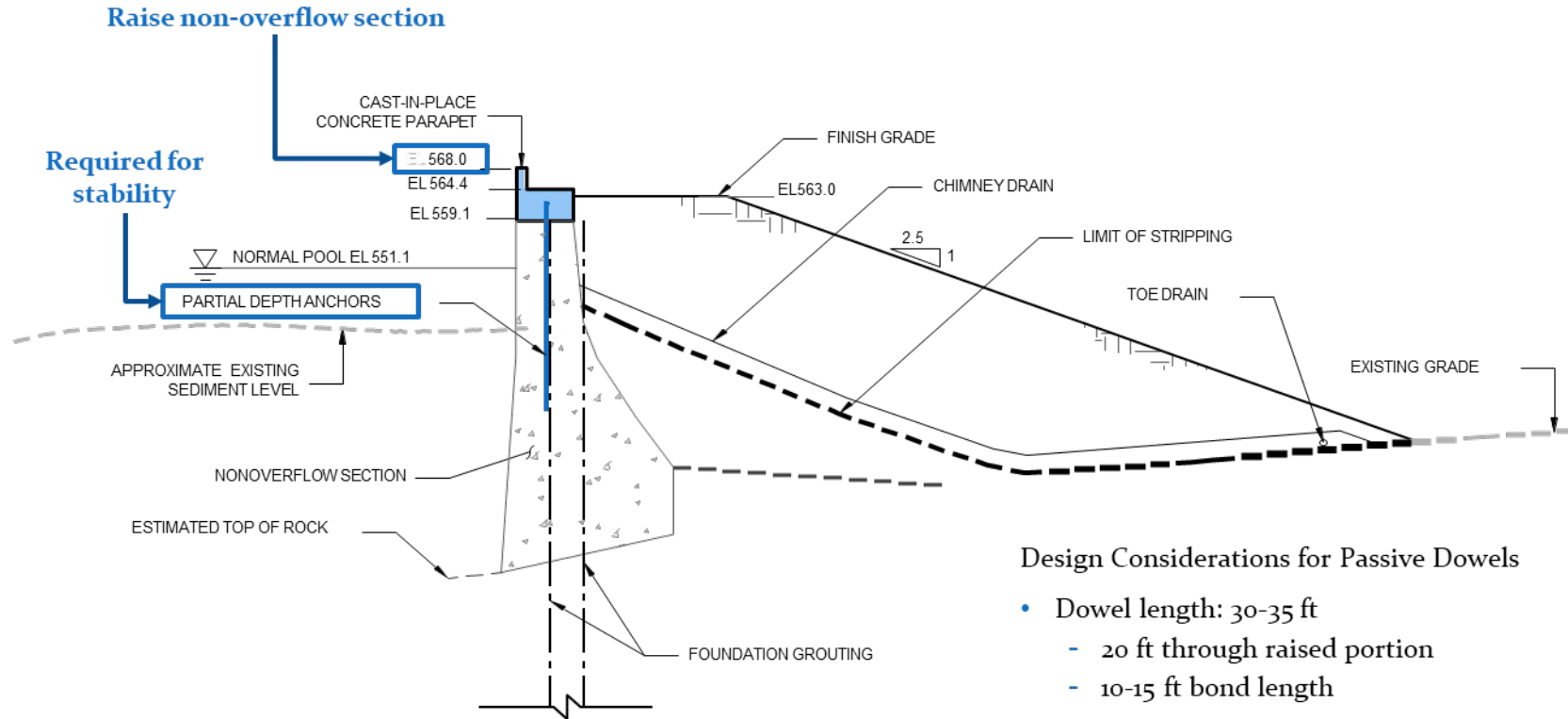
- Buttress constructed (to top of existing dam) and pre-treat upper section prior to grouting.



# Design Flood Containment – Flood Walls



# Design Flood Containment – Flood Walls



## Design Considerations for Passive Dowels

- Dowel length: 30-35 ft
  - 20 ft through raised portion
  - 10-15 ft bond length
- Ultimate grout/concrete bond strength: 150 psi
  - Conservative estimate based on concrete and dolomite
  - Bond strength FS  $\approx$  5



# Road Improvements and Mitigation

# Road Improvements

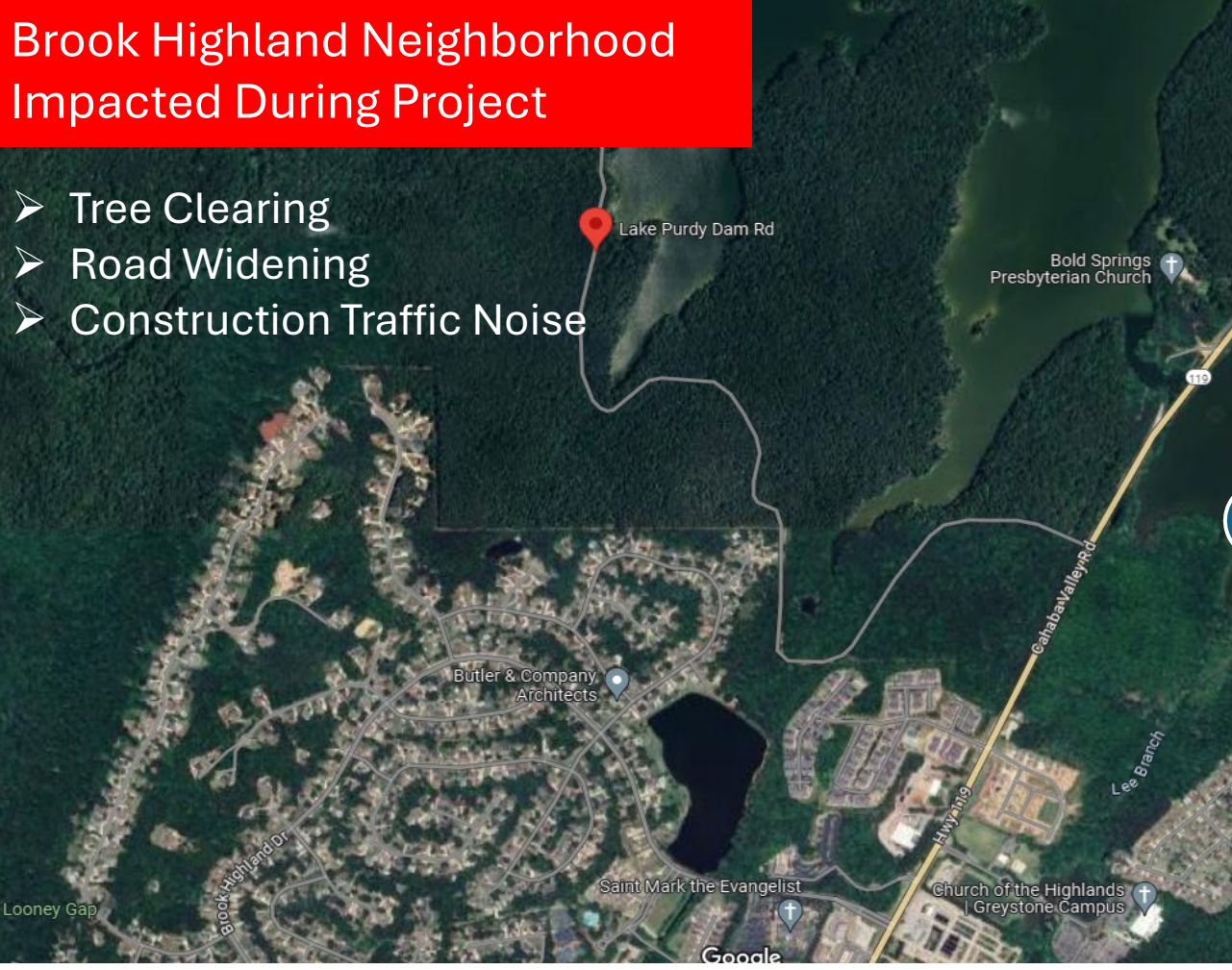
- Existing access routes to the Dam not adequate to support the construction traffic
- Need two-mile road improvements from Hwy 119 to the Dam site to support construction traffic
- Improvements include
  - Tree removal
  - Widening existing roadway
  - Increasing minimum turning radius to support truck traffic



# Potential Community Impact

## Brook Highland Neighborhood Impacted During Project

- Tree Clearing
- Road Widening
- Construction Traffic Noise



## Measures to Address Community Impact







# Environmental Impacts and Mitigation

# Environmental Impact and Mitigation

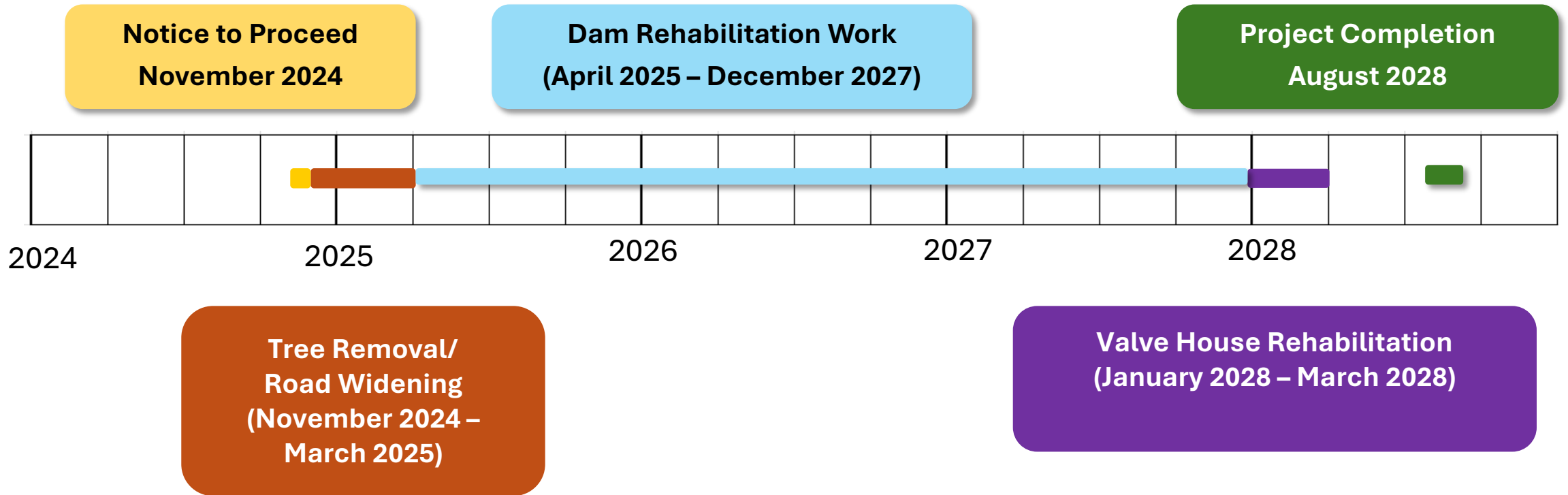
- Federally Listed Threatened and Endangered Species of Potential Occurrence within the Project Area Based on US Fish and Wildlife Service IPAC Review
  - Gray Bat
  - Northern Long-eared Bat
  - Indiana Bat
  - Tricolored Bat
  - Freshwater Mussel Species & Critical Habitat



An aerial photograph of a city skyline at dusk, with a blue overlay. The city features a mix of modern high-rise buildings and older, lower-rise structures. The sky is a deep blue, and the city lights are beginning to glow. The text "Construction Schedule and Next Steps" is overlaid in white, bold, sans-serif font across the center of the image.

# Construction Schedule and Next Steps

# Project Timeline



# Seasonal Constraints to Maintain Operations

**TABLE 01 14 16 -B  
SCHEDULE OF SEASONAL RESTRICTIONS**

<b>Sr. No</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Allowable Timeframe</b>
1	Tree Clearing	Clearing of trees within staging area or areas of proposed work	November 15 through March 31
2	Lowering of Lake Level	Lowering normal pool elevation by 5 feet during construction of spillway weir on top of RCC	September 1 through December 31
3	Gate house Related Work	Gate house Inspection, Repair and Replacement Work in the Gate house	January through March





# Questions and Answers