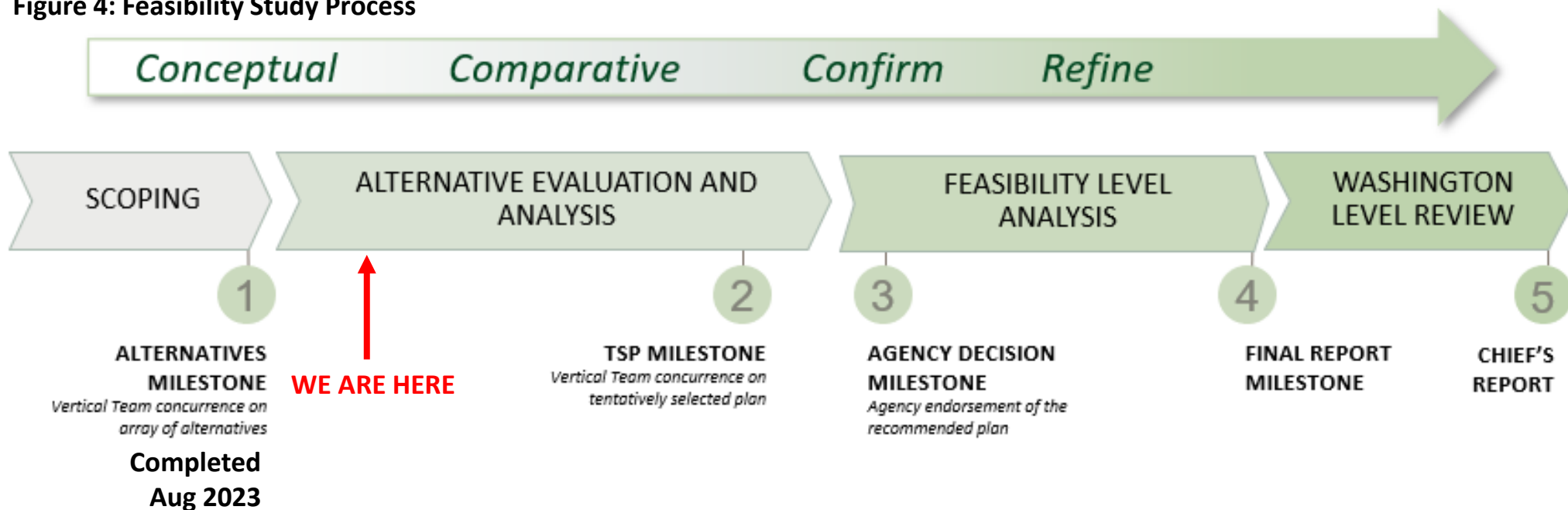




U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS STUDY PROCESS

Figure 4: Feasibility Study Process

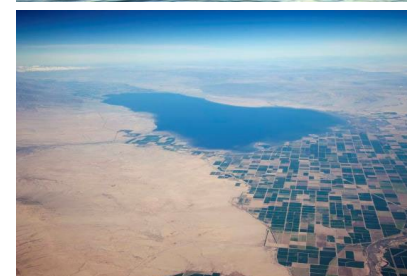


KEY MILESTONES AND MEETINGS

MILESTONE AND/OR MEETING	DATE
Feasibility Cost Sharing Agreement Signed	16 December 2022
Interagency Meeting	16 March 2023
Public Meetings (Link)	18 May 2023
Non-Governmental Organization Pre-Scoping Meeting	22 May 2023
Environmental Justice Pre-Scoping Meeting	1 June 2023
Alternatives Milestone Meeting	23 August 2023
Vertical Team Alignment Memo Signed	26 November 2023
Revised Vertical Team Alignment Memo (with Early Implementation Increment) Signed	9 August 2024

STUDY SCOPING STATUS

- The Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 codified internal expedited project delivery processes for feasibility studies in law by limiting the time and funding to produce a Chief's Report to 3 years and \$3 million, known as the "3x3x3 Rule."
- Based on the size of the study area which exceeds typical restoration projects, and the complexity of the issues facing the Salton Sea, the study team is seeking an exemption to the "3x3x3 Rule" by requesting additional time and funding to execute the recommended study scope; exemption request is pending final Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works) approval.
- The recommended study scope will likely take seven (7) years to complete for approximately \$22.5 million, dependent on funding availability and complexity of analyses.



ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE

- ✓ Sent letters inviting Cooperating and Participating agencies 07 March 2023
- ✓ Conducted NEPA pre-scoping
- ✓ Held Interagency meeting on 16 March 2023
- ✓ Held 2 public meetings during afternoon and evening of 18 May 2023
- ✓ Held 30-day public comment period, closed 06 June 2023
- ✓ Began coordination of study schedule with Cooperating and Participating agencies
- ✓ Initiated informal consultation with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- ✓ Began development of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act formal Scope of Work Agreement
- ✓ Distributed initial Section 106 Consultation letters 26 May 2023; 26 Tribes identified

WHAT'S NEXT?

- The study team is working together with subject matter experts in the fields of hydrology, climate, biology, agriculture, and water and land use policy to develop a hydrologic and hydraulic model of the Sea.
- Alternative plans will be evaluated to select an effective and cost-efficient plan to recommend for agency endorsement. This plan, the tentatively selected plan, will be presented to USACE leadership at the Tentatively Selected Plan milestone, currently anticipated for October 2027.

DECISION-MAKING CRITERIA

The following criteria will be used to evaluate alternative plans and eventually select a Recommended Plan that is supported by USACE leadership, non-federal sponsors, and the community:

- Effectiveness of achieving study objectives
- Cost efficiency
- Acceptability as defined in [Guidance](#)
- Duration to achieve restoration benefits
- Resiliency to future inflow scenarios
- Acres of emissive seabed managed
- Environmental Justice benefits
- Recreation benefits
- National Economic Development
- Regional Economic Development

