

TRIBAL CONSULTATION IN THE RAPID FRAMEWORK



Planning Community of Practice Webinar

31 July 2026



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TRIBAL NATIONS PROGRAM



- Introduction
- Requirements for Tribal Liaisons in USACE
- SPK Planning Tribal Consultation Model
- Ongoing RAPID Planning Study Example: Southern Everglades



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PRESENTER INTRODUCTIONS

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WHY DO WE CONSULT?

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Federal Trust Responsibility

- Broadly: support & encourage tribal self-government, self-determination, and economic prosperity
- Specifically: faithfully perform tasks expressly set forth in federal treaties (US Constitution, Articles I and VI)

Federal Indian Policy

- Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971: using a self-determination model, extinguishes surface and subsurface land claims, establishing Regional and Village Corporations

Executive Orders & Pronouncements

- EO 13175: Consultation and Coordination with Tribal Governments
- EO 13007: Indian Sacred Sites
- Presidential Memorandum on Uniform Standards for Tribal Consultation, 30 November 2022

Consultation Triggers:

- National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA)
- National Environmental Policy Act of 1970 (NEPA)
- Native American Graves Repatriation Act of 1990 (NAGPRA)
- Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979 (ARPA)
- American Indian Religious Freedom Act of 1978 (AIRFA)
- Religious Freedom Restoration Act of 1993

ROLE OF THE TRIBAL LIAISON IN USACE



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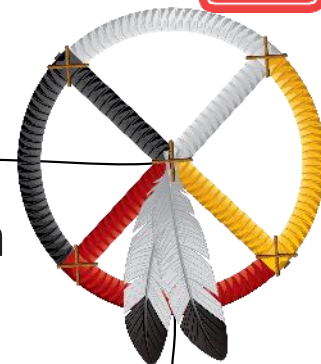
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USACE TRIBAL POLICY PRINCIPLES

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1. Tribal Sovereignty

meet trust obligations, protect trust resources, and obtain Tribal views of trust and treaty responsibilities.

2. Trust Responsibility

meet trust obligations, protect trust resources, and obtain Tribal views of trust and treaty responsibilities.

3. Government-to-Government

ensure that Corps leaders and Tribal leaders meet as governments and recognize that Tribes have the right to be treated in accordance with principles of self-determination.

4. Pre-Decisional Consultation

involve Tribes collaboratively, before and throughout decision making process.

5. Self Reliance, Capacity Building, and Growth

search for ways to involve Tribes in programs, projects, and other activities that build economic capacity and manage Tribal resources while preserving cultural identities.

6. Natural and Cultural Resources

preserve and protect trust resources and consider the potential effects of Corps programs on natural and cultural resources.



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WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2022



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Section 8112 – Role of the Tribal Liaison, defined:

Improve Access	Remove barriers for Tribal communities to access and participate in USACE programs.
Enhance Outreach	Improve engagement with Tribal communities regarding relevant USACE programs and services.
Facilitate Consultation	Strengthen Government-to-Government consultation between the USACE and Tribal communities.
Implement Policy	Coordinate and implement all applicable Department of Defense (DoD) and USACE Tribal Consultation Policies, programs, and guidelines.
Provide Training	Develop and provide training for USACE staff to gain knowledge about relevant USACE programs and policies, the history between the federal government and Tribal Nations, and methods to interact with Tribal communities in ways that are beneficial and culturally competent.



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WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2022

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Core Role and Responsibilities:

- Tribal Consultation.
 - *Active engagement and facilitation between Tribal Nations and District Commander.*
- Remove barriers for programs and services.
 - *Improve relationships with Sr. Leaders and staff.*
- Coordinate USACE Tribal Policy Principles, Consultation Policies, programs, and guidelines (i.e., Rapid Planning).
- Provide training for USACE staff (and Tribal communities) to gain knowledge about relevant USACE programs and policies and methods to interact with Tribal communities in ways that are beneficial and culturally competent (i.e., RAPID Planning).

Definitions:

- *Permanent employee of a USACE district whose primary responsibilities are to (a) serve as a direct line of comms between District Commanders and the Tribal communities within the boundaries of the Corps District, and (b) ensure consistency in G2G relations.*
- *A community of people who are recognized and defined under Federal law as indigenous people of the United States.*



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PRE-DECISIONAL CONSULTATION & COORDINATION

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Engaging Tribes early (pre-decisional) is foundational to mutual respect and the implementation of our Tribal Policy.

Tribal communication occurs at many levels:

- Leadership Level – Government-to-Government (G2G) or Nation-to-Nation
- Policy level
- Technical staff level

Tribal Consultation is NOT:

- Announcing a decision to Tribes
- Minor or informal interactions with tribal members
- Check the box exercise



SPK PLANNING TRIBAL CONSULTATION MODEL: YOLO BYPASS INTER-TRIBAL WORKSHOPS



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YOLO BYPASS COMPREHENSIVE STUDY

Case Study Purpose

- Improved Flood Risk Management
- Restore Ecosystem Functions
- Support Water Supply Reliability
- Enhance Recreation
- Advance Multi-Benefit Resource Management





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FOUNDATION: USACE CIVIL WORKS TRIBAL CONSULTATION POLICY (2023)

Key Principles:

Early Engagement

Meaningful Consultation

Transparency

Collaboration

Incorporation of Tribal Information into
Decision-Making

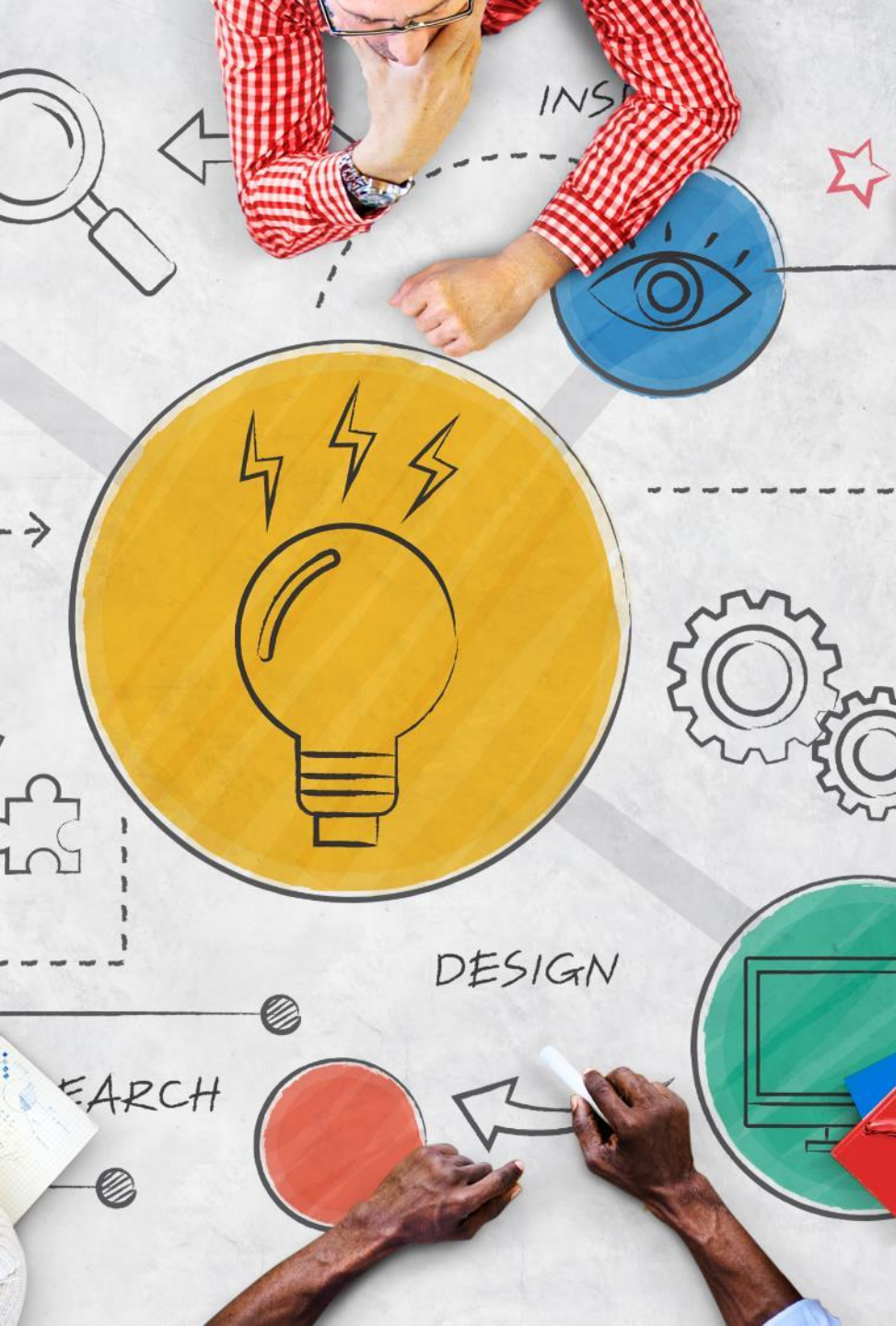




BUILDING THE TRIBAL COORDINATION TEAM

Following the USACE and Non-Federal Sponsor Charette:

- Tribal Liaison
- Project Manager
- Lead Planner
- Environmental Manager
- Cultural Resources Lead





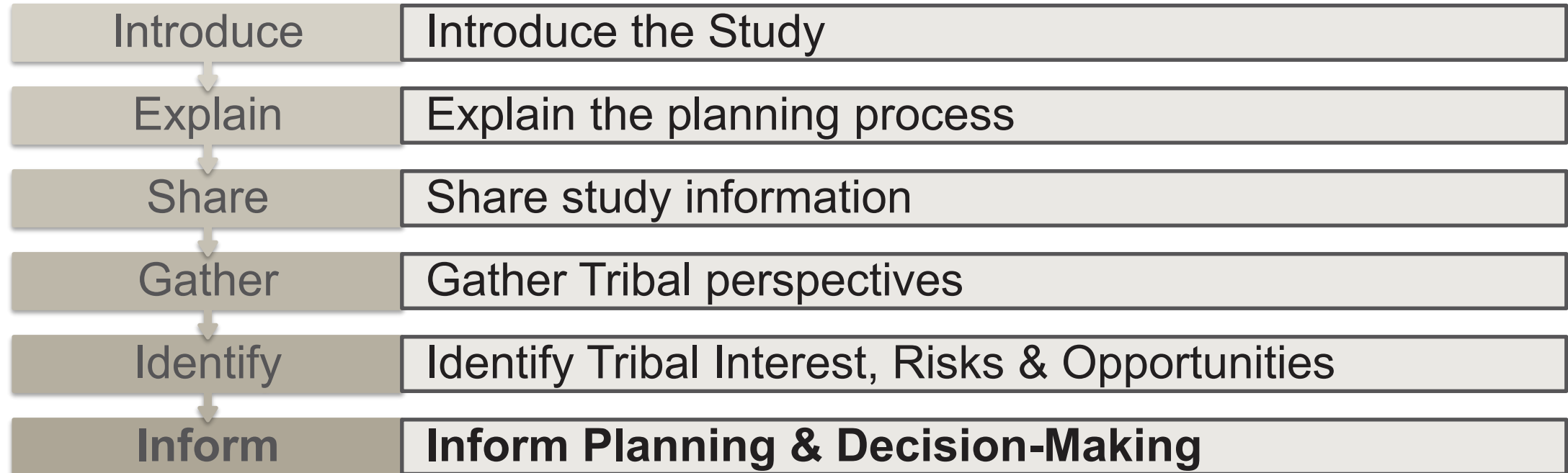
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COORDINATION WITH THE NON-FEDERAL SPONSOR

- Objectives for Coordination
- Shared messaging
- Communication planning
- Information sharing
- Transparency
- Consistency



INTER-TRIBAL WORKSHOP MODEL





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INTER-TRIBAL CHARETTE

December 1, 2023

Purpose

- Introduce the Yolo Bypass Comprehensive Study
- Explain the USACE Civil Works Tribal Consultation Policy (2023)
- Discuss study objectives, schedule, and engagement opportunities
- Initiate dialogue with Tribal Nations early in the feasibility process

Outcome:

- Established relationships and communication pathways
- Introduced Tribal Nations to the study and planning process
- Set expectations for future coordination and workshops
- Created a foundation for ongoing Tribal coordination throughout the feasibility process

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The screenshot shows a Zoom meeting in progress. At the top, there is a navigation bar with options: File, Edit, Share, View, Audio & Video, Participant, Meeting, and Help. Below this is a row of five video thumbnails of participants. The fourth thumbnail is highlighted and labeled 'Michelle Larson (Host)'. Below the thumbnails, it says 'Viewing Michelle Larson's application(s)' and a zoom level of '74%'. The main content area displays a presentation slide titled 'Introduction - Tribes' on a light brown, textured background. The slide lists 12 tribal entities, each with a small circular logo to its left. The entities are arranged in two columns. The first column lists: Buena Vista Rancheria of Me-Wuk Indians, Cachil Dehe Band of Wintun Indians of the Colusa Indian Community, California Valley Miwok Tribe (Sheep Ranch Rancheria), Chicken Ranch Rancheria of Me-Wuk Indians, Guidiville Indian Rancheria, Kletsel Dehe Wintun Nation of the Cortina Rancheria, and Muwekma Ohlone Indian Tribe of the SF Bay Area. The second column lists: Nashville Enterprise Miwok-Maidu-Nishinam Tribe, North Valley Yokuts Tribe, Shingle Springs Rancheria of Miwok Indians, United Auburn Indian Community of the Auburn Rancheria, Wilton Rancheria, Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation, and The Confederated Villages of Lisjan.

Introduction - Tribes

 Buena Vista Rancheria of Me-Wuk Indians	 Nashville Enterprise Miwok-Maidu-Nishinam Tribe
 Cachil Dehe Band of Wintun Indians of the Colusa Indian Community	North Valley Yokuts Tribe
California Valley Miwok Tribe (Sheep Ranch Rancheria)	 Shingle Springs Rancheria of Miwok Indians
 Chicken Ranch Rancheria of Me-Wuk Indians	 United Auburn Indian Community of the Auburn Rancheria
Guidiville Indian Rancheria	 Wilton Rancheria
 Kletsel Dehe Wintun Nation of the Cortina Rancheria	 Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation
 Muwekma Ohlone Indian Tribe of the SF Bay Area	 The Confederated Villages of Lisjan



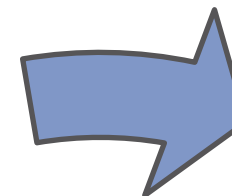
EVOLUTION OF INTER-TRIBAL WORKSHOPS

Workshop #3

- Measures & Alternatives
- Virtual Site Visit
- Tribal Perspectives
- Areas of Concern

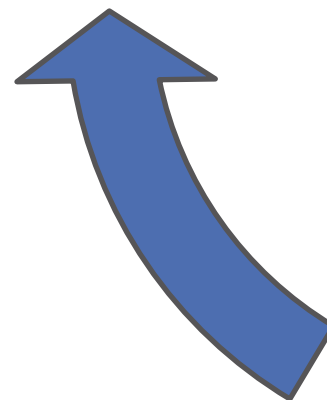
Workshop #1

- Planning Process
- Study Phases
- Communication Expectations



Workshop #2

- Study Milestones
- NEPA
- NHPA Section 106
- Tribal Coordination Opportunities





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TRIBAL ENGAGEMENT TIMELINE





TRIBAL COORDINATION BEYOND WORKSHOPS

EARLY TRIBAL INPUT
ON RESOURCE
CONCERNS, CULTURAL
LANDSCAPES, AND
ANCESTRAL LAND
USES

THREE INTER-TRIBAL
WORKSHOPS
CONDUCTED
THROUGHOUT THE
FEASIBILITY
PROCESS

VIRTUAL SITE VISIT
CONDUCTED TO
SUPPORT TRIBAL
UNDERSTANDING OF
THE STUDY AREA AND
ALTERNATIVES

PLANNING AN IN-
PERSON TRIBAL SITE
VISIT TO WALK THE
LANDSCAPE AND
DISCUSS AREAS OF
CONCERN

TRIBAL
COORDINATION
SUPPORTING
GEOTECHNICAL
PLANNING AND FIELD
ACTIVITIES

TRIBAL INFORMATION
INCORPORATED INTO
PLANNING
DISCUSSION AND
STUDY
DEVELOPMENT





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FROM ENGAGEMENT TO PLANNING PRODUCTS

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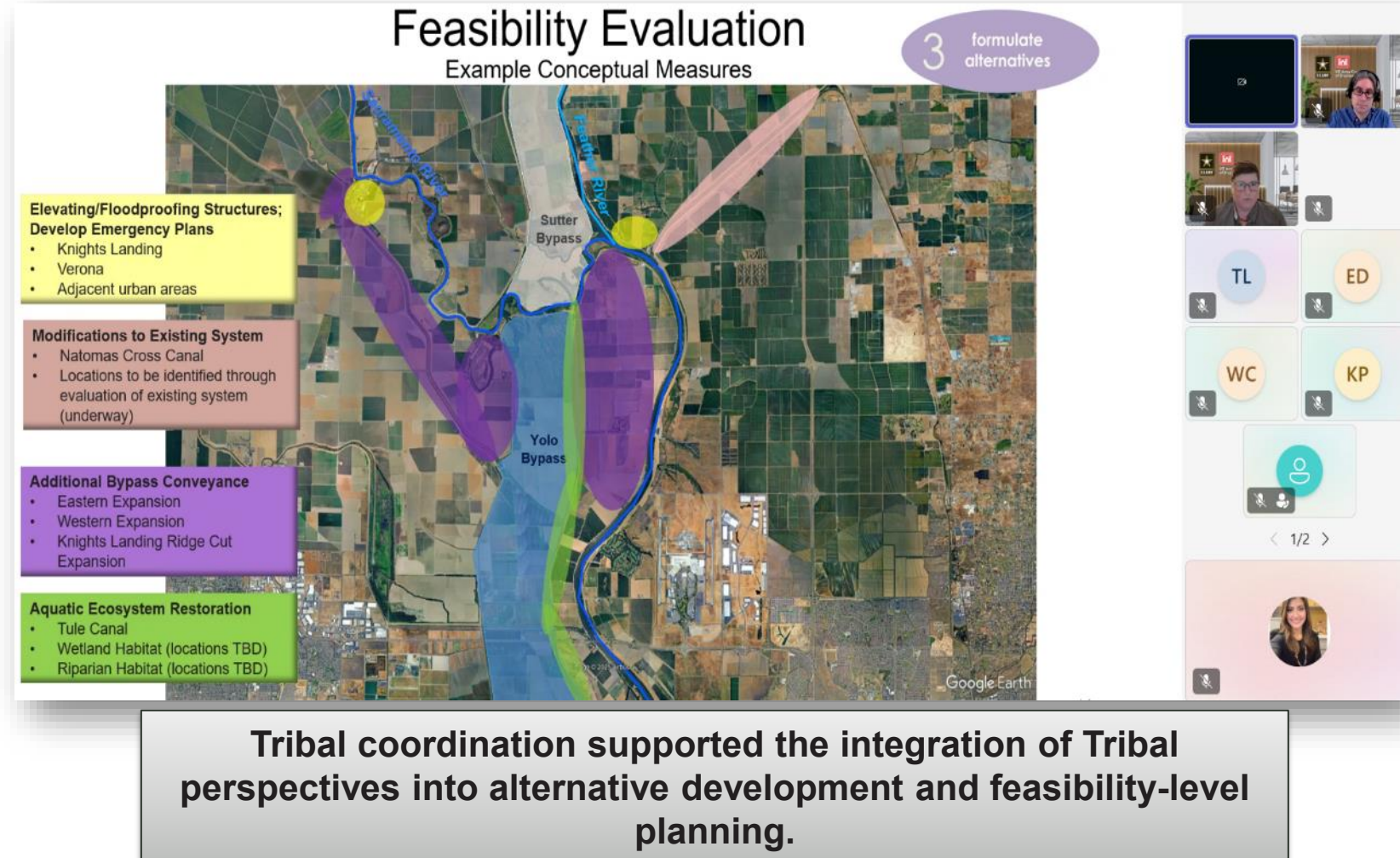


Information gathered through:

- Inter-Tribal Workshops
- Tribal Meetings
- Correspondence
- Government-to-Government Consultation

Informed:

- Existing Conditions
- Problems, Needs, Opportunities & Constraints
- Risk Identification
- Alternative Development
- Environmental Compliance Planning
- Tribal Coordination Sections in Study Documentation
- Feasibility-Level Decision-Making



LEARNING AS WE GO: THE SOUTHERN EVERGLADES RESTORATION PROJECT UNDER THE RAPID FRAMEWORK



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COMPREHENSIVE EVERGLADES RESTORATION PLAN



Historic Flow



Altered Flow



CERP in place
More Restored Flow
with CERP



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SOUTHERN EVERGLADES RESTORATION PROJECT

GROUNDWATER SEEPAGE MANAGEMENT

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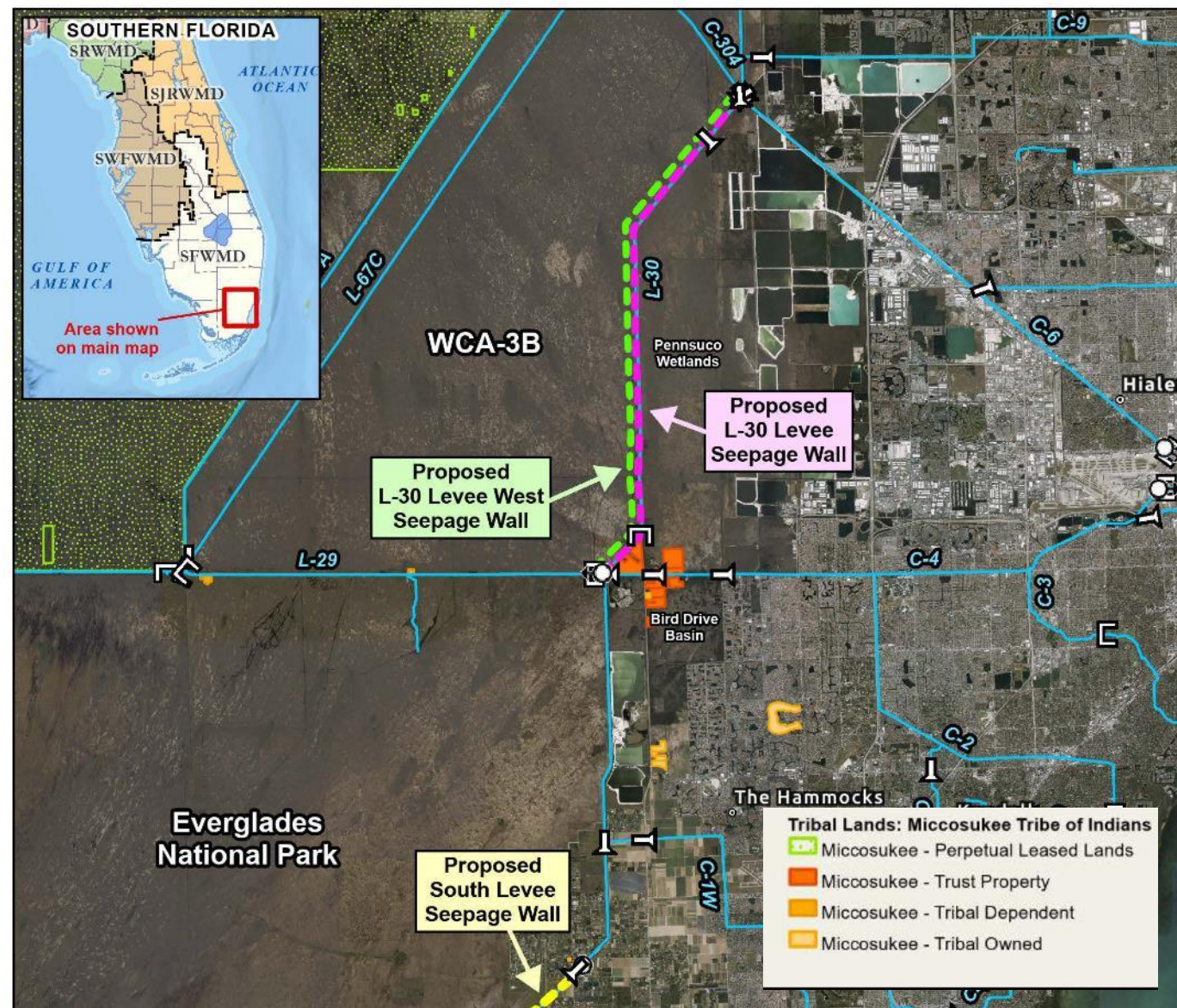
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SOUTHERN EVERGLADES RESTORATION PROJECT

SCHEDULE



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Kick off meeting/ USACE/SFWMD	1/20/26	1/21/26	1	→	JAN 30 Open House Notice Released. Canceled on FEB 03
Identify Existing Information, Develop POOCs	1/23/26	2/6/26	14	→	Feb 12 Ltr. Initiate G2G and Staff Coord on RAPID Project
Final POOCs, Develop Management Measures	2/9/26	2/16/26	7	→	Feb 25 Email w/ conceptual study area and RAPID info.
Develop Initial Array, Planning Workshop	2/17/26	2/24/26	7		Follow up with phone(s) call to key staff (outside of 106)
Develop Risk Register	2/17/26	2/24/26	7		
Prepare Materials, DP1 (Placemat, graphics of array)	2/24/26	3/1/26	5		
PMP Development Complete (CW030)	1/20/26	2/24/26	35		
Review Plan Complete (CW035)	1/20/26	2/24/26	35		
Decision Point 1: PMP, Initial Array, Conceptual TSP	1/20/26	3/6/26	45	→	MAR 06 Input received from Tribes. Included input in DP1
DP1: RE ROM, Class 5		3/6/26	45		
Develop evaluation criteria for initial array	3/7/26	3/14/26	7	→	MAR 13 Four Purpose Letter: NEPA Scoping, 106, Invite to Cooperating Agency and PDT
Develop Eco PMs, Planning Model, MSR	3/7/26	3/21/26	14		
NEPA Scoping - Tribal Meeting	3/7/26	3/21/26	14		
NEPA Scoping - Public Meetings	3/7/26	3/21/26	14	→	MAR 16 Coord with MTI to discuss RAPID and Project
Evaluate Initial Array, Planning Workshop	3/22/26	3/29/26	7		
Finalize the Final Array	3/30/26	4/6/26	7	→	MAR 30 Federal Agency and Tribal Scoping Meeting
Update Real Estate, Cost ROM	4/7/26	4/14/26	7		
Prepare Materials, IPR on Final Array	4/15/26	4/20/26	5		
Vertical Team IPR - Final Array	1/20/26	4/20/26	90	→	APR 20 Provide Input from Tribe to VT
Alternative Evaluation and Analysis					
Confirm Baseline ECB/FWoP Modeling	4/21/26	4/26/26	5		
RSM-GL Final Array of Alternatives	4/29/26	5/29/26	30		



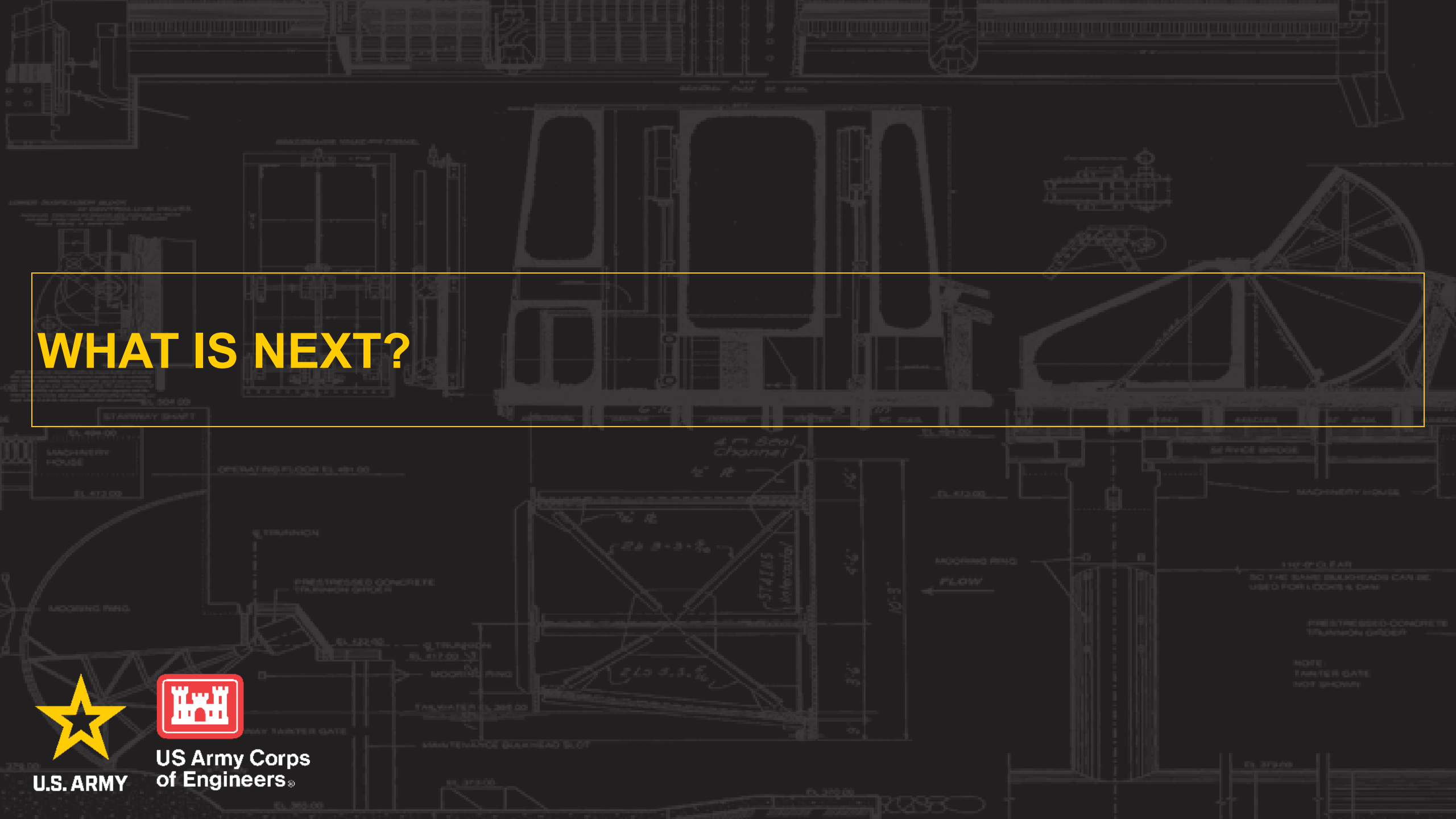
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KEY TAKEAWAYS ON SOUTHERN EVERGLADES STUDY – A PERSPECTIVE

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1. Invite TL to NFS Kick-off meeting or engage the TL within 3 days after Kick-off
2. Within 3-5 days of NFS Kick-off, send heads-up email to Tribal tech staff about “Open House” OR a public Kick-off meeting to discuss proposed project
3. Within 3-10 days after NFS Kick-off send Letter to Tribes: G2G, NEPA Scoping, 106, PDT, Cooperating Agency w/enclosures a) scrubbed version of draft schedule showing when input is needed, b) draft placemat w/ conceptual study area boundary, and c) list of POCs w/project website link
4. Consider inviting Tribes to the Working Groups/Charettes
5. Don't assume that because your project is in the same area (or general area) as a previous project that the Tribe(s) will have the same concerns/comments
6. PTL or PM should consider sending detailed project schedules out to USACE team members (including TL and CR) once a week (or as it develops/changes) for the first 12 weeks
 - TL and CR should send a simplified version of the schedule out to Tribes
7. Tribal or Trust resources are not just cultural resources. Tribal resources can be Treaty rights, perpetual use rights, medicinal gathering places, places for gathering traditional foods, water rights, ceremonial areas, sacred sites, etc. etc. etc. Talk to your TL or talk to your Tribes!!



WHAT IS NEXT?



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RAPID CROSSWALK & GRAPHIC FOR TRIBAL COMMENT

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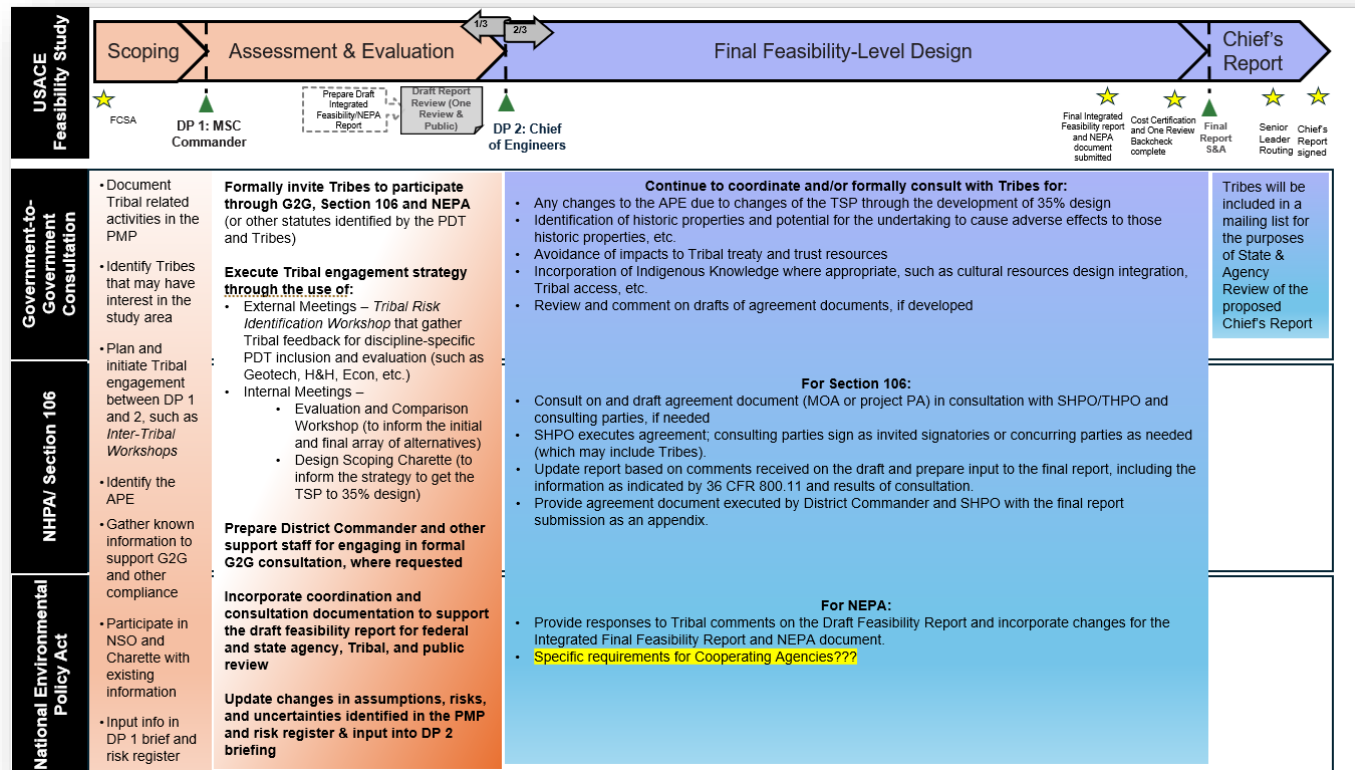
RAPID Feasibility Study Decision Framework and Tribal Consultation Crosswalk

June 2026

This document will establish a crosswalk between the requirements for coordination and consultation with federally recognized Tribes, Alaska Native Corporations (ANCs), and Native Hawaiian Organizations with the RAPID Feasibility Study activities and is meant to be used in conjunction with the RAPID Assessment guidebook. This crosswalk is intended to highlight aspects of the [USACE Civil Works Tribal Consultation Policy](#) (DA, ASA(CW) memorandum (Updated U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Civil Works Tribal Consultation Policy), 5 December 2023) and to provide a touchpoint to the RAPID assessment process and coordination with other discipline activities.

The RAPID framework has been designed to accelerate decision-making on the identification and evaluation of a set of alternatives as well as the selection of an effective solution to water resources problems:

- **R**isk-informed – focus on the appropriate data needed to make a decision or determination; what data is already available regarding areas of known Tribal interest? Is the study area on or adjacent to Tribal lands, or on known ancestral homelands to a certain Tribe(s)? what information is needed to inform each decision point? what data gaps exist, and what data do we need to collect?
- **A**ligned – ensure vertical team, district command awareness, and PDT integration and alignment; provide information on the presence of Tribal cultural or natural resources, feedback during the consultation process, and other key information, such as Indigenous Knowledge, that assist with the development and selection of alternatives, a recommended plan, and determine what will be needed for implementation of the recommended plan.
- **P**roportional – ensure the level of detail in the analysis matches the scope, cost and decision at hand; is there existing information available or will additional meetings with Tribes be needed to inform the next decision?
- **I**terative – verify key assumptions and determinations throughout the study and adjust as appropriate; continued coordination of any changes to the study area or alternatives with Tribal partners through staff-level engagements (for section 106) or through Government-to-Government consultation, and any changes to the recommended plan during the development of 35% design.
- **D**ecisive – move forward once a decision is reached as evidence supports the decision; communicate schedules and study plan to interested Tribal partners; allow for proper level of consultation duration prior to key decision points; transparency on development of alternatives, identification of recommended plan, and activities needed to consider effects to Tribal treaty resources.



Want to join the Tribal Nations Community of Practice?

Email Quana Higgins