Chapter 2.0
Description of Alternatives

This chapter presents a description of the alternatives considered in the Final Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR), the alternatives eliminated from detailed study, a summary comparison of the alternatives and their impacts, and a list of the permits and approvals that likely will be needed for project construction and operation. **Figure 2-1** illustrates the regional setting extending from the upper Sacramento River and upper American River, south to the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta (Delta). **Figure 2-2** depicts the project study area relative to cities, counties, transportation corridors, and waterways of the region. **Figure 2-3** shows the local project area and site.

2.1 DEVELOPMENT OF ALTERNATIVES

Chapter 1.0, Introduction, describes the early planning for the project. These efforts included development of preliminary alternatives that would meet the project objectives and lead agency management goals for the project site described in Section 1.1, Project Purpose, and Section 1.3, Project Needs and Objectives. The first alternatives considered included siting the diversion structure at several different locations upstream of the bypass tunnel inlet, downstream of the bypass tunnel outlet, or within the dewatered portion of the river channel. The diversion alternatives downstream of the bypass tunnel outlet were determined to be substantially inferior to the others. The U.S. Department of the Interior (Interior) Bureau of Reclamation's (Reclamation) *Preliminary Concept Plan – Restoration and Management of the Auburn Dam Site* (1996 Concept Plan) (Reclamation 1996a) describes the details and results of this early planning study.

Then, in 1997, a Value Planning Study (Reclamation 1997) was conducted to reevaluate the preliminary alternatives described in the 1996 Concept Plan as well as new alternatives or features not previously considered. The new alternatives and features were formulated as a result of public involvement and scoping activities that occurred in 1996 and 1997 (Section 1.4.2, Scoping Summary and Section 4.2, Public Involvement). Based on the 1997 study, a range of reasonable alternatives was developed for analysis, and others were considered and eliminated from detailed study. The eliminated alternatives include a wide range of possibilities such as off-stream storage, increased conservation, a diversion with pumping and pipeline conveyance facilities from Folsom Reservoir, and water purchases from other purveyors (Section 2.5, Alternatives Considered and Eliminated). These alternatives were dismissed from detailed consideration because they were not feasible based on engineering, public safety, and environmental considerations, or did not meet the provisions of the project purpose, needs, or objectives (Section 1.1 and Section 1.3).

The alternatives presented in this EIS/EIR represent a range of reasonable actions and include a No Action/No Project Alternative (continue seasonal pump station installation and operation) and two new pump station project alternatives that would construct new facilities for diversion of

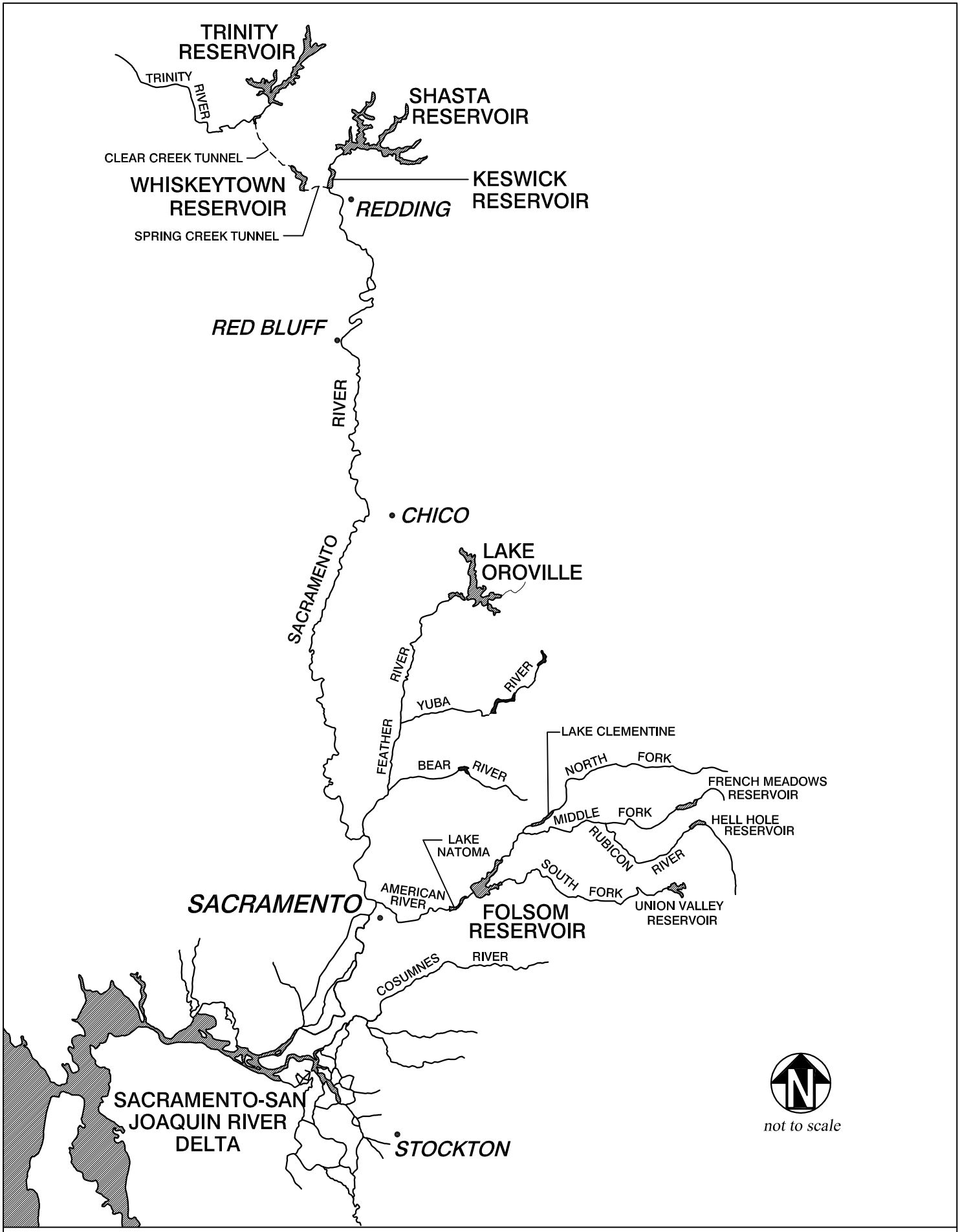

Figure 2-1 Regional Setting

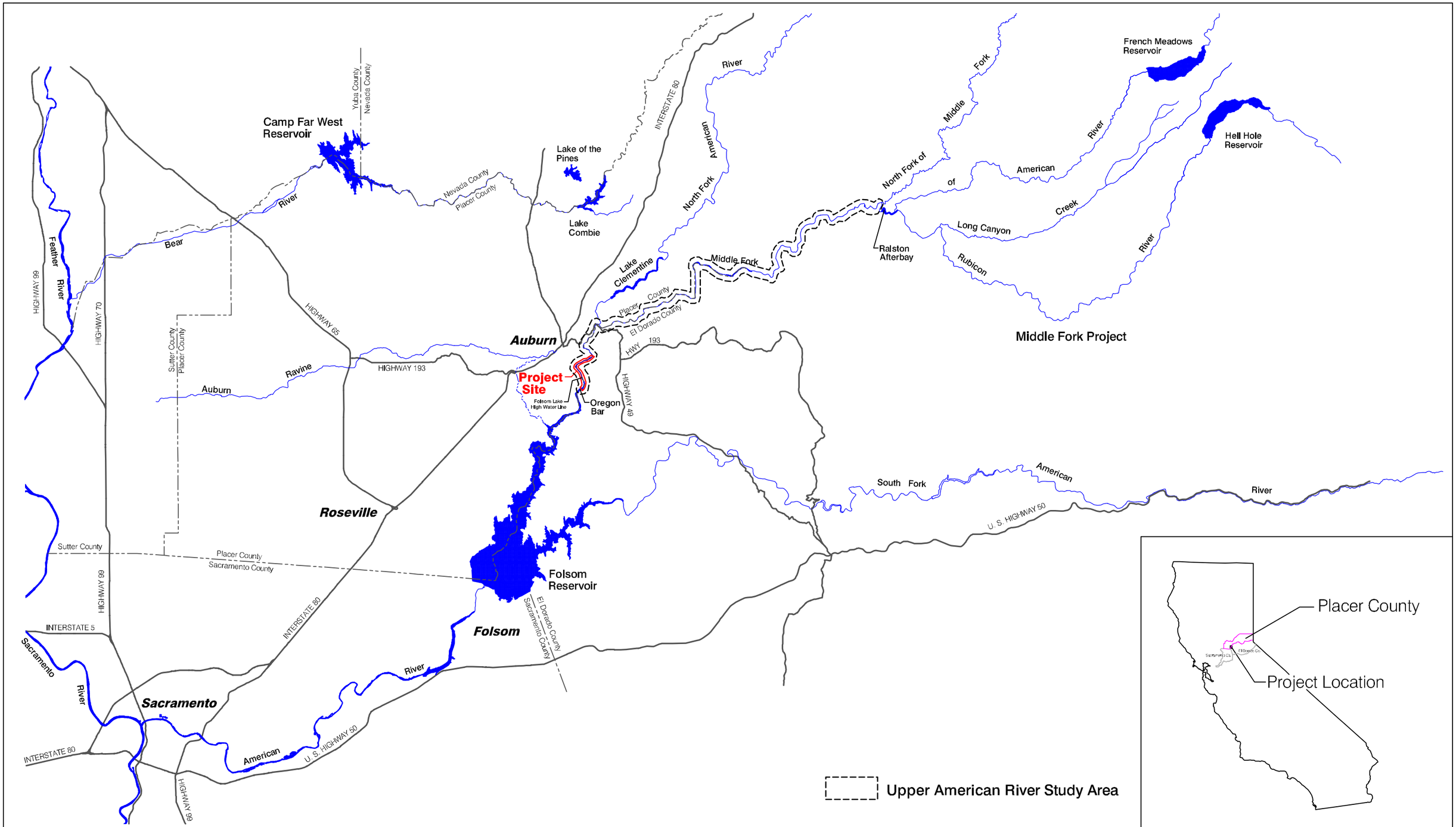

Figure 2-2 Project Area Setting

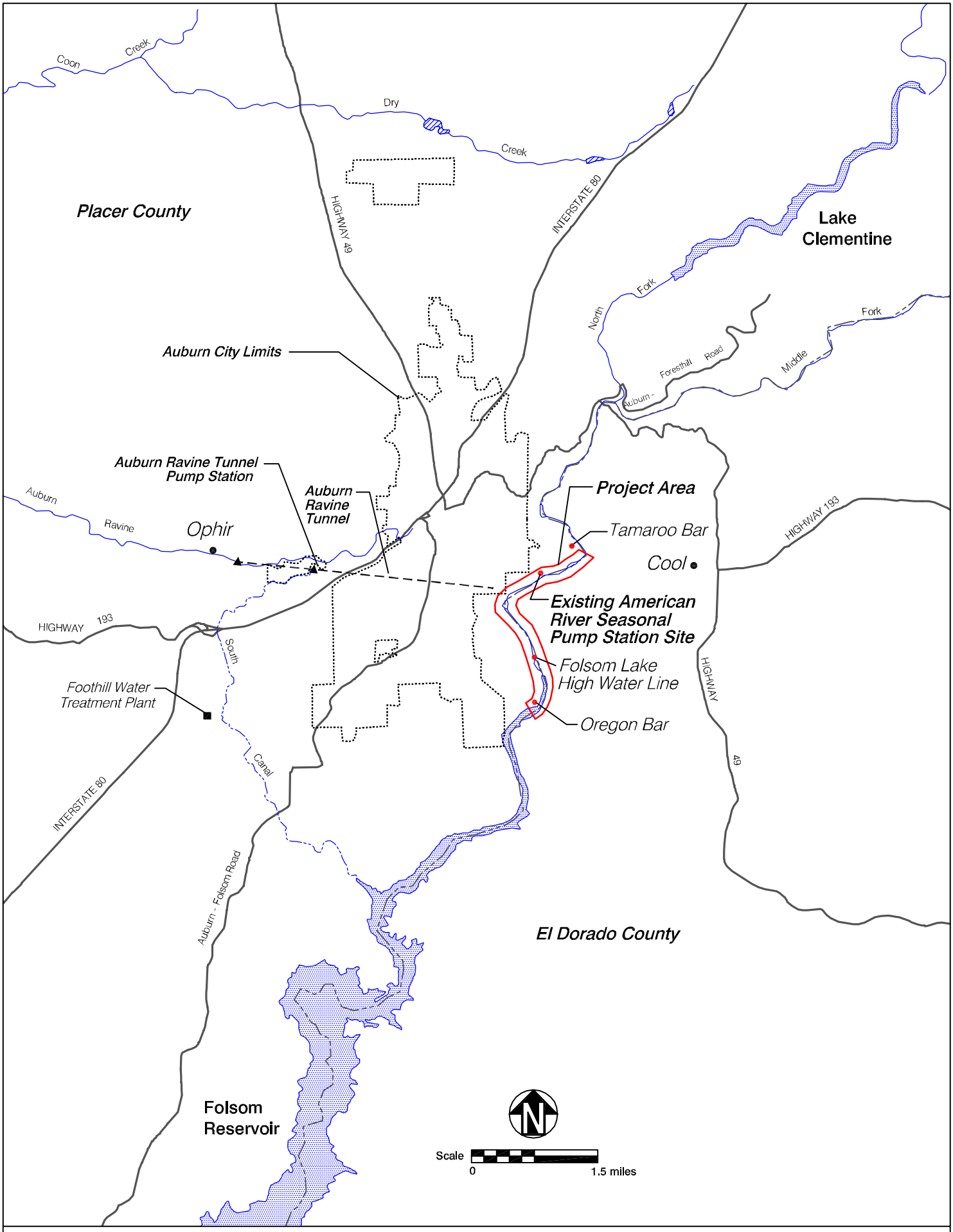

Figure 2-3 Project Area