

# RECLAMATION

## *Managing Water in the West*

### Categorical Exclusion Checklist (CEC)

### Westside Water District – Abel Tract Annexation – Colusa County, CA

**NCAO-CEC-17-08**

Prepared by:

  
Jacob Berens

Water Conservation Specialist  
Northern California Area Office  
(Willows)

Date: March 8, 2017

Concurrence by:

See Attachment 1

Megan K. Simon  
Natural Resources Specialist/  
Northern California Area Office Designee  
for Tribal Trust Assets

Date: December 1, 2016

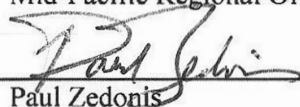
Concurrence by:

See Attachment 2

Amy Barnes  
Archaeologist  
Mid-Pacific Regional Office

Date: March 7, 2017

Concurrence by:

  
Paul Zedonis

Environmental and Natural Resources  
Supervisory Natural Resource Specialist/  
Division Manager  
Northern California Area Office

Date: 3/8/2017

Approved by:

  
Donald Bader

Area Manager  
Northern California Area Office

Date: 3/8/2017

## Proposed Action

Reclamation will approve the annexation of approximately 532 acres of privately-owned property into the Westside Water District (WWD) service area, which is served Project Water through a contract with Reclamation.

The Project Water will be served to the annexed parcels through existing turnouts, constructed in 1978. No sub-surface disturbance is involved. Connections between the turnouts, located in WWD Laterals 3 and 4, and the existing irrigation systems on the parcels to be annexed will be made above-ground, by coupling and rubber gasket, over the course of approximately 3 days.

The subject parcels are located in central Colusa County, approximately 5 miles west of the City of Williams, CA, in Section 7, Township 15 North, Range 3 West and Sections 1, 2, 11 and 12, Township 15 North, Range 4 West, Mount Diablo Baseline and Meridian. The approximate latitude and longitude of the site are 39° 10' 14.2" N, 122° 15' 12.9" W. The affected Colusa County Tax Assessor Parcel Identification Numbers are 016-050-018, 016-050-023, 016-050-021 and 016-050-020. The area of the general project alignment is rural and sparsely populated. A topographic map, a tax assessor's parcel map, and aerial photographs depicting land use and the locations of the proposed connections are included as Figures 1A-G: Project Location Figures.

## Exclusion Categories

**Bureau of Reclamation Categorical Exclusion** – 516 DM 14.5, D(3): Administration and implementation of project repayment and water service contracts, including approval of organizational or other administrative changes in contracting entities brought about by inclusion or exclusion of lands in these contracts.

## Extraordinary Circumstances

Below is an evaluation of the extraordinary circumstances as required in 43 CFR 46.215.

1. This action would have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment (40 CFR 1502.3). No ☒ Uncertain ☐ Yes ☐
2. This action would have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources (NEPA Section 102(2)(E) and 43 CFR 46.215(c)). No ☒ Uncertain ☐ Yes ☐
3. This action would have significant impacts on public health or safety (43 CFR 46.215(a)). No ☒ Uncertain ☐ Yes ☐
4. This action would have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographical characteristics as historic or cultural resources; parks, recreation, and refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national

natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (EO 11990); flood plains (EO 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas (43 CFR 46.215 (b)).

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|---|--|
| 5. This action would have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks (43 CFR 46.215(d)).   | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Uncertain <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6. This action would establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects (43 CFR 46.215 (e)).  | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Uncertain <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7. This action would have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects (43 CFR 46.215 (f)).  | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Uncertain <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 8. This action would have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by Reclamation (LND 02-01; and 43 CFR 46.215 (g)).   | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Uncertain <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 9. This action would have significant impacts on species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated critical habitat for these species (43 CFR 46.215 (h)).                   | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Uncertain <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 10. This action would violate a Federal, Tribal, State, or local law or requirement imposed for protection of the environment (43 CFR 46.215 (i)).  | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Uncertain <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 11. This action would affect ITAs (512 DM 2, Policy Memorandum dated December 15, 1993).  | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Uncertain <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 12. This action would have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (EO 12898; and 43 CFR 46.215 (j)).  | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Uncertain <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 13. This action would limit access to, and ceremonial use of, Indian sacred sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (EO 13007; 43 CFR 46.215 (k); and 512 DM 3). | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Uncertain <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> |

14. This action would contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act; EO 13112; and 43 CFR 46.215 (l)). No ☒ Uncertain ☐ Yes ☐

Regional Archeologist concurred with Item 8 (email attached).

ITA Designee concurred with Item 11 (email attached).

***NEPA Action Recommended***

☒ CEC – This action is covered by the exclusion category and no extraordinary circumstances exist. The action is excluded from further documentation in an EA or EIS.

☐ Further environmental review is required, and the following document should be prepared.

☐ EA

☐ EIS

**Environmental commitments, explanations, and/or remarks:**

Construction activities are limited and will not impact agricultural operations in the area. Existing turnouts, along existing laterals, are available for the connections.

There is no change in land use associated with this action; the properties are currently planted with wheat and row crops and will remain so for the foreseeable future. The amount of water provided to WWD through its contract with Reclamation will not change as a result of the annexation.

Westside Water District filed a Notice of Exemption with Colusa County in conjunction with its California Environmental Policy Act (CEQA) review.

Reclamation researched the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB) maintained by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the US Fish and Wildlife Service's (Service) Information, Planning, and Conservation System (IPaC), to determine the presence of listed species within the Project area. Based on a review of the information obtained and of the project area in relation to the habitat of identified species, Reclamation determined that the area to be temporarily disturbed under the Proposed Action does not appear to constitute habitat for any Federally-listed species.

Figure 1. Site Location Maps

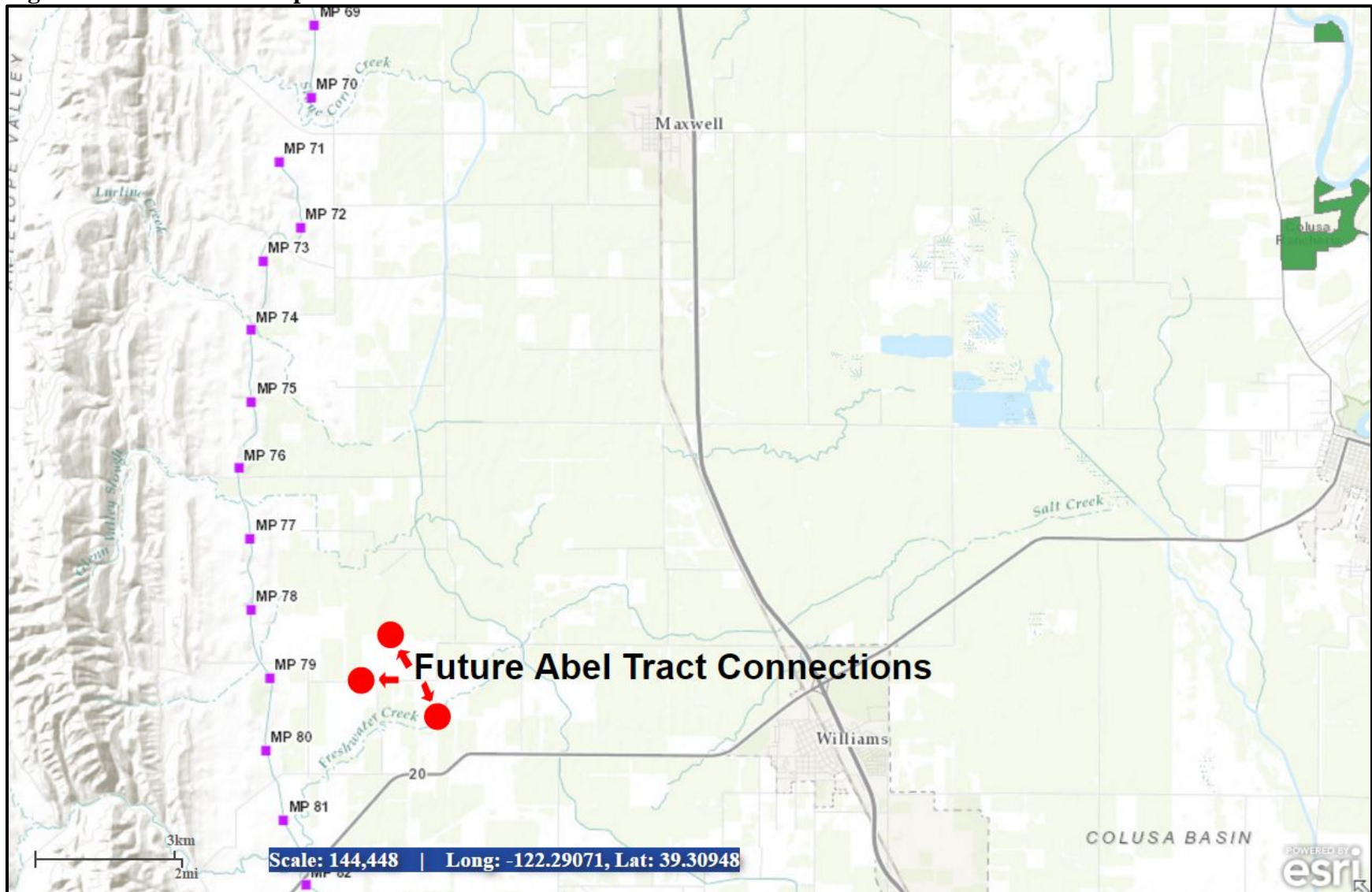


Figure 1A. Vicinity Map

Figure 1, Cont.

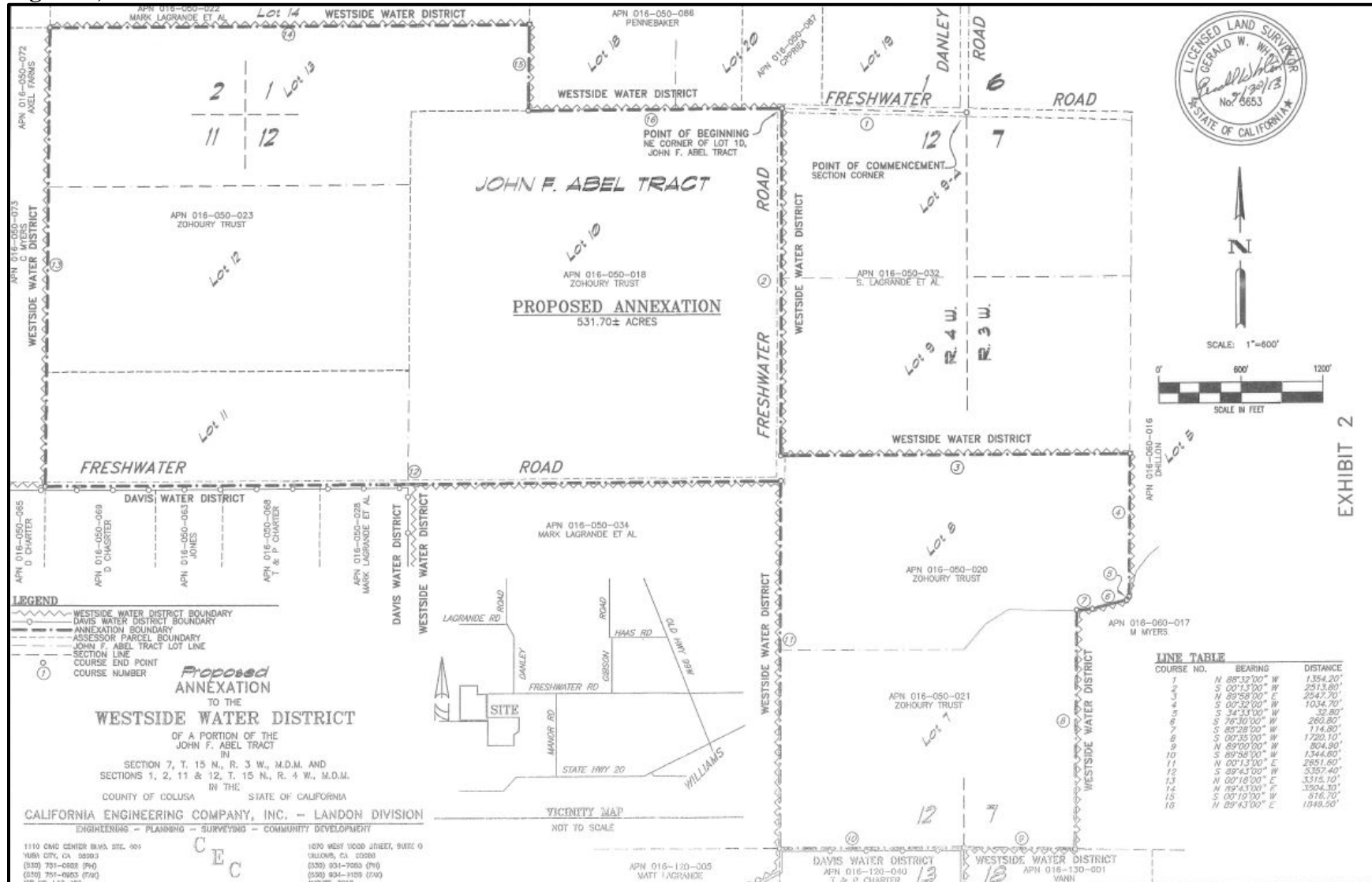


Figure 1B. Parcel Map depicting area of proposed annexation



Figure 1, Cont.

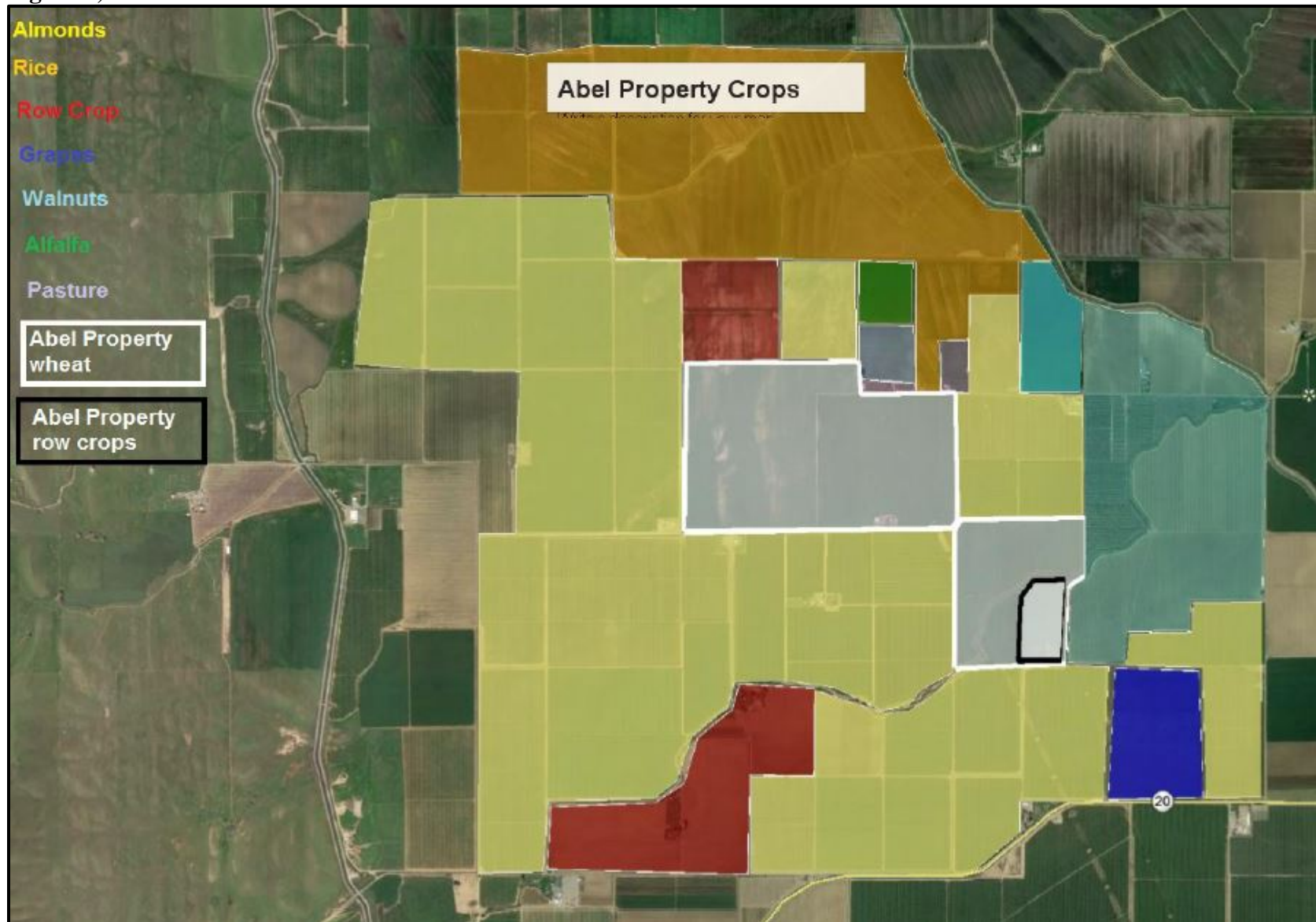


Figure 1C. Land Use Map

Figure 1, Cont.

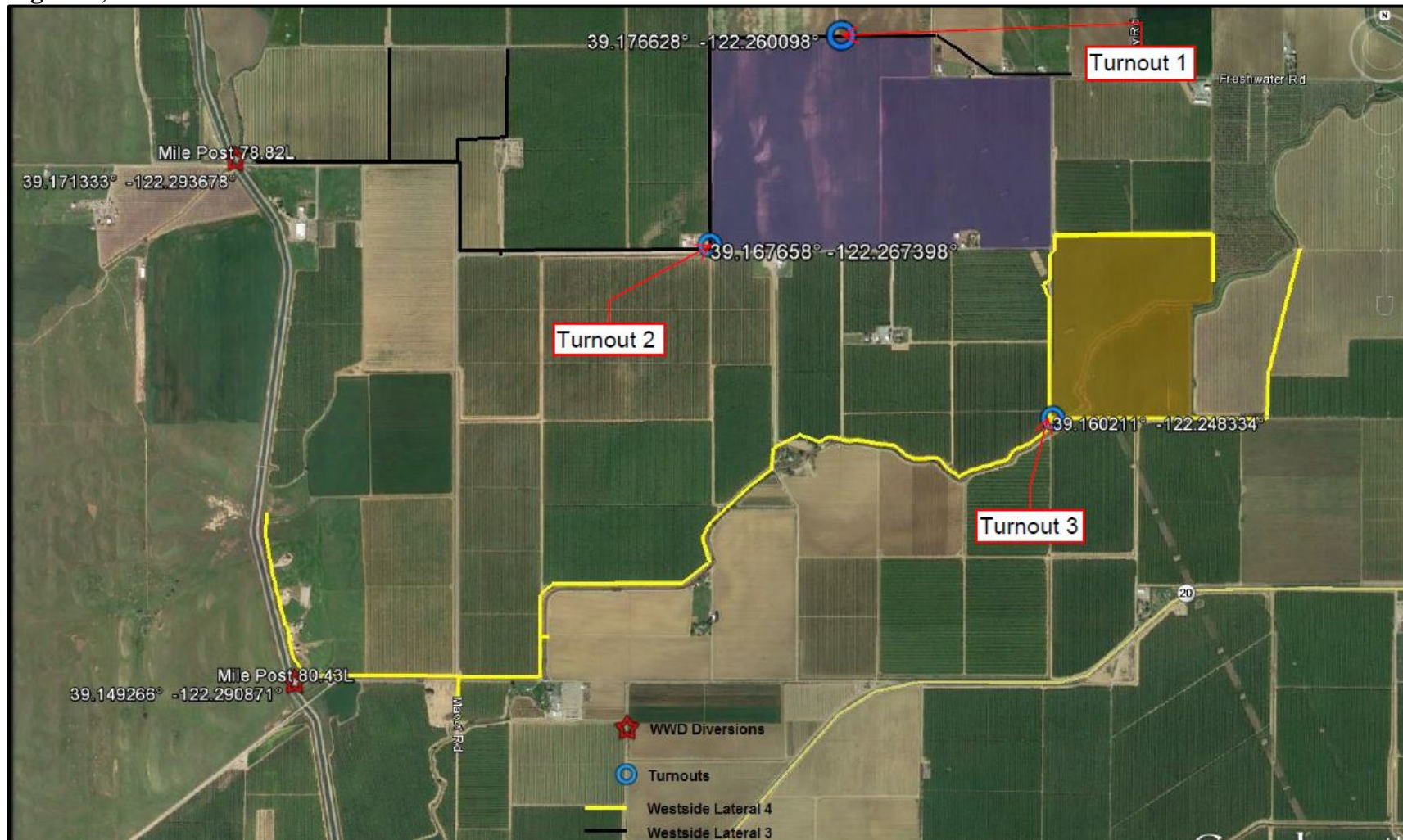


Figure 1D. Overview Map of turnouts/connection locations



Figure 1, Cont.

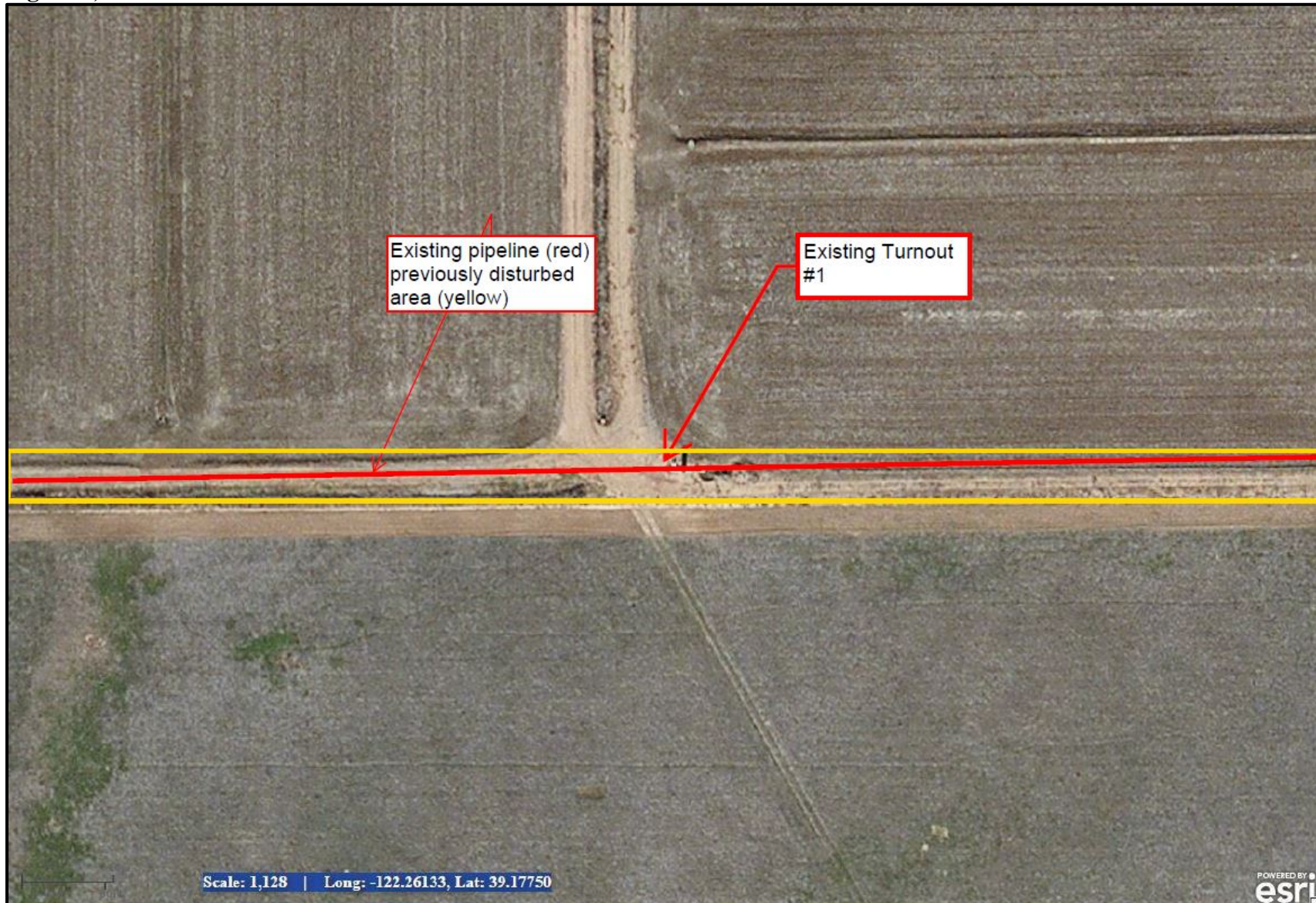


Figure 1E. Zoomed aerial photograph depicting Turnout 1 future connection location



Figure 1, Cont.



Figure 1F. Zoomed aerial photograph depicting Turnout 2 future connection location



Figure 1, Cont.

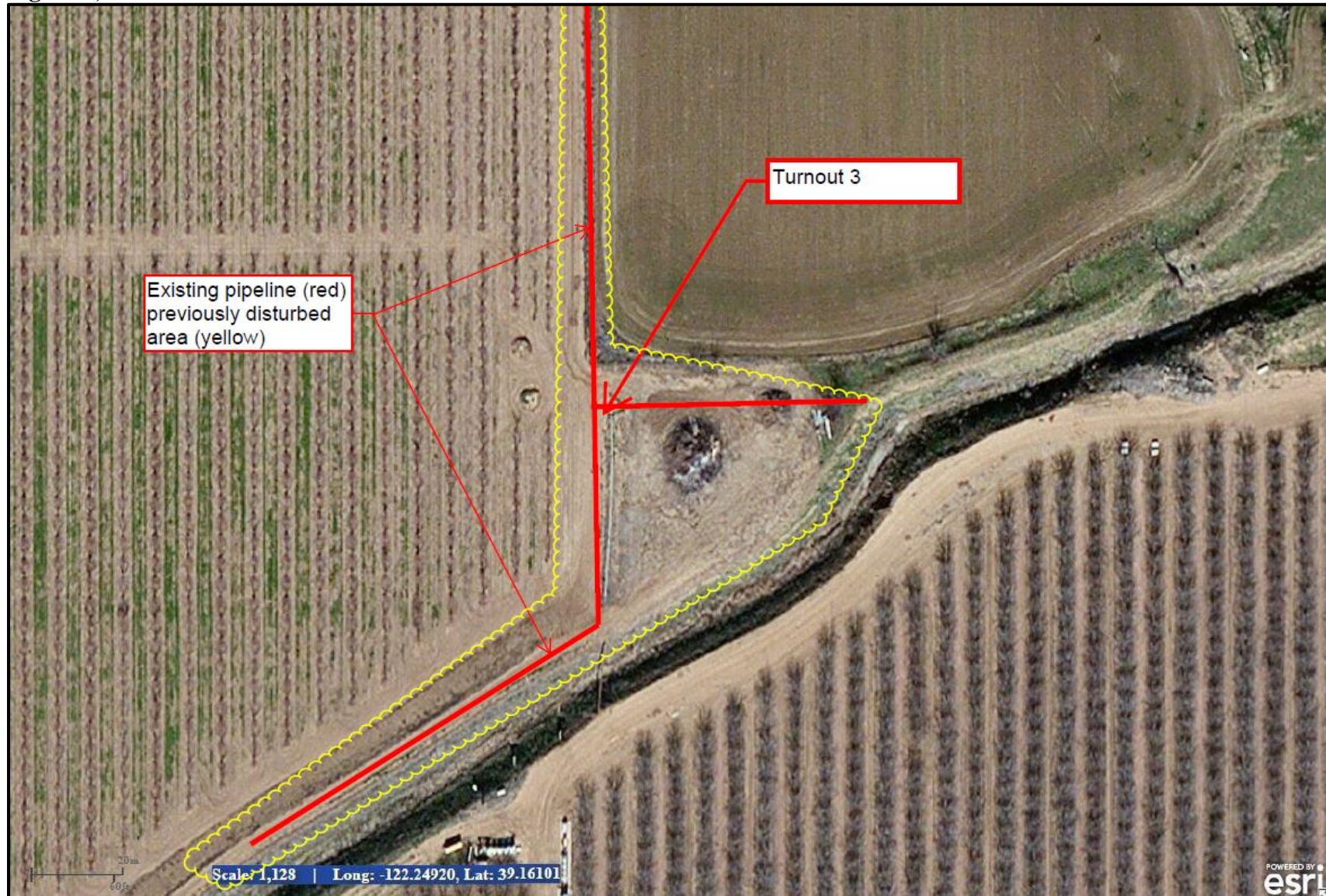


Figure 1G. Zoomed aerial photograph depicting Turnout 3 future connection location



## Attachment 1. Indian Trust Asset review



Simon, Megan <msimon@usbr.gov>

### ITA Review - Westside Water District Abel Tract Annexation

Simon, Megan <msimon@usbr.gov>  
To: "Zedonis, Paul" <pzedonis@usbr.gov>

Thu, Dec 1, 2016 at 1:30 PM

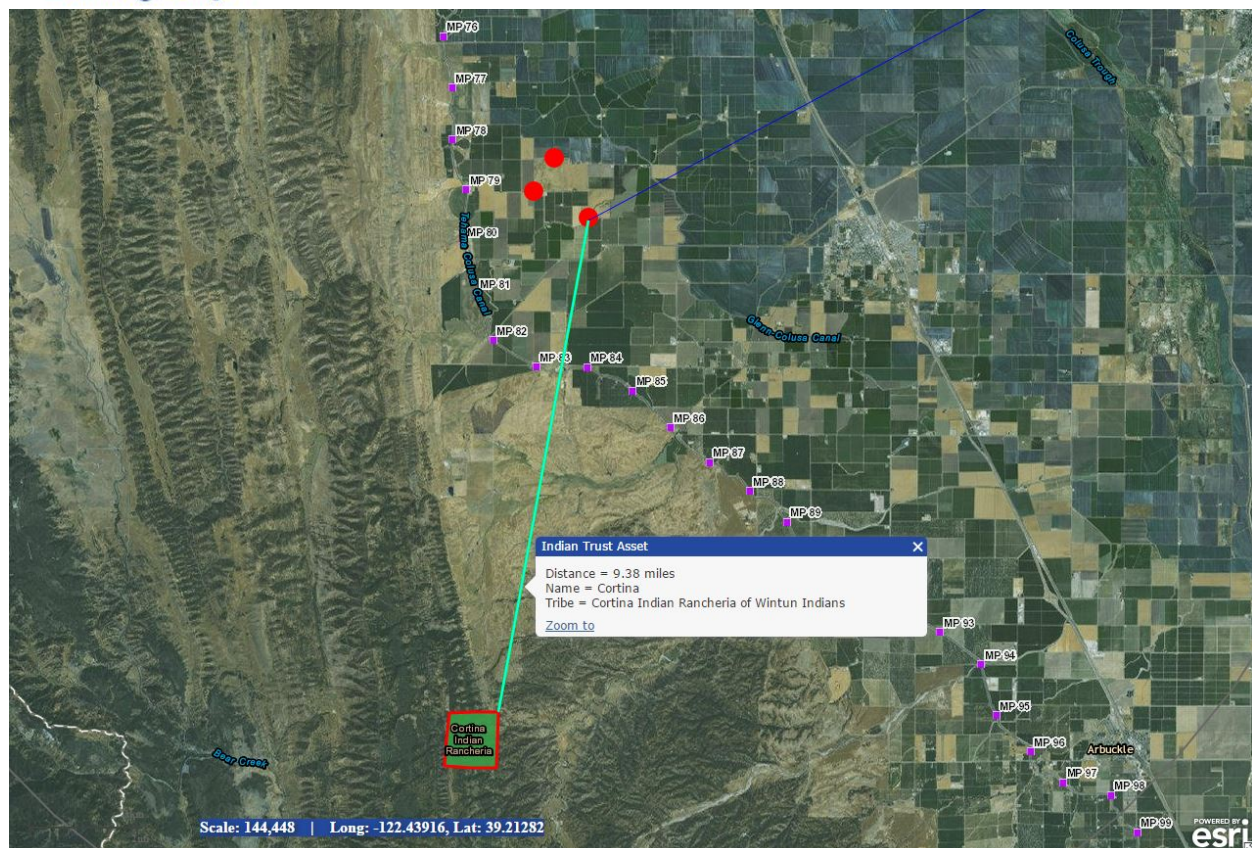
I have examined the referenced proposal and have determined that the facilities are at least 9 miles from the closest Indian Trust Asset.

I have determined that there is no likelihood that this action will adversely impact Indian Trust Assets.

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*Megan K. Simon*

Natural Resources Specialist  
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation  
Northern California Area Office  
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Shasta Lake, CA 96019  
(530) 276-2045  
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**Attachment 2. Cultural Resource Compliance**

**CULTURAL RESOURCE COMPLIANCE  
Mid-Pacific Region  
Division of Environmental Affairs  
Cultural Resources Branch**

MP-153 Tracking Number: 17-CCAO-010

Project Name: Westside Water District – Abel Tract Annexation

NEPA Document: NCAO-CEC-17-08

MP 153 Cultural Resources Reviewer: Amy J. Barnes

Date: March 7, 2017

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This proposed undertaking by Reclamation is to approve the annexation of approximately 532 acres of privately-owned property into the Westside Water District (WWD) service area, which is served Project Water through a contract with Reclamation. The project is located in Colusa County approximately 5 miles west of the City of Williams, California.

The Project Water will be delivered to the annexed parcels through existing turnouts. To facilitate delivery, the WWD proposes to modify two existing turn-out structures on their Westside Lateral 3 pipeline and one existing turn-out on Westside Lateral 4, which were installed in 1978. The three turn-outs will be reconfigured to allow the land-owner to connect his existing irrigation system to the turn-outs using aluminum pipe that will be laid across the ground. No excavation will be required. There is no change in land use associated with this action; the properties are currently planted with wheat and row crops and will remain so for the foreseeable future. The amount of water provided to the land-owners through its contract with WWD will not change as a result of the annexation. The work area will be approximately 40 feet square at each of the 3 locations to accommodate access, staging, and modifying the turnouts. The APE is located in Section 1 (Turn-out 1), Section 11 (Turn-out 2), and Section 13 (Turn-out 3), T. 15 N., R. 4 W., Mount Diablo Meridian, as depicted on the Manor Slough and Williams 7.5 minute U.S. Geological Survey topographic quadrangle maps.

This is the type of action that does not have the potential to cause effects on historic properties, should such properties be present, pursuant to 36 CFR § 800.3(a)(1). As such, Reclamation has no further obligations under 54 U.S.C. § 306108, commonly known as Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA).

After reviewing NCAO-CEC-17-06, titled “Westside Water District – Abel Tract Annexation – Colusa County, CA.” I concur with Item 8 that this action would not have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places.

This memorandum is intended to convey the completion of the NHPA Section 106 process for this undertaking. Please retain a copy in the administrative record for this action. Should changes be made to this project, additional NHPA Section 106 review, possibly including consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer, may be necessary. Thank you for providing the opportunity to comment.