

Russian River Biological Opinion Public Policy Facilitating Committee



Westside Water
Education
Center

March 3, 2016



Dry Creek Habitat Enhancement

Milestones and Timelines, Miles 2-6

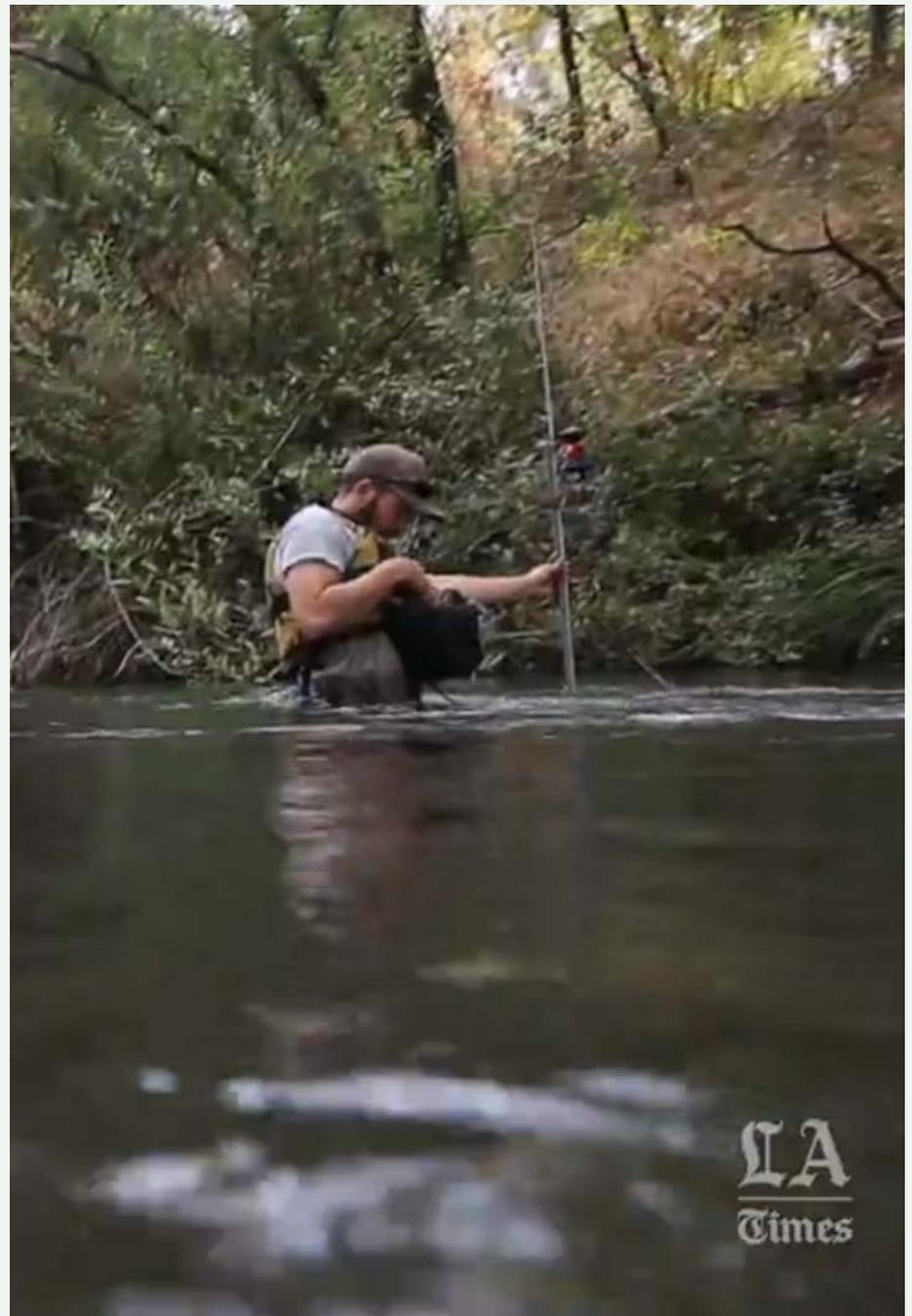


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Velocity

<0.5 ft/s



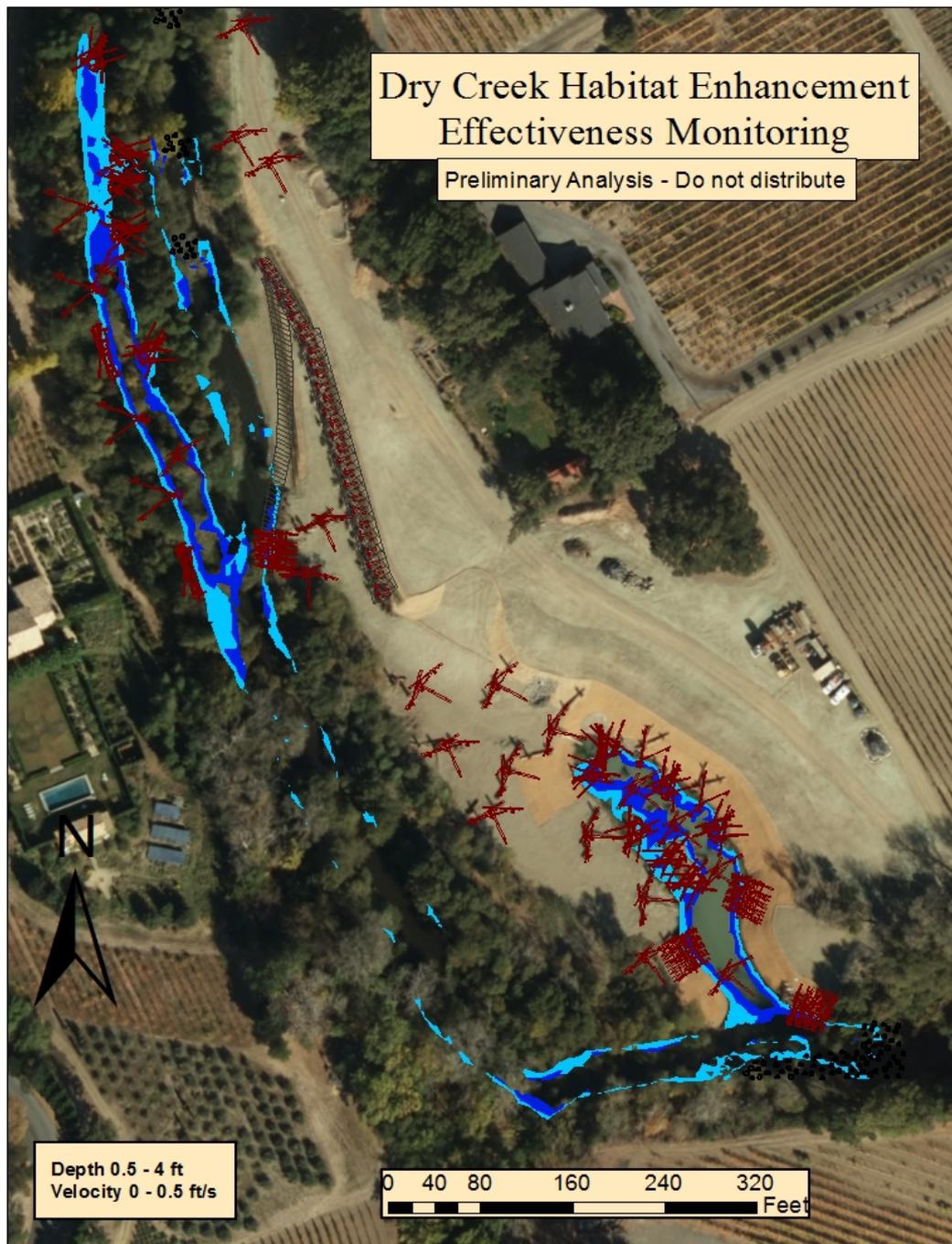
Depth

0.5-4 ft

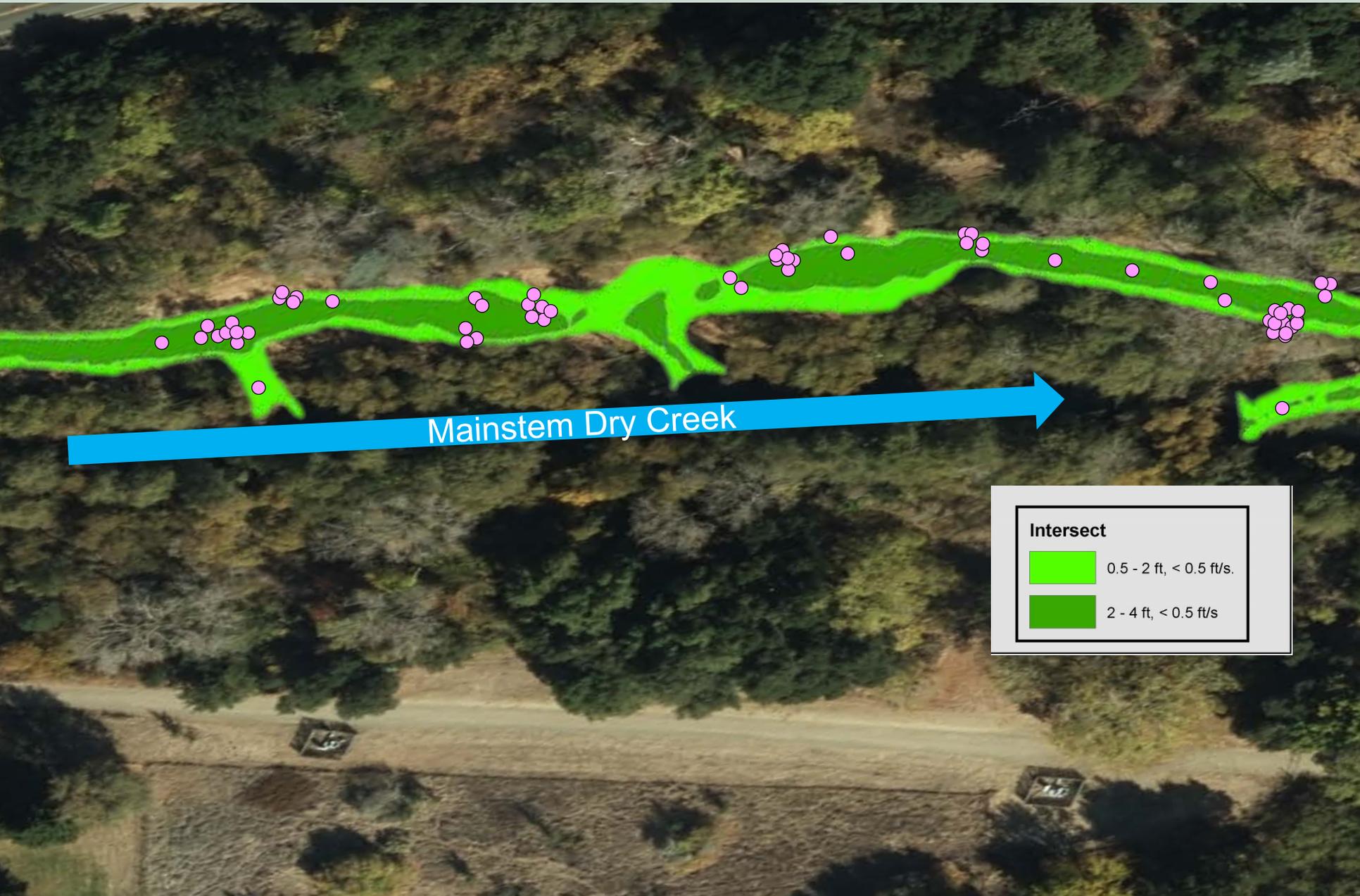


Dry Creek Habitat Enhancement Effectiveness Monitoring

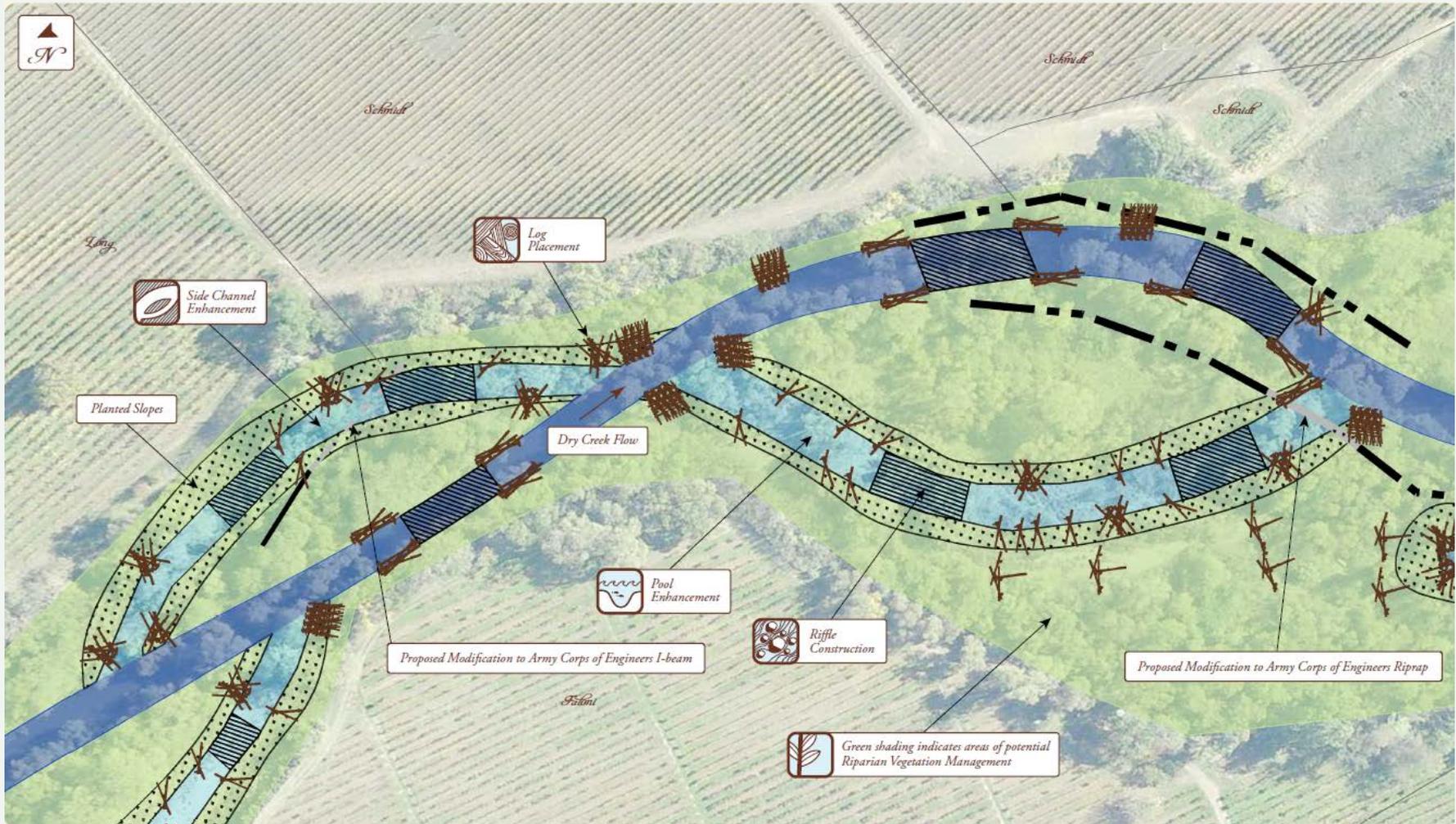
Preliminary Analysis - Do not distribute



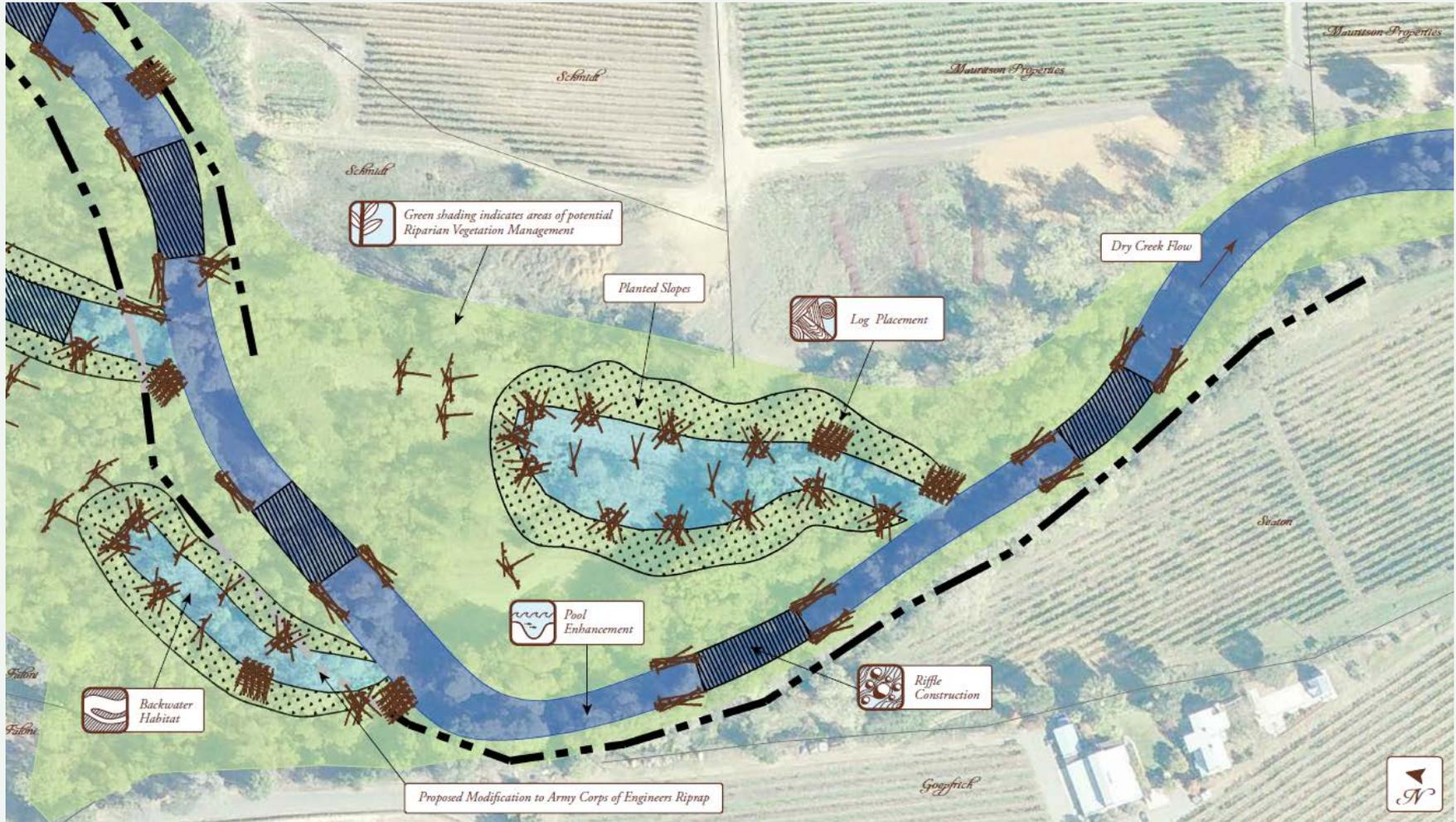
Fish Habitat Use



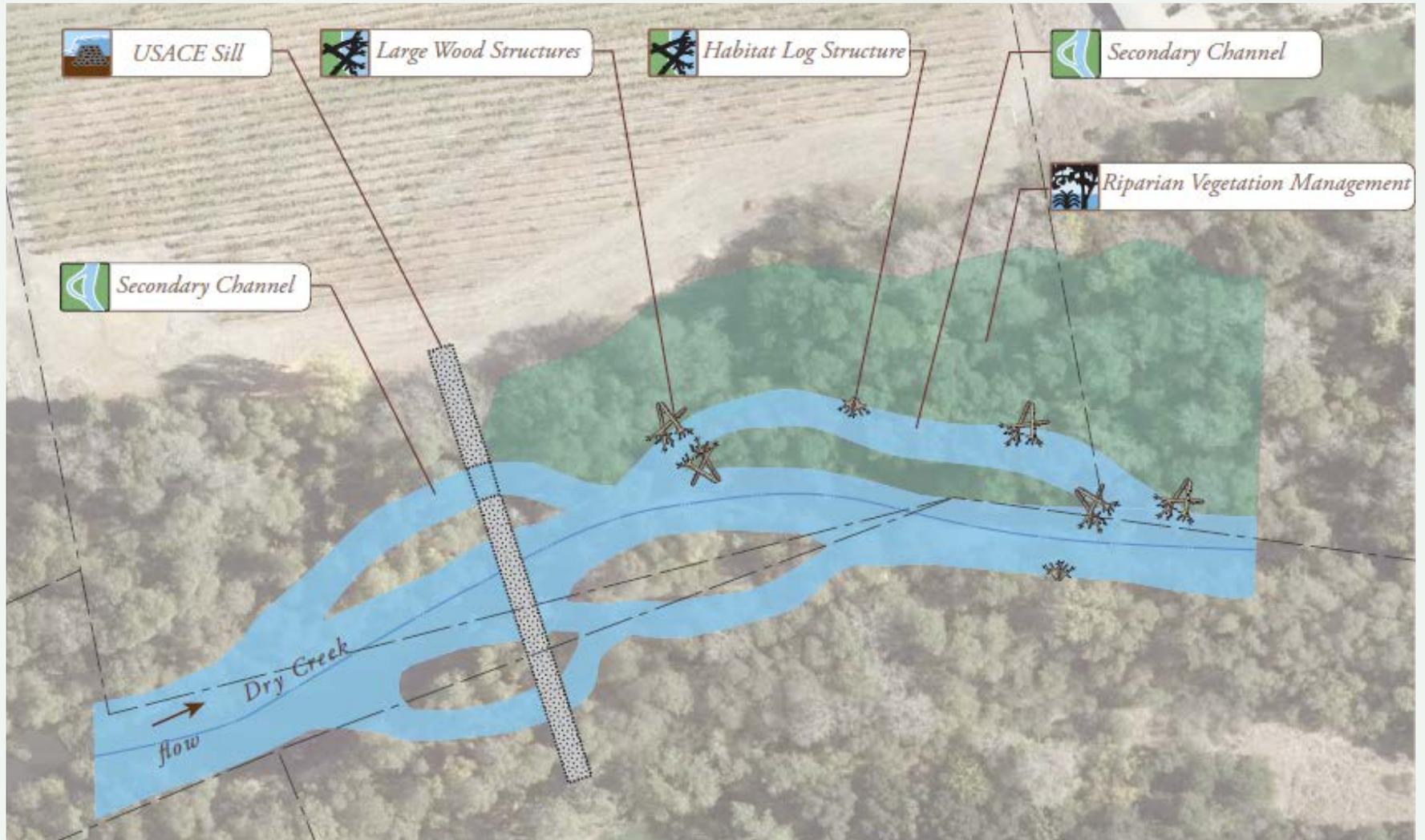
Side Channel Enhancements



Backwater Habitats



Braided Side Channels



Schedule

- **Miles 2 & 3 -- Part 1**

- Construction: Summer 2016

- **Miles 2 & 3 -- Part 2**

- 90–100% Design: Spring – Winter 2016

- Construction: Summer 2017

- **Miles 4, 5, and 6**

- Preliminary Design: Spring – Summer 2016

- 30%-100% Design: Fall 2016 – Winter 2017

- Construction: 2018 – 2023

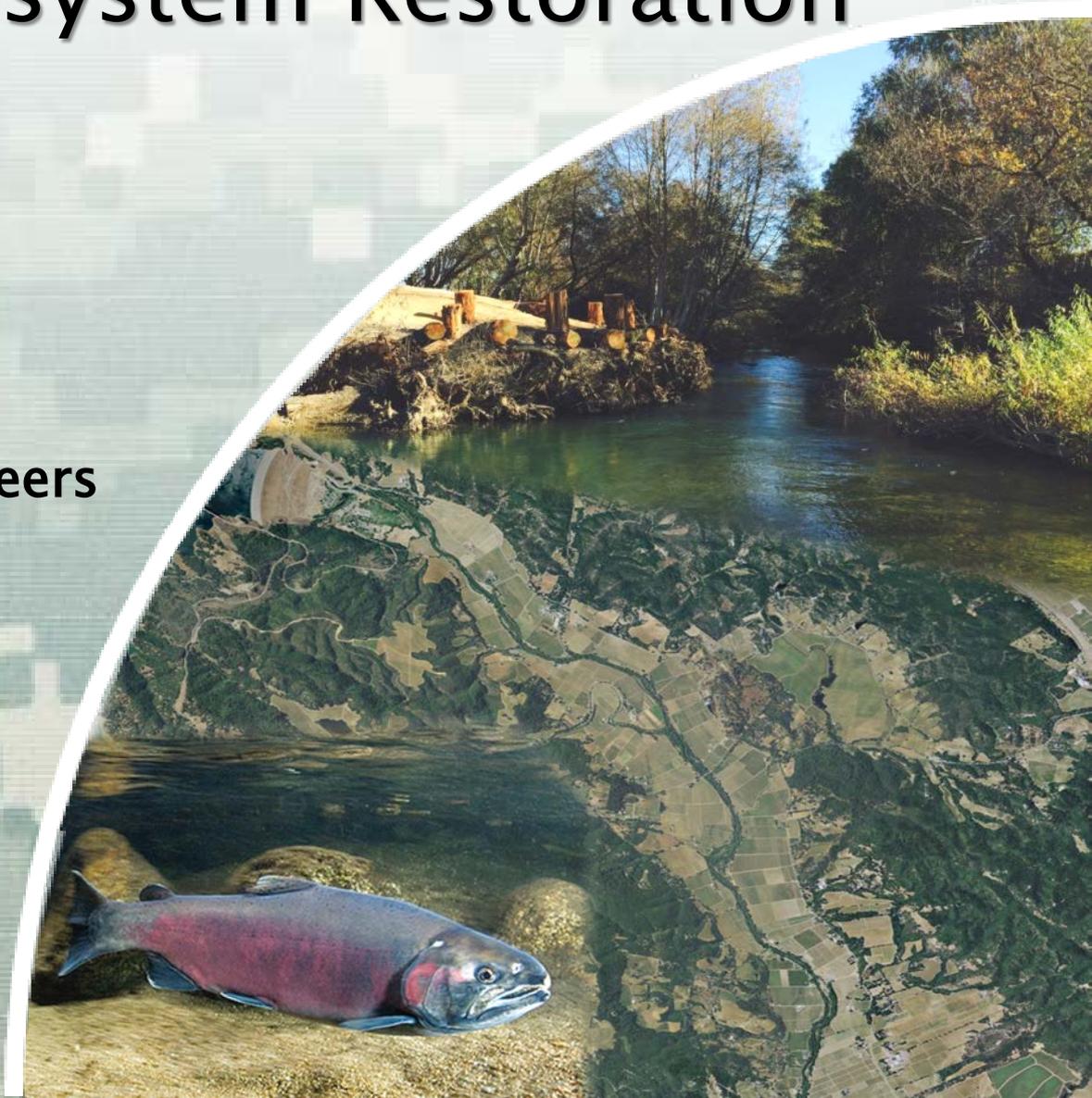
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) Dry Creek Ecosystem Restoration Projects

March 3, 2016

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
San Francisco District
Kelly Janes, Lead Planner



US Army Corps of Engineers
BUILDING STRONG[®]
San Francisco District



Dry Creek Ecosystem Restoration

Ecosystem Restoration is a major mission of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (aka the Corps).

The Corps is currently partnering with the Sonoma County Water Agency to restore areas along the entire 14 mile length of Dry Creek.

The goal of the Dry Creek Ecosystem Restoration Projects is to restore seasonal habitat complexity, connectivity and diversity to support a natural mosaic of aquatic, floodplain, riparian, and endangered species habitat along Dry Creek below the Corps' Warm Springs Dam and Fish Conservation Hatchery.



US Army Corps of Engineers
San Francisco District

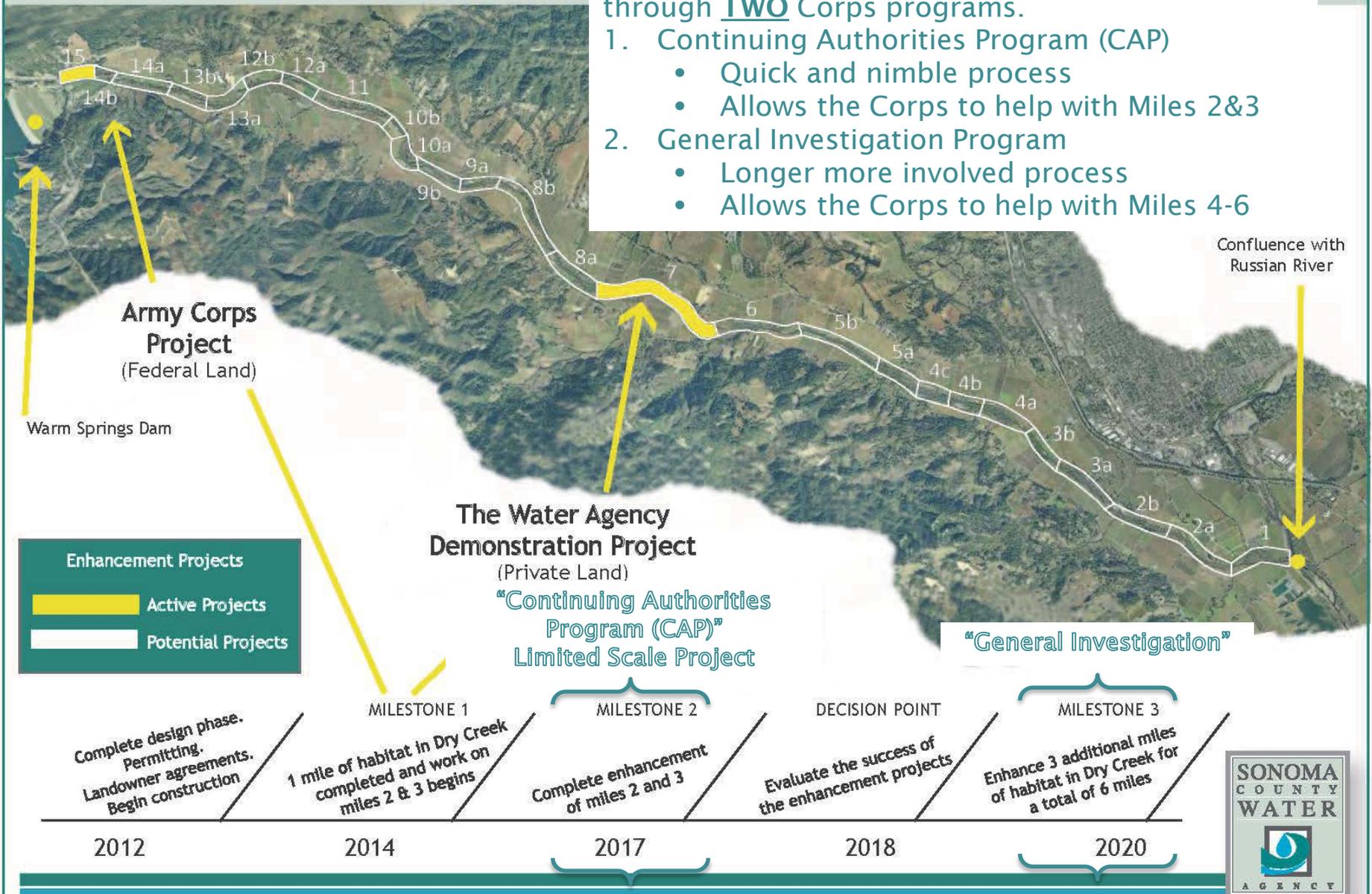


DRY CREEK HABITAT ENHANCEMENT REACHES

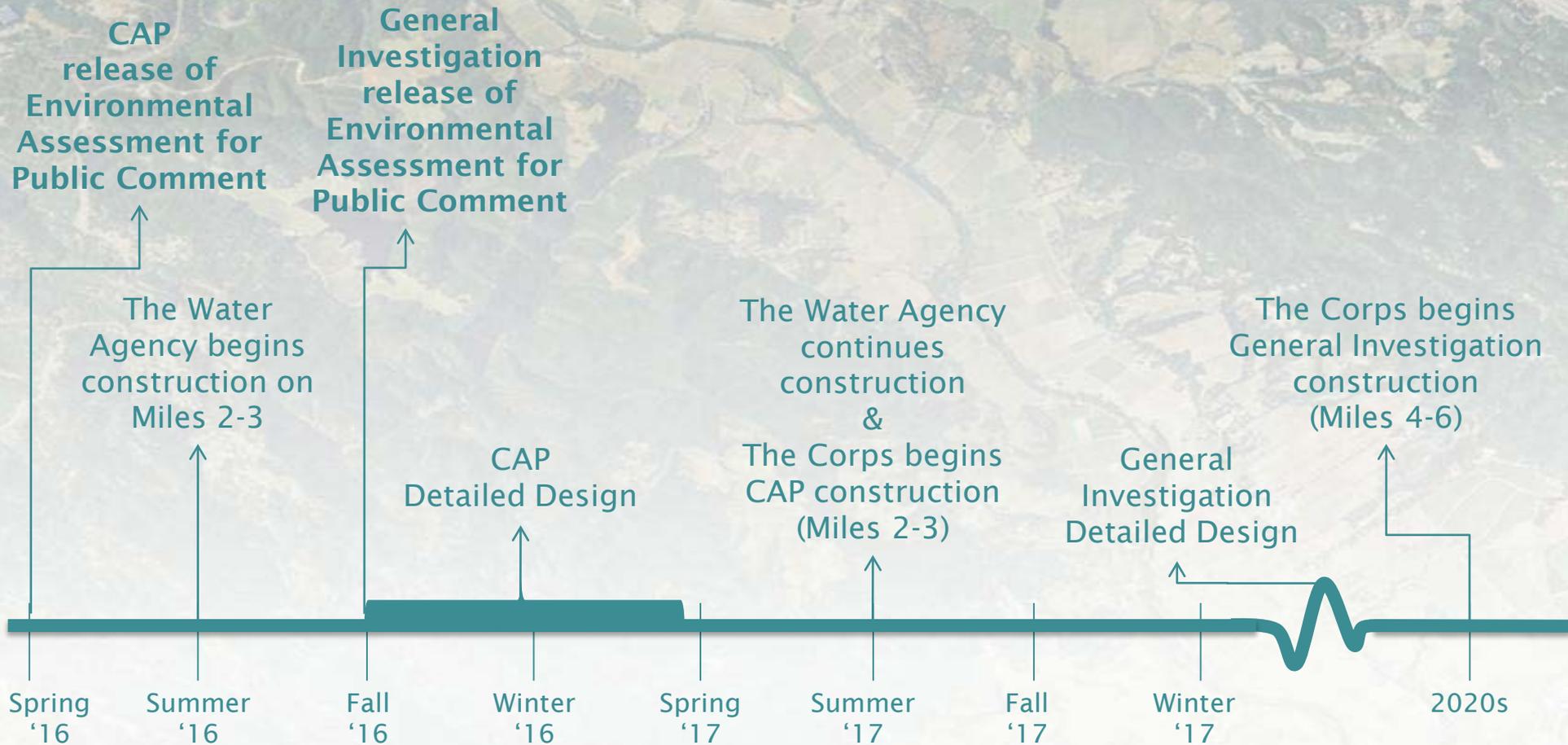
PREPARED BY SONOMA COUNTY WATER AGENCY

The Corps is partnering with the Water Agency through **TWO** Corps programs.

1. Continuing Authorities Program (CAP)
 - Quick and nimble process
 - Allows the Corps to help with Miles 2&3
2. General Investigation Program
 - Longer more involved process
 - Allows the Corps to help with Miles 4-6



Dry Creek Restoration Timeline



Corps Involvement Take Away

The Corps is partnering with the Water Agency through **TWO** Corps restoration programs to contribute funding as well as planning, design, and construction expertise.

- The CAP study will contribute to Miles 2&3.
- The General Investigation study will contribute to Miles 4-6.

The Corps requires a complex planning process that is running parallel to the Water Agency's planning efforts.

- No duplication of effort - Corps process uses information already gathered.
- The Water Agency and Corps will collaborate on the construction of habitat projects
- The Water Agency will continue to take the lead on all property owner negotiations and easements
- The Water Agency is responsible for long term maintenance of the project



Dry Creek Projects Overview

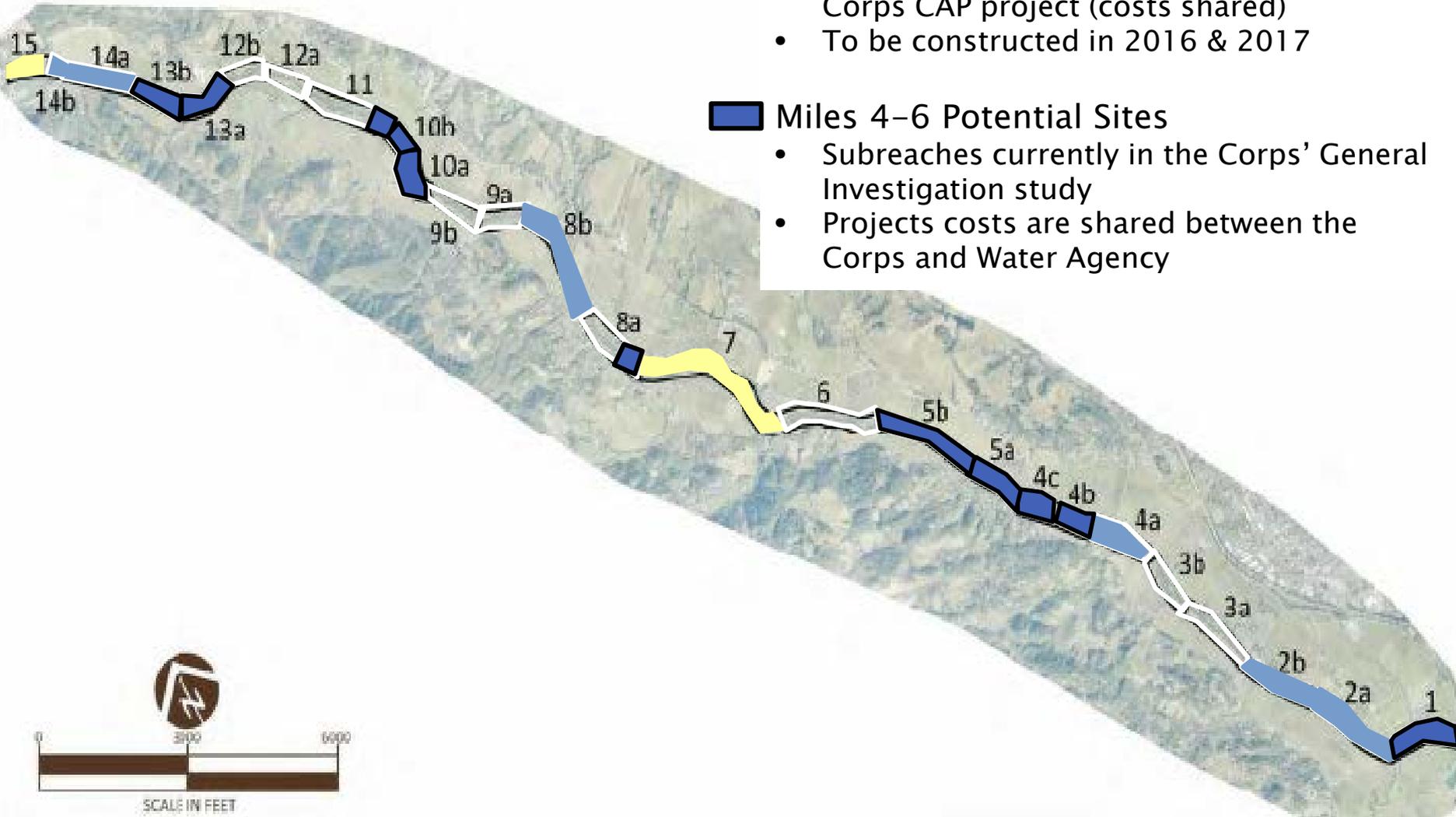
 Constructed

 Miles 2 & 3 Potential Sites

- Includes Water Agency funded project & Corps CAP project (costs shared)
- To be constructed in 2016 & 2017

 Miles 4–6 Potential Sites

- Subreaches currently in the Corps' General Investigation study
- Projects costs are shared between the Corps and Water Agency



A Salmon Safe Harbor Agreement for Dry Creek



A mechanism to provide assurances to non-federal landowners who voluntarily enhance habitat

Bob Coey and Dan Wilson – NMFS West Coast Region

March 2016



What is the Dry Creek Valley Programmatic Safe Harbor Agreement?

- A 35 year long **voluntary agreement** between NMFS and Sonoma County Water Agency
- Identifies **Management Activities** that provide a **Net Conservation Benefit** for listed salmon and steelhead
- Management Activities: providing access for construction and maintenance of **Habitat Enhancement Projects (HEP's)** and monitoring of HEP's, habitat and fish
- SCWA will hold an Endangered Species Act (ESA) Permit to enroll landowners in **voluntary Cooperative Agreements**
- NMFS will provide cooperators **ESA protection for Routine Viticulture Activities** within their enrolled property, as described by a **Farm Plan** for up to 35 years

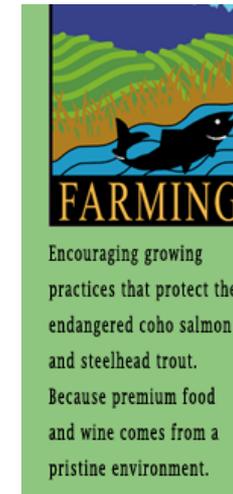
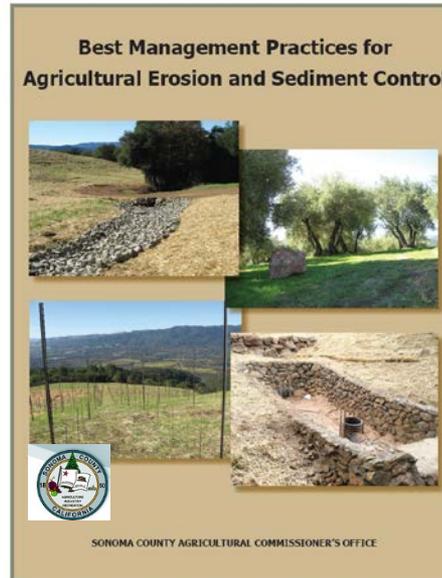


Elements of a Cooperative Agreement

- **Routine Viticulture Activities**
 - Including: cultivation, replanting, irrigation including frost protection, harvesting, transportation, erosion control, removal of trash and invasive plants; and BMP's
- **NMFS Responsibilities**
 - Provide Safe Harbor Assurances
- **SCWA Responsibilities**
 - Construct and manage the HEPs
 - Monitor HEPs, fish and habitat conditions on enrolled properties
- **Landowner Responsibilities**
 - Allow access to SCWA for the management of HEPs
 - Avoid undertaking activities that degrade the HEP's
 - Follow BMPs according to their Farm Plan to avoid or minimize impacts



Farm Plans and BMP's for Viticulture

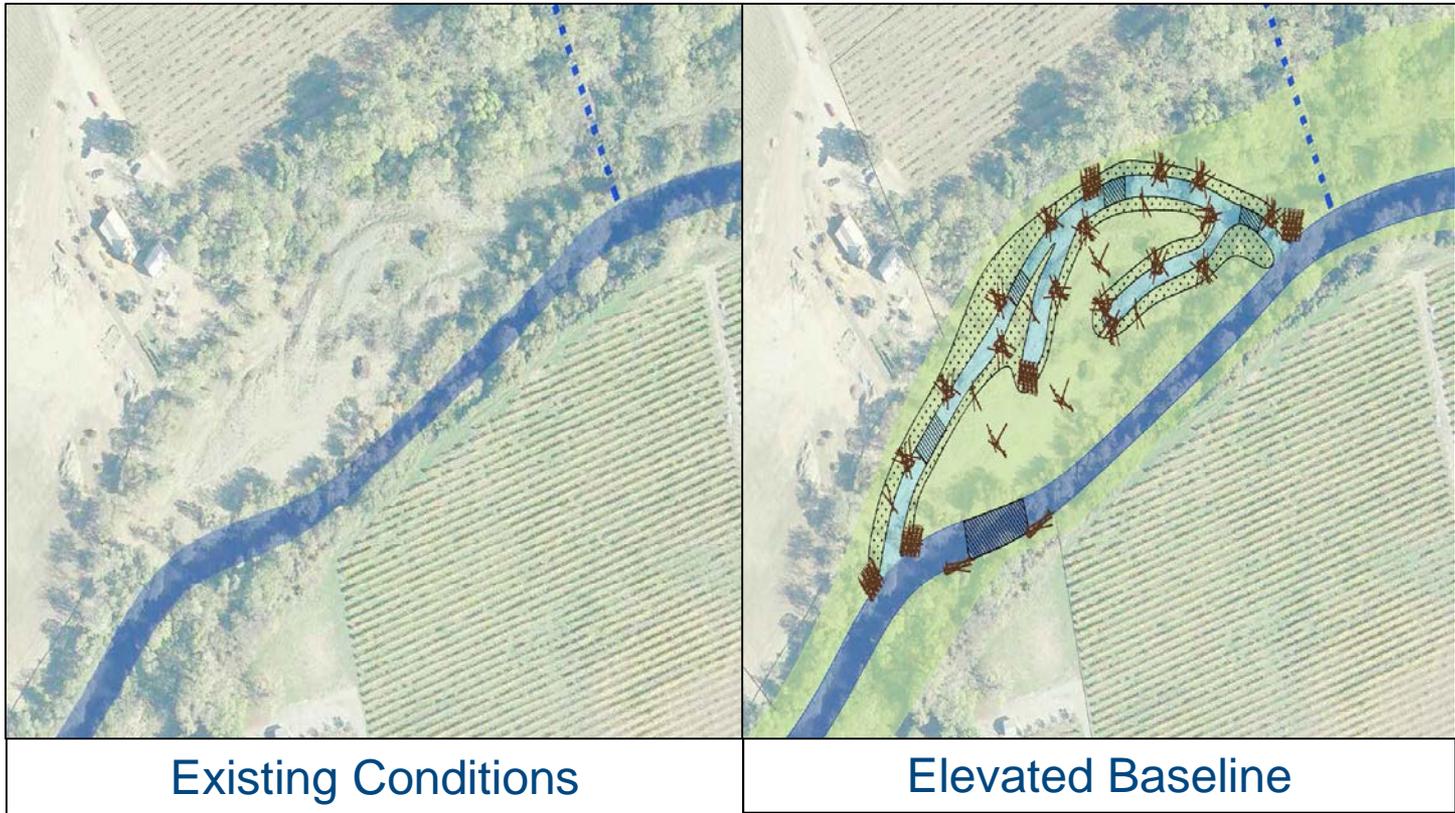


NMFS Safe Harbor Assurances

As long as the HEP's are maintained, Cooperators are assured:

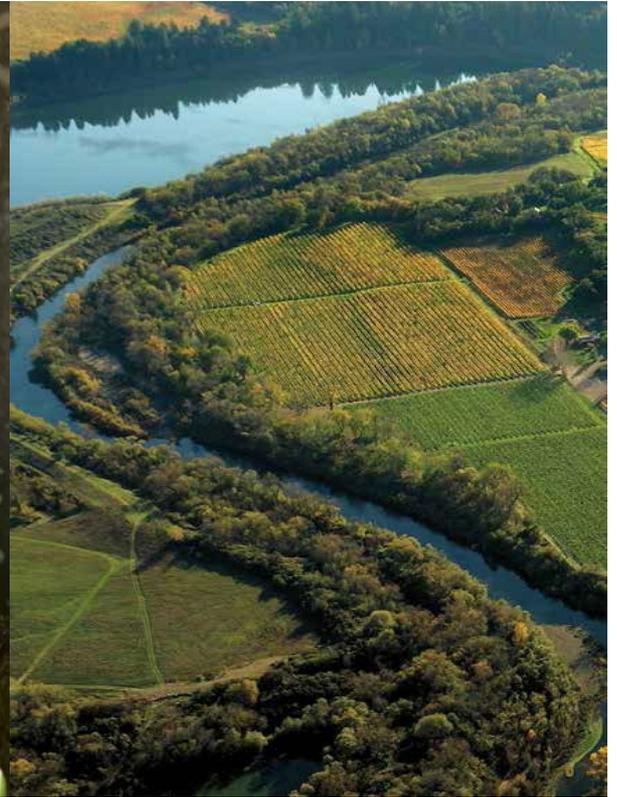
- ESA protections for Viticulture Activities on each enrolled property
- No new restrictions – resulting from the ESA
- A voluntary agreement allowing the landowner:
 - protection from “take” prohibitions of the ESA that are allowed under the permit
 - regulatory assurances until the agreement is no longer in place
 - to opt out at any time
 - to return to an agreed upon *Elevated* Baseline condition on enrolled property at the end of the agreement
 - renewal of the agreement as long as all parties agree

Existing vs. Elevated Baseline Condition





What's in it for NMFS?





What's in it for landowners?





Further Questions?

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Russian River Estuary Management Project



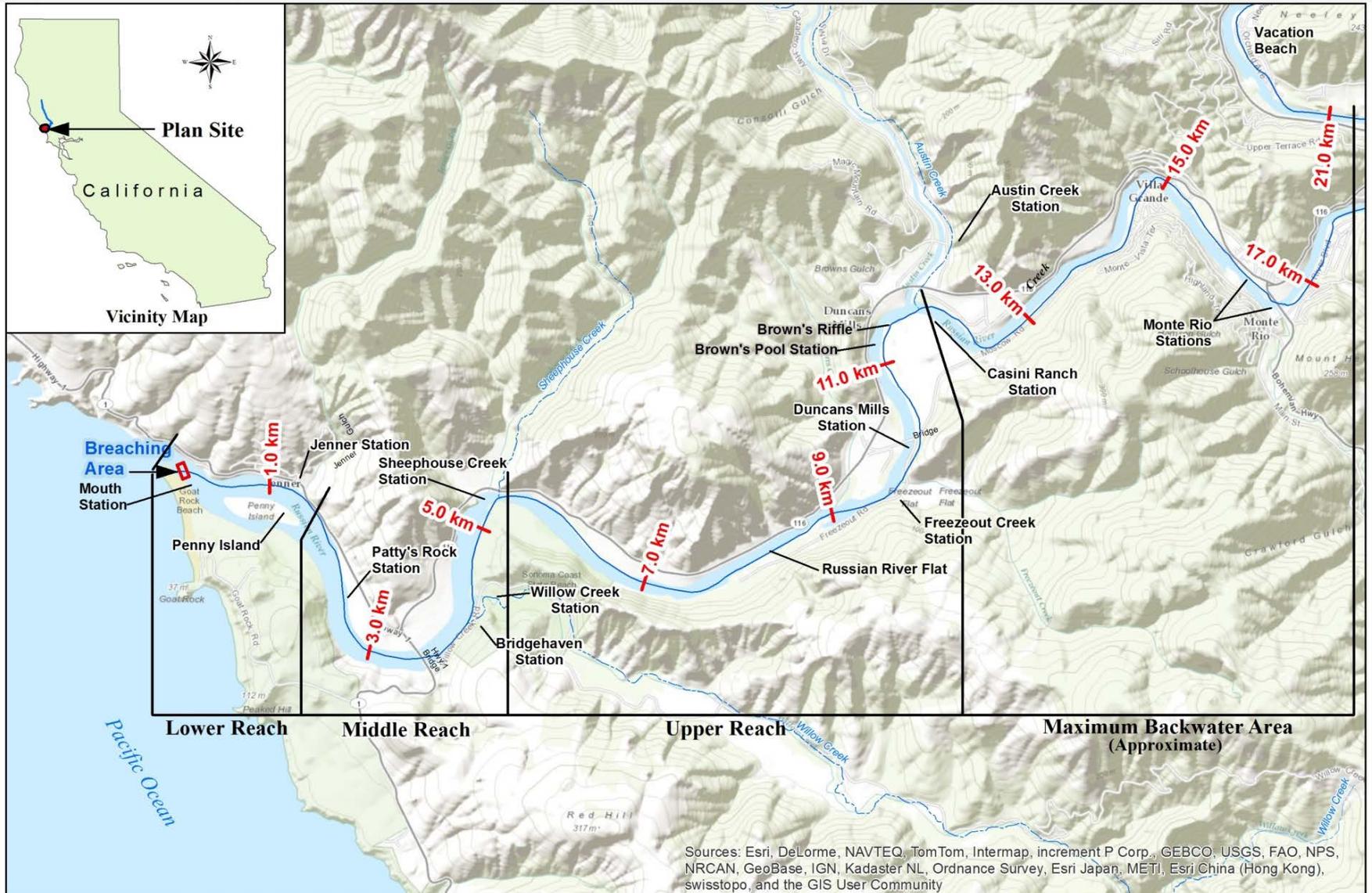
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Project Summary



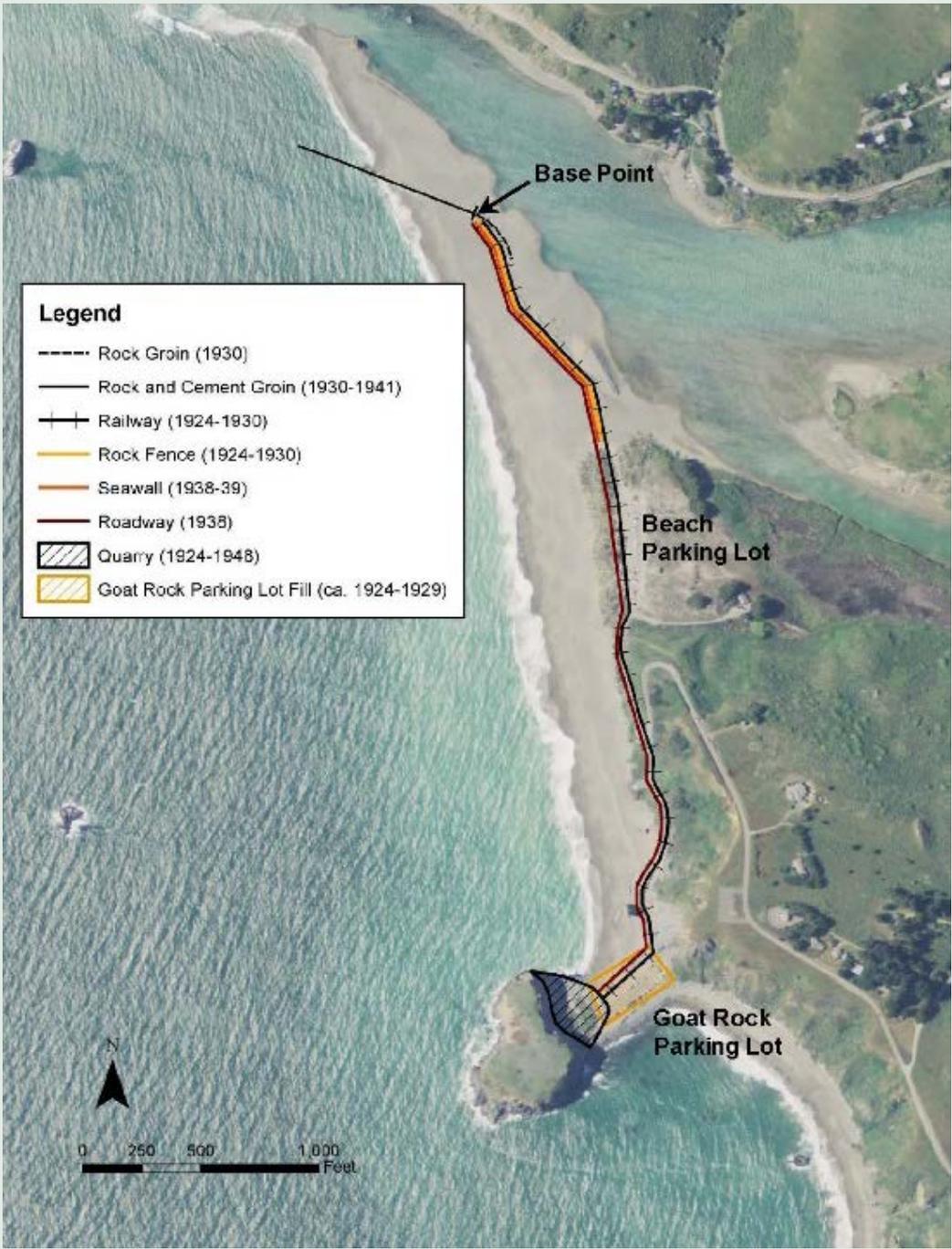
Beach Management Activities



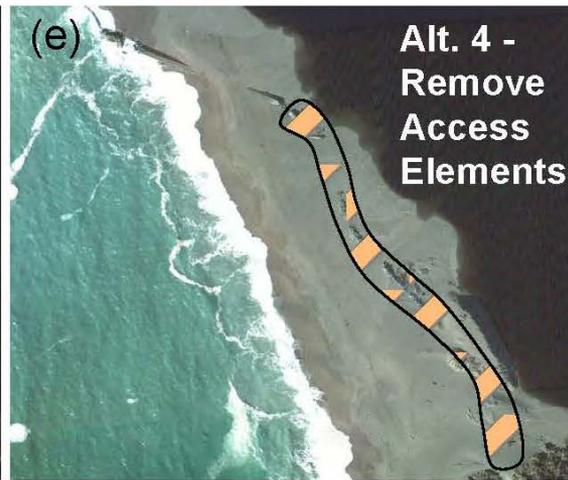
Monitoring

- Fisheries
- Invertebrates
- Pinnipeds
- Water quality
- Physical process





Jetty Study alternatives



Fish Habitat Flows and Water Rights Project

- Draft EIR
 - Minimum instream flow requirements
 - Hydrologic index
 - Existing water rights
- Public Review
- Final EIR



Public Comments and Questions

