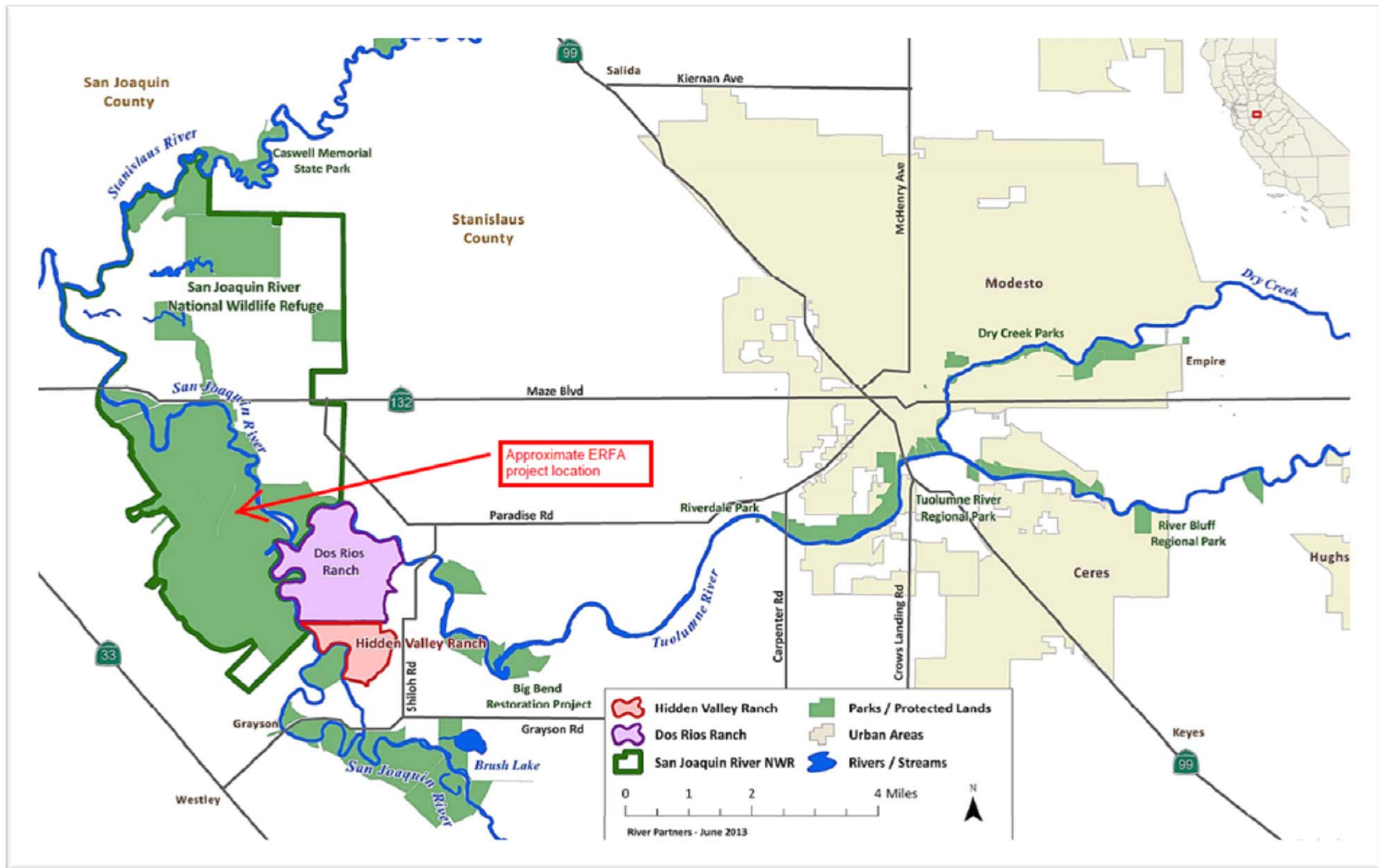


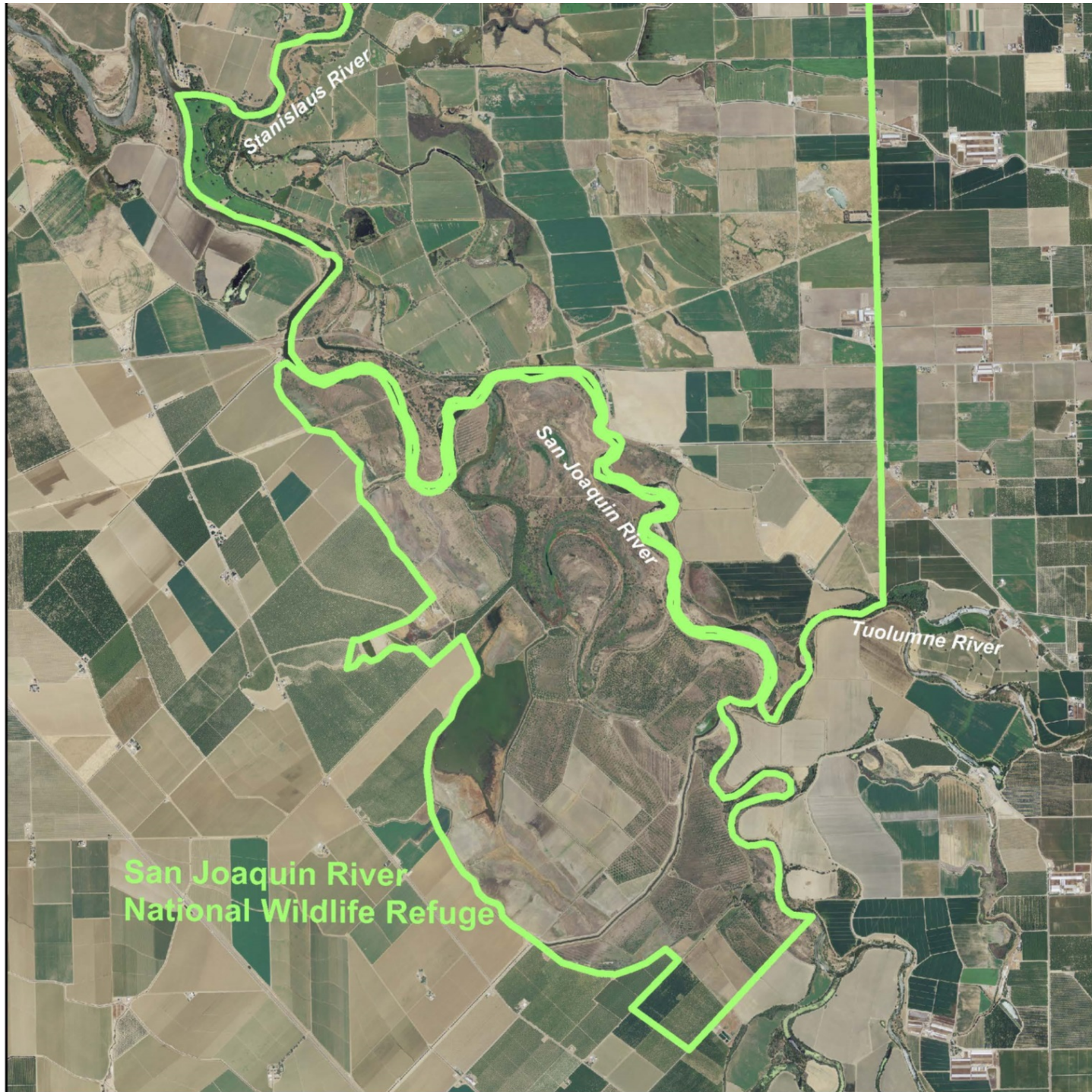


**Ecosystem Restoration and Floodwater Attenuation Project
on the USFWS San Joaquin River National Wildlife Refuge
Stanislaus County**

December 18, 2015

Project Vicinity





Three Amigos NSA

or

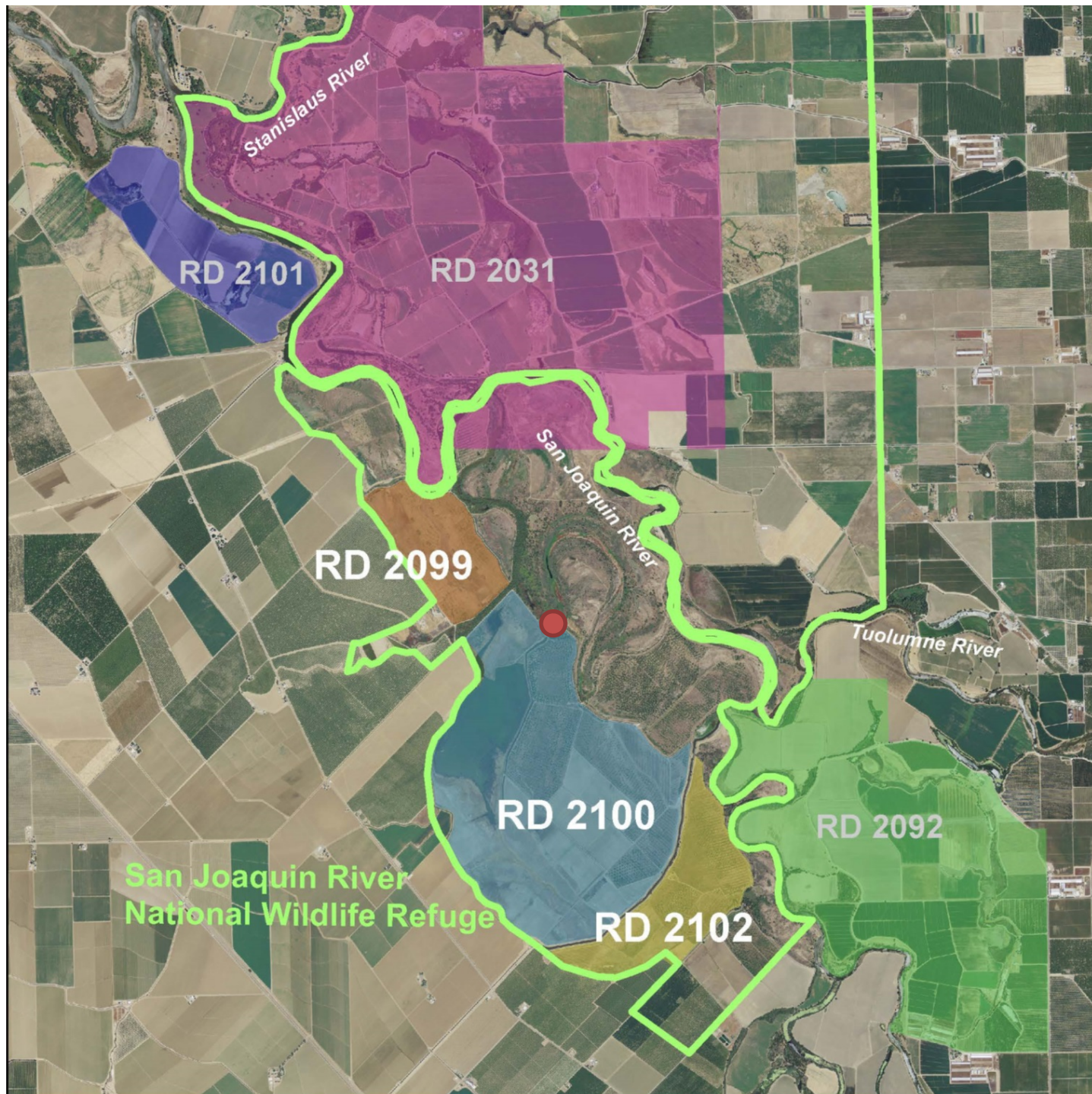
**Ecosystem Restoration
and Floodwater
Attenuation**

**San Joaquin River
National Wildlife Refuge**

**Stanislaus County,
California**



0 0.375 0.75 1.5 Miles



Three Amigos NSA

or

**Ecosystem Restoration
and Floodwater
Attenuation**

**San Joaquin River
National Wildlife Refuge**

**Stanislaus County,
California**

Reclamation District Boundaries

Three Amigos:
2099, 2100, 2102 (Unit No. 012*)

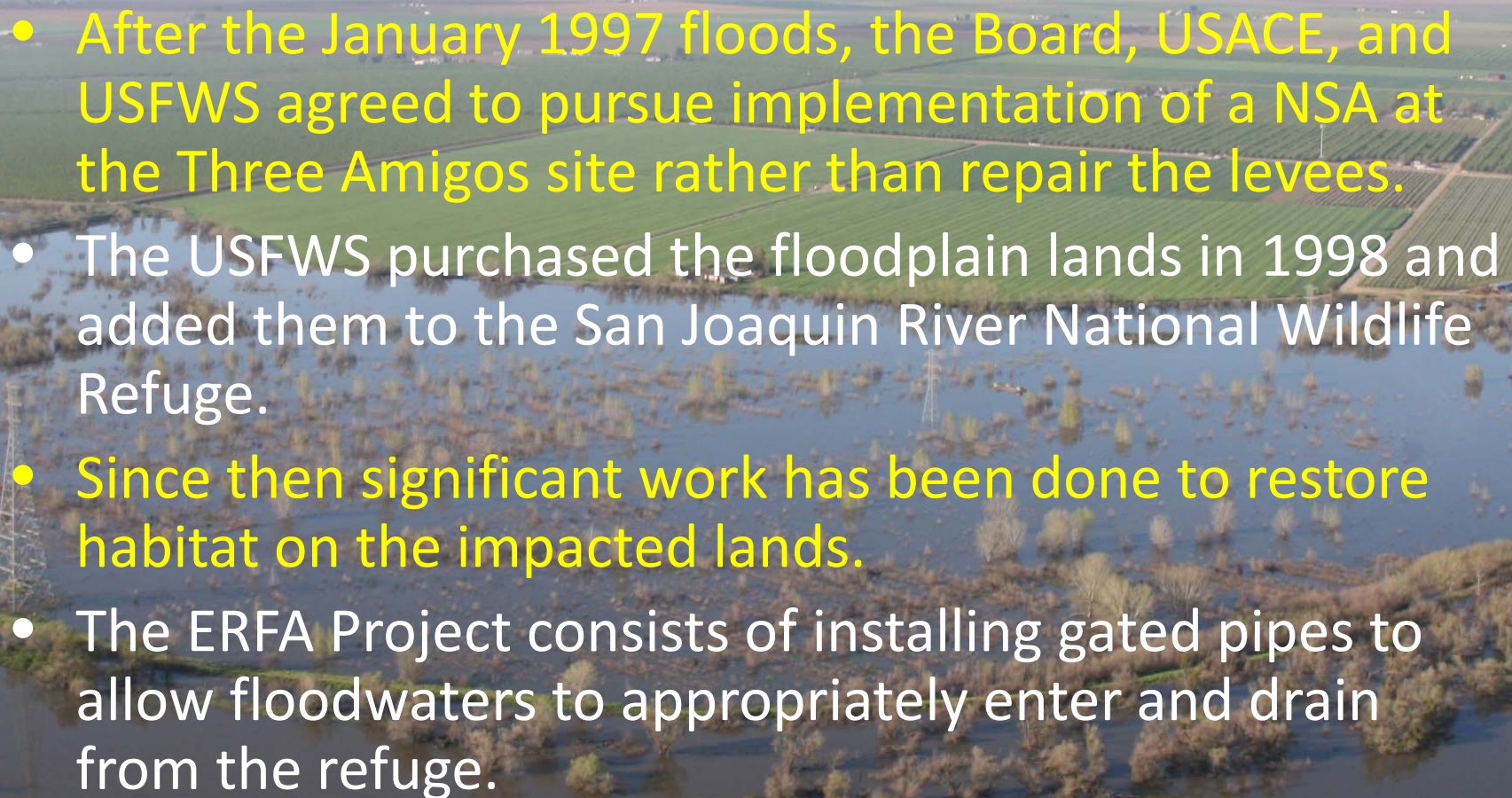
Adjacent Districts:
2101 - Blewett (Unit No.012*)
2031 - Elliot (Unit No. 004*)
2092 - Dos Rios (Unit No. 005*)

*Lower San Joaquin River and
Tributaries Project, California

N



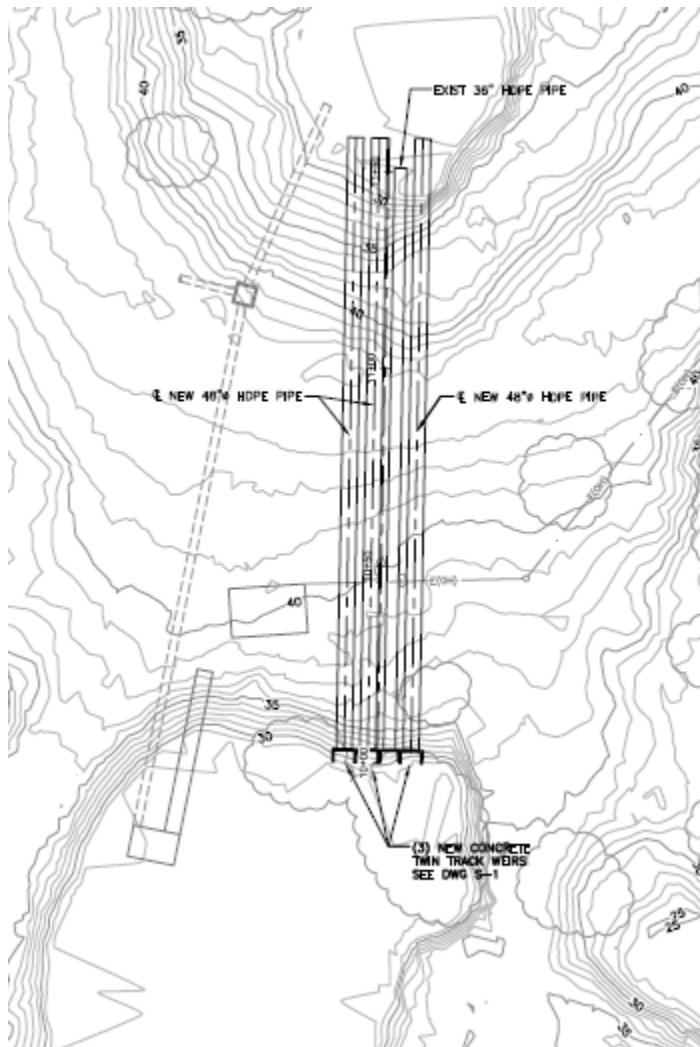
0 0.375 0.75 1.5 Miles

- 
- An aerial photograph showing a vast landscape. In the foreground, there is a large area of water, likely a floodplain, with some trees and vegetation partially submerged. A tall, thin tower or antenna is visible on the left side of the water. In the middle ground, there are green agricultural fields, some of which are also flooded. In the background, there are rolling green hills under a clear blue sky.
- After the January 1997 floods, the Board, USACE, and USFWS agreed to pursue implementation of a NSA at the Three Amigos site rather than repair the levees.
 - The USFWS purchased the floodplain lands in 1998 and added them to the San Joaquin River National Wildlife Refuge.
 - Since then significant work has been done to restore habitat on the impacted lands.
 - The ERFA Project consists of installing gated pipes to allow floodwaters to appropriately enter and drain from the refuge.

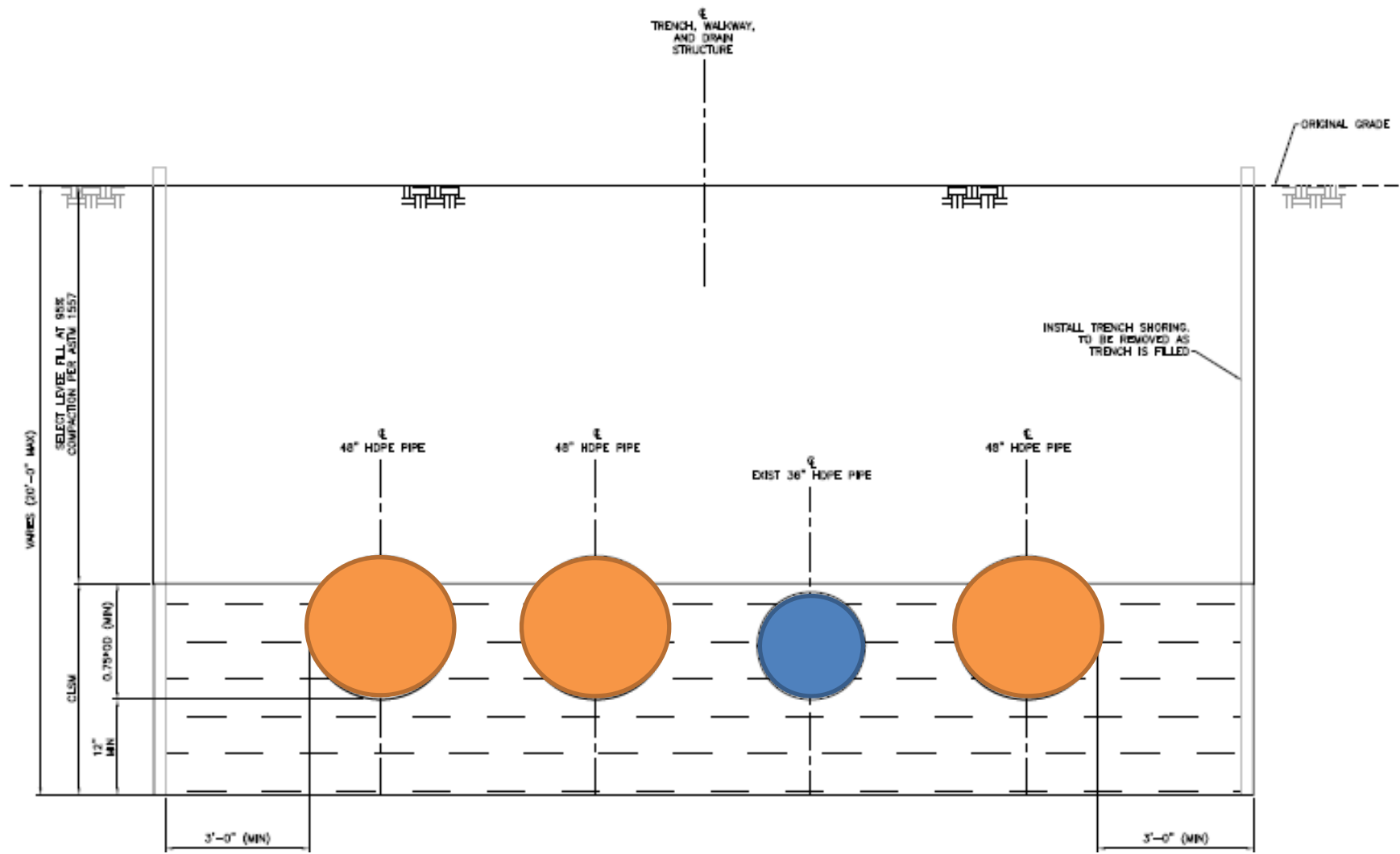
Project Description

- To install **three new 48-inch** diameter gated pipes with manually-operated slide gates, and
- To authorize **one existing 36-inch** diameter gated pipe under the west (left bank) project levee of the San Joaquin River on the USFWS' San Joaquin River National Wildlife Refuge.

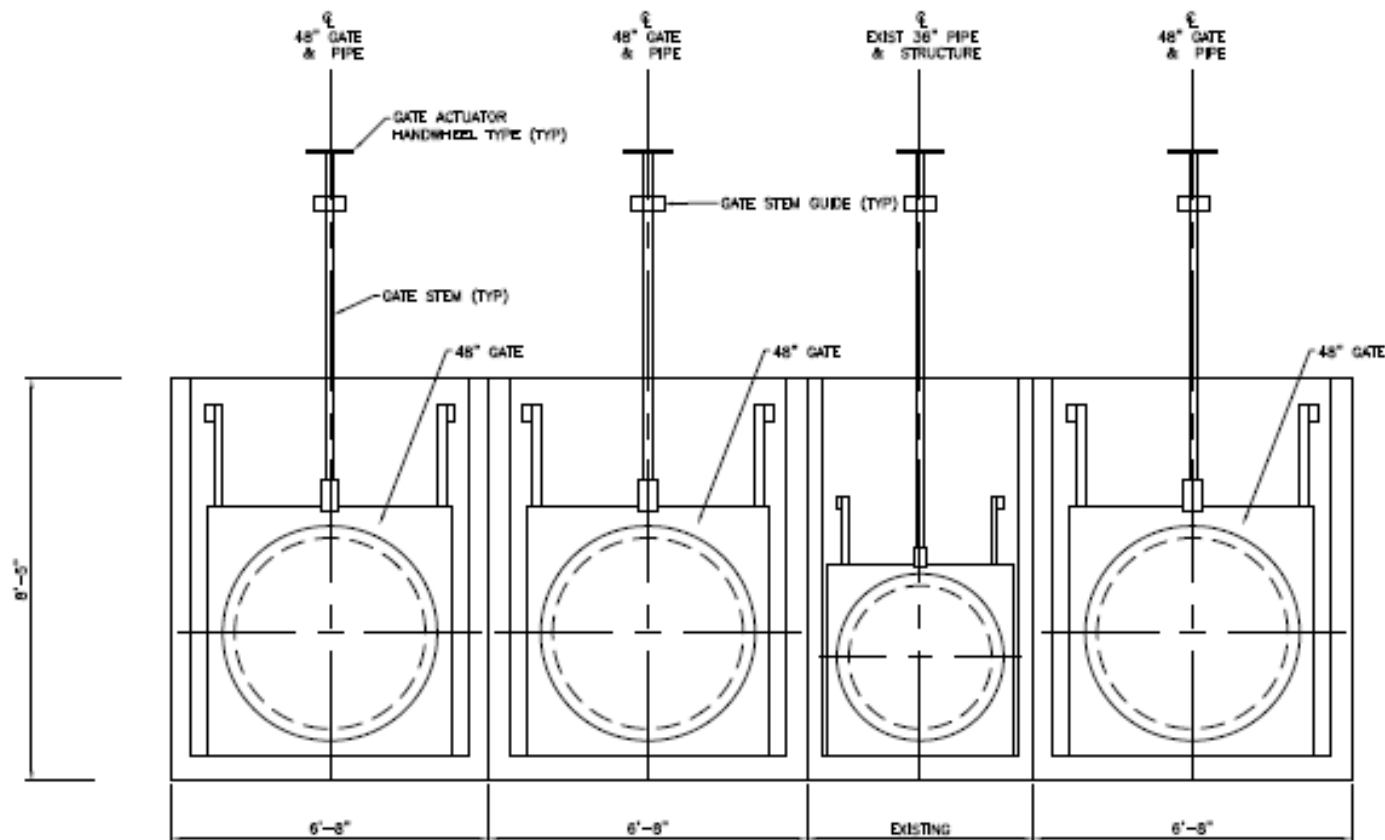
Project Site



Cross Section of the Drain Structure

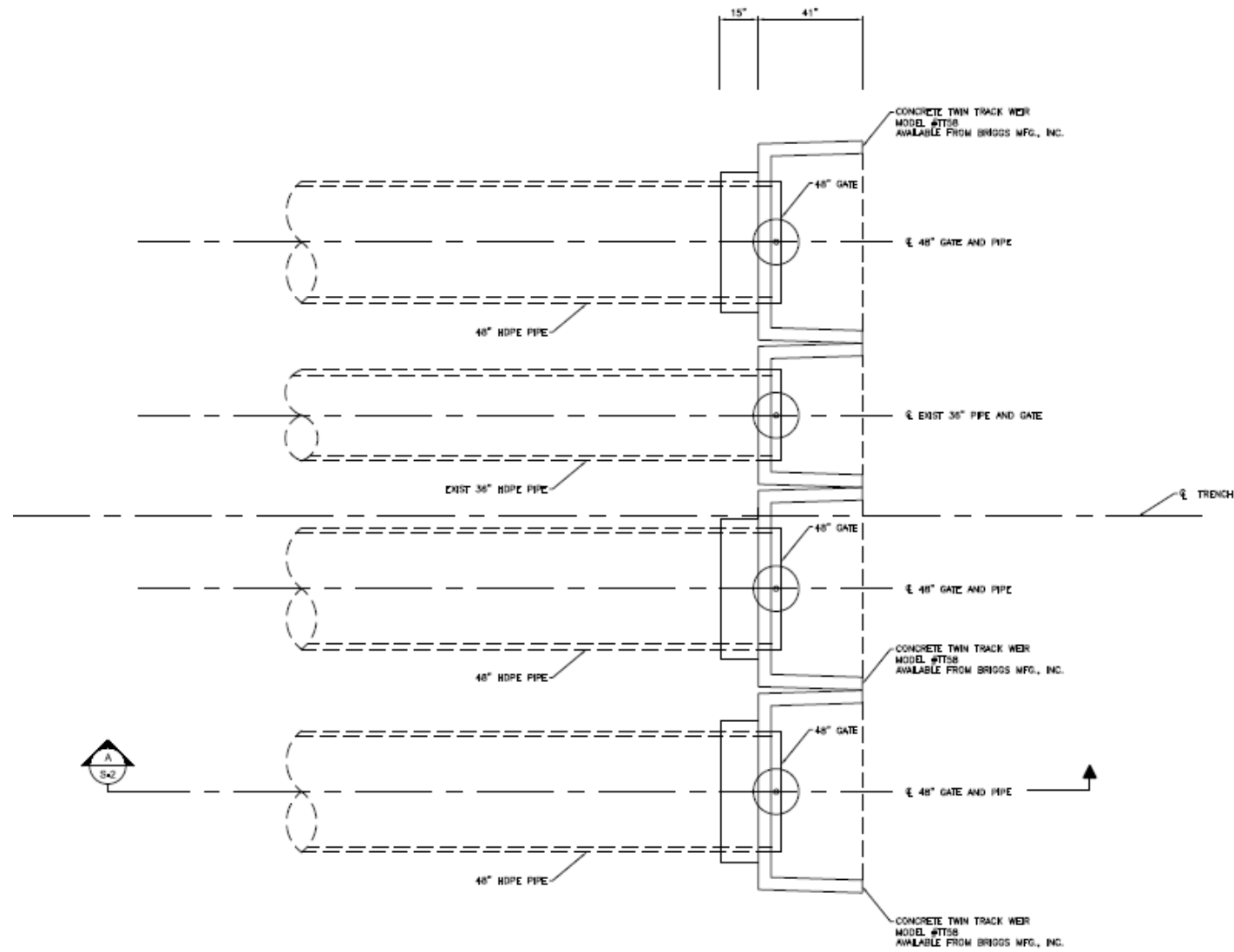


Drain Structure with Gate Control



Pipes with Manually-operated Slide Gates

Plan View of the Pipes



Authority of the Board

California Water Code § 8534, 8590 – 8610.5, and 8700 – 8710

California Code of Regulations (CCR), Title 23 (Title 23):

- § 6, Need for a Permit
- § 112, Streams Regulated and Nonpermissible Work Periods
- § 116, Borrow and Excavation Activities – Land and Channel
- § 120, Levees
- § 121, Erosion Control
- § 123, Pipelines, Conduits and Utility Lines
- § 124, Abandonment of Pipelines

Agency Comments

- The USACE Sacramento District 408 decision letter is pending. The letter will be incorporated into the permit as Exhibit A.
- The applicant and property owner, USFWS, will maintain the proposed Project in perpetuity.

Key Project Benefits

- Reduces damage to restored habitat areas of the Refuge;
- Permanently provides about 2,500 acres of floodwater attenuation opportunity; and
- Reduces the risk of fish entrapment on the Refuge as floodwaters recede.

CEQA Analysis & Findings

- **Lead Agency:** The DWR determined the Project would not have a significant effect on the environment, and approved and filed a Notice of Determination on December 15, 2015 with the State Clearinghouse.
- **Responsible Agency:** Board staff finds that the proposed Project will not have a potentially significant effect on the environment and that there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the Project have been made by or agreed to by the Project proponent.

Staff Recommendations

- adopt responsible agency findings pursuant to CEQA;
- approve Permit No. 19066 subject to a USACE Section 408 decision; and,
- direct the Executive Officer to take the necessary actions to execute the permit and file a Notice of Determination pursuant to CEQA with the State Clearinghouse

Future Administrative Actions

To formalize the NSA, several administrative actions are required, including:

1. USACE address the flowage easements,
2. USACE/USFWS O&M agreement for refuge lands,
3. USACE revision of its O&M manual for flood control,
4. Board dissolution of local O&M agreements, and a
5. Board decision to quitclaim or retain existing flood control property rights.

An aerial photograph showing a river meandering through a patchwork of agricultural fields. The fields are in various stages of growth, with some appearing green and others yellowish-brown. The river is a dark blue line that curves through the landscape, bordered by dense green trees in some areas. The overall scene is a vast, flat expanse of farmland under a clear sky.

Thank you