

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES715 P STREET
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814

Date:

Sent via certified mail and email

CONTACT PERSON
POSITION
TRIBE
ADDRESS LINE 1
ADDRESS LINE 2**Subject: AB 52 Notification for the California Aqueduct Subsidence Program -
San Luis Field Division: Pools 17 and 18 Liner Raise Project**

Dear Contact Person,

This letter serves as a formal invitation to the FULL NAME OF TRIBE (Tribe) to begin government-to-government consultation with the Department of Water Resources (DWR) under Assembly Bill 52 (AB 52), pursuant to Public Resources Code (PRC) §21080.3.1, on the proposed San Luis Canal Subsidence Program (CASP) San Luis Field Division (SLFD) Pools 17 and 18 Liner Raise Project (Project). The Project is located approximately 12 miles west of Helm, California, within Fresno County, as depicted in the *Cantua Creek, California* and *Tres Picos Farms, California* U.S. Geological Survey 7.5-minute topographic maps (see Attachments 1 and 2). DWR and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) are proposing to implement the Project jointly. DWR is the lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and is committed to working collaboratively with the Tribe to properly account for resources important to the Tribe.

Brief Overview of Project Description

The Project is an interim action and consists of raising the concrete liner to the top of the unlined embankment of the San Luis Canal located in portions of Pools 17 and 18 (see Attachments 1 and 2), which would allow the water surface elevation under existing standard operating limitations to be raised. This Project would enable DWR to complete water deliveries to the Public Water Agencies, thereby increasing the capacity and operational flexibility that has become limited due to subsidence while improving safety and reliability.

Brief Program Background

The concrete-lined San Luis Canal was constructed as a series of interconnected pools that are operated in coordination to convey water, primarily by gravity, from one pool to the next through check structures and pumping plants. The San Luis Canal traverses portions of the Central Valley that have experienced subsidence, which is defined as a local or regional drop in ground surface elevation. This subsidence has reduced the San Luis Canal's delivery capability and reliability, as well as increased maintenance, repair, and energy costs.

This project is part of a larger CASP program, comprised of short-term (interim) actions

and long-term corrective actions aimed to repair the San Luis Canal and the California Aqueduct. Additional information about the program and projects can be found here: <https://water.ca.gov/Programs/Engineering-And-Construction/Subsidence>

Cultural Resources Investigations To-Date

Cultural resources investigations completed to date for the Project include the activities listed below. An *Archaeological and Architectural Resources Inventory Report* is currently being prepared for the project.

- California Native American Heritage Commission Sacred Lands File search request (no sacred sites identified)
- Records searches of the California Historical Resources Information System for the Project Area and vicinity (six previously recorded cultural resources in the Project Area, all of which are historic-era built environmental resources)
- Intensive-level pedestrian survey of the Project Area (no archaeological resources identified)

CEQA Implementation

DWR is the lead agency under the CEQA and is proposing to prepare an Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Project. As part of the cultural resources review of the Project under CEQA, we are writing to provide the Tribe an opportunity to submit any information the Tribe is willing to share about cultural resources or Tribal cultural resources as defined in California Public Resources Code (PRC) §21074, that may be near the proposed Project Area shown in Attachments 1 and 2. We understand that the locations of these resources are sensitive and resource locations will not be disclosed in public documents and will be kept confidential as provided for under California Government Code §6254.10.

Because the Project is being jointly proposed by DWR and Reclamation, it is subject to federal environmental regulations, including the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA). Reclamation is the lead federal agency for NEPA/NHPA purposes.

Conclusion

DWR is committed to working collaboratively with the Tribe to properly account for and manage resources important to the Tribe. If the Tribe wishes to engage in formal government-to-government consultation with DWR for the proposed Project under AB 52 and PRC §21080.3.1, please respond within 30 calendar days of this notice in writing with the Tribe's designated Point of Contact(s) for consultation to DWR Office of Tribal Affairs Executive Manager Anecita Agustinez at tribalpolicyadvisor@water.ca.gov and DWR Environmental Planning Lead Marea Bell at marea.bell@water.ca.gov.

If a written request for consultation under AB 52 (PRC §21080.3.1) is not received by DWR within 30 calendar days, DWR will proceed with consultation under its *Tribal Engagement Policy* and the California Natural Resources Agency *Tribal Consultation Policy* to work collaboratively with the Tribe. This notification does not limit the ability of the Tribe to submit information to DWR. (PRC §21080.3.2.)

If the Tribe has any questions or needs additional information, please contact DWR Environmental Planning Lead Marea Bell at (916) 882-2945 or

marea.bell@water.ca.gov, or DWR Office of Tribal Affairs Executive Manager Anecita Agustinez at (916) 216-8637 or tribalpolicyadvisor@water.ca.gov.

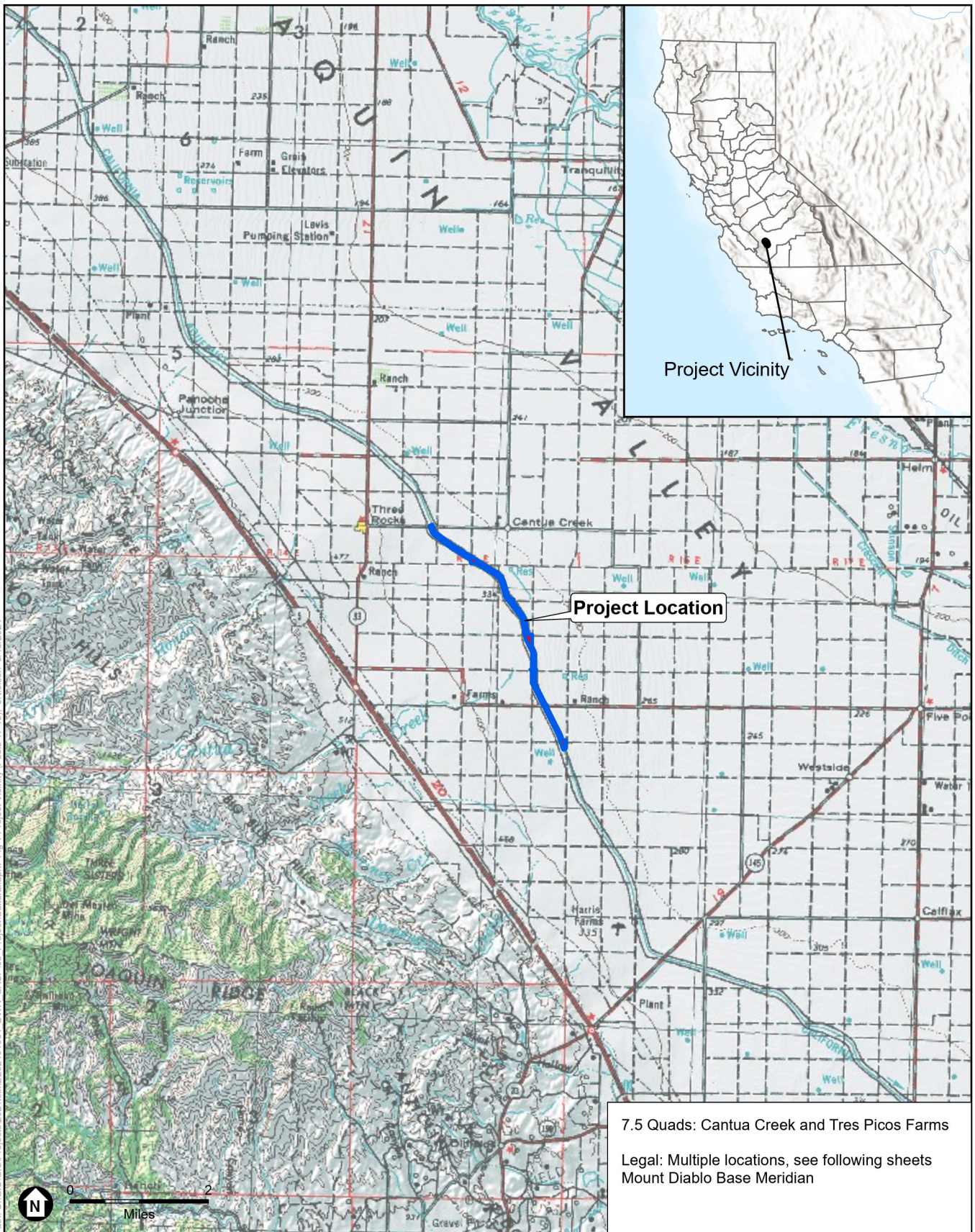
Information on the CASP Tribal Engagement activities can also be found here <https://water.ca.gov/Programs/Engineering-And-Construction/Subsidence/TribalEngagement>.

Respectfully,

Jesse Dillon, P.E.
CASP Program Manager, DWR State Water Project: Division of Engineering

cc.
Anecita Augustinez, DWR Office of Tribal Affairs Executive Tribal Policy Advisor
Mariko Falke, DWR Office of Tribal Affairs Executive Tribal Liaison
Sarah Cannon, DWR Environmental Coordination Section Manager
Marea Bell, DWR Environmental Planning Lead

Attachment 1. Project Vicinity Map
Attachment 2. Project Location Map

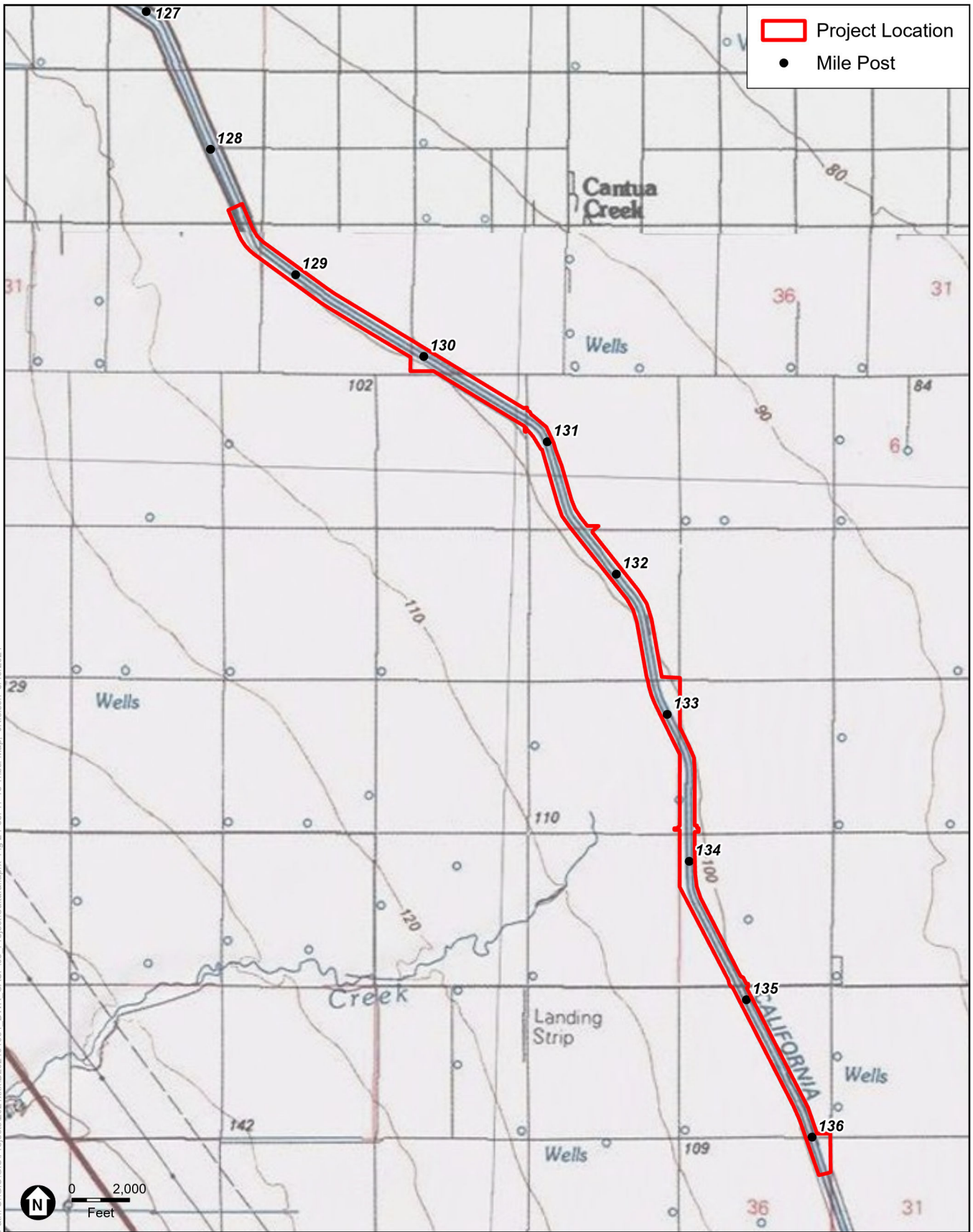


SOURCE: ESRI; DWR, 2024.

CASP

Figure 1
Project Vicinity





SOURCE: USGS; DWR, 2024.

CASP

Figure 2
Project Location

