

**DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES**

P.O. BOX 942836  
SACRAMENTO, CA 94236-0001  
(916) 653-5791



Date:

Sent via certified mail and email

CONTACT PERSON  
POSITION  
TRIBE  
ADDRESS LINE 1  
ADDRESS LINE 2

**Subject: Notification for the California Aqueduct Subsidence Program San Joaquin Field Division Pool 24 Liner Raise Project**

Dear Contact Person,

This letter serves as a formal invitation to the FULL NAME OF TRIBE (Tribe) to begin consultation with the Department of Water Resources (DWR) on the proposed California Aqueduct Subsidence Program (CASP) San Joaquin Field Division (SJFD) Pool 24 Liner Raise Project (Project). The Project is located adjacent to and to the north of Lost Hills, California, within Kern County, as depicted in the *Antelope Plain, California, Lost Hills, California, and Lost Hills NW, California* U.S. Geological Survey 7.5-minute topographic maps (see Attachments 1 and 2). DWR proposes the Project, is the lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and is committed to working with the Tribe under DWR's *Tribal Engagement Policy* and the California Natural Resources Agency's *Tribal Consultation Policy*.

**If the Tribe would like to consult under AB 52, this is also notice DWR has not received an AB 52 request for notification from the Tribe and is an opportunity to ensure current and future engagement to consult under AB 52.**

**Brief Overview of Project Description**

The Project consists of raising the concrete liner to the top of the unlined embankment located in portions of Pool 24 (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 operational flexibility that has become limited due to subsidence and improving safety and reliability.

**Brief Program Background**

The California Aqueduct 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 Aqueduct 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 Aqueduct'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 (or interim actions) and long-term corrective actions aimed to repair the 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 investigations completed to date for the Project includes 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 (one previously recorded cultural resource in the Project Area, which is an historic era built environmental resource),
- Intensive-level pedestrian survey of the Project Area (one indigenous archaeological site and two indigenous archaeological isolates identified).

#### CEQA Implementation

DWR is the lead agency under CEQA and is preparing an Amendment to the 2020 Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (SCH 2020059020) 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.

#### Conclusion

DWR is committed to working collaboratively with the Tribe to properly account for and manage resources important to the Tribe consistent with DWR's *Tribal Engagement Policy* and the California Natural Resources Agency's *Tribal Consultation Policy*. We welcome any recommendations regarding appropriate management or treatment of resources, including Tribal cultural resources, that occur within or near the Project Area. This notification does not limit the Tribe's ability to submit information regarding the identification or significance of Tribal cultural resources, the significance of the Project's potential impact on tribal cultural resources, or any appropriate mitigation measures (PRC §21080.3.2(c)(1)).

If the Tribe has any questions or needs additional information, please contact DWR Planning Lead Todd Wong at (916) 694-7811 or [Todd.Wong@water.ca.gov](mailto:Todd.Wong@water.ca.gov) or DWR Office of Tribal Affairs Executive Manager Anecita Agustinez at (916) 216-8637 or [tribalpolicyadvisor@water.ca.gov](mailto: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>.

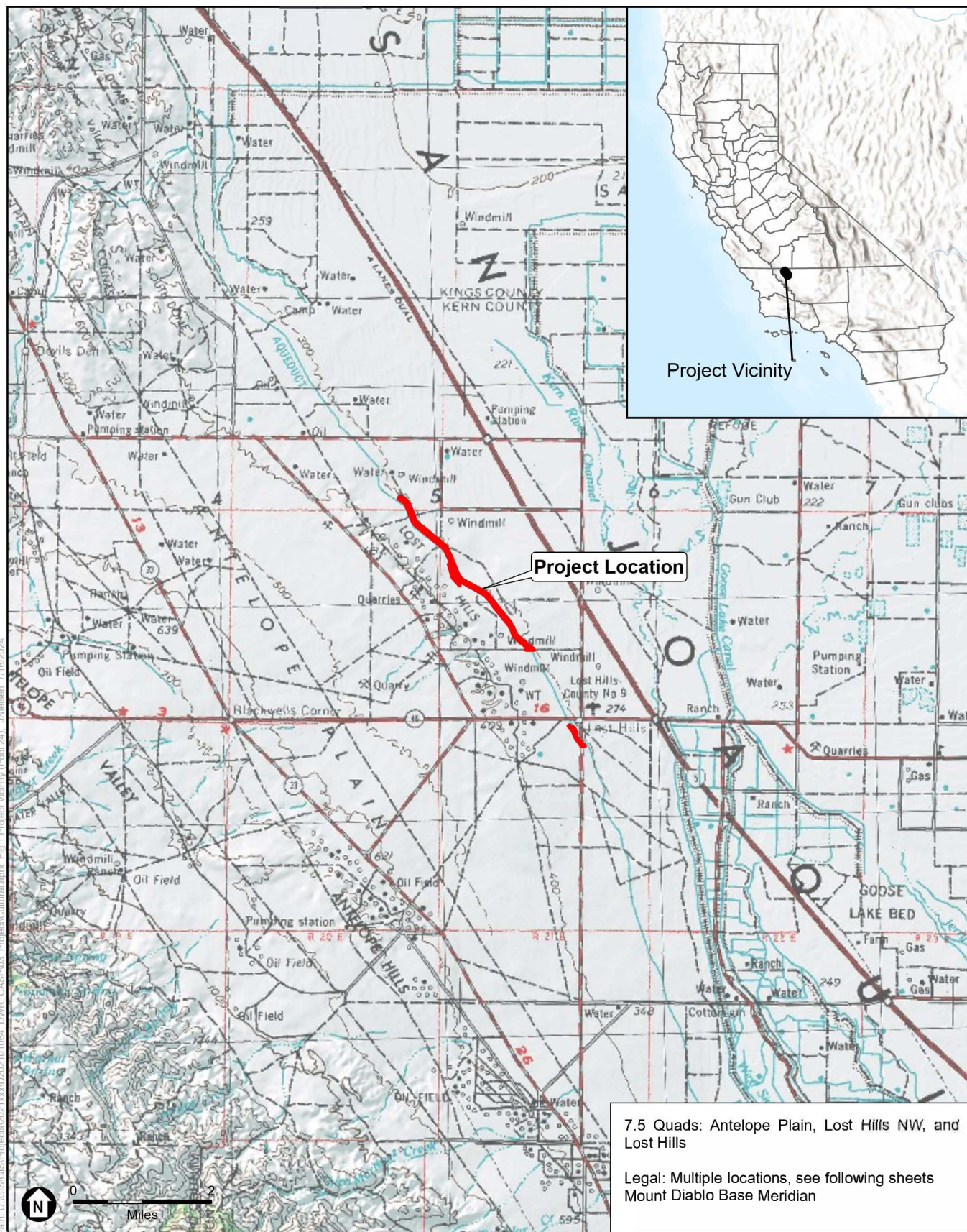
Respectfully,

Jesse Dillon, P.E.  
CASP Program Manager, DWR 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  
Todd Wong, DWR Environmental Planning Lead

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

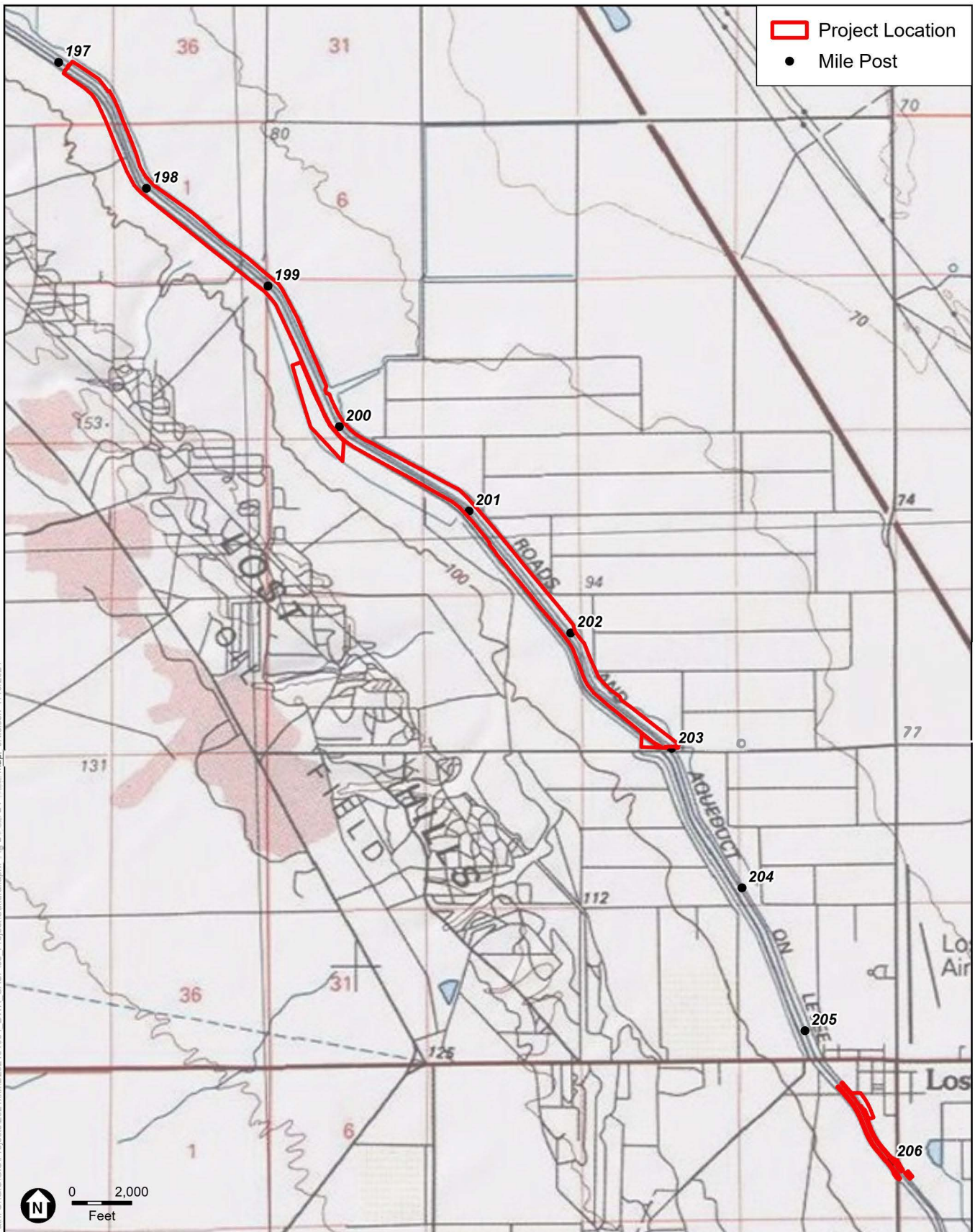


SOURCE: ESRI; DWR, 2024.

CASP SJFD Pool 24 Liner Raise Project

**Figure 1**  
Project Vicinity





Path: U:\GIS\GIS\Projects\2021\Pool 24\2021\101064\_DWR\_CASPI\03\_Project\Cultural.aprx Fig 2 Pool 24 Tribal Map.jnl Nielsen 7/16/2024

SOURCE: USGS; DWR, 2024.

CASP  
SJFD Pool 24 Liner Raise Project  
**Figure 2**  
Project Location

