



Tribal Informational Meeting

CA Aqueduct-San Luis Canal Embankment and Liner Raise Project

California Aqueduct Subsidence Program

July 15, 2021

Anecita Agustinez, Tribal Policy Advisor



STATE OF CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF WATER
RESOURCES
STATE WATER PROJECT



Draft Agenda



Introductions

Welcome

CA Aqueduct – San Luis Canal Embankment and Liner Raise Project Overview

Cultural Resources Overview

Questions and Discussion



Introductions



Welcome

Dan Whisman – California Aqueduct Subsidence Program Manager



Project Team Roles and Responsibilities

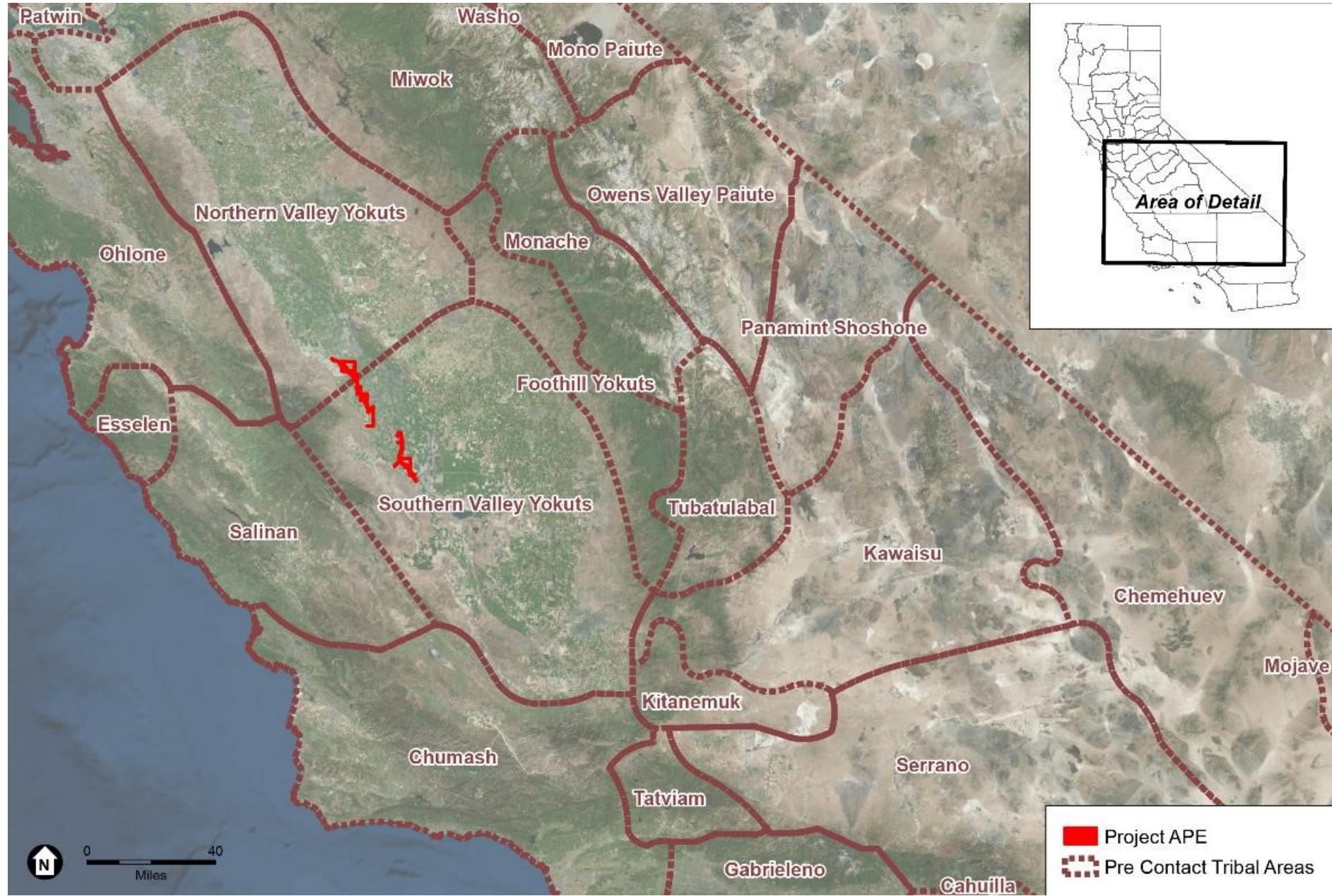
CASP Management Team	Embankment Raise Project Team
Dan Whisman Program Manager	Anecita Agustinez Tribal Policy Adviser
Jim Lopes* Project Manager	Angela Calderaro* Environmental Coordination Section Manager
Leroy Ellinghouse Communications Director	Marea McCann Environmental Project Manager
Nicole Darby Environmental Planner	Monica Nolte Cultural Lead
	Kristina Lecina* Consultant Project Management Support
	Candace Ehringer Consultant Cultural Support
*not present at this meeting, July 15, 2021	Katelyn Matroni Consultant Administrative Support



State Consultation Policies

- E.O. B-10-11 (Brown)
- CNRA Tribal Consultation Policy (2012)
- DWR's Tribal Engagement Policy (2016)
- Assembly Bill 52 (2014) effective July 1, 2015 (Amended CEQA)
- E.O. N-10-19 (Water Resilience Portfolio)
- E.O. N-15-19 (Apology/ Truth and Healing Council)
- Administration Policy on Native American Ancestral Lands (2020)
- Local Government and Tribal Intergovernmental Consultation SB 18 (2005)

Tribal Territories Map





NAHC Contact List

- Big Sandy Rancheria of Western Mono Indians
- Chicken Ranch Rancheria of Me-Wuk Indians
- Cold Springs Rancheria
- Dumna Wo-Wah Tribal Government
- Dunlap Band of Mono Indians
- Kings River Choinumni Farm Tribe
- Nashville Enterprise Miwok-Maidu-Nishinam Tribe
- North Fork Mono Tribe
- Picayune Rancheria of Chukchansi Indians
- Santa Rosa Rancheria Tachi Yokut Tribe
- Table Mountain Rancheria
- Traditional Choinumni Tribe
- Tule River Indian Tribe
- Wuksache Indian Tribe/Eshom Valley Band



AB52 Statewide Contact List

- Barona Band of Mission Indians
- Big Pine Paiute Tribe of the Owens Valley
- Fernandño Tataviam Band of Mission Indians
- Ione Band of Miwok Indians
- Karuk Tribe
- Mechoopda Indian Tribe of Chico Rancheria
- Middletown Rancheria of Pomo Indians of California
- North Valley Yokuts
- Pit River Tribe
- San Luis Rey Band of Mission Indians
- San Manuel Band of Mission Indians
- Santa Rosa Rancheria Tachi Yokut Tribe
- Shasta Indian Nation
- Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians
- Tejon Indian Tribe
- Tongva Ancestral Territorial Tribal Nation
- United Auburn Indian Community of the Auburn Rancheria of California
- Wilton Rancheria
- Wintu Tribe of Northern California & Toyon-Wintu Center
- Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation



Summary of Consultation Outreach

- 1 tribe notified under AB 52 (Santa Rosa)
- 13 other tribes contacted under DWR Tribal Policy
- Letters mailed Dec. 2020
- Follow-up conducted January and March 2021
- 4 tribes responded
 - Chicken Ranch Rancheria
 - Project outside tribe's area
 - Dumna Wo-Wah
 - No comments at this time
 - Dunlap Band
 - Project outside tribe's area
 - Traditional Choinumni
 - Project outside tribe's area
 - Requests notification of discoveries



Project Location

- San Joaquin Valley
- Fresno and Kings Counties
- Between Los Banos and Kettleman City
- San Luis Division of the California Aqueduct
 - Pools 17-18
 - Mileposts 122-143
 - Pools 20-21
 - Mileposts 155-172
- 41 miles long





Project Background

- San Luis Canal (SLC) traverses portions of the San Joaquin Valley that have experienced subsidence
- Land subsidence has reduced the freeboard and capacity of the aqueduct system to transport floodwater and deliver irrigation water
- To maintain delivery capacity, portions of the aqueduct that have experienced subsidence require retrofitting to extend the concrete liner within the aqueduct prism to restore storage and conveyance capacity





Project Background



- Joint State and Federal Action
 - DWR is Lead State Agency
 - U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) is Lead Federal Agency
- Joint CEQA/NEPA Document
 - In process of drafting an Initial Study/Environmental Assessment
 - An EIR will be required for CEQA
 - BOR is in process of determining the level of NEPA



CA Aqueduct – San Luis Canal Embankment and Liner Raise

- Elevate the embankments and concrete liner on both sides of 41-mile segment SLC
- Includes structure modifications to turnouts, turnins, check structures, bridges, irrigation and utility crossings
- Majority of earthwork materials would be borrowed material from property adjacent to the SLC





Project Description, cont.



Photo from the Pools 24 and 25 Liner Raise Project

- Elevate and raise embankments and concrete liner
 - The waterside embankment would be excavated approx. 3-6 feet behind the existing liner and then be backfilled
 - Embankments will be raised up to 6 feet



Project Description, cont.

- Structure modifications
 - 8 bridge raises
 - Requires detour routes for traffic
 - 30 to 40 irrigation crossings abandoned or replaced
 - 47 turnouts/turnins replaced
 - 9 utility overcrossings elevated or reconstructed
 - Check 17 reconstructed





Project Description, cont.



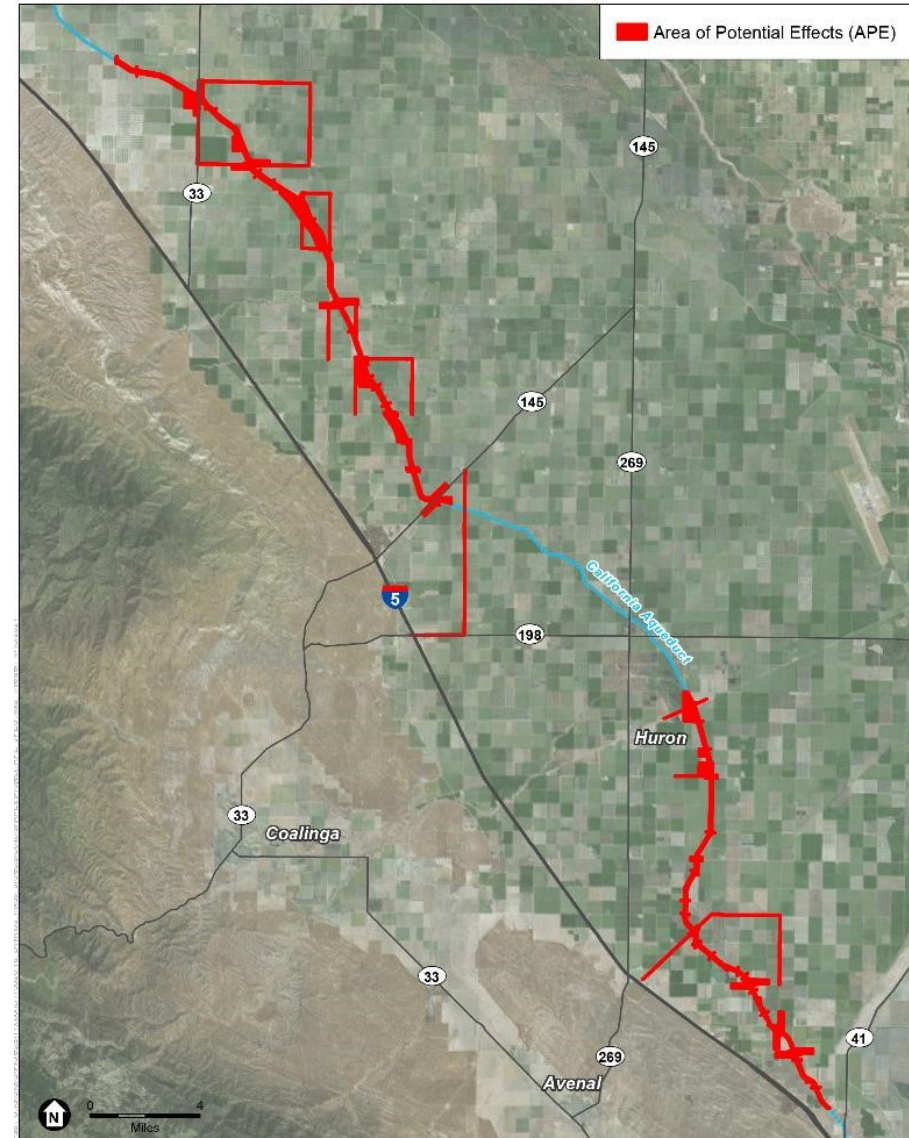
• Borrow Areas

- Approx. 4.5 million cubic yards of soil would be excavated
- Pools 17-18 borrow areas are located within adjacent farmland
 - Excavations approx. 5-15 feet below ground surface (bgs)
- Pools 20-21 borrow areas are within right-of-way on either side of the SLC
 - Excavations approx. 10-15 feet bgs



Area of Potential Effect (APE)

- 5,595 acres
- Within ROW and adjacent farmland
- Vertical APE = 5-50 feet bgs





Cultural Resources Study

- Archival research
 - SSJVIC
 - NAHC SLF
- Pedestrian surveys
 - In progress
- Geoarchaeological study
 - Subsurface sensitivity assessment
- Reporting
 - In progress

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Archival Research

- **SSJVIC Records Search**
 - One indigenous resource in APE – a possible mano fragment in a borrow area
 - No other indigenous resources previously recorded within the APE or a 0.25-mile buffer
 - Results for detour routes pending
- **SLF Searches**
 - Negative results

Pedestrian Survey



- 70% of APE surveyed
- Ground visibility generally good (80-90%)
- Possible mano fragment could not be re-located
- DWR recorded chert biface in ROW during previous survey, which could not be re-located on current surveys
- No new indigenous resources identified to date

Geoarchaeological Study



- Previous (2013) joint geotechnical/geoarchaeological investigation conducted in Pools 17-18
 - No artifacts or other cultural indicators observed
 - No paleosols identified
 - Suggests lower sensitivity in Pools 17-18
- Current study underway. Preliminary data suggests higher sensitivity in closer proximity to Tulare Lakebed (southern part of APE).

Summary of Cultural Resources Study



- Approx. 70% of APE surveyed
- Two previously identified isolates (mano fragment, biface) not re-located
- No previously unidentified indigenous resources recorded during current surveys
- SLF searches negative
- Lower potential for subsurface in northern part of APE
- Higher potential for subsurface in southern part of APE



Milestones

- Complete cultural surveys and finalize cultural report
 - Anticipate end of 2021
- Prepare EIS/EIR
 - Anticipate public scoping in Winter 2021
 - Anticipate public review period starting in Winter 2022
- Construction start dates
 - December 2023 (Pools 20-21)
 - April 2024 (Pools 17-18)
- Construction will last 2 years



Thank you

Anecita Agustinez

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Daniel Whisman

California Aqueduct Subsidence Program Manager

Department of Water Resources

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Questions and Discussion

DWR is committed to proactive and meaningful engagement with Tribes who are interested in this project.