

**DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES**

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



May 04, 2026

sent via email

CONTACT PERSON  
POSITION  
TRIBE  
ADDRESS LINE 1  
ADDRESS LINE 2

**Subject: California Aqueduct Subsidence Program 2026 Annual Programmatic Updates**

Dear Contact Person,

This is an update from the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) for the California Aqueduct Subsidence Program (CASP) to provide a summary of various program activities and an update on associated environmental planning efforts for traditionally and culturally affiliated Tribes. This is also an opportunity to consult with DWR on CASP projects consistent with DWR's *Tribal Engagement Policy* and the California Natural Resources Agency's (CNRA's) *Tribal Consultation Policy*.

The State Water Project (SWP) launched CASP to develop and implement the most beneficial and affordable preventive and corrective action to mitigate the adverse effects of current and future subsidence. CASP includes a variety of studies, construction projects, and activities aimed at reducing the impact of land subsidence (land sinking) on the California Aqueduct and the San Luis Canal in the San Joaquin Valley. More information about the program can be found at our website:

<https://water.ca.gov/Programs/Engineering-And-Construction/Subsidence>

**Location**

CASP activities extend through portions of Merced, Fresno, Kings, and Kern counties along the San Luis Canal and California Aqueduct, specifically between the Dos Amigos Pumping Plant (25060 Poleline Road, Los Banos, CA 93635) and Edmonston Pumping Plant (Edmonston Pumping Plant Road, Arvin, CA 93203) (Attachment: Figure 1).

**Tribal Consultation and Engagement**

DWR is the lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and is committed to working collaboratively with the Tribe under DWR's Tribal Engagement Policy and CNRA's Tribal Consultation Policy. Consistent with DWR's and CNRA's Tribal policies, past and present Tribal outreach is conducted early for each CASP project as part of DWR's commitment to early, often, and meaningful Tribal consultation.

To summarize past Tribal outreach and engagement:

- **December 21, 2020:** DWR sent notification letters with an invitation to consult on the San Luis Canal Embankment and Liner Raise Project under CASP.

- **July 15, 2021:** DWR hosted a Tribal informational meeting on CASP.
- **December 2021 and October 2022:** DWR sent follow up update letters.
- **January 10, 2023:** DWR hosted a second Tribal informational meeting to provide CASP updates.
- **March 6, 2025:** DWR sent updates via email provide CASP updates.

Since the last annual correspondence, CASP projects continue. The following is a summary of proposed upcoming activities and events:

## **Planned Activities & Current Events**

### **CASP Long-term Planning and Extraordinary Maintenance (XM) Report (CEQA to begin late 2026, NEPA to begin mid-2028)**

The CASP Long-term Subsidence Remediation Planning Study is tasked with developing infrastructure repair actions to remediate the impacts of ground subsidence in the Central Valley, in Pools 16-21 of the San Luis Canal (SLC) and Pools 24-26 and 31 of the California Aqueduct (Aqueduct).

The SLC is a federal/State joint-use facility, owned by U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) and operated by DWR.

- National Environmental Policy Act Compliance:
  - On September 12, 2023, Reclamation signed a *Charter and Plan of Study* for an extraordinary maintenance (XM) report. This approval kicked off a mandatory feasibility study to evaluate work along the San Luis Canal.
  - The XM process is anticipated to take seven years until fully approved and includes the Federal environmental process (NEPA, Section 106, and USFWS Section 10 consultation). Reclamation is the NEPA lead.
  - The level of NEPA is not yet determined. The NEPA process is currently scheduled to begin in mid-2028 and will cover only work within the SLC.
- California Environmental Quality Act Compliance:
  - The CASP is developing a program EIR to cover the Long-term Plan work within both the SLC and the Aqueduct.
    - The planning study does not currently have a full project definition, project description, or defined project footprint.
  - *DWR anticipates initiating Tribal outreach and consultation on the long-term plan in the last quarter of 2026 or early 2027.*

### **Check 17 Structure Modification (construction to start September 2026) (Attachment 2)**

- The San Luis Canal is a federal/State joint-use facility, owned by U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) and operated by DWR.
- Proposed project will only remove the radial gates. There will be no ground disturbance or demolition of the bridge deck.
- This project was covered under a Notice of Exemption published on July 9, 2025 (SCH: 2025070370) and a NEPA Categorical Exclusion published on June 25, 2025.

- Construction is currently expected to begin in September 2026.

### **Pools 17-18 Liner Raise Project (construction to start 2027) (Attachment 3)**

- Proposed project would raise the concrete liner on the waterside embankment of the San Luis Canal in Pools 17 and 18.
- Project located in Fresno County approximately 12 miles west of Helm, California.
- Project will be jointly implemented by DWR and the BOR.
- Consultation invitations pursuant to AB 52, and DWR's Tribal Engagement Policy were mailed and emailed on October 11, 2024.
- The final Mitigated Negative Declaration was published on April 3, 2026 (SCH: 2025110364) and the NEPA Categorical Exclusion was published on August 22, 2025.
- Construction is currently expected to begin in May 2027.

### **Pools 20-21 Liner Raise Project (construction to start 2028) (Attachment 4)**

- Proposed project would raise the concrete liner on the waterside embankment of the San Luis Canal in Pools 20 and 21.
- Project located in Fresno and Kings Counties approximately 3 miles north of Kettleman City, California).
- Project will be jointly implemented by DWR and the BOR.
- Consultation invitations mailed and emailed on October 11, 2024.
- The final Mitigated Negative Declaration was published on April 3, 2026 (SCH: 2025110365) and the NEPA Categorical Exclusion was published on August 22, 2025.
- Construction is currently expected to begin in February 2028.

### **Pool 24 Liner Raise Project (construction to start 2027) (Attachment 5)**

- Proposed project would raise the concrete liner on the waterside embankment of the California Aqueduct in select locations in Pool 24.
- Project located in Fresno and Kings Counties approximately 3 miles north of Kettleman City, California.
- Consultation invitations mailed and emailed on October 11, 2024.
- This project was covered under an amendment to a Mitigated Negative Declaration published on August 22, 2025 (SCH: 2020059020).
- Construction is currently expected to begin in August 2027.

### **Pool 31 Liner Raise Project (construction to start 2028) (Attachment 6)**

- Proposed project would raise the concrete liner on the waterside embankment of the California Aqueduct in select locations in Pool 31.
- Project located in unincorporated Kern County approximately 6 miles east of the city of Taft, California.
- Consultation invitations have not yet been sent for this project.
- Construction is currently expected to begin in July 2028.

### **Subsidence and Groundwater Monitoring Project (construction in progress, completion in 2030)**

- To better understand the changes and causes of subsidence, several monitoring wells, and continuous Global Positioning System (GPS) stations are being installed along the San Luis Canal and California Aqueduct.

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 CNRA'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 CASP 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 recommendations or mitigation measures.

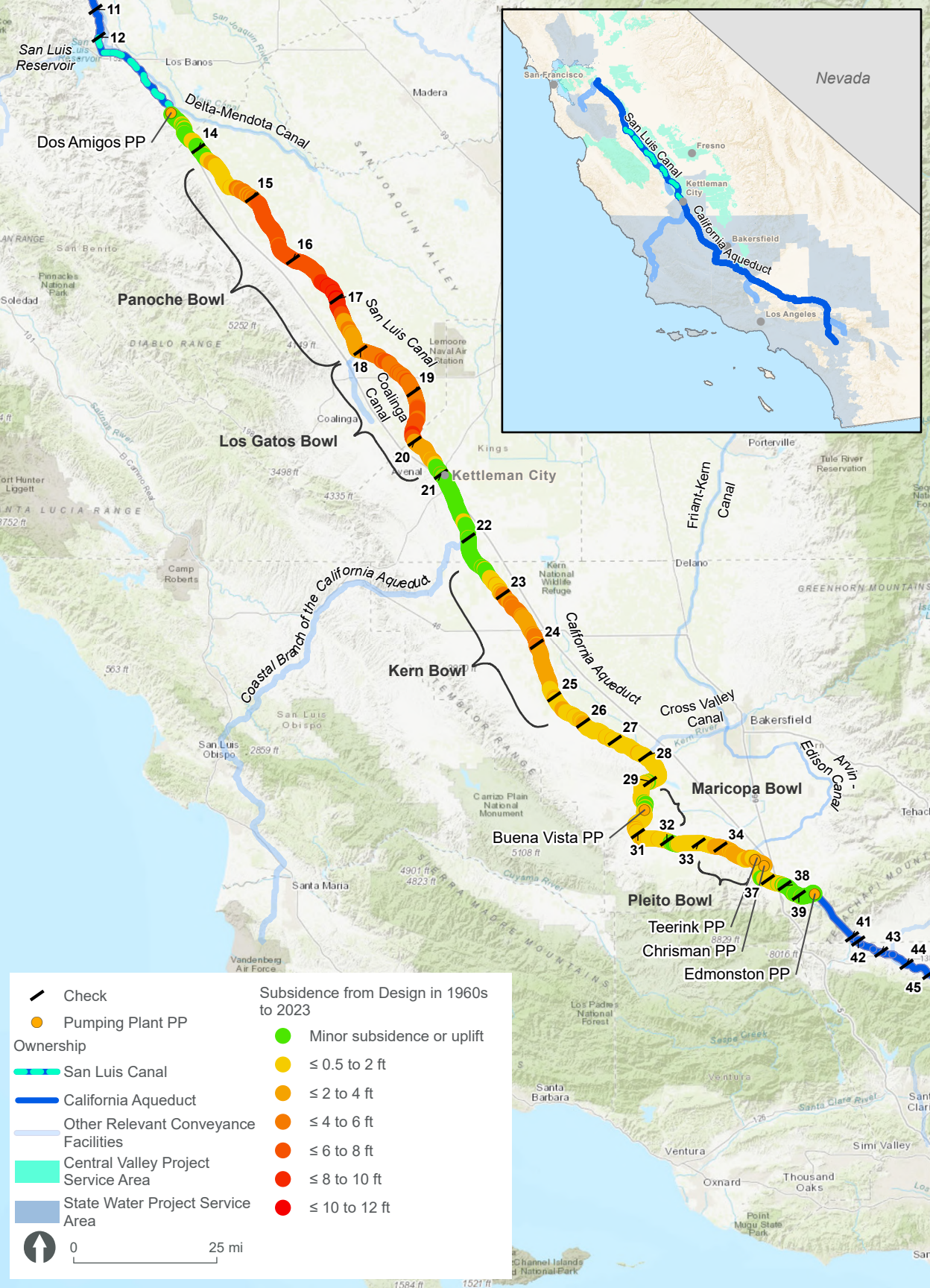
If the Tribe would like to request consultation or needs additional information, please reply to this email at [CASP@water.ca.gov](mailto:CASP@water.ca.gov) or contact our Environmental Program Manager, Todd Wong at (916) 694-7811, or by email at [Todd.Wong@water.ca.gov](mailto:Todd.Wong@water.ca.gov). You may also contact DWR Office of Tribal Affairs Executive Manager Anecita Agustinez at [tribalpolicyadvisor@water.ca.gov](mailto:tribalpolicyadvisor@water.ca.gov).

Respectfully,

Anecita Agustinez  
Tribal Affairs Executive Manager  
EXECUTIVE DIVISION

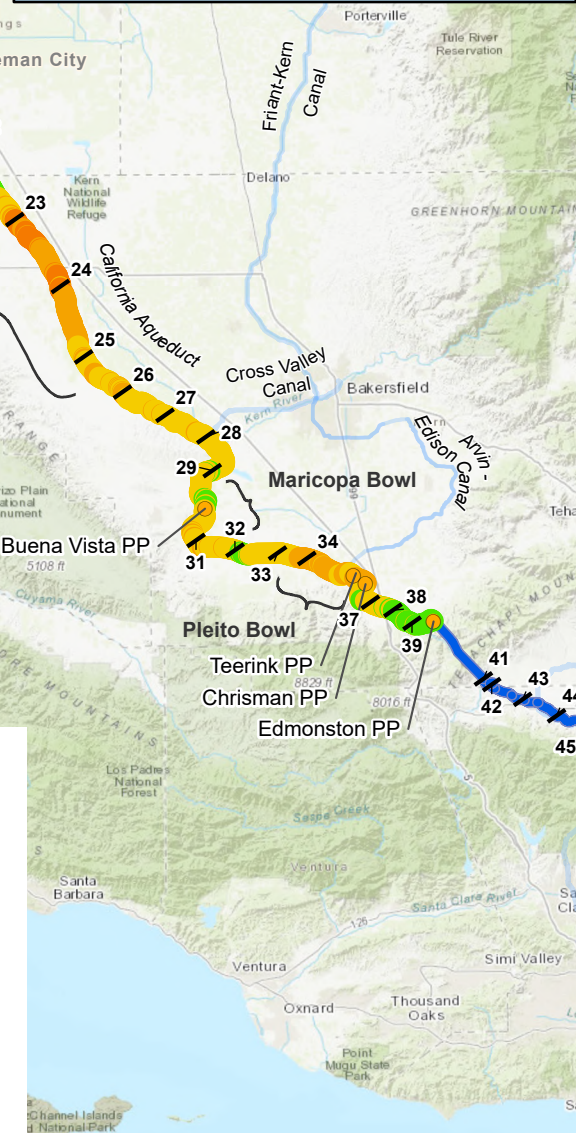
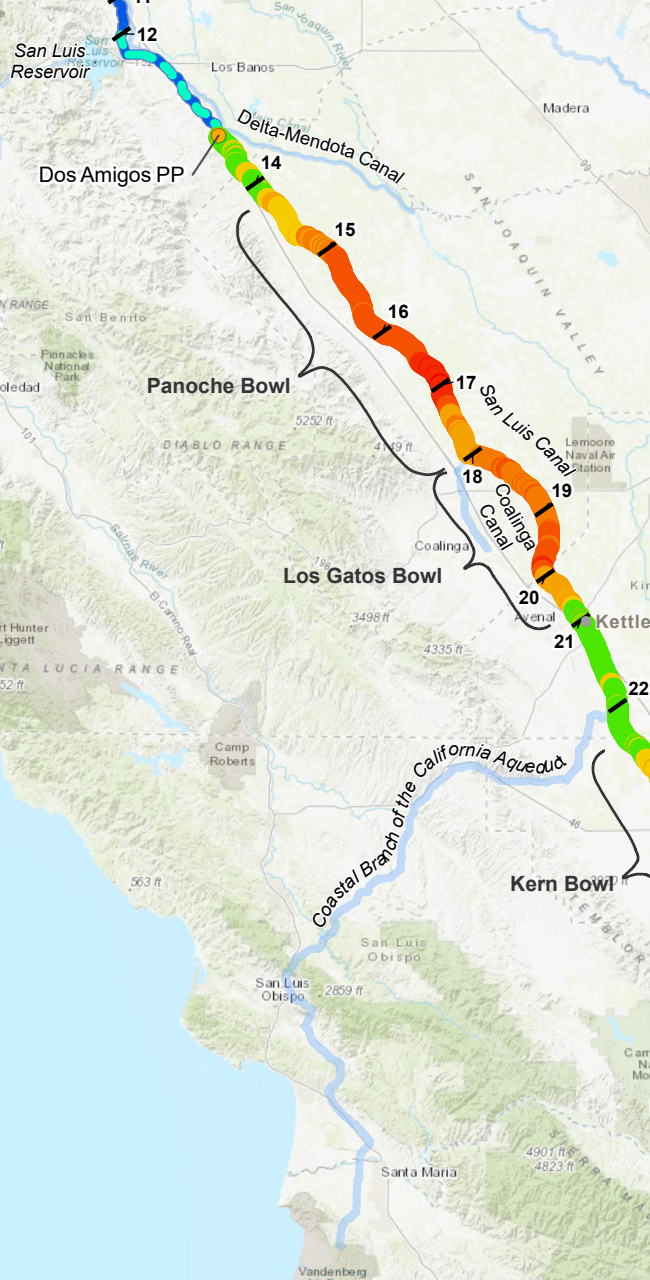
Attachments:

1. CASP Project Vicinity
2. Check 17 Structure Modification
3. Pools 17-18 Liner Raise
4. Pools 20-21 Liner Raise
5. Pool 24 Liner Raise
6. Pool 31 Liner Raise



	Check		Minor subsidence or uplift
	Pumping Plant PP		≤ 0.5 to 2 ft
	San Luis Canal		≤ 2 to 4 ft
	California Aqueduct		≤ 4 to 6 ft
	Other Relevant Conveyance Facilities		≤ 6 to 8 ft
	Central Valley Project Service Area		≤ 8 to 10 ft
	State Water Project Service Area		≤ 10 to 12 ft

0 25 mi

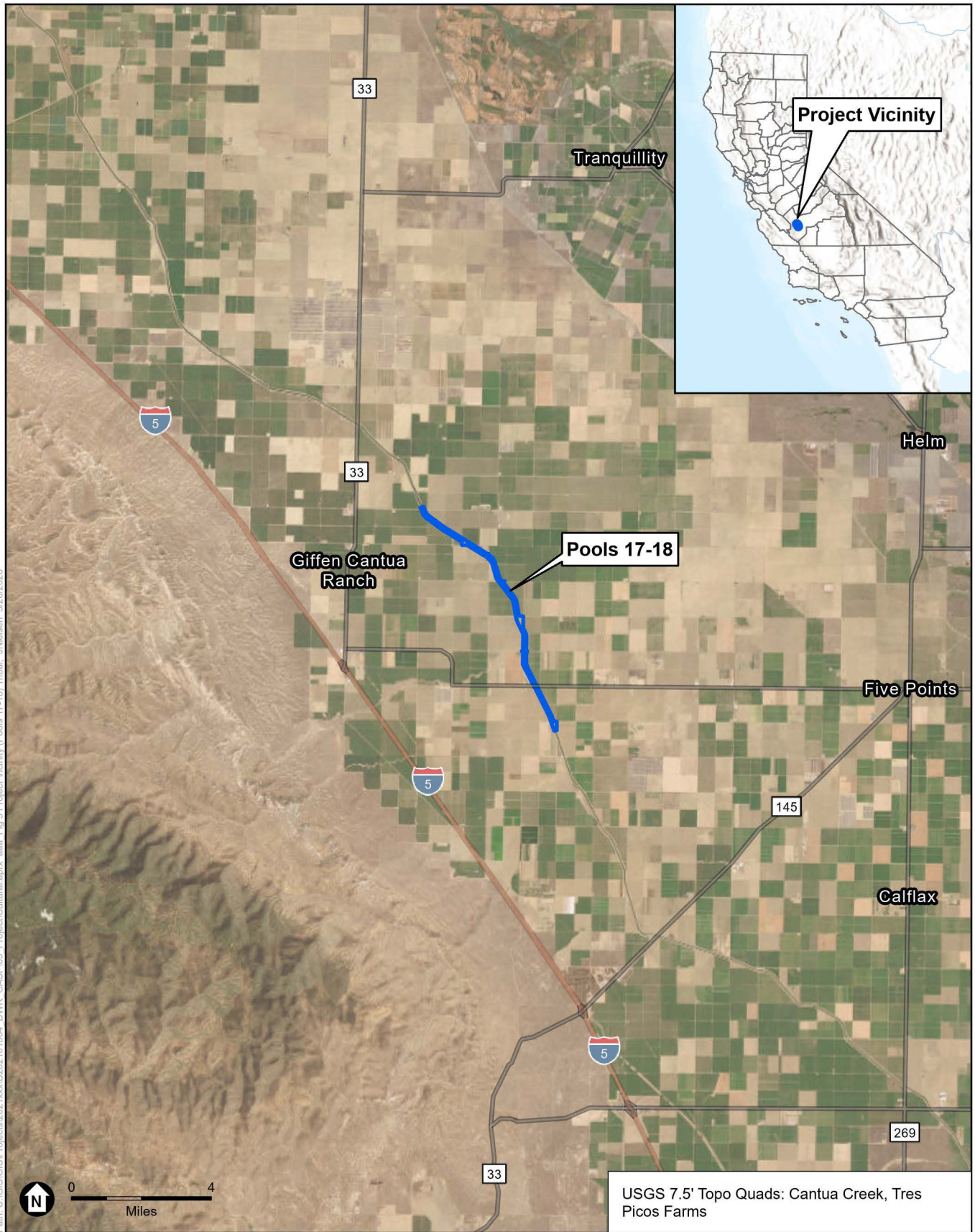




SOURCE: ESRI; DWR, 2026

CASP Check 17 Structure Modification Project

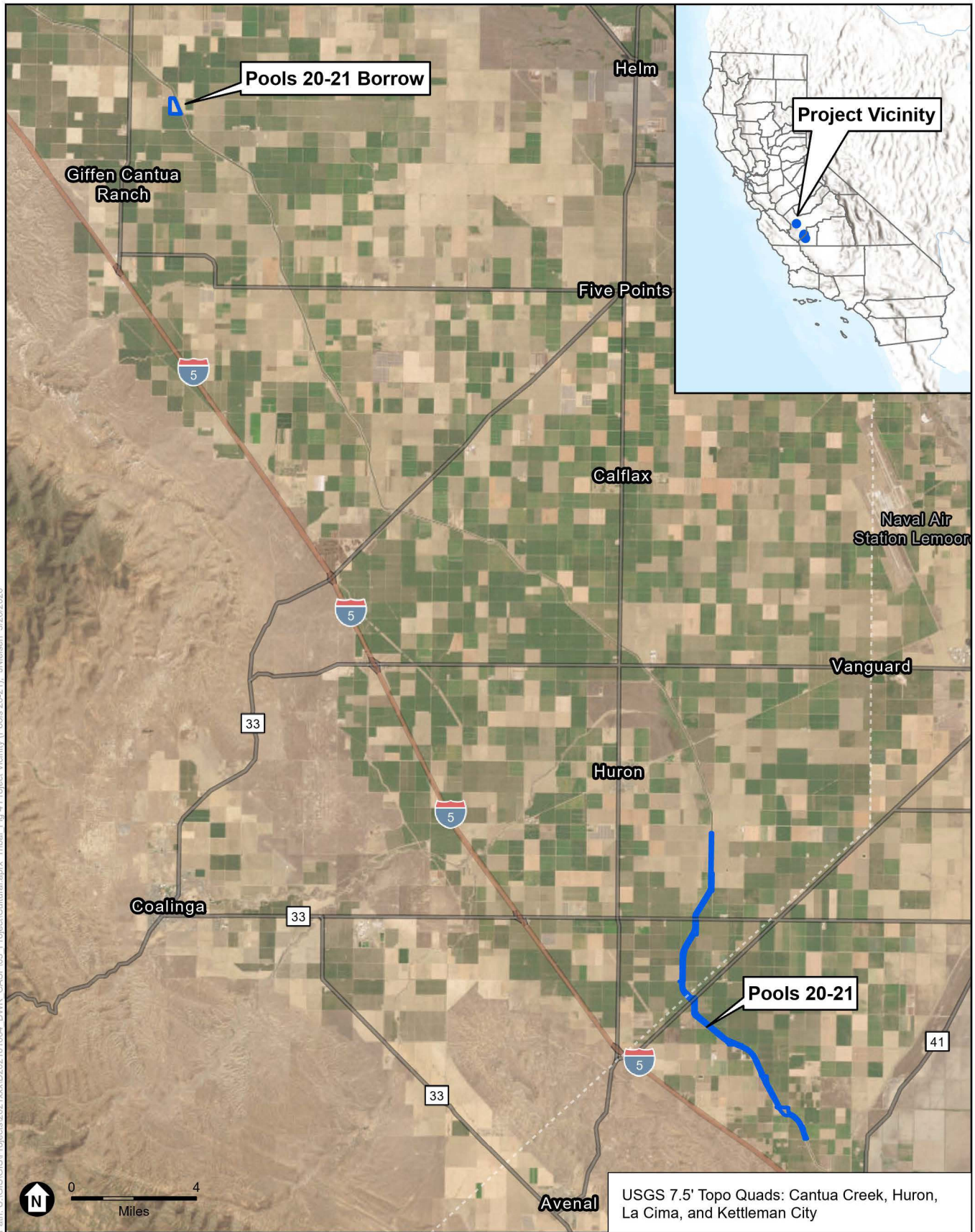
**Figure 2**  
Check 17 Structure Modification



SOURCE: ESRI; DWR, 2026

CASP Pools 17-18 Liner Raise Project

**Figure 3**  
Pools 17-18 Liner Raise



SOURCE: ESRI; DWR, 2026.

CASP Pools 20-21 Liner Raise Project

**Figure 4**  
Pools 20-21 Liner Raise



SOURCE: ESRI; DWR, 2026.

CASP Pool 24 Liner Raise Project

**Figure 5**  
Pool 24 Liner Raise





SOURCE: ESRI; DWR, 2026.

CASP Pool 31 Liner Raise Project

**Figure 6**  
Pool 31 Liner Raise

