
ETCHEGARAY FARMS, LLC

**WATER BANKING FACILITY REPORT
GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR GROUNDWATER BANKING
PROJECTS IN PORTERVILLE IRRIGATION DISTRICT**

Prepared for:

**PORTERVILLE IRRIGATION DISTRICT
22086 AVENUE 160
PORTERVILLE, CA 93257**

Completed by:



4CREEKS

**324 S. SANTA FE ST., SUITE A
VISALIA, CA 93292
(559) 802-3052**

SEPTEMBER 29, 2019



Introduction

Etchegaray Farms, LLC is a landowner in Porterville Irrigation District (PID) which has developed plans to operate a permanent recharge basin facility in PID. The recharge basin facility, referred to subsequently as the Project, will be operated and maintained in compliance with the PID *“Policy Principles for Porterville Irrigation District Groundwater Banking Program”* (adopted on December 12, 2017). In addition, the Project would be operated in compliance with the Eastern Tule Groundwater Sustainability Agency (Eastern Tule GSA) Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) that will be completed before January of 2020.

The Project is comprised of approximately 64 acres of recharge basin on the Etchegaray Farms property. The purpose of this report is to provide PID with information about the recharge Project in accordance with requirements listed under the Policy Principles for Porterville Irrigation District Groundwater Banking Program.

Project Purpose

The Project would primarily bank water that is periodically available above current needs from the Tule River Intertie or Tipton Ditch, which receives its water from both the Friant-Kern Canal and the Tule River. Recovered water would be delivered to lawful recipients within the allowed Places of Use of the banked water. Project objectives would be as follows:

1. To increase water supply available within the District
2. Improve groundwater conditions within the District and the Tule Subbasin
3. Contribute to the reduction of costs to produce groundwater for the District and landowners
4. Increase diversification and availability of water supplies to the District, landowners and other participants
5. Facilitate the District's compliance with the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA)
6. Reduce ground subsidence by accruing more water to the local aquifer system and by reducing groundwater pumping in the places of use.

A. Banking Site Location

The recharge basin is located within Etchegaray Farms, LLC, at the northwest corner of Road 208 and Avenue 148 in Porterville, Tulare County, California. The site location is depicted in **Attachment A**. The Tulare County Assessor's Parcel Map Number (APN) for the Site is 236-150-012. The site is situated in the northeast corner of Section 36, Township 21 South, Range 26 East, Mount Diablo Base Meridian. The Etchegaray Farms parcel is comprised of existing agricultural farmland containing permanent field crops. Based on existing reports for this site, the soil in the area is categorized as Tujunga loamy sand and Nord fine sandy loam, which is considered to have moderate to very high permeability.

B. Project Conveyance and Distribution Facilities

The Project consists of one (1) existing turnout structure from the Tipton Ditch. Additionally, the Project proposes to add a future turnout to the Tule River Intertie. An existing well adjacent to Road 208 could be used as a future option to pump water back into the water system. **Attachment B** presents the existing Project Facility Map.

C. Recharge Facility Operations Manner and Methods

The Project would primarily bank water from the Tule River Intertie and Tipton Ditch through existing and proposed turnout structures. It is possible that the Project might bank water from other systems, but separate approvals would be required and explored prior to utilization. As required by the Banking Policy, 10% to 30% of the total recharged water reported annually would be allocated to PID's storage master account.

Recharge operations would be required to comply with district rules, regulations and policies. The ability for Etchegaray Farms to divert and convey water would be dependent on approval from the water entities, ensuring the operations of Etchegaray Farms do not interfere with those of the district.

D. Recovery Facilities and Operations

The Project has the option to recover banked water, through the project site well, into the Tipton Ditch for physical delivery within PID if operated within the districts' rules, regulations and policies.

The Project also has the potential to accrue groundwater credits to be established by the Eastern Tule GSA GSP. The GSP, set to be finalized by January 2020, may include procedures in which recharged water can be transferred between the Eastern Tule GSA, LTRID GSA and Pixley ID GSA.

Intended forms of recovery include:

1. Direct usage from facility wells or other PID wells
2. Pump back from Project wells into the Tipton Ditch
3. Transfer of surface water to downstream PID users
4. Transfer of groundwater credits as established under SGMA by Eastern Tule GSA or other neighboring GSA's.

Recovered water used for pump back into district facilities will need to meet the following requirements:

1. Flow meter to determine volume of flow into surface water system (see **Water Accounting and Monitoring**; Data Collection)
2. Water Quality Testing prior to pump back to ensure water quality meets Basin Plan water quality standards (see **Water Accounting and Monitoring**; Water Quality Monitoring)
3. Pump back location and methodologies approval from PID

E. Energy Facilities

The facility currently operates on electric wells. Once Project wells are identified for banking/recovery activities, each will be documented, including source of power.

F. Schedule

Prior to commencement of construction activities, the following requirements must be met.

Permitting

1. *Tulare County Resource Management Agency – Building Permit*
A Building Permit Application, which includes a Grading Plan completed and stamped by a registered Civil Engineer, and associated fees shall be required to be submitted to the County of Tulare prior to construction activities. The County shall review the application and, once deemed acceptable, shall issue a Building Permit to the Project Contractor or Owner. Anticipated

schedule after submittal of application is approximately thirty (30) days for approval, dependent upon County staff backlog and availability.

2. *San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District - Dust Control Plan*

A Dust Control Plan identifies the fugitive dust sources at the construction site and describes all of the dust control measures to be implemented before, during, and after any dust generating activities for the duration of the project. Once a Dust Control Plan is submitted, along with associated fees, the District will review and approve, conditionally approve, or disapprove of the Dust Control Plan within 30 days of submittal. Construction activities may not commence until the Dust Control Plan has been approved or conditionally approved.

Construction

Construction activities shall consist primarily of earthwork necessary to prepare elevated perimeter roads and banks along the perimeter of the proposed basin. The toe of the basin shall be lowered to allow for storage of water during recharge events, while ensuring proper freeboard below the hinge point of the perimeter berm.

Additional construction is limited to the modification of existing wells to be capable of pumping back into PID canals and improvements to PID canals inlet structures to prevent damage from the Projects pump back operations.

Operational Commencement

Upon approval by the PID Board appointed manager, the operator would seek to receive credit for banked water immediately allowing for direct usage of banked water through Project and PID wells. After further investigation into the quality of water being produced by Project wells utilized for pump back, the operator will seek approval of this portion of the banking project at a later date.

G. Banking Facility Operation and Maintenance

Etchegaray Farms is responsible for managing, operating and maintaining the banking facility. PID will assist in managing the operation of District facilities. Etchegaray Farms would enter into agreements with the District which detail the conditions under which District facilities might be used and how the District would be reimbursed for the costs they incur in supporting the Project.

The Project would be maintained using normal farming and irrigation district practices to prevent invasive plants from migrating onto adjacent farms and to prevent/repair berm erosion and rodent burrows. During operation, water levels in recharge basins would generally be maintained less than 2 feet above surrounding ground levels and an operator would be on-call to inspect and quickly respond if the basin begins overflowing or encounters berm failure. Existing wells would be maintained and operated using normal farming and irrigation district practices.

H. Banking Water Supply Source

The Project would primarily bank water that is periodically available above current needs from the Tipton Ditch, and in the future, the Tule River Intertie. Both conveyance facilities receive water from the Friant-Kern Canal and Tule River. The proposed recharge basin facility is able to receive water supply from Tipton Ditch conveyance facilities currently, and in the future may receive water supply from the Tule River Intertie. Etchegaray Farms would manage supply to the recharge basin based on available water supply in either conveyance facility.

I. Water Accounting and Monitoring

Data Collection: The basin would include the following data collection to ensure accurate measurement of recharged, evaporated, banked and recovered water:

- Instantaneous and totalizing flow meters on each conveyance delivering water into recharge basins (make/type of meter subject to approval from PID)
- Instantaneous and totalizing flow meters on each recovery well
- Uses of data from California Irrigation Managements Information System (CIMIS) meteorological Station 169 (Porterville) to estimate evaporative loss of applied water before it percolates into the ground.

Each flow meter is to be equipped with data logger to ensure a continuous record of operations. Readings would be manually recorded daily during operating periods. Each meter would be calibrated annually or as requested by PID. To the degree there is a discrepancy between landowner data and District records that cannot be reconciled; the record would be modified to reflect whichever records the parties deem most reliable.

Banked Water Accounting: The amount of water recharged would be computed in daily increments. The volume of applied water lost to evaporation prior recharge would be estimated using data from CIMIS Station 169. The remaining volume after subtraction of evaporative losses would be reported to PID as the recharged volume.

Surface Water Level Monitoring: Water level monitoring shall be managed by Etchegaray Farms, which has staff working at all hours of the day, 365 days a year. During recharge events, staff will monitor the basin and if the water level rises within 1 foot of the basin berm crest, the operator will be notified. Etchegaray Farms will establish procedures to ensure that the operator adjusts or shuts off recharge operations to prevent overfilling.

Groundwater Level Monitoring: Groundwater levels would be measured in the nearest adjacent landowner controlled wells (both irrigation and domestic, contingent on well owner approval) on a monthly basis during periods of recharge and recovery and twice a year (spring, fall) during non-banking activities. During recovery, if operations cause unacceptable drops in adjacent landowner well water levels, operations would be adjusted in accordance with the procedures summarized above.

Water Quality Monitoring: Recharged water, groundwater and recovered water quality would be monitored to ensure that water quality remains appropriate for designated beneficial uses as follows:

Initial Sampling

- *Baseline sampling:* all operable wells (irrigation and domestic) within a ¼ mile radius of Project at the facility would be initially sampled for Table 1: Monitoring Constituents.
- *Recovered water sampling:* 45 days prior to the operator recovering banked water to be used for pump back into District facilities, water quality samples will be obtained from proposed recovery wells to ensure the recovered water does not degrade surface water quality.
- *On-going sampling:* all Project wells and the nearest operable wells (irrigation and domestic) on the facility immediately adjacent to Project recharge facilities would be sampled once a month for Table 1: Monitoring Constituents 1

Table 1: Monitoring Constituents 1

Constituents	Units
Boron	EPA 200.7
Calcium	EPA 200.7
Carbonates + Bicarbonates	EPA 310.1
Chloride	SM 4500
Magnesium	EPA 200.7
Nitrate as N	EPA 300.0
Potassium	EPA 200.7
pH (Field)	EPA 150.1
Sodium	EPA 200.7
Specific conductance (Field)	EPA 120.1
Sulfate	EPA 375.4
Temperature (Field)	EPA 170.1
Total dissolved solids (TDS)	EPA 160.3

J. Monitoring and Operational Constraint Plan (MOCP)

The banking facility would be operated and monitored in a manner to ensure that the beneficial effects are maximized while preventing significant unacceptable impacts to the aquifer, groundwater levels, groundwater quality, water quality in the Tipton Ditch and in the Tule River Intertie. See **Appendix A** for daily, monthly and annual monitoring and operation reporting logs.

Reporting: Before commencement of the operation, the operator will provide water quality data relating to Project wells to be utilized for pump back into District facilities. The results from the quality testing will be provided to the Board appointed manager for approval.

During operation periods, Etchegaray Farms will submit monthly reports to PID which will include the following:

- The initial volumes in the banked water accounts
- The sources of water sent to the recharge basin turnouts
- Volumes of water discharged to the recharge basin
- Percolation rates
- Losses to evaporation
- Net volumes of recharged water
- The volumes of recharged water allocated to Etchegaray Farms and PID accounts in accordance with the Banking Policy
- The volumes of the banked water extracted or transferred to others, the places of use
- The ending volumes of water in the PID and Etchegaray Farms banked water accounts
- Depth to groundwater for key wells identified by the District

On January 15 of each year, regardless if there were any Project operations occurring, Etchegaray Farms will submit an annual report for the prior year. The year runs from October 1 through September 30. The report submitted to PID will include the annual totals for the information listed above and will additionally include the following information:

- A summary of operations and response to issues, if presented
- Tabulations of water levels, water quality, water volumes monitoring data
- A map presenting the distribution of total dissolved solids in monitored wells
- A map of the Spring and Fall groundwater elevations, including directions of groundwater flow

- Maps presenting the Spring and Fall depth to groundwater in wells

In order to address third party complaints and to protect the interest of all parties involved, a Monitoring Committee shall be created to ensure that an agreement is reached between Etchegaray Farms and the third party. **Figure 1** depicts the steps taken to evaluate for potential impacts, response to complaints and mitigation, if needed. The Monitoring Committee shall be made up of representatives from Etchegaray Farms, PID directors, and other members as PID Directors deems appropriate.

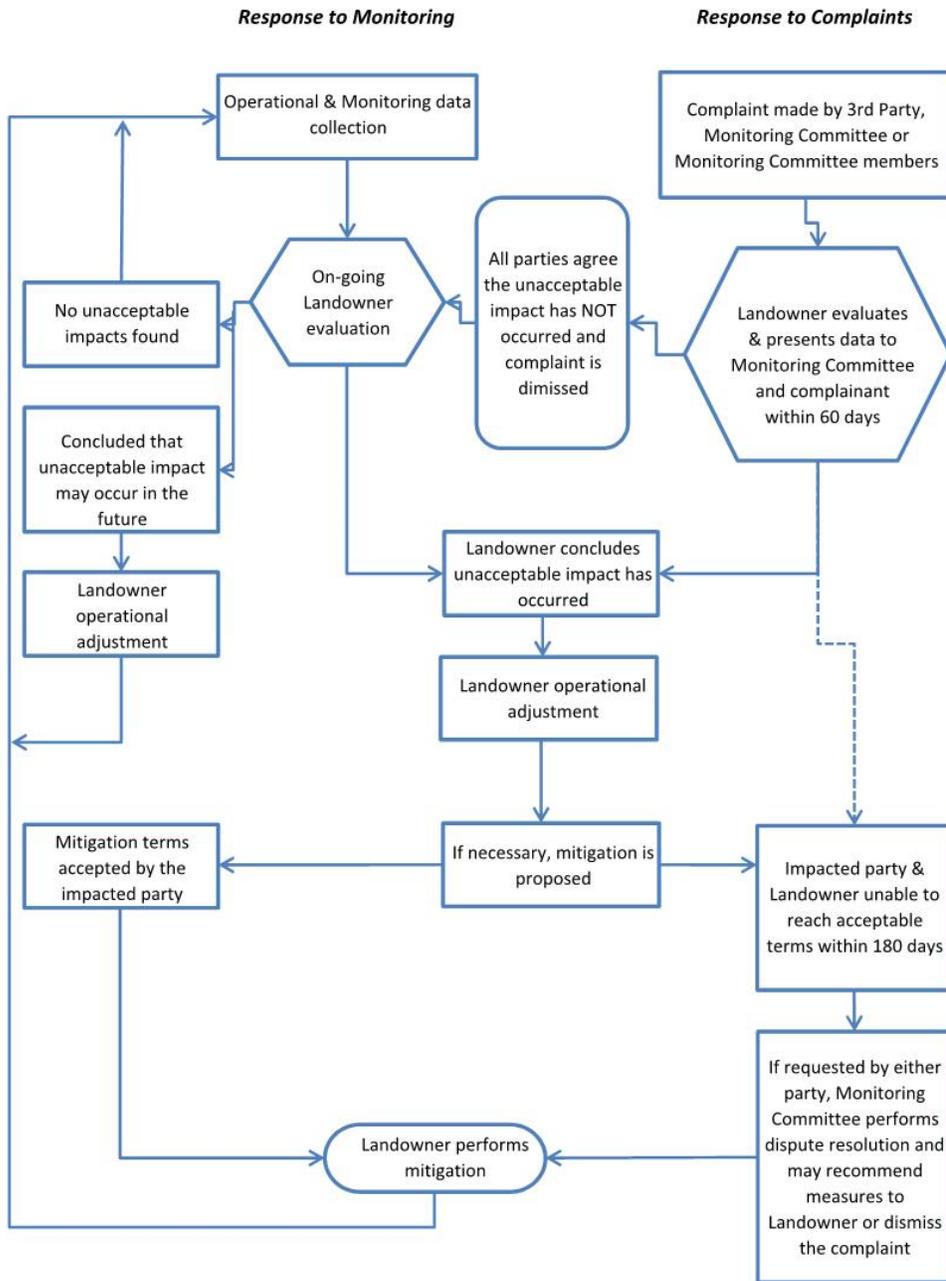
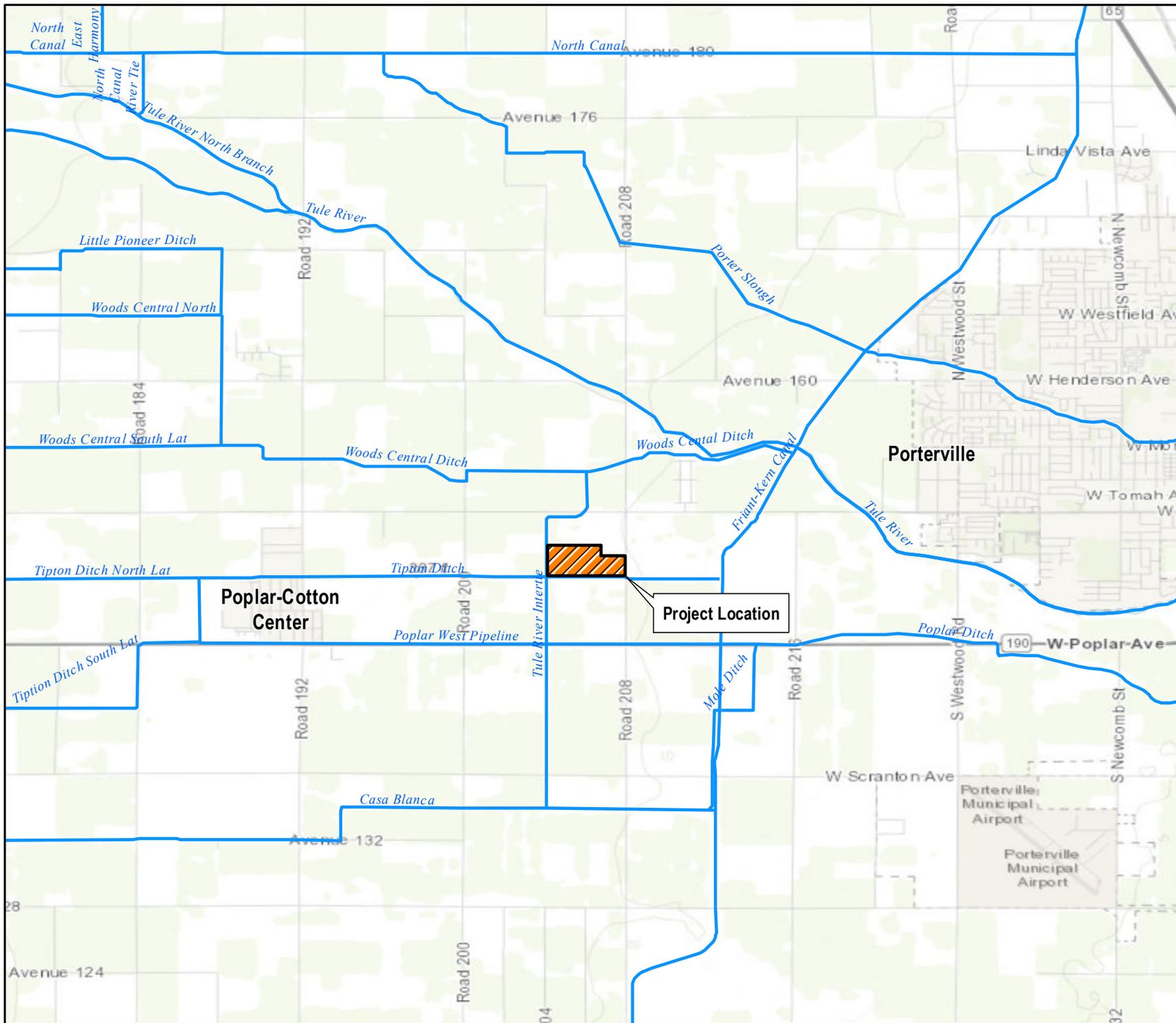


Figure 1: Impact Evaluation Flow Chart

ATTACHMENT 1

Overview Map



Overview Map

Legend

-  Project Location
-  Waterways

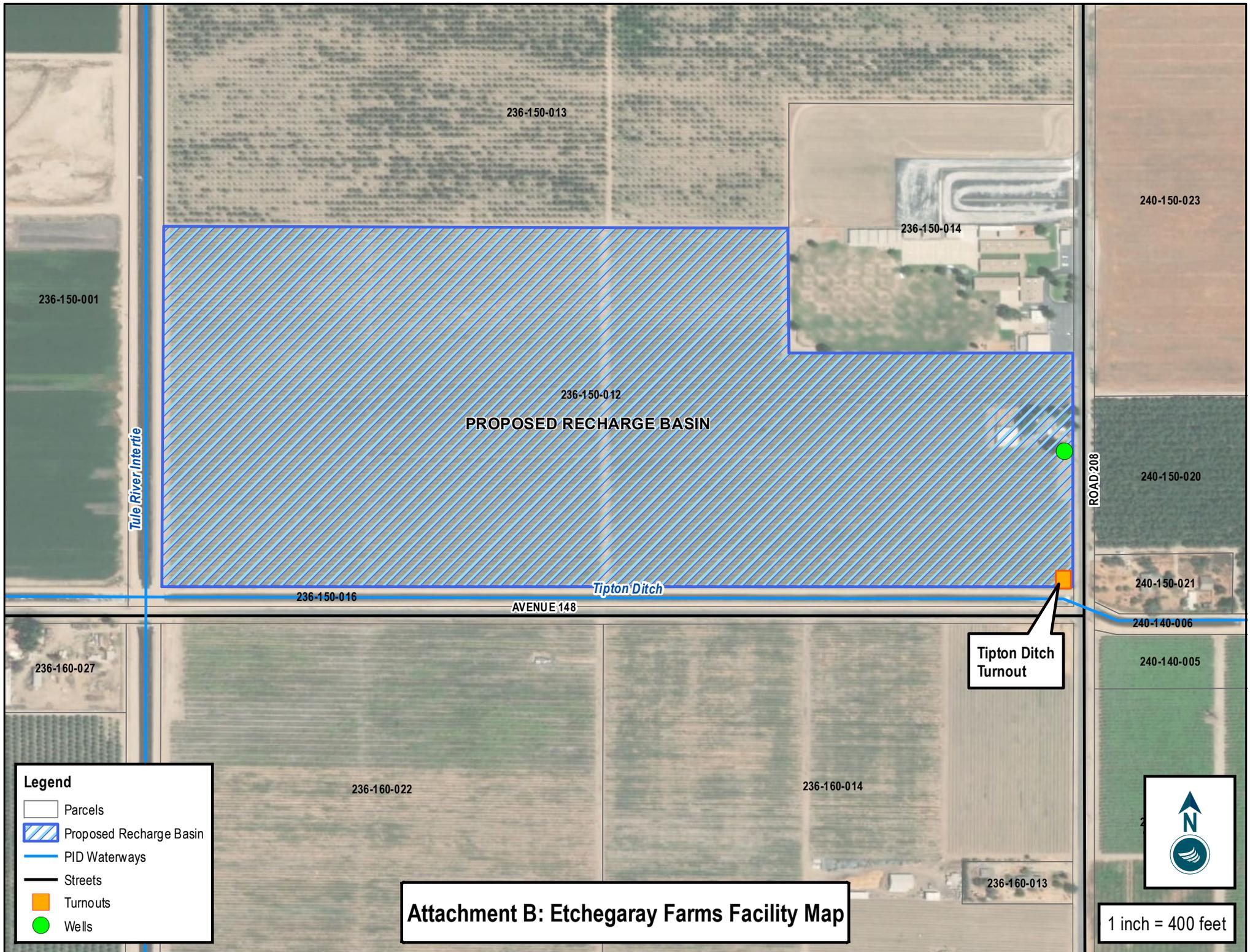


1 Inch = 1 Mile

Attachment A: Overview Map

ATTACHMENT 2

Etchegaray Farms Facility Map



Legend

-  Parcels
-  Proposed Recharge Basin
-  PID Waterways
-  Streets
-  Turnouts
-  Wells

Attachment B: Etchegaray Farms Facility Map

Tipton Ditch Turnout



1 inch = 400 feet

Appendix A

Monitoring and Operations Reporting Logs

