Partially Recirculated Draft Environmental Impact Report

Cache Creek Channel and Levee Rehabilitation Project

State Clearinghouse Number 2023080108

Prepared for:

California Department of Water Resources

Prepared by:

GEI Consultants

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1. Introduction

1.1 Introduction

Pursuant to California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines, Section 15088.5(a), a lead agency is required to recirculate an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) when significant new information is added to the EIR after public review of the Draft EIR (DEIR), but before certification. Significant new information can include changes in the project or environmental setting, as well as additional data or other information, including information regarding a new significant environmental impact or a substantial increase in the severity of an environmental impact. As explained below, DWR, as the lead agency, has decided to prepare a Recirculated DEIR for the Cache Creek Channel and Levee Rehabilitation Project (proposed project or project) to address new information.

1.2 Background

On August 7, 2023, DWR issued a notice of preparation (NOP) for the DEIR (State Clearinghouse No. 2023080108). The NOP concluded that the project may have significant impacts on the environment, and informed agencies and the public that an EIR was being prepared. The NOP was circulated for 30 days, as mandated by CEQA. The public comment period for the NOP closed on September 5, 2023. DWR conducted a public scoping meeting on August 24, 2023 at 5 p.m. Notice of the scoping meeting was provided in the NOP and in a newspaper legal notice published in the Sacramento Bee on August 7, 2023. The NOP was distributed in accordance with the State CEQA Guidelines (Section 15082[c]).

DWR prepared a DEIR for the proposed project and circulated the DEIR for public review from March 7, 2025, to April 21, 2025, for a 45-day public review period. The DEIR was made available for review at the following website: https://water.ca.gov/News/Public-Notices/2025/Mar-25/Cache-Creek-DEIR. Physical copies were available for review at the California Department of Water Resources Flood Maintenance and Operations Branch, and the Woodland Public Library. A public meeting was held on March 26, 2025 at 5 p.m. Notice of the public meeting was provided in the DEIR and in a newspaper legal notice published in the Sacramento Bee on March 7, 2025. All comments received are being reviewed and considered and all revisions will be included in the Final EIR.

1.3 Purpose of This Partially Recirculated Draft EIR

As part of the CEQA public review process, DWR identified additional information regarding potential impacts of the proposed project that were not previously considered in certain chapters of the DEIR. DWR has determined that recirculation of portions of the DEIR is warranted to address new information that DWR received since the original public review period (March 7, 2025 to April 21, 2025). The intent of this Partially Recirculated DEIR is to allow the public an opportunity to comment upon new information.

1.4 Submittal of Public Comments

Consistent with CEQA Guidelines section 15088.5, DWR will limit public comments to the revised and/or added portions of the Partially Recirculated DEIR. DWR will prepare any written responses received on the Partially Recirculated DEIR and include those responses in the Final EIR with the responses to comments received during the initial public review period (March 7, 2025 to April 21, 2025). The Final EIR will also include any revisions made to the DEIR and/or Recirculated DEIR in response to public comments.

A notice of completion for this Partially Recirculated DEIR has been filed with the State Clearinghouse, in accordance with the State CEQA Guidelines (Section 15085), and a notice of availability of this Partially Recirculated DEIR has been posted in accordance with State CEQA Guidelines Section 15087. The Notice of Availability and Partially Recirculated DEIR are available at the following DWR website: https://water.ca.gov/News/Public-Notices/2026/Nov-2026/Cache-Creek-channel-levee-project-DEIR. This Partially Recirculated DEIR is being distributed for a 45-day public review period, from November 23, 2026 to January 6, 2027. Written comments must be received by the close of business (5 p.m.) on January 6, 2027.

The Partially Recirculated DEIR is also available for review at the following locations:

California Department of Water Resources,
Flood Maintenance and Operations Branch (FMO)
3310 El Camino Avenue Sacramento, CA 95821
Phone (916) 820-7693

Woodland Public Library
250 1st Street Woodland, CA 95695
Phone (530) 661-5980

Written comments may be mailed, faxed, or e-mailed to:

Mr. Jeff Schuette
Senior Environmental Scientist
California Department of Water Resources,
Flood Maintenance and Operations Branch (FMO)
3310 El Camino Avenue Sacramento, CA 95821
Phone (916) 820-7693
Email: jeff.schuette@water.ca.gov

Subject line: Cache Creek Channel and Levee Rehabilitation Partially Recirculated DEIR Comments

If comments are provided via e-mail, please include the project title in the subject line (Cache Creek Channel and Levee Rehabilitation Project Partially Recirculated Draft EIR Comments) and include the commenter's U.S. Postal Service mailing address in the e-mail. All written comments received on the adequacy of this Partially Recirculated DEIR during the public review period will be addressed in a "response-to-comments" chapter in the Final EIR, which, together with the Draft EIR, will constitute the

entirety of the Final EIR. The Final EIR will also present any changes to the Draft EIR resulting from public and agency comments, and DWR staff-initiated changes.

1.5 Organization of This Partially Recirculated Draft EIR

This Partially Recirculated DEIR contains only the portions of the DEIR that have been revised or added. DWR will limit public comments to the revised and/or added portions of the Recirculated DEIR, consistent with CEQA Guidelines section 15088.5. As disclosed on page 2-9 of the DEIR, within the description of the project design components, the public was informed of the following potential aspect of raising the levees:

> "Some adjacent land would be acquired through flood maintenance and right-of-way easements wherever the landside levee toe must expand to meet the new height at those locations."

This Partially Recirculated DEIR addresses the project design component described above in more detail with new information not available at the time of publication of the DEIR. In addition, information on existing utilities potentially requiring relocation during construction of the proposed project has been added to this Partially Recirculated DEIR. The list of chapters and sections with the relevant revisions and additions to the DEIR for this Partially Recirculated DEIR are:

- Executive Summary;
- Chapter 2, Project Description (existing section);
- Section 3.3, Agriculture and Forestry (existing section);
- Section 3.16, Utilities and Service Systems (new section);
- Section 5.2.16, Utilities and Service Systems (new section); and,
- Section 6.3.16, Utilities and Service Systems (new section).

2 Recirculated Portions of the Draft EIR

2.1 Recirculated Portions of the Draft EIR

This chapter of the Partially Recirculated DEIR contains revisions and additions to a focused selection of portions of chapters and sections of the DEIR as outlined previously in Section 1.5, "Organization of This Partially Recirculated Draft EIR." Revisions to the DEIR are indicated by underline for additions and ~~strikethrough~~ for deletions.

2.2 Executive Summary

Table ES 1. Summary of Impacts and Mitigation Measures

Impact	Significance Before Mitigation	Mitigation Measure	Significance After Mitigation
3.3 Agriculture and Forestry			
3.3.1 Conflict with agricultural zoning or Williamson Act contract. The proposed project is located on lands zoned as open space, is on lands under Williamson Act contracts, and may require flood easement acquisitions on surrounding lands subject to Williamson Act contracts. However, the project would not conflict with existing zoning or Williamson Act contracts and this impact would be **less than significant**. ~~The project site is not designated under Williamson Act contracts and is zoned as open space. Construction activities would occur adjacent to many Williamson Act lands; however, the construction impacts would be temporary and short term. Therefore, this impact would be **less than significant**.~~	Less than significant	No mitigation required.	Less than significant
3.3.2 Involve other changes in the existing environment that could result in conversion of Farmland to non-agricultural use. The project may result in the placement of a flood easement over some lands designated as Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance, as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the FMMP of the California Natural Resources Agency. While the easement would encumber small portions of Prime Farmland, it would not remove the land from agricultural production or convert the land to nonagricultural use. Impacts to Prime Farmland and Unique Farmland would be **less than significant.** ~~Construction activities would occur adjacent to these Farmlands and could potentially impact the existing environment from noise and dust; however, these impacts would be temporary and would not result in the conversion of Farmland to nonagricultural use. Therefore, this impact would be **less than significant**.~~	Less than significant	No mitigation required.	Less than significant
3.16 Utilities and Service Systems (New Section)			
3.16.1 Relocation of Existing Water, Stormwater Drainage, Electric Power, and Telecommunications Facilities. The project may require the relocation of water supply infrastructure, storm water drainage, electric power, natural gas, and telecommunications facilities. Environmental impacts associated with relocation activities are evaluated throughout the technical sections of the Draft EIR and would not result in new significant impacts. This impact would be **less than significant** with implementation of mitigation measures identified in each technical section of the Draft EIR.	Less than significant	No mitigation required.	Less than significant

Impact	Significance Before Mitigation	Mitigation Measure	Significance After Mitigation
3.16.2 Generation of Solid Waste. Soils and biomass generated from the clearing process may be transported to the Yolo County Central Landfill. The Yolo County Central Landfill would have adequate capacity to accept the project's construction debris and would account for a very small percentage of the landfill's remaining capacity. In addition, contaminated sediment would be transported to a licensed landfill permitted to accept contaminated soil and would have adequate capacity to accept 210,000 cubic yards of sediment. Landfill waste generated by the project would not deplete substantial long-term capacity. This impact would be **less than significant**..	Less than significant	No mitigation required.	Less than significant

2.3 Project Description

2.3.2 Levee Raise

The proposed project would raise levees up to approximately 2.5 feet at select locations on both the north and south levees along the project reach to restore channel capacity and levee freeboard required after excavations. **Figures 2-7** and **2-8** show typical cross sections of raising the levees that would occur where necessary to restore 3 feet of freeboard. **Figure 2-7** shows a typical levee raise cross section in areas where the proposed project design would result in a shift of the levee prism towards both the water side and land side toe roads by widening the levee base as needed to meet the required bank slopes as shown. This would result in a shift of the water and land side toe roads with minor grading to accommodate the shift in the road alignment to be the same width under current conditions (12-ft-wide). The range in the span of raised levees between the water and land side toes would be between approximately 80 to 100 feet wider based on the height of raising the levee sections. **Figure 2-8** shows a typical levee raise cross section in areas where the proposed project design would result in no change to the alignment of the levee or toe roads. A typical levee raise cross section shows possible combinations of features and are not implying exclusivity to left or right bank.

The amount of imported fill would total approximately 100,000 cubic yards and prior to importation would be tested to meet State water quality criteria (e.g., not contain contaminants of concern) for use. Typical levee side slopes would be approximately 2H:1V on the landside and 3H:1V on the waterside. Adjacent land would be acquired through flood operations and maintenance (O&M) and right-of-way easements wherever the landside levee toe must expand to meet the new height of the levee at those locations and where there are no current easements. The landside O&M easements may include an all-weather road surface for ease of access and would be maintained free of woody vegetation. Most of the lands where DWR would acquire new land-side flood easements are already established farm roads where DWR staff routinely work with landowners to access these roads to conduct levee maintenance, surveying, and monitoring work. The proposed project land-side easements needed to be acquired by DWR would establish legal access for project purposes and continuing O&M and flood monitoring on approximately 13.8 acres of Williamson Act contract land.

Existing structures and utilities located within the project footprint, easement, or other areas may require removal and replacement, abandonment, or relocation (**Figure 2-9a through 2-9n**). All pipes and penetrations of the levee would be designed to permit inspection in accordance with Central Valley Flood Protection Board (CVFPB) requirements. The easement acquisitions may include the requirement for removing and/or relocating the following facilities: overhead power lines located along the landside toe of the existing levee, underground communication lines within the existing levee prism, drainage systems, groundwater wells, and other infrastructure. Approximately 89 facilities have potential to be disturbed (i.e., relocated, abandonment, or removal), including 33 overhead electrical and/or telecommunication poles, two gas pipelines, one sewer/irrigation pipeline, and 53 other man-made non-soil features including pipes, pumps, groundwater wells, gates, fences, structures, and landscaping.

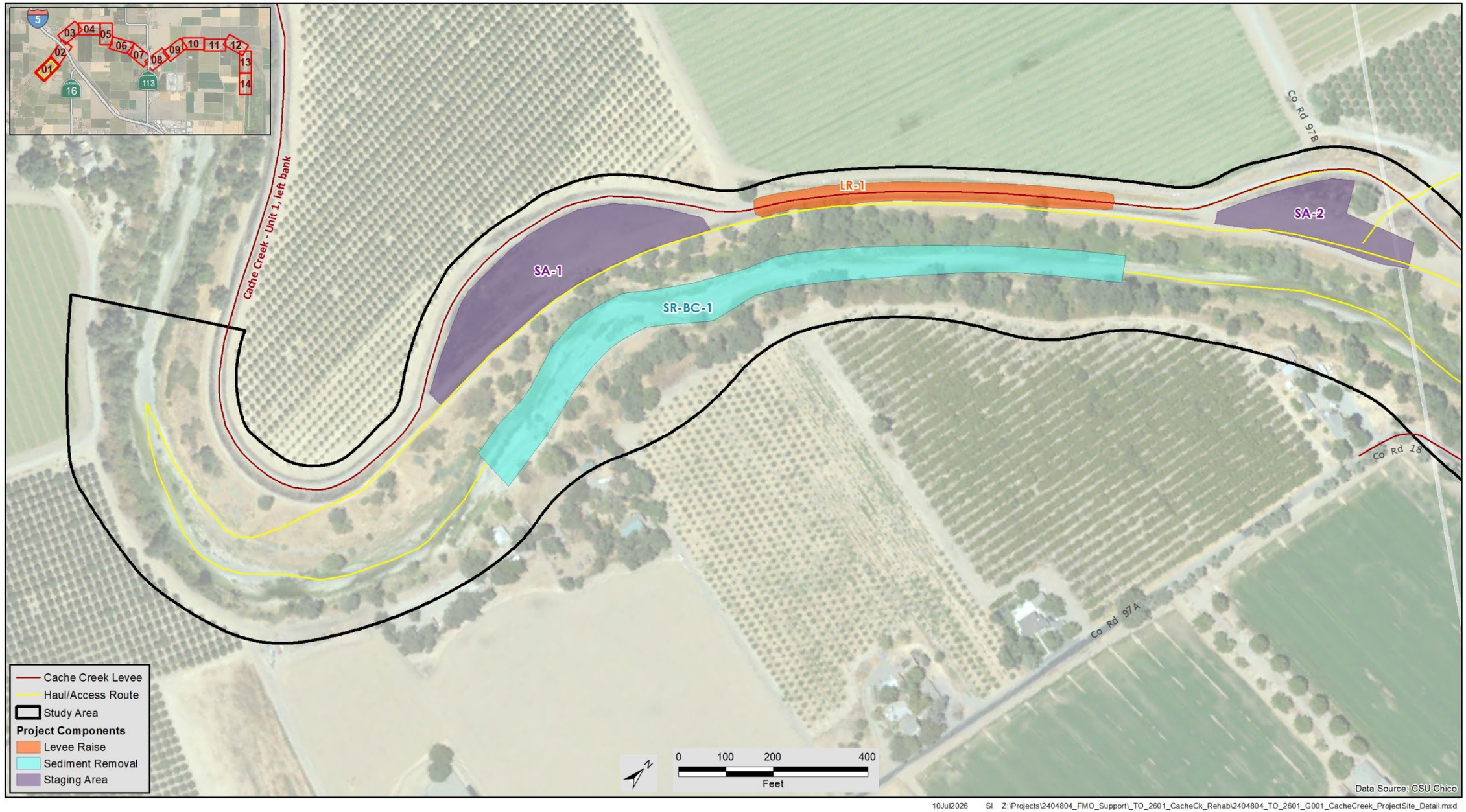


Figure 2-9a. Project Site (Sheet 1 of 14)

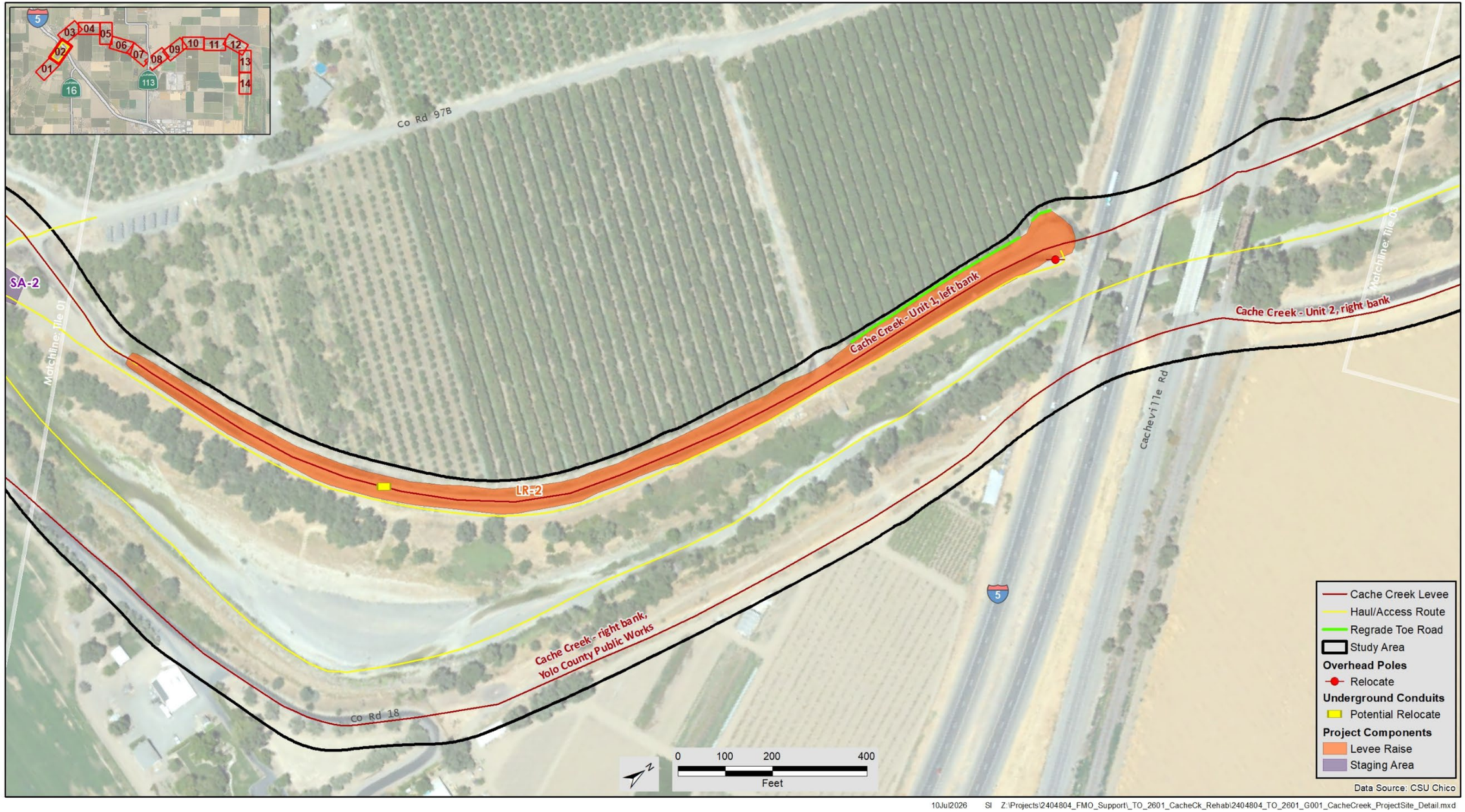


Figure 2-9b. Project Site (Sheet 2 of 14)

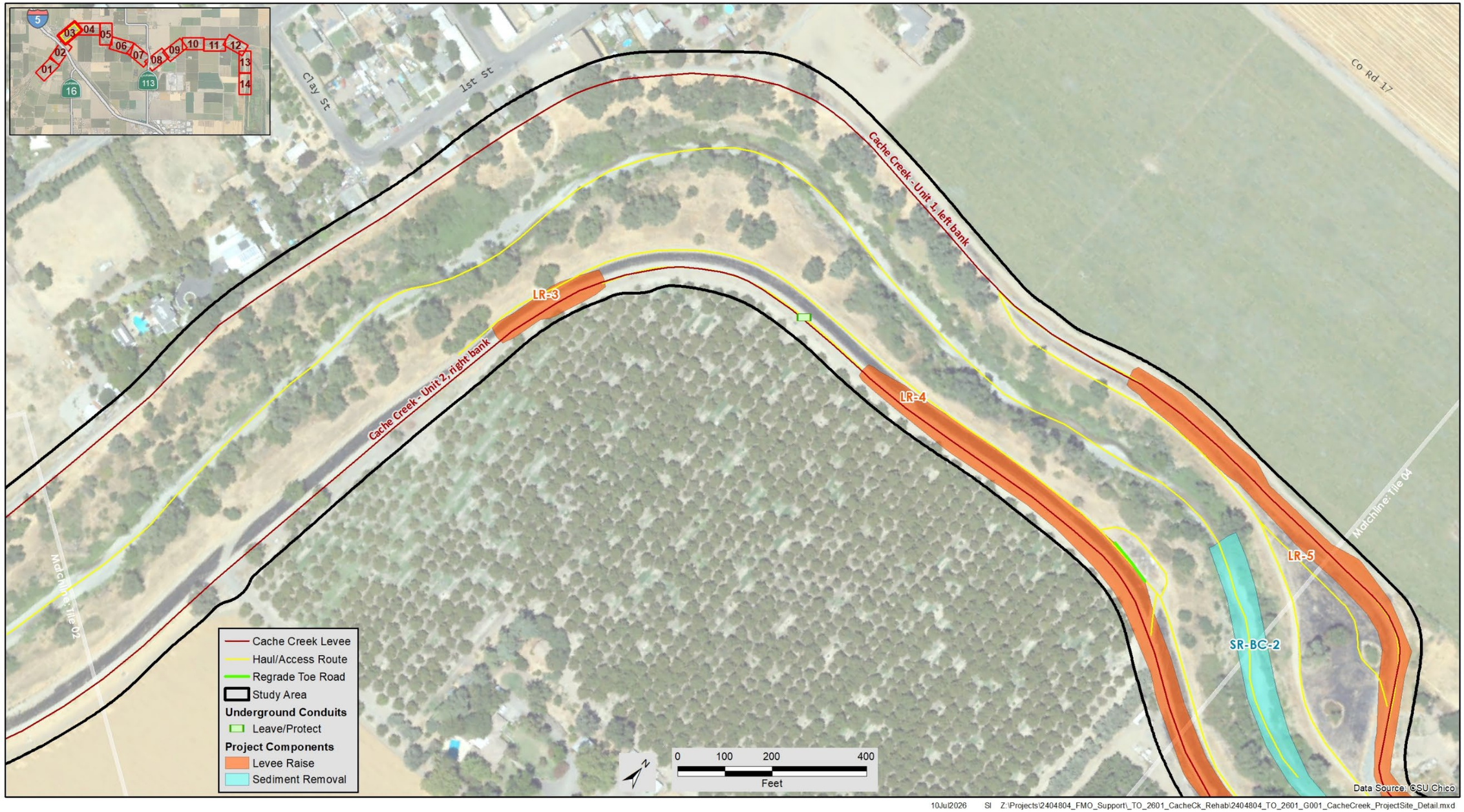


Figure 2-9c. Project Site (Sheet 3 of 14)

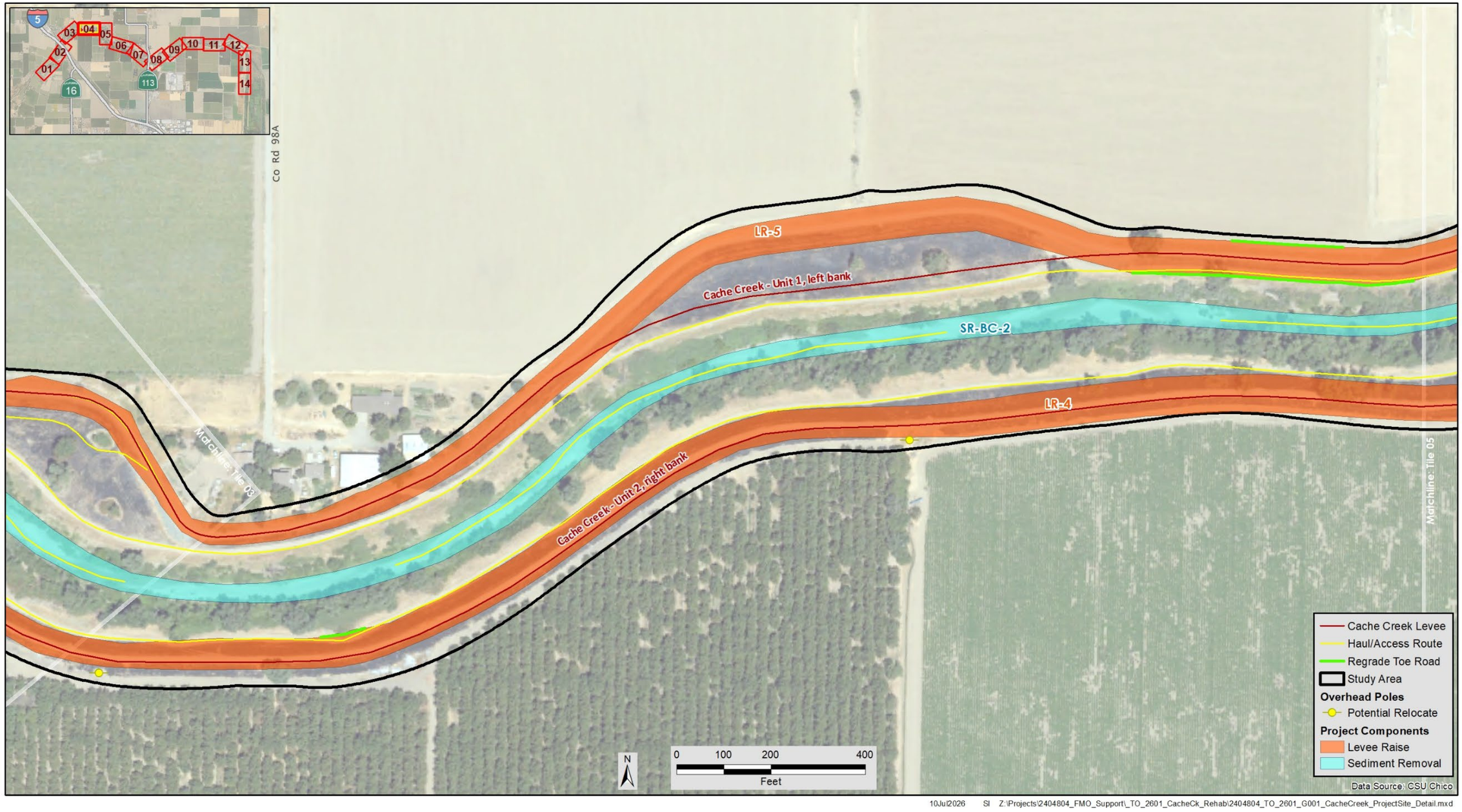


Figure 2-9d. Project Site (Sheet 4 of 14)

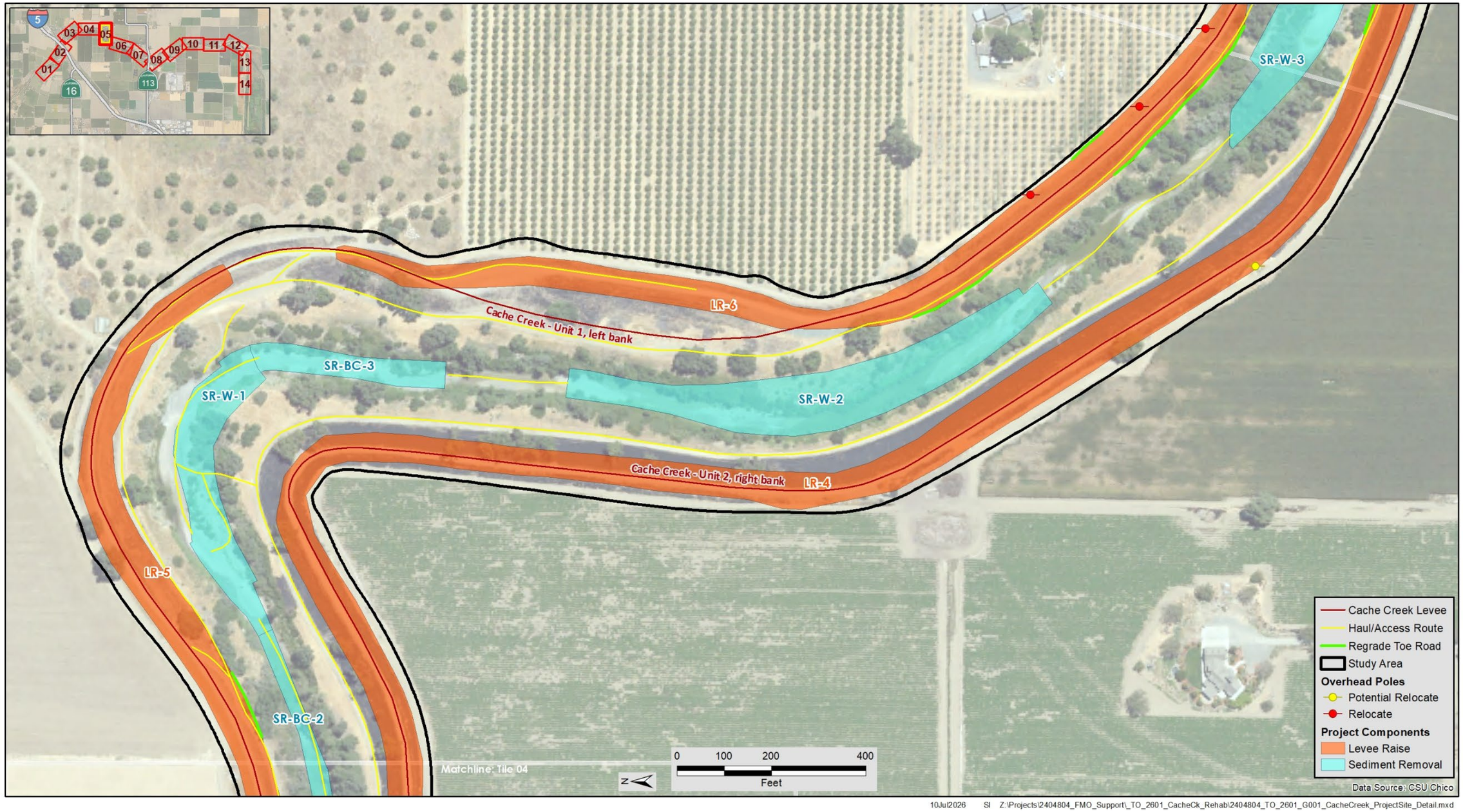


Figure 2-9e:.Project Site (Sheet 5 of 14)

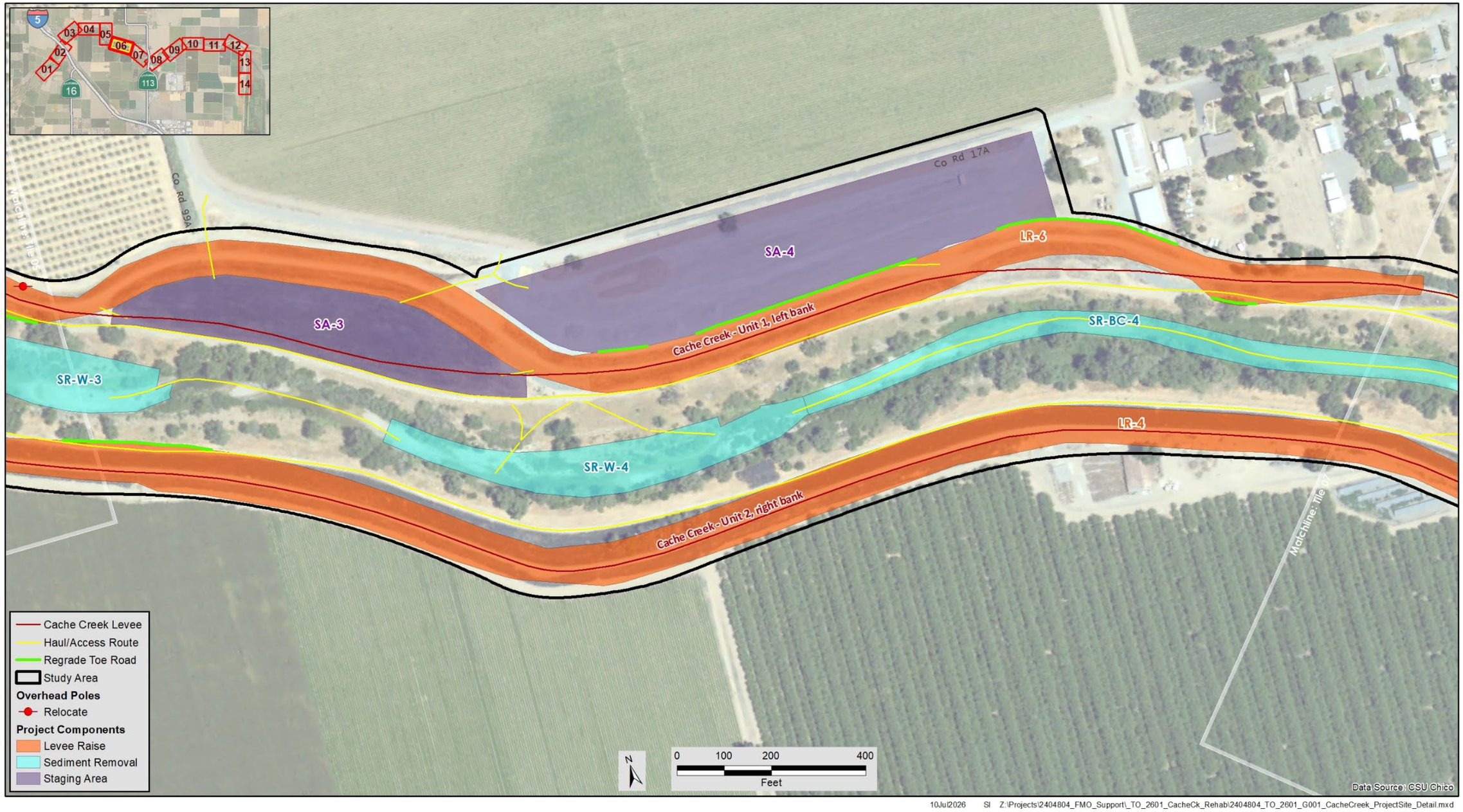


Figure 2-9f. Project Site (Sheet 6 of 14)



Figure 2-9g. Project Site (Sheet 7 of 14)

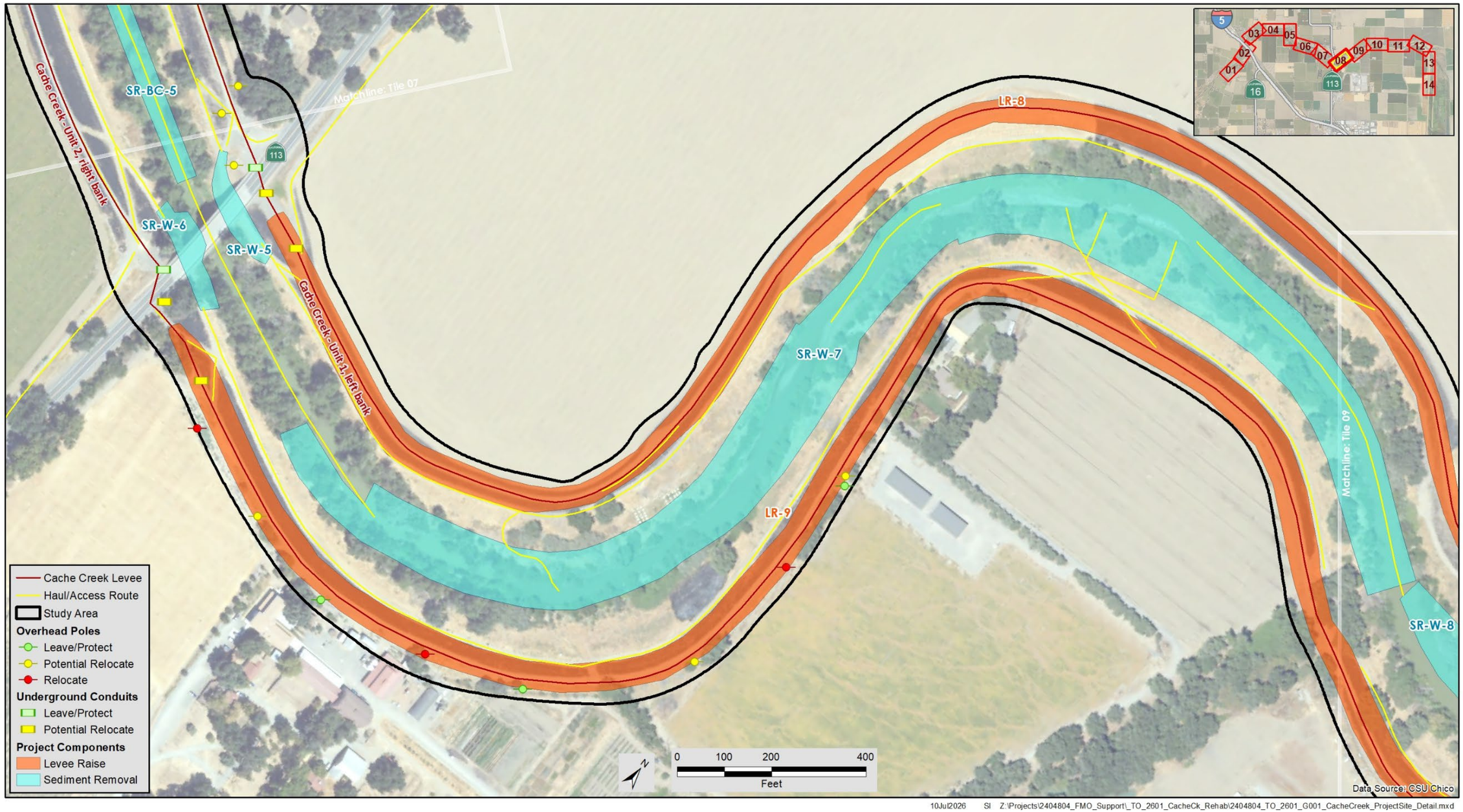


Figure 2-9h. Project Site (Sheet 8 of 14)

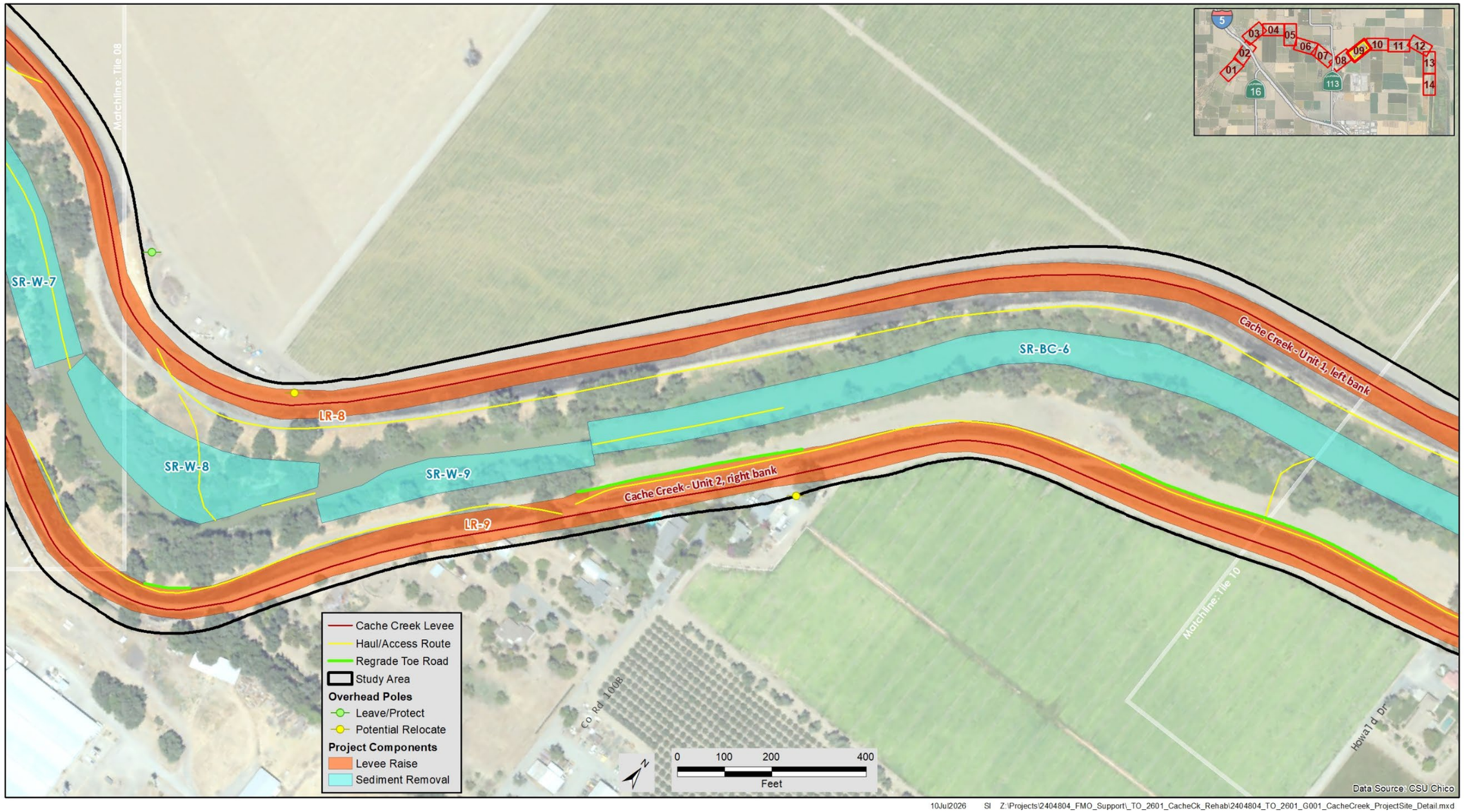


Figure 2-9i. Project Site (Sheet 9 of 14)

Project Site (Sheet 10 of 14)

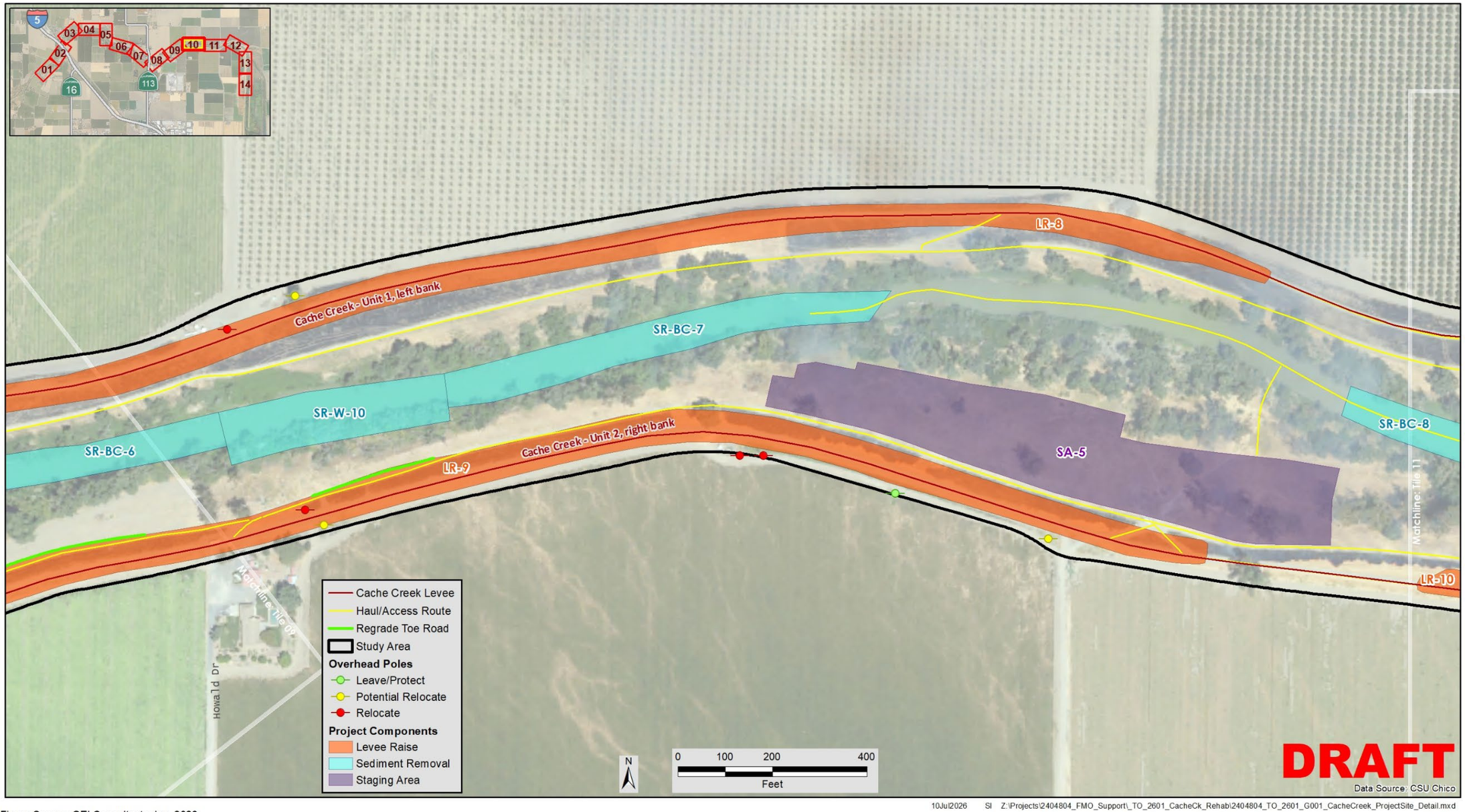


Figure Source: GEI Consultants, Inc. 2026.

Figure 2-9j. Project Site (Sheet 10 of 14)

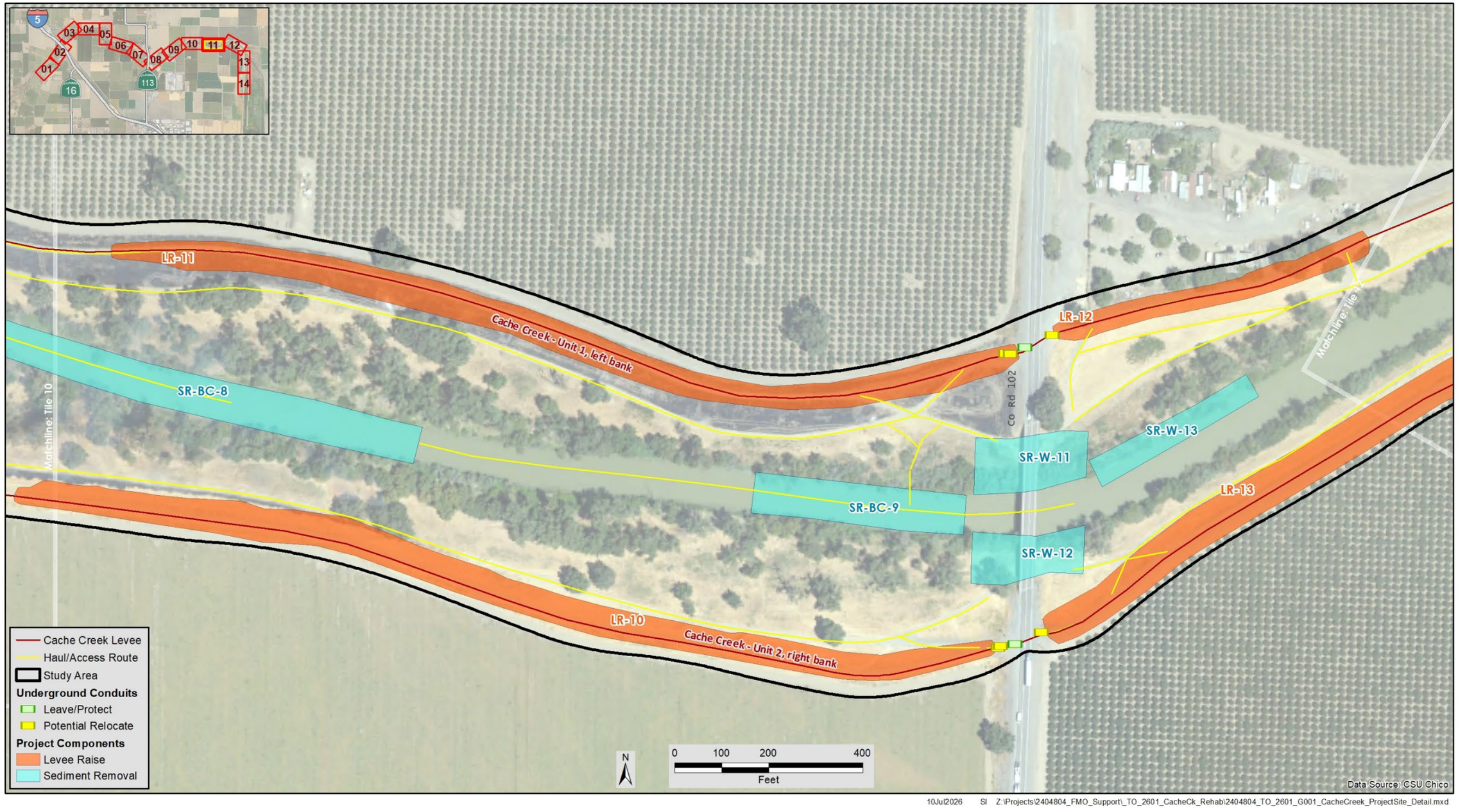


Figure 2-9k. Project Site (Sheet 11 of 14)

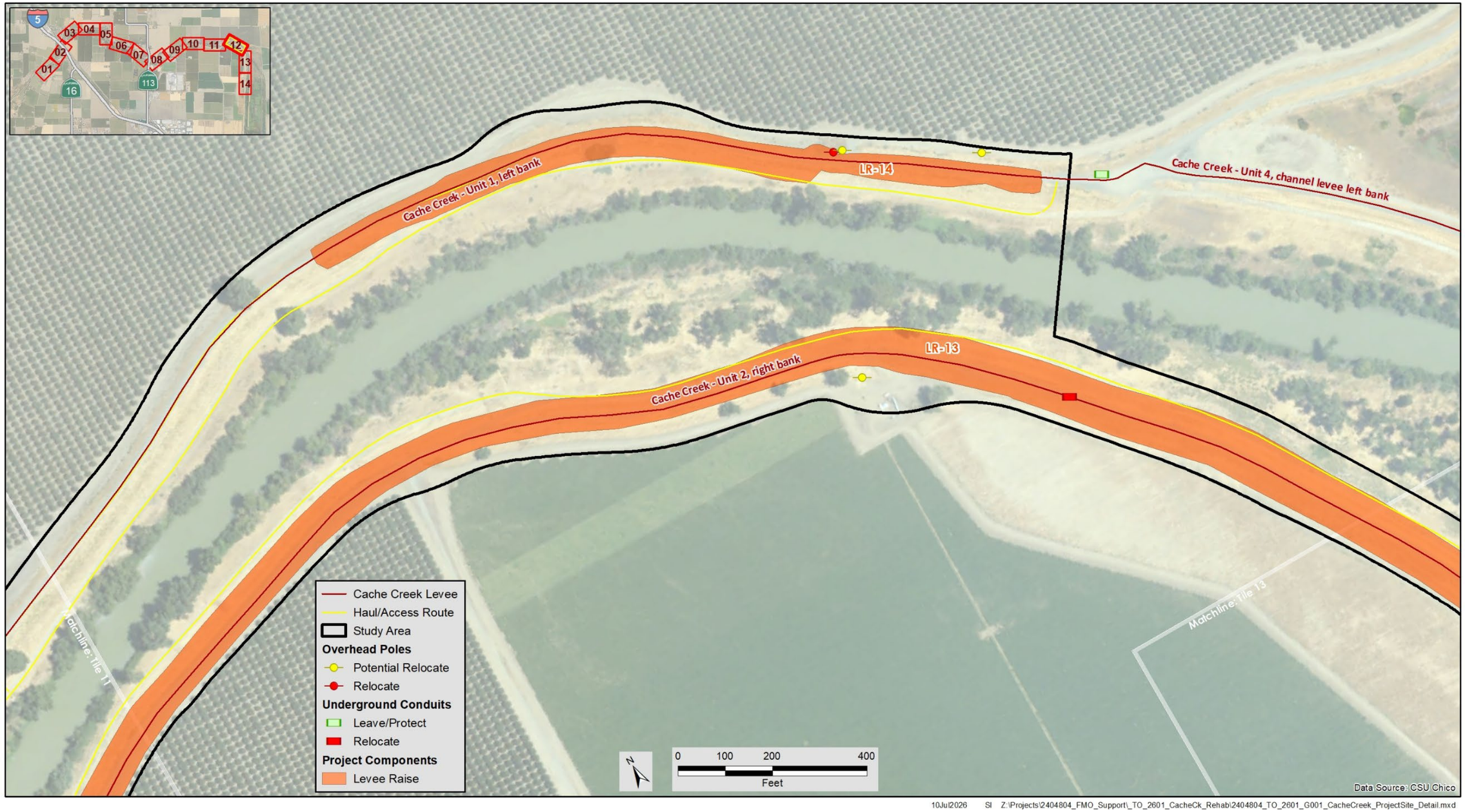


Figure 2-9l. Project Site (Sheet 12 of 14)

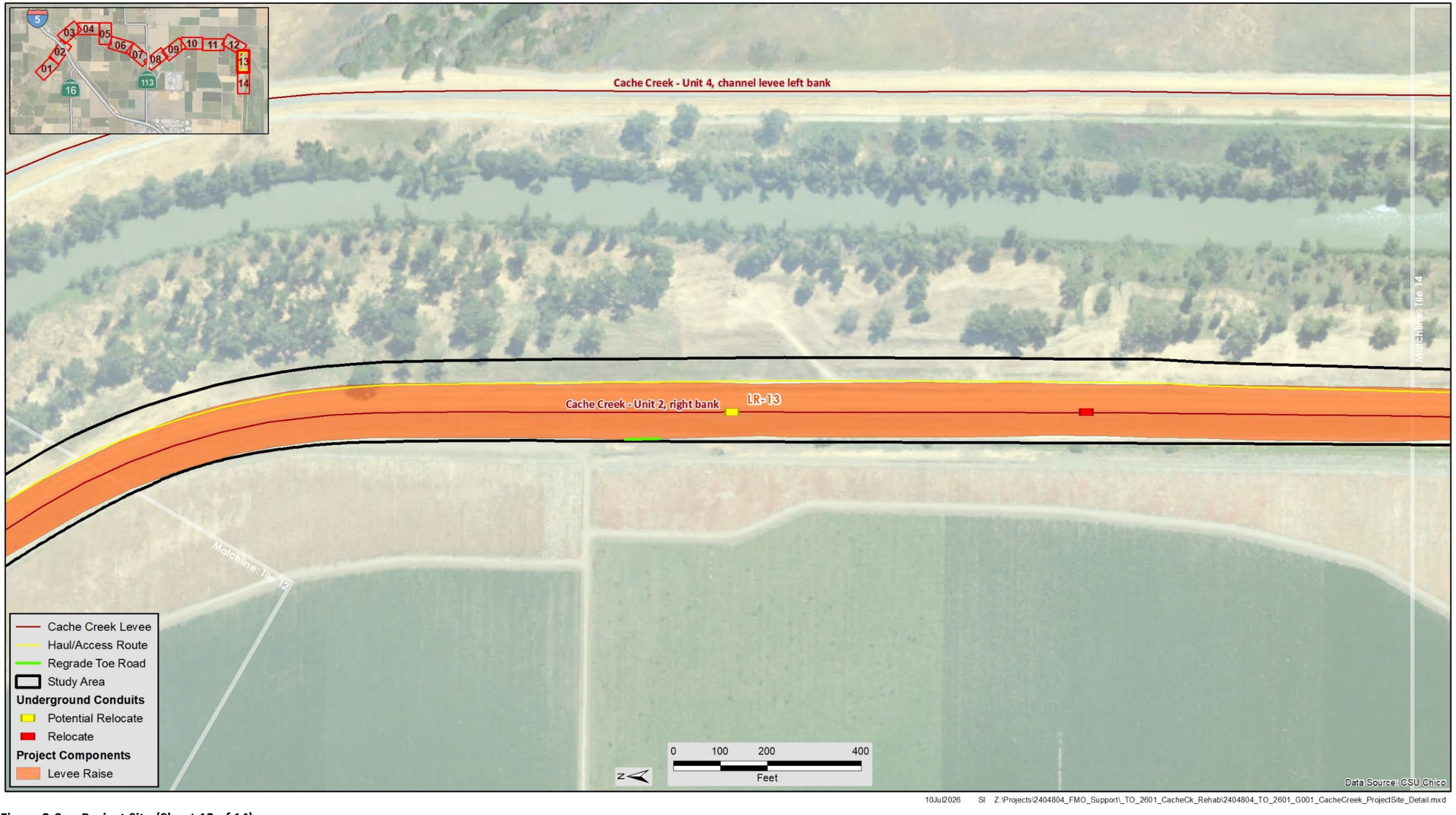


Figure 2-9m. Project Site (Sheet 13 of 14)



Figure 2-9n. Project Site (Sheet 14 of 14)

2.4.1 Construction Schedule

Construction is planned to occur between approximately April 16 and October 31, beginning in 2026~~8~~ at the earliest, and extending over the course of two construction seasons/years. If isolated areas of ponded/perched water exist within the channel or along the haul routes in the creek bed, those areas may need to be drained and leveled prior to sediment removal work. For shallow ponded area(s), pumps would be used to empty the ponded water out or a shallow trench would be carved into the creek bed to drain the water downstream. The water would likely drain quickly through the sandy soil and dissipate. If shallow enough, the pond will be seined/netted for aquatic wildlife, and any wildlife will be moved to another pond outside of the action area within the Cache Creek or taken to a Yolo Bypass canal containing water. For deeper ponds, water would be pumped out first to a level where seining is possible, then to follow the same steps for shallow ponded area(s). Work would be conducted 6 days per week and in 8-hour work shifts, with an average number of 10 workers on site per day.

2.4 Environmental Setting, Impacts and Mitigation Measures

3.3 Agriculture and Forestry

3.3.1 Environmental Setting

Existing Agricultural Uses

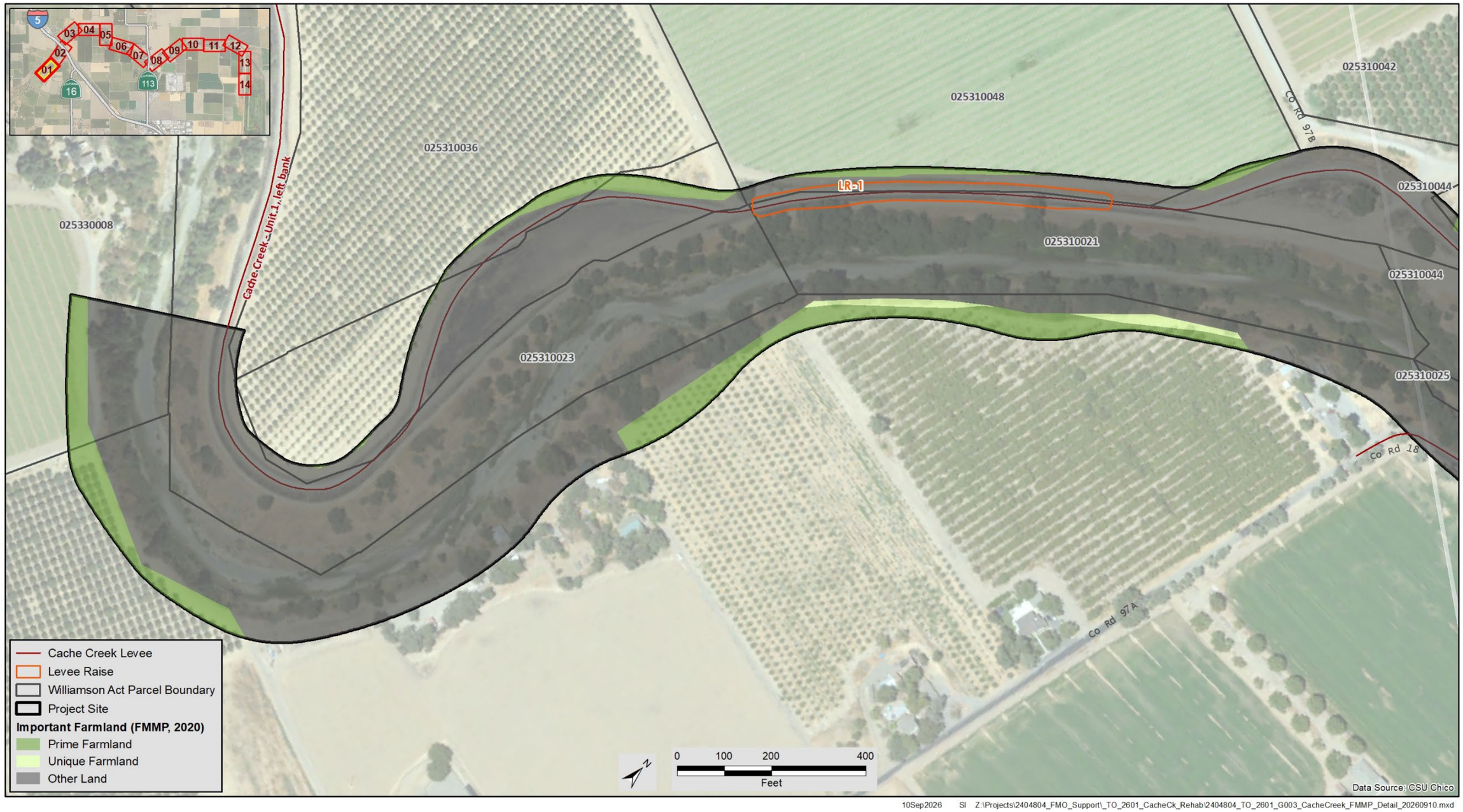


Figure 3.3-1a. Important Farmland within the Project Study Area (Sheet 1 of 14)

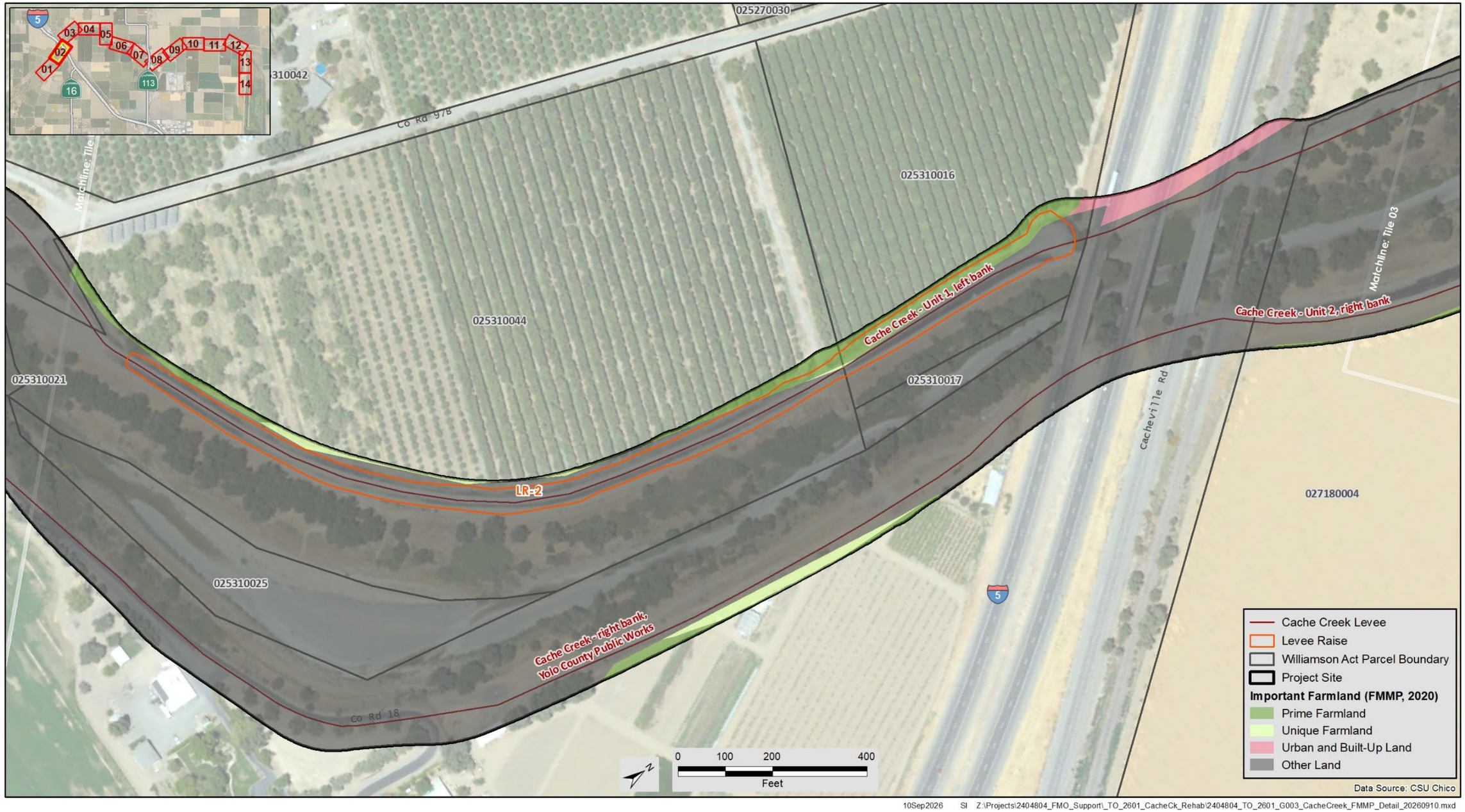


Figure 3.3-1b. Important Farmland within the Project Study Area (Sheet 2 of 14)

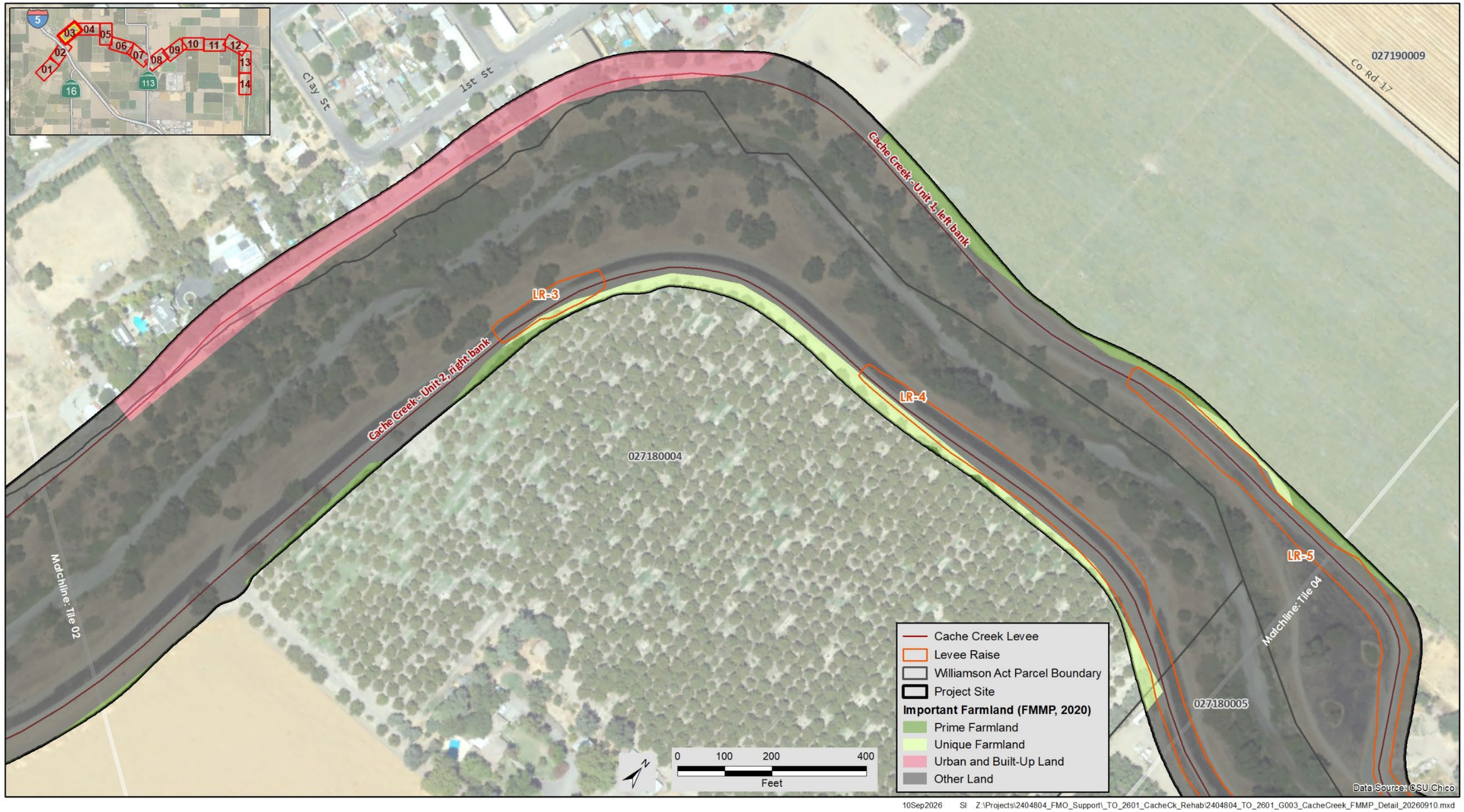


Figure 3.3-1c. Important Farmland within the Project Study Area (Sheet 3 of 14)

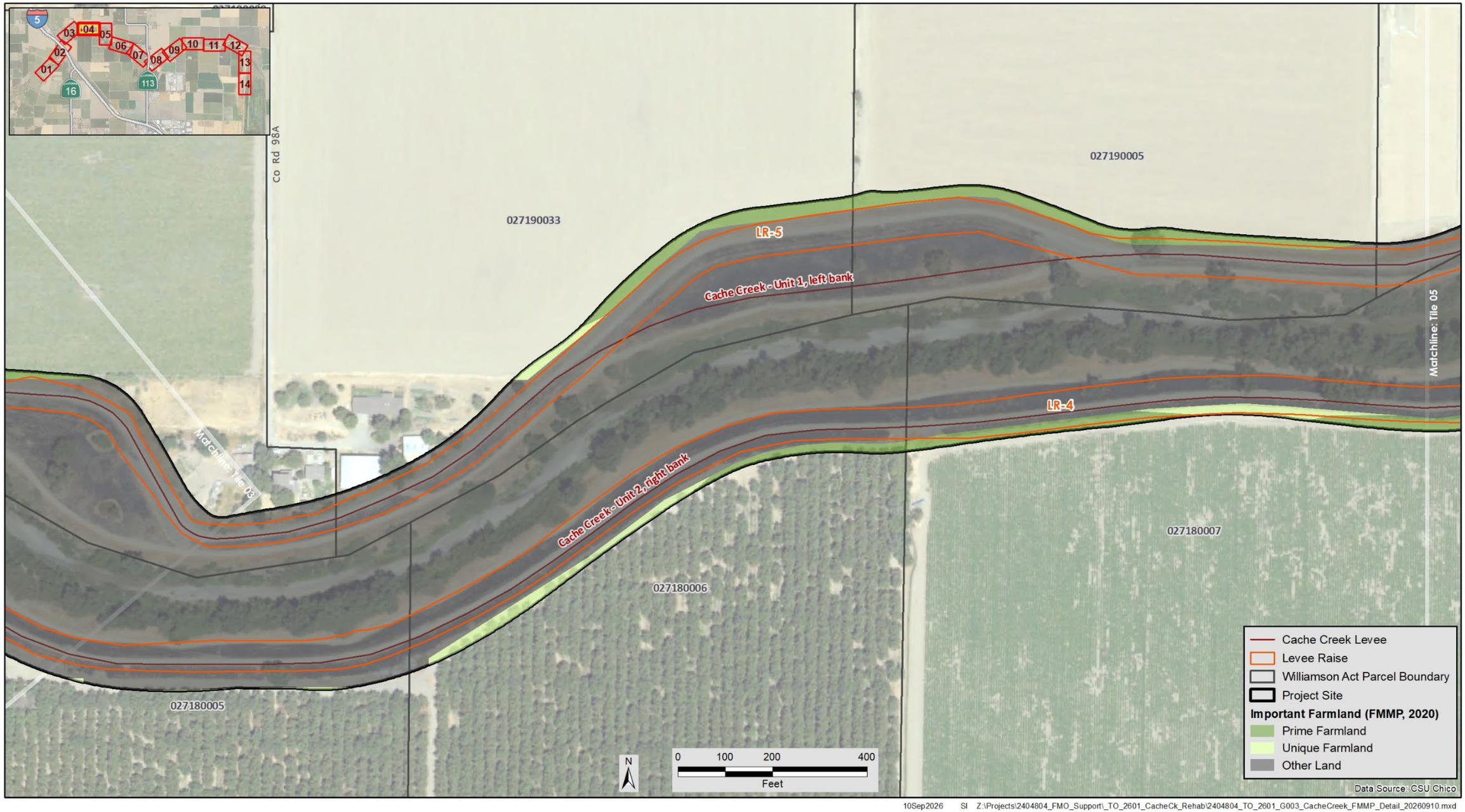


Figure 3.3-1d. Important Farmland within the Project Study Area (Sheet 4 of 14)

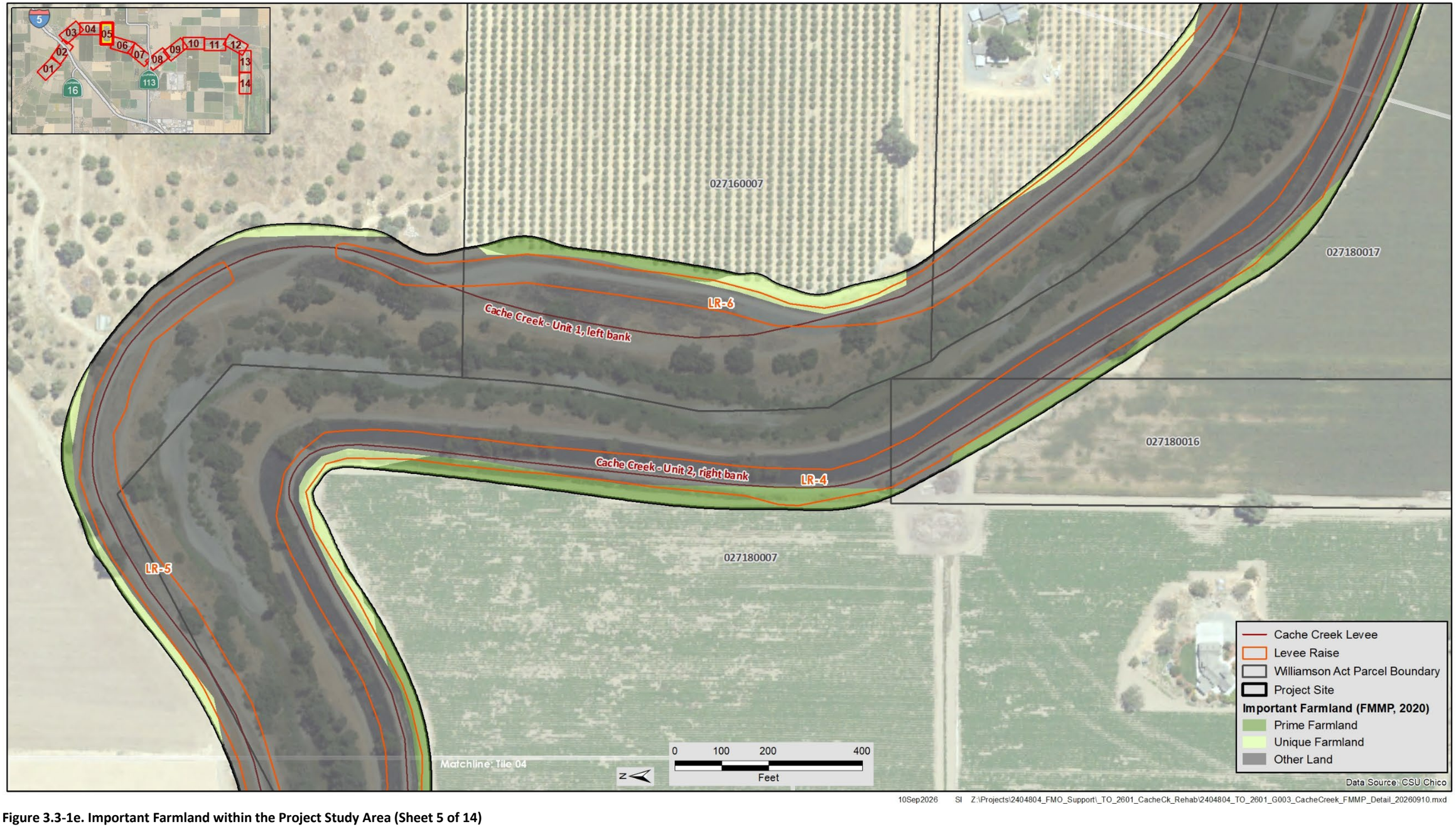


Figure 3.3-1e. Important Farmland within the Project Study Area (Sheet 5 of 14)

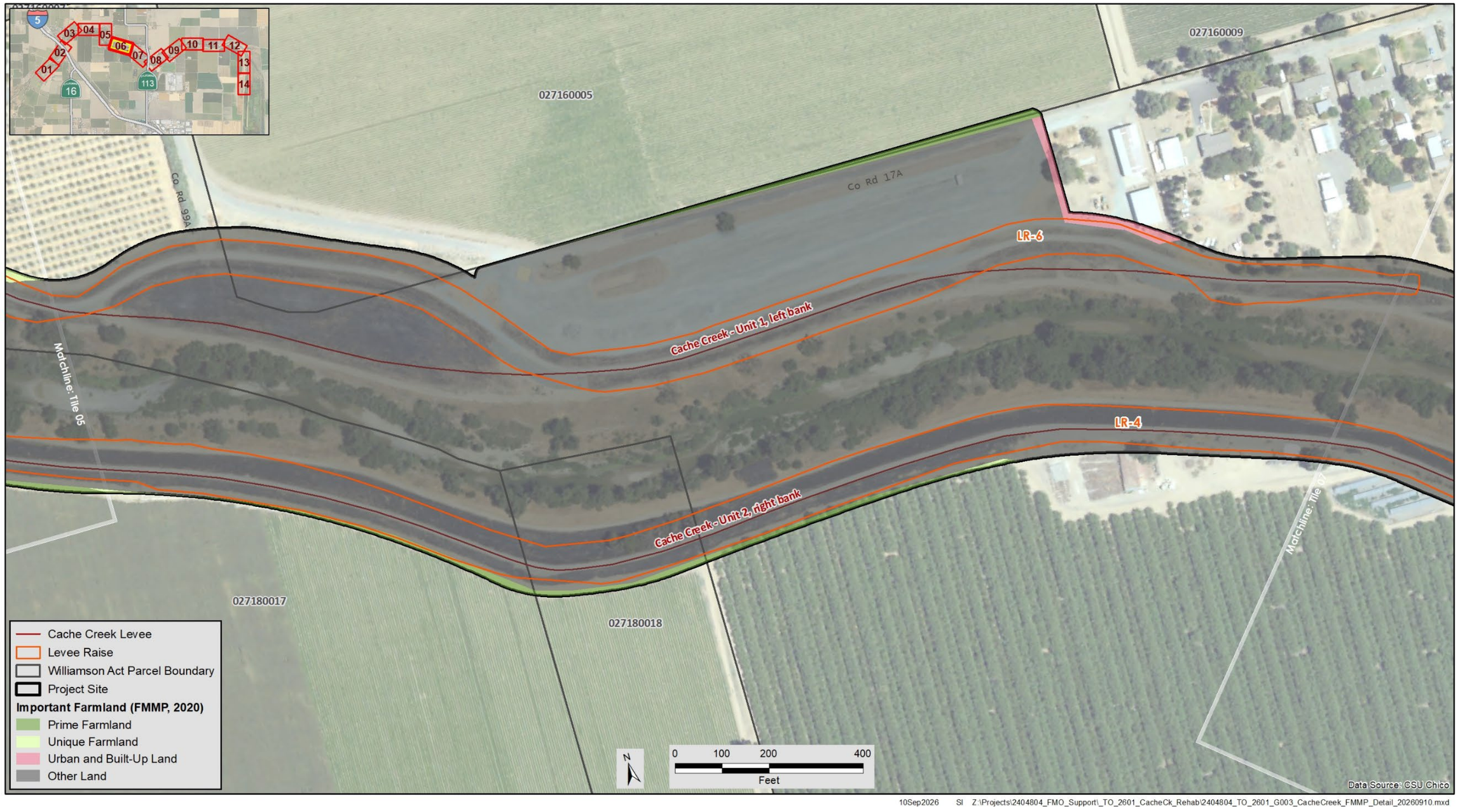


Figure 3.3-1f. Important Farmland within the Project Study Area (Sheet 6 of 14)

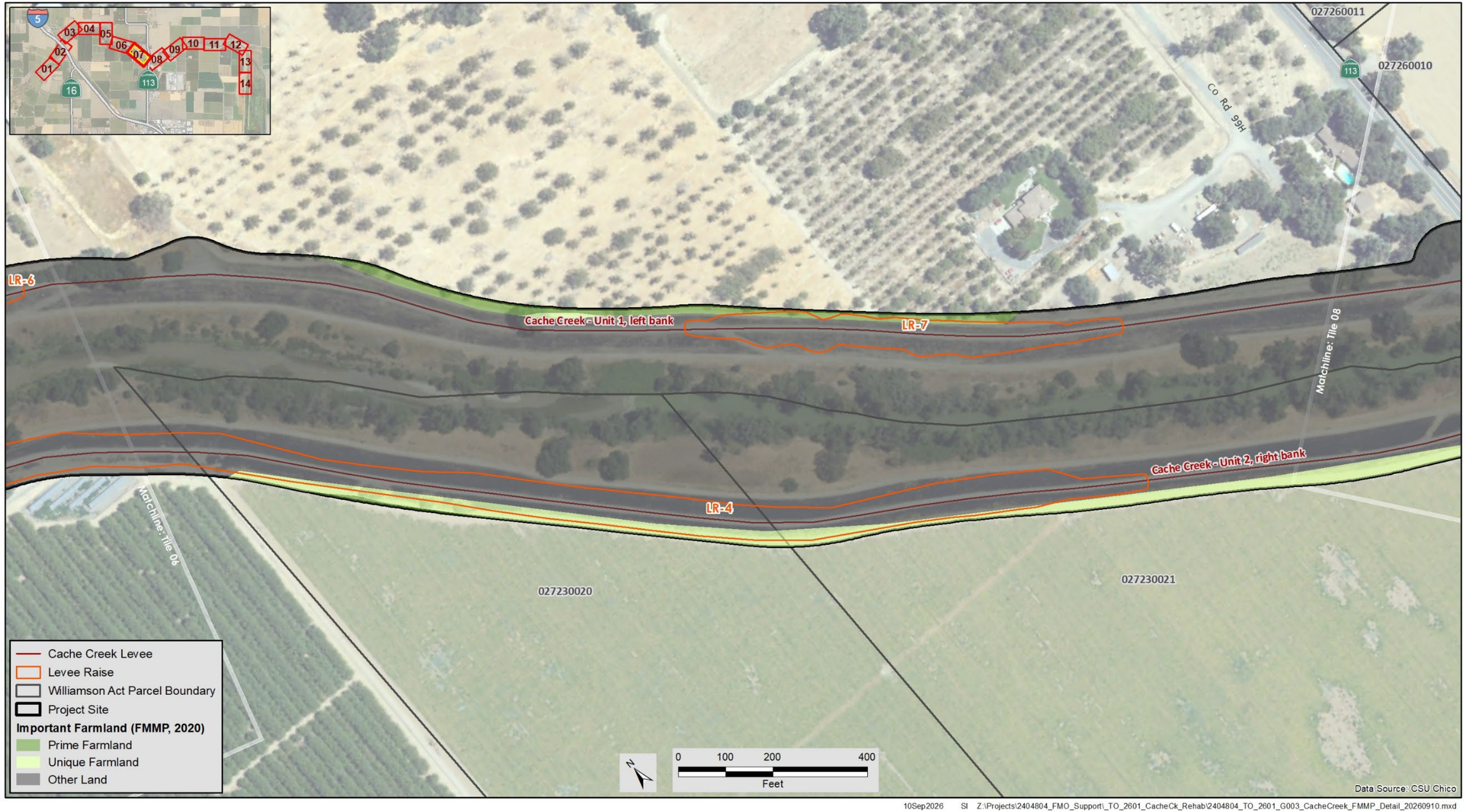


Figure 3.3-1g. Important Farmland within the Project Study Area (Sheet 7 of 14)

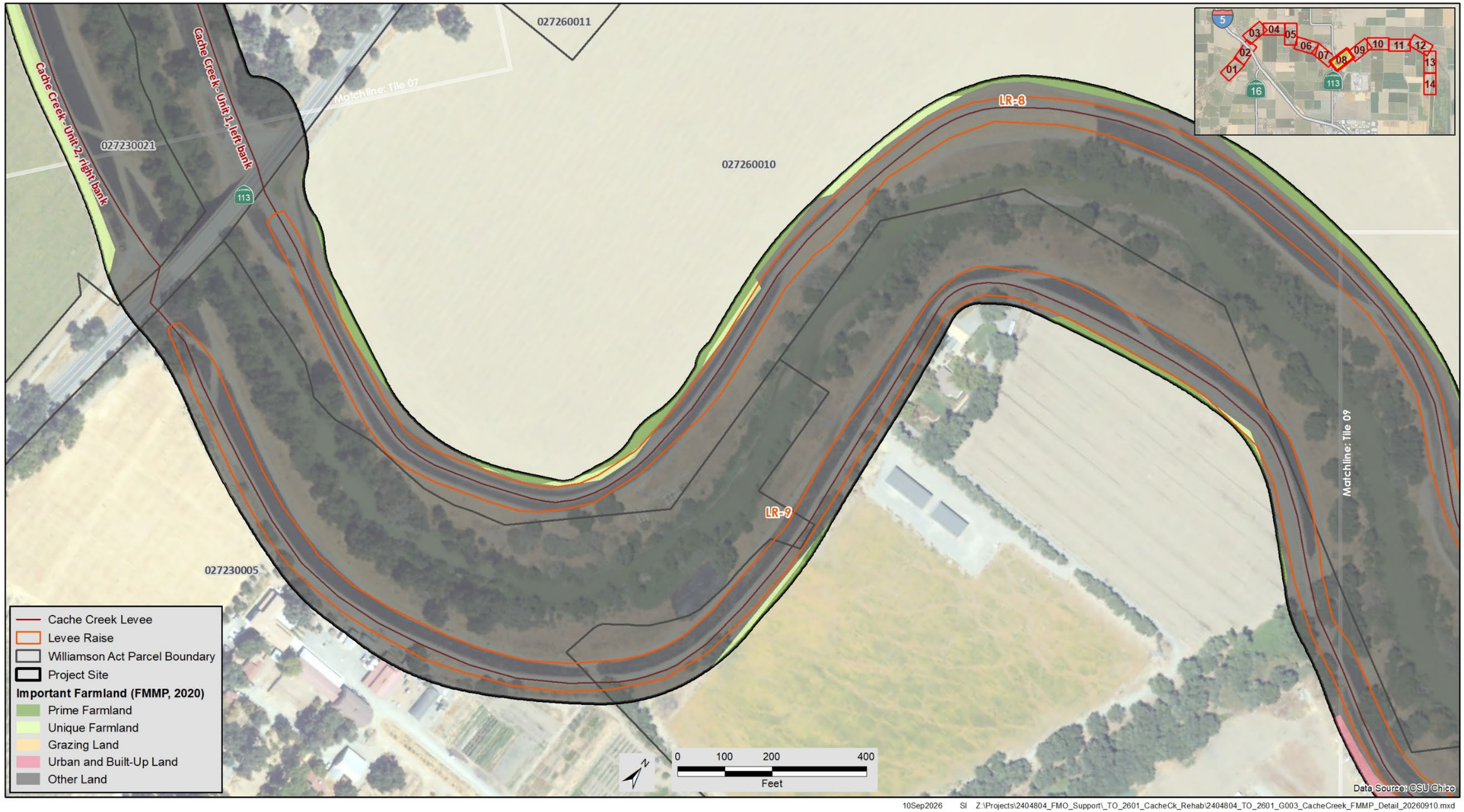


Figure 3.3-1h. Important Farmland within the Project Study Area (Sheet 8 of 14)

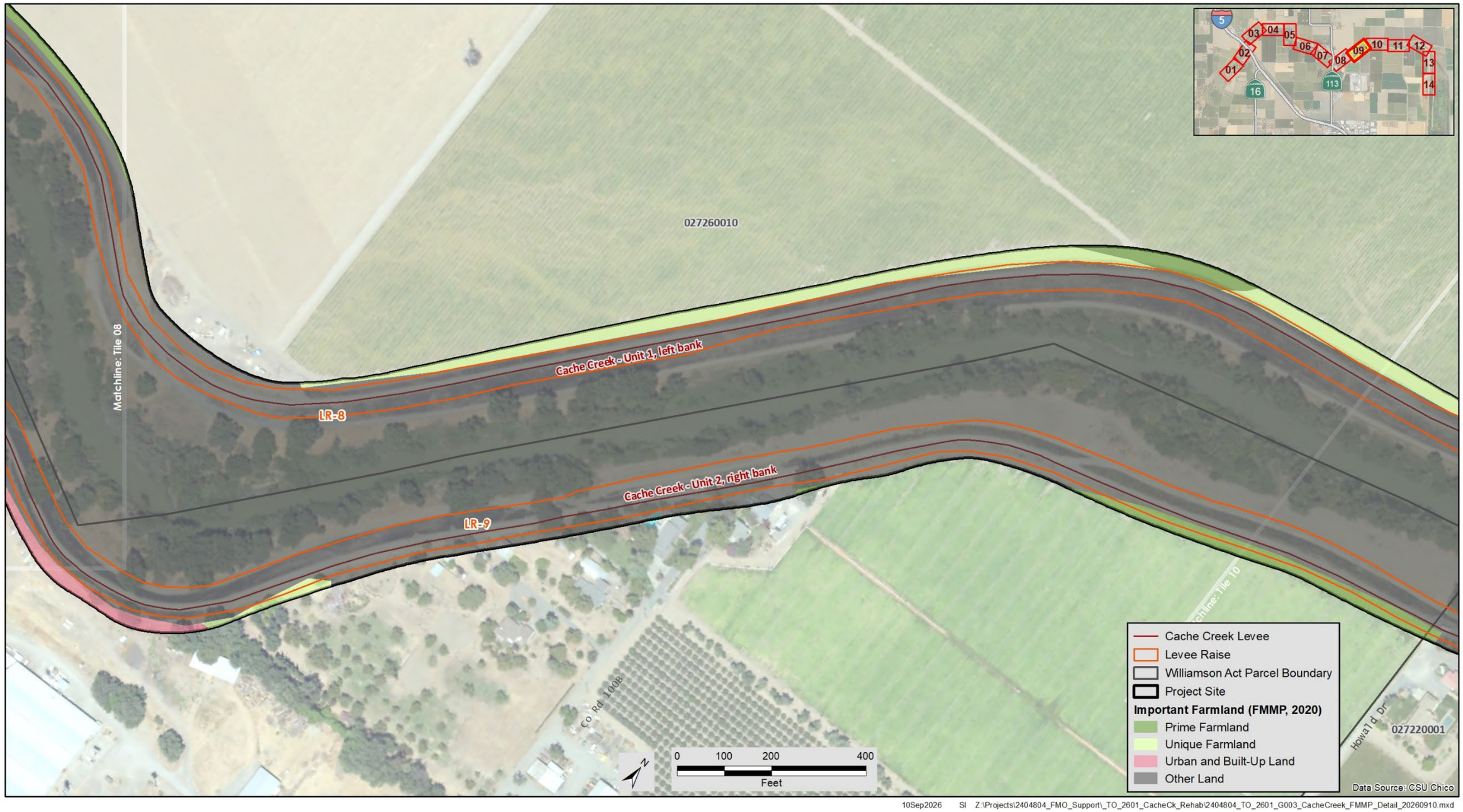


Figure 3.3-1i. Important Farmland within the Project Study Area (Sheet 9 of 14)

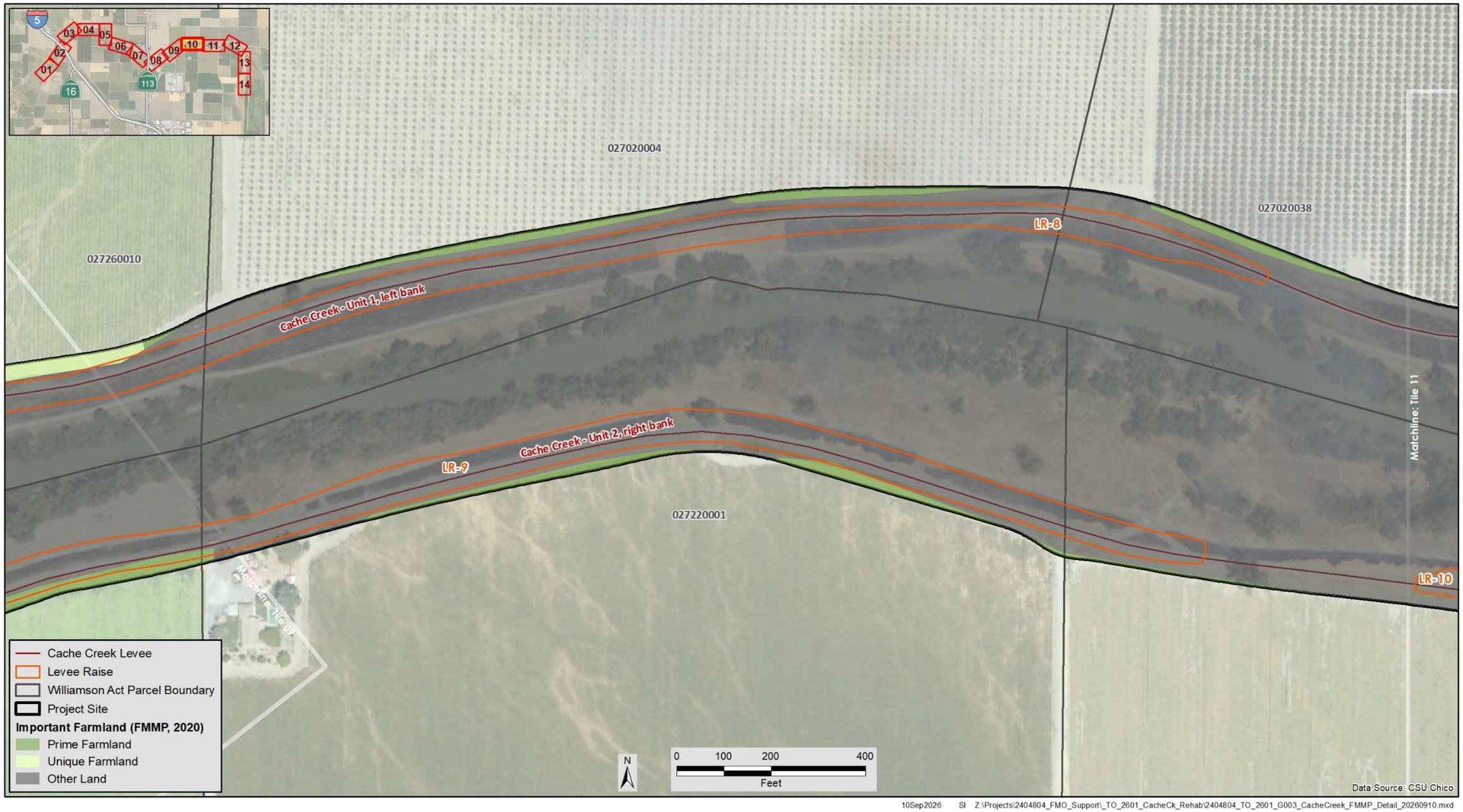


Figure 3.3-1j. Important Farmland within the Project Study Area (Sheet 10 of 14)



Figure 3.3-1k. Important Farmland within the Project Study Area (Sheet 11 of 14)



Figure 3.3-1l. Important Farmland within the Project Study Area (Sheet 12 of 14)

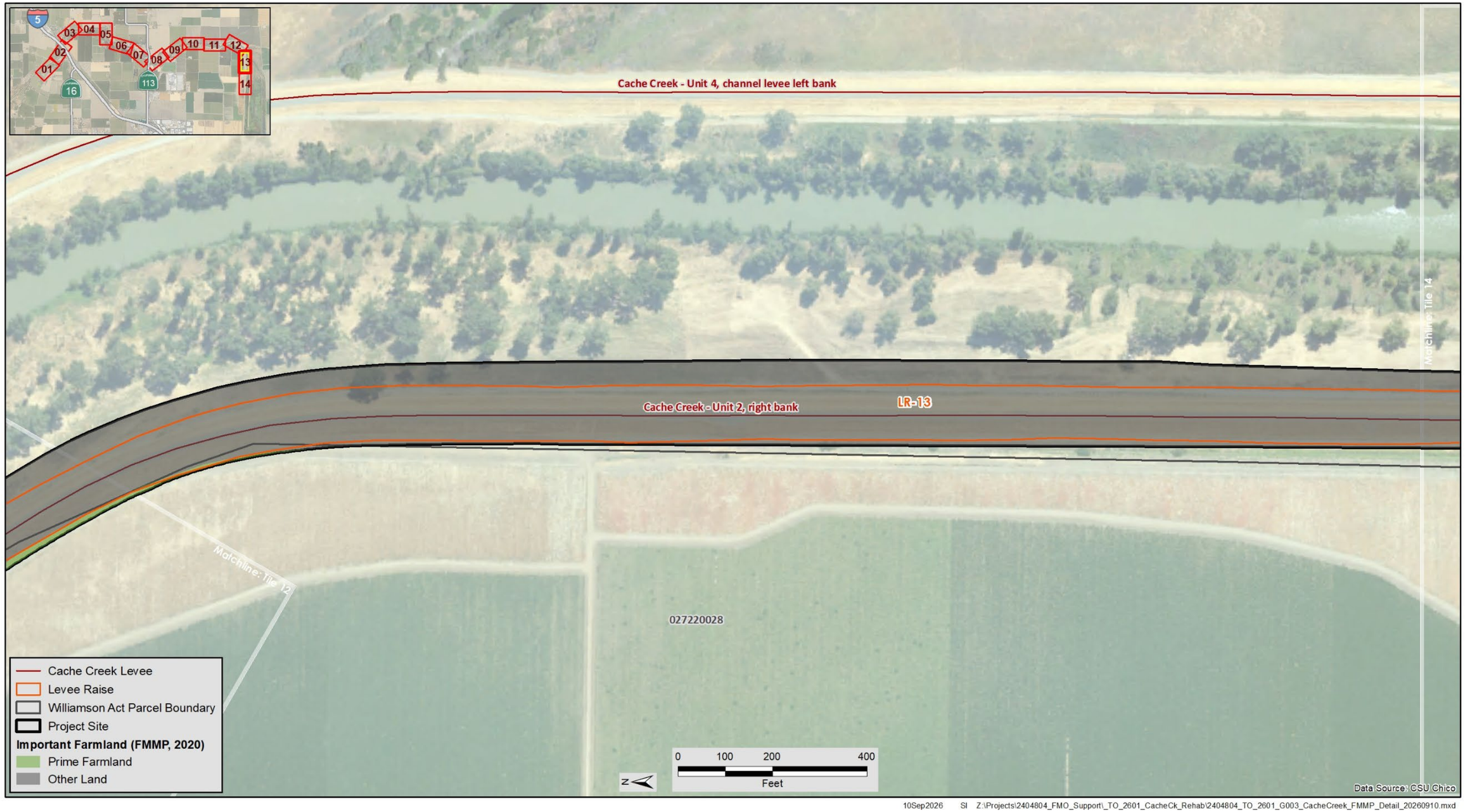


Figure 3.3-1m. Important Farmland within the Project Study Area (Sheet 13 of 14)



Figure 3.3-1n. Important Farmland within the Project Study Area (Sheet 14 of 14)

Issues Not Discussed Further

~~**Convert designated Farmland, as shown on FMMP maps, to nonagricultural uses.** No lands within the project site are designated as Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance, as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the FMMP of the California Natural Resources Agency. The lands surrounding the project site which are designated Farmlands would not be converted to nonagricultural uses from the proposed project. Staging areas for construction activities are located adjacent to designated Farmlands but would not interfere with agricultural production or convert the lands to nonagricultural uses. Therefore, there is no impact, and this issue is not discussed further.~~

Conflict with Forestland Zoning or result in loss of or conversion of forestland. No lands zoned as forestland or timberland occur on the project site. Although trees and shrubs would be removed from sediment excavation areas that meet the CEQA Guidelines definition of "forestland" described previously, because no lands are zoned as such by the County there would be no conversion or loss of zoned forestland and there would be no impact. Therefore, this issue is not discussed further.

Impact Analysis and Mitigation Measures

Impact 3.3.1: ***Conflict with agricultural zoning or Williamson Act contract.***
The project site is not designated under Williamson Act contracts and is zoned as open space. Construction activities would occur adjacent to many Williamson Act lands; however, the construction impacts would be temporary and short term. Therefore, this impact would be ***less than significant****. The proposed project is located on lands zoned as open space or agriculture, is on lands under Williamson Act contracts, and may require flood easement acquisitions on surrounding lands subject to Williamson Act contracts. However, the project would not conflict with existing zoning or Williamson Act contracts and this impact would be* ***less than significant****.*

~~The proposed project would include construction activities within the creek channel and adjacent to the landside toe of the levee rehabilitation work. In addition, staging areas would be located on vacant land adjacent to the levees in locations directly adjacent to lands with Williamson Act contracts. However, these activities would not impede agricultural use of the adjacent lands. Construction activities would result in a temporary increase in construction-related traffic, noise, and dust in the vicinity of agricultural lands, but the activities would be short term and only occur during the active construction seasons. Therefore, the proposed project would not conflict with agricultural zoning or Williamson Act contracts and impacts would be **less than significant**. Impacts from dust and noise are discussed further in Chapter 3.3.4, "Air Quality" and Chapter 3.3.12, "Noise."~~

Construction

The proposed project activities (levee raising and sediment removal) would include construction within the creek channel, on the levee prisms, and on land adjacent to the landside toe and waterside toe of the levees, where segments of levee toe roads would be shifted as levees are raised. The current flood facilities (i.e., levees, maintenance roads, channel and creek banks) are already located on these lands zoned for open space or agriculture use, with most land under Williamson Act contracts. In addition,

some temporary staging areas may be located on vacant land next to the levees, in locations directly on or adjacent to lands zoned for agricultural use or under Williamson Act contracts. The construction activities would not impede agricultural use of the adjacent lands because most of those activities would occur on land already included within the Adopted Plan of Flood Control and subject to encroachment restrictions. The Adopted Plan of Flood Control includes project channels with levees and additional area outside of project levees where encroachments could affect the integrity, functioning or maintenance of flood project levees (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 23, § 4(a)(2)(A) [generally a buffer of at least 10 feet landward of the levee toe]). Most of the agricultural lands near the levee segments are not cultivated and used only for farm equipment access and levee maintenance. The proposed project construction is not expected to impact lands that are cultivated with crops. Construction activities would result in a temporary increase in construction-related traffic, noise, and dust in the vicinity of agricultural lands, but the activities would be short term and only occur during the active construction seasons as described in section 2.4, "Project Construction." Therefore, the proposed project would not conflict with agricultural zoning or Williamson Act contracts and impacts would be **less than significant.** Impacts from dust and noise are discussed further in Chapter 3.3.4, "Air Quality" and Chapter 3.3.12, "Noise."

Easement Acquisitions

The proposed project would raise levees up to approximately 2.5 feet at select locations on both the north and south levees. This levee raise would result in a shift of the levee prism toward both the waterside and landside toe roads by widening the levee base as needed to meet the required bank slopes as shown in **Figure 2-7**. This would result in a shift of the waterside and landside toe roads, with minor grading to maintain the same road width as under current conditions (12 feet). As a result, the proposed project would require acquisition of new flood easements over some adjacent land near the landside toe of the levee to accommodate the shift of the landside levee toe and landside toe road. Locations without an existing landside toe road, such as areas that are not actively farmed, including residential properties or other businesses, would still require acquisition of new easements to encompass the shift of the landside levee toe due to levee raising. In addition, the proposed project would require acquisition of new flood easements within the channel where no easement currently exists, and easements may be required for relocated utilities. Most of the parcels within the project study area are under active Williamson Act contracts (see Figure **3.3-1**a through **3.3-1**n).

The proposed flood easements would convey to the State the rights necessary to construct, operate, maintain, monitor, repair, and otherwise exercise its flood control responsibilities. Acquisition of an easement would not, by itself, preclude continued agricultural use of the affected property. However, agricultural activities within an easement would remain subject to the terms of the easement and could be limited to the extent necessary to allow the State to exercise its flood control rights. The proposed easements would be designed to encompass only the areas necessary to accommodate the proposed project and to provide for long-term operation and maintenance of the flood control system. The proposed project would retain compatible agricultural uses, including farm access, to the extent those uses do not interfere with project operation and maintenance. Additionally, much of the affected land adjacent to the existing levees is already subject to limitations on cultivation and is currently used primarily for farm access and levee maintenance.

Although acquisition of easements would establish additional State rights over portions of agricultural properties, the proposed project would not substantially interfere with continued agricultural use of the affected parcels or result in a substantial reduction in long-term agricultural productivity. The easement acquisitions also would not, by themselves, constitute a significant conversion of land under Williamson Act contract to a nonagricultural use. Further, the intermittent project O&M activities within the flood easements would provide benefits to adjacent agricultural land to achieve flood risk reduction. As a result, the project's landside easement acquisitions would not substantially conflict with long-term agricultural productivity of the lands, displace or impair current or reasonably foreseeable agricultural operations, or result in the significant removal of adjacent land under Williamson Act contract from agricultural use. Therefore, this impact is **less than significant**.

Impact 3.3.2: ***Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance to non-agricultural use; Involve other changes in the existing environment that could result in conversion of Farmland to non-agricultural use.***

Construction activities would occur adjacent to these Farmlands and could potentially impact the existing environment from noise and dust; however, these impacts would be temporary and would not result in the conversion of Farmland to nonagricultural use. Therefore, this impact would be ***less than significant****. The proposed project may result in a levee raise that encroaches on lands designated as Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance, as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the FMMP of the California Natural Resources Agency. While the levee raise would encumber small portions of Prime Farmland, the proposed project would not convert the land from its current state as primarily a farm road access area where encroachment of agricultural use is subject to a buffer from the levee. Impacts to Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance due to conversion to non-agricultural use would be* ***less than significant.***

~~As discussed above, the project site is not designated as Farmlands; however, lands surrounding the project site are designated as Prime and Unique Farmlands. The proposed project construction activities adjacent to these Farmlands would result in the short-term and temporary increase in associated traffic, noise, and dust. However, impacts from construction activities would occur in different reaches throughout the project site for the short-term construction seasons and would not impair agricultural operations or use adjacent agricultural land. In the long-term, the project would increase flood protection for the surrounding Farmlands and would not result in the conversion of Farmland to non-agricultural uses. Therefore, impacts would be **less than significant**.~~

The California Department of Conservation's (DOC) Important Farmland classifications—Prime Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance, Unique Farmland, and Farmland of Local Importance—recognize the land's suitability for agricultural production by considering the physical and chemical characteristics of the soil, such as soil temperature range, depth of the groundwater table, flooding potential, rock fragment content, and rooting depth. The classifications also consider location, growing season, and moisture available to sustain high-yield crops. Together, Important Farmland and Grazing

Land are defined by the DOC as “Agricultural Land” (California Public Resources Code, Sections 21060.1 and 21095).

According to the Yolo County Important Farmland map, published by the DOC’s Division of Land Resource Protection, the proposed project site includes land designated as Prime Farmland (approximately 1.6 acres) and Unique Farmland (approximately 1.5 acres) (Figures 3.3-1 to 3.3-14). Less than one acre is designated Grazing Land, approximately 0.05 acre is designated as Urban and Built-Up Land, and approximately 96.3 acres are designated as Other Land. As stated previously, the proposed project would raise levees up to approximately 2.5 feet at select locations on both the north and south levees. At certain locations, the increased levee footprint would require the existing waterside and landside levee toe roads to be shifted, with minor grading to maintain the existing 12-foot road width. The proposed project levee toe expansion, as a result of levee raising, would be located on approximately 3 acres of Important Farmland (1.6 acres of Prime Farmland and 1.5 acres of Unique Farmland) identified within the proposed project site. The 3 acres of Important Farmland located within the project site is small in the context of the County’s entire agricultural land base (0.001 percent) (DOC 2022) and would not cause a substantial reduction in the County’s total agricultural production. Further, although these areas are designated as Important Farmland, most of the affected areas are immediately adjacent to the existing levee and are not currently cultivated. Instead, these areas are primarily used for farm access and levee operation and maintenance. The proposed project would retain compatible agricultural uses, including farm access, to the extent those uses do not interfere with project operation and maintenance. Thus, the project would not substantially displace existing agricultural production or prevent continued agricultural use of the surrounding parcels due to levee raising. Additionally, the project would also improve flood protection for surrounding agricultural lands, thereby reducing the potential for future flood-related damage to agricultural production. As a result, the proposed project would not result in the significant conversion of Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance to non-agricultural use; nor would the proposed project involve other changes in the existing environment that could result in significant conversion of Farmland to a non-agricultural use.

Given the small amount of affected acreage of Important Farmland within Yolo County (0.001 percent), the existing limited agricultural use of the affected areas for access purposes and the proposed project’s retention of compatible farm access within the affected areas, the continued agricultural use of surrounding lands, and the project's purpose of maintaining and improving flood protection which will benefit surrounding agricultural lands, the proposed project would not result in a substantial conversion of Important Farmland to non-agricultural use. Therefore, impacts related to conversion of Important Farmland would be **less than significant**.

3.16 Utilities and Service Systems (New Section added)

This section describes utilities and service systems on or adjacent to the proposed project and surrounding area, summarizes applicable regulations, and analyzes potential project impacts related to utilities and service systems. Utilities and service systems addressed in this section include groundwater wells, water supply pipelines, drainage systems, solid waste facilities, overhead and underground electrical and communication lines, and natural gas pipelines. Sources used to develop this analysis include planning documents such as the Yolo County General Plan, applicable utility master plans, service provider reports, and field observations.

3.16.1 Environmental Setting

Water Supply

Potable water supplies in Yolo County are primarily obtained from groundwater sources. Groundwater is pumped from private wells or provided by community service districts. Currently, there are four irrigation wells in use in the project study area as well as four pumps and water transmission pipelines.

Wastewater

Unincorporated Yolo County is supported by private and individual septic systems for wastewater services (Yolo County 2009). There are no septic systems within the project site.

Stormwater Drainage Systems

Drainage facilities in unincorporated areas of Yolo County are limited (Yolo County 2009). Pipes and drainage ditches convey water to discharge pipes that flow into Cache Creek. There are two discharge pipes within the project site (pers. comm., Julius Bautista, DWR).

Solid Waste

Yolo County Central Landfill is the primary landfill serving Yolo County. It is a Class II and III sanitary landfill accepting agricultural, municipal, industrial, biosolids, and construction/demolition wastes. According to the California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery's (CalRecycle's) Solid Waste Information System, Yolo County Central Landfill has a permitted maximum capacity of 49 million cubic yards. As of July 1, 2022, the remaining capacity was 33.1 million cubic yards, and the facility has an estimated closure date of February 1, 2124 (CalRecycle 2026). In addition, the Yolo County Central Landfill includes two composting facilities that each accept 1,000 cubic yards of green material per day (CalRecycle 2026).

Electrical, Natural Gas, and Telecommunications Facilities

Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) provides electricity and natural gas (as well as Shell Oil Company having oil pipelines) throughout most of Yolo County, and Pacific Bell and Telegraph Company provides telecommunications services (Yolo County 2009).

In the project study area there are 12 overhead PG&E electrical and/or telecommunication transmission poles (California Energy Commission 2025). These poles as well as underground utilities (e.g., gas and telecommunications lines) are shown in Figures 2-9a through 2-9n. In addition, there are two pipelines owned by Shell Oil Company that are located one-half mile east of County Road 102, in the Cache Creek Settling Basin (pers. comm., Julius Bautista, DWR).

3.16.2 Regulatory Framework

Federal Plans, Policies, Regulations, and Laws

No Federal plans, policies, regulations, or laws related to utilities apply to the proposed project.

State Plans, Policies, Regulations, Laws

California Green Building Standards

The standards included in the 2025 California Green Building Standards Code (CALGreen Code) (24 CCR Part 11) became effective on January 1, 2026. The CALGreen Code was developed to enhance the design and construction of buildings and the use of sustainable construction practices, through planning and design, energy efficiency, water efficiency and conservation, material conservation and resource efficiency, and environmental air quality.

The CALGreen Code requires that 100 percent of trees, stumps, rocks, and associated vegetation and soils resulting primarily from land clearing be reused or recycled.

Regional and Local Plans, Policies, Regulations, and Ordinances

Yolo County General Plan

The following goal and policies are from the Yolo County General (2009) Plan Public Facilities and Services Element and may be relevant to utilities and service systems.

Goal PF-9 Solid Waste and Recycling. Provide safe, cost-efficient, and environmentally responsible solid waste management.

- **Policy PF-9.8** Require salvage, reuse or recycling of construction and demolition materials and debris at all construction sites.

- **Policy PF-9.8** Encourage use of salvaged and recycled materials in construction.

3.16.3 Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures

Thresholds of Significance

The thresholds for determining the significance of impacts for this analysis are based on the environmental checklist in Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines, as amended. Implementing the project would have a significant impact on utilities and service systems if the proposed project would:

- require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or storm water drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects;
- not have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry and multiple dry years;
- result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider, which serves or may serve the project that it does not have adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments;
- generate solid waste in excess of state or local standards, or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals; or
- not comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste.

Issues Not Discussed Further

Require Construction or Expansion of Utilities. The proposed project would not generate any new housing, businesses, or other changes in the environment that would require construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or storm water drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities. Therefore, **no impact** would occur and this issue is not addressed further.

Increased Demand for Water Supplies – The proposed project would not generate any new housing, businesses, or other changes in the environment that would increase the demand for water supplies compared to current conditions. Water use during construction would be provided by the contractor and sourced from existing private or municipal water supplies in the County for purchase. Thus, the proposed project would not affect water supplies available to serve reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry and multiple dry years. Therefore, **no impact** would occur, and this issue is not addressed further.

Increased Demand for Wastewater Treatment – The proposed project site is not served by a municipal wastewater service provider because it there are no habitable structures within the project site and there would be no demand for municipal wastewater treatment. Therefore, **no impact** would occur, and this issue is not addressed further.

Comply with Federal, State, and Local Management and Reduction Statutes and Regulations Related to Solid Waste – DWR would be required to comply with all applicable federal, State, and local solid waste statues and regulations, including compliance with the CALGreen Code. Therefore, **no impact** would occur, and this issue is not addressed further.

Analysis Methodology

The analysis contained in this section represents identification of existing utilities based on information and records (including locations) acquired from encroachment permits, utility crossing inspections, utility providers, and planimetric surveys of the project site. Obtained data includes existing and planned major utilities within and adjacent to the proposed project. Utilities identified within the project site are

delineated in Figures 2-1a through 2-1n in Chapter 2, "Project Description." A distance of 10 feet was used to identify utilities that may be affected from construction activities that involve excavation. All utility locations are approximate based on best available map data. Available data and direct coordination with utility providers may not provide exact locations of certain documented subsurface utilities due to age or quality of their records. Such utilities may be discovered during the course of construction and will prompt coordination with the utility provider for removal or relocation. Finally, this analysis considers the ability of the proposed project to avoid or reduce demand placed on utilities and service systems.

Impact Analysis and Mitigation Measures

Impact 3.16.1: ***Relocation of Existing Water, Stormwater Drainage, Electric Power, and Telecommunications Facilities.***

The project may require the relocation of water supply infrastructure, storm water drainage, electric power, natural gas, and telecommunications facilities. Environmental impacts associated with relocation activities are evaluated throughout the technical sections of the Draft EIR and would not result in new significant impacts. This impact would be less than significant with implementation of mitigation measures identified in each technical section of the Draft EIR.

The proposed project would require the relocation of water supply infrastructure, stormwater drainage, electric power, natural gas, and telecommunications facilities. As detailed in Chapter 2, "Project Description," twelve overhead electrical and/or telecommunication poles, seven gas pipelines, and 42 other human-made non-soil features including pipes, pumps, and wells, are within the project footprint. These utilities may require removal, relocation, and/or reinstallation as part of the project. Relocation or removal of these utilities may include excavation of underground structures or pipes or abandonment in place.

Activities associated with relocation and/or reinstallation within the project site are included as construction activities already described in the Draft EIR, including excavation of material within the levee bank and placement of fill material and are addressed in each technical section of this document, as appropriate. Where development of the proposed project would result in potentially significant or significant environmental impacts, mitigation measures are identified to reduce those impacts to less-than-significant levels, if feasible, as summarized in Table ES-1 in the "Executive Summary," of the Draft EIR. There are no additional potentially significant or significant impacts associated with construction of the proposed project beyond those comprehensively addressed throughout the other sections of the Draft EIR. Therefore, the potential relocation of utilities infrastructure within the project study area would result in a **less than significant** impact. Should any utilities require relocation outside of the project site, those would be evaluated for compliance under subsequent CEQA review once the locations have been determined.

Impact 3.16.2: ***Generation of Solid Waste.***

Soils and biomass generated from the clearing process may be transported to the Yolo County Central Landfill. The Yolo County Central Landfill would have

adequate capacity to accept the project's construction debris and would account for a very small percentage of the landfill's remaining capacity. In addition, contaminated sediment would be transported to a licensed landfill permitted to accept contaminated soil and would have adequate capacity to accept 210,000 cubic yards of sediment. Landfill waste generated by the project would not deplete substantial long-term capacity. This impact would be less than significant.

Sediment would be excavated from Cache Creek to help restore the channel's capacity. All trees and shrubs would be removed from the area where sediment would be excavated. As discussed previously, CALGreen requires that 100 percent of trees, stumps, rocks, and associated vegetation and soils resulting primarily from land clearing be reused or recycled.

Approximately 19 acres of trees, stumps, and other vegetation would be generated from the clearing process and would be transported to the Yolo County Central Landfill and composting facility. As described above, the Yolo County Central Landfill has a projected closure date February 1, 2124, and has a remaining capacity of approximately 33.1 million cubic yards, as of 2022 (CalRecycle 2026). The Yolo County Central Landfill would have adequate capacity to accept the project's construction debris and would account for a very small percentage of the landfill's remaining capacity. Landfill waste generated by the project would not exceed its permitted daily tonnage of 3,000 tons per day or deplete substantial long-term capacity (CalRecycle 2026).

As discussed in Chapter 2, "Project Description," of the Draft EIR, approximately 210,000 cubic yards of sediment would be excavated from the channel. This sediment contains legacy mercury contamination. During the construction, an appropriate licensed landfill permitted to accept contaminated soil would be identified and would have adequate capacity to accept the excavated sediment. Therefore, the proposed project would not generate solid waste in excess of state or local standards or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure, and this impact would be **less than significant**.

2.4 Cumulative Impact Analysis by Topic Area

5.2.16 Utilities and Service Systems (New Section added)

Utilities and service systems that are affected by the project are located within the project site and are localized issues that do not combine with other utilities and service systems in the surrounding areas. Therefore, because there are no other projects within the project site, there are no related projects that would overlap in time with the proposed project. For these reasons, project impacts on utilities and service systems would not combine with related projects and there would be no cumulative impact.

2.5 Alternatives

6.3.16 Utilities and Service Systems (New Section added)

Impacts related to utilities and service systems would be slightly reduced under this alternative compared to those described for the proposed project in Section 3.9, "Hazards and Hazardous Materials," because less construction activity would be required. This would slightly decrease the

potential for construction-related relocation or reinstallation of utilities. All impact conclusions would remain the same as the proposed project under this alternative and would result in a less-than-significant impact.

3 References

Section 3.3 Agricultural and Forestry Resources

California Department of Conservation (DOC). 2022. Yolo County 2020-2022 Land Use Conversion Table. The table is available online at this link. Accessed June 23, 2026.

Section 3.16 Utilities and Service Systems (*New Section added*)

California Energy Commission. 2025. California Electrical Transmission Lines. The Electrical Transmission Lines viewer is available online at this link. Accessed June 23, 2026.

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