



NOTICE OF PREPARATION AND SCOPING MEETING

Subject: Notice of Preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Report
Project Title: Design Level Geotechnical Investigations for the Pacheco Reservoir Expansion Project
Project Location: Unincorporated Santa Clara County, California.
Date: September 30, 2024

The Santa Clara Valley Water District (Valley Water) is the Lead Agency and will prepare an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the proposed Design Level Geotechnical Investigations for the Pacheco Reservoir Expansion Project (Proposed Project) described below. Responsible and trustee agencies and other interested agencies, organizations, and individuals are invited to provide written comments on the scope and content of the Draft EIR.

The project description, location, and potential environmental effects are described below in this Notice of Preparation (NOP). Valley Water released a Draft Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) for public review and comment on June 17, 2024, that evaluated the Proposed Project. In consideration of the comments received on the Draft IS/MND, Valley Water has elected to prepare an EIR for the Proposed Project.

Due to time limits mandated by state law, responses to this NOP from any responsible or trustee agency must be provided at the earliest possible date, **but not later than 30 days after receipt of this notice**. Valley Water requests any responses from other interested agencies, organizations, and individuals as to the scope and content of the EIR by October 30, 2024. Please include your name and contact information to receive further information on this project or to allow Valley Water to reach you if there are questions on your comments.

A virtual public scoping meeting will be held from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, October 17, 2024, online via Zoom at: <https://valleywater.zoom.us/j/89467238853>. Webinar ID: 89467238853, or by phone at (669) 900-9128.

Please send your comments to:

Attention: Todd Sexauer, Senior Environmental Planner
 Santa Clara Valley Water District
 5750 Almaden Expressway
 San Jose, CA 95118
 (408) 630-3149
 Email: tsexauer@valleywater.org
 Subject Line: DLGI Scoping Comments

DocuSigned by:

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Rick L. Callender, Esq.
 Chief Executive Officer

9/29/2024

Date



NOTICE OF PREPARATION AND SCOPING MEETING (cont.)

DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT FOR THE DESIGN LEVEL GEOTECHNICAL INVESTIGATIONS FOR THE PACHECO RESERVOIR EXPANSION PROJECT

State Clearinghouse No. 2024060688

INTRODUCTION

This notice announces that a Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) will be prepared for the proposed Design Level Geotechnical Investigations for the Pacheco Reservoir Expansion Project (Proposed Project). As the lead agency responsible for compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA),¹ the Santa Clara Valley Water District (Valley Water) has determined that the Proposed Project may have a significant impact on the physical environment and has decided to prepare an EIR to provide an opportunity for public disclosure and public participation in the planning and decision-making process. The EIR will identify and evaluate potential direct, indirect, and cumulative environmental impacts of the Proposed Project, identify any significant impacts, and identify feasible mitigation measures to reduce or eliminate any significant environmental impacts. An analysis of alternatives to the Proposed Project that may lessen any significant environmental impacts will also be included in the EIR.

This document serves as the Notice of Preparation (NOP) required by CEQA, pursuant to the state's CEQA Guidelines Section 15082. It contains a brief description of the Proposed Project, its goals and objectives, possible environmental impacts, and the resulting need for an EIR. It also discusses the process that will be used to determine the scope of analysis in the EIR and provides an overview of the opportunities for participation in review of the EIR, along with contact information.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

The Proposed Project would assist with the design and construction of the separately proposed Pacheco Reservoir Expansion Project. Up to 149 subsurface exploratory borings (to include 119 initial borings and 30 supplemental borings) are proposed to obtain essential information on subsurface geologic and geotechnical conditions. In addition, a total of 32 test pits are proposed as part of the Project to explore a potential borrow area for dam core zone material for the design and construction of the Pacheco Reservoir Expansion Project. The Proposed Project also proposes two types of linear surface geotechnical investigations within the Project study area to include seismic refraction and electrical resistivity. One 1,520 foot long electrical resistivity survey would be performed across the valley bottom within the upstream portion of the proposed dam. In addition, nineteen seismic-refraction lines totaling approximately 16,890 linear feet are proposed at multiple locations.

¹ Public Resources Code Section 21000 et seq. and CCR Title 14 Code of Regulations Section 15000 et seq.

The project background, objectives, location, and project description are provided below.

Project Location

The Proposed Project is located within, adjacent to, and in the vicinity of the existing Pacheco Reservoir, and along State Route 152 (SR-152) from Kaiser-Aetna Road to the site entrance located approximately one mile east of Kaiser-Aetna Road on the north side of SR-152. Pacheco Reservoir is located along North Fork Pacheco Creek and behind North Fork Dam (near 37.05022, -121.291754), roughly equidistant between the cities of Gilroy and Los Banos. The existing reservoir is located approximately one-half mile north of SR-152 in eastern Santa Clara County, California. The location and vicinity of the Proposed Project are shown on Figures 1 and 2.

Project Background

The Pacheco Reservoir Expansion Project (PREP) is a separate multi-agency effort being proposed by Valley Water to provide water supply reliability, improve habitat for South Central California Coast Steelhead among other benefits. Valley Water is currently evaluating PREP as part of a separate CEQA analysis. Valley Water circulated a Draft EIR for PREP in November of 2021, and anticipates circulating a Recirculated Draft Environmental Impact Report (RDEIR) for public review that more thoroughly evaluates a proposed upstream dam site for the on North Fork Pacheco Creek. As a multi-purpose project, PREP would increase emergency storage/emergency water supply, improve water supply reliability, increase South Central California Coast steelhead habitat suitability, increase Level 4 (IL4) refuge water supplies, and reduce impaired water quality deliveries from San Luis Reservoir.

To inform the future PREP design and planning processes, Valley Water is planning to undertake the Proposed Project to provide geotechnical and geologic data for the design of the upstream dam site that will be evaluated in the PREP RDEIR. The RDEIR will also consider other facilities associated with PREP to include: a temporary interchange at State Highway 152 (SR-152) and Kaiser Aetna Road to facilitate truck ingress and egress for access to the Project site during construction; and construction and operation of an electrical transmission line and associated switching facilities. If, and when implemented, the Proposed Project would then provide engineers with design information necessary to address comments submitted on the PREP DEIR as well as refine designs to reflect the new understanding of geotechnical conditions. In addition, it would support the development and analysis of physical process models necessary to assess impacts associated with PREP, refine designs in a manner to avoid or minimize impacts, and support the development of mitigation measures and subsequent monitoring efforts. See Project Objectives below for a complete list of the Project objectives.

Project Objectives

The Proposed Project objectives are to:

- Provide a more complete understanding of the depth to, and properties of, the underlying bedrock within and close to the footprint of the proposed PREP upstream dam location, including exploration for possible bedrock faults within the dam foundation.

- Provide additional data within potential borrow sites necessary to quantify the volume and material characterization (via sample collection for laboratory testing) of materials adequate for use in construction of an earthfill dam.
- Provide additional data on the thickness, gradation and other properties of alluvial materials currently deposited in the existing Pacheco Reservoir upstream of North Fork Dam in support of sediment management during construction and ongoing design of the North Fork Pacheco Creek channel restoration reach.
- Identify the location and depths of existing landslide deposits at the proposed upstream dam site, spillway location and at selected locations within the inundation area of the proposed reservoir.
- Evaluate geotechnical conditions along the alignment of the proposed conveyance pipeline and pump station that would connect the expanded reservoir with the existing Pacheco Conduit.
- Investigate foundation conditions for an improved site access road and a new bridge planned to be constructed several hundred feet south of the existing North Fork Dam.
- Investigate foundation and embankment conditions associated with a temporary overpass over SR-152 near the existing Kaiser-Aetna Road intersection.
- Provide additional data on the quantity, location, and character (e.g., gradation and chemical constituents) of alluvial sediments stored behind North Fork Dam necessary to refine the design of the North Fork Pacheco Creek restoration reach included in the description of PREP in the 2021 Draft Environmental Impact Report.
- Provide additional data on the character of alluvial sediments stored in Pacheco Reservoir that would inform the development and use of modeling tools (e.g., sediment transport model, water quality model) necessary to refine channel restoration design, analyze PREP-related impacts, and support development of PREP-specific mitigation and monitoring elements.

Project Description

The Proposed Project includes a combination of surface and subsurface geotechnical investigations. Each are described below:

Surface Geotechnical Surveys

Two types of linear surface geophysical investigations would be performed within the proposed Project study area: 1) Electrical Resistivity Imaging, and 2) Seismic Refraction Investigations. These surface geophysical surveys are considered noninvasive or minimally invasive. The location of these two types is illustrated on Figure 3a through Figure 3e and are discussed below.

Electrical Resistivity Imaging

One electrical resistivity imaging survey would be performed across the valley bottom within the upstream portion of the proposed PREP dam site. This line (UER-01 on Figure 3b) would be approximately 1,520 feet long and would provide data on the continuity or possible disruption of near surface alluvium and other soil deposits in an area where previous geological investigations

indicated potentially active bedrock faults. No vegetation would be removed during these investigations.

Electrical resistivity is a geotechnical method used to determine the electrical properties of the subsurface materials. Within the activity area, multiple multi-channel cables (approximately 1/2-inch diameter cable that is typically 300 feet long and connected as needed to maximum length) are placed on the ground with no disturbance to existing vegetation. At established distances (e.g., every 25 feet), 1/2-inch diameter stainless-steel electrodes would be connected to the cables and driven approximately 4 to 6 inches into the ground with a hand-held sledgehammer in order to receive the electrical current. An electrical current is induced at various locations using a portable, battery-powered current generator. The current generator is typically connected at both the end points and mid points) along the line for approximately 5 to 10 minutes at each induction point location, and the current detected by each electrode is compared to the induced current. The induced electrical current varies between 10 milliamps to about 500 milliamps at approximately 400 volts of direct current. Once acceptable data is recorded, all equipment would be removed.

Seismic Refraction Investigations

Nineteen seismic-refraction lines totaling approximately 16,890 linear feet are proposed at multiple activity areas; within the dam foundation, along the ridgelines of the upstream and downstream borrow areas, across the landslides on the right abutment at the upstream dam site, and across lake sediments occurring within the bottom of the existing Pacheco Reservoir (labeled USR-11 through USR-21, DSR-21 and DSR-22, and LSSR-1 through LSSR-6 on Figure 3a through Figure 3e. No vegetation would be removed during these investigations.

For each line, an approximately 1/2-inch diameter cable with seismic receivers attached to metal stakes (geophones; approximately 6 inches in length) would be placed by hand on the ground and attached to a portable receiver/data recorder. The geophone stakes would be pushed/driven into or placed on the ground along the line. A sledgehammer would be used to strike a metal plate on the ground surface one or more times to send an energy pulse out to the geophones. This provides data related to thickness of soil and deeply weathered rock beneath the geophone locations. Once acceptable data is recorded, all equipment would be removed. A handheld sledgehammer would be used in place of an all-terrain vehicle (ATV) mounted sledgehammer in areas containing sensitive resources. An ATV-mounted sledgehammer would only be used when working in areas accessible using existing established access routes.

Subsurface Geotechnical Investigations

Two types of proposed subsurface geotechnical investigation methods are proposed within the proposed Project study area: 1) exploratory test pits and 2) exploratory borings. All but eight of the exploration locations have a defined "activity area" that has been established to include a 100-foot diameter work activity area, which is intended to provide adequate workspace in a manner that would avoid and protect sensitive resources. Activity areas at those eight exploration locations would be slightly truncated to avoid previously identified sensitive resources. All work associated with the subsurface exploration would be contained within the defined boundaries of each activity area, though overall ground disturbance would be significantly less (up to approximately 4 square feet for exploratory borings and an approximate average of 400 square

feet for exploratory test pits). At select boring locations, permanent subsurface monitoring equipment called piezometers would be installed to better understand changes in subsurface groundwater depth. In addition, inclinometers would be installed at four boring locations at suspected landslides to detect subsurface movement in soil and/or rock over time. Erodibility testing would also occur at 11 of the proposed 21 lake sediment (LS) boring sites to assist in the determination of sediment resistance to scour. The piezometer and inclinometer equipment is discussed in the subsequent section. As mentioned above, eight of these exploratory sites would have a slightly truncated workspace from within the 100-foot diameter activity area to avoid previously identified sensitive resources. All construction personnel and equipment would stay within the truncated workspace during proposed Project activities (including while entering and exiting) and would not encroach into any known sensitive resource areas.

Exploratory Test Pits

A total of 32 test pits (TP) (i.e., 0.29 acres total disturbed area) are components of the Proposed Project that focus on investigating and defining the limits of a potential borrow area for dam core zone material for the design and construction of PREP. To the extent possible, the activity area defined for each test pit was located to avoid vegetated areas, including establishing buffers to avoid tree drip lines and root areas. The geologist or engineer would use handheld GPS equipment to define the boundary of the actual excavation and temporary storage of material within the defined activity area. Each test pit would be excavated to a depth and length determined by field conditions but would generally be about 10 to 20 feet long, 3 feet wide (i.e., test pit excavations would be rectangular in shape), and ranging between 5 and 20 feet deep. Where deeper than 4.5 feet, the test pit would be logged from the surface consistent with federal and state safety requirements. Each test pit would be excavated, logged, and backfilled over the course of several hours. The locations of all the proposed test pits are shown on Figure 3d.

Exploratory Borings

To assist with the design and construction of PREP, 149 exploratory borings (to include 119 initial borings and 30 supplemental borings) are proposed to obtain essential information on subsurface geologic and geotechnical conditions (see Figure 3a through Figure 3e). Each boring activity is estimated to disturb about four square feet, for a total of 0.01 acres within each activity area. The geologist or engineer would use handheld GPS equipment to locate each activity area and the actual boring location where the drill would penetrate. The required access routes for boring locations off existing roads that are not planned for helicopter mobilization are shown on Figure 3a through Figure 3e.

The borings would be drilled within and close to the footprint of the proposed dam, spillway, and outlet tunnel, at core zone material and shell zone material borrow areas, on landslides upstream of the proposed dam site, along the conveyance pipeline alignment and pump station footprint, along the proposed access/frontage road alignment, in lake sediments occurring within the bottom of the existing Pacheco Reservoir, at the proposed bridge crossings adjacent to North Fork Pacheco Creek, and at the proposed overpass structure location within the SR-152 right-of-way.

As many as four types of drilling methods would be used to advance the borings to include: HQ-3 rock core drilling, hollow stem auger drilling, auger/rotary wash drilling, and possibly vibracore

barge borings if the reservoir is not drained. Multiple methods may be used to advance a single boring (e.g., hollow stem auger in dry portion of soil, rotary wash in saturated portion of soil, and HQ-3 rock coring in rock).

The proposed borings would be no larger than 6 inches in diameter and samples removed during drilling would be saved and stored onsite for review and laboratory testing. Boring locations have been preferentially located on existing dirt roads or previously disturbed areas where possible. Additional information on the proposed boring activity areas is illustrated on Figure 3a through Figure 3e.

An additional 30 supplemental borings have been placed at specific locations within the proposed Project area, as illustrated on Figure 3a through Figure 3e. If implemented, the location of these specific borings may be shifted within the work activity area depending upon the results of initial boring efforts, the need to address subsurface data gaps (e.g., evidence of geological discontinuities in material type, depth to bedrock, etc.), and to address comments from regulatory agencies. In the event that one or more supplemental borings would require adjustments extending beyond the 100-foot diameter work activity area boundary, a reevaluation of each of those activity areas would be conducted to determine what level of additional CEQA review may be necessary, along with the subsequent approval by Valley Water prior to implementing any activities located beyond the specific activity area boundaries.

Exploratory Boring Access and Ground Disturbance

Most borings would be drilled using portable drill rigs that would either be towed into place on trailers or would be flown into place via helicopter in steeper terrain. Some borings would be drilled with a track-mounted all-terrain or truck mounted drill rig with an average width of about 10 feet. The borings located on the existing site access road for the new construction access road and for the conveyance pipeline can be drilled with a truck-mounted or all-terrain track-mounted drill rig. Borings drilled downstream of North Fork Dam for the conveyance pipeline, and within the inundation area of the existing reservoir rim to sample the lake sediments and install piezometers, would be drilled with an all-terrain track-mounted drill rig. Borings within the reservoir (if inundated) would be drilled with a barge-based drill rig.

Helicopter-Access Borings

A helicopter using a retractable Kevlar line would transport materials necessary for constructing the temporary drilling platforms, drilling equipment, supplies, and drilling water. Typically, it would take 9 to 12 helicopter trips to transport platform materials and equipment back and forth initially from the northern staging area (see Figure 3b) to an activity site. A similar number of helicopter trips would be needed for removal and transport from one activity site to a subsequent activity site. (i.e., equipment and supplies are flown from one activity site to the next activity site without returning them to the staging area.) There would be a total of 64 (46 initial and 18 supplemental) helicopter-mobilized borings that would require limited hand contouring with picks and shovels and clearing of brush and trimming or cutting of trees to allow the placement of the temporary drilling platforms, approximately 15 feet x 15 feet in plan dimension.

Site Access

Equipment, vehicles, and materials would be temporarily staged at designated staging/storage locations to include SS-1 (PPWD storage area), SS-2 (northern staging/storage area), and the temporary helicopter landing zone (see Figures 3b and 3d). Equipment use would be planned to optimize onsite staging and reduce offsite traffic and travel. Workers in remote areas would be provided necessary onsite amenities (e.g., solid waste and sanitary facilities). Carpooling would be encouraged. Crew vehicles would access the Proposed Project study area six days a week over the duration of the Proposed Project. Flaggers, cones, and other measures would be used to control the flow of traffic near active roadways where necessary.

TOPICS TO BE ANALYZED IN THE EIR

Valley Water released a Draft Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) for public review and comment on June 17, 2024. The Draft IS/MND is available via written request from Valley Water. In consideration of the comments received on the Draft IS/MND, Valley Water has elected to prepare an EIR for the Proposed Project. During preparation of the Draft EIR, Valley Water will consider comments received on the Draft IS/MND when assessing the Proposed Project's potentially significant effects on the environment, to identify feasible mitigation measures to reduce or eliminate any significant environmental impacts, and to identify potentially feasible alternatives to the Proposed Project to be analyzed in the EIR.

Consistent with Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines, resource topics to be analyzed in the EIR include, but are not limited to, the topics below:

- **Aesthetics:** The EIR will evaluate whether the Proposed Project would have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista, substantially damage scenic resources, substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings, or if the Proposed Project would create a new source of substantial light or glare that would adversely affect day or nighttime views.
- **Agriculture/Forestry Resources:** The EIR will evaluate whether the Proposed Project would convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance to non-agricultural use, conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract, conflict with existing zoning or cause the rezoning of forest land or timberland. The EIR will also evaluate any loss of forest land or the conversion of forest land to non-forest use, or the conversion of farmland and/or forestland to non-agricultural/non forest use resulting from other changes in the existing environment.
- **Air Quality:** The EIR will evaluate whether the Proposed Project would conflict with or obstruct implementation of applicable air quality plan, result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutants under non-attainment for the region, expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations, and result in other emissions affecting a substantial number of people.
- **Biological Resources:** The EIR will evaluate the potential for the Proposed Project to result in significant impacts on biological resources, including potential impacts on wetlands, special status species and sensitive natural communities, impacts to wildlife movement,

conflict with any local plans, policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, and potential conflicts with any regional biological resource protection plans and policies.

- **Cultural Resources:** The EIR will evaluate any adverse changes in the significance of a historical resource, substantial adverse changes in the significance of an archaeological resource, and disturbance to any human remains including those interred outside of formal cemeteries.
- **Energy:** The EIR will evaluate potentially significant environmental Project impacts due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, and whether the Proposed Project would conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency.
- **Geology and Soils:** The EIR will evaluate whether the Proposed Project would directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving rupture of a known earthquake fault, strong seismic ground shaking, seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction, or landslides. The EIR will also evaluate substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil, evaluate if the Proposed Project would be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, would result in on- or off-site landslides, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse, evaluate if the Project would be located on expansive soils, or have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems where sewers are not available for disposal. The EIR will also evaluate direct or indirect impacts to paleontological resources.
- **Greenhouse Gas Emissions:** The EIR will evaluate whether the Proposed Project would generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment, and whether the Proposed Project would conflict with an applicable plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases.
- **Hazards and Hazardous Materials:** The EIR will evaluate whether the use, transport, or disposal of hazardous materials could create a significant hazard to the public or environment, or whether the Proposed Project site is included on a list of hazardous materials sites, which could also create a significant hazard to the public or environment. The EIR would also evaluate whether the Proposed Project would impair implementation of, or interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan. In addition, the EIR would evaluate whether the Proposed Project would expose people or structure to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires.
- **Hydrology and Water Quality:** The EIR will evaluate whether the Proposed Project would violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements, or degrade surface or groundwater quality. In addition, the EIR will evaluate any substantial decrease in groundwater supplies, and interference with groundwater recharge that may impede sustainable groundwater management. Any substantial alteration of existing drainage patterns of the site or area through the addition of impervious surfaces that could result in substantial erosion or siltation will be evaluated in the EIR. The EIR will also evaluate any substantial increase in the amount of runoff water that would exceed the capacity of

existing or planned stormwater systems, or the generation of substantial additional polluted runoff, or if the Proposed Project would impede or redirect flood flows. The EIR will also evaluate any flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, and risk associated with the release of pollutants due to inundation. And finally, the EIR will evaluate whether the Proposed Project would conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan.

- **Land Use and Planning:** The EIR will evaluate whether the Proposed Project would physically divide an established community, or cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purposes of avoiding or mitigating and environmental effect.
- **Mineral Resources:** The EIR will evaluate whether the Proposed Project would result in the loss of availability of a know mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state, and whether the Proposed Project would result in the loss of availability of a locally-important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan, or other land use plan.
- **Noise:** The EIR will analyze whether temporary increase in ambient noise generated by the Project would be in excess of standards established by Santa Clara County. In addition, the EIR will analyze the potential generation of excessive groundborne vibration and noise.
- **Population and Housing:** The EIR will evaluate whether the Proposed Project would induce substantial unplanned population growth in an area either directly or indirectly, and whether the Proposed Project would displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere.
- **Public Services:** The EIR will evaluate whether the Proposed Project would result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities or need for new or physical altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives for fire and police protection, schools, parks, and other public facilities.
- **Recreation:** The EIR will evaluate whether the Proposed Project would result in an increase in the use of neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities resulting in substantial physical deterioration of the facility. In addition, the EIR will discuss whether the Proposed Project would include recreational facilities, or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities that could have an adverse physical effect on the environment.
- **Transportation:** The EIR will describe the transportation and circulation impacts of the Project and evaluate the potential for significant impacts. This section of the EIR will identify conflicts with programs, plans or policies addressing the circulation system. The EIR will also evaluate any increased hazards due to geometric design features (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) and inadequate emergency access. Also, the EIR will evaluate the temporary increase in vehicle traffic from the Proposed Project.

- **Tribal Cultural Resources:** The EIR will evaluate whether the Proposed Project would result in a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource defined as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe. In addition, a resource that is listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code Section 5020.1(k), or a resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in Subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1, Valley Water will consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe.
- **Utilities and Service Systems:** The EIR will evaluate whether the Proposed Project would result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or stormwater drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects. Whether the Proposed Project would have sufficient water supplies available to serve the Proposed Project during normal, dry and multiple dry years. The EIR would also evaluate whether the Proposed Project would 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. Also, the EIR will discuss whether the Proposed Project would comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste.
- **Wildfire:** The EIR will evaluate project impacts to an emergency response plan or evacuation plan, any potential increase in wildfire risks, the installation or maintenance of any required associated infrastructure that could exacerbate fire risk, and impacts to people or structures associated with downslope or downstream flooding or landslides as a result of runoff, postfire instability, or drainage changes.

The EIR will also address cumulative impacts, growth-inducing impacts, and other issues required by CEQA. In addition, the EIR will propose feasible mitigation measures to reduce any significant impacts and examine a reasonable range of alternatives to the Proposed Project, including the CEQA-mandated No Project Alternative. Responses received to this NOP may modify or add to the preliminary assessment topics to be addressed in the EIR.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW PROCEDURES

This NOP initiates the CEQA process through which Valley Water will refine the range of issues and project alternatives to be addressed in the Draft EIR. Comments are invited on the scope and content of issues to be included in the Draft EIR.

Please submit any comments within 30 days of receipt of this notice to Todd Sexauer, Valley Water's Senior Environmental Planner for the Proposed Project, at the Santa Clara Valley Water District (see Contact Information below). In conjunction with the 30-day review period for the NOP, Valley Water will hold a scoping meeting to provide an additional opportunity to learn about the project, ask questions, and provide comments about the scope and content of the information

to be addressed in the draft EIR. A virtual public scoping meeting will be held from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, October 17, 2024, online via Zoom at: <https://valleywater.zoom.us/j/89467238853>. Webinar ID: 89467238853, or by phone at (669) 900-9128.

After the 30-day review period for the NOP is complete and all comments are received, a Draft EIR will be prepared in accordance with CEQA (Public Resources Code §21000 et seq.), and the CEQA Guidelines (CCR §15000 et seq.).

Once the Draft EIR is completed, it will be made available for a 45-day public review and comment period. Electronic copies of the Draft EIR will be sent to the state clearinghouse for distribution to responsible agencies and trustee agencies. In addition, hard copies of the Draft EIR will also be made available to the public at several locations, including Valley Water headquarters and public libraries in the area. The Draft EIR and information about availability of the Draft EIR will also be posted on Valley Water's website: <https://www.valleywater.org/public-review-documents>.

CONTACT INFORMATION

For further information, contact the following:

Todd Sexauer, Environmental Planner
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San Jose, CA 95118-3614
(408) 630-3149
Email: Tsexauer@valleywater.org
Subject Line: DLGI Scoping Comments

Additional information relevant to the project and the EIR can also be found at <http://www.valleywater.org>.

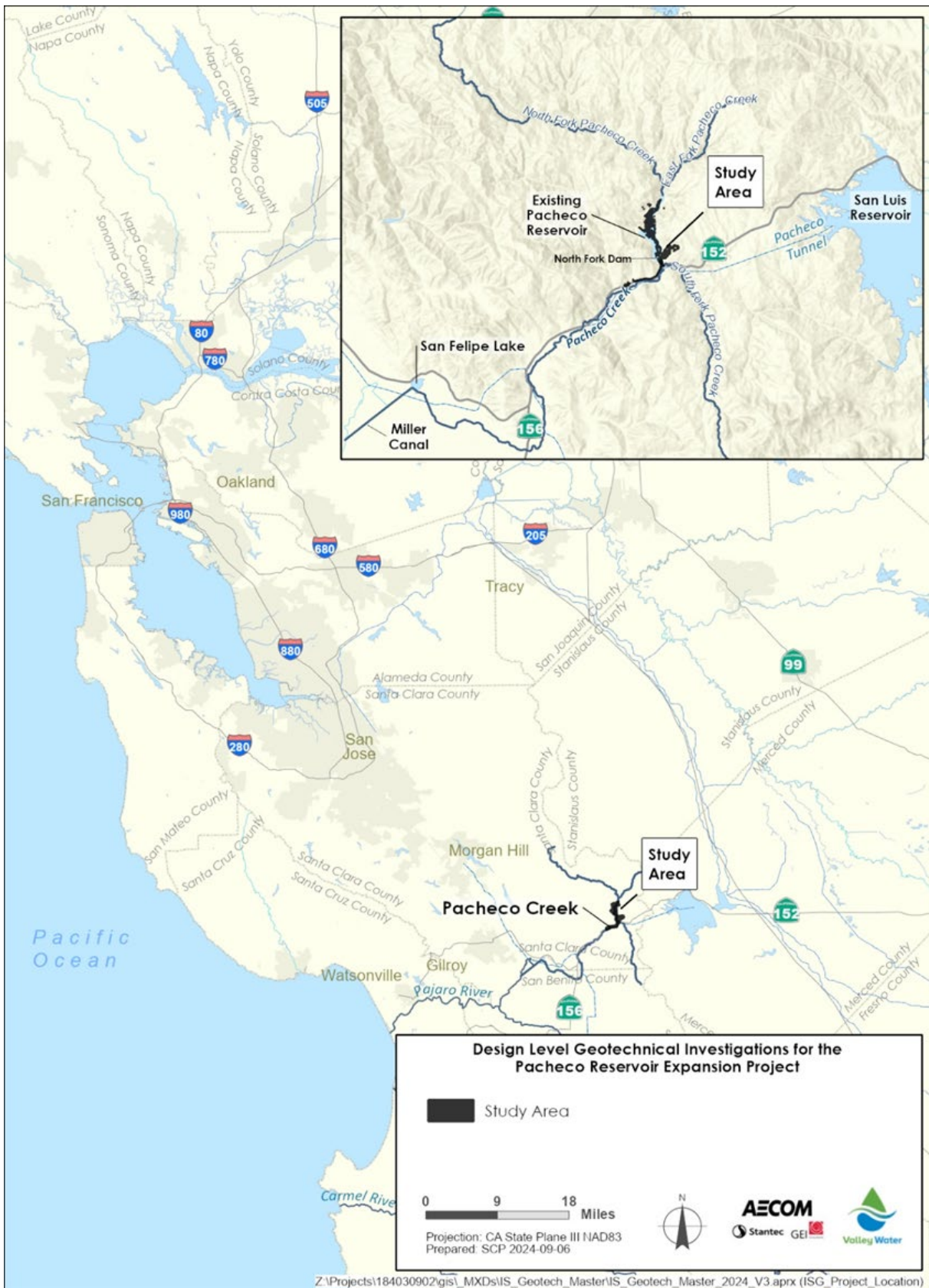


Figure 1: Project Location Map

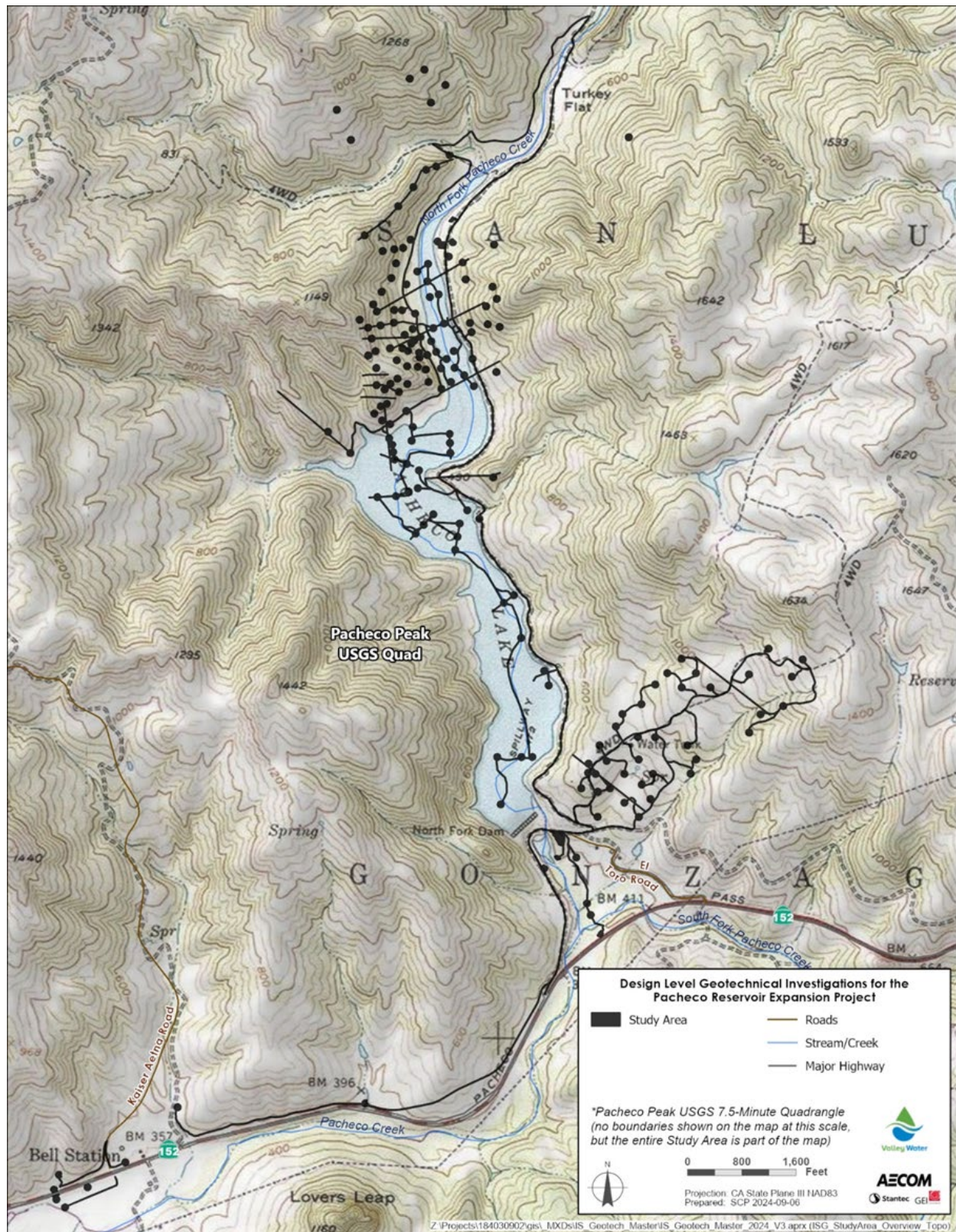


Figure 2: Project Vicinity Map

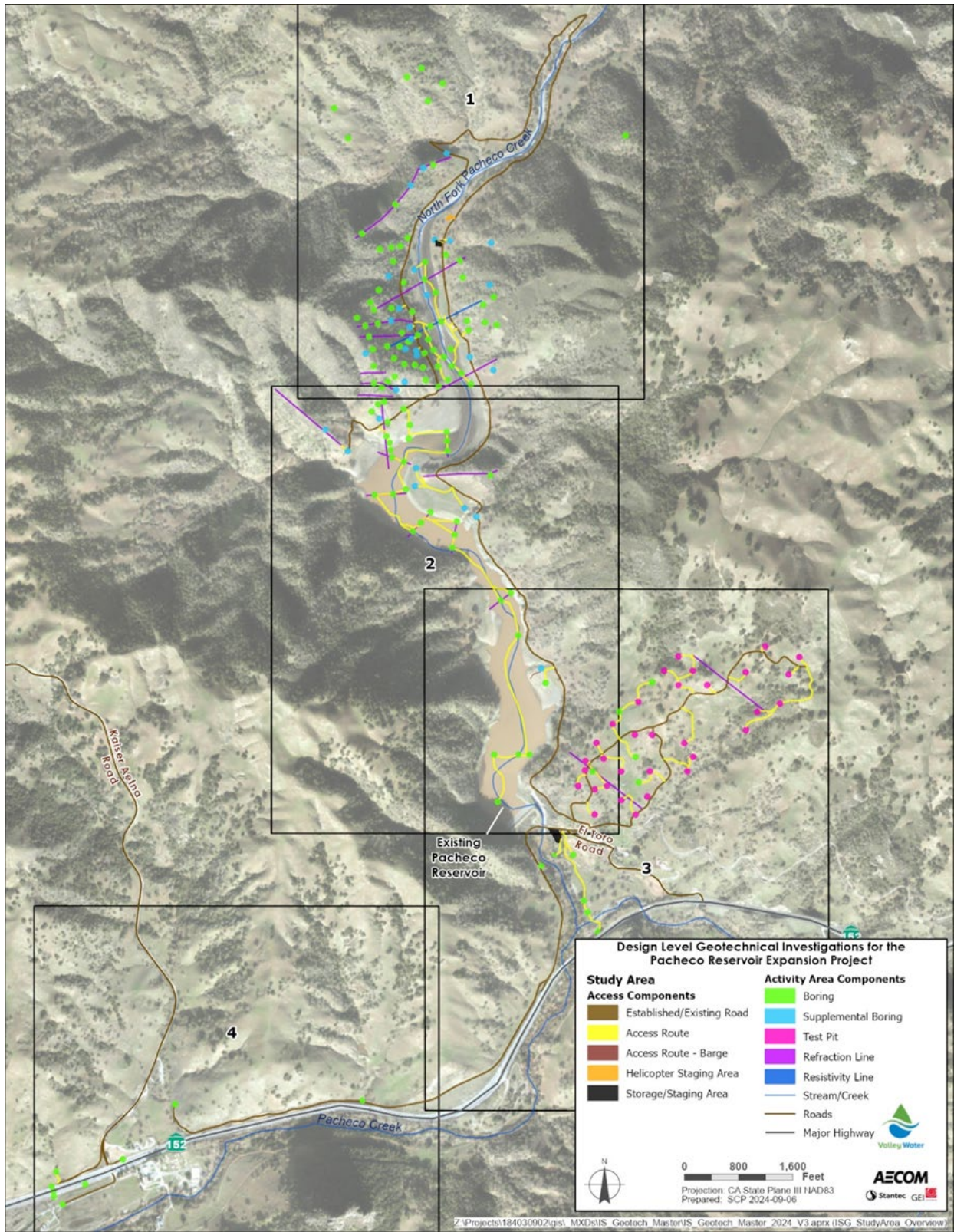


Figure 3a: Project Study Area Map (Index)

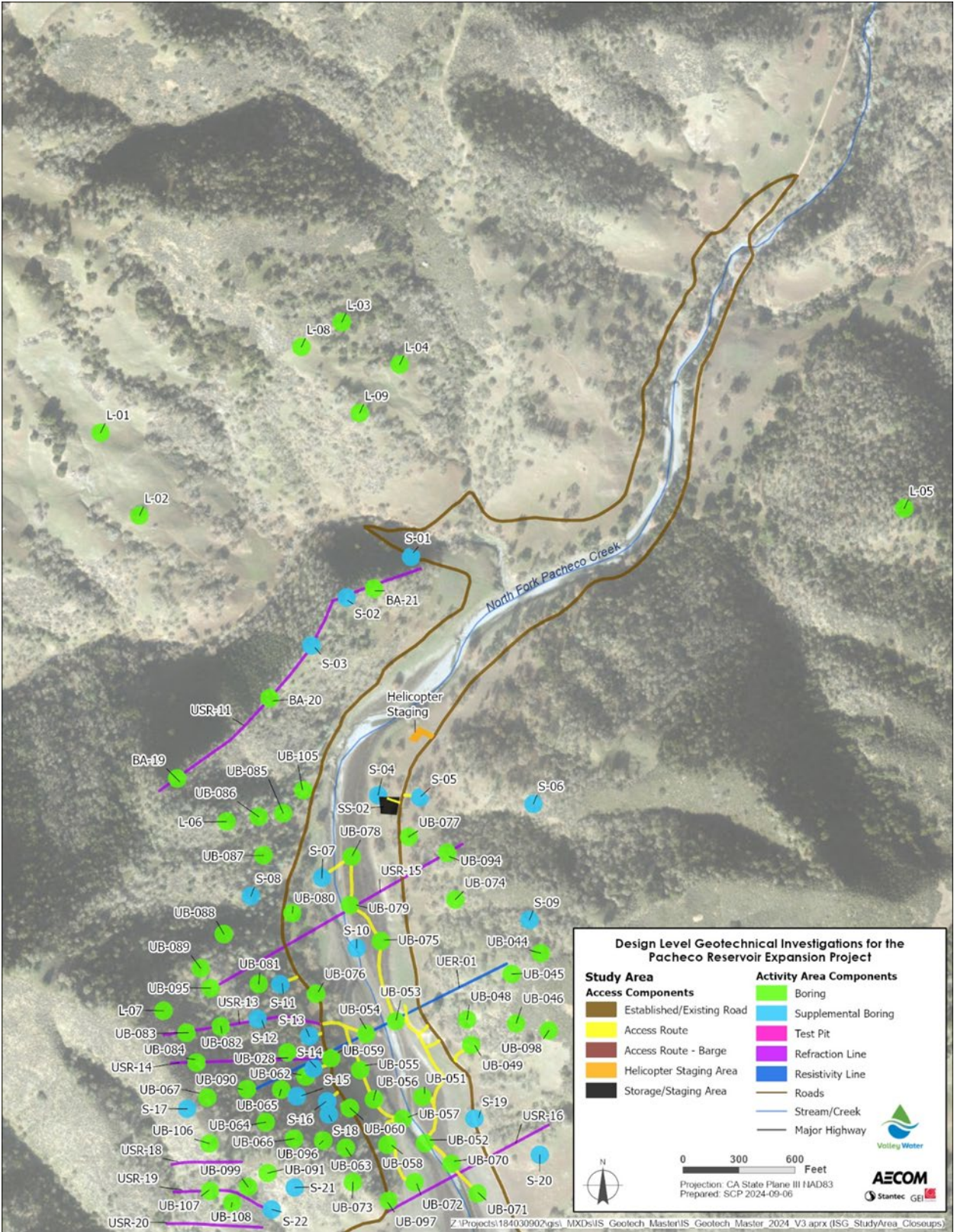
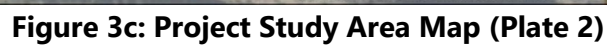
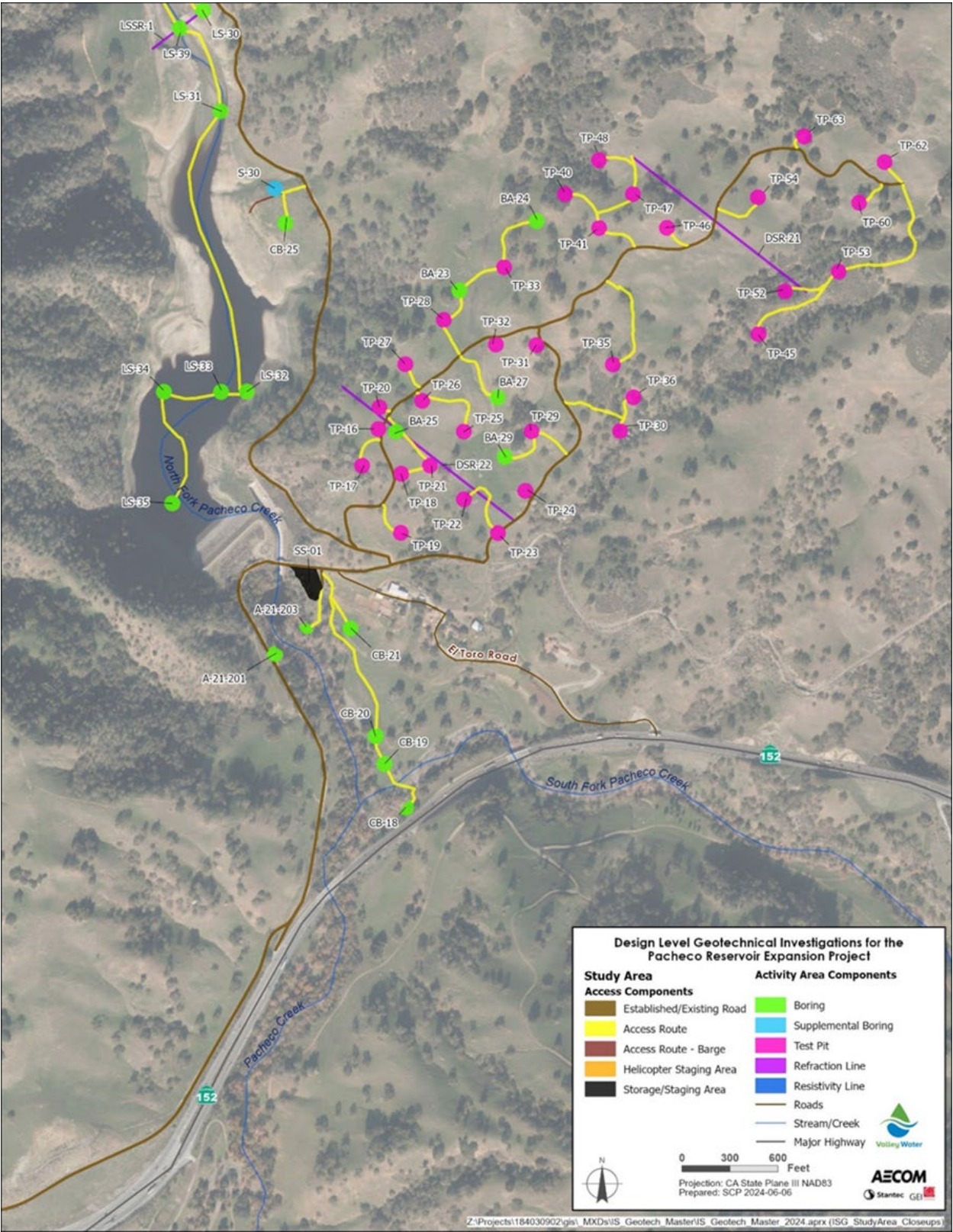


Figure 3b: Project Study Area Map (Plate 1)





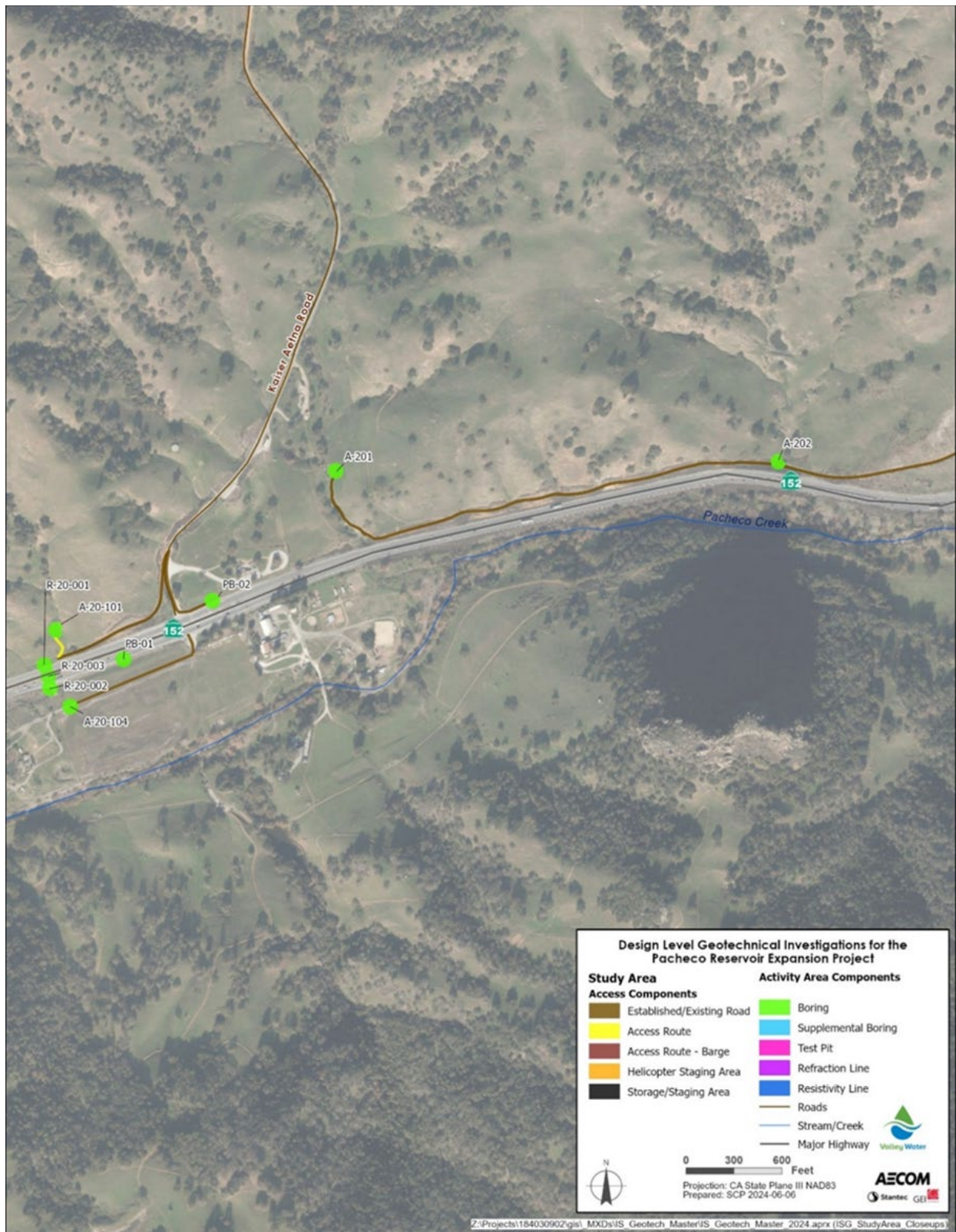


Figure 3e: Project Study Area Map (Plate 4)