

2024-00306

FILED

August 27, 2024

KRISTIN B. CONNELLY

CLERK-RECORDER

By



A. Barton
Deputy Clerk

Space above reserved for Filing Information

Environmental Filing

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

TO: Contra Costa County
County Recorder
555 Escobar Street
Martinez, CA 94553

From: Contra Costa Water District (CCWD)
P.O. Box H20
Concord, CA 94524
925-688-8000
Lead Agency/Applicant
Filing Agency

PROJECT TITLE: CCWD Vegetation Management for Fire Resilience 2024-2025

PROJECT LOCATION: This project is located within U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) and Contra Costa Water District (CCWD) right-of-way within Contra Costa County. There are nine project sites in total. Seven of the sites are located within Reclamation right-of-way: Sites 1-4 span across a portion of the Contra Costa Canal in the City of Oakley, Site 5 spans a portion of the Clayton Canal in the City of Concord, Site 6 spans a portion of the Ygnacio Canal in the City of Walnut Creek, and Site 7 spans a portion of the Loop Canal in the cities of Concord and Walnut Creek. Two of the sites are within CCWD right-of-way on Los Vaqueros Watershed mitigation properties (conservation lands) owned by CCWD: Site 8 is located at the Deer Valley West property in the City of Brentwood and Site 9 is located at the Deer Valley East property in the City of Brentwood and unincorporated Contra Costa County. See Figure 1 for a vicinity map of the project locations.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The purpose of this project is to perform various vegetation management activities to reduce fuel loads within Reclamation and CCWD's right-of-way and increase wildfire resilience. The project sites are located adjacent to residential homes and publicly accessible recreation areas along the Contra Costa Canal or near conservation lands in eastern Contra Costa County, where fuel loads pose an increased risk of fire to the public. CCWD is planning to partner with Civicorps through the Nature-based Solutions Grant Program administered by the California Conservation Corps. Under the program, Civicorps crews would be contracted to perform the work. Project activities at each of the nine project sites include mowing, weed eating and abatement, brush removal, and pruning/trimming trees. The nine project sites are:

Site #	Site Name	Site Coordinates	Approximate Acreage of Work
1	Rock Slough to Pumping Plant 1	Start: 37.977434, -121.642607 End: 37.995718, -121.700886	35.65 acres
2	Pumping Plant 1 to Pumping Plant 2	Start: 37.995466, -121.702009 End: 37.987724, -121.710073	5.91 acres

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Site #	Site Name	Site Coordinates	Approximate Acreage of Work
3	Pumping Plant 2 to Pumping Plant 3	Start: 37.987608, -121.710162 End: 37.983460, -121.7286884	7.10 acres
4	Pumping Plant 3 to Pumping Plant 4	Start: 37.983666, -121.728969 End: 37.9834473, -121.7428809	5.40 acres
5	Clayton Canal	Start: 37.9763352, -121.9812115 End: 37.9674816, -121.9922778	5.50 acres
6	Ygnacio Canal	Start: 37.929883, -122.004527 End: 37.9121720, -122.0363182	13.06 acres
7	Loop Canal	Start: 37.9399875, -122.0110260 End: 37.9299354, -122.0345673	9.99 acres
8	Deer Valley West	Start: 37.9144534, -121.7689296 End: 37.9179615, -121.7786731	6.66
9	Deer Valley East	Start: 37.9082526, -121.7511076 End: 37.9110074, -121.7511653	1.14

The work proposed under this project is consistent with routine maintenance activities covered by CCWD's existing maintenance permits. Maintenance activities occurring along the Contra Costa Canal on U.S. Bureau of Reclamation lands is covered by the Programmatic Biological Opinion (PBO) on Operations and Maintenance occurring on Central Valley Project Facilities issued by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) in 2005. At the Los Vaqueros Watershed Conservation Lands, operations and maintenance activities are primarily governed by the PBO on the Los Vaqueros Watershed Long-Term Operations and Maintenance Program issued by the USFWS in 2012 and the California Endangered Species Act (CESA) Incidental Take Permit (ITP) for the Los Vaqueros Reservoir Expansion Project issued by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) in 2011. CCWD will adhere to the environmental commitments required by these permit coverages.

Sites 1-7 are all located adjacent to residential areas as shown in the approximate project footprints for these sites in Attachment A. These sites will be accessed using paved city/county roads. The two sites at the Los Vaqueros Watershed Conservation Lands (Sites 8 and 9) are also located near residential areas or adjacent to public roads (Deer Valley Road). Attachment A also provides approximate project footprints for Sites 8 and 9. Site 8 will be accessed from the existing paved Deer Valley Road and Deer Valley East will be accessed from a dirt access road off of Briones Valley Road.

The project is expected to occur between October 2024 and May 2025. The types of equipment that are expected to be present on site at any one time consists of the following:

- Two (2) utility trucks
- One (1) portable toilet
- Hand tools including weed whackers, blowers, and hedgers

Staging will occur from paved surfaces (roads and parking lots) or existing dirt access roads located within the project footprints of the sites. No excavation, grading, or other land clearing activity is necessary for the project. Tree removal will not occur at any of the project sites.

Environmental Commitments:

CCWD proposes the following conditions at all project sites as measures to protect the environment:

1. CCWD will ensure that a pre-construction survey will be performed by a qualified biologist within 14 days of the proposed construction start date. The focus of this survey will be to determine the presence/absence of nesting birds and other special-status species as necessary.
2. The earthwork contractor shall maintain all equipment or vehicles driven and/or operated in proximity to surface water bodies in good working order to prevent the release of contaminants that if introduced to water could be deleterious to aquatic life, wildlife, or riparian habitat. The earthwork contractor shall fuel and perform maintenance on vehicles and other equipment at least 70 feet from any riparian habitat or water body and will follow CCWD's approved spill prevention plan.
3. All trash will be properly contained, removed from the work site, and disposed of on a daily basis.
4. CCWD will ensure that all raw construction materials, wastes, temporary fences, barriers, and/or flagging are removed and properly disposed of from the Project Area immediately following the completion of construction.
5. The storage and handling of hazardous materials within the Project Sites is prohibited and any unused or leftover hazardous products shall be properly contained and disposed of off-site.

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In addition to these measures above, CCWD also proposes the following conditions for the project sites located within the Los Vaqueros Watershed Conservation Lands:

1. CCWD or its contractors will conduct an environmental clearance on each of the work sites ahead of construction activities that will determine that environmental resources, including but not limited to, burrowing animals, nesting raptors, sensitive plant species and/or plant communities, wetlands, special status reptiles and amphibians, or cultural materials do not occur or have been removed from a given area. If needed, CCWD will delineate habitat of the special-status species around each work area with posted signs, posting stakes, flags, and/or rope or cord, and shall place fencing as necessary to minimize disturbance of habitat. CCWD will obtain any necessary environmental permits as required. CCWD will provide a biological monitor as necessary and in the event that a special status species is found at a particular site, work will be halted until the special status species has left the area and all required agencies are notified of the event.
2. CCWD will conduct a worker environmental training program prior to construction for all work sites. This will be done by a qualified biologist, and the program will include species identification, natural history, habitat, and protection methods.

AGENCY APPROVING PROJECT: Contra Costa Water District

AGENCY CARRYING OUT PROJECT: Contra Costa Water District

REASONS WHY PROJECT IS EXEMPT: The purpose of the project is to restore these project sites to conditions prior to the storm event. The project is exempt under the following CEQA Guidelines:

1. Section 15304, which exempts "minor public or private alterations in the condition of land, water, and/or vegetation which do not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees except for forestry or agricultural purposes"

CONTACT PERSON: Matthew Novak, Maintenance Manager, (925)-688-8084

SIGNATURE: *Cody Ericksen*
Cody Ericksen
Associate Planner

DATE: August 27, 2024

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Contra Costa Water District
CCWD Vegetation Management for Fire Resilience

Figures:

1. Vicinity Map

Attachments:

A. Site Project Footprint Maps

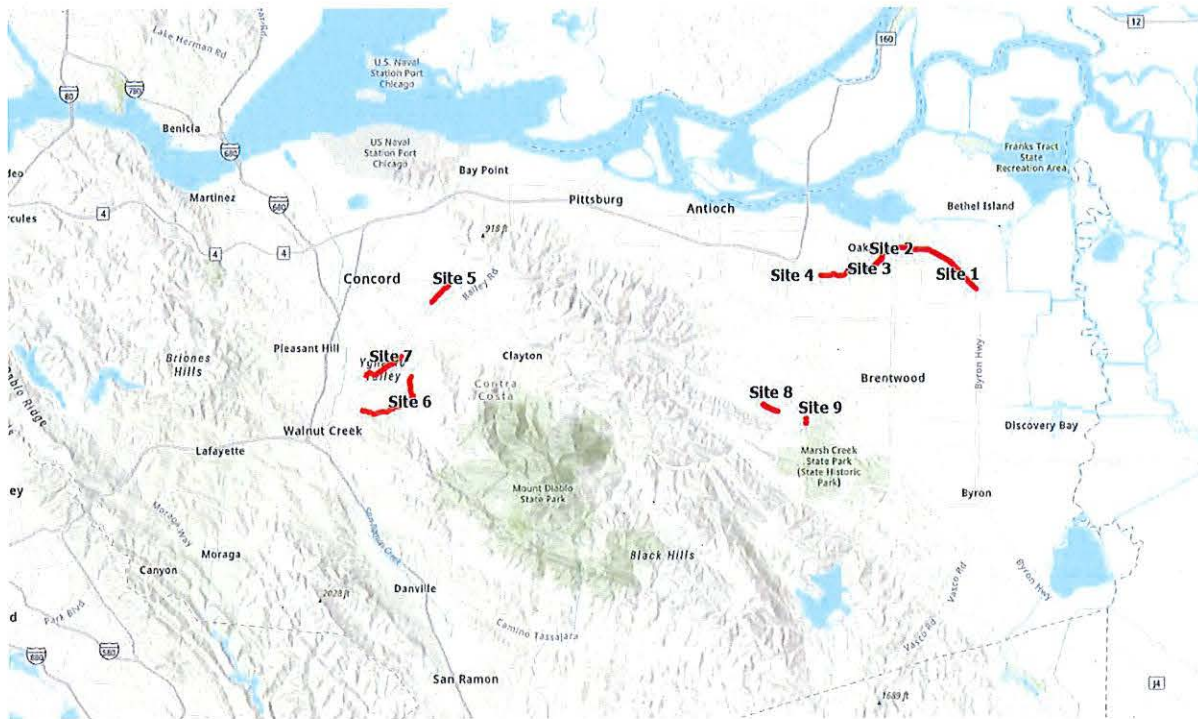


Figure 1. Vicinity Map – Project Sites

Attachment A

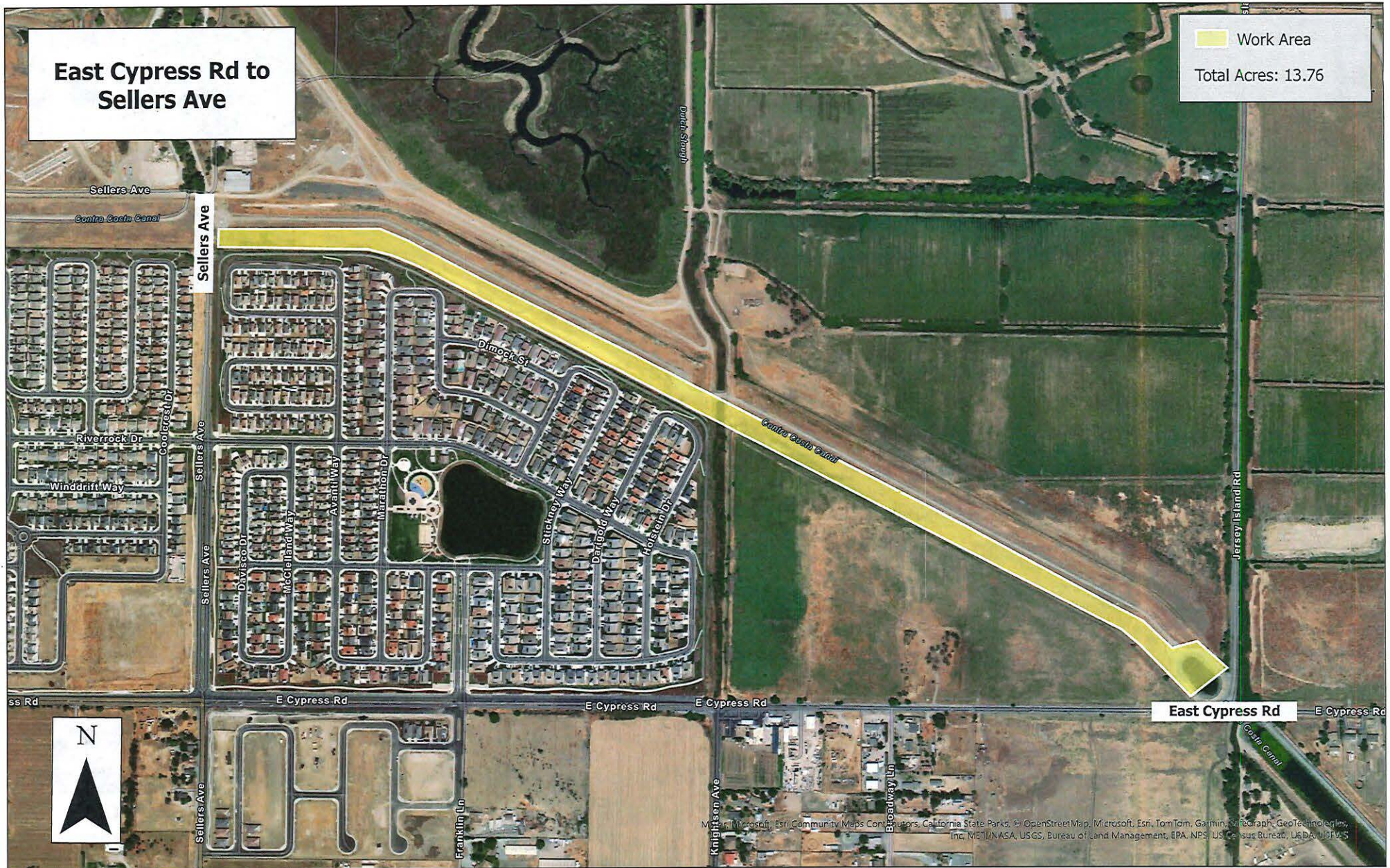
**Site 1
Rock Slough to
Pumping Plant 1**

35.65 Acres



East Cypress Rd to Sellers Ave

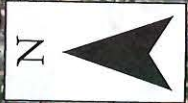
Work Area
Total Acres: 13.76



Sellers Ave to Pumping Plant 1

Work Area
Total Acres: 9.05

Pumping
Plant #1
(end)



Site 2
Pumping Plant 1 to
Pumping Plant 2

5.91 Acres

Pumping Plant 1 to Rose Ave

Work Area
Total Acres: 3.71



[illegible][illegible][illegible]

Rose Ave to Pumping Plant #2

Work Area
Total Acres: 2.20

Almond Dr
W Cypress Rd
Christine Ln
Blacalana Dr
Vinewood Dr
Anvilwood Dr
Shadsworth Dr
Rose Ave

Contra Costa Canal

Pumping Plant #2 (end)

Ohara Park
Multi-use Room - GYM - Kitchen
Maintenance

N

Moran MicroStation Community Maps Contributors: California State Parks, OpenStreetMap, M/Tyler, Esri, Intel, Garmin, Google Earth, GeoEye, GeoEye, Inc., USDA/NRCS, USGS, Bureau of Land Management, EPA, NOAA, US Census Bureau, USDA, USFWS.

Site 3
Pumping Plant 2 to
Pumping Plant 3

7.1 Acres

Pumping Plant 2 to O'Hara Ave

Work Area
Total Acres: 1.54

Pumping
Plant #2
(start)



Work Area
Total Acres: 5.56

Work Area
Total Acres: 5.56



Site 4
Pumping Plant 3 to
Pumping Plant 4

5.4 Acres

Pumping Plant 3 to Empire Ave

Work Area
Total Acres: 1.85

Pumping
Plant #3
(start)



Empire Ave to Pumping Plant #4

Work Area
Total Acres: 3.55

Pumping Plant
#4 Entrance
(End)



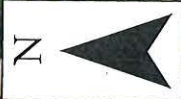
Map by Microsoft, Bing Community Maps Contributors, City of Antioch, California State Parks, © OpenStreetMap, Microsoft, 69° TomTom, Garmin, Satelite, GeoTechnologies, Inc, METI/NASA, USGS, Bureau of Land Management, EPA, NPS, US Census Bureau, USDA, US Army

**Site 5 Clayton
Canal**

5.5 Acres



Work Area
Total Acres: 5.50



Denkinger Rd
(Start)

Clayton Canal -
Beginning of
Denkinger Rd to
Calaveras Dr

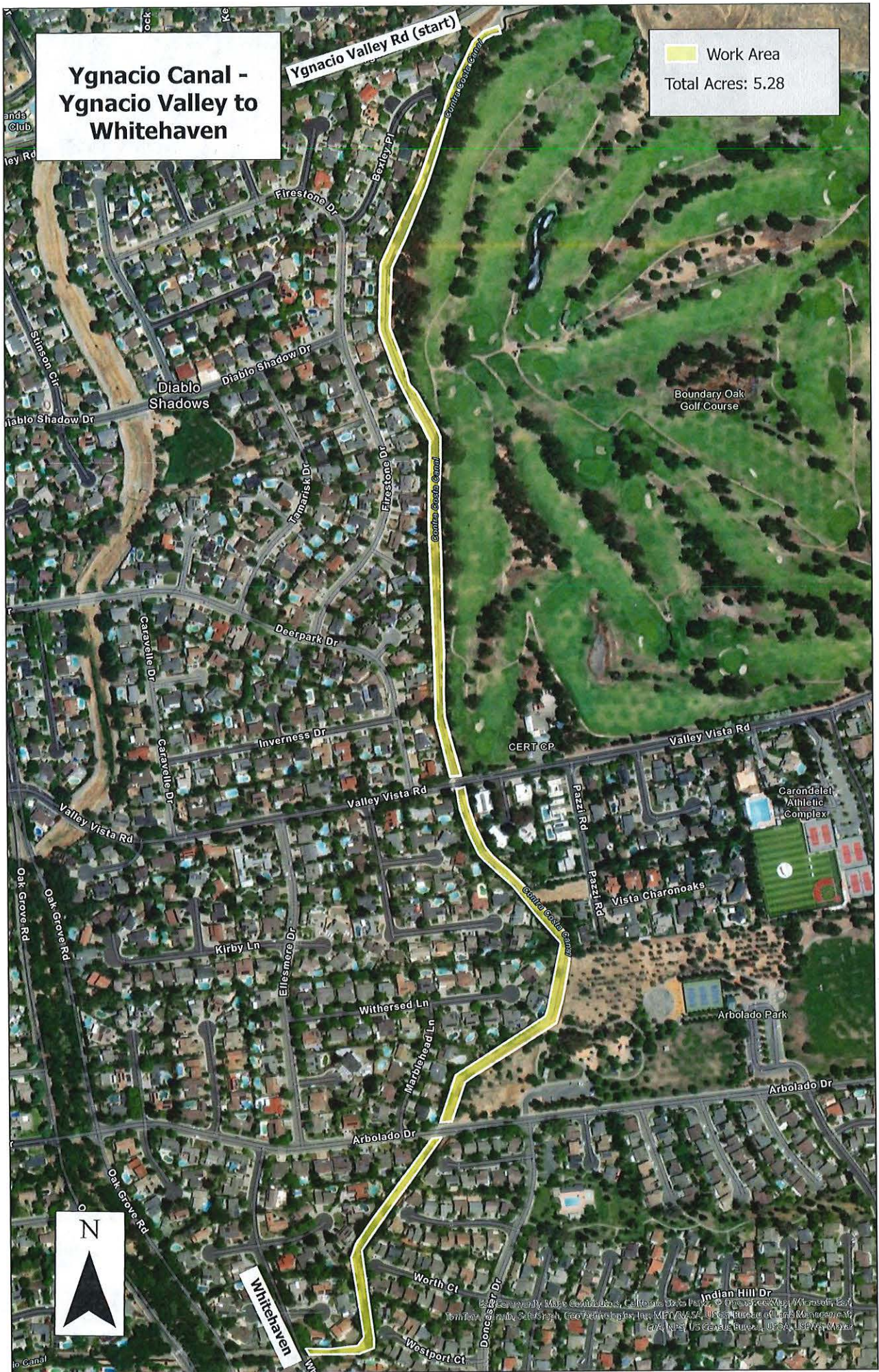
Calaveras Dr
(End)

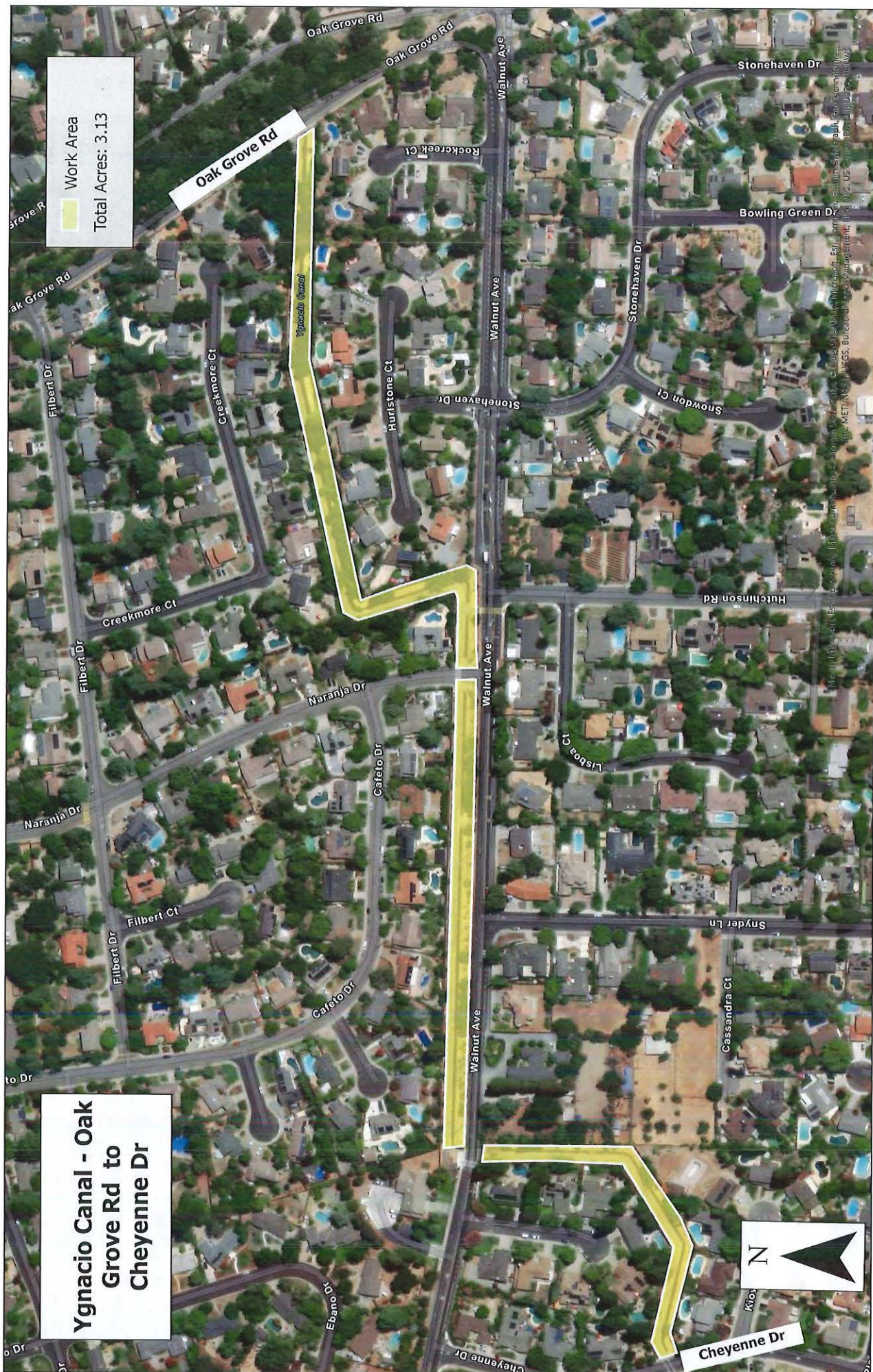
**Site 6 Ygnacio
Canal**

13.06 Acres

Ygnacio Canal - Ygnacio Valley to Whitehaven

Work Area
Total Acres: 5.28







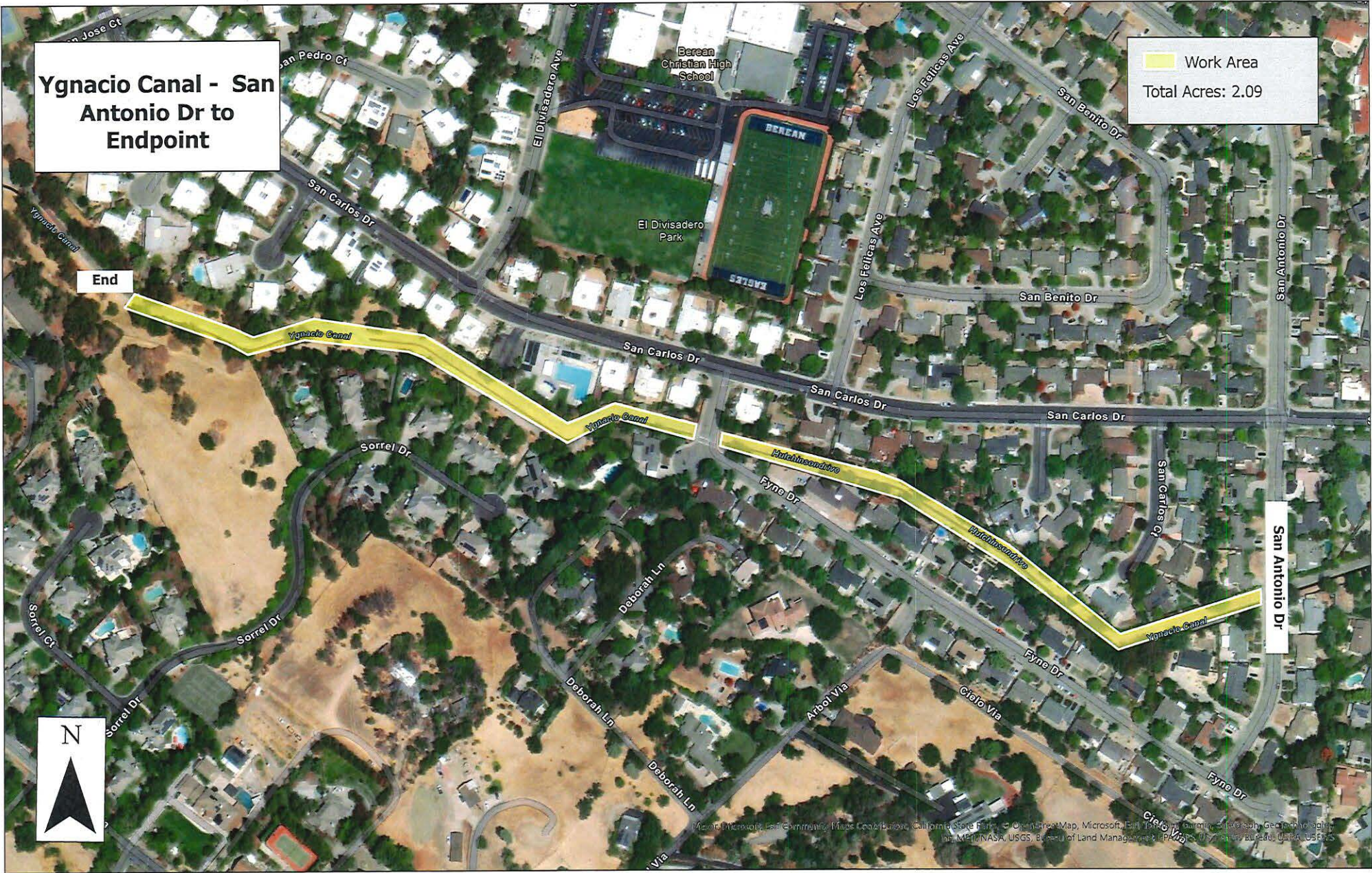
Work Area
Total Acres: 1.60

Ygnacio Canal -
Cheyenne Dr to
Meander Dr



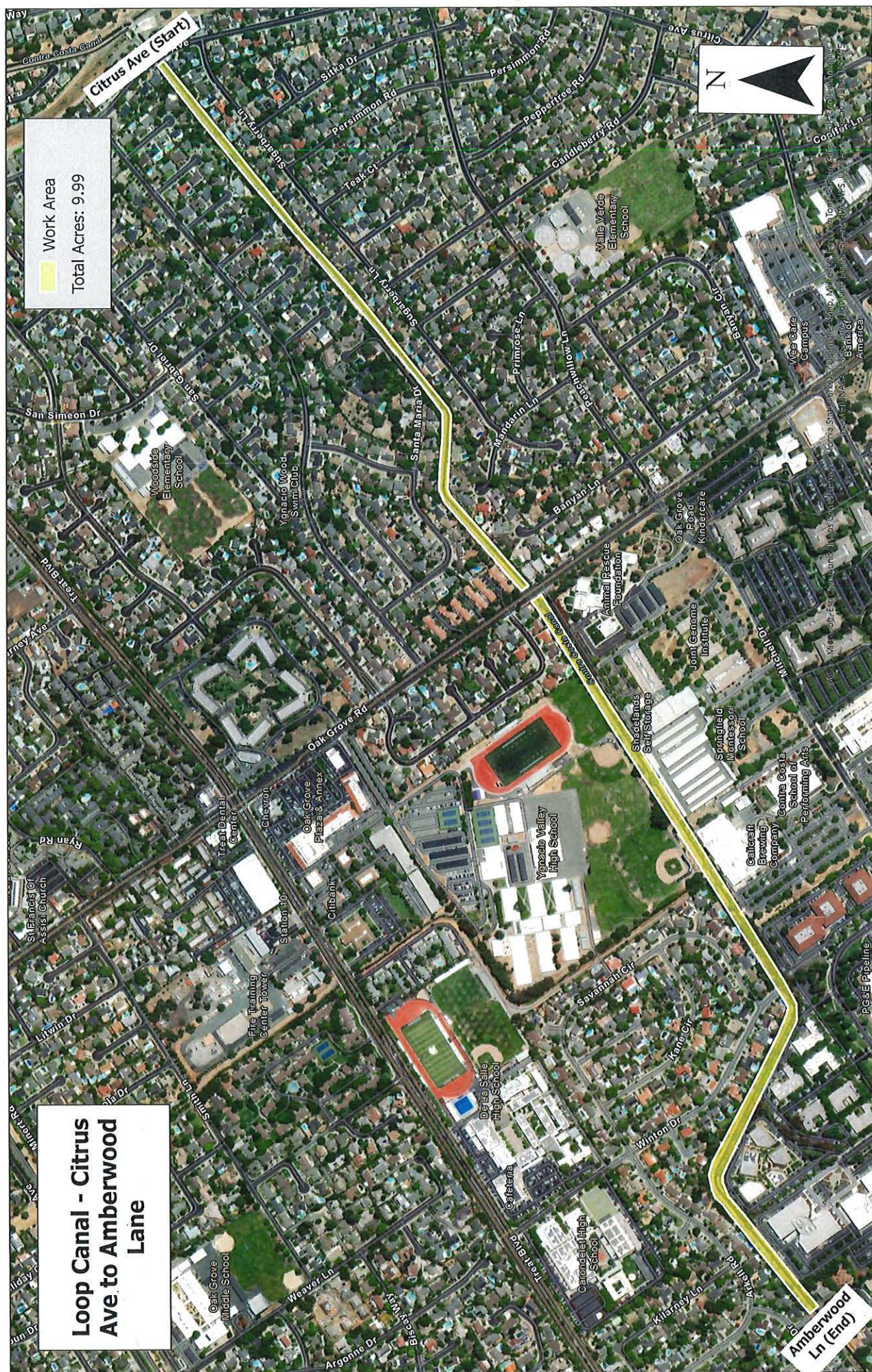
**Ygnacio Canal - San
Antonio Dr to
Endpoint**

Work Area
Total Acres: 2.09



**Site 7 Loop
Canal**

9.99 Acres



Site 8
Deer Valley West
6.66 Acres

Deer Valley West

Work Area
Total Acres: 6.66

End

Start



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Site 9
Deer Valley East

1.14 Acres

Deer Valley East

Work Area
Total Acres: 1.14

End



Start



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Valley Rd

Brio

Kristin B. Connelly
Contra Costa
Clerk-Recorder
555 Escobar Street
Martinez, CA 94553
(925) 335-7900

Public

Finalization No.: 202400079366

Cashier: abarton

Register: WINDOW10

Date/Time: 08/27/2024 12:37 PM

Description	Fee
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NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

Filing Time:	12:37 PM
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Filing Total:	\$50.00
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Filing Fee:	\$50.00
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Total Amount Due:	\$50.00
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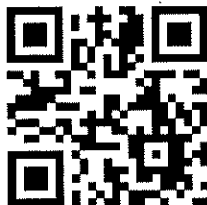
Total Paid

Check Tendered:	\$50.00
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#247596

Amount Due:	\$0.00
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THANK YOU
PLEASE KEEP FOR REFERENCE





State of California - Department of Fish and Wildlife
2024 ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT FILING FEE
CASH RECEIPT
DFW 753.5a (REV. 01/01/24) Previously DFG 753.5a

Print	Start Over	Save
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RECEIPT NUMBER:
07-08/27/2024-306
STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NUMBER (If applicable)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON REVERSE. TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY.

LEAD AGENCY CONTRA COSTA WATER DISTRICT (CCWD)	LEAD AGENCY EMAIL	DATE 08/27/2024
COUNTY/STATE AGENCY OF FILING CONTRA COSTA COUNTY	DOCUMENT NUMBER 2024-00306	
PROJECT TITLE		

CCWD VEGETATION MANAGEMENT FOR FIRE RESILIENCE 2024-2025

PROJECT APPLICANT NAME CONTRA COSTA WATER DISTRICT (CCWD)	PROJECT APPLICANT EMAIL	PHONE NUMBER (925) 688-8000
PROJECT APPLICANT ADDRESS P.O. BOX H20	CITY CONCORD	STATE CA
		ZIP CODE 94524

PROJECT APPLICANT (Check appropriate box)

☒ Local Public Agency ☐ School District ☐ Other Special District ☐ State Agency ☐ Private Entity

CHECK APPLICABLE FEES:

- ☐ Environmental Impact Report (EIR) \$ 4,051.25 \$ _____
☐ Mitigated/Negative Declaration (MND)(ND) \$ 2,916.75 \$ _____
☐ Certified Regulatory Program (CRP) document - payment due directly to CDFW \$ 1,377.25 \$ _____
☒ Exempt from fee
 ☒ Notice of Exemption (attach)
 ☐ CDFW No Effect Determination (attach)
☐ Fee previously paid (attach previously issued cash receipt copy)

☐ Water Right Application or Petition Fee (State Water Resources Control Board only) \$ 850.00 \$ _____
☒ County documentary handling fee \$ 50.00 \$ 50.00
☐ Other \$ _____

PAYMENT METHOD:

☐ Cash ☐ Credit ☒ Check ☐ Other 247596

TOTAL RECEIVED \$ 50.00

SIGNATURE X	AGENCY OF FILING PRINTED NAME AND TITLE Alyssa Barton Deputy Clerk
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P-79366

