Notice of Exemption **Appendix E**

To: Office of Planning and Research
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: Golden State Connect Authority
1215 K Street, Suite 1650
Sacramento, CA 95814

Project Title: GSCA Monterey County Broadband Network

Project Location - Specific: See Attached Map

Project Location - City: N/A

Project Location – County: Monterey

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project: Golden State Connect Authority ("GSCA") will construct and operate open-access, public benefit municipal broadband infrastructure in the project area to provide broadband access to unserved and underserved communities. GSCA will install approximately 83.45 miles of fiber optic lines within the project area. Fiber optic lines will be primarily installed underground in existing conduit on established roadways, avoiding roadway or new surface disturbance wherever feasible. The beneficiaries of the proposed future broadband projects will be the residents and businesses within the project area.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Lead Agency: Golden State Connect Authority

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Lead Agency: Golden State Connect Authority

Exempt Status:

- ☐ Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
- ☐ Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));
- ☐ Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
- ☒ Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: Class 1 (14 CCR § 15301); Class 3 (14 CCR § 15303; Class 4 (14 CCR § 15304)
- ☐ Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____

Reasons why project is exempt: The Lead Agency has determined that the project meets the criteria of the CEQA categorical exemptions found in CEQA Guidelines, 14 C.C.R. § 15301 (Existing Facilities), 14 C.C.R. § 15303 (New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures), and 14 C.C.R § 15304 (Minor Alterations to Land), because: the fiber lines will primarily be installed on existing facilities; the project constitutes a utility extension to serve individual customers; and, construction will require only minor trenching and backfilling within existing right of way and any disturbed surface will be restored. Thus, the entirety of the GSCA Calaveras County Broadband Network is categorically exempt from CEQA.

Lead Agency
Contact Person: Barbara Hayes **Area Code/Telephone/Extension:** (916) 447-4806

If filed by applicant:

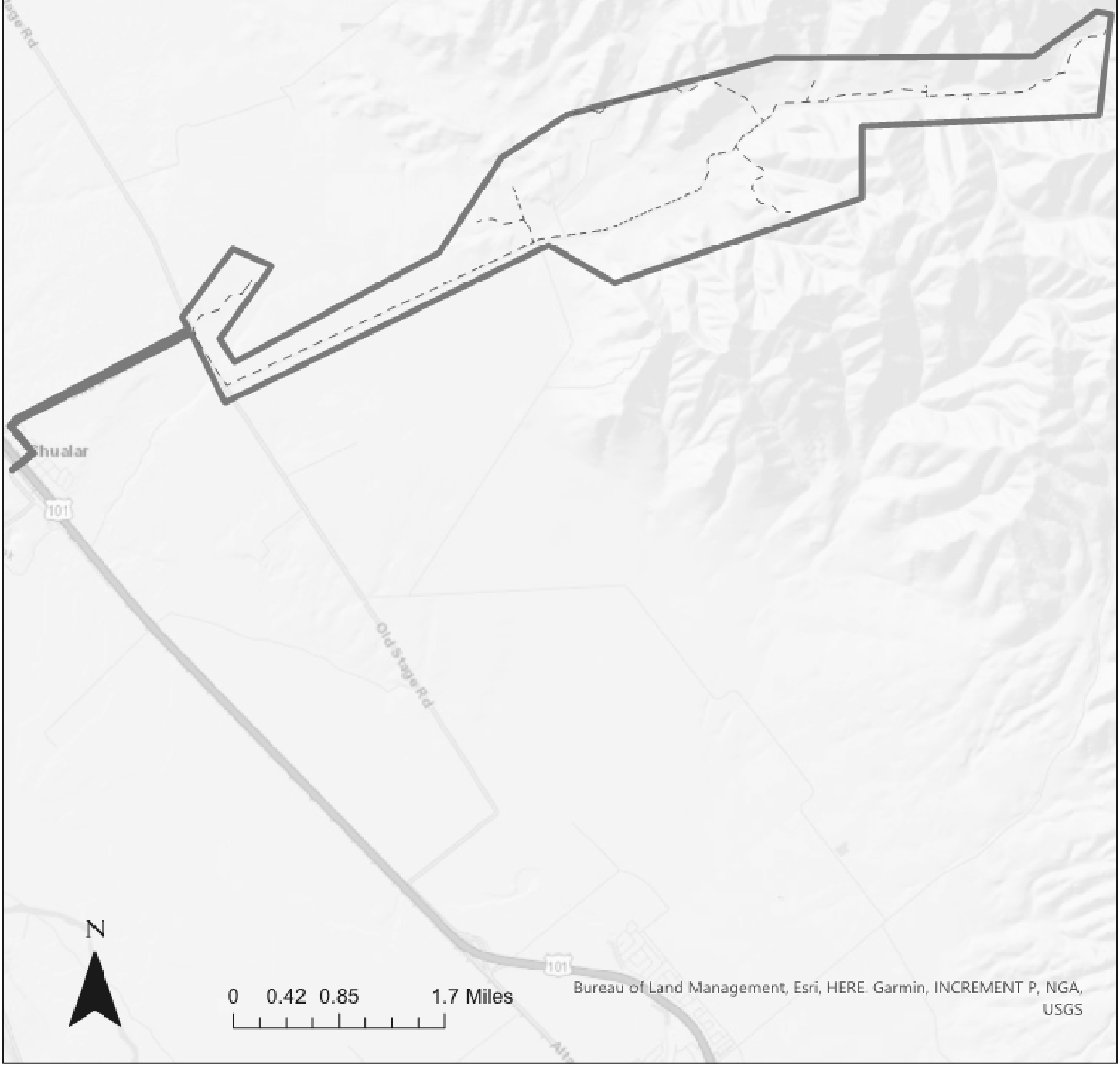
1. Attach certified document of exemption finding.
2. Has a notice of exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Signature: _____ **Date:** 7/14/2025 **Title:** Executive Director

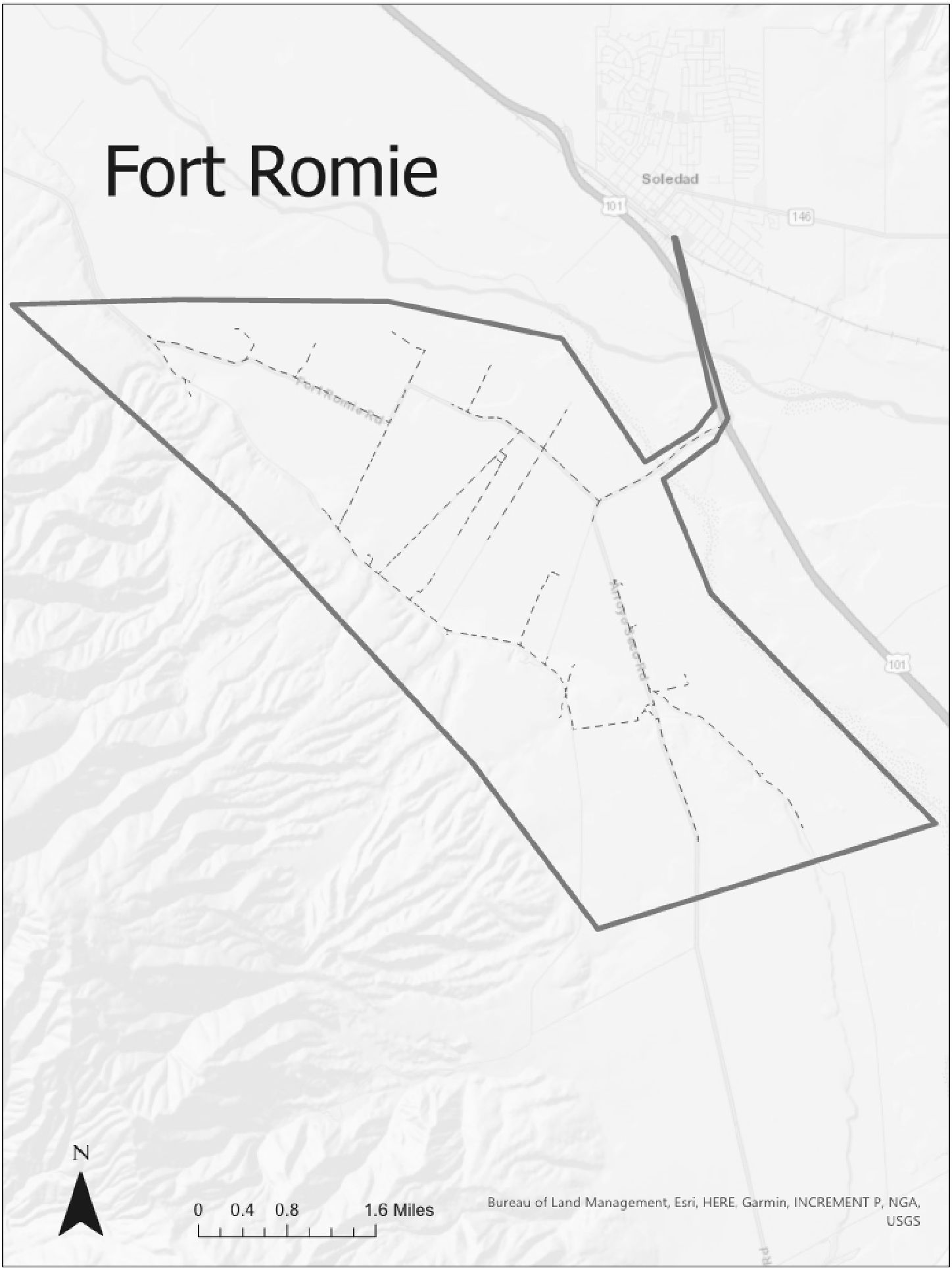
☒ Signed by Lead Agency
☐ Signed by Applicant

Date received for filing at OPR:

Chualar Canyon

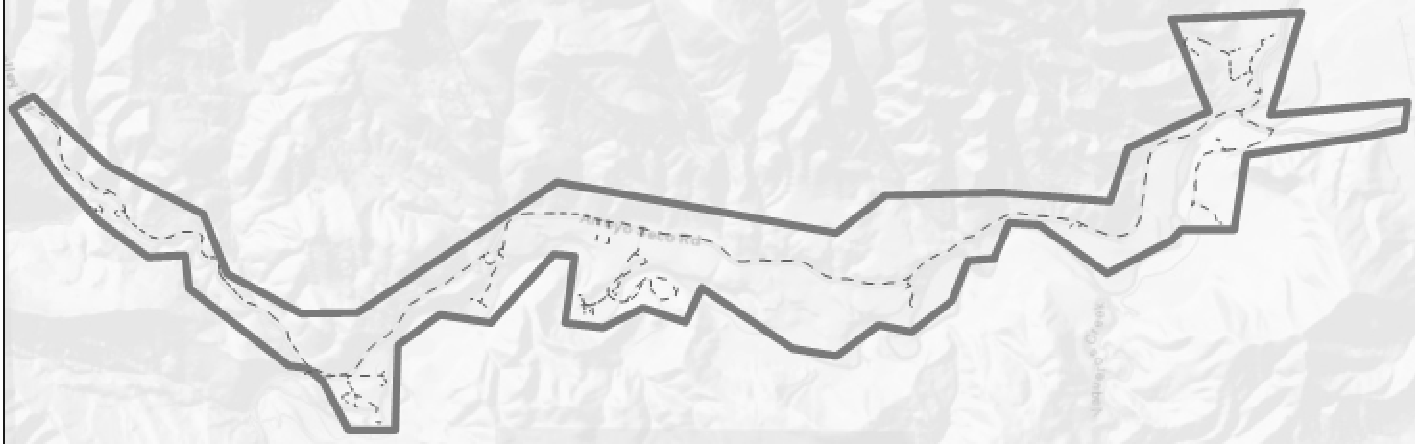


Fort Romie


Soledad
101
146
101
Fort Romie Rd
Arroyo Seco
N
0 0.4 0.8 1.6 Miles
Bureau of Land Management, Esri, HERE, Garmin, INCREMENT P, NGA, USGS

Greenfield
Greenfield
101
N
0 0.35 0.7 1.4 Miles
Bureau of Land Management, Esri, HERE, Garmin, INCREMENT P, NGA, USGS

Greenfield Extension

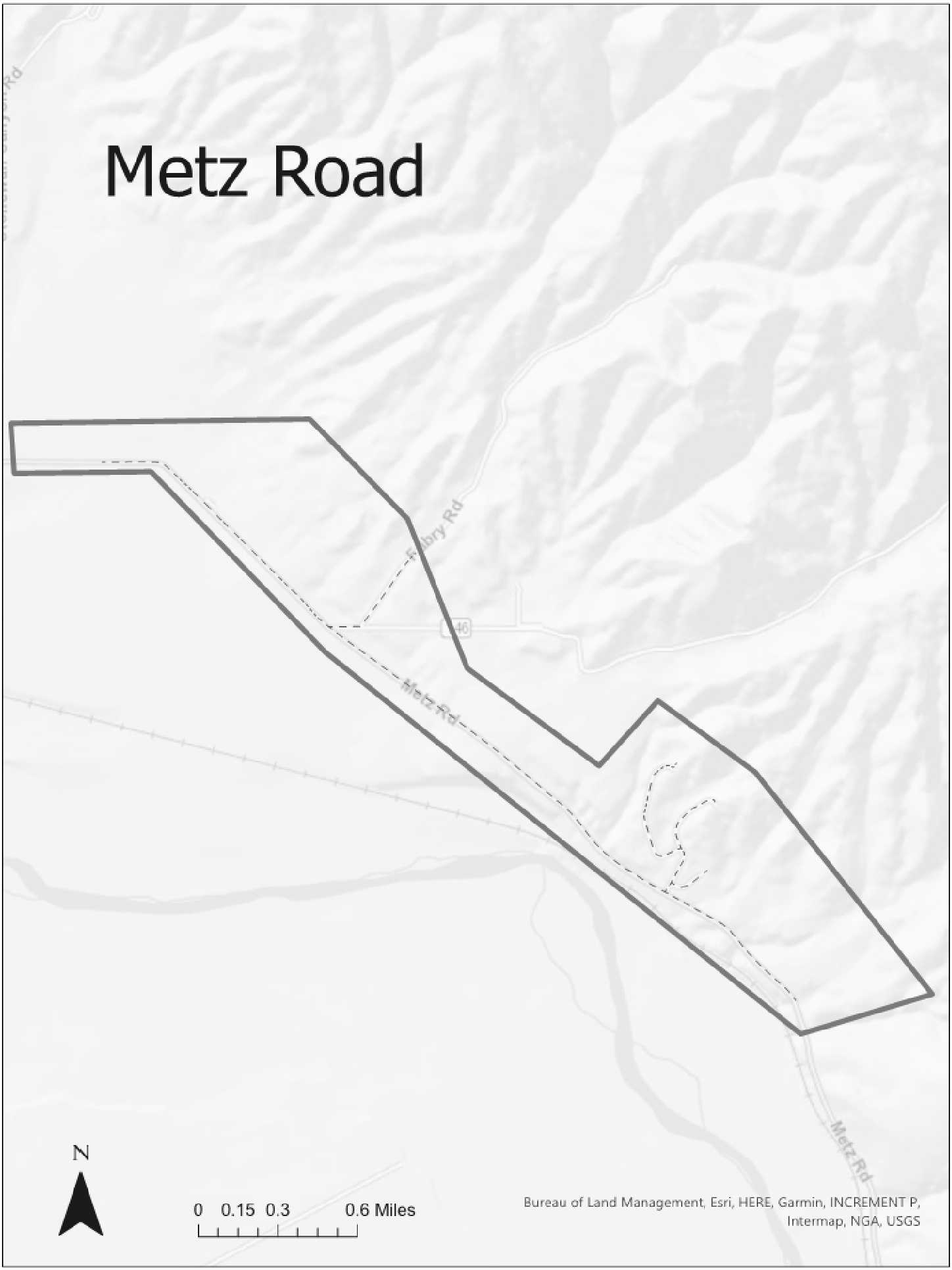


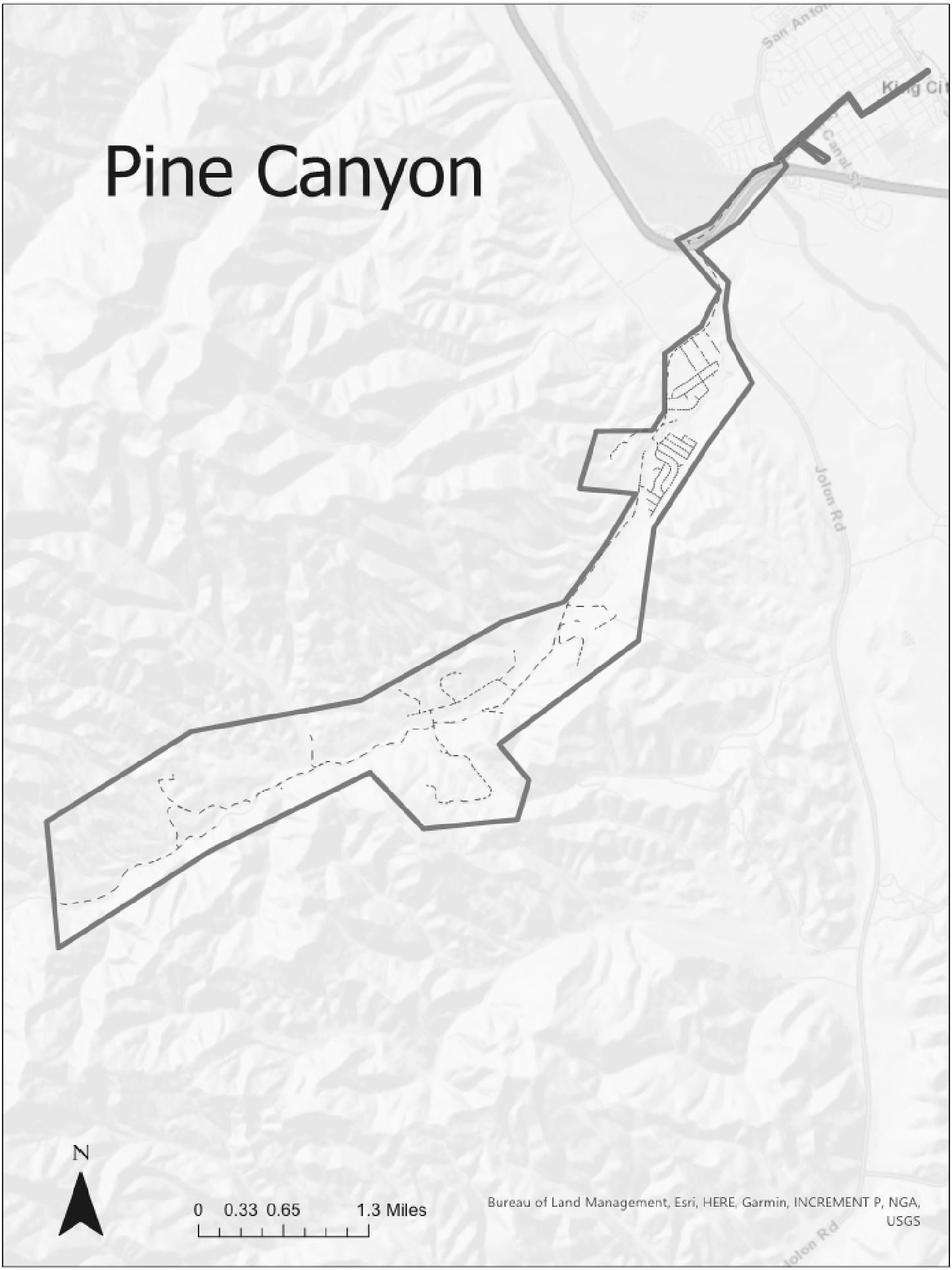
N

0 0.5 1 2 Miles

Bureau of Land Management, Esri, HERE, Garmin, INCREMENT P, NGA, USGS

Metz Road


Metz Rd
Metz Rd
N
0 0.15 0.3 0.6 Miles
Bureau of Land Management, Esri, HERE, Garmin, INCREMENT P, Intermap, NGA, USGS


Pine Canyon
N
0 0.33 0.65 1.3 Miles
Bureau of Land Management, Esri, HERE, Garmin, INCREMENT P, NGA, USGS