**Del Puerto Water District**
**17840 Ward Avenue**
**Patterson, CA 95363**

# NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT AND SCOPING MEETING

**TO:** Responsible and Trustee Agencies, Organizations, and Interested Parties

**FROM:** Del Puerto Water District
17840 Ward Avenue/P.O. Box 1596
Patterson, CA 95363

**SUBJECT:** Notice of Preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Report for the Del Puerto Canyon Reservoir Project

The Del Puerto Water District will be the lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and will prepare an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the project identified below.

**AGENCIES:** The Del Puerto Water District requests the input of public agencies as to the scope and content of the environmental information that is germane to the agency's statutory responsibilities in connection with the proposed project, in accordance with California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Section 15082(b), if the agency will need to use the EIR prepared by the Del Puerto Water District when considering any permit or other approval for the project.

**ORGANIZATIONS AND INTERESTED PARTIES:** The Del Puerto Water District requests comments and concerns from organizations and interested parties regarding the environmental issues associated with construction and operation of the proposed project.

**PROJECT TITLE:** Del Puerto Canyon Reservoir Project.

**PROJECT LOCATION:** Stanislaus County

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** Del Puerto Water District (DPWD), in partnership with the San Joaquin River Exchange Contractors Water Authority (SJRECWA), proposes to construct a reservoir located on Del Puerto Creek in the foothills of the Coast Range Mountains west of Patterson, California and Interstate-5. The proposed reservoir would provide 85,000 acre-feet (AF) of locally-owned off-stream storage South of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. The purpose of the proposed project is to develop a feasible amount of additional South of Delta water storage, utilizing the water after it is moved through the Delta, to maximize the management and efficient use of existing water supplies. Water would be conveyed from the Delta-Mendota Canal (DMC) to be stored in the proposed reservoir and could be discharged either back to the DMC, or possibly in the future to the California Aqueduct. The water stored would serve agricultural users in both DPWD and the SJRECWA member entities service areas, and potentially other South of Delta water suppliers or environmental purposes, including, but not limited to, supply for wildlife refuges designated under the Central Valley Project Improvement Act. The project includes construction of a main dam, four (4) saddle dams, a spillway, inlet/outlet works, conveyance facilities (including a diversion facility on the DMC, a pumping plant, underground pipeline and energy dissipation facilities at the DMC outfall, along with related appurtenant components) and electrical facilities (power supply line and electrical substation). The project also includes relocating existing utilities that run north-south through the project area and Del Puerto Canyon Road, which runs east-west through the project area.

The EIR will assess the environmental effects of constructing and operating the Del Puerto Canyon Reservoir (DPCR or proposed project). The overall objective of the proposed project is to develop additional, locally controlled water storage for South of Delta water users who depend on the CVP for their supply. Specifically, the objectives of the project are as follows:

- Increase water storage capacity in California's Central Valley by 85,000 TAF;
- Improve water supply reliability;
- Increase peak irrigation season water supplies;
- Improve the ability to manage regional groundwater resources; and
- Improve regional self-reliance and economic benefit from agricultural production, jobs, and industry multipliers.

Additional details on the Project are provided in Attachment A.

**POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS:** Attachment B contains an initial study that identifies the areas of potentially significant environmental impact that will be analyzed in the Draft EIR. As documented in the Initial Study the project has potential impacts in the areas of Aesthetics, Agriculture, Air Quality, Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, Energy, Geology/Soils, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Hazards & Hazardous Materials, Hydrology/Water Quality, Land Use/Planning, Transportation, Tribal Cultural Resources and Utilities & Service Systems. Potential cumulative impacts will be addressed; alternatives, including the No Project Alternative, will be evaluated.

**PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD:** This NOP is available for public review and comment pursuant to California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Section 15082(b) for 30 days. The comment period for the NOP begins June 27, 2019 and ends on July 29, 2019. Due to the limits mandated by State Law, your response must be sent at the earliest possible date but not later than 30 days after receipt of this notice.

**RESPONSES AND COMMENTS:** Please indicate a contact person for your agency and send your responses and comments to:

**Anthea Hansen, General Manager**
**Del Puerto Water District**
**17840 Ward Avenue/P.O. Box 1596**
**Patterson, CA 95363**

**SCOPING MEETING:** The Del Puerto Water District will hold a scoping meeting on July 24, 2019 from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. (open house format) at **Patterson Fire Station #2, 1950 Keystone Pacific Pkwy, Patterson, CA 95363**. You are welcome to attend and present environmental information that you believe should be addressed in the EIR.

The NOP and all CEQA related documents for this project will be available for review on the web. You can view the NOP electronically at: http://delpuertocanyonreservoir.com

If you require additional project information, please contact Anthea Hansen at (209) 892-4470 or ahansen@delpuertowd.org or visit the Del Puerto Canyon Reservoir Project website indicated above.

Anthea G. Hansen

**Anthea G. Hansen, General Manager**
**Del Puerto Water District**

6/26/19
Date

# ATTACHMENT A

## Draft EIR Schedule

DPWD is seeking input on the scope and content of environmental information relevant to the proposed Project, including input on environmental issues and alternatives to be addressed in the EIR. The Draft EIR is scheduled for circulation by Fall 2019.

## Background

To increase water supply reliability during the irrigation season and to ensure deliveries during periods when surface water supplies are limited, DPWD and SJRECWA have an identified need to store water to better serve the needs of their Landowners. The existing San Luis Reservoir (SLR) serves both the State Water Project and the federal Central Valley Project (CVP), and Reclamation manages the federal share of storage in SLR. DPWD has limited access to storage capacity in SLR associated with its contract with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) – primarily during what is called the Rescheduling Period - and has a restricted ability to store non-Project water or other developed supplies in SLR, while the SJRECWA members have no ability to directly utilize SLR for storage. Due to these limitations, there is an acknowledged need for additional, locally controlled water storage for the project proponents, as well as for all South of Delta water users who depend on the CVP for their supply.

## Project Description

The proposed Project is located within Stanislaus County, as shown in **Figure 1**. Proposed project facilities, consisting of a main dam, saddle dams, a spillway, inlet/outlet works, and conveyance facilities, would generally be located west of the City of Patterson (see **Figure 2**). **Figure 3** shows the alignment options for conveyance facilities. Stored water, conveyed to the reservoir from the DMC, would be delivered to customers within DPWD and SJRECWA's service areas, and potentially to South of the Delta wildlife refuges. The proposed project also includes the relocation of a county road and several utilities. **Figure 4** shows the two alternatives for the roadway relocation.

### Project Facilities

To deliver water to the proposed reservoir, pipelines and a pumping plant would be constructed. The conveyance system for delivering water from the Delta-Mendota Canal (DMC) into the proposed reservoir and withdrawing water from the proposed reservoir and delivering back into the DMC would include a pumping plant located at the west side of the DMC and a pipeline located between the DMC and the reservoir inlet/outlet works at the base of the reservoir. Four general alignment alternatives, which differ based on how the water would be conveyed to/from the DMC and the reservoir, will be evaluated at an equal level of detail in the EIR. Pipeline construction would require tunneling under Interstate-5, the California Aqueduct and the hills abutting the dam to connect the pipeline to the reservoir and the DMC. Conveyance facilities would include provisions for a future discharge to the California Aqueduct, which would allow water stored in the reservoir to be delivered to the Aqueduct.

The pump station site would include an electrical substation to supply power to the pumps. Primary power supply lines connecting the substation to existing power supply facilities would be expected to follow the conveyance alignment or an existing power line corridor to the north.

**Figure 1: DPCR Project Location**

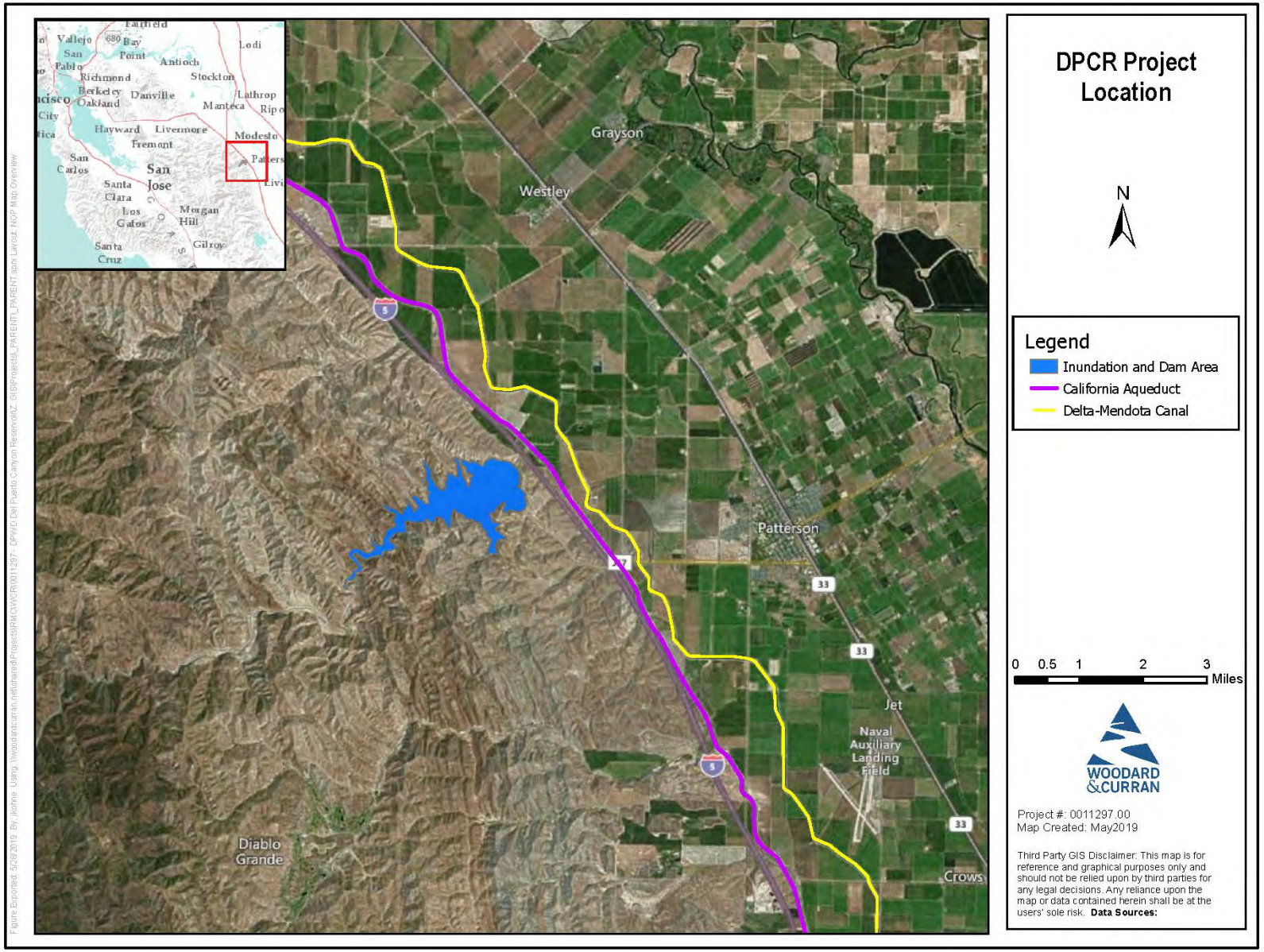


**Figure 2: DCPR Reservoir and Utility Corridor**

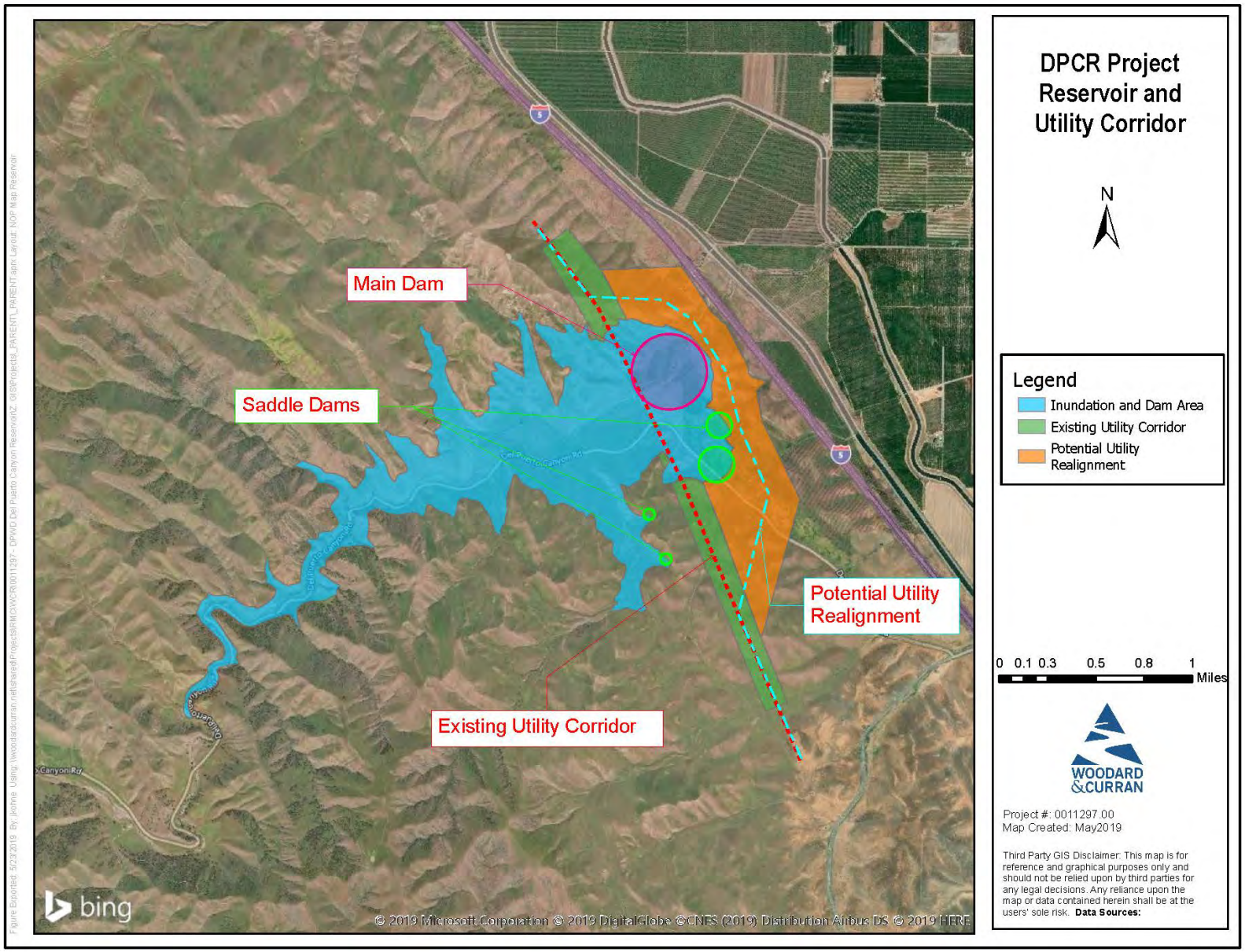


**Figure 3: DPCR Conveyance Alternatives**

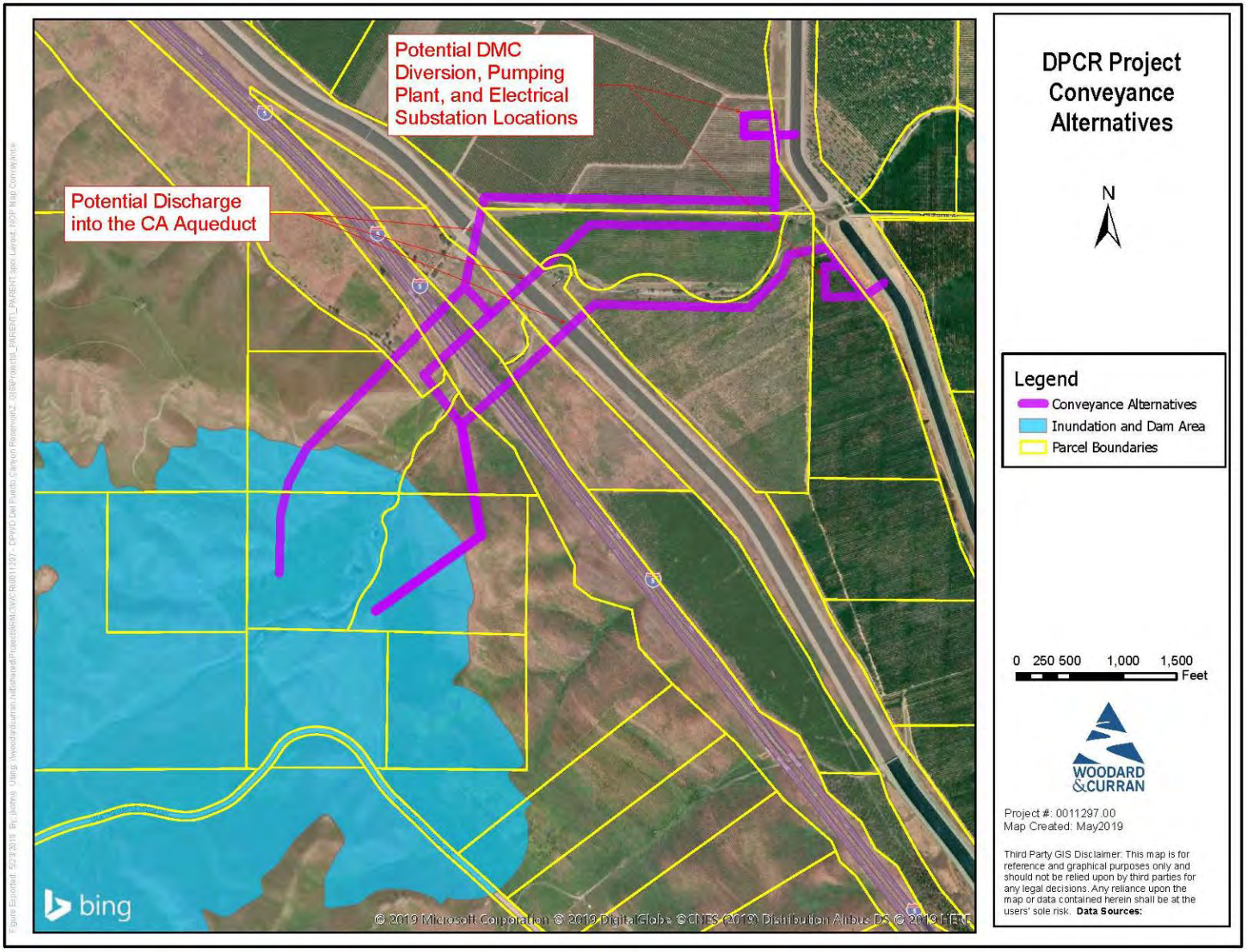
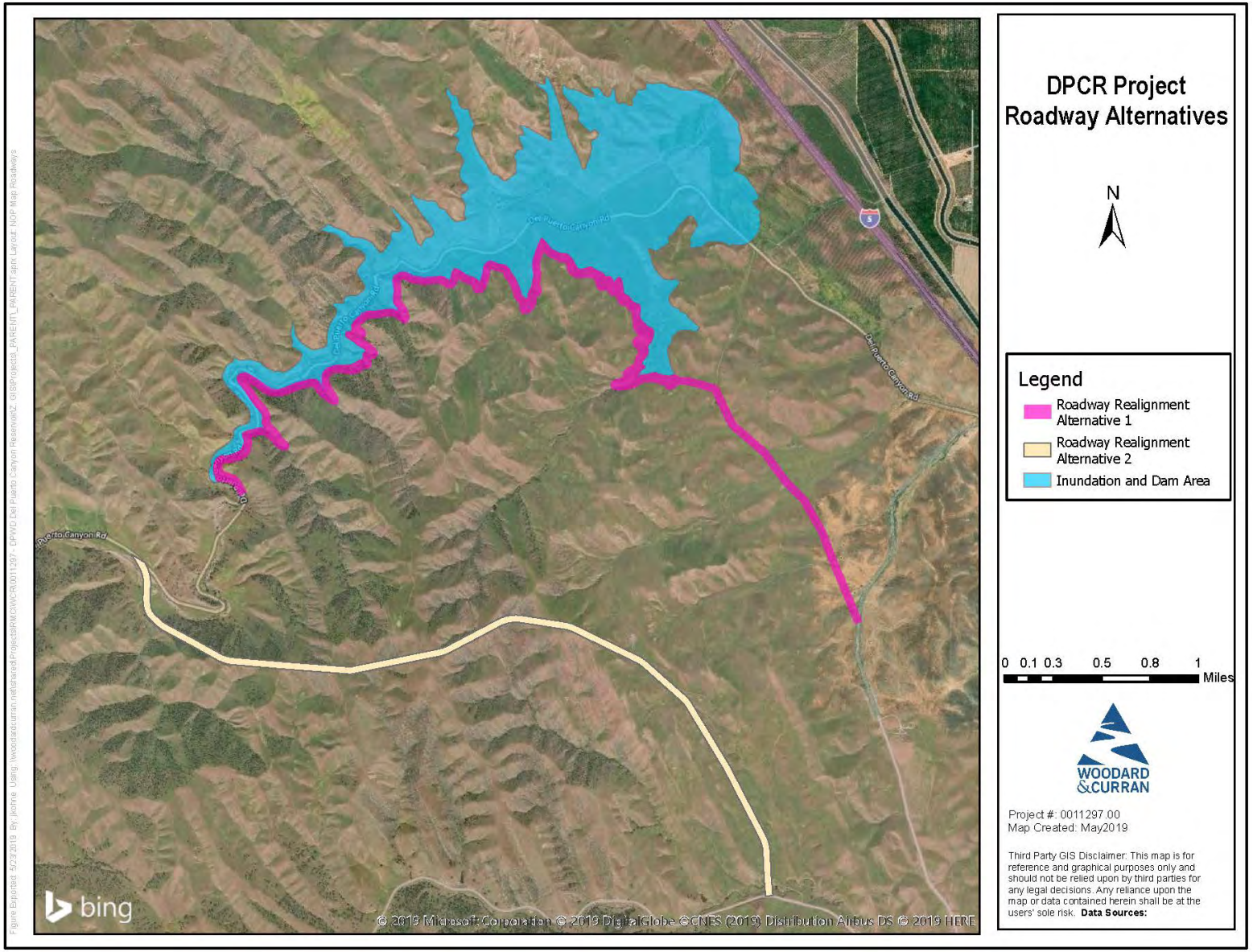


**Figure 4: DPCR Roadway Alternatives**



The main dam would have a crest width of 30 feet and a crest elevation of 480 feet, creating a reservoir capacity of 85,000 AF at a high water level of 450 feet. The proposed project also includes the construction of four saddle dams, three of which are located along the southern bank of the reservoir and one located along the northern bank. These saddle dams are auxiliary dams constructed to confine the reservoir created by the main dam structure and are constructed in a low spot or "saddle" through which the stored water would otherwise escape. The main dam and four saddle dams will be constructed as zoned earthfill dams given the project site's proximity to the San Joaquin fault. An earthfill dam has greater resilience and ability to safely deform than concrete dams in areas susceptible to high ground shaking events.

A spillway would be constructed on the dam abutment and would consist of an approach channel with an ungated chute spillway, which transfers water from behind the dam down a smooth decline into a large stilling basin below the dam. The spillway would be concrete-lined and would follow an ogee curve (a curve shaped somewhat like a half "S") terminating in a stilling basin. Water would be either pumped into the reservoir or released from the reservoir via the inlet/outlet works, which would be located on and through the abutment. The outlet works would consist of a multi-port sloping intake structure with a control building at the top, outlet tunnel at the base, and an outlet structure consisting of a lift-out chamber and a valve chamber. The outlet chamber would bifurcate downstream of the proposed dam with one side connected to the conveyance system and the other side connected to valves that would allow for emergency releases and environmental flow releases to the spillway stilling basin and Del Puerto Creek.

**Additional Project Elements**

The proposed project requires the relocation of Del Puerto Canyon Road and would be designed to address existing and proposed utilities. Utilities in the area include four existing and one proposed high-voltage electric transmission lines, local electric distribution lines, fiber-optic cable lines, telephone lines, and natural gas and petroleum pipelines. If feasible, powerline towers would be reconfigured to enable the powerlines to cross over the reservoir pool. If infeasible, the power lines and other utilities would be relocated to the front of the main dam, in between Interstate-5 and the face of the main dam, as shown in **Figure 2**. All utility work would be coordinated with the utility owners.

Del Puerto Canyon Road, listed as a Rural Major Collector in the Stanislaus County General Plan, generally runs east-west through Del Puerto Canyon and connects the City of Patterson to the City of San Jose. The proposed project requires the relocation of the portion of Del Puerto Canyon Road that lies within the reservoir inundation area. Two alignment alternatives will be evaluated at an equal level of detail in the EIR. The first alignment follows the southern extent of the reservoir inundation area; the second alignment is oriented north-south and lies to the west of the inundation area. The second alignment would route traffic along Diablo Grande Parkway from its existing intersection with Del Puerto Canyon Road for 4.2 miles and would then follow a new road north to connect with the existing Del Puerto Canyon Road west of the reservoir. Both alignment alternatives are shown in **Figure 4**.