

Notice of Preparation

To: All Interested Parties

Subject: Notice of Preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Report for the Yuba City Boat Ramp Sediment Removal Project

Date: June 19, 2020

Lead Agency Name and Physical Address: Sutter Butte Flood Control Agency 1445 Butte House Road Suite B Yuba City, CA 95993	Contact Person and Mailing Address: Michael Bessette, PE, Executive Director P.O. Box M Yuba, City CA 95992 (530) 755-9859
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Sutter Butte Flood Control Agency (SBFCA) is the Lead Agency pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and will produce an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Yuba City Boat Ramp Sediment Removal Project (Proposed Project). ECORP Consulting, Inc. will prepare the EIR and is requesting information regarding the environmental issues and reasonable alternatives to be included in the EIR from any interested parties.

Due to the time limits mandated by State law, your response to this NOP must be sent at the earliest possible date **but not later than 30 days** after issuance of this NOP. The response deadline is **July 20, 2020**. Please send your response to Michael Bessette, Executive Director at the Contact Person address shown above or via email at m.bessette@sutterbutteflood.org. Please include the project title, shown below, in the subject line of your email or letter.

Project Title: Yuba City Boat Ramp Sediment Removal Project	Project Location: Yuba City Boat Launch 80 Second St, Yuba City, CA 95991
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Project Location

The Project is located in a portion of un-sectioned Rancho New Helvetia Land grant lands within the Olivehurst, California and Yuba City, California 7.5-minute quadrangles (U.S. Geological Survey [USGS] 1952a, photo revised 1973 and 1952b, photo revised 1973, respectively). The approximate center of the Yuba City location is 39.273783° latitude, -121.631017° longitude within the Honcut Headwaters-Lower Feather watershed (Hydrologic Unit Code [HUC] #18020159, Natural Resources Conservation Service [NRCS], USGS, and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency [USEPA] 2016) (see Figure 1. *Project Location and Vicinity*.)

Existing Site Conditions

For planning purposes, the study area includes the confluence of the Feather and Yuba rivers, the Yuba City Boat Launch (operated by Sutter County) and surrounding lands on the west bank of the Feather River, the City's inactive wastewater ponds between the Feather River and the Yuba River, and a narrow area of shoreline on the eastern bank of the Feather and Yuba rivers. The developed portions of the boat

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ramp includes a paved roadway, parking areas, the boat launch ramp, and the Feather River R.V. Park. The undeveloped areas around the boat launch include riverbank habitat, ruderal weedy roadside habitats, and unimproved areas of compacted dirt that are used for overflow parking and/or fishing access. The City of Marysville wastewater ponds area includes constructed/excavated wastewater ponds of varying shapes and sizes and a narrow corridor of riparian habitat along the Feather and Yuba rivers. The wastewater ponds are surrounded by gravel and dirt-surfaced access roads. The eastern bank of the Feather and Yuba rivers is an undeveloped riparian corridor with a number of scattered homeless encampments.

Vegetation communities or land cover types found within the Yuba City location include riparian woodland, weedy ruderal, constructed wastewater ponds, and paved/developed areas. The riparian woodland community is found along the riverbanks. The riparian woodland vegetation is a relatively narrow corridor of mature trees with varying densities of understory cover, depending on levels of human use.

Project Description

Sediment buildup in portions of the Feather River, exacerbated by the Oroville Dam Spillway incident of 2017, has created dangerous conditions for recreational users, made some boat launch facilities nearly unusable, and has hampered public safety as it has affected emergency vessel launching capabilities. The Project has received funding from the California Natural Resource Agency through Proposition 68 to remove sediment for safety and to restore recreation access to the Feather River. Restoring river access and fish passage conditions at boat ramps in Yuba and Sutter Counties will also have regional economic benefits, as guided and private fishing (heavily curtailed by river and launch conditions) brings commerce to local restaurants, hotels, and other businesses.

The Proposed Project will improve access to the Feather River by removing sediment at the Yuba City boat ramp facility. The Project will use hydraulic or mechanical dredging to remove approximately 65,600 cubic yards (cy) of sediment and debris within approximately 13.5 acres adjacent to and downstream of the Yuba City Boat Launch. The material removed from the Project site would require offsite disposal. Two dredging methods and three alternatives for disposal are being considered, which are discussed below.

Approximate locations of dredging, potential staging/access and sediment dewatering and one disposal option are depicted in Figure 2. *Project Components*.

Two potential dredging methods are being evaluated for the sediment removal aspect of the Project (hydraulic and mechanical). Hydraulic mining would consist of a barge using suction to remove sediment from the river bottom and pumping the material to a location on the east or west side of the river, allowed to dewater, and then hauled by truck to a disposal site(s). Mechanical dredging would involve equipment such as an excavator with a bucket removing the sediment from shore and/or a barge, transporting the material to the dewatering area, then to the disposal site(s).

Potential sediment disposal options include landfills, soil for farmlands, and/or placement in the City of Marysville's closed northern wastewater ponds as fill material, located adjacent to the Yuba City location on the east side of the Feather River and north of the Yuba River. Soil sampling of the sediment to be

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removed is currently underway to assist in determining the most viable option. Brief descriptions of each disposal option are provided below.

Potential Disposal Options

Landfill

The nearest landfill to the Yuba City site is the Recology Ostrom Road Landfill located at 5900 Ostrom Road, Wheatland, California. This landfill is approximately 17 miles by road from the Yuba City site and has a maximum daily throughput of 3,000 tons (see Figure 3. *Potential Disposal Locations*). This landfill is the only landfill in the general area of the Yuba City site permitted to accept potentially contaminated soils.

Agricultural Soil

When dredged material is free of contaminants, nuisance weeds, and has the proper balance of nutrients, it has similar characteristics as productive agricultural soils and can be beneficial for increasing crop production when incorporated or mixed with native soils. Potential for use as agricultural soil is considered as a viable disposal option. However, the specific location for agricultural soil disposal has not been determined at this time.

City of Marysville Wastewater Ponds

The City of Marysville (City) has recently modified its wastewater collection and treatment system to connect to the Linda County Water District Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility for treatment and discharge. As such, the City's existing percolation/evaporation ponds (referred to as wastewater ponds throughout) are no longer needed, and the City intends to formally close and restore the wastewater ponds. The dredged material would be utilized in reclamation of the area. The wastewater ponds are located on the east side of the Feather River and north of the Yuba River. This option is currently being discussed with the City to determine if it is a viable option.

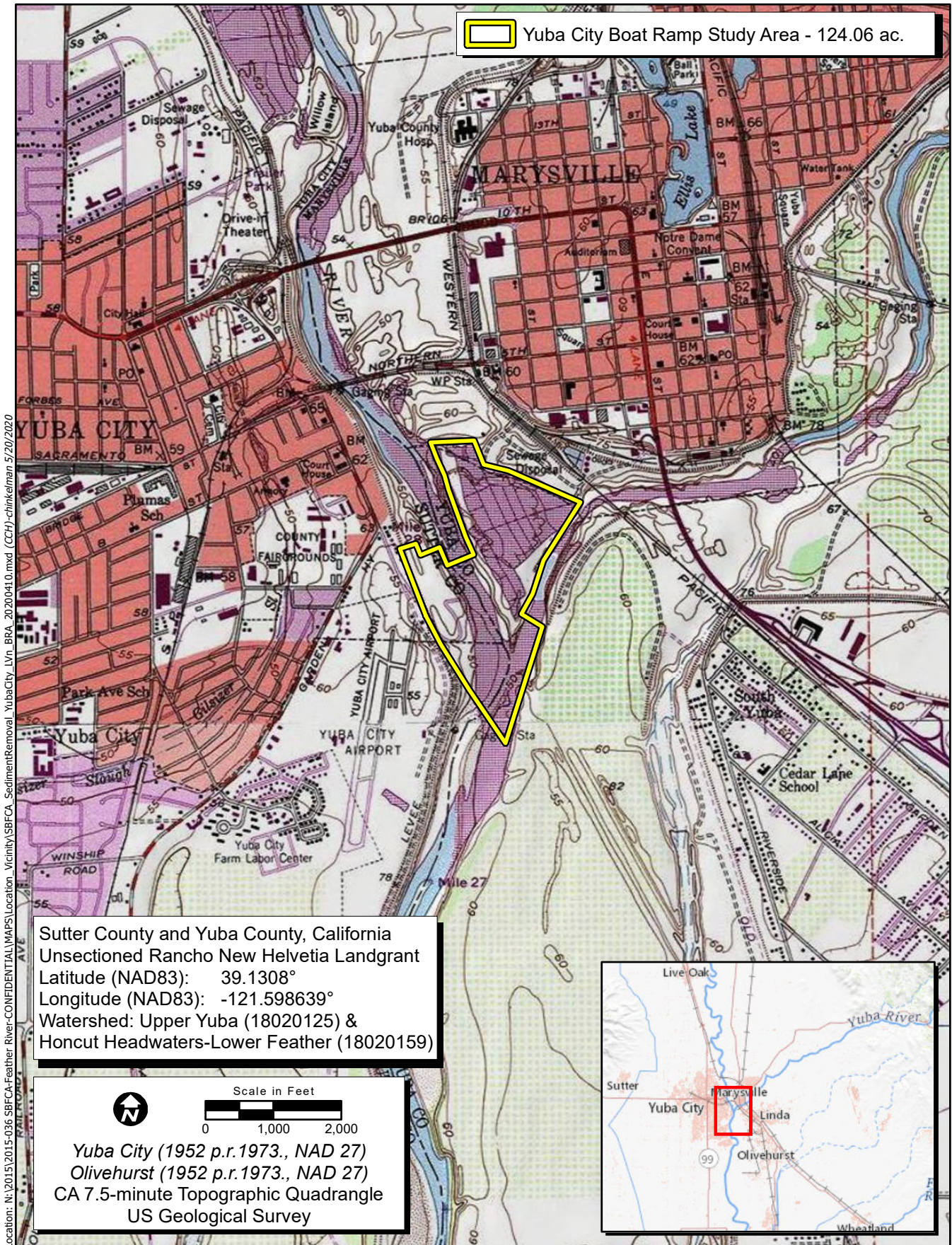
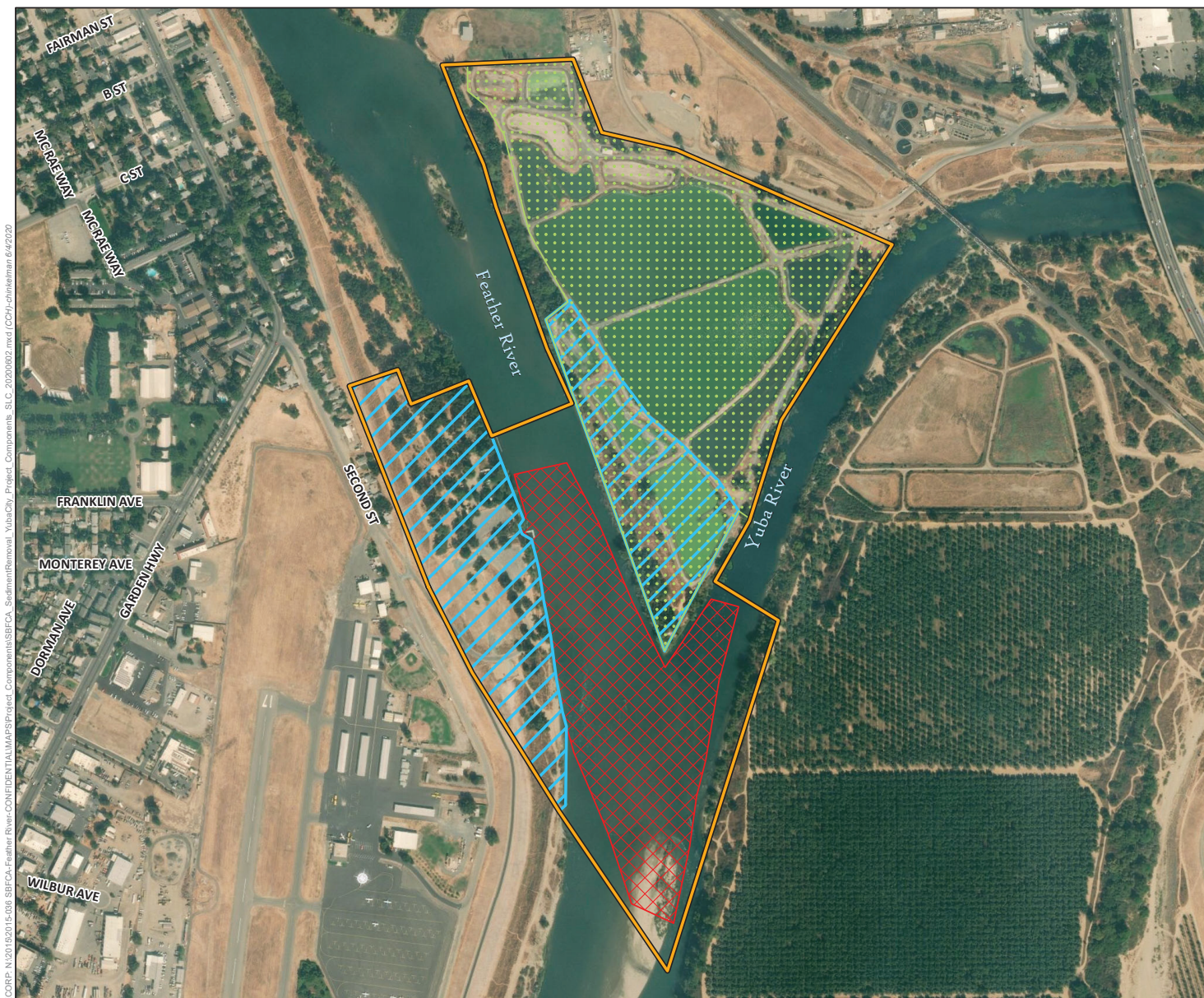


Figure 1. Project Location and Vicinity

Yuba City Boat Ramp Sediment Removal Project



Map Features

Yuba City Boat Ramp Study Area - 124.06 ac.

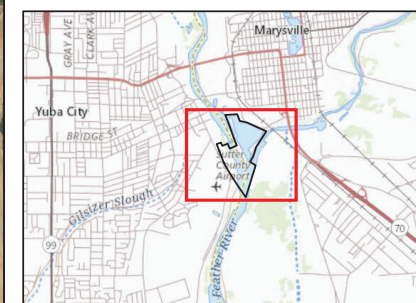
Project Components

Dredging Area

Potential Disposal Location

Potential Staging/Access/Dewatering Areas

Sources: ESRI, USGS, Maxar (2018), Peterson Brustad



Map Date: 6/4/2020

ECORP Consulting, Inc.
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS



Scale in Feet
0 350

DRAFT

Figure 2. Project Components

Yuba City Boat Ramp Sediment Removal Project

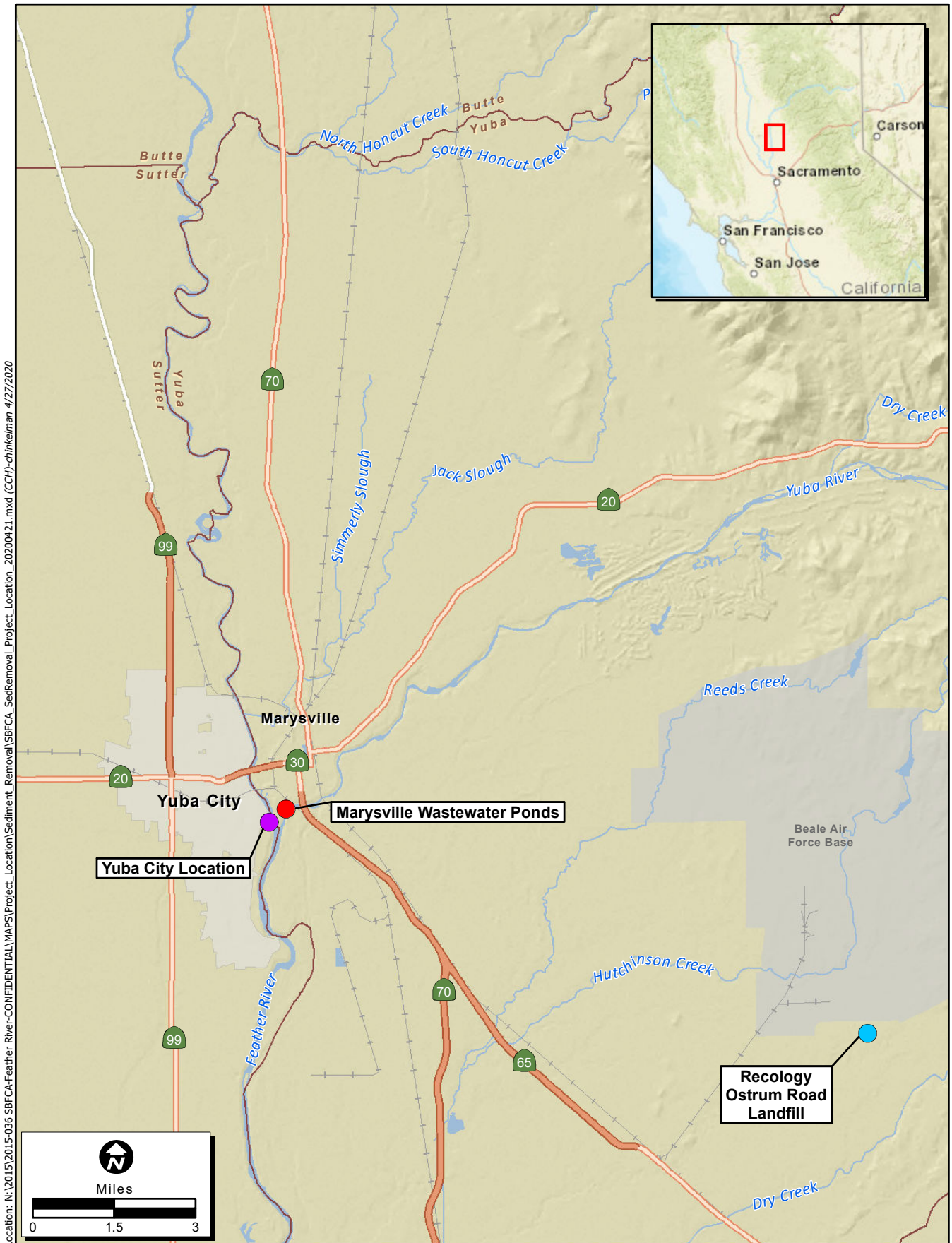


Figure 3. Potential Disposal Locations

Yuba City Boat Ramp Sediment Removal Project