APPROVED JURISDICTIONAL DETERMINATION FORM U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

This form should be completed by following the instructions provided in Section IV of the JD Form Instructional Guidebook.

SECTION I: BACKGROUND INFORMATION

A.	REPORT COMPLETION DATE FOR	APPROVED JURISDICTIONAL	L DETERMINATION (JD): March 28, 2011 - RPW

В.	DISTRICT OFFICE, FILE NAME, AND NUMBER: Sacramento District, San Joaquin Cross Valley Loop Transmission, SPK 2011-00117
C.	PROJECT LOCATION AND BACKGROUND INFORMATION: State: California County/parish/borough: Tulare City: Center coordinates of site (lat/long in degree decimal format): Lat. 36.460411°, Long119.126656° Universal Transverse Mercator: 11 301611.31 4033716.68 Name of nearest waterbody: Name of nearest Traditional Navigable Water (TNW) into which the aquatic resource flows: Tulare Lake Name of watershed or Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC): Tulare-Buena Vista Lakes. California., 18030012 ☐ Check if map/diagram of review area and/or potential jurisdictional areas is/are available upon request. ☐ Check if other sites (e.g., offsite mitigation sites, disposal sites, etc) are associated with this action and are recorded on a differen JD form: There are other waters, both jurisdictional and isolated, associated with this project.
D.	REVIEW PERFORMED FOR SITE EVALUATION (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY): Office (Desk) Determination. Date: February 2 & 3, 2011 Field Determination. Date(s): March 17 & 18, 2011
	CTION II: SUMMARY OF FINDINGS RHA SECTION 10 DETERMINATION OF JURISDICTION.
	re Are no "navigable waters of the U.S." within Rivers and Harbors Act (RHA) jurisdiction (as defined by 33 CFR part 329) in the ew area. [Required] Waters subject to the ebb and flow of the tide. Waters are presently used, or have been used in the past, or may be susceptible for use to transport interstate or foreign commerce. Explain:
B.	CWA SECTION 404 DETERMINATION OF JURISDICTION.
The	re Are "waters of the U.S." within Clean Water Act (CWA) jurisdiction (as defined by 33 CFR part 328) in the review area. [Required]
	1. Waters of the U.S. a. Indicate presence of waters of U.S. in review area (check all that apply): TNWs, including territorial seas Wetlands adjacent to TNWs Relatively permanent waters² (RPWs) that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs Non-RPWs that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs Wetlands directly abutting RPWs that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs Wetlands adjacent to but not directly abutting RPWs that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs Wetlands adjacent to non-RPWs that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs Impoundments of jurisdictional waters Isolated (interstate or intrastate) waters, including isolated wetlands
	b. Identify (estimate) size of waters of the U.S. in the review area: Non-wetland waters: 1,205 linear feet, wide, and/or 3.291 acres. Wetlands: acres.
	c. Limits (boundaries) of jurisdiction based on: Established by OHWM. Elevation of established OHWM (if known):
	2. Non-regulated waters/wetlands (check if applicable): Potentially jurisdictional waters and/or wetlands were assessed within the review area and determined to be not jurisdictional. Explain:

SECTION III: CWA ANALYSIS

A. TNWs AND WETLANDS ADJACENT TO TNWs

¹ Boxes checked below shall be supported by completing the appropriate sections in Section III below.

² For purposes of this form, an RPW is defined as a tributary that is not a TNW and that typically flows year-round or has continuous flow at least "seasonally" (e.g., typically 3 months).

Supporting documentation is presented in Section III.F.

The agencies will assert jurisdiction over TNWs and wetlands adjacent to TNWs. If the aquatic resource is a TNW, complete Section III.A.1 and Section III.D.1. only; if the aquatic resource is a wetland adjacent to a TNW, complete Sections III.A.1 and 2 and Section III.D.1.; otherwise, see Section III.B below.

1. TNW

Identify TNW:

Summarize rationale supporting determination:

2. Wetland adjacent to TNW

Summarize rationale supporting conclusion that wetland is "adjacent":

B. CHARACTERISTICS OF TRIBUTARY (THAT IS NOT A TNW) AND ITS ADJACENT WETLANDS (IF ANY):

This section summarizes information regarding characteristics of the tributary and its adjacent wetlands, if any, and it helps determine whether or not the standards for jurisdiction established under *Rapanos* have been met.

The agencies will assert jurisdiction over non-navigable tributaries of TNWs where the tributaries are "relatively permanent waters" (RPWs), i.e. tributaries that typically flow year-round or have continuous flow at least seasonally (e.g., typically 3 months). A wetland that directly abuts an RPW is also jurisdictional. If the aquatic resource is not a TNW, but has year-round (perennial) flow, skip to Section III.D.2. If the aquatic resource is a wetland directly abutting a tributary with perennial flow, skip to Section III.D.4.

A wetland that is adjacent to but that does not directly abut an RPW requires a significant nexus evaluation. Corps districts and EPA regions will include in the record any available information that documents the existence of a significant nexus between a relatively permanent tributary that is not perennial (and its adjacent wetlands if any) and a traditional navigable water, even though a significant nexus finding is not required as a matter of law.

If the waterbody⁴ is not an RPW, or a wetland directly abutting an RPW, a JD will require additional data to determine if the waterbody has a significant nexus with a TNW. If the tributary has adjacent wetlands, the significant nexus evaluation must consider the tributary in combination with all of its adjacent wetlands. This significant nexus evaluation that combines, for analytical purposes, the tributary and all of its adjacent wetlands is used whether the review area identified in the JD request is the tributary, or its adjacent wetlands, or both. If the JD covers a tributary with adjacent wetlands, complete Section III.B.1 for the tributary, Section III.B.2 for any onsite wetlands, and Section III.B.3 for all wetlands adjacent to that tributary, both onsite and offsite. The determination whether a significant nexus exists is determined in Section III.C below.

1. Characteristics of non-TNWs that flow directly or indirectly into TNW

(i)	War Dra Ave	neral Area Conditions: tershed size: Tulare-Buena Vista Lakes Watershed HUC # 18030012 Pick List inage area: Pick List trage annual rainfall: 12.12 inches trage annual snowfall: <1 inches
(ii)		rsical Characteristics: Relationship with TNW: Tributary flows directly into TNW. Tributary flows through 1 tributaries before entering TNW.
		Project waters are Project waters cross or serve as state boundaries. Explain: Project water do not cross or serve as state boundaries.
		Identify flow route to TNW ⁵ : Cottonwood Creek, which flows through the review area, flows into Cross Creek, which then flows into the Tulare Lakebed. Tributary stream order, if known:
	(b)	General Tributary Characteristics (check all that apply): Tributary is:

⁴ Note that the Instructional Guidebook contains additional information regarding swales, ditches, washes, and erosional features generally and in the arid West.

⁵ Flow route can be described by identifying, e.g., tributary a, which flows through the review area, to flow into tributary b, which then flows into TNW.

Manipulated (man-altered). Explain: Cottonwood Creek is frequently channelized and sections of the channel are artificially straightened. **Tributary** properties with respect to top of bank (estimate): Average width: 200 feet Average depth: Average side slopes: Vertical (1:1 or less). Primary tributary substrate composition (check all that apply): ⊠ Silts Concrete Sands Muck Cobbles Cobbles ■ Bedrock ☐ Vegetation. Type/% cover: Other. Explain: Tributary condition/stability [e.g., highly eroding, sloughing banks]. Explain: Cottonwood Creek is a highly regulated waterway. There is sloughing of the banks of Cottonwood Creek at the location of the project site. Presence of run/riffle/pool complexes. Explain: Run/riffle/pool complexes are present in Cottonwood Creek. Tributary geometry: Meandering Tributary gradient (approximate average slope): 1 % Tributary provides for: Seasonal flow Estimate average number of flow events in review area/year: 1 Describe flow regime: Flows vary be season and are highly influenced by rainfall and irrigation needs. Typically flows begin with the onset of rains in November and December and continue until June or July as the summer drought dominates and irrigation demands increase. Other information on duration and volume: Water from Cottonwood Creek is used for irrigation leading the creek to run dry for part of the year, usually beginning in September. Surface flow is: Discrete and confined. Characteristics: Subsurface flow: **Unknown**. Explain findings: Dye (or other) test performed: Tributary has (check all that apply): Bed and banks OHWM⁶ (check all indicators that apply): clear, natural line impressed on the bank the presence of litter and debris destruction of terrestrial vegetation changes in the character of soil shelving the presence of wrack line vegetation matted down, bent, or absent sediment sorting leaf litter disturbed or washed away scour multiple observed or predicted flow events water staining abrupt change in plant community other (list): ☐ Discontinuous OHWM. Explain: If factors other than the OHWM were used to determine lateral extent of CWA jurisdiction (check all that apply): High Tide Line indicated by: ☐ Mean High Water Mark indicated by:

(iii) Chemical Characteristics:

Characterize tributary (e.g., water color is clear, discolored, oily film; water quality; general watershed characteristics, etc.). Explain: Water is relatively clear, there is some turbidity, most likely from agricultural runoff.

Identify specific pollutants, if known: Possible irrigation runoff from the surrounding agricultrual land.

survey to available datum;

vegetation lines/changes in vegetation types.

physical markings;

(iv) Biological Characteristics. Channel supports (check all that apply):

oil or scum line along shore objects

physical markings/characteristics

☐ tidal gauges ☐ other (list):

fine shell or debris deposits (foreshore)

⁶A natural or man-made discontinuity in the OHWM does not necessarily sever jurisdiction (e.g., where the stream temporarily flows underground, or where the OHWM has been removed by development or agricultural practices). Where there is a break in the OHWM that is unrelated to the waterbody's flow regime (e.g., flow over a rock outcrop or through a culvert), the agencies will look for indicators of flow above and below the break.

Tibid.

			grasses and cottonwood Wetland fringe. Characteri Habitat for: Federally Listed speci Fish/spawn areas. Ex	I trees. stics: es. Explain findings: plain findings: y-sensitive species. Expla	dth): There is a limited riparian co ain findings:	orridor, composed mostly of
2.	Cha	arac	teristics of wetlands adjac	ent to non-TNW that flo	ow directly or indirectly into TNV	v
	(i)		ysical Characteristics: General Wetland Characteristics: Properties: Wetland size: Wetland type. Explaited Wetland quality. Exp	acres n: lain:	. Explain:	
		(b)	General Flow Relationshi Flow is: Pick List. Explai			
			Surface flow is: Pick List Characteristics:	i		
			Subsurface flow: Pick Lis Dye (or other) test			
		(c)	Wetland Adjacency Deter Directly abutting Not directly abutting Discrete wetland be Ecological connection Separated by berny	ydrologic connection. E tion. Explain:		
		(d)	Proximity (Relationship) Project wetlands are Pick Project waters are Pick I Flow is from: Pick List. Estimate approximate loc	List river miles from TN aerial (straight) miles		
	(ii)	Cha	emical Characteristics: aracterize wetland system (characteristics; etc.). Explaintify specific pollutants, if I	n:	brown, oil film on surface; water qu	ality; general watershed
	(iii)		logical Characteristics. V Riparian buffer. Character Vegetation type/percent co Habitat for: Federally Listed speci Fish/spawn areas. Exp Other environmentally Aquatic/wildlife diver	istics (type, average widt ver. Explain: es. Explain findings: dain findings: y-sensitive species. Expla	h):	
3.	Cha	All	teristics of all wetlands ad wetland(s) being considere proximately acres in	d in the cumulative analy		
		For	each wetland, specify the f	following:		
			Directly abuts? (Y/N)	Size (in acres)	Directly abuts? (Y/N)	Size (in acres)

Summarize overall biological, chemical and physical functions being performed:

C. SIGNIFICANT NEXUS DETERMINATION

A significant nexus analysis will assess the flow characteristics and functions of the tributary itself and the functions performed by any wetlands adjacent to the tributary to determine if they significantly affect the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of a TNW. For each of the following situations, a significant nexus exists if the tributary, in combination with all of its adjacent wetlands, has more than a speculative or insubstantial effect on the chemical, physical and/or biological integrity of a TNW. Considerations when evaluating significant nexus include, but are not limited to the volume, duration, and frequency of the flow of water in the tributary and its proximity to a TNW, and the functions performed by the tributary and all its adjacent wetlands. It is not appropriate to determine significant nexus based solely on any specific threshold of distance (e.g. between a tributary and its adjacent wetland or between a tributary and the TNW). Similarly, the fact an adjacent wetland lies within or outside of a floodplain is not solely determinative of significant nexus.

Draw connections between the features documented and the effects on the TNW, as identified in the *Rapanos* Guidance and discussed in the Instructional Guidebook. Factors to consider include, for example:

- Does the tributary, in combination with its adjacent wetlands (if any), have the capacity to carry pollutants or flood waters to TNWs, or to reduce the amount of pollutants or flood waters reaching a TNW?
- Does the tributary, in combination with its adjacent wetlands (if any), provide habitat and lifecycle support functions for fish and other species, such as feeding, nesting, spawning, or rearing young for species that are present in the TNW?
- Does the tributary, in combination with its adjacent wetlands (if any), have the capacity to transfer nutrients and organic carbon that support downstream foodwebs?
- Does the tributary, in combination with its adjacent wetlands (if any), have other relationships to the physical, chemical, or biological integrity of the TNW?

Note: the above list of considerations is not inclusive and other functions observed or known to occur should be documented below:

- 1. Significant nexus findings for non-RPW that has no adjacent wetlands and flows directly or indirectly into TNWs. Explain findings of presence or absence of significant nexus below, based on the tributary itself, then go to Section III.D:
- 2. Significant nexus findings for non-RPW and its adjacent wetlands, where the non-RPW flows directly or indirectly into TNWs. Explain findings of presence or absence of significant nexus below, based on the tributary in combination with all of its adjacent wetlands, then go to Section III.D:
- 3. Significant nexus findings for wetlands adjacent to an RPW but that do not directly abut the RPW. Explain findings of presence or absence of significant nexus below, based on the tributary in combination with all of its adjacent wetlands, then go to Section III.D:

D. DETERMINATIONS OF JURISDICTIONAL FINDINGS. THE SUBJECT WATERS/WETLANDS ARE (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY):

1.	TNWs and Adjacent Wetlands. Check all that apply and provide size estimates in review area: TNWs: linear feet, wide, Or acres. Wetlands adjacent to TNWs: acres.		
2.	RPWs that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs. ☐ Tributaries of TNWs where tributaries typically flow year-round are jurisdictional. Provide data and rationale indicating that tributary is perennial: ☐ Tributaries of TNW where tributaries have continuous flow "seasonally" (e.g., typically three months each year) are jurisdictional. Data supporting this conclusion is provided at Section III.B. Provide rationale indicating that tributary flows seasonally: The historical aerials available on Google Earth (and they are taken at different times of the year, ranging from June to December) show Cottonwood Creek as a dry channel. However during the site visit Cottonwood Creek had sizeable flows of water. Cottonwood Creek flows during the rainy season through late spring and only dries up due to the diversion of tributary waters for irrigation purposes.		
	Provide estimates for jurisdictional waters in the review area (check all that apply): Tributary waters: 1,205 linear feet wide. Other non-wetland waters: acres. Identify type(s) of waters:		
3.	Non-RPWs ⁸ that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs.		

⁸See Footnote # 3.

	Waterbody that is not a TNW or an RPW, but flows directly or indirectly into a TNW, and it has a significant nexus with a TNW is jurisdictional. Data supporting this conclusion is provided at Section III.C.
	Provide estimates for jurisdictional waters within the review area (check all that apply): Tributary waters: linear feet, wide. Other non-wetland waters: acres. Identify type(s) of waters:
4.	Wetlands directly abutting an RPW that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs. Wetlands directly abut RPW and thus are jurisdictional as adjacent wetlands. Wetlands directly abutting an RPW where tributaries typically flow year-round. Provide data and rationale indicating that tributary is perennial in Section III.D.2, above. Provide rationale indicating that wetland is directly abutting an RPW:
	☐ Wetlands directly abutting an RPW where tributaries typically flow "seasonally." Provide data indicating that tributary is seasonal in Section III.B and rationale in Section III.D.2, above. Provide rationale indicating that wetland is directly abutting an RPW:
	Provide acreage estimates for jurisdictional wetlands in the review area: acres.
5.	Wetlands adjacent to but not directly abutting an RPW that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs. Wetlands that do not directly abut an RPW, but when considered in combination with the tributary to which they are adjacent and with similarly situated adjacent wetlands, have a significant nexus with a TNW are jurisidictional. Data supporting this conclusion is provided at Section III.C.
	Provide acreage estimates for jurisdictional wetlands in the review area: acres.
6.	Wetlands adjacent to non-RPWs that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs. Wetlands adjacent to such waters, and have when considered in combination with the tributary to which they are adjacent and with similarly situated adjacent wetlands, have a significant nexus with a TNW are jurisdictional. Data supporting this conclusion is provided at Section III.C.
	Provide estimates for jurisdictional wetlands in the review area: acres.
7.	Impoundments of jurisdictional waters. ⁹ As a general rule, the impoundment of a jurisdictional tributary remains jurisdictional. Demonstrate that impoundment was created from "waters of the U.S.," or Demonstrate that water meets the criteria for one of the categories presented above (1-6), or Demonstrate that water is isolated with a nexus to commerce (see E below).
DEC SUC	DLATED [INTERSTATE OR INTRA-STATE] WATERS, INCLUDING ISOLATED WETLANDS, THE USE, GRADATION OR DESTRUCTION OF WHICH COULD AFFECT INTERSTATE COMMERCE, INCLUDING ANY CH WATERS (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY): 10 which are or could be used by interstate or foreign travelers for recreational or other purposes. from which fish or shellfish are or could be taken and sold in interstate or foreign commerce. which are or could be used for industrial purposes by industries in interstate commerce. Interstate isolated waters. Explain: Other factors. Explain:
Ide	ntify water body and summarize rationale supporting determination:
	vide estimates for jurisdictional waters in the review area (check all that apply): Tributary waters: linear feet, wide. Other non-wetland waters: acres. Identify type(s) of waters: Wetlands: acres.

F. NON-JURISDICTIONAL WATERS, INCLUDING WETLANDS (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY):

E.

⁹ To complete the analysis refer to the key in Section III.D.6 of the Instructional Guidebook.

¹⁰ Prior to asserting or declining CWA jurisdiction based solely on this category, Corps Districts will elevate the action to Corps and EPA HQ for review consistent with the process described in the Corps/EPA Memorandum Regarding CWA Act Jurisdiction Following Rapanos.

	If potential wetlands were assessed within the review area, these areas did not meet the criteria in the 1987 Corps of Engineers
	Wetland Delineation Manual and/or appropriate Regional Supplements. Review area included isolated waters with no substantial nexus to interstate (or foreign) commerce.
	Prior to the Jan 2001 Supreme Court decision in "SWANCC," the review area would have been regulated based solely on the
	"Migratory Bird Rule" (MBR).
	Waters do not meet the "Significant Nexus" standard, where such a finding is required for jurisdiction. Explain:
	Uther: (explain, if not covered above):
	Provide acreage estimates for non-jurisdictional waters in the review area, where the <u>sole</u> potential basis of jurisdiction is the MBR factors (i.e., presence of migratory birds, presence of endangered species, use of water for irrigated agriculture), using best professional judgment (check all that apply): Non-wetland waters (i.e., rivers, streams): linear feet, wide. Lakes/ponds: acres. Other non-wetland waters: acres. List type of aquatic resource:
	☐ Wetlands: acres.
	Provide acreage estimates for non-jurisdictional waters in the review area that do not meet the "Significant Nexus" standard, where such a finding is required for jurisdiction (check all that apply):
	Non-wetland waters (i.e., rivers, streams): linear feet, wide.
	Lakes/ponds: acres. Other non-wetland waters: acres. List type of aquatic resource:
	Wetlands: acres.
SE	CTION IV: DATA SOURCES.
Α.	SUPPORTING DATA. Data reviewed for JD (check all that apply - checked items shall be included in case file and, where checked
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A.	and requested, appropriately reference sources below): Maps, plans, plots or plat submitted by or on behalf of the applicant/consultant:
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B. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS TO SUPPORT JD:

Cottonwood Creek flows into Cross Creek which then flows into the Tulare Lakebed.



Cottonwood Creek looking upstream.

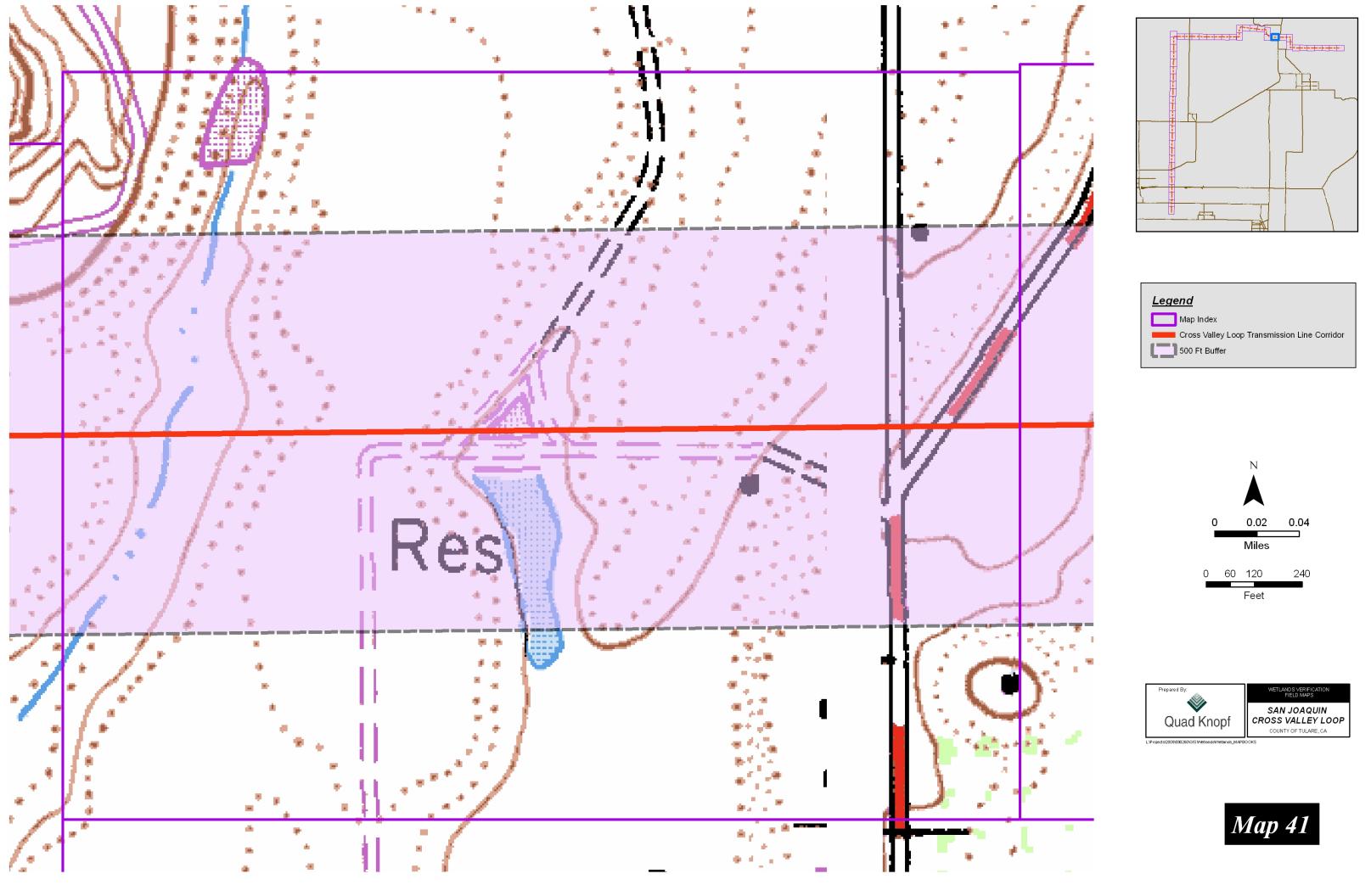


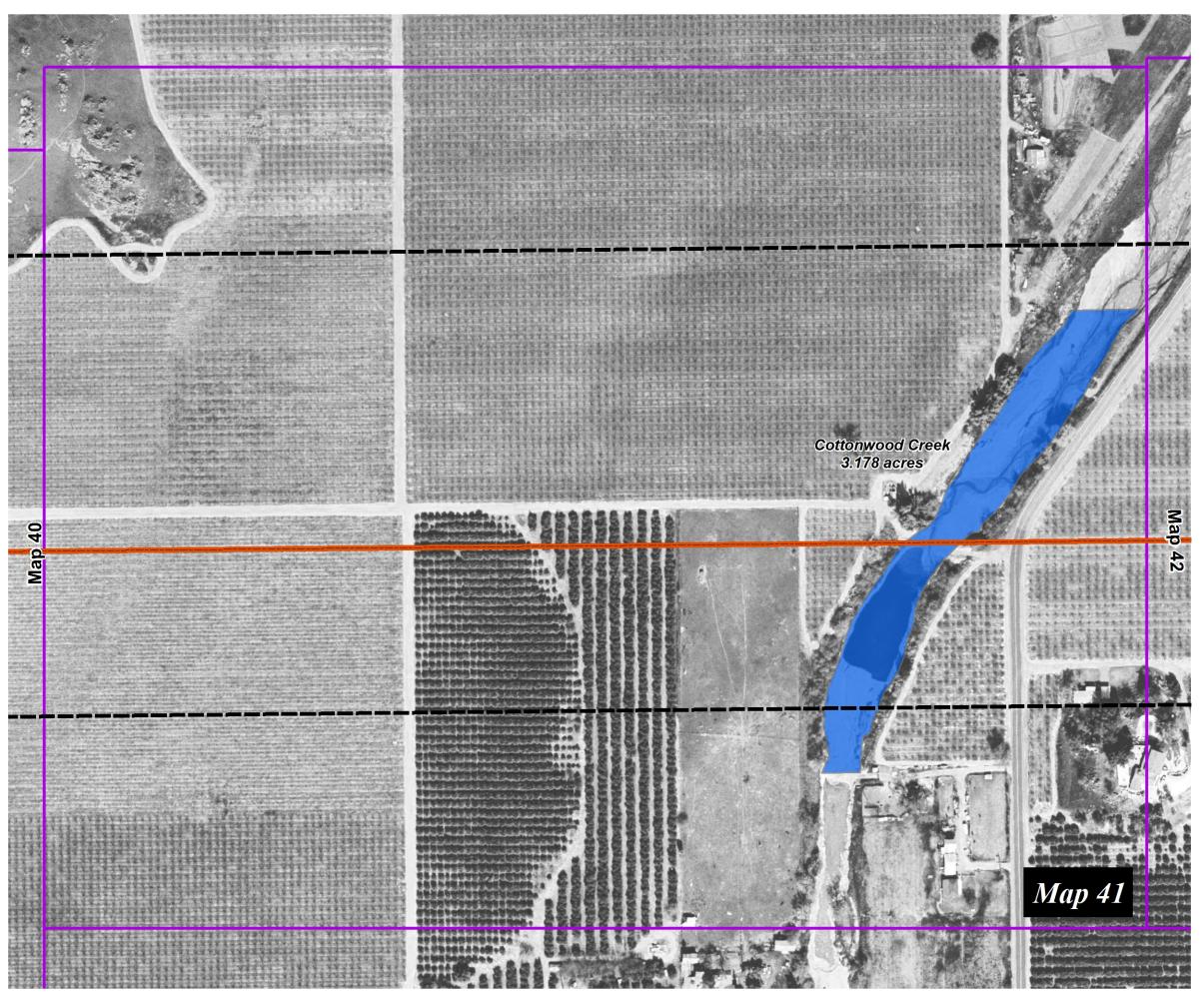
The streambed of Cottonwood Creek.

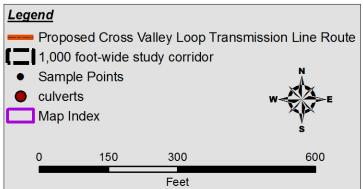
Photos were taken during a March 17-18, 2011 site visit .

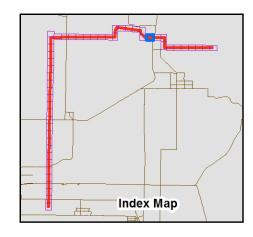


Cottonwood Creek looking downstream.









Jurisdictional	3.178
	0.000
Ephemeral Pools (ep)	0.000
Vernal Swale (vs)	0.000
Wet Ditch (wd)	0.000
Ponding Basins (pond)	0.000
Non-wetland Waters of the U.S.	3.178
Channels OHW (dc)	0.000
Ditches OHW (d)	0.000
Riverine OHW (riv)	3.178
Lined Canals (lc)	0.000
Non-Jurisdictional	0.000
Wetlands	0.000
Ephemeral Pools (ep)	0.000
Vernal Swale (vs)	0.000
,	0.000
Ponding Basins (pond)	0.000
Non-wetland Waters of the U.S.	0.000
Channels OHW (dc)	0.000
Ditches OHW (d)	0.000
` '	0.000
` '	0.000
	Acres = (ac)
	, ,
	Wetlands Ephemeral Pools (ep) Vernal Swale (vs) Wet Ditch (wd) Ponding Basins (pond) Non-wetland Waters of the U.S. Channels OHW (dc) Ditches OHW (d) Riverine OHW (riv) Lined Canals (lc) Non-Jurisdictional Wetlands Ephemeral Pools (ep) Vernal Swale (vs) Wet Ditch (wd) Ponding Basins (pond) Non-wetland Waters of the U.S.

