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## Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

9 December 2019

Randall Morrison  
City of Fresno  
2600 Fresno St., 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Fresno, CA 93721

### **CLEAN WATER ACT SECTION 401 TECHNICALLY CONDITIONED WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION; CITY OF FRESNO, VETERANS BOULEVARD EXTENSION PROJECT(WDID#5C10CR00064), FRESNO COUNTY**

This Order responds to the 5 July 2019 application submitted by City of Fresno (Applicant) for the Water Quality Certification of the Veterans Boulevard Extension Project (Project), permanently impacting 0.28 acre and temporarily impacting 0.10 acre of waters of the United States.

This Order serves as certification of the United States Army Corps of Engineers' Nationwide Permit #14 under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act, and a Waste Discharge Requirement under the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act and State Water Board Order 2003-0017-DWQ.

#### **WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION STANDARD CONDITIONS:**

1. This Water Quality Certification (Certification) is not valid until coverage under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act is obtained. If the Project, including the area of impact (as described) is modified through this process, this Certification will not be valid until amended by the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board).
2. This Order serves as a Water Quality Certification (Certification) action that is subject to modification or revocation upon administrative or judicial review, including review and amendment pursuant to Section 13330 of the California Water Code and Section 3867 of the California Code of Regulations.
3. This Certification action is not intended and shall not be construed to apply to any discharge from any activity involving a hydroelectric facility requiring a Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) license or an amendment to a FERC license unless the pertinent Certification application was filed pursuant to Section

**KARL E. LONGLEY ScD, P.E., CHAIR | PATRICK PULUPA, ESQ., EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

3855(b) of the California Code of Regulations, and the application specifically identified that a FERC license or amendment to a FERC license for a hydroelectric facility was being sought.

4. The validity of any non-denial Certification action shall be conditioned upon total payment of the full fee required under Section 3860(c) of the California Code of Regulations.
5. All reports, notices, or other documents required by this Certification or requested by the Central Valley Water Board shall be signed by a person described below or by a duly authorized representative of that person.
  - a) For a corporation: by a responsible corporate officer such as: 1) a president, secretary, treasurer, or vice president of the corporation in charge of a principal business function; 2) any other person who performs similar policy or decision-making functions for the corporation; or 3) the manager of one or more manufacturing, production, or operating facilities if authority to sign documents has been assigned or delegated to the manager in accordance with corporate procedures.
  - b) For a partnership or sole proprietorship: by a general partner or the proprietor.
  - c) For a municipality, state, federal, or other public agency: by either a principal executive officer or ranking elected official.
6. Any person signing a document under Standard Condition number 5 shall make the following certification:

“I certify under penalty of law that this document and all attachments were prepared under my direction or supervision in accordance with a system designed to assure that qualified personnel properly gathered and evaluated the information submitted. Based on my inquiry of the person or persons who manage the system, or those persons directly responsible for gathering the information, the information submitted is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, true, accurate, and complete. I am aware there are significant penalties for submitting false information, including the possibility of fine and imprisonment for knowing violations.”

**TECHNICAL CERTIFICATION CONDITIONS:**

In addition to the above standard conditions, the Applicant shall satisfy the following:

1. The Applicant shall notify the Central Valley Water Board in writing seven (7) days in advance of the start of any work within waters of the United States and waters of the state.
2. Except for activities permitted by the United States Army Corps of Engineers under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, soil, silt, or other organic materials shall not be

placed where such materials could pass into surface water or surface water drainage courses.

3. The Applicant shall maintain a copy of this Certification and supporting documentation (Project Information Sheet) at the Project site during construction for review by site personnel and agencies. All personnel (employees, contractors, and subcontractors) performing work on the proposed Project shall be adequately informed and trained regarding the conditions of this Certification.
4. The Applicant shall perform surface water sampling:
  - a) when in-water work is conducted during an unanticipated flow event;
  - b) in the event that Project activities result in any materials reaching surface waters;  
or
  - c) when any activities result in the creation of a visible plume in surface waters.

The sampling requirements in Table 1 shall be conducted upstream out of the influence of the Project, and approximately 300 feet downstream of the work area. The sampling frequency may be modified for certain projects with written approval from Central Valley Water Board staff.

**Table 1: Sampling Parameters and Frequency**

Parameter	Unit	Type of Sample	Minimum Sampling Frequency	Required Analytical Test Method
Turbidity	NTU	Grab (See 1 below)	Every 4 hours	(See 2 & 4 below)
Visible construction related pollutants (See 3 below)	Observations	Visual Inspections	Continuous throughout the construction period	—
pH (See 5 below)	Standard Units	Grab (See 1 below)	Every 4 hours	(See 2 & 4 below)

- (1) Grab samples shall not be collected at the same time each day to get a complete representation of variations in the receiving water.
- (2) Pollutants shall be analyzed using the analytical methods described in 40 Code of Federal Regulations Part 136; where no methods are specified for a given pollutant, the method shall be approved by Central Valley Water Board staff.
- (3) Visible construction-related pollutants include oil, grease, foam, fuel, petroleum products, and construction-related, excavated, organic or earthen materials.

(4) A hand-held field meter may be used, provided the meter utilizes a USEPA-approved algorithm/method and is calibrated and maintained in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. A calibration and maintenance log for each meter used for monitoring shall be maintained onsite.

(5) Sampling to be conducted if wet concrete comes into contact with surface water.

Surface water sampling shall occur at mid-depth. A surface water monitoring report shall be submitted within two weeks of initiation of in-water construction or other event triggering surface water sampling, and every two weeks thereafter. In reporting the sampling data, the Applicant shall arrange the data in tabular form so that the sampling locations, date, constituents, and concentrations are readily discernible. The data shall be summarized in such a manner to illustrate clearly whether the Project complies with Certification requirements. The report shall include surface water sampling results, visual observations, and identification of the turbidity increase in the receiving water applicable to the natural turbidity conditions specified in the turbidity criteria below.

If no sampling is required, the Applicant shall submit a written statement stating, "No sampling was required" within two weeks of initiation of construction, and every two weeks thereafter.

5. The Central Valley Water Board adopted a *Water Quality Control Plan for the Tulare Lake Basin*, Third Edition, revised May 2018 (Basin Plan) that designates beneficial uses, establishes water quality objectives, and contains implementation programs and policies to achieve those objectives for all waters addressed through the plan. Turbidity and pH limits are based on water quality objectives contained in the Basin Plan and are part of this Certification as follows:

- a) Waters shall not contain oils, greases, waxes, or other materials in concentrations that cause nuisance, result in a visible film or coating on the surface of the water or on objects in the water, or otherwise adversely affect beneficial uses.
- b) Activities shall not cause turbidity increases in surface water to exceed:
  - i. where natural turbidity is between 0 and 5 Nephelometric Turbidity Units (NTUs), increases shall not exceed 1 NTU;
  - ii. where natural turbidity is between 5 and 50 NTUs, increases shall not exceed 20 percent;
  - iii. where natural turbidity is between 50 and 100 NTUs, increases shall not exceed 10 NTUs; and
  - iv. where natural turbidity is greater than 100 NTUs, increases shall not exceed 10 percent.

In determining compliance with the above limits, appropriate averaging periods may be applied provided that beneficial uses will be fully protected. Averaging periods may only be used with prior permission of the Central Valley Water Board Executive Officer.

- c) Activities shall not cause pH to be depressed below 6.5 nor raised above 8.3 in surface water.
6. The Applicant shall notify the Central Valley Water Board immediately if the above criteria for turbidity, pH, or other water quality objectives are exceeded.
7. Work shall occur while area is naturally dry. The Applicant shall perform surface water sampling in accordance with Technical Certification Condition No. 4, if any of the following conditions occur: 1) in-water work is conducted during an unanticipated flow event; 2) Project activities result in any materials reaching surface waters; or 3) Project activities result in the creation of a visible plume in surface waters.
8. Activities shall not cause visible oil, grease, or foam in the receiving water.
9. Refueling of equipment within the floodplain or within 300 feet of the waterway is prohibited. If critical equipment must be refueled within 300 feet of the waterway, spill prevention and countermeasures must be implemented to avoid spills. Refueling areas shall be provided with secondary containment including drip pans and/or placement of absorbent material. No hazardous materials, pesticides, fuels, lubricants, oils, hydraulic fluids, or other construction-related potentially hazardous substances should be stored within a floodplain or within 300 feet of a waterway. The Applicant must perform frequent inspections of construction equipment prior to utilizing it near surface waters to ensure leaks from the equipment are not occurring and are not a threat to water quality.
10. The Applicant shall develop and maintain onsite a project-specific Spill Prevention, Containment and Cleanup Plan outlining the practices to prevent, minimize, and/or clean up potential spills during construction of the Project. The Plan must detail the Project elements, construction equipment types and location, access and staging and construction sequence.
11. The discharge of petroleum products, any construction materials, hazardous materials, pesticides, fuels, lubricants, oils, hydraulic fluids, raw cement, concrete, asphalt, paint, coating material, drilling fluids, or other construction-related potentially hazardous substances to surface water and/or soil is prohibited. In the event of a prohibited discharge, the Applicant shall notify the Central Valley Water Board Contact within 24-hours of the discharge.
12. Surface water that contacts wet concrete must be pumped out and disposed of at an appropriate off-site commercial facility, which is authorized to accept concrete wastes.

13. Silt fencing, straw wattles, or other effective management practices must be used along the construction zone to minimize soil or sediment along the embankments from migrating into the waters of the United States and waters of the state through the entire duration of the Project.
14. The use of netting material (e.g., monofilament-based erosion blankets) that could trap aquatic dependent wildlife is prohibited within the Project area.
15. All areas disturbed by Project activities shall be protected from washout and erosion.
16. All temporarily affected areas shall be restored to pre-construction contours and conditions upon completion of construction activities.
17. Hydroseeding shall be performed with California native seed mix.
18. All waste materials resulting from the Project shall be removed from the site and disposed of properly.
19. This Certification is not valid if the Project is not conducted in accordance with an existing water right issued by the State Water Resources Control Board. This Certification does not provide a new water right or modify an existing water right.
20. If the Project will involve land disturbance activities of one or more acres, or where the Project disturbs less than one acre but is part of a larger common plan of development that in total disturbs one or more acres, the Applicant shall obtain coverage under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) General Permit for Storm Water Discharges Associated with Construction and Land Disturbance Activities Order No. 2009-0009-DWQ for discharges to surface waters comprised of storm water associated with construction activity.
21. The Conditions in this Certification are based on the information in the attached "Project Information Sheet" and the application package. If the actual project, as described in the attached Project Information Sheet and application package, is modified or changed, this Certification is no longer valid until amended by the Central Valley Water Board.
22. In the event of any violation or threatened violation of the conditions of this Certification, the violation or threatened violation shall be subject to any remedies, penalties, process, or sanctions as provided for under state and federal law. The applicability of any state law authorizing remedies, penalties, process, or sanctions for the violation or threatened violation constitutes a limitation necessary to ensure compliance with this Certification.
  - a) If the Applicant or a duly authorized representative of the Project fails or refuses to furnish technical or monitoring reports, as required under this Certification, or falsifies any information provided in the monitoring reports, the applicant is subject to civil liability, for each day of violation, and/or criminal liability.

- b) In response to a suspected violation of any condition of this Certification, the Central Valley Water Board may require the Applicant to furnish, under penalty of perjury, any technical or monitoring reports the Central Valley Water Board deems appropriate, provided that the burden, including cost of the reports, shall be in reasonable relationship to the need for the reports and the benefits to be obtained from the reports.
- c) The Applicant shall allow the staff of the Central Valley Water Board, or an authorized representative(s), upon the presentation of credentials and other documents, as may be required by law, to enter the Project premises for inspection, including taking photographs and securing copies of project-related records, for the purpose of assuring compliance with this Certification and determining the ecological success of the Project.

#### **NOTIFICATIONS AND REPORTS:**

- 23. The Applicant shall provide a Notice of Completion (NOC) no later than 30 days after the Project completion. The NOC shall demonstrate that the Project has been carried out in accordance with the Project description in the Certification and in any approved amendments. The NOC shall include a map of the Project location(s), including final boundaries of any on-site restoration area(s), if appropriate, and representative pre and post construction photographs. Each photograph shall include a descriptive title, date taken, photographic site, and photographic orientation.
- 24. The Applicant shall submit all notifications, submissions, materials, data, correspondence, and reports in a searchable Portable Document Format (PDF). Documents less than 50 MB must be emailed to: [centralvalleyfresno@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:centralvalleyfresno@waterboards.ca.gov). In the subject line of the email, include the Central Valley Water Board Contact, Project name, and WDID number as shown in the subject line above. Documents that are 50 MB or larger must be transferred to a disk and mailed to the Central Valley Water Board Contact.

#### **CENTRAL VALLEY WATER BOARD CONTACT:**

Debra Mahnke  
Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board  
1685 E Street  
Fresno, CA 93706

#### **CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT:**

The City of Fresno is the Lead Agency responsible for compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act for the Veterans Boulevard/State Route 99 Interchange Project pursuant to Section 21000 et seq. of the Public Resources Code. The City of Fresno certified the Environmental Impact Report on 13 June 2013. The City of Fresno

filed a Notice of Determination with the State Clearinghouse on 28 June 2013 (SCH No. 2010021054).

The Central Valley Water Board has reviewed and evaluated the impacts to water quality identified in the Environmental Impact Report. The mitigation measures discussed in the Environmental Impact Report to minimize project impacts to State waters are required by this Certification.

**WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION:**

I hereby issue an Order certifying that any discharge from the City of Fresno, Veterans Boulevard Extension Project (WDID#5C10CR00064) will comply with the applicable provisions of Section 301 ("Effluent Limitations"), Section 302 ("Water Quality Related Effluent Limitations"), Section 303 ("Water Quality Standards and Implementation Plans"), Section 306 ("National Standards of Performance"), and Section 307 ("Toxic and Pretreatment Effluent Standards") of the Clean Water Act. Through this Order, this discharge is also regulated under State Water Resources Control Board Water Quality Order No. 2003-0017 DWQ "Statewide General Waste Discharge Requirements For Dredged Or Fill Discharges That Have Received State Water Quality Certification (General WDRs)".

Except insofar as may be modified by any preceding conditions, all Certification actions are contingent on: a) the discharge being limited and all proposed mitigation being completed in compliance with the conditions of this Certification, City of Fresno's application package, and the attached Project Information Sheet; and b) compliance with all applicable requirements of the *Water Quality Control Plan for the Tulare Lake Basin*, Third Edition, revised May 2018.

Any person aggrieved by this action may petition the State Water Resources Control Board to review the action in accordance with California Water Code Section 13320 and California Code of Regulations, Title 23, Section 2050 and following. The State Water Resources Control Board must receive the petition by 5:00 p.m., 30 days after the date of this action, except that if the thirtieth day following the date of this action falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or state holiday, the petition must be received by the State Water Resources Control Board by 5:00 p.m. on the next business day. Copies of the law and regulations applicable to filing petitions may be found on the State Water Resources Control Board's [Water Quality Petitions webpage](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/public_notices/petitions/water_quality) ([http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/public\\_notices/petitions/water\\_quality](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/public_notices/petitions/water_quality)) or will be provided upon request.

*Original Signed by Clay L. Rodgers for:*  
Patrick Pulupa  
Executive Officer

cc: Distribution List, page 9

Attachments: Project Information Sheet, Project Figures



**DISTRIBUTION LIST**

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Stateboard401@waterboards.ca.gov

Mike Trueblood (Electronic Copy Only)  
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mike.trueblood@lsa.net

## PROJECT INFORMATION SHEET

**Application Date:** 5 July 2019

**Applicant:** Randall Morrison  
City of Fresno  
2600 Fresno St., 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Fresno, CA 93721

**Project Name:** Veterans Boulevard Extension Project

**Application Number:** WDID 5C10CR00064

**Date on Public Notice:** 19 July 2019

**Date Application Deemed Complete:** 5 August 2019

**Date All Information Received:** 21 November 2019

**Type of Project:** Bridge Construction

**Project Location:** Section 9, Township 13 South, Range 19 East, MDB&M.  
Latitude: 36.81114° and Longitude: -119.90919°

**County:** Fresno County

**Receiving Water(s) (hydrologic unit):** Herndon Canal, Tulare Lake Hydrologic Basin, South Valley Floor Hydrologic Unit #551.30, Fresno HA

**Water Body Type:** Unvegetated Canal

**Designated Beneficial Uses:** The *Water Quality Control Plan for the Tulare Lake Basin*, Third Edition, revised May 2018 (Basin Plan) has designated beneficial uses for surface and ground waters within the region. Beneficial uses that could be impacted by the project include, but are not limited to: Municipal and Domestic Water Supply (MUN); Agricultural Supply (AGR); Industrial Supply (IND); Hydropower Generation (POW); Groundwater Recharge (GWR); Water Contact Recreation (REC-1); Non-Contact Water Recreation (REC-2); Warm Freshwater Habitat (WARM); Cold Freshwater Habitat (COLD); Preservation of Biological Habitats of Special Significance (BIOL); Rare, Threatened, or Endangered Species (RARE); Migration of Aquatic Organisms (MIGR); Spawning, Reproduction, and/or Early Development (SPWN); and Wildlife Habitat (WILD). A comprehensive and specific list of the beneficial uses applicable for the project area can be found on the Central Valley Water Board's [Basin Planning webpage](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/basin_plans/index.shtml) ([http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water\\_issues/basin\\_plans/index.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/basin_plans/index.shtml)).

**303(d) List of Water Quality Limited Segments:** None

**Project Description:** The project to the west of SR-99 will consist of reconstruction of Shaw Avenue, a 6-lane roadway from Shaw Avenue to the existing Bryan/Barstow intersection, a structure over the Herndon Canal, construction of a Class 1 trail, and reconstruction of a portion of the existing Barstow Avenue. For the double-box culvert at Herndon Canal, the canal bottom and side slopes will be excavated with an excavator and loader and the bottom of excavation will be compacted with roller. The culvert bottom slab will be cut neat or formed and rebar placed. The bottom slab and cut-off walls will then be poured with concrete.

No dewatering is planned for the project as construction in the channel is only to take place during the Herndon Canal dry season (mid-September to December).

**Preliminary Water Quality Concerns:** Construction activities may impact surface waters with increased turbidity.

**Proposed Mitigation to Address Concerns:** The Applicant will implement Best Management Practices to control sedimentation and erosion.

This Certification requires all work to be conducted during periods of no flow. In the event that project activities result in any materials reaching surface waters or unanticipated in-water work occurs, the Applicant will conduct turbidity and pH testing. During this testing, the Applicant will stop work if Basin Plan criteria are exceeded or observations indicate an exceedance of a water quality objective.

All temporary affected areas will be restored to pre-construction contours and conditions upon completion of construction activities to provide 1:1 mitigation for temporary impacts.

**Excavation/Fill Area:** Approximately 484 cubic yards of concrete and 44 cubic yards of clean rip-rap will be placed into 0.28 acre(s) of waters of the United States.

**Dredge Volume:** None

**California Integrated Water Quality System Impact Data:**

**Table 1: Impacts from Fill and/or Excavation Activities**

Aquatic Resource Type	Temporary Acres	Permanent Loss Acres
Canal	0.10	0.28

**United States Army Corps of Engineers Permit Type:** Nationwide Permit 14, non-notifying.

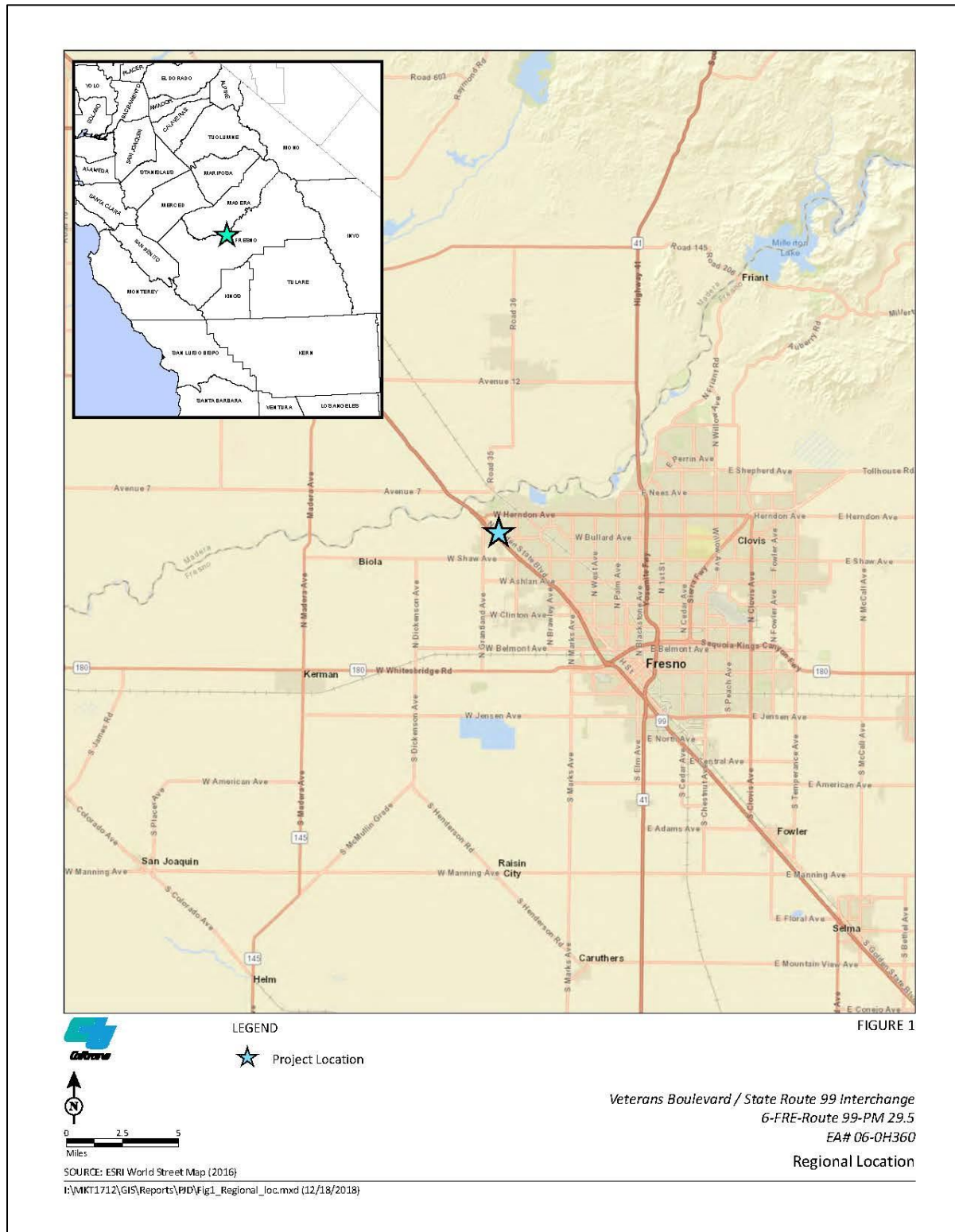
**California Department of Fish and Wildlife Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement:** Not applicable, intermittent flow, no habitat value.

**Status of CEQA Compliance:** The California Department of Transportation is the Lead Agency responsible for compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act for the Veterans Boulevard Extension Project pursuant to Section 21000 et seq. of the Public Resources Code. The California Department of Transportation certified the Environmental Impact Report on 13 June 2013. The California Department of Transportation filed a Notice of Determination with the State Clearinghouse on 28 June 2013 (SCH No. 2010021054).

**Compensatory Mitigation:** Installation of concrete lined culverts will retain the current non-wetland waters acreage resulting in no net loss in area or function of non-wetland waters of the U.S. Therefore, compensatory mitigation is not proposed.

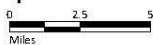
**Application Fee Provided:** \$5,506 was received on 5 July 2019. The fee amount was determined as required by California Code of Regulations, title 23, sections 3833(b)(3) and 2200(a)(3), and was calculated as category A - Fill & Excavation Discharges (fee code 84) with the dredge and fill fee calculator.

Figure 1 – Project Location Map



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★ Project Location



SOURCE: ESRI World Street Map (2016)

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Veterans Boulevard / State Route 99 Interchange  
6-FRE-Route.99-PM 29.5  
EA# 06-0H360  
Regional Location

FIGURE 1

Figure 2- Project Vicinity Map

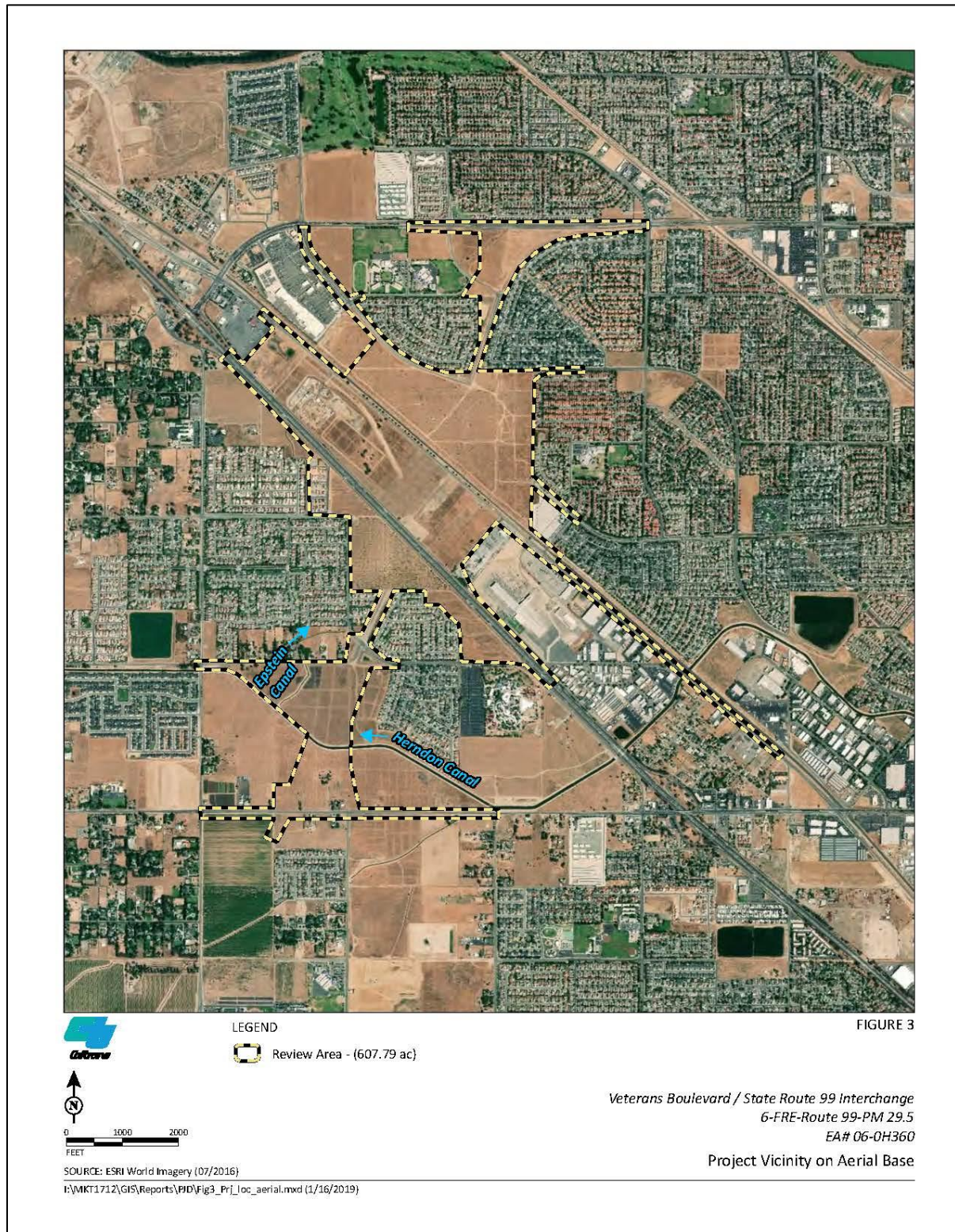
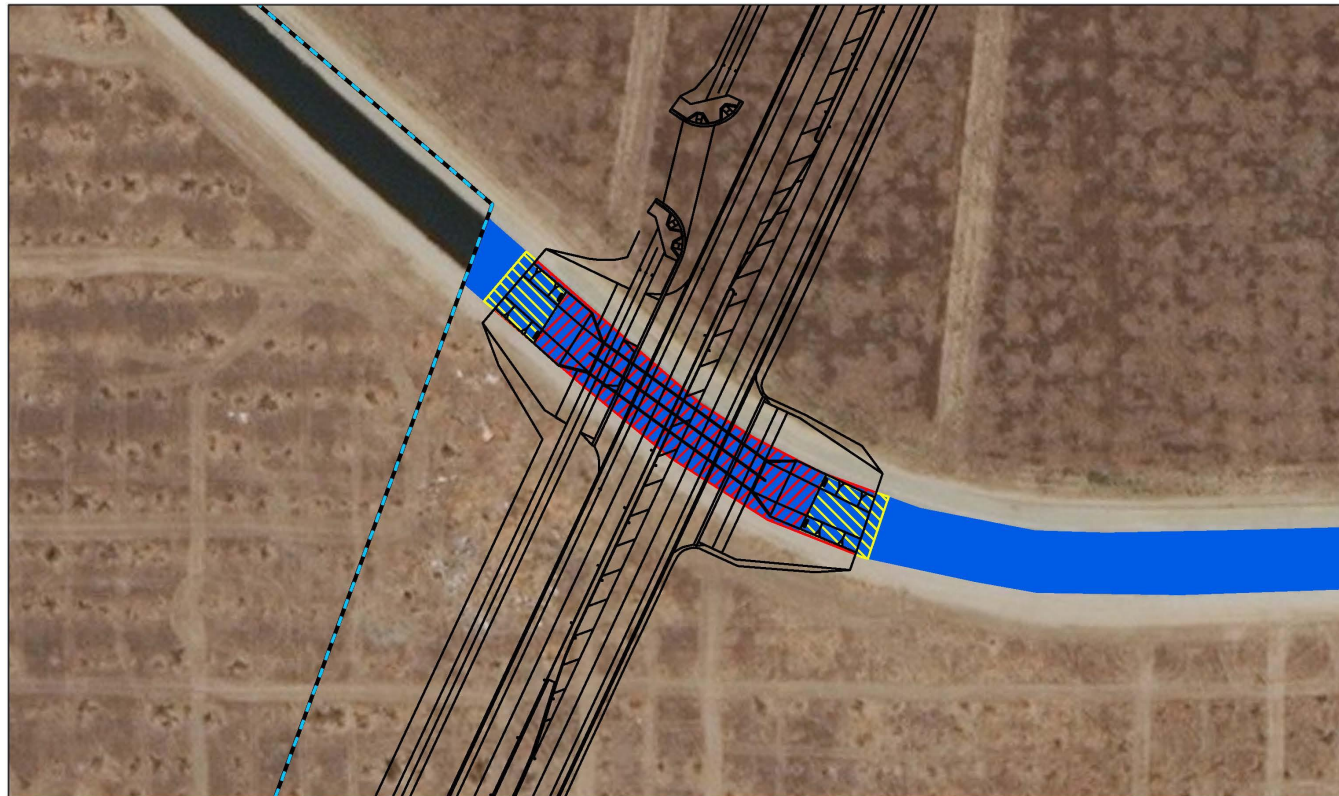


Figure 3-Impact Area



LSA



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-  Biological Study Area - (607.80 ac)
-  Project Design
-  Jurisdictional Waters of the U.S. - Non-Wetland (1.22 ac)
- Impacts to Non-Wetland Waters - (0.38 ac)**
-  Permanent Impacts - (0.28 ac)
-  Temporary Impacts - (0.10 ac)

Veterans Boulevard / State Route 99 Interchange  
6-FRE-Route 99-PM 29.5  
EA# 06-0H360

Impacts to Potential Waters of the U.S.

SOURCE: DigitalGlobe Aerial Imagery (07/2016); Mapping - LSA (12/2018)

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