



Public Meeting

October 14, 2021

BIG TUJUNGA RESERVOIR RESTORATION PROJECT
Revised and Recirculated IS/MND

AGENDA

- ▶ Purpose of California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)
- ▶ Background
- ▶ Changes / Updates
- ▶ Revised and Recirculated Initial Study / Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND)
- ▶ IS/MND Process

PURPOSE OF CEQA

- ▶ The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) is California's broadest environmental law.
 - CEQA applies to all discretionary action projects
- ▶ Purpose of CEQA is to:
 - Disclose project impacts to public and decision makers
 - Identify feasible mitigation measures to avoid or reduce environmental impacts



PROJECT BACKGROUND

WHY REVISED and RECIRCULATED?

- ▶ A Draft IS/MND was prepared in 2013
- ▶ Public Review Occurred: 05/13/13 - 06/26/13
- ▶ Substantial revisions triggered preparation of the Revised and Recirculated IS/MND (Section 15073.5 of State CEQA Guidelines)
- ▶ Revisions to Project Description are disclosed and analyses are updated



MODIFICATIONS / UPDATES

- ▶ Change in Project components
- ▶ Aesthetics
- ▶ Air Quality
- ▶ Cultural Resources
- ▶ Energy (new CEQA topic)
- ▶ Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- ▶ Hazards and Hazardous Materials
- ▶ Hydrology and Water Quality
- ▶ Land Use and Planning
- ▶ Noise
- ▶ Transportation
- ▶ Wildfire (new CEQA topic)



CHANGES TO PROJECT IMPACTS

BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

- ▶ New potentially significant impacts were identified
 - Least Bell's Vireo incidentally observed
 - Greata's Aster observed within impact area
 - Crotch Bumblebee proposed for State listing
 - Mountain Lion proposed for State listing
 - New mitigation measures were proposed to reduce these impacts
- ▶ Updated baseline vegetation mapping (2017) for Habitat Conservation Plan
- ▶ Updated Jurisdictional Delineation (2021) to address 2020 Navigable Water Rule



NEW SIGNIFICANT IMPACTS

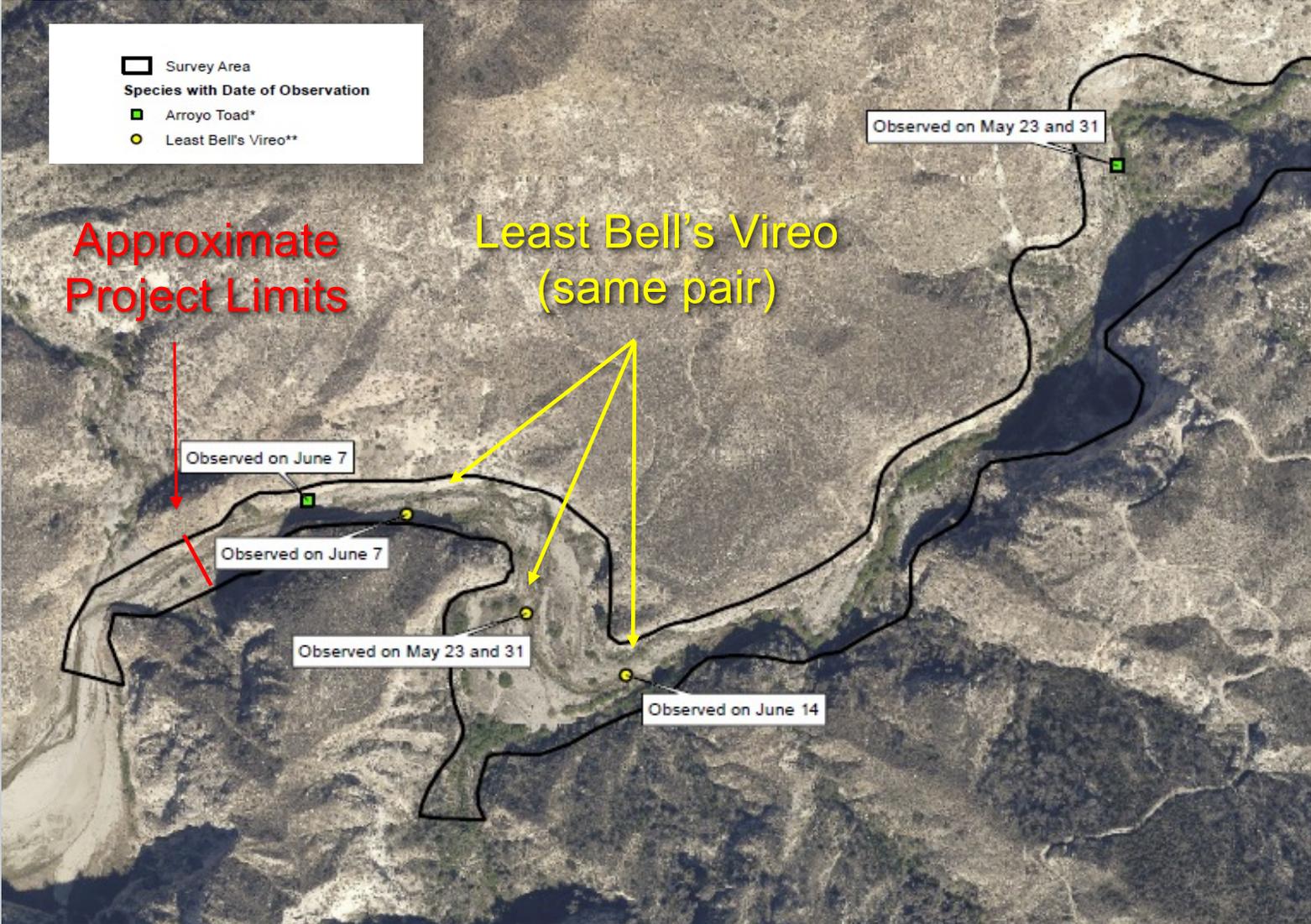
BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

- ▶ Least Bell's vireo
 - Protocol focused surveys (2012)– absent
 - Protocol focused surveys (2016)– absent
 - Incidental observation – 2017
 - Protocol focused surveys (2018)– absent
 - Mitigation Measure BIO-6
 - Pre-construction surveys
 - Protective measures



LBV INCIDENTAL OBSERVATION (2017)

BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES



NEW SIGNIFICANT IMPACTS

BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

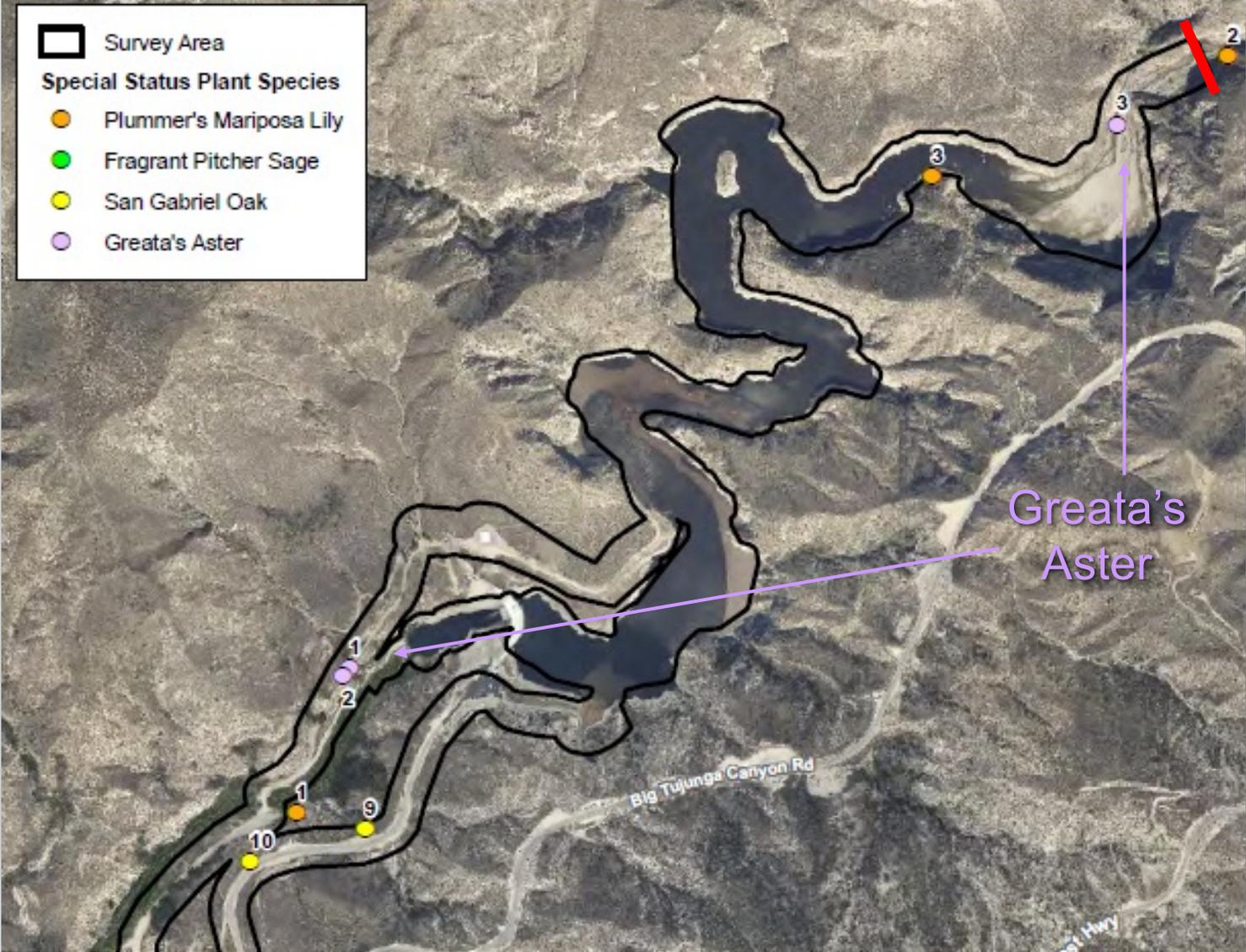
- ▶ Greata's aster
 - Focused Surveys (2011); observed downstream but absent from upstream
 - Focused Surveys (2016); observed downstream and upstream within sediment removal footprint
 - Mitigation Measure BIO-1



GREATA'S ASTER OBSERVATION (2016)



BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES



Approximate Project Limits

NEW SIGNIFICANT IMPACTS

BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

- ▶ New species proposed for State listing
- ▶ Crotch Bumblebee
 - Potentially significant impact
 - Pre-construction survey
 - Mitigation Measure BIO-3
- ▶ Mountain Lion
 - No long-term change to wildlife movement
 - Less than Significant Impact

State of California
Natural Resources Agency
Department of Fish and Wildlife

REPORT TO THE FISH AND GAME COMMISSION

EVALUATION OF THE PETITION FROM THE XERCES SOCIETY, DEFENDERS OF WILDLIFE, AND THE CENTER FOR FOOD SAFETY TO LIST FOUR SPECIES OF BUMBLE BEES AS ENDANGERED UNDER THE CALIFORNIA ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT



Prepared by
California Department of Fish and Wildlife

April 4, 2019



State of California
Natural Resources Agency
Department of Fish and Wildlife

REPORT TO THE FISH AND GAME COMMISSION

EVALUATION OF A PETITION FROM THE CENTER FOR BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY AND THE MOUNTAIN LION FOUNDATION TO LIST THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA/CENTRAL COAST EVOLUTIONARILY SIGNIFICANT UNIT (ESU) OF MOUNTAIN LIONS AS THREATENED UNDER THE CALIFORNIA ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT



Photo: Donna Krucki

Prepared by
California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Final Review Draft January 31, 2020



NEW SIGNIFICANT IMPACTS

BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

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Photo: Donna Krucki

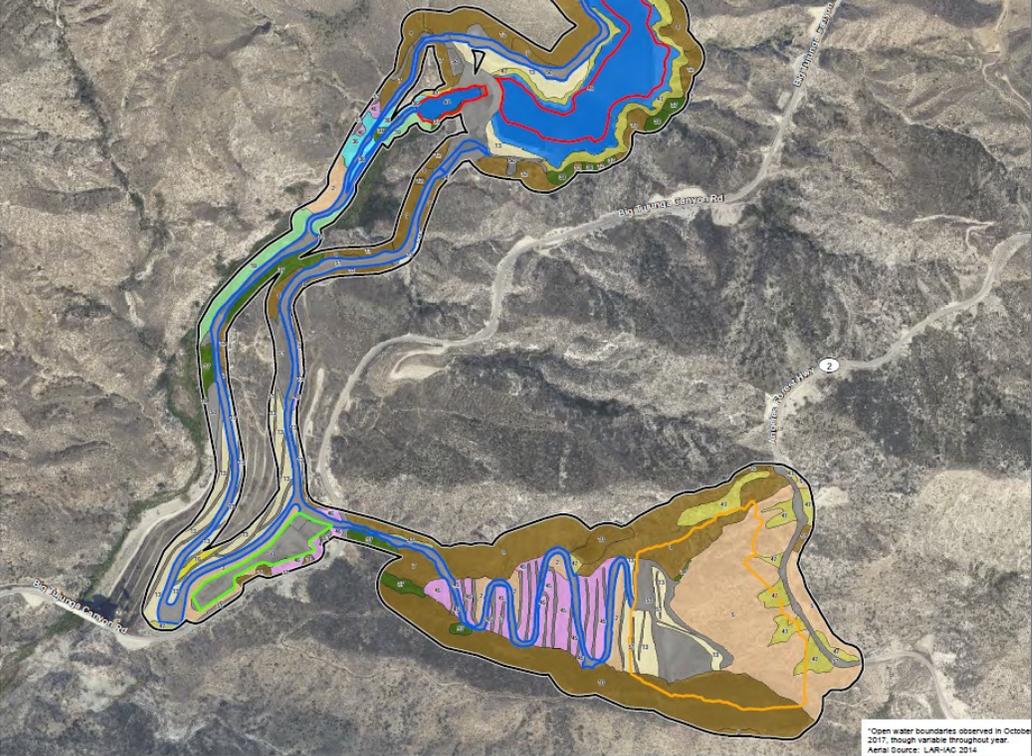
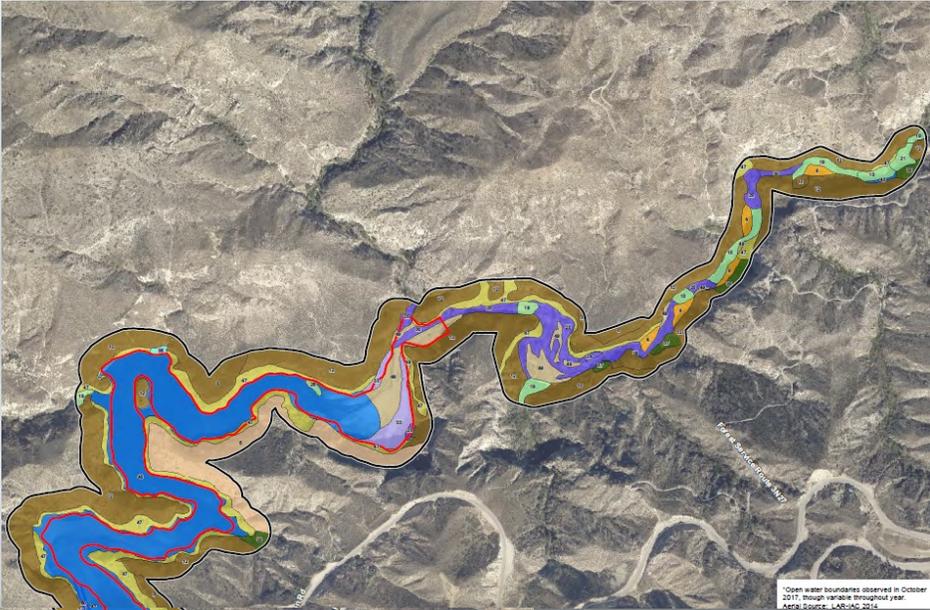
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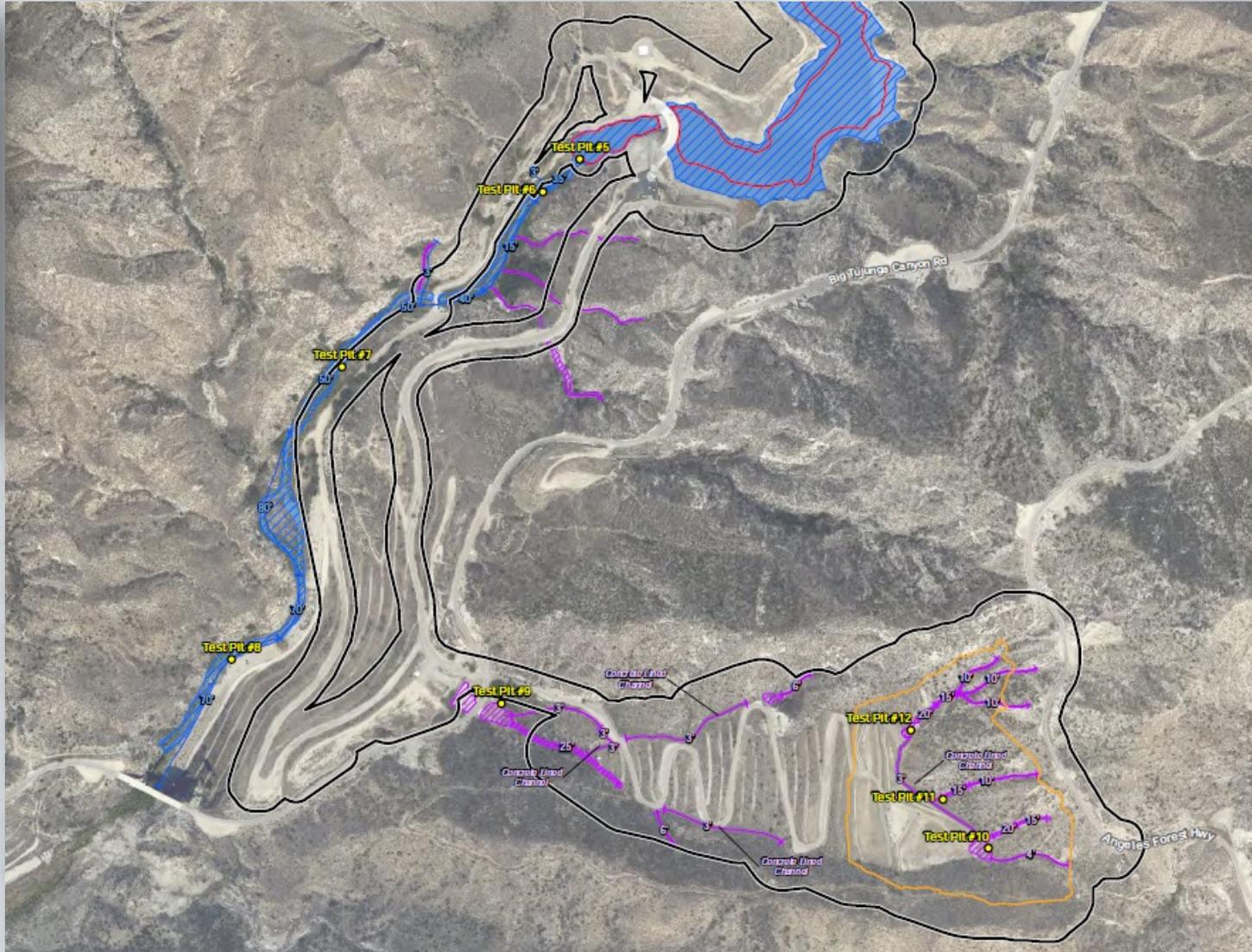
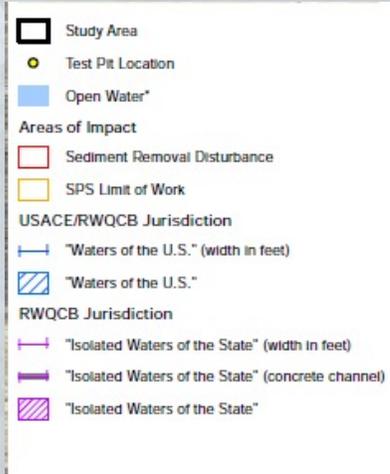
- ▶ New species proposed for State listing
- ▶ Crotch Bumblebee
 - Potentially significant impact
 - ~~▪ Pre-construction survey~~
 - ~~▪ Mitigation Measure BIO-3~~
- Crotch Bumblebee not listed (October 2021)
- ▶ Mountain Lion
 - No long-term change to wildlife movement
 - Less than Significant Impact

**UPDATED BASELINE
VEGETATION MAPPING
HCP - 2017
BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES**



UPDATED JURISDICTION DELINEATION (2021)

BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES



- ▶ 2020 Navigable Waters Protection Rule
- ▶ Reduced USACE jurisdiction in Maple Canyon
- ▶ Mitigation Measure Bio-9

UPDATED JURISDICTION DELINEATION (2021)



BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Study Area

- Test Pit Location
- Open Water*

Areas of Impact

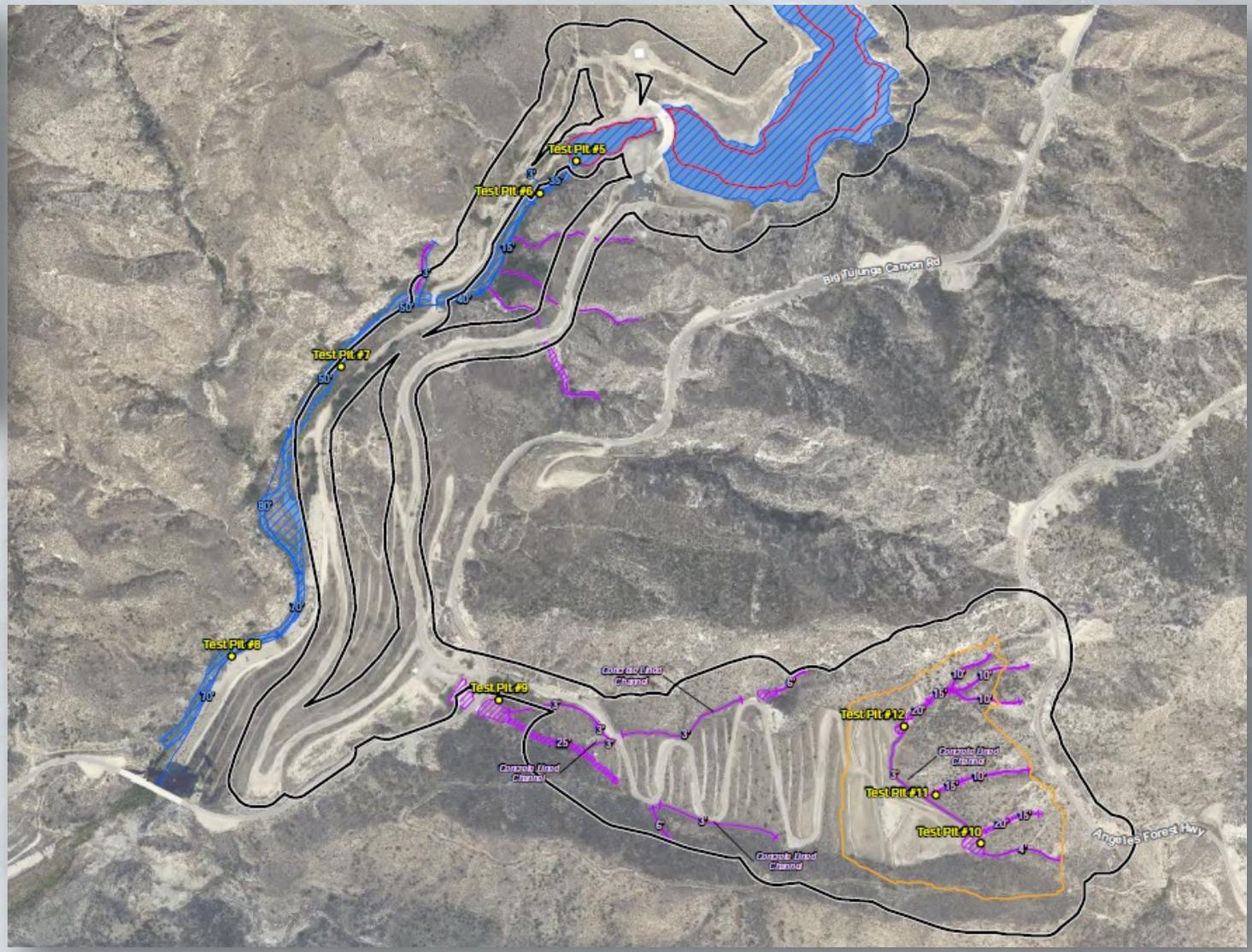
- Sediment Removal Disturbance
- SPS Limit of Work

USACE/RWQCB Jurisdiction

- "Waters of the U.S." (width in feet)
- "Waters of the U.S."

RWQCB Jurisdiction

- "Isolated Waters of the State" (width in feet)
- "Isolated Waters of the State" (concrete channel)
- "Isolated Waters of the State"



▶ 2020 Navigable Waters Protection Rule

~~▶ Reduced USACE jurisdiction in Maple Canyon~~

Courts vacated 2020 Rule and previous rule

▶ Mitigation Measure Bio-9

REVISED AND RECIRCULATED IS / MND PROCESS

- ▶ Project Initiation
- ▶ Technical Analyses
- ▶ IS/MND Document
 - Public review draft IS/MND
 - Final IS/MND—Responses to Comments
 - Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program
- ▶ Approval Process
- ▶ Notice of Determination



REVISED AND RECIRCULATED IS / MND PROCESS



PUBLIC COMMENTS

- ▶ Revised and Recirculated IS/MND is available at:
 - County's website: pw.lacounty.gov/wrd/Projects/BigTujunga/
- ▶ You can submit written comments via:
 - **Mail:** Los Angeles County Public Works
Stormwater Engineering Division, Reservoir Cleanouts
P.O. Box 1460, Alhambra, CA 91802-1460
 - **Email:** reservoircleanouts@pw.lacounty.gov
 - **Fax:** (626) 979-5436

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- ▶ Comments should be postmarked by:
 - Monday, October 25, 2021
- ▶ Comments should include “Big Tujunga Reservoir Restoration Project IS/MND” in the subject line
- ▶ Provide verbal comments tonight
- ▶ All written and verbal comments will be addressed in the Responses to Comments Document

QUESTIONS / COMMENTS

PSOMAS

THANK YOU!