



NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF A DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

DATE: October 21, 2019

TO: NOP Distribution List

SUBJECT: Notice of Preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR)

Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (District) as Lead Agency in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), will prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Report DEIR for the San Jacinto River Stage 3 (SJR3) Master Drainage Plan (MDP) Project, described below. The purpose of this notice is to solicit guidance as to the scope and content of the environmental information to be included in the DEIR.

PROJECT TITLE: San Jacinto River Stage 3 Master Drainage Plan

PROJECT APPLICANT: Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District
1995 Market Street
Riverside, California 92501

PROJECT LOCATION: The SJR3 MDP is located along the approximate 11-mile stretch of the San Jacinto River south of the Ramona Expressway and stretching southwest to the mouth of Railroad Canyon, in the City of Perris and unincorporated Riverside County (see **Figure 1 – Regional Map**). The SJR3 MDP is located within the United States Geological Survey Perris, Romoland, and Elsinore Quadrangles at the following sections (see **Figure 2 – USGS Map**): Township 4 South, Range 3 West, Section 12; Township 4 South, Range 2 West, Section 7; Township 4 South, Range 3 West, Sections 21, 28, 29, 32, and 33; Township 5 South, Range 3 West, Sections 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 18; and Township 5 South, Range 4 West, Sections 12 and 13 San Bernardino Base and Meridian.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The SJR3 MDP will identify the components needed to sustain flood control of the lower San Jacinto River (Stage 3) in order to protect critical transportation and public safety, while balancing environmental needs. The following elements of the SJR3 MDP, are considered essential for public safety (refer to **Figure 3 – SJR3 MDP Elements**) and would be initiated by the District, depending on the availability of funds:

1. Armoring¹ of the Southern Side of the Existing Ramona Expressway Embankment (shown in red on **Figure 3**);
2. Embankment and Flow Control Structure Upstream of the I-215 Freeway (shown in dark blue outline on **Figure 3 and Figure 4 – Embankment and Flow Control Structure Upstream of the I-215 Freeway Improvements**);

¹ 'Armoring' refer to a variety of protective coverings designed to prevent erosion of slopes, such as rocks, vegetation, or engineering materials.

3. Low Flow Channel and Funnel (shown in blue, orange, and black on **Figure 3 and Figure 4**); and
4. Underground Storm Drain (shown in brown on **Figure 3**).

It should be noted that the SJR3 MDP elements have independent utility from each other and do not require one element to be completed prior to the construction of another MDP element nor is one element a foreseeable consequence of the other. Thus, the SJR3 MDP elements may be constructed one at a time or all at once. Implementation of SJR3 MDP is expected to occur within the next 10 to 20 years.

Potential Future Facilities

After the SJR3 MDP improvements have been completed, there will be large areas within the City of Perris and County of Riverside that are still within the 100-year floodplain. As such, various Potential Future Facilities have been identified to address the drainage needs for these areas and these facilities will be discussed in SJR3 MDP EIR at a programmatic level. With construction of these facilities, the 100-year floodplain could be reduced even further and therefore could facilitate development pursuant to the applicable jurisdiction's General Plans/Specific Plans in those areas. The potential future facilities include:

1. Widening PVSD to its ultimate Master Plan width of approximately 540 feet for conveyance of up to 100 year flows; and
2. Widening and terracing the proposed SJR3 partial funnel beyond the proposed MDP footprint between the I-215 freeway and Case Road; and
3. Widening the San Jacinto River Channel south of the widened/terraced funnel to approximately Ethanac Road.

Although these improvements will be analyzed programmatically, it is important to note that the Potential Future Facilities are not needed to fulfill the District's primary objective. Since these Potential Future Facilities would not support the District's goals and mission of providing flood control protection and the details related to construction of these facilities are speculative, these improvements are not a part of the SJR3 MDP and as such are expected to be constructed by the development community instead after the SJR3 MDP is implemented. In other words, because future development envisioned in the General Plans and various Specific Plans within the City of Perris and County of Riverside coincide with the 100 year floodplain which would still remain after SJR3 MDP is implemented, additional master-planned flood control facilities, that are not a part of the SJR3 MDP, would need to be constructed in order to remove those areas that remain in the 100-year floodplain in the post-SJR3 MDP-condition.

If any of these future facilities were to be constructed, the City of Perris or County of Riverside, whichever local agency has the land use authority, would need to analyze the specific impacts of construction and implementation of these facilities as part of the individual development projects that require these elements to be constructed.

Future Operations and Maintenance of the SJR3 MDP

Once a SJR3 MDP facility is constructed, it will require maintenance in order to retain flood control capacity. It is expected that the District will operate and maintain the armoring of the southern side of the existing Ramona Expressway embankment, embankment and flow control structure upstream of the I-215 freeway, partial terraced low flow channel and funnel, underground storm drain, and PVSD.

Maintenance activities typically consists of keeping the above mentioned SJR3 MDP facilities clear of debris and sediment, removal of deposition, repairs of eroded slopes, reduction of fire hazard by annual

mowing and application of herbicides as well as repairing any damages to these facilities. Vegetation must be removed or mowed annually (or as necessary) to provide the designed hydraulic capacity.

On rare occasions, major repairs may be required following damaging storm events. Thus, major grading will not routinely occur while maintaining the underground storm drain or channel. To maintain the constructed SJR3 MDP facilities, the District will occasionally use equipment similar to the types that will be used to construct the proposed SJR3 MDP facilities, which will be analyzed and discussed in the forthcoming EIR.

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED: Pursuant to implementation procedures, notice is given to responsible and interested agencies, other organizations, and private citizens. Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District plans to oversee the preparation of the DEIR for the above-described Project. The list of topics to be analyzed in the DEIR corresponds to all impacts identified as “potentially significant” in the initial study available for public review from **October 21, 2019 through November 20, 2019:**

- Agriculture and Forestry Resources
- Biological Resources
- Energy
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Land Use/Planning
- Utilities
- Air Quality
- Cultural Resources
- Geology/Soils
- Hydrology/Water Quality
- Tribal Cultural Resources
- Mandatory Findings of Significance

PUBLIC SCOPING PERIOD: The District will accept written comments regarding the scope and content of the DEIR between October 21 and November 20, 2019. A public scoping meeting will be held on November 12, 2019 from 5:00 pm to 6:30 pm at Nuview Library located at 29990 Lakeview Ave., Nuevo, CA 92567. Written comments regarding the scope and contents of the DEIR should be submitted **no later than November 20, 2019 to:**

LEAD AGENCY:

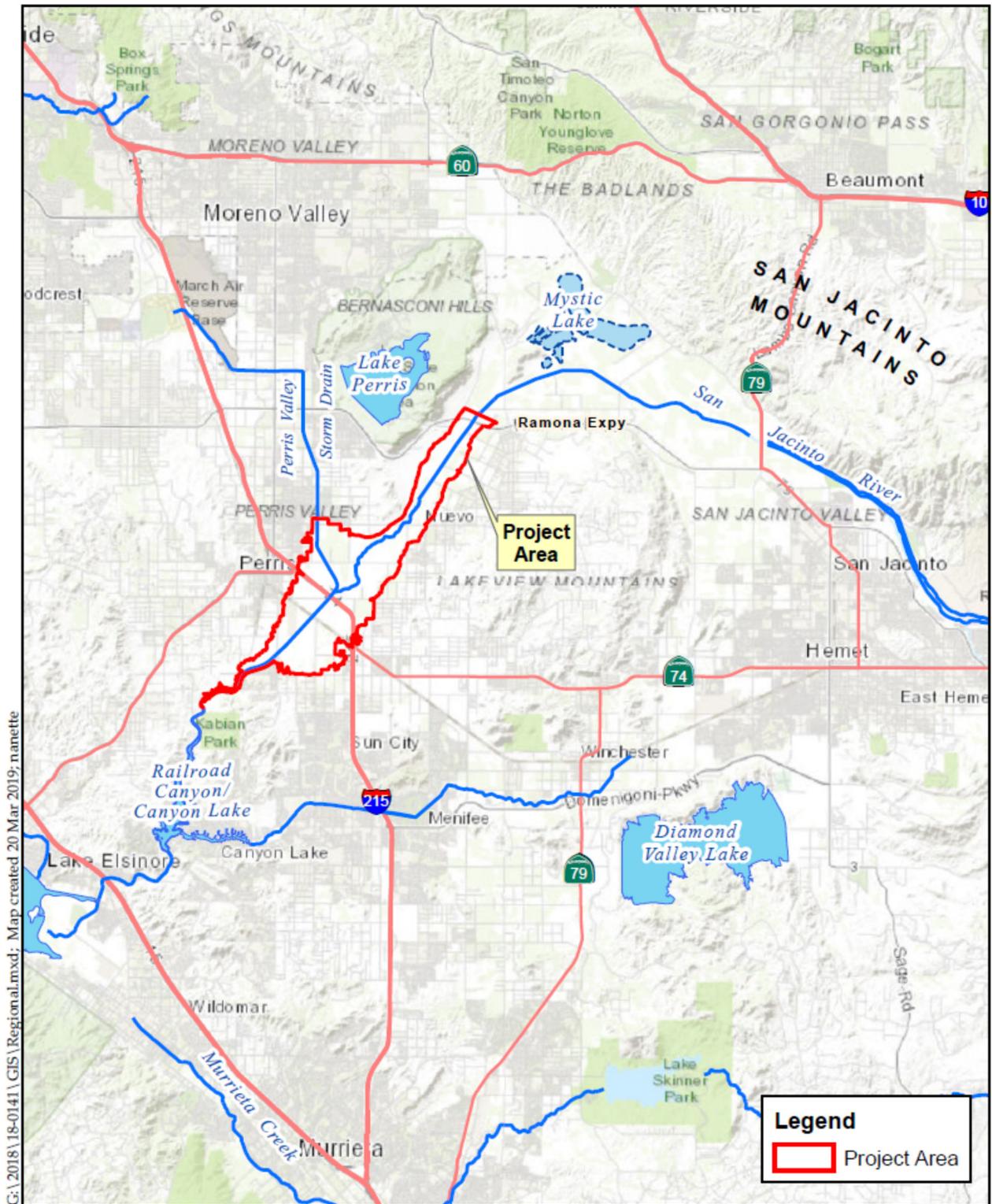
Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District
1995 Market Street
Riverside, California 92501
Attn: Kevin Cunningham

Please send your responses to Kevin Cunningham at the address shown above. We will need the name of a contact. If you have any questions or need clarification regarding this Project, please do not hesitate to contact Kevin Cunningham by phone at (951) 955-1526 or by e-mail at kcunning@rivco.org

DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY: The initial study is available for review at the Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District, located at the address above, and may also be accessed on the District’s website at <http://rcflood.org/>, under the “Public Notices” list located on the lower left half of the homepage. The initial study may also be reviewed, both in electronic and hardcopy formats, at:

Cesar E. Chavez Library
163 E. San Jacinto
Perris, CA 92507

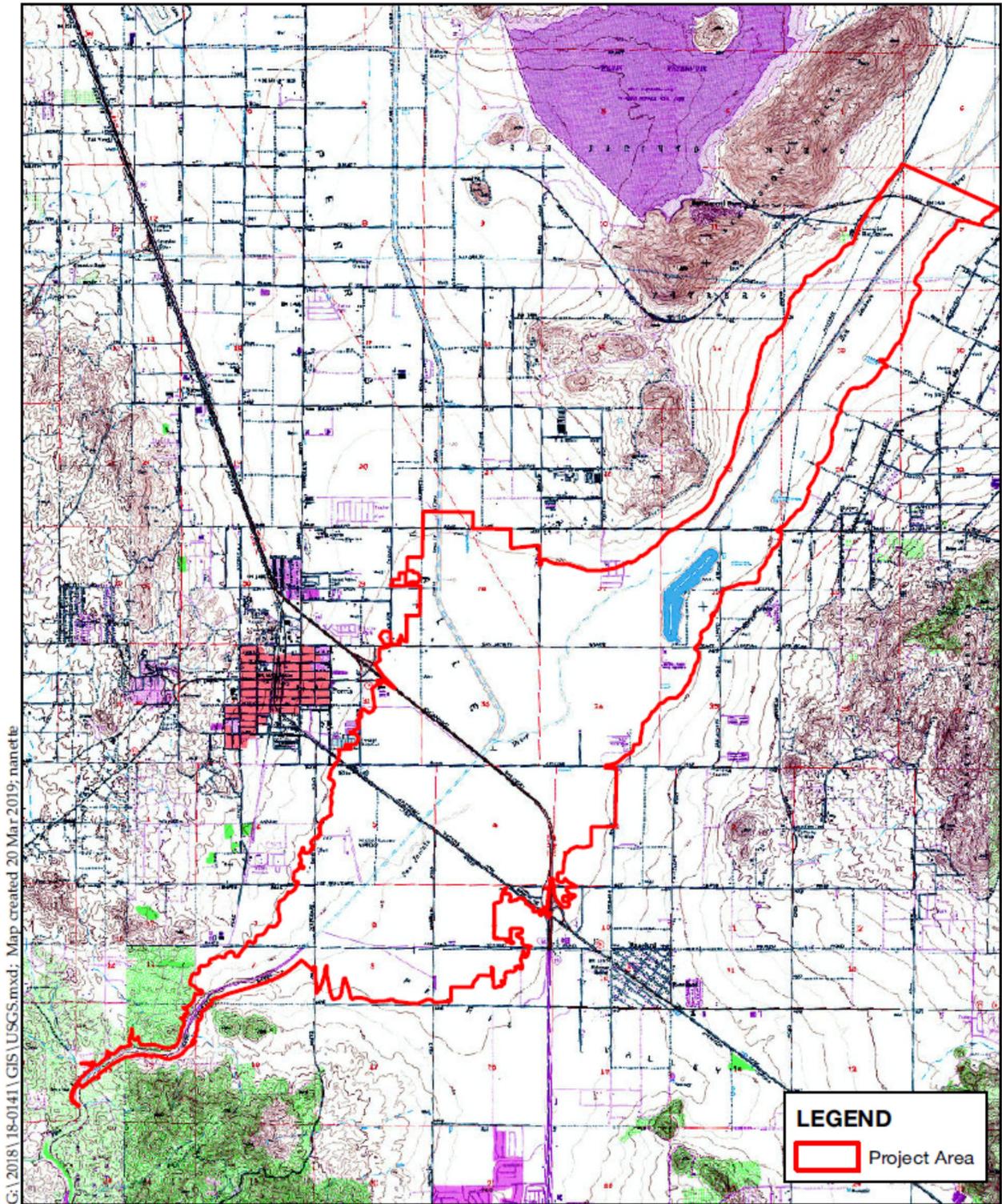
Nuview Library
29990 Lakeview Ave.
Nuevo, CA 92567



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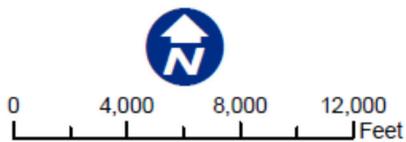
Figure 1 - Regional Map
San Jacinto River Stage 3 MDP





Sources: USGS 7.5min Quad DRGs:
PERRIS/ROMOLAND/ELSINORE

Figure 2 - USGS Map
San Jacinto River Stage 3 MDP



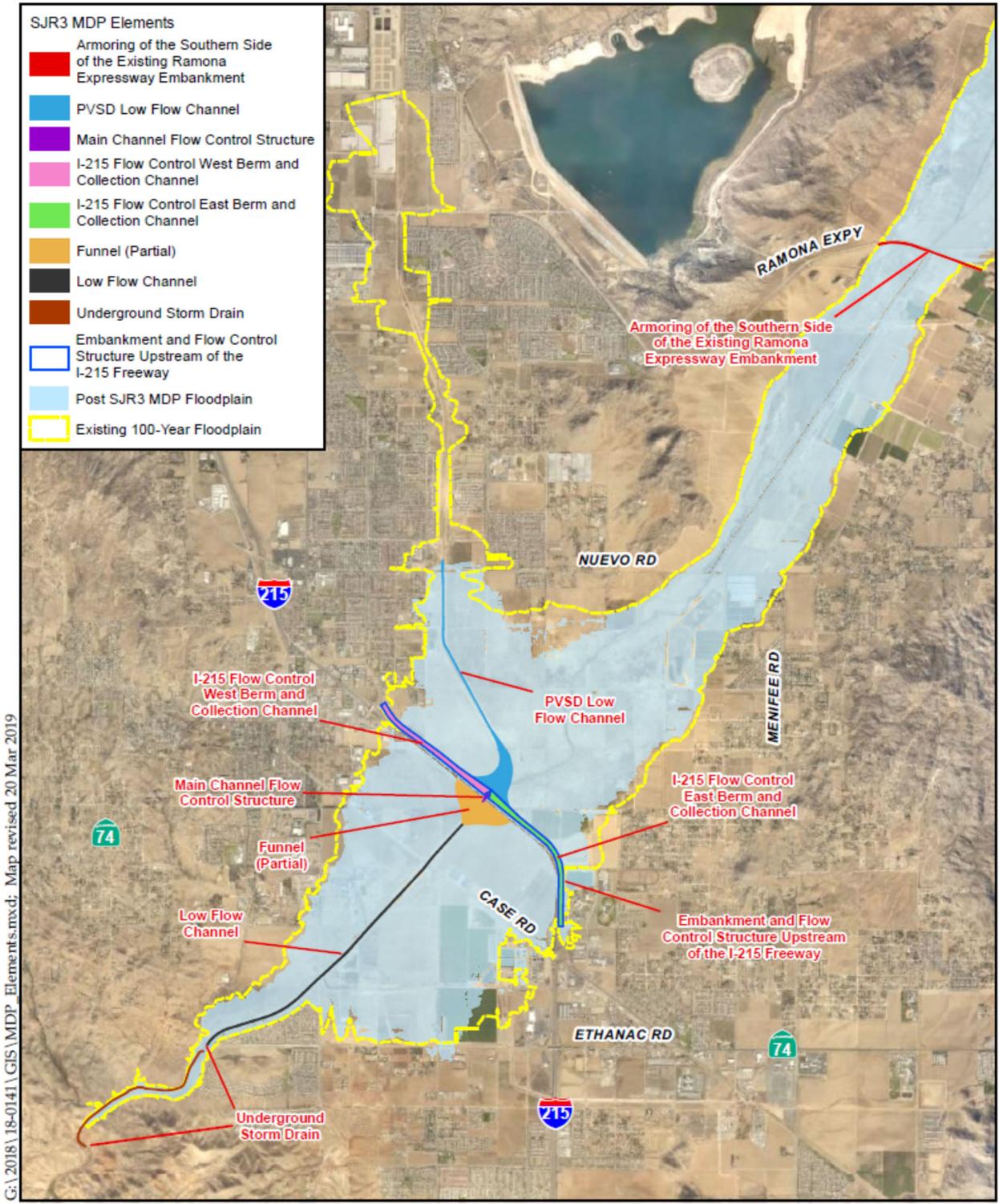
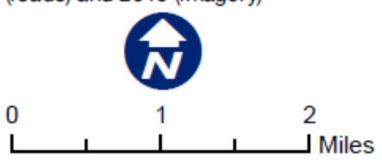


Figure 3 - SJR3 MDP Elements
San Jacinto River Stage 3 MDP



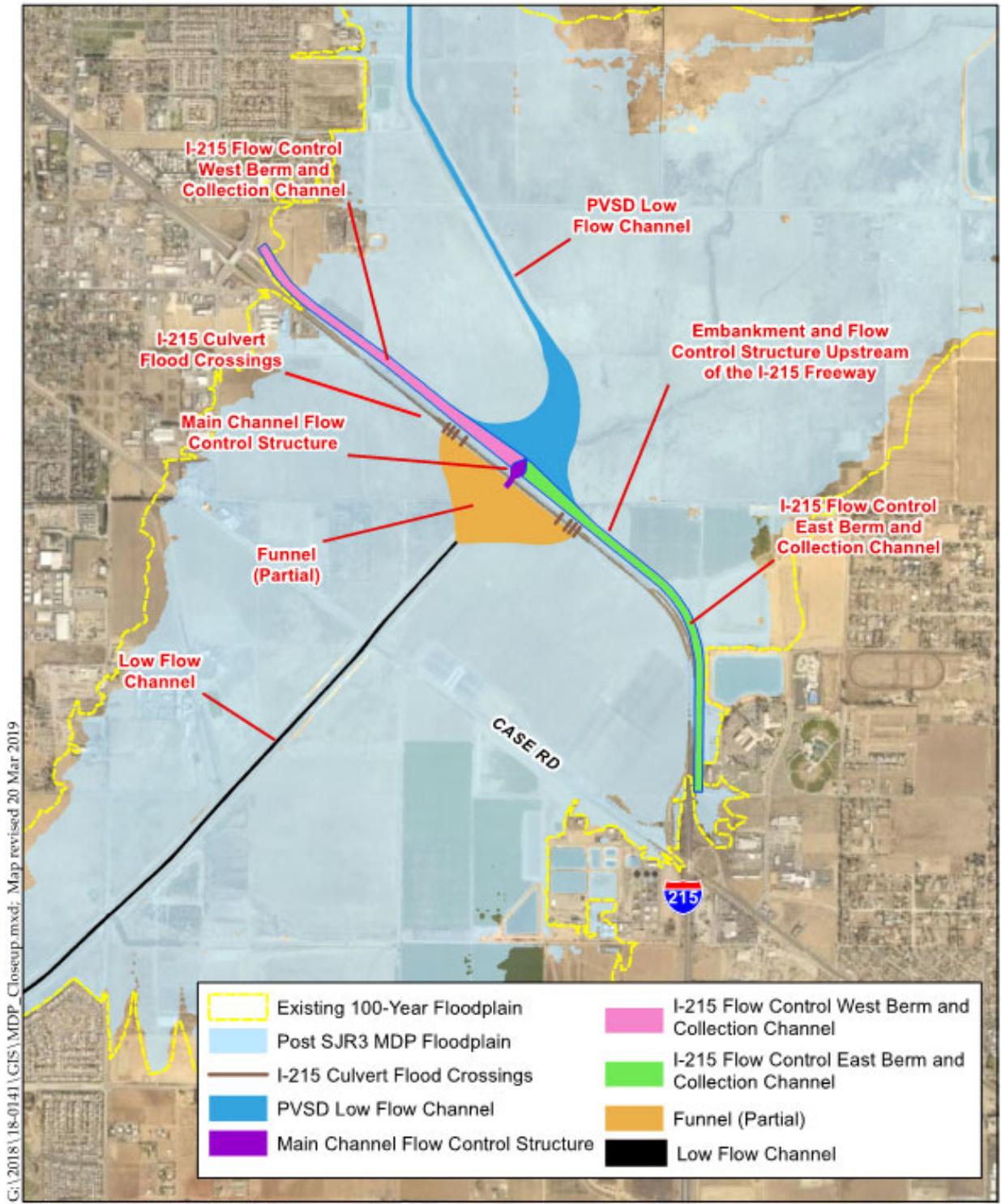


Figure 4 - Embankment and Flow Control Structure Upstream of the I-215 Freeway Improvements

San Jacinto River Stage 3 MDP

