Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

22 July 2026

Alecia Weisman
South Yuba River Citizens League
313 Railroad Ave, Suite 101
Nevada City, California 95959
Alecia@yubariver.org

NOTICE OF APPLICABILITY FOR COVERAGE UNDER ORDER WQ 2022-0048-DWQ, ORDER FOR CLEAN WATER ACT SECTION 401 WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION AND WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS FOR RESTORATION PROJECTS STATEWIDE, CASTLE AND ROUND VALLEY MEADOWS RESTORATION PROJECT (WDID# 5A29CR00147), NEVADA COUNTY

On 27 March 2026, the South Yuba River Citizens League submitted a Notice of Intent (NOI) to enroll under and comply with State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) Order No. WQ 2022-0048-DWQ, Order for Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification and Waste Discharge Requirements for Restoration Projects Statewide (Order).

The Central Valley Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board) has reviewed your enrollment materials and finds the Castle and Round Valley Meadows Restoration Project (Project) meets the requirements of, and is hereby enrolled under, Order No. WQ 2022-0048-DWQ. You may proceed with your Project in accordance with the Order. This Notice of Applicability is being issued under the General Certification Order pursuant to Section 3838 of the California Code of Regulations.

A copy of Order No. WQ 2022-0048-DWQ (https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_decisions/adopted_orders/water_quality/2022/wqo2022-0048-dwq.pdf) can be found on the State Water Resources Control Board's General Orders webpage.

Please familiarize yourself with the requirements of Order No. WQ 2022-0048-DWQ. You are responsible for complying with all applicable Order requirements. Coverage under the Order is no longer valid if the Project (as described) is modified. Failure to comply with Order No. WQ 2022-0048-DWQ constitutes a violation of the California Water Code and may result in enforcement action or termination of enrollment under the Order.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:
The 270-acre Project consists of restoring meadow and meadow-edge habitat in two project areas, Castle Valley and Round Valley, which are 202 acres and 68 acres, respectively.

In Round Valley, restoration actions will utilize low-impact, process-based restoration techniques such as beaver dam analogs (BDAs) and post assisted log structures (PALS).

In Castle Valley, restoration actions will utilize a combination of 1) low-impact, process-based restoration techniques such as BDAs and PALS, and 2) heavy equipment to address road impacts and conifer treatments for meadow and forest health. All actions are intended to restore and enhance habitat within the site.

Project elements that affect aquatic resources include the installation of BDAs and PALS. The Project will permanently impact 0.05 acre/285.36 linear feet of wetland and 0.095 acre/551.04 linear feet of streambed/streambank.

PROJECT LOCATION:
The Project is located within Nevada County, north of Interstate 80 at Exit 176, near Donner Summit and northeast of Soda Springs near the headwaters of the South Yuba River. The approximate center of the Project area is located at latitude 39.3427944° and longitude -120.3494683°.

PROJECT SCHEDULE:
Construction is expected to begin July 2026 and end December 2031. The seasonal work period for this project will be June through November.

APPLICATION FEE RECEIVED:
$1,123.00 was received on 27 April 2026.

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 D - Ecological Restoration and Enhancement Projects (fee code 85).

Annual Fees: This Certification is subject to annual billing based on the fee schedule in effect at the time of billing. Annual billing will continue until the Project, including monitoring, is complete and the Water Board receives an acceptable request for a Notice of Project Complete Letter (see Attachment D). Invoices are usually sent out at the end of each calendar year. [1]

To stop annual billing, the Permittee must request a Notice of Project Complete Letter from the Water Board. Water Board staff will verify if the conditions of the Certification are met and may conduct a site visit to confirm compliance.

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[1] Annual invoices are issued for projects active for any amount of time in the current fiscal year (1 July – 30 June).

For more information on fees, visit the State Water Board's Water Quality Fees website (https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/fees/water_quality/), under Water Quality Certification (WQC) Program Fees.

CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT:
The Central Valley Water Board, as Lead Agency, has determined that the Project is exempt from review under CEQA pursuant to California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15061. Specifically, the Central Valley Water Board has determined that the issuance of this Order is exempt by the CEQA Statutory Exemption for Restoration Projects (SERP) pursuant to California Public Resources Code, Division 13, section 21080.56.

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife concurred that the Project is exempt from review under CEQA by the CEQA SERP pursuant to California Public Resources Code, Division 13, section 21080.56 on 9 June 2026. The Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board will file a Notice of Exemption at the State Clearinghouse upon issuance of this Notice of Applicability.

REPORTING AND NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS
The Permittee shall follow notification and reporting requirements described in this Notice of Applicability (NOA), and those found in Attachment D of the Order WQ 2022-0048-DWQ, unless specified as an optional requirement and excluded from this NOA.

1. **Annual Reporting**

   The Permittee shall submit an Annual Report each year within one month of the anniversary of the effective date of this Notice of Applicability. Annual reporting shall continue until the active discharge period is complete and the project enters the post-construction monitoring phase where upon the Permittee shall annually submit a Post-Construction Monitoring Report (Report Type 2) The Post-Construction Monitoring Report shall be submitted on the anniversary of the date that the project restoration activities were completed.

   The Annual Report and Post Construction Monitoring Report shall include the information specified in Attachment D, Part A of Order No. WQ 2022-0048-DWQ. The Permittee shall submit the report in accordance with the report submittal instructions in Attachment D of Order No. WQ 2022-0048-DWQ and email it to centralvalleysacramento@waterboards.ca.gov and cc Carter Cook at Carter.Cook@waterboards.ca.gov.

2. **Notification for In-Water Work and Diversions**

   The project proponent shall notify the Water Board at least forty-eight (48) hours prior to initiating work in flowing or standing water or stream diversions. Notification may be via e-mail, delivered written notice, or other verifiable means. Within three (3) working days following completion of work in water or stream diversions, an In-Water Work and Diversions Water Quality Monitoring Report

must be submitted to the Water Board.

3. **Water Quality Monitoring Plan for In-Water Work or Diversions**

   A Water Quality Monitoring Plan shall be submitted to the approving Water Board for acceptance at least thirty (30) days in advance of commencement of project activity. Standards for in-water work or diversions are discussed in General In-Water Measures, specifically IWW-6, presented in Attachment A. The Permittee shall comply with the approving Water Board-specific water quality control plan water quality objectives and reporting requirements.

4. **Environmental Monitoring**

   Per General Protection Measure 5 (GPM-5) of the Order, a resource specialist shall ensure that all applicable protective measures are implemented during project construction. The resource specialist shall have authority to stop any work if they determine that any permit requirement is not fully implemented. The resource specialist shall prepare and maintain a monitoring log of construction site conditions and observations, which will be kept on file.

ADDITIONAL CONDITION:
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, as amended for discharges to surface waters comprised of storm water associated with construction activity, including, but not limited to, demolition, clearing, grading, excavations, and other land disturbance activities of one of more acres, or where projects disturb less than one acre but are part of a larger common plan of development that in total disturbs one or more acres.

NOTICE OF COMPLETION:
Upon completion of the Project, you shall submit a Notice of Completion (NOC) no later than 30 days after Project completion. The NOC shall demonstrate the Project was carried out in accordance with the Project description, include a map of the Project location with final boundaries of the restoration area, and include post-project photographs. More information on the NOC is listed in section B.6 of the Order.

If you have questions concerning this matter, please contact Carter Cook by phone at (916) 464-4699 or by email at Carter.Cook@waterboards.ca.gov.

Original Signed by Anne Walters
For Patrick Pulupa
Executive Officer

Enclosure: *Order No. WQ 2022-0048-DWQ, Order for Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification and Waste Discharge Requirements for Restoration Projects Statewide*

Attachments: Figure 1: Vicinity Map
Figure 2: All Project Actions
Figure 3: All Project Actions
Figure 4: Aquatic Resource Delineation Overview
Figure 5: Aquatic Resource Delineation Overview
Figure 6: Aquatic Resource Delineation Overview Map

cc: Distribution List, page 6

DISTRIBUTION LIST
[Via email only]

Gabriel Leggieri
United States Army Corps of Engineers
Sacramento District Office
Regulatory Division
SPKRegulatoryMailbox@usace.army.mil
Gabriel.J.Leggieri@usace.army.mil

United States Environmental Protection Agency
R9CWA401@epa.gov

CWA Section 401 WQC Program
State Water Resources Control Board
Stateboard401@waterboards.ca.gov

Richard McHenry
CA Sportfishing Protection Alliance
RMcHenry@calsport.org

Parker Eversoll
South Yuba River Citizens League
Parker@yubariver.org

Figure 1: Vicinity Map

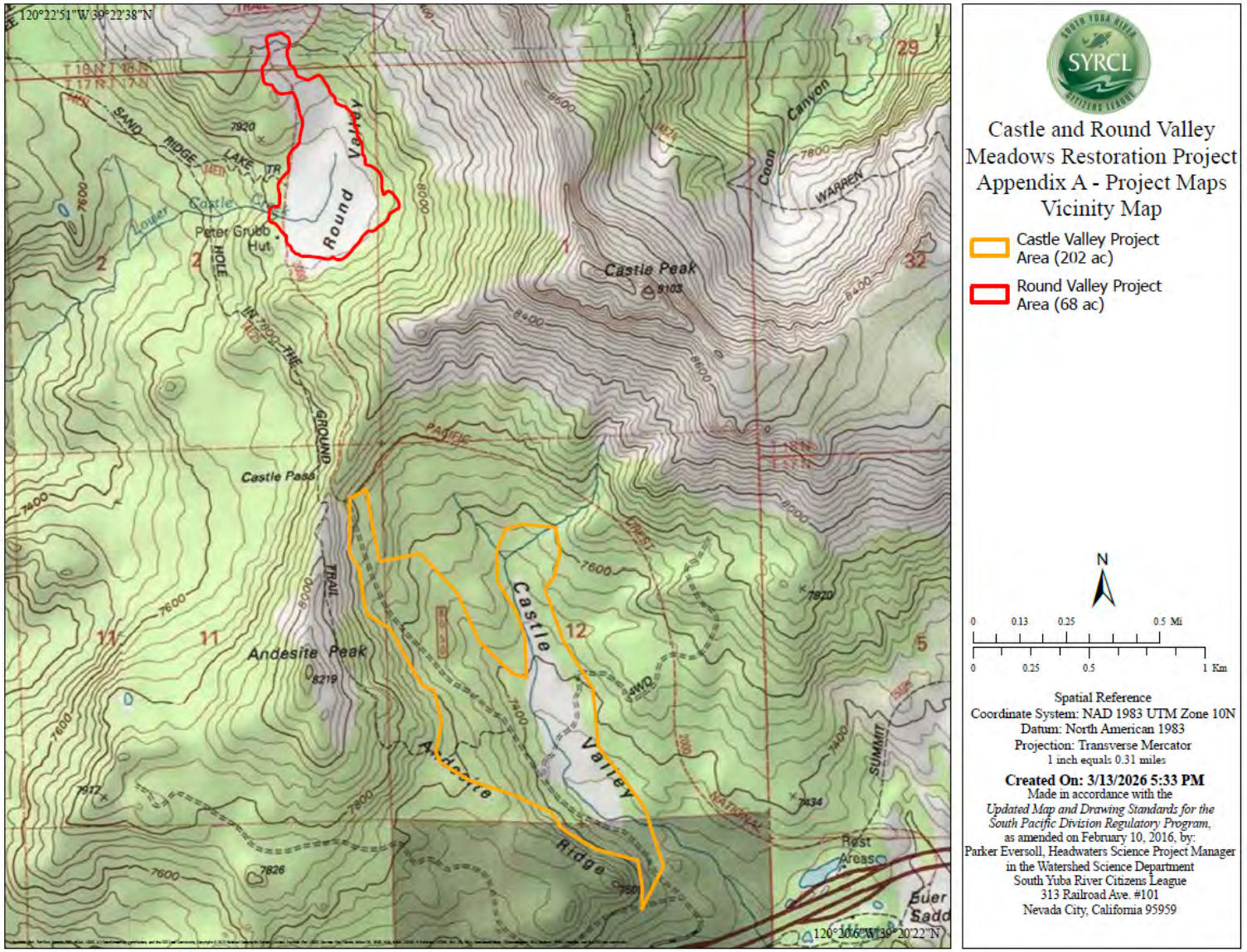


Figure 2: All Project Actions

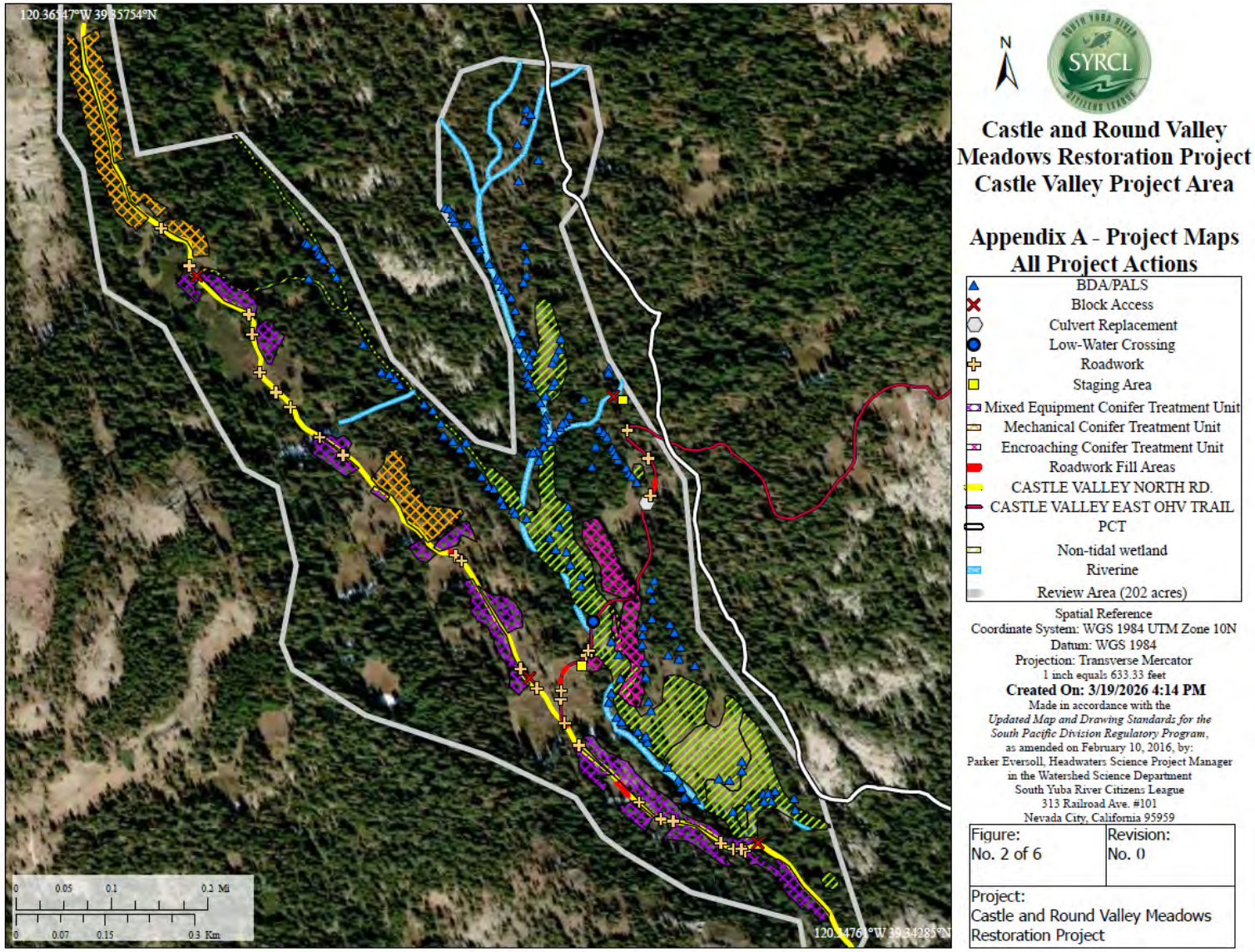


Figure 3: All Project Actions

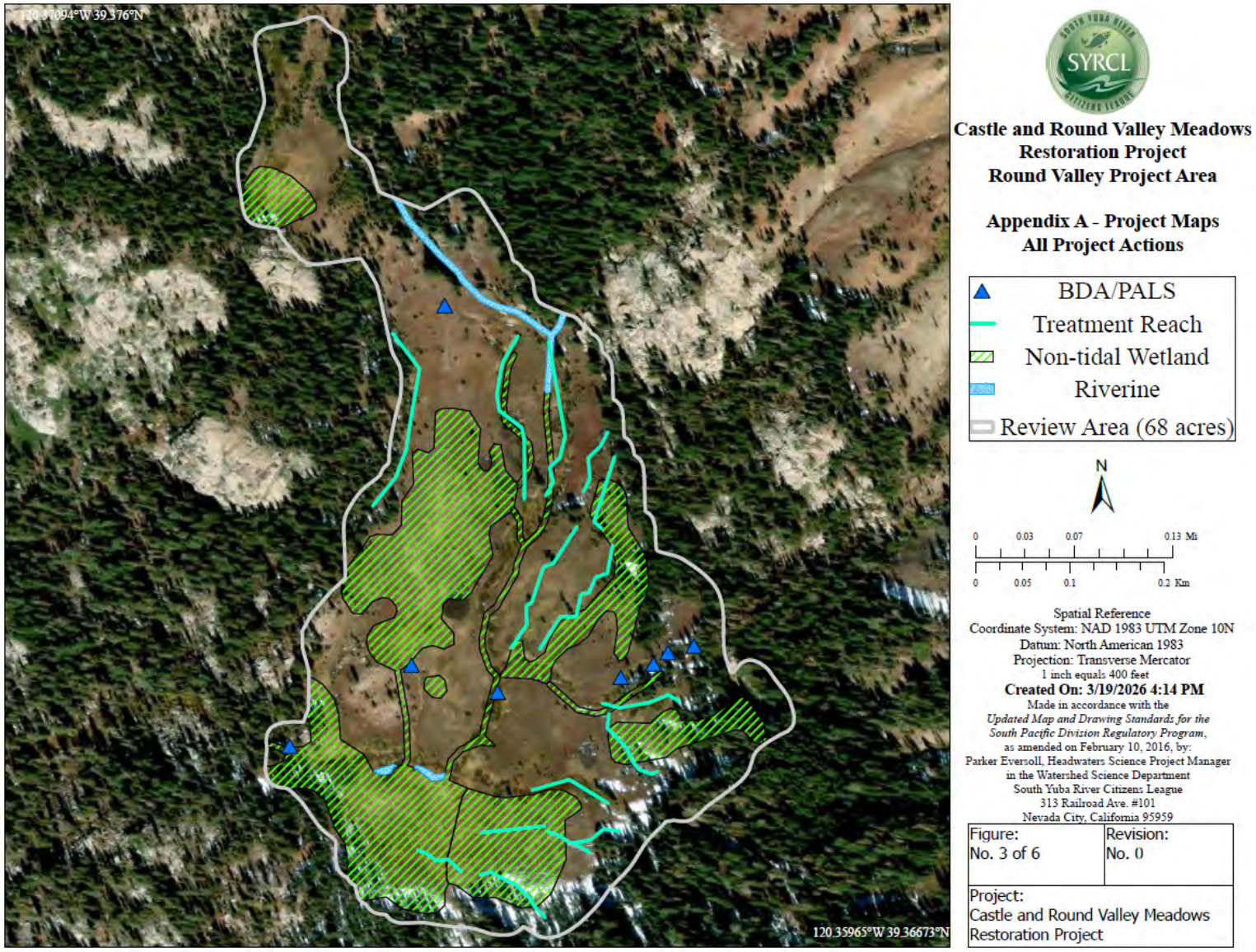


Figure 4: Aquatic Resource Delineation Overview

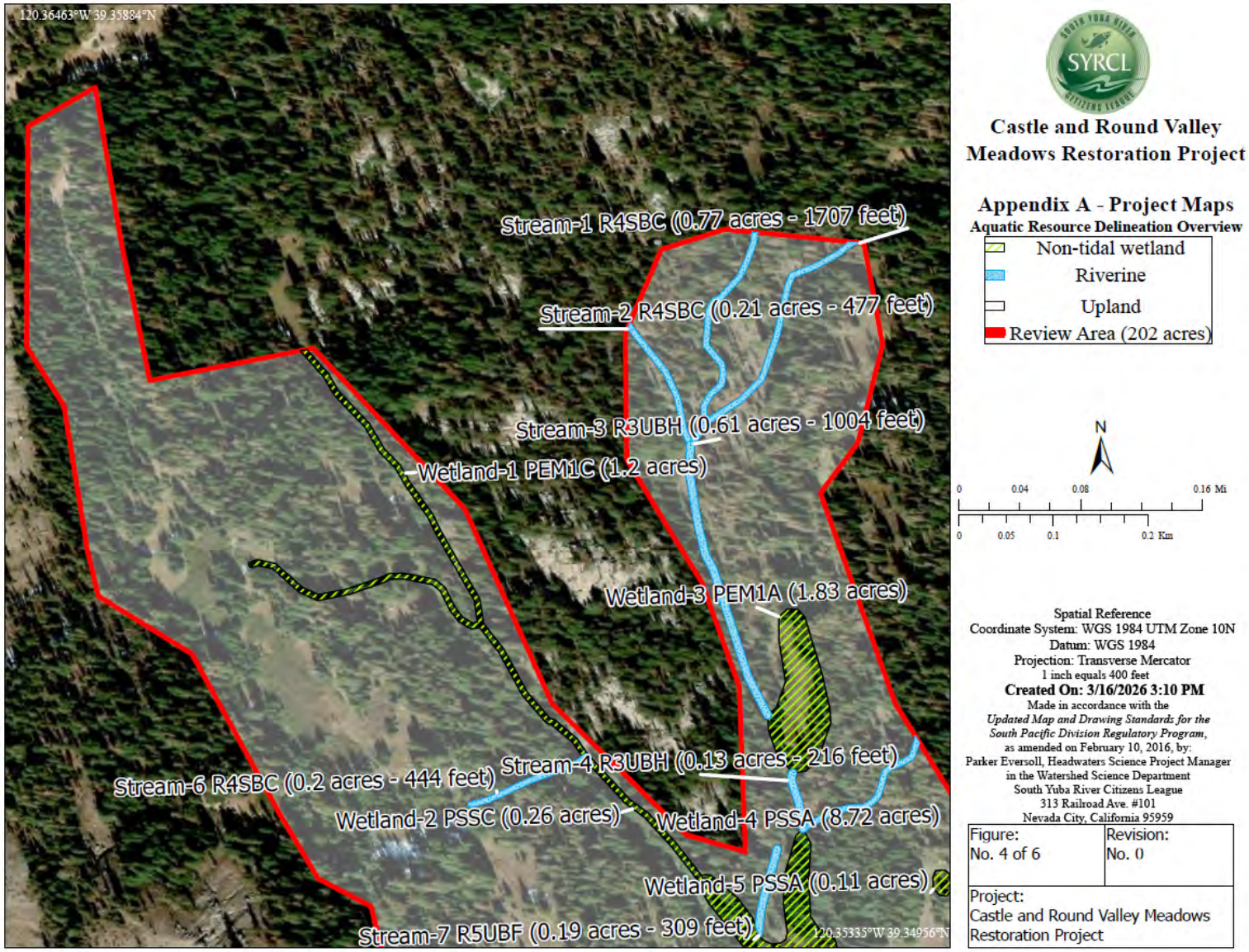


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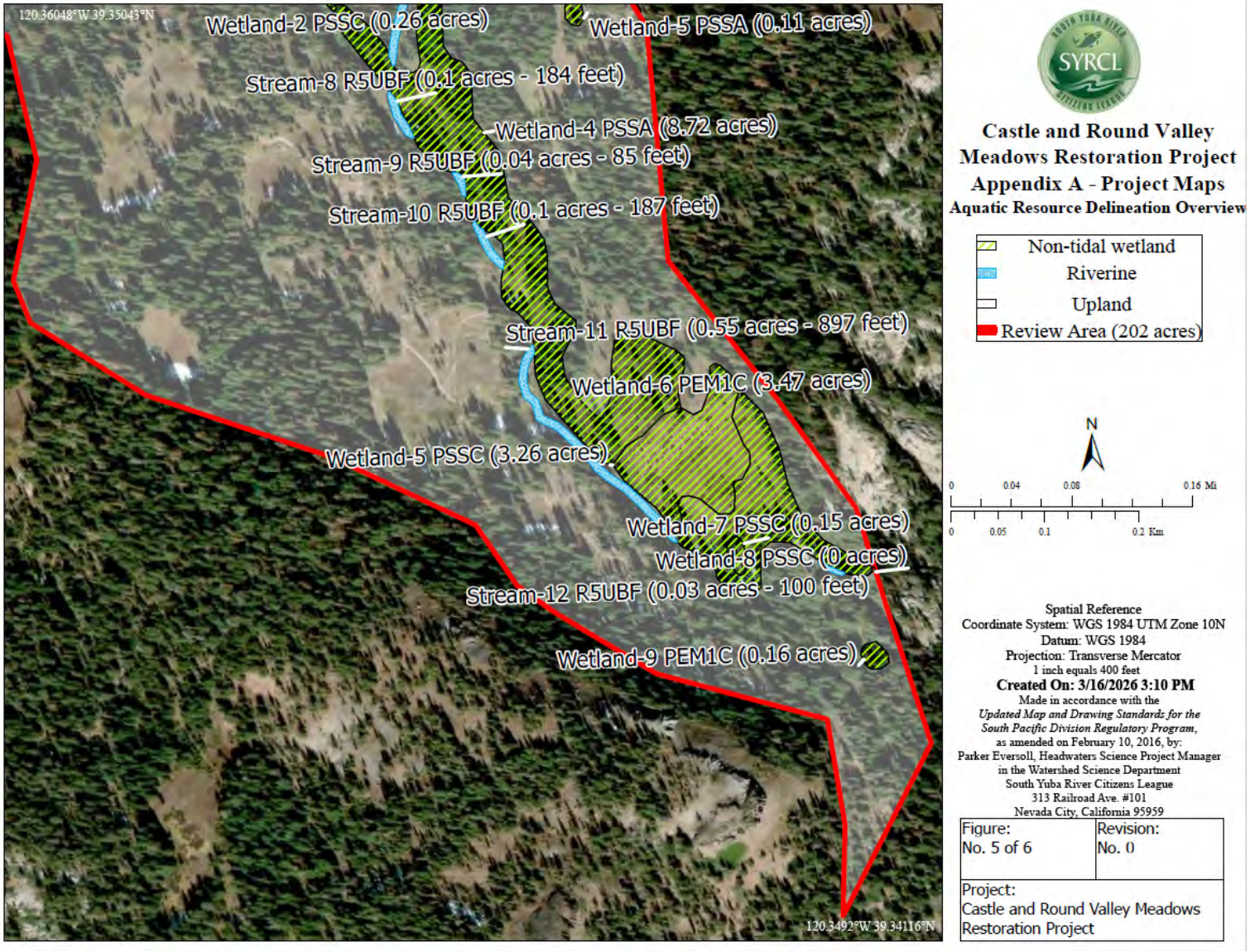


Figure 6: Aquatic Resource Delineation Overview Map

