

SECTION 2

Description of the Proposed Project and Alternatives

2.1 Introduction

As described in Section 1.2, Reclamation submitted its CPOU petition to the SWRCB to request three changes to its existing water right permits. These changes consist of:

1. Conforming the purposes of use in the 16 existing permits so that they authorize use of the water for the 11 purposes shown in Table 3-2 in Section 3 of this EIR.
2. Consolidating the authorized POU for water diverted from all authorized CVP sources so that new POU maps identify all areas where water from a particular facility may be delivered consistent with the current integrated operation of the CVP.
3. Increasing the authorized POU specified in the appropriate permits (as shown on the POU maps) by including: a) encroached lands, consisting of lands that currently receive CVP water; and b) expansion lands, consisting of lands that do not currently receive CVP water but are within CVP contracted service areas of individual CVP water contractors.

2.2 Description of Alternatives

Three alternatives, in addition to the Proposed Project, provide a full range of reasonable alternatives to be addressed in this EIR. They include the No Project Alternative (Alternative 1), the Existing Conditions Alternative (Alternative 2), and the Permit Consolidation and Conformance Alternative (Alternative 3). The alternatives consist of:

- Approving requested Changes 1, 2, and 3 to the 16 existing water right permits as requested by Reclamation in its CPOU petition. This alternative constitutes the Proposed Project.
- Denying requested Changes 1, 2, and 3 to the 16 existing water right permits in Reclamation's CPOU petition. Reclamation would have to limit CVP water delivery to the authorized uses specified for each permit in Table 3-2. Reclamation would have to reoperate the CVP so that water from each CVP facility could be conveyed to its appropriate place of use, in accordance with the existing water rights permits. Reclamation would have to specify to the CVP water contractors that encroached lands could no longer receive CVP water. This alternative constitutes the No Project Alternative.

- Approving requested Changes 1 and 2, and approving Change 3a of Reclamation's CPOU petition, to allow encroachment of the POU into areas within the water contract service area boundaries that have already received CVP water. Reclamation would be able to deliver CVP water for any of the authorized uses for all of the permits specified in Table 3-2. Reclamation would be able to continue the integrated operation of the CVP by delivering CVP water from any authorized CVP source to any area within the authorized POU. Reclamation would also continue to deliver CVP water to encroached lands outside the authorized POU. This alternative constitutes the Existing Conditions Alternative.
- Approving requested Changes 1 and 2 of Reclamation's CPOU petition and denial of Changes 3a and 3b. Reclamation would be able to deliver CVP water for any of the authorized uses for all of the permits specified in Table 3-2. Reclamation would be able to continue the integrated operation of the CVP by delivering CVP water from any authorized CVP source to any area within the authorized POU. Reclamation would have to specify to the CVP water contractors that encroached lands could no longer receive CVP water. This alternative constitutes the Permit Consolidation and Conformance Alternative.

Table 2-1 summarizes the changes associated with the Proposed Project and three alternatives.

Table 2-1 Permit Changes Included in the Proposed Project and Alternatives			
Alternative	Change 1 Conform Purposes of Use	Change 2 Consolidate Place of Use	Change 3 Expand Place of Use
Proposed Project	Approval	Approval	Increase the authorized POU by adding all land within the boundaries of the 26 CVP water contract service areas (including encroachment and expansion areas). The increase would consist of 834,667 acres if both changes 3a and 3b are approved.
Alternative 1 - No Project Alternative	No approval	No approval	No approval. The authorized POU would remain as currently permitted, resulting in no increase to the authorized POU. Reclamation would have to specify to the CVP water contractors that encroached lands could no longer receive CVP water.
Alternative 2 - Existing Conditions Alternative	Approval	Approval	Increase the authorized POU by adding those lands within the boundaries of the 26 CVP water contract service areas that currently receive CVP water (encroachment areas [3a]). The encroachment areas consist of 116,664 acres.
Alternative 3 - Permit Consolidation and Conformance Alternative	Approval	Approval	No approval. The authorized POU would remain as currently permitted, resulting in no increase to the authorized POU. Reclamation would have to specify to the CVP water contractors that encroached lands could no longer receive CVP water.

2.2.1 Proposed Project

Selection of the Proposed Project would result in the SWRCB approving Changes 1, 2, and 3a (and 3b pending future approval by the SWRCB) requested in Reclamation's CPOU petition. As a result, the SWRCB would:

- Conform the purposes of use specified in the 16 existing permits, resulting in approval of Change 1. The purposes of use consist of the 11 beneficial uses for which water may be appropriated pursuant to State law, described for each permit in Table 3-2 in Section 3 of this EIR.

- Consolidate the authorized POU specified in the 16 existing permits so that POU maps identify all areas where water from a particular facility may be used consistent with the current integrated operation of the CVP, thus making the authorized POU conform to the possible sources of water for each area, resulting in approval of Change 2 (Figures 2-1 through 2-5).
- Increase the authorized POU specified in the appropriate permits (as shown on the POU maps) to include encroachment areas (lands outside the authorized POU but within the 26 CVP water contractor service areas that have already received CVP water), resulting in approval of Change 3a. Conditioned upon the further approval by the SWRCB, the SWRCB also would authorize increasing the authorized POU to include expansion lands (lands outside the authorized POU that have never received CVP water but are within one of the 26 CVP water contractor service area boundaries), resulting in programmatic approval of Change 3b. Such further approvals would be considered only after an adequate environmental document for the specific projects were certified by the lead agency. Upon further specific approval of Change 3b, these actions could result in delivery of CVP water to an expansion area.

Approval of the Proposed Project would expand the authorized POU to existing water contractor service area boundaries. Change 3a would increase the authorized POU by about 116,664 acres. The potential CVP water delivery area may increase by an additional 718,003 acres if future approvals of 3b changes are granted, for a total increase of 834,667 acres.

2.2.2 No Project Alternative (Alternative 1)

Selection of the No Project Alternative would result in the SWRCB denying Changes 1, 2, and 3 requested in Reclamation's CPOU petition. Permit conditions currently in effect would remain intact and would be enforced by the SWRCB. As a result, the SWRCB would:

- Not conform the purposes of use specified in the 16 existing permits, resulting in denial of Change 1.
- Not consolidate the authorized POU specified in the 16 existing permits so that the POU maps would not identify all areas where water from a particular facility may be used; therefore, the permits would continue to have different places of use, resulting in denial of Change 2.
- Not increase the authorized POU specified in the 16 existing permits so that the POU boundary would continue to not include (1) lands outside the authorized POU that have received CVP water (encroachment lands) and (2) lands that could potentially receive water (expansion lands), resulting in denial of Change 3.

Approval of Alternative 1 would require Reclamation to terminate CVP water delivery to lands outside the authorized POU. In addition, Reclamation would have to alter current CVP operations to separate sources of water to ensure that water deliveries are made in accordance with existing permit conditions. It is not currently possible to separate water sources. If the SWRCB does not consolidate the CVP operations, a method for separating the operations of CVP facilities would have to be created to ensure conformance with permits.

2.2.3 Existing Conditions Alternative (Alternative 2)

Selection of the Existing Conditions Alternative would result in the SWRCB approving Changes 1, 2, and 3a requested in Reclamation's CPOU petition. Permit conditions currently in effect would be modified to incorporate Reclamation's requested Changes 1, 2, and 3a. As a result, the SWRCB would:

- Conform the purposes of use specified in the 16 existing permits, resulting in approval of Change 1. The purposes of use consist of the 11 beneficial uses for which water may be appropriated pursuant to State law, described for each permit in Table 3-2 in Section 3 of this EIR.
- Consolidate the authorized POU specified in the 16 existing permits so that POU maps identify all areas where water from a particular facility may be used consistent with the current integrated operation of the CVP, thus making the authorized POU conform to the possible sources of water for each area, resulting in approval of Change 2.
- Increase the authorized POU specified in the 16 existing permits (as shown on the GIS maps) to include encroached areas (lands outside the authorized POU but within the 26 CVP water contractor service areas that have already received CVP water), resulting in approval of Change 3a. Expansion of CVP water delivery onto lands that have never received CVP water but are within one of the 26 CVP water contractor service areas (Change 3b) would not be allowed with this alternative.

Approval of Alternative 2 would expand the authorized POU to include lands within the existing water contractor service area boundaries that are currently receiving CVP water supplies. This alternative would increase the authorized POU by about 116,664 acres.

2.2.4 Permit Consolidation and Conformance Alternative (Alternative 3)

Selection of the Permit Consolidation and Conformance Alternative would result in the SWRCB approving Changes 1 and 2 requested in Reclamation's CPOU petition. Permit conditions currently in effect would be modified to incorporate Reclamation's requested Changes 1 and 2. Approval of Change 3 would be pending further SWRCB action. As a result, the SWRCB would:

- Conform the purposes of use specified in the 16 existing permits, resulting in approval of Change 1. The purposes of use consist of the 11 beneficial uses for which water may be appropriated pursuant to State law, described for each permit in Table 3-2 in Section 3 of this EIR.
- Consolidate the authorized POU specified in the 16 existing permits so that POU maps identify all areas where water from a particular facility may be used consistent with the current integrated operation of the CVP, thus making the POU conform to the possible sources of water for each area, resulting in approval of Change 2.
- Not increase the authorized POU specified in the 16 existing permits so that the authorized POU boundary would continue to not include (1) lands outside the authorized POU that have received CVP water (encroachment lands); and (2) lands that could potentially receive water (expansion lands), resulting in denial of Change 3. Therefore, approval of Alternative 3 would require

Reclamation to terminate CVP water delivery to lands outside the authorized POU until the SWRCB takes action on Change 3.

2.2.5 Acreage to be Included in the POU for Each Alternative

Table 2-2 presents the acreage within each CVP water contractor service area that would be affected by each alternative. As shown, the Proposed Project would expand the authorized POU by about 116,664 acres. Pending approval of site-specific environmental documents, the authorized POU may increase by an additional 718,003 acres, for a total increase of 834,667 acres. Alternative 1 would not expand the authorized POU; Alternative 2 would expand the authorized POU by about 116,664 acres; and Alternative 3 would not expand the authorized POU, pending further SWRCB action. Figures 2-1 through 2-5 illustrate the authorized POU associated with existing water right permits.

SECTION 2 DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT AND ALTERNATIVES

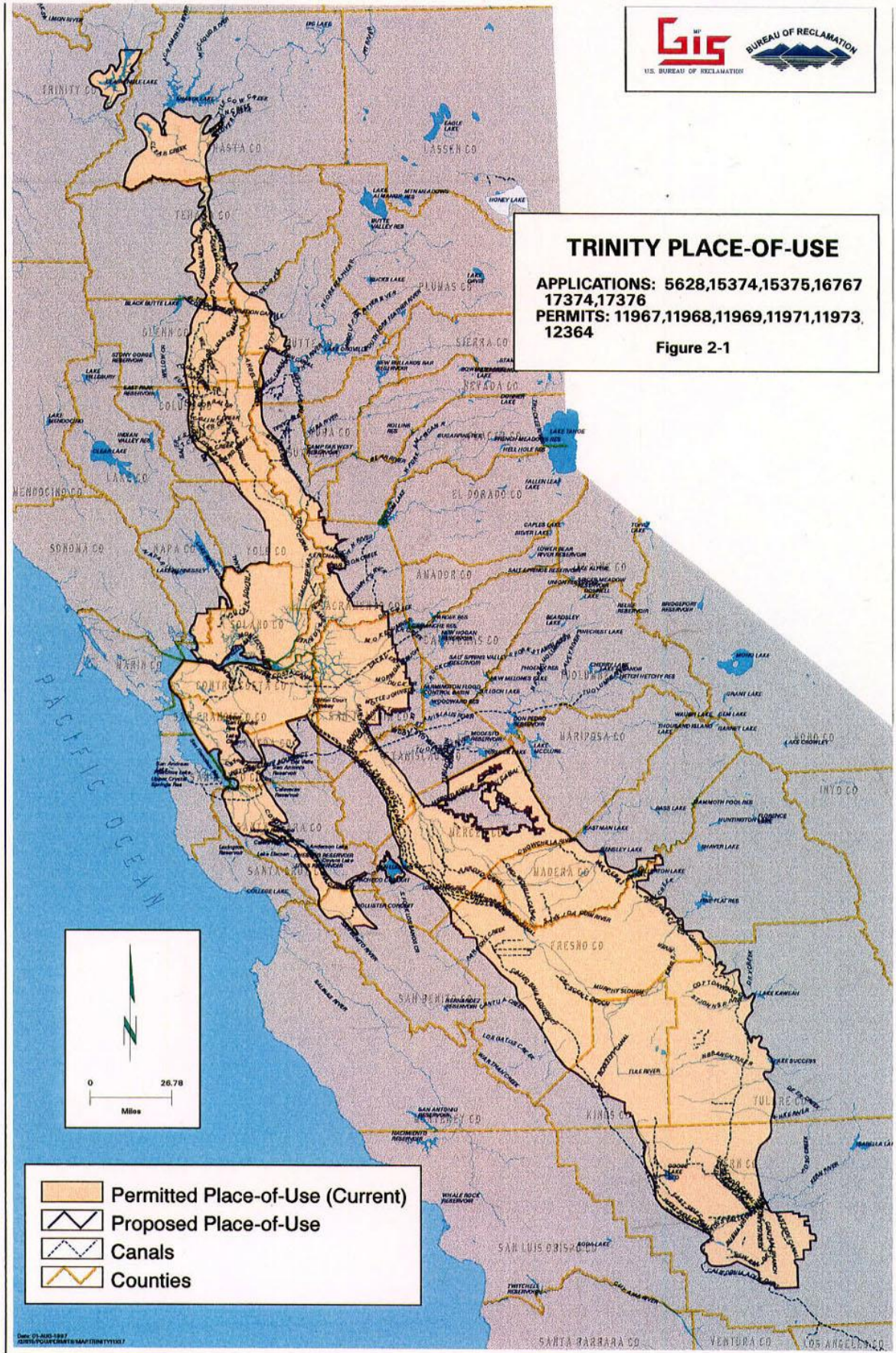
**Table 2-2
Acreage of CVP Water Contractor Service Areas to be Added to the POU by Alternative**

CVP Water Contractor	Total Contracted Water Service Area (Acres)	Acreage Outside POU	POU Increase (Acres)				
			Proposed Project		Alt. 1 No Project Alternative	Alt. 2 Existing Conditions Alternative	Alt. 3 Permit Consolidation & Conformance
			Encroachment	Expansion			
Anderson-Cottonwood Irrigation District	33,240	230	0	230	0	0	0
Arvin-Edison Water Storage District	132,848	3,847	2,101	1,746	0	2,101	0
Avenal, City of	46,871	34,690	3,124	31,566	0	3,124	0
Bella Vista Water District	33,813	1,281	1,021	260	0	1,021	0
Coalinga, City of	106,618	92,007	4,674	87,333	0	4,674	0
Colusa County Water District	45,954	2,147	1,499	648	0	1,499	0
Contra Costa Water District	115,220	1,031	0	1,031	0	0	0
Corning Water District	13,049	2,034	1,647	387	0	1,647	0
Del Puerto Water District	34,479	1,000	808	192	0	808	0
East Bay Municipal Utility District	259,324	1,494	0	1,494	0	0	0
El Dorado Irrigation District ^a	23,578	23,578	18,495	5,083	0	18,495	0
Glenn Valley Water District	1,965	248	0	248	0	0	0
Kanawha Water District	15,967	902	689	213	0	689	0
Mountain Gate Community Services District	4,012	3,992	1,406	2,586	0	1,406	0
Orland-Artois Water District	31,292	111	111	0	0	111	0
Sacramento Municipal Utility District	2,830	2,830	2,830	0	0	2,830	0
San Benito County Water District	47,540	5,107	2,564	2,543	0	2,564	0
San Luis Water District	64,668	9,609	9,609	0	0	9,609	0
Santa Clara Valley Water District ^b	835,200	592,988	27,669	565,319	0	27,669	0
Shasta Community Services District	6,294	51	0	51	0	0	0
Shasta County Service Area No.6 - Jones Valley	1,171	1,171	668	503	0	668	0
Shasta County Service Area No. 25 - Keswick	5,299	3,635	918	2,717	0	918	0
Shasta Lake, City of	6,979	231	118	113	0	118	0
Silverthorn Summer Homes, Inc.	55	55	55	0	0	55	0
Westlands Water District	605,548	49,401	36,419	12,982	0	36,419	0
Westside Water District	17,479	997	239	758	0	239	0
TOTAL	2,491,293	834,667	116,664	718,003	0	116,664	0

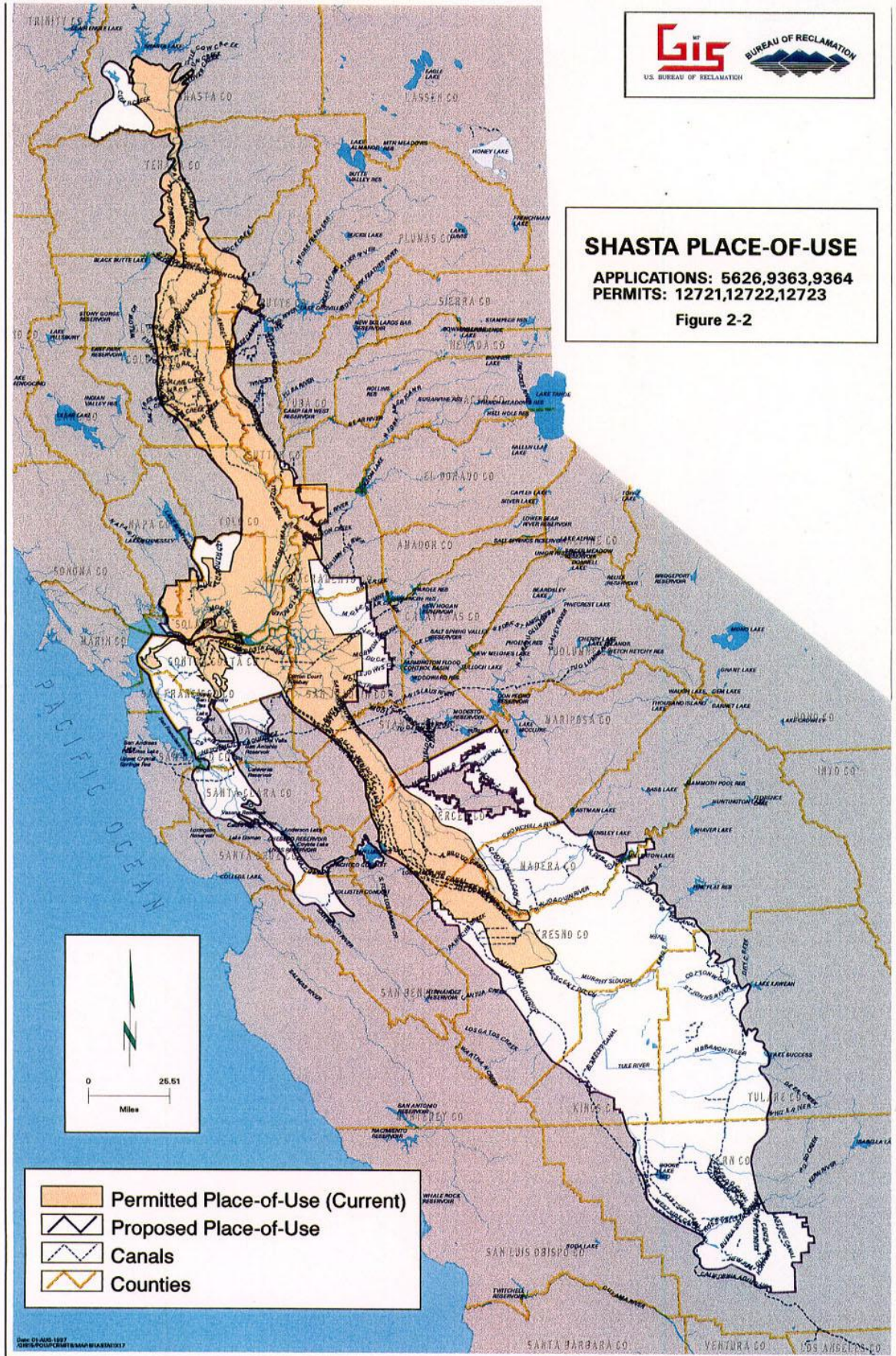
^aAcreage of district only includes those lands within the Folsom service area. Other lands within the district served by the Sly Park facilities are not included.

^bAcreage in "Total" column includes all lands within Santa Clara County (835,200 acres). Although all of these lands are within the CVP water contractor service area, not all lands receive CVP water because of limited water supplies and lack of a feasible means to deliver water. As shown, 592,988 acres of the total 835,200 acres are located outside the authorized POU.

SECTION 2 DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT AND ALTERNATIVES



SECTION 2 DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT AND ALTERNATIVES



SECTION 2 DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT AND ALTERNATIVES

