



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
SAN FRANCISCO DISTRICT, U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
450 GOLDEN GATE AVENUE
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94102-3404

Operations and Readiness Division

PUBLIC NOTICE

**REQUEST FOR PERMISSION TO ALTER A U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
PROJECT UNDER SECTION 408**

TITLE: Napa River – PG&E I-195E L-021A Pipeline Crossing Replacement, 408-SPN-2022-0005

Public notice comment period:

Begins: January 11, 2023

Ends: February 10, 2023

REQUESTER: In compliance with U.S.C. Title 33, Chapter 9, Subchapter 1, Section 408, Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E) (requester) has requested permission through the Napa County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (non-federal sponsor of the federally authorized project) from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to alter the Napa River Channel an existing federal navigation channel, authorized by the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1946 (Pub. L. 79-525).

LOCATION: The proposed project is located on the Napa River, City of Napa, Napa County, California.

REQUESTER'S PROPOSED ACTION: PG&E Gas Transmission division proposes to replace the PG&E I-195E L-021A pipeline crossing of the Napa River in order to use in-line inspection (ILI) to assess the pipeline's integrity in accordance with a National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) recommendation. The objectives of the I-195E L-021A Napa River Crossing Replacement Project are to install a new 26-inch diameter pipeline underneath the Napa River using horizontal directional drilling (HDD) techniques, tie the new crossing into the existing pipeline network using a combination of open cut trenching and pipe ramming, and then decommission and remove the existing pipeline crossing. (Attachment 2)

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF PROPOSED ACTION: The proposed crossing on the west side of the Napa River consists of open, slightly sloping agricultural land from the levee at the riverbank to a drainage channel near the end of the trenchless crossing. The Napa River is approximately 300 feet wide and 18 feet deep in the area of this project. The east side of the proposed crossing location consists of wetland and agricultural land is surrounded by rural agricultural land with slightly sloping topography broken up by a rail line, paved and unpaved roads, and various drainages. The Napa River experiences daily and seasonal tidal fluctuations high enough to flood the field on

the West side of the River. The tidal fluctuations can be as high as 8 ft above sea level. In addition, the area is subject to seasonal flooding which has been a frequent issue during times on heavy winter rains.

USACE determined there is suitable habitat for federally listed species under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) or the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) in the vicinity of the project. Therefore, USACE determined there would be effects to federally listed species, designated critical habitat, or essential fish habitat under the jurisdiction of the USFWS and/or NMFS. To address project related impacts to ESA listed species or designated critical habitat, USACE will initiate consultation with USFWS and NMFS, pursuant to Section 7(a) of the Act. Any required consultation must be concluded prior to the issuance of a Department of the Army Permit for the project.

After an initial review, USACE has determined no eligible or potentially eligible cultural resources may be affected by the proposed project. USACE will initiate consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer and Native American Tribes under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, as appropriate.

Upon review of the Section 408 application and other supporting documentation, USACE has made a preliminary determination that the project neither qualifies for a Categorical Exclusion nor requires the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement for the purposes of NEPA.

AUTHORITY: The authority to grant permission for temporary or permanent use, occupation, or alteration of any USACE civil works project is contained in Section 14 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899, as amended (33 U.S.C 408) ("Section 408"). Section 408 authorizes the Secretary of the Army, on the recommendation of the Chief of Engineers, to grant permission for the alteration or occupation or use of a USACE project if the Secretary determines that the activity will not be injurious to the public interest and will not impair the usefulness of the project. The Secretary of Army's authority under Section 408 has been delegated to the USACE, Chief of Engineers. The USACE Chief of Engineers has further delegated the authority to the USACE, Directorate of Civil Works and Division and District Engineers, depending upon the nature of the activity.

LIMITS OF SECTION 408 AUTHORITY: A requester has the responsibility to acquire all other permissions or authorizations required by federal, state, and local laws or regulations, including any required permits from the USACE Regulatory Program under Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 U.S.C. 403), Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. Section 1344), and/or Section 103 of the Marine Protection, Research and Sanctuaries Act of 1972 (33 U.S.C. 1413). In addition, an approval under Section 408 does not grant any property rights or exclusive privileges nor does it authorize any injury to the property or rights of others.

EVALUATION FACTORS: The decision whether to grant the requested permission for project alteration under Section 408 will be based on several factors. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. Review of requests for alteration will be reviewed by a USACE technical review team considering the following factors:

1) Impair the Usefulness of the Project Determination. The review team will determine if the proposed alteration would limit the ability of the USACE project to function as authorized, or would compromise or change any authorized project conditions, purposes or outputs. In order for an alteration to be approved, the requester must demonstrate that the alteration does not impair the usefulness of the federally authorized project.

2) Injurious to the Public Interest Determination. Proposed alterations will be reviewed to determine the probable impacts, including cumulative impacts, on the public interest. Factors that may be relevant to the public interest evaluation depend upon the type of USACE project being altered and the nature of the proposed alteration and may include, but are not limited to, such things as conservation, economic development, historic properties, cultural resources, environmental impacts, water supply, water quality, flood hazards, floodplains, residual risk, induced damages, navigation, shore erosion or accretion, and recreation. This evaluation will consider information received from the interested parties, including tribes, agencies, and the public. The benefits that reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal must be compared against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. The decision whether to approve an alteration will be determined by the consideration of whether benefits are commensurate with risks and by the net impact of the alteration on the public interest using the public interest factors.

3) Environmental Compliance. A decision on a Section 408 request is a federal action, and therefore subject to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and other environmental compliance requirements. While USACE is responsible for ensuring environmental compliance, the requester is responsible for providing all information that the San Francisco District identifies as necessary to satisfy all applicable federal laws, executive orders, regulations, policies, and procedures. NEPA and other analysis completed to comply with other environmental statutes (e.g. Endangered Species Act) should be commensurate with the scale and potential effects of the activity that would alter the USACE project. The San Francisco District will work with the requester to determine the requirements, which will be scaled to the likely impacts of the proposed alteration and should convey the relevant considerations and impacts in a concise and effective manner. The final NEPA analysis will normally address the direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts that result from activities resulting in the temporary or permanent use, occupation, or alteration of any USACE civil works project. The final NEPA analysis will be incorporated in the decision documentation that provides the rationale for issuing or denying a Section

408 permission for the project. The final NEPA analysis and supporting documentation will be on file with the San Francisco District, Operations and Readiness Division.

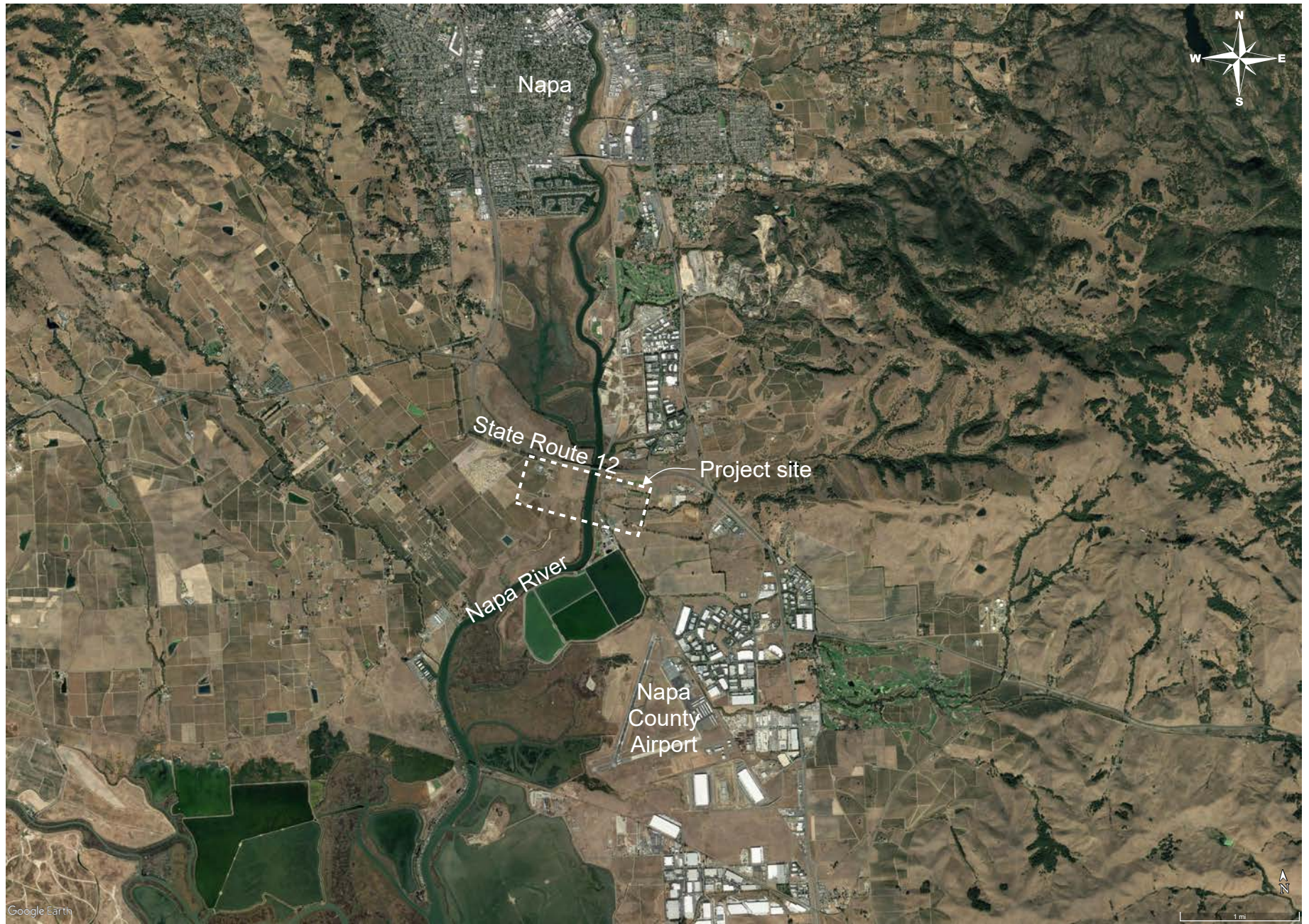
PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT: The purpose of this notice is to solicit comments from the public; federal, state, and local agencies and officials; tribes; and other interested parties regarding the Napa River – PG&E I-195E L-021A Pipeline Crossing Replacement, a proposed alteration to an existing federally authorized project. Comments received within 30 days of publication of this notice will be used in the evaluation of potential impacts of the proposed action on important resources and in the evaluation of whether the proposed alteration would be injurious to the public interest and/or would impair the usefulness of the authorized project. Only the specific activities that have the potential to occupy, use or alter the Napa River Channel will be evaluated. Please limit comments to the area of the alteration and those adjacent areas that would be directly or indirectly affected by the alteration to the Napa River Channel. Please note that all comment letters received are subject to release to the public through the Freedom of Information Act.

SUBMITTING COMMENTS: Written comments, referencing 408-SPN-2022-0005 must be submitted to the office listed below on or before February 10, 2023.

Jessica Vargas, 408 Coordinator
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, San Francisco District
Operations and Readiness Division
450 Golden Gate Avenue, 4th Floor, Room 1111
San Francisco, California 94102-3404

Email: spn.operationsdivision@usace.army.mil

ATTACHMENTS: Vicinity map, location map, and proposed project footprint in relation to federal project.



Google Earth

I-195E L-21 Napa River Crossing Pipeline Replacement Project

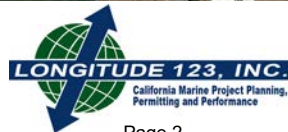


Figure 1
Vicinity Map



Google Earth

I-195E L-21 Napa River Pipeline Crossing Replacement Project

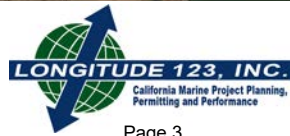
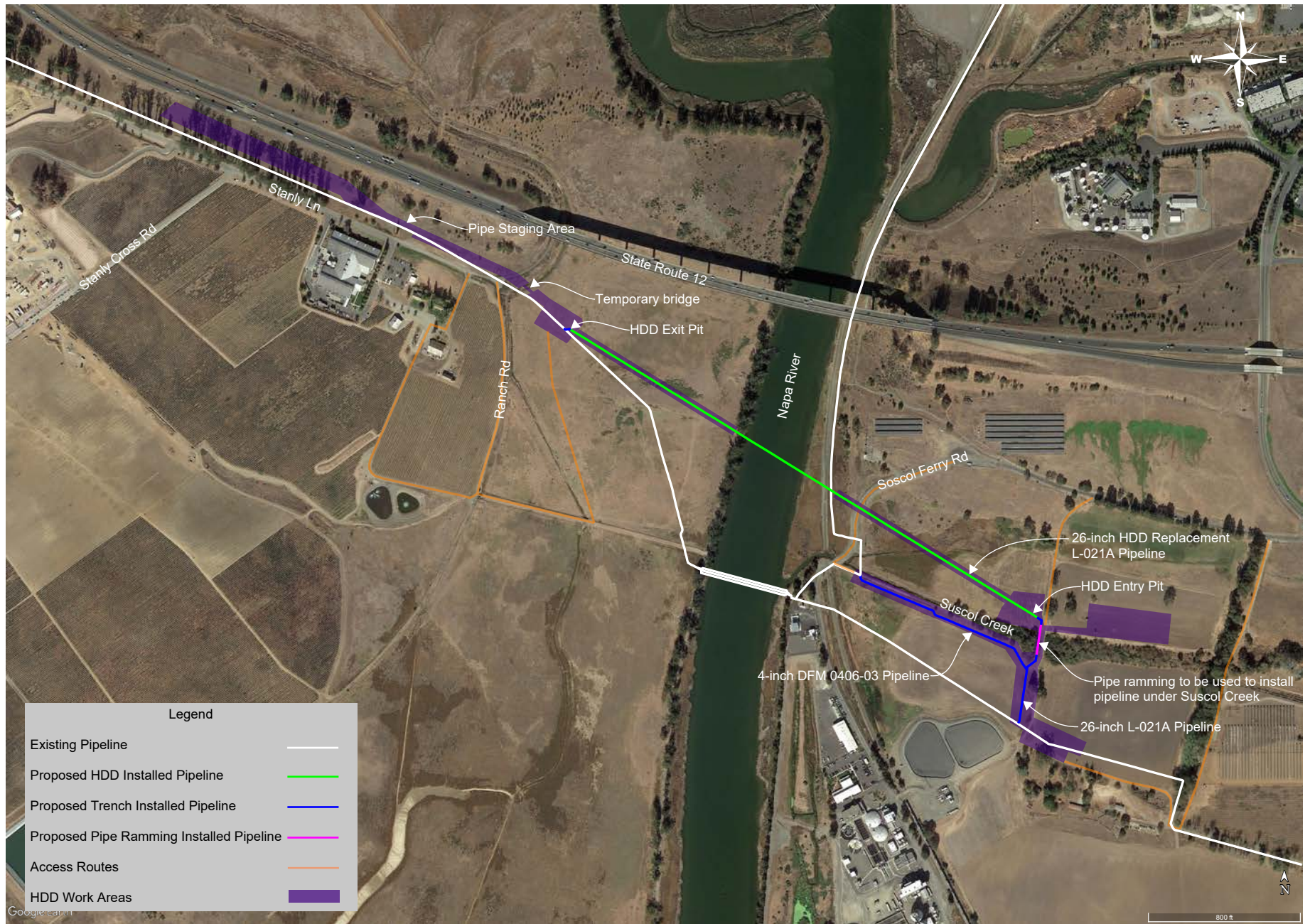


Figure 2
Existing Pipeline Crossing



I-195E L-21 Napa River Pipeline Crossing Replacement Project

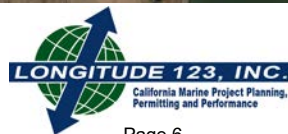
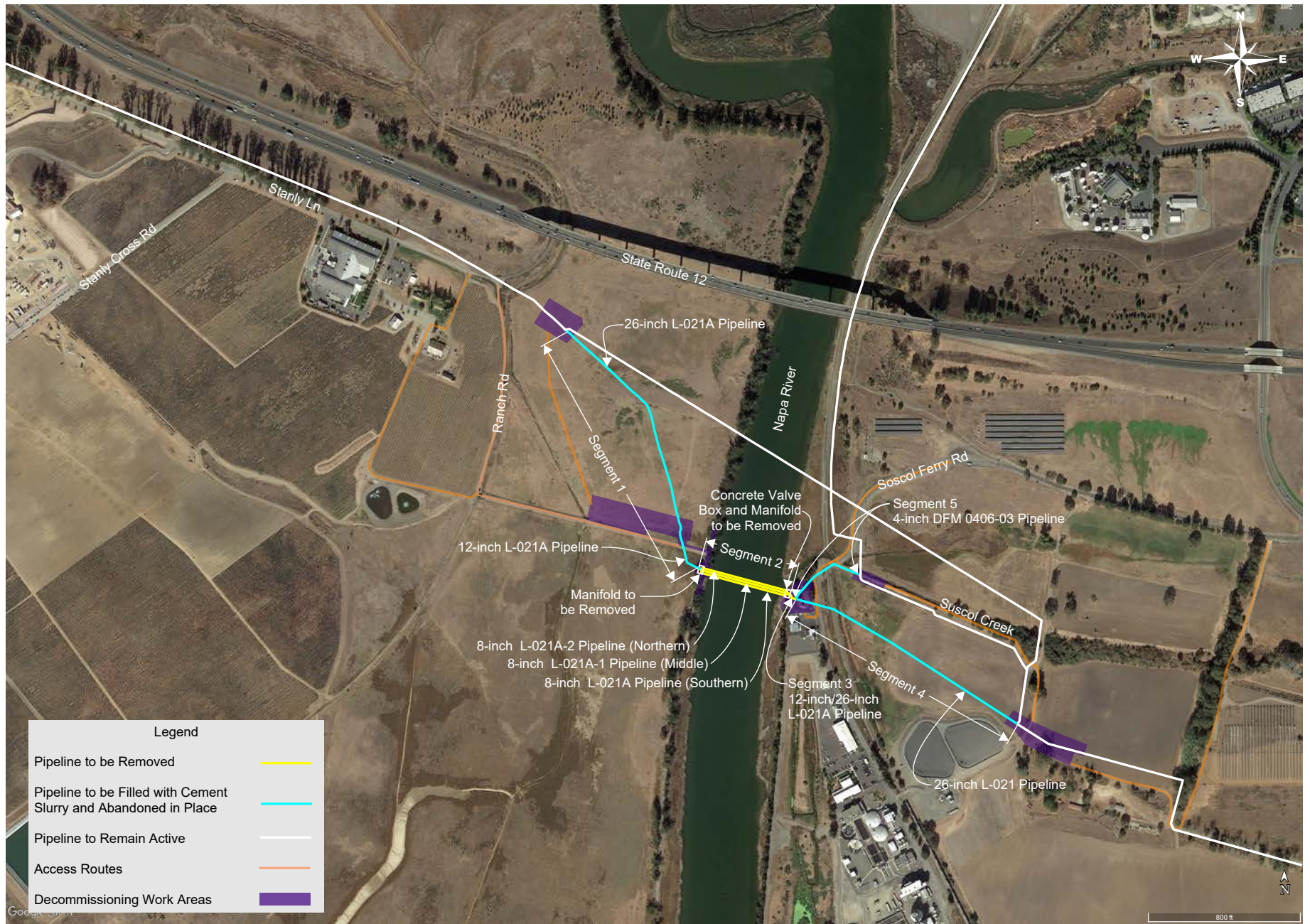


Figure 4
HDD Crossing Replacement Site Map



I-195E L-21 Napa River Pipeline Crossing Replacement Project

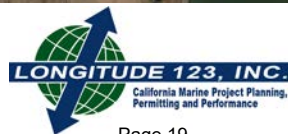


Figure 13
Decommissioning Site Map
and Final Dispositions