APPENDIX F

- **WATER SUPPLY ASSESSMENT**

INTRODUCTION

Senate Bill No. 610 (SB 610) became effective January 1, 2002. The bill requires a city or county which determines that a "project" (as defined in California Water Code Section 10912) is subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) to identify any public water system that may supply water for the project and to request those public water systems to prepare a specified water supply assessment (WSA). If there is no such public water system, then the city or county must prepare the WSA.

F.1 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The proposed Las Pilitas Quarry surface mine and related disturbance areas would occupy approximately 48 acres of a 234-acre property located about three miles east of Santa Margarita on the north side of State Route 58 just east of the Salinas River.

The project is being proposed by the property owner (Oster Family Trust) and applicant (Las Pilitas Resources, LLC), and must be reviewed and approved by the County of San Luis Obispo. Project objectives include the following:

A. Develop significant mineral deposits in a manner that protects sensitive natural resources and existing adjacent uses, and is consistent with other County general plan goals and policies.

B. Protect significant mineral resources from land uses that threaten their availability for future mining.

C. Develop known concrete-grade aggregate reserves within the property in accordance with previous planning and coordination with the California Department of Water Resources, state policy, the County EX1 Combining Designation, and applicable regulations.

D. Provide an additional source of aggregate material in the local production-consumption region, with a permitted production of up to 500,000 tons/year for approximately 30 years, consistent with state policy, the County EX1 Combining Designation and applicable regulations, and in a manner that supports independent contractor and other local use groups.

E. Contribute towards increased recycling of construction and demolition debris to help achieve an overall goal of 75 percent recycling for this type of waste material.

F. Locate a concrete-grade aggregate quarry as near as practicable to use areas in the San Luis Obispo-Santa Barbara Production-Consumption region, and with minimal reliance on local streets to gain highway and freeway access.

F.2 WATER SUPPLY PLANNING

Due to the type of rock product proposed, and the nature of the granitic material to be mined, the applicant is not proposing to use water in any of the crushing or sorting operations. The primary use of water by the project will be for dust control. Exposed granitic surfaces in the quarry would not generate much dust, but stockpiled soils and the action of truck traffic on the project processing and loading areas will be sources of dust that will require control. The access road from SR58 to the processing and loading area will be paved. On a regular basis during dry weather, this water use will amount to approximately 4,000 gallons per day.

As re-vegetation occurs in the reclamation phases, there will be additional water use to help establish new vegetation in some areas. Depending on the reclamation phase and area of re-vegetation under consideration, this water for irrigation could amount to an additional approximate 1,000 gallons per day. The largest single re-vegetation area would be at the close of the project after mining has ceased, and would involve restoring the flat stockpile and operations area. An additional approximate 500 gallons per day of potable water will be used for the project employees.

The project design includes a new septic tank and leach field to serve the needs of employees. Appropriate percolation tests and design measures will have to be incorporated into this facility to minimize the potential for groundwater pollution from the septic tank and leach field system.

F.2.1 Is the Proposed Project Subject to CEQA?

California Water Code Section 10910(a) states that any city or county that determines that a project, as defined in Section 10912, is subject to CEQA, shall comply with this part. CEQA applies to projects requiring issuance of a permit by a public agency, projects undertaken by a public agency, or projects funded by a public agency. The Proposed Project requires issuance of permits by a public agency and is, therefore, subject to CEQA.

F.2.2 Is the Proposed Project a “Project” under SB 610?

California Water Code Section 10912(a) states that an SB 610 “project” is defined as meeting any of the following criteria:

1. A proposed residential development of more than 500 dwelling units;
2. A proposed shopping center or business establishment employing more than 1,000 persons or having more than 500,000 square feet of floor space;
3. A proposed commercial office building employing more than 1,000 persons or having more than 250,000 square feet of floor space;
4. A proposed hotel or motel, or both, having more than 500 rooms;

5. A proposed industrial, manufacturing, or processing plant, or industrial park planned to house more than 1,000 persons, occupying more than 40 acres of land, or having more than 650,000 square feet of floor area;
6. A mixed-use project that includes one or more of the projects defined above; and/or
7. A project that would demand an amount of water equivalent to, or greater than, the amount of water required by a 500 dwelling unit project.

The project will involve quarry and processing operations that will occupy about 48 acres of land, including the access road and all other disturbances associated with the project. With this size, the quarry project may be considered an industrial processing plant as described in item 5 above. As a result, the Proposed Project qualifies as an SB 610 "Project", which requires the preparation of this WSA. The County's decision to prepare a WSA for this project is not an authoritative interpretation of the types of projects that should be required to prepare a WSA per SB610; other Lead Agencies may choose to make different decisions on similar projects, with regard to the applicability of SB 610.

F.2.3 Is There a Public Water System that Will Service the Proposed Project?

California Water Code Section 10910(b) requires the identification of any public water system(s) that may serve the project. The Proposed Project is located in an unincorporated area of San Luis Obispo County and would not be serviced by a public water system. The closest nearby water purveyors are the County Service Area 23 (formerly known as the County Waterworks District No. 8 – Santa Margarita) which serves the community of Santa Margarita (Figure WSA-1), and the Garden Farms County Water district. Three other water purveyors are located within 5 miles of the project site. There are no public water systems immediately adjacent to the project site. As described below (see Section F.2.5) the proposed Project would use water pumped from shallow subsurface flow of the Salinas River and groundwater. The Upper Salinas River basin is a non-adjudicated basin (DWR, 2010), and is not included on the state list of fully appropriated stream systems (SWRCB 1998:Section 2.1). As such, landowners may extract groundwater underlying their property without the approval from the State Board or a court; there is no permit process for regulation of groundwater use (CALEPA, 2010). Because there is no public water system that would serve the project, and the project site does not lie within or adjacent to an existing public water system, the County is responsible for preparing this WSA based on AB 610 and California Water code 10910 (DWR, 2003).

F.2.4 Is There a Current Urban Water Management Plan that Accounts for the Proposed Project Demand?

California Water Code Section 10910(c)(3) states:

> If the projected water demand associated with the proposed project was not accounted for in the most recently adopted urban water management plan, or the public water system has no urban water management plan, the water assessment for the project shall include a discussion with regard to whether the public water system's total projected water supplies available during the normal, single dry, and multiple dry water years during a 20-year projection will meet the projected water demand associated with the proposed project, in addition to the public water system's existing and planned future uses, including agricultural and manufacturing uses.

The Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP) most recently adopted by San Luis Obispo County Update (2005) does not account for the Proposed Project area or water demand associated with the Proposed Project (Wallace Group, 2010) and addresses only the urbanized areas served in Zone 3, the Lopez Reservoir. Therefore, this WSA includes assessment of available water supplies during normal, single dry, and multiple dry water years during a 20-year projection, as presented in Section F.5 (Projected Water Supply). In the absence of an UWMP for the project area, information used in developing this WSA has been derived from the sources listed below.

San Luis Obispo County Master Water Report (San Luis Obispo [SLO] County, 2012). The project site is located within the San Luis Obispo County Water Planning Area (WPA) 14–Salinas/Estrella. WPA 14 generally consists of the City of Paso Robles and communities of San Miguel, Shandon, and Creston. The Paso Robles Groundwater Basin and Salinas River are the primary sources of water in WPA 14. The Oster/Las Pilitas Quarry site, however, is outside of the Paso Robles Groundwater Basin and at the very southern edge of the WPA, near the boundary to WPA 12, Santa Margarita. The perennial yield of the Paso Robles Groundwater Basin is estimated to be 97,700 acre-feet per year and current use is estimated to be about 90% of that figure. Portions of the Paso Robles Groundwater Basin have experienced significant water level declines (San Luis Obispo County Master Water Report 2012:pages 4-52 to 4-53) It should be noted that the southern edge of the Paso Robles sub-basin is located approximately 3 miles to the east and 5 miles north of the project site (Figure WSA-2). The project site and the Paso Robles sub-basin are both geologically within the Upper Salinas Basin but are geologically distinct from one another. However due to the development in the Paso Robles area, most of the groundwater information available for the Upper Salinas River region that includes the site vicinity relates to the Paso Robles sub-basin.

San Luis Obispo County Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (SLO County, 2007). San Luis Obispo County receives 80% of its water supply from groundwater sources (SLO County, 2007). The IRWMP describes that there are 30 groundwater basins and sub-basins in the San Luis Obispo IRWMP Region (Section B2.5), including the Upper Salinas River Groundwater Basin, which underlies the Proposed Project area and would provide the project's water supply (see Section F.2.5 of this WSA).

San Luis Obispo County Hydrologic Report, Water Years 2001-02 and 2002-03 (SLO County, 2005)**.** This report provides hydrologic data collected for the County over the period of October 1, 2001, through September 30, 2003, including information relevant to precipitation, evaporation, stream flow, groundwater levels, and reservoirs.

F.2.5 Is Groundwater a Component of the Supplies for the Proposed Project?

The Proposed Project water supply needs would be met with shallow subsurface water associated with surface flows in the Salinas River.. California Water Code Section 10910 (f)(1) requires a review of any information contained in the UWMP that is relevant to the identified water supply for the proposed project. As noted, the most recently adopted UWMP for San Luis Obispo County (2005) does not address the Proposed Project site. In addition, Water Code Section 10910(f)(2) requires a description of any groundwater basin(s) from which the Proposed Project will be supplied. As mentioned in Section F.2.3 above, the Upper Salinas River Basin is not adjudicated, and therefore the project does not require permitting in order to pump groundwater or to make use of surface or shallow subsurface water associated with the Salinas River. Based on available data there is an expected increase in urban demand in the Salinas River corridor with a continued strong reliance in ground water sources from the Upper Salinas River Basin and specifically the Paso Robles Sub-Basin located north of the project site. Although it has not yet been subject to adjudication, due to this growth and dependence the entire Salinas River Basin could be subject to adjudication and mandated water allocation in the future.

Water supply conditions for San Luis Obispo County are described in the County's Master Water Report (San Luis Obispo County 2012). The Master Water Report divides the County into 16 Water Planning Areas (WPAs), which generally follow distinct watershed boundaries. Within each watershed boundary, water is discussed in terms of quantities available (supply), including existing and imported waters, and the infrastructure to distribute the water, including treatment plants, storage facilities, and pipelines. As described in Section F.2.4 above, the Proposed Project area is in WPA 14, Salinas/Estrella. WPA 14 consists of the Salinas River, Estrella Creek, San Juan Creek, Huer Huero Creek, and other smaller channels that are tributary to these major drainages. The project site is not located in a distinct named sub-basin but is located along the confluence of the Salinas River and its tributary, Moreno Creek. This location is at the southern boundary of WPA 14, and adjacent to WPA 12, Santa Margarita. Purveyors in WPAs 14 and 12 include 40 different entities described in Section F.3 (SLO County, 2001).

Per the State guidance, a description of the groundwater basins should include a discussion of the basin boundaries, type of rock that constitutes the aquifer, variability of the aquifer material, and total groundwater storage, using available information from published sources.

Upper Salinas River Basin Boundaries and Characteristics. As shown on Figure WSA-3, the site is located on the Salinas River, south of the confluence of the Salinas River and a tributary known as the Calf Canyon Creek and near Moreno Creek. The Calf Canyon Creek Watershed is estimated at 2,171 acres. The Project Site is also located downstream and north of Moreno Creek which has an estimated watershed of 2,613 acres. The Salinas River watershed upstream from the project site includes approximately 100,000 acres. The southern edge of the Paso Robles sub-basin is located approximately 3 miles east and 5 miles north of the project site and extends 30 to 40 miles to the north. The Paso Robles sub-basin contains 640 square miles (about 410,000 acres). The Salinas Valley is surrounded by the Gabilan Range on the east, by the Sierra de Salinas and Santa Lucia Range on the west. The southernmost part of the Project area drains southward to Moreno Creek, and most of its operations would be within a small unnamed drainage that leads to the Salinas River one-half mile to the west.

The Salinas River runs about 115 miles northwestward from the project vicinity, and empties into the Pacific Ocean in Monterey Bay. The Salinas Valley has been filled with 10,000 to 15,000 feet of Tertiary and Quaternary marine and terrestrial sediments that include up to 2,000 feet of saturated alluvium (Showalter, 1983). Above the generally non-water bearing and consolidated granitic basement, Miocene age Monterey and Pliocene age Purisima Formations are water-bearing strata within the Plio-Pleistocene age Paso Robles Formation and within Pleistocene to Holocene alluvium (DWR, 2004).

Within the upper reaches of the valley near the Project Site, the water-bearing strata of the Salinas Valley become thinner. As shown on the Figure WSA-4, the majority of the Project Site is underlain by granitic rocks of the La Panza formation. The La Panza formation is Mesozoic in age and is the source of the proposed mining activities. In addition, there are limited Tertiary-aged sedimentary rocks and Quaternary-aged unconsolidated materials that are exposed primarily within the major drainages on the south side of the Project Site. Groundwater in the site vicinity is found within localized unconsolidated formations and within the crystalline rock in weathered or fractured intervals and within major joint sets.

Some groundwater quality issues were previously identified in the Upper Salinas River basin, specifically in the Paso Robles sub-basin north of the project site. The groundwater quality issues include native boron and salinity, geothermal waters, and agricultural and municipal salt loading and locally high nitrate concentrations (SLO County, 2001). No specific groundwater quality issues have been identified for the project site vicinity.

With respect to water quantity, no shortages are known for the project vicinity and areas downstream, until those noted for the Paso Robles groundwater basin. Upstream from the Project Site, in the Moreno Creek drainage along Parkhill Road, the County has noted that the water supply is limited and represents a constraint to future development in that area (SLO County 2003:3-1).

F.3 EXISTING WATER RIGHTS

California Water Code Section 10910 (d)(2) requires the identification of existing water supply entitlements, water rights, or water service contracts, federal, state, and local permits for construction of necessary infrastructure, and any regulatory approvals required in order to be able to deliver the water supply. Most groundwater basins in California are not adjudicated, which means that landowners my extract groundwater underlying their property without approval from the State Board or a court. There is no permit process for regulation of groundwater use in such areas (CalEPA, 2010). As described in Section F.2.3, the Upper Salinas Groundwater Basin is a non-adjudicated basin (DWR, 2010) and is not included in the state list of fully appropriated stream systems (SWRCB 1998:Section 2.1).

The Project Site has both riparian and appropriative water rights associated with it. Since the property is located directly along the Salinas River, the owner has a right to use water in the river for uses within the watershed, under conditions that attend riparian rights. The Project Site also has five Statements of Diversion and Use filed with the State Water Resources Control Board totaling 93.8 acre-feet/year (30,565,011 gallons), for uses that were established prior to 1914 and are considered predominantly riparian (and storage volumes that are considered appropriative). These include both surface water and shallow ground water sources, and are summarized in Table F-1, with general locations shown on Figure WSA-5.

TABLE F-1
SUMMARY OF STATEMENTS OF DIVERSION AND USE

State Identifier	Type of Use	Value of Allotment (Acre-feet/Year)	Unit
C005738	Individual/stock pond	0.5	Moreno Creek
S015134	Indv/Statement of Diversion Use	0.6	Moreno Creek
S015136	Indv/Statement of Diversion Use	92.7	Salinas River
Total		93.8	

Note: Statements of Diversion and Use S015133 and S015135 are also recorded for the site but have a withdraw value of zero.

The Project Site has registered two water storage facilities with a combined capacity of 0.7 acre-feet (228,097 gallons).

There are two public water purveyors near the Project Site including County Service District No. 8 – Santa Margarita and Garden Farms County Water District. The locations of the CSDs and other nearby water purveyors are presented on Figure WSA-6. In total, there are over 41 water purveyors in WPAs 14 and 12, including five located within 5 miles of the project site

(Bow Valley Aquiland Water Supply, Garden Farms County Water District, County Waterworks No. 8, Rinconda Trailer Park and Santa Margarita Lake Campground).

F.4 EXISTING WATER QUALITY

The quality of groundwater in the vicinity of the Project site is not well documented and site specific water quality data were not available for review. However, available literature for the Upper Salinas River Groundwater Basin, specifically for the Paso Robles sub-basin indicate that native boron, salinity, geothermal waters, agricultural and municipal salt loading and locally high nitrate concentrations are overall regional water quality issues (SLO County, 2001).

F.5 PROJECTED WATER SUPPLY

In accordance with SB 610, this WSA includes consideration of projected water supply and demand under future drought conditions (single-dry and multiple-dry water years) over the next 20 years. The applicant intends to obtain water from the subsurface flow of the Salinas River via a shallow well located on the Project Site approximately 80 feet from the river ("Salinas Well" in Figure WSA-5, and referenced as "Well A" in some documents). This well is capable of producing approximately 20 gallons per minute or approximately 29,000 gallons per day. A recent four-hour pump test demonstrated production of 25 gallons per minute, with a drawdown of one foot. Since this well draws from the Salinas River, the water is used under the riparian rights associated with the property. A separate well elsewhere on the property was reported to produce approximately 350 gallons per minute or greater than 500,000 gallons per day.

The recorded Statements of Diversion and Use identify over 93 acre-feet per year of surface and groundwater diversions and over 0.7 acre-feet of storage via river impoundments are available to the site. Much of this diversion comes from direct flow and underflow within the shallow-aquifer of the Salinas River. These surface water diversions and impoundments as well as groundwater withdrawals have been reported by the property owner for a number of years. Current uses on the property include two residences, a small orchard and garden area, and landscaping around the primary residence. Agricultural use is currently minor, and consists of 30 to 40 head of cattle. Total water consumption for the existing uses is estimated at 1.5 to 1.7 acre feet/ year (over 1,500 gallons per day). A figure of two acre feet/year is assumed for this assessment.

The surface flow in the Salinas River results from rainfall in the approximate 100,000 acre drainage basin upstream from the project. The Santa Margarita Reservoir is within this basin, and provides much of the water supply for the City of San Luis Obispo. Under permit with the state, the reservoir is required to release water into the Salinas River to maintain a base-flow in order to protect natural riparian resources found in and along the river (as described

in SWRCB 2000:2). The reservoir and this requirement provide a steady source of flow for riparian users of water resources along the Salinas River front, including the Project Site.

The nearest stream gages on the Salinas River are in Paso Robles, about 15 miles north of the project site, and just downstream from the Santa Margarita Reservoir Dam, about seven miles south of the site. The US Geological Survey maintains the first of these gages near Paso Robles, and a review of data from 1941 through 2010 indicates a median flow at this point of over 36,000 acre-feet/year. The gage near the dam is maintained by San Luis Obispo County, and data regarding operations at the dam are compiled on a daily and monthly basis (San Luis Obispo County 2011). This location is considered to be more representative of the project site, and is used in this analysis. For the 23 years of available data for this location (1987-2009), the annual flow ranged from a low of 808 acre feet/year to over 80,000 acre feet/year, with a median value of 8,660 acre feet/year.

The lowest single year of precipitation during this period was 1989 (with rainfall of 11.4 inches), and this is the year that preceded the lowest river flow of 808 acre feet/year. This year (1989) was also the last year of the multi-year drought period (three years, 1987-1989) in this data set. Reviewing precipitation data listed by the Upper Salinas-Las Tablas Resource Conservation District (2002:III-23), the driest multi-year period since 1915 was the four year period ending in 1989, which corresponds to the same multi-year drought period noted for the Santa Margarita reservoir data set. Thus, the surface flow in 1990 also represents the lowest flow for a multi-year drought.

In summary, flows in the Salinas River near the project site are as follows:

- Normal years – approximately 8,660 acre-feet/year
- Single dry year -– approximately 808 acre-feet/year
- Multiple dry year – approximately 808 acre-feet/year

F.6 PROJECTED WATER DEMAND

Projections of future maximum demand from the project site range from 1,000 to 5,000 gallons per day for dust control and operations (0.8 to 4 acre-feet/year). During the reclamation phase of the project, up to 1,000 gallons per day is expected to be used for irrigation and the quarry project would also use about 500 gallons per day for domestic purposes. Thus, the total estimated project use would be 5,500 gallons per day. This anticipated water consumption is substantially less than the production capacity of the assigned well that will withdraw water from the shallow subsurface flow of the Salinas River, which is about 29,000 gallons per day.

The cumulative water use on the property would include the 5,500 gallons per day for the quarry (approximately 4.3 acre feet/year) plus the approximately two acre feet/year

previously estimated for general site use. Thus, the on-site cumulative use would be about 7 acre-feet/year. The surface diversion and wells that provide for the existing uses are part of the pre-1914 diversion and use on the property, which can theoretically supply over 90 acre feet/ year. Although consumptive use at this rate has not occurred on the property, the existing system of wells and surface diversion has been adequate to meet all of the past uses, and is expected to provide a reliable water supply for the property into the future.

The median annual flow in the Salinas River in the project vicinity is over 8,000 acre-feet/year, from a combination of natural runoff augmented by discharges from the Santa Margarita Reservoir. The base flow even in the driest pattern of years is over 800 acre-feet/year, which is well in excess of 7 acre-feet/year anticipated cumulative demand on the property.

F.7 CONCLUSIONS

California Water Code Section 10910(c)(4) states:

> If the city or county is required to comply with this part pursuant to subdivision (b), the water assessment for the project shall include a discussion with regard to whether the total projected water supplies, determined to be available by the city or county for the project during normal, single dry, and multiple dry water years during a 20-year projection, will meet the projected water demand associated with the proposed project, in addition to existing and future planned uses, including agricultural and manufacturing uses.

Site demand for water with the addition of this project totals approximately 5,500 gallons per work day or about 4.3 acre-feet/year. The total water demand for the property including this use plus estimates of recent consumption for residential and agricultural purposes would be about 7 acre feet/year. Water is supplied primarily by wells drawing from the shallow subsurface flow in the Salinas River, which will serve the proposed quarry. The well to be used for the project can supply much more than is estimated to be required for use on-site. Surface flow in the Salinas River ranges from a low of 808 acre feet/year (the value for single and multi-year drought conditions) to a median flow of 8,660 acre feet/year. Sufficient water supplies are available for this project independent of multi-year fluctuations in rainfall and other variables. The Proposed Project is in full compliance with California Water Code as amended by Senate Bill 610, per information and analysis provided in this WSA.

F.8 REFERENCES

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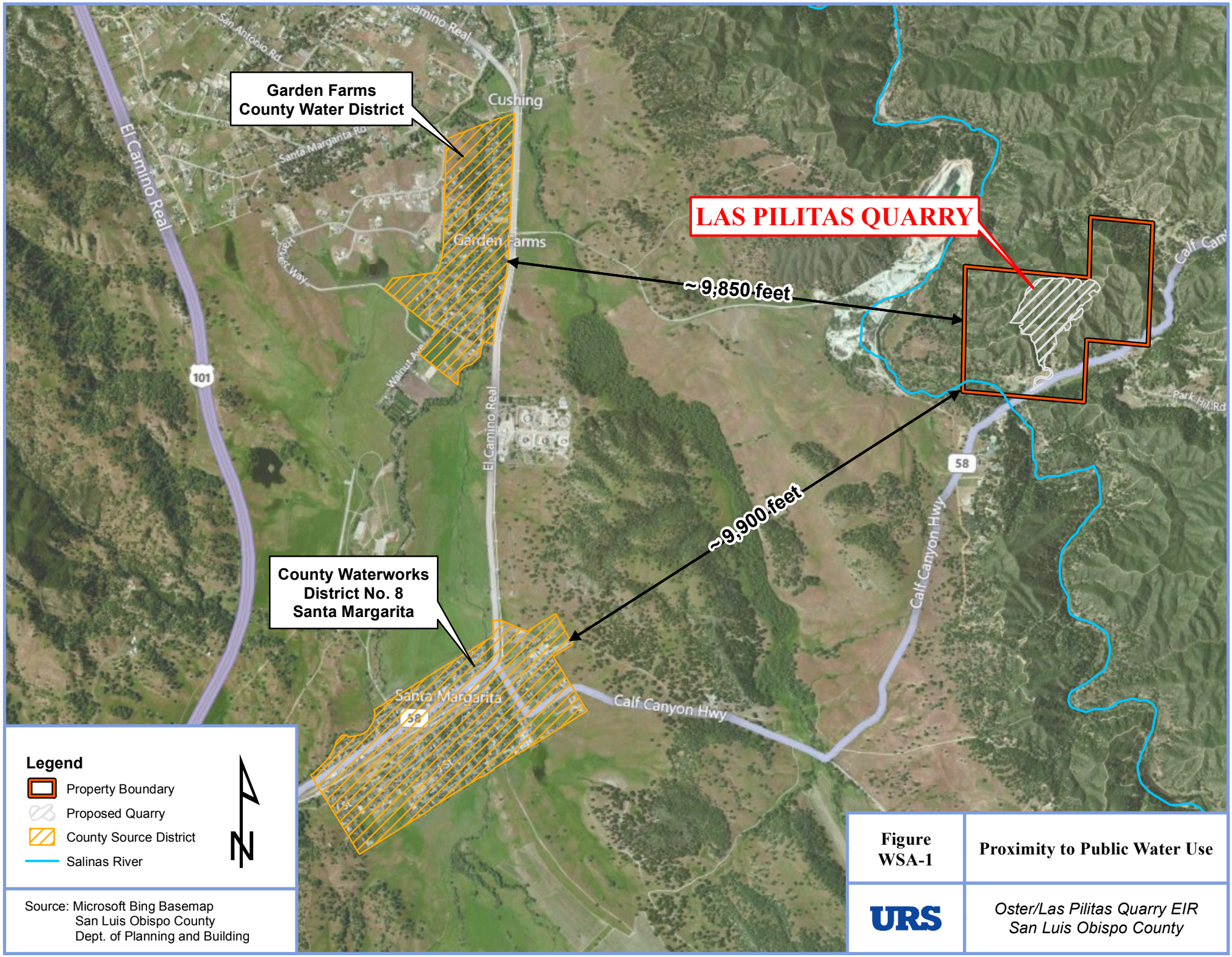
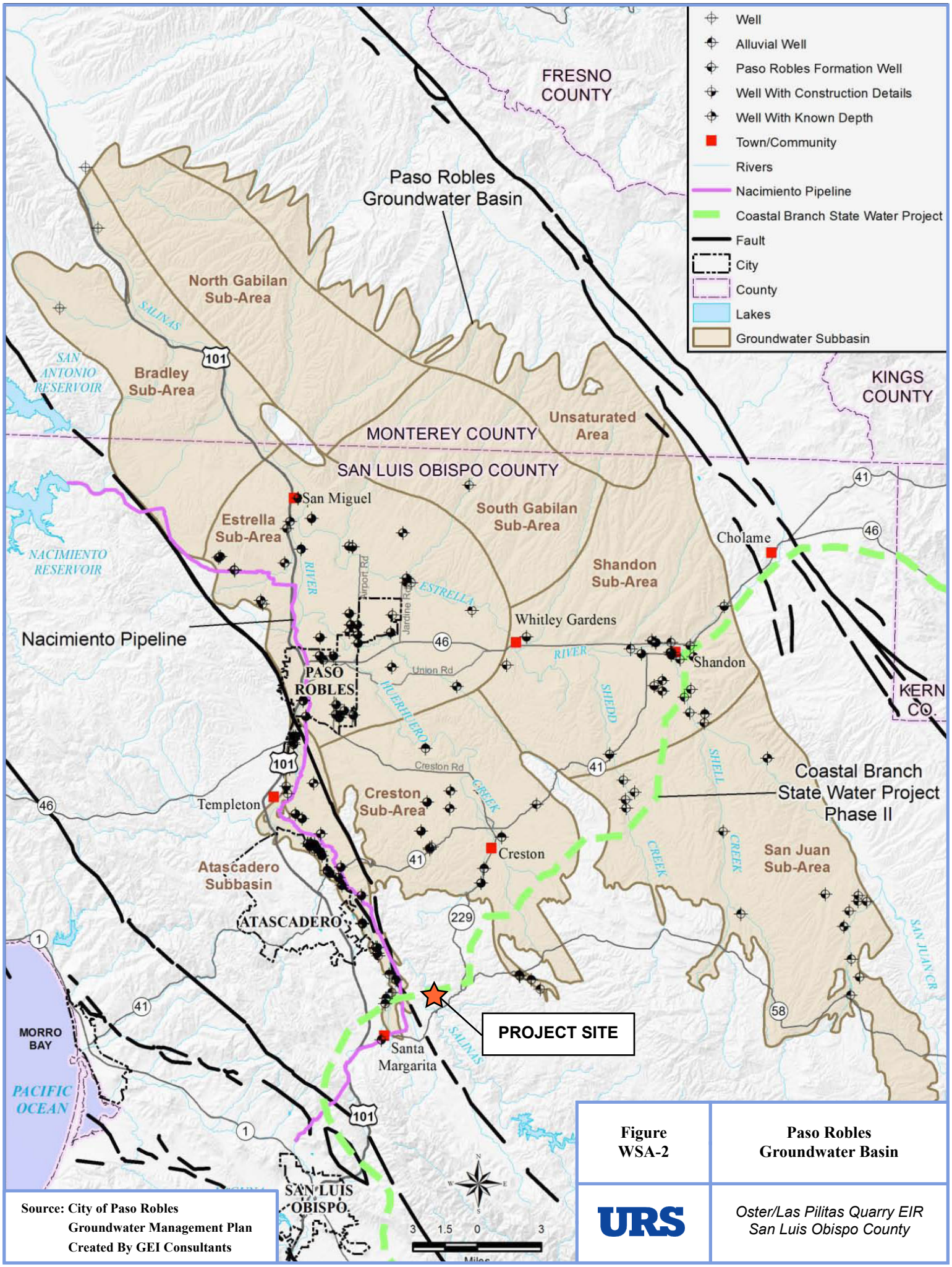
FIGURES



Source: Microsoft Bing Basemap
San Luis Obispo County
Dept. of Planning and Building

Figure WSA-1	Proximity to Public Water Use
URS	*Oster/Las Pilitas Quarry EIR* *San Luis Obispo County*



Source: City of Paso Robles Groundwater Management Plan Created By GEI Consultants

Figure WSA-2	Paso Robles Groundwater Basin
URS	*Oster/Las Pilitas Quarry EIR San Luis Obispo County*

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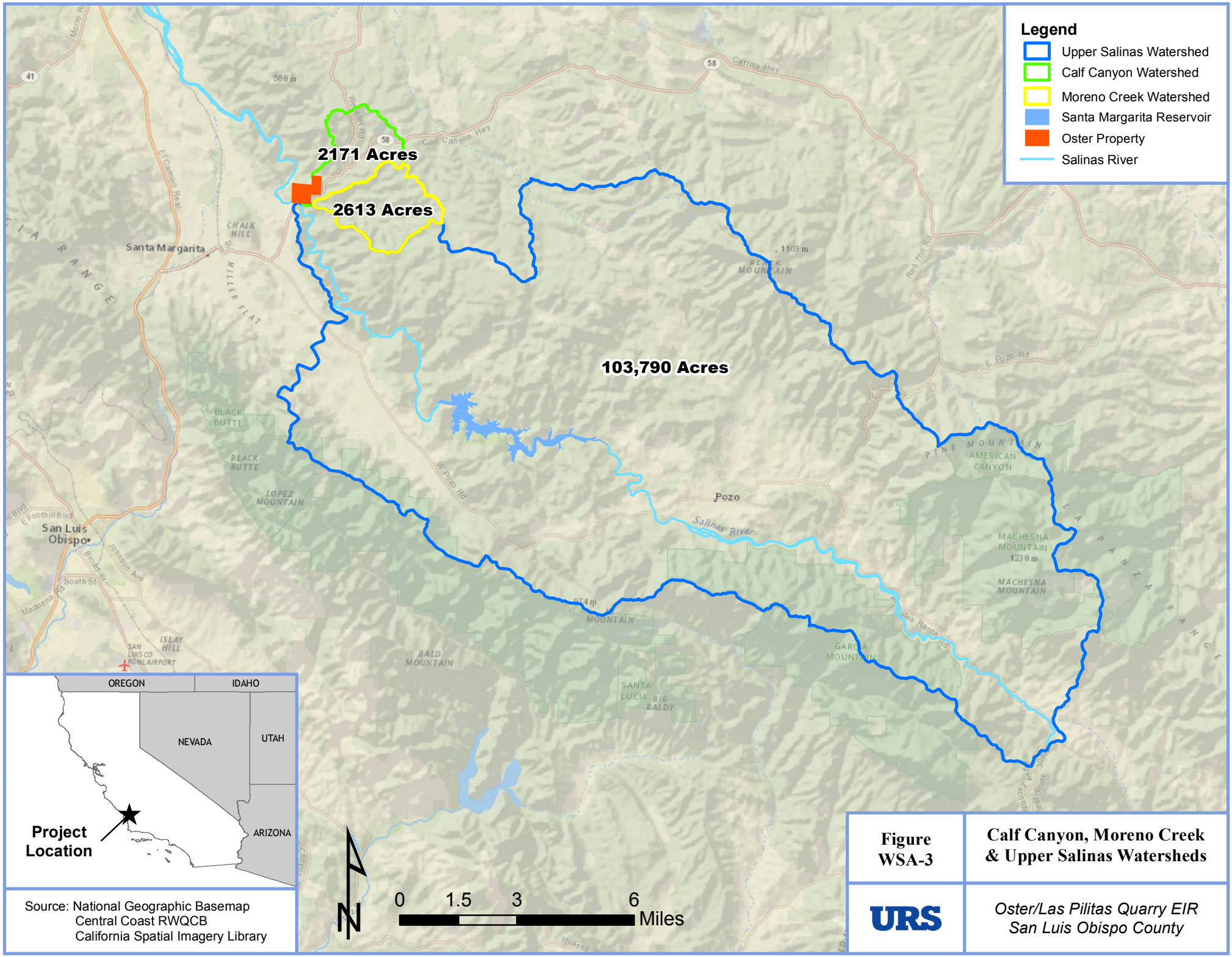
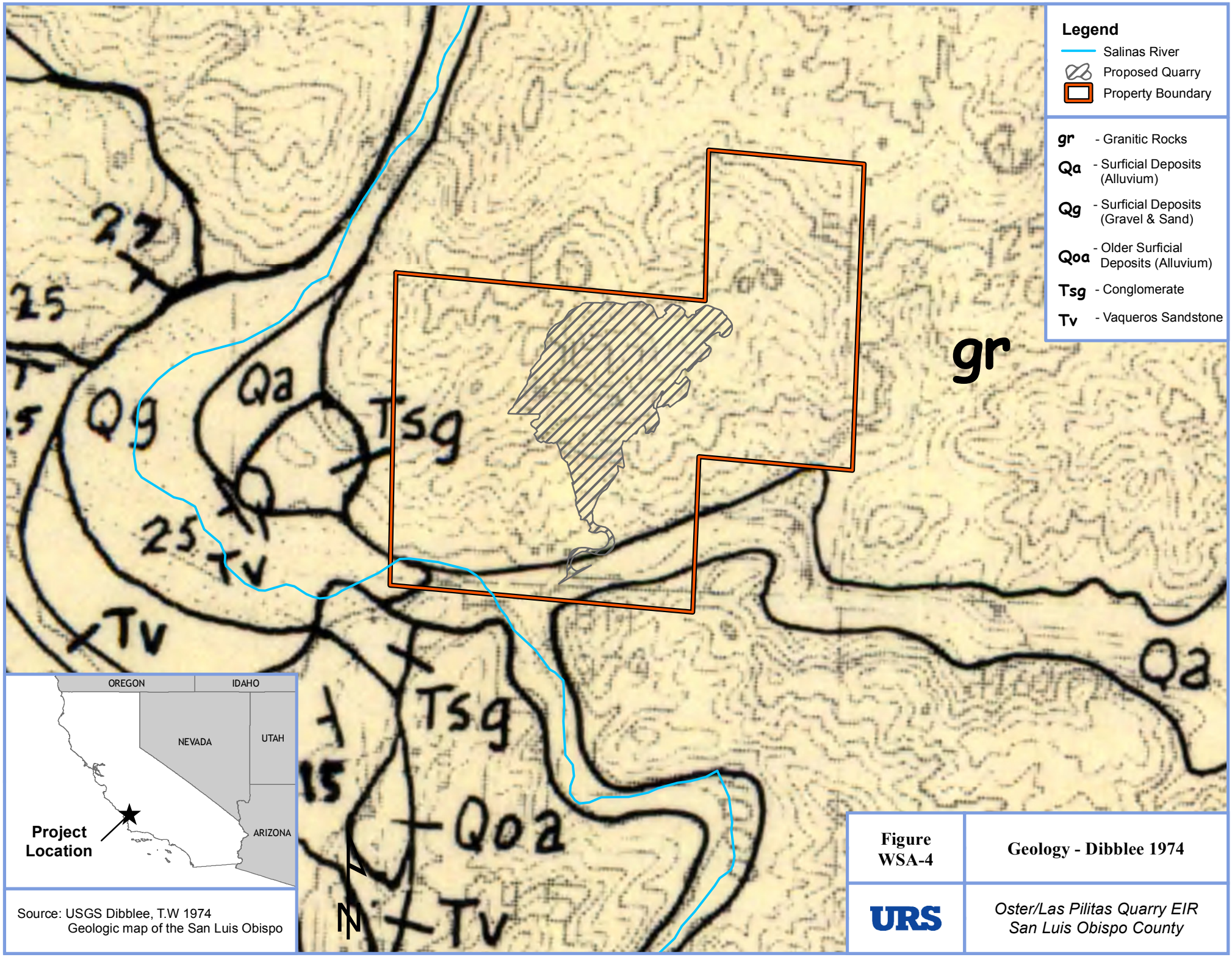


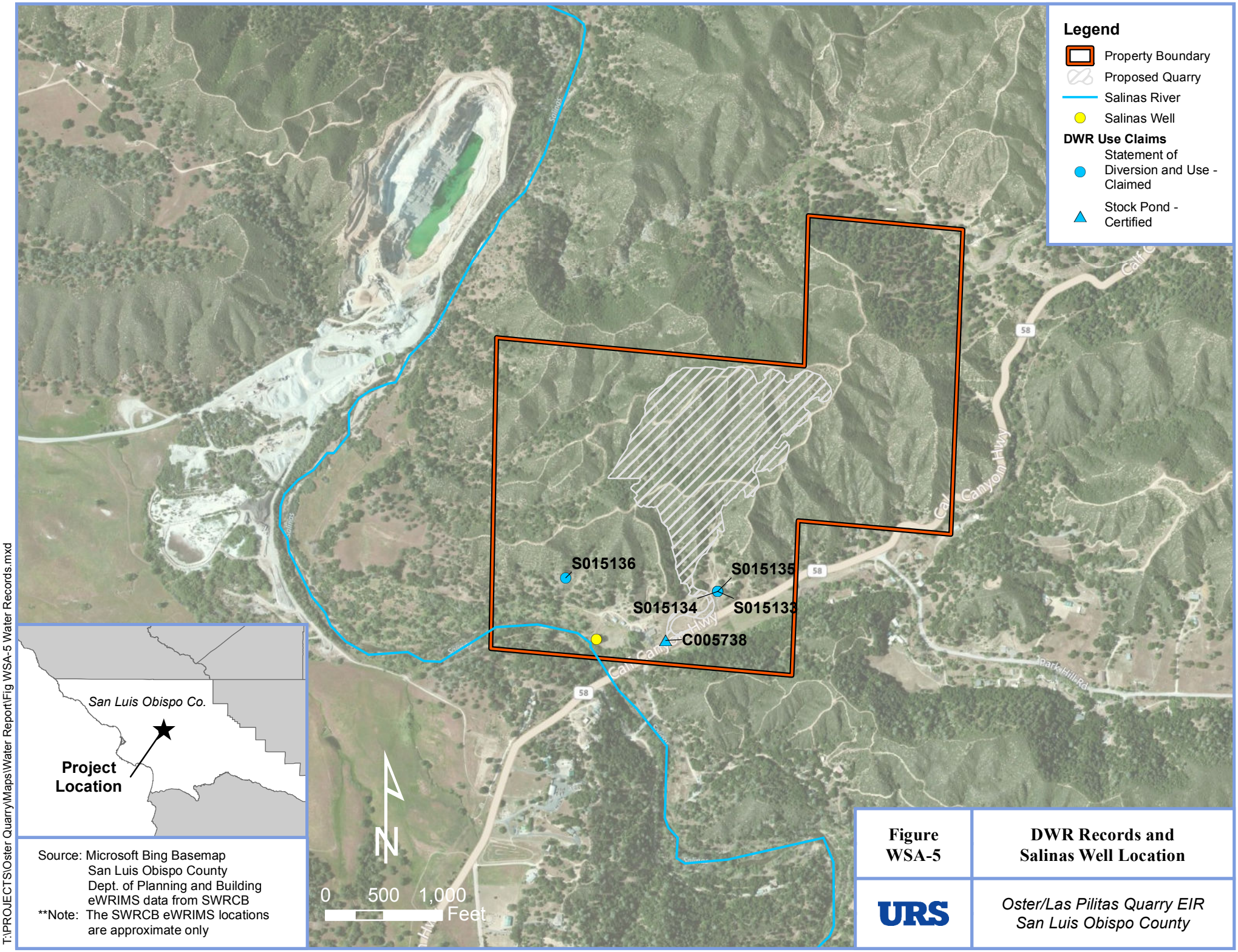
Source: National Geographic Basemap
Central Coast RWQCB
California Spatial Imagery Library

Figure WSA-3	Calf Canyon, Moreno Creek & Upper Salinas Watersheds
URS	*Oster/Las Pilitas Quarry EIR San Luis Obispo County*



Source: USGS Dibblee, T.W 1974
Geologic map of the San Luis Obispo

Figure WSA-4	Geology - Dibblee 1974
URS	*Oster/Las Pilitas Quarry EIR San Luis Obispo County*



Source: Microsoft Bing Basemap
San Luis Obispo County
Dept. of Planning and Building
eWRIMS data from SWRCB
**Note: The SWRCB eWRIMS locations are approximate only

Figure WSA-5	DWR Records and Salinas Well Location
URS	*Oster/Las Pilitas Quarry EIR San Luis Obispo County*

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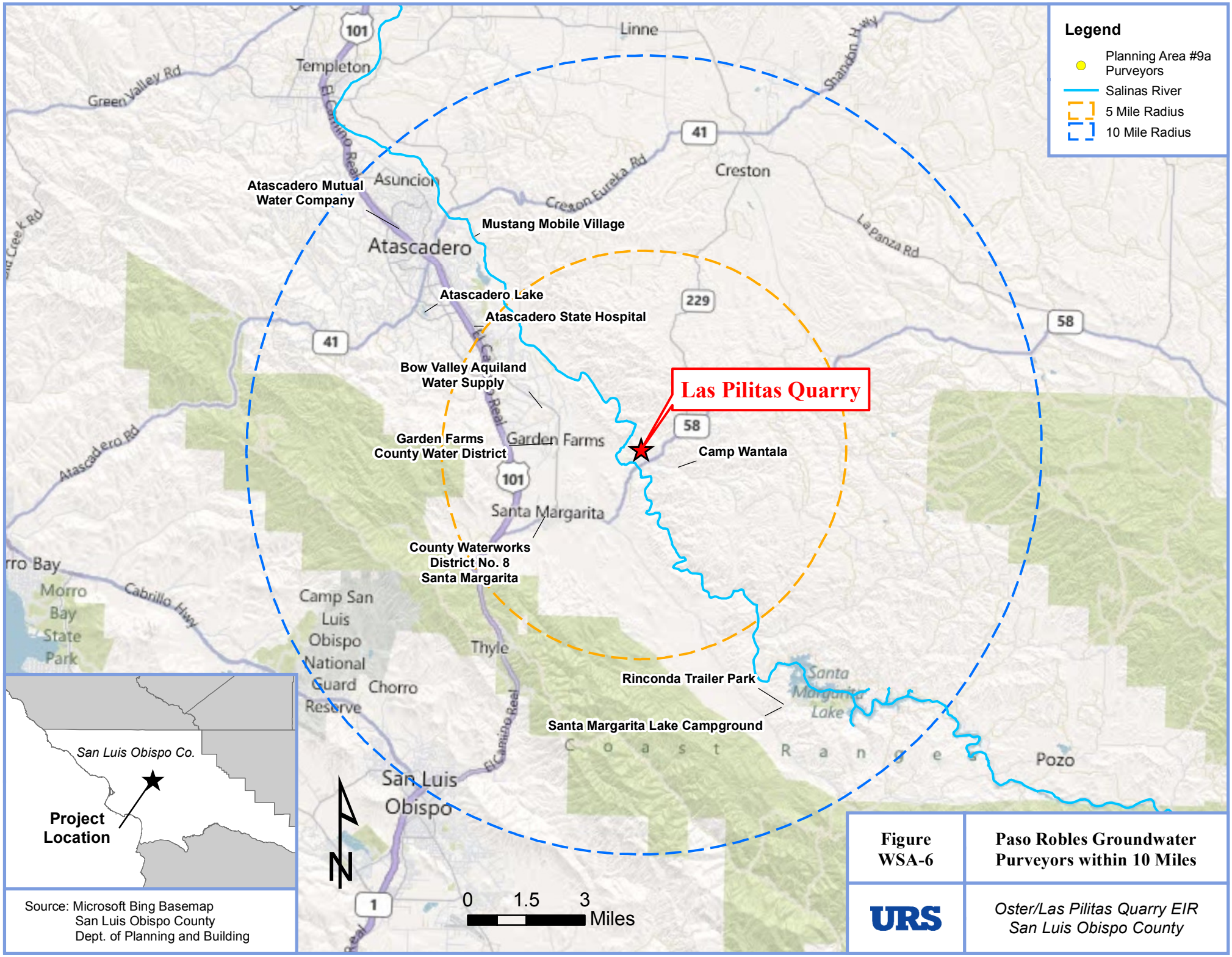

Source: Microsoft Bing Basemap
San Luis Obispo County
Dept. of Planning and Building

Figure WSA-6	Paso Robles Groundwater Purveyors within 10 Miles
URS	*Oster/Las Pilitas Quarry EIR San Luis Obispo County*

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