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State of California
Department of Fish and Wildlife

M e m o r a n d u m

Date: August 4, 2022

To: Leslie Alber
Senior Environmental Scientist, Supervisor
California Department of Fish and Wildlife

From: Ben Ewing
District Fisheries Biologist
Alpine, Amador, Calaveras, and Lake Counties
Department of Fish and Wildlife

Cc: Region 2 Fish Files

Re: Clear Lake hitch fish rescue from Adobe Creek on April 28 and May 4, 2022,
Lake County

On April 28, 2022, California Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) personnel, along with members from Lake County, Robinson Rancheria, and Habetmotolel Band of Pomo Indians (Habetmotolel) at Clear Lake, conducted a fish rescue on Adobe Creek (Lake County). The purpose of the rescue was to capture and relocate Clear Lake hitch (*Lavinia exilicauda chi*) (HCH-C), a threatened species under the California Endangered Species Act (CESA). All HCH-C that were rescued were released at Konocti Casino Harbor from the shoreline of Clear Lake.

On April 27, 2022, two sections of Adobe Creek were identified by Big Valley Tribe of Pomo Indians and Lake County staff as having HCH-C that had become stranded in isolated pools. Department staff confirmed these sightings on April 28. Beginning in the morning on April 28, members of the Department, Lake County Water Resources, Robinson Rancheria, and Habetmotolel conducted a fish rescue on four small pools that were drying up in Adobe Creek (**Figures 1 - 6**). A total of 268 HCH-C were collected using two backpack electrofishers and various sized dip nets. Collected HCH-C were then transported with buckets and placed into a cooler with an operating aerator. The fish were then transported to Konocti Casino Harbor on Clear Lake where they were released.

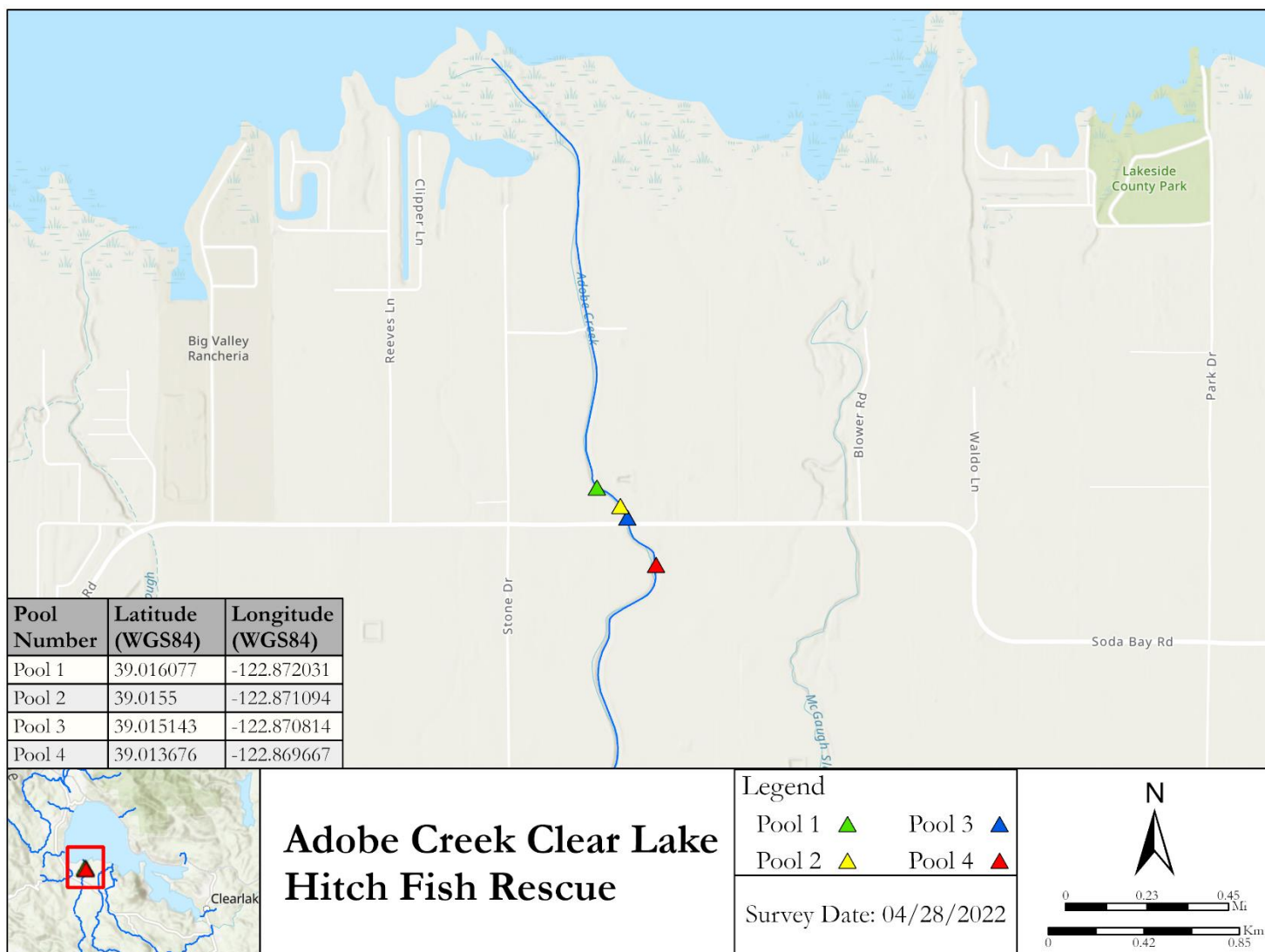


Figure 1. Locations of four pools on Adobe Creek where HCH-C were rescued on April 28, 2022. (Figure courtesy of R. Carey, Lake County Water Resources)



Figure 2. Pool #1 on Adobe Creek 4/28/2022. (Photo by B. Ewing)



Figure 3. Pool #2 on Adobe Creek 4/28/2022. (Photo by B. Ewing)



Figure 4. Pool #2 on Adobe Creek 4/28/2022. (Photo by B. Ewing)



Figure 5. Pool #2 on Adobe Creek 4/28/2022. (Photo by B. Ewing)



Figure 6. Pool #4 on Adobe Creek 4/28/2022. (Photo by B. Ewing)

Upon release, the HCH-C were scanned for Passive Integrated Transponder (P.I.T) tags, but no HCH-C had a prior tag (**Figure 7**). There were no reported initial mortalities for HCH-C rescued on both the day released or following day, April 29.



Figure 7. HCH-C being scanned for P.I.T. tag upon release at Konocti Casino Harbor on 4/28/2022. (Photo by B. Ewing)

On May 4, 2022, multiple sections of Adobe Creek were identified by the Robinson Tribe of Pomo Indians staff as having HCH-C that had become stranded in isolated pools. Department staff confirmed these sightings on May 4. Beginning in the morning on May 4, members of the Department, Lake County Water Resources, Robinson Rancheria, and Big Valley Rancheria conducted a fish rescue on five small pools that were drying up in Adobe Creek (**Figure 8**). A total of 58 HCH-C were collected using two backpack electrofishers and various sized dip nets (**Figure 9**). Collected HCH-C were then transported with buckets and placed into a cooler with an

operating aerator (**Figure 10**). The fish were then transported to Konocti Casino Harbor on Clear Lake where they were released.

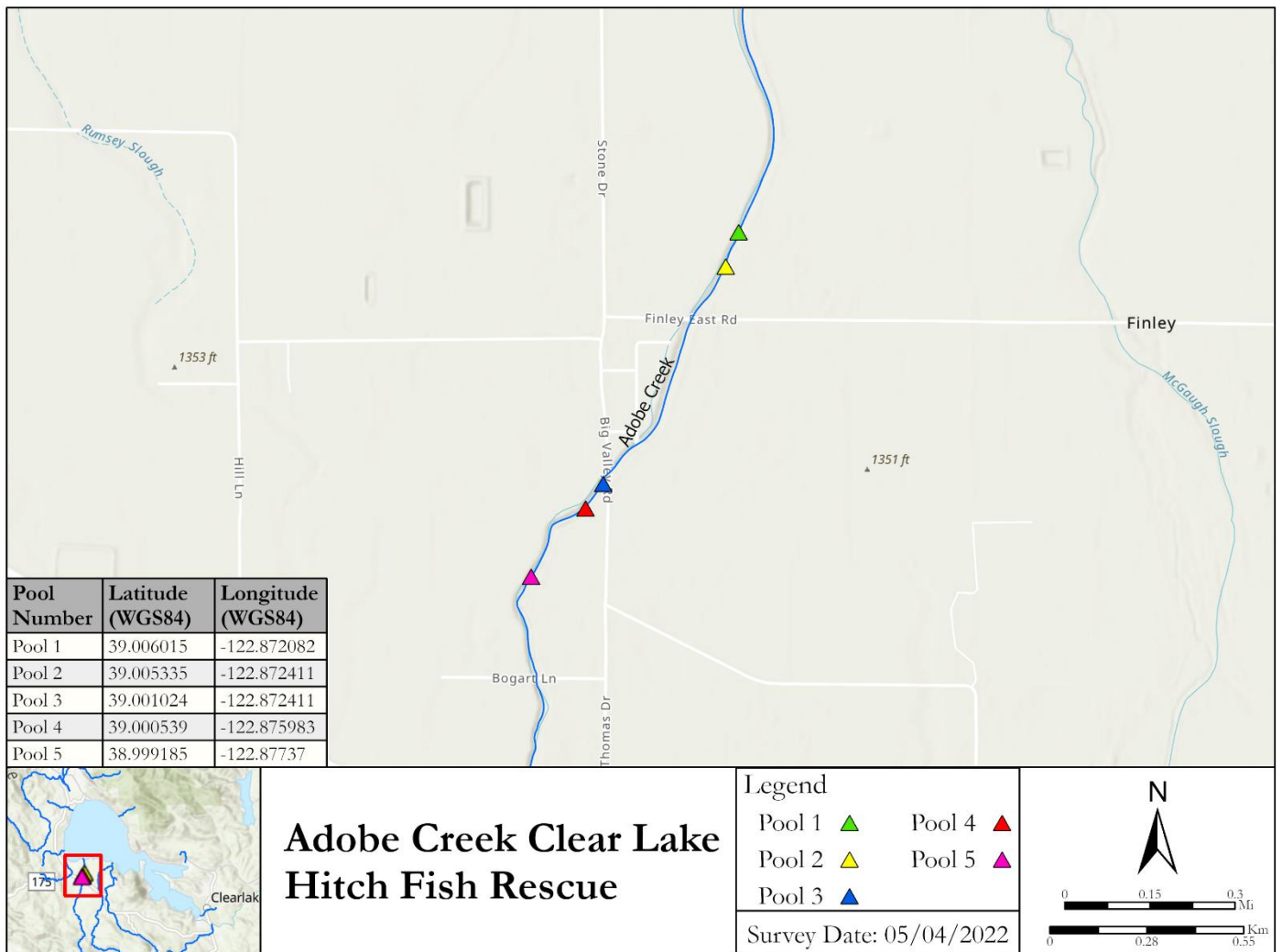


Figure 8. Locations of five pools on Adobe Creek where HCH-C were rescued on 5/4/2022. (Figure courtesy of R. Carey, Lake County Water Resources)



Figure 9. Department, Robinson Rancheria, and Lake County staff on Adobe Creek 5/4/2022. (Photo by L. Santana)



Figure 10. HCH-C ready to be transported from Adobe Creek to Clear Lake on 5/4/2022. (Photo by L. Santana)

Upon release, the HCH-C were scanned for Passive Integrated Transponder (P.I.T) tags, but no HCH-C had a prior tag. There were no reported initial mortalities for HCH-C rescued both on the day released or following day, May 5.