

California Department of Fish and Wildlife Central Region 1234 East Shaw Avenue Fresno, California 93710

California Endangered Species Act Amended Incidental Take Permit No. 2081-2023-029-04 BLACKWELL'S CORNER CAPM PROJECT (PROJECT) CALTRANS EA 06-0Y130

I. Authority:

This California Endangered Species Act (CESA) incidental take permit (ITP) is issued by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) pursuant to Fish and Game Code section 2081, subdivisions (b) and (c), and California Code of Regulations, Title 14, section 783.0 et seq. CESA prohibits the take¹ of any species of wildlife designated by the California Fish and Game Commission as an endangered, threatened, or candidate species.² CDFW may authorize the take of any such species by permit pursuant to the conditions set forth in Fish and Game Code section 2081, subdivisions (b) and (c). (See Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 783.4).

Fish and Game Code section 5050 generally prohibits the take of the fully protected blunt-nosed leopard lizard (*Gambelia sila*). Fish and Game Code section 2081.14 allows CDFW to authorize the take of a fully protected species resulting from impacts attributable to, or otherwise related to, the implementation of a transportation project undertaken by a state, regional, or local agency, that does not increase highway or street capacity for automobile or truck travel if the conditions set forth in Fish and Game Code section 2081.15, subdivisions (a-d) are satisfied.³

Permittee: California Department of Transportation (Caltrans)

Principal Officer: David Johnson, Biology Branch Chief

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II. Amended ITP⁴ Background:

ITP No. 2081-2023-029-04 was originally issued on November 20, 2023. On July 17, 2024, CDFW received a request from Permittee for a major amendment (Amendment No. 1) to the original ITP and the corresponding fee payment. Permittee requested to amend the ITP to: (1) extend the permit expiration date by 36 months to May 30, 2028, to allow enough time for

¹ Pursuant to Fish and Game Code section 86, "'take' means hunt, pursue, catch, capture, or kill, or attempt to hunt, pursue, catch, capture, or kill." (See also *Environmental Protection Information Center v. California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection* (2008) 44 Cal.4th 459, 507 [for purposes of incidental take permitting under Fish and Game Code section 2081, subdivision (b), "'take' ... means to catch, capture or kill".)

² The definition of an endangered, threatened, and candidate species for purposes of CESA are found in Fish and Game Code sections 2062, 2067, and 2068, respectively.

³ Senate Bill 147 added section 2081.15 to the Fish and Game Code to allow CDFW to authorize the take of a fully protected species in sections 3511, 4700, 5050, and 5515. Section 2081.15, subdivision (b) specifies the projects or categories of projects eligible for a take authorization permit pursuant to section 2081.15.

⁴ When this incidental take permit and attachments refer to the "ITP", it means the "Amended ITP" (Amendment No. 1 and Amendment No. 2) unless the context dictates otherwise.

Permittee to complete the compensatory mitigation requirement; (2) remove the installation of exclusionary fencing at all culvert locations from the Project Description; (3) revise the work schedule to increase the number of workdays from 180 to approximately 200; (4) revise the quantities of permanent and temporary impacts; (5) extend the mitigation due date from 24 months to 48 months of the effective date to satisfy the compensatory mitigation requirement; and (6) remove the Habitat Restoration Condition of Approval due to the change in impacts. Additionally, CDFW modified the Designated Biologist(s) and Designated Monitor(s) Condition of Approval to better distinguish experience requirements for Designated Biologists working with either Covered Species from those strictly working with San Joaquin antelope squirrel and removed the Conditions of Approval relating to exclusionary fencing. Amendment No. 1 (2081-2023-029-04-A1) became effective on October 13, 2024.

On October 3, 2024, CDFW received a request from Permittee for a second major amendment (Amendment No. 2) to the ITP, and on October 17, 2024, CDFW received the corresponding fee payment. Permittee requested to amend the ITP, as previously amended, to add the fully protected and state endangered blunt-nosed leopard lizard (BNLL) as a species covered by the ITP and to add six staging areas outside of the state highway right-of-way to the Project area. The Permittee requested to add BNLL as a Covered Species to the ITP after the species was observed within the Project area during pre-activity surveys in September 2024. CDFW also initiated several modifications to the ITP Conditions of Approval to correspond with the addition of BNLL as a Covered Species in the ITP and addressed minor typographical errors in Amendment No. 1.

This Project is a transportation project being undertaken by a state agency. In addition, the project will clearly not result in an increase in highway or street capacity for automobile or truck travel. For these reasons, the Project qualifies as an eligible project pursuant to Fish and Game Code section 2081.15, subdivision (b)(3).

Issuance of this Amendment will authorize the take of an additional Covered Species and increase the impact acreage compared to the Project as originally approved; however, by implementing compliance monitoring, pre-activity surveys, and other take minimization measures added herein by Amendment, it is not expected that this Amendment will increase Project impacts on the Covered Species included in the original ITP (i.e., "impacts of taking" as used in Fish and Game Code Section 2081, subd. (b)(2)). Issuance of this Amendment does not affect CDFW's previous determination that issuance of the ITP meets and is otherwise consistent with the permitting criteria set forth in Fish and Game Code section 2081, subdivisions (b) and (c) with respect to the Covered Species included in the original ITP.

CDFW now amends and reissues the ITP. This Amended ITP includes all of the operative provisions as of the effective date of this Amended ITP. Attachment 5 to this Amended ITP shows the specific red-line changes made to the ITP as a result of this Major Amendment No. 2.

III. Effective Date and Expiration Date of this ITP:

The original ITP was executed in duplicate form and became effective on October 31, 2023. This remains the effective date for the original take authorization. This Amended ITP shall become effective upon execution by the Regional Manager for CDFW's Central Region. This Amended ITP and its authorization to take the Covered Species shall expire on **May 30, 2028**.

Notwithstanding the expiration date on the take authorization provided by this ITP, Permittee's obligations pursuant to this ITP do not end until CDFW accepts as complete Permittee's Final Mitigation Report required by Condition of Approval 6.14 of this ITP.

IV. Project Location:

The Project is located on State Route (SR) 33 between highway post miles (PM) 40.4 and PM 59.3, in Kern County (Figure 1). The Project occurs in portions of the following locations in the Mount Diablo Baseline and Meridian of the Public Land Survey System:

- Township 29 South, Range 22 East, in portion of Section 19 (Belridge, California, United States Geological Survey 7.5-Minute Quadrangle [USGS quad] map);
- Township 29 South, Range 21 East, in portions of Sections 2, 11, 12, 13 and 24 (Belridge, California, USGS quad map);
- Township 28 South, Range 21 East, in portions of Sections 6, 7, 8, 17, 20, 21, 27, 28 and 34 (Belridge and Los Hills, California, USGS quad maps); and
- Township 27 South, Range 20 East, in portions of Sections 6, 8, 9, 16, 21, 22, 26 and 36 (Blackwells Corner, California USGS quad map).

The southern end of the Project is located approximately 6.6 miles northwest of the community of McKittrick, at Latitude 35.388995 and Longitude -119.659762. The northern end of the project is located approximately 0.5 mile southeast of the intersection of SR 33 and SR 46 (Blackwell's Corner), at Latitude 35.606846 and Longitude - 119.857879.

V. Project Description:

The Project involves activities related to repaving SR 33 between PMs 40.4 and 59.3 and extending, replacing, or repairing 19 culvert facilities within this section. A 4-foot-wide paved shoulder will be added to both sides of the two-lane roadway where the existing shoulder is less than 4 feet, and the roadway profile will be raised up to 1 foot at spot locations that were identified as prone to flooding. New concrete headwalls, concrete wingwalls, and/or concrete or metal flared end sections will be installed at the project culverts, and rock slope protection (RSP) will be added to the outlet ends of the Project culverts. Project activities will also include the installation of permanent erosion control to all temporarily disturbed soils, consisting of compost, hydroseed and hydromulch.

Paving Activities

The existing roadway will be rehabilitated to the existing edge of pavement by a process called "cold planing" in which the top 0.25 foot of existing asphalt concrete pavement will be removed. Localized areas that have failed will then be repaired, and all cracks wider than

0.25 inch will be sealed. Once pavement repairs and culvert work activities are completed, the asphalt concrete pavement will be overlaid with hot-mix asphalt (HMA) followed by a layer of rubberized hot-mix asphalt. The pavement at all public road intersections and paved driveways within Caltrans' existing right of way will also be rehabilitated with HMA.

Where the existing paved shoulder is less than 4-feet wide, new subgrade and HMA will be installed to pave the shoulder to a consistent 4-foot width throughout the project extent. Along the outer edge of all paved areas (new or existing), a 3-foot strip of shoulder backing or embankment material will be installed over the dirt shoulder. Existing longitudinal side ditches on both sides of the highway will be regraded to perpetuate the V-shape. The existing dirt slopes will be cleared and grubbed before new pavement and shoulder backing or embankment is installed.

Culvert Activities

Twelve culverts located at PMs 40.69, 43.14, 43.22, 43.55, 45.06, 46.5, 48.09, 51.64, 52.18, 53.02, 53.38, and 53.86 will be replaced with reinforced concrete pipes of the same diameter as the existing steel pipes (ranging from 18 to 48 inches in diameter). Most of the culverts will be lengthened by approximately 5 to 20 feet to accommodate the shoulder widening and to meet the Clear Recovery Zone standard requirements for a conventional highway. Three culverts located at PMs 42.15, 42.60, and 45.50 will not be replaced but will be extended by 12-feet on the west side.

A culvert located at PM 44.4 will be repaired by replacing the existing flared end sections at each end of the culvert. A culvert located at PM 40.62 will be extended by 15 feet, in kind, on the west end and the existing barrel will be cleaned and rehabilitated with cure-in-place pipe liner. Lining the newly extended pipe culverts involves the insertion of a resin-impregnated fabric tube that will be inflated with pressurized air. The liner is then cured in place with high-pressure steam or a remote-controlled UV light assembly.

Three parallel 48-inch diameter culverts located at PM 40.56 and one 24-inch diameter culvert located at PM 56.99 will be replaced with a 6-foot tall by 12-foot-wide reinforced box culvert (RCB) at each location. The two new RCB culverts will be approximately 20 feet longer than the existing pipes.

Flared end sections, headwalls and RSP will be added to the new culverts. Culvert work will be completed when the streams are naturally dry, without diversion or dewatering of the stream. The culverts that will be replaced will be constructed on one side of the highway at a time while one-way traffic is controlled on the opposite lane. The trench width and depth will extend as necessary to remove the old and install the new culvert and/or end treatment.

Other Construction Activities

Temporary construction signs would be placed off the roadway and are typically hammered into the ground adjacent to the paved road. Three new battery-powered, vehicle detection loop systems will be installed in the road surface at PMs 40.9, 41.2 and 44.2, with pull boxes and telephone cabinets installed in the adjacent roadside at each location. The cabinets will

each be placed about 25 feet from the edge of traveled way on a 9-foot square concrete pad. Underground conduit will be installed about 2.5-feet below grade to connect the vehicle detection loop sensors through the pull boxes and the telephone cabinet. Centerline and edge line rumble strips will be constructed for the entire project limits. Roadside signs will be replaced or upgraded where needed.

Construction equipment parking and staging areas will be in previously disturbed, unvegetated areas within the highway right-of-way or as approved in this ITP. Six staging areas totaling approximately 9.123 acres in size have been identified. The staging area on the north side of Contractor's Road is approximately 7.838 acres; the staging area on the west side of SR 33 near PM 53.1 is approximately 0.358 acre; the staging area near the northwest corner of the intersection of Lokern Road and SR 33 is approximately 0.371 acres; the staging area east of SR 33 at PM 52.3 is approximately 0.233 acres; the staging area on the west side of SR 33 near PM 43.22 is approximately 0.100 acre; and the staging area on the east side of SR 33 near Brown Material Road is approximately 0.223 acre. Access for work activities will only be permitted from the highway. Existing vegetation will be cleared and grubbed in all work areas prior to installation of the proposed Project components.

Project Schedule

Construction is anticipated to start in winter 2023 and be completed by fall 2024. The start date may be delayed by winter weather until spring 2024. A total of approximately 200 working days with 60 nights is anticipated. Culvert work is estimated to take 5 to 10 days per culvert. Paving, shoulder, and side ditch work will be started after completion of the culvert work. For the paving work, the large equipment and workers are expected to continuously progress along the length of the Project, covering a few miles each day.

Construction Equipment

The following equipment may be used for the Project activities: asphalt pavers, shoulder pavers, pavement rollers, tack coat oil trucks, Bidwell and roller screeds, hot asphalt mix, metal or wooden concrete formwork, roller compactors, soil compactors, dump trucks, flatbed trucks, forklift, pickup trucks, front-end loaders, cranes haul trucks, graders, backhoe, bobcat, bulldozers, loaders, rollers, excavators, asphalt cuttings saws, metal cutting saws, compressors, concrete pumps, concrete mix trucks, striping trucks, vactor trucks, jackhammers, water tanks, water pump trucks, compactors, saw cutting equipment, cured-in-place pipe liners and pipe liner installation equipment (including installation trailers and steam trucks), and trucks with seed and mulch sprayers.

VI. Covered Species Subject to Take Authorization Provided by this ITP:

This ITP covers the following species:

<u>Name</u>	Status ⁵
 San Joaquin kit fox (<i>Vulpes macrotis mutica</i>) Blunt-nosed leopard lizard (<i>Gambelia sila</i>) 	Threatened ⁶ Threatened ⁷ Endangered ⁸ and Fully Protected ⁹

These species and only these species are the "Covered Species" for the purposes of this ITP.

VII. Impacts of the Taking on Covered Species:

Project activities and their resulting impacts are expected to result in the incidental take of individuals of the Covered Species. The activities described above that are expected to result in incidental take of individuals of the Covered Species include the following: clearing and grubbing to removing vegetation; soil grading; leveling (cut or fill); compacting soil; excavating and trenching; pouring concrete; temporarily storing materials, vehicles and equipment; transporting construction materials and other project-related traffic; trash and debris removal; seeding; other construction activities described in the Project Description above; and mortality reduction activities as specified in this ITP (Covered Activities).

Incidental take of individuals of the Covered Species in the form of mortality ("kill") may occur as a result of Covered Activities due to construction crews or equipment running over, crushing, or entombing Covered Species situated either above or below ground during initial ground-breaking or during ongoing work. Incidental take of individuals may also occur from the Covered Activities in the form of catch, capture or attempt to do so from entrapment in holes or open trenches; uncovering individuals during the excavation of burrow systems; corralling individuals into a confined area, and capturing, collecting, and relocating individuals of the Covered Species during mortality reduction activities required by this ITP; and temporary loss of habitat. Incidental take of individuals may also occur from the Project's incremental contribution to cumulative impacts (indirect impacts) including exposure to chemical contamination from uncured concrete, concrete dust, drilling fluids, petroleum products, paint, and other construction chemicals; loss of breeding and burrowing habitat used for shelter, reproduction, and escape cover; long term effects due to increased pollution; displacement from preferred habitat; increased competition for food and space; introduction or spread of invasive species; changes in drainage patterns; and increased vulnerability to

⁵ Under CESA, a species may be on the list of endangered species, the list of threatened species, or the list of candidate species and subject to the protections set forth in CESA. Under Fish and Game Code section 5050, certain species of reptiles are protected as "fully protected species."

⁶ See Cal. Code Regs. tit. 14 § 670.5, subd. (b)(6)(B).

⁷ See *Id.*, subd. (b)(6)(E).

⁸ See Cal. Code Regs. tit. 14 § 670.5, subd. (a)(4)(B).

⁹ See Fish & G. Code § 5050.

predation. Even though the proposed work is temporary, the effects could be longer-lasting if feeding or reproduction are impacted.

The areas where authorized take of the Covered Species may occur include Permittee's right of way on SR 33 between PMs 40.4 and 59.3 (Project Area). Implementation of the Conditions of Approval (outlined below) will reduce the risk of construction personnel encountering individuals, a reasonable likelihood remains that the Covered Species will be present within the Project Area. Burrow entrances were not observed in the Project Area during baseline surveys for this Project. However, individuals and sign of both Covered Species have been observed at several locations throughout the Project Area during biological surveys for this Project and in the past.

Habitat conditions for Covered Species vary from high quality allscale scrub in the southern part of the Project Area (PM 40.4 to 42.45) to marginal quality annual grassland and agricultural fields in the northern part of the Project Area (approximately PM 54.5 to 59.3). Oil production and agricultural properties occur adjacent to highway right of way in the central part of the Project Area PM 42.45 to 54.5) with scattered patches of allscale scrub and annual grassland. Covered Species may occur throughout the Project Area, potentially including fallow agricultural fields, bare ground, and oil fields, utilizing the various habitats for dispersal, cover, and foraging. The impacts to Covered Species will be directly adjacent to the existing two-lane highway. Individuals of Covered Species may also be present in underground burrows not visible on the ground surface. Furthermore, burrow habitat is dynamic and new burrows may be created in the Project Area by the time Covered Activities commence.

Several Project activities were completed prior to Permittee's request for Major Amendment No. 2, including pre-activity surveys (Condition of Approval 7.11.1), burrow mapping (Condition of Approval 7.13.5), and burrow excavations at culverts located at PMs 40.69, 43.14, 45.06, 46.50, 48.09, 51.64, 52.18, 53.02, 53.38, and 53.86, as well as installation of high visibility fencing between PMs 40.56 and 40.62. The Permittee did not detect BNLL prior to or during these activities and therefore proceeded with culvert replacement activities, providing full-time biological monitoring. Additionally, six staging areas outside of the highway right-of-way (and outside of the ITP Project area) were established without implementation of ITP Conditions of Approval or other minimization measures.

The Project is expected to result in the permanent loss of up to 55.11 acres and temporary disturbance of up to approximately 19.36 acres of suitable habitat for the Covered Species (allscale scrub, annual grassland, ruderal, oil field, bare ground, and fallow field habitat types) (Figure 2). Of the 55.11 acres of permanent impacts, approximately 7.468 acres will be to allscale scrub habitat. Although not designed as wildlife crossings, the replacement of 48-inch diameter pipes with 6-foot tall by 12-foot wide RCB culverts (PMs 40.56 and 56.99) may improve wildlife passage for Covered Species at these locations.

VIII. Incidental Take Authorization of Covered Species:

This ITP authorizes incidental take of the Covered Species and only the Covered Species. With respect to incidental take of the Covered Species, CDFW authorizes Permittee, its employees, contractors, and agents to take Covered Species incidentally in carrying out the Covered Activities, subject to the limitations described in this section and the Conditions of Approval identified below. This ITP does not authorize take of Covered Species from activities outside the scope of the Covered Activities, take of Covered Species outside of the Project Area, take of Covered Species resulting from violation of this ITP, or intentional take of Covered Species except for capture and relocation of Covered Species as authorized by this ITP.

IX. Conditions of Approval:

Unless specified otherwise, the following measures apply to all Covered Activities within the Project Area, including areas used for vehicular, ingress and egress, staging and parking, and noise and vibration generating activities that may cause take. CDFW's issuance of this ITP and Permittee's authorization to take the Covered Species are subject to Permittee's compliance with and implementation of the following Conditions of Approval:

- **1. Legal Compliance:** Permittee shall comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws in existence on the effective date of this ITP or adopted thereafter.
- 2. CEQA Compliance: Permittee shall implement and adhere to the mitigation measures related to the Covered Species in the Biological Resources section of the Initial Study with Mitigated Negative Declaration (SCH No.: 2022010218) adopted by Caltrans on April 25, 2022 and revalidated on September 13, 2024 and December 3, 2024. Caltrans is the lead agency for the Project pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Pub. Resources Code, § 21000 et seq.).
- 3. LSA Agreement Compliance: Permittee shall implement and adhere to the mitigation measures and conditions related to the Covered Species in the Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement (Notification No. EPIMS-KER-37203-R4) for the Project executed by CDFW pursuant to Fish and Game Code section 1600 et seq.
- **4. ITP Time Frame Compliance:** Permittee shall fully implement and adhere to the conditions of this ITP within the time frames set forth below and as set forth in the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP), which is included as Attachment 1 to this ITP.

5. General Provisions:

5.1. <u>Designated Representative</u>. Before starting Covered Activities, Permittee shall designate a representative (Designated Representative) responsible for communications with CDFW and overseeing compliance with this ITP. Permittee shall notify CDFW in writing before starting Covered Activities of the Designated Representative's name, business address, and contact information, and shall notify

- CDFW in writing if a substitute Designated Representative is selected or identified at any time during the term of this ITP.
- 5.2. Designated Biologist(s) and Designated Monitor(s). Permittee shall submit to CDFW, in writing, the name, qualifications, business address, and contact information of the Designated Biologists and Designated Monitors using the Biologist Resume Form (Attachment 2) or another format containing the same information at least 30 days before starting Covered Activities. The Permittee may request approval of Designated Biologist(s) to monitor and handle specific Covered Species covered by this ITP. The Designated Monitors may assist the Designated Biologists in compliance monitoring under the direct supervision of the Designated Biologists and as specified in Condition of Approval 6.8 below. Based on the Approved Survey Methodology for the Blunt-Nosed Leopard Lizard October 2019 (Revised), the Designated Biologists shall have equal or greater experience than a Level II Surveyor and Designated Monitors shall have equal or greater experience than a Level I Surveyor. In addition, Permittee shall ensure that the Designated Biologists are knowledgeable in the biology and natural history of the Covered Species, and have experience with collecting and handling Covered Species. enforcing no-disturbance buffers, and monitoring construction activities under an ITP for the Covered Species. Designated Biologists for San Joaquin antelope squirrel (SJAS) and BNLL and shall also have experience excavating small mammal burrows for the Covered Species. Permittee shall ensure that the Designated Monitors are knowledgeable and experienced in the biology and natural history of the Covered Species. The Designated Biologists and Designated Monitors shall be responsible for monitoring Covered Activities to help minimize and fully mitigate or avoid the incidental take of individual Covered Species and to minimize disturbance of Covered Species' habitat. Permittee shall obtain CDFW approval of the Designated Biologists and Designated Monitors in writing before starting Covered Activities and shall also obtain approval in advance, in writing, if the Designated Biologists or Designated Monitors must be changed. Designated Biologists may be approved by CDFW for specific Covered Species. If this is the case, they will only be permitted to survey and monitor for these specific Covered Species.
- 5.3. Designated Biologist and Designated Monitor Authority. To ensure compliance with the Conditions of Approval of this ITP, the Designated Biologists and Designated Monitors shall immediately stop any activity that does not comply with this ITP and/or order any reasonable measure to avoid the unauthorized take of an individual of the Covered Species. Permittee shall provide unfettered access to the Project Area and otherwise facilitate Designated Biologists and Designated Monitors in the performance of their duties. If the Designated Biologist or Designated Monitor is unable to comply with the ITP, then they shall notify the CDFW Representative immediately. Permittee shall not enter into any agreement or contract of any kind, including but not limited to non-disclosure agreements and confidentiality agreements, with its contractors and/or the Designated Biologist that

prohibit or impede open communication with CDFW, including but not limited to providing CDFW staff with the results of any surveys, reports, or studies or notifying CDFW of any non-compliance or take. Failure to notify CDFW of any non-compliance or take or injury of a Covered Species because of such agreement or contract may result in CDFW taking actions to prevent or remedy a violation of this ITP.

- 5.4. Education Program. Permittee shall conduct an education program for all persons employed or otherwise working in the Project Area before they are authorized to perform any work. The program shall consist of a presentation from the Designated Biologist for the Covered Species that includes a discussion of the biology and general behavior of the Covered Species, information about the distribution and habitat needs of the Covered Species, sensitivity of the Covered Species to human activities, its status pursuant to CESA, or Fish and Game Code section 5050 as applicable, including legal protection, recovery efforts, penalties for violations and project-specific protective measures described in this ITP. Permittee shall provide interpretation for non-English speaking workers, and the same instruction shall be provided to any new workers before they are authorized to perform work in the Project Area. Permittee shall prepare and distribute wallet-sized cards or a fact sheet handout containing this information for workers to carry in the Project Area. Upon completion of the program, employees shall sign a form stating they attended the program and understand all protection measures. This training shall be repeated at least once annually for long-term and/or permanent employees that will be conducting work in the Project Area.
- 5.5. Construction Monitoring Documentation. The Designated Biologists and Designated Monitors shall maintain construction-monitoring documentation on-site in either hard copy or digital format throughout the construction period, which shall include a copy of this ITP with attachments and a list of signatures of all personnel who have successfully completed the education program. Permittee shall ensure a copy of the construction-monitoring documentation is available for review at the Project Area upon request by CDFW.
- 5.6. <u>Trash Abatement</u>. Permittee shall initiate a trash abatement program before starting Covered Activities and shall continue the program for the duration of the Project. Permittee shall ensure that trash and food items are contained in animal-proof containers and removed at least once a week to avoid attracting opportunistic predators such as ravens, coyotes, and feral dogs.
- 5.7. <u>Dust Control</u>. Permittee shall implement dust control measures during Covered Activities to facilitate visibility for monitoring of the Covered Species by the Designated Biologist and/or Designated Monitor. Permittee shall keep the amount of water used to the minimum amount needed and shall not allow water to form puddles. Permittee shall not apply dust suppressant, surfactant, soil binders, or stabilizer products that may be harmful to Covered Species. Permittee shall obtain

- written approval from CDFW before applying any dust suppressant (other than water), surfactant, soil binders, stabilizer products, hydromulch, or hydroseed. Permittee shall provide all available documentation of each product's safety or hazards to wildlife to CDFW with any such request for approval.
- **5.8.** Erosion Control Materials. Permittee shall prohibit use of erosion control materials potentially harmful to Covered Species and other species, such as monofilament netting, photodegradable mesh (erosion control matting), photodegradable mesh, or similar material, in potential Covered Species' habitat.
- 5.9. <u>Delineation of Property Boundaries</u>. Before starting Covered Activities within each discrete part of the Project Area in active construction (Work Area), Permittee shall clearly delineate the boundaries of the Work Area. The boundary of the Project Area shall be delineated with stakes, fencing, and/or flags and shall be maintained with signage until the completion of Covered Activities in that Work Area.
- **5.10.** Delineation of Habitat. Before starting Covered Activities at any Work Area, Permittee shall clearly delineate habitat of the Covered Species within or adjacent to the Work Area with posted signs, posting stakes, flags, and/or rope or cord, and place fencing as necessary to minimize the disturbance of Covered Species' habitat.
- 5.11. Project Access. Project-related personnel shall access the Project Area using existing routes and shall not cross Covered Species' habitat outside of, or on route to the Project Area. Permittee shall restrict Project-related vehicle traffic to established roads, staging areas, and parking areas as per Condition of Approval 5.12. Permittee shall ensure that vehicle speeds do not exceed 15 miles per hour to avoid Covered Species on or traversing the roads. If Permittee determines construction of routes for travel is necessary outside of the Project Area, the Designated Representative shall contact CDFW for written approval before conducting such an activity. CDFW may require an amendment to this ITP, among other reasons, if additional take of Covered Species will occur because of the project modification.
- 5.12. Staging Areas. Permittee shall confine all Project-related parking, storage areas, laydown sites, equipment storage, and any other surface-disturbing activities to the Project Area using, the six staging areas identified in the Project Description. No parking, storage, laydown, or staging areas shall be located within 50-feet of potential SJAS burrows (Condition of Approval 7.13.1), BNLL burrows (Conditions of Approval Error! Reference source not found.), or within the San Joaquin kit fox (SJKF) buffer areas (Condition of Approval 7.14.1) unless protective measures have been implemented for Covered Species as per Conditions of Approval 7.11, 7.13, 7.14, and 7.15. Additionally, Permittee shall not use or cross Covered Species' habitat outside of the marked Project Area unless provided for as described in Condition of Approval 5.11 of this ITP. If Permittee determines

- parking, storage, laydown, or staging areas are necessary outside of the Project Area, the Designated Representative shall contact CDFW for written approval before carrying out such an activity. CDFW may require an amendment to this ITP, among other reasons, if additional take of Covered Species will occur because of the project modification.
- **5.13.** Hazardous Waste. Permittee shall immediately stop and, pursuant to pertinent state and federal statutes and regulations, arrange for repair and clean up by qualified individuals of any fuel or hazardous waste leaks or spills at the time of occurrence, or as soon as it is safe to do so. Permittee shall exclude the storage and handling of hazardous materials from the Project Area and shall properly contain and dispose of any unused or leftover hazardous products off-site.
- **5.14.** CDFW Access. Permittee shall provide CDFW staff with reasonable access to the Project Area and shall otherwise fully cooperate with CDFW efforts to verify compliance with or effectiveness of mitigation measures set forth in this ITP.
- **5.15.** Refuse Removal. Upon completion of Covered Activities, Permittee shall remove from the Project Area and properly dispose of all temporary fill and construction refuse, including, but not limited to, broken equipment parts, wrapping material, cords, cables, wire, rope, strapping, twine, buckets, metal or plastic containers, and boxes.
- 5.16. Wildfire Avoidance. Permittee or Permittee's contractors shall minimize the potential for human-caused wildfires by carrying water or fire extinguishers and shovels in all Project-related vehicles and equipment. The use of shields, protective mats, or use of other fire preventative methods shall be used during grinding and welding to minimize the potential for fire. Personnel shall be trained regarding the fire hazard for wildlife as part of the worker education program described in Condition of Approval 5.4.

6. Monitoring, Notification and Reporting Provisions:

- 6.1. Notification Before Commencement. The Designated Representative shall notify CDFW at least 14 calendar days before starting Covered Activities and shall document compliance with all pre-Project Conditions of Approval before starting Covered Activities.
- 6.2. <u>Notification of Non-compliance</u>. The Designated Representative, Designated Biologist, or Designated Monitor shall immediately notify CDFW if Permittee is not in compliance with any Condition of Approval of this ITP, including but not limited to any actual or anticipated failure to implement measures within the time periods indicated in this ITP and/or the MMRP. The Designated Representative, Designated Biologist or Designated Monitor shall follow up within 24 hours with a

- written report to CDFW describing, in detail, any non-compliance with this ITP and suggested measures to remedy the situation.
- 6.3. <u>Pre-Activity Survey Report</u>. At least 3 days prior to starting Covered Activities, Permittee shall prepare and submit to CDFW the results of pre-activity surveys and maps of burrows and dens per Condition of Approval 7.11.
- 6.4. Inspection Records. The Designated Biologists and Designated Monitors shall prepare written observation and inspection records for compliance monitoring as per Condition of Approval 6.9, summarizing: (1) construction activities observed; (2) integrity of signs, stakes or protective fencing; (3) wildlife observations; (4) observations of non-compliance with any Conditions in this ITP; and (5) measures implemented or anticipated to rectify or remediate any incidents of non-compliance with this ITP. The inspection records shall be submitted with the Monthly Compliance Reports identified in Condition of Approval 6.10.
- 6.5. SJAS Mortality Reduction and Relocation Plan. Permittee shall submit a SJAS Mortality Reduction and Relocation Plan to CDFW at least 30 calendar days before starting Covered Activities. Burrow excavation and relocation activities shall not proceed until the SJAS Mortality Reduction and Relocation Plan has been approved in writing by CDFW's Regional Representative (identified in Condition of Approval 6.10 below). The Mortality Reduction and Relocation Plan shall include, but not be limited to: (1) a discussion (and map) of the Project Area and those areas identified as potential SJAS habitat; (2) a detailed description of methods to be used for the surveys, burrow excavation, capture, handling, and relocation of individuals of SJAS; (3) release locations and methods (i.e., soft release, hard release, or another method); (4) artificial burrow design and installation methods; (5) monitoring frequency and methods; (6) schedule of SJAS mortality reduction and relocation activities; and (7) identification of a wildlife rehabilitation center or veterinary facility capable of and willing to treat injured individuals of the SJAS. The SJAS Mortality Reduction and Relocation Plan must specify that only the approved Designated Biologists are authorized to capture and handle individuals of the SJAS. Once the SJAS Covered Species Mortality Reduction and Relocation Plan is approved in writing by CDFW, it shall be used for all SJAS mortality reduction activities for the duration of this ITP. Any proposed changes to the CDFWapproved SJAS Covered Species Mortality Reduction and Relocation Plan shall be submitted in writing to CDFW and approved by CDFW in writing prior to implementation of any proposed Plan modifications.
- 6.6. SJKF Den Replacement Plan. Permittee shall submit a SJKF Den Replacement Plan to CDFW at least 30 calendar days before starting Covered Activities. Permittee shall replace each potential, known, and active SJKF den that cannot be avoided within the Project Area with an artificial den to compensate for the loss of important shelter used by SJKF for protection, reproduction, and escape from predators. Den excavation within the Project Area may not proceed until the SJKF

Den Replacement Plan is approved, in writing, by CDFW's Regional Representative (identified in Condition of Approval 6.10 below). The SJKF Den Replacement Plan shall include, but not be limited to, a discussion and map of potential artificial den replacement locations; detailed description of the den excavation methods; and description of the replacement den dimensions (e.g., depth and width of den, width of den entrance, orientation of den entrance, number and placement of entrances to natal dens). Once the SJKF Den Replacement Plan is approved by CDFW, it shall be used for the duration of this ITP. Any proposed changes to the SJKF Den Replacement Plan shall be submitted, in writing, to CDFW and approved by CDFW in writing prior to implementation of any proposed SJKF Den Replacement Plan modifications.

- 6.7. BNLL Mortality Reduction and Relocation Plan. Permittee shall submit a BNLL Mortality Reduction and Relocation Plan to CDFW before resuming Covered Activities following the issuance of Amendment No. 2 and the effective date of this Amended ITP. Burrow excavation and relocation activities shall not continue or proceed until the BNLL Mortality Reduction and Relocation Plan has been approved in writing by CDFW's Regional Representative (identified in Condition of Approval 6.910 below). The BNLL Mortality Reduction and Relocation Plan shall be consistent with Conditions of Approval 7.15.1 through 7.15.5 and shall include, but not be limited to: (1) a discussion (and map) of the Project Area and those areas identified as potential BNLL habitat; (2) a detailed description of methods to be used for the surveys, burrow excavation, capture, handling, and relocation of individuals of BNLL; (3) release locations and methods (i.e., soft release, hard release, or another method); (4) potential artificial burrow design and installation methods; and identification of a wildlife rehabilitation center or veterinary facility capable of and willing to treat injured BNLL or care for at-risk torpid BNLL or BNLL eggs; (5) monitoring frequency and methods; (6) schedule of BNLL mortality reduction and relocation activities; and (7) identification of a wildlife rehabilitation center or veterinary facility capable of and willing to treat injured individuals of the BNLL. The BNLL Mortality Reduction and Relocation Plan must specify that only the approved Designated Biologists are authorized to capture, handle, relocate, and transport individuals including eggs of the BNLL. Once the BNLL Mortality Reduction and Relocation Plan is approved in writing by CDFW, it shall be used for all BNLL mortality reduction activities for the duration of this ITP. Any proposed changes to the CDFW-approved BNLL Mortality Reduction and Relocation Plan shall be submitted in writing to CDFW and approved by CDFW in writing prior to implementation of any proposed Plan modifications.
- 6.8. Compliance Monitoring. The Designated Biologist shall be on-site daily when Covered Activities occur unless all of the following have occurred: SJAS burrows have been avoided or excavated (Conditions of Approval 7.13.1 and 7.13.5, respectively); BNLL burrows have been avoided or excavated (Conditions of Approval 7.15.21 and 7.15.5, respectively); any captured SJAS have been relocated (Condition of Approval 7.13.2); any captured BNLL have been relocated

(Condition of Approval 7.15.3); SJKF dens have been identified and avoided per Condition of Approval 7.14.1); unoccupied SJKF dens have been excavated (Condition of Approval 7.14.3); and initial grading activities are complete. Thereafter, a Designated Biologist or Designated Monitor shall conduct compliance inspections at least once a week during all work activities. The Designated Biologist shall conduct compliance inspections to: (1) minimize incidental take of the Covered Species; (2) prevent unlawful take of species; (3) check for compliance with all measures of this ITP; (4) ensure that signs, stakes, and fencing are intact; and (5) ensure that that Covered Activities are only occurring in the Project Area. Specific Designated Monitors may conduct burrow flagging, monitoring during fence installation (if used), and compliance inspections upon written approval from CDFW.

6.9. Covered Species Observations and Notification. During all Covered Activities, workers shall inform a Designated Biologist if an individual of the Covered Species is observed at the Project Area. All work in the vicinity of the observed Covered Species, which could injure or kill the animal, shall cease immediately until the Covered Species moves from the Project Area of its own accord or until the Designated Biologist can relocate the Covered Species following the SJAS Mortality Reduction and Relocation Plan (Condition of Approval 6.5 and 7.13), the SJKF Den Replacement Plan (Condition of Approval 6.6 and 7.14), and/or the BNLL Mortality Reduction and Relocation Plan (Condition of Approval 6.7 and 7.15). Permittee shall notify CDFW within 5 business days of discovery of a Covered Species within the Project Area via electronic mail to the Regional Representative and Regional Office identified in Condition of Approval 6.10.

The Designated Biologists and Designated Monitors shall maintain a record of all Covered Species observed, captured, handled and relocated. This information shall include for each animal: (1) the locations (Global Positioning System [GPS] coordinates and maps), date and time of the observation, handling, or release; (2) the name of the individual(s) that identified and handled the Covered Species; (3) circumstances of the incident; (4) the general condition and health of each individual including any diagnostic markings, sex, age (juvenile or adult); and (6) ambient temperature when handled and released. Permittee shall also submit this information to CDFW's California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB) as per Condition of Approval 6.12. This information shall also be included in the Monthly Compliance and Annual Status reports (Conditions of Approval 6.10 and 6.11).

6.10. Monthly Compliance Report. The Designated Representative or a Designated Biologist shall compile the observation and inspection records identified in Condition of Approval 6.4, Covered Species observation/handling/relocation information as in Condition of Approval 6.9, and documentation of night work according to Condition of Approval 7.2 into a Monthly Compliance Report (MCR) and submit it to CDFW, along with a copy of the MMRP table with notes showing the current implementation status of each mitigation measure. MCRs shall be

submitted before the 7th day of the month that it is due via electronic mail to CDFW's Regional Representative, Regional Office, and Headquarters CESA Program. At the time of this ITP's approval, the CDFW Regional Representative is Adam Thompson (adam.thompson@wildlife.ca.gov), the Regional Office e-mail is RRR.R4@wildlife.ca.gov, and the Headquarters CESA Program e-mail is CESA@wildlife.ca.gov. CDFW may at any time increase the timing and number of compliance inspections and reports required under this provision depending upon the results of previous compliance inspections. If CDFW determines the reporting schedule must be changed, CDFW will notify Permittee in writing of the new reporting schedule.

- **6.11.** Annual Status Report. Permittee shall provide CDFW with an Annual Status Report (ASR) no later than January 31 of every year beginning with issuance of this ITP and continuing until CDFW accepts the Final Mitigation Report identified below (Condition of Approval 6.14). Each ASR shall include, at a minimum: (1) a summary of all MCRs for that year identified in Condition of Approval 6.10; (2) a record of the Education Program training sessions provided over the reporting year: (3) a general description of the status of the Project Area and Covered Activities, including actual or projected completion dates, if known; (4) a copy of the table in the MMRP with notes showing the current implementation status of each mitigation measure; (5) an assessment of the effectiveness of each completed or partially completed mitigation measure in avoiding, minimizing, and mitigating Project impacts; (6) a summary of findings from all pre-activity surveys conducted, including but not limited to, the number of times a Covered Species was encountered, location, if avoidance was achieved, and if not, what measures were implemented; (7) all available information about project-related incidental take of the Covered Species; and (8) information about other project impacts on the Covered Species. ASRs shall be submitted via email to the entities identified in Condition of Approval 6.10 above.
- **6.12.** CNDDB Observations. The Designated Biologist shall submit all observations of Covered Species to CNDDB within 60 calendar days of the observation and the Designated Biologist shall include copies of the submitted forms with the ASR.
- 6.13. Final Construction Report. No later than 60 days after completion of all construction activities, Permittee shall provide CDFW with a Final Construction Report, submitted via email to the entities identified in Condition of Approval 6.10 above. The Designated Biologist shall prepare the Final Construction Report which shall include, at a minimum: (1) a summary of all Monthly Compliance Reports and all ASRs; (2) a copy of the table in the MMRP with notes showing when and how each of the Conditions of Approval were implemented; (3) all available information about Project-related incidental take of the Covered Species; (4) information about other Project impacts on the Covered Species; (5) beginning and ending dates of Covered Activities; (6) an assessment of the effectiveness of this ITP's Conditions of Approval in minimizing Project impacts of the taking on Covered Species; (7)

- any other pertinent information; and (8) before, during, and after photographic documentation of the project impact areas.
- 6.14. Final Mitigation Report. No later than 60 days after completion of all mitigation measures, Permittee shall provide CDFW with a Final Mitigation Report, submitted via email to the entities identified in Condition of Approval 6.10 above. The Designated Biologist or Designated Representative shall prepare the Final Mitigation Report which shall include, at a minimum: (1) a summary of mitigation implemented; (2) a copy of the table in the MMRP for Conditions of Approval 8.0 through 9.0 with notes showing when and how each of the mitigation measures were implemented; (3) an assessment of the effectiveness of this ITP's Conditions of Approval in fully mitigating Project impacts of the taking on SJAS and SJKF and conserving BNLL; (4) recommendations on how mitigation measures might be changed to more effectively minimize take and mitigate the impacts of future projects on the Covered Species; and (5) any other pertinent information.
- 8.15. Notification of Take or Injury. Permittee shall immediately notify the Designated Biologist if a Covered Species is taken or injured by a project-related activity, or if a Covered Species is otherwise found dead or injured within the vicinity of the Project. The Designated Biologist or Designated Representative shall provide initial notification to CDFW through e-mail to the Regional Representative and Regional Office identified in Condition of Approval 6.10 above. The initial notification to CDFW shall include information regarding the location, species, and number of animals taken or injured and the ITP Number. Following initial notification, Permittee shall send CDFW a written report within two calendar days. The report shall include the date and time of the finding or incident, location of the animal or carcass, and if possible, provide a photograph, explanation as to cause of take or injury, and any other pertinent information. The written report shall be submitted via e-mail to the Regional Representative and Regional Office identified in Condition of Approval 6.9 above.
- **7. Take Minimization Measures:** The following requirements are intended to ensure the minimization of incidental take of Covered Species in the Project Area during Covered Activities. Permittee shall implement and adhere to the following conditions to minimize take of Covered Species:
 - **7.1.** Rodenticide Use. Permittee shall prohibit the use of rodenticides in the Project Area.
 - 7.2. <u>Lighting and Night Work</u>. Permittee shall not use temporary, fixed, exterior lighting, including motion-triggered security lighting, that casts light on Covered Species habitat beyond the footprint of the Project Area between sunset and sunrise unless authorized in writing from CDFW. Temporary, exterior, fixed lighting in the Project Area shall be turned on only when people are present. Permittee shall not install new permanent or upgrade existing lighting in the Project Area, except as

otherwise identified in the Project Description. The number of nights worked shall be documented in the MCR (Condition of Approval 6.10). The documentation shall include the number of nights that work occurred for the quarter that the report covers and a cumulative tabulation of the total number of nights worked since Project initiation.

- 7.3. Equipment and Vehicle Fueling. Permittee shall ensure that all equipment and vehicle fueling and maintenance occur at least 100 feet from any Covered Species burrows unless otherwise approved in writing by CDFW. Permittee shall ensure that sufficient spill containment and cleanup equipment shall be present at all fueling locations.
- 7.4. Vehicle Parking. Permittee shall not allow vehicles to park on top of, or within 50 feet of Covered Species burrows, except within designated staging areas (Condition of Approval 5.12) and in compliance with Conditions of Approval 7.13, 7.14, and 7.15. Vehicles left overnight shall be located at least 50 feet from any SJAS burrows or 50 to 500 feet from SJKF dens, depending on SJKF activity (see Condition of Approval 7.14.1).
- 7.5. Pipes and other Structures Entrapment Prevention. Permittee shall ensure that all pipes, hoses, conduit, culverts, or similar materials stockpiled in the Project Area are capped or otherwise enclosed at the ends to prevent entry by Covered Species. Permittee shall not leave pipes, conduit, electrical cabinets, or similar materials or structures stockpiled for one or more workday or night periods where Covered Species may enter them and become trapped.
- 7.6. Vehicle, Equipment, and Materials Inspection. Workers shall inspect under vehicles and equipment for Covered Species before the vehicles and equipment are moved. Workers shall thoroughly inspect all construction pipe, culverts, or other similar structures with a diameter of one inch or greater that are stored for one or more day or night periods for the Covered Species before the object is subsequently moved, buried, or capped. If a Covered Species is present, the worker shall notify a Designated Biologist and wait for the Covered Species to move unimpeded to a safe location or be moved by the Designated Biologist in accordance with the CDFW-approved SJAS Mortality Reduction and Relocation Plan (Condition of Approval 6.5), SJKF Den Replacement Plan (Condition of Approval 6.6), and/or BNLL Mortality Reduction and Relocation Plan (Condition of Approval 6.7).
- 7.7. <u>Soil Stockpiles</u>. Permittee shall ensure that soil stockpiles are placed where soil will not pass into any other "Waters of the State," in accordance with Fish and Game Code section 5650. Permittee shall protect stockpiles to prevent soil erosion.
- **7.8.** Barriers to Covered Species Movement. The new roadway shall be constructed without steep curbs, berms, or dikes which prevent Covered Species from crossing the roadway. If curbs are necessary for safety and/or surface runoff, Permittee

- shall design and construct them as rounded or gently sloping structures as to allow Covered Species to walk over them. If steep dikes are required, design shall include over-site drains or curb/dike breaks spaced at intervals of 25 feet to allow Covered Species passage.
- 7.9. Open Trenches and Excavations. The Designated Biologists and Designated Monitors shall inspect all open holes, sumps, and trenches within the Project Area at the beginning, middle, and end of each workday for trapped individuals of the Covered Species. To prevent inadvertent entrapment of Covered Species, all open trenches, holes, sumps, and other excavations with sidewalls steeper than a 1:1 (45 degree) slope shall either have an escape ramp of earth or a non-slip material with a less than 1:1 (45 degree) slope or shall be covered when workers or equipment are not actively working in the excavation, day or night. Escape ramps shall be at least 12 inches wide and erected every 15 feet. If a cover will be utilized, the Designated Biologist shall oversee the covering of all excavated, trenches, holes, sumps, or other excavations with a greater than 1:1 (45 degree) slope of any depth with barrier material (such as hardware cloth) at the close of each working day or night such that animals are unable to dig or squeeze under the barrier and become entrapped. The outer two feet of the excavation cover shall conform to solid ground so that gaps do not occur between the cover and the ground, and the excavation cover shall be secured with soil staples or by similar means to prevent gaps. Worker(s) shall thoroughly inspect all trenches, holes, sumps, or other excavations for Covered Species (or other wildlife) before they are backfilled. If any Designated Biologists, Designated Monitors, or workers discovers that Covered Species have become trapped, Permittee shall cease all Covered Activities in the vicinity and notify a Designated Biologist immediately. Designated Monitors, Project workers and the Designated Biologists shall allow Covered Species to escape unimpeded if possible before Covered Activities are allowed to continue, or a Designated Biologist shall capture and relocate the Covered Species as per the SJAS Mortality Reduction and Relocation Plan (Condition of Approval 6.5), SJKF Den Replacement Plan (Condition of Approval 6.6), and/or BNLL Mortality Reduction and Relocation Plan (Condition of Approval 6.7).
- 7.10. Covered Species Observations. All workers shall inform a Designated Biologist if the Covered Species is seen within or near the Project Area during implementation of any Covered Activity. All work in the vicinity of the Covered Species, which could injure or kill the animal, shall cease immediately until the Designated Biologist can relocate the Covered Species following the CDFW approved SJAS Mortality Reduction and Relocation Plan (Condition of Approval 6.5), SJKF Den Replacement Plan (Condition of Approval 6.6), and/or BNLL Mortality Reduction and Relocation Plan (Condition of Approval 6.7).
- **7.11.** Pre-Activity Clearance Surveys and Reporting. The Designated Biologist(s) shall perform pre-construction surveys for the Covered Species no more than 14 days prior to Covered Activities or prior to resumption of work if there has been a break

in work by more than 30 days, or as otherwise approved in writing by CDFW. The report shall include, but not be limited to, survey methods, date and time of the surveys, weather conditions per survey date, name of the Designated Biologist(s) who performed the surveys, survey results, and map of the locations of each potential and known burrow or den and type of Covered Species use. Permittee shall provide the survey results to CDFW in a written report at least 3 days prior to the beginning of Covered Activities (Condition of Approval 6.3).

- 7.11.1. <u>SJAS Surveys</u>: The Designated Biologist(s) shall survey the Work Area and 50 feet beyond the limits of the Work Area for individuals of the SJAS and to identify, flag and map the locations of all potential SJAS burrows. Pre-activity surveys shall be conducted under appropriate conditions to detect Covered Species. Conditions considered appropriate for detection of San Joquin antelope squirrel include temperatures between 68- and 86-degrees Fahrenheit, no more than 80 percent cloud cover, and not under foggy or rainy conditions.
- 7.11.2. <u>SJKF Surveys</u>. The Designated Biologist(s) shall conduct surveys to identify known and/or natal SJKF dens. Surveys shall include the Work Area and 50 feet beyond the limits of the Work Area to identify all potential SJKF dens as well as a buffer zone of 500 feet beyond (where feasible) the limits of the Work Area to identify known and/or natal SJKF dens. If the Designated Biologist identifies any known and/or natal SJKF dens, the den(s) shall be monitored for at least 4 consecutive nights with tracking medium and infrared camera to determine the current use of the den(s) or as otherwise approved in the SJKF Den Replacement Plan (Condition of Approval 6.6).
- 7.11.3. <u>BNLL Surveys</u>. The Designated Biologist(s) shall survey Work Areas and 50 feet beyond the limits of each Work Area (unless otherwise approved in writing by CDFW) to identify individual BNLL and to identify, flag, and map the locations of all potential BNLL burrows. Pre-activity surveys shall be conducted under appropriate conditions to detect Covered Species consistent with survey methodology approved under the BNLL Mortality Reduction and Relocation Plan (Condition of Approval 6.7). Conditions considered appropriate for detection of BNLL include ambient temperatures between 77- and 95-degrees Fahrenheit. Surveys shall be performed over five consecutive days between April 1 and July 15 using methods consistent with the Approved Survey Methodology for the Blunt-Nosed Leopard Lizard October 2019 (Revised), or as otherwise approved in writing by CDFW.
- **7.12.** Covered Species Injury. If a Covered Species is injured as a result of Project-related activities, the Designated Biologist shall immediately take it to a CDFW approved wildlife rehabilitation or veterinary facility. Permittee shall identify the

facility before starting Covered Activities. Permittee shall bear any costs associated with the care or treatment of such injured Covered Species. The Permittee shall notify CDFW of the injury to the Covered Species immediately by telephone and electronic mail followed by a written incident report as described in Condition of Approval 6.15. Notification shall include the date, time, location, and circumstances of the incident and the name of the facility where the animal was treated. If Covered Species is found deceased, the Designated Biologist shall immediately collect, bag, and freeze the carcass and consult with CDFW to determine if submittal of the carcass to a laboratory is warranted.

7.13. Additional Measures for SJAS:

- 7.13.1. SJAS Burrow Avoidance. The Designated Biologist shall establish a no disturbance buffer of 50 feet or greater around suspected or known to be occupied SJAS burrows within and adjacent to the Project Area to be disturbed by Covered Activities. If a 50-foot no-disturbance buffer cannot be established, daily monitoring, live trapping, relocation, and burrow excavation shall occur in accordance with Conditions of Approval 7.13.2 through 7.13.5. Alternatively, a buffer reduction may be requested to allow for burrow preservation where impacts can be reasonably avoided. Any buffer reduction strategy shall be identified in the SJAS Mortality Reduction and Relocation Plan (Condition of Approval 6.5) and shall include the review and written approval of CDFW prior to the implementation of a reduced buffer.
- 7.13.2. SJAS Live Trapping and Relocation. The Designated Biologist shall conduct live trapping at all potential SJAS burrows detected within the Project Area that cannot be avoided per Condition of Approval 7.13.1 prior to starting ground- or vegetation-disturbing Covered Activities, according to the approved SJAS Mortality Reduction and Relocation Plan (Condition of Approval 6.5). SJAS shall be relocated only after young of the year are observed above ground and during the main activity period for the species (April 1 to September 30) unless otherwise approved in advance and in writing by CDFW. The Designated Biologist shall relocate any captured SJAS to a release site identified in the approved SJAS Mortality Reduction and Relocation Plan (Condition of Approval 6.5). Traps shall only be open during the time of day when on-site temperatures are within the 68-to-86degree Fahrenheit criterion and only when temperatures are predicted by the National Weather Service to remain within that range for more than four hours. Any captured lactating/nursing female or dependent juvenile of SJAS shall be released immediately at the trap location and trapping shall cease until young of the year of SJAS are observed above ground and no longer dependent on their mother.

- 7.13.3. SJAS Relocation Weather Constraints. Permittee may submit a written request for approval to conduct trapping and relocation outside of the main activity period for the SJAS (October 1 to March 31). The written request shall include reference to the seven-day forecast predicted by the National Weather Service demonstrating daytime high temperatures (sunrise to sunset) between 68- and 86-degrees Fahrenheit with no prediction of inclement weather (e.g., a predicted 30 percent or greater chance of precipitation). In addition, the written request shall include evidence that young of the year of SJAS (if prior to April 1) and/or adults (if after September 30) are present above ground at the release site approved in the SJAS Mortality Reduction and Relocation Plan (Condition of Approval 6.5).
- 7.13.4. SJAS Relocation Additional Timing Constraints. If SJAS trapping and relocation occurs outside of the main activity period (October 1 to March 31), a Designated Biologist shall prepare daily trapping records that shall include, but not be limited to, on-site temperatures and time when traps are opened, when traps are checked, and when animals are relocated; weather conditions (e.g., wind and cloud cover); and the number of traps used. These records may be requested to be submitted daily or weekly to CDFW in the written approval to conduct trapping and relocation outside of the main activity period (Condition of Approval 7.13.3). Burrow excavation shall occur after the final trapping and only after CDFW has reviewed the final daily trapping records and approved excavation.
- 7.13.5. SJAS Burrow Excavation. Immediately following live trapping activities conducted to address burrows that cannot be avoided (Condition of Approval 7.13.2) and prior to beginning Covered Activities within the Project Area, the Designated Biologist, or an approved Designated Monitor under the direct supervision of the Designated Biologist, shall fully excavate by hand any potential SJAS burrows present within the project work limits, according to the approved SJAS Mortality Reduction and Relocation Plan (Condition of Approval 6.5). Any SJAS encountered during burrow excavation shall be relocated according to the approved SJAS Mortality Reduction and Relocation Plan (Condition of Approval 6.5). All burrow excavation shall be completed within 72 hours of the conclusion of live trapping, or as otherwise approved in writing by CDFW.

7.14. Additional Measures for SJKF:

7.14.1. <u>SJKF Den Avoidance</u>. Permittee shall avoid destroying any known or potential SJKF dens unless they are in an area of direct ground disturbance (e.g., grading areas, excavation areas) or their location poses a risk of direct harm to SJKF individuals. Dens in an area of temporary disturbance shall remain intact and the Designated Biologist shall block the

entrance by installing an object approved in advance, in writing by CDFW to prevent SJKF from entering and utilizing the den during Covered Activities. The Designated Biologist shall remove the object immediately after Covered Activities are completed in that Work Area when the Designated Biologist has determined that potential resumed use of the den will not result in harm to SJKF. Permittee shall not destroy or modify dens or exclude foxes from dens that are beyond the direct footprint of ground disturbance to preempt their use and den buffer establishment. If a potential SJKF den (any subterranean hole, three inches or larger, for which no evidence is present to conclude that the den is being used or has been used by a SJKF) is discovered or a SJKF is found in an "atypical" den (e.g., a pipe or culvert), Permittee shall establish a minimum 50-foot no-disturbance buffer around the den. If a known den (one that shows evidence of current use or was used in the past) is discovered, Permittee shall establish a minimum no-disturbance buffer of at least 100 feet around the den. If a natal den (den in which SJKF young are reared, typically with two or more openings) is discovered, Permittee shall establish a nodisturbance buffer of at least 200 feet around the den. Natal dens with pups shall have a no-disturbance buffer of at least 500 feet. Permittee shall notify the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and CDFW's Regional Representative immediately via telephone and email if any SJKF-occupied atypical dens, known dens, or natal dens are discovered within or immediately adjacent to the Project Area. An established no-disturbance buffer may be reduced once the SJKF is no longer using the area.

- 7.14.2. SJKF Den Replacement. Permittee shall replace each known and natal SJKF den that cannot be avoided as per Condition of Approval 7.14.1, with an artificial den. Permittee shall install one artificial SJKF den for each known den and three artificial dens for each natal den to be collapsed due to unavoidable disturbance. If there are no suitable existing dens within 300 feet of the collapsed den, Permittee shall install artificial dens within 300 feet of the collapsed den. Artificial natal dens shall be multichambered and have multiple entrances. If greater than 10 suitable kit fox dens are located within a 300-foot radius of the collapsed den, Permittee shall consult with CDFW about appropriate location for installation of artificial dens. Artificial den(s) shall be completed before excavation of known and natal SJKF dens can occur (Condition of Approval 7.14.3) to compensate for the loss of important shelter used by SJKF for protection, reproduction, and escape from predators. Den replacement shall be completed in accordance with the CDFW-approved SJKF Den Replacement Plan required in Condition of Approval 6.6.
- 7.14.3. <u>SJKF Den Excavation</u>. The Designated Biologist or individuals under direct supervision of the Designated Biologist shall excavate potential or known

dens that exhibit signs of SJKF use or characteristics suggestive of SJKF dens (including dens in natural substrate and in/under man-made structures) that cannot be avoided as per Condition of Approval 7.14.1 only after the Designated Biologist has determined that SJKF is not currently present after 4 consecutive nights of monitoring with tracking medium and infrared camera. Potential SJKF dens without any signs of SJKF use or characteristics suggesting it is a SJKF den may be excavated under the direct supervision of the Designated Biologist without advance tracking or camera monitoring. Natal dens shall not be excavated until the pups and adults have vacated the den and then only after concurrence from the USFWS and CDFW. If the excavation process reveals evidence of current use by SJKF, then den excavation shall cease immediately and tracking or camera monitoring as described above shall be conducted/resumed. Excavation of the den shall only resume when, in the judgment of the Designated Biologist, the SJKF has escaped from the partially excavated den. SJKF dens shall be carefully excavated until it is clear no individuals of SJKF are inside. Dens to be destroyed shall be fully excavated, filled with dirt and compacted to ensure that SJKF cannot reenter or use the den during the period that Covered Activities would occur in the Project Area. If an individual SJKF does not vacate a den within the Work Area within a reasonable timeframe, Permittee shall consult with CDFW and the USFWS to obtain written guidance from both agencies prior to proceeding with den destruction. An established SJKF den no disturbance buffer may be removed once the SJKF is no longer using the area.

7.15. Additional Measures for BNLL:

7.15.1. BNLL Burrow Avoidance. The Permittee shall notify CDFW's Regional Representative within 24 hours via telephone or e-mail if any BNLL are discovered within or immediately adjacent to the Project Area. The Designated Biologists shall establish a no-disturbance buffer of 50 feet or greater around potential burrows that could be occupied by BNLL, suspected burrows or known burrows to be occupied by BNLL within the Project Area. If the 50-foot no-disturbance buffer cannot be implemented. potential live capture, relocation, and burrow excavation shall occur in accordance with the BNLL Mortality Reduction and Relocation Plan (Condition of Approval 6.7), BNLL Individual Avoidance (Condition of Approval 7.15.2), the BNLL Relocation (Condition of Approval 7.15.3), BNLL Relocation Weather Constraints (Condition of Approval 7.15.4), and BNLL Burrow Excavation (Condition of Approval 7.15.5). Alternatively, Permittee may request a buffer reduction to allow for burrow preservation where direct impacts to individual BNLL can be reasonably avoided. Any buffer reduction strategy shall be identified in the BNLL Mortality Reduction and Relocation Plan (Condition of Approval 6.7) and shall include the

- review and written approval of CDFW prior to the implementation of a reduced buffer.
- 7.15.2. BNLL Individual Avoidance. If an individual (adult or juvenile) BNLL is detected above ground within the Project Area, any Covered Activities occurring within 500 feet of the observed BNLL must temporarily cease. The BNLL shall first be allowed to leave the Project Area on its own volition and be monitored by the Designated Biologist(s). If the BNLL is unable to leave the Project Area on its own volition due to Project related obstructions (e.g., fencing, vehicles, Project materials, etc.), the Designated Biologist(s) may establish an area for a passive exit leading/oriented away from the Project Area into suitable habitat only (i.e., not into the path of a paved road, etc.) or pursue the BNLL into an exit path leading away from the Project Area into suitable habitat only. The Designated Biologist(s) in either scenario shall monitor the exit of the BNLL. If a passive exit area or exit path needs to be established by the Designated Biologist(s) with passive or active exclusion (e.g., sequencing of temporary fence, boards, or flashing) the Designated Biologist(s) shall have such equipment ready to implement a non-handling exit area or exit path. If based on the Designated Biologist's assessment that the BNLL will not successfully exit the Project Area with passive or active exclusion the BNLL may be captured and relocated by the Designated Biologist(s) per the BNLL Mortality Reduction and Relocation Plan (Condition of Approval 6.7).
- 7.15.3. BNLL Relocation. Prior to commencing or re-commencing Covered Activities within the Project Area, and following the methods outlined in the BNLL Mortality Reduction and Relocation Plan (Condition of Approval 6.7), any above-ground BNLL detected by the Designated Biologist(s) within the Project Area that cannot be avoided per Conditions of Approval 7.15.1 and 7.15.2 shall be live captured by the Designated Biologist(s) immediately after detection, in the event additional animals are detected after initial relocation activities. The Designated Biologist(s) shall relocate all captured BNLL immediately to the CDFW-approved release site identified in the BNLL Mortality Reduction and Relocation Plan (Condition of Approval 6.7). The Designated Biologist(s) shall submit daily capture and release forms to CDFW for review and concurrence to continue (or not) with live capture. Daily capture forms shall include, but not be limited to: on-site shaded air temperatures measured 1-2 centimeters (cm) from above the ground and times of captures; capture details (e.g., attempts made, capture response, total duration of hold times); relocation details (e.g., behavioral response) and supporting photos and/or videos; weather conditions (e.g., wind and cloud cover) during capture and post release, etc. Permittee shall propose a final capture activity date for CDFW review and written approval. Following the CDFW-approved final day of capture activity, burrow

- excavation according to the BNLL Burrow Excavation (Condition of Approval 7.15.5) may begin.
- 7.15.4. BNLL Relocation Weather Constraints. During the threat of inclement weather, such as the National Weather Service prediction of a 30 percent or greater chance of rain, the Designated Biologist(s) shall halt all capture of BNLL. Additionally, the Designated Biologists shall halt all capture of BNLL if the air temperature drops below 77 or exceeds 95 degrees Fahrenheit during the capture period. The Designated Biologist(s) shall cease capture activity if captured animals are found to be lethargic or are otherwise showing signs of distress.
- 7.15.5. BNLL Burrow Excavation. Immediately following live capture activities conducted in accordance with the BNLL Mortality Reduction and Relocation Plan (Condition of Approval 6.7) and prior to beginning Covered Activities within the Project Area, the Designated Biologist(s), or individuals under the direct supervision of the Designated Biologist(s), shall fully excavate by hand all burrows potentially occupied by BNLL within each fenced Project Area to be disturbed by Covered Activities. The Designated Biologist(s) shall immediately relocate any active BNLL encountered during burrow excavation to the CDFW-approved release site(s) identified in the BNLL Mortality Reduction and Relocation Plan (Condition of Approval 6.7). If BNLL eggs or torpid BNLL are discovered during burrow excavation, CDFW shall be immediately contacted to determine if they should be transported to an identified and approved care facility listed in the BNLL Mortality Reduction and Relocation Plan (Condition of Approval 6.7).
- 8. Habitat Management Land Acquisition and Restoration: CDFW has determined that permanent protection and perpetual management of compensatory habitat and on-site habitat restoration is necessary and required pursuant to CESA, and Fish and Game Code section 5050 as applicable, to fully mitigate Project-related impacts of the taking on the Covered Species that will result from implementation of the Covered Activities. This determination is based on factors including an assessment of the importance of the habitat in the Project Area, the extent to which the Covered Activities will impact the habitat, and CDFW's estimate of the protected acreage required to provide for adequate compensation.

To meet this requirement, Permittee shall either purchase 160 acres of Covered Species credits from a CDFW-approved mitigation or conservation bank pursuant to Condition of Approval 8.2 below OR shall provide for both the permanent protection and management of at least 160 acres of Habitat Management (HM) lands pursuant to Condition of Approval 8.3 below and the calculation and deposit of the management funds pursuant to Condition of Approval 8.4 below.

At the time of issuance of this Amended ITP, Permittee proposes the purchase of mitigation credits at the Blackwells Corner Conservation Bank (BCCB), which is conceptually approved by CDFW and has higher quality habitat for the Covered Species than the habitat being impacted by the Project. Further, the BCCB contributes to providing essential linkage habitat for the Covered Species and may help secure important genetic connectivity for BNLL between the Antelope Plain, Lokern, and Buena Vista subpopulations within the Western Kern County Critical Recovery Area listed in the 1998 USFWS Recovery Plan (Recovery Plan).

Conservation of the BCCB properties will contribute to multiple recovery actions for the Covered Species in the Recovery Plan. Recovery Action 1 for BNLL calls for determining appropriate habitat management and compatible land uses for BNLL. Recovery Action 3.d. for BNLL calls for protecting additional habitat for BNLL in key portions of their range. The areas of highest priority to target for protection identified in the Recovery Plan for BNLL includes natural lands between Highway 33 and the coastal ranges (southern Fresno County/northern Kern County), which is where the BCCB is located. Additionally, one of the four recommendations by the USFWS for BNLL in the latest (2020) five-year review encourages conservation and coordination between private landowners and other partners, including the USFWS. The purchase of 160 mitigation credits from BCCB will help to achieve Recovery Action 3.d. for BNLL and is in line with the most recent five-year review of BNLL by providing habitat restoration, restoring connectivity within and between populations, and encouraging conservation and coordination between private landowners and other partners, including CDFW and USFWS. For these reasons, the purchase of 160 mitigation credits from BCCB along with the other requirements of this Amended ITP will satisfy the requirement of Fish and Game Code section 2081.15, subdivision (a)(2) that further measures to satisfy the conservation standard of Fish and Game Code section 2805, subdivision (d) are incorporated into the Project.

Should purchasing conservation credits at the proposed BCCB become infeasible, then Permittee shall provide an alternative 160 acres of HM Lands which are comparable or better in habitat quality than the Project Area, are occupied by the all of the Covered Species, provide regional importance to the conservation of BNLL, and achieve one or more Recovery Actions of the Recovery Plan for BNLL. Purchase of Covered Species credits OR permanent protection and funding for perpetual management of HM lands must be complete before starting Covered Activities, or within 48 months of the effective date of this ITP if Security is provided pursuant to Condition of Approval 9 below for all uncompleted obligations.

- **8.1.** Cost Estimates. For the purposes of determining the Security amount, CDFW has estimated the cost sufficient for CDFW or its contractors to complete acquisition, protection, and perpetual management of the HM lands and restoration of temporarily disturbed habitat as follows:
 - 8.1.1. Land acquisition costs for HM lands identified in Condition of Approval 8.3 below, estimated at \$1,215.87/acre for 160 acres: **\$194,539.00**. Land

- acquisition costs are estimated using local fair market current value per acre for lands with habitat values meeting mitigation requirements;
- 8.1.2. All other costs necessary to review and acquire the land in fee title and record a conservation easement as described in Condition of Approval 8.3.1 and 8.3.2 below: **\$264,437.11**;
- 8.1.3. Start-up costs for HM lands, including initial site protection and enhancement costs as described in Condition of Approval 8.3.6 below, estimated at \$5,616.60;
- 8.1.4. Interim management period funding as described in Condition of Approval 8.3.7 below, estimated at \$131,839.57;
- 8.1.5. Long-term management funding as described in Condition of Approval 8.4 below, estimated at \$934/acre for 160 acres: **\$149,567.73**. Long-term management funding is estimated initially for the purpose of providing Security to ensure implementation of HM lands management.
- 8.1.6. Related transaction fees including but not limited to account set-up fees, administrative fees, title and documentation review and related title transactions, expenses incurred from other state agency reviews, and overhead related to transfer of HM lands to CDFW as described in Condition of Approval 8.5, estimated at \$12,000.00.
- 8.1.7. All costs associated with CDFW engaging an outside contractor to complete the mitigation tasks, including but not limited to acquisition, protection, and perpetual funding and management of the HM lands and restoration of temporarily disturbed habitat. These costs include but are not limited to the cost of issuing a request for proposals, transaction costs, contract administration costs, and costs associated with monitoring the contractor's work \$42,000.00.
- 8.2. Covered Species Credits. If Permittee elects to purchase Covered Species credits to complete compensatory mitigation obligations, then Permittee shall purchase 160 acres of Covered Species credits from a CDFW-approved mitigation or conservation bank prior to initiating Covered Activities, or no later than 48 months from the issuance of this ITP if Security is provided pursuant to Condition of Approval 9 below. Prior to purchase of Covered Species credits, Permittee shall obtain CDFW approval to ensure the mitigation or conservation bank is appropriate to compensate for the impacts of the Project. Permittee shall submit to CDFW a copy of the Bill of Sale(s) and Payment Receipt prior to initiating Covered Activities or within 48 months from issuance of this ITP if Security is provided.

- **8.3.** Habitat Management Lands Acquisition and Protection. If Permittee elects to provide for the acquisition, permanent protection, and perpetual management of HM lands to complete compensatory mitigation obligations, then the Permittee shall:
 - 8.3.1. Fee Title. Transfer fee title of the HM lands to CDFW pursuant to terms approved in writing by CDFW. Alternatively, CDFW, in its sole discretion, may authorize a governmental entity, special district, non-profit organization, for-profit entity, person, or another entity to hold title to and manage the property provided that the district, organization, entity, or person meets the requirements of Government Code sections 65965-65968, as amended.
 - 8.3.2. Conservation Easement. If CDFW does not hold fee title to the HM lands, CDFW shall act as grantee for a conservation easement over the HM lands or shall, in its sole discretion, approve a non-profit entity, public agency, or Native American tribe to act as grantee for a conservation easement over the HM lands provided that the entity, agency, or tribe meets the requirements of Civil Code section 815.3. If CDFW elects not to be named as the grantee for the conservation easement, CDFW shall be expressly named in the conservation easement as a third-party beneficiary. The Permittee shall obtain CDFW written approval of any conservation easement before its execution or recordation. No conservation easement shall be approved by CDFW unless it complies with Civil Code sections 815-816, as amended, and Government Code sections 65965-65968, as amended and includes provisions expressly addressing Government Code sections 65966(i) and 65967(e). Because the "doctrine of merger" could invalidate the conservation interest, under no circumstances can the fee title owner of the HM lands serve as grantee for the conservation easement.
 - 8.3.3. HM Lands Approval. Obtain CDFW written approval of the HM lands before acquisition and/or transfer of the land by submitting, at least three months before acquisition and/or transfer of the HM lands, documentation identifying the land to be purchased or property interest conveyed to an approved entity as mitigation for the Project's impacts on Covered Species;
 - 8.3.4. HM Lands Documentation. Provide a recent preliminary title report, Phase I Environmental Site Assessment, and other necessary documents (please contact CDFW for document list). All documents conveying the HM lands and all conditions of title are subject to the approval of CDFW, and if applicable, the Wildlife Conservation Board and the Department of General Services:

- 8.3.5. <u>Land Manager</u>. Designate both an interim and long-term land manager approved by CDFW. The interim and long-term land managers may, but need not, be the same. The interim and/or long-term land managers may be the landowner or another party. Documents related to land management shall identify both the interim and long-term land managers. Permittee shall notify CDFW of any subsequent changes in the land manager within 30 days of the change. If CDFW will hold fee title to the mitigation land, CDFW will also act as both the interim and long-term land manager unless otherwise specified. The grantee for the conservation easement cannot serve as the interim or long-term manager without the express written authorization of CDFW in its sole discretion.
- 8.3.6. Start-up Activities. Provide for the implementation of start-up activities, including the initial site protection and enhancement of HM lands, once the HM lands have been approved by CDFW. Start-up activities include, at a minimum: (1) preparing a final management plan for CDFW approval (see https://nrm.dfg.ca.gov/FileHandler.ashx?DocumentID=137386&inline) (2) conducting a baseline biological assessment and land survey report within four months of recording or transfer; (3) developing and transferring Geographic Information Systems (GIS) data if applicable; (4) establishing initial fencing; (5) conducting litter removal; (6) conducting initial habitat restoration or enhancement, if applicable; and (7) installing signage;
- 8.3.7. Interim Management (Initial and Capital). Provide for the interim management of the HM lands. The Permittee shall ensure that the interim land manager implements the interim management of the HM lands as described in the final management plan and conservation easement approved by CDFW. The interim management period shall be a minimum of three years from the date of HM land acquisition and protection and full funding of the Endowment and includes expected management following start-up activities. Interim management period activities described in the final management plan shall include fence repair, continuing trash removal, site monitoring, and vegetation and invasive species management.

Permittee shall either (1) provide Security to CDFW for the minimum of three years of interim management that the land owner, Permittee, or land manager agrees to manage and pay for at their own expense, (2) establish an escrow account with written instructions approved in advance in writing by CDFW to pay the land manager annually in advance, or (3) establish a short-term enhancement account with CDFW or a CDFW-approved entity for payment to the land manager.

8.4. Endowment Fund. If the Permittee elects to provide for the acquisition, permanent protection, and perpetual management of HM lands to complete compensatory mitigation obligations, then the Permittee shall ensure that the HM lands are perpetually managed, maintained, and monitored by the long-term land manager as described in this ITP, the conservation easement, and the final management plan approved by CDFW. After obtaining CDFW approval of the HM lands, Permittee shall provide long-term management funding for the perpetual management of the HM lands by establishing a long-term management fund (Endowment). The Endowment is a sum of money, held in a CDFW-approved fund that is permanently restricted to paying the costs of long-term management and stewardship of the mitigation property for which the funds were set aside, which costs include the perpetual management, maintenance, monitoring, and other activities on the HM lands consistent with this ITP, the conservation easement, and the management plan required by Condition of Approval 8.3.5. Endowment as used in this ITP shall refer to the endowment deposit and all interest, dividends, other earnings, additions, and appreciation thereon. The Endowment shall be governed by this ITP, Government Code sections 65965-65968, as amended, and Probate Code sections 18501-18510, as amended.

After the interim management period, Permittee shall ensure that the designated long-term land manager implements the management and monitoring of the HM lands according to the final management plan. The long-term land manager shall be obligated to manage and monitor the HM lands in perpetuity to preserve their conservation values in accordance with this ITP, the conservation easement, and the final management plan. Such activities shall be funded through the Endowment.

8.4.1. <u>Identify an Endowment Manager</u>. The Endowment shall be held by the Endowment Manager, which shall be either CDFW or another entity qualified pursuant to Government Code sections 65965-65968, as amended.

Permittee shall submit to CDFW a written proposal that includes: (i) the name of the proposed Endowment Manager; (ii) whether the proposed Endowment Manager is a governmental entity, special district, nonprofit organization, community foundation, or congressionally chartered foundation; (iii) whether the proposed Endowment Manager holds the property or an interest in the property for conservation purposes as required by Government Code section 65968(b)(1) or, in the alternative, the basis for finding that the Project qualifies for an exception pursuant to Government Code section 65968(b)(2); and (iv) a copy of the proposed Endowment Manager's certification pursuant to Government Code section 65968(e).

Within thirty days of CDFW's receipt of Permittee's written proposal, CDFW shall inform Permittee in writing if it determines the proposal does not satisfy the requirements of Fish and Game Code section 2081(b)(3) and, if so, shall provide Permittee with a written explanation of the reasons for its determination. If CDFW does not provide Permittee with a written determination within the thirty-day period, the proposal shall be deemed consistent with Section 2081(b)(3).

- 8.4.2. Calculate the Endowment Funds Deposit. After obtaining CDFW written approval of the HM lands, long-term management plan, and Endowment Manager, Permittee shall prepare an endowment assessment (equivalent to a Property Analysis Record (PAR)) to calculate the amount of funding necessary to ensure the long-term management of the HM lands (Endowment Deposit Amount). Note that the endowment for the easement holder should not be included in this calculation. The Permittee shall submit to CDFW for review and approval the results of the endowment assessment before transferring funds to the Endowment Manager.
 - 8.4.2.1. <u>Capitalization Rate and Fees</u>. Permittee shall obtain the capitalization rate from the selected Endowment Manager for use in calculating the endowment assessment and adjust for any additional administrative, periodic, or annual fees.
 - 8.4.2.2. <u>Endowment Buffers/Assumptions</u>. Permittee shall include in the endowment assessment assumptions the following buffers for endowment establishment and use that will substantially ensure long-term viability and security of the Endowment:
 - 8.4.2.2.1. 10 Percent Contingency. A 10 percent contingency shall be added to each endowment calculation to hedge against underestimation of the fund, unanticipated expenditures, inflation, or catastrophic events.
 - 8.4.2.2.2. <u>Three Years Delayed Spending</u>. The endowment shall be established assuming spending will not occur for the first three years after full funding.
 - 8.4.2.2.3. Non-annualized Expenses. For all large capital expenses to occur periodically but not annually such as fence replacement or well replacement, payments shall be withheld from the annual disbursement until the year of anticipated need or upon request to Endowment Manager and CDFW.

- 8.4.3. <u>Transfer Long-term Endowment Funds</u>. Permittee shall transfer the long-term endowment funds to the Endowment Manager upon CDFW approval of the Endowment Deposit Amount identified above.
- 8.4.4. Management of the Endowment. The approved Endowment Manager may pool the Endowment with other endowments for the operation, management, and protection of HM lands for local populations of the Covered Species but shall maintain separate accounting for each Endowment. The Endowment Manager shall, at all times, hold and manage the Endowment in compliance with this ITP, Government Code sections 65965-65968, as amended, and Probate Code sections 18501-18510, as amended.

Notwithstanding Probate Code sections 18501-18510, the Endowment Manager shall not make any disbursement from the Endowment that will result in expenditure of any portion of the principal of the endowment without the prior written approval of CDFW in its sole discretion. Permittee shall ensure that this requirement is included in any agreement of any kind governing the holding, investment, management, and/or disbursement of the Endowment funds.

Notwithstanding Probate Code sections 18501-18510, if CDFW determines in its sole discretion that an expenditure needs to be made from the Endowment to preserve the conservation values of the HM lands, the Endowment Manager shall process that expenditure in accordance with directions from CDFW. The Endowment Manager shall not be liable for any shortfall in the Endowment resulting from CDFW's decision to make such an expenditure.

- **8.5.** Reimburse CDFW. Permittee shall reimburse CDFW for all reasonable costs incurred by CDFW related to issuance and monitoring of this ITP, including, but not limited to transaction fees, account set-up fees, administrative fees, title and documentation review and related title transactions, costs incurred from other state agency reviews, and overhead related to transfer of HM lands to CDFW.
- 9. Security: The Permittee may proceed with Covered Activities only after the Permittee has ensured funding (Security) to complete any activity required by Condition of Approval 8 that has not been completed before Covered Activities begin. Permittee shall provide Security as follows:
 - **9.1.** Master Funding Agreement. Security for this ITP shall be governed by the Master Funding Agreement between the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and the California Department of Transportation, dated September 3, 2021.

- **9.2.** <u>Funding Memorandum</u>. Permittee has prepared and CDFW has approved, the project-specific Funding Memorandum required by the Master Funding Agreement and attached to this ITP as Attachment 3.
- **9.3.** Security Amount. The Security shall be in the amount of \$800,000.00. This amount is based on the cost estimates identified in Condition of Approval 8.1 above and the Funding Memorandum.
- **9.4.** Funding of the Child Expenditure Authorization (EA). Permittee shall create and fund the Child EA with funds equivalent to the Security Amount.
- **9.5.** Compliance with the Master Funding Agreement. Permittee shall complete all requirements set forth in the Master Funding Agreement and shall at all times comply with the terms and conditions of that Agreement.
- **9.6.** Even if Security is provided, the Permittee must complete the required acquisition, protection and transfer of all HM lands and record any required conservation easements no later than 48 months from the effective date of this ITP. CDFW may require the Permittee to provide additional HM lands and/or additional funding to ensure the impacts of the taking are minimized and fully mitigated, as required by law, if the Permittee does not complete these requirements within the specified timeframe.

X. Amendment:

With respect to the Covered Species listed under CESA, this ITP may be amended as provided by California Code of Regulations, Title 14, section 783.6, subdivision (c), and other applicable law. With respect to the fully protected Covered Species, this ITP may be amended as provided by Fish and Game Code section 2081.15, subdivisions (a)(3) and (d), and other applicable law. This ITP may also be amended without the concurrence of the Permittee as required by law, including if CDFW determines that continued implementation of the Project as authorized under this ITP would jeopardize the continued existence of the Covered Species or where Project changes or changed biological conditions necessitate an ITP amendment to ensure that all Project-related impacts of the taking to the Covered Species are minimized and fully mitigated.

XI. Stop-Work Order:

If CDFW determines the Permittee has violated any term or condition of this ITP or has engaged in unlawful take, CDFW may issue Permittee a written stop-work order instructing the Permittee to suspend any Covered Activity for an initial period of up to 30 days or risk suspension or revocation of this ITP. CDFW can issue a stop-work order to prevent or remedy a violation of this ITP, including but not limited to the failure to comply with reporting or monitoring obligations, or to prevent the unauthorized take of any CESA endangered, threatened, or candidate species, or fully protected species designated under the Fish and Game Code, regardless of whether that species is a Covered Species under this ITP. Permittee shall stop work immediately as directed by CDFW upon receipt of any such

stop-work order. Upon written notice to Permittee, CDFW may extend any stop-work order issued to Permittee for a period not to exceed 30 additional days.

If Permittee fails to remedy the violation or to comply with a stop-work order, CDFW may proceed with suspension and revocation of this ITP. Suspension and revocation of this ITP shall be governed by California Code of Regulations, Title 14, section 783.7, and any other applicable law. Neither the Designated Biologists, Designated Monitors, nor CDFW shall be liable for any costs incurred in complying with stop-work orders.

XII. Compliance with Other Laws:

This ITP sets forth CDFW's requirements for the Permittee to implement the Project pursuant to CESA. This ITP does not necessarily create an entitlement to proceed with the Project. Permittee is responsible for complying with all other applicable federal, state, and local law.

XIII. Notices:

Written notices, reports and other communications relating to this ITP shall be delivered to CDFW by email or registered first class mail at the following address, or at addresses CDFW may subsequently provide the Permittee. Notices, reports, and other communications shall reference the Project name, Permittee, and ITP Number (2081-2023-029-04-A2) in a cover letter and on any other associated documents.

Original cover with attachment(s) to:

Julie A. Vance, Regional Manager California Department of Fish and Wildlife 1234 East Shaw Avenue Fresno, California 93710 Telephone (559) 243-4005 RRR.R4@wildlife.ca.gov

and a copy to:

Habitat Conservation Planning Branch California Department of Fish and Wildlife Attention: CESA Permitting Program Post Office Box 944209 Sacramento, California 94244-2090 CESA@wildlife.ca.gov Unless Permittee is notified otherwise, CDFW's Regional Representative for purposes of addressing issues that arise during implementation of this ITP is:

Adam Thompson
California Department of Fish and Wildlife
1234 East Shaw Avenue
Fresno, California 93710
Telephone (559) 801-1915
Adam.Thompson@wildlife.ca.gov

XIV. Compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act:

CDFW's issuance of this ITP is subject to CEQA. CDFW is a responsible agency pursuant to CEQA with respect to this ITP because of prior environmental review of the Project by the lead agency, Caltrans. (See generally Pub. Resources Code, §§ 21067, 21069.) The lead agency's prior environmental review of the Project is set forth in the Blackwell's Corner Capital Preventative Maintenance Initial Study with Mitigated Negative Declaration (SCH No.: 2022010218) dated April 2022 that Caltrans, as the lead agency, adopted on April 25, 2022, and revalidated on September 13, 2024 and December 3, 2024. At the time the lead agency adopted the Initial Study with Mitigated Negative Declaration and approved the Project, it also adopted various mitigation measures for the Covered Species as conditions of Project approval.

This ITP, along with CDFW's related CEQA findings, which are available as a separate document, provide evidence of CDFW's consideration of the lead agency's Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Project and the environmental effects related to issuance of this ITP (CEQA Guidelines, § 15096, subd. (f)). CDFW finds that issuance of this ITP will not result in any previously undisclosed potentially significant effects on the environment or a substantial increase in the severity of any potentially significant environmental effects previously disclosed by the lead agency. Furthermore, to the extent the potential for such effects exists, CDFW finds adherence to and implementation of the Conditions of Project Approval adopted by the lead agency, and that adherence to and implementation of the Conditions of Approval imposed by CDFW through the issuance of this ITP, will avoid or reduce to below a level of significance any such potential effects. CDFW consequently finds that issuance of this ITP will not result in any significant, adverse impacts on the environment.

XV. Findings Pursuant to CESA:

These findings are intended to document CDFW's compliance with the specific findings requirements set forth in CESA and related regulations. (Fish & G. Code § 2081, subs. (b)-(c); Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, §§ 783.4, subds, (a)-(b), 783.5, subd. (c)(2); Fish & G. Code § 2081.15, subd. ((a), (b)(3), and (d).)

CDFW finds based on substantial evidence in the ITP application, MND for the Project, the results of CDFW's site visits on July 7 and October 9, 2023, and the administrative record of proceedings, that issuance of this ITP complies and is consistent with the criteria governing the issuance of ITPs pursuant to CESA:

- (1) Take of Covered Species as defined in this ITP will be incidental to the otherwise lawful activities covered under this ITP;
- (2) Impacts of the taking on Covered Species will be minimized and fully mitigated through the implementation of measures required by this ITP and as described in the MMRP. Measures include: (1) permanent habitat protection; (2) establishment of avoidance zones; (3) worker education; and (4) Monthly Compliance Reports. CDFW evaluated factors including an assessment of the importance of the habitat in the Project Area, the extent to which the Covered Activities will impact the habitat, and CDFW's estimate of the acreage required to provide for adequate compensation. Based on this evaluation, CDFW determined that the protection and management in perpetuity of 160 acres of compensatory habitat that is contiguous with other protected Covered Species habitat and/or is of higher quality than the habitat being permanently impacted by the Project, along with the minimization, monitoring, reporting, and funding requirements of this ITP minimizes and fully mitigates the impacts of the taking caused by the Project.
- (3) The take avoidance and mitigation measures required pursuant to the conditions of this ITP and its attachments are roughly proportional in extent to the impacts of the taking authorized by this ITP;
- (4) The measures required by this ITP maintain Permittee's objectives to the greatest extent possible;
- (5) All required measures are capable of successful implementation;
- (6) Permittee has ensured adequate funding to implement the measures required by this ITP as well as for monitoring compliance with, and the effectiveness of, those measures for the Project; and
- (7) Issuance of this ITP will not jeopardize the continued existence of the Covered Species based on the best scientific and other information reasonably available, and this finding includes consideration of the species' capability to survive and reproduce, and any adverse impacts of the taking on those abilities in light of (1) known population trends; (2) known threats to the species; and (3) reasonably foreseeable impacts on the species from other related projects and activities. Moreover, CDFW's finding is based, in part, on CDFW's express authority to amend the terms and conditions of this ITP without concurrence of the Permittee as necessary to avoid jeopardy and as required by law.
- (8) As stated in Findings (1) (7) above, the requirements of Fish and Game Code section 2081, subdivisions (b) and (c) are satisfied as to BNLL;
- (9) As stated in Finding (2) above, the impacts of the taking on BNLL will be minimized and fully mitigated through the implementation of measures required by this ITP such

as the protection and management of compensatory habitat. The further measures required to satisfy the conservation standard of Fish and Game Code section 2805, subdivision (d) with respect to BNLL include: the protection of higher quality habitat than the habitat being impacted; the BCCB's contribution towards essential linkage habitat for the Covered Species and important genetic connectivity for BNLL between the Antelope Plain, Lokern, and Buena Vista subpopulations within the Western Kern County Critical Recovery Area from the 1998 USFWS Recovery Plan; and contributions to multiple recovery actions for BNLL listed in the Recovery Plan (including Action 1 to determine appropriate habitat management and compatible land uses for BNLL and Action 3.d to protect additional habitat for BNLL in key portions of their range and areas of highest priority to target for protection). The purchase of 160 mitigation credits from BCCB will help to achieve Recovery Action 3.d. for BNLL and is in line with the most recent (2020) USFWS five-year review of BNLL by providing habitat restoration, restoring connectivity within and between populations, and encouraging conservation and coordination between private landowners and other partners, including CDFW and USFWS;

- (10) This ITP provides for the development and implementation of a monitoring program and adaptive management plan for monitoring the effectiveness of, and amending, as necessary, the measures to minimize and fully mitigate the impacts of the authorized take of golden eagle. The take monitoring programs and adaptive management plans are in the forms of the take monitoring program (Condition of Approval 6.8), adaptive management as required in the BNLL Mortality Reduction and Relocation Plan (Condition of Approval 6.7), and the HM Land acquisition and associated land management and monitoring activities.
- (11) The Project that is the subject of this ITP's authorization to take BNLL incidentally in carrying out Covered Activities is a transportation project undertaken by a state, regional, or local agency, that does not increase highway or street capacity for automobile or truck travel and is thus an eligible project pursuant to Fish and Game Code section 2081.15, subdivision (b)(3).

XVI. Literature Cited:

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Incidental Take Permit
No. 2081-2023-029-04 (Amendment No. 2)
CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
BLACKWELL'S CORNER CAPM PROJECT

XVII. Attachments:

FIGURE 1 Project Location Map

FIGURE 2 Amended Project Impacts Map Book

ATTACHMENT 1 Amended Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program

ATTACHMENT 2 Biologist Resume Form

ATTACHMENT 3 Master Funding Agreement Memorandum
ATTACHMENT 4 Amendment No. 1 with Track Changes
ATTACHMENT 5 Amendment No. 2 with Track Changes

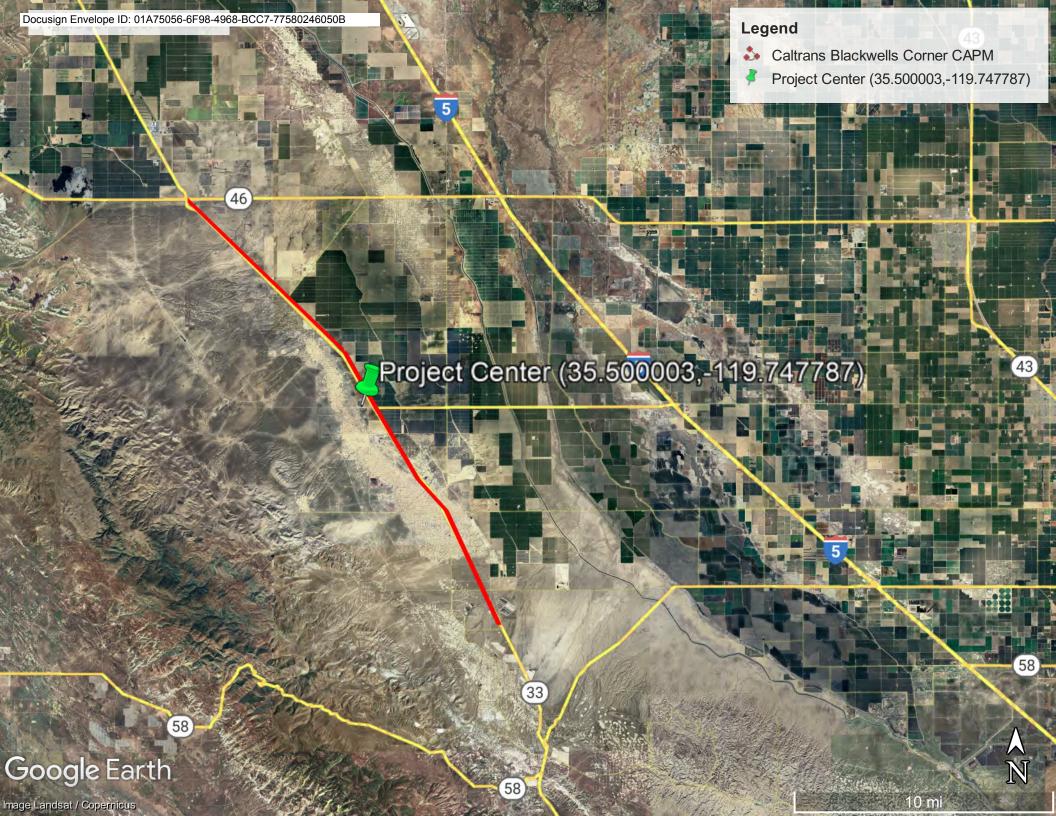
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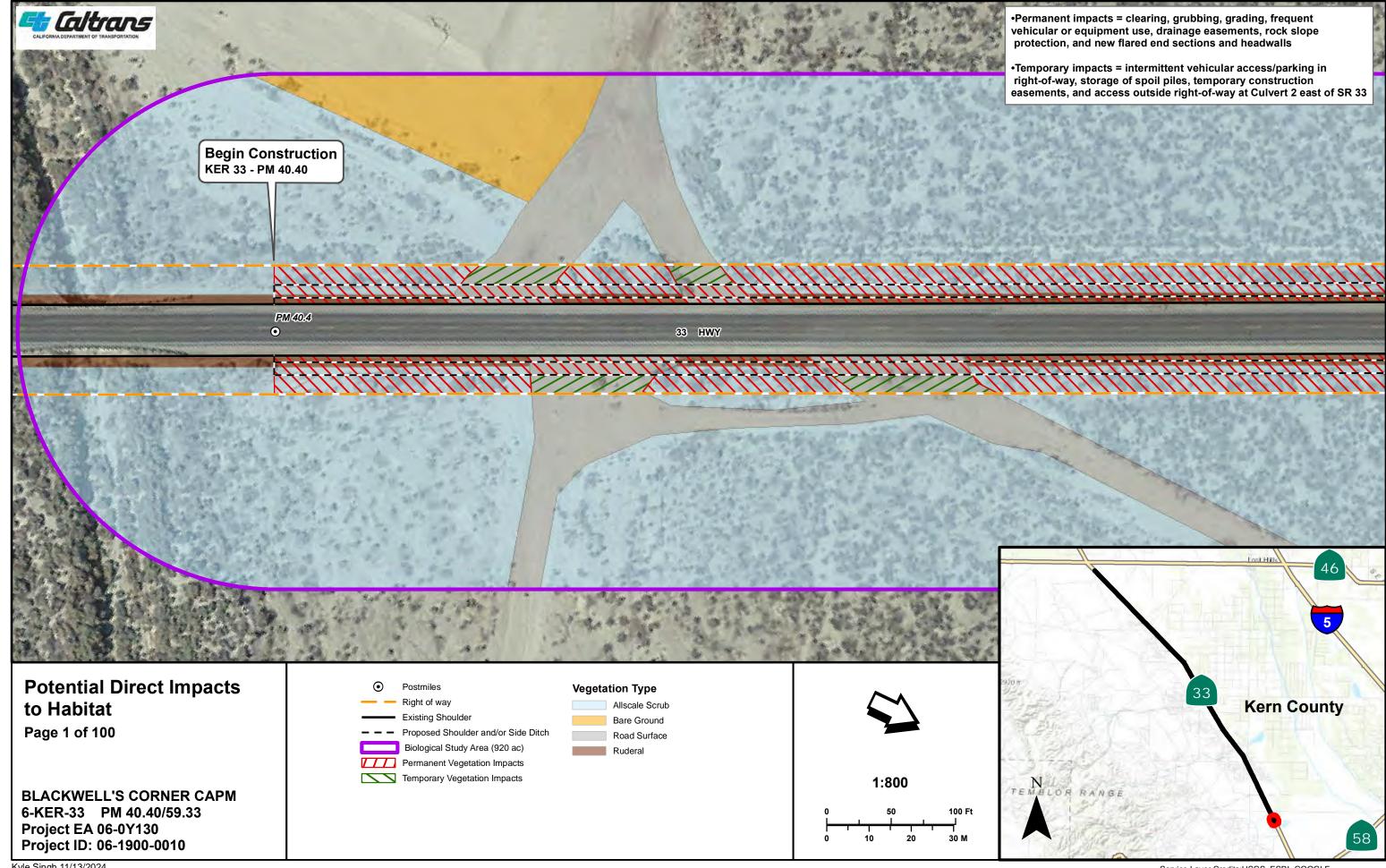
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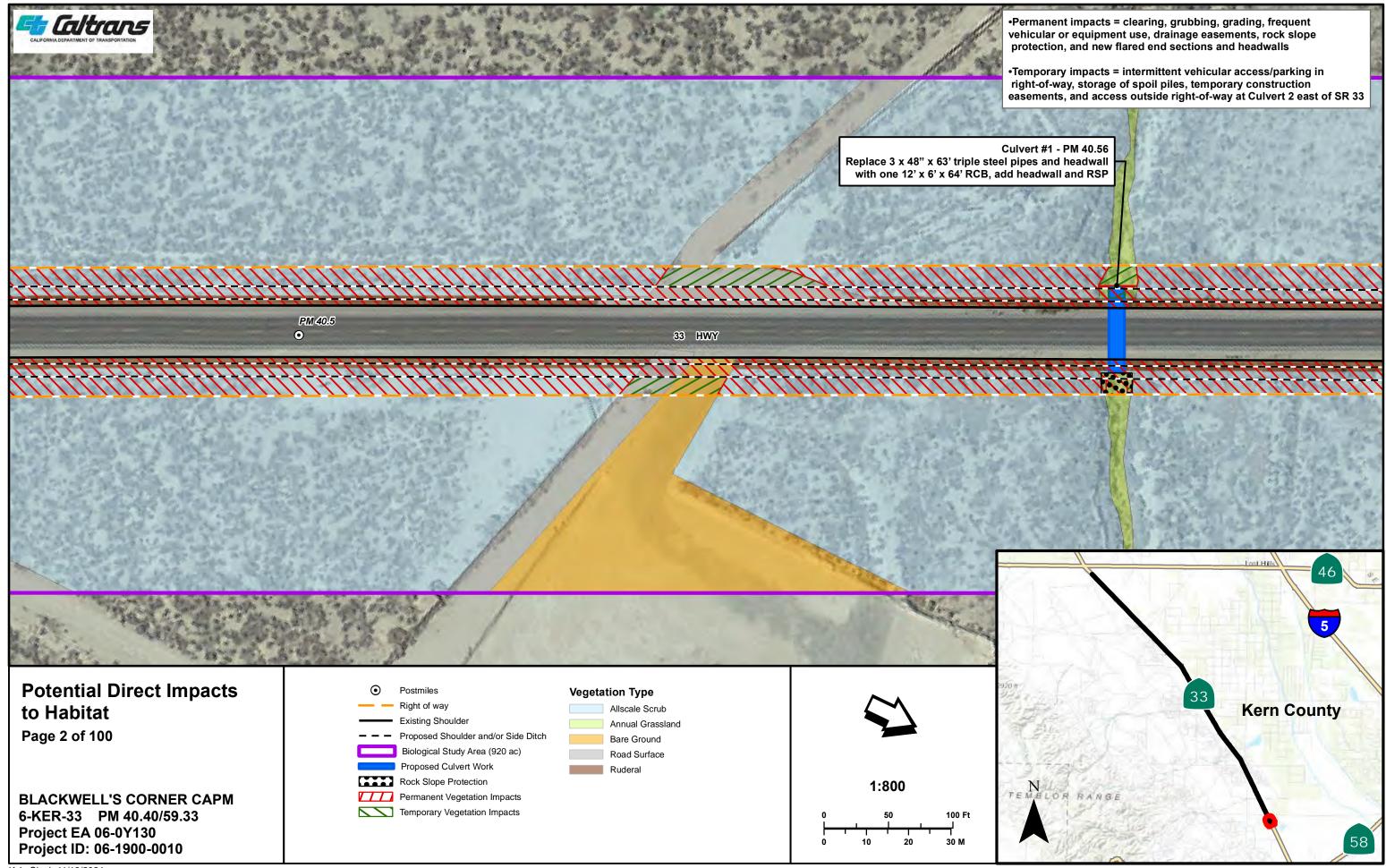
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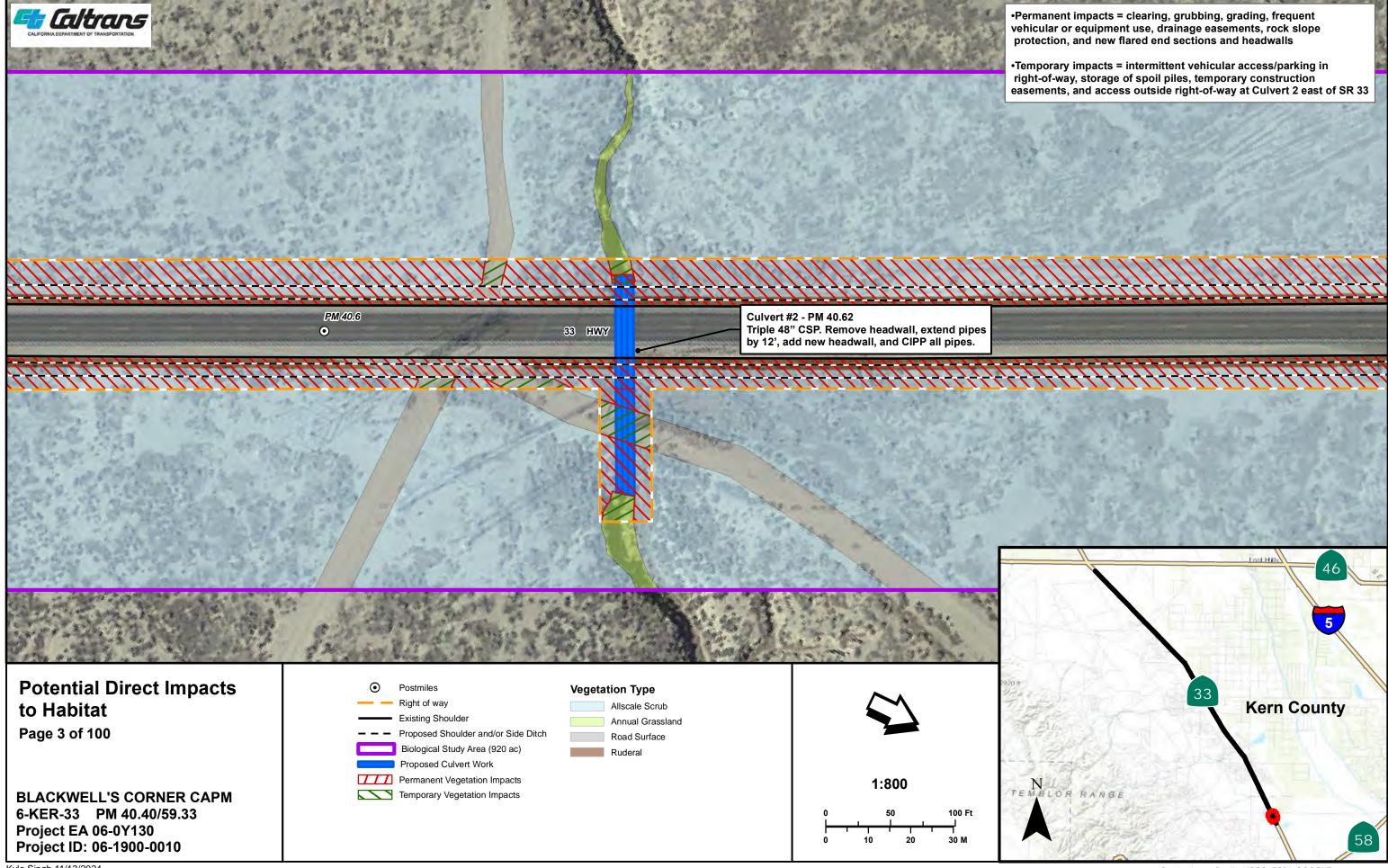




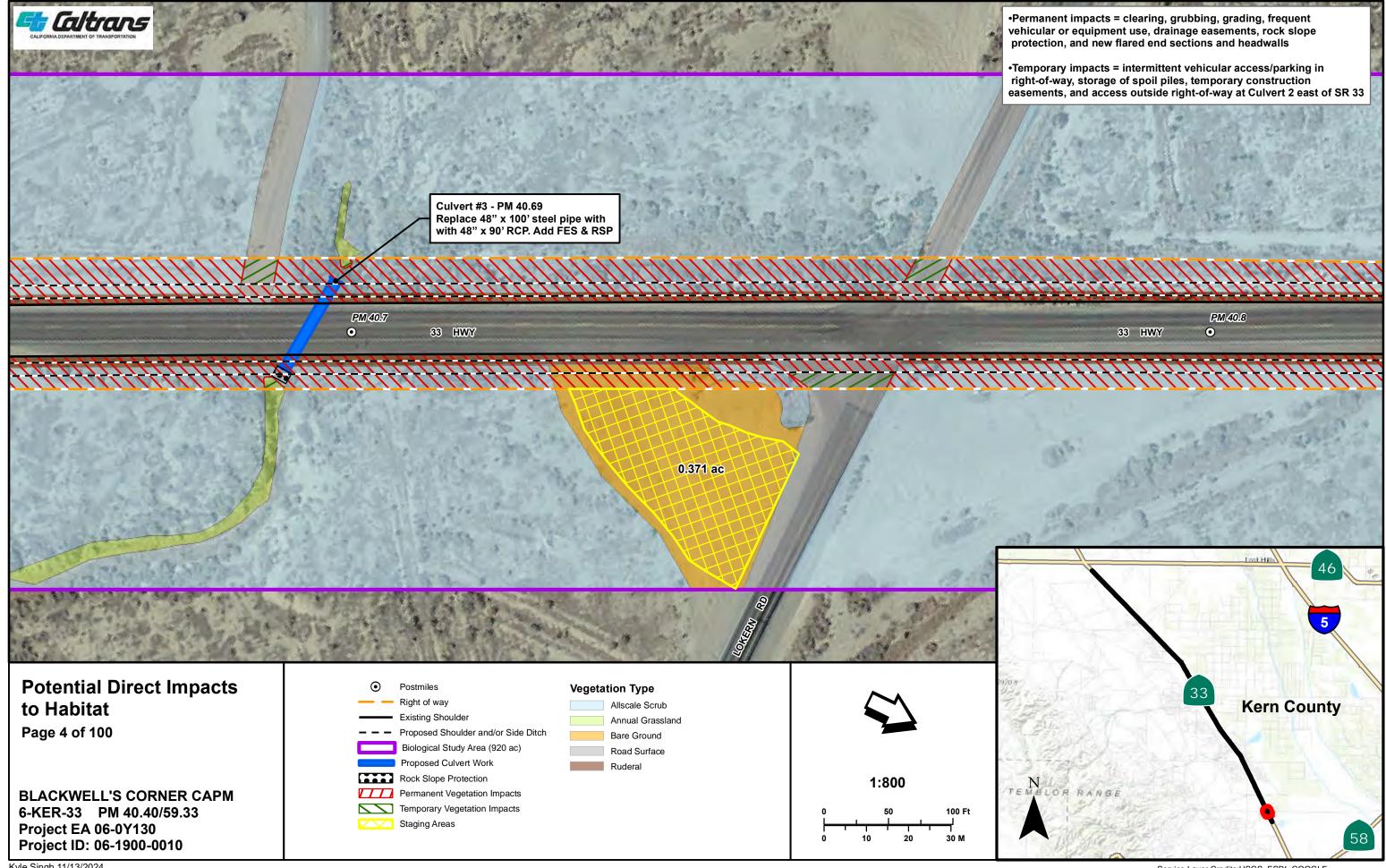


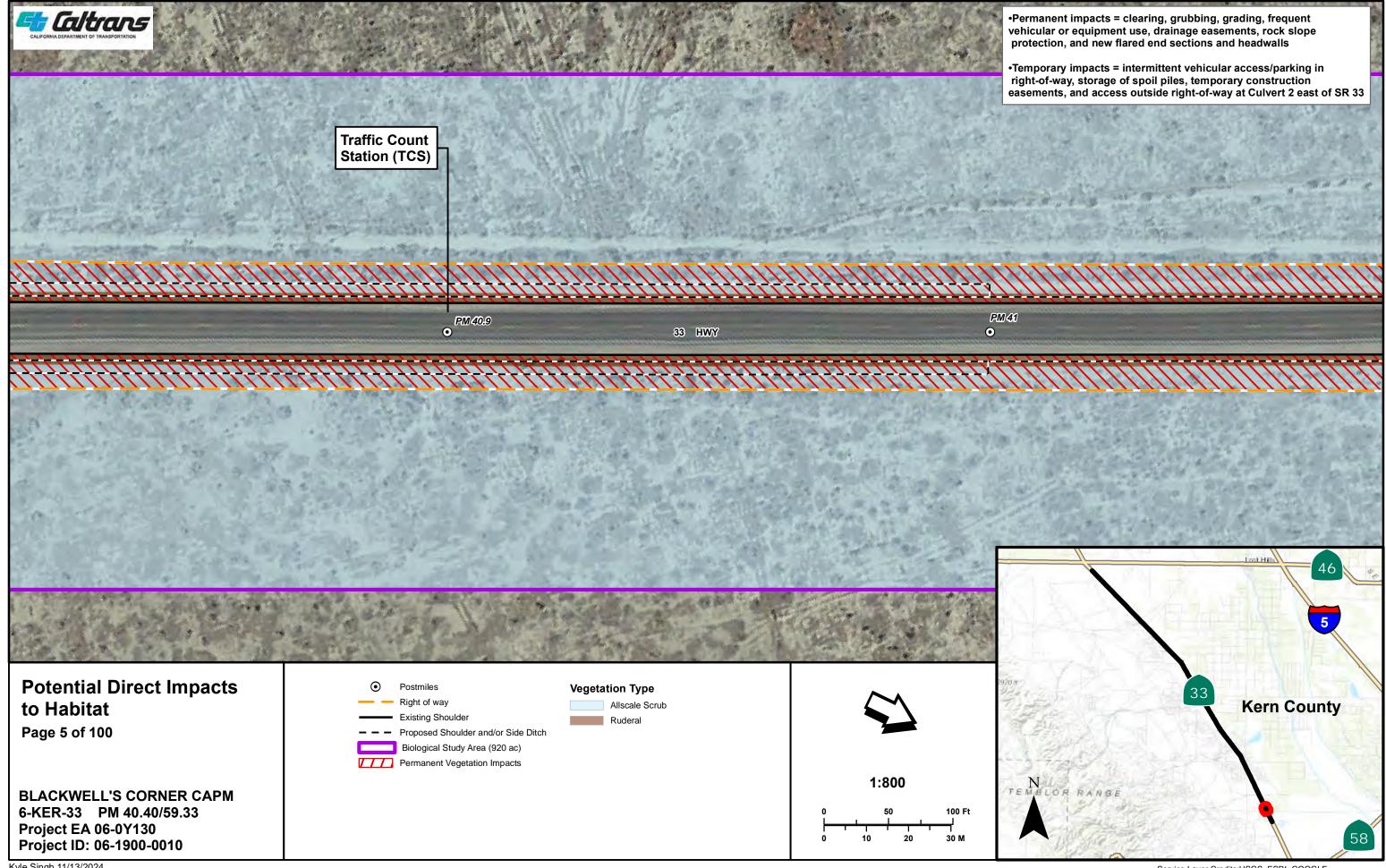


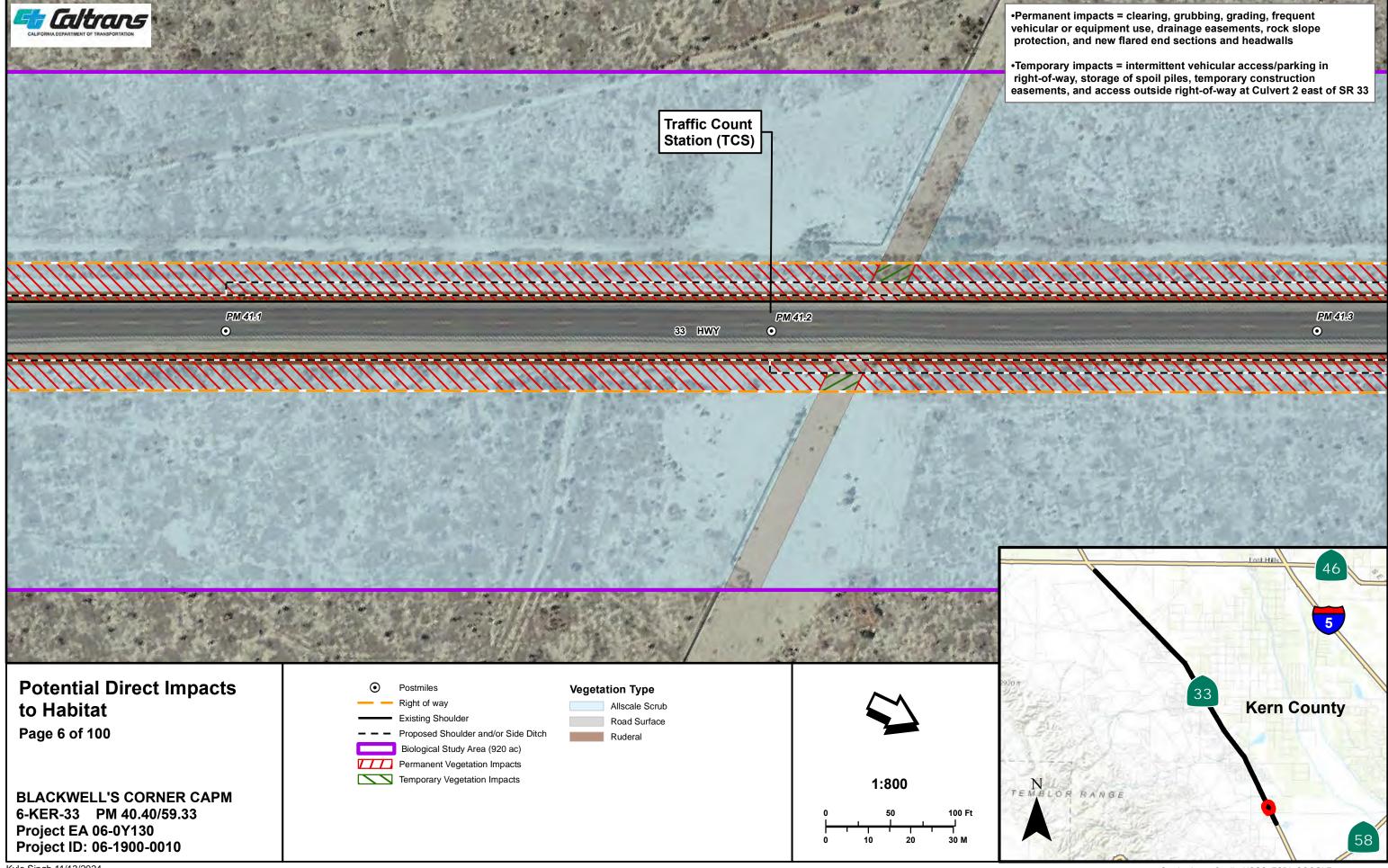


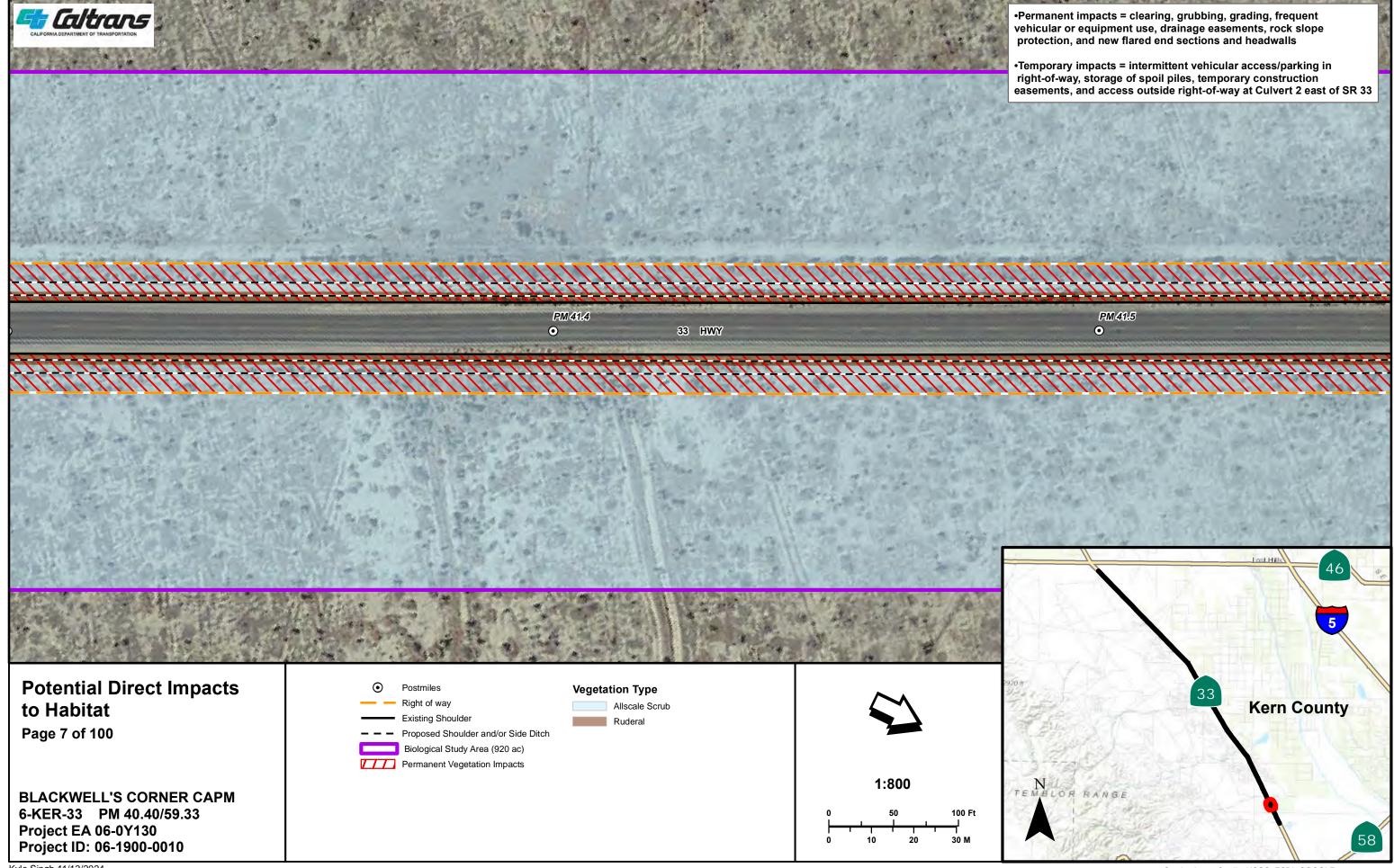


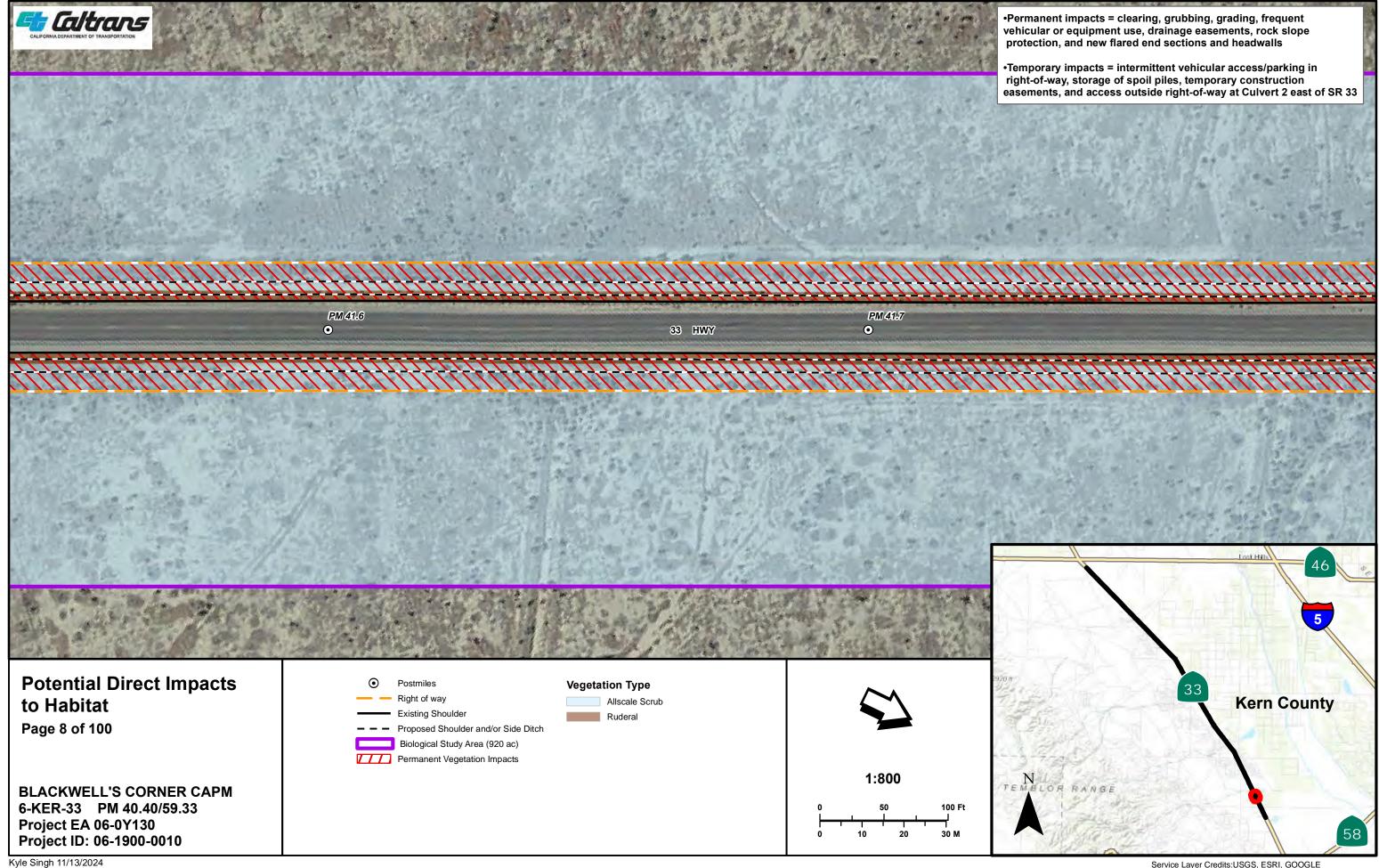
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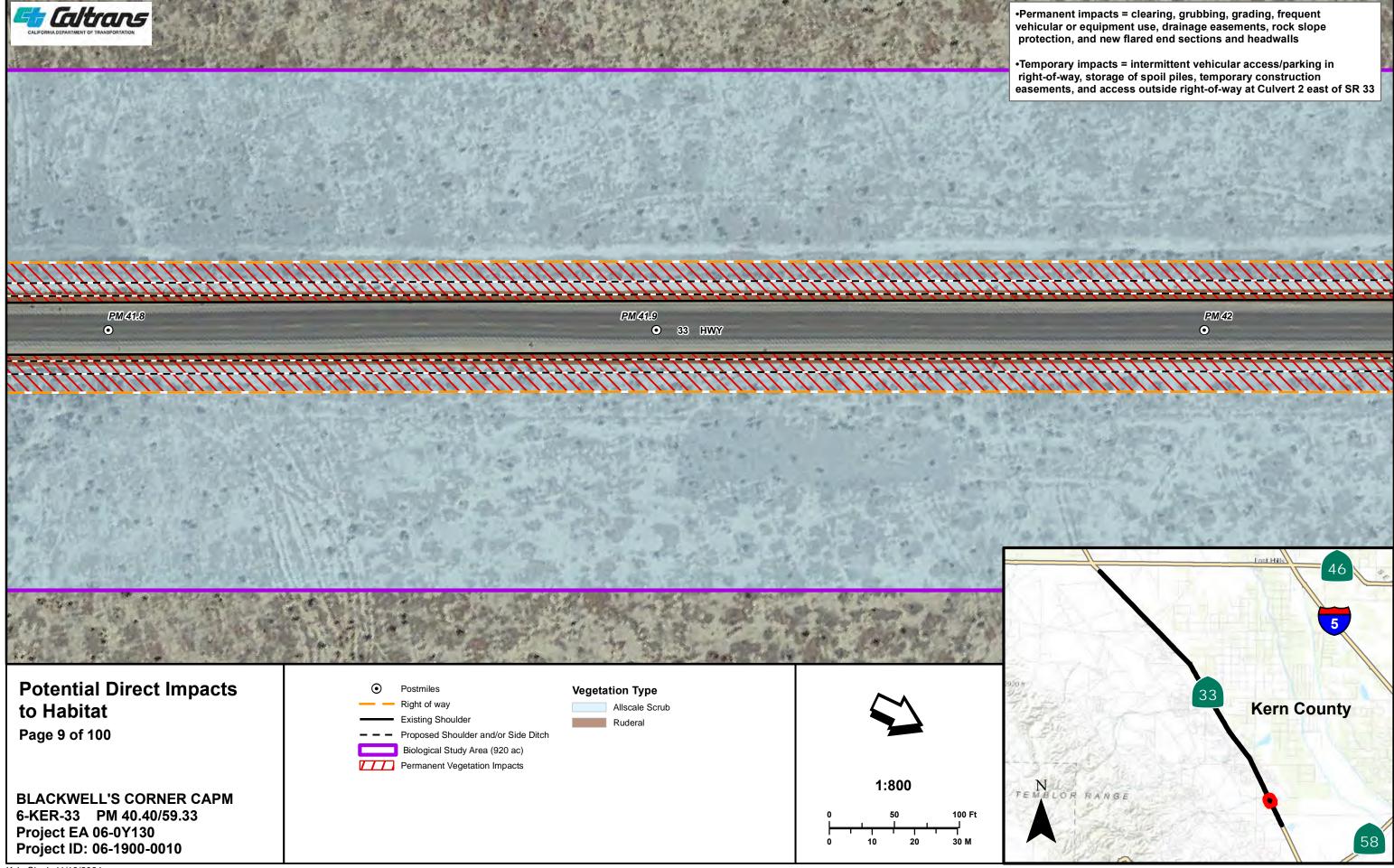


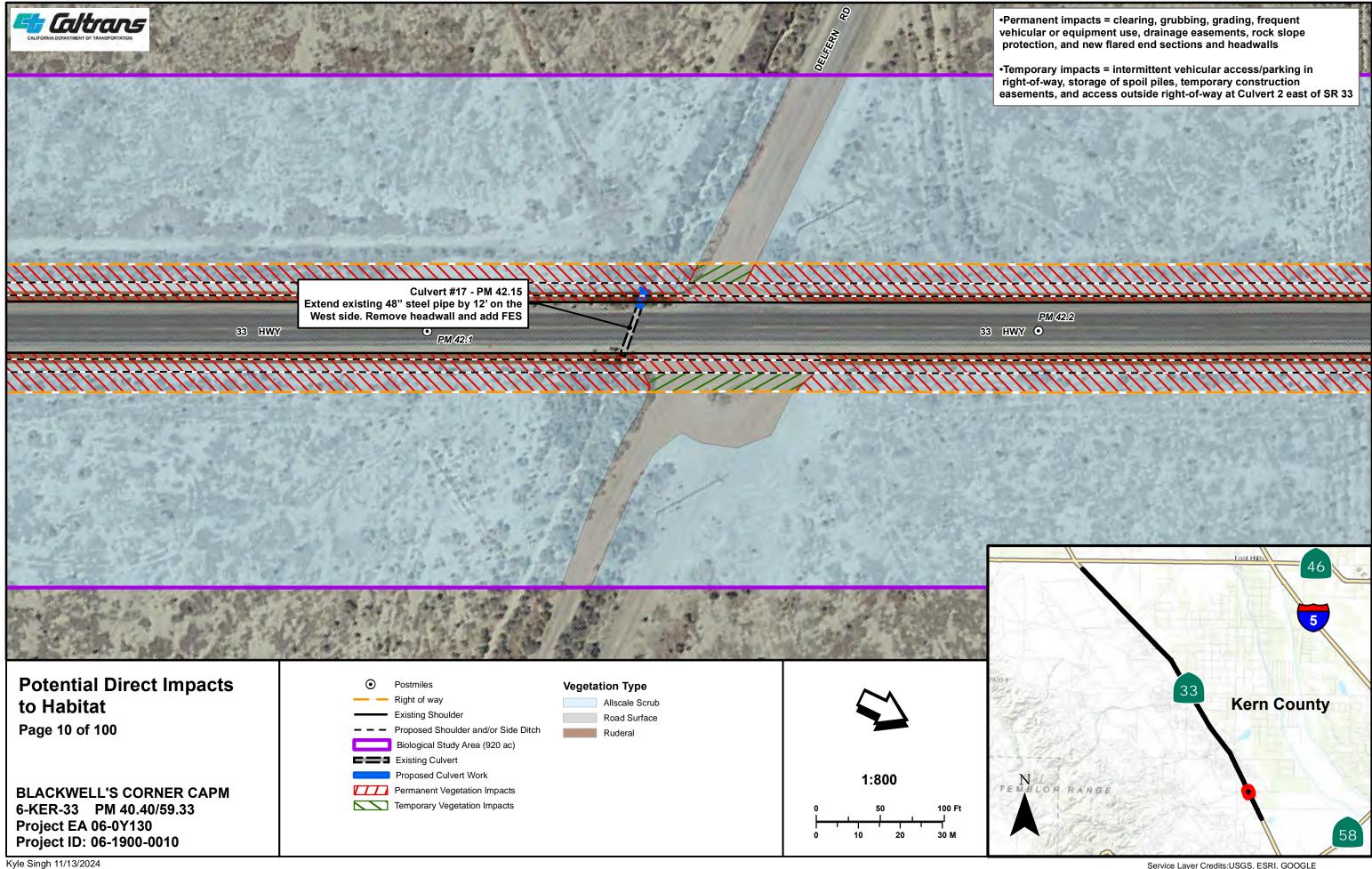


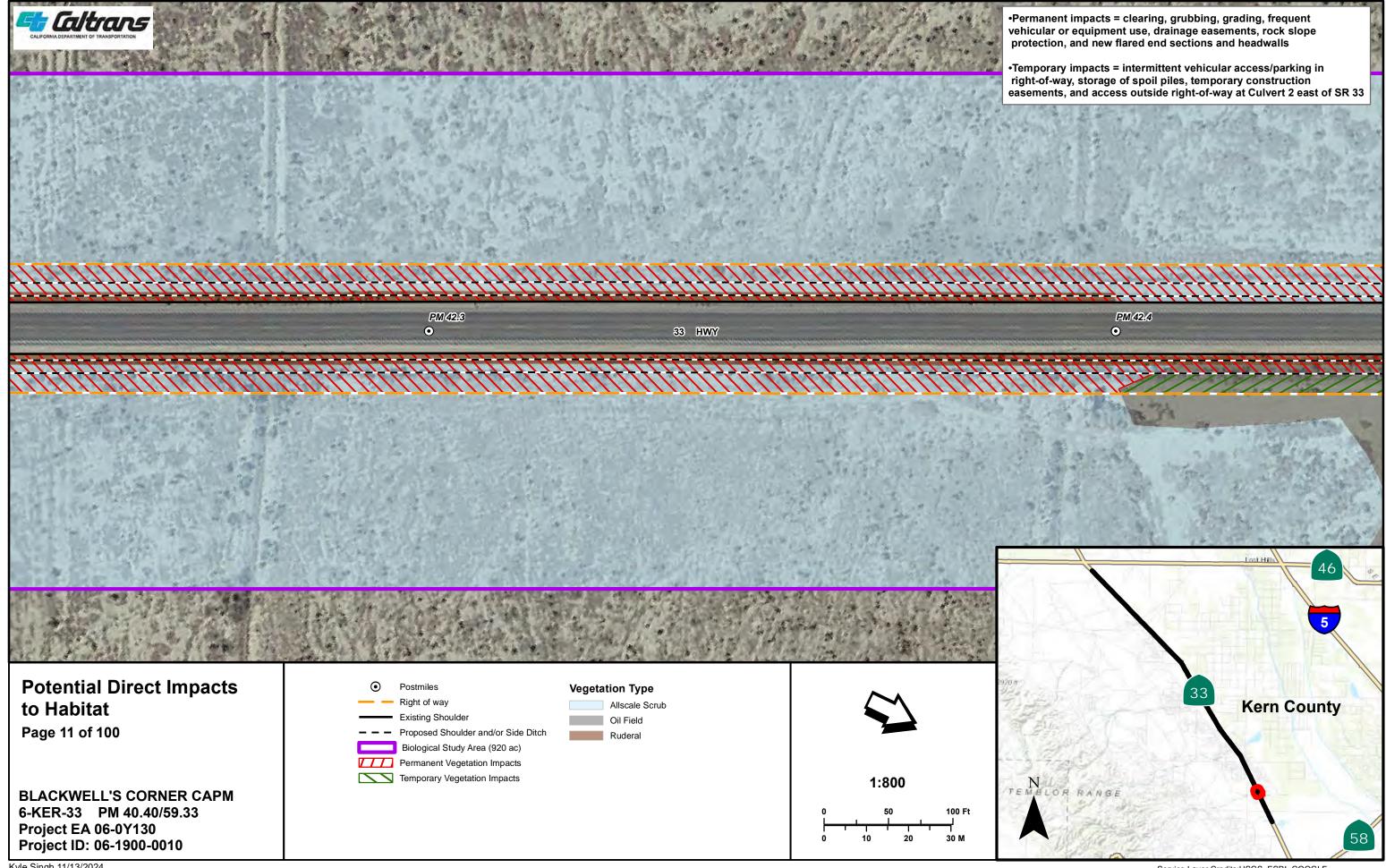


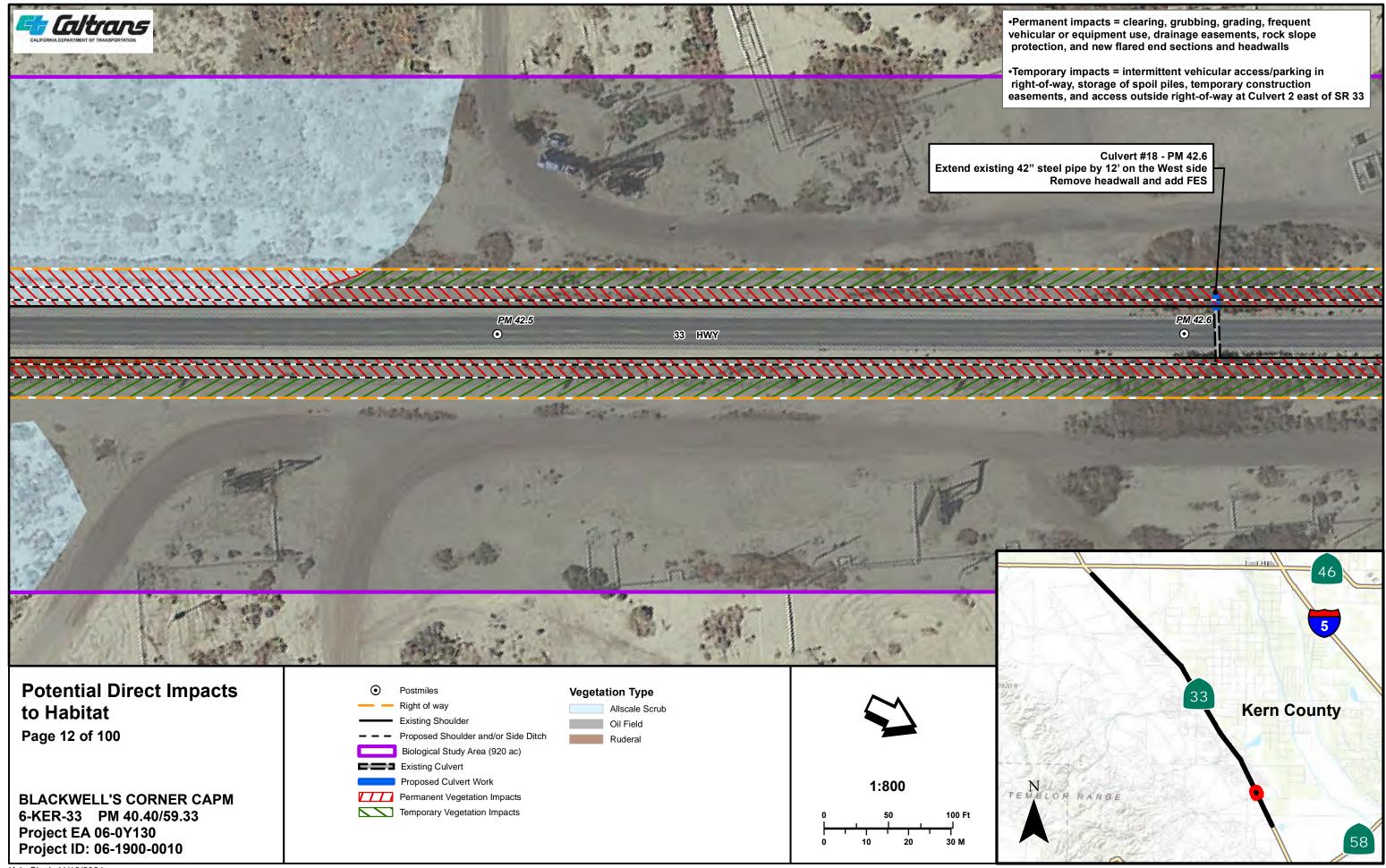


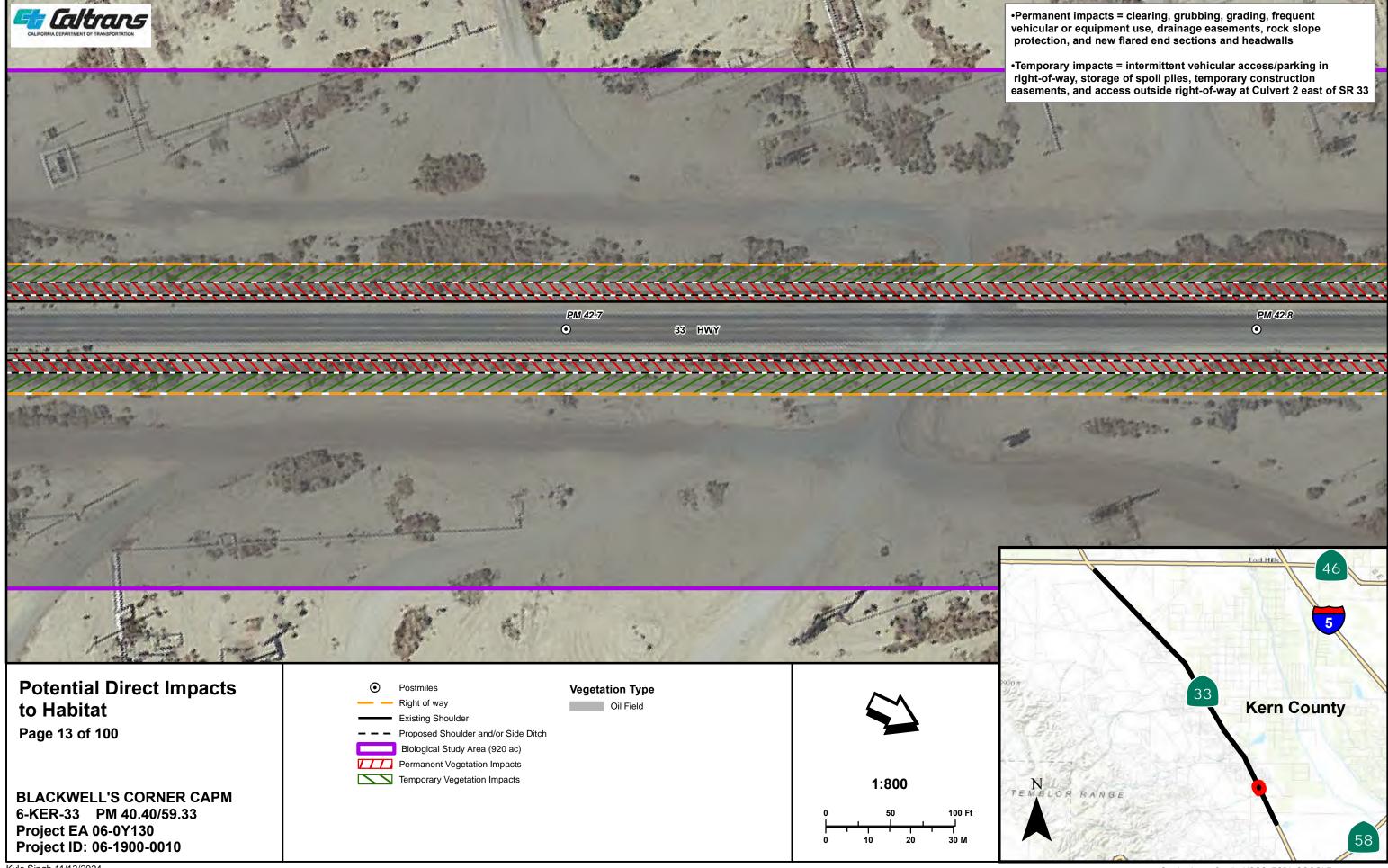


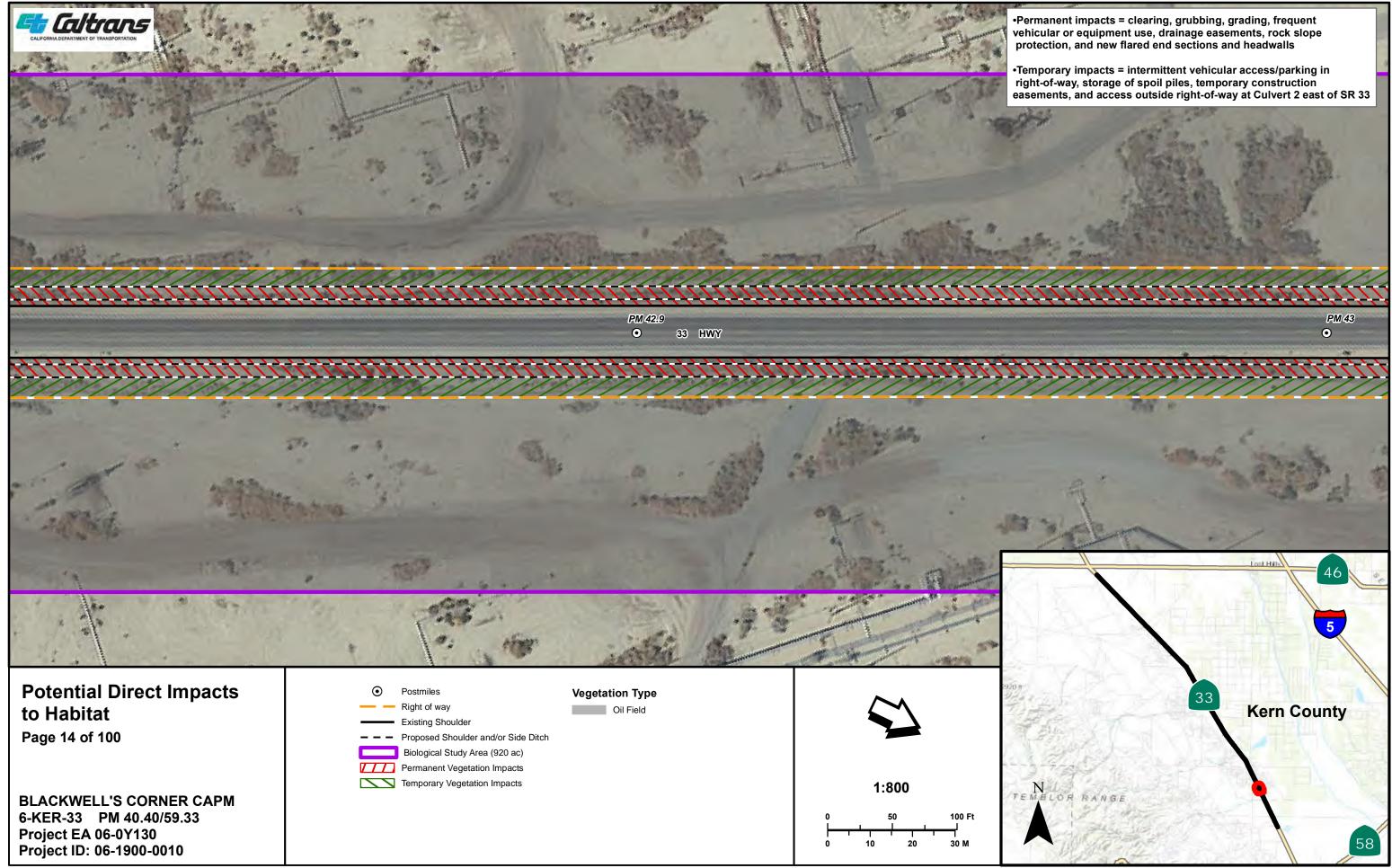


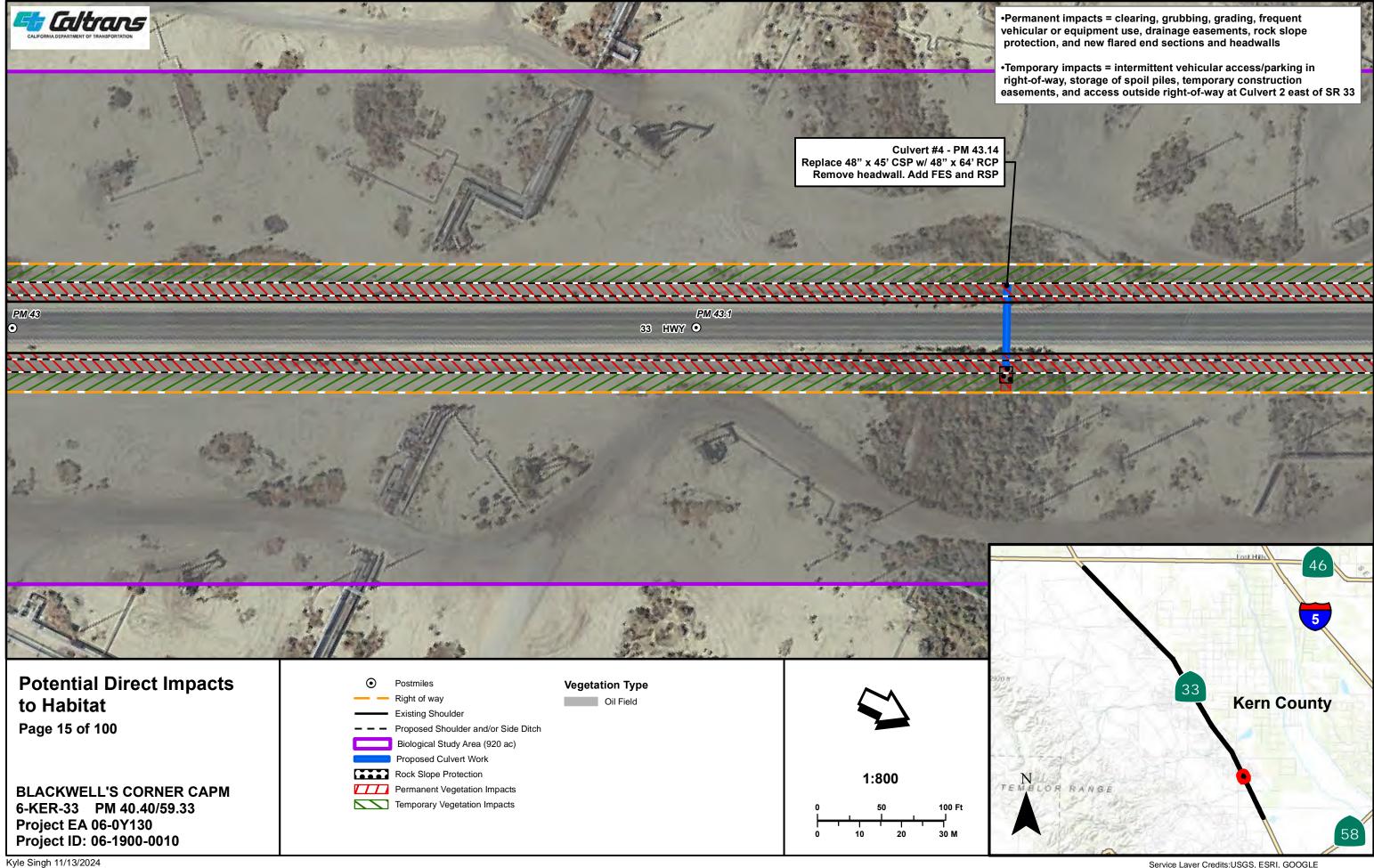


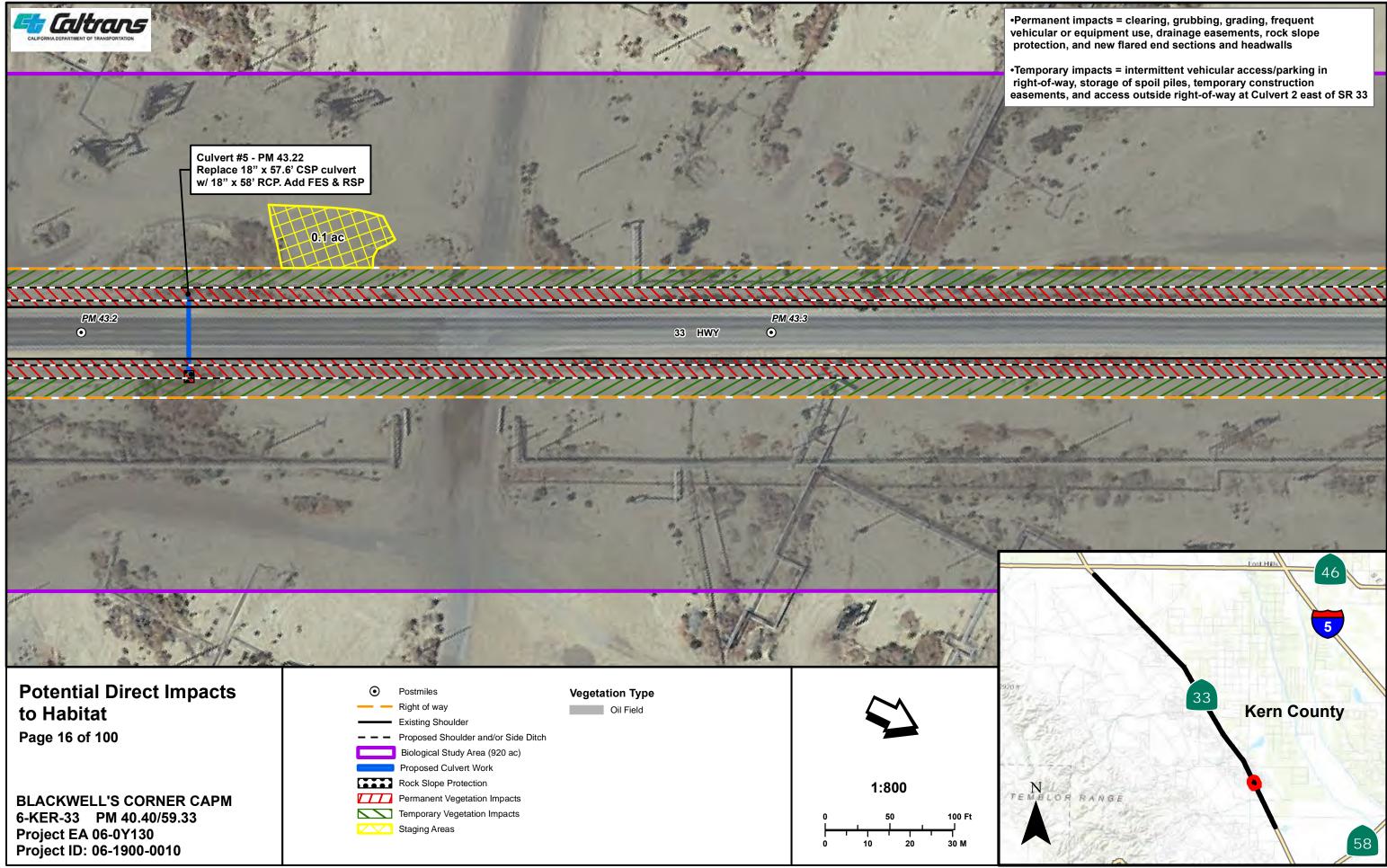


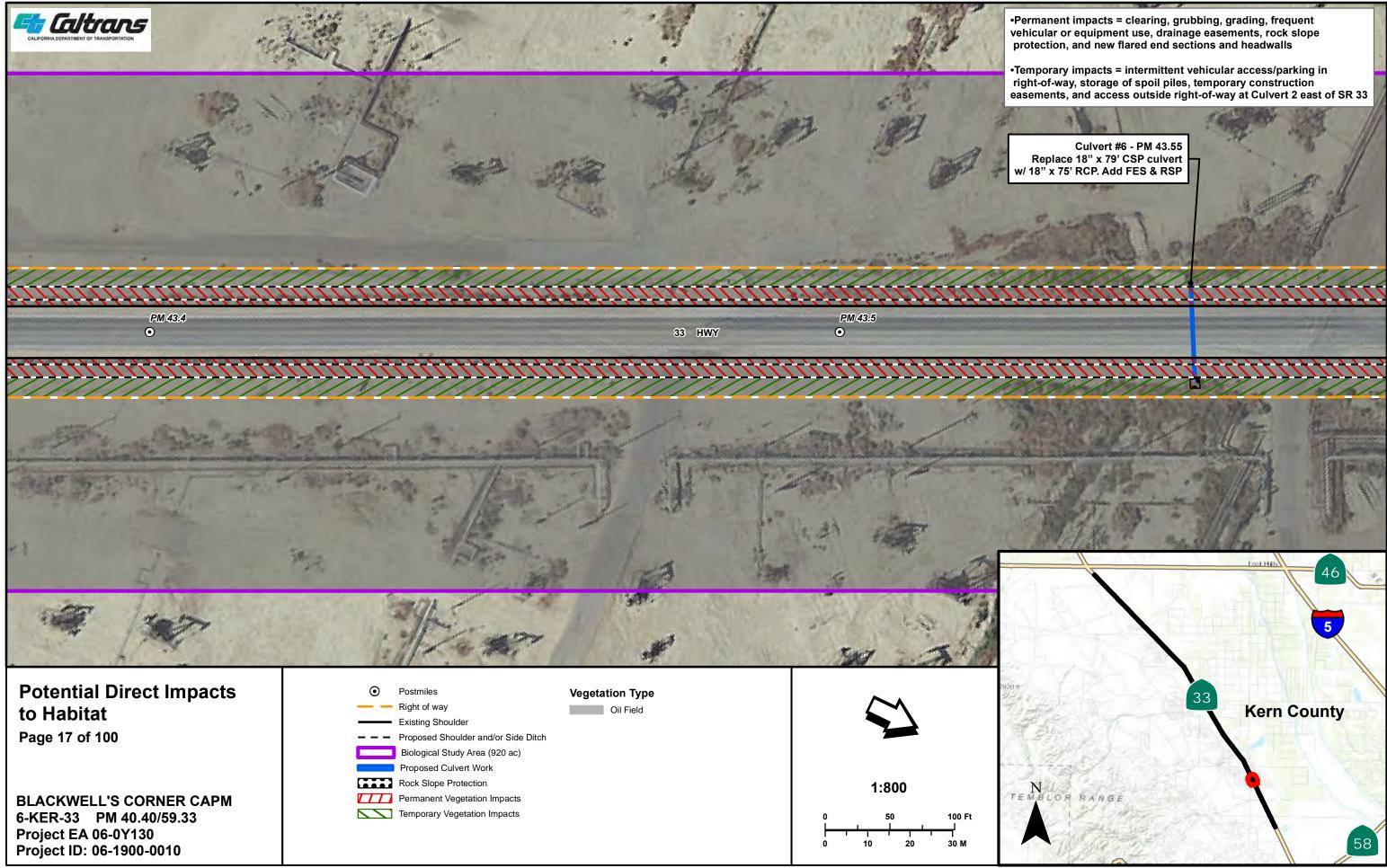


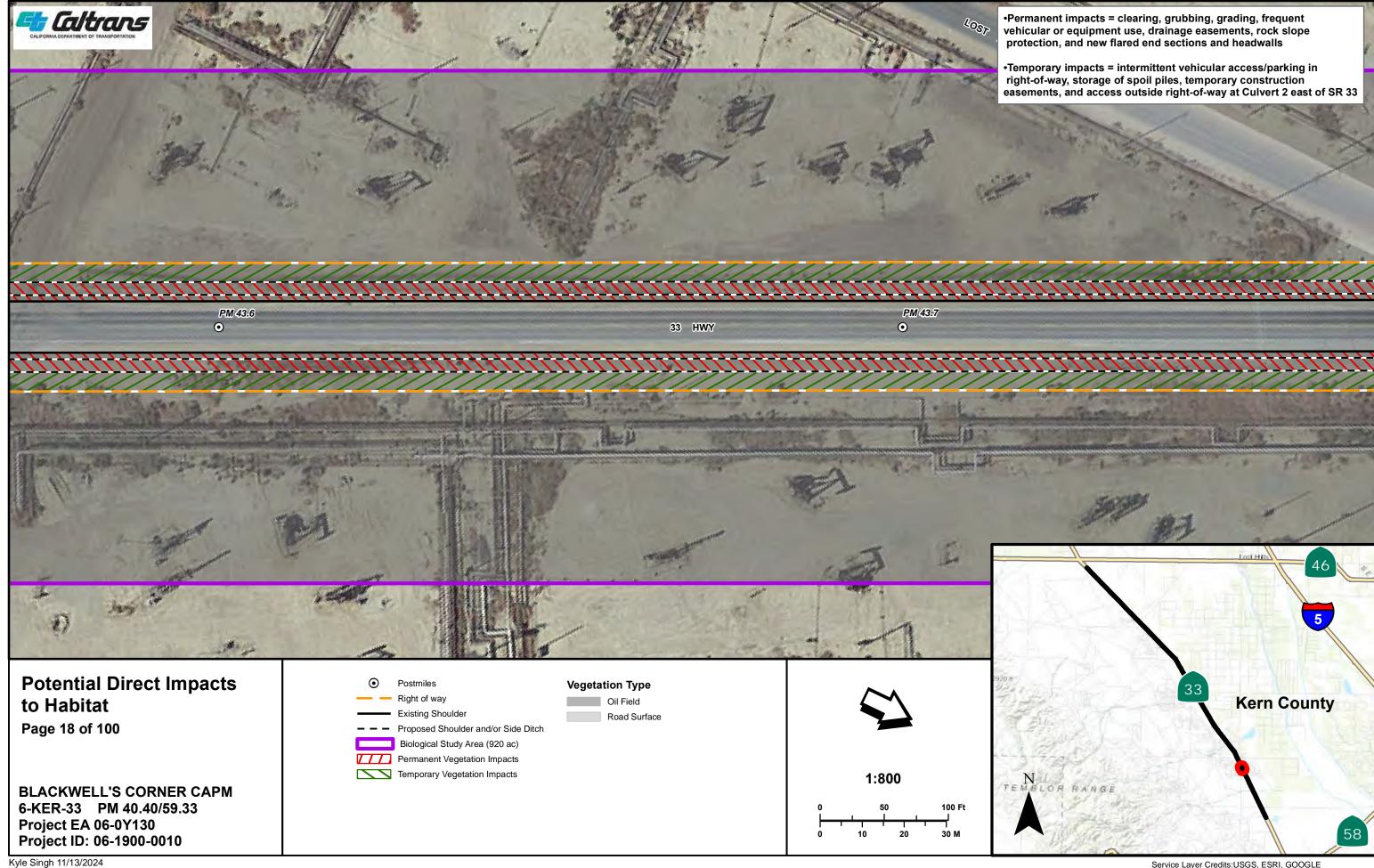


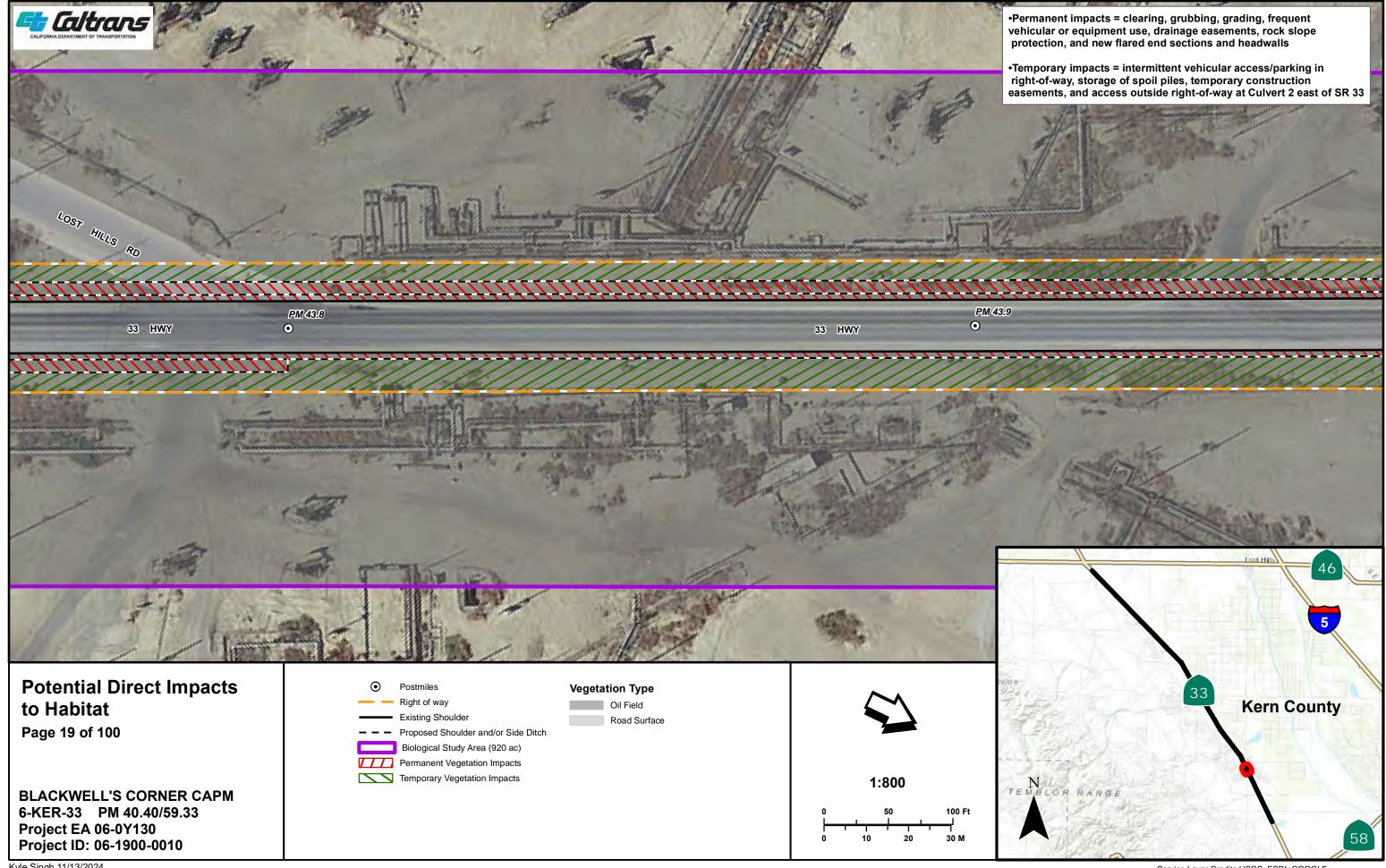


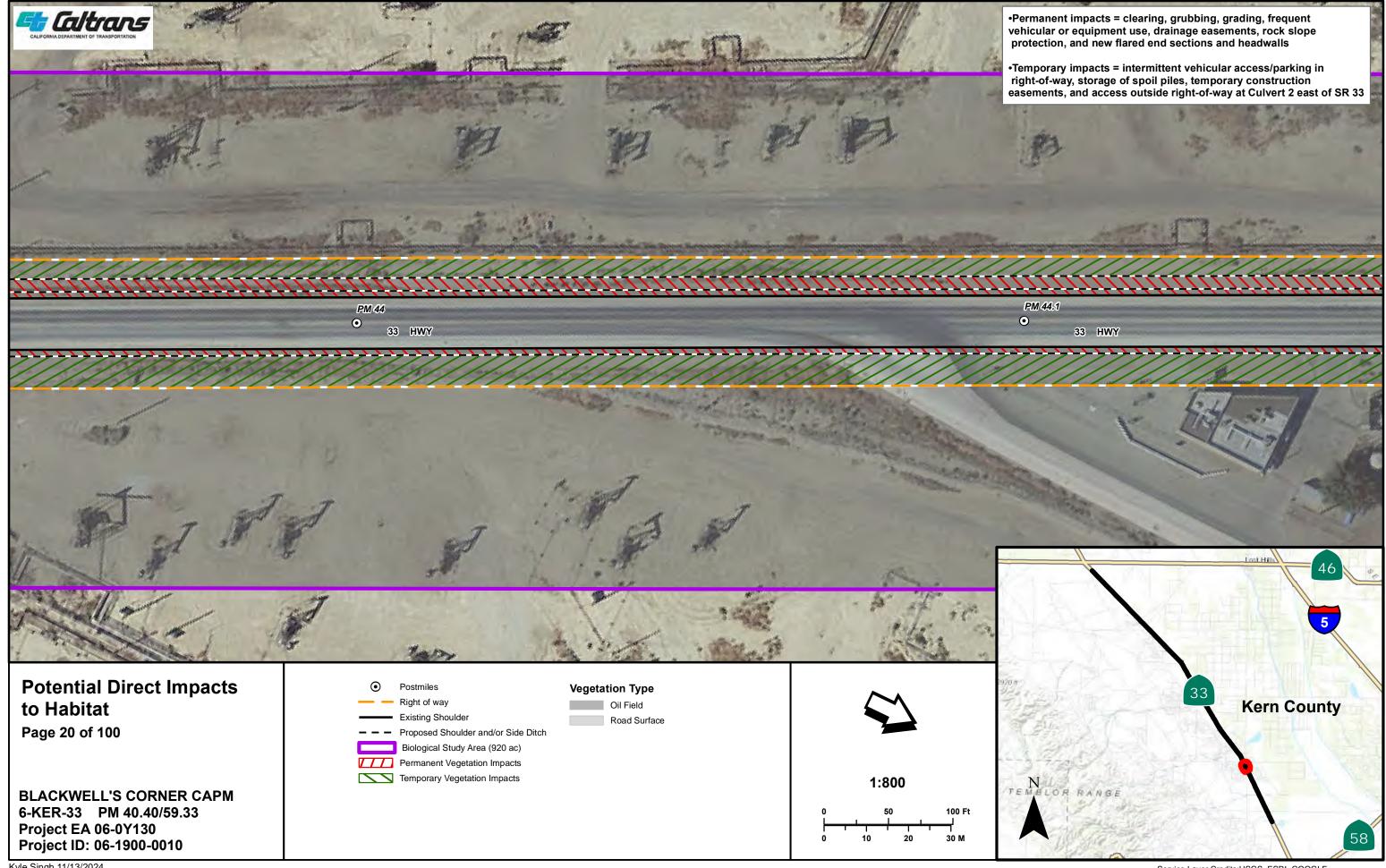


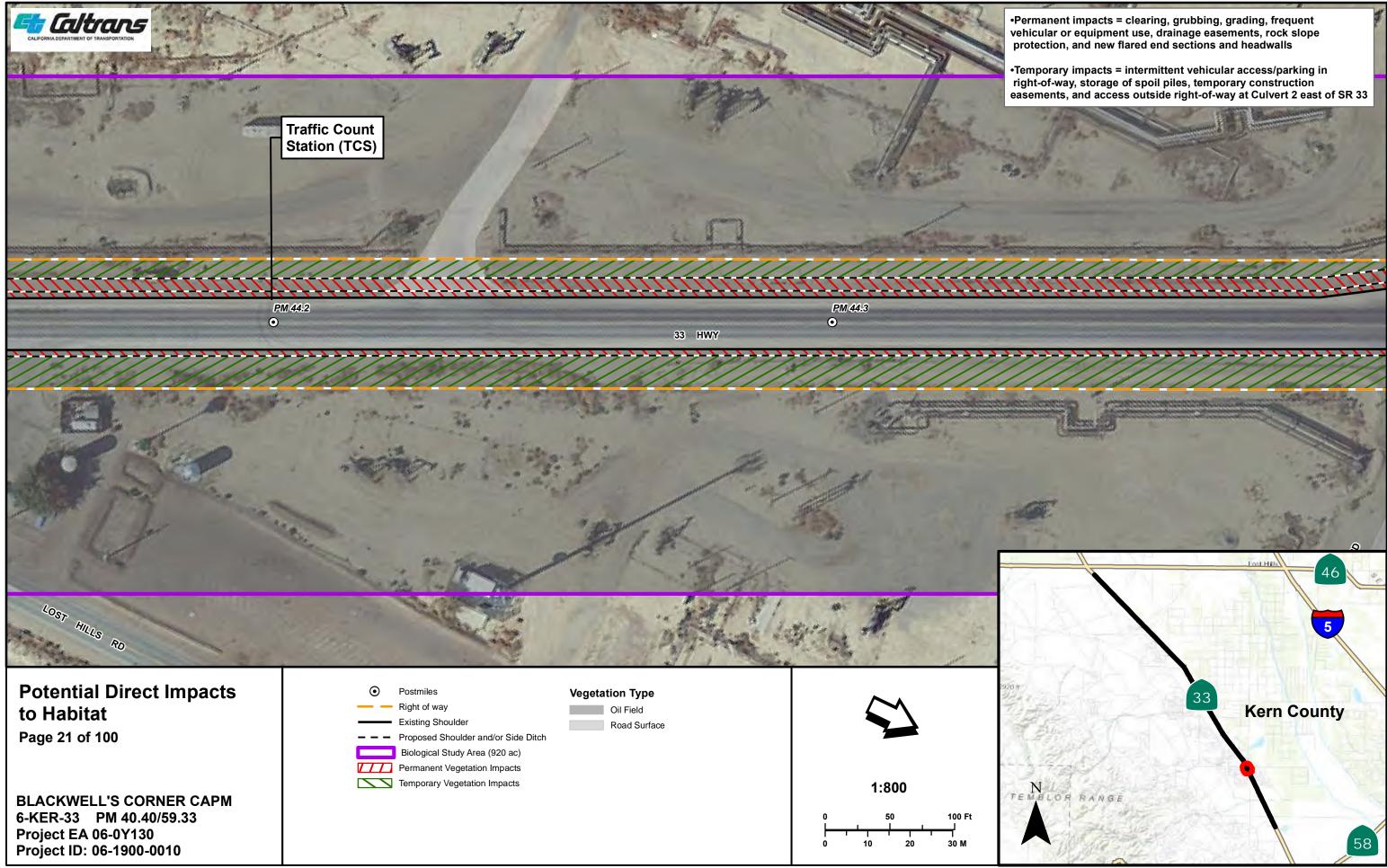


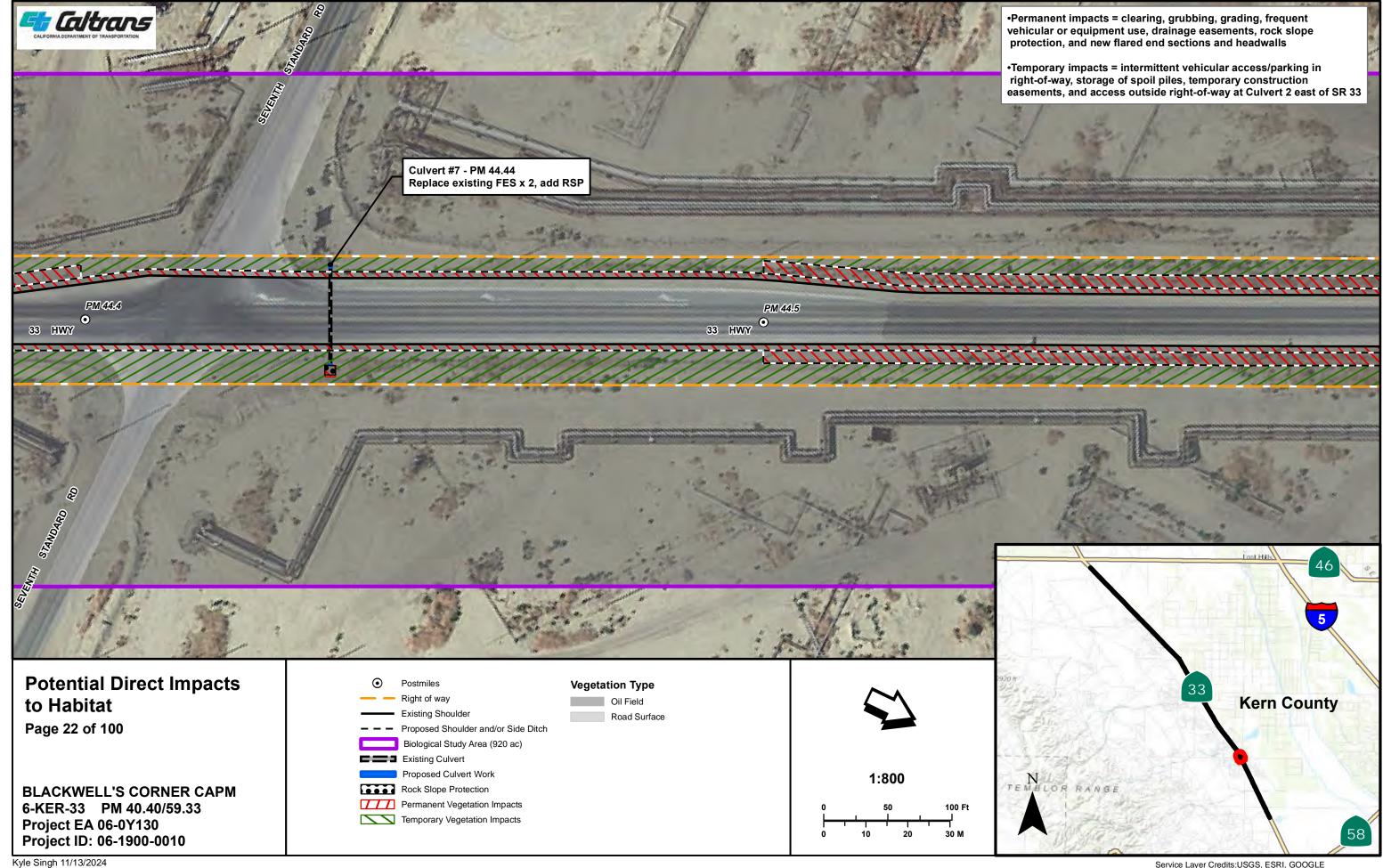


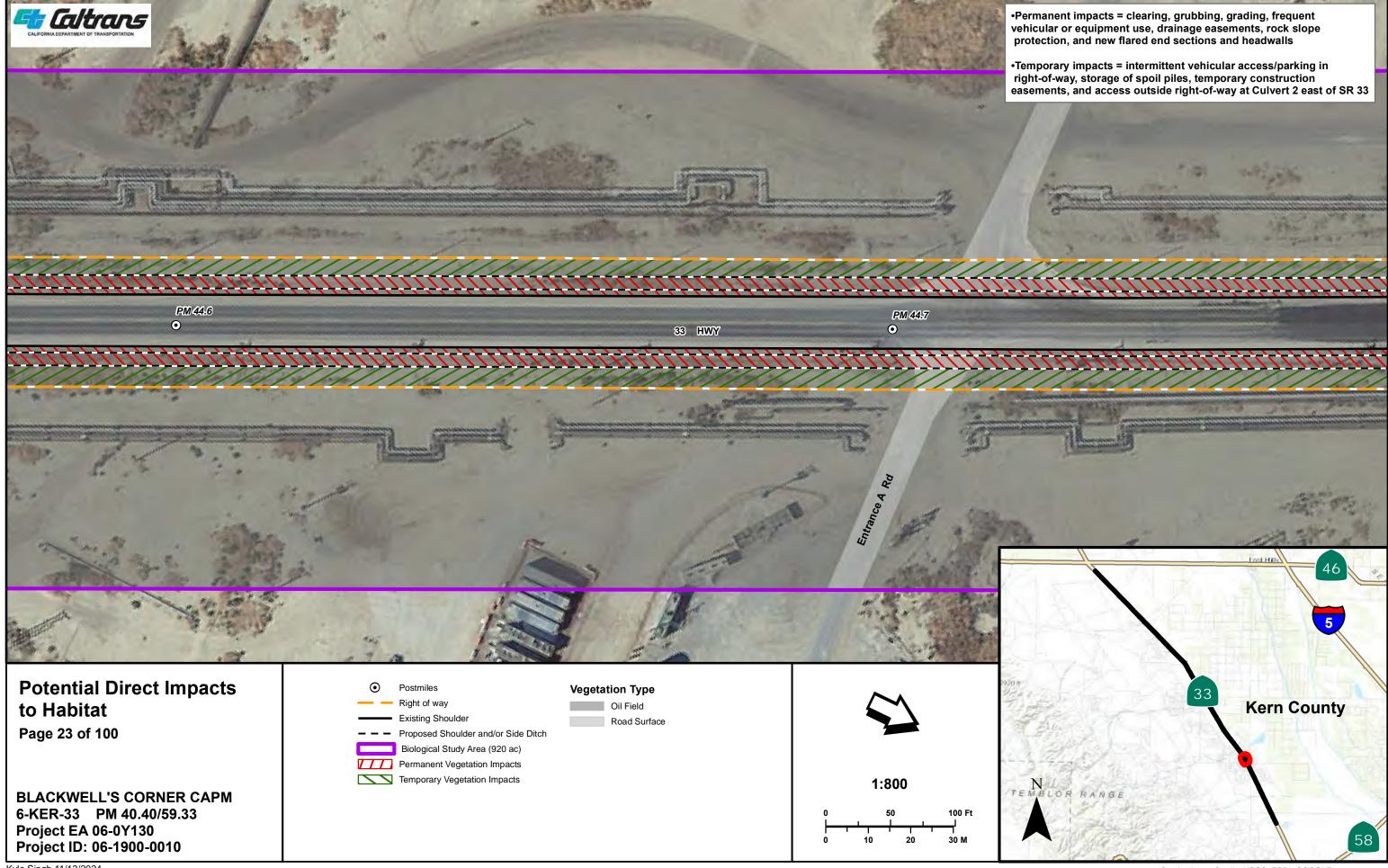


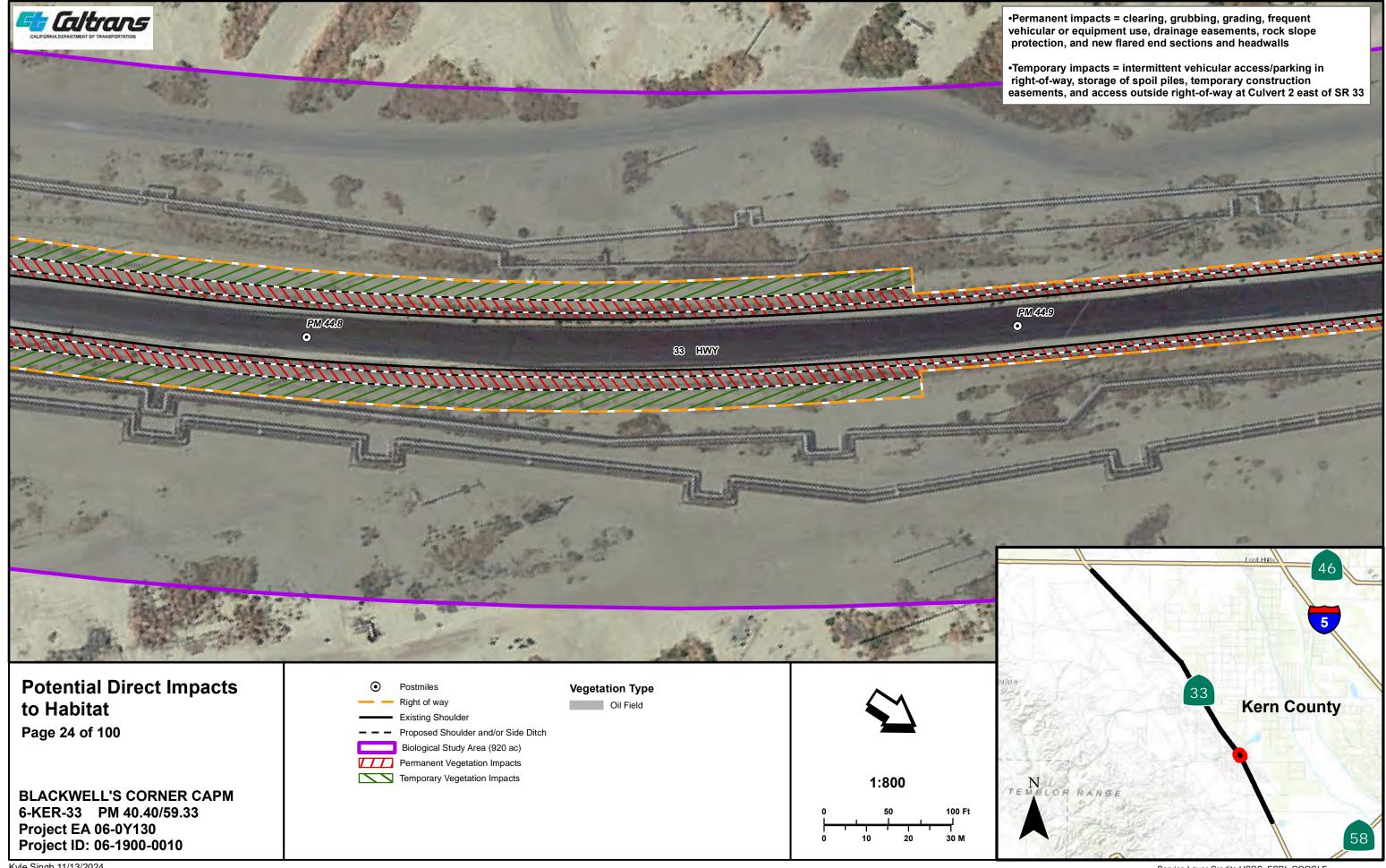


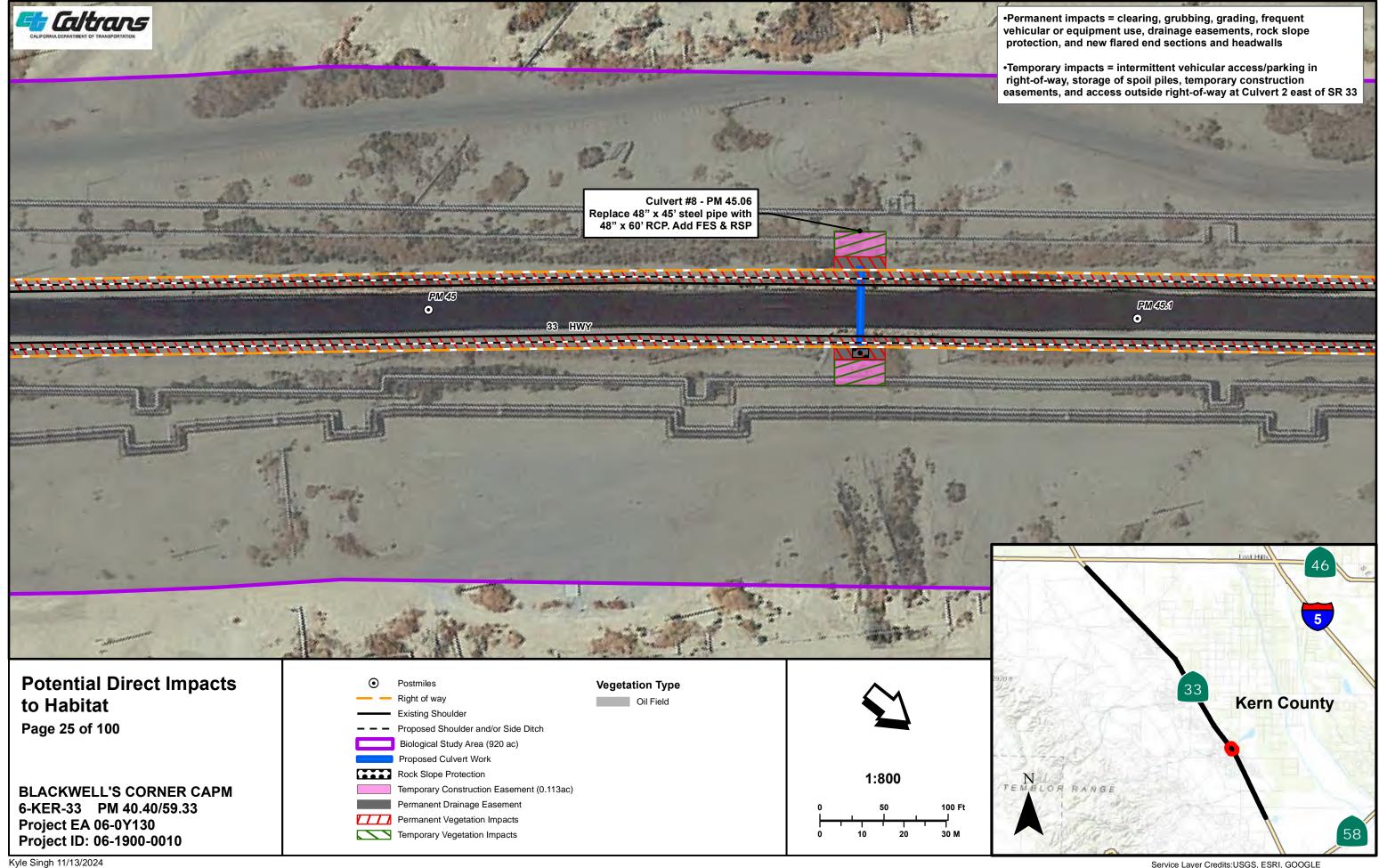


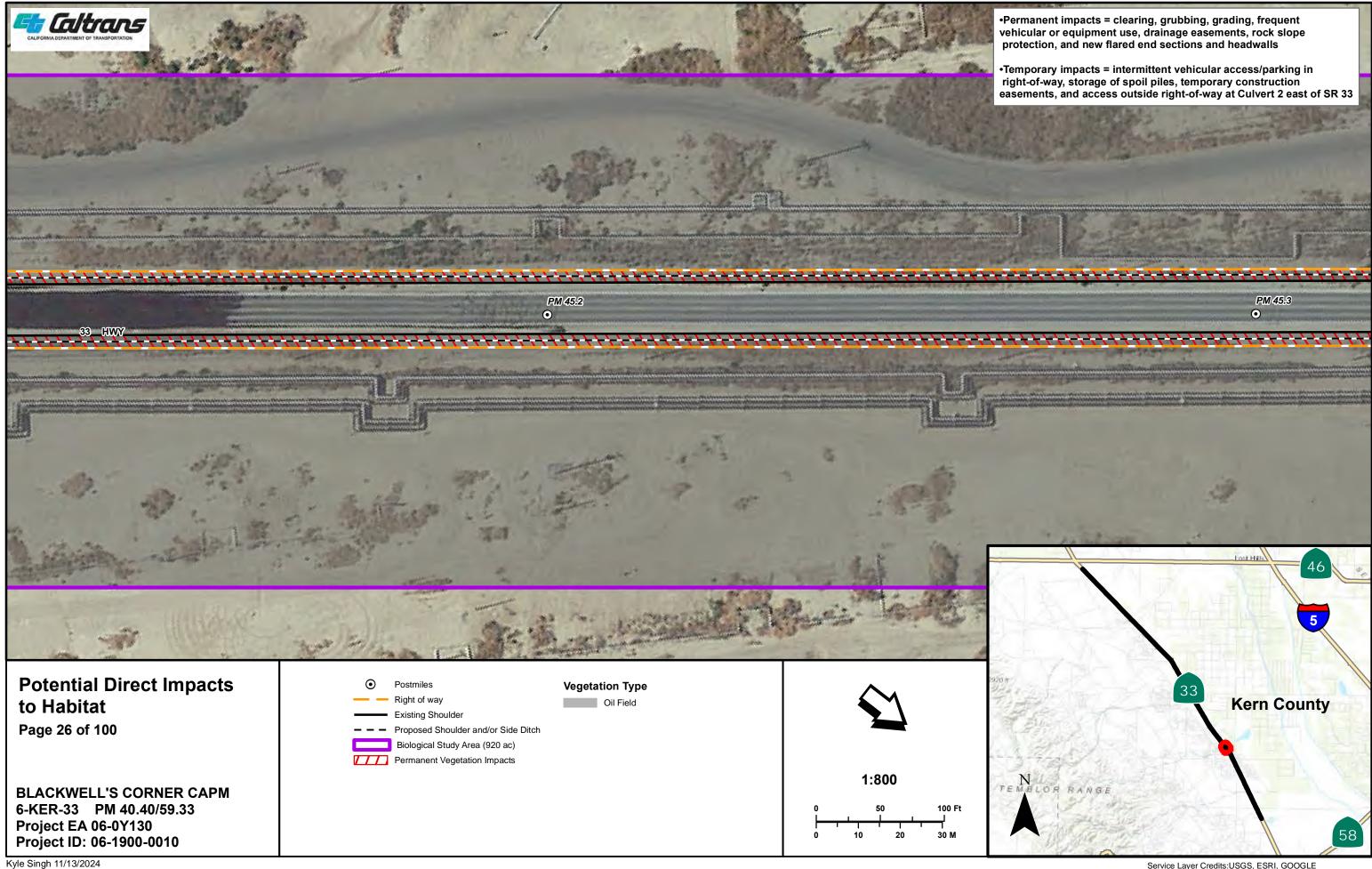


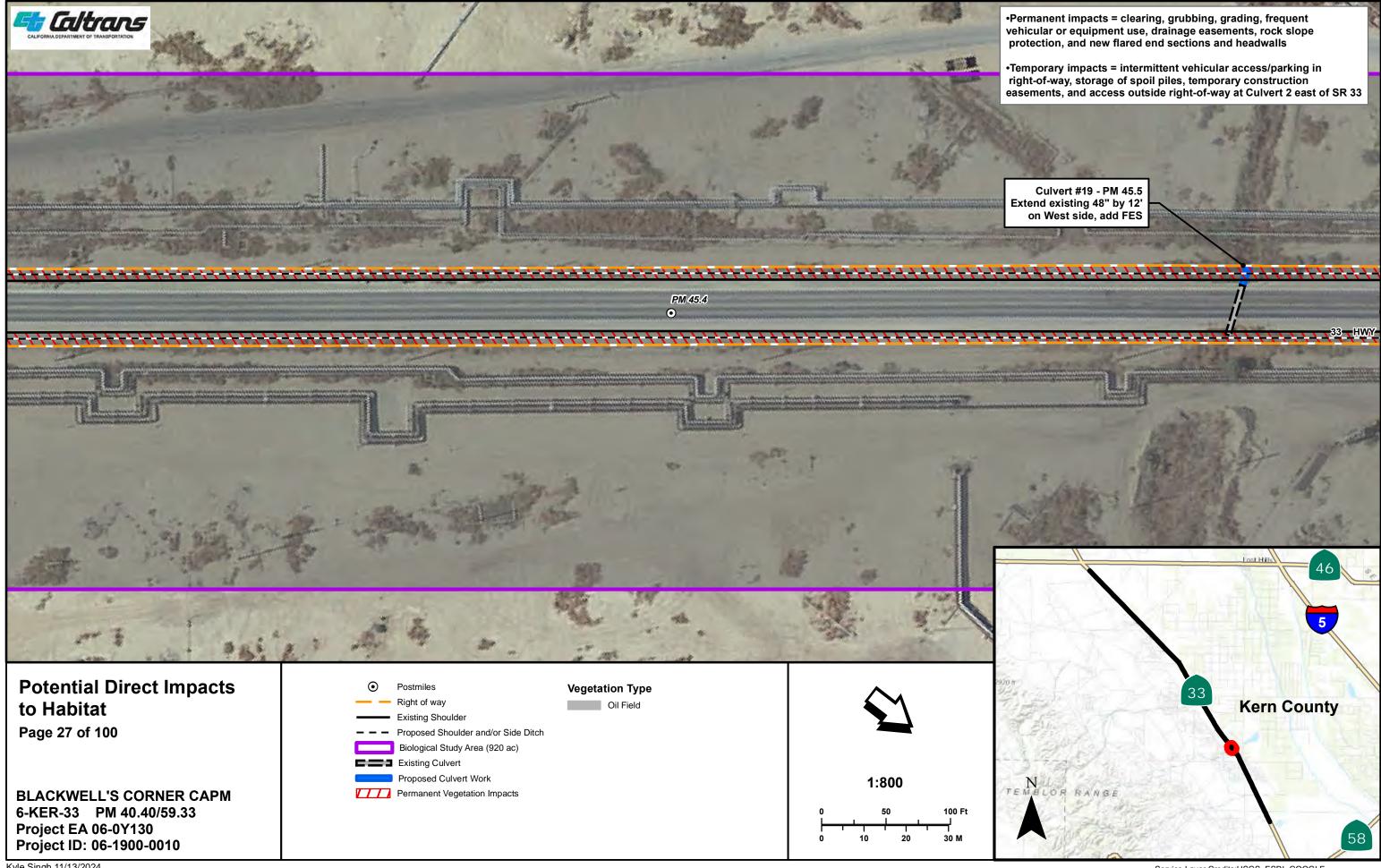


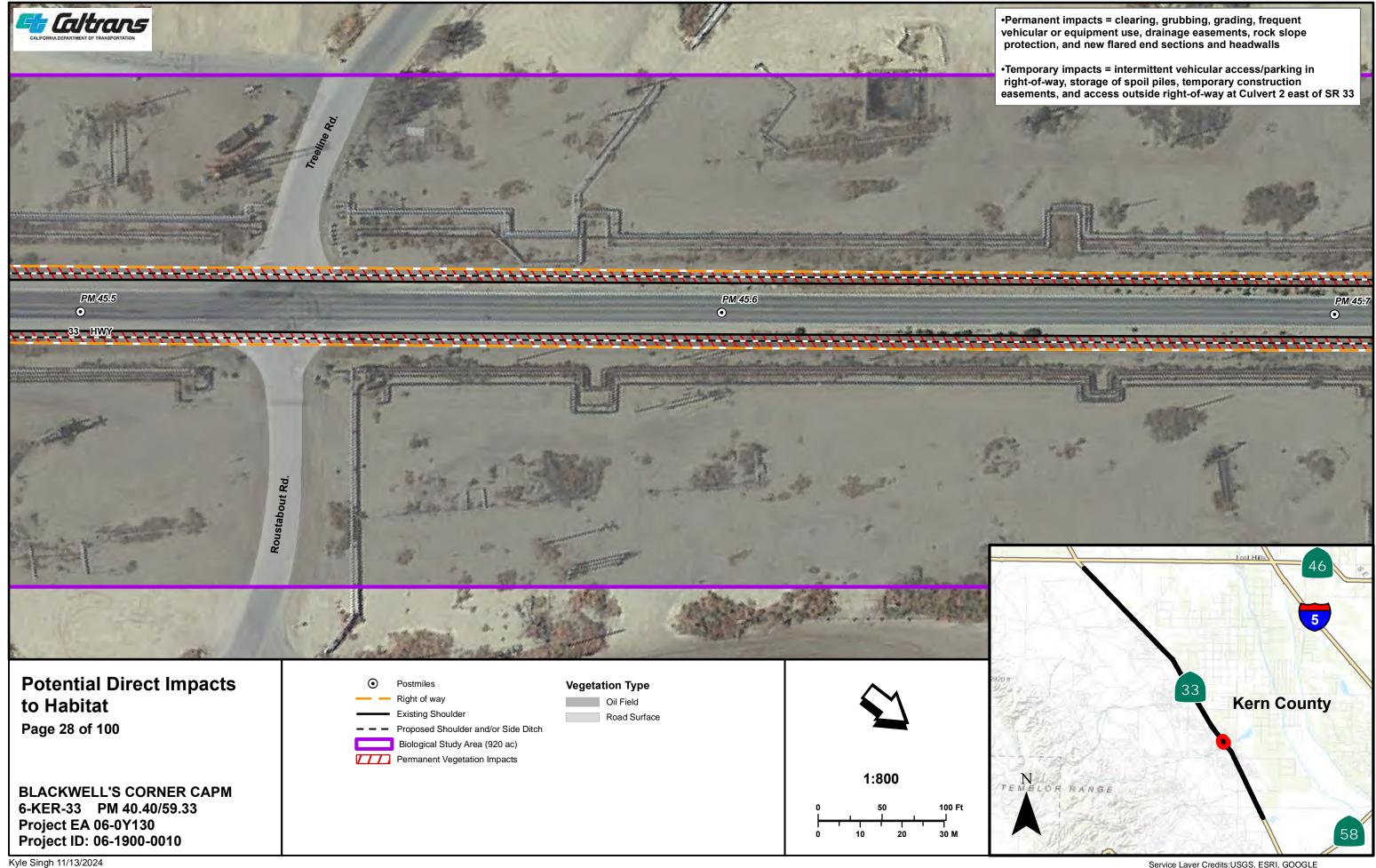


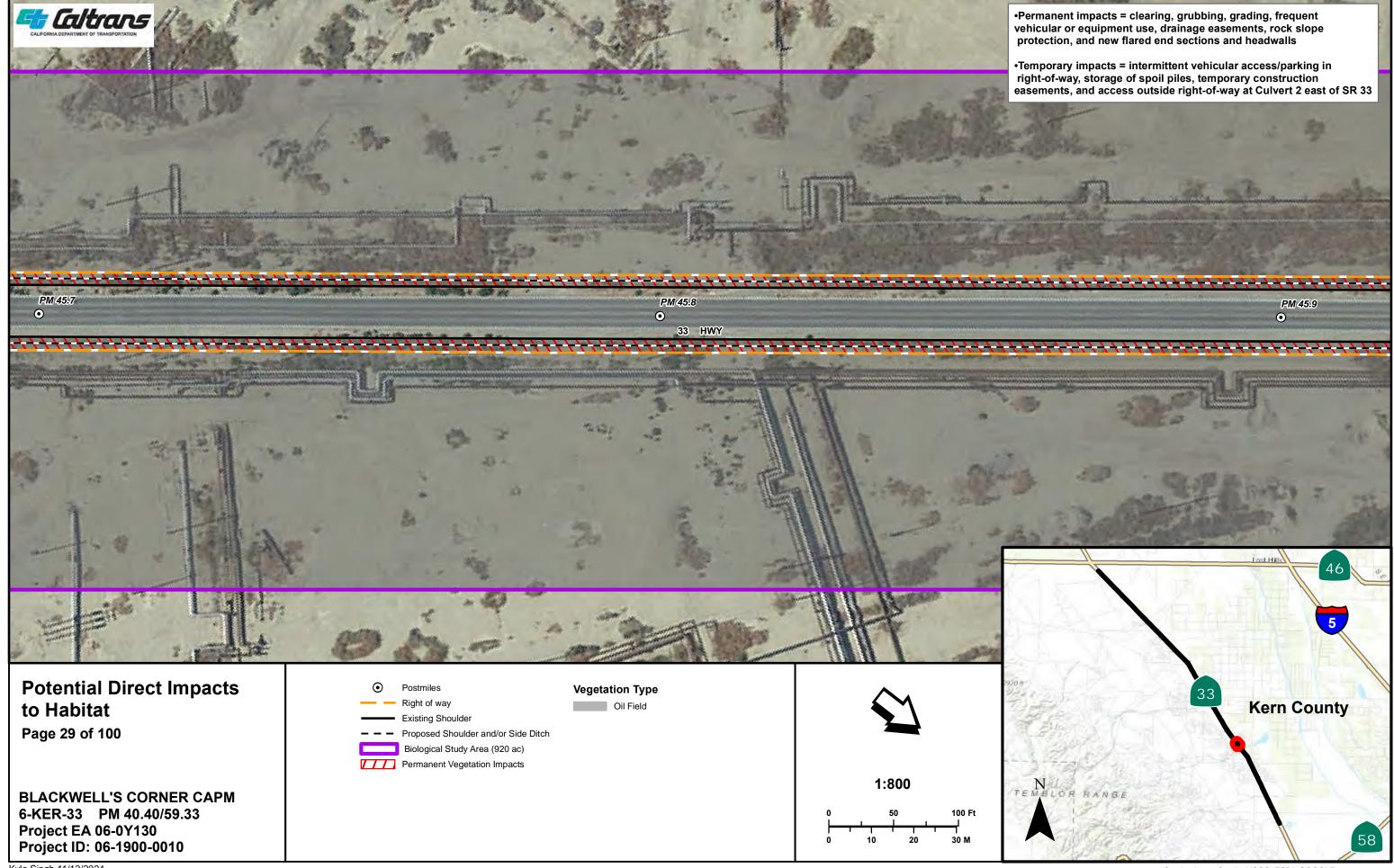


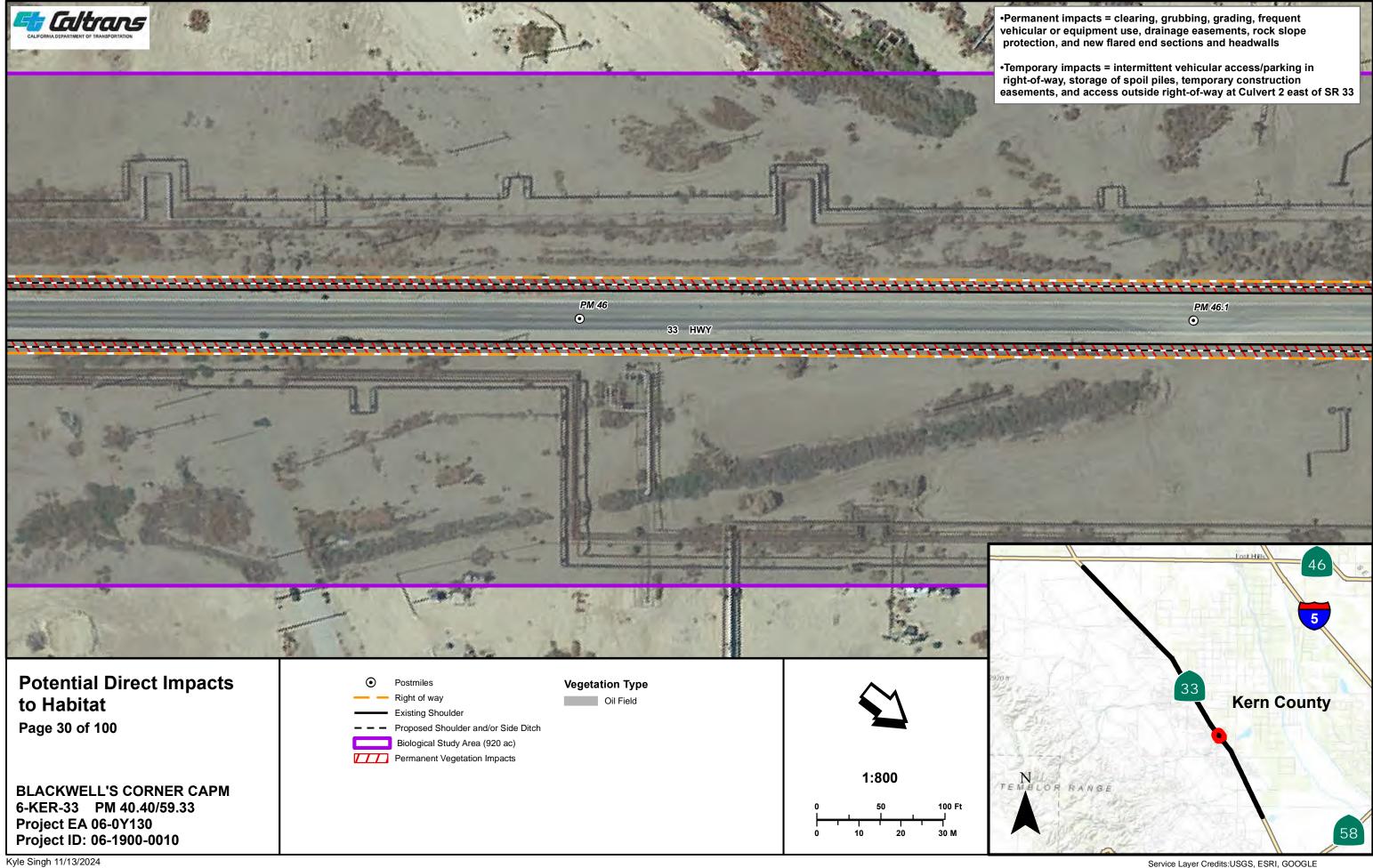


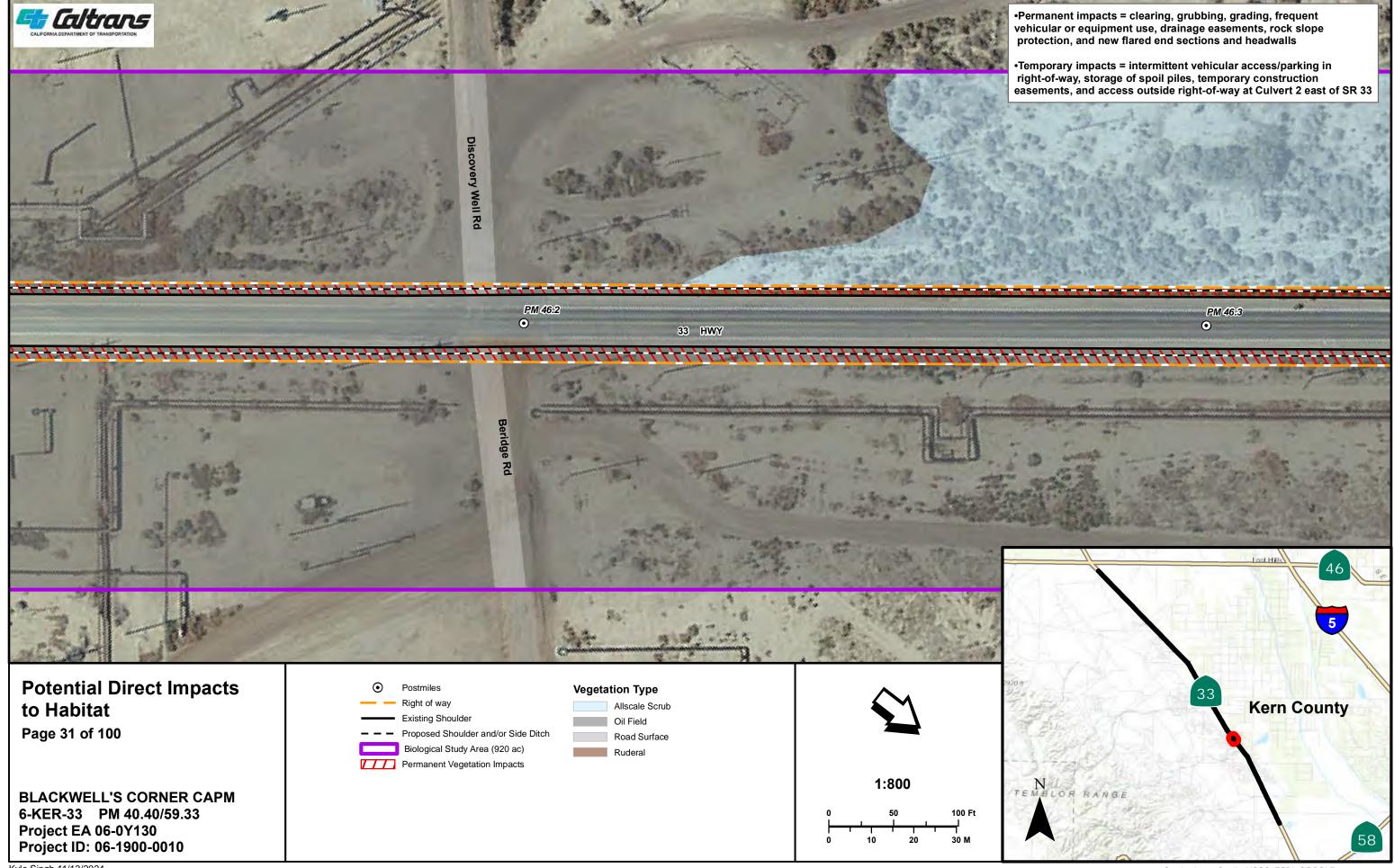


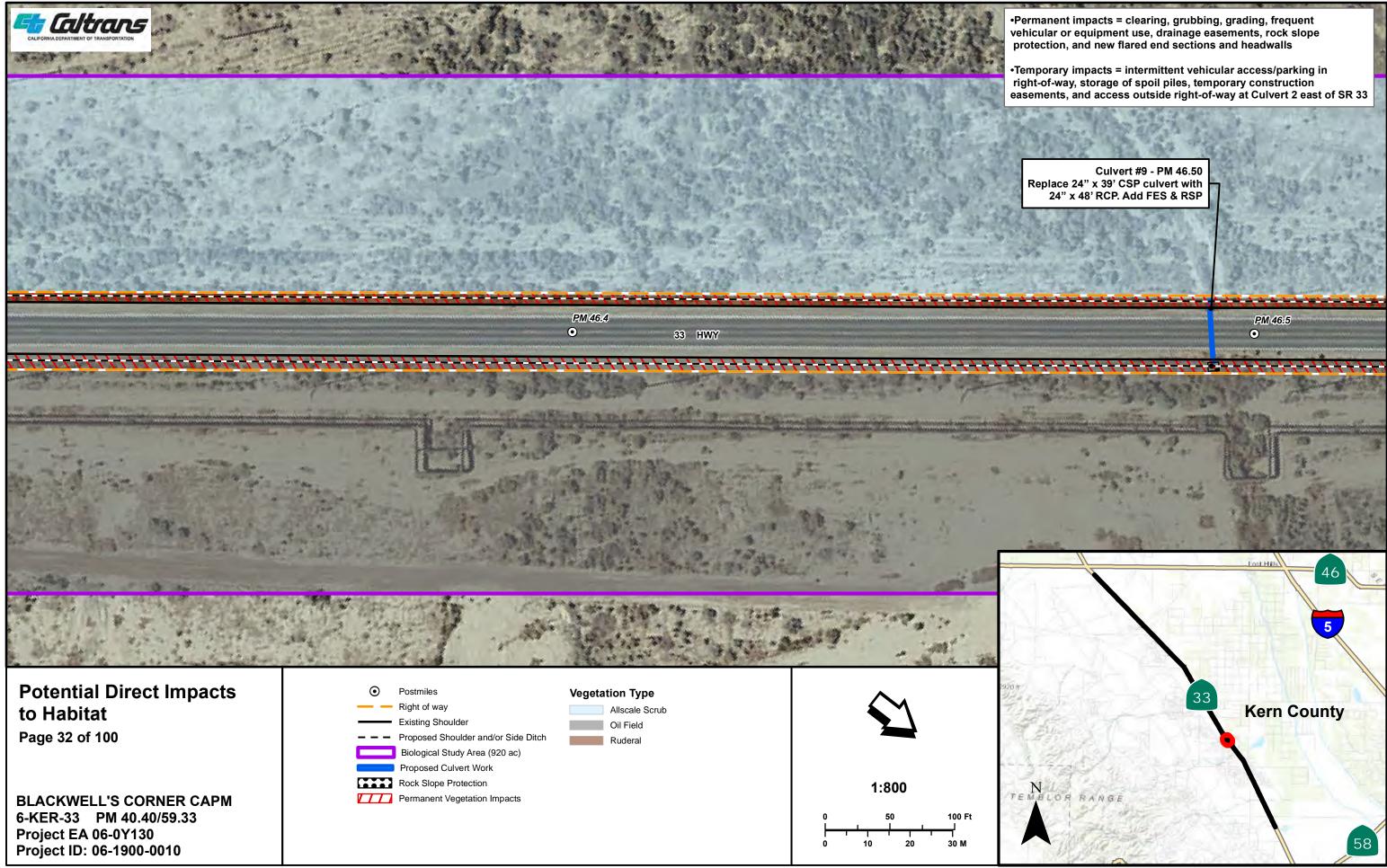


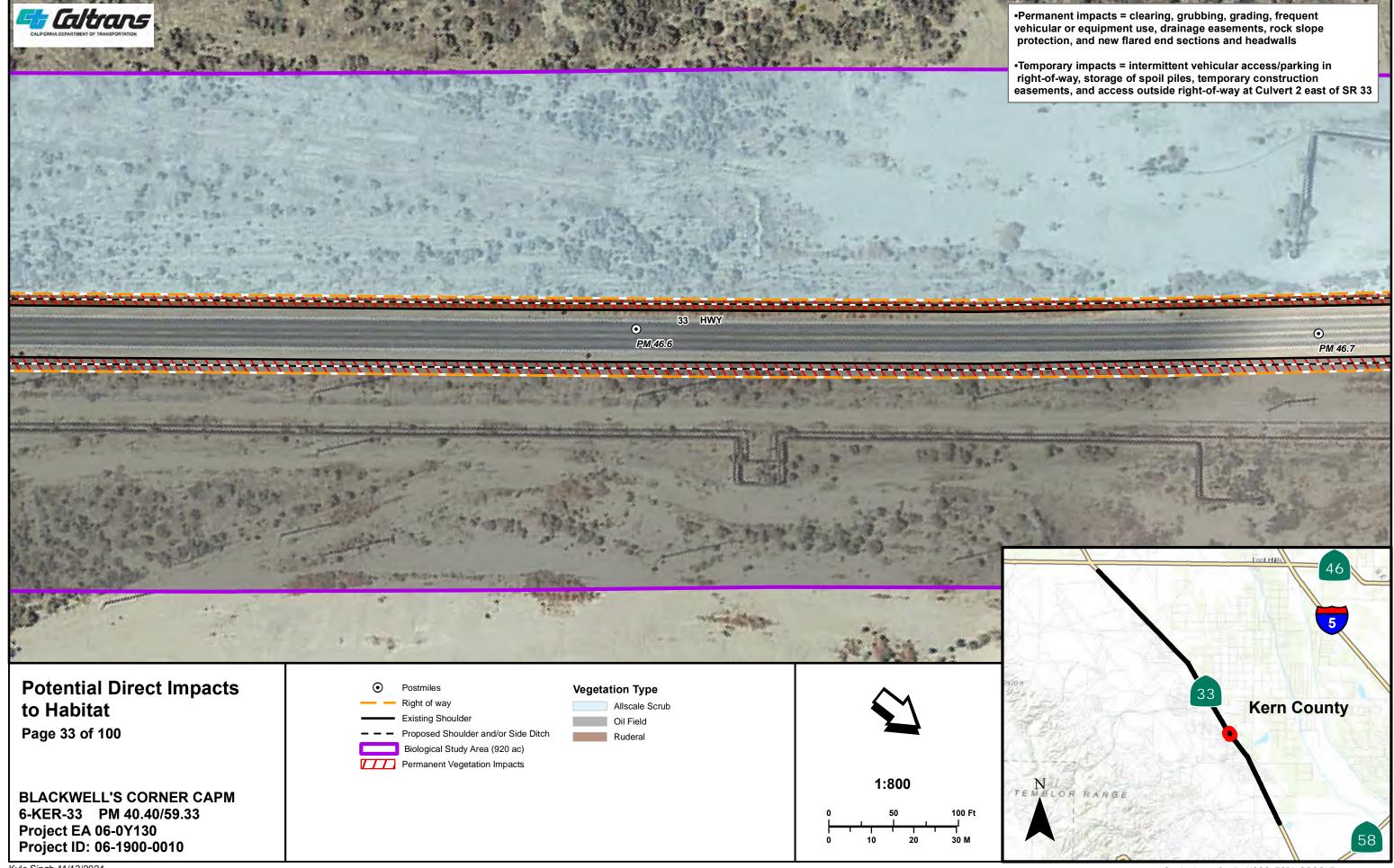


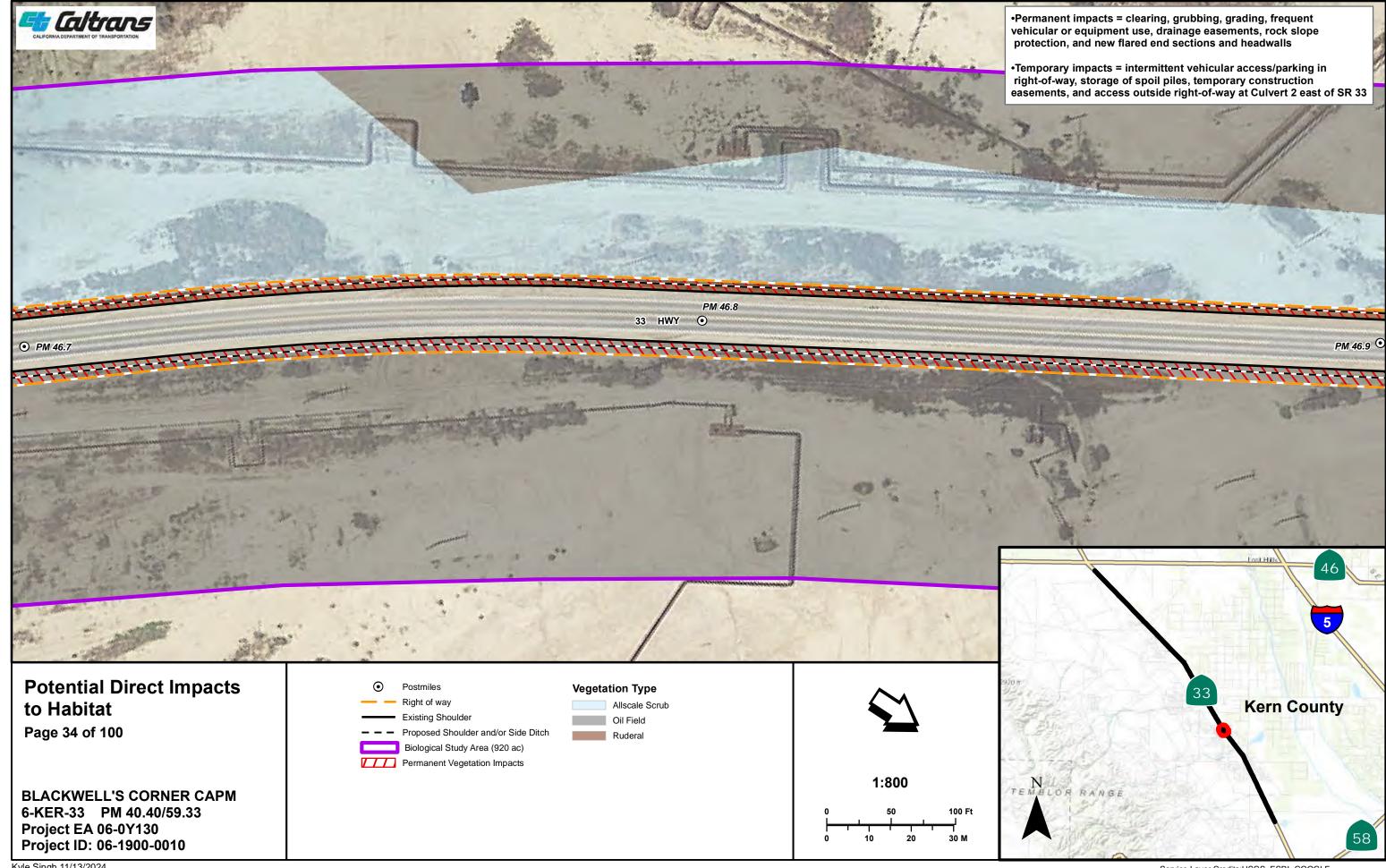


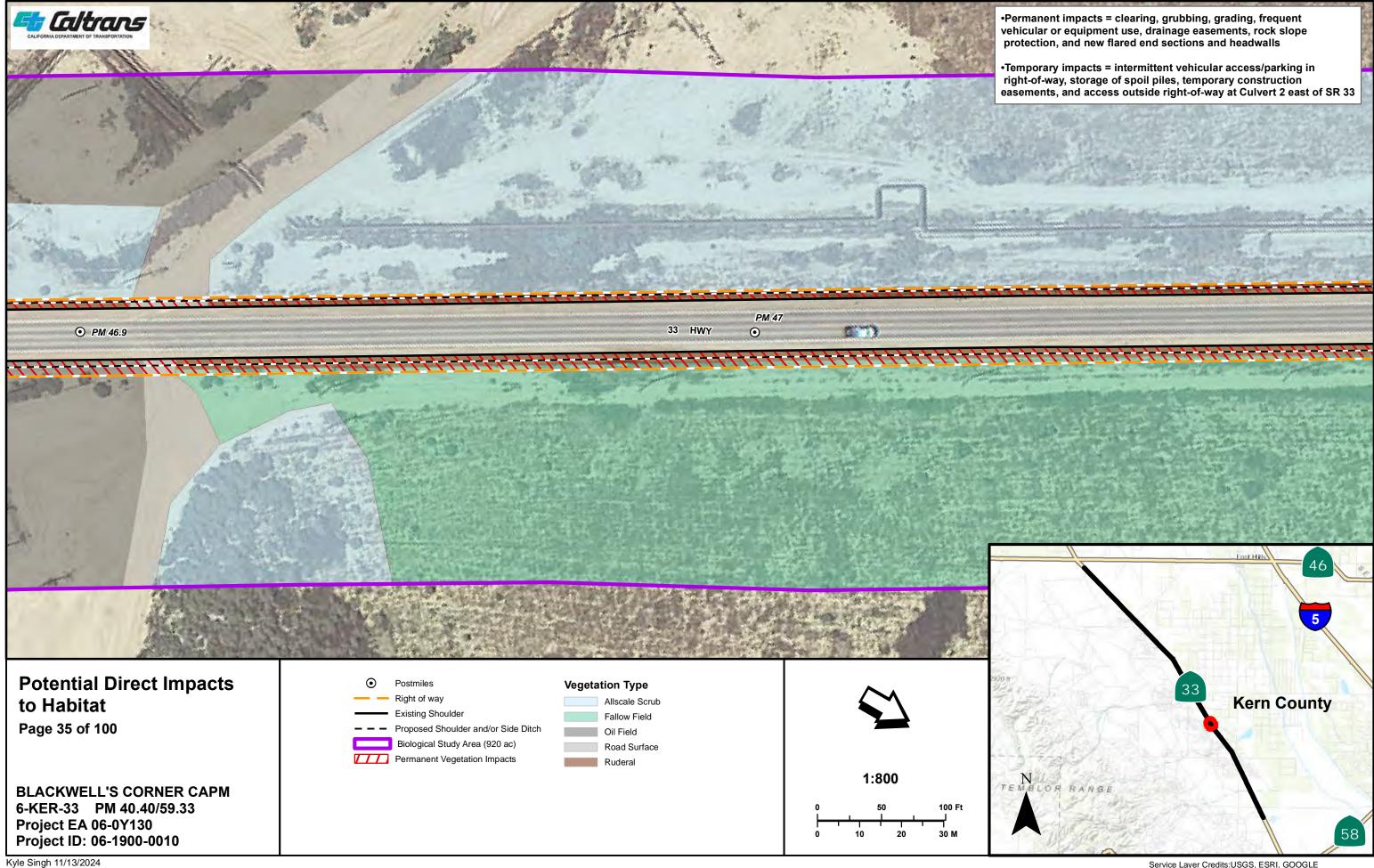


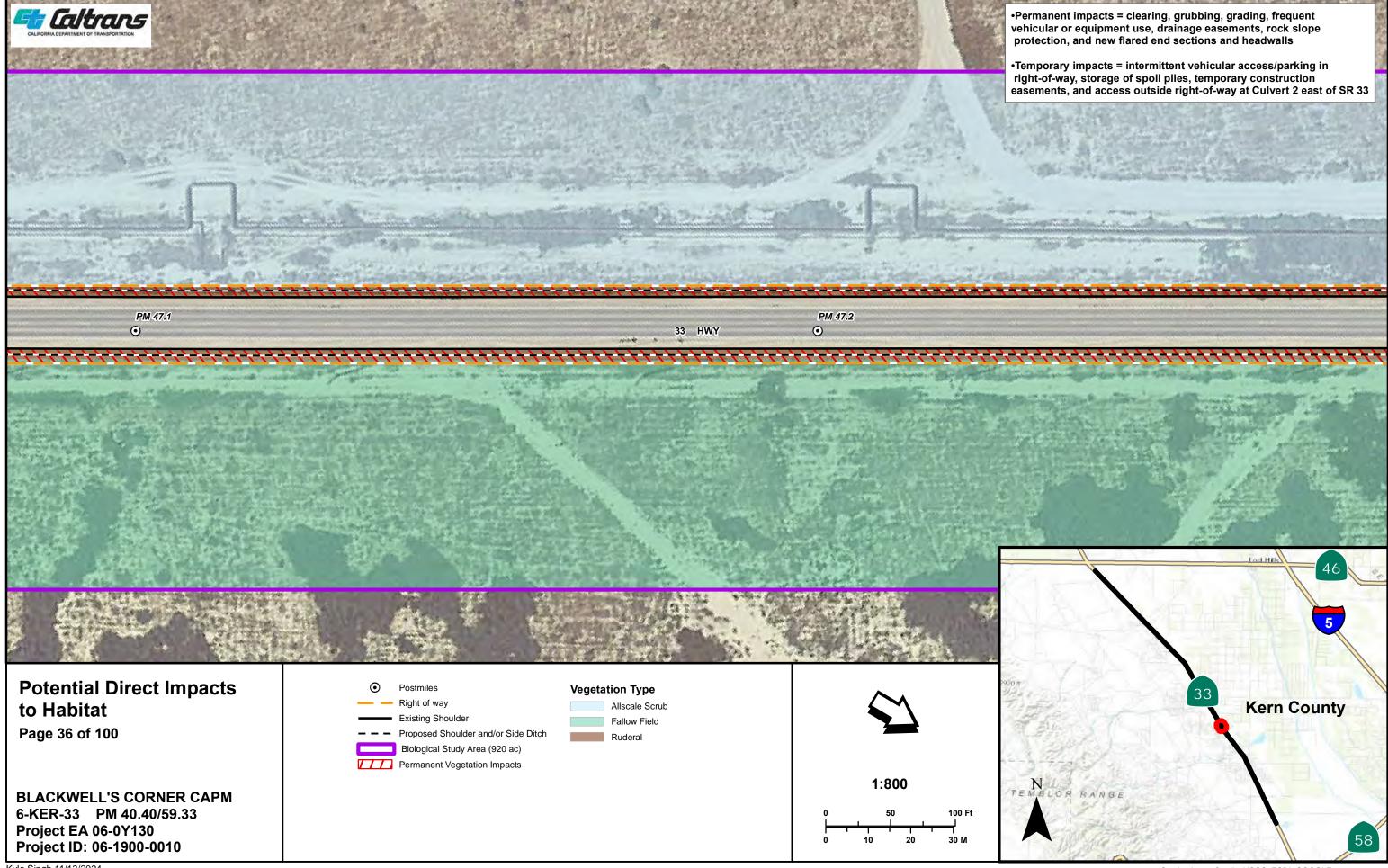


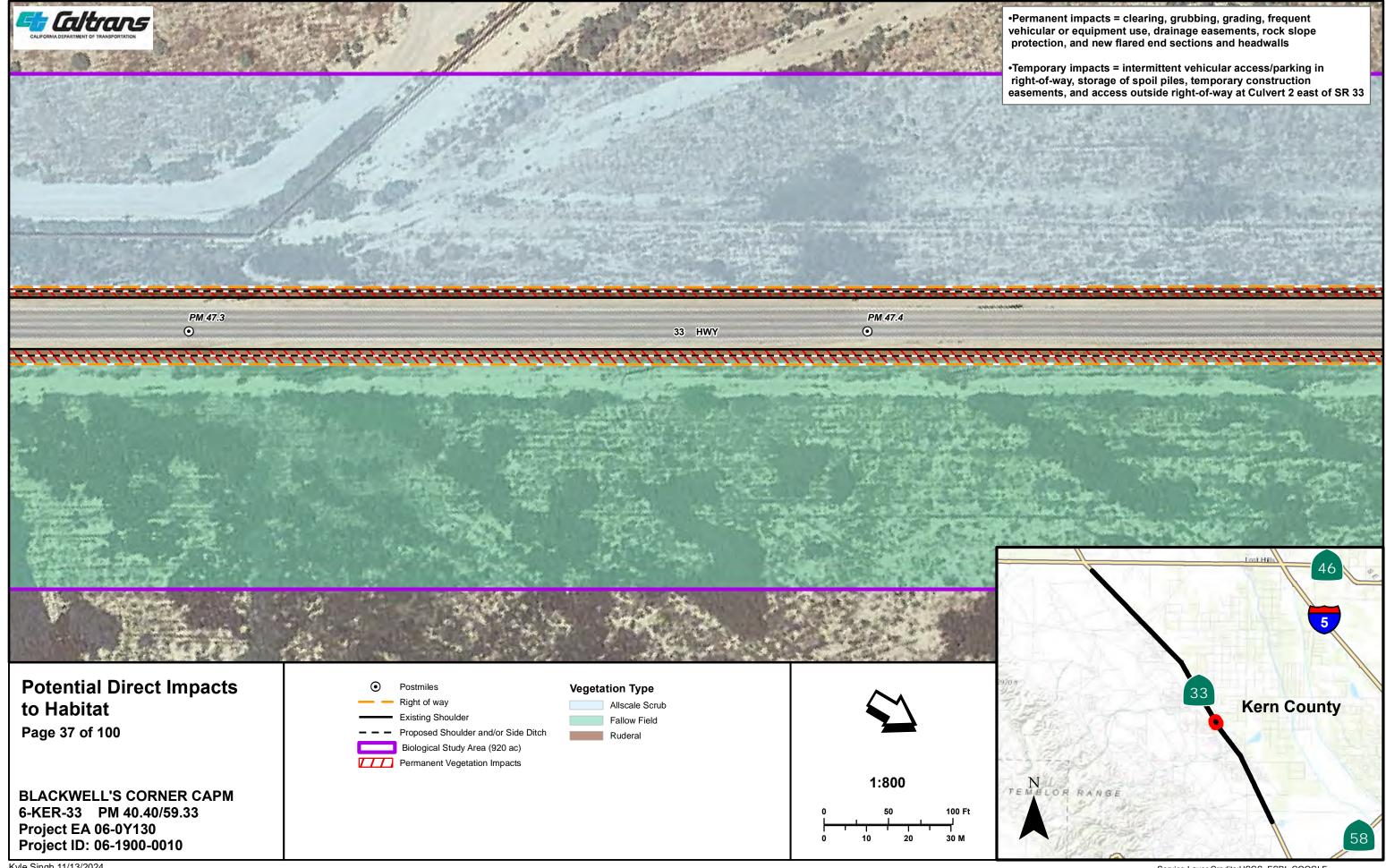


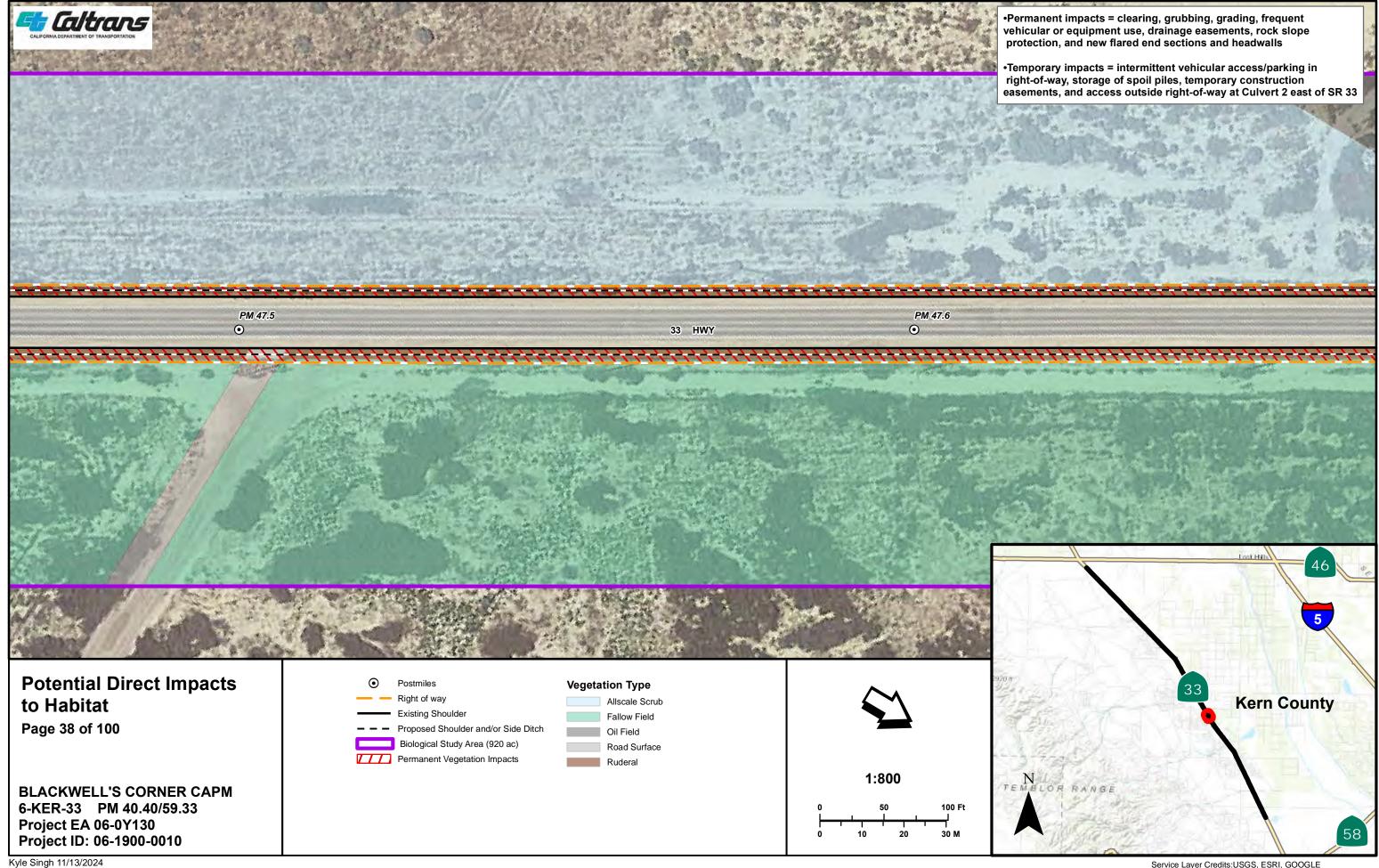


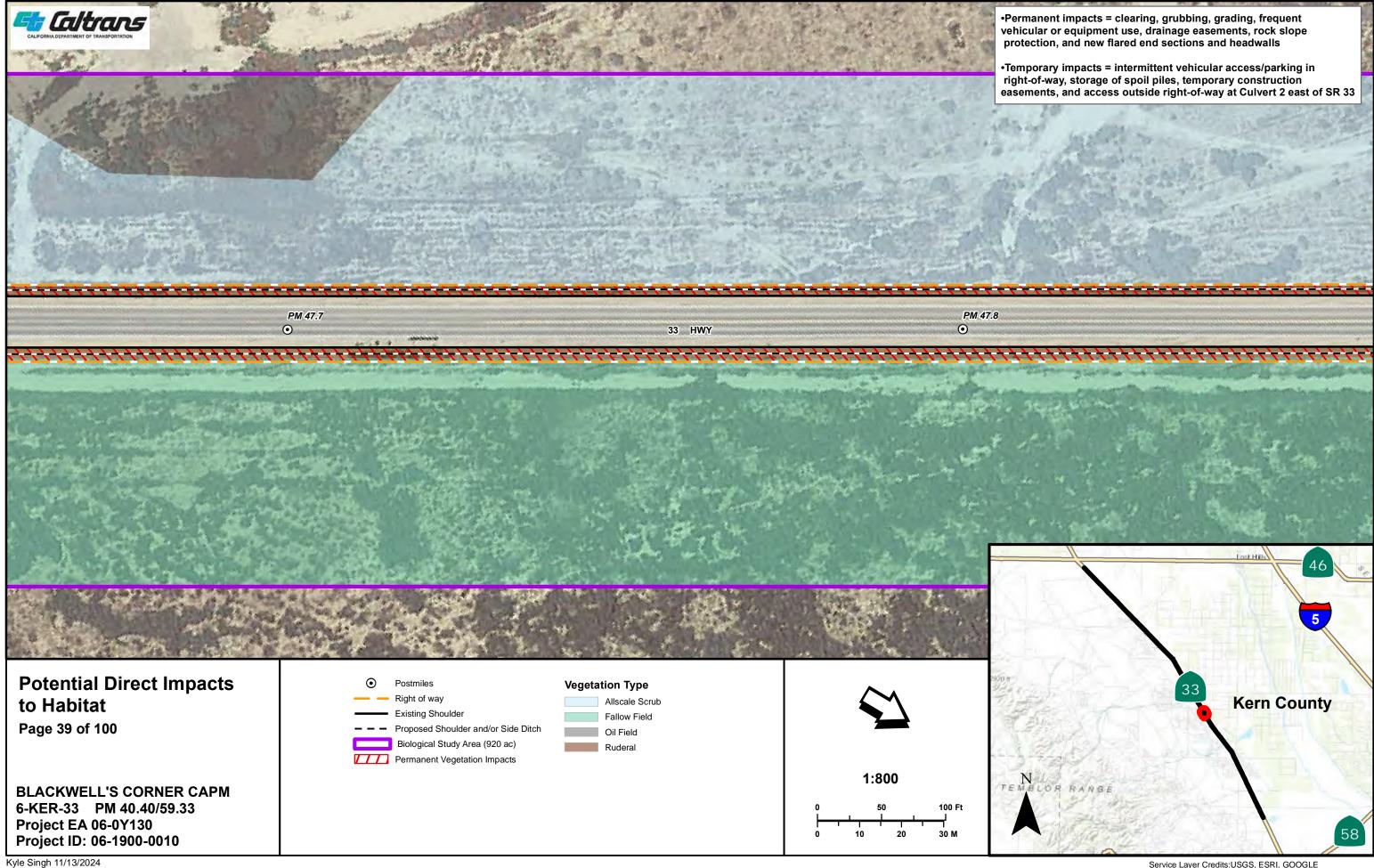


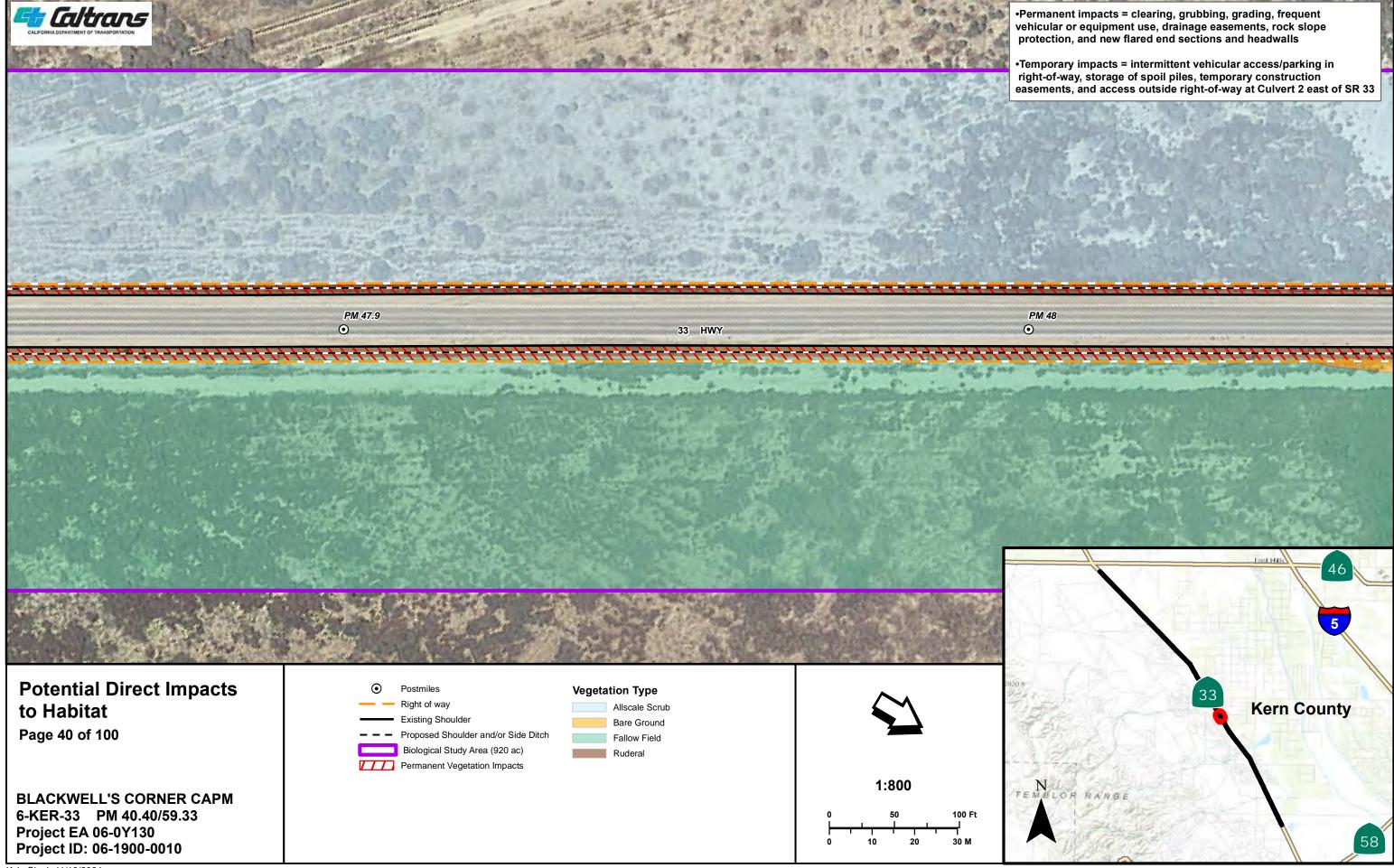


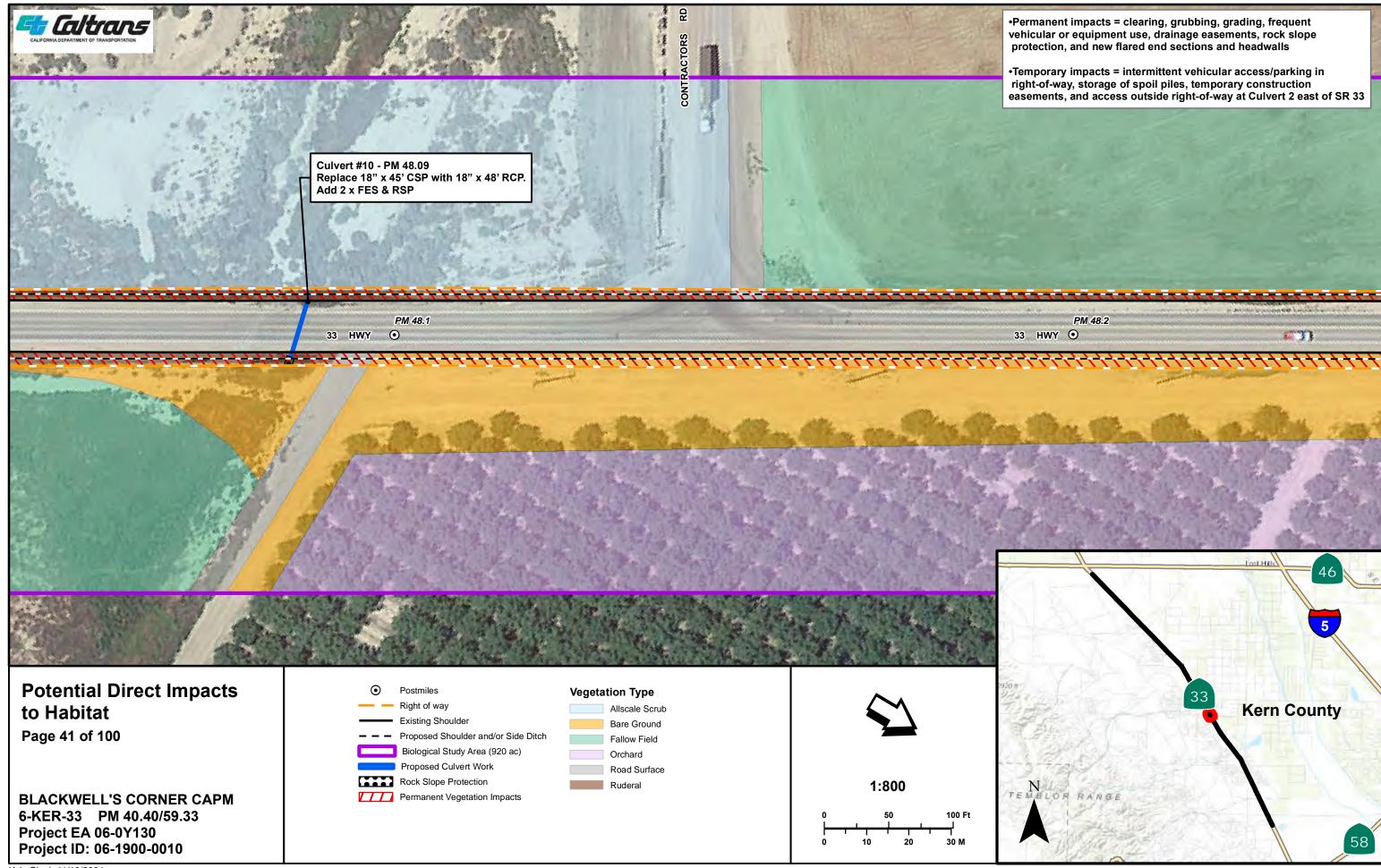


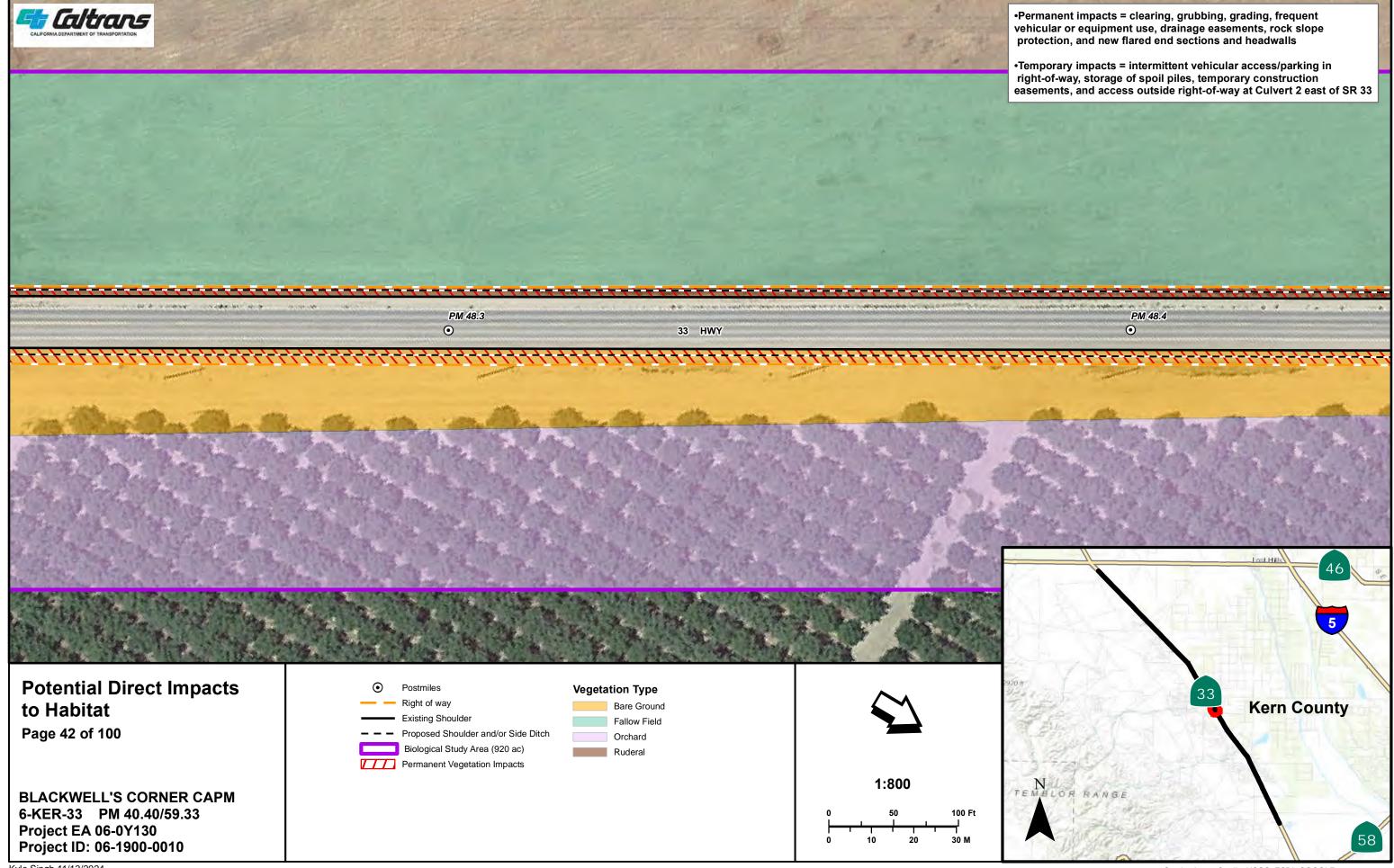


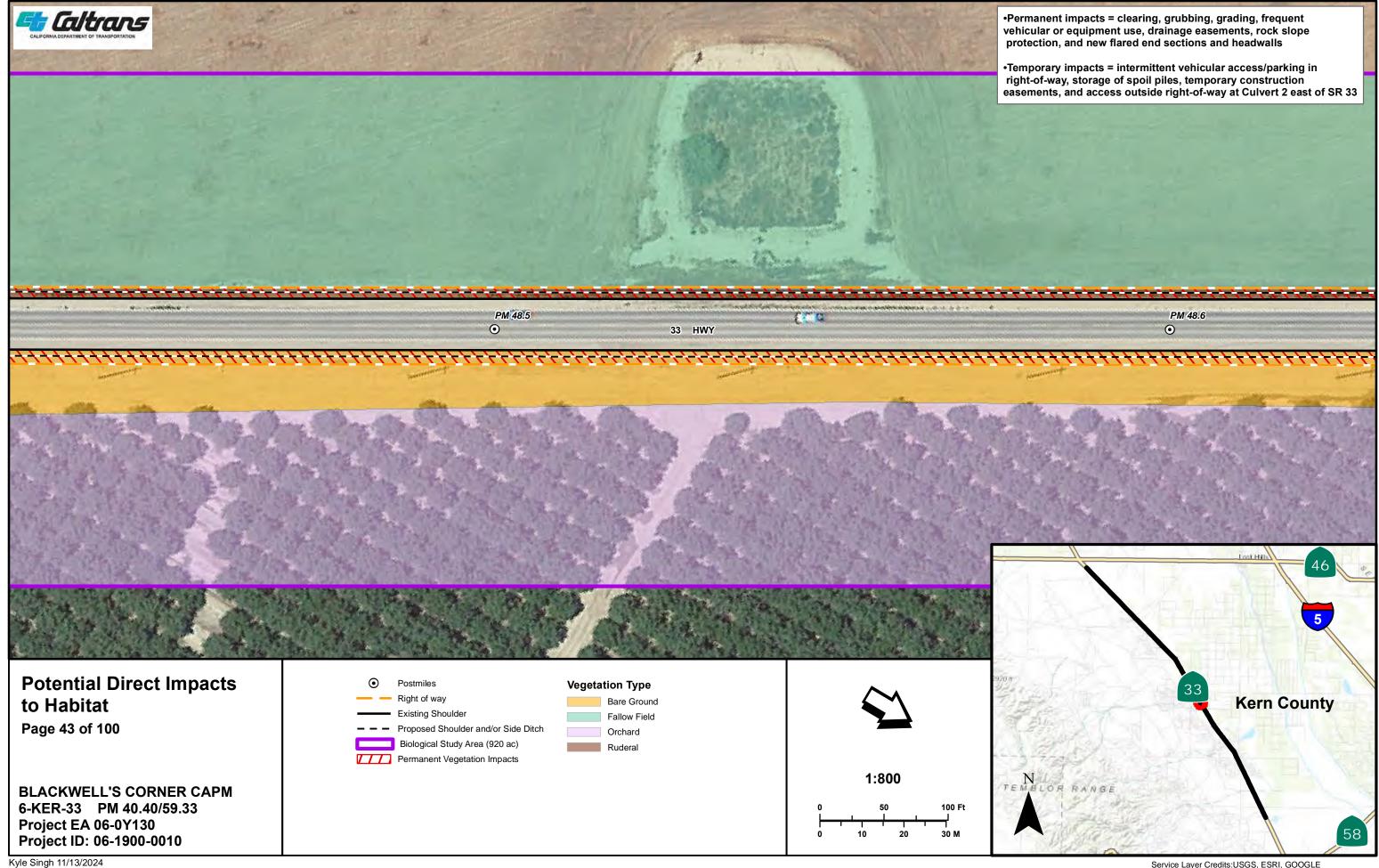


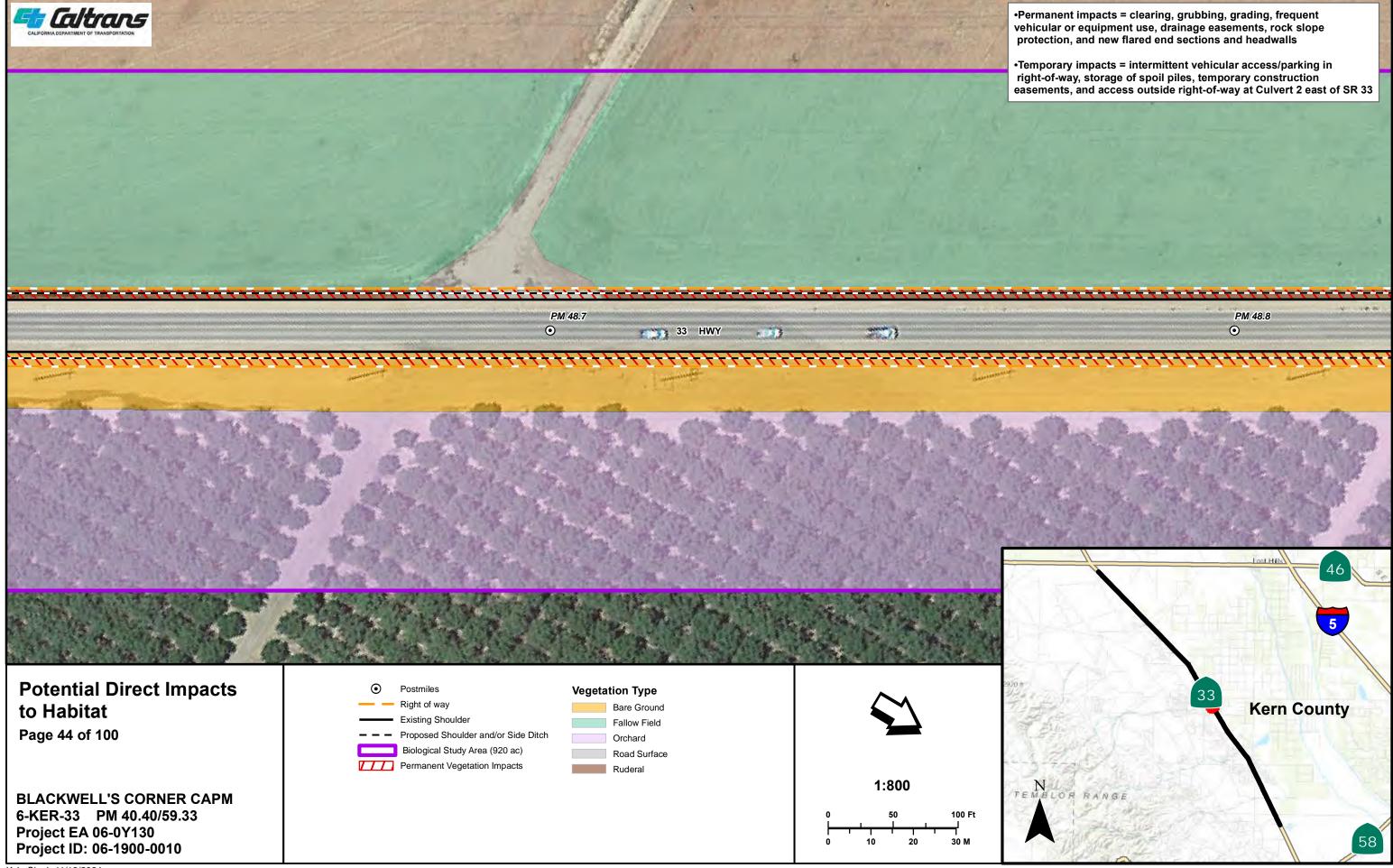


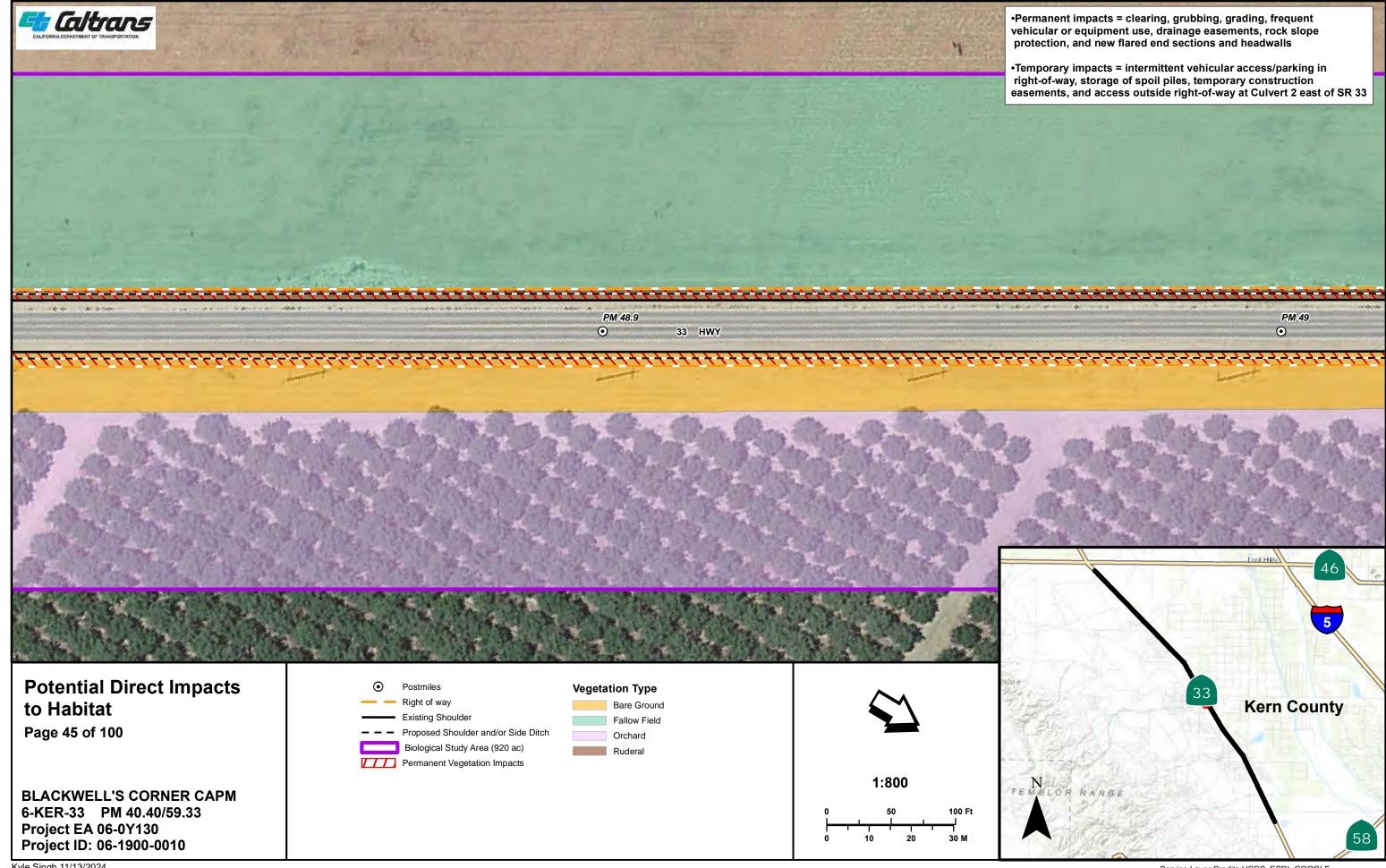


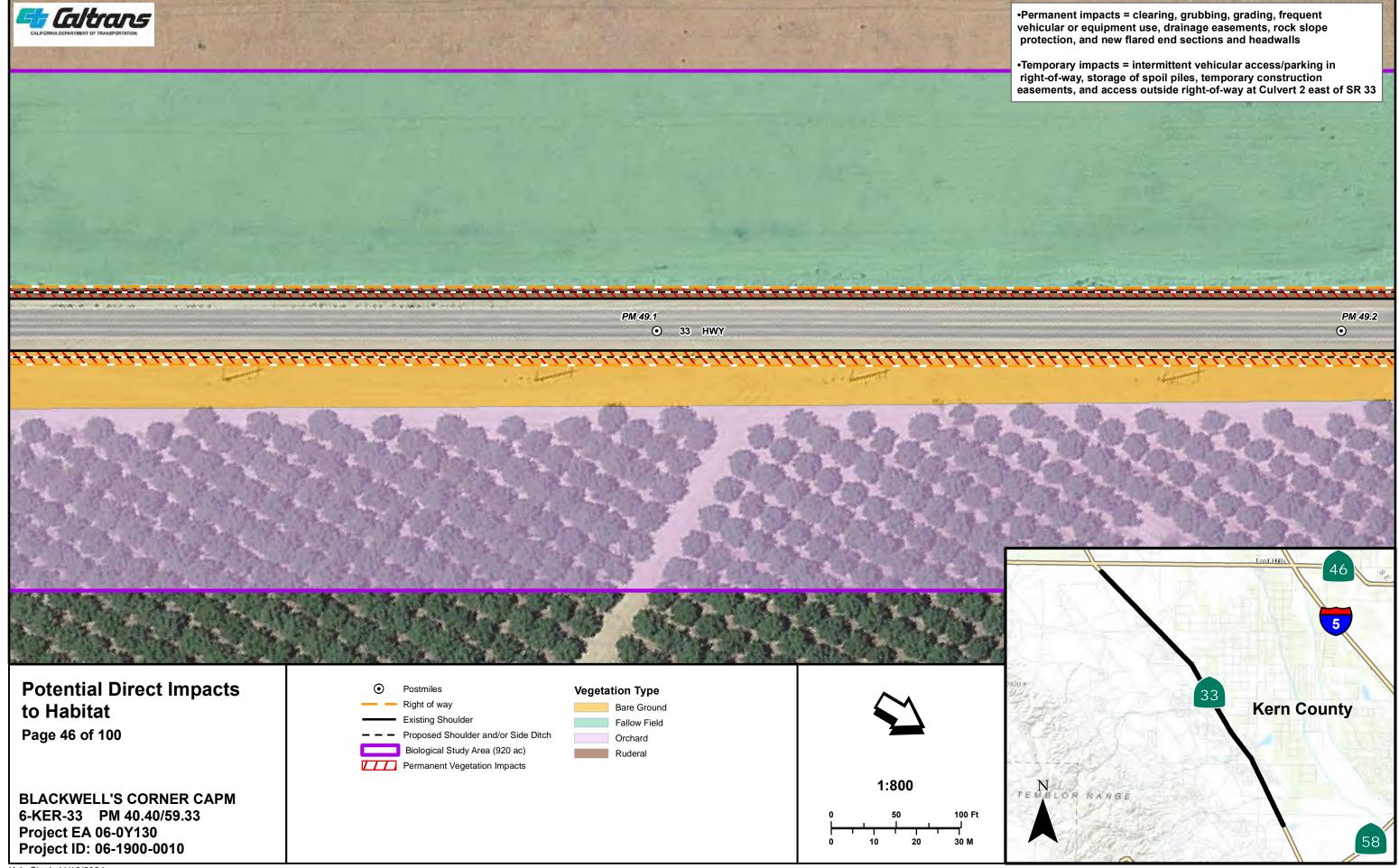


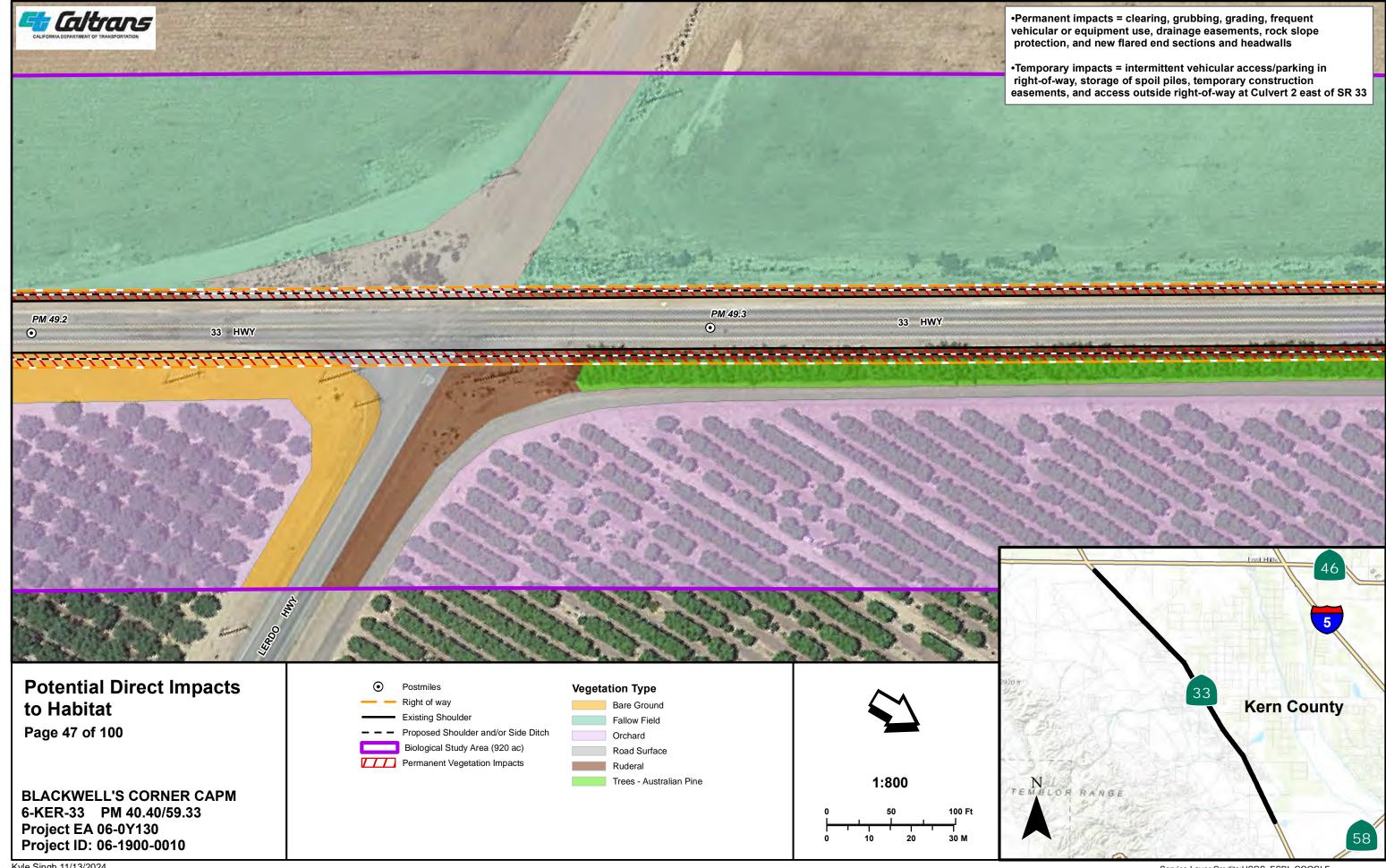


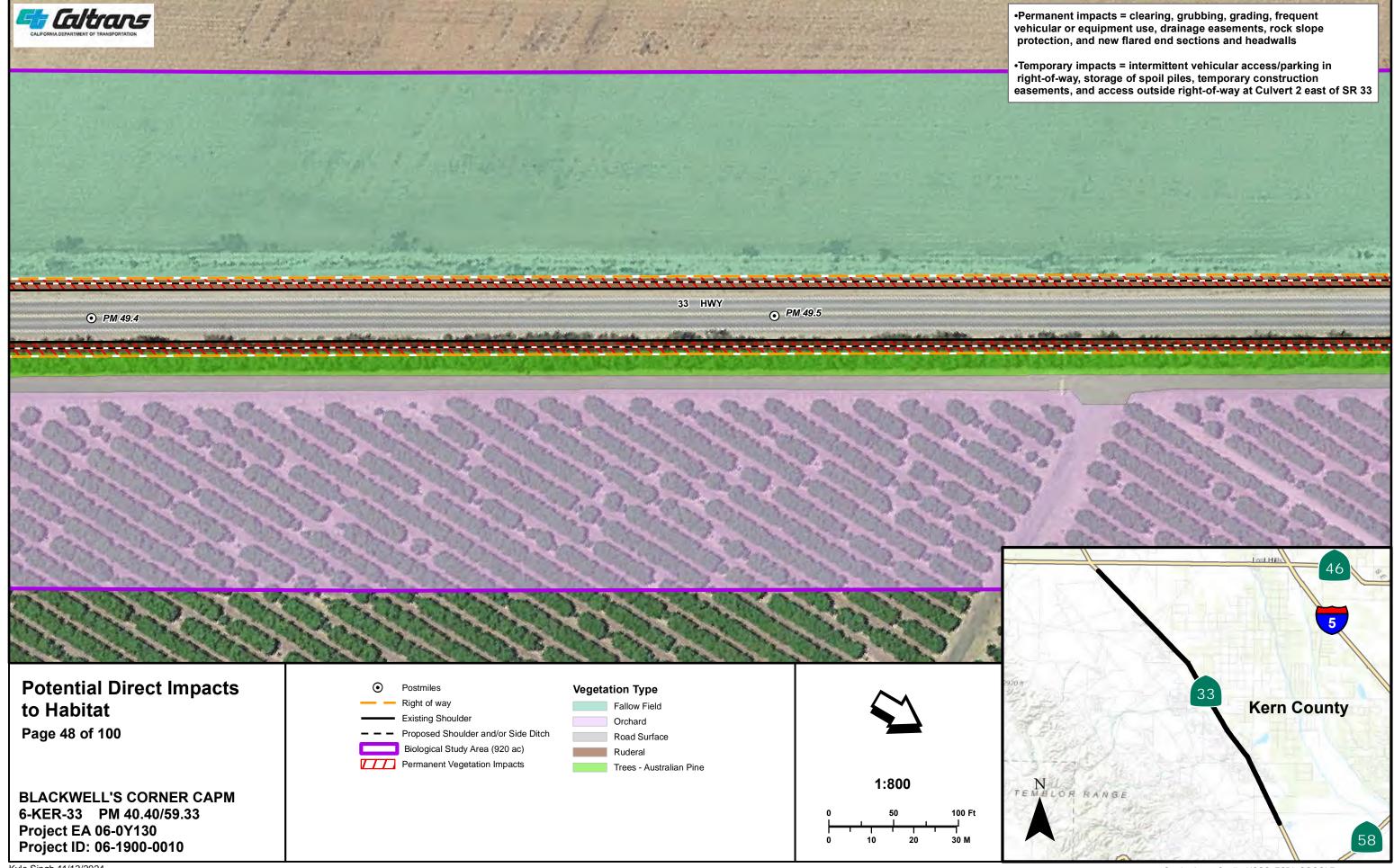


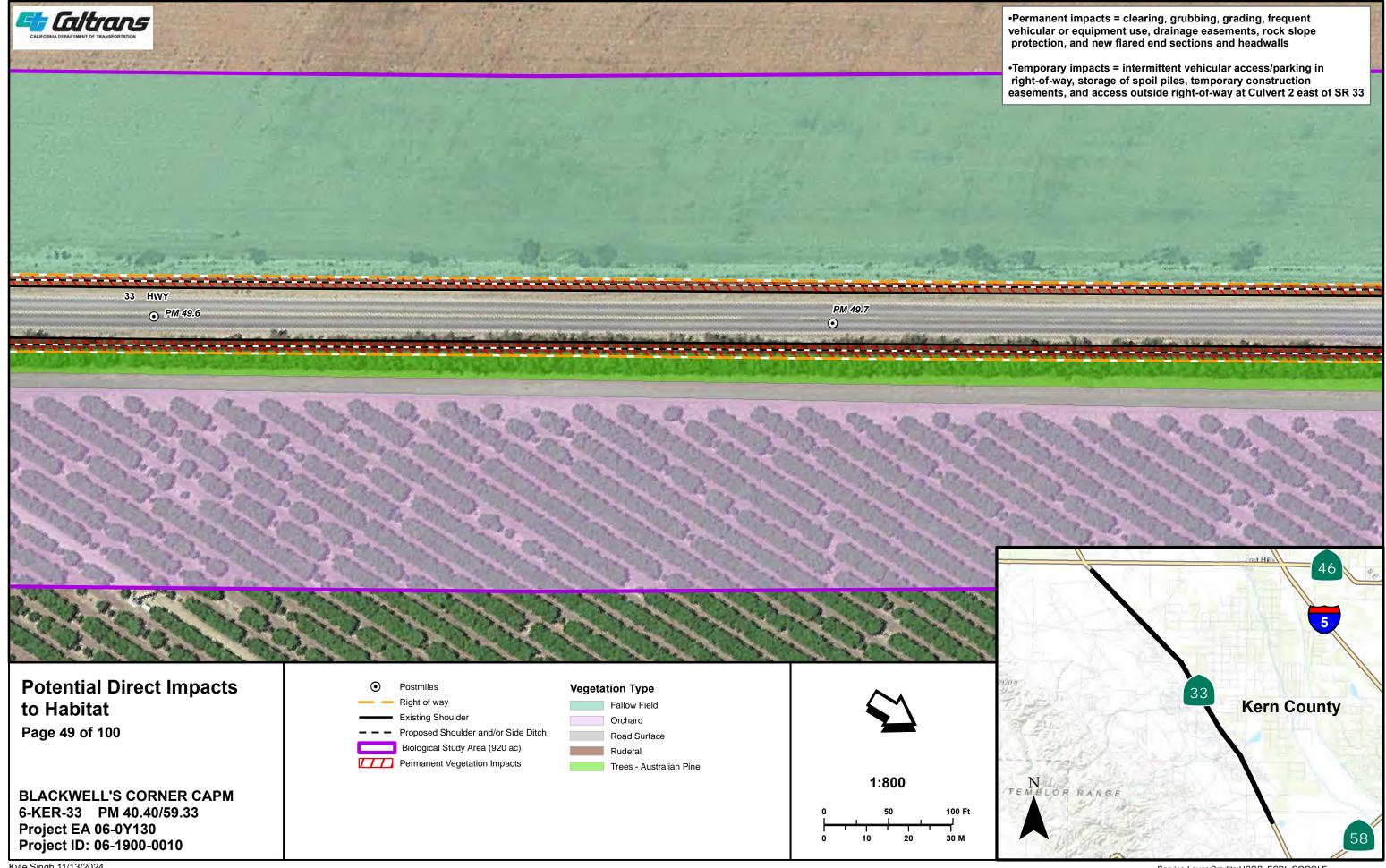


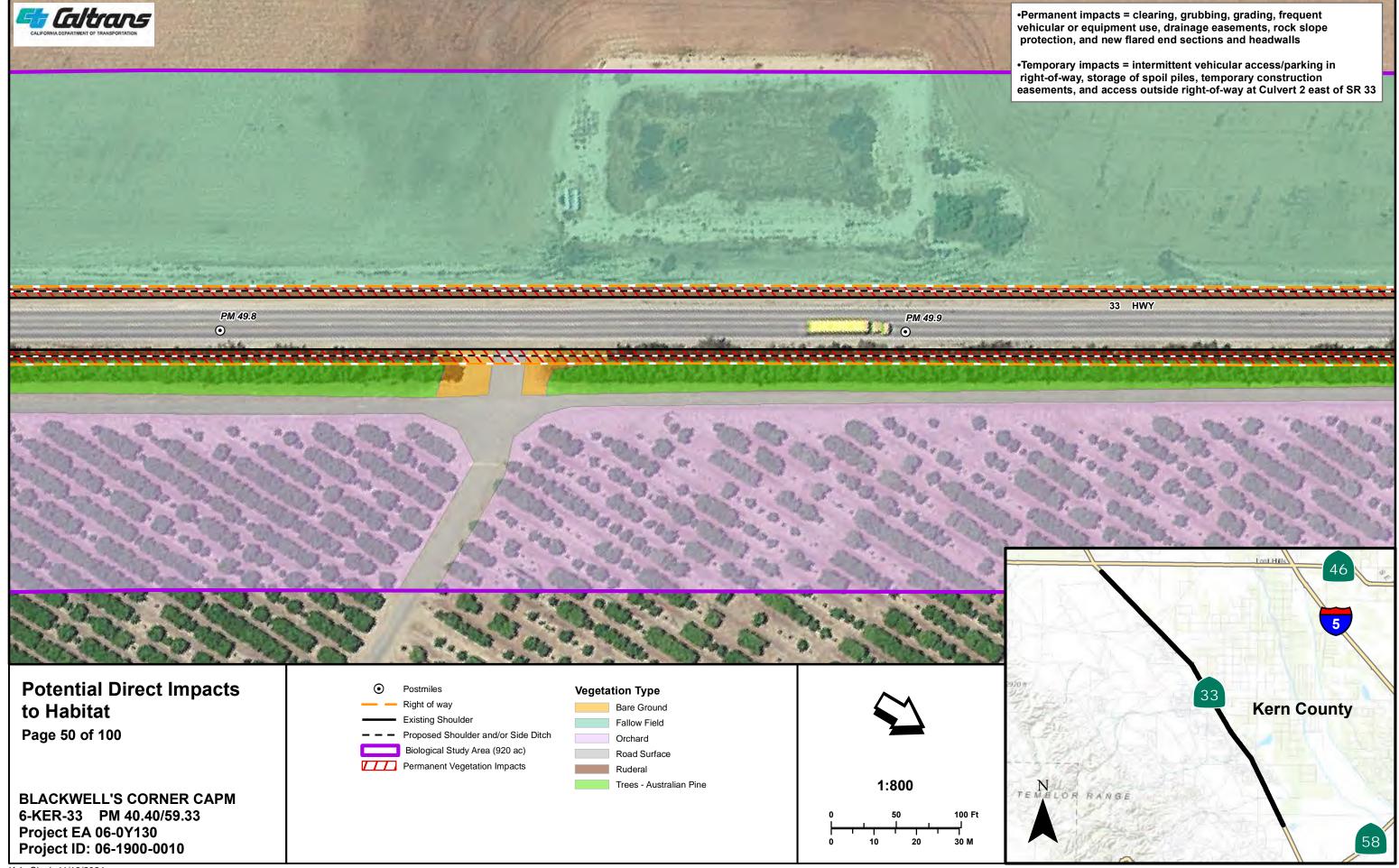


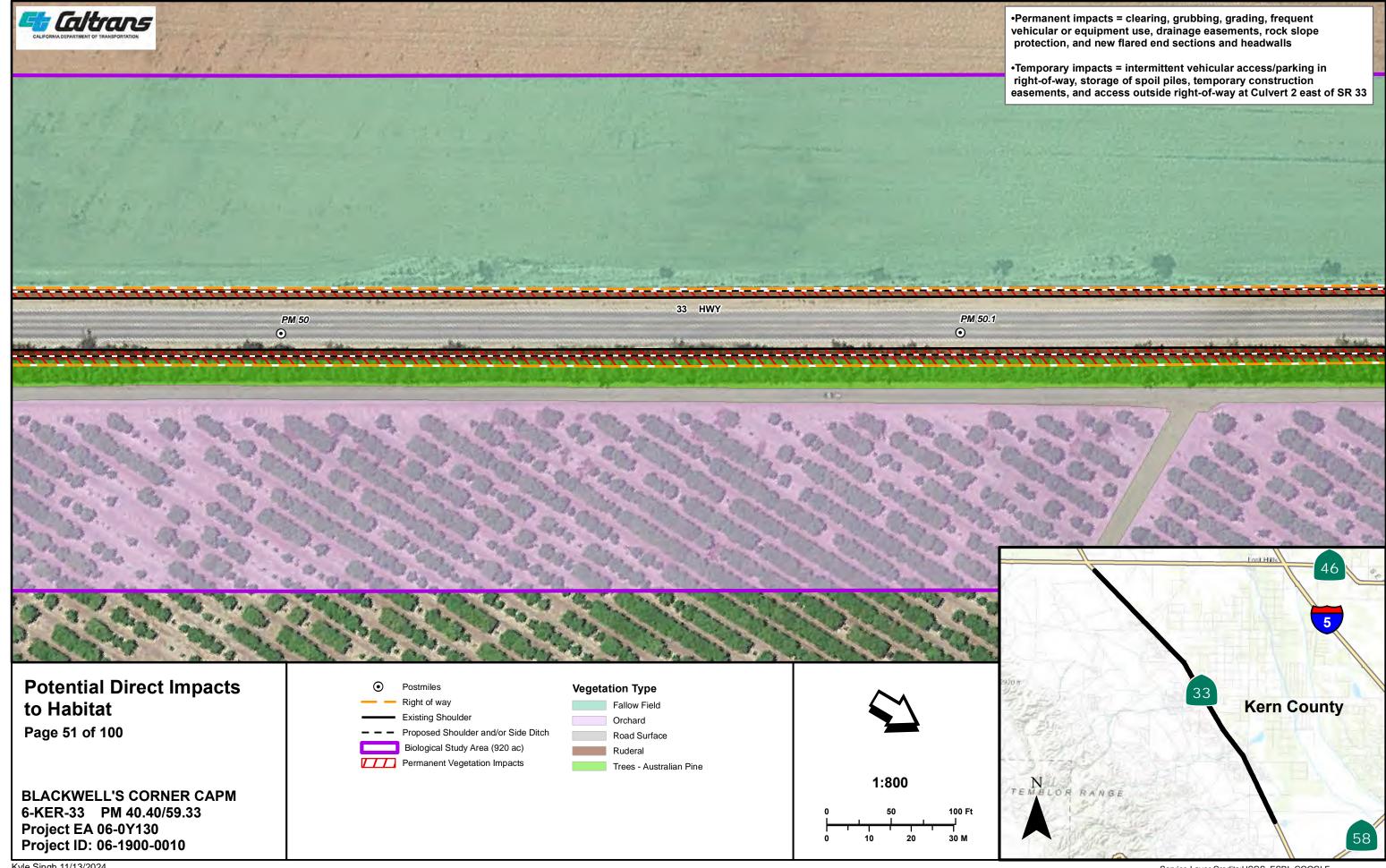


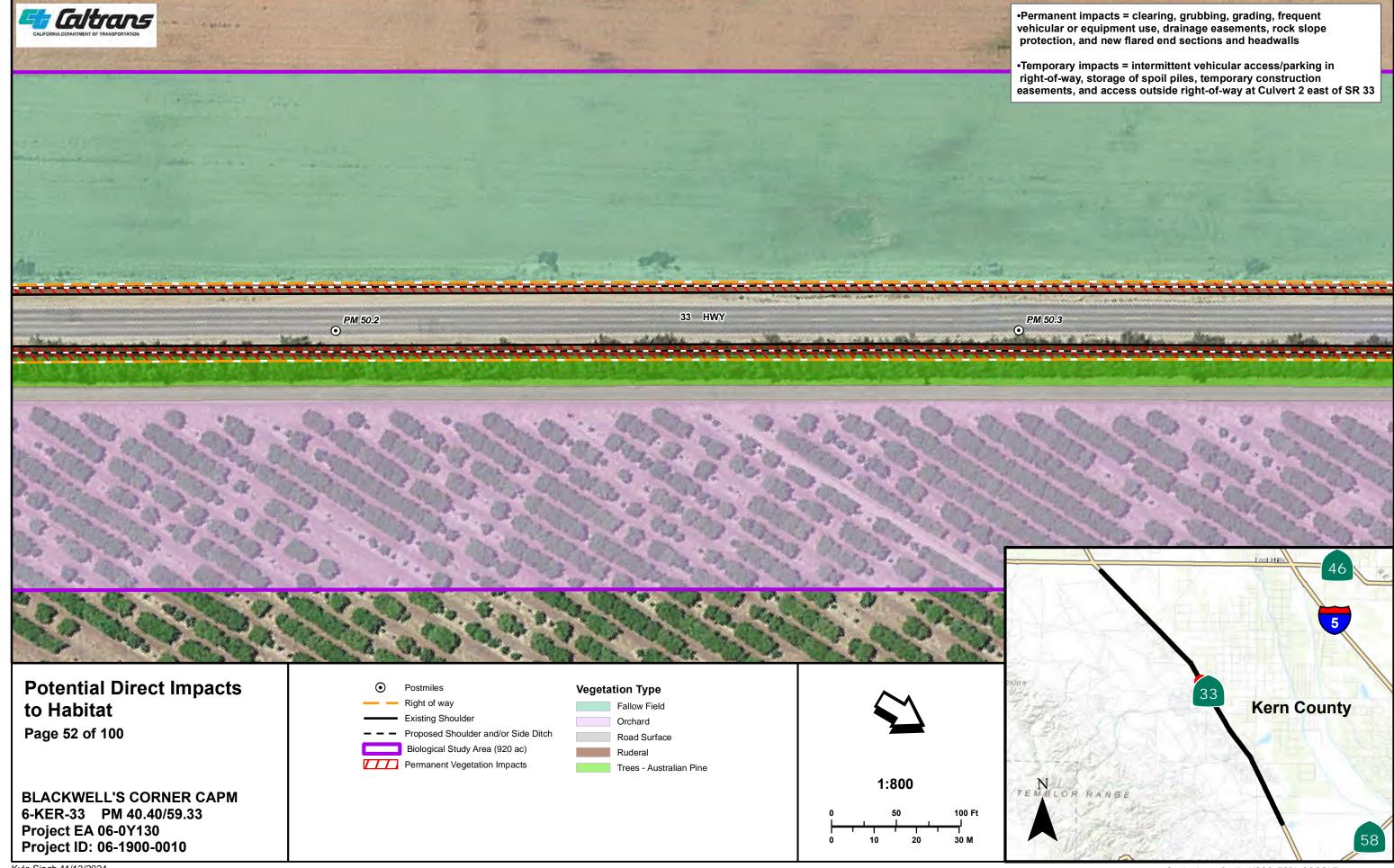


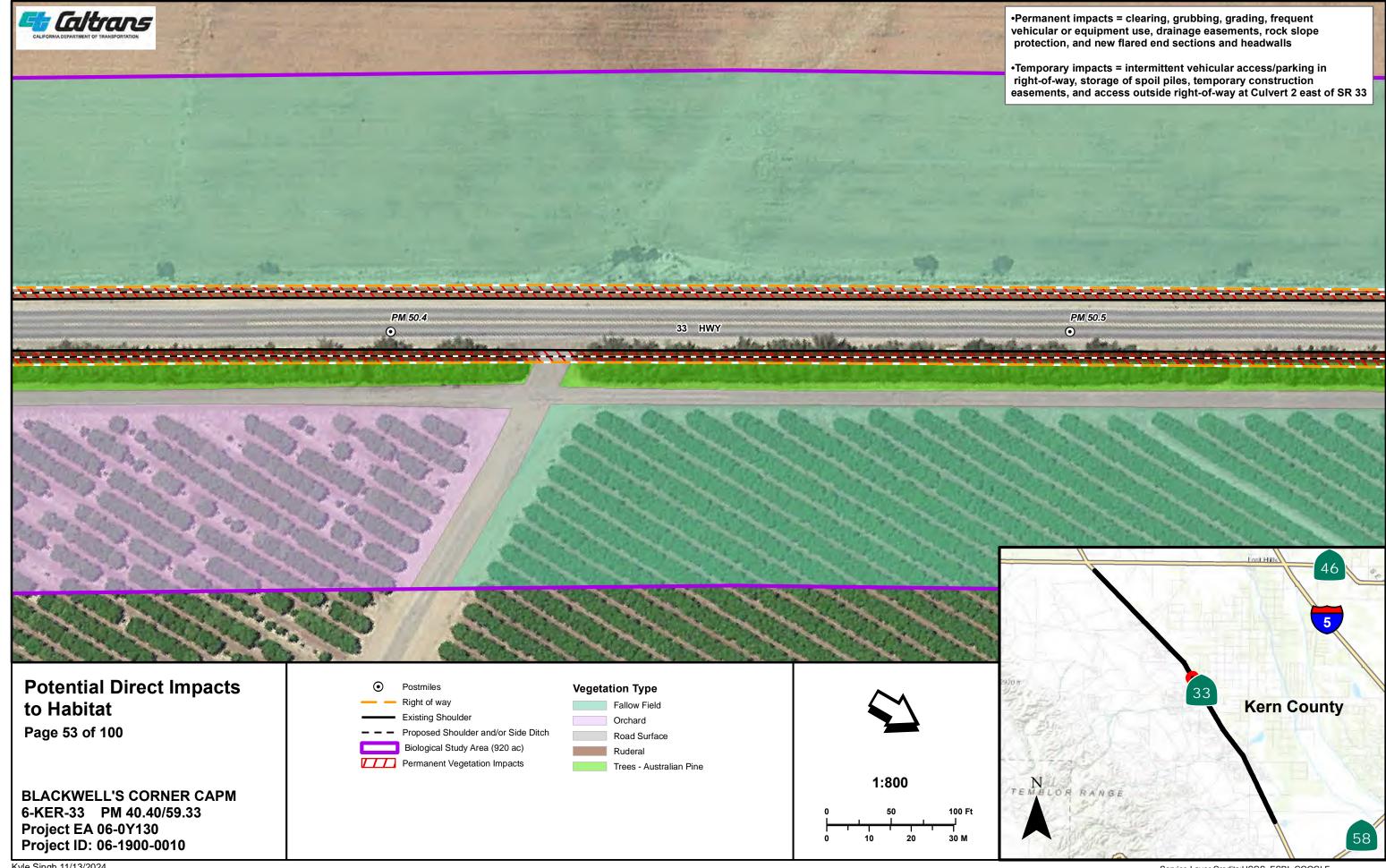


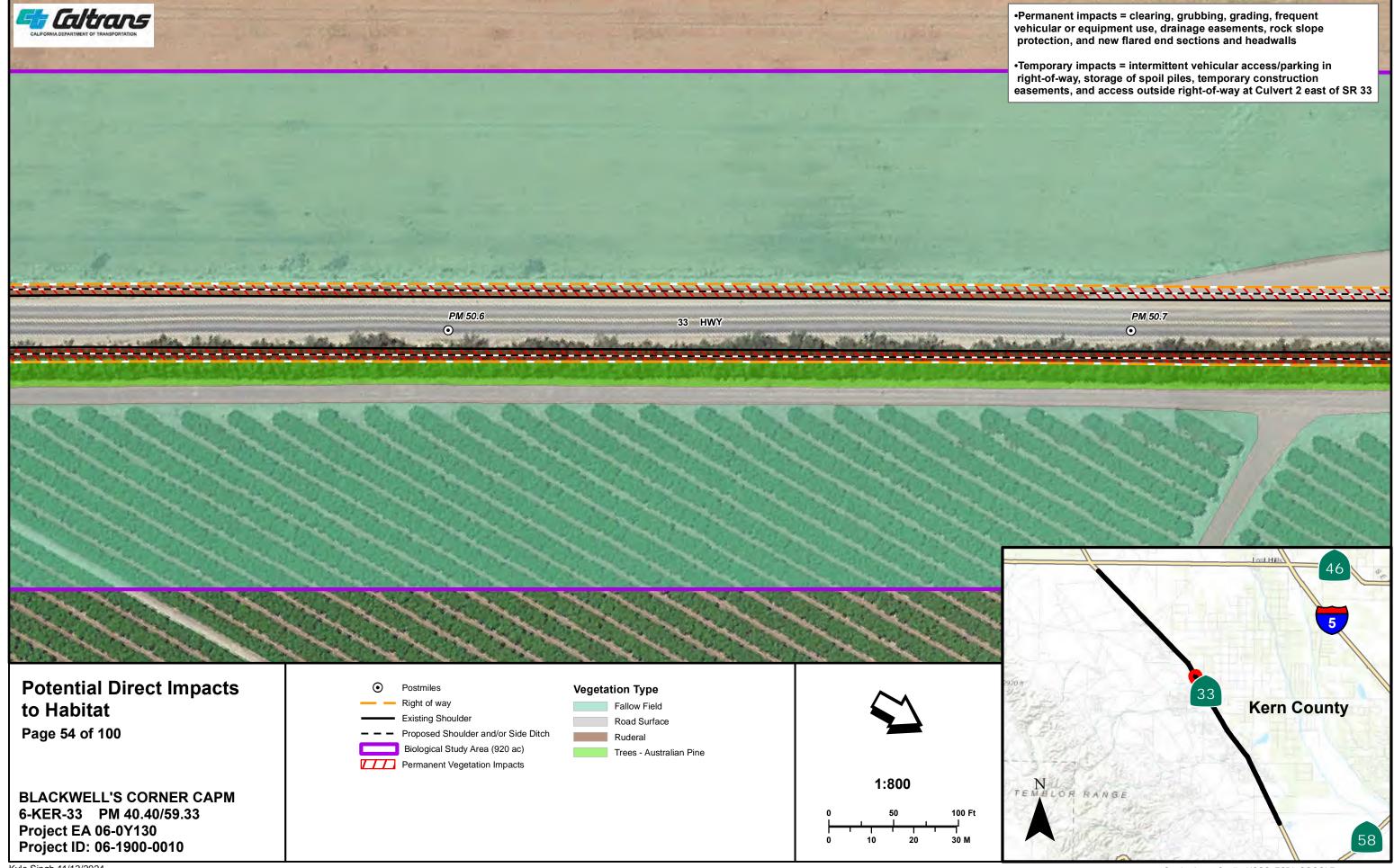


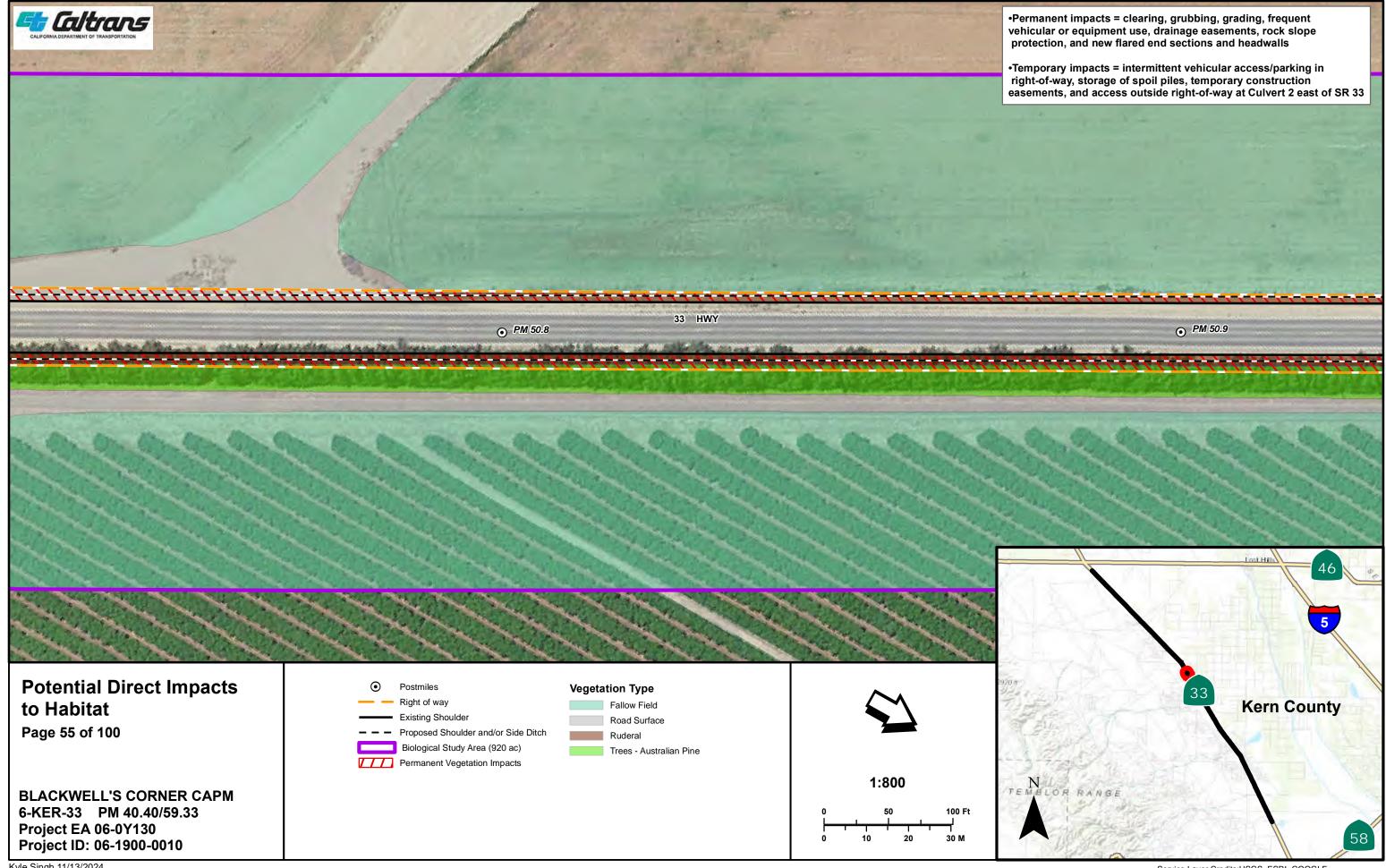


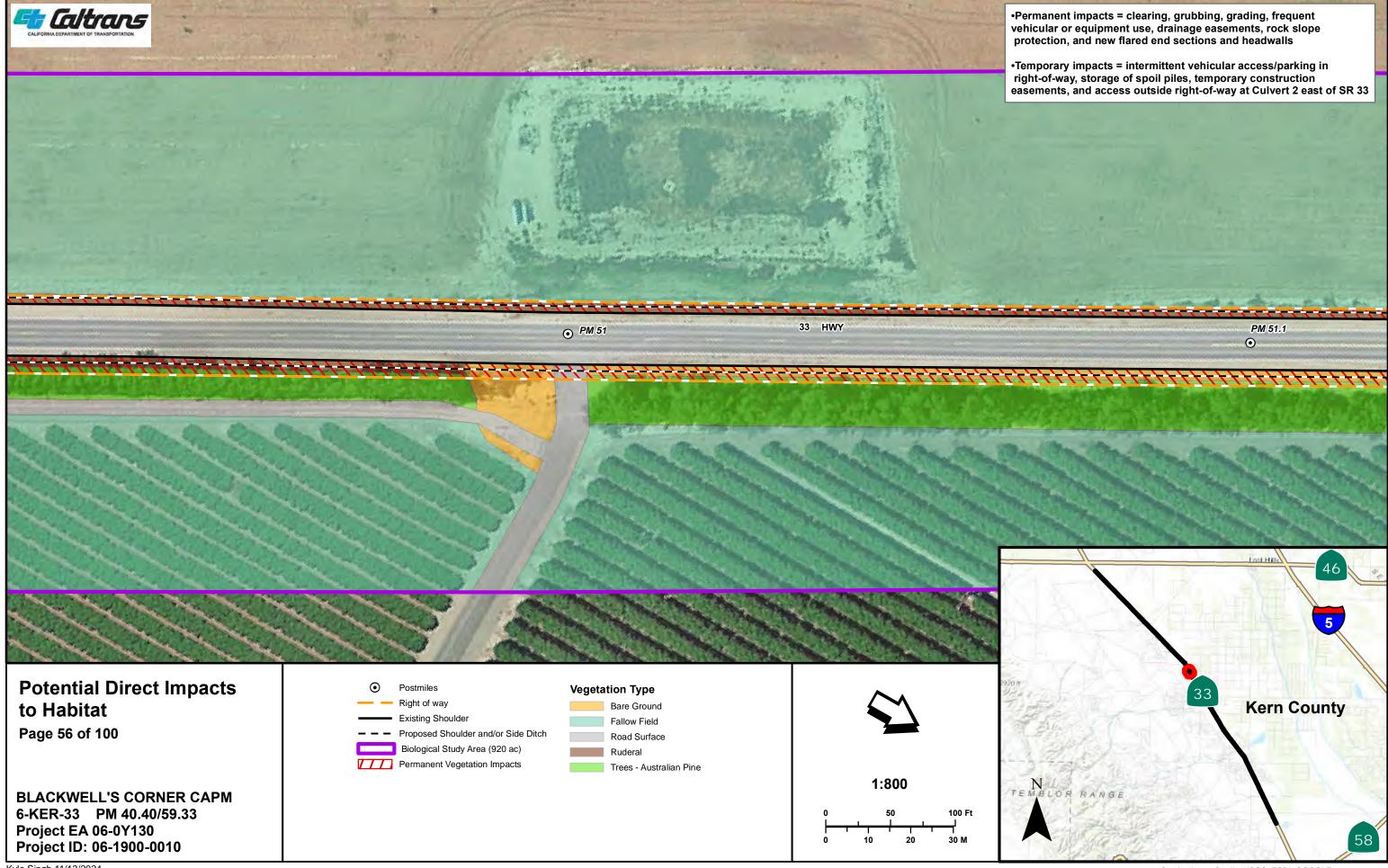


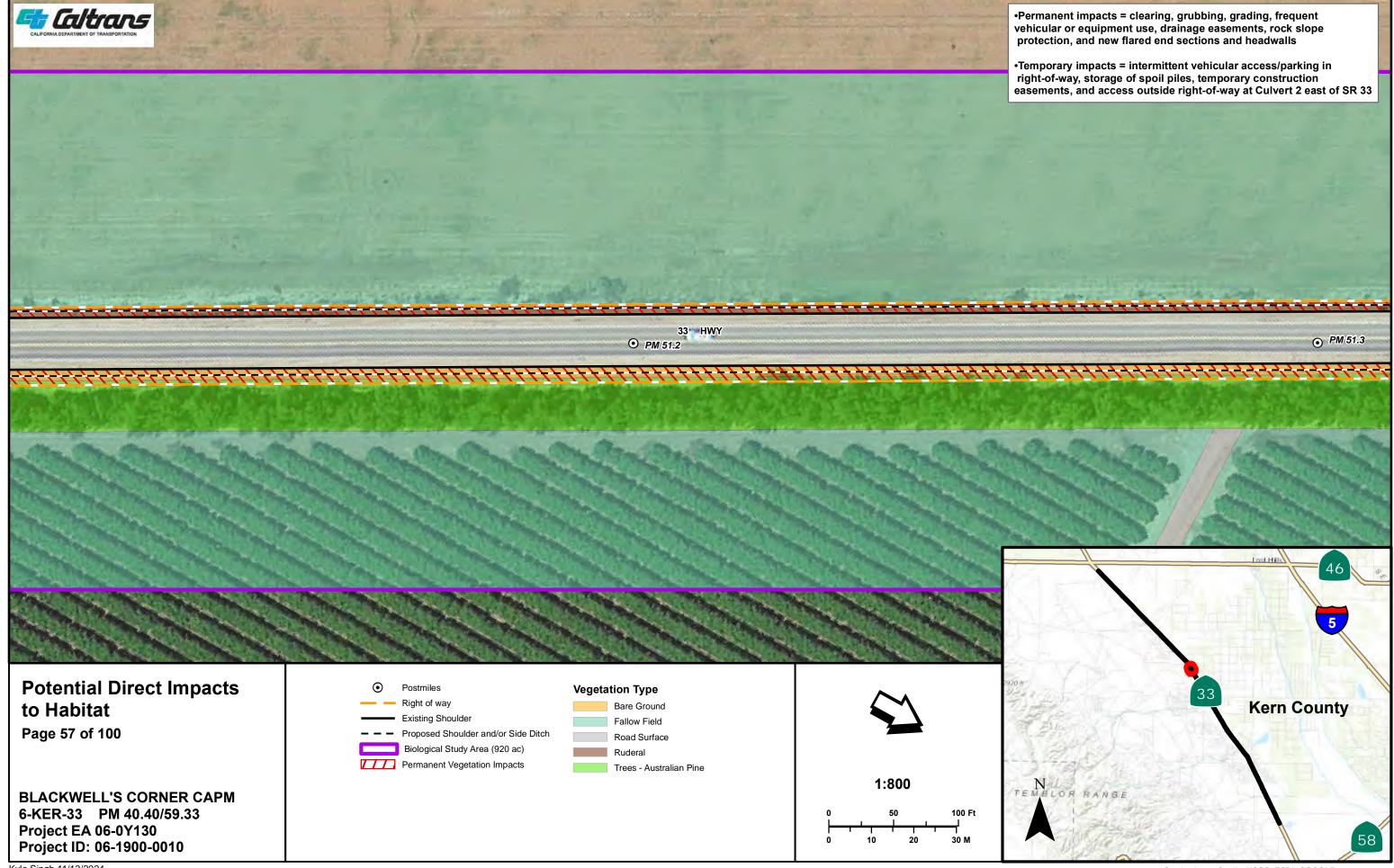




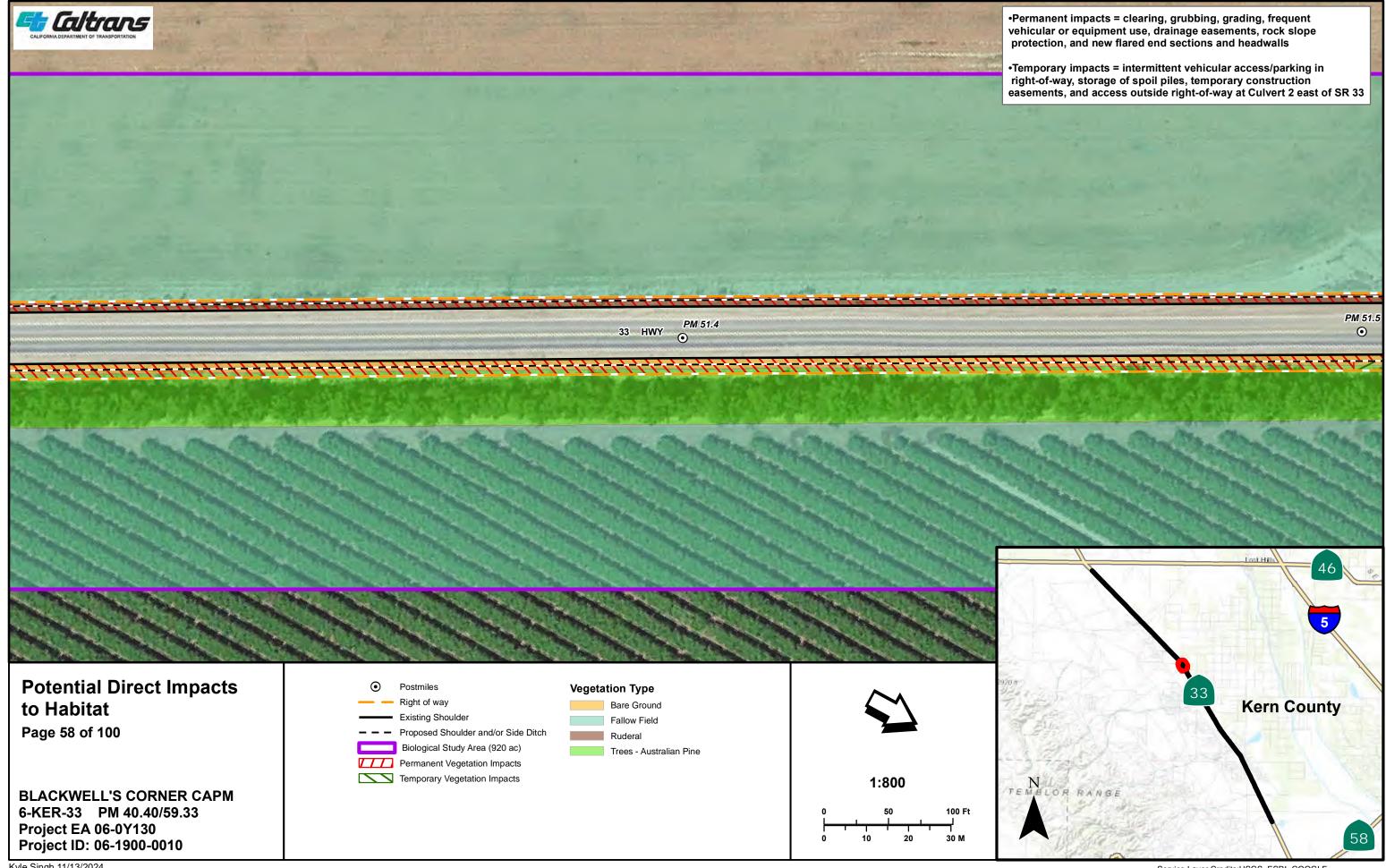


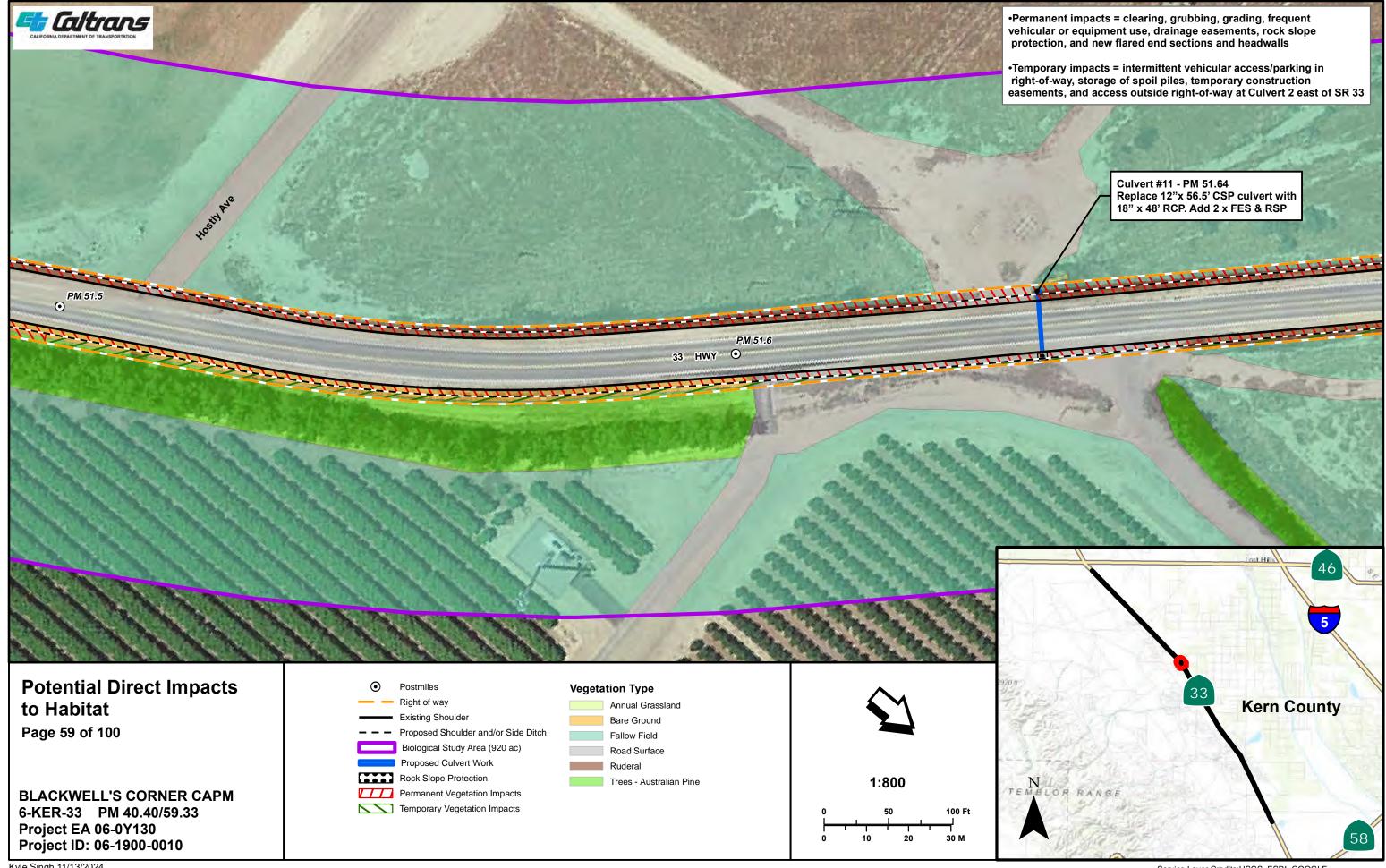


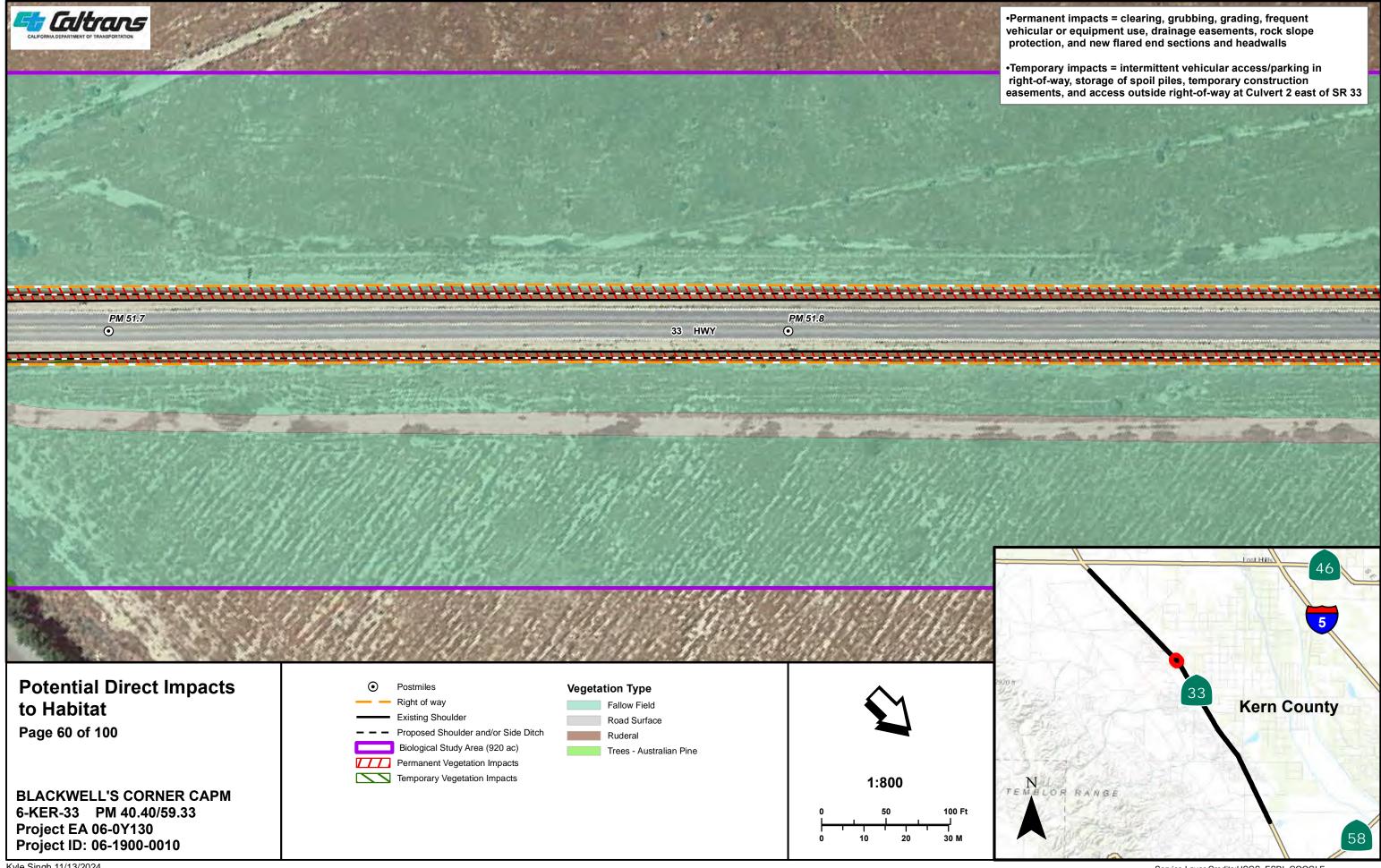


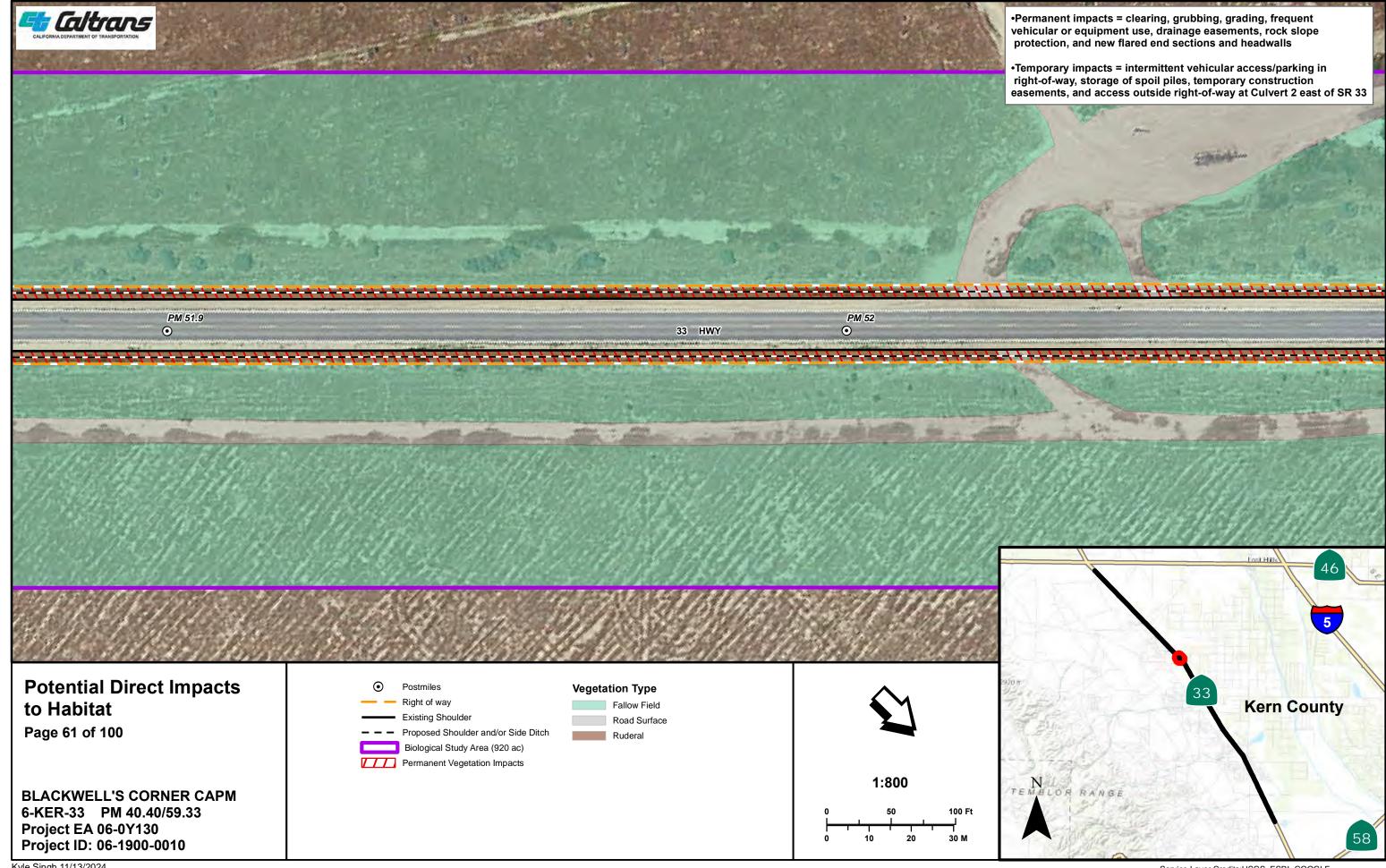


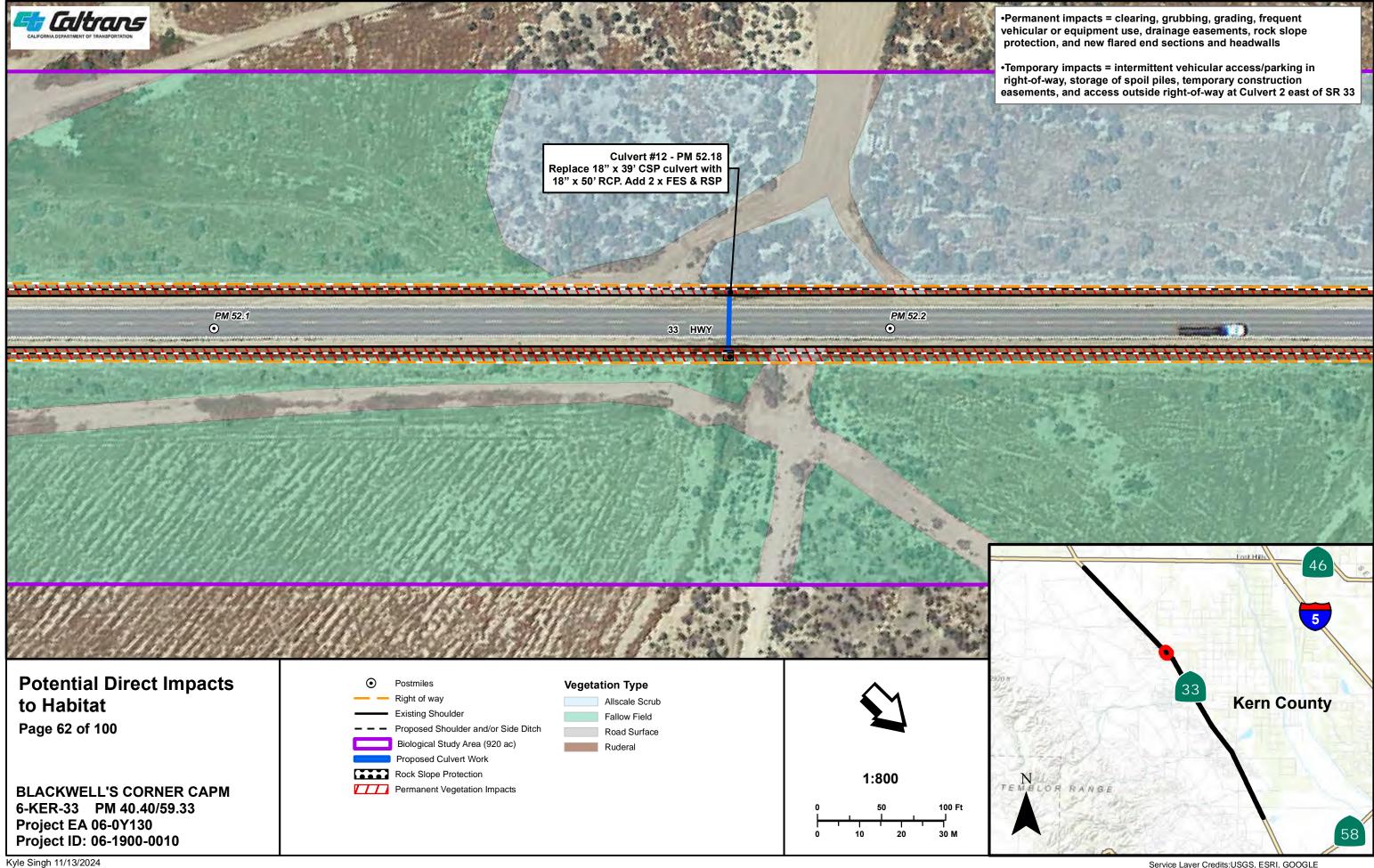
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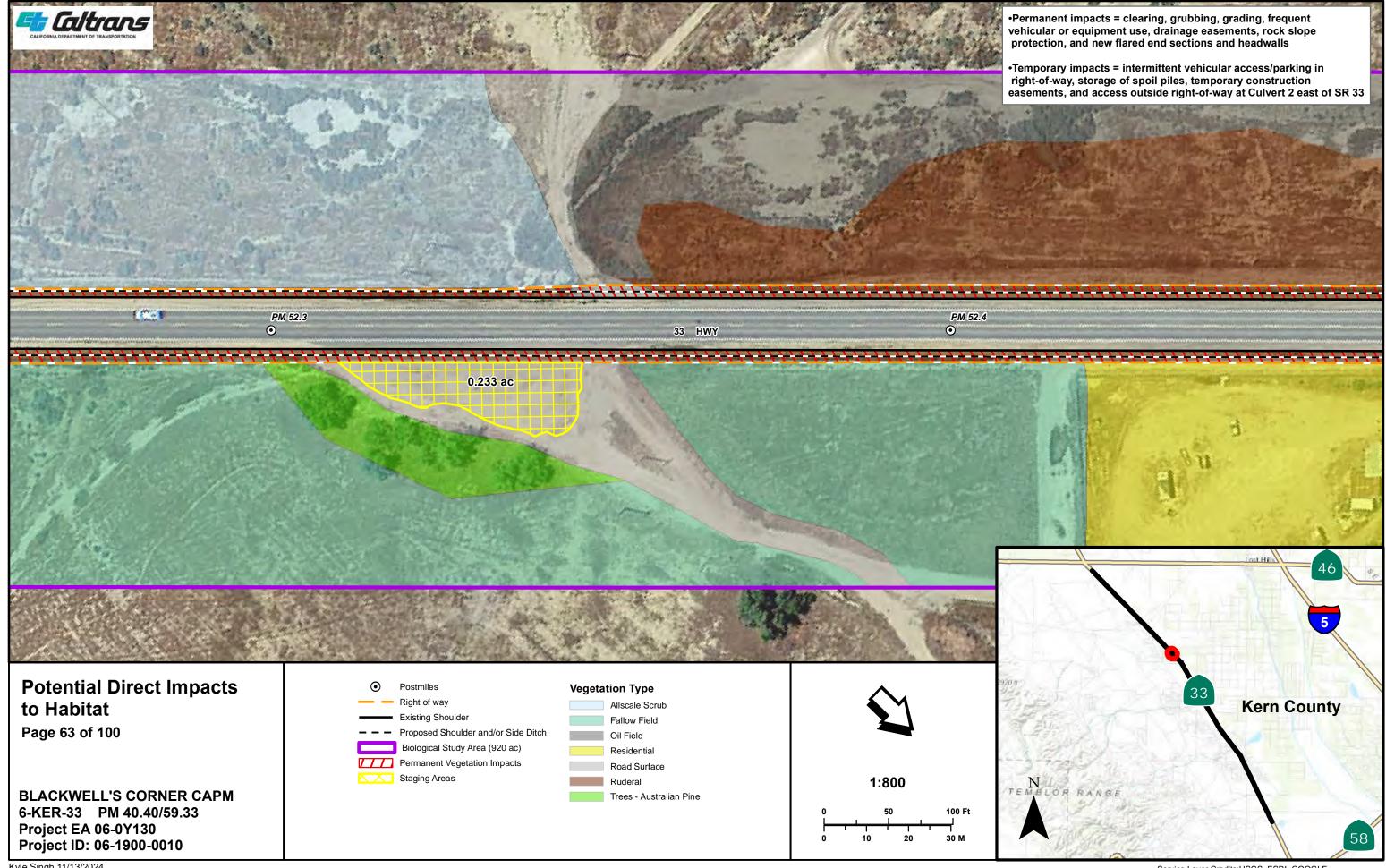


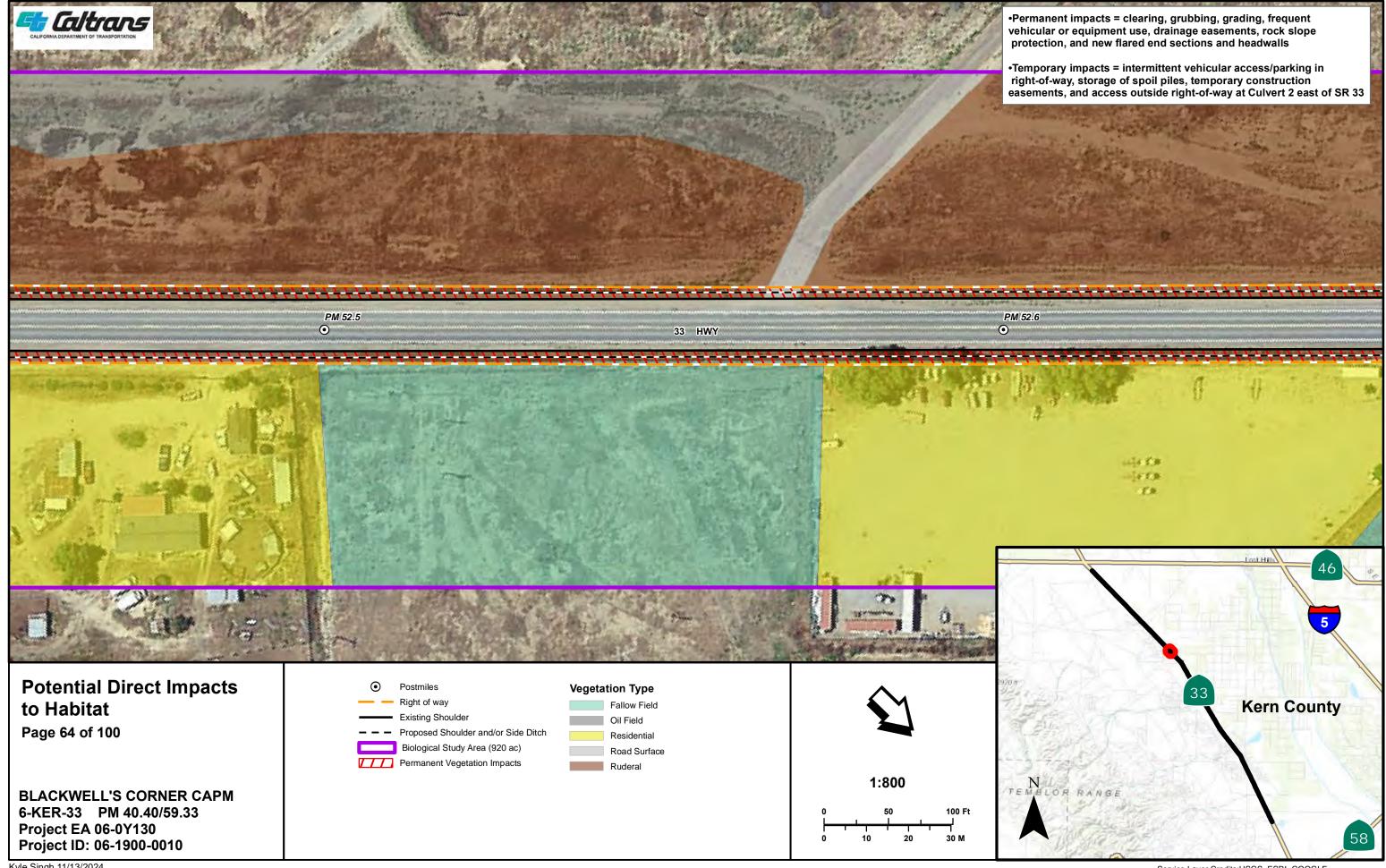


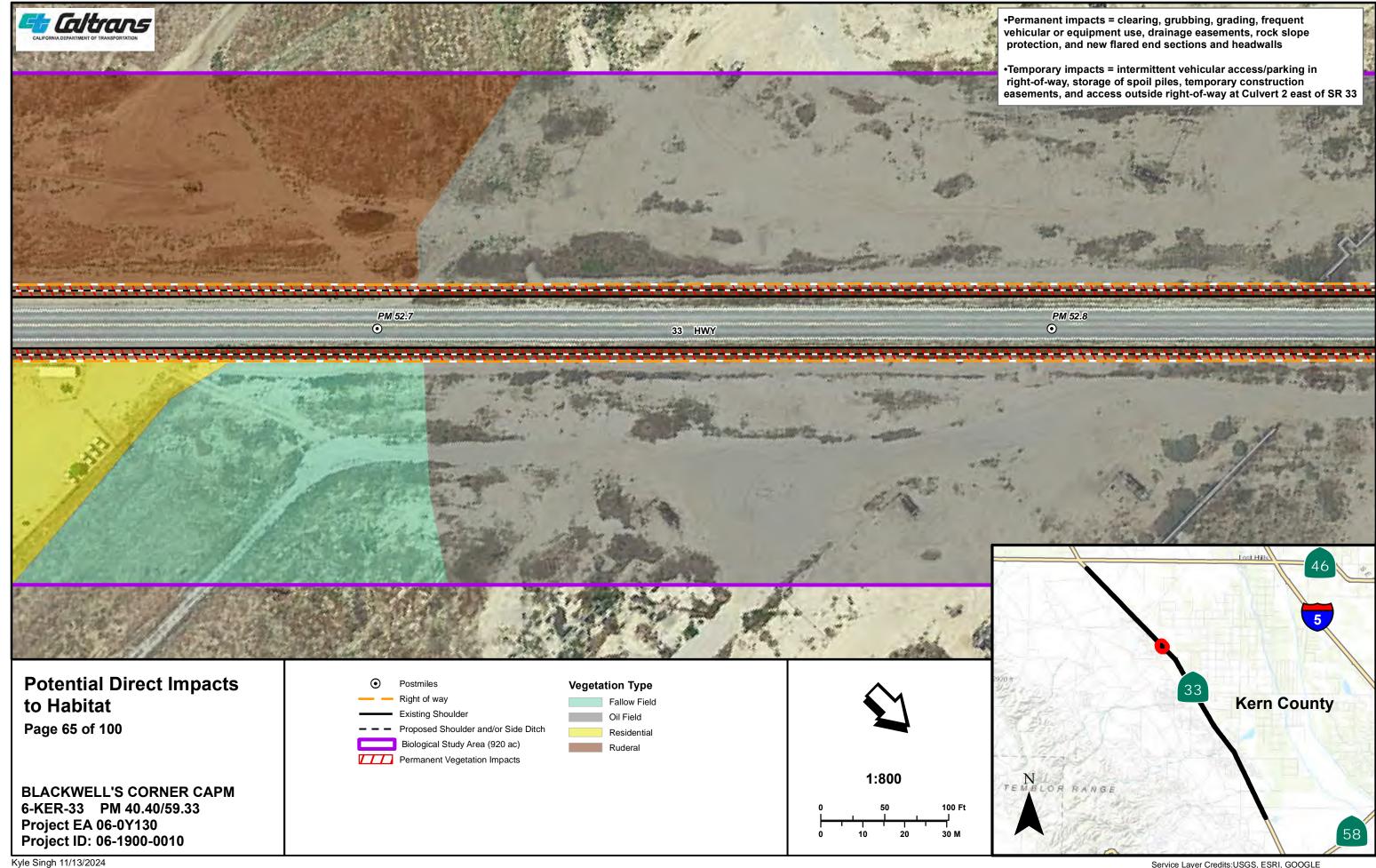


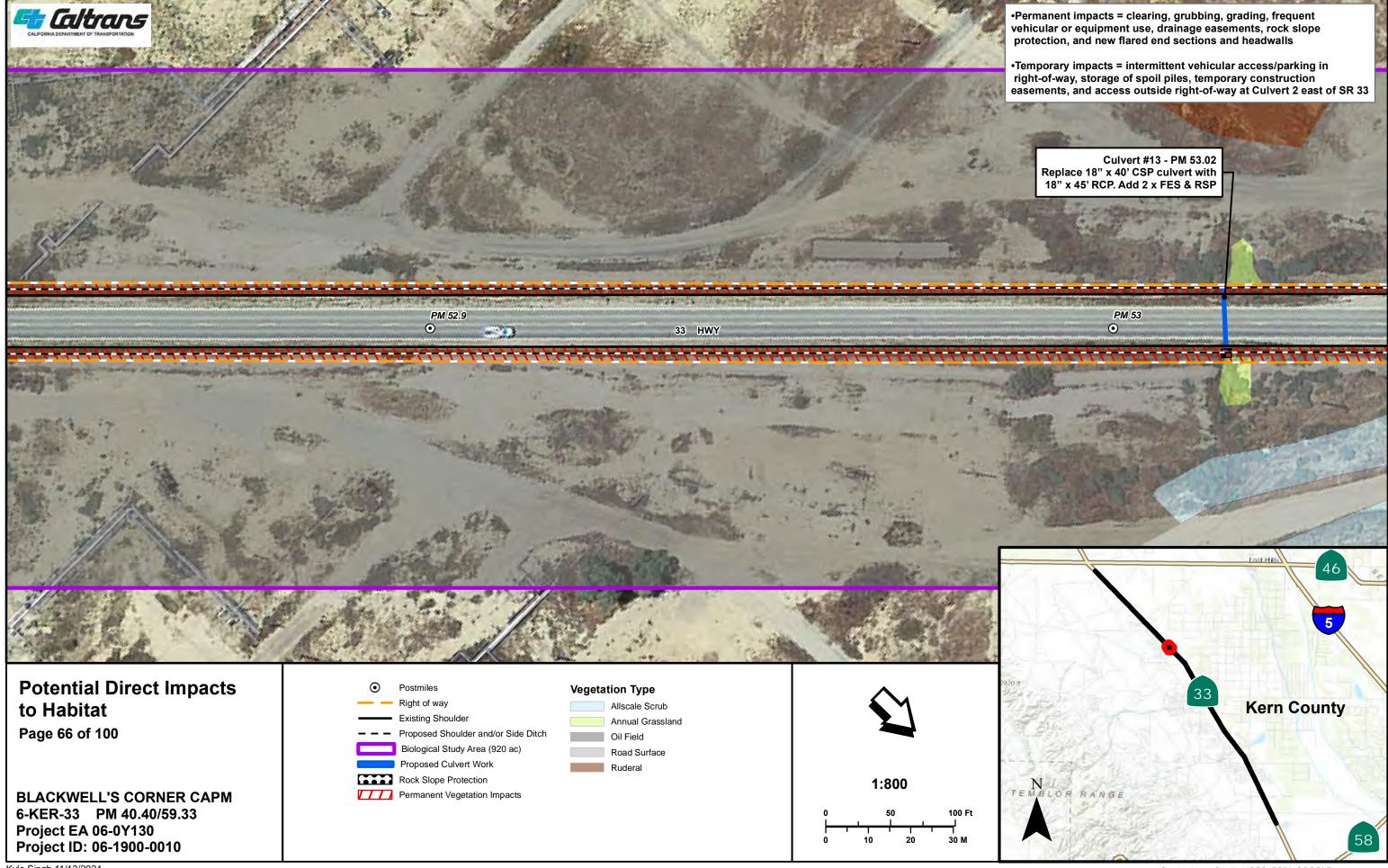


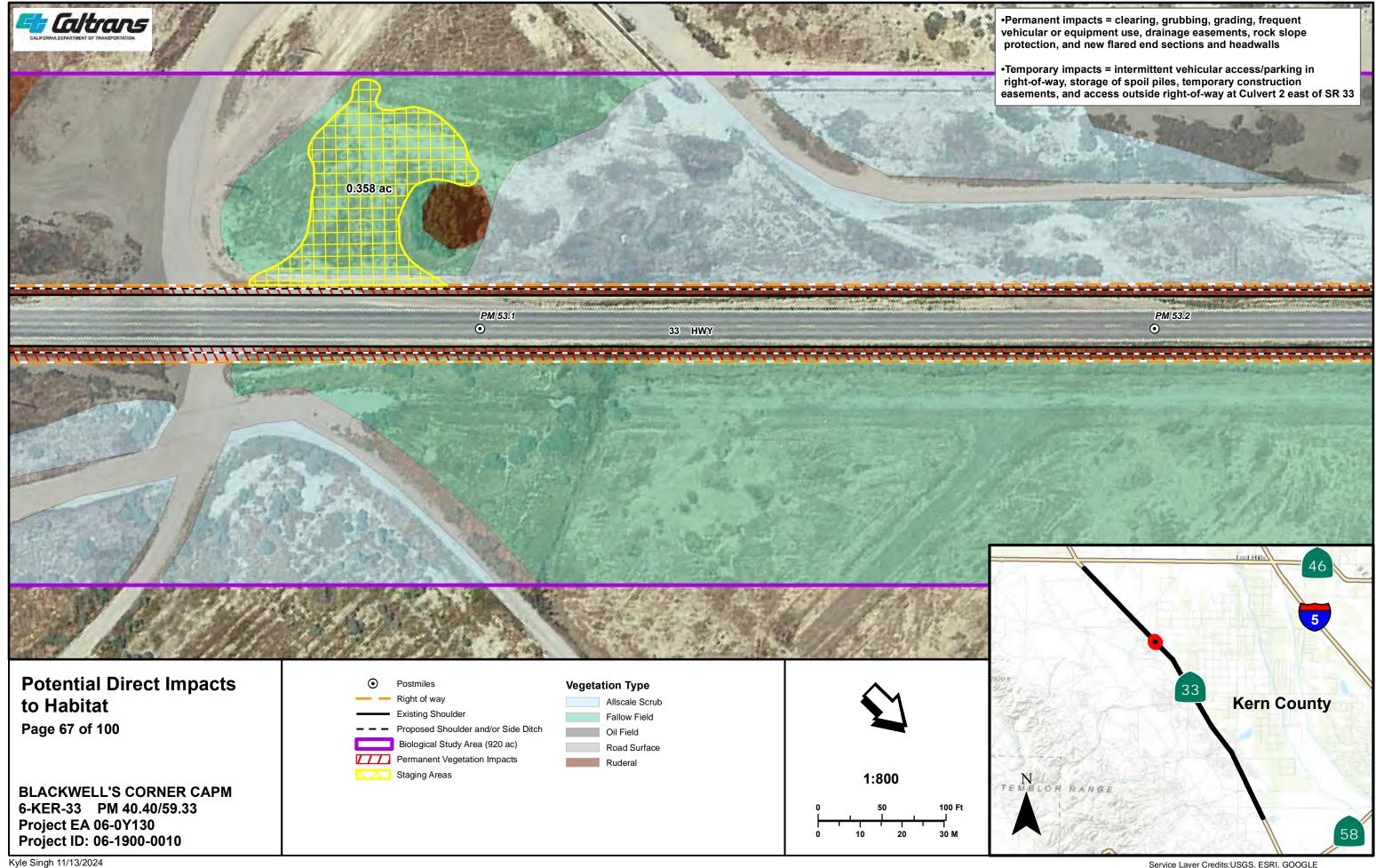


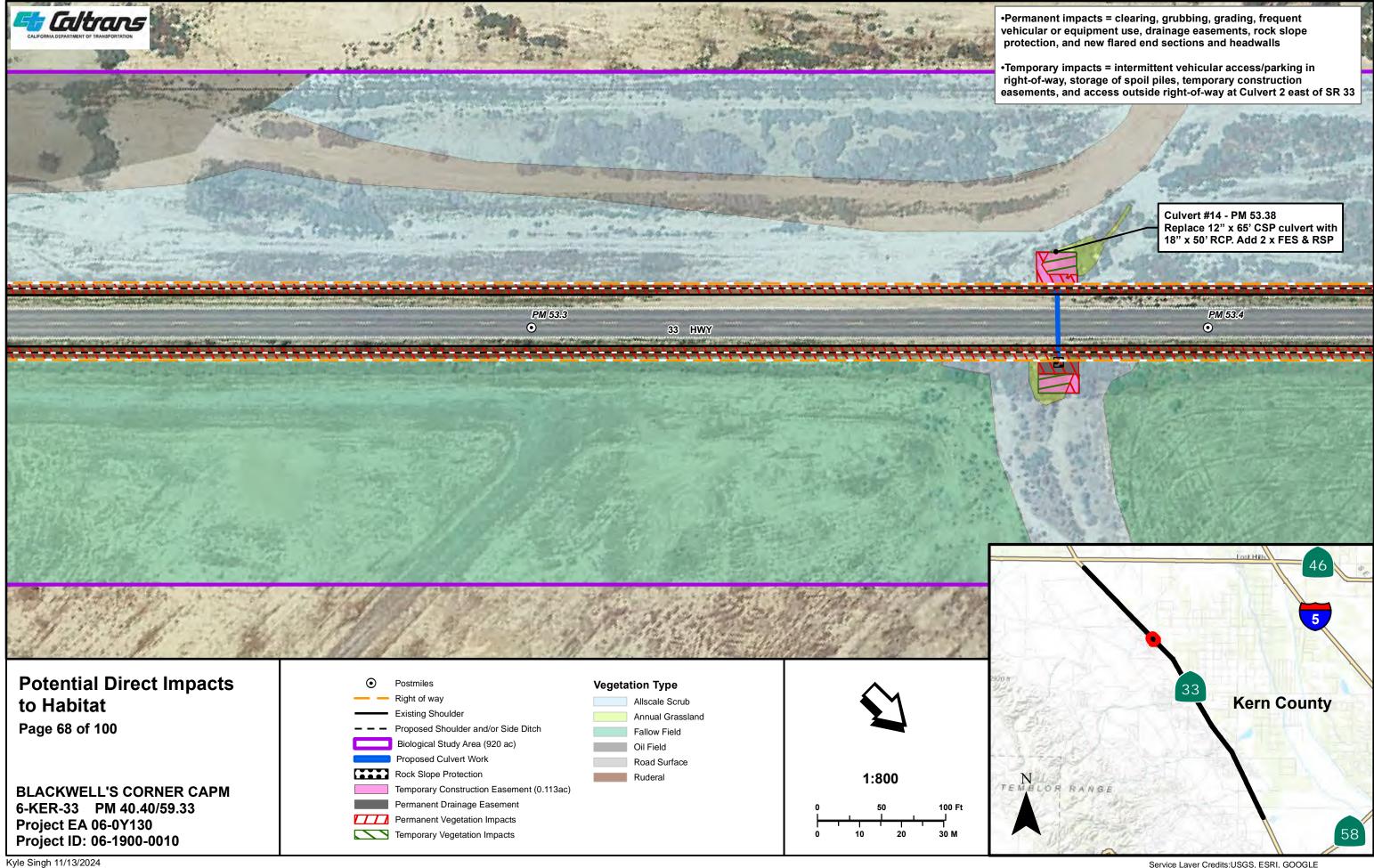


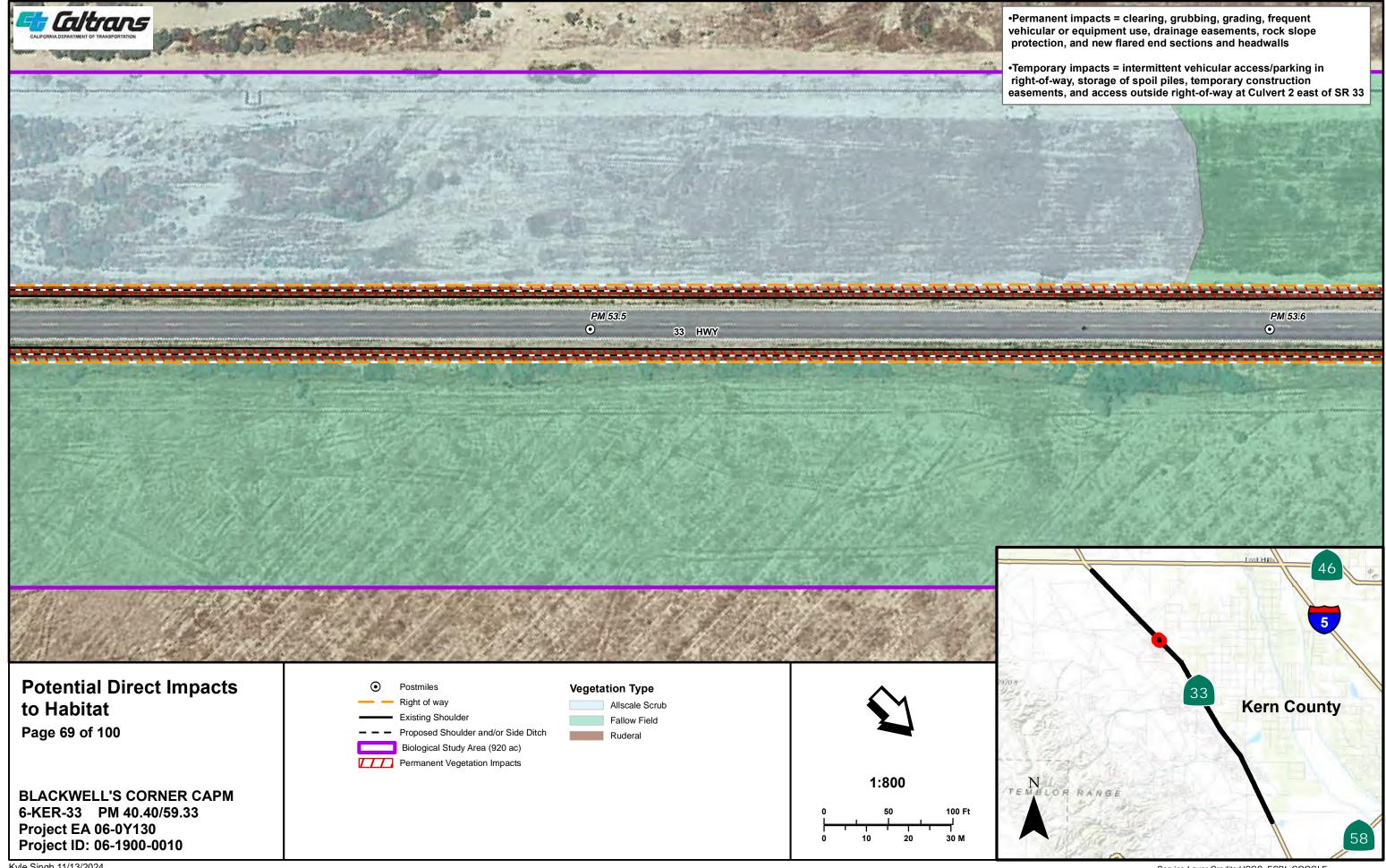


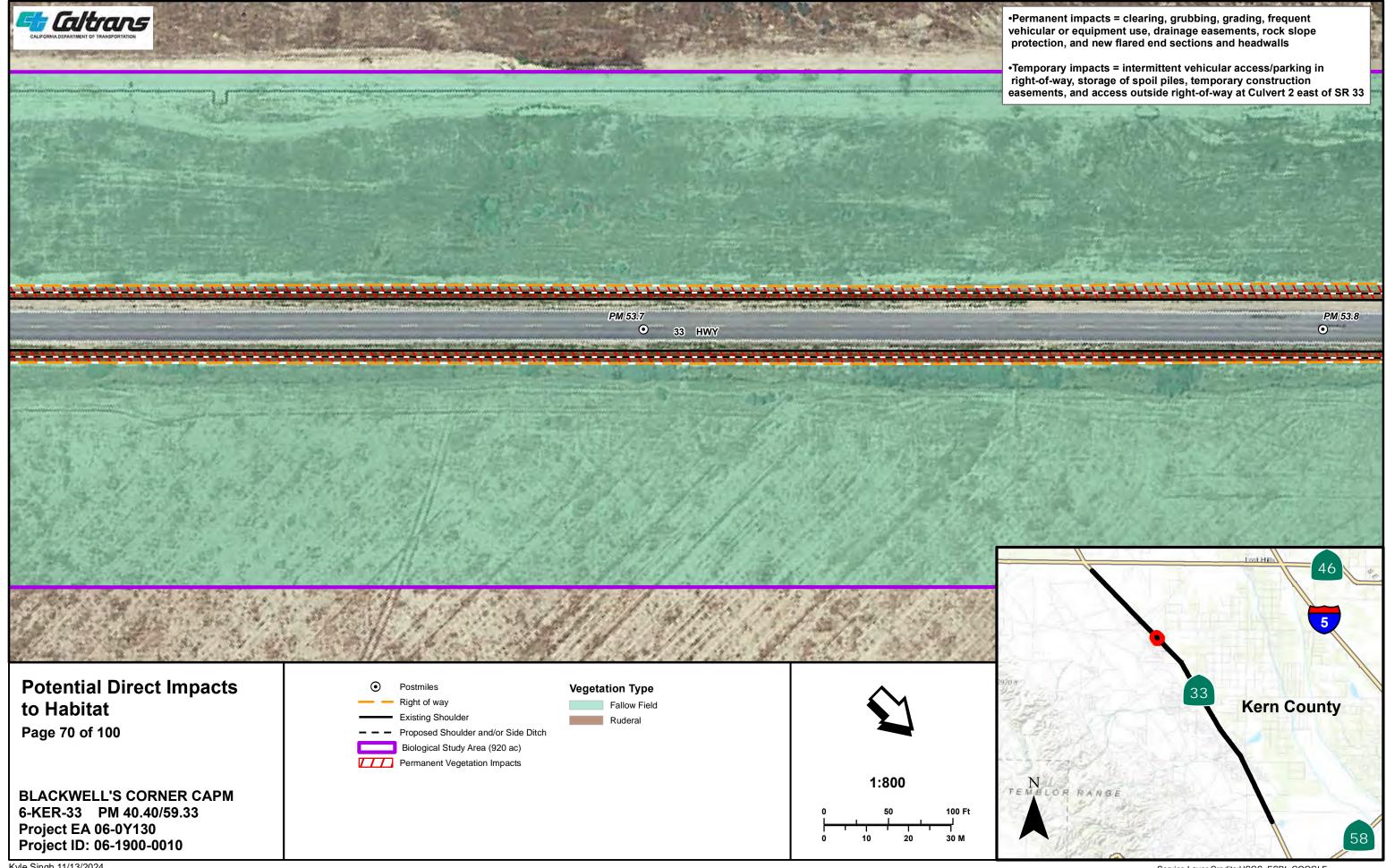


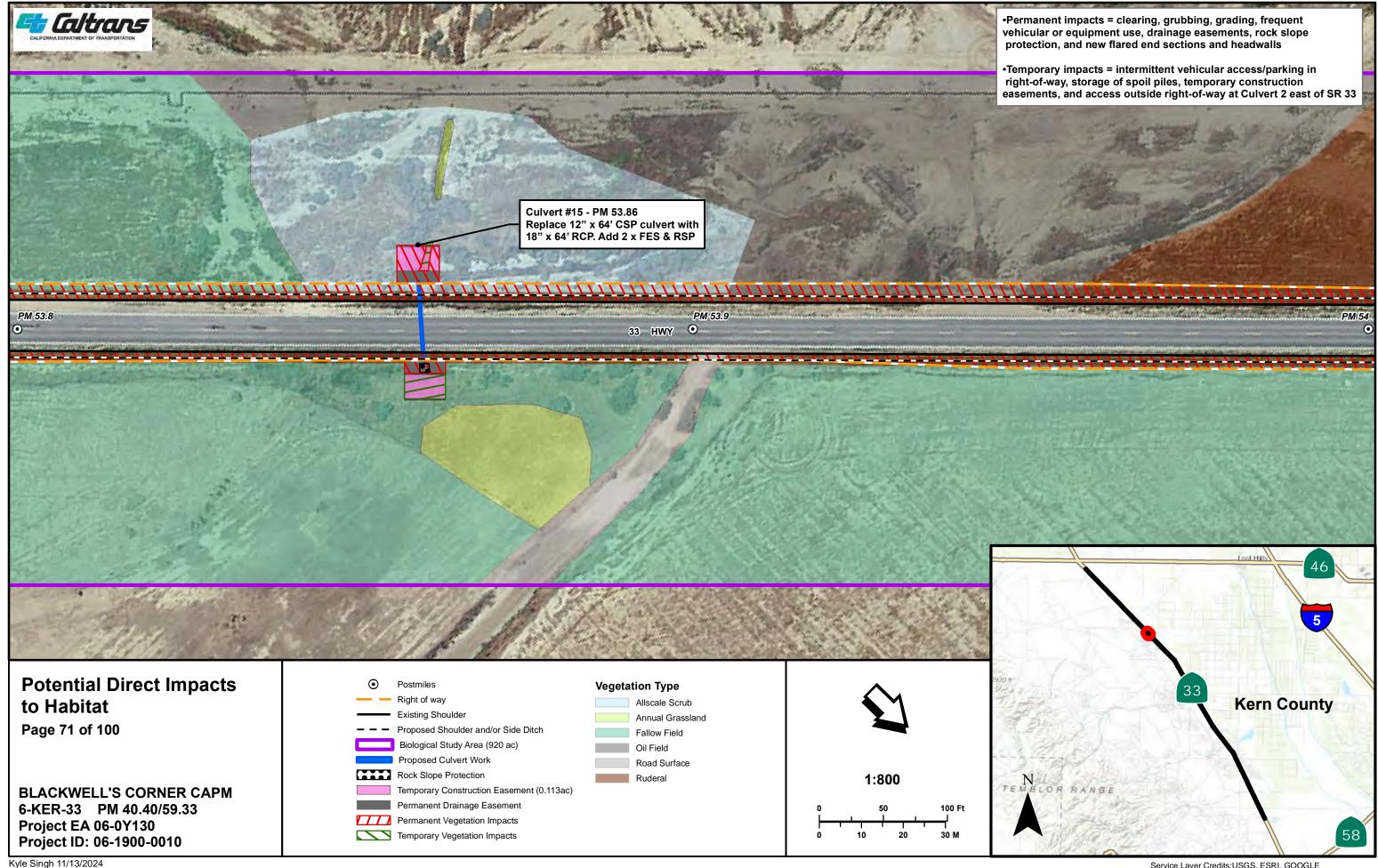


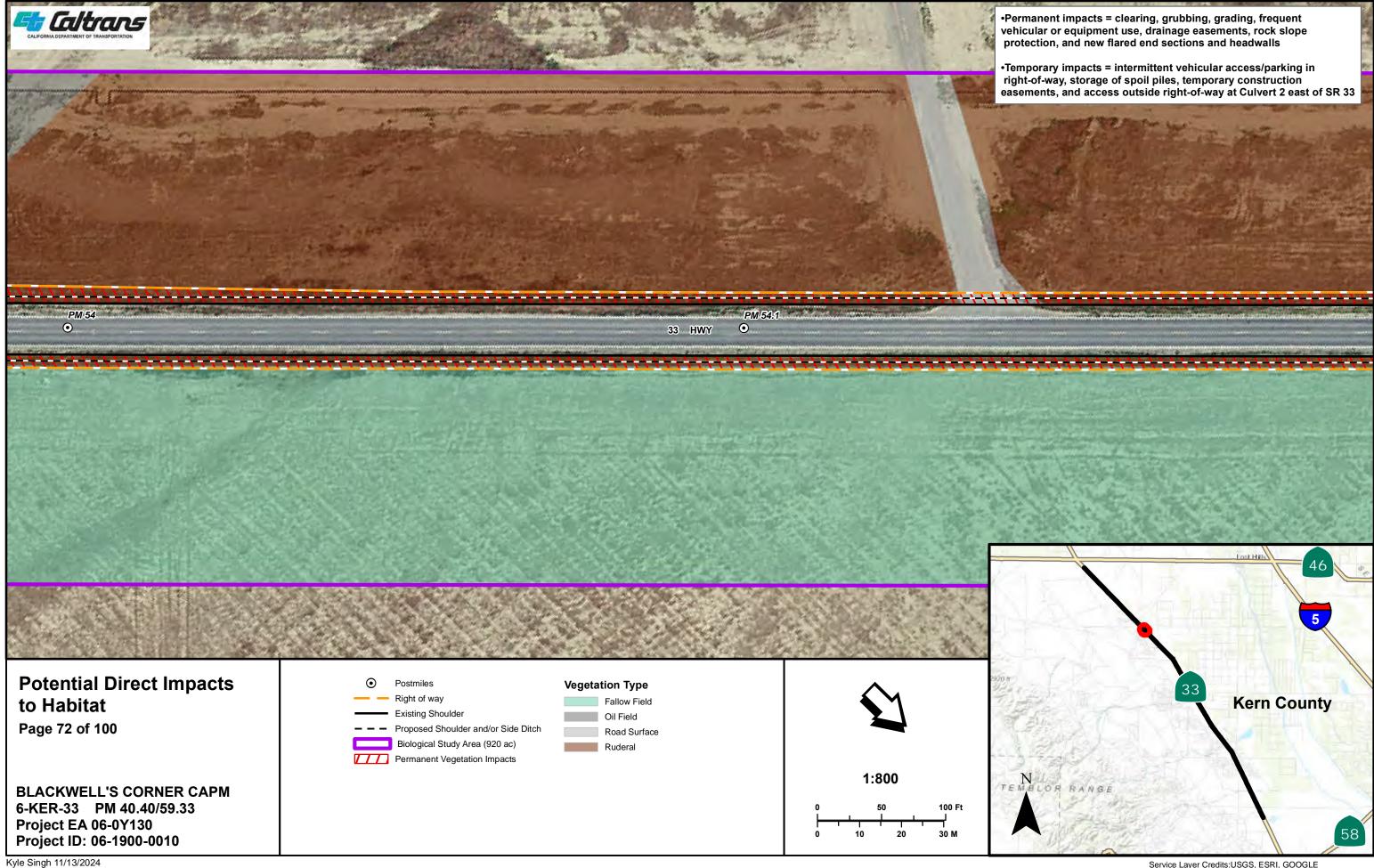


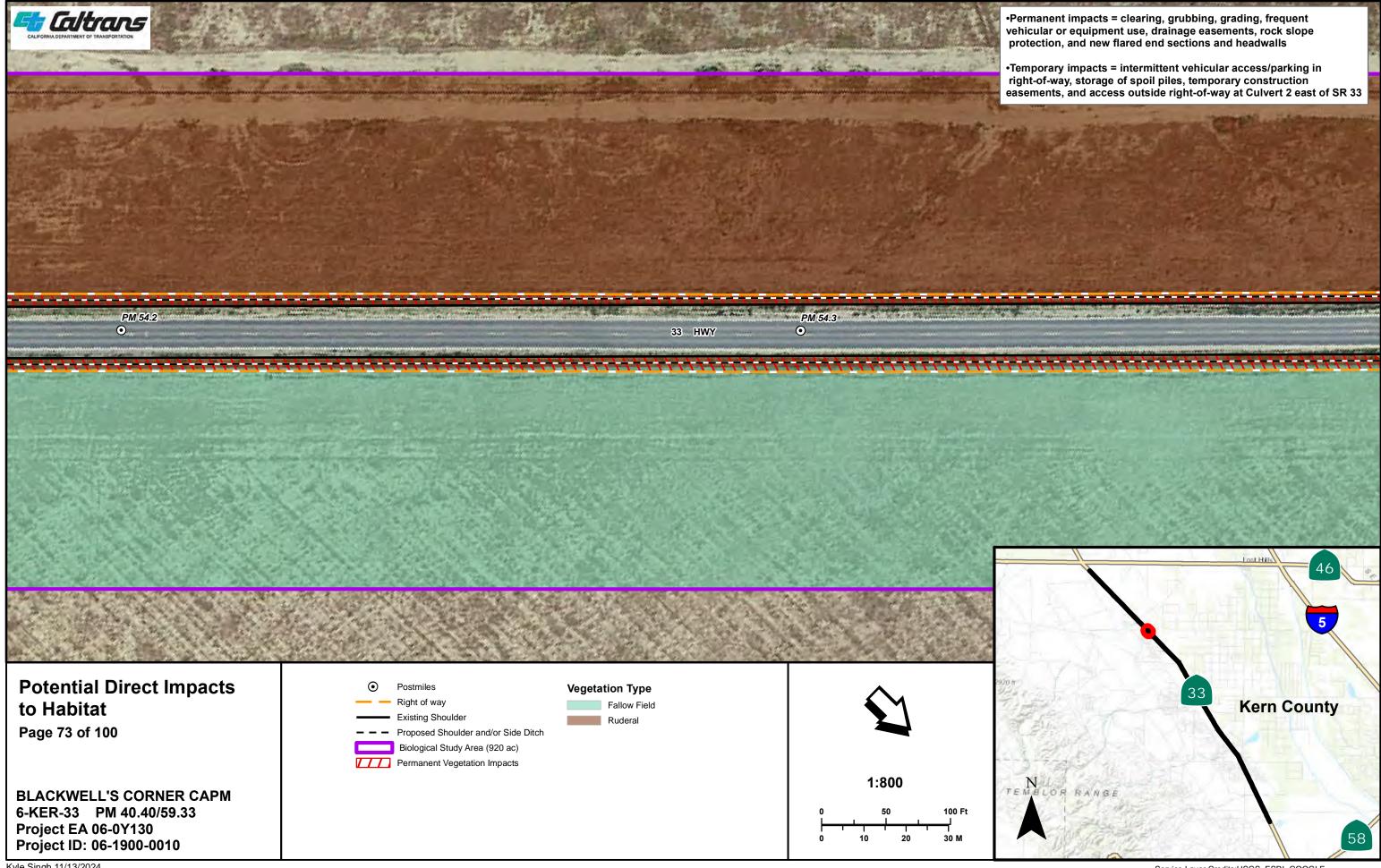


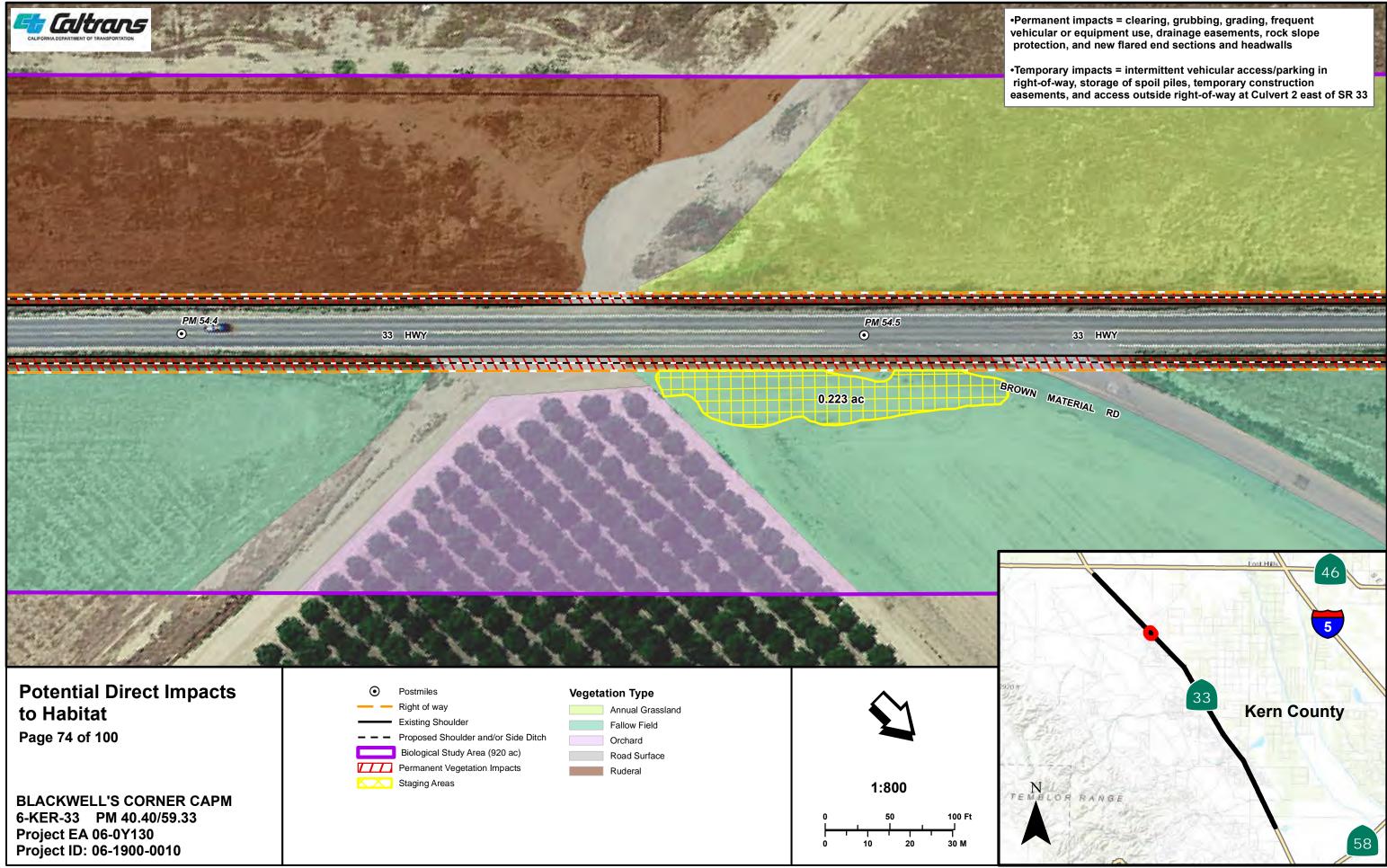


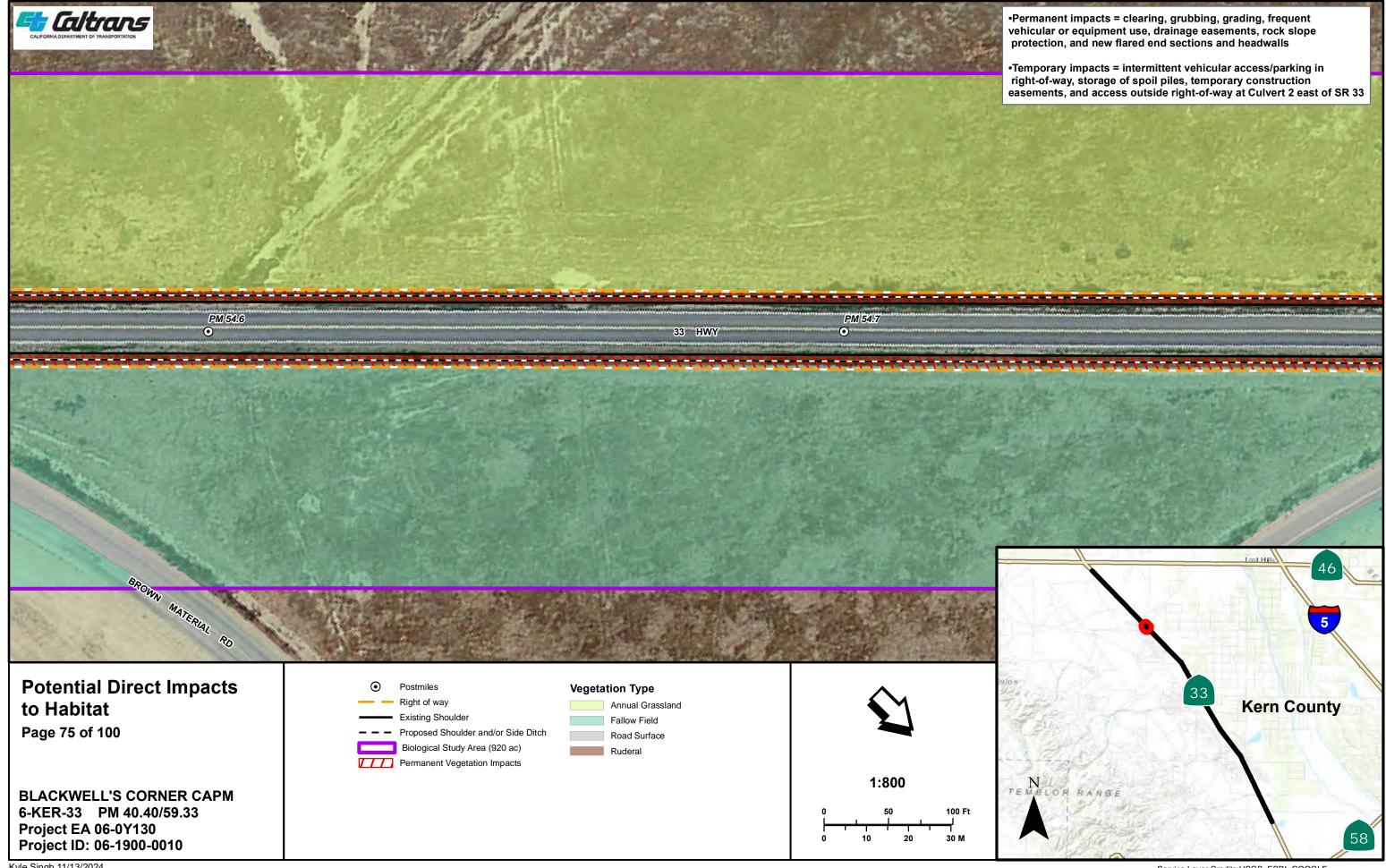


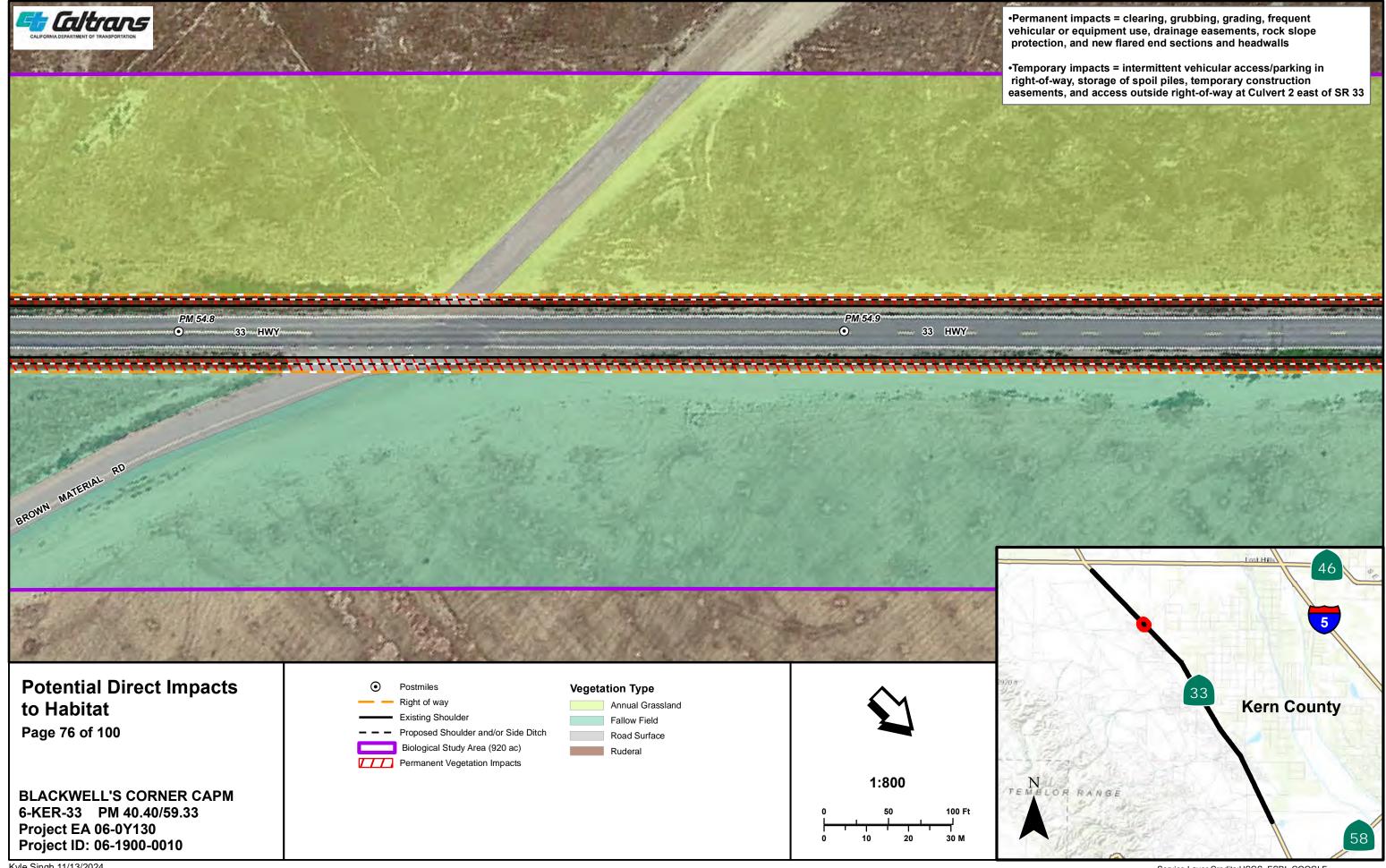


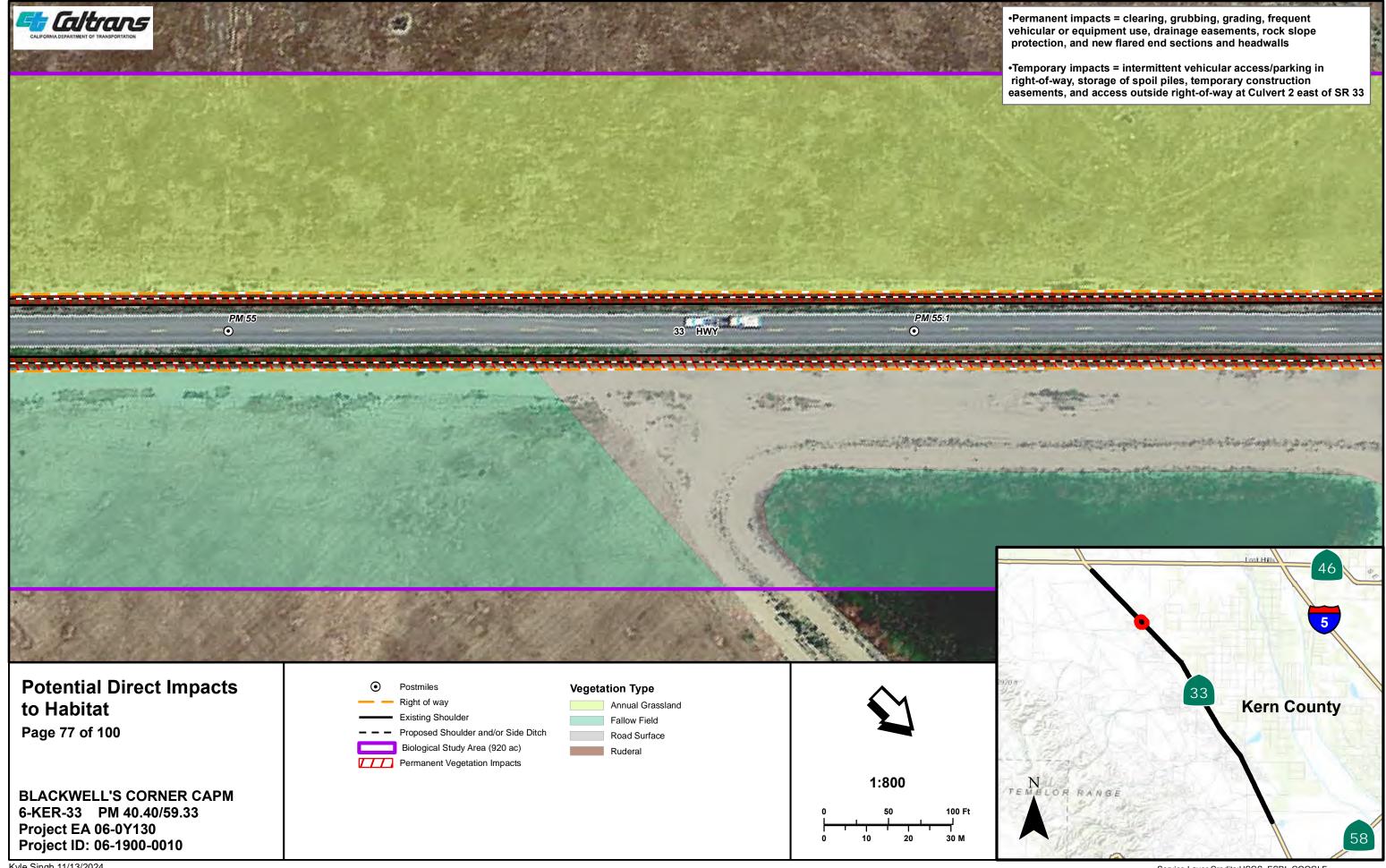


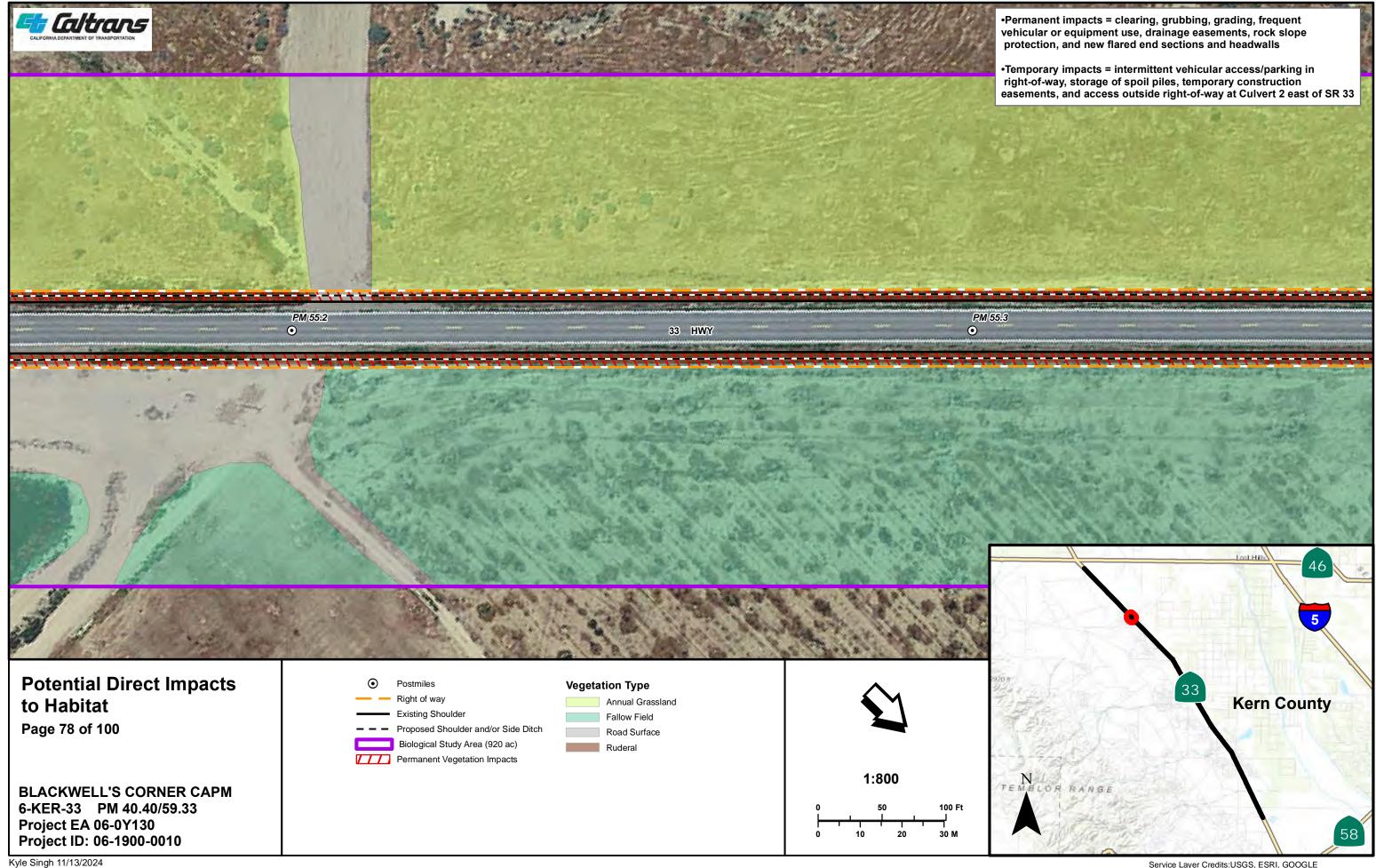


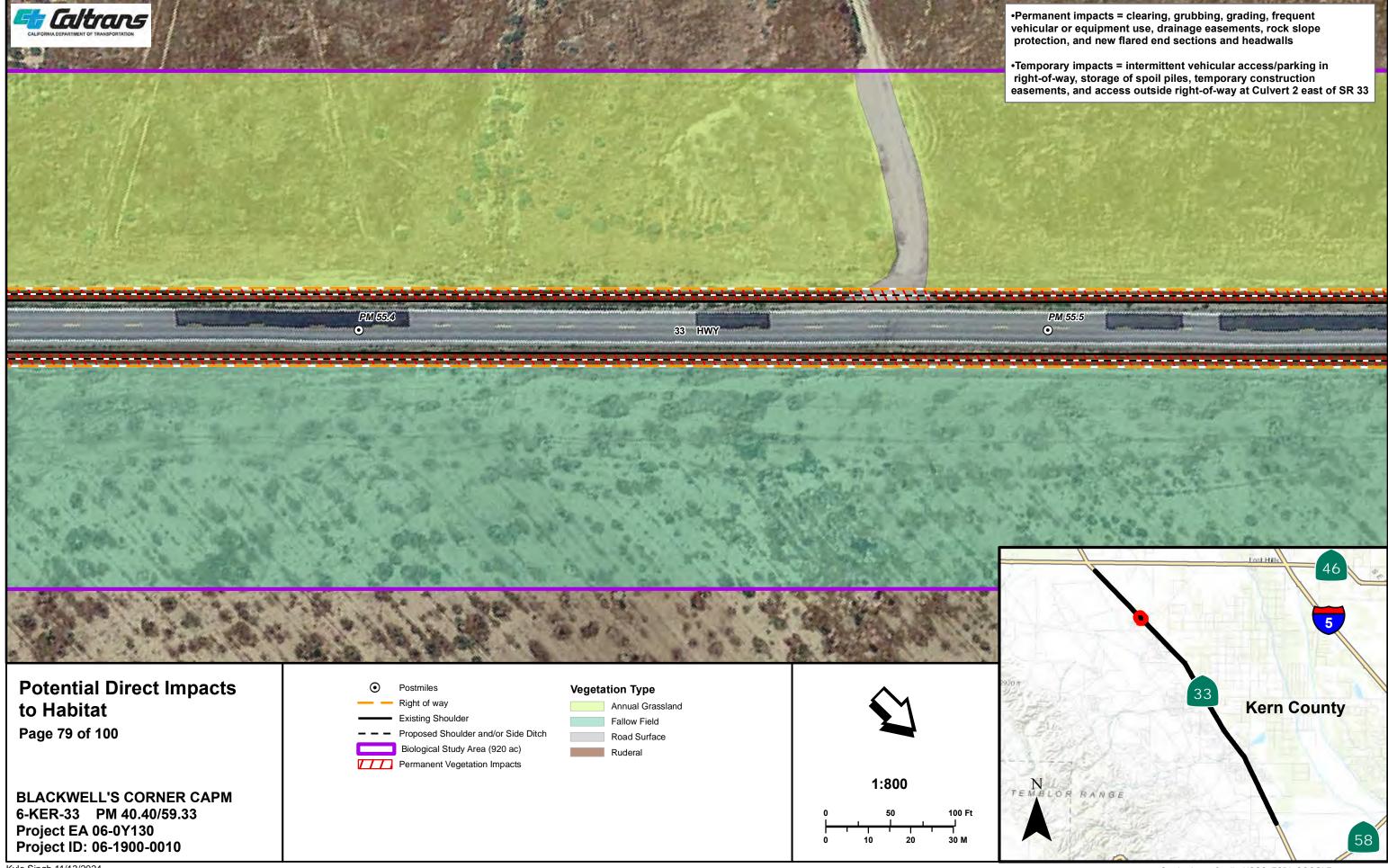


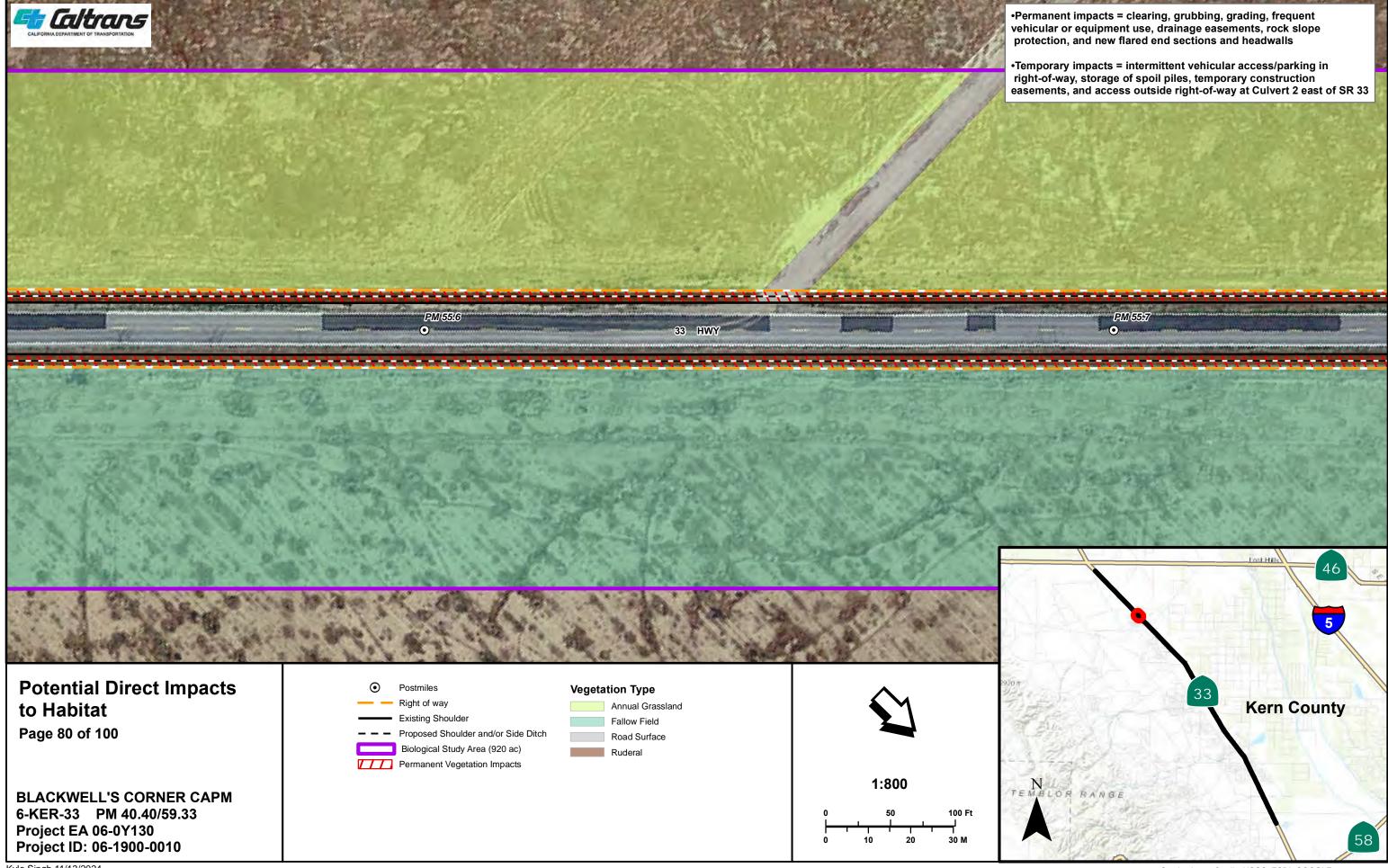


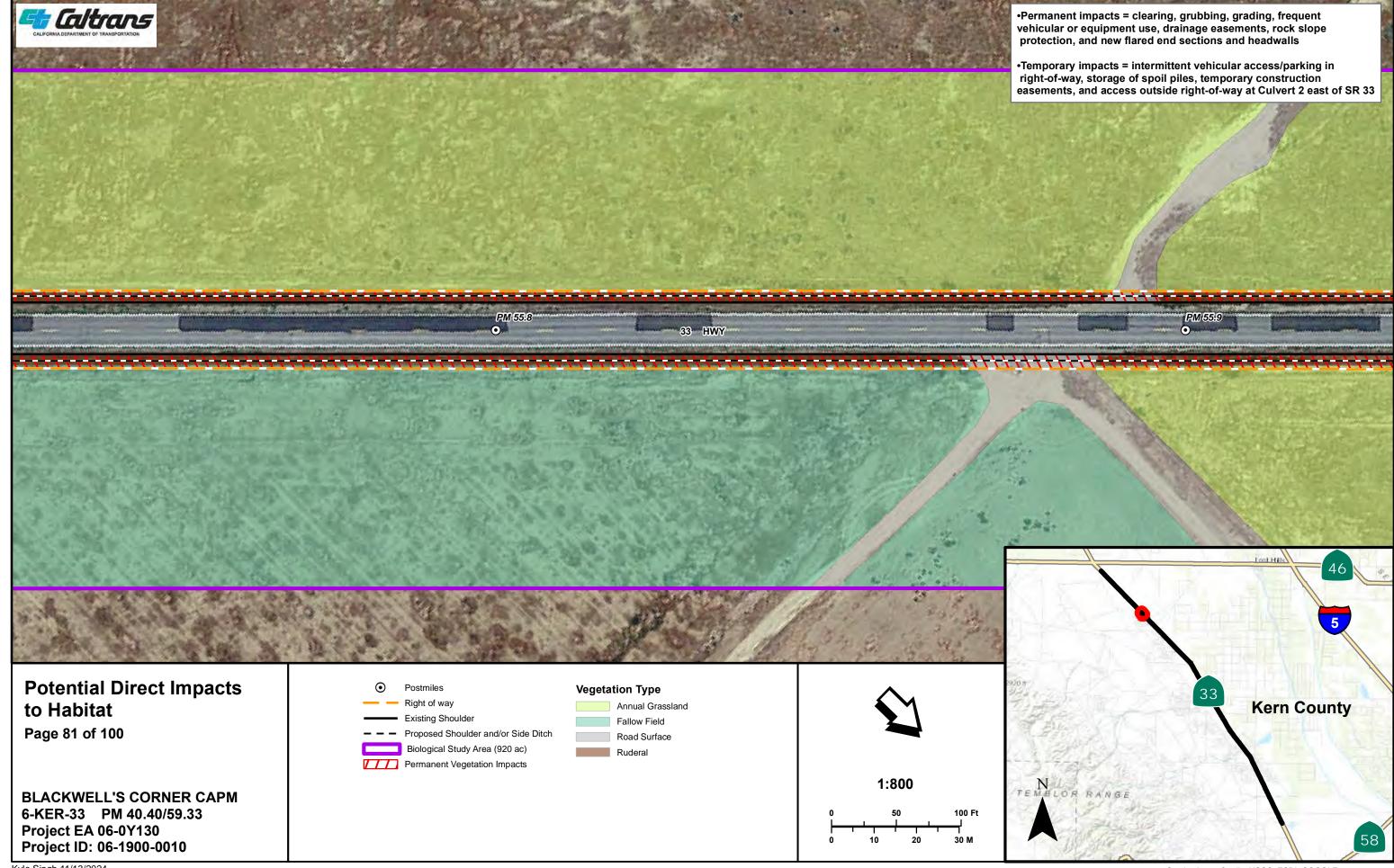




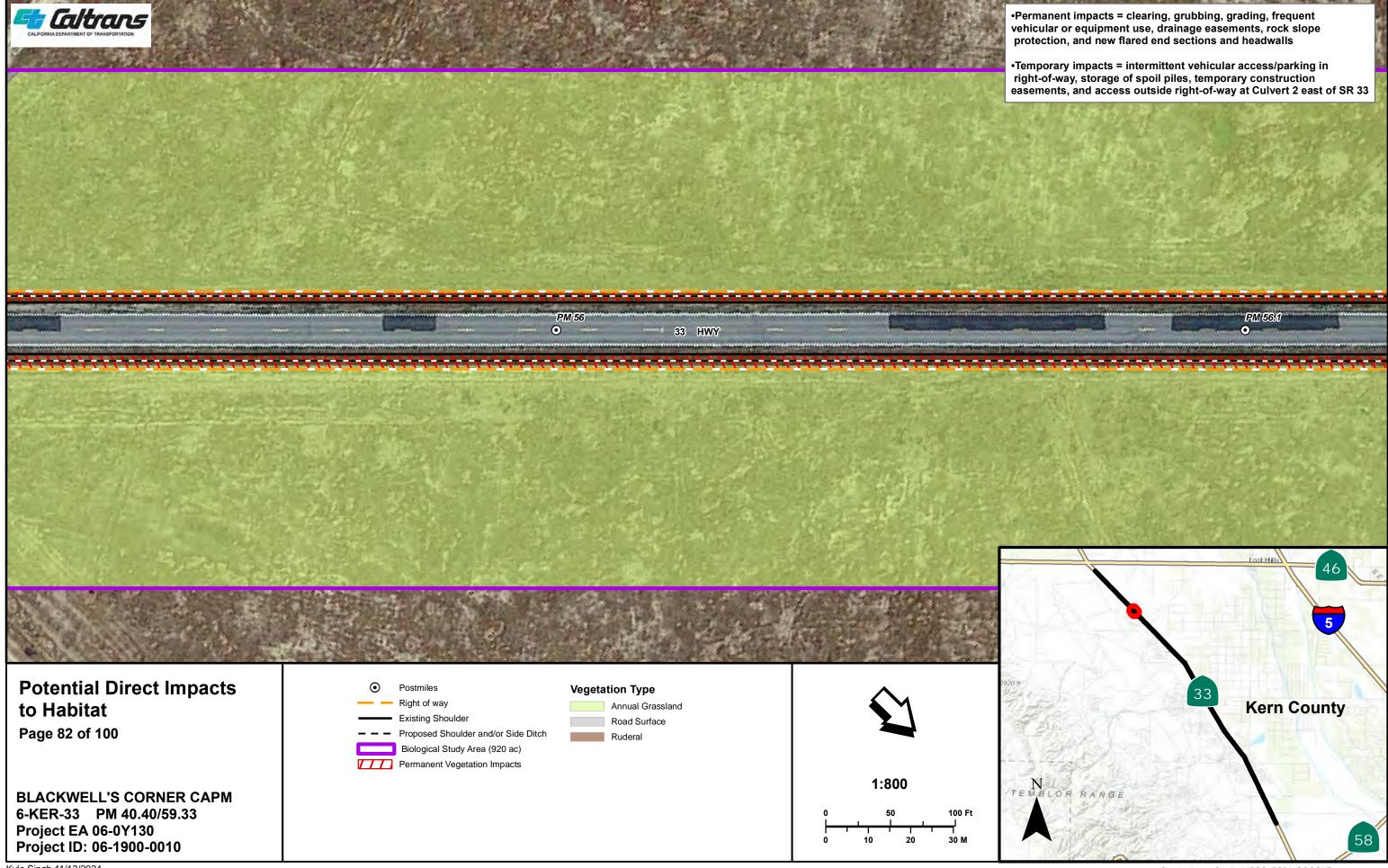


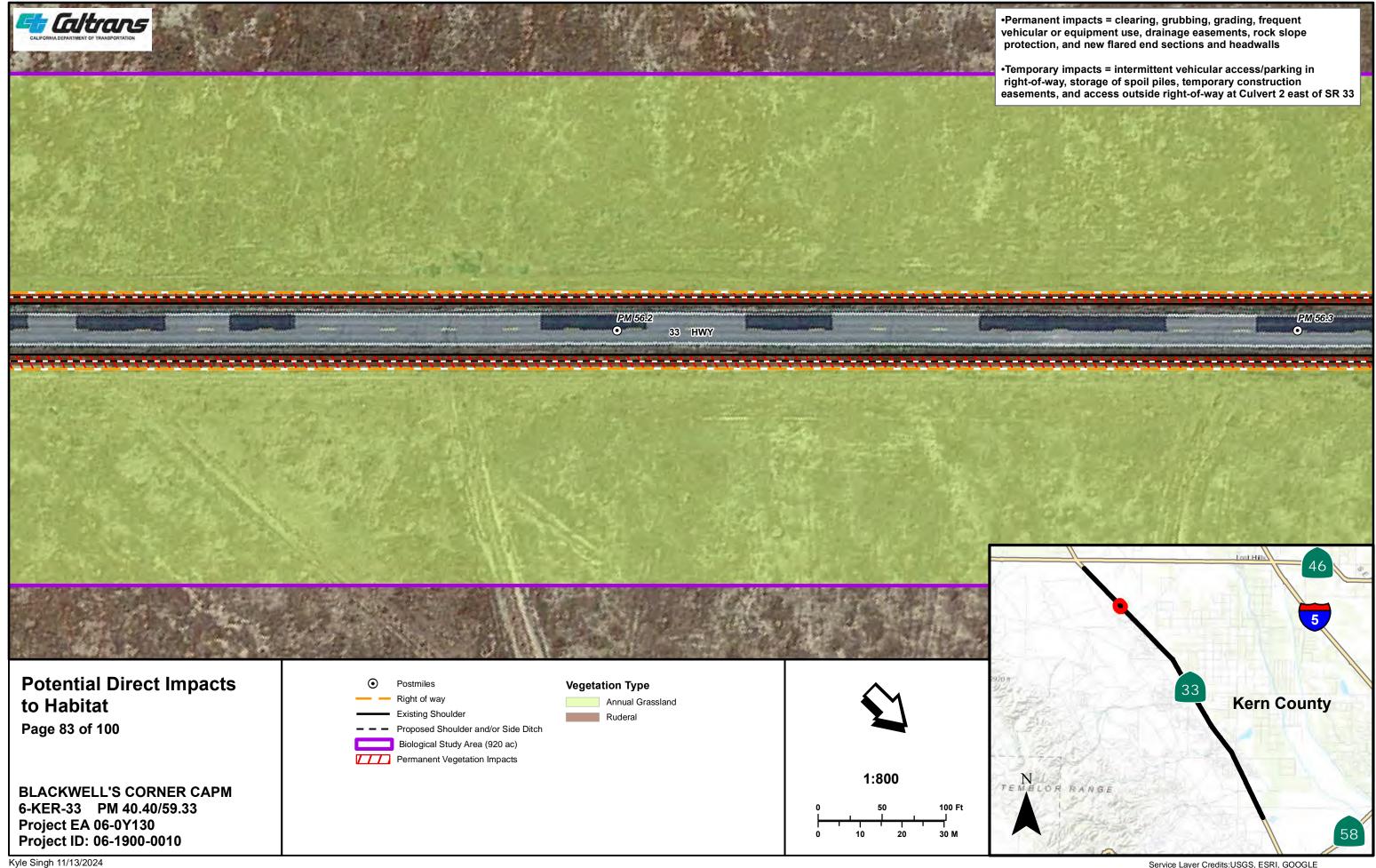


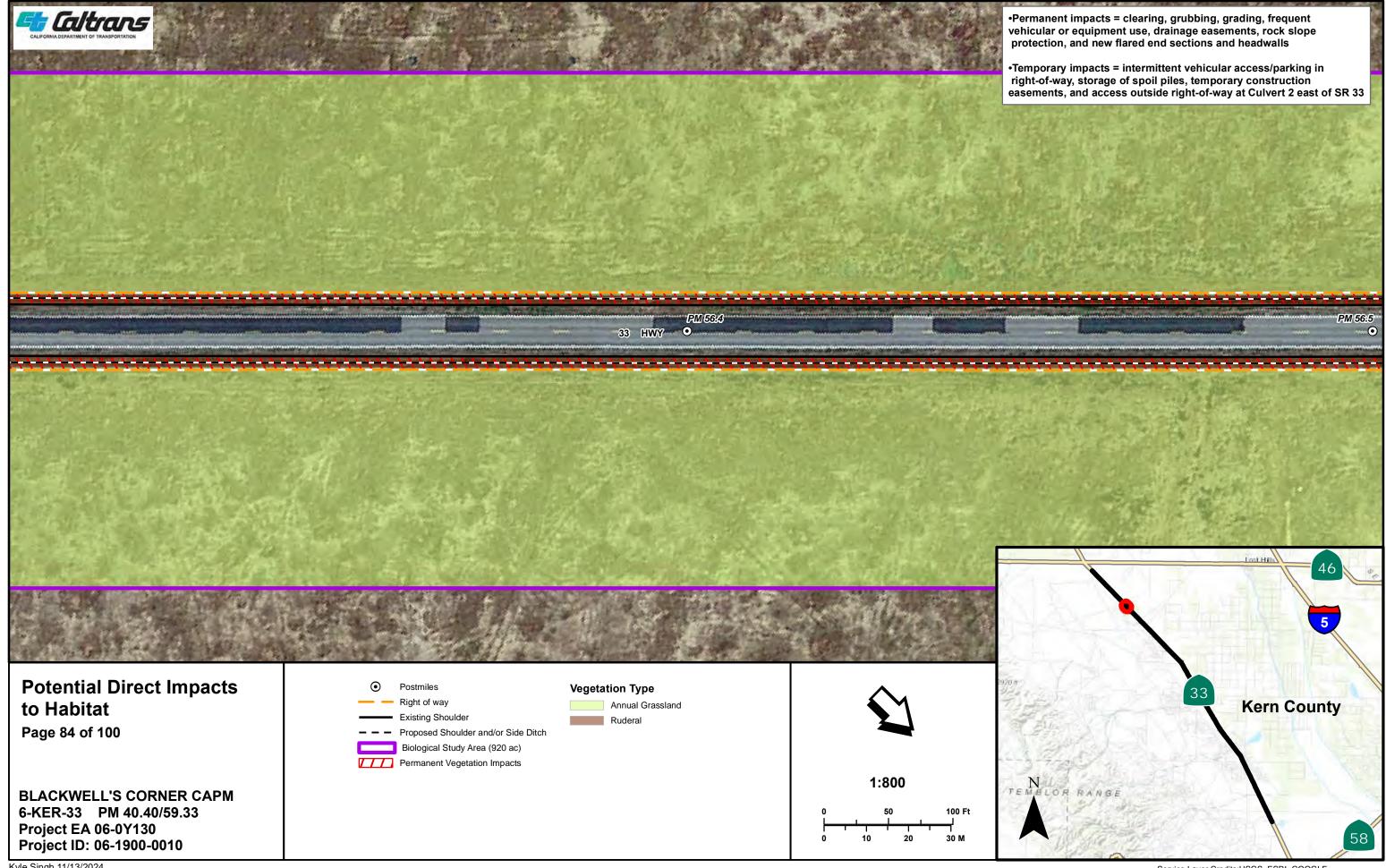


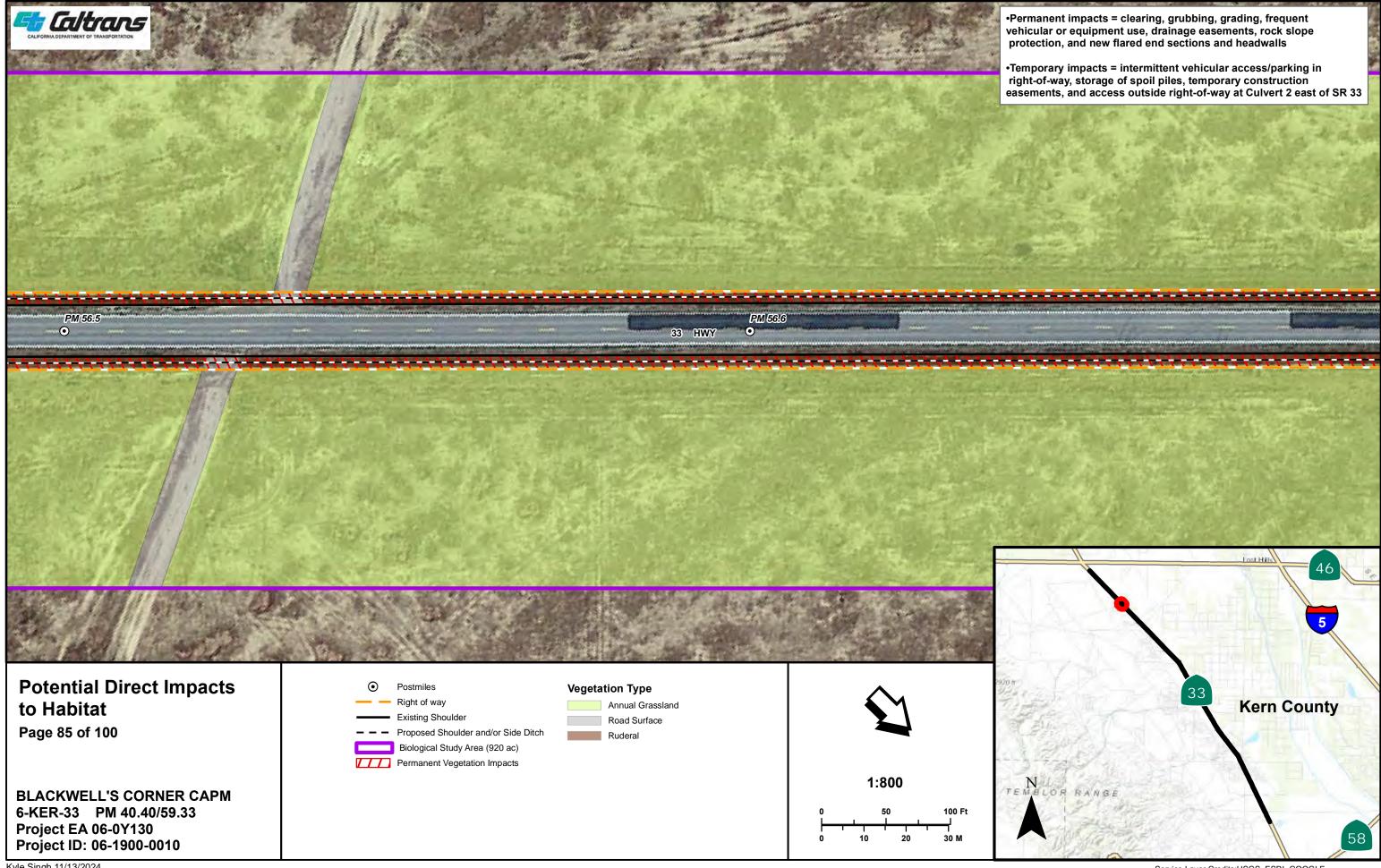


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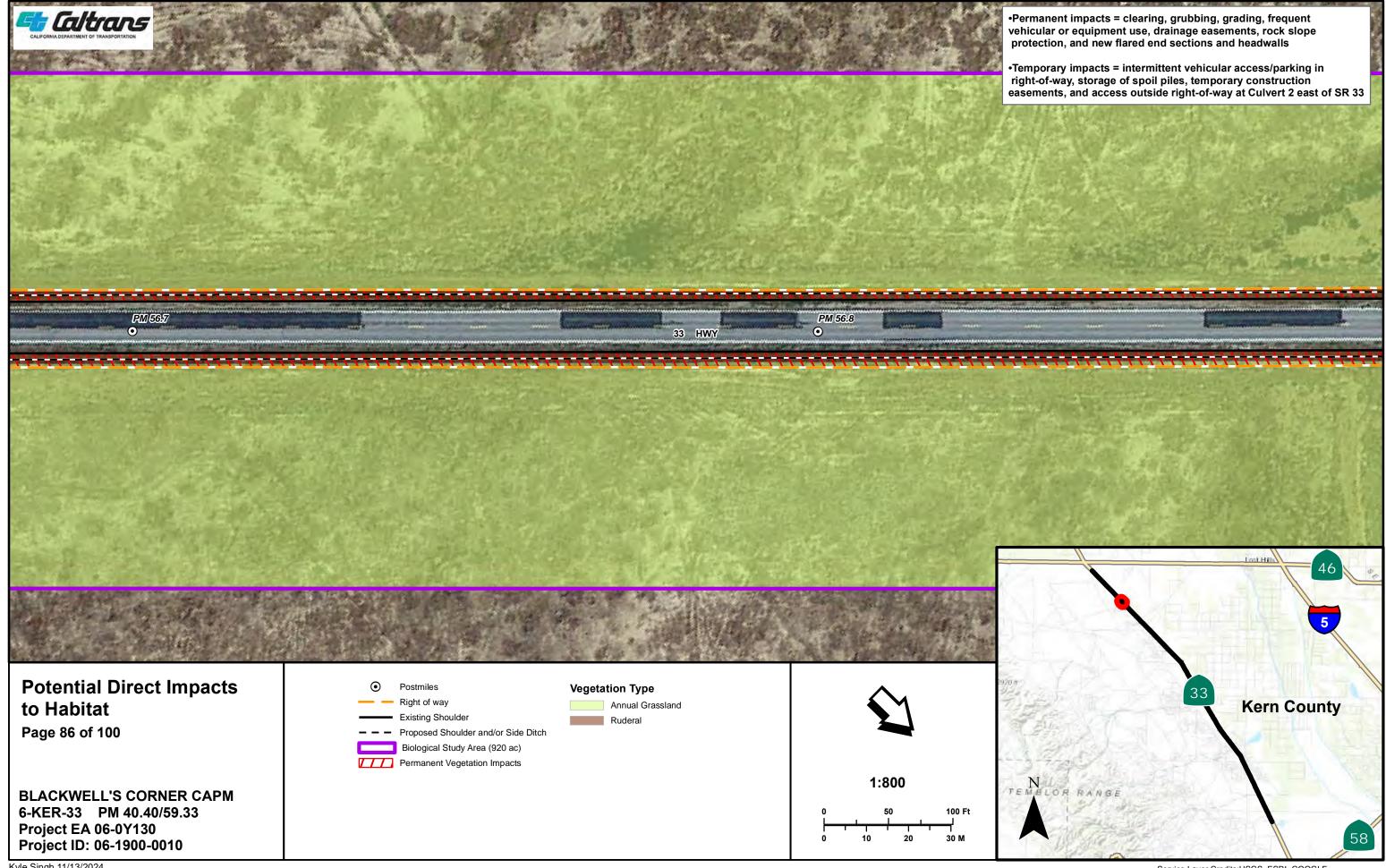


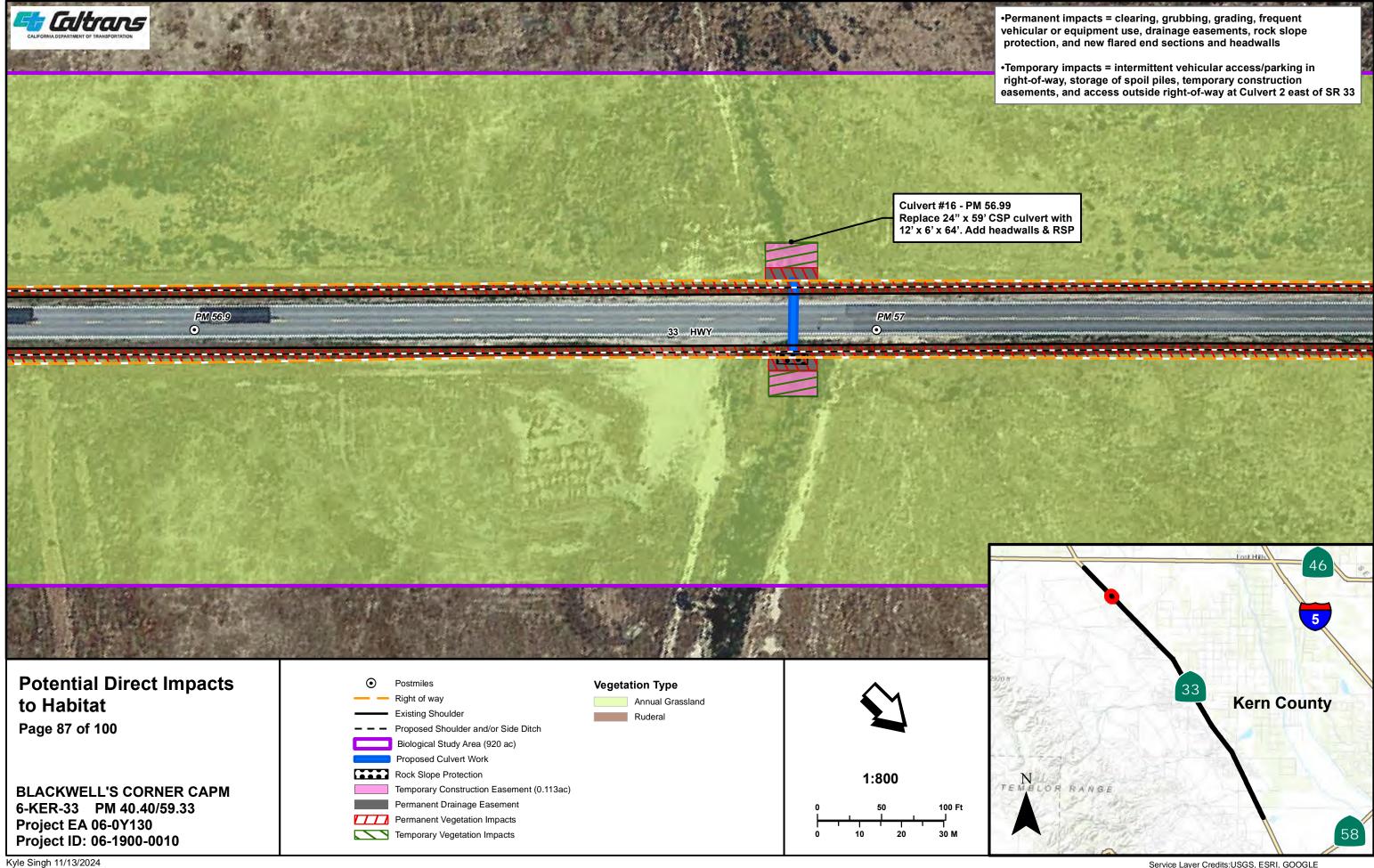


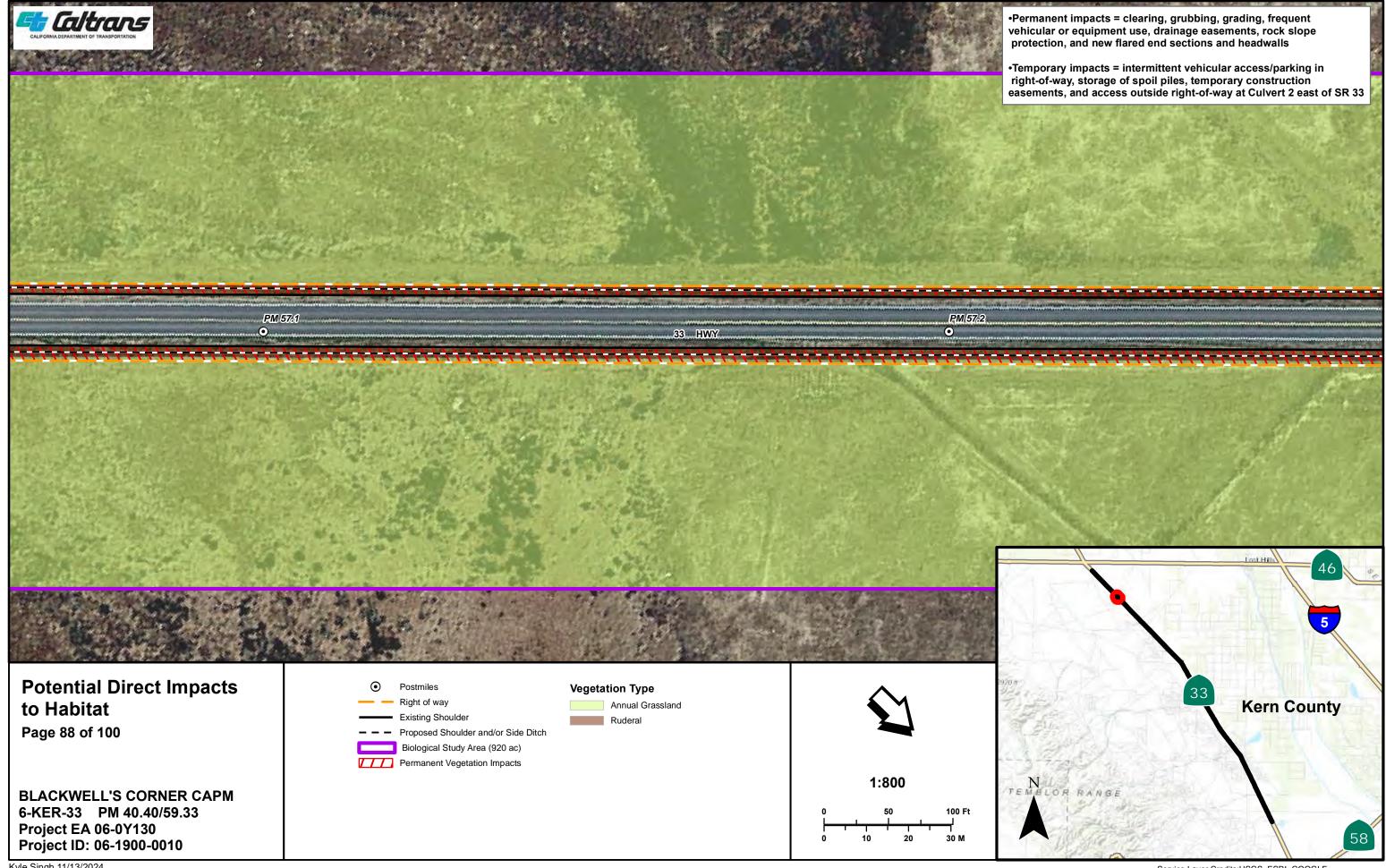


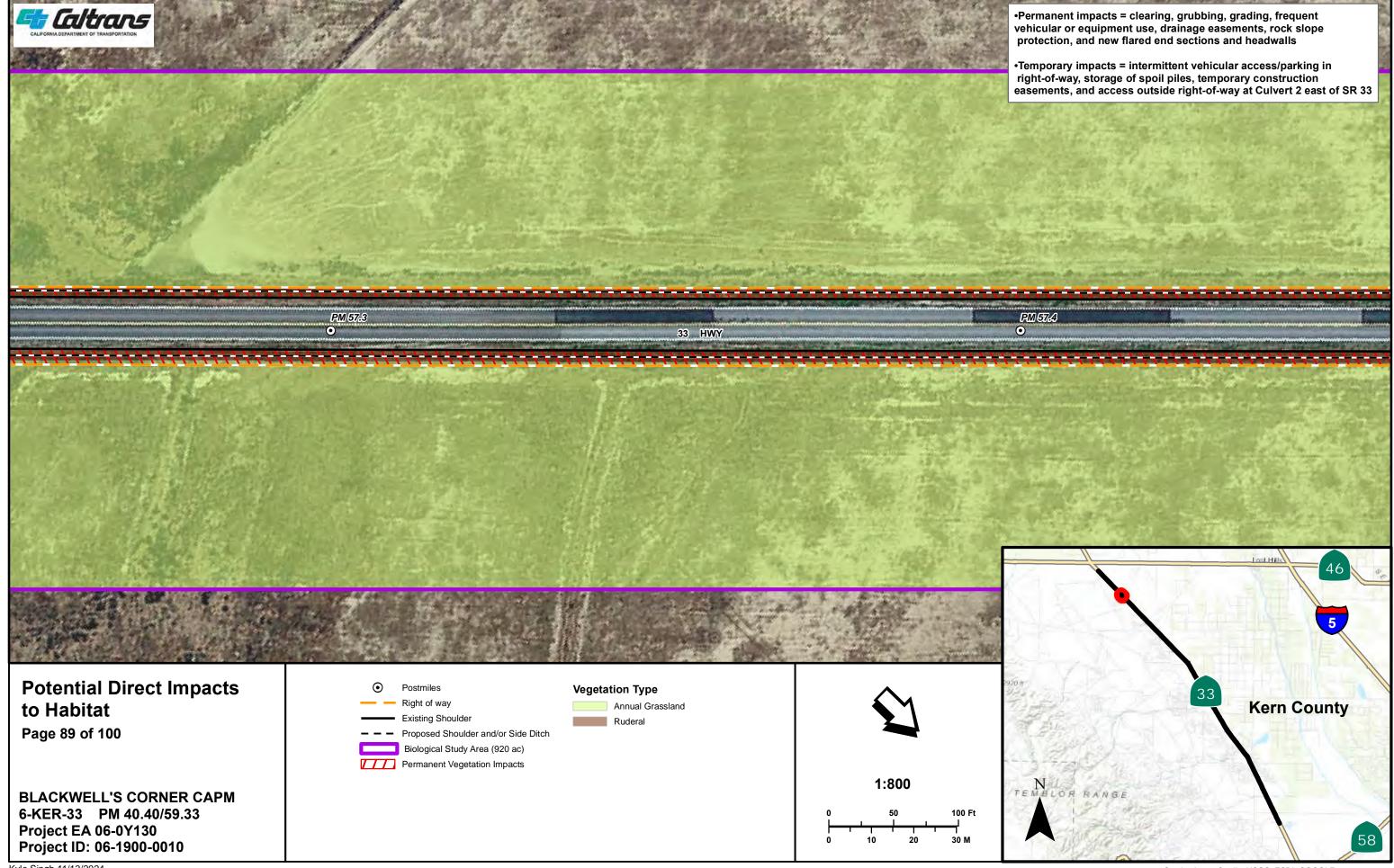


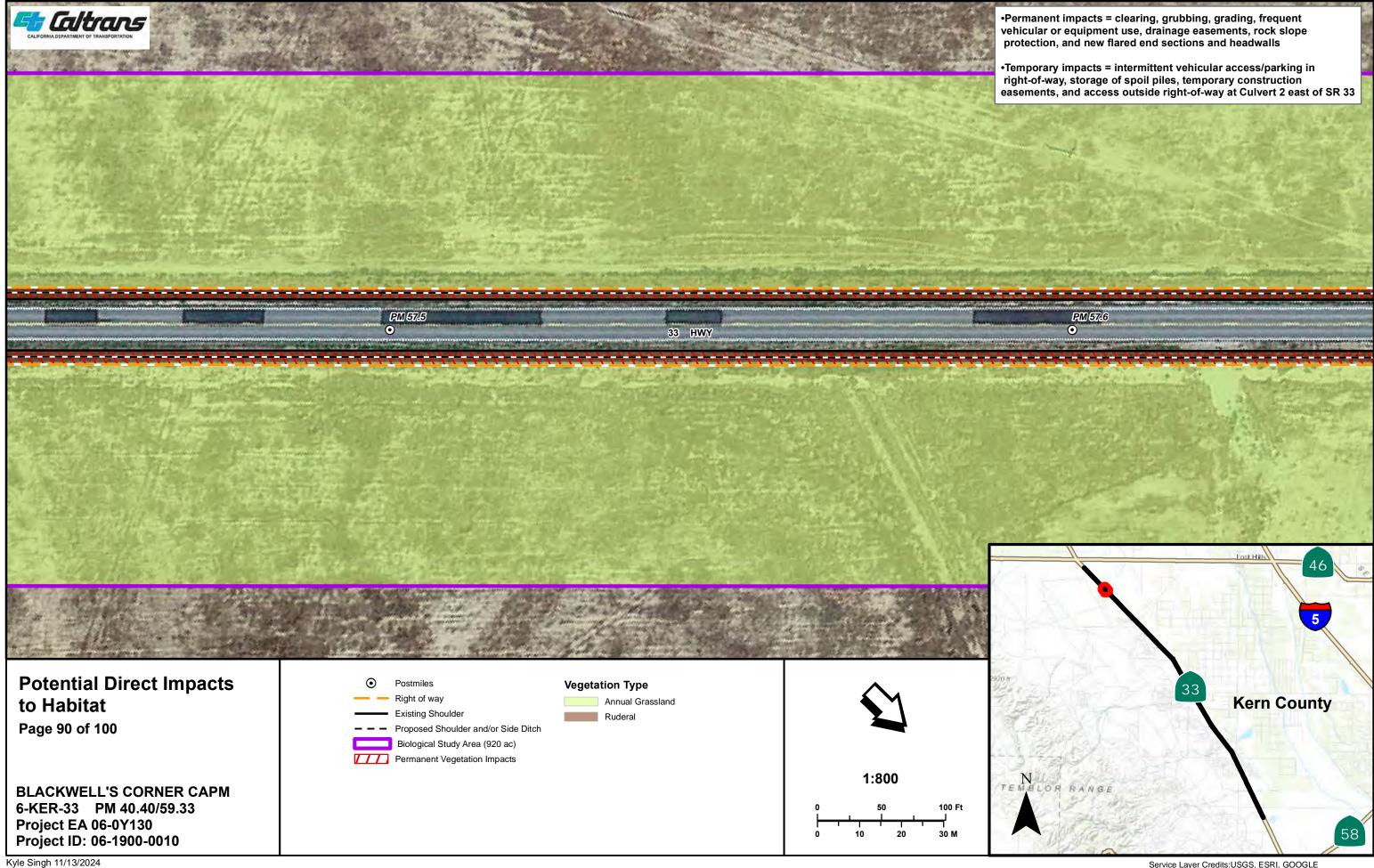
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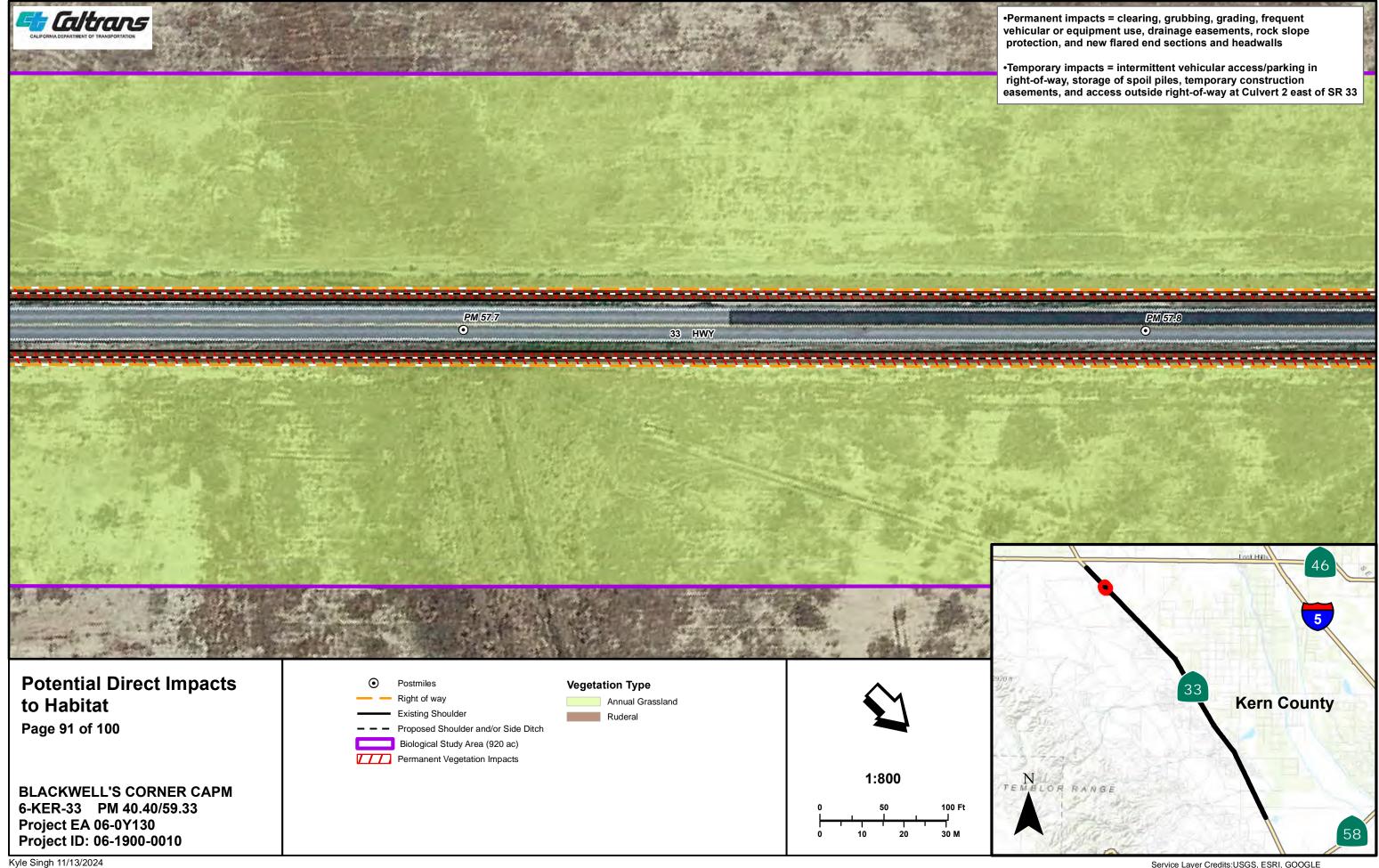


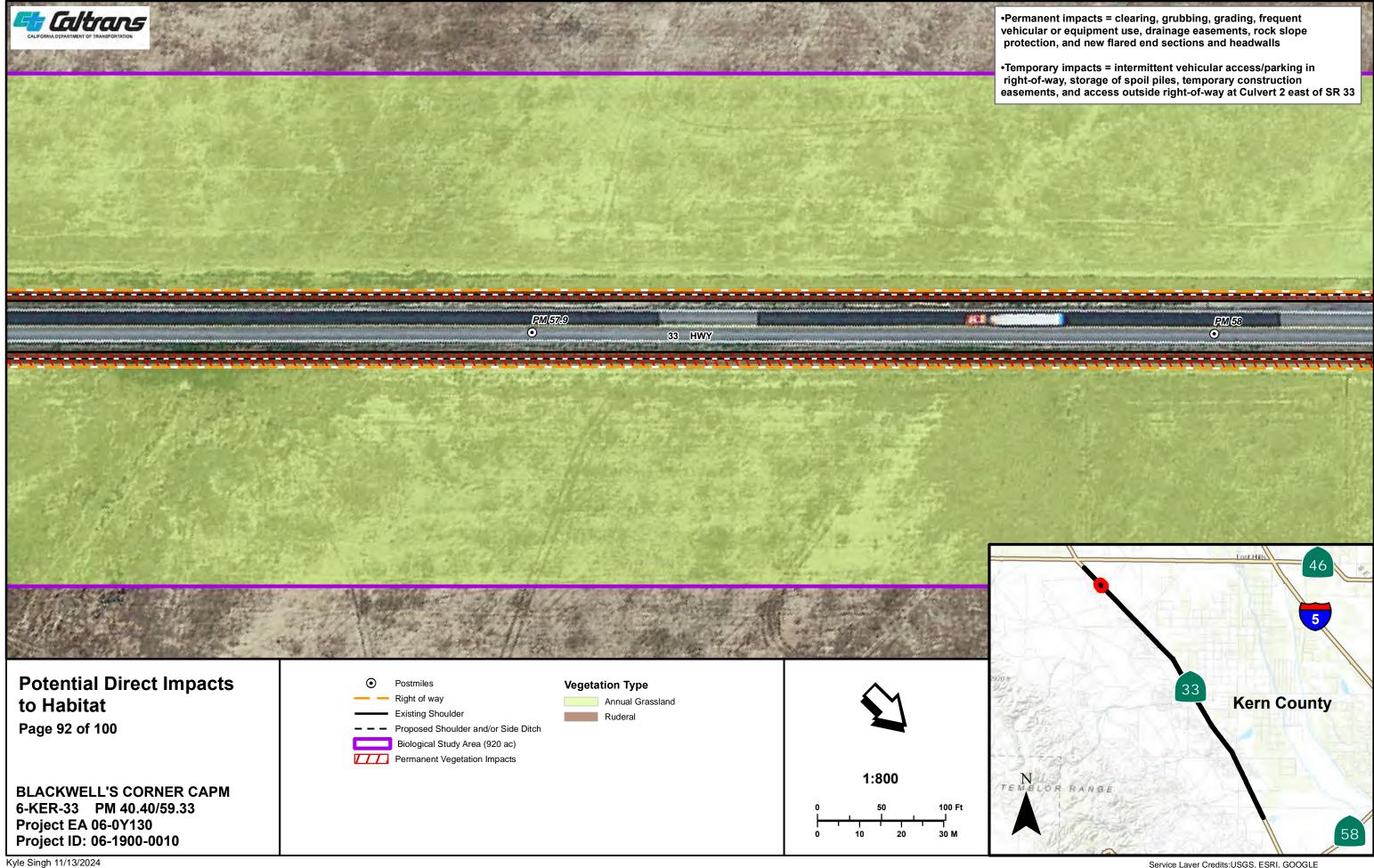


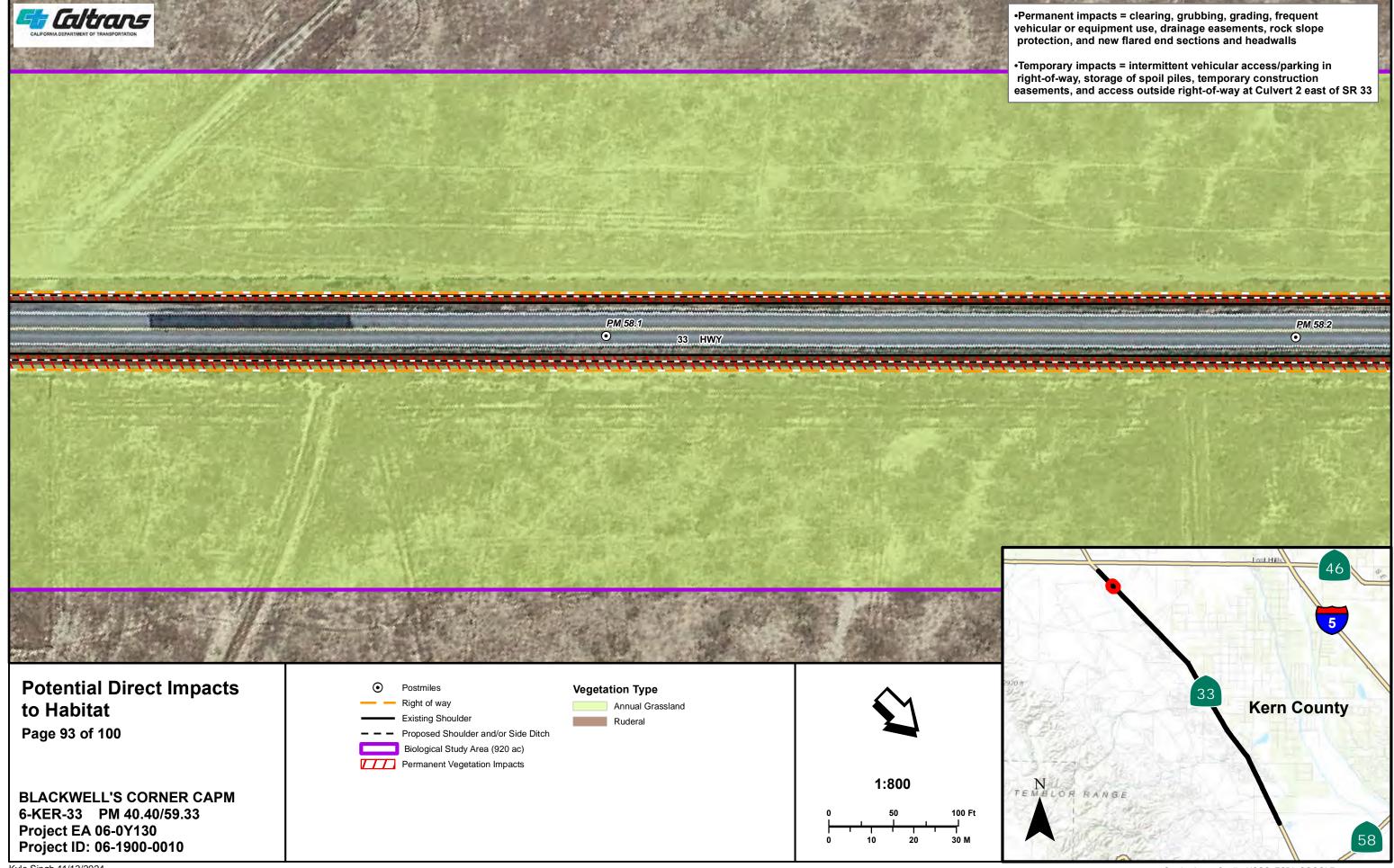


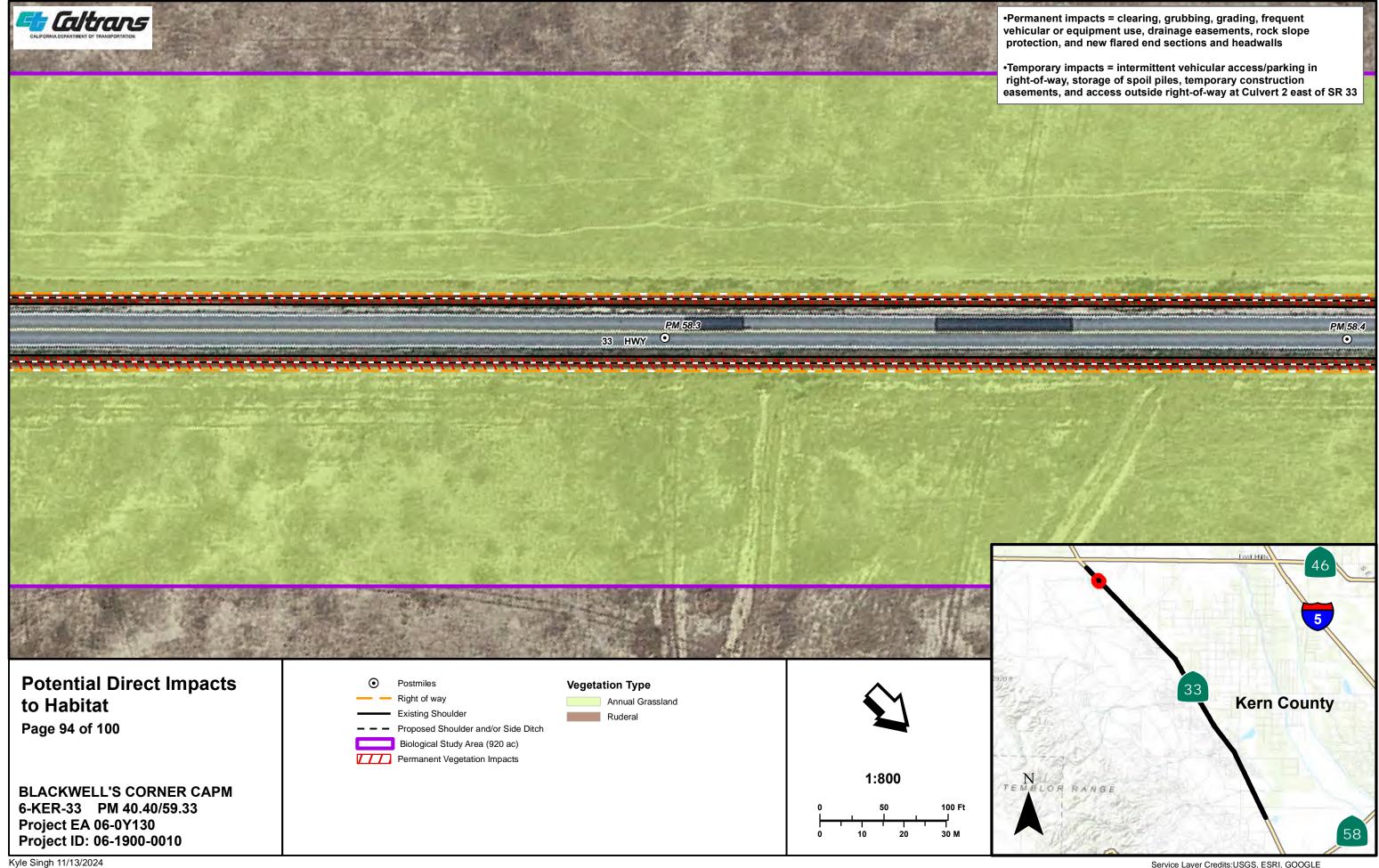


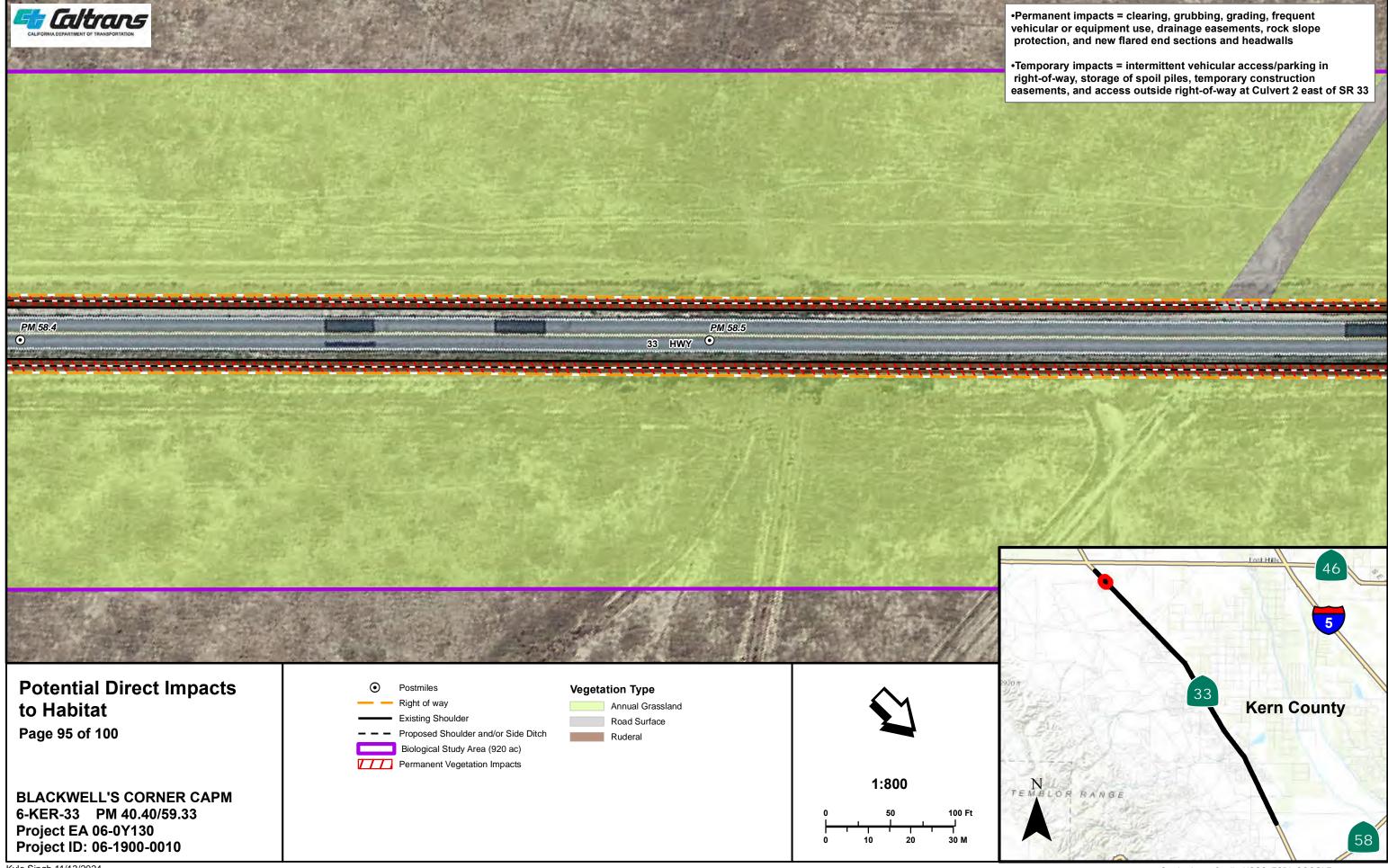


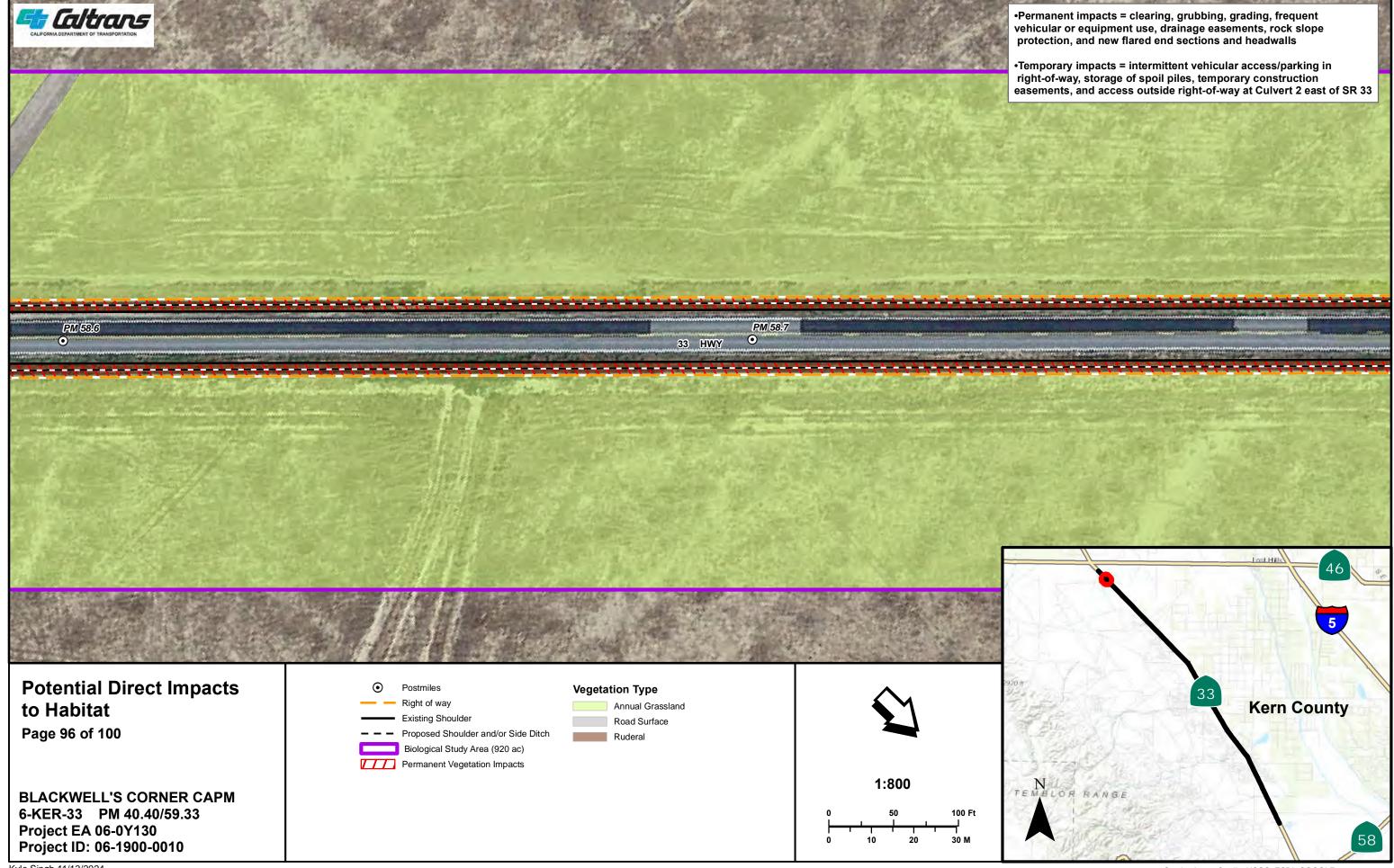


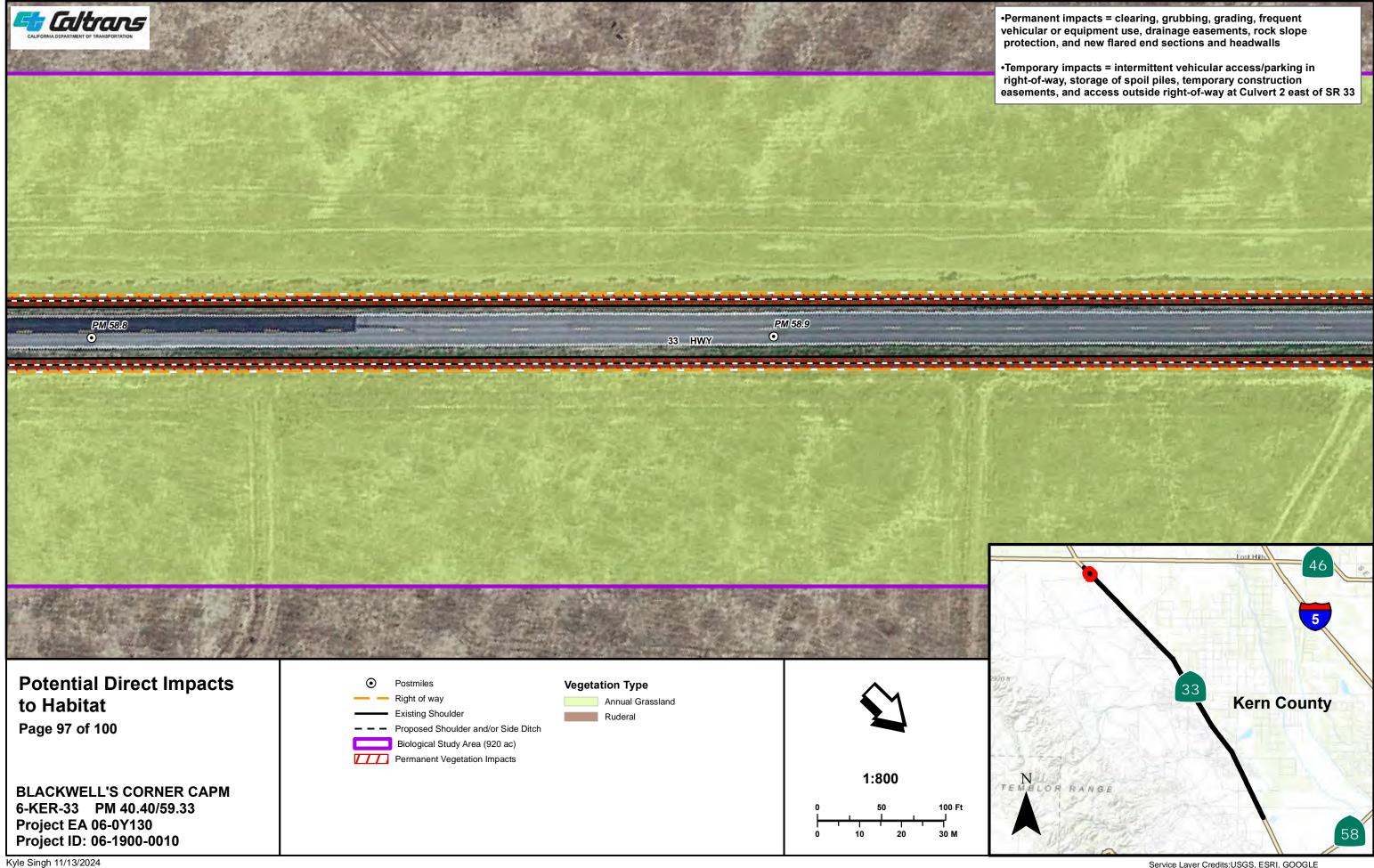


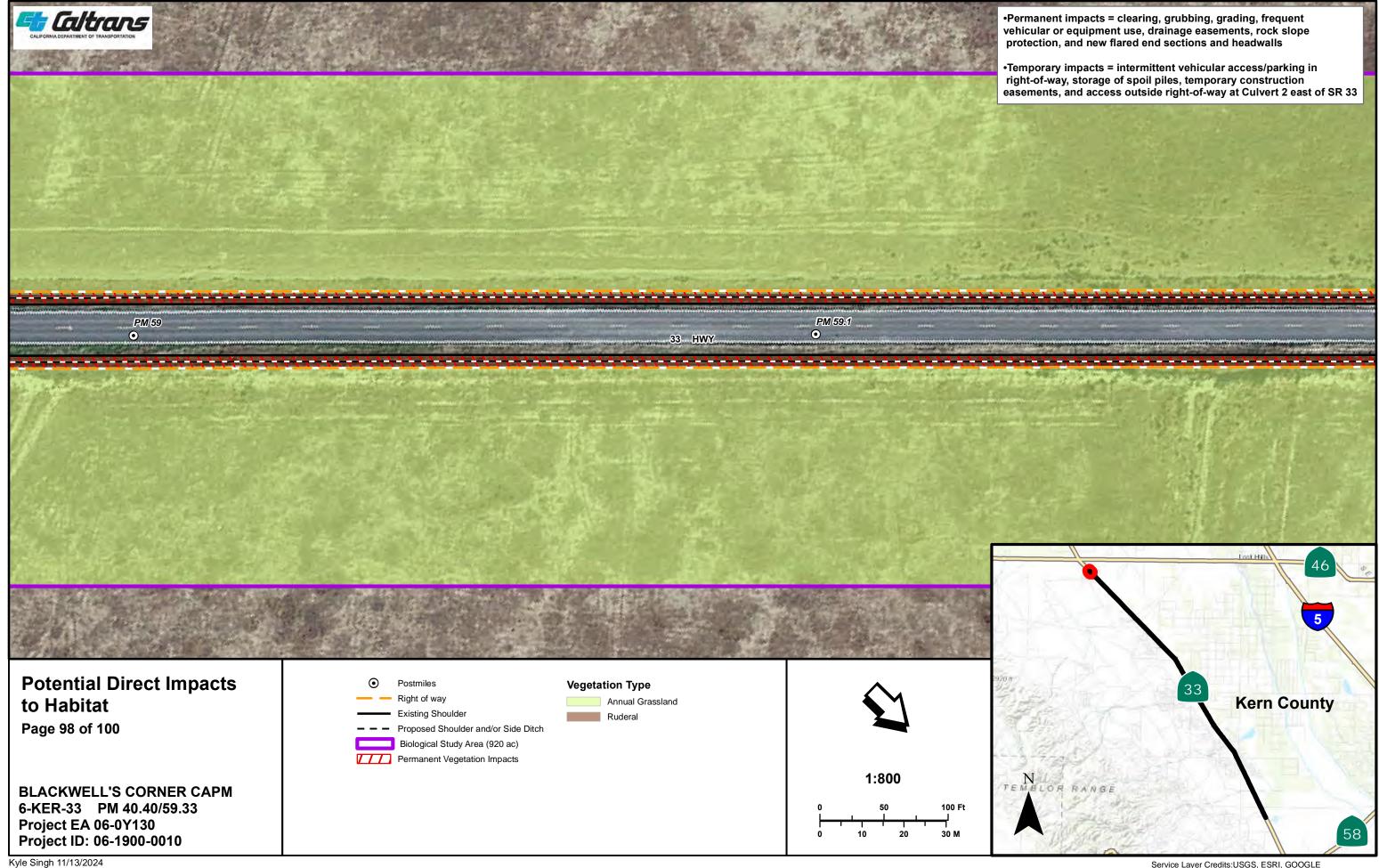


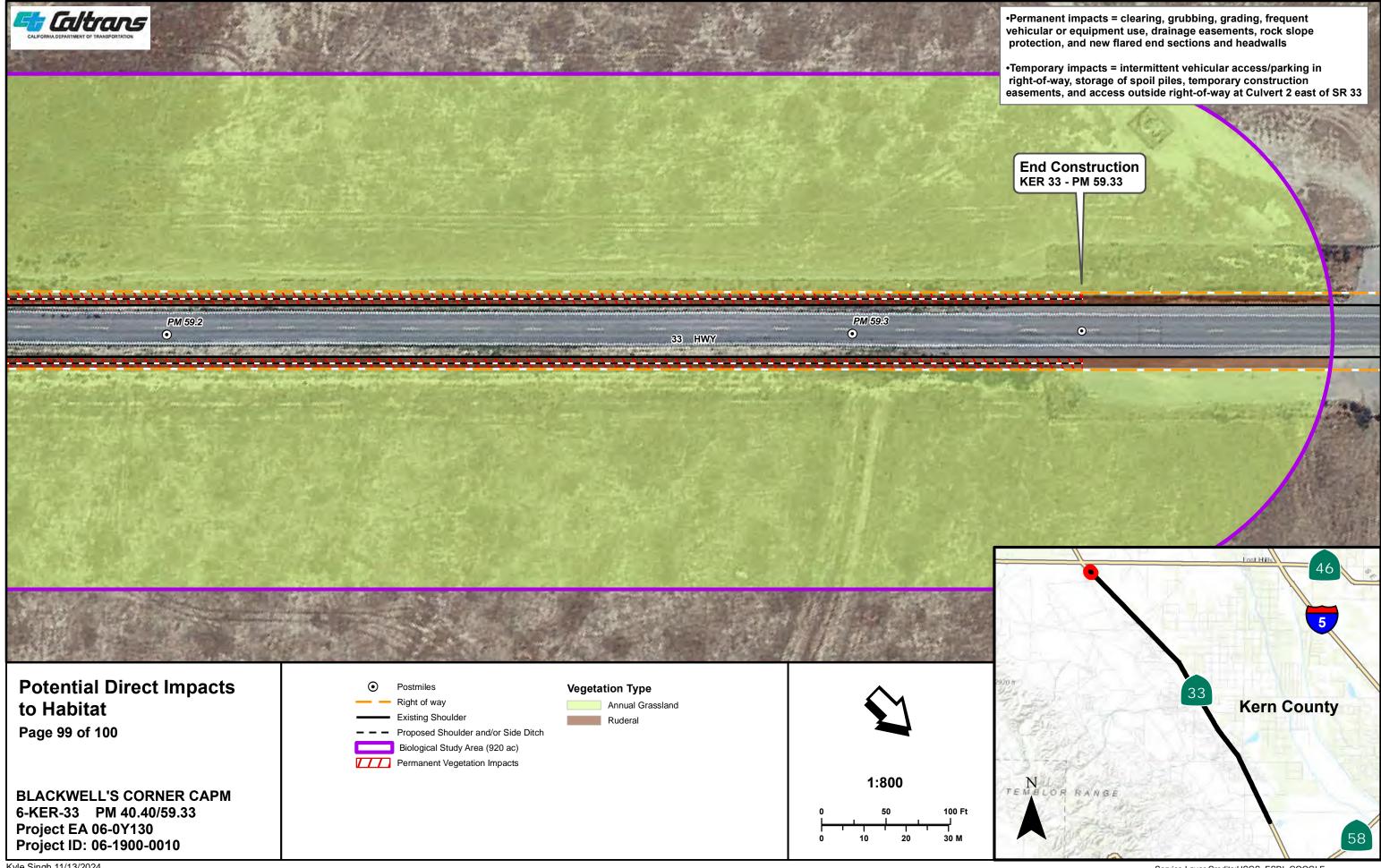


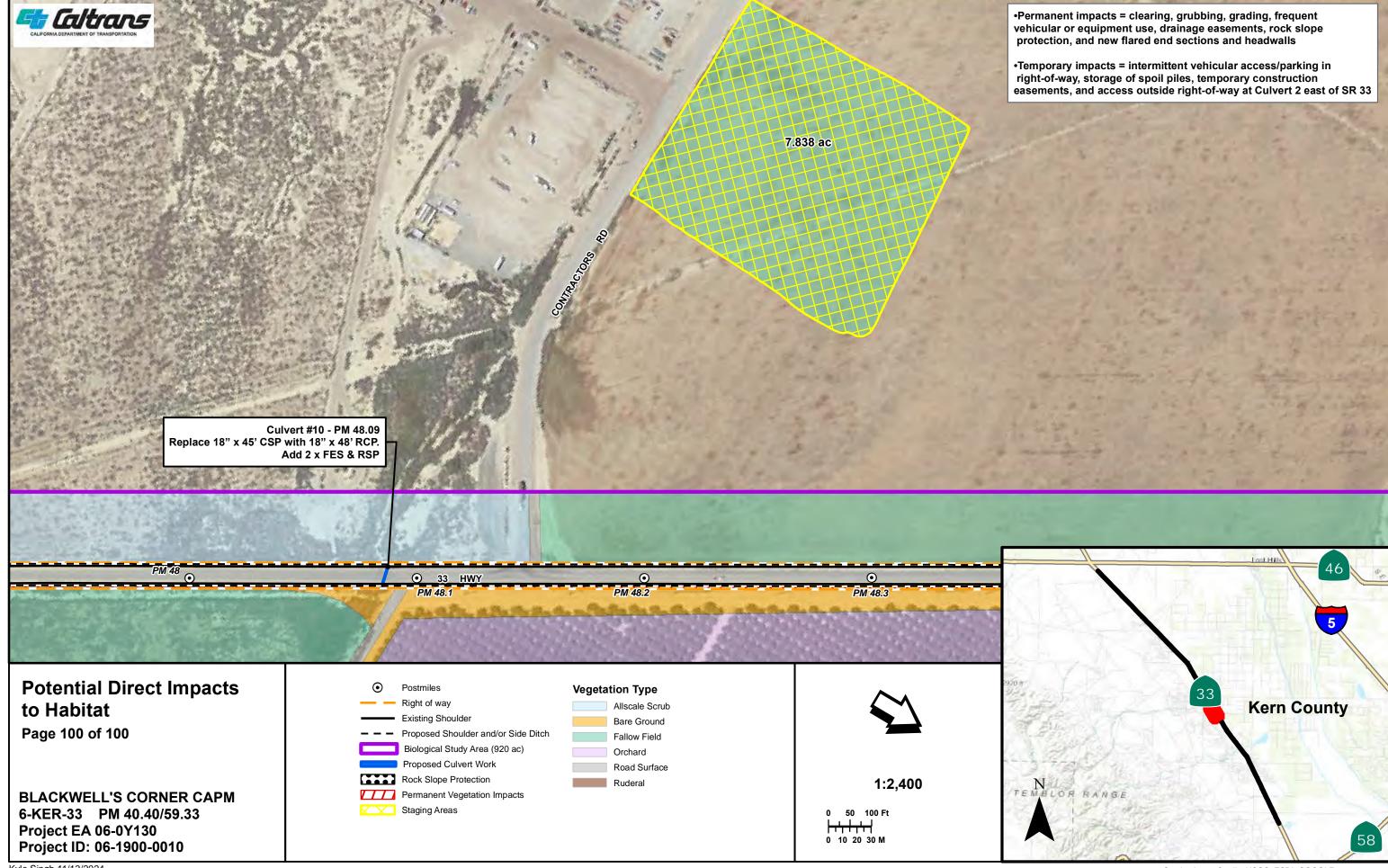












Attachment 1

AMENDED ATTACHMENT 1

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE MITIGATION MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM (MMRP) CALIFORNIA ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT

AMENDED INCIDENTAL TAKE PERMIT NO. 2081-2023-029-04 (Amendment No. 2)

PERMITTEE: California Department of Transportation

PROJECT: Blackwell's Corner Capital Preventative Maintenance Project (06-0Y130)

PURPOSE OF THIS MMRP

The purpose of this MMRP is to ensure that the impact minimization and mitigation measures required by the Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) for the above-referenced Project are properly implemented, and thereby to ensure compliance with section 2081(b) of the Fish and Game Code and sections 2081.6 and 2081.14 of the Public Resources Code. A table summarizing the mitigation measures required by CDFW is attached. This table is a tool for use in monitoring and reporting on implementation of mitigation measures, but the descriptions in the table do not supersede the mitigation measures set forth in the Incidental Take Permit (ITP) and in attachments to the ITP, and the omission of a permit requirement from the attached table does not relieve the Permittee of the obligation to ensure the requirement is performed.

OBLIGATIONS OF PERMITTEE

Mitigation measures must be implemented within the time periods indicated in the table that appears below. Permittee has the primary responsibility for monitoring compliance with all mitigation measures and for reporting to CDFW on the progress in implementing those measures. These monitoring and reporting requirements are set forth in the ITP itself and are summarized at the front of the attached table.

VERIFICATION OF COMPLIANCE, EFFECTIVENESS

CDFW may, at its sole discretion, verify compliance with any mitigation measure or independently assess the effectiveness of any mitigation measure.

TABLE OF MITIGATION MEASURES

The following items are identified for each mitigation measure: ITP Condition of Approval (COA) Source, Mitigation Measure, Implementation Schedule, and Status / Date/ Responsible Parties. The Mitigation Measure column summarizes the mitigation requirements of the Amended ITP (Amendment No. 2). The Implementation Schedule column shows the phase when each mitigation measure will be implemented. The Responsible Party column identifies the person or agency that is primarily responsible for implementing the mitigation measure. The Status / Date/ Responsible Parties column shall be completed by the Permittee during preparation of each Status Report and the Final Mitigation Report and must identify the implementation status of each mitigation measure, the date that status was determined, and the person(s) or roles (e.g., construction inspector) who implemented the mitigation measure.

ITP COA (Source)	Mitigation Measure	Implementation Schedule	Status / Date / Responsible Party(ies)
5.1	Designated Representative. Before starting Covered Activities, Permittee shall designate a representative (Designated Representative) responsible for communications with CDFW and overseeing compliance with the ITP. Permittee shall notify CDFW in writing before starting Covered Activities of the Designated Representative's name, business address, and contact information, and shall notify CDFW in writing if a substitute Designated Representative is selected or identified at any time during the term of the ITP.	Before the start of Covered Activities and any time a new Designated Representative is selected	
5.2	Designated Biologist(s) and Designated Monitor(s). Permittee shall submit to CDFW, in writing, the name, qualifications, business address, and contact information of the Designated Biologists and Designated Monitors using the Biologist Resume Form (Attachment 2) or another format containing the same information at least 30 days before starting Covered Activities. The Permittee may request approval of Designated Biologist(s) to monitor and handle specific Covered Species covered by this ITP. The Designated Monitors may assist the Designated Biologists in compliance monitoring under the direct supervision of the Designated Biologists and as specified in Condition of Approval 6.8 below. Based on the Approved Survey Methodology for the Blunt-Nosed Leopard Lizard October 2019 (Revised), the Designated Biologists shall have equal or greater experience than a Level II Surveyor and Designated Monitors shall have equal or greater experience than a Level I Surveyor. In addition, Permittee shall ensure that the Designated Biologists are knowledgeable in the biology and natural history of the Covered Species, and have experience with collecting and handling Covered Species, enforcing no-disturbance buffers, and monitoring construction activities under an ITP for the Covered Species. Designated Biologists for San Joaquin antelope squirrel (SJAS) and BNLL and shall also have experience excavating small mammal burrows for the Covered Species. Permittee shall ensure that the Designated Monitors are knowledgeable and experienced in the biology and natural history of the Covered Species. The Designated Biologists and Designated Monitors shall be responsible for monitoring Covered Activities to help minimize and fully mitigate or avoid the incidental take of individual Covered Species and to minimize disturbance of Covered Species' habitat. Permittee shall obtain CDFW approval of the Designated Biologists and Designated Monitors in writing before starting Covered Activities and shall also obtain approval in advance, in writing, i	Before the start of, and during Covered Activities as needed	

ITP COA (Source)	Mitigation Measure	Implementation Schedule	Status / Date / Responsible Party(ies)
5.3	Designated Biologist and Designated Monitor Authority. To ensure compliance with the Conditions of Approval of this ITP, the Designated Biologists and Designated Monitors shall immediately stop any activity that does not comply with this ITP and/or order any reasonable measure to avoid the unauthorized take of an individual of the Covered Species. Permittee shall provide unfettered access to the Project Area and otherwise facilitate Designated Biologists and Designated Monitors in the performance of their duties. If the Designated Biologist or Designated Monitor is unable to comply with the ITP, then they shall notify the CDFW Representative immediately. Permittee shall not enter into any agreement or contract of any kind, including but not limited to non-disclosure agreements and confidentiality agreements, with its contractors and/or the Designated Biologist that prohibit or impede open communication with CDFW, including but not limited to providing CDFW staff with the results of any surveys, reports, or studies or notifying CDFW of any non-compliance or take. Failure to notify CDFW of any non-compliance or take or injury of a Covered Species because of such agreement or contract may result in CDFW taking actions to prevent or remedy a violation of this ITP.	During Covered Activities	responsible i uniques)
5.4	Education Program. Permittee shall conduct an education program for all persons employed or otherwise working in the Project Area before they are authorized to perform any work. The program shall consist of a presentation from the Designated Biologist for the Covered Species that includes a discussion of the biology and general behavior of the Covered Species, information about the distribution and habitat needs of the Covered Species, sensitivity of the Covered Species to human activities, its status pursuant to CESA, or Fish and Game Code section 5050 as applicable, including legal protection, recovery efforts, penalties for violations and project-specific protective measures described in this ITP. Permittee shall provide interpretation for non-English speaking workers, and the same instruction shall be provided to any new workers before they are authorized to perform work in the Project Area. Permittee shall prepare and distribute wallet-sized cards or a fact sheet handout containing this information for workers to carry in the Project Area. Upon completion of the program, employees shall sign a form stating they attended the program and understand all protection measures. This training shall be repeated at least once annually for long-term and/or permanent employees that will be conducting work in the Project Area.	Before the start of, and during Covered Activities	

ITP COA (Source)	Mitigation Measure	Implementation Schedule	Status / Date / Responsible Party(ies)
5.5	Construction Monitoring Documentation. The Designated Biologists and Designated Monitors shall maintain construction-monitoring documentation on-site in either hard copy or digital format throughout the construction period, which shall include a copy of the ITP with attachments and a list of signatures of all personnel who have successfully completed the education program. Permittee shall ensure a copy of the construction-monitoring documentation is available for review at the Project Area upon request by CDFW.	During Covered Activities	
5.6	Trash Abatement. Permittee shall initiate a trash abatement program before starting Covered Activities and shall continue the program for the duration of the Project. Permittee shall ensure that trash and food items are contained in animal-proof containers and removed, ideally at daily intervals but at least once a week, to avoid attracting opportunistic predators such as ravens, coyotes, and feral dogs.	Before the start of, and during Covered Activities	
5.7	Dust Control. Permittee shall implement dust control measures during Covered Activities to facilitate visibility for monitoring of the Covered Species by the Designated Biologist and/or Designated Monitor. Permittee shall keep the amount of water used to the minimum amount needed and shall not allow water to form puddles. Permittee shall not apply dust suppressant, surfactant, soil binders, or stabilizer products that may be harmful to Covered Species. Permittee shall obtain written approval from CDFW before applying any dust suppressant, surfactant, soil binders, or stabilizer products, other than water but including hydromulch or hydroseeding. Permittee shall provide all available documentation of each product's safety or hazards to wildlife to CDFW with any such request for approval.	During Covered Activities	
5.8	Erosion Control Materials. Permittee shall prohibit use of erosion control materials potentially harmful to Covered Species and other species, such as monofilament netting (erosion control matting), photodegradable mesh, or similar material, in potential Covered Species' habitat.	During Covered Activities	
5.9	Delineation of Property Boundaries. Before starting Covered Activities within each discrete part of the Project Area in active construction (Work Area), Permittee shall clearly delineate the boundaries of the Work Area. The boundary of the Project area shall be delineated with stakes, fencing, and/or flags and shall be maintained with signage until the completion of Covered Activities in that Work Area.	Before the start of, and during Covered Activities	
5.10	Delineation of Habitat. Before starting Covered Activities at any Work Area, Permittee shall clearly delineate habitat of the Covered Species within or adjacent to the Work Area with posted signs, posting stakes, flags, and/or rope or cord, and place fencing as necessary to minimize the disturbance of Covered Species' habitat.	Before the start of, and during Covered Activities	

ITP COA			Status / Date /
(Source)	Mitigation Measure	Implementation Schedule	Responsible Party(ies)
5.11	Project Access Project-related personnel shall access the Project Area using existing routes and shall not cross Covered Species' habitat outside of, or on route to the Project Area. Permittee shall restrict Project-related vehicle traffic to established roads, staging areas, and parking areas as per Condition of Approval 5.12. Permittee shall ensure that vehicle speeds do not exceed 15 miles per hour to avoid Covered Species on or traversing the roads. If Permittee determines construction of routes for travel is necessary outside of the Project Area, the Designated Representative shall contact CDFW for written approval before conducting such an activity. CDFW may require an amendment to the ITP, among other reasons, if additional take of Covered Species will occur because of the project modification.	During Covered Activities	
5.12	Staging Areas. Permittee shall confine all Project-related parking, storage areas, laydown sites, equipment storage, and any other surface-disturbing activities to the Project Area using, to the six staging areas identified in the Project Description extent possible, previously disturbed areas. No parking, storage, laydown, or staging areas shall be located within 50-feet of potential San Joaquin antelope squirrel SJAS burrows (Condition of Approval 7.13.1), or BNLL burrows (Conditions of Approval 7.15.1) or, or within the San Joaquin kit fox (SJKF) buffer areas identified in (Condition of Approval 7.14.1), unless protective measures have been implemented for Covered Species as per Conditions of Approval 7.11, 7.13, and 7.14, and 7.15. Additionally, Permittee shall not use or cross Covered Species' habitat outside of the marked Project Area unless provided for as described in Condition of Approval 5.11 of this ITP. If Permittee determines parking, storage, laydown, or staging areas are necessary outside of the Project Area, the Designated Representative shall contact CDFW for written approval before carrying out such an activity. CDFW may require an amendment to this ITP, among other reasons, if additional take of Covered Species will occur because of the project modification.	During Covered Activities	
5.13	Hazardous Waste. Permittee shall immediately stop and, pursuant to pertinent state and federal statutes and regulations, arrange for repair and clean up by qualified individuals of any fuel or hazardous waste leaks or spills at the time of occurrence, or as soon as it is safe to do so. Permittee shall exclude the storage and handling of hazardous materials from the Project Area and shall properly contain and dispose of any unused or leftover hazardous products off-site.	During Covered Activities	
5.14	CDFW Access. Permittee shall provide CDFW staff with reasonable access to the Project Area and shall otherwise fully cooperate with CDFW efforts to verify compliance with or effectiveness of mitigation measures set forth in the ITP.	During Covered Activities	

ITP COA		Investmentation Oak 11	Status / Date /
(Source)	Mitigation Measure	Implementation Schedule	Responsible Party(ies)
5.15	Refuse Removal. Upon completion of Covered Activities, Permittee shall remove from	During Covered Activities	
	the Project Area and properly dispose of all construction refuse, including, but not		
	limited to, broken equipment parts, wrapping material, cords, cables, wire, rope,		
	strapping, twine, buckets, metal or plastic containers, and boxes.		
5.16	Wildfire Avoidance. Permittee or Permittee's contractors shall minimize the potential	During Covered Activities	
	for human-caused wildfires by carrying water or fire extinguishers and shovels in all		
	Project-related vehicles and equipment. The use of shields, protective mats, or use of		
	other fire preventative methods shall be used during grinding and welding to minimize		
	the potential for fire. Personnel shall be trained regarding the fire hazard for wildlife as		
	part of the worker education program described in Condition of Approval 5.4.		
6.1	Notification Before Commencement. The Designated Representative shall notify	Before the start of, and	
	CDFW no less than 14 calendar days before starting Covered Activities and shall	during Covered Activities	
	document compliance with all pre-Project Conditions of Approval before starting		
	Covered Activities.		
6.2	Notification of Non-compliance. The Designated Representative, Designated Biologist,	During Covered Activities	
	or Designated Monitor shall immediately notify CDFW if Permittee is not in compliance		
	with any Condition of Approval of this ITP, including but not limited to any actual or		
	anticipated failure to implement measures within the time periods indicated in this ITP		
	and/or the MMRP. The Designated Representative, Designated Biologist, or		
	Designated Monitor shall follow up within 24 hours with a written report to CDFW		
	describing, in detail, any non-compliance with this ITP and suggested measures to		
	remedy the situation.		
6.3	Pre-Activity Survey Report. Prior to starting Covered Activities, Permittee shall prepare	Before the start of, and	
	and submit to CDFW the results of pre-activity surveys and maps of burrows per	during Covered Activities	
	Conditions of Approval 7.11.		
6.4	Inspection Records. The Designated Biologists and Designated Monitors shall prepare	During Covered Activities	
	written observation and inspection records for compliance monitoring as per Condition		
	of Approval 6.9, summarizing: (1) construction activities observed; (2) integrity of		
	signs, stakes or protective fencing; (3) wildlife observations; (4) observations of non-		
	compliance with any Conditions in this ITP; and (5) measures implemented or		
	anticipated to rectify or remediate any incidents of non-compliance with this ITP. The		
	inspection records shall be submitted with the Monthly Compliance Reports identified		
	in Condition of Approval 6.10.		

ITP COA (Source)	Mitigation Measure	Implementation Schedule	Status / Date / Responsible Party(ies)
6.5	San Joaquin Antelope Squirrel (SJAS) Mortality Reduction and Relocation Plan. Permittee shall submit a SJAS Mortality Reduction and Relocation Plan to CDFW at least 30 calendar days before starting Covered Activities. Burrow excavation and relocation activities shall not proceed until the SJAS Mortality Reduction and Relocation Plan has been approved in writing by CDFW's Regional Representative (identified in Condition of Approval 6.10 below). The Mortality Reduction and Relocation Plan shall include, but not be limited to: (1) a discussion (and map) of the Project Area and those areas identified as potential SJAS habitat; (2) a detailed description of methods to be used for the surveys, burrow excavation, capture, handling, and relocation of individuals of SJAS; (3) release locations and methods (i.e., soft release, hard release, or another method); (4) artificial burrow design and installation methods; (5) monitoring frequency and methods; (6) schedule of SJAS mortality reduction and relocation activities; and (7) identification of a wildlife rehabilitation center or veterinary facility capable of and willing to treat injured individuals of the SJAS. The SJAS Mortality Reduction and Relocation Plan must specify that only the approved Designated Biologists are authorized to capture and handle individuals of the SJAS. Once the SJAS Covered Species Mortality Reduction and Relocation Plan is approved in writing by CDFW, it shall be used for all SJAS mortality reduction activities for the duration of this ITP. Any proposed changes to the CDFW-approved SJAS Covered Species Mortality Reduction and Relocation Plan shall be submitted in writing to CDFW and approved by CDFW in writing prior to implementation of any proposed Plan modifications.	Before the start of, and during Covered Activities	

ITP COA (Source)	Mitigation Measure	Implementation Schedule	Status / Date / Responsible Party(ies)
6.6	San Joaquin Kit Fox (SJKF) Den Replacement Plan. Permittee shall submit a SJKF Den Replacement Plan to CDFW at least 30 calendar days before starting Covered Activities. Permittee shall replace each potential, known, and active SJKF den that cannot be avoided within the Project Area with an artificial den to compensate for the loss of important shelter used by SJKF for protection, reproduction, and escape from predators. Den excavation within the Project Area may not proceed until the SJKF Den Replacement Plan is approved in writing by CDFW's Regional Representative (identified in Condition of Approval 6.10 below). The SJKF Den Replacement Plan shall include, but not be limited to, a discussion and map of potential artificial den replacement locations; detailed description of the den excavation methods; and description of the replacement den dimensions (e.g., depth and width of den, width of den entrance, orientation of den entrance, number and placement of entrances to natal dens). Once the SJKF Den Replacement Plan is approved by CDFW, it shall be used for the duration of the ITP. Any proposed changes to the SJKF Den Replacement Plan shall be submitted in writing to CDFW and approved by CDFW in writing prior to implementation of any proposed SJKF Den Replacement Plan modifications.	Before the start of, and during Covered Activities	

ITP COA	Mitiration Magazina	Implementation Cohedule	Status / Date /
(Source) 6.7	BNLL Mortality Reduction and Relocation Plan. Permittee shall submit a BNLL Mortality Reduction and Relocation Plan to CDFW before resuming Covered Activities following the issuance of Amendment No. 2 and the effective date of this Amended ITP. Burrow excavation and relocation activities shall not continue or proceed until the BNLL Mortality Reduction and Relocation Plan has been approved in writing by CDFW's Regional Representative (identified in Condition of Approval Error! Reference source not found. 10 below). The BNLL Mortality Reduction and Relocation Plan shall be consistent with Conditions of Approval 7.15.1 through 7.15.5 and shall include, but not be limited to: (1) a discussion (and map) of the Project Area and those areas identified as potential BNLL habitat; (2) a detailed description of methods to be used for the surveys, burrow excavation, capture, handling, and relocation of individuals of BNLL; (3) release locations and methods (i.e., soft release, hard release, or another method); (4) potential artificial burrow design and installation methods; and identification of a wildlife rehabilitation center or veterinary facility capable of and willing to treat injured BNLL or care for at-risk torpid BNLL or BNLL eggs; (5) monitoring frequency and methods; (6) schedule of BNLL mortality reduction and relocation activities; and (7) identification of a wildlife rehabilitation center or veterinary facility capable of and willing to treat injured individuals of the BNLL. The BNLL Mortality Reduction and Relocation Plan must specify that only the approved Designated Biologists are authorized to capture, handle, relocate, and transport individuals including eggs of the BNLL. Once the BNLL Mortality Reduction and Relocation Plan is approved in writing by CDFW, it shall be used for all BNLL mortality reduction activities for the duration of this ITP. Any proposed changes to the CDFW-approved BNLL Mortality Reduction and Relocation Plan shall be submitted in writing to CDFW and approved by CDFW in writing prior	Implementation Schedule	Responsible Party(ies)

ITP COA (Source)	Mitigation Measure	Implementation Schedule	Status / Date / Responsible Party(ies)
6.8	Compliance Monitoring. The Designated Biologist shall be on-site daily when Covered Activities occur unless all of the following have occurred: SJAS burrows have been avoided or excavated (Conditions of Approval 7.13.1 and 7.13.5, respectively); BNLL burrows have been avoided or excavated (Conditions of Approval 7.15.1 and 7.15.5, respectively); any captured SJAS have been relocated (Condition of Approval 7.15.3); SJKF dens have been identified and avoided per Condition of Approval 7.14.1); unoccupied SJKF dens have been excavated (Condition of Approval 7.14.3); and initial grading activities are complete. Thereafter, a Designated Biologist, or Designated Monitor shall conduct compliance inspections at least once a week during all work activities. The Designated Biologist shall conduct compliance inspections to: (1) minimize incidental take of the Covered Species; (2) prevent unlawful take of species; (3) check for compliance with all measures of this ITP; (4) ensure that signs, stakes, and fencing are intact; and (5) ensure that that Covered Activities are only occurring in the Project Area. Specific Designated Monitors may conduct burrow flagging, monitoring during fence installation (if used), and compliance inspections upon written approval from CDFW.	Before the start of, and during Covered Activities	

ITP COA (Source)	Mitigation Measure	Implementation Schedule	Status / Date / Responsible Party(ies)
6.9	Covered Species Observations and Notification. During all Covered Activities, workers shall inform a Designated Biologist if an individual of the Covered Species is observed at the Project Area. All work in the vicinity of the observed Covered Species, which could injure or kill the animal, shall cease immediately until the Covered Species moves from the Project Area of its own accord or until the Designated Biologist can relocate the Covered Species following the SJAS Mortality Reduction and Relocation Plan (Condition of Approval 6.5 and 7.13), the SJKF Den Replacement Plan (Condition of Approval 6.6 and 7.14), and/or the BNLL Mortality Reduction and Relocation Plan (Condition of Approval 6.7 and 7.15). Permittee shall notify CDFW within 5 business days of discovery of a Covered Species within the Project Area via electronic mail to the Regional Representative and Regional Office identified in Condition of Approval 6.10.	During Covered Activities	recoponionisio i any (199)
	The Designated Biologists and Designated Monitors shall maintain a record of all Covered Species observed, captured, handled and relocated. This information shall include for each animal: (1) the locations (Global Positioning System [GPS] coordinates and maps), date and time of the observation, handling, or release; (2) the name of the individual(s) that identified and handled the Covered Species; (3) circumstances of the incident; (4) the general condition and health of each individual including any diagnostic markings, sex, age (juvenile or adult); and (6) ambient temperature when handled and released. Permittee shall also submit this information to CDFW's California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB) as per Condition of Approval 6.12. This information shall also be included in the Monthly Compliance and Annual Status reports (Conditions of Approval 6.10 and 6.11).		

ITP COA (Source)	Mitigation Massura	Implementation Schedule	Status / Date /
6.10	Monthly Compliance Report. The Designated Representative or a Designated Biologist shall compile the observation and inspection records identified in Condition of Approval 6.4, Covered Species observation/handling/relocation information as in Condition of Approval 6.9, and documentation of night work according to Condition of Approval 7.2 into a Monthly Compliance Report (MCR) and submit it to CDFW, along with a copy of the MMRP table with notes showing the current implementation status of each mitigation measure. MCRs shall be submitted before the 7th day of the month that it is due via electronic mail to CDFW's Regional Representative, Regional Office, and Headquarters CESA Program. At the time of this ITP's approval, the CDFW Regional Representative is Adam Thompson (adam.thompson@wildlife.ca.gov), the Regional Office e-mail is RRR.R4@wildlife.ca.gov, and the Headquarters CESA Program e-mail is CESA@wildlife.ca.gov. CDFW may at any time increase the timing and number of compliance inspections and reports required under this provision depending upon the results of previous compliance inspections. If CDFW determines the reporting schedule must be changed, CDFW will notify Permittee in writing of the new reporting schedule.	During Covered Activities	Responsible Party(ies)
6.11	Annual Status Report. Permittee shall provide CDFW with an Annual Status Report (ASR) no later than January 31 of every year beginning with issuance of this ITP and continuing until CDFW accepts the Final Mitigation Report identified below (Condition of Approval 6.14). Each ASR shall include, at a minimum: (1) a summary of all MCRs for that year identified in Condition of Approval 6.10; (2) a record of the Education Program training sessions provided over the reporting year; (3) a general description of the status of the Project Area and Covered Activities, including actual or projected completion dates, if known; (4) a copy of the table in the MMRP with notes showing the current implementation status of each mitigation measure; (5) an assessment of the effectiveness of each completed or partially completed mitigation measure in avoiding, minimizing, and mitigating Project impacts; (6) a summary of findings from all pre-activity surveys conducted, including but not limited to, the number of times a Covered Species was encountered, location, if avoidance was achieved, and if not, what measures were implemented; (7) all available information about project-related incidental take of the Covered Species; and (8) information about other project impacts on the Covered Species. ASRs shall be submitted via email to the entities identified in Condition of Approval 6.10 above.	During Covered Activities	
6.12	CNDDB Observations. The Designated Biologist shall submit all observations of Covered Species to CDFW's CNDDB within 60 calendar days of the observation and the Designated Biologist shall include copies of the submitted forms with the ASR.	During Covered Activities	

ITP COA	Mitiration Massure	Implementation Cakedula	Status / Date /
(Source) 6.13	Final Construction Report. No later than 60 days after completion of all construction activities, Permittee shall provide CDFW with a Final Construction Report, submitted via email to the entities identified in Condition of Approval 6.10 above. The Designated Biologist shall prepare the Final Construction Report which shall include, at a minimum: (1) a summary of all Monthly Compliance Reports and all ASRs; (2) a copy of the table in the MMRP with notes showing when and how each of the Conditions of Approval were implemented; (3) all available information about Project-related incidental take of the Covered Species; (4) information about other Project impacts on the Covered Species; (5) beginning and ending dates of Covered Activities; (6) an assessment of the effectiveness of this ITP's Conditions of Approval in minimizing Project impacts of the taking on Covered Species; (7) any other pertinent information; and (8) before, during, and after photographic documentation of the project impact areas.	Implementation Schedule	Responsible Party(ies)
6.14	Final Mitigation Report. No later than 60 days after completion of all mitigation measures, Permittee shall provide CDFW with a Final Mitigation Report, submitted via email to the entities identified in Condition of Approval 6.10 above. The Designated Biologist or Designated Representative shall prepare the Final Mitigation Report which shall include, at a minimum: (1) a summary of mitigation implemented; (2) a copy of the table in the MMRP for Conditions of Approval 8.0 through 9.0 with notes showing when and how each of the mitigation measures were implemented; (3) an assessment of the effectiveness of this ITP's Conditions of Approval in fully mitigating Project impacts of the taking on SJAS and SJKF and conserving BNLL; (4) recommendations on how mitigation measures might be changed to more effectively minimize take and mitigate the impacts of future projects on the Covered Species; and (5) any other pertinent information.	Following Covered Activities and completion of all mitigation measures	
6.15	Notification of Take or Injury. Permittee shall immediately notify the Designated Biologist if a Covered Species is taken or injured by a project-related activity, or if a Covered Species is otherwise found dead or injured within the vicinity of the Project. The Designated Biologist or Designated Representative shall provide initial notification to CDFW through e-mail to the Regional Representative and Regional Office identified in Condition of Approval 6.10 above. The initial notification to CDFW shall include information regarding the location, species, and number of animals taken or injured and the ITP Number. Following initial notification, Permittee shall send CDFW a written report within two calendar days. The report shall include the date and time of the finding or incident, location of the animal or carcass, and if possible, provide a photograph, explanation as to cause of take or injury, and any other pertinent information. The written report shall be submitted via e-mail to the Regional Representative and Regional Office identified in Condition of Approval 6.9 above.	During Covered Activities	

ITP COA (Source)	Mitigation Measure	Implementation Schedule	Status / Date / Responsible Party(ies)
7.1	Rodenticide Use. Permittee shall prohibit the use of rodenticides in the Project area.	During Covered Activities	Responsible Faity(les)
7.2	Lighting and Night Work. Permittee shall not use temporary, fixed, exterior lighting, including motion-triggered security lighting, that casts light on Covered Species habitat beyond the footprint of the Project Area between sunset and sunrise unless authorized in writing from CDFW. Temporary, exterior, fixed lighting in the Project Area shall be turned on only when people are present. Permittee shall not install new permanent or upgrade existing lighting in the Project Area, except as otherwise identified in the Project Description. The number of nights worked shall be documented in the MCR (Condition of Approval 6.10). The documentation shall include the number of nights that work occurred for the quarter that the report covers and a cumulative tabulation of the total number of nights worked since Project initiation	During Covered Activities	
7.3	Equipment and Vehicle Fueling Permittee shall ensure that all equipment and vehicle fueling and maintenance occur at least 100 feet from PM 36.1 through PM 38.1 and from the 7.7-acre restoration site unless otherwise approved in writing by CDFW. Permittee shall ensure that sufficient spill containment and cleanup equipment shall be present at all fueling locations.	During Covered Activities	
7.4	Vehicle Parking. Permittee shall not allow vehicles to park on top of, or within 50 feet of Covered Species burrows, except within designated staging areas (Condition of Approval 5.12) and in compliance with Conditions of Approval 7.13, 7.14, and 7.15. Vehicles left overnight shall be located at least 50 feet from any SJAS burrows or 50 to 500 feet from SJKF dens, depending on SJKF activity (see Condition of Approval 7.14.1).	During Covered Activities	
7.5	Pipes and other Structures Entrapment Prevention. Permittee shall ensure that all pipes, hoses, conduit, culverts, or similar materials stockpiled in the Project Area are capped or otherwise enclosed at the ends to prevent entry by Covered Species. Permittee shall not leave pipes, conduit, electrical cabinets, or similar materials or structures stockpiled for one or more work day or night periods where Covered Species may enter them and become trapped.	During Covered Activities	

ITP COA (Source)	Mitigation Measure	Implementation Schedule	Status / Date / Responsible Party(ies)
7.6	Vehicle, Equipment, and Materials Inspection. Workers shall inspect under vehicles and equipment for Covered Species before the vehicles and equipment are moved. Workers shall thoroughly inspect all construction pipe, culverts, or other similar structures with a diameter of 1 inch or greater that are stored for one or more day or night periods for the Covered Species before the object is subsequently moved, buried, or capped. If a Covered Species is present, the worker shall notify a Designated Biologist and wait for the Covered Species to move unimpeded to a safe location or be moved by the Designated Biologist in accordance with the CDFW-approved SJAS Mortality Reduction and Relocation Plan (Condition of Approval 6.5), SJKF Den Replacement Plan (Condition of Approval 6.6), and/or BNLL Mortality Reduction and Relocation Plan (Condition of Approval 6.7).	During Covered Activities	
7.7	Soil Stockpiles. Permittee shall ensure that soil stockpiles are placed where soil will not pass into any other "Waters of the State," in accordance with Fish and Game Code section 5650. Permittee shall protect stockpiles to prevent soil erosion.	During Covered Activities	
7.8	Barriers to Covered Species Movement. The new roadway shall be constructed without steep curbs, berms, or dikes which could prevent Covered Species from crossing the roadway. If curbs are necessary for safety and/or surface runoff, Permittee shall design and construct them as rounded or gently sloping structures as to allow Covered Species to walk over them. If steep dikes are required, design shall include over-site drains or curb/dike breaks spaced at intervals of 25 feet to allow Covered Species passage.	During Covered Activities	

ITP COA (Source)	Mitigation Measure	Implementation Schedule	Status / Date / Responsible Party(ies)
7.9	Open Trenches and Excavations. The Designated Biologists and Designated Monitors shall inspect all open holes, sumps, and trenches within the Project area at the beginning, middle, and end of each workday for trapped individuals of the Covered Species. To prevent inadvertent entrapment of Covered Species, all open trenches, holes, sumps, and other excavations with sidewalls steeper than a 1:1 (45 degree) slope shall either have an escape ramp of earth or a non-slip material with a less than 1:1 (45 degree) slope or shall be covered when workers or equipment are not actively working in the excavation, day or night. Escape ramps shall be at least 12 inches wide and erected every 15 feet. If a cover will be utilized, the Designated Biologist shall oversee the covering of all excavated, trenches, holes, sumps, or other excavations with a greater than 1:1 (45 degree) slope of any depth with barrier material (such as hardware cloth) at the close of each working day or night such that animals are unable to dig or squeeze under the barrier and become entrapped. The outer two feet of the excavation cover shall conform to solid ground so that gaps do not occur between the cover and the ground, and the excavation cover shall be secured with soil staples or by similar means to prevent gaps. Workers shall thoroughly inspect all trenches, holes, sumps, or other excavations for Covered Species (or other wildlife) before they are backfilled. If any Designated Biologists, Designated Monitors, or worker(s) discovers that Covered Species have become trapped, Permittee shall cease all Covered Activities in the vicinity and notify a Designated Biologist shall allow Covered Species to escape unimpeded if possible before Covered Activities are allowed to continue, or a Designated Biologist shall capture and relocate the Covered Species as per the SJAS Mortality Reduction and Relocation Plan (Condition of Approval 6.6), and/or BNLL Mortality Reduction and Relocation Plan (Condition of Approval 6.7).	During Covered Activities	
7.10	Covered Species Observations. All workers shall inform a Designated Biologist if the Covered Species is seen within or near the Project area during implementation of any Covered Activity. All work in the vicinity of the Covered Species, which could injure or kill the animal, shall cease immediately until the Designated Biologist can relocate the Covered Species following the CDFW approved SJAS Mortality Reduction and Relocation Plan (Condition of Approval 6.5), SJKF Den Replacement Plan (Condition of Approval 6.6), and/or BNLL Mortality Reduction and Relocation Plan (Condition of Approval 6.7).	During Covered Activities	

ITP COA (Source)	Mitigation Measure	Implementation Schedule	Status / Date / Responsible Party(ies)
7.11	Pre-Activity Clearance Surveys and Reporting. The Designated Biologist(s) shall perform pre-construction surveys for the Covered no more than 14 days prior to Covered Activities or prior to resumption of work if there has been a break in work by more than 30 days, or as otherwise approved in writing by CDFW. The report shall include, but not be limited to, survey methods, date and time of the surveys, weather conditions per survey date, name of the Designated Biologist(s) who performed the surveys, survey results, and map of the locations of each potential and known burrow or den and type of Covered Species use. Permittee shall provide the survey results to CDFW in a written report at least 3 days prior to the beginning of Covered Activities (Condition of Approval 6.3).	Before the start of Covered Activities	
7.11.1	SJAS Surveys: The Designated Biologist(s) shall survey the Work Area and 50 feet beyond the limits of the Work Area for individuals of the SJAS and to identify, flag and map the locations of all potential SJAS burrows. Pre-activity surveys shall be conducted under appropriate conditions to detect Covered Species. Conditions considered appropriate for detection of San Joquin antelope squirrel include temperatures between 68- and 86-degrees Fahrenheit, no more than 80 percent cloud cover, and not under foggy or rainy conditions.	Before the start of, and during Covered Activities	
7.11.2	SJKF Surveys. The Designated Biologist(s) shall conduct surveys to identify known and/or natal SJKF dens. Surveys shall include the Work Area and 50 feet beyond the limits of the Work Area to identify all potential SJKF dens as well as a buffer zone of 500 feet beyond (where feasible) the limits of the Work Area to identify known and/or natal SJKF dens. If the Designated Biologist identifies any known and/or natal SJKF dens, the den(s) shall be monitored for at least 4 consecutive nights with tracking medium and infrared camera to determine the current use of the den(s) or as otherwise approved in the SJKF Den Replacement Plan (Condition of Approval 6.6).	Before the start of, and during Covered Activities	
7.11.3	BNLL Surveys. The Designated Biologist(s) shall survey Work Areas and 50 feet beyond the limits of each Work Area (unless otherwise approved in writing by CDFW) to identify individual BNLL and to identify, flag, and map the locations of all potential BNLL burrows. Pre-activity surveys shall be conducted under appropriate conditions to detect Covered Species consistent with survey methodology approved under the BNLL Mortality Reduction and Relocation Plan (Condition of Approval 6.7). Conditions considered appropriate for detection of BNLL include temperatures between 77- and 95-degrees Fahrenheit. Surveys shall be performed over five consecutive days between April 1 and July 15 using methods consistent with the Blunt-Nosed Leopard Lizard October 2019 (Revised), or as otherwise approved in writing by CDFW.		

ITP COA (Source)	Mitigation Measure	Implementation Schodule	Status / Date / Responsible Party(ies)
7.12	Covered Species Injury. If a Covered Species is injured as a result of Project-related activities, the Designated Biologist shall immediately take it to a CDFW approved wildlife rehabilitation or veterinary facility. Permittee shall identify the facility before starting Covered Activities. Permittee shall bear any costs associated with the care or treatment of such injured Covered Species. The Permittee shall notify CDFW of the injury to the Covered Species immediately by telephone and electronic mail followed by a written incident report as described in Condition of Approval 6.15. Notification shall include the date, time, location, and circumstances of the incident and the name of the facility where the animal was treated. If Covered Species is found deceased, the Designated Biologist shall immediately collect, bag, and freeze the carcass and consult with CDFW to determine if submittal of the carcass to a laboratory is warranted.	Implementation Schedule During Covered Activities	Responsible Faity(les)
7.13.1	SJAS Burrow Avoidance. The Designated Biologist shall establish a no disturbance buffer of 50 feet or greater around suspected or known to be occupied SJAS burrows within and adjacent to the Project Area to be disturbed by Covered Activities. If a 50-foot no-disturbance buffer cannot be established, daily monitoring, live trapping, relocation, and burrow excavation shall occur in accordance with Conditions of Approval 7.13.2 through 7.13.5. Alternatively, a buffer reduction may be requested to allow for burrow preservation where impacts can be reasonably avoided. Any buffer reduction strategy shall be identified in the SJAS Mortality Reduction and Relocation Plan (Condition of Approval 6.5) and shall include the review and written approval of CDFW prior to the implementation of a reduced buffer.	During Covered Activities	
7.13.2	SJAS Live Trapping and Relocation. The Designated Biologist shall conduct live trapping at all potential SJAS burrows detected within the Project Area that cannot be avoided per Condition of Approval 7.13.1 prior to starting ground- or vegetation-disturbing Covered Activities, according to the approved SJAS Mortality Reduction and Relocation Plan (Condition of Approval 6.5). SJAS shall be relocated only after young of the year are observed above ground and during the main activity period for the species (April 1 to September 30) unless otherwise approved in advance and in writing by CDFW. The Designated Biologist shall relocate any captured SJAS to a release site identified in the approved SJAS Mortality Reduction and Relocation Plan (Condition of Approval 6.5). Traps shall only be open during the time of day when onsite temperatures are within the 68 to 86 degree Fahrenheit criterion and only when temperatures are predicted by the National Weather Service to remain within that range for more than four hours. Any captured lactating/nursing female or dependent juvenile of SJAS shall be released immediately at the trap location and trapping shall cease until young of the year of SJAS are observed above ground and no longer dependent on their mother.	Before the start of, and during Covered Activities	

ITP COA			Status / Date /
(Source)	Mitigation Measure	Implementation Schedule	Responsible Party(ies)
7.13.3	SJAS Relocation Weather Constraints. Permittee may submit a written request for	Before the start of, and	
	approval to conduct trapping and relocation outside of the main activity period for the	during Covered Activities	
	SJAS (October 1 to March 31). The written request shall include reference to the		
	seven-day forecast predicted by the National Weather Service demonstrating daytime		
	high temperatures (sunrise to sunset) between 68 and 86 degrees Fahrenheit with no		
	prediction of inclement weather (e.g., a predicted 30 percent or greater chance of		
	precipitation). In addition, the written request shall include evidence that young of the		
	year of SJAS (if prior to April 1) and/or adults (if after September 30) are present		
	above ground at the release site approved in the SJAS Mortality Reduction and		
	Relocation Plan (Condition of Approval 6.5).		
7.13.4	SJAS Relocation Additional Timing Constraints. If SJAS trapping and relocation	Before the start of, and	
	occurs outside of the main activity period (October 1 to March 31), a Designated	during Covered Activities	
	Biologist shall prepare daily trapping records that shall include, but not be limited to,		
	on-site temperatures and time when traps are opened, when traps are checked, and		
	when animals are relocated; weather conditions (e.g., wind and cloud cover); and the		
	number of traps used. These records may be requested to be submitted daily or		
	weekly to CDFW in the written approval to conduct trapping and relocation outside of		
	the main activity period (Condition of Approval 7.13.3). Burrow excavation shall occur		
	after the final trapping and only after CDFW has reviewed the final daily trapping		
	records and approved excavation.		
7.13.5	SJAS Burrow Excavation. Immediately following live trapping activities conducted to	Before the start of, and	
	address burrows that cannot be avoided (Condition of Approval 7.13.1) and prior to	during Covered Activities	
	beginning Covered Activities within the Project Area, the Designated Biologist, or an		
	approved Designated Monitor under the direct supervision of the Designated Biologist,		
	shall fully excavate by hand any potential SJAS burrows present within the project		
	work limits, according to the approved SJAS Mortality Reduction and Relocation Plan		
	(Condition of Approval 6.5). Any SJAS encountered during burrow excavation shall be		
	relocated according to the approved SJAS Mortality Reduction and Relocation Plan		
	(Condition of Approval 6.5). All burrow excavation shall be completed within 72 hours		
	of the conclusion of live trapping.		

ITP COA			Status / Date /
(Source)	Mitigation Measure	Implementation Schedule	Responsible Party(ies)
7.14.1	SJKF Den Avoidance. Permittee shall avoid destroying any known or potential SJKF	Before the start of, and	
	dens unless they are in an area of direct ground disturbance (e.g., grading areas,	during Covered Activities	
	excavation areas) or their location poses a risk of direct harm to SJKF individuals.		
	Dens in an area of temporary disturbance shall remain intact and the Designated		
	Biologist shall block the entrance by installing an object approved in advance, in		
	writing by CDFW to prevent SJKF from entering and utilizing the den during Covered		
	Activities. The Designated Biologist shall remove the object immediately after Covered		
	Activities are completed in that Work Area when the Designated Biologist has		
	determined that potential resumed use of the den will not result in harm to SJKF.		
	Permittee shall not destroy or modify dens or exclude foxes from dens that are beyond		
	the direct footprint of ground disturbance to preempt their use and den buffer		
	establishment. If a potential SJKF den (any subterranean hole, three inches or larger,		
	for which no evidence is present to conclude that the den is being used or has been		
	used by a SJKF) is discovered or a SJKF is found in an "atypical" den (e.g., a pipe or		
	culvert), Permittee shall establish a minimum 50-foot no-disturbance buffer around the		
	den. If a known den (one that shows evidence of current use or was used in the past)		
	is discovered, Permittee shall establish a minimum no-disturbance buffer of at least		
	100 feet around the den. If a natal den (den in which SJKF young are reared, typically		
	with two or more openings) is discovered, Permittee shall establish a no-disturbance		
	buffer of at least 200 feet around the den. Natal dens with pups shall have a no-		
	disturbance buffer of at least 500 feet. Permittee shall notify the United States Fish		
	and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and CDFW's Regional Representative immediately via		
	telephone and email if any SJKF-occupied atypical dens, known dens, or natal dens		
	are discovered within or immediately adjacent to the Project Area. An established no-		
	disturbance buffer may be reduced once the SJKF is no longer using the area.		

ITP COA (Source)	Mitigation Measure	Implementation Schedule	Status / Date / Responsible Party(ies)
7.14.2	SJKF Den Replacement. Permittee shall replace each known and natal SJKF den that cannot be avoided as per Condition of Approval 7.14.1, with an artificial den. Permittee shall install one artificial SJKF den for each known den and three artificial dens for each natal den to be collapsed due to unavoidable disturbance. If there are no suitable existing dens within 300 feet of the collapsed den, Permittee shall install artificial dens within 300 feet of the collapsed den. Artificial natal dens shall be multichambered and have multiple entrances. If greater than 10 suitable kit fox dens are located within a 300-foot radius of the collapsed den, Permittee shall consult with CDFW about appropriate location for installation of artificial dens. Artificial den(s) shall be completed before excavation of known and natal SJKF dens can occur (Condition of Approval 7.14.3) to compensate for the loss of important shelter used by SJKF for protection, reproduction, and escape from predators. Den replacement shall be completed in accordance with the CDFW-approved SJKF Den Replacement Plan required in Condition of Approval 6.6.	Before the start of, and during Covered Activities	Responsible Falty(les)
7.14.3	SJKF Den Excavation. The Designated Biologist or individuals under direct supervision of the Designated Biologist shall excavate potential or known dens that exhibit signs of SJKF use or characteristics suggestive of SJKF dens (including dens in natural substrate and in/under man-made structures) that cannot be avoided as per Condition of Approval 7.14.1 only after the Designated Biologist has determined that SJKF is not currently present after 4 consecutive nights of monitoring with tracking medium and infrared camera. Potential SJKF dens without any signs of SJKF use or characteristics suggesting it is a SJKF den may be excavated under the direct supervision of the Designated Biologist without advance tracking or camera monitoring. Natal dens shall not be excavated until the pups and adults have vacated the den and then only after concurrence from the USFWS and CDFW. If the excavation process reveals evidence of current use by SJKF, then den excavation shall cease immediately and tracking or camera monitoring as described above shall be conducted/resumed. Excavation of the den shall only resume when, in the judgment of the Designated Biologist, the SJKF has escaped from the partially excavated den. SJKF dens shall be carefully excavated until it is clear no individuals of SJKF are inside. Dens to be destroyed shall be fully excavated, filled with dirt and compacted to ensure that SJKF cannot reenter or use the den during the period that Covered Activities would occur in the Project Area. If an individual SJKF does not vacate a den within the Work Area within a reasonable timeframe, Permittee shall consult with CDFW and the USFWS to obtain written guidance from both agencies prior to proceeding with den destruction. An established SJKF den no disturbance buffer may be removed once the SJKF is no longer using the area.	Before the start of, and during Covered Activities	

ITP COA (Source)	Mitigation Measure	Implementation Schedule	Status / Date / Responsible Party(ies)
7.15.1	BNLL Burrow Avoidance. The Permittee shall notify CDFW's Regional Representative within 24 hours via telephone or e-mail if any BNLL are discovered within or immediately adjacent to the Project Area. The Designated Biologists shall establish a no-disturbance buffer of 50 feet or greater around potential burrows that could be occupied by BNLL, suspected burrows or known burrows to be occupied by BNLL within the Project Area. If the 50-foot no-disturbance buffer cannot be implemented, potential live capture, relocation, and burrow excavation shall occur in accordance with the BNLL Mortality Reduction and Relocation Plan (Condition of Approval 6.7), BNLL avoidance (Condition of Approval 7.15.2), the BNLL Individual Relocation (Condition of Approval 7.15.3), BNLL Relocation Weather Constraints (Condition of Approval 7.15.4), and BNLL Burrow Excavation (Condition of Approval 7.15.5). Alternatively, Permittee may request a buffer reduction to allow for burrow preservation where direct impacts to individual BNLL can be reasonably avoided. Any buffer reduction strategy shall be identified in the BNLL Mortality Reduction and Relocation Plan (Condition of Approval 6.7) and shall include the review and written approval of CDFW prior to the implementation of a reduced buffer.	Before the start of, and during Covered Activities	The sponsible if dity(iss)
7.15.2	BNLL Individual Avoidance. If an individual (adult or juvenile) BNLL is detected above ground within the Project Area, any Covered Activities occurring within 500 feet of the observed BNLL must temporarily cease. The BNLL shall first be allowed to leave the Project Area on its own volition and be monitored by the Designated Biologist(s). If the BNLL is unable to leave the Project Area on its own volition due to Project related obstructions (e.g., fencing, vehicles, Project materials, etc.), the Designated Biologist(s) may establish an area for a passive exit leading/oriented away from the Project Area into suitable habitat only (i.e., not into the path of a paved road, etc.) or pursue the BNLL into an exit path leading away from the Project Area into suitable habitat only. The Designated Biologist(s) in either scenario shall monitor the exit of the BNLL. If a passive exit area or exit path needs to be established by the Designated Biologist(s) with passive or active exclusion (e.g., sequencing of temporary fence, boards, or flashing) the Designated Biologist(s) shall have such equipment ready to implement a non-handling exit area or exit path. If based on the Designated Biologist's assessment that the BNLL will not successfully exit the Project Area with passive or active exclusion the BNLL may be captured and relocated by the Designated Biologist(s) per the BNLL Mortality Reduction and Relocation Plan (Condition of Approval 6.7).	Before the start of, and during Covered Activities	

ITP COA			Status / Date /
(Source)	Mitigation Measure	Implementation Schedule	Responsible Party(ies)
7.15.3	BNLL Relocation. Prior to commencing or re-commencing Covered Activities within the Project Area, and following the methods outlined in the BNLL Mortality Reduction and Relocation Plan (Condition of Approval 6.7), any above-ground BNLL detected by the Designated Biologist(s) within the Project Area that cannot be avoided per Conditions of Approval 7.15.1 and 7.15.2 shall be live captured by the Designated Biologist(s) immediately after detection, in the event additional animals are detected after initial relocation activities. The Designated Biologist(s) shall relocate all captured BNLL immediately to the CDFW approved release site identified in the BNLL Mortality Reduction and Relocation Plan (Condition of Approval 6.7). The Designated Biologist(s) shall submit daily capture and release forms to CDFW for review and concurrence to continue (or not) with live capture. Daily capture forms shall include, but not be limited to: on-site shaded air temperatures measured 1.2 centimeters (cm) from above the ground and times of captures; capture details (e.g., attempts made, capture response, total duration of hold times); relocation details (e.g., behavioral response) and supporting photos and/or videos; weather conditions (e.g., wind and cloud cover) during capture and post release, etc. Permittee shall propose a final capture activity date for CDFW review and written approval. Following the CDFW-approved final day of capture activity, burrow excavation according to the BNLL Burrow Excavation (Condition of Approval 7.15.5) may begin.	Before the start of, and during Covered Activities	
7.15.4	BNLL Relocation Weather Constraints. During the threat of inclement weather, such as the National Weather Service prediction of a 30 percent or greater chance of rain, the Designated Biologist(s) shall halt all capture of BNLL. Additionally, the Designated Biologists shall halt all capture of BNLL if the air temperature drops below 77 or exceeds 95 degrees Fahrenheit during the capture period. The Designated Biologist(s) shall cease capture activity if captured animals are found to be lethargic or are otherwise showing signs of distress.	Before the start of, and during Covered Activities	
7.15.6	BNLL Burrow Excavation. Immediately following live capture activities conducted in accordance with the BNLL Mortality Reduction and Relocation Plan (Condition of Approval 0) and prior to beginning Covered Activities within the Project Area, the Designated Biologist(s), or individuals under the direct supervision of the Designated Biologist(s), shall fully excavate by hand all burrows potentially occupied by BNLL within each fenced Project Area to be disturbed by Covered Activities. The Designated Biologist(s) shall immediately relocate any active BNLL encountered during burrow excavation to the CDFW-approved release site(s) identified in the BNLL Mortality Reduction and Relocation Plan (Condition of Approval 0). If BNLL eggs or torpid BNLL are discovered during burrow excavation, CDFW shall be immediately contacted to determine if they should be transported to an identified and approved care facility listed in the BNLL Mortality Reduction and Relocation Plan (Condition of Approval 0).	Before the start of, and during Covered Activities	

8 Habitat Management Land Acquisition and Restoration:

CDFW has determined that permanent protection and perpetual management of compensatory habitat and on-site habitat restoration is necessary and required pursuant to CESA, and Fish and Game Code section 5050 as applicable, to fully mitigate Project-related impacts of the taking on the Covered Species that will result from implementation of the Covered Activities. This determination is based on factors including an assessment of the importance of the habitat in the Project Area, the extent to which the Covered Activities will impact the habitat, and CDFW's estimate of the protected acreage required to provide for adequate compensation.

To meet this requirement, Permittee shall either purchase 160 acres of Covered Species credits from a CDFW-approved mitigation or conservation bank pursuant to Condition of Approval 8.2 below OR shall provide for both the permanent protection and management of at least 160 acres of Habitat Management (HM) lands pursuant to Condition of Approval 8.3 below and the calculation and deposit of the management funds pursuant to Condition of Approval 8.4 below.

At the time of issuance of this Amended ITP, Permittee proposes the purchase of mitigation credits at the Blackwells Corner Conservation Bank (BCCB), which is conceptually approved by CDFW and has higher quality habitat for the Covered Species than the habitat being impacted by the Project. Further, the BCCB contributes to providing essential linkage habitat for the Covered Species and may help secure important genetic connectivity for BNLL between the Antelope Plain, Lokern, and Buena Vista subpopulations within the Western Kern County Critical Recovery Area listed in the 1998 USFWS Recovery Plan (Recovery Plan).

Conservation of the BCCB properties will contribute to multiple recovery actions for the Covered Species in the Recovery Plan. Recovery Action 1 for BNLL calls for determining appropriate habitat management and compatible land uses for BNLL. Recovery Action 3.d. for BNLL calls for protecting additional habitat for BNLL in key portions of their range. The areas of highest priority to target for protection identified in the Recovery Plan for BNLL includes natural lands between Highway 33 and the coastal ranges (southern Fresno County/northern Kern County), which is where the BCCB is located. Additionally, one of the four recommendations by the USFWS for BNLL in the latest (2020) five-year review encourages conservation and coordination between private landowners and other partners, including the USFWS. The purchase of 160 mitigation credits from BCCB will help to achieve Recovery Action 3.d. for BNLL and is in line with the most recent five-year review of BNLL by providing habitat restoration, restoring connectivity within and between populations, and encouraging conservation and coordination between private landowners and other partners,

Before starting Covered Activities, or within 48 months of the effective date of the ITP if Security is provided

ITP COA (Source)	Mitigation Measure	Implementation Schedule	Status / Date / Responsible Party(ies)
	including CDFW and USFWS. For these reasons, the purchase of 160 mitigation credits from BCCB along with the other requirements of this Amended ITP will satisfy the requirement of Fish and Game Code section 2081.15, subdivision (a)(2) that further measures to satisfy the conservation standard of Fish and Game Code section 2805, subdivision (d) are incorporated into the Project.		
	Should purchasing conservation credits at the proposed BCCB become infeasible, then Permittee shall provide an alternative 160 acres of HM Lands which are comparable or better in habitat quality than the Project Area, are occupied by the all of the Covered Species, provide regional importance to the conservation of BNLL, and achieve one or more Recovery Actions of the Recovery Plan for BNLL. Purchase of Covered Species credits OR permanent protection and funding for perpetual management of HM lands must be complete before starting Covered Activities, or within 48 months of the effective date of this ITP if Security is provided pursuant to Condition of Approval 9 below for all uncompleted obligations.		

ITP COA (Source)	Mitigation Measure	Implementation Schedule	Status / Date / Responsible Party(ies)
8.1	For the purposes of determining the Security amount, CDFW has estimated the cost sufficient for CDFW or its contractors to complete acquisition, protection, and perpetual management of the HM lands and restoration of temporarily disturbed habitat as follows: 8.1.1. Land acquisition costs for HM lands identified in Condition of Approval 8.3 below, estimated at \$1,215.87/acre for 160 acres: \$194,539.00. Land acquisition costs are estimated using local fair market current value per acre for lands with habitat values meeting mitigation requirements; 8.1.2. All other costs necessary to review and acquire the land in fee title and record a conservation easement as described in Condition of Approval 8.3.1 and 8.3.2 below: \$264,437.11; 8.1.3. Start-up costs for HM lands, including initial site protection and enhancement costs as described in Condition of Approval 8.3.6 below, estimated at \$5,616.60; 8.1.4. Interim management period funding as described in Condition of Approval 8.3.7 below, estimated at \$131,839.57; 8.1.5. Long-term management funding as described in Condition of Approval 8.4 below, estimated at \$934/acre for 160 acres: \$149,567.73. Long-term management funding is estimated initially for the purpose of providing Security to ensure implementation of HM lands management. 8.1.6. Related transaction fees including but not limited to account set-up fees, administrative fees, title and documentation review and related title transactions, expenses incurred from other state agency reviews, and overhead related to transfer of HM lands to CDFW as described in Condition of Approval 8.5, estimated at \$12,000.00. 8.1.7. All costs associated with CDFW engaging an outside contractor to complete the mitigation tasks, including but not limited to acquisition, protection, and perpetual funding and management of the HM lands and restoration of temporarily disturbed habitat. These costs include but are not limited to the cost of issuing a request for proposals, transaction costs, contract administration costs, and c	Before starting Covered Activities, or within 48 months of the effective date of the ITP if Security is provided	

ITP COA	Midimedian Manager	Immigration Cohodula	Status / Date /
(Source) 8.2	Mitigation Measure Covered Species Credits. If Permittee elects to purchase Covered Species credits to complete compensatory mitigation obligations, then Permittee shall purchase 160 acres of Covered Species credits from a CDFW-approved mitigation or conservation bank prior to initiating Covered Activities, or no later than 48 months from the issuance of this ITP if Security is provided pursuant to Condition of Approval 9 below. Prior to purchase of Covered Species credits, Permittee shall obtain CDFW approval to ensure the mitigation or conservation bank is appropriate to compensate for the impacts of the Project. Permittee shall submit to CDFW a copy of the Bill of Sale(s) and Payment Receipt prior to initiating Covered Activities or within 48 months from issuance of this ITP if Security is provided.	Implementation Schedule Before starting Covered Activities, or within 48months of the effective date of the ITP if Security is provided	Responsible Party(ies)
8.3	Habitat Management Lands Acquisition and Protection. If the Permittee elects to provide for the acquisition, permanent protection, and perpetual management of HM lands to complete compensatory mitigation obligations, then the Permittee shall: 8.3.1. Fee Title. Transfer fee title of the HM lands to CDFW pursuant to terms approved in writing by CDFW. Alternatively, CDFW, in its sole discretion, may authorize a governmental entity, special district, non-profit organization, forprofit entity, person, or another entity to hold title to and manage the property provided that the district, organization, entity, or person meets the requirements of Government Code sections 65965-65968, as amended. 8.3.2. Conservation Easement. If CDFW does not hold fee title to the HM lands, CDFW shall act as grantee for a conservation easement over the HM lands or shall, in its sole discretion, approve a non-profit entity, public agency, or Native American tribe to act as grantee for a conservation easement over the HM lands provided that the entity, agency, or tribe meets the requirements of Civil Code section 815.3. If CDFW elects not to be named as the grantee for the conservation easement, CDFW shall be expressly named in the conservation easement as a third-party beneficiary. The Permittee shall obtain CDFW written approval of any conservation easement before its execution or recordation. No conservation easement shall be approved by CDFW unless it complies with Civil Code sections 815-816, as amended, and Government Code sections 65965-65968, as amended and includes provisions expressly addressing Government Code sections 65966(j) and 65967(e). Because the "doctrine of merger" could invalidate the conservation interest, under no circumstances can the fee title owner of the HM lands serve as grantee for the conservation easement.	Before starting Covered Activities, or within 48 months of the effective date of the ITP if Security is provided	

ITP COA (Source)	Mitigation Measure	Implementation Schedule	Status / Date / Responsible Party(ies)
8.3 (cont.)	8.3.3. HM Lands Approval. Obtain CDFW written approval of the HM lands before acquisition and/or transfer of the land by submitting, at least three months before acquisition and/or transfer of the HM lands, documentation identifying the land to be purchased or property interest conveyed to an approved entity as mitigation for the Project's impacts on Covered Species;	Before starting Covered Activities, or within 48 months of the effective date of the ITP if Security is provided	reception and really (1889)
	8.3.4. HM Lands Documentation. Provide a recent preliminary title report, Phase I Environmental Site Assessment, and other necessary documents (please contact CDFW for document list). All documents conveying the HM lands and all conditions of title are subject to the approval of CDFW, and if applicable, the Wildlife Conservation Board and the Department of General Services;	provided	
	8.3.5. Land Manager. Designate both an interim and long-term land manager approved by CDFW. The interim and long-term land managers may, but need not, be the same. The interim and/or long-term land managers may be the landowner or another party. Documents related to land management shall identify both the interim and long-term land managers. Permittee shall notify CDFW of any subsequent changes in the land manager within 30 days of the change. If CDFW will hold fee title to the mitigation land, CDFW will also act as both the interim and long-term land manager unless otherwise specified. The grantee for the conservation easement cannot serve as the interim or long-term manager without the express written authorization of CDFW in its sole discretion.		
	8.3.6. Start-up Activities. Provide for the implementation of start-up activities, including the initial site protection and enhancement of HM lands, once the HM lands have been approved by CDFW. Start-up activities include, at a minimum: (1) preparing a final management plan for CDFW approval (see https://nrm.dfg.ca.gov/FileHandler.ashx?DocumentID=137386&inline) (2) conducting a baseline biological assessment and land survey report within four months of recording or transfer; (3) developing and transferring Geographic Information Systems (GIS) data if applicable; (4) establishing initial fencing; (5) conducting litter removal; (6) conducting initial habitat restoration or enhancement, if applicable; and (7) installing signage;		

ITP COA (Source)	Mitigation Measure	Implementation Schedule	Status / Date / Responsible Party(ies)
8.3 (cont.)	8.3.7. Interim Management (Initial and Capital). Provide for the interim management of the HM lands. The Permittee shall ensure that the interim land manager implements the interim management of the HM lands as described in the final management plan and conservation easement approved by CDFW. The interim management period shall be a minimum of three years from the date of HM land acquisition and protection and full funding of the Endowment and includes expected management following start-up activities. Interim management period activities described in the final management plan shall include fence repair, continuing trash removal, site monitoring, and vegetation and invasive species management. Permittee shall either (1) provide Security to CDFW for the minimum of three years of interim management that the land owner, Permittee, or land manager agrees to manage and pay for at their own expense, (2) establish an escrow account with written instructions approved in advance in writing by CDFW to pay the land manager annually in advance, or (3) establish a short-term enhancement account with CDFW or a CDFW-approved entity for payment to the land manager.	Implementation deneatie	responsible Furty(ics)
8.4	Endowment Fund. If the Permittee elects to provide for the acquisition, permanent protection, and perpetual management of HM lands to complete compensatory mitigation obligations, then the Permittee shall ensure that the HM lands are perpetually managed, maintained, and monitored by the long-term land manager as described in the ITP, the conservation easement, and the final management plan approved by CDFW. After obtaining CDFW approval of the HM lands, Permittee shall provide long-term management funding for the perpetual management of the HM lands by establishing a long-term management fund (Endowment). The Endowment is a sum of money, held in a CDFW-approved fund that is permanently restricted to paying the costs of long-term management and stewardship of the mitigation property for which the funds were set aside, which costs include the perpetual management, maintenance, monitoring, and other activities on the HM lands consistent with the ITP, the conservation easement, and the management plan required by Condition of Approval 8.3.5. Endowment as used in the ITP shall refer to the endowment deposit and all interest, dividends, other earnings, additions and appreciation thereon. The Endowment shall be governed by the ITP, Government Code sections 65965-65968, as amended, and Probate Code sections 18501-18510, as amended.	Before starting Covered Activities, or within 48 months of the effective date of the ITP if Security is provided	

0.4	1	After the interior was a second point of Demoittee shall account that the	D-f tti O	
8.4		After the interim management period, Permittee shall ensure that the	Before starting Covered	
(cont.)		designated long-term land manager implements the management and	Activities, or within 48	
		monitoring of the HM lands according to the final management plan. The long-	months of the effective date	
		term land manager shall be obligated to manage and monitor the HM lands in	of the ITP if Security is	
		perpetuity to preserve their conservation values in accordance with the ITP,	provided	
		the conservation easement, and the final management plan. Such activities		
		shall be funded through the Endowment.		
	8.4.1.	, ,		
		Endowment Manager, which shall be either CDFW or another entity qualified		
		pursuant to Government Code sections 65965-65968, as amended.		
		Permittee shall submit to CDFW a written proposal that includes: (i) the name		
		of the proposed Endowment Manager; (ii) whether the proposed Endowment		
		Manager is a governmental entity, special district, nonprofit organization,		
		community foundation, or congressionally chartered foundation; (iii) whether		
		the proposed Endowment Manager holds the property or an interest in the		
		property for conservation purposes as required by Government Code section		
		65968(b)(1) or, in the alternative, the basis for finding that the Project qualifies		
		for an exception pursuant to Government Code section 65968(b)(2); and (iv) a		
		copy of the proposed Endowment Manager's certification pursuant to		
		Government Code section 65968(e).		
		Within thirty days of CDFW's receipt of Permittee's written proposal, CDFW		
		shall inform Permittee in writing if it determines the proposal does not satisfy		
		the requirements of Fish and Game Code section 2081(b)(3) and, if so, shall		
		provide Permittee with a written explanation of the reasons for its		
		determination. If CDFW does not provide Permittee with a written		
		determination within the thirty-day period, the proposal shall be deemed		
		consistent with Section 2081(b)(3).		
	8.4.2.	Calculate the Endowment Funds Deposit. After obtaining CDFW written		
		approval of the HM lands, long-term management plan, and Endowment		
		Manager, Permittee shall prepare an endowment assessment (equivalent to a		
		Property Analysis Record (PAR)) to calculate the amount of funding		
		necessary to ensure the long-term management of the HM lands (Endowment		
		Deposit Amount). Note that the endowment for the easement holder should		
		not be included in this calculation. The Permittee shall submit to CDFW for		
		review and approval the results of the endowment assessment before		
		transferring funds to the Endowment Manager.		
		8.4.2.1. Capitalization Rate and Fees. Permittee shall obtain the capitalization		
		rate from the selected Endowment Manager for use in calculating the		
		endowment assessment and adjust for any additional administrative,		
		periodic, or annual fees.		
	<u> </u>	1 '	L	

8.4		8.4.2.2. Endowment Buffers/Assumptions. Permittee shall include in the	Before starting Covered	
(cont.)		endowment assessment assumptions the following buffers for	Activities, or within 48	
,		endowment establishment and use that will substantially ensure long-	months of the effective date	
		term viability and security of the Endowment:	of the ITP if Security is	
		8.4.2.2.1.10 Percent Contingency. A 10 percent contingency shall be	provided	
		added to each endowment calculation to hedge against		
		underestimation of the fund, unanticipated expenditures,		
		inflation, or catastrophic events.		
		8.4.2.2.2. Three Years Delayed Spending. The endowment shall be		
		established assuming spending will not occur for the first		
		three years after full funding.		
		8.4.2.2.3. Non-annualized Expenses. For all large capital expenses to		
		occur periodically but not annually such as fence		
		replacement or well replacement, payments shall be		
		withheld from the annual disbursement until the year of		
		anticipated need or upon request to Endowment Manager		
		and CDFW.		
	8.4.3.			
		endowment funds to the Endowment Manager upon CDFW approval of the		
		Endowment Deposit Amount identified above.		
	8.4.4.	11 0 ,		
		pool the Endowment with other endowments for the operation, management,		
		and protection of HM lands for local populations of the Covered Species but		
		shall maintain separate accounting for each Endowment. The Endowment		
		Manager shall, at all times, hold and manage the Endowment in compliance		
		with the ITP, Government Code sections 65965-65968, as amended, and		
		Probate Code sections 18501-18510, as amended.		
		Notwithstanding Probate Code sections 18501-18510, the Endowment		
		Manager shall not make any disbursement from the Endowment that will result		
		in expenditure of any portion of the principal of the endowment without the		
		prior written approval of CDFW in its sole discretion. Permittee shall ensure		
		that this requirement is included in any agreement of any kind governing the		
		holding, investment, management, and/or disbursement of the Endowment		
		funds.		
		Notwithstanding Probate Code sections 18501-18510, if CDFW determines in		
		its sole discretion that an expenditure needs to be made from the Endowment		
		to preserve the conservation values of the HM lands, the Endowment		
		Manager shall process that expenditure in accordance with directions from		
		CDFW. The Endowment Manager shall not be liable for any shortfall in the		
L		Endowment resulting from CDFW's decision to make such an expenditure.		

ITP COA	Mitigation Magazira	Implementation Schodule	Status / Date /
(Source) 8.5	Mitigation Measure Reimburse CDFW. Permittee shall reimburse CDFW for all reasonable costs incurred	Implementation Schedule Before starting Covered	Responsible Party(ies)
0.5	by CDFW related to issuance and monitoring of the ITP, including, but not limited to	Activities, or within 48	
	transaction fees, account set-up fees, administrative fees, title and documentation	months of the effective date	
	review and related title transactions, costs incurred from other state agency reviews,	of the ITP if Security is	
	and overhead related to transfer of HM lands to CDFW.	provided	
9	Security: The Permittee may proceed with Covered Activities only after the Permittee	provided	
3	has ensured funding (Security) to complete any activity required by Condition of		
	Approval 8 that has not been completed before Covered Activities begin. Permittee		
	shall provide Security as follows:		
9.1	Master Funding Agreement. Security for the ITP shall be governed by the Master		
0	Funding Agreement between the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and the		
	California Department of Transportation, dated September 3, 2021.		
9.2	Funding Memorandum. Permittee has prepared and CDFW has approved, the project-		
	specific Funding Memorandum required by the Master Funding Agreement and		
	attached to the ITP as Attachment 3.		
9.3	Security Amount. The Security shall be in the amount of \$800,000.00. This amount is		
	based on the cost estimates identified in Condition of Approval 8.1 above and the		
	Funding Memorandum.		
9.4	Funding of the Child Expenditure Authorization (EA). Permittee shall create and fund	Prior to effective date of the	
	the Child EA with funds equivalent to the Security Amount.	ITP	
9.5	Compliance with the Master Funding Agreement. Permittee shall complete all	Before the start of, and	
	requirements set forth in the Master Funding Agreement and shall at all times comply	during Covered Activities	
	with the terms and conditions of that Agreement.		
9.6	Even if Security is provided, the Permittee must complete the required acquisition,	Before starting Covered	
	protection and transfer of all HM lands and record any required conservation	Activities, or within 48	
	easements no later than 48 months from the effective date of the ITP. CDFW may	months of the effective date	
	require the Permittee to provide additional HM lands and/or additional funding to	of the ITP if Security is	
	ensure the impacts of the taking are minimized and fully mitigated, as required by law,	provided	
	if the Permittee does not complete these requirements within the specified timeframe.		

Attachment 2

LSA Agreement/ITP Number(s):



Department of Fish and Wildlife

BIOLOGIST RESUME COVER SHEET

SUBMIT EACH RESUME AS A SEPARATE DOCUMENT

Number of Resumes Included in	n Transmittal:
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Name	Requested Role(s) ¹	Species/Resource(s)

¹ Requested roles correspond to the biological staffing requirements indicated in the Lake and Streambed Alteration (LSA) Agreement or California Endangered Species Act Incidental Take Permit (ITP). Roles may include a "Qualified Biologist" or "Designated Biologist" with the necessary experience to survey for special status species, or a "Biological Monitor" with the necessary experience to monitor construction activities for special status species. An individual may request more than one role.

Project Name: LSA Agreement/ITP Number(s):



This form requests information about the qualifications of the Qualified Biologist, Designated Biologist and Biological Monitor specified in California Endangered Species Act Incidental Take Permits (ITP) and Lake or Streambed Alteration (LSA) Agreements issued by California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW).

Completing this form will ensure the receipt of adequate information and expedite CDFW review of qualifications.

Name:		Title:	
Company Name &		Phone:	
Address:		Email:	
SECTION II. EDUCATI	ON		
College/University & Degree Type Related to Natural Resource Science:			
Other Relevant Works	shops & Training:		
SECTION III. ROLE(S)	AND PERMIT RE	NTS	
Requested Role(s):			
Relevant LSA Agreeme Measures or ITP Cond			

This section summarizes experience by special status species and other resource. Use one row for each species or other resource where surveys or special protections are required in the CESA ITP or LSA Agreement for which biologist approval is requested. 3 If more space is needed, add rows to this table. Provide details in Section 5.

Species or Resource	Number of Field Seasons & Hours, Life Stages Observed Provide project details in Section 5	Life History Knowledge Describe formal workshops & training with dates, or informal training details	CDFW SCP, MOU, & USFWS 10a1a Authorization Number & Authorized Activities This form does not fulfill SCP, MOU, & USFWS 10a1a reportin requirements	
Insert Species or Resource 1	Field seasons: Hours: Life Stages:			Issued to: Expiration: Agency contact:
Insert Species or Resource 2	Field seasons: Hours: Life Stages:			Issued to: Expiration: Agency contact:
Insert Species or Resource 3	Field seasons: Hours: Life Stages:			Issued to: Expiration: Agency contact:

² List all measures and conditions from the LSA Agreement or ITP requiring biological staff (i.e., Qualified Biologist, Designated Biologist, or Biological Monitor).

³ Often LSA Agreements/ITPs require surveys and other protections for multiple species and other resources. Include only those for which the biologist has experience and is requesting approval.

Project Name: LSA Agreement/ITP Number(s):

SECTION V. SPECIES AND RESOURCE EXPERIENCE - DETAILS

This section details experience from the <u>three</u> most recent and relevant projects for each species and resource identified in Section 4. If more space is needed, attach additional pages in the same table format (i.e., copy/paste format).

A. Species or Resource:			
Project 1 Name & Location:		Project Start & End Dates:	
LSA Agreement, ITP, or Other Agency Permit Number:		Role(s) ⁴ :	
Survey Type(s) ⁵ :		Construction Monitoring ⁶ :	Days: Activities:
Species Life Stages Observed & Handled, Number of Each:	Life Stage: Number Observed: Number Handled: Reported to CNDDB ⁷ (Y/N):	Company Name, Professional Reference Name, Phone, Email:	
If <u>not</u> reported to CNDDB, why:			
CDFW and Other Agency Email:			
Project 2 Name & Location:		Project Start & End Dates:	
LSA Agreement, ITP, or Other Agency Permit Number:		Role(s):	
Survey Type(s):		Construction Monitoring:	Days: Activities:
Species Life Stages Observed & Handled, Number of Each:	Life Stage: Number Observed: Number Handled: Reported to CNDDB (Y/N):	Company Name, Professional Reference Name, Phone, Email:	
If <u>not</u> reported to CNDDB, why:			
CDFW and Other Agency Email:			
Project 3 Name & Location:		Project Start & End Dates:	
LSA Agreement, ITP, or Other Agency Permit Number:		Role(s):	
Survey Type(s):		Construction Monitoring:	Days: Activities:

⁴ Insert the role as described in the associated LSA Agreement, ITP or other agency permit. If these permits were not issued, describe the role based on the duties, e.g., "lead biologist with handling authorization" or "biological monitor."

⁵ For example, pre-construction survey or description of the protocol or guideline followed.

⁶ Include the number of days and describe the types of activities monitored (e.g., heavy equipment operation).

⁷ CNDDB is the abbreviation for California Natural Diversity Database.

Project Name: LSA Agreement/ITP Number(s):

Species Life Stages Observed & Handled, Number of Each:	Life Stage: Number Observed: Number Handled: Reported to CNDDB (Y/N):	Company Name, Professional Reference Name, Phone, Email:	
If <u>not</u> reported to CNDDB, why:			
CDFW and Other Agency Email:			
Additional Information:			

B. Species or Resource:			
Project 1 Name & Location:		Project Start & End Dates:	
LSA Agreement, ITP, or Other Agency Permit Number:		Role(s):	
Survey Type(s):		Construction Monitoring:	Days: Activities:
Species Life Stages Observed & Handled, Number of Each:	Life Stage: Number Observed: Number Handled: Reported to CNDDB (Y/N):	Company Name, Professional Reference Name, Phone, Email:	
If <u>not</u> reported to CNDDB, why:			
CDFW and Other Agency Email:			
Project 2 Name & Location:		Project Start & End Dates:	
LSA Agreement, ITP, or Other Agency Permit Number:		Role(s):	
Survey Type(s):		Construction Monitoring:	Days: Activities:
Species Life Stages Observed & Handled, Number of Each:	Life Stage: Number Observed: Number Handled: Reported to CNDDB (Y/N):	Company Name, Professional Reference Name, Phone, Email:	
If <u>not</u> reported to CNDDB, why:			
CDFW and Other Agency Email:			
Project 3 Name & Location:		Project Start & End Dates:	
LSA Agreement, ITP, or Other Agency Permit Number:		Role(s):	
Survey Type(s):		Construction Monitoring:	Days: Activities:

Project Name: LSA Agreement/ITP Number(s):

Species Life Stages Observed & Handled, Number of Each:	Life Stage: Number Observed: Number Handled: Reported to CNDDB (Y/N):	Company Name, Professional Reference Name, Phone, Email:	
If <u>not</u> reported to CNDDB, why:			
CDFW and Other Agency Email:			
Additional Information:			

	Г		
C. Species or Resource:			
Project 1 Name & Location:		Project Start & End Dates:	
LSA Agreement, ITP, or Other Agency Permit Number:		Role(s):	
Survey Type(s):		Construction Monitoring:	Days: Activities:
Species Life Stages Observed & Handled, Number of Each:	Life Stage: Number Observed: Number Handled: Reported to CNDDB (Y/N):	Company Name, Professional Reference Name, Phone, Email:	
If <u>not</u> reported to CNDDB, why:			
CDFW and Other Agency Email:			
Project 2 Name & Location:		Project Start & End Dates:	
LSA Agreement, ITP, or Other Agency Permit Number:		Role(s):	
Survey Type(s):		Construction Monitoring:	Days: Activities:
Species Life Stages Observed & Handled, Number of Each:	Life Stage: Number Observed: Number Handled: Reported to CNDDB (Y/N):	Company Name, Professional Reference Name, Phone, Email:	
If <u>not</u> reported to CNDDB, why:			
CDFW and Other Agency Email:			
Project 3 Name & Location:		Project Start & End Dates:	
LSA Agreement, ITP, or Other Agency Permit Number:		Role(s):	
Survey Type(s):		Construction Monitoring:	Days: Activities:

Docusign Envelope ID: 01A75056-6F98-4968-BCC7-77580246050B

Project Name: LSA Agreement/ITP Number(s):

Species Life Stages Observed & Handled, Number of Each:	Life Stage: Number Observed: Number Handled: Reported to CNDDB (Y/N):	Company Name, Professional Reference Name, Phone, Email:	
If <u>not</u> reported to CNDDB, why:			
CDFW and Other Agency Email:			
Additional Information:			

Attachment 3

Exhibit B To the Master Funding Agreement Funding Memorandum

- 1. Name of Project: Blackwell's Corner, 06-0Y130
- 2. **Brief Description of the Project:** The California Department of Transportation proposes to repair the existing lanes, add 4 foot shoulders and repair/replace culverts of State Route 33 in Kem County from postmile 40.4 to postmile 59.0.
- 3. Incidental Take Permit Number or Consistency Determination number:
- 4. Caltrans Parent Project EA and program funding source: 06-0Y130, SHOPP
- 5. Caltrans Child EA and Program Funding Source:06-0Y131, SHOPP
- 6. Estimated Cost of Mitigation (Including Monitoring): \$800,000.00
- 7. Total Amount for security (Combined total of estimated cost of Mitigation and Monitoring: \$800,000.00

The funds for this project have been currently budgeted and allocated, for the project as described above. The funds that have been allocated for mitigation and monitoring will not be re-allocated to another element of the project or expended for any purpose other than completing the mitigation and monitoring requirements.

Instruction: This form is to be transmitted by Caltrans to CDFW with each application for an incidental take permit under Fish and Game Code Section 2081, and with each request for a Consistency Determination under Fish and Game Code Section 2080.1. CALTRANS personal who signs permit shall also sign this form.

Attachment 4

Attachment 4

Amended Incidental Take Permit No. 2081-2020-045-04-01 (Amendment No. 1)

1. The Authority section has been amended as follows:

* * *

Mailing Address: 2015 East Shields Avenue, Suite A-100

Fresno, California 93726

2. The ITP Background section has been inserted preceding the Effective Date and Expiration section as follows:

Amended ITP³ Background:

On July 17, 2024, CDFW received a request from the Permittee for a major amendment to the original ITP and the corresponding fee payment. The request was to amend the following: (1) extend the permit expiration date by 36 months to May 30, 2028, to allow enough time for the Permittee to complete the compensatory mitigation requirement; (2) remove the installation of exclusionary fencing at all culvert locations from the Project Description; (3) revise the work schedule to increase the number of work days from 180 to approximately 200; (4) revise the quantities of permanent and temporary impacts; (5) extend the mitigation due date from 24 months to 48 months to satisfy the compensatory mitigation requirement; and (6) removed the Habitat Restoration Condition of Approval due to the change in impacts. CDFW also modified the Designated Biologist(s) and Designated Monitor(s) Condition of Approval to better distinguish experience requirements for Designated Biologists working with either Covered Species from those strictly working with San Joaquin antelope squirrel, and removed the Conditions of Approval relating to exclusionary fencing.

Issuance of this Amendment will not increase the amount of take of the Covered Species compared to the Project as originally approved, nor will this amendment increase other Project impacts on the Covered Species (i.e., "impacts of taking" as used in Fish and Game Code Section 2081, subd. (b)(2)). Issuance of this Amendment does not affect CDFW's previous determination that issuance of the ITP meets and is otherwise consistent with the permitting criteria set forth in Fish and Game Code section 2081, subdivisions (b) and (c).

CDFW now reissues the ITP. The amended ITP includes all of the operative provisions as of the effective date of this amended ITP. Attachment 4 to this amended ITP shows the specific red-line changes made to the ITP as a result of this major amendment.

3. The Effective Date and Expiration Date of this ITP has been amended as follows:

This ITP shall <u>be executed in duplicate form and shall</u> become effective <u>once a duplicate</u> <u>original is issued</u> by CDFW as described in the Notices section of this ITP. Unless renewed

by CDFW, this ITP and its authorization to take the Covered Species shall expire on **May 30**, **20252028**.

* * *

4. The Project Description section has been amended as follows:

* * *

Prior to construction, exclusionary fencing will be installed at all culvert locations except at PM 40.62 to confine construction activities to the immediate culvert work area and to exclude Covered Species from the culvert work area. The proposed 52 inch-high fence would enclose the end of each of the culverts, from the right-of-way boundary to 10 feet inside the project footprint. For those culvert locations with a temporary construction easement or permanent drainage easement (PMs 45.06, 53.38, 53.86, and 56.99), the fencing will be placed along the easement boundary. The construction work area for the culvert located at PM 40.62 (where the cured-in-place pipe liner will be installed) will extend beyond the right-of-way onto a dirt road. Exclusionary fencing will not be installed at this location so that the property owner can access the dirt road.

* * *

Project Schedule

Construction is anticipated to start in winter 2023 and be completed by fall 2024. The start date may be delayed by winter weather until spring 2024. A total of 180 approximately 200 working days with 60 nights is anticipated. Culvert work is estimated to take 5 to 10 days per culvert. Paving, shoulder, and side ditch work will be started after completion of the culvert work. For the paving work, the large equipment and workers are expected to continuously progress along the length of the Project, covering a few miles each day.

* * *

5. The Impacts of the Taking on Covered Species section has been amended as follows:

* * *

Incidental take of individuals of the Covered Species in the form of mortality ("kill") may occur as a result of Covered Activities due to construction crews or equipment running over, crushing, or entombing Covered Species situated either above or below ground during initial ground-breaking or during ongoing work. Incidental take of individuals may also occur from the Covered Activities in the form of catch, capture or attempt to do so from entrapment in holes or open trenches; entrapment in exclusion fencing; uncovering individuals during the excavation of burrow systems; corralling individuals into a confined area, and capturing, collecting, and relocating individuals of the Covered Species during mortality reduction activities required by this ITP; and temporary loss of habitat. Incidental take of individuals may also occur from the Project's incremental contribution to cumulative impacts (indirect impacts) including exposure to chemical contamination from uncured concrete, concrete dust, drilling fluids, petroleum products, paint, and other construction chemicals; loss of breeding

and burrowing habitat used for shelter, reproduction, and escape cover; long term effects due to increased pollution; displacement from preferred habitat; increased competition for food and space; introduction or spread of invasive species; changes in drainage patterns; and increased vulnerability to predation. Even though the proposed work is temporary, the effects could be longer-lasting if feeding or reproduction are impacted.

* * *

The Project is expected to result in the permanent loss of up to 47.64255.11 acres and in temporary disturbance of up to approximately 17.10310.242 acres of suitable habitat for the Covered Species (allscale scrub, annual grassland, ruderal, oil field, bare ground, and fallow field habitat types) (Figure 2). Of the 17.10355.11 acres of temporary permanent impacts, approximately 7.468 acres of will be to allscale scrub habitat will be disturbed, which may take several years to be restored to pre-project conditions. Although not designed as wildlife crossings, the replacement of 48-inch diameter pipes with a 6-foot tall by 12-foot wide RCB culverts (PMs 40.56 and 56.99) may improve wildlife passage for Covered Species at these locations.

6. Condition of Approval 5.2 has been amended as follows:

Designated Biologist(s) and Designated Monitor(s). Permittee shall submit to CDFW in writing the name, qualifications, business address, and contact information of the Designated Biologists and Designated Monitors using the Biologist Resume Form (Attachment 2) or another format containing the same information at least 30 days before starting Covered Activities. The Permittee may request approval of Designated Biologist(s) to monitor and handle specific Covered Species covered by this ITP. The Designated Monitors may assist the Designated Biologists in compliance monitoring under the direct supervision of the Designated Biologists and as specified in Condition of Approval 6.7 below. Permittee shall ensure that the Designated Biologists are knowledgeable in the biology and natural history of the Covered Species, and have experience with collecting and handling Covered Species, excavating small mammal burrows for the Covered Species, enforcing no-disturbance buffers, and monitoring construction activities under an ITP for the Covered Species. Designated Biologists for San Joaquin antelope squirrel shall also have experience excavating small mammal burrows for the Covered Species. Permittee shall ensure that the Designated Monitors are knowledgeable and experienced in the biology and natural history of the Covered Species. The Designated Biologists and Designated Monitors shall be responsible for monitoring Covered Activities to help minimize and fully mitigate or avoid the incidental take of individual Covered Species and to minimize disturbance of Covered Species' habitat. Permittee shall obtain CDFW approval of the Designated Biologists and Designated Monitors in writing before starting Covered Activities and shall also obtain approval in advance, in writing, if the Designated Biologists or Designated Monitors must be changed. Designated Biologists may be approved by CDFW for specific Covered Species. If this is the case, they will only be permitted to survey and monitor for these specific Covered Species.

7. Condition of Approval 5.12 has been amended as follows:

<u>Staging Areas</u>. Permittee shall confine all Project-related parking, storage areas, laydown sites, equipment storage, and any other surface-disturbing activities to the Project Area

using, to the extent possible, previously disturbed areas. No parking, storage, laydown, or staging areas shall be located within 50-feet of potential San Joaquin antelope squirrel burrows (Condition of Approval 7.1513.1) or within the San Joaquin kit fox buffer areas identified in Condition of Approval 7.1614.1, unless they have had exclusionary fencing installed according to Condition of Approval 7.12 and other protective measures have been implemented for Covered Species as per Conditions of Approval 7.11, 7.1513, and 7.1614. Additionally, Permittee shall not use or cross Covered Species' habitat outside of the marked Project Area unless provided for as described in Condition of Approval 5.11 of this ITP. If Permittee determines parking, storage, laydown, or staging areas are necessary outside of the Project Area, the Designated Representative shall contact CDFW for written approval before carrying out such an activity. CDFW may require an amendment to this ITP, among other reasons, if additional take of Covered Species will occur because of the project modification.

8. Condition of Approval 6.5 has been amended as follows:

San Joaquin Antelope Squirrel (SJAS) Mortality Reduction and Relocation Plan. Permittee shall submit a SJAS Mortality Reduction and Relocation Plan to CDFW at least 30 calendar days before starting Covered Activities. Burrow excavation and relocation activities shall not proceed until the SJAS Mortality Reduction and Relocation Plan has been approved in writing by CDFW's Regional Representative (identified in Condition of Approval 6.9 below). The Mortality Reduction and Relocation Plan shall include, but not be limited to: (1) a discussion (and map) of the Project Area and those areas identified as potential SJAS habitat; (2) a detailed description of methods to be used for the surveys, burrow excavation, capture, handling, and relocation of individuals of SJAS; (3) release locations and methods (i.e., soft release, hard release, or another method); (4) artificial burrow design and installation methods; (5) description of exclusion fencing locations and fence specifications, if planned to be used; (6) monitoring frequency and methods including a description of increased monitoring if implemented in place of exclusion fencing installation; (7; (6) schedule of SJAS mortality reduction and relocation activities; and (87) identification of a wildlife rehabilitation center or veterinary facility capable of and willing to treat injured individuals of the SJAS. The SJAS Mortality Reduction and Relocation Plan must specify that only the approved Designated Biologists are authorized to capture and handle individuals of the SJAS. Once the SJAS Covered Species Mortality Reduction and Relocation Plan is approved in writing by CDFW, it shall be used for all SJAS mortality reduction activities for the duration of this ITP. Any proposed changes to the CDFW-approved SJAS Covered Species Mortality Reduction and Relocation Plan shall be submitted in writing to CDFW and approved by CDFW in writing prior to implementation of any proposed Plan modifications.

9. Condition of Approval 6.6 has been amended as follows:

<u>San Joaquin Kit Fox (SJKF) Den Replacement Plan</u>. Permittee shall submit a SJKF Den Replacement Plan to CDFW at least 30 calendar days before starting Covered Activities. Permittee shall replace each potential, known, and active SJKF den that cannot be avoided within the Project Area with an artificial den to compensate for the loss of important shelter used by SJKF for protection, reproduction, and escape from predators. Den excavation within the Project Area may not proceed until the SJKF Den Replacement Plan is approved, in writing, by CDFW's Regional Representative (identified in Condition of Approval 6.9 below). The SJKF Den Replacement Plan shall include, but not be limited to, a discussion and map

of potential artificial den replacement locations; detailed description of the den excavation methods; and description of the replacement den dimensions (e.g., depth and width of den, width of den entrance, orientation of den entrance, number and placement of entrances to natal dens). Once the SJKF Den Replacement Plan is approved by CDFW, it shall be used for the duration of this ITP. Any proposed changes to the SJKF Den Replacement Plan shall be submitted, in writing, to CDFW and approved by CDFW in writing prior to implementation of any proposed SJKF Den Replacement Plan modifications.

10. Condition of Approval 6.7 has been amended as follows:

Compliance Monitoring. The Designated Biologist shall be on-site daily when Covered Activities occur unless all of the following have occurred: temporary exclusion fence has been installed (Condition of Approval 7.12); SJAS burrows have been avoided or excavated (Conditions of Approval 7.4513.1 and 7.4513.5, respectively); any captured SJAS have been relocated (Condition of Approval 7.4513.2); SJKF dens have been identified and avoided per Condition of Approval 7.4614.1; unoccupied SJKF dens have been excavated (Condition of Approval 7.1614.3) and initial grading activities are complete. Thereafter, a Designated Biologist or Designated Monitor shall conduct compliance inspections at least once a week during all work activities. The Designated Biologist shall conduct compliance inspections to: (1) minimize incidental take of the Covered Species; (2) prevent unlawful take of species; (3) check for compliance with all measures of this ITP; (4) check all exclusion zones and exclusionary fencing for presence of Covered Species in work areas or entrapped in fencing: (5) ensure that signs, stakes, and fencing are intact; and (65) ensure that that Covered Activities are only occurring in the Project Area. Specific Designated Monitors may conduct burrow flagging, monitoring during fence installation (if used), and compliance inspections upon written approval from CDFW.

11. Condition of Approval 6.9 has been amended as follows:

Quarterly Compliance Report. The Designated Representative or a Designated Biologist shall compile the observation and inspection records identified in Condition of Approval 6.4, Covered Species observation/handling/relocation information as in Condition of Approval 6.8, and documentation of night work according to Condition of Approval 7.2 into a Quarterly Compliance Report (QCR) and submit it to CDFW, along with a copy of the MMRP table with notes showing the current implementation status of each mitigation measure. QCRs shall be submitted before the 15th day of the month that it is due via electronic mail to CDFW's Regional Representative, Regional Office, and Headquarters CESA Program. At the time of this ITP's approval, the CDFW Regional Representative is Mary (Mindy) Trask (mary.traskAdam Thompson (adam.thompson@wildlife.ca.gov), the Regional Office e-mail is RRR.R4@wildlife.ca.gov, and the Headquarters CESA Program e-mail is CESA@wildlife.ca.gov. CDFW may at any time increase the timing and number of compliance inspections and reports required under this provision depending upon the results of previous compliance inspections. If CDFW determines the reporting schedule must be changed, CDFW will notify Permittee in writing of the new reporting schedule.

12. Condition of Approval 7.4 has been amended as follows:

<u>Vehicle Parking</u>. Permittee shall not allow vehicles to park on top of, or within 50 feet of Covered Species burrows, except within designated staging areas (Condition of Approval

5.12) and in compliance with Conditions of Approval 7.4513 and 7.4614. Vehicles left overnight shall be located at least 50 feet from any SJAS burrows or 50 to 500 feet from SJKF dens, depending on SJKF activity (see Condition of Approval 7.4614.1).

13. Condition of Approval 7.12 has been amended as follows:

Covered Species Exclusion Fencing. At least 5 days prior to beginning Covered Activities, Permittee shall install exclusion fencing around the perimeter of the active Work Areas to exclude SJAS from Covered Activities according to the approved SJAS Mortality Reduction and Relocation Plan (Condition of Approval 6.5). The exclusion fence shall be supported sufficiently to maintain its integrity under all conditions such as wind and heavy rain for the duration of the Covered Activities in the area being fenced. Permittee shall install exclusion fencing in a sequential manner that corresponds to the progression of Covered Activities within active Work Areas. For example, temporary fencing is not required to be installed simultaneously at all Work Areas and shall be removed immediately upon completion of Covered Activities in any given Work Area. Permittee may elect to forego exclusion fence installation and replace the SJAS exclusion effort with increased monitoring by the Designated Biologists and Designated Monitors as approved in the SJAS Mortality Reduction and Relocation Plan (Condition of Approval 6.5).

14. Condition of Approval 7.13 has been amended as follows:

Covered Species Exclusion Fencing Monitoring and Inspections. The Designated Biologist shall inspect all fence materials prior to installation to ensure they adhere to the approved SJAS Mortality Reduction and Relocation Plan (Condition of Approval 6.5). The Designated Biologists or Designated Monitors shall accompany the exclusion fence installation, repair, and removal to ensure that SJAS are not killed or injured during those activities. Permittee shall check the exclusion fence daily during active construction activities and at least once weekly during periods of inactivity to survey for presence of SJAS in the excluded area that may need to be relocated by a Designated Biologist according to the SJAS Mortality Reduction and Relocation Plan (Condition of Approval 6.5) and to maintain and repair the fence as necessary to ensure its effectiveness.

15. Condition of Approval 7.14 has been amended as follows:

7.1412. Covered Species Injury. [...]

16. Condition of Approval 7.15 has been amended as follows:

7.4513. Additional Measures for SJAS:

7.4513.1. SJAS Burrow Avoidance. The Designated Biologist shall establish a no disturbance buffer of 50 feet or greater around suspected or known to be occupied SJAS burrows within and adjacent to the Project Area to be disturbed by Covered Activities. If a 50-foot no-disturbance buffer cannot be established, daily monitoring or temporary exclusion fencing, live trapping, relocation, and burrow excavation shall occur in accordance with Conditions of Approval 7.4513.2 through 7.4513.5. Alternatively, a buffer reduction may be requested to allow for burrow preservation where impacts can be

reasonably avoided. Any buffer reduction strategy shall be identified in the SJAS Mortality Reduction and Relocation Plan (Condition of Approval 6.5) and shall include the review and written approval of CDFW prior to the implementation of a reduced buffer.

7.1513.2 SJAS Live Trapping and Relocation. The Designated Biologist shall conduct live trapping at all potential SJAS burrows detected within the Project Area that cannot be avoided per Condition of Approval 7.4513.1 prior to starting ground- or vegetation-disturbing Covered Activities, according to the approved SJAS Mortality Reduction and Relocation Plan (Condition of Approval 6.5). In Work Areas with exclusion fencing, live trapping and relocation shall occur after fence installation. SJAS shall be relocated only after young of the year are observed above ground and during the main activity period for the species (April 1 to September 30) unless otherwise approved in advance and in writing by CDFW. The Designated Biologist shall relocate any captured SJAS to a release site identified in the approved SJAS Mortality Reduction and Relocation Plan (Condition of Approval 6.5). Traps shall only be open during the time of day when on-site temperatures are within the 68-to-86-degree Fahrenheit criterion and only when temperatures are predicted by the National Weather Service to remain within that range for more than four hours. Any captured lactating/nursing female or dependent juvenile of SJAS shall be released immediately at the trap location and trapping shall cease until young of the year of SJAS are observed above ground and no longer dependent on their mother.

7.4513.3 SJAS Relocation Weather Constraints. [...]

- 7.1513.4 SJAS Relocation Additional Timing Constraints. If SJAS trapping and relocation occurs outside of the main activity period (October 1 to March 31), a Designated Biologist shall prepare daily trapping records that shall include, but not be limited to, on-site temperatures and time when traps are opened, when traps are checked, and when animals are relocated; weather conditions (e.g., wind and cloud cover); and the number of traps used. These records may be requested to be submitted daily or weekly to CDFW in the written approval to conduct trapping and relocation outside of the main activity period (Condition of Approval 7.1513.3). Burrow excavation shall occur after the final trapping and only after CDFW has reviewed the final daily trapping records and approved excavation.
- 7.4513.5 SJAS Burrow Excavation. Immediately following live trapping activities conducted to address burrows that cannot be avoided (Condition of Approval 7.4513.1) and prior to beginning Covered Activities within the Project Area, the Designated Biologist, or an approved Designated Monitor under the direct supervision of the Designated Biologist, shall fully excavate by hand any potential SJAS burrows present within the project work limits, according to the approved SJAS Mortality Reduction and Relocation Plan (Condition of Approval 6.5). SJAS burrow excavation shall occur during the same weather conditions described in Conditions of Approval 7.4513.2 and 7.4513.3 above. Any SJAS encountered during burrow excavation shall be

relocated according to the approved SJAS Mortality Reduction and Relocation Plan (Condition of Approval 6.5). All burrow excavation shall be completed within 72 hours of the conclusion of live trapping.

17. Condition of Approval 7.16 has been amended as follows:

7.1614. Additional Measures for SJKF:

7.1614.1. SJKF Den Avoidance. [...]

- 7.1614.2. SJKF Den Replacement. Permittee shall replace each known and natal SJKF den that cannot be avoided as per Condition of Approval 7.4614.1, with an artificial den. Permittee shall install one artificial SJKF den for each known den and three artificial dens for each natal den to be collapsed due to unavoidable disturbance. If there are no suitable existing dens within 300 feet of the collapsed den, the Permittee shall install artificial dens within 300 feet of the collapsed den. Artificial natal dens shall be multi-chambered and have multiple entrances. If greater than 10 suitable kit fox dens are located within a 300-foot radius of the collapsed den, Permittee shall consult with CDFW about appropriate location for installation of artificial dens. Artificial den(s) shall be completed before excavation of known and natal SJKF dens can occur (Condition of Approval 7.1614.3) to compensate for the loss of important shelter used by SJKF for protection, reproduction, and escape from predators. Den replacement shall be completed in accordance with the CDFW-approved SJKF Den Replacement Plan required in Condition of Approval 6.6.
- 7.1614.3. SJKF Den Excavation. The Designated Biologist or individuals under direct supervision of the Designated Biologist shall excavate potential or known dens that exhibit signs of SJKF use or characteristics suggestive of SJKF dens (including dens in natural substrate and in/under man-made structures) that cannot be avoided as per Condition of Approval 7.1614.1 only after the Designated Biologist has determined that SJKF is not currently present after 4 consecutive nights of monitoring with tracking medium and infrared camera. Potential SJKF dens without any signs of SJKF use or characteristics suggesting it is a SJKF den may be excavated under the direct supervision of the Designated Biologist without advance tracking or camera monitoring. Natal dens shall not be excavated until the pups and adults have vacated the den and then only after concurrence from the USFWS and CDFW. If the excavation process reveals evidence of current use by SJKF, then den excavation shall cease immediately and tracking or camera monitoring as described above shall be conducted/resumed. Excavation of the den shall only resume when, in the judgment of the Designated Biologist, the SJKF has escaped from the partially excavated den. SJKF dens shall be carefully excavated until it is clear no individuals of SJKF are inside. Dens to be destroyed shall be fully excavated, filled with dirt and compacted to ensure that SJKF cannot reenter or use the den during the period that Covered Activities would occur in the Project Area. If an individual SJKF does not vacate a den within the Work Area within a

reasonable timeframe, Permittee shall consult with CDFW and the USFWS to obtain written guidance from both agencies prior to proceeding with den destruction. An established SJKF den no-disturbance buffer may be removed once the SJKF is no longer using the area.

18. Condition of Approval 8 (Habitat Management Land Acquisition and Restoration) has been amended as follows:

* * *

To meet this requirement, the Permittee shall either purchase 140 acres of Covered Species credits from a CDFW-approved mitigation or conservation bank pursuant to Condition of Approval 8.2 below OR shall provide for both the permanent protection and management of at least 140 acres of Habitat Management (HM) lands pursuant to Condition of Approval 8.3 below and the calculation and deposit of the management funds pursuant to Condition of Approval 8.4 below. Purchase of Covered Species credits OR permanent protection and funding for perpetual management of HM lands must be complete before starting Covered Activities, or within 2448 months of the effective date of this ITP if Security is provided pursuant to Condition of Approval 9 below for all uncompleted obligations. The Permittee shall also restore on-site 7.468 acres of allscale scrub habitat for the Covered Species habitat that is temporarily impacted, pursuant to Condition of Approval 8.6 below.

* * *

19. Condition of Approval 8.6 has been amended as follows:

Habitat Restoration. Permittee shall plant or seed, the 7.468 acres of allscale scrub habitat that is temporarily disturbed using at least three species that are locally appropriate for the allscale scrub community (*Atriplex polycarpa* Shrubland Alliance) and native to the Central California Valley ecoregion. Seed mixes shall be weed-free and may include up to two sterile non-native grass species as long as the amount does not exceed 25 percent of the total seed mix, by count. The planting/seeding shall be completed as soon as possible after the completion of Project activity at each Work Area, but not later than November 15, or as otherwise approved in advance and in writing by CDFW. To reduce the risk that approved species will not be available when planting is performed, Permittee shall order the plant materials at least 6 months prior to planting.

At least 8 months before beginning the restoration activities, the Permittee shall prepare and submit a Habitat Restoration Plan to CDFW for review and approval to facilitate the restoration, and shall ensure that the Plan is successfully implemented by the Contractor. The Habitat Restoration Plan shall include design plans and implementation measures for restoring existing disturbed areas, such as a project schedule, site preparation, seed mixture(s), other plant materials if applicable, application methods and timing, methods to avoid impacting undisturbed areas, maintenance activities during the contract plant establishment period and monitoring period, and adaptive management. The Habitat Restoration Plan shall include design plans and specifications for reseeding and irrigation should seed germination, establishment, and plant growth and vigor fall below the initial performance standards. The Habitat Restoration Plan shall include requirements for at least 7 years of annual monitoring; interim and final performance criteria to track seed germination

and establishment (if seeding was used), native herbaceous and shrub cover, plant vigor and health, and invasive species control; and remedial actions to take in the event that performance standards are not being met. If changes are needed, Permittee shall seek approval from CDFW prior to committing resources to the change and submit an updated Habitat Restoration with the first annual monitoring report. The Habitat Restoration Plan shall establish Year 0 (zero) as the year that plantings will occur. Any subsequent remedial plantings shall start a new 7-year monitoring and reporting period to document the successful establishment of those plantings.

Permittee shall submit Habitat Restoration Monitoring reports to CDFW by January 31 of each year. Each Revegetation Monitoring Report shall provide a summary of the previous year's monitoring, the status of performance criteria, representative photographs, and remedial actions to be implemented to achieve success criteria. CDFW will determine when final performance criteria have been met and provide written confirmation to the Permittee.

20. Condition of Approval 9.6 has been amended as follows:

* * *

Even if Security is provided, the Permittee must complete the required acquisition, protection and transfer of all HM lands and record any required conservation easements no later than 2448 months from the effective date of this ITP. CDFW may require the Permittee to provide additional HM lands and/or additional funding to ensure the impacts of the taking are minimized and fully mitigated, as required by law, if the Permittee does not complete these requirements within the specified timeframe.

21. The Notices section has been amended as follows:

* * *

Unless Permittee is notified otherwise, CDFW's Regional Representative for purposes of addressing issues that arise during implementation of this ITP is:

Mindy TraskAdam Thompson
California Department of Fish and Wildlife
1234 East Shaw Avenue
Fresno, California 93710
Telephone (559) 939-0282801-1915
Mary TraskAdam.Thompson@wildlife.ca.gov

22. The Compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act section has been amended as follows:

CDFW's issuance of this ITP is subject to CEQA. CDFW is a responsible agency pursuant to CEQA with respect to this ITP because of prior environmental review of the Project by the lead agency, Caltrans. (See generally Pub. Resources Code, §§ 21067, 21069.) The lead agency's prior environmental review of the Project is set forth in the Blackwell's Corner Capital Preventative Maintenance Initial Study with Mitigated Negative Declaration (SCH No.: 2022010218) dated April 2022 that Caltrans, as the lead agency, adopted on April

25, 2022, as lead agencyand revalidated on September 13, 2024. At the time the lead agency adopted the Initial Study with Mitigated Negative Declaration and approved the Project, it also adopted various mitigation measures for the Covered Species as conditions of Project approval.
* * *
23. The Attachments section has been amended as follows:
* * *
ATTACHMENT 4 Amendment No. 1 with Track Changes
24. The Acknowledgment section has been amended as follows:
<u>ACKNOWLEDGMENT</u>
The undersigned: (1) warrants that they are acting as a duly authorized representative of the Permittee, (2) acknowledges receipt of this ITP, and (3) agrees on behalf of the Permittee to comply with all terms and conditions.
By:Date:
Printed Name:Title:

Attachment 5

Attachment 5

Amended Incidental Take Permit No. 2081-2020-045-04-01 (Amendment No. 2)

1. The Authority section has been amended as follows:

Fish and Game Code section 5050 generally prohibits the take of the fully protected bluntnosed leopard lizard (*Gambelia sila*). Fish and Game Code section 2081.14 allows CDFW to
authorize the take of a fully protected species resulting from impacts attributable to, or
otherwise related to, the implementation of a transportation project undertaken by a state,
regional, or local agency, that does not increase highway or street capacity for automobile or
truck travel if the conditions set forth in Fish and Game Code section 2081.15, subdivisions
(a-d) are satisfied.³

2. The ITP Background section has been inserted preceding the Effective Date and Expiration section as follows:

Amended ITP⁴ Background:

* * *

Amendment No. 1 (2081-2023-029-04-A1) became effective on October 13, 2024.

On October 3, 2024, CDFW received a request from Permittee for a second major amendment (Amendment No. 2) to the ITP, and on October 17, 2024, CDFW received the corresponding fee payment. Permittee requested to amend the ITP, as previously amended, to add the fully protected and state endangered blunt-nosed leopard lizard (BNLL) as a species covered by the ITP and to add six staging areas outside of the state highway right-of-way to the Project area. The Permittee requested to add BNLL as a Covered Species to the ITP after the species was observed within the Project area during pre-activity surveys in September 2024. CDFW also initiated several modifications to the ITP Conditions of Approval to correspond with the addition of BNLL as a Covered Species in the ITP and addressed minor typographical errors in Amendment No. 1.

This Project is a transportation project being undertaken by a state agency. In addition, the project will clearly not result in an increase in highway or street capacity for automobile or truck travel. For these reasons, the Project qualifies as an eligible project pursuant to Fish and Game Code section 2081.15, subdivision (b)(3).

³ Senate Bill 147 added section 2081.15 to the Fish and Game Code to allow CDFW to authorize the take of a fully protected species in sections 3511, 4700, 5050, and 5515. Section 2081.15, subdivision (b) specifies the projects or categories of projects eligible for a take authorization permit pursuant to section 2081.15.

⁴ When this incidental take permit and attachments refer to the "ITP", it means the "Amended ITP" (Amendment No. 1 and Amendment No. 2) unless the context dictates otherwise.

Issuance of this Amendment will authorize the take of an additional Covered Species and increase the impact acreage compared to the Project as originally approved; however, by implementing compliance monitoring, pre-activity surveys, and other take minimization measures added herein by Amendment, it is not expected that this Amendment will increase other Project impacts on the Covered Species included in the original ITP (i.e., "impacts of taking" as used in Fish and Game Code Section 2081, subd. (b)(2)). Issuance of this Amendment does not affect CDFW's previous determination that issuance of the ITP meets and is otherwise consistent with the permitting criteria set forth in Fish and Game Code section 2081, subdivisions (b) and (c) with respect to the Covered Species included in the original ITP.

CDFW now amends and reissues the ITP. This Amended ITP includes all of the operative provisions as of the effective date of this Amended ITP. Attachment 5 to this Amended ITP shows the specific red-line changes made to the ITP as a result of this Major Amendment No. 2.

3. The Effective Date and Expiration Date of this ITP has been amended as follows:

This The original ITP was executed in duplicate form and became effective on October 31 November 20, 2023. This remains the effective date for the original take authorization. This Amended ITP shall become effective once a duplicate original is issued upon execution by CDFW as described in the Notices section of this ITP. Unless renewed by CDFW, this the Regional Manager for CDFW's Central Region. This Amended ITP and its authorization to take the Covered Species shall expire on May 30, 2028.

4. The Project Description section has been amended as follows:

* *

Other Construction Activities

Construction equipment parking and staging areas will be in previously disturbed, unvegetated areas within the highway right-of-way- or as approved in this ITP. Six staging areas totaling approximately 9.123 acres in size have been identified. The staging area on the north side of Contractor's Road is approximately 7.838 acres; the staging area on the west side of SR 33 near PM 53.1 is approximately 0.358 acre; the staging area near the northwest corner of the intersection of Lokern Road and SR 33 is approximately 0.371 acres; the staging area east of SR 33 at PM 52.3 is approximately 0.233 acres; the staging area on the west side of SR 33 near PM 43.22 is approximately 0.100 acre; and the staging area on the east side of SR 33 near Brown Material Road is approximately 0.223 acre.

* * *

5. The Impacts of the Taking on Covered Species section has been amended as follows:

Name

CESA-Status⁵
Endangered⁸ and
Fully Protected⁹

3. Blunt-nosed leopard lizard (Gambelia sila)

⁵ Under CESA, a species may be on the list of endangered species, the list of threatened species, or the list of candidate species- and subject to the protections set forth in CESA. Under Fish and Game Code section 5050, certain species of reptiles are protected as "fully protected species."

⁸ See Cal. Code Regs. tit. 14 § 670.5, subd. (a)(4)(B).

⁹ See Fish & G. Code § 5050.

* * *

6. The Impacts of the Taking on Covered Species section has been amended as follows:

Several Project activities were completed prior to Permittee's request for Major Amendment No. 2, including pre-activity surveys (Condition of Approval 7.11), burrow mapping (Condition of Approval 7.13.5), and burrow excavations at culverts located at PMs 40.69, 43.14, 45.06, 46.50, 48.09, 51.64, 52.18, 53.02, 53.38, and 53.86, as well as installation of high visibility fencing between PMs 40.56 and 40.62. The Permittee did not detect BNLL prior to or during these activities and therefore proceeded with culvert replacement activities, providing full-time biological monitoring. Additionally, six staging areas outside of the highway right-of-way (and outside of the ITP Project area) were established without implementation of ITP Conditions of Approval or other minimization measures.

The Project is expected to result in the permanent loss of up to 55.11 acres and in temporary disturbance of up to approximately 10.242 19.36 acres of suitable habitat for the Covered Species (allscale scrub, annual grassland, ruderal, oil field, bare ground, and fallow field habitat types) (Figure 2).

7. Condition of Approval:

2. CEQA Compliance: Permittee shall implement and adhere to the mitigation measures related to the Covered Species in the Biological Resources section of the Initial Study with Mitigated Negative Declaration (SCH No.: 2022010218) adopted by Caltrans on April 25, 2022, as and revalidated on September 13, 2024 and December 3, 2024. Caltrans is the lead agency for the Project pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Pub. Resources Code, § 21000 et seq.).

8. Condition of Approval 5.2 has been amended as follows:

<u>Designated Biologist(s)</u> and <u>Designated Monitor(s)</u>. Permittee shall submit to CDFW, in writing, the name, qualifications, business address, and contact information of the Designated Biologists and Designated Monitors using the Biologist Resume Form (Attachment 2) or another format containing the same information at least 30 days before starting Covered Activities. The Permittee may request approval of Designated Biologist(s) to monitor and handle specific Covered Species covered by this ITP. The Designated Monitors may assist the Designated Biologists in compliance monitoring under the direct supervision of the Designated Biologists and as specified in Condition of Approval 6.7 below. 6.8 below. Based

on the Approved Survey Methodology for the Blunt-Nosed Leopard Lizard October 2019 (Revised), the Designated Biologists shall have equal or greater experience than a Level II Surveyor and Designated Monitors shall have equal or greater experience than a Level I Surveyor. In addition, Permittee shall ensure that the Designated Biologists are knowledgeable in the biology and natural history of the Covered Species, and have experience with collecting and handling Covered Species, enforcing no-disturbance buffers, and monitoring construction activities under an ITP for the Covered Species. Designated Biologists for San Joaquin antelope squirrel (SJAS) and BNLL and shall also have experience excavating small mammal burrows for the Covered Species. Permittee shall ensure that the Designated Monitors are knowledgeable and experienced in the biology and natural history of the Covered Species. The Designated Biologists and Designated Monitors shall be responsible for monitoring Covered Activities to help minimize and fully mitigate or avoid the incidental take of individual Covered Species and to minimize disturbance of Covered Species' habitat. Permittee shall obtain CDFW approval of the Designated Biologists and Designated Monitors in writing before starting Covered Activities and shall also obtain approval in advance, in writing, if the Designated Biologists or Designated Monitors must be changed. Designated Biologists may be approved by CDFW for specific Covered Species. If this is the case, they will only be permitted to survey and monitor for these specific Covered Species.

9. Condition of Approval 5.4 has been amended as follows:

Education Program. Permittee shall conduct an education program for all persons employed or otherwise working in the Project Area before they are authorized to perform any work. The program shall consist of a presentation from the Designated Biologist for the Covered Species that includes a discussion of the biology and general behavior of the Covered Species, information about the distribution and habitat needs of the Covered Species, sensitivity of the Covered Species to human activities, its status pursuant to CESA, or Fish and Game Code section 5050 as applicable, including legal protection, recovery efforts, penalties for violations and project-specific protective measures described in this ITP. Permittee shall provide interpretation for non-English speaking workers, and the same instruction shall be provided to any new workers before they are authorized to perform work in the Project Area. Permittee shall prepare and distribute wallet-sized cards or a fact sheet handout containing this information for workers to carry in the Project Area. Upon completion of the program, employees shall sign a form stating they attended the program and understand all protection measures. This training shall be repeated at least once annually for long-term and/or permanent employees that will be conducting work in the Project Area.

10. Condition of Approval 5.7 has been amended as follows:

<u>Dust Control</u>. Permittee shall implement dust control measures during Covered Activities to facilitate visibility for monitoring of the Covered Species by the Designated Biologist-<u>and/or Designated Monitor</u>. Permittee shall keep the amount of water used to the minimum amount needed and shall not allow water to form puddles. Permittee shall not apply dust suppressant, surfactant, soil binders, or stabilizer products that may be harmful to Covered Species. Permittee shall obtain written approval from CDFW before applying any dust suppressant (other than water), surfactant, soil binders, stabilizer products, hydromulch, or hydroseed. Permittee shall provide all available documentation of each product's safety or hazards to wildlife to CDFW with any such request for approval.

11. Condition of Approval 5.12 has been amended as follows:

Staging Areas. Permittee shall confine all Project-related parking, storage areas, laydown sites, equipment storage, and any other surface-disturbing activities to the Project Area using, to the extent possible, previously disturbed areas six staging areas identified in the Project Description. No parking, storage, laydown, or staging areas shall be located within 50-feet of potential San Joaquin antelope squirrel SJAS burrows (Condition of Approval 7.13.1), BNLL burrows (Conditions of Approval 7.15.1), or within the San Joaquin kit fox (SJKF) buffer areas identified in (Condition of Approval 7.14.1) unless protective measures have been implemented for Covered Species as per Conditions of Approval 7.11, 7.13, 7.14, and 7.15. Additionally, Permittee shall not use or cross Covered Species' habitat outside of the marked Project Area unless provided for as described in Condition of Approval 5.11 of this ITP. If Permittee determines parking, storage, laydown, or staging areas are necessary outside of the Project Area, the Designated Representative shall contact CDFW for written approval before carrying out such an activity. CDFW may require an amendment to this ITP, among other reasons, if additional take of Covered Species will occur because of the project modification.

12. Condition of Approval 6.4 has been amended as follows:

<u>Inspection Records</u>. The Designated Biologists and Designated Monitors shall prepare written observation and inspection records for compliance monitoring as per Condition of Approval 6.79, summarizing: (1) construction activities observed; (2) integrity of signs, stakes or protective fencing; (3) wildlife observations; (4) observations of non-compliance with any Conditions in this ITP; and (5) measures implemented or anticipated to rectify or remediate any incidents of non-compliance with this ITP. The inspection records shall be submitted with the <u>Quarterly Monthly</u> Compliance Reports identified in Condition of Approval 6.910.

13. Condition of Approval 6.7 has been amended as follows:

BNLL Mortality Reduction and Relocation Plan. Permittee shall submit a BNLL Mortality Reduction and Relocation Plan to CDFW before resuming Covered Activities following the issuance of Amendment No.2 and the effective date of this Amended ITP. Burrow excavation and relocation activities shall not continue or proceed until the BNLL Mortality Reduction and Relocation Plan has been approved in writing by CDFW's Regional Representative (identified in Condition of Approval 6.10 below). The BNLL Mortality Reduction and Relocation Plan shall be consistent with Conditions of Approval 7.15.1 through 7.15.5 and shall include, but not be limited to: (1) a discussion (and map) of the Project Area and those areas identified as potential BNLL habitat: (2) a detailed description of methods to be used for the surveys. burrow excavation, capture, handling, and relocation of individuals of BNLL; (3) release locations and methods (i.e., soft release, hard release, or another method); (4) potential artificial burrow design and installation methods; and identification of a wildlife rehabilitation center or veterinary facility capable of and willing to treat injured BNLL or care for at-risk torpid BNLL or BNLL eggs; (5) monitoring frequency and methods; (6) schedule of BNLL mortality reduction and relocation activities; and (7) identification of a wildlife rehabilitation center or veterinary facility capable of and willing to treat injured individuals of the BNLL. The BNLL Mortality Reduction and Relocation Plan must specify that only the approved Designated Biologists are authorized to capture, handle, relocate, and transport individuals including eggs of the BNLL. Once the BNLL Mortality Reduction and Relocation Plan is

approved in writing by CDFW, it shall be used for all BNLL mortality reduction activities for the duration of this ITP. Any proposed changes to the CDFW-approved BNLL Mortality Reduction and Relocation Plan shall be submitted in writing to CDFW and approved by CDFW in writing prior to implementation of any proposed Plan modifications.

14. Condition of Approval 6.8 has been amended as follows:

<u>6.76.8. Compliance Monitoring.</u> The Designated Biologist shall be on-site daily when Covered Activities occur unless all of the following have occurred: SJAS burrows have been avoided or excavated (Conditions of Approval 7.13.1 and 7.13.5, respectively); <u>BNLL burrows have been avoided or excavated (Conditions of Approval 7.15.1 and 7.15.5, respectively);</u> any captured SJAS have been relocated (Condition of Approval <u>7.13.2</u>); <u>any captured BNLL have been relocated (Condition of Approval 7.15.3);</u> SJKF dens have been identified and avoided per Condition of Approval 7.14.1); unoccupied SJKF dens have been excavated (Condition of Approval 7.14.3); and initial grading activities are complete.

* * *

15. Condition of Approval 6.9 has been amended as follows:

6.86.9. Covered Species Observations and Notification. During all Covered Activities, workers shall inform a Designated Biologist if an individual of the Covered Species is observed at the Project Area. All work in the vicinity of the observed Covered Species, which could injure or kill the animal, shall cease immediately until the Covered Species moves from the Project Area of its own accord or until the Designated Biologist can relocate the Covered Species following the SJAS Mortality Reduction and Relocation Plan (Condition of Approval 6.5 and 7.13), the SJKF Den Replacement Plan (Condition of Approval 6.6 and 7.14), and/or the BNLL Mortality Reduction and Relocation Plan (Condition of Approval 6.7 and 7.15). Permittee shall notify CDFW within 5 business days of discovery of a Covered Species within the Project Area via electronic mail to the Regional Representative and Regional Office identified in Condition of Approval 6.910.

* * *

This information shall also be included in the Quarterly Monthly Compliance and Annual Status reports (Conditions of Approval 6.9 6.10 and 6.10-6.11).

16. Condition of Approval 6.10 has been amended as follows:

6.96.10. Quarterly Monthly Compliance Report. The Designated Representative or a Designated Biologist shall compile the observation and inspection records identified in Condition of Approval 6.4, Covered Species observation/handling/relocation information as in Condition of Approval 6.89, and documentation of night work according to Condition of Approval 7.2 into a Quarterly Monthly Compliance Report (QCRMCR) and submit it to CDFW, along with a copy of the MMRP table with notes showing the current implementation status of each mitigation measure. QCRsMCRs shall be submitted before the 15th7th day of the month that it is due via electronic mail to CDFW's Regional Representative, Regional Office, and Headquarters CESA Program.

* * *

17. Condition of Approval 6.11 has been amended as follows:

<u>6.106.11.</u> Annual Status Report. Permittee shall provide CDFW with an Annual Status Report (ASR) no later than January 31 of every year beginning with issuance of this ITP and continuing until CDFW accepts the Final Mitigation Report identified below <u>(Condition of Approval 6.14)</u>. Each ASR shall include, at a minimum: (1) a summary of all <u>QCRsMCRs</u> for that year...

18. Condition of Approval 7.11 has been amended as follows:

Pre-Activity Clearance Surveys and Reporting. The Designated Biologist(s) shall perform preconstruction surveys for the Covered Species no more than 14 days prior to Covered Activities or prior to resumption of work if there has been a break in work by more than 30 days, or as otherwise approved in writing by CDFW. The report shall include, but not be limited to, survey methods, date and time of the surveys, weather conditions per survey date (for SJAS), name of the Designated Biologist(s) who performed the surveys, survey results, and map of the locations of each potential and known burrow or den and type of Covered Species use. Permittee shall provide the survey results to CDFW in a written report at least 3 days prior to the beginning of Covered Activities (Condition of Approval 6.3).

19. Condition of Approval 7.11.3 has been amended as follows:

BNLL Surveys. The Designated Biologist(s) shall survey Work Areas and 50 feet beyond the limits of each Work Area (unless otherwise approved in writing by CDFW) to identify individual BNLL and to identify, flag, and map the locations of all potential BNLL burrows. Pre-activity surveys shall be conducted under appropriate conditions to detect Covered Species consistent with survey methodology approved under the BNLL Mortality Reduction and Relocation Plan (Condition of Approval 6.7). Conditions considered appropriate for detection of BNLL include ambient temperatures between 6877- and 8695-degrees Fahrenheit, no more than 80 percent cloud cover, and not under foggy or rainy conditions between April 15 and September 30, per Surveys shall be performed over five consecutive days between April 1 and July 15 using methods consistent with the Approved Survey Methodology for the Blunt-Nosed Leopard Lizard October 2019 (Revised), or as otherwise approved in writing by CDFW.

20. Condition of Approval 7.13.5 has been amended as follows:

SJAS Burrow Excavation. Immediately following live trapping activities conducted to address burrows that cannot be avoided (Condition of Approval 7.13.2) and prior to beginning Covered Activities within the Project Area, the Designated Biologist, or an approved Designated Monitor under the direct supervision of the Designated Biologist, shall fully excavate by hand any potential SJAS burrows present within the project work limits, according to the approved SJAS Mortality Reduction and Relocation Plan (Condition of Approval 6.5). SJAS burrow excavation shall occur during the same weather conditions described in Conditions of Approval 7.13.2 and 7.13.3 above. Any SJAS encountered during burrow excavation shall be relocated according to the approved SJAS Mortality Reduction and Relocation Plan (Condition of Approval 6.5). All burrow excavation shall be completed

within 72 hours of the conclusion of live trapping, or as otherwise approved in writing by CDFW, or as otherwise approved in writing by CDFW.

21. Condition of Approval 7.15 has been amended as follows:

7.15. Additional Measures for BNLL:

- 7.15.1. BNLL Burrow Avoidance. The Permittee shall notify CDFW's Regional Representative within 24 hours via telephone or e-mail if any BNLL are discovered within or immediately adjacent to the Project Area. The Designated Biologists shall establish a no-disturbance buffer of 50 feet or greater around potential burrows that could be occupied by BNLL, suspected burrows or known burrows to be occupied by BNLL within the Project Area. If the 50-foot no-disturbance buffer cannot be implemented, potential live capture, relocation, and burrow excavation shall occur in accordance with the BNLL Mortality Reduction and Relocation Plan (Condition of Approval 6.7), BNLL Individual Avoidance (Condition of Approval 7.15.2), the BNLL Relocation (Condition of Approval 7.15.3), BNLL Relocation Weather Constraints (Condition of Approval 7.15.4), and BNLL Burrow Excavation (Condition of Approval 7.15.5). Alternatively, Permittee may request a buffer reduction to allow for burrow preservation where direct impacts to individual BNLL can be reasonably avoided. Any buffer reduction strategy shall be identified in the BNLL Mortality Reduction and Relocation Plan (Condition of Approval 6.7) and shall include the review and written approval of CDFW prior to the implementation of a reduced buffer.
- 7.15.2. BNLL Individual Avoidance. If an individual (adult or iuvenile) BNLL is detected above ground within the Project Area, any Covered Activities occurring within 500 feet of the observed BNLL must temporarily cease. The BNLL shall first be allowed to leave the Project Area on its own volition and be monitored by the Designated Biologist(s). If the BNLL is unable to leave the Project Area on its own volition due to Project related obstructions (e.g., fencing, vehicles, Project materials, etc.), the Designated Biologist(s) may establish an area for a passive exit leading/oriented away from the Project Area into suitable habitat only (i.e., not into the path of a paved road, etc.) or pursue the BNLL into an exit path leading away from the Project Area into suitable habitat only. The Designated Biologist(s) in either scenario shall monitor the exit of the BNLL. If a passive exit area or exit path needs to be established by the Designated Biologist(s) with passive or active exclusion (e.g., sequencing of temporary fence, boards, or flashing) the Designated Biologist(s) shall have such equipment ready to implement a non-handling exit area or exit path. If based on the Designated Biologist's assessment that the BNLL will not successfully exit the Project Area with passive or active exclusion the BNLL may be captured and relocated by the Designated Biologist(s) per the BNLL Mortality Reduction and Relocation Plan (Condition of Approval).

- 7.15.3. BNLL Relocation. Prior to commencing or re-commencing Covered Activities within the Project Area, and following the methods outlined in the BNLL Mortality Reduction and Relocation Plan (Condition of Approval 6.7), any above-ground BNLL detected by the Designated Biologist(s) within the Project Area that cannot be avoided per Conditions of Approval 7.15.1 and 7.15.2 shall be live captured by the Designated Biologist(s) immediately after detection, in the event additional animals are detected after initial relocation activities. The Designated Biologist(s) shall relocate all captured BNLL immediately to the CDFW approved release site identified in the BNLL Mortality Reduction and Relocation Plan (Condition of Approval 6.7). The Designated Biologist(s) shall submit daily capture and release forms to CDFW for review and concurrence to continue (or not) with live capture. Daily capture forms shall include, but not be limited to: on-site shaded air temperatures measured 1 2 centimeters (cm) from above the ground and times of captures; capture details (e.g., attempts made, capture response, total duration of hold times); relocation details (e.g., behavioral response) and supporting photos and/or videos; weather conditions (e.g., wind and cloud cover) during capture and post release, etc. Permittee shall propose a final capture activity date for CDFW review and written approval. Following the CDFW-approved final day of capture activity, burrow excavation according to the BNLL Burrow Excavation (Condition of Approval 7.15.5) may begin.
- 7.15.4. BNLL Relocation Weather Constraints. During the threat of inclement weather, such as the National Weather Service prediction of a 30 percent or greater chance of rain, the Designated Biologist(s) shall halt all capture of BNLL. Additionally, the Designated Biologists shall halt all capture of BNLL if the air temperature drops below 77 or exceeds 95 degrees Fahrenheit during the capture period. The Designated Biologist(s) shall cease capture activity if captured animals are found to be lethargic or are otherwise showing signs of distress.
- 7.15.5. BNLL Burrow Excavation. Immediately following live capture activities conducted in accordance with the BNLL Mortality Reduction and Relocation Plan (Condition of Approval 6.7) and prior to beginning Covered Activities within the Project Area, the Designated Biologist(s), or individuals under the direct supervision of the Designated Biologist(s), shall fully excavate by hand all burrows potentially occupied by BNLL within each fenced Project Area to be disturbed by Covered Activities. The Designated Biologist(s) shall immediately relocate any active BNLL encountered during burrow excavation to the CDFW approved release site(s) identified in the BNLL Mortality Reduction and Relocation Plan (Condition of Approval 6.7). If BNLL eggs or torpid BNLL are discovered during burrow excavation, CDFW shall be immediately contacted to determine if they should be transported to an identified and approved care facility listed in the BNLL Mortality Reduction and Relocation Plan (Condition of Approval 6.7).

19. Condition of Approval 8 (Habitat Management Land Acquisition and Restoration) has been amended as follows:

* * *

CDFW has determined that permanent protection and perpetual management of compensatory habitat and on-site habitat restoration is necessary and required pursuant to CESA, and Fish and Game Code section 5050 as applicable, to fully mitigate Project-related impacts of the taking on the Covered Species that will result from implementation of the Covered Activities.

To meet this requirement, the Permittee shall either purchase 140160 acres of Covered Species credits from a CDFW-approved mitigation or conservation bank pursuant to Condition of Approval 8.2 below OR shall provide for both the permanent protection and management of at least 140 acres 160 acres of Habitat Management (HM) lands pursuant to Condition of Approval 8.3 below and the calculation and deposit of the management funds pursuant to Condition of Approval 8.4 below. Purchase of Covered Species credits OR

At the time of issuance of this Amended ITP, Permittee proposes the purchase of mitigation credits at the Blackwells Corner Conservation Bank (BCCB), which is conceptually approved by CDFW and has higher quality habitat for the Covered Species than the habitat being impacted by the Project. Further, the BCCB contributes to providing essential linkage habitat for the Covered Species and may help secure important genetic connectivity for BNLL between the Antelope Plain, Lokern, and Buena Vista subpopulations within the Western Kern County Critical Recovery Area listed in the 1998 USFWS Recovery Plan (Recovery Plan).

Conservation of the BCCB properties will contribute to multiple recovery actions for the Covered Species in the Recovery Plan. Recovery Action 1 for BNLL calls for determining appropriate habitat management and compatible land uses for BNLL. Recovery Action 3.d. for BNLL calls for protecting additional habitat for BNLL in key portions of their range. The areas of highest priority to target for protection identified in the Recovery Plan for BNLL includes natural lands between Highway 33 and the coastal ranges (southern Fresno County/northern Kern County), which is where the BCCB is located. Additionally, one of the four recommendations by the USFWS for BNLL in the latest (2020) five-year review encourages conservation and coordination between private landowners and other partners, including the USFWS. The purchase of 160 mitigation credits from BCCB will help to achieve Recovery Action 3.d. for BNLL and is in line with the most recent five-year review of BNLL by providing habitat restoration, restoring connectivity within and between populations, and encouraging conservation and coordination between private landowners and other partners, including CDFW and USFWS. For these reasons, the purchase of 160 mitigation credits from BCCB along with the other requirements of this Amended ITP will satisfy the requirement of Fish and Game Code section 2081.15, subdivision (a)(2) that further measures to satisfy the conservation standard of Fish and Game Code section 2805, subdivision (d) are incorporated into the Project.

Should purchasing conservation credits at the proposed BCCB become infeasible, then Permittee shall provide an alternative 160 acres of HM Lands which are comparable or better in habitat quality than the Project Area, are occupied by the all of the Covered Species, provide regional importance to the conservation of BNLL, and achieve one or more Recovery Actions of the Recovery Plan for BNLL. Purchase of Covered Species credits OR permanent

protection and funding for perpetual management of HM lands must be complete before starting Covered Activities, or within 48 months of the effective date of this ITP if Security is provided pursuant to Condition of Approval 9 below for all uncompleted obligations.

20. Condition of Approval 8.1 has been amended as follows:

- 8.1.1. Land acquisition costs for HM lands identified in Condition of Approval 8.3 below, estimated at \$1,366.20 \$1,215.87/acre for 140160 acres: \$191,268.00 \$194,539.00. Land acquisition costs are estimated using local fair market current value per acre for lands with habitat values meeting mitigation requirements;
- 8.1.2. All other costs necessary to review and acquire the land in fee title and record a conservation easement as described in Condition of Approval 8.3.1 and 8.3.2 below: \$268,600.00 \$264,437.11;
- 8.1.3. Interim management period funding as described in Condition of Approval 8.3.7 below, estimated at \$124,937.73 \$131,839.57;
- 8.1.4. Long-term management funding as described in Condition of Approval 8.4 below, estimated at \$1,052.48\$934/acre for 440160 acres: \$147,347.07 \$149,567.73. Long-term management funding is estimated initially for the purpose of providing Security to ensure implementation of HM lands management.

21. Condition of Approval 8.2 has been amended as follows:

Covered Species Credits. If the Permittee elects to purchase Covered Species credits to complete compensatory mitigation obligations, then Permittee shall purchase 140160 acres of Covered Species credits from a CDFW-approved mitigation or conservation bank prior to initiating Covered Activities, or no later than 2448 months from the issuance of this ITP if Security is provided pursuant to Condition of Approval 9 below. Prior to purchase of Covered Species credits, Permittee shall obtain CDFW approval to ensure the mitigation or conservation bank is appropriate to compensate for the impacts of the Project. Permittee shall submit to CDFW a copy of the Bill of Sale(s) and Payment Receipt prior to initiating Covered Activities or within 2448 months from issuance of this ITP if Security is provided.

22. Condition of Approval 9.3 has been amended as follows:

<u>Security Amount.</u> The Security shall be in the amount of \$791,769.40 \$800,000.00. This amount is based on the cost estimates identified in Condition of Approval 8.1 above and the Funding Memorandum.

23. X. Amendment has been amended as follows:

This With respect to the Covered Species listed under CESA, this ITP may be amended as provided by California Code of Regulations, Title 14, section 783.6, subdivision (c), and other applicable law. This ITP may With respect to the fully protected Covered Species, this ITP

may be amended as provided by Fish and Game Code section 2081.15, subdivisions (a)(3) and (d), and other applicable law. This ITP may also be amended without the concurrence of the Permittee as required by law, including if CDFW determines that continued implementation of the Project as authorized under this ITP would jeopardize the continued existence of the Covered Species or where Project changes or changed biological conditions necessitate an ITP amendment to ensure that all Project-related impacts of the taking to the Covered Species are minimized and fully mitigated.

24.XI. Stop-Work Order has been amended as follows:

* * *

CDFW can issue a stop-work order to prevent or remedy a violation of this ITP, including but not limited to the failure to comply with reporting or monitoring obligations, or to prevent the unauthorized take of any CESA endangered, threatened, or candidate species, or fully protected species designated under the Fish and Game Code, regardless of whether that species is a Covered Species under this ITP.

25. XIV XV. Findings Pursuant to CESA has been amended as follows:

* * *

The lead agency's prior environmental review of the Project is set forth in the Blackwell's Corner Capital Preventative Maintenance Initial Study with Mitigated Negative Declaration (SCH No.: 2022010218) dated April 2022 that Caltrans, as the lead agency, adopted on April 25, 2022, and revalidated on September 13, 2024, and December 3, 2024.

26. XV The Compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act section has been amended as follows:

These findings are intended to document CDFW's compliance with the specific findings requirements set forth in CESA and related regulations. (Fish & G. Code § 2081, subs. (b)-(c); Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, §§ 783.4, subds, (a)-(b), 783.5, subd. (c)(2); Fish & G. Code § 2081.15, subd. ((a), (b)(3), and (d).)

* * *

(2) Impacts of the taking on Covered Species will be minimized and fully mitigated through the implementation of measures required by this ITP and as described in the MMRP. Measures include: (1) permanent habitat protection; (2) establishment of avoidance zones; (3) worker education; and (4) Quarterly Monthly Compliance Reports. CDFW evaluated factors including an assessment of the importance of the habitat in the Project Area, the extent to which the Covered Activities will impact the habitat, and CDFW's estimate of the acreage required to provide for adequate compensation. Based on this evaluation, CDFW determined that the protection and management in perpetuity of 140160 acres of compensatory habitat that is contiguous with other protected Covered Species habitat and/or is of higher quality than the habitat being destroyed permanently impacted by the Project, along with the

minimization, monitoring, reporting, and funding requirements of this ITP minimizes and fully mitigates the impacts of the taking caused by the Project.

* * *

(6) This ITP is consistent with any regulations adopted pursuant to Fish and Game Code sections 2112 and 2114;\

* * *

- (8) As stated in Findings (1) (7) above, the requirements of Fish and Game Code section 2081, subdivisions (b) and (c) are satisfied as to BNLL;
- (9) As stated in Finding (2) above, the impacts of the taking on BNLL will be minimized and fully mitigated through the implementation of measures required by this ITP such as the protection and management of compensatory habitat. The further measures required to satisfy the conservation standard of Fish and Game Code section 2805. subdivision (d) with respect to BNLL include: the protection of higher quality habitat than the habitat being impacted; the BCCB's contribution towards essential linkage habitat for the Covered Species and important genetic connectivity for BNLL between the Antelope Plain, Lokern, and Buena Vista subpopulations within the Western Kern County Critical Recovery Area from the 1998 USFWS Recovery Plan; and contributions to multiple recovery actions for BNLL listed in the Recovery Plan (including Action 1 to determine appropriate habitat management and compatible land uses for BNLL and Action 3.d to protect additional habitat for BNLL in key portions of their range and areas of highest priority to target for protection). The purchase of 160 mitigation credits from BCCB will help to achieve Recovery Action 3.d. for BNLL and is in line with the most recent (2020) USFWS five-year review of BNLL by providing habitat restoration, restoring connectivity within and between populations, and encouraging conservation and coordination between private landowners and other partners, including CDFW and USFWS;
- (10) This ITP provides for the development and implementation of a monitoring program and adaptive management plan for monitoring the effectiveness of, and amending, as necessary, the measures to minimize and fully mitigate the impacts of the authorized take of golden eagle. The take monitoring programs and adaptive management plans are in the forms of the take monitoring program (Condition of Approval 6.8), adaptive management as required in the BNLL Mortality Reduction and Relocation Plan (Condition of Approval 6.7), and the HM Land acquisition and associated land management and monitoring activities.
- (11) The Project that is the subject of this ITP's authorization to take BNLL incidentally in carrying out Covered Activities is a transportation project undertaken by a state, regional, or local agency, that does not increase highway or street capacity for automobile or truck travel and is thus an eligible project pursuant to Fish and Game Code section 2081.15, subdivision (b)(3).

27. The XVI. Literature Cited section has been added as follows:

XVI. Literature Cited:

FIGURE 2

Richmond J.Q., D.A. Wood, M. Westphal, A.G. Vandergast, A.D. Leache, L.R. Saskaw, H.S. Butterfield, and R.N. Fisher 2017. Persistence of historical population structure in an endangered species despite near-complete biome conversion in California's San Joaquin Desert. *Molecular Ecology*. 2017; 26: 3618–3635.

<u>United States Fish and Wildlife Service. 1998. Recovery Plan for Upland Species of the San Joaquin Valley, California.</u> Region 1, Portland, OR. 319 pp.

<u>United States Fish and Wildlife Service. 2020. Sacramento Fish & Wildlife Office.</u> Sacramento, California. 5-year review. Blunt-nosed leopard lizard *(Gambelia sila)*.

28. The XVII. Attachments have been amended as follows:

Amended Project Impacts Map Book

+ + +

ATTACHMENT 1 Amended Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program

* * *

ATTACHMENT 5 Amendment No. 2 with Track Changes