NOTICE OF PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING

TULARE IRRIGATION DISTRICT SEABORN RESERVOIR PROJECT

AUGUST 27, 2026 AT 5:30 PM

PROJECT SPONSOR/LEAD AGENCY NAME AND ADDRESS

Tulare Irrigation District
6826 Avenue 240
Tulare, CA 93274

CONTACT PERSON AND PHONE NUMBER

Project Sponsor/Lead Agency Contact

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PURPOSE OF SCOPING MEETING

To inform the community and interested stakeholders about the Tulare Irrigation District Seaborn Reservoir Project (Project) and to gather community comments and suggestions on the proposed project. Under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), a Scoping Meeting is an early process used to determine important issues and necessary actions related to the project. The Natural Resources Conservation Service-California (NRCS-CA) will be the Lead Federal Agency for NEPA and Tulare Irrigation District will be the lead agency for CEQA. The Tulare Irrigation District (TID) and the Consolidated Peoples Ditch Company (CPDC) are joint owners (Owners) of approximately 290 acres of land adjacent to the St. Johns River in unincorporated Tulare County.

MEETING INFORMATION

TID will hold two scoping meetings for the proposed project to receive comments on the scope and content of the Watershed Plan Environmental Assessment. The first scoping meeting for this project will be held on August 27, 2026 between the hours of 1:00 P.M. and 2:00 P.M. The first meeting will be virtual for public agencies. The virtual meeting information is as follows:

Microsoft Teams meeting
Join: https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/230663233472513?p=dIi1GvTDeR43XnQWUq
Meeting ID: 230 663 233 472 513
Passcode: 5rk7GQ7j

The second scoping meeting for this project will be held in person on August 27, 2026, between the hours of 5:30 P.M. and 6:30 P.M. The location of this meeting is as follows:

Merryman Station
20898 Highway 198
Exeter, CA 93221

PROJECT LOCATION

The Project is located in unincorporated Tulare County. The Project area will go from the Seaborn Site and McKay's Point, down through the watershed and encompass the service area of the Tulare Irrigation District (District) and the Consolidated Peoples Ditch Company (CPDC) boundaries. The Project area is located in the Kaweah Subbasin in the Tulare Lake Hydrogeologic Basin. The Kaweah River flows southwest from its headwaters in Sequoia National Park where it is impounded by the Terminus Dam forming Lake Kaweah. Once released from Lake Kaweah, flows from the Kaweah River continue past the Project area and drain into the ephemeral Tulare Lake in the southern end of the San Joaquin Valley, and by the St. John's River which becomes Cross Creek, before draining into the Tulare Lake bottom near Corcoran.

PURPOSE AND NEED

The purpose of the Project is to protect groundwater supply and improve water flexibility and reliability in the Project Owners' service area. There is currently an insufficient water supply for current and forecasted water demand during the peak irrigation season.

PROJECT GOALS

The overall purpose and need of the Project is to protect groundwater supply and improve water supply flexibility as there is currently an insufficient water supply for current and forecasted water demand during peak irrigation season. Additional goals associated with the Project include:

- Ensure a minimum of 6,500 AF of water capture/savings can be met;
- Providing the Owners the flexibility to store or redirect their own water supplies to augment surface water supply for more reliable water deliveries to its customers;
- Increasing availability of surface water for irrigation demands within the Owners' service area;
- Increasing available supplies for groundwater recharge;
- Stabilizing groundwater levels in the regions; and
- Working towards groundwater sustainability for the region, including agriculture, municipal drinking water, and environmental water needs; and
- Ensure the cost per acre foot of water supply added, or demand reduced during peak irrigation demand should not exceed the value of the acre foot of water applied to crops; and
- Receive willing participation from any landowners whose property would be encumbered by the action.

PROJECT SUMMARY

Alternative A – Seaborn Reservoir

Alternative A would consist of developing an internal storage reservoir in an abandoned aggregate mining operation where surface water can be re-regulated (filled and emptied) for use by the Project Owners. The Project would be located on the Seaborn Property approximately one mile southeast of the City of Woodlake. The centroid of the Project is 36°23'39.62" N, 119°4'1.87" W. The approximately 235-acres water storage facility equipped with a bidirectional pipeline, an inlet/outlet structure at McKays Point, an outlet structure into the St. Johns River, and a pump station (see **Figure 1**). Water diverted from the Kaweah River at McKays Point will flow by gravity through a new pipeline to the Seaborn Reservoir across the adjacent property, which is also owned by the Property Owners. Conveyance features would be installed in the southeast corner of the reservoir area to deliver water to and from the St. Johns River and Kaweah River for use by the Project Owners.

The area surrounding the internal reservoir would be restored as a habitat area, including native plants and riparian habitat. Restoration of the habitat area would be completed in collaboration with an entity that specializes in habitat restoration. During construction, non-native plants would be removed, and native plant species would be preserved to the greatest extent feasible.

Alternative B-- Kaweah Return Location

Alternative B would include all of the same features as Alternative A except the water outlet would be due south to the Kaweah River rather than returning water at the McKays Point Structure. This alternative would also be 290 acres and would include a water storage facility equipped with a pipeline, an inlet at McKays Point, and an outlet that would flow into the Kaweah River (see **Figure 1**). Water diverted from the Kaweah River at McKays Point would flow via gravity through a new pipeline toward the Seaborn Reservoir. Conveyance features would be installed in the southeast corner of the reservoir to deliver water to and from the Kaweah River for use by the Project Owners. The pipeline south to the Kaweah River for pumped return water is anticipated to require less vertical elevation across the pipeline than in Alternative A, which could potentially lessen long-term pumping costs. All other features associated with Alternative B would be the same as in Alternative A.

Alternative C – Land Fallowing

Alternative C would not require construction or alter the existing land in the Project area and would instead improve water supply through land fallowing. Land fallowing is a practice that involves leaving farmland unplanted for a year or more to conserve water supplies, particularly groundwater. Some benefits associated with land fallowing include soil restoration, and water conservation. To achieve the target water volume, nearly 2,200 acres (assuming a demand of 3 acre-feet per acre) would need to be fallowed. While Alternative C would reduce water demand, it would not result in the distribution of captured water supply to the Project Owners' service area. This Alternative would also not provide any flood reduction benefits.

RESOURCE CONCERNS & POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

Resource Concerns and potential environmental impacts will be analyzed as part of the Watershed Plan Environmental Assessment for the project. However, it is anticipated that the following sections could be potential areas of impact:

- Air Quality
- Water Quality
- Bald and Golden Eagles
- Floodplain Management
- Regional Water Resources Plans
- Invasive Species
- Waters of the U.S., Wetlands, & Special Aquatic Sites
- Social Issues
- Land Use
- Supporting Ecosystem Services
- Prime and Unique Farmland, and Farmland of Statewide or Local Importance
- Threatened and Endangered Species
- Soil Resources
- Migratory Birds
- Fish and Wildlife
- Water Resources
- Riparian Areas
- Cultural Resources and Tribal Consultation
- Local, Regional, and National Economy
- Provisioning Ecosystem Services
- Cultural Ecosystem Services
- Regulating Ecosystem Services

RESOURCES CONCERNS ELIMINATED FROM FURTHER DISCUSSION

The following resource concerns have been screened out of analysis as the Project has no potential to impact these resources as they are not located within the Project site or surrounding area:

- Sole Source Aquifers
- Coral Reefs
- Essential Fish Habitat
- Natural Areas
- Environmental Justice and Civil Rights
- Scenic Beauty
- Parklands (including National Parks, Monuments, and Historical Sites)
- Coastal Zone Management Area
- Wild and Scenic Rivers
- Ecologically Critical Area
- Forest Resources
- Public Health and Safety
- Significant Scientific Resource
- Recreation

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

As part of the Project, a Public Participation Plan has been prepared, outlining outreach activities associated with the Project. Meetings, workshops, and media outreach will all be conducted to provide ample opportunity for public participation, including informational meetings and feedback opportunities. The Scoping Meeting is the first major opportunity for public participation.

RESPONSE AND COMMENT PERIOD

Scoping comments will be accepted through September 21, 2026 and may be submitted to the following website:

https://seabornreservoir.com/

Interested stakeholders may also use the above website to indicate their desire to be added to the Project email distribution list to stay informed of Project progress.

AVAILABLE IN OTHER LANGUAGES

Project materials will be printed and presented in English but may be provided in other languages upon request.

Figure 1. Alternative A and B Project Site

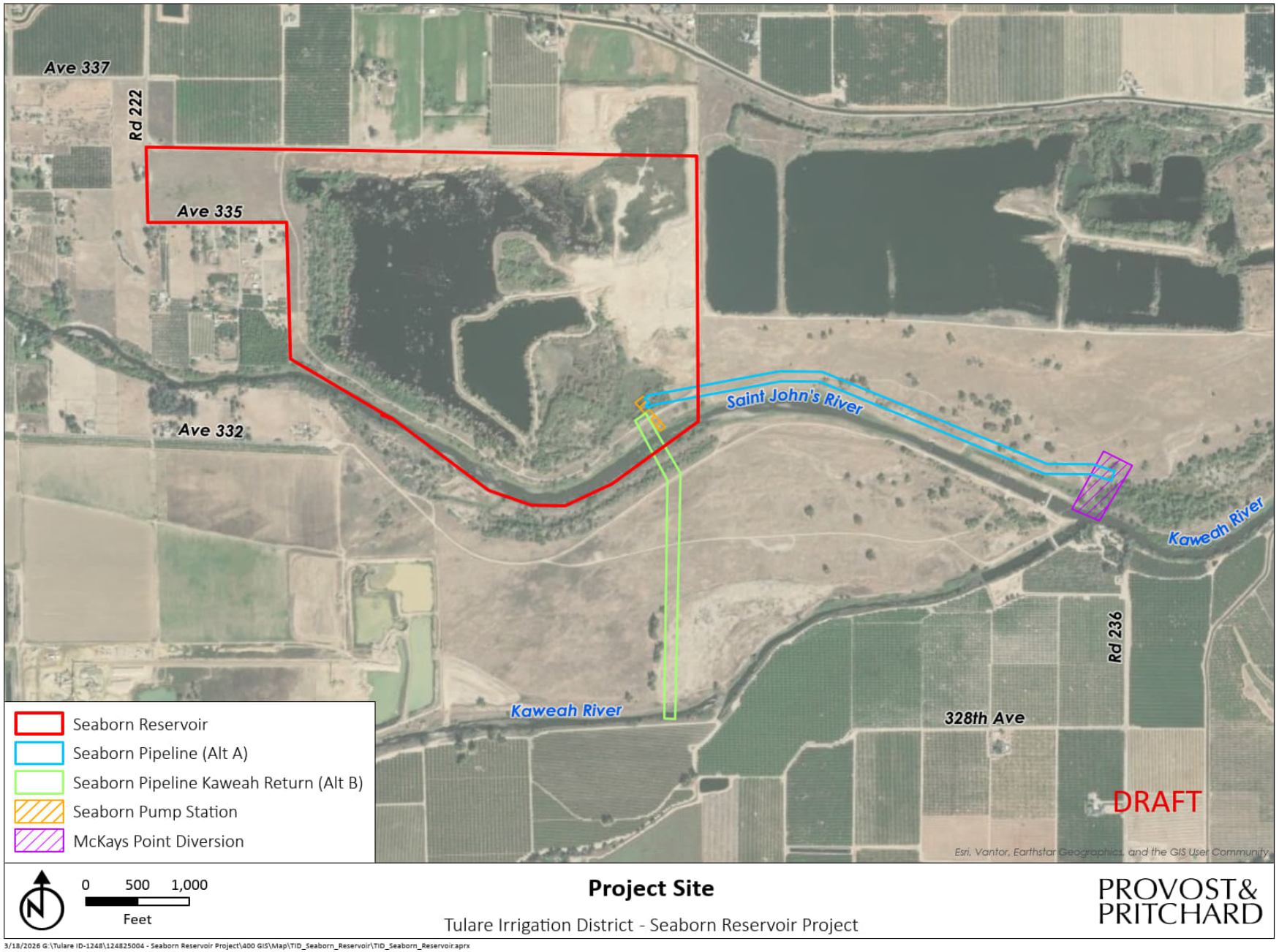
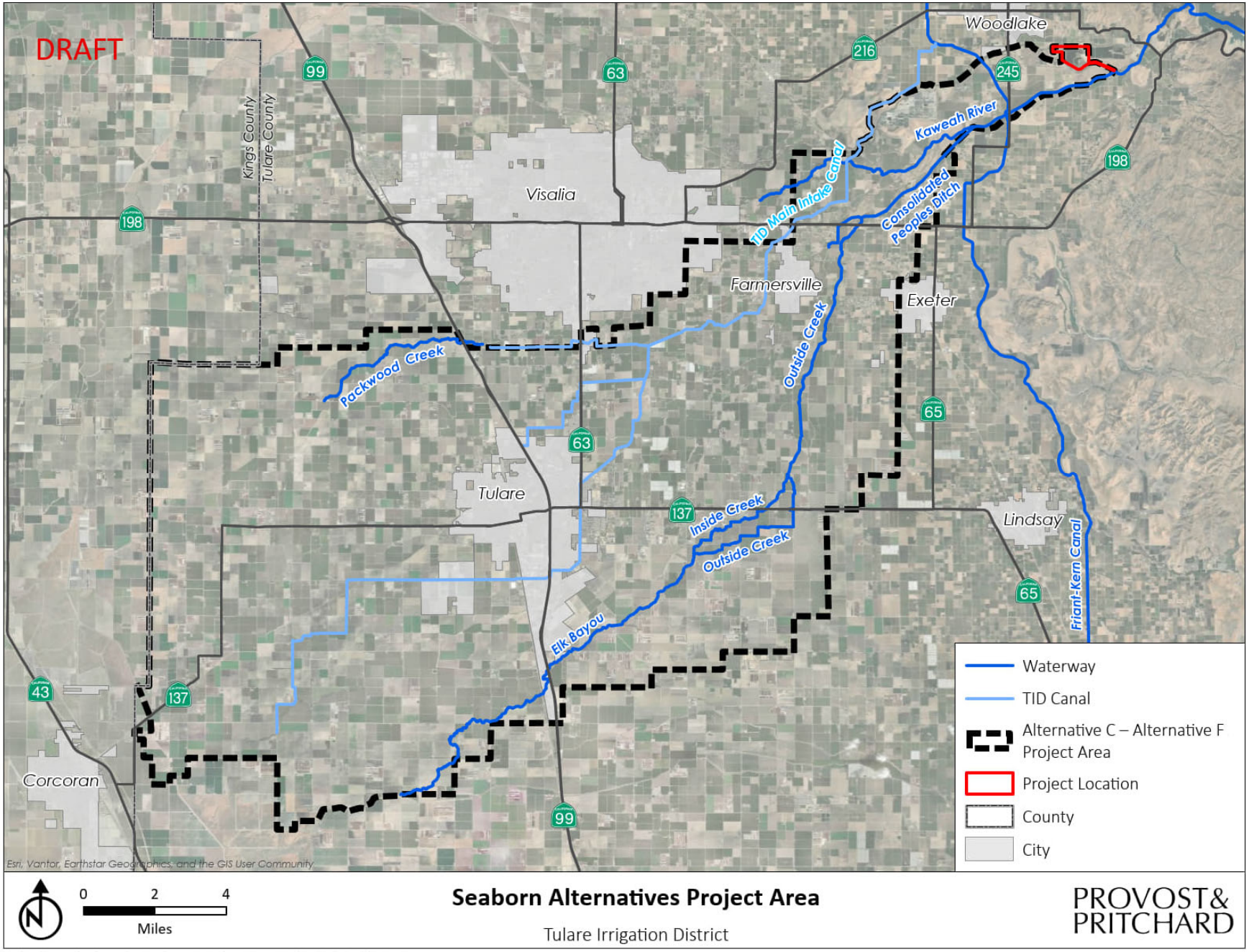
Figure 2. Alternative C Project Area