

Project Scoping Meeting Thousand Palms Flood Control Project EIR/EIS

Thousand Palms Community Center
December 6, 2016 6:00 p.m.

Coachella Valley Water District



Meeting Agenda

- Introductions
- CEQA Lead Agency: *Coachella Valley Water District*
- NEPA Lead Agency: *United States Army Corps of Engineers*
- Overview of the Proposed Project
- Project History
- Existing Flood Hazards
- Environmental Review Process
- Public Comment Period



Purpose of a Scoping Meeting

- Provide information on the Project
- Describe environmental review process
- Identify any potential issues
- Solicit input on environmental topics, project alternatives, and mitigation
- Ensure all relevant issues are addressed



Public Comments

- *Comments will be taken after the presentation*
- Please complete speaker card; each speaker will be announced
- Please limit comments to 3 minutes
- You may provide written comment up to 12/19/16
- Future comment opportunities as well...



Acronyms

- CVWD: Coachella Valley Water District
- USACE: United States Army Corps of Engineers
- CEQA: California Environmental Quality Act
- NEPA: National Environmental Policy Act
- EIR: Environmental Impact Report
- EIS: Environmental Impact Statement
- FEMA: Federal Emergency Management Agency
- MSHCP: Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan



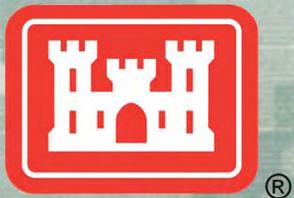
CVWD's Purpose & Need of the Project

- Provide Flood Protection
 - Protect approximately 2,800 acres from flooding
- Sand Dune Habitat Preservation
 - Coachella Valley Preserve and Wildlife Refuge
- CVMSHCP Boundary Modification
 - Define the southern boundary of the Coachella Valley Preserve



Army Corps of Engineers *Role and Responsibilities*

Thousand Palms Flood Control Project



US Army Corps of Engineers
BUILDING STRONG®



USACE's General Overview

- Corps of Engineers is divided into many programs
 - Civil Works - most familiar; construct levees, dams, military installations, etc.
 - Regulatory - issue permits to private and public entities for impacts to waters and wetlands.
- Jurisdiction under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act
 - Protect the biological, physical and chemical integrity of nation's waters
- Review project design and assess project impacts to biological resources, endangered species, historic and cultural properties, Tribal concerns (plus public interest factors)
- Corps Regulatory is one of several agencies involved
 - Regional Water Quality Control Board, California Dept. of Fish and Wildlife, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, local agencies, etc.



USACE's Role and Responsibilities

- Federal permit = comply with National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)
 - Public involvement and disclosure
 - Look at alternatives to project
 - Conduct public interest review
 - Economics, general environmental concerns, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, water quality, safety, etc.
- Corps has determined the project may have a significant effect



Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)



USACE's EIS procedures

- Corps receives a permit application
- Scoping process begins: Public Notice with ~30-60 day comment period
 - Comment period closes December 19, 2016
- Conduct a public scoping meeting (today)
- Publish draft EIS (~earliest would be end of 2017)
- Public Notice with 45 day comment period
- Public hearing or meeting (optional)
- Publish final EIS
- Public Notice with 30 day comment period
- Permit issued, issued with modifications, or denied



This Project has some history!

- 1994-2000: Feasibility study completed by USACE
- 2000: Congress authorized the project
- 2000-2007: Project Design 40% completed
Environmental Analysis Conducted
- 2012: CVWD and USACE assume lead role
in design / environmental / construction
- 2014: Federal Scoping Meeting Conducted
- Present Time: Refine Project and Scoping Period



Existing Physical Setting

- Project area is prone to flooding during intense winter storms
- Steep terrain and large watersheds funnel water to the project area
- Storms can form quickly with little warning for evacuation
- Moderate to large floods have occurred in 1909, 1927, 1938, 1940, 1943, 1965, 1969, 1978, 1980, 1983, and 1993.
- Storms within the last 5 years have also resulted in localized flooding below the proposed reaches.



Watersheds



Flood Video



North of Xavier HS



North of Xavier HS



East of Xavier HS



North of Classic Club



North of Classic Club



North of Classic Club



North of Classic Club



Avenue 38



Avenue 38



Ramon Road East of Monterey



Ramon Road & Varner

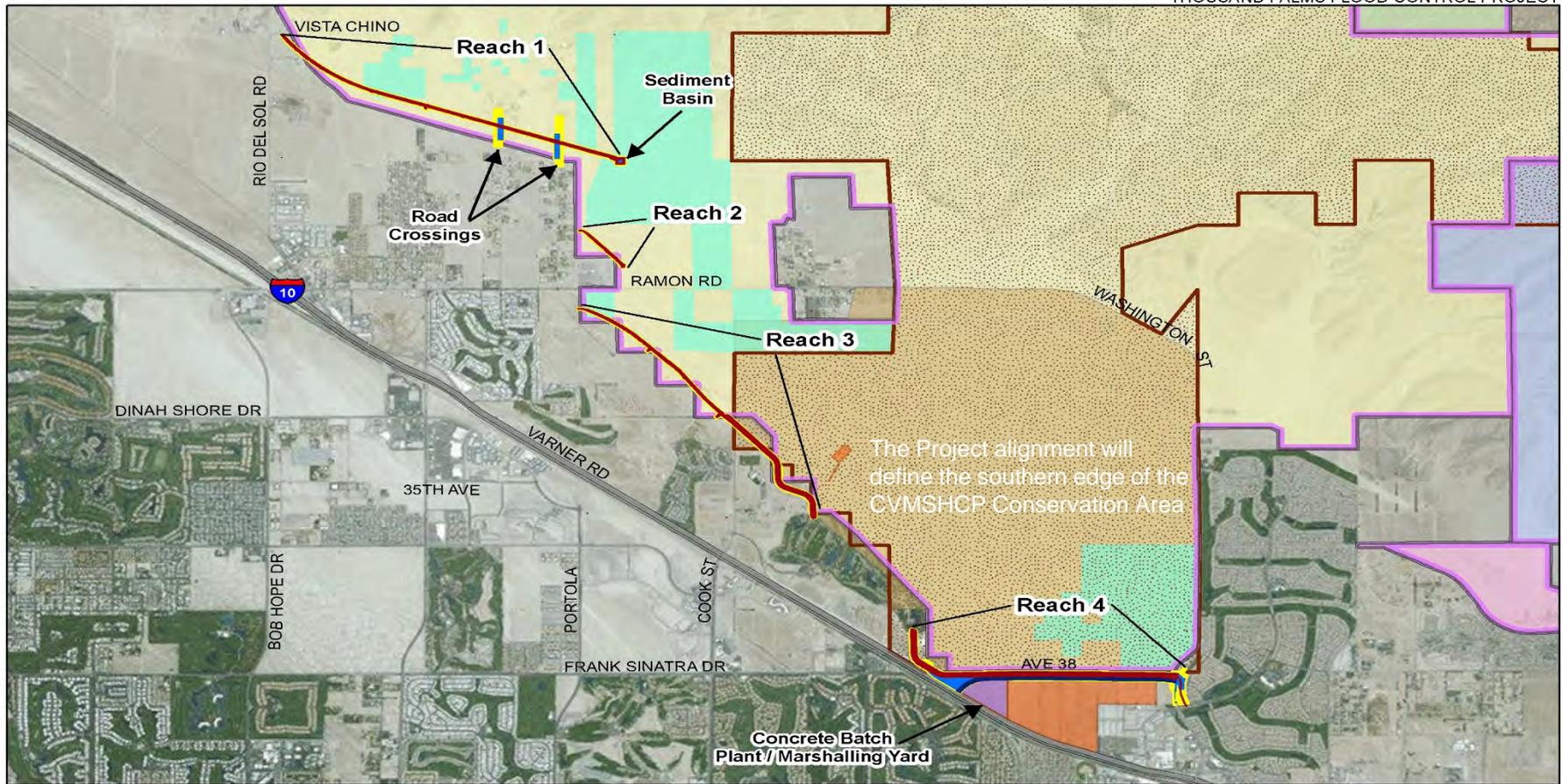


Ramon Road & Varner

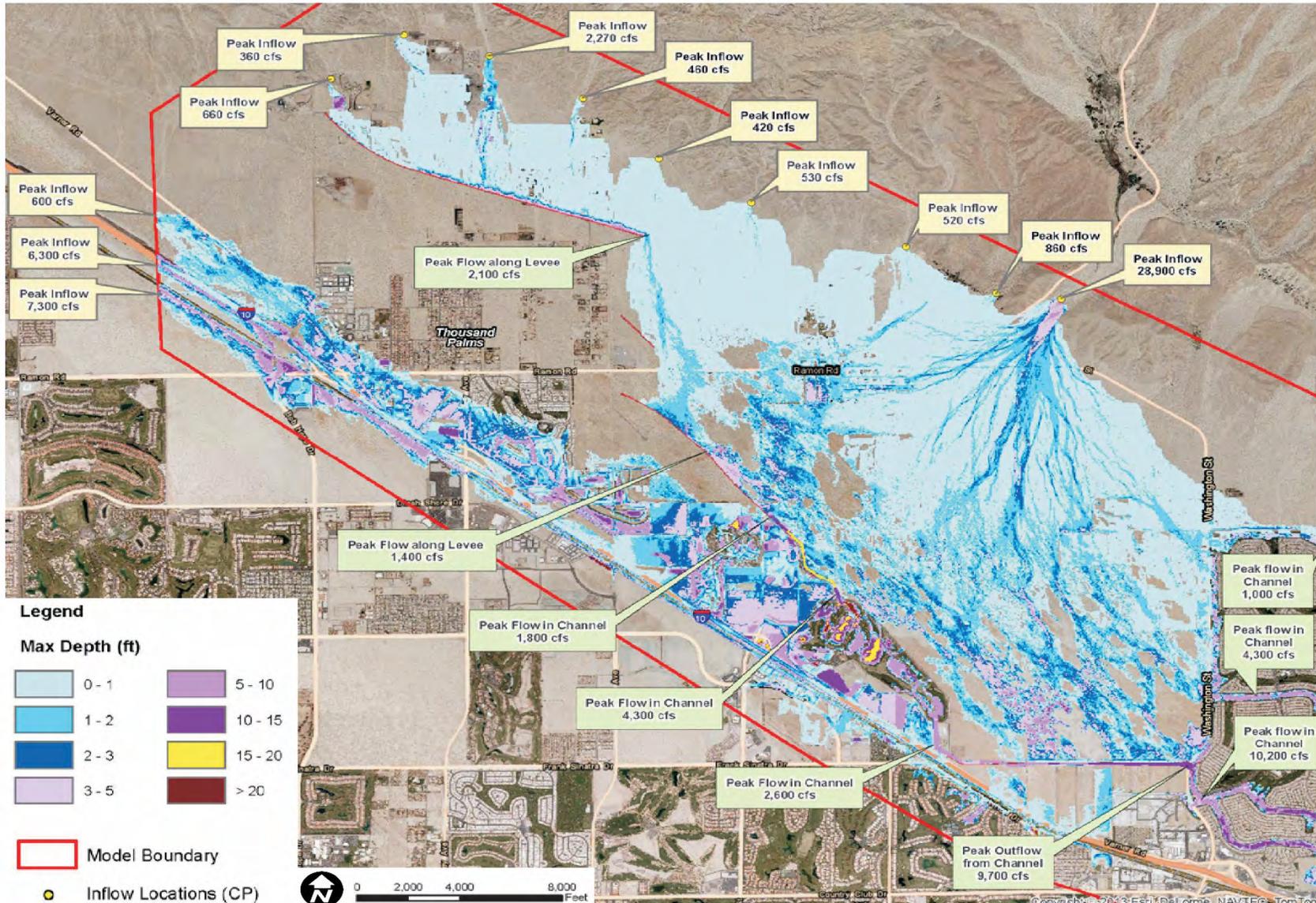


Proposed Project (Alternative 1)

THOUSAND PALMS FLOOD CONTROL PROJECT



Flood Map with Project Implementation



Key Project Components

- Reach 1: 2.4-mile levee; 5-14 feet high
- Reach 2: 0.32-mile levee; 5 feet high
- Reach 3: 1.2-mile levee; 5-14 feet high; 1.0-mile channel
- Reach 4: 2.0-mile incised trapezoidal channel
- Realignment of Avenue 38 and minor modification to Washington Street

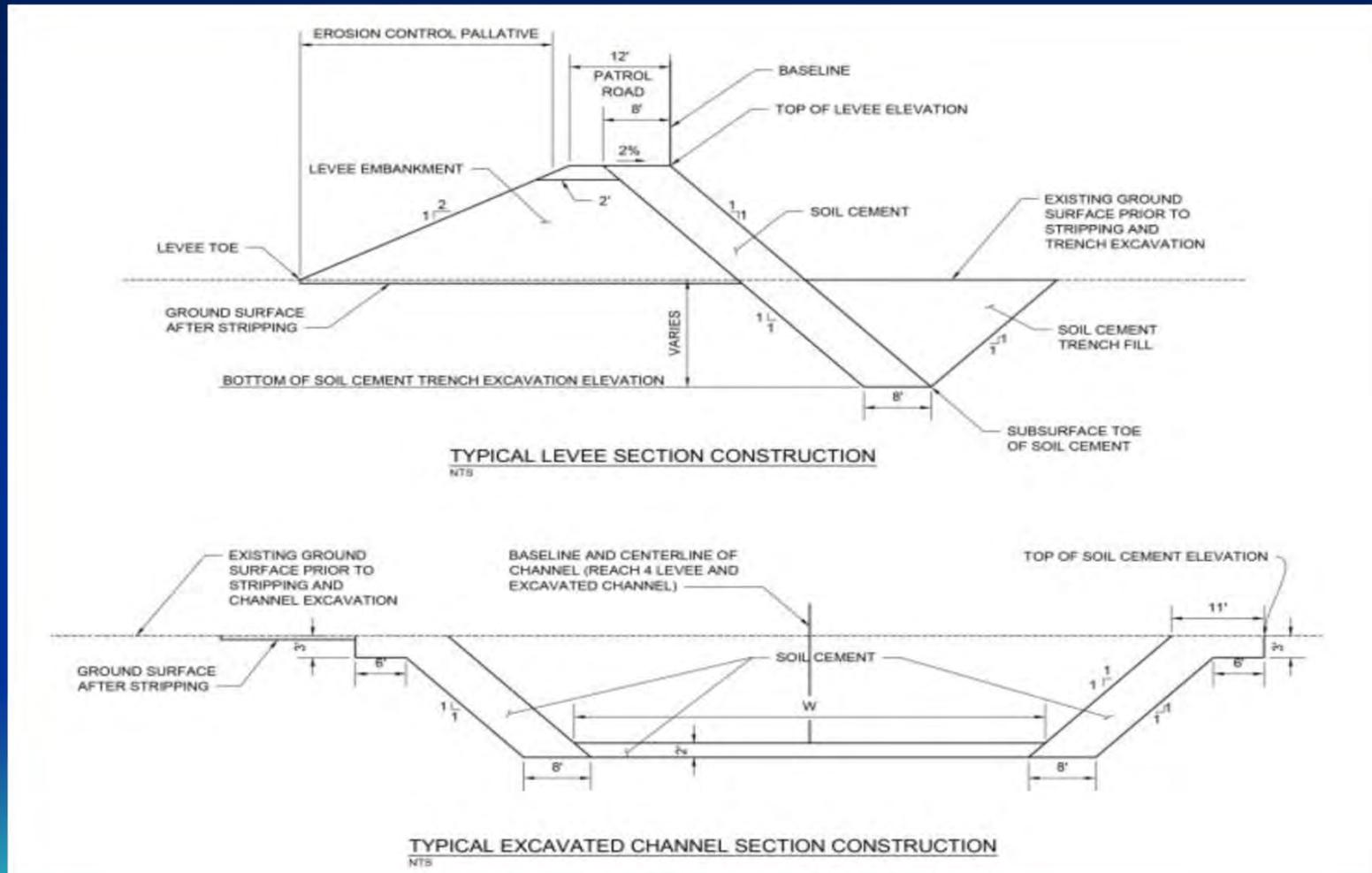


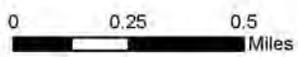
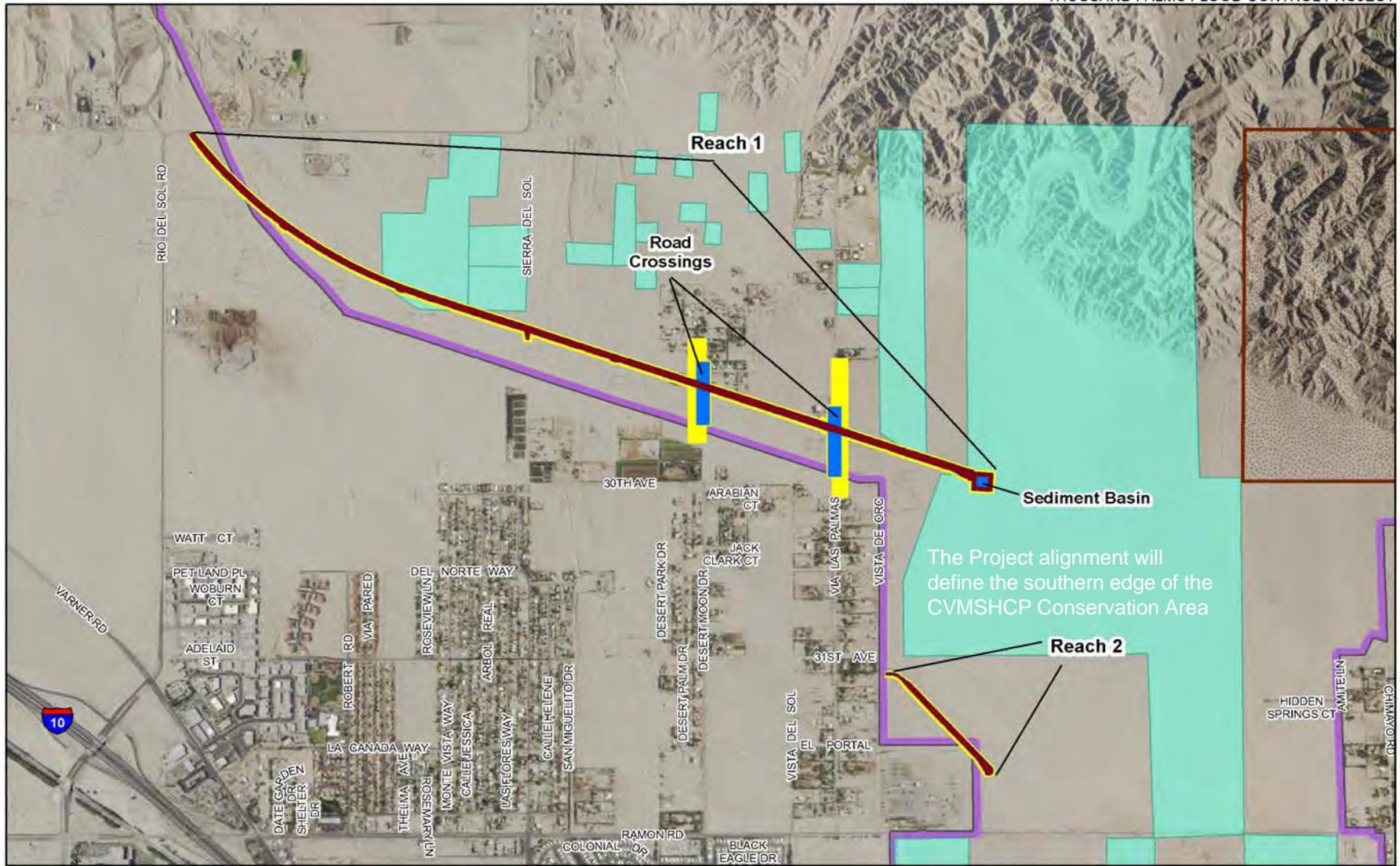
Key Design Features

- Levee Height
 - Designed for 100-year flood + 4 feet min.
- Constructed from soil cement
 - Mixture of native soil and concrete
 - Has a natural look
- Construct Road Crossings
 - Desert Moon Dr. and Via Las Palmas
- Connect to existing drainage features
 - Classic Club Golf Course, Del Webb/Sun City



Typical Levee and Channel Sections

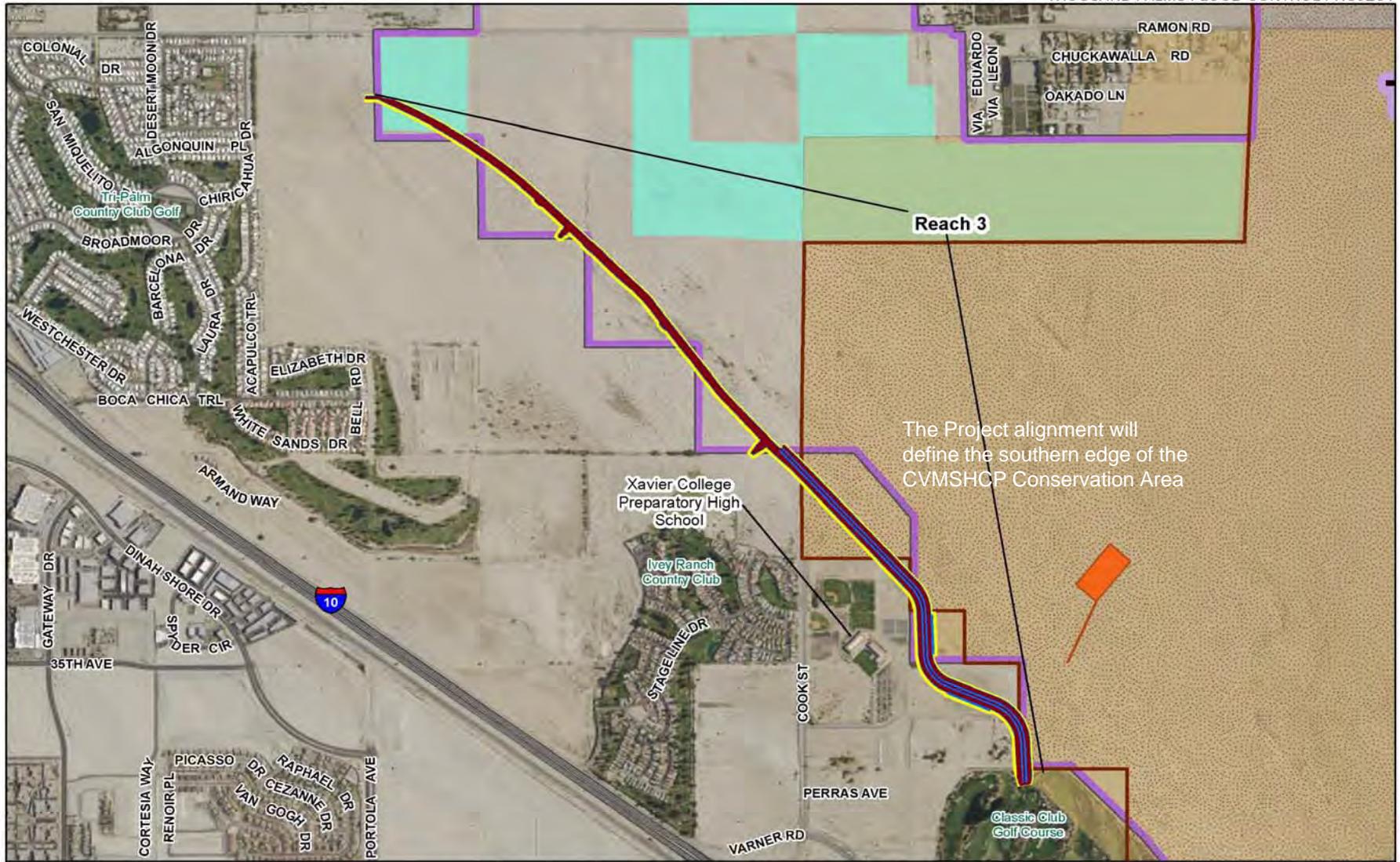




- Levee/Channel
- Permanent Disturbance Area
- Temporary Disturbance Area
- Coachella Valley Preserve Boundary
- CVMShCP Conservation Area Boundary
- CDFW Coachella Valley Ecological Reserve Lands

Figure 2-1.

Reach 1 and 2 Alignments



The Project alignment will define the southern edge of the CVMSHCP Conservation Area

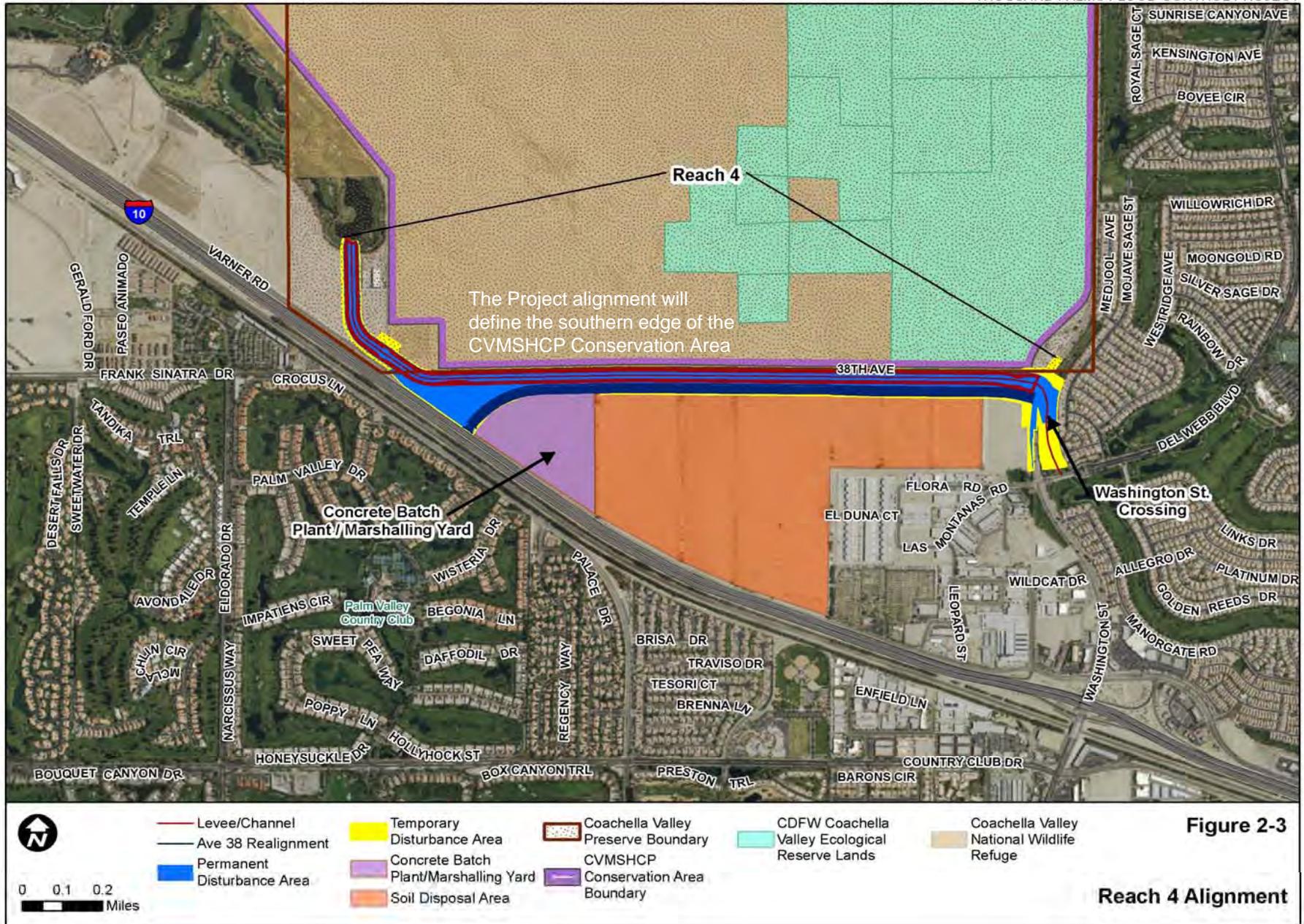


0 0.1 0.2 Miles

- Levee/Channel
- Temporary Disturbance Area
- Permanent Disturbance Area
- Soil Disposal Area
- Coachella Valley Preserve Boundary
- CVMSHCP Conservation Area Boundary
- CDFW Coachella Valley Ecological Reserve Lands
- Coachella Valley National Wildlife Refuge

Figure 2-2

Reach 3 Alignment



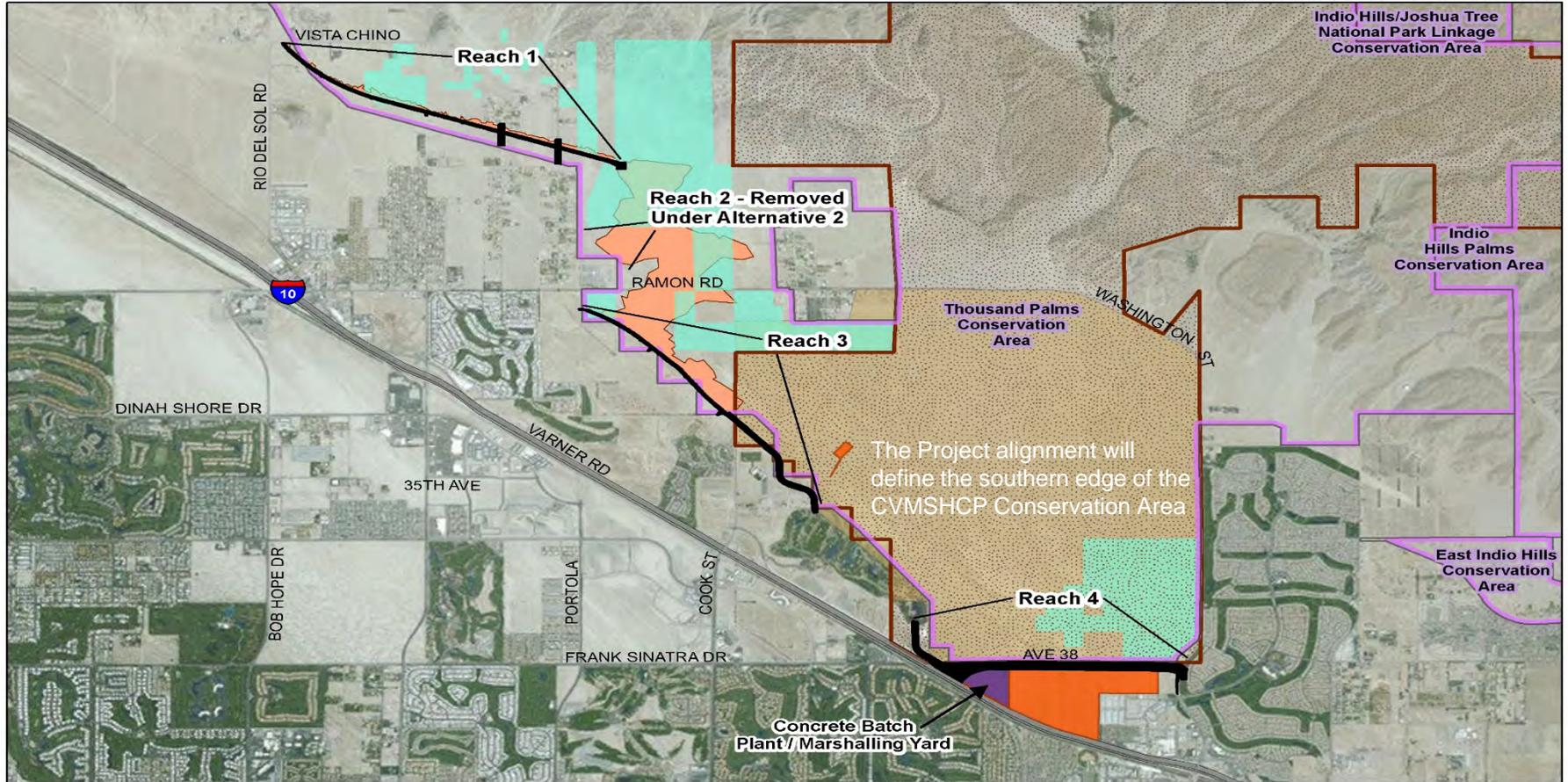
Potential Alternatives

- ***Alternative 2: Removal of Reach 2***
 - All other project components would be the same as the proposed project
- ***Alternative 3: Modified Reach 3***
 - Reach 3 tilted west/southwest from 6 to 10 degrees
 - Reach 3 tilted west/southwest 17 degrees
 - All other project components would be the same as the proposed project
- ***Alternative 4: No Action Alternative***
 - Project not constructed



Alternative 2

THOUSAND PALMS FLOOD CONTROL PROJECT



The Project alignment will define the southern edge of the CVMSHCP Conservation Area

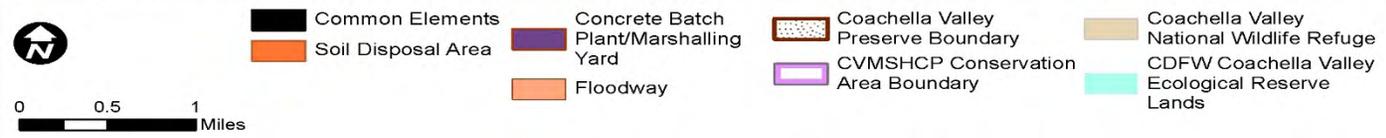


Figure 2-8

Alternative 2 Alignment

Alternative 3

THOUSAND PALMS FLOOD CONTROL PROJECT

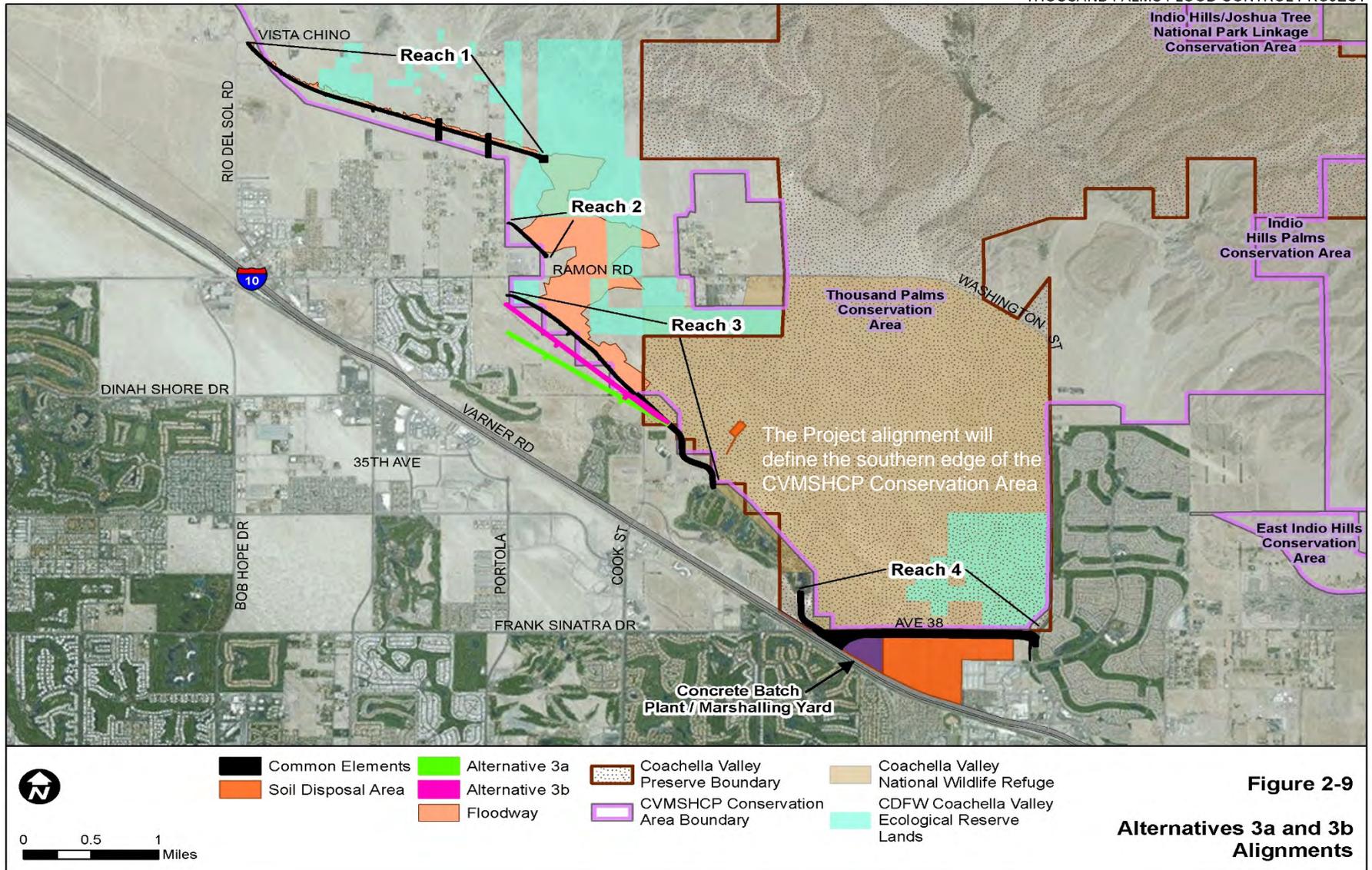


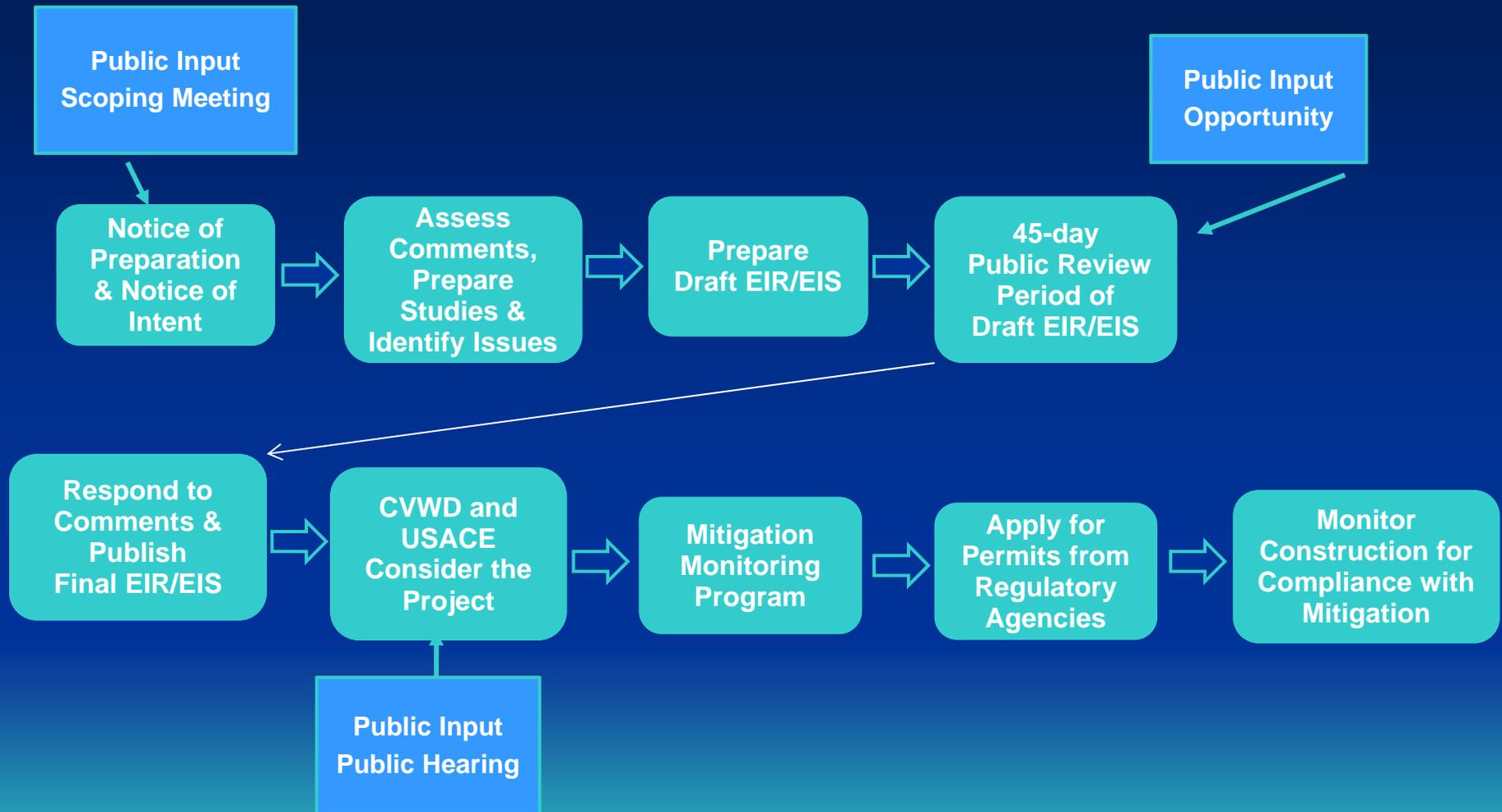
Figure 2-9
Alternatives 3a and 3b
Alignments

Objective of Environmental Review

- Identify significant issues
- Assess potential impacts
- Identify ways to avoid or reduce impacts
- Disclose information about environmental impacts
- Include public participation at various stages
- Provide environmental information to decision makers at the CVWD and USACE
 - Decision makers will consider a range of factors in rendering their decisions, not just environmental factors
 - The EIR/EIS does not make any recommendations for approving or denying the proposed project



What are the next steps?



Environmental Resource Topics

- Air Resources/GHG
- Biological Resources
- Sand Migration
- Cultural Resources
- Socioeconomics (Housing and Population)
- Geology / Soil Resources
- Hazards & Hazardous Materials
- Mineral Resources
- Noise
- Paleontological Resources
- Recreation
- Transportation
- Utilities / Public Services
- Visual Resources
- Water Resources



Biological Resources

- Coachella Valley fringe-toed lizard
- Flat tailed horned lizard
- Burrowing owl
- Palm Springs round tailed ground squirrel
- Coachella Valley milk-vetch / Critical Habitat
- State and federal waters



Oral Comments

- Please fill out a speaker card
- Please focus your comments on environmental concerns
 - *All comments become public record*
 - *Court reporter to record meeting*

Thank you for participating in the
NEPA/CEQA process



How to Submit Written Comments

- Focus comments on environmental concerns
- Submit comments in any of the following ways:
 - **Submit tonight**
 - **Mail:** 75-515 Hovley Lane East, Palm Desert, CA 92260
 - **Email:** Lstowe@cvwd.org
- Comments must be received by December 19, 2016

~ All comments will become public information ~

Thank you for coming out tonight!

