US Army Corps of Engineers®

PUBLIC NOTICE

Applicant:
Kevin L. Burton
Irvine Ranch Water District

Published: **Feb 26, 2026**
Expires: **Mar 24, 2026**

Los Angeles District
Permit Application No. SPL-2025-00969-ES

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN: The Los Angeles District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) has received an application for a Department of the Army permit pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. §1344). The purpose of this public notice is to solicit comments from the public regarding the work described below:

APPLICANT: Kevin L. Burton, Executive Director of Technical Services
Irvine Ranch Water District, 15600 Sand Canyon Avenue, Irvine, California 92618

AGENT: Fiona Nye, Irvine Ranch Water District, 15600 Sand Canyon Avenue, Irvine, California 92618

WATERWAY AND LOCATION: The project would affect Irvine Lake associated with Santiago Creek and tributaries. The project/review area is located at Black Star Canyon 7.5-minute quadrangle map in multiple sections at Latitude 33.786127 and Longitude -117.725322; in Orange County, California (Attachment 1: Exhibit 1 Regional and Local Vicinity).

EXISTING CONDITIONS: Irvine Lake was created by constructing a dam across Santiago Creek. Santiago Creek, a named blueline stream, enters Irvine Lake from the east and continues downstream of the dam flowing north and then west, ultimately reaching the Santa Ana River. It has a relatively broad floodplain above and below the dam. The slopes around the western and northern portions of the lake are relatively steep while the areas to the southeast and east are relatively flat. Three unnamed blueline streams enter the lake from the north and eight unnamed blueline streams enter the lake from the west, southeast, and south. One unnamed blueline stream enters the project site in the northwest, downstream of the dam, while Fremont Canyon Creek merges with Santiago Creek downstream of the project site.

Elevations on the project site range from approximately 657 to 996 feet above mean sea level (msl). Surrounding land use primarily consists of undeveloped open space. Irvine Regional Park is located northwest of State Route (SR)-241; Limestone Canyon Regional Park is located south of Santiago Canyon Road; and Oak Canyon Park is located at the southeast end of Irvine Lake. The closed Orange County Waste and Recycling (OCWR) Landfill Facility (i.e., Santiago Canyon Landfill) is located adjacent to the west of Irvine Lake. Residential development is located west of SR-241.

PROJECT PURPOSE:

Basic: The basic purpose is water supply reliability.

Overall: The overall purpose is to improve water supply reliability in IRWD's service area.

PROPOSED WORK: The applicant requests authorization to impact waters of the United States (WOTUS) to construct the project.

General elements of each portion of the project are included below. A more detailed description of the proposed facilities is included in the Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR), completed pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act. The project Description represents a conservative analysis to accommodate the range of uncertainty regarding the final design. Therefore, the quantities and measurements used throughout the analysis are estimates based on the best available information (Attachment 2: Exhibit 2 Existing Dam Features and Attachment 3: Exhibit 3 Construction Features).

- The existing outlet tower would be demolished. A new inclined outlet structure would be constructed in bedrock along the perimeter of the reservoir near the dam, including an approximately 54-inch steel pipe inclined along the slope that would act as the conveyance pipe for water out of the reservoir. A series of steel riser pipes would extend vertically from the inclined 54-inch steel pipe and would act as intakes. Each riser would include an intake fish screen that would inhibit debris, silt, and aquatic life from entering the pipe.
- The inlet/outlet works would be configured to incorporate the new structure, including new valves and fittings. Water from the lake would enter into the new inclined inlet/outlet structure and be conveyed through an existing conduit under the dam. At the downstream toe of the dam, a new fitting would be installed to bifurcate the flow either to the Irvine Lake Pipeline (ILP) or the emergency outlet pipeline. Water that enters the ILP would reach IRWD's distribution system. Water that enters the emergency outlet pipeline would be released to Santiago Creek at the end of the new spillway.
- The ILP would be increased from 36 inches to 54 inches to match the pipeline coming from the inclined inlet/outlet structure, as well as to increase the capacity of the line to improve the system's hydraulics.
- The existing spillway would be demolished and replaced with a new side-channel spillway in a rock cut on the left abutment. The alignment for the new spillway was selected as a result of several constraints including the footprint of the dam embankment, the location of the sloped outlet structure, and the steeply sloped hillside along the left abutment.
- The end of the new spillway would include a stilling basin before discharging to a concrete and riprap apron. At the end of the stilling basin, a scour protection

cutoff is included for additional mitigation of head cutting that may occur during significant discharges.

- The dam embankment improvements include removing the upper portion of the dam on the downstream side of the embankment, constructing a filter drain system, and encapsulating the filter drain system with embankment shell material composed of pervious material.
- A new access road and ramp would be constructed to provide vehicle access to the new inlet/outlet structure.
- A new dam control building would be constructed to house the valve system at the end of the existing dam crest. The preliminary layout shows a fire-hardened building with the approximate dimensions of 60 feet by 20 feet with a height of 18 feet.
- The dam crest would be widened from 10 feet to between approximately 35 and 45 feet, the dam crest elevation would be raised approximately one foot, which would improve access and safety for dam maintenance. The paved dam crest would include protective railings on both sides of the road and replacement piezometers to monitor the performance of the embankment dam. These embankment improvements would require excavations along the toe of the dam to key in the earthwork improvements to the face of the dam.
- The dam crest would be raised approximately one foot on the upstream side of the dam crest. This would raise the effective dam crest from an elevation of 811.9 feet up to approximately 812.9 feet for DSOD freeboard requirements during a probable maximum flood event.
- The project will raise the spillway crest by 6 feet, to a new elevation of 797.9 feet. This increases the maximum water storage elevation from 795.5 feet to 797.9 feet. Raising the spillway would allow the dam to impound water up to the 797.9-foot elevation contour year-round, which would allow storage of approximately 1,300 acre-feet (AF) of additional water.
- Existing structures would be demolished, including the existing vertical outlet tower and portions of 60-inch outlet conduit, significant portions (or possibly all) of the existing spillway chute and walls, spillway bridge and piers, portions of the upstream dam embankment concrete facing, storage building on the dam crest, outlet works control building and valve vault, outlet works energy dissipator vault, portions of the ILP, catwalk and stairs assembly across Santiago Creek, the dam keeper's house, boat shop (unless re-purposed for IRWD use), and piezometers/monitoring wells. Site demolition activities are anticipated to occur in 2027/2028, and spillway demolition is expected to occur in 2028. The potential removal of the boat shop building would occur at the end of the construction period in 2031. When feasible, demolished materials would be recycled or reused.
- The existing Southern California Edison (SCE) overhead power lines and power poles in the vicinity would be relocated outside the construction limits. This

relocation would be completed by SCE. There would be an approximately 15-foot-wide right-of-way (ROW) easement for long-term maintenance.

- Before beginning construction of the dam improvements, the lake would be dewatered, and an access road would be graded along the edge of the dewatered lakebed to allow construction access between the staging area and the dam structure.
- IRWD would maximize withdrawals from Irvine Lake in the time leading up to construction initiation to minimize the amount required to be dewatered. The dewatering process would combine several methods including dewatering using the valves and outlet tower to allow water to flow downstream, implementing a temporary pumping system, and installing a subgrade dewatering system (e.g., dewatering wells). The temporary pumping system would include diesel-driven pumps and temporary above-ground piping that would convey the water from the lake to a discharge point along Santiago Creek near the existing Arizona crossing (a type of culvert crossing). Dewatering would be used throughout the year as needed to manage the water level during and after storm events and to maintain a dry work environment. IRWD would coordinate downstream releases with impacted agencies and entities.
- Once the lake is dewatered and before the first dry season, the contractor would construct a temporary diversion berm and access ramp. The temporary diversion berm would provide a physical barrier to protect the work area from seasonal storms and would provide an elevated access road to allow construction equipment to access the downstream side of the dam.
- During construction, concrete crushing would occur in one of the staging areas. Concrete crushing would be expected to occur intermittently for approximately three weeks during the demolition phase of the Project but may also occur at various stages of the Project as concrete is removed from the existing spillway or dam. When feasible, demolished and removed materials would be recycled or reused.

The FEIR is available upon request.

AVOIDANCE AND MINIMIZATION: The applicant has provided the following information in support of efforts to avoid and/or minimize impacts to the aquatic environment.

CEQA Project Design Features

The following Project Design Features (PDF), developed under CEQA, have been approved by IRWD to avoid and minimize impacts to biological resources during construction to the extent practicable.

- **PDF-1. Worker Environmental Awareness Program (WEAP) Training**. Prior to the initiation of construction activities, IRWD will retain a qualified Biologist (i.e., Biological Monitor) to provide a WEAP training for construction personnel to review

the mitigation measures and permit requirements applicable to the construction phase. The Biological Monitor will require trained personnel to sign the WEAP Log to document that they have been trained and understand the mitigation measures and permit conditions. The Biological Monitor will repeat the WEAP training as-needed for new construction personnel.

- **PDF-2. Project Limits**. Prior to construction, the Project limits will be clearly staked by IRWD or IRWD's Contractor and verified by the Biological Monitor.

- **PDF-3. NCCP/HCP Construction Minimization Measures.** As required by the Central/Coastal Subregion of the Natural Communities Conservation Plan/Habitat Conservation Plan (NCCP/HCP), IRWD will follow standard construction-related minimization Measures. These include removal of coastal sage scrub outside the California gnatcatcher breeding season (i.e., February 15 to August 31); pre-construction surveys for coastal California gnatcatchers; identification of coastal sage scrub habitat areas for protection as Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESAs); and biological monitoring during all clearing of coastal sage scrub.

- **PDF-4. Tree Protection.** To protect western sycamore and coast live oak trees adjacent to project's permanent and temporary impact areas, protective fencing will be placed around all western sycamore and coast live oak trees located within 50 feet of the project's permanent and temporary impact areas. The tree protection area will be 1.5 times the dripline of the tree.

- **PDF-5: Nesting Bird Protection.** To the extent practicable, IRWD or IRWD's Contractor will conduct vegetation clearing during the non-breeding season (i.e., September 16 to January 31). If vegetation clearing will be initiated during the breeding season for nesting birds/raptors (i.e., February 1–September 15), IRWD or IRWD's Contractor will conduct the construction activity in compliance with the conditions set forth in the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. IRWD will retain a qualified Biologist to conduct a pre-construction survey for nesting birds and/or raptors within seven days prior to clearing of any vegetation or work near existing structures The nesting bird survey area will include a buffer of 100 feet around the work area for nesting birds and a buffer of 500 feet around the work area for nesting raptors. If an active nest is found, the Biologist will determine the appropriate protective buffer depending on the sensitivity of the species and the nature of the construction activity. The protective buffer will be 25–100 feet for nesting birds; 300–500 feet for special status bird species or nesting raptors; and 0.5 mile for golden eagle or prairie falcon. No work will be conducted in the protective buffer until a qualified Biologist determines that the nest is no longer active. The Biologist will map any nests found during survey efforts and their protective buffers and will provide the map to IRWD and the Contractor.

- **PDF-6. Speed Limit During Construction.** The speed limit on construction access roads will be no more than 20 miles per hour. Signage will be posted throughout the construction areas and at multiple locations along the access road between the dam

and the staging area at the upstream end of the lake. “Wildlife crossing” signage will also be posted along the access road between the dam and the staging area at the upstream end of the lake. Signage will be verified by the Biological Monitor.

- **PDF-7. Night Lighting.** Night lighting will be directed away from adjacent habitat areas to the extent practicable. Shielding of night lighting during construction will be incorporated to ensure that ambient lighting is directed away from sensitive habitat areas. Appropriate shielding of night lighting will be verified by the Biological Monitor.

- **PDF-8. Prevent Spread of Invasive Species**. Weed seeds entering the construction area via vehicles will be minimized by requiring construction vehicles to be washed prior to delivery to the project site. Track-clean or other methods of vehicle cleaning will be used by the construction contractor to prevent weed seeds from entering/exiting the project site on vehicles. Wattles used for erosion control will be biodegradable and certified as weed-free. Seed mixes and/or hydroseed applied to temporarily disturbed areas will consist of native species local to the project vicinity. IRWD will retain a qualified Biologist to review and approve the seed mix. Use of measures to prevent the spread of invasive species will be verified by the Biological Monitor.

- **PDF-9. Treatment of Invasive Species.** During active construction, IRWD will retain a qualified Biologist to conduct surveys for non-native invasive plant species on the OC Parks target list on a monthly basis. If a target species is observed within 100 feet of the active construction area, IRWD will retain a qualified Contractor to remove and/or treat the non-native invasive plant species and to appropriately dispose of it. The target species will be removed/treated before they set seed.

- For a period of two years following completion of construction, IRWD will retain a qualified Biologist to conduct surveys for non-native invasive plant species on the OC Parks target list on a quarterly basis. If a target species is observed within 100 feet of the previously disturbed areas, IRWD will retain a qualified Contractor to remove and/or treat the non-native invasive plant species and to appropriately dispose of it. The target species will be removed/treated before they set seed.

Other avoidance/minimization

IRWD has also proposed the following mitigation measures for impacts to biological resources. Like the PDFs, these avoidance/minimization measures primarily address state-level requirements. The Corps anticipates they would be included as requirements of state permits (e.g., California Department of Fish and Wildlife) but not the Corps permit.

- **Special Status Plants:** During the peak blooming season prior to the initiation of construction (within the same year or the spring/summer prior), IRWD will retain a qualified Botanist to conduct a focused survey for mud nama. Although not required, the pre-construction survey will also include intermediate mariposa lily, many-

stemmed dudleya, and Coulter's matilija poppy to minimize impacts on these species. Compensatory mitigation will be required if more than 10 percent of the mud nama locations mapped in 2022 will be impacted, as described below.

  - As described above, if compensatory mitigation is required for mud nama (i.e., more than 10 percent of the mud nama locations mapped in 2022 will be impacted by the project), IRWD will retain a qualified Restoration Biologist to prepare a detailed Mud Nama Mitigation Plan. The Plan will describe collection of seed, salvage of individuals, salvage of soils (i.e., seed bank), and establishment of a new on-site location that will replace the area of mud nama impacted at a 1:1 ratio (i.e., 1 acre impacted to 1 acre replaced). The on-site mitigation areas will provide similar microhabitat, including similar soils and elevation, to provide similar inundation frequency to current conditions.
  - Special Status Plants/Biological Monitoring: Before the start of construction, IRWD will retain a qualified Biological Monitor to confirm that the special status plant locations to be avoided are clearly marked with lathe and flagging, orange snow fencing, stakes and rope, or other suitable fencing. The Biological Monitor will post signs to indicate each location as an "Environmentally Sensitive Area" that no work activities shall occur within the fencing.

- **Pre-Construction Bat Surveys:** IRWD will retain a qualified Biologist to conduct a pre-construction roosting bat survey (including both day and evening efforts) before construction begins.
- **Tree Survey/Replacement:** Before the start of construction, IRWD will retain a qualified Biologist or Certified Arborist to conduct a tree survey to identify the location and health of western sycamore trees within 100 feet of the project impact area. To the extent practicable, temporary impact areas will be revised to avoid and minimize effects on western sycamore trees. Standard tree protection measures to fence western sycamores will be recommended for trees within or near the work area.

COMPENSATORY MITIGATION: The applicant offered the following compensatory mitigation plan to offset unavoidable functional loss to waters of the U.S.:

A mitigation plan was prepared as part of the Section 404 permit application to address impacts to waters of the U.S, and IRWD is coordinating with resource agencies to finalize the mitigation ratios. Mitigation activities to offset project impacts to streambed/riparian habitat areas would occur in Limestone Canyon Creek and an unnamed side drainage that flows into Limestone Canyon Creek from the south. Mitigation to offset impacts to coastal sage scrub habitat would occur in areas immediately adjacent to the riparian mitigation area described above. Together, these proposed mitigation sites total approximately 11 acres. These proposed mitigation sites are located on land owned by OC Parks, and IRWD is actively coordinating with OC Parks to finalize a plan to restore native habitat. Because the project involves the removal of the caretaker house (located northeast of Santiago Dam), this area will be revegetated with native shrub species. Revegetation of this area could provide approximately 1.4 acres of coastal sage scrub mitigation credit.

CULTURAL RESOURCES: The Corps evaluated the undertaking pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) utilizing its existing program-specific regulations and procedures along with 36 CFR Part 800. The Corps' program-specific procedures include 33 CFR 325, Appendix C, and revised interim guidance issued in 2005 and 2007, respectively.

The proposed project's activities will take place on previously disturbed earth. The construction of Santiago Dam in the 1930s disturbed the entire proposed project area so that no native undisturbed soils are present. Disturbance was caused by heavy earth-moving equipment and subsequent high-water flows through the new spillway down Santiago Creek. As a result of the construction of Santiago Dam, there are negligible native undisturbed soils in the project area.

Based on the project's footprint within limits of historic disturbance, the Corps has determined there is little likelihood that a historic property exists or may be affected. The Corps has made a preliminary determination of "no potential to cause effects" to historic properties pursuant to Section 106 of the NHPA.

ENDANGERED SPECIES: The Corps has performed an initial review of the application, the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB), the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC), the FEIR, and the FEIR's Biological Technical Report to determine if any threatened, endangered, proposed, or candidate species, as well as the proposed and final designated critical habitat, may occur in the vicinity of the proposed project. Based on this initial review, the Corps has made a preliminary determination that the proposed project may affect the listed species and critical habitat listed below. No other species or critical habitat listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) would be affected by the proposed action. Suitable riparian habitat for these species is present along Santiago Creek throughout the Biological Study Area (BSA).

Least Bell's Vireo:

Least Bell's vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*) is a federal and state endangered species. The least Bell's vireo was formerly considered a common breeder in riparian habitats throughout the Central Valley and other low-elevation riverine systems throughout California and Baja California, Mexico. The decline of least Bell's vireo is attributed to the widespread loss of riparian woodlands coupled with the increase in brown-headed cowbirds. Cowbirds are nest parasites that lay their eggs in the nests of other birds and leave the host bird to raise their young, often to the detriment of the host's own young. With the implementation of intensive brown-headed cowbird management programs, the least Bell's vireo numbers have dramatically increased. The least Bell's vireo is an obligate riparian species (i.e., nests exclusively in riparian habitat) that generally nests in early-successional stages of riparian habitats. The most critical factor in habitat structure is the presence of a dense understory shrub layer from approximately three to six feet above ground, where nests are typically placed, and a dense stratified canopy for foraging.

A total of 29 least Bell's vireo locations were observed during the 2022 focused surveys upstream of the dam. A total of 27 locations consisted of territories occupied by breeding pairs, 1 location consisted of a territory occupied by an unpaired male, and 1 location consisted of a transient male. A territory is defined as a singing male observed or heard consistently in the same general location on multiple surveys (i.e., defending a territory). A transient male is one observed during only one survey. A total of 25 pairs were observed to have successfully nested; a total of 38 juveniles were observed during the 2022 focused surveys. The survey results include only the number of nestlings/fledglings that were visually or aurally confirmed; additional fledglings may have been undetected in the habitat.

Least Bell's vireo was not detected downstream of the Santiago Creek Dam during the 2020 focused surveys. However, least Bell's vireo was incidentally observed downstream of the Santiago Creek Dam during focused surveys for Crotch's bumble bee in 2024.

On February 2, 1994, the USFWS published a final critical habitat for the least Bell's vireo, designating approximately 37,560 acres of land in Santa Barbara, Ventura, Los Angeles, San Bernardino, Riverside, and San Diego counties, California. The project site is not located in designated critical habitat for this species.

Coastal California gnatcatcher:

The coastal California gnatcatcher (*Polioptila californica*) is a federally threatened species and a California Species of Special Concern. It is a Covered species in the Central–Coastal NCCP/HCP. This species occurs in most of Baja California, Mexico's arid regions, but this subspecies is extremely localized in the United States, where it predominantly occurs in coastal regions of highly urbanized Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, and San Diego Counties. In California, this subspecies is a resident of coastal sage scrub vegetation types. The breeding season for the coastal California gnatcatcher ranges from late February to August. Nests are generally placed in a shrub about three feet above ground. Brood parasitism by brown-headed cowbirds and loss of habitat to urban development have been cited as causes of coastal California gnatcatcher population decline.

One California gnatcatcher territory was observed during the 2020 focused California gnatcatcher surveys downstream of Santiago Creek Dam. This territory included a breeding pair, which successfully fledged at least three chicks. No coastal California gnatcatchers were observed breeding upstream of the dam within the BSA during the 2022 focused surveys; however, one coastal California gnatcatcher was detected just outside the BSA. Additionally, four gnatcatcher locations were incidentally observed during vegetation mapping and the jurisdictional delineation upstream of Santiago Creek Dam. These four locations consisted of two individual juveniles, one male, and one unidentified individual. Coastal California gnatcatcher was also incidentally observed downstream of the dam during focused surveys conducted in summer 2024. Suitable habitat for this species is present throughout the BSA.

USFWS published a Revised Final Rule designating Critical Habitat for the coastal California gnatcatcher in 2007. This Revised Critical Habitat designates 197,303 acres in San Diego, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, Los Angeles, and Ventura Counties. The project is not located within the designated Revised Critical Habitat for the coastal California gnatcatcher.

Additionally, IRWD has existing take credits available through its participation in the NCCP/HCP that could be used to mitigate the Project's permanent impacts to coastal sage scrub. The proposed mitigation plan is available upon request.

Consultation:

Pursuant to Section 7 ESA, any required consultation with the USFWS will be conducted in accordance with 50 CFR part 402. The Corps is the lead Federal agency for ESA consultation for the proposed action. Any required consultation will be completed by the Corps.

As a result of coordination between the Corps and the USFWS, it was determined that formal consultation would be required for the proposed project for the two aforementioned federally listed species. Consultation between the Corps and the USFWS has been initiated and is ongoing.

ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT: The proposed structure or activity is not located in essential fish habitat.

NAVIGATION: The proposed structure or activity is not located in the vicinity of a federal navigation channel.

SECTION 408: The applicant will not require permission under Section 14 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 USC 408) because the activity, in whole or in part, would not alter, occupy, or use a Corps Civil Works project.

WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION: Water Quality Certification may be required from the Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board. An application has been made by IRWD for a section 401 Water Quality Certificate to the Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board.

NOTE: This public notice is being issued based on information furnished by the applicant. This information has not been verified or evaluated to ensure compliance with laws and regulations governing the regulatory program. The geographic extent of aquatic resources within the proposed project area that either are, or are presumed to be, within the Corps jurisdiction has been verified by Corps personnel.

EVALUATION: The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact including cumulative impacts of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefits, which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal, must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable

detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered including cumulative impacts thereof; among these are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historical properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food, and fiber production, mineral needs, considerations of property ownership, and in general, the needs and welfare of the people. Evaluation of the impact of the activity on the public interest will also include application of the guidelines promulgated by the Administrator, EPA, under authority of Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act or the criteria established under authority of Section 102(a) of the Marine Protection Research and Sanctuaries Act of 1972. A permit will be granted unless its issuance is found to be contrary to the public interest.

COMMENTS: The Corps is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, State, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps to determine whether to issue, modify, condition, or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this determination, comments are used to assess impacts to endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment (EA) and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

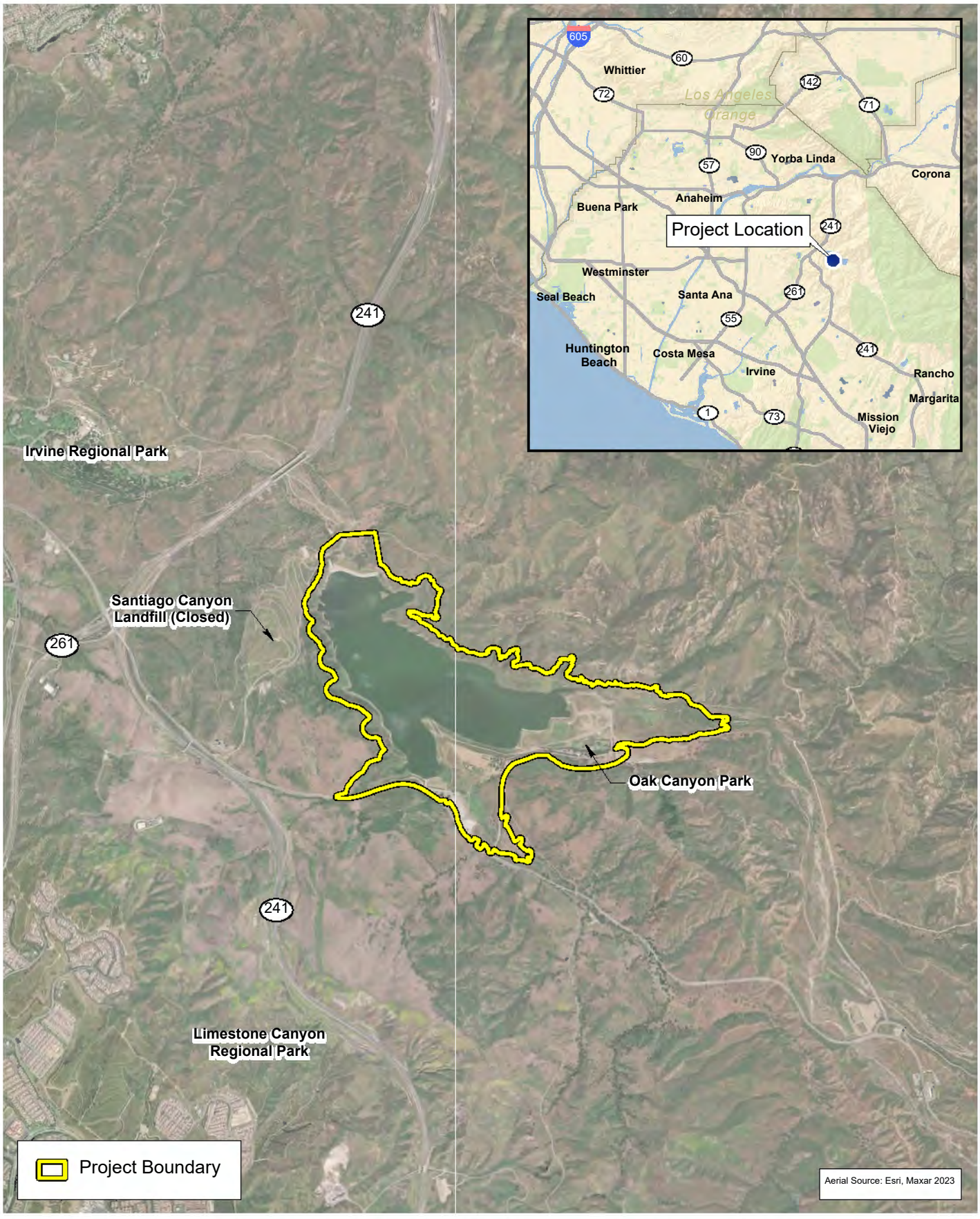
The Los Angeles District will receive written comments on the proposed work, as outlined above, until **March 22, 2026**. Comments should be submitted to Eric Sweeney at Eric.R.Sweeney@usace.army.mil.

Please refer to the permit application number in your comments.

Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider the application. Requests for public hearings shall state, with particularity, the reasons for holding a public hearing. Requests for a public hearing will be granted, unless the District Engineer determines that the issues raised are insubstantial or there is otherwise no valid interest to be served by a hearing.

Attachment 1

Exhibit 1 – Regional and Local Vicinity



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Regional and Local Vicinity

Exhibit 1

Santiago Creek Dam Improvement Project

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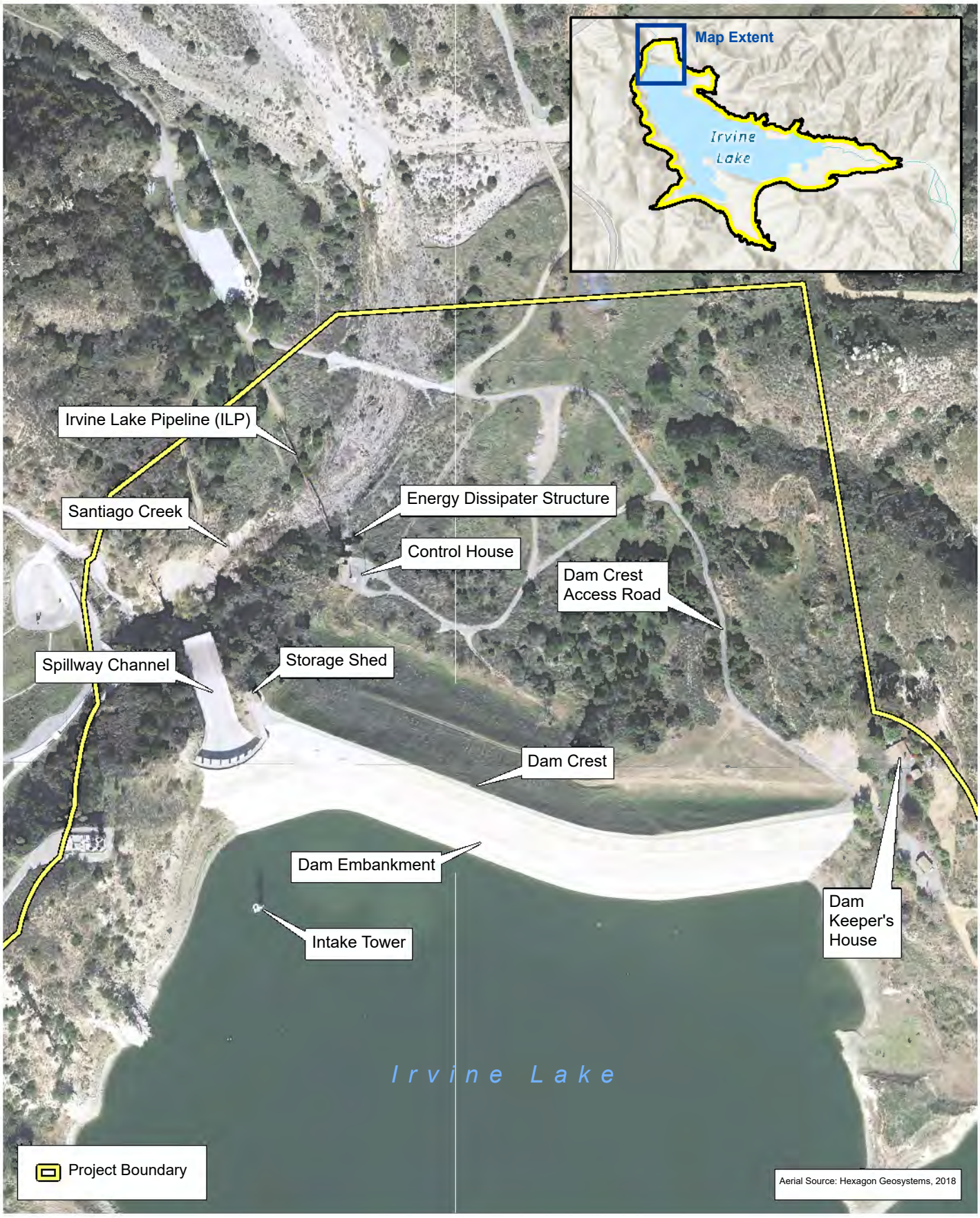
Attachment 2

Exhibit 2 – Existing Dam Features



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Existing Dam Features

Exhibit 2

Santiago Creek Dam Improvement Project

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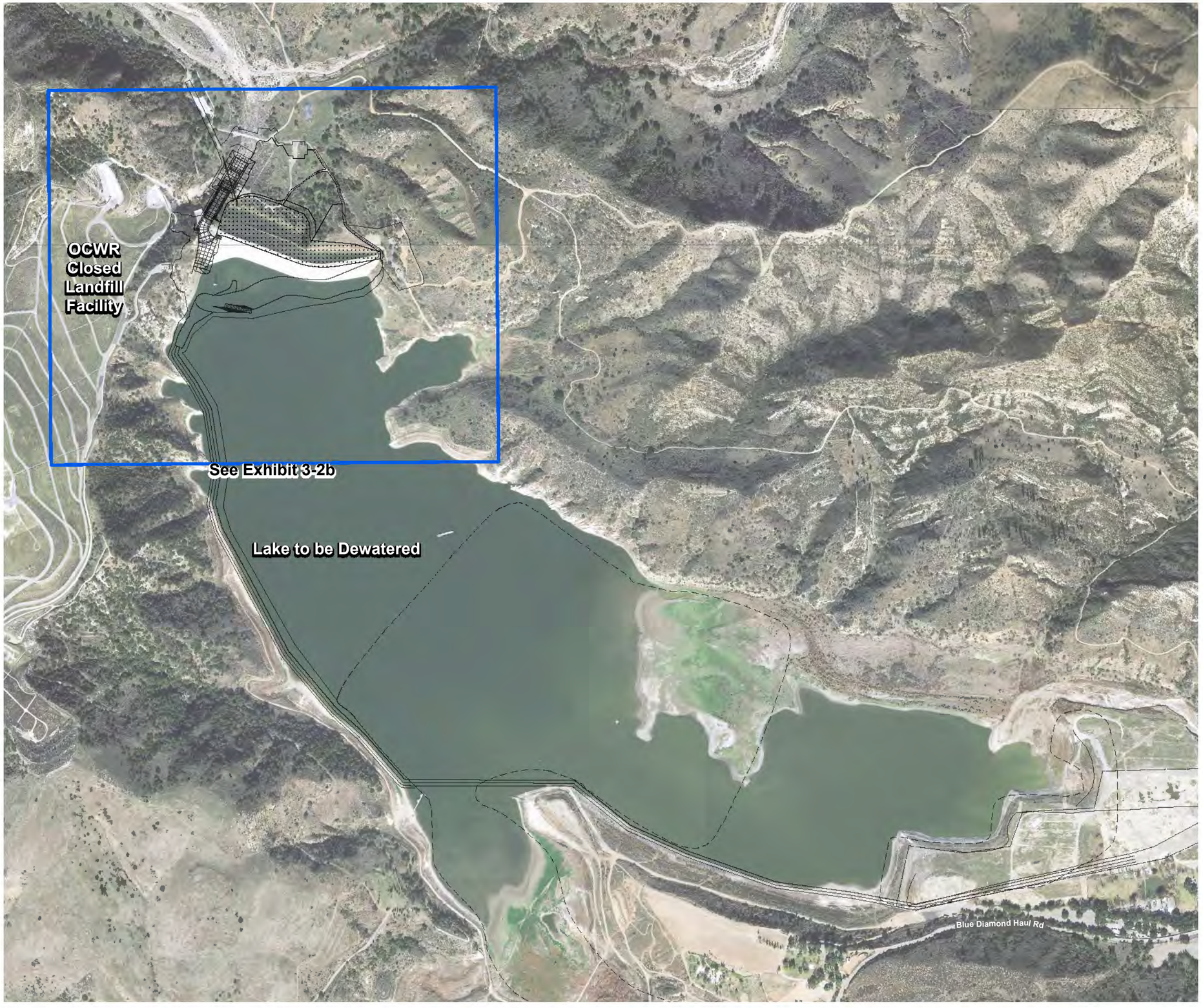
Attachment 3

Exhibit 3 – Construction Features



*Irvine Lake would be partially or fully dewatered prior to construction of the access road across the dry lake bottom.

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Aerial Source: Hexagon Geosystems 2017; Esri, Maxar 2023

Santiago Dam Construction Features

Exhibit 3a

Santiago Creek Dam Improvement Project

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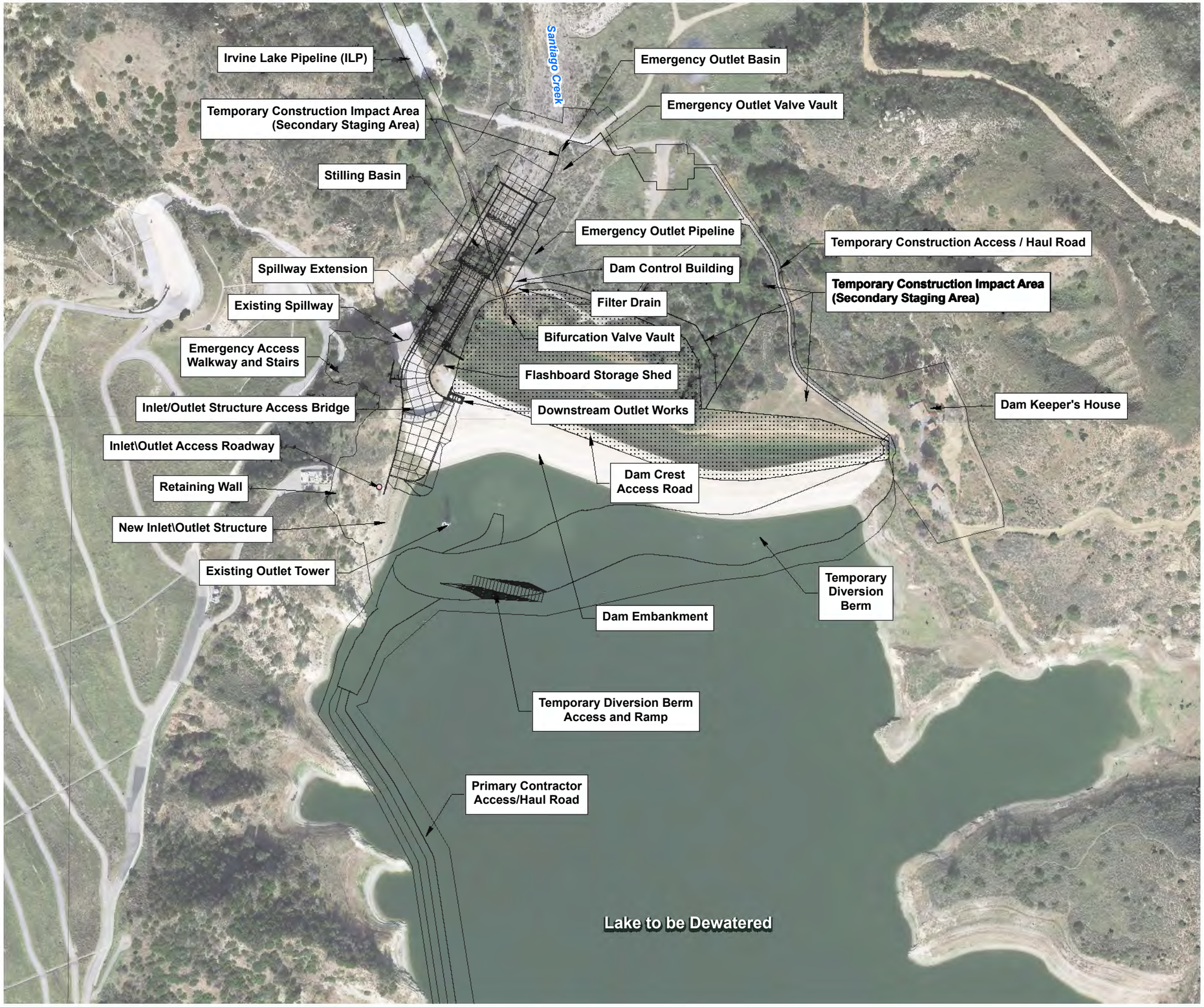

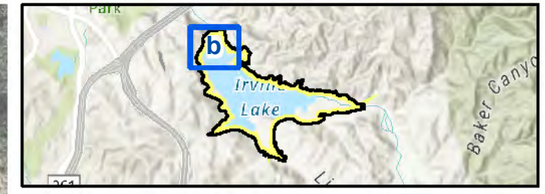

Irvine Lake would be partially or fully dewatered prior to construction of the access road across the dry lake bottom.

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Aerial Source: Hexagon Geosystems 2017; Esri, Maxar 2023

Santiago Dam Construction Features

Exhibit 3b

Santiago Creek Dam Improvement Project

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