Final

Geologic Technical Report

Shasta Lake Water Resources Investigation, California

Prepared by:

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Contents

Chapter 1 Affected Environment ... 1-1
1.1 Environmental Setting ... 1-1
1.1.1 Geology ... 1-2
1.1.2 Geologic Hazards ... 1-19
1.1.3 Geomorphology ... 1-32
1.1.4 Mineral Resources ... 1-42
1.1.5 Soils ... 1-44

Chapter 2 Bibliography ... 2-1

Tables

Table 1-1. Geologic Timescale ... 1-5
Table 1-2. Key to Bedrock Geology Map Units – Shasta Lake and Vicinity ... 1-8
Table 1-3. Stratigraphic Column of Formations of the Eastern Klamath Belt ... 1-9
Table 1-4. Areal Extent of Bedrock Types – Shasta Lake and Vicinity (Impoundment Area) ... 1-12
Table 1-5. Areal Extent of Bedrock Types – Shasta Lake and Vicinity (Relocation Areas) ... 1-14
Table 1-6. Areal Extent of Mapped Slope Instability Hazards – Shasta Lake and Vicinity (Impoundment Area) ... 1-25
Table 1-7. Areal Extent of Mapped Slope Instability Hazards – Shasta Lake and Vicinity (Relocation Areas) ... 1-25
Table 1-8. Faults, Fault Zones, and Systems Within the South-of-Delta Central Valley Project/State Water Project Service Areas ... 1-31
Table 1-9. Characteristics of Watersheds That Are Adjacent and Directly Tributary to Shasta Lake ... 1-36
Table 1-10. Key to Soil Map Units – Shasta Lake and Vicinity ... 1-48
Table 1-11. Areal Extent of Soil Map Units – Shasta Lake and Vicinity (Impoundment Area) ... 1-50
Table 1-12. Areal Extent of Soil Map Units – Shasta Lake and Vicinity (Relocation Areas) ... 1-51
Table 1-13. Summary of Soil Erosion Hazard – Shasta Lake and Vicinity (Impoundment Area) ... 1-53
Table 1-14. Summary of Soil Erosion Hazard – Shasta Lake and Vicinity (Relocation Areas) ... 1-53

Figures

Figure 1-1. Shasta Lake and Vicinity Portion of the Primary Study Area 1-3
Figure 1-2. Geomorphic Provinces of California 1-4
Figure 1-3. Bedrock Geology – Shasta Lake and Vicinity 1-7
Figure 1-4. Locations of Mapped Slope Instability Hazards – Shasta Lake and Vicinity 1-24
Figure 1-5. USGS 2008 Peak Ground Acceleration 2 Percent Chance of Exceedence in 50 Years in the Primary Study Area 1-27
Figure 1-6. Regional Stream Network and Boundaries of Watersheds that are Adjacent to Shasta Lake and Vicinity 1-34
Figure 1-7. Regional-Scale Characteristics of Streams that are Tributary to Shasta 1-35
Figure 1-8. Soil Map Units – Shasta Lake and Vicinity 1-47
Figure 1-9. Soil Types of the Central Valley 1-55

Attachments

Attachment 1 Shoreline Erosion Technical Memorandum

Abbreviations and Acronyms

Alquist-Priolo Act	Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Act
Bay Area	San Francisco Bay Area
Bay-Delta	San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta
cfs	cubic feet per second
CVP	Central Valley Project
DCC	Delta Cross Channel
Delta	Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta
EIR	Environmental Impact Report
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
HUC	Hydrologic Unit Code
ICOLD	International Commission of Large Dams
msl	mean sea level
NRA	National Recreational Area
PGA	peak ground acceleration
Reclamation	U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation
RBPP	Red Bluff Pumping Plant
RTS	Reservoir triggered seismicity
SLWRI	Shasta Lake Water Resources Investigation
STATSGO	State Soil Geographic Database
SWP	State Water Project
USDA	U.S. Department of Agriculture
USFS	U.S. Forest Service
USGS	U.S. Geological Survey

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Chapter 1 Affected Environment

This chapter describes the affected environment related to geology, seismicity, soils and erosion, mineral resources and geomorphology for the dam and reservoir modifications proposed under the Shasta Lake Water Resources Investigation (SLWRI).

The evaluation in this technical report is based on a review of existing literature and data, along with information obtained from field investigations performed to support the SLWRI (e.g., shoreline erosion surveys, wetland delineation, and geotechnical investigations and surveys). The information included in the technical analysis is also derived from the following sources:

- CALFED Bay-Delta Program Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)/Environmental Impact Report (EIR) (CALFED 2000a).
- Contra Costa Water District Alternative Intake Project Draft EIS/EIR (CCWD 2006).
- North-of-the-Delta Offstream Storage Investigation Initial Alternatives Information Report (DWR and Reclamation 2006).

1.1 Environmental Setting

For purposes of the SLWRI, the project study area has been divided into a primary study area and an extended study area. The primary study area has been further divided into Shasta Lake and vicinity and upper Sacramento River (Shasta Dam to Red Bluff). Shasta Lake and vicinity consists of lands immediately upstream from Shasta Dam, including the bed of Shasta Lake up to 1,090 feet above mean sea level (msl), which would be the gross pool elevation if the highest dam raise being considered – a raise of 18.5 feet – were implemented. Also included in the Shasta Lake and vicinity portion of the primary study area are lands above the 1,090-foot msl topographic contour which would be physically disturbed as a result of the action. These lands consist of borrow areas and areas proposed for relocation of existing uses and infrastructure including roads, bridges, buried and aboveground utilities, campgrounds, and protective dikes. Where additional specificity enhances the analyses, this technical report also references seven "arms" within Shasta Lake. Five arms are defined by the major drainages that flow into Shasta Lake: Big Backbone Creek, the Sacramento River, the McCloud River, Squaw Creek, and the Pit River. Two arms – Main Body East Arm and Main Body West Arm –

reference subdivisions of the main body of the lake that are not as well defined by drainage pattern (see Figure 1-1).

The primary study area is located in both Shasta and Tehama Counties, and includes Shasta Dam and Reservoir. All major and minor tributaries to the reservoir, and a corridor along the Sacramento River downstream to the Red Bluff Pumping Plant (RBPP), are also within the primary study area.

The extended study area extends from the RBPP south (downstream along the Sacramento River) to the Sacramento–San Joaquin Delta (Delta). Besides the Sacramento River, it also includes the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento–San Joaquin Delta (Bay-Delta) area, and the facilities and the water service areas of the Central Valley Project (CVP) and State Water Project (SWP). This extended study area includes CVP and SWP reservoirs and portions of tributaries that are downstream from these reservoirs and affect Sacramento River and Delta flows. These reservoirs and tributaries include Lake Oroville, Folsom Lake, San Luis Reservoir, New Melones Reservoir, and Trinity Reservoir, and portions of the Trinity, Feather, American, and Stanislaus Rivers. The CVP and SWP water service areas include much of the Sacramento and San Joaquin valleys, and substantial portions of the San Francisco Bay Area (Bay Area) and Southern California.

1.1.1 Geology

The geology of the study area is described below for both the primary and extended study areas. The bedrock geology of the study area is described in the following paragraphs. The boundaries of the geomorphic provinces referenced in this technical report are presented in Figure 1-2. A geologic timescale is presented in Table 1-1 as a reference for ages of formations described in this chapter.

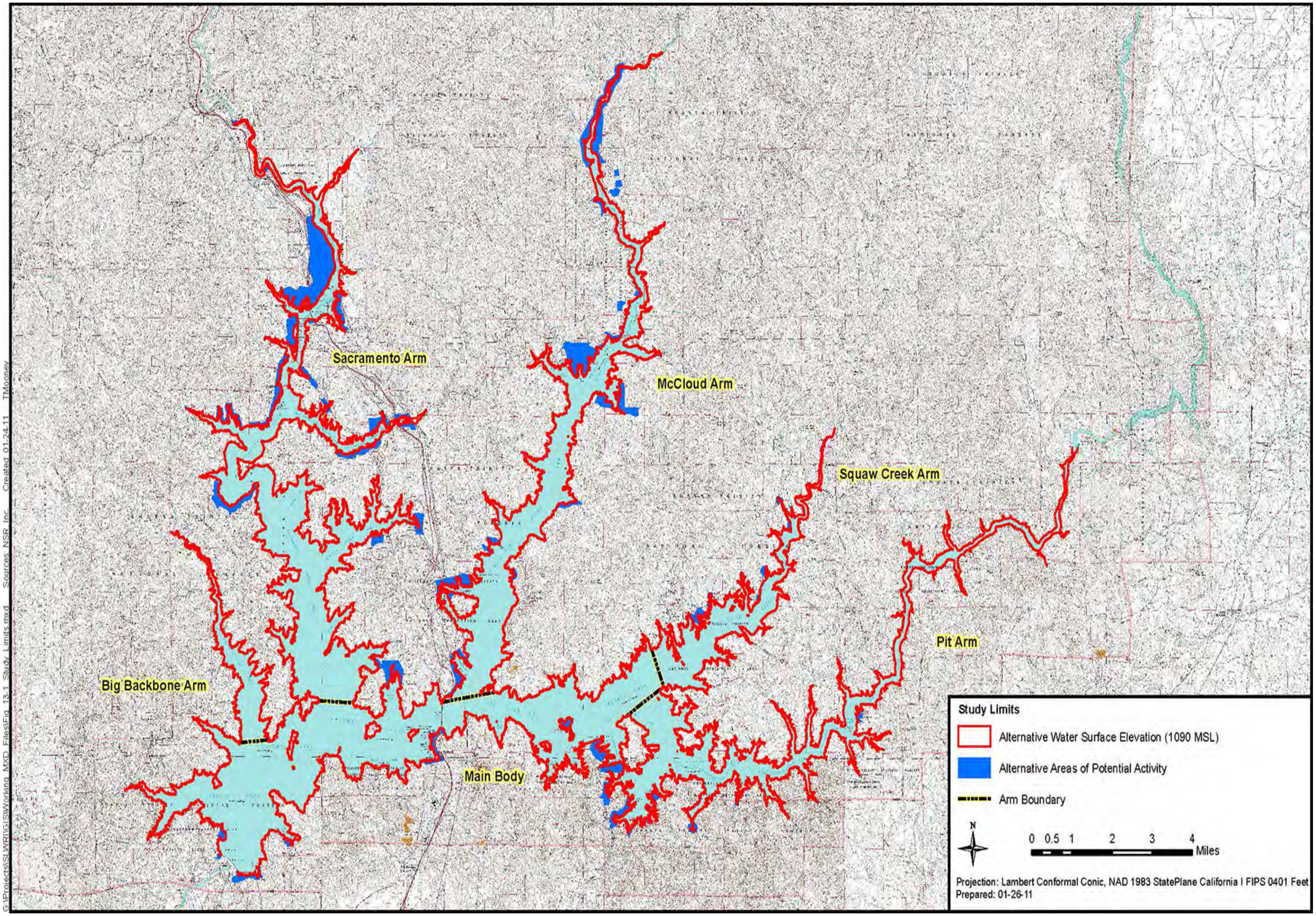
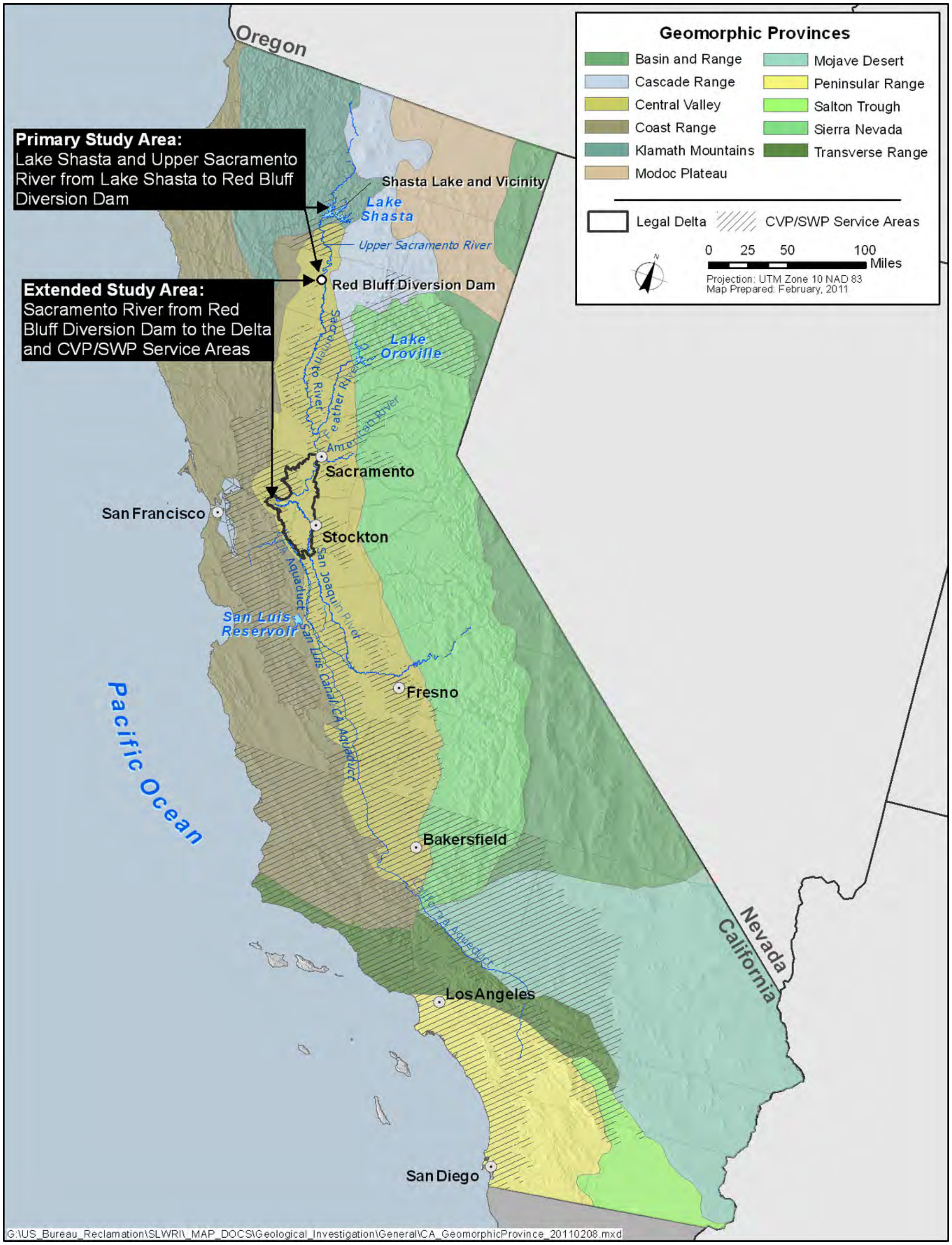


Figure 1-1. Shasta Lake and Vicinity Portion of the Primary Study Area



Source: Belitz et al. 2003

Figure 1-2. Geomorphic Provinces of California

Table 1-1. Geologic Timescale

Eon	Era	Period	Epoch
Phanerozoic	Cenozoic (65.5 million years ago to the Present)	Quaternary (1.8 million years ago to the Present)	Holocene (10 to 12 thousand years ago to the Present)
			Pleistocene (1.8 million years ago to approximately 11,477 years ago)
		Tertiary (65.5 to 1.8 million years ago)	Pliocene (5.3 to 1.8 million years ago)
			Miocene (23.0 to 5.3 million years ago)
			Oligocene (33.9 to 23.0 million years ago)
			Eocene (55.8 to 33.9 million years ago)
			Paleocene (65.5 to 55.8 million years ago)
	Mesozoic (251.0 to 65.5 million years ago)	Cretaceous (145.5 to 65.5 million years ago)	Late or Upper
			Early or Lower
		Jurassic (199.6 to 145.5 million years ago)	Late or Upper
			Middle
			Early or Lower
		Triassic (251.0 to 199.6 million years ago)	Late or Upper
			Middle
			Early or Lower
	Paleozoic (542.0 to 251.0 million years ago)	Permian (299.0 to 251.0 million years ago)	Lopingian
			Guadalupian
			Cisuralian
		Carboniferous (359.2 to 299.0 million years ago) — Pennsylvanian (318.1 to 299.0 million years ago)	Late or Upper
			Middle
			Early or Lower
		Carboniferous (359.2 to 299.0 million years ago) — Mississippian (359.2 to 318.1 million years ago)	Late or Upper
			Middle
			Early or Lower
		Devonian (416.0 to 359.2 million years ago)	Late or Upper
			Middle
			Early or Lower
		Silurian (443.7 to 416.0 million years ago)	Pridoli
			Ludlow
			Wenlock
			Llandovery
		Ordovician (488.3 to 443.7 million years ago)	Late or Upper
			Middle
			Early or Lower
		Cambrian (542.0 to 488.3 million years ago)	Late or Upper
			Middle
			Early or Lower
Proterozoic	Precambrian (approximately 4 billion years ago to 542.0 million years ago)		

Source: USGS 2007

Primary Study Area

The following sections describe the geology of the primary study area including Shasta Lake and vicinity and the upper Sacramento River (Shasta Dam to Red Bluff).

Shasta Lake and Vicinity The Shasta Lake and vicinity portion of the primary study area is illustrated in Figure 1-1. The drainages contributing to Shasta Lake cover a broad expanse of land with a widely diverse and complicated geology. Shasta Lake is situated geographically at the interface between the Central Valley, Klamath Mountains, and Modoc Plateau and Cascades geomorphic provinces.

The bedrock geology for the Shasta Lake and vicinity is shown in Figure 1-3. The mapping legend that accompanies Figure 1-3 is presented in Table 1-2. Shasta Lake itself and adjacent lands (i.e., Shasta Lake and vicinity) are underlain by rocks of the Klamath Mountains and, to a much more limited extent, the Modoc Plateau and Cascades geomorphic provinces. The regional topography is highly dissected, consisting predominantly of ridges and canyons with vertical relief ranging from the surface of Shasta Lake at 1,070 feet above msl to ridges and promontories more than 6,000 feet above msl. This diversity in topography is primarily a result of the structural and erosional characteristics of rock units in the Shasta Lake and vicinity area.

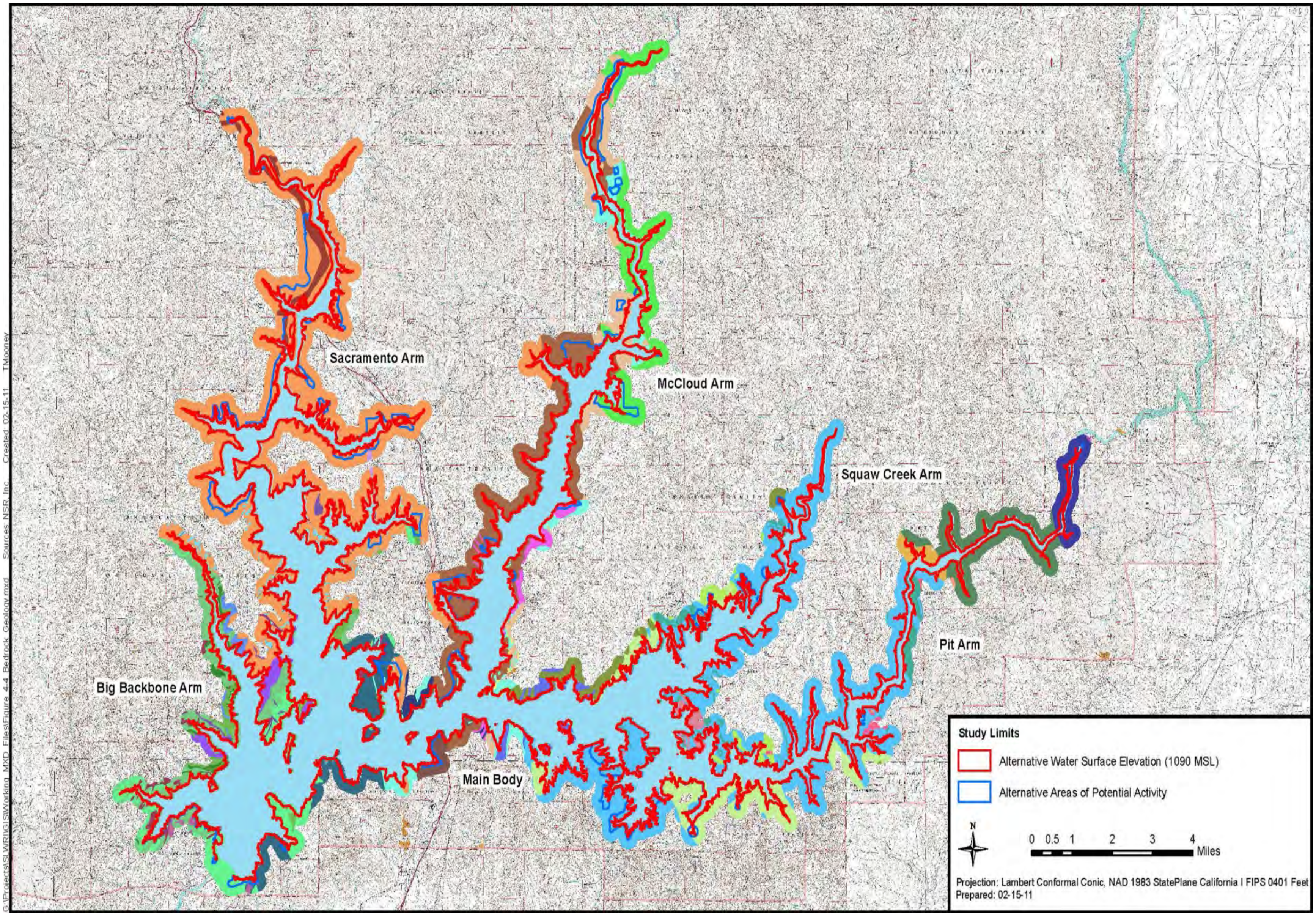


Figure 1-3. Bedrock Geology – Shasta Lake and Vicinity

Table 1-2. Key to Bedrock Geology Map Units – Shasta Lake and Vicinity

Map Unit, Formation, Description
Cb, Baird, meta-pyroclastic & keratophyre; & undiff.
Cbg, Bragdon, shale; graywacke; minor conglomerate
Cbgcp, Bragdon, chert-pebble & quartz conglomerate
Cbgp, Bragdon, pyroclastic; tuff; tuffaceous sediments
Cbgs, Bragdon, black siliceous shale
Cblss, Baird, skarn; lime silicate minerals; magnetite; locally
Cbmv, Baird, greenstone & greenstone breccia
Cbp, Baird, mafic pyroclastic rocks w/ minor tuffaceous mudsto
Db, Balaklala rhyolite, non-porphyritic & with small quartz phenocrysts (1
Dbc, Balaklala rhyolite, porphyritic with large quartz phenocrysts [>4 mm];
Dbp, Balaklala rhyolite, volcanic breccia; tuff breccia; volcanic conglomer
Dbt, Balaklala rhyolite, tuff & tuffaceous shale
Dc, Copley, greenstone; & undiff.
Dct, Copley, greenstone tuff & breccia; shaly tuff & shale
Dk, Kennett, siliceous shale & rhyolitic tuff; & undiff.
Dkls, Kennett, limestone
Dkt, Kennett, tuff; tuffaceous shale; shale
EHaev, , Andesite of Everitt Hill
Ja, Arvison, volcaniclastic & pyroclastic; & undiff.
Jp, Potem, argillite & tuffaceous sandstone; & undiff.
Pmbh, Bully Hill rhyolit, meta-andesite (quartz keratophyre); meta-dacite; p
Pmbhp, Bully Hill rhyolit, pyroclastic; tuff & tuff breccia
Pmd, , quartz diorite; albite - two pyroxene qd; mafic qd
Pmdk, Dekkas, mafic flows & tuff with minor mudstone & tuffaceou
Pmdkp, Dekkas, breccia; tuff; tuff breccia
Pmml, McCloud, limestone
Pmmls, McCloud, skarn; lime silicate minerals; magnetite; locally
Pmn, Nosoni, tuffaceous mudstone w/ lesser mafic flows; sandsto
Pmpr, Pit River stock, quartz diorite; granodiorite & plagiogranite; 261
Trh, Hosselkus Limeston, limestone; thin-bedded to massive; gray; fossilife
Trm, Modin, andesitic volcaniclastic & pyroclastic rocks; cong
Trp, Pit, shale; siltstone; metavolcanic; w/ limestone; & un
Trpmv, Pit, meta-andesite; meta-dacite; porphyritic & non-; ma
Trpp, Pit, pyroclastic; tuff & tuff breccia
Tt, Tuscan Formation, undivided: volcaniclastic; lahars; tuff; sandston
Tva, Western Cascades, andesite
Tvb, Western Cascades, basalt
di, , intermediate dikes
dia, , diabase dikes & small intrusive bodies
dpp, , plagioclase (+/- hornblende; quartz) porphyritic d
lake, , Shasta Lake; et al

Klamath Mountains Geomorphic Province The Klamath Mountains Geomorphic Province is located in northwestern California between the Coast Ranges on the west and the Cascade Range on the east. The province consists of Paleozoic meta-sedimentary and meta-volcanic rocks and Mesozoic igneous rocks that make up four individual geologic terranes, also known as belts, extending to the north into southwestern Oregon: the eastern Klamath belt (also known as the eastern Paleozoic belt), central metamorphic belt, western Paleozoic and Triassic belt, and western Jurassic belt (Snoke and Barnes 2008; Hildbrande 2013). The four belts are the remnants of a chain of submarine volcanic mountains folded and faulted against the North American tectonic plate during the Mesozoic era (Heller and Ryberg 1983; Orr et al. 1992; Orr and Orr 1996). Low-angle thrust faults occur between the belts and allow the eastern blocks to be pushed westward and upward. The central metamorphic belt consists of Paleozoic hornblende, mica schists, and ultramafic rocks. The western Paleozoic and Triassic belt, and the western Jurassic belt consist of slightly metamorphosed sedimentary and volcanic rocks.

A large portion of the Shasta Lake and vicinity area is underlain by rocks of the eastern Klamath belt. The strata of the eastern belt constitute a column 40,000 – 50,000 feet thick, and represent the time from the Ordovician period (about 490 million years before present) to the Jurassic period (about 145 million years before present). The stratigraphic column of formations that compose the eastern Klamath belt, including a scale of geologic time, is shown in Table 1-3 (Hackel 1966). Important eastern belt rocks that underlie Shasta Lake and vicinity include metavolcanics of Devonian age (i.e., Copley Greenstone and Balaklala Rhyolite Formations), metasedimentary rocks of Mississippian age (i.e., Bragdon Formation), thin-bedded to massive sedimentary rocks of Permian age (i.e., McCloud Limestone Formation), and metasedimentary and metavolcanic rocks of Triassic age (i.e., Pit, Modin, and Bully Hill Rhyolite Formations) (Reclamation 2009). Intrusive igneous rocks (e.g., localized granitic bodies) make up fewer than 5 percent of the rocks in the area but are well represented on the Shasta Lake shoreline, particularly in the south-central area of the lake. Mesozoic intrusive dikes are scattered in the western portion of the map area.

Table 1-3. Stratigraphic Column of Formations of the Eastern Klamath Belt

Period/Age Before Present (million years)	Formation	Thickness (feet)	General Features
Jurassic 145-200 my	Potem Formation	1,000	Argillite and tuffaceous sandstones, with minor beds of conglomerate, pyroclastics, and limestone.
	Bagley Andesite	700	Andesitic flows and pyroclastics.
	Arvison Formation of Sanborn (1953)	5,090	Interbedded volcanic breccia, conglomerate, tuff, and minor andesitic lava flows.

Table 1-3. Stratigraphic Column of Formations of the Eastern Klamath Belt (contd.)

Period/Age Before Present (million years)	Formation	Thickness (feet)	General Features
Triassic 200-250 my	Modin Formation	5,500	Basal member of volcanic conglomerate, breccia, tuff, and porphyry, with limestone fragments from the Hosselkus formation.
	Brock Shale	400	Dark massive argillite interlayered with tuff or tuffaceous sandstone.
	Hosselkus Limestone	0-250	Thin-bedded to massive light-gray limestone.
	Pit Formation	2,000-4,400	Predominantly dark shale and siltstone, with abundant lenses of metadacite and quartz-keratophyre tuffs.
	Bully Hill Rhyolite	100-2,500	Lava flows and pyroclastic rocks, with subordinate hypabyssal intrusive bodies.
Permian 250-300 my	Dekkas Andesite	1,000-3,500	Chiefly fragmental lava and pyroclastic rocks, but includes mudstone and tuffaceous sandstone.
	Nosoni Formation	0-2,000	Mudstone and fine-grained tuff, with minor coarse mafic pyroclastic rocks and lava.
	McCloud Limestone	0-2,500	Thin-bedded to massive light-gray limestone, with local beds and nodules of chert.
Carboniferous 300-360 my	Baird Formation	3,000-5,000	Pyroclastic rocks, mudstone, and keratophyre flows in lower part; siliceous mudstone, with minor limestone, chert, and tuff in middle part; and greenstone, quartz, keratophyre, and mafic pyroclastic rocks and flow breccia in upper part.
	Bragdon Formation	6,000±	Interbedded shale and sandstone, with grit and chert-pebble conglomerate abundant in upper part.
Devonian 360-420 my	Kennett Formation	0-400	Dark, thin-bedded, siliceous mudstone and tuff.
	Balaklala Rhyolite	0-3,500	Light-colored quartz-keratophyre flows and pyroclastics.
	Copley Greenstone	3,700+	Keratophyric and spilitic pillow lavas and pyroclastic rocks.
Silurian 420-450 my	Gazelle Formation	2,400+	Siliceous graywackes, mudstone, chert-pebble conglomerate, tuff, and limestone.
Ordovician 450-490 my	Duzel Formation	1,250+	Thinly layered phyllitic greywacke, locally with radiolarian chert and limestone.

The McCloud Limestone is prominently exposed within the McCloud, Pit, Main Body, and Big Backbone arms of Shasta Lake. Within the lake footprint, the McCloud Arm has the largest exposure of this limestone, followed by the Pit, Main Body, and Big Backbone arms. Along the McCloud Arm, this limestone crops out on the eastern shore from the mouth at the main body of the lake to Hirz Bay. Above Hirz Bay, it is intermittently exposed on both sides of the McCloud Arm. Along the Pit Arm near the mouth of Brock Creek, the McCloud Limestone is exposed along the north and southern banks. The McCloud Limestone is exposed near the southern shore of Allie Cove in the eastern portion of the Main Body of the lake. Along the Big Backbone Arm, the

McCloud Limestone is exposed near the eastern shore between the outlets of Shoemaker and Limerock creeks. Outside the Shasta Lake footprint, an outcrop of the McCloud Limestone is exposed along the McCloud River approximately 10 miles upstream from the mouth into the McCloud Arm. The McCloud Limestone is also exposed on the north side of Bohemotash Mountain, which is approximately 2 miles from the mouth of Big Backbone Creek at the Big Backbone Arm.

"Skarn" is a geologic term that refers to metamorphic rocks formed in the contact zone of magmatic intrusions (e.g., granite) with carbonate-rich rocks (e.g., limestone.) Skarn deposits are rich in lime-silicate minerals, and locally contain magnetite. Permian-aged skarn deposits are present within the McCloud Arm. The deposits are located near the mouths of Marble and Potter creeks and on the peninsula at the eastern margin of the inlet of the McCloud Arm. The skarn deposits occur adjacent to the McCloud Limestone at the mouths of Marble and Potter creeks, but the McCloud Limestone is absent near skarn deposits on the peninsula.

A small area of the fossiliferous Cretaceous Chico Formation, consisting of Great Valley marine sedimentary rocks, occurs near Jones Valley Creek, a tributary to the Pit Arm. Although this rock unit occurs in the immediate vicinity, it is not exposed along the shoreline of the lake and falls outside the Shasta Lake and vicinity area. Some outcrops of McCloud Limestone, especially in the vicinity of the McCloud River Bridge, are also fossiliferous.

Modoc Plateau and Cascades Geomorphic Provinces The Cascade Range and Modoc Plateau together cover approximately 13,000 square miles in the northeast corner of California. The Cascade Range and Modoc Plateau (collectively the Modoc Plateau and Cascades Geomorphic Province) are very similar geologically and consist of young volcanic rocks that are of Miocene to Pleistocene age. Included in this province are two stratovolcanoes, Mount Shasta and Lassen Peak, and the Medicine Lake Highlands, a broad shield volcano.

The Cascade volcanics have been divided into the Western Cascade series and the High Cascade series. The Western Cascade series rocks consists of Miocene-aged basalt, andesite, and dacite flows interlayered with rocks of explosive origin, including rhyolite tuff, volcanic breccia, and agglomerate. This series is exposed at the surface in a belt 15 miles wide and 50 miles long from the Oregon border to the town of Mount Shasta. After a short period of uplift and erosion that extended into the Pliocene, volcanism resumed creating the High Cascade volcanic series. The High Cascade volcanic series forms a belt 40 miles wide and 150 miles long just east of the Western Cascade series rocks. Early High Cascade rocks formed from very fluid basalt and andesite that extruded from fissures to form low shield volcanoes. Later eruptions during the Pleistocene contained more silica, causing more violent eruptions. Large stratovolcanoes like Mount Shasta and Lassen Peak had their origins during the Pleistocene (Norris and Webb 1990).

The Modoc Plateau consists of a high plain of irregular volcanic rocks of basaltic origin. The numerous shield volcanoes and extensive faulting on the plateau give the area more relief than otherwise may be expected for a plateau. The Modoc Plateau averages 4,500 feet in elevation and is considered a small part of the Columbia Plateau, which covers extensive areas of Oregon, Washington, and Idaho.

Volcanic rocks of the Modoc Plateau and Cascades Geomorphic Province are present adjacent to the eastern and northeastern boundaries of the Shasta Lake and vicinity area. In the vicinity of Shasta Lake they occur near the Pit Arm and along the upper reaches of the Sacramento Arm. These rocks are generally younger than 4 million years old. Volcaniclastic rocks, and tuffs of the Tuscan Formation occur in the Pit River area, and localized volcanic deposits occur in isolated locations.

The areal extent of bedrock types within the Shasta Lake and Vicinity area is presented in Table 1-4 for the portion of the area between 1,070 feet and 1,090 feet above msl (i.e., Impoundment Area), and in Table 1-5 for the portion potentially disturbed by construction activities (i.e., Relocation Areas.)

Table 1-4. Areal Extent of Bedrock Types – Shasta Lake and Vicinity (Impoundment Area)

Map Unit	Formation	Bedrock Types	Acres	% of Total Impoundment Area
Cb	Baird	Meta-pyroclastic and keratophyre	145.3	5.82%
Cbg	Bragdon	Shale; graywacke; minor conglomerate	468.9	18.77%
Cbgcp	Bragdon	Chert-pebble and quartz conglomerate	3.3	0.13%
Cbgs	Bragdon	Black siliceous shale	0.0	0.00%
Cblss	Baird	Skarn; lime silicate minerals	1.2	0.05%
Cbmv	Baird	Greenstone and greenstone breccia	6.7	0.27%
Cbp	Baird	Mafic pyroclastic rocks	4.8	0.19%
Db	Balaklala rhyolite	Rhyolite with non-porphyritic texture including small quartz phenocrysts	52.8	2.11%
Dbc	Balaklala rhyolite	Rhyolite with porphyritic texture including large quartz phenocrysts	3.3	0.13%
Dbp	Balaklala rhyolite	Volcanic breccia; tuff breccia; volcanic conglomer	12.9	0.52%
Dbt	Balaklala rhyolite	Tuff and tuffaceous shale	5.9	0.24%
Dc	Copley	Greenstone and undiff.	48.9	1.96%
Dct	Copley	Greenstone tuff and breccia	33.4	1.34%

Table 1-4. Areal Extent of Bedrock Types – Shasta Lake and Vicinity (Impoundment Area) (contd.)

Map Unit	Formation	Bedrock Types	Acres	% of Total Impoundment Area
di		Intermediate dikes	0.6	0.02%
dia		Diabase dikes	0.2	0.01%
Dk	Kennett	Siliceous shale and rhyolitic tuff	20.0	0.80%
Dkls	Kennett	Limestone	1.9	0.07%
Dkt	Kennett	Tuff; tuffaceous shale; shale	11.2	0.45%
dpp		Plagioclase-rich diabase dikes	0.7	0.03%
Ehaev		Andesite	17.9	0.72%
Ja	Arvison	Volcaniclastic and pyroclastic	9.6	0.38%
lake	Shasta Lake		924.0	36.99%
Pmbh	Bully Hill rhyolite	Meta-andesite	84.6	3.39%
Pmbhp	Bully Hill rhyolite	Pyroclastic; tuff and tuff breccia	11.0	0.44%
Pmd		Quartz diorite	47.5	1.90%
Pmdk	Dekkas	Mafic flows and tuff	18.9	0.76%
Pmdkp	Dekkas	Breccia; tuff; tuff breccia	16.7	0.67%
Pmml	McCloud	Limestone	26.7	1.07%
Pmmls	McCloud	Skarn	2.2	0.09%
Pmn	Nosoni	Tuffaceous mudstone	66.4	2.66%
Pmpr	Pit River Stock	Quartz diorite; granodiorite	11.2	0.45%
Trh	Hosselkus Limestone	Limestone	7.5	0.30%
Trm	Modin	Andesitic volcaniclastic and pyroclastic rocks	27.9	1.12%
Trp	Pit	Shale; siltstone; metavolcanic; with limestone	374.8	15.00%
Trpmv	Pit	Meta-andesite; meta-dacite	12.0	0.48%
Trpp	Pit	Pyroclastic; tuff and tuff breccia	16.6	0.66%
Tva	Western Cascades	Andesite	0.5	0.02%

Table 1-5. Areal Extent of Bedrock Types – Shasta Lake and Vicinity (Relocation Areas)

Map Unit	Formation	Bedrock Types	Acres	% of Total Relocation Area
Cb	Baird	Meta-pyroclastic and keratophyre	530.8	15.90%
Cbg	Bragdon	Shale; graywacke; minor conglomerate	1088.4	32.59%
Cbgcp	Bragdon	Chert-pebble and quartz conglomerate	0.6	0.02%
Cbmv	Baird	Greenstone and greenstone breccia	25.6	0.77%
Db	Balaklala rhyolite	Rhyolite with non-porphyritic texture including small quartz phenocrysts	9.8	0.29%
Dbc	Balaklala rhyolite	Rhyolite with porphyritic texture including large quartz phenocrysts	7.8	0.23%
Dbp	Balaklala rhyolite	Volcanic breccia; tuff breccia; volcanic conglomerate	3.9	0.12%
Dbt	Balaklala rhyolite	Tuff and tuffaceous shale	1.1	0.03%
Dc	Copley	Greenstone and undiff.	61.5	1.84%
Dct	Copley	Greenstone tuff and breccia	84.9	2.54%
Dk	Kennett	Siliceous shale and rhyolitic tuff	10.3	0.31%
Dkls	Kennett	Limestone	0.4	0.01%
Dkt	Kennett	Tuff; tuffaceous shale; shale	0.0	0.00%
Ehaev		Andesite	261.4	7.83%
Ja	Arvison	Volcaniclastic and pyroclastic	0.7	0.02%
lake	Shasta Lake		242.0	7.25%
Pmbh	Bully Hill rhyolite	Meta-andesite	53.0	1.59%
Pmbhp	Bully Hill rhyolite	Pyroclastic; tuff and tuff breccia	7.5	0.22%
Pmd		Quartz diorite	100.5	3.01%
Pmdk	Dekkas	Mafic flows and tuff	8.8	0.26%
Pmdkp	Dekkas	Breccia; tuff; tuff breccia	18.5	0.55%
Pmml	McCloud	Limestone	174.9	5.24%
Pmn	Nosoni	Tuffaceous mudstone	182.5	5.46%
Pmpr	Pit River Stock	Quartz diorite; granodiorite	42.8	1.28%
Trp	Pit	Shale; siltstone; metavolcanic; wi limestone	408.5	12.23%
Trpp	Pit	Pyroclastic; tuff and tuff breccia	11.5	0.34%
Tva	Western Cascades	Andesite	2.0	0.06%

Cave and Karst Resources

Karst geomorphology is named after the Karst region in Slovenia, where limestone has been geologically carved into world-famous caves and other karst landforms. Caves and karst landforms are found along the Big Backbone Arm, the McCloud Arm, and the Pit Arm (Brock Creek).

Nine caves in the National Recreational Area (NRA) adjacent to Shasta Lake—Dekkas Rock Staircase Cave, Lake Level Cave, Clay Doe Cave, Jolly Time Cave, Blanchet Cave, two caves known as the McCloud Bridge Caves, and two caves known as the Town Mountain Caves—could be periodically inundated under the action alternatives (USFS 2012). The first three of these caves are registered under the Federal Cave Resource Protection Act of 1988. Dekkas Rock Staircase and the two McCloud Bridge caves are already periodically inundated under the current elevation of the dam. Field investigations performed to date have not identified any other caves that would be affected by the raising of Shasta Dam.

Upper Sacramento River (Shasta Dam to Red Bluff) Shasta Dam and Reservoir are located on the northern edge of California's Central Valley, which is almost completely enclosed by mountains, and has only one outlet, through San Francisco Bay, to the Pacific Ocean. The valley is nearly 500 miles long and averages 120 miles wide. The Central Valley is drained by the Sacramento River in the northern portion and the San Joaquin River and Tulare Lake tributaries in the southern portion.

Downstream from the dam, the Sacramento River travels south to the Delta, picking up additional flows from numerous tributaries, including Cottonwood Creek, Battle Creek, Feather, Yuba, and American Rivers. The Sacramento River basin covers approximately 27,000 square miles and is about 240 miles long and up to 150 miles wide. Ground surface elevations measure approximately 1,070 feet at the maximum water surface elevation at Shasta Lake, decreasing toward the relatively flat southern portion of the Sacramento River basin.

The portion of the primary study area along the Sacramento River downstream to the RBPP encompasses portions of the Cascade Range, Klamath Mountains, and Central Valley Geomorphic Provinces (see Figure 1-2). Descriptions of the Cascade Range and Klamath Mountains geomorphic provinces are provided in the Shasta Lake and vicinity discussion above.

Central Valley Geomorphic Province The Central Valley Geomorphic Province is a large, asymmetrical, northwest-trending, structural trough formed between the uplands of the California Coast Ranges to the west and the Sierra Nevada to the east, and is approximately 400 miles long and 50 miles wide (Page 1985). The Coast Ranges to the west consist of pre-Tertiary and Tertiary semiconsolidated to consolidated marine sedimentary rocks, volcanic rocks, and exposed uplifted oceanic rocks of the Franciscan Complex. The Coast Ranges sediments are folded and faulted and extend eastward beneath most of the Central Valley. The Sierra Nevada to the east side of the valley is composed of pre-Tertiary igneous and metamorphic rocks overlain by Tertiary volcanic and sedimentary rocks. Before the rise of the Coast Ranges, approximately 25,000 feet of pre-Tertiary marine sediments were deposited in the sea. The marine deposits continued to accumulate in the Sacramento Valley until the Miocene

Epoch, and portions of the San Joaquin Valley until late Pliocene, when the sea receded from the valley. The continental alluvial deposits from the Coast Ranges and the Sierra Nevada began to collect in the newly formed valley. This trough has been filled with a tremendously thick sequence of sediments ranging in age from Jurassic to Recent that extends approximately 6 vertical miles in the San Joaquin Valley and 10 vertical miles in the Sacramento Valley (Page 1985).

Along the western side of the Sacramento Valley, rocks of the Central Valley Geomorphic Province include Upper Jurassic to Cretaceous marine sedimentary rocks of the Great Valley Sequence; fluvial deposits of the Tertiary Tehama Formation; Quaternary Red Bluff, Riverbank, and Modesto formations; and Recent alluvium.

The Great Valley Sequence was formed from sediments deposited within a trough formed between the Sierra Nevada volcanic arc and the uplifted oceanic crust now known as the Franciscan Complex of the Coast Ranges. A majority of the sediments in this trough were coalescing submarine fans. The sediment sources were the Klamath Mountains and Sierra Nevada to the north and east. These deposits include mudstones, sandstones, and conglomerates.

The mudstones of the Great Valley Sequence are typically dark gray to black. Generally, the mudstones are thinly laminated and have closely spaced and pervasive joints. When fresh, the mudstones are hard, but exposed areas weather and slake readily.

Fresh sandstones encountered in the Great Valley Sequence are typically light green to gray; weathered sandstones are typically tan to brown. They are considered to be graywackes in some places because of the percentage of fine-grained interstitial material. Sandstone beds range from thinly laminated to massive. In many places, the sandstones are layered with beds of conglomerates, siltstones, and mudstones. Massive sandstones are indurated, have widely spaced joints, and form the backbone of most of the ridges.

Conglomerates found are closely associated with the massive sandstones and consist of lenticular and discontinuous beds varying in thickness from a few feet to more than 100 feet. Conglomerate clasts range in size from pebbles to boulders and comprise primarily chert, volcanic rocks, granitic rocks, and sandstones set in a matrix of cemented sand and clay. The conglomerates are similar to the sandstones in hardness and jointing.

Tertiary and Quaternary fluvial sedimentary deposits unconformably overlie the Great Valley Sequence. The Pliocene Tehama Formation is the oldest. It is derived from erosion of the Coast Ranges and Klamath Mountains and consists of pale green to tan semiconsolidated silt, clay, sand, and gravel. Along the western margin of the valley, the Tehama Formation is generally thin, discontinuous, and deeply weathered.

The Quaternary Red Bluff Formation comprises reddish poorly sorted gravel with thin interbeds of reddish clay. The Red Bluff Formation is a broad erosional surface, or pediment, of low relief formed on the Tehama Formation between 0.45 and 1.0 million years ago. Thickness varies to about 30 feet. The pediment is an excellent datum to assess Pleistocene deformation because of its original widespread occurrence and low relief.

Alluvium is defined as loose sedimentary deposit of clay, silt, sand, gravel, and boulders. They may be deposits originating from landslides, colluvium, stream channel deposits, and floodplain deposits. Landslides occur along the project area but are generally small, shallow debris slides or debris flows.

Stream channel deposits generally consist of unconsolidated sand and gravel, with minor amounts of silt and clay. Floodplain deposits are finer grained and consist almost entirely of silt and clay (DWR 2003).

Stream terraces form flat benches adjacent to and above the active stream channel. Up to nine different stream terrace levels have been identified in the Great Valley. Terrace deposits consist of 2 to 10 feet of clay, silt, and sand overlying a basal layer of coarser alluvium containing sand, gravel, cobbles, and boulders. Four terrace levels have been given formational names by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) (Helley and Harwood 1985) – the Upper Modesto, Lower Modesto, Upper Riverbank, and Lower Riverbank – and they range in age from 10,000 to several hundred thousand years old.

Extended Study Area

The extended study area includes the Sacramento River Basin downstream from the RBPP to the Delta, the Delta itself, the San Joaquin River Basin to the Delta, portions of the American River basin, and the CVP and SWP service areas. Geology in the extended study area is described below.

Lower Sacramento River and Delta The segment of the extended study area along the lower Sacramento River and the Delta encompasses the Central Valley Geomorphic Province. The Central Valley geomorphic province is described above in the description of geology of the upper Sacramento River (Shasta Dam to Red Bluff). The Central Valley geomorphic province has a long, stable eastern shelf that is supported by metamorphic and igneous rocks of the west-dipping Sierran slope. The basement rocks of the western edge of the structural trough comprise Jurassic metamorphic, ultramafic, and igneous rocks of the Franciscan Complex (Hackel 1966). The northwest-trending axis of the syncline is closer to the west side of the valley; therefore, the regional dip of the formations on the east side is less than that of the formations on the west side. This structural trough has been filled with sediments derived from both marine and continental sources. The thickness of the valley fill ranges from thin sections along the valley edges to sections greater than 40,000 feet in the central part of the valley. The marine deposits were formed in offshore shallow ocean shelf and basin environments. Continental sediments were derived from mountain ranges surrounding the valley, and were deposited in lacustrine, fluvial, and alluvial environments (Norris and Webb 1990).

The Delta is a broad depression in the Franciscan Complex bedrock that resulted from an east-west expansion of the San Andreas and Hayward fault systems, filled by sediments deposited over many millions of years via the Sacramento and San Joaquin rivers and other tributary rivers and streams.

CVP/SWP Service Areas The extended study area, which contains the CVP and SWP service areas, encompasses much of the Sacramento and San Joaquin valleys and substantial portions of the Bay Area and Southern California. Thus, the extended study area encompasses portions of all of the geomorphic provinces of California, except the Basin and Range and Colorado Desert. The geomorphic provinces encompassed in the CVP and SWP service areas include the Central Valley, Sierra Nevada, Coast Ranges, Cascade Range, Peninsular Ranges, Transverse Ranges, Mojave Desert, Modoc Plateau, and Klamath Mountains. Descriptions of the Central Valley, Cascade Range, Modoc Plateau, and Klamath Mountains geomorphic provinces are provided above.

Sierra Nevada Geomorphic Province The Sierra Nevada extends approximately 400 miles long and is bordered to the north by the Cascade Range. The Sierra Nevada geomorphic province is a tilted fault block that consists of rocks early Paleozoic (Cambrian to Ordovician) to more recent Phanerozoic (Holocene) in age. The Sierra Nevada contains a portion of the CVP and SWP service areas within the western San Joaquin Valley.

Coast Ranges Geomorphic Province The Coast Ranges consist of ranges and valleys that trend northwest, subparallel to the San Andreas Fault, and are composed of Mesozoic and Cenozoic sedimentary strata and some localized volcanism (e.g., Clear Lake caldera). The Bay Area is located within the Coast Ranges and occupies a structural trough that formed during the late Cenozoic when it was part of a great drainage basin of the ancestral San Joaquin, Sacramento, and Coyote rivers. The bay was formed between 10,000 and 25,000 years ago, when the polar ice caps melted at the end of the fourth glacial period. Sea level rose in response to the melting of the ice caps. As the ocean rose, it flooded river valleys inland of the Golden Gate Bridge, forming San Francisco Bay, San Pablo Bay, and Suisun Bay.

The Coast Ranges also contain a portion of the CVP and SWP service areas within the eastern San Joaquin Valley and a portion of the south-of-Delta CVP and SWP service areas.

Peninsular Ranges Geomorphic Province The Peninsular Ranges consist of a series of ranges that are separated by northwest trending valleys, subparallel to faults that branch from the San Andreas Fault, and are bound on the east by the Colorado Desert. The Peninsular Ranges contains a portion of the southern section of the south-of-Delta CVP and SWP service areas.

Transverse Ranges Geomorphic Province The Transverse Ranges extend across a series of steep mountain ranges and valley and trend from east to west. The Transverse Ranges encompass a relatively small area within California, but they contain the greatest number of rock types and structures of all the geomorphic provinces in California, from the Proterozoic to the Phanerozoic (Norris and Webb 1990). The Transverse Ranges contains a portion of the southern section of the south-of-Delta CVP and SWP service areas.

Mojave Desert Geomorphic Province The Mojave Desert Geomorphic Province consists of isolated mountain ranges separated by desert plains. The topography of the Mojave Desert is controlled by two faults, the San Andreas Fault, trending northwest to southeast and the Garlock Fault, trending east to west (Wagner 2002). The Mojave Desert Geomorphic Province contains Proterozic, Paleozoic, and lower Mesozoic rocks with scarce quantities of Triassic and Jurassic marine sediments (Norris and Web 1990). The Mojave Desert contains a portion of the southern section of the south-of-Delta CVP and SWP service areas.

1.1.2 Geologic Hazards

Geologic hazards are described below for both the primary and extended study areas.

Primary Study Area

The following sections describe geologic hazards of the primary study area, including Shasta Lake and vicinity and the upper Sacramento River (Shasta Dam to Red Bluff).

Shasta Lake and Vicinity Six types of geologic hazards have potential to occur within the Shasta Lake and vicinity project area: seismic hazards, volcanic eruptions and associated hazards, snow avalanches, slope instability, and seiches.

Seismic Hazards Seismic hazards consist of the effects of ground shaking and surface rupture along and around the trace of an active fault. Ground shaking is the most hazardous effect of earthquakes because it is the most widespread and accompanies all earthquakes. Ground shaking can range from high to low intensity and is often responsible for structural failure leading to the largest loss of life and property damage during an earthquake. The Modified Mercalli intensity ratings reflect the relationship between earthquake magnitudes and shaking intensity. Higher magnitude earthquakes typically produce higher shaking intensities over wider areas, which may result in greater damage.

Surface rupture occurs when an earthquake results in ground rupture, causing horizontal and/or vertical displacement. Surface rupture typically is narrow in rock and wider in saturated soils, and also typically tends to occur along previous fault lines.

An active fault is defined by the Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Act (Alquist-Priolo Act) as a fault that has caused surface rupture within the last 11,000 years. According to the California Geological Survey's Alquist-Priolo Act Active Fault Maps, the nearest active fault north of the Shasta Lake and vicinity area is the Hat Creek–Mayfield–McArthur Fault Zone, located about 50 miles to the northeast of Shasta Dam (Jennings 1975). Blakeslee and Katterhorn (2013) refer to it as the Hat Creek fault system. The Hat Creek fault system can be readily seen electronically on the California Geological Survey Web site: http://www.quake.ca.gov/gmaps/WH/regulatorymaps.htm using "Shasta" in the search query. This fault system is composed of numerous parallel north-northwest– trending normal faults. According to the Alquist-Priolo Act maps, the Hat Creek–Mayfield–McArthur fault is capable of generating magnitude 7.0 earthquakes with a return period of 750 years (Petersen et al. 1996). The Rocky Ledge and Pittville faults appear to also be part of the Hat Creek fault system, as shown on the California Geological Survey Web site. Blakeslee and Katterhorn independently found a magnitude of 6.7 with a return interval of 667 ±167 years for the Hat Creek fault system. The USGS hazard assessment for the Hat Creek fault system ranges between a magnitude of 6.7 and 7.2 for the different faults in the fault system (http://geohazards.usgs.gov/cfusion/hazfaults_search/disp_hf_info.cfm?cfault_id=8,%209). However, as addressed in Blakeslee and Katterhorn, there is no historic record (i.e., within the last 200 years) of movement, and they estimate that the recurrence interval for the fault system to be in the range of 1,000 to 3,000 years. Therefore Blakeslee and Katterhorn assign a seismic hazard rating of "moderate," given the lack of historical earthquake events. LaForge and Hawkins (1986) identified the Hat Creek fault system as having a seismic risk rating of "potential." They associated the Holocene movement within the Modoc Geomorphic Province to be related to the extension of the high-angle block faulting in the Basin and Range Geomorphic Province located to the east on the California/Nevada border. Subsequent research, as noted by Blakeslee and Katterhorn (2013), has added credibility to this interpretation.

Northeast of the Shasta Lake and vicinity area, Quaternary-age faults (e.g., the most recent movement was within the last 2 to 3 million years and they therefore are potentially active under the Alquist-Priolo Act) include the Gillem-Big Crack Faults near the California-Oregon border southeast of Lower Klamath Lake and the Cedar Mountain Fault southwest of Lower Klamath Lake. The faults in this zone are capable of earthquakes up to magnitude 7.0. Farther northeast, the Likely Fault is judged capable of a magnitude 6.9 earthquake. In the northeast corner of the state, the Surprise Fault is capable of a magnitude 7.0 earthquake. According to LaForge and Hawkins (1986), the nearest Quaternary fault is the Battle Creek fault located approximately 15 miles south-southeast of Redding. They estimate that the most recent movement on this fault occurred approximately 400,000 to 550,000 years ago. This fault has been rated by LaForge and Hawkins to not be a source of a major earthquake that may affect Shasta Dam.

Seismic activity has been reported in the area of Shasta Dam and Shasta Lake and has typically been in the 5.0 magnitude or lower range. The nearest seismic activity to Shasta Dam and Shasta Lake was a magnitude 5.2 earthquake (Richter magnitude) that occurred 3 miles northwest of Redding, near Keswick Dam, in 1998 (Petersen 1999). LaForge and Hawkins (1986) found that the historical seismicity in the vicinity of the dam to be a "low level, with poorly located small magnitude events recorded." They also found that no faults exist in and near the dam footprint and concluded that surface fault displacement in the dam foundation or reservoir is not considered to be a "credible event."

Volcanic Eruptions and Associated Hazards Volcanic hazards include potential eruptions, and their products and associated hazards. In the Shasta Lake and Vicinity area these include lava flows, pyroclastic flows, domes, tephra, and floods triggered by eruptions. Three active centers of volcanic activity, all associated with the Modoc Plateau and Cascades Geomorphic Province, occur near enough to the Shasta Lake and vicinity area to merit discussion: the Medicine Lake Highlands, Lassen Peak, and Mount Shasta.

The Medicine Lake Highlands is located approximately 65 air miles northeast of Shasta Lake and includes a broad shield volcano that has a large caldera at its summit and more than 100 smaller lava cones and cinder cones on its flanks. The volcano developed over a period of 1 million years, mainly through lava flows. The most recent activity was approximately 500 years ago, when a large tephra eruption was followed by an extrusion of obsidian. Volcanic activity is likely to persist in the future (U.S. Forest Service (USFS) 1994), specifically as local lava flows and tephra eruptions.

Lassen Peak lies 50 miles southeast of Shasta Lake. Lassen Peak is a cluster of dacitic domes and vents that have formed over the past 250,000 years. The most recent eruption occurred in 1914. That eruption began as a tephra eruption with steam blasts, and climaxed with a lateral blast and hot avalanches. Most ash from the 1914 eruption was carried to the east of the volcano.

The most prominent, active volcanic feature in the vicinity of Shasta Lake is Mount Shasta, which is located approximately 45 miles north of Shasta Lake. Mount Shasta has erupted at least once per 800 years during the last 10,000 years, and about once per 600 years during the last 4,500 years. Mount Shasta last erupted in 1786. Eruptions during the last 10,000 years produced lava flows and domes on and around the flanks of Mount Shasta. Pyroclastic flows extended up to 12 miles from the summit.

Eruptions of Mount Shasta could endanger the communities of Weed, Mount Shasta, McCloud, and Dunsmuir. Such eruptions will most likely produce deposits of lithic ash, lava flows, domes, and pyroclastic flows that may affect low- and flat-lying ground almost anywhere within 12 miles of the summit. However, on the basis of its past behavior, Mount Shasta is not likely to erupt large volumes of pumiceous ash (tephra) in the future. Areas subject to the greatest risk from air-fall tephra are located mainly east and within about 30 miles of the summit (Miller 1980).

Floods commonly are produced by melting of snow and ice during eruptions of ice-clad volcanoes like Mount Shasta, or by heavy rains which may accompany eruptions. Eruption-caused floods can occur suddenly and can be of large volume. If floods caused by an eruption occur when rivers are already high, floods far larger than normal can result. Streams and valley floors around Mount Shasta could be affected by such floods as far downstream as Shasta Lake. The danger from floods caused by eruptions is similar to that from floods having other origins, but floods caused by eruptions may be more damaging because of a higher content of sediment which would increase the bulk specific gravity of the fluid (Miller 1980).

Mudflows Small mudflows, not caused by eruptions, are common at Mount Shasta. Relatively small but frequent mudflows have been produced historically (1924, 1926, 1931, and 1977) by melting of glaciers on Mount Shasta during warm summer months. Mudflows that occurred during the summer of 1924 entered the McCloud River and subsequently flowed into the Sacramento River (Miller 1980). In summer 2014, warm temperatures combined with accelerated glacial melt resulted in very turbid flows emanating from Mud Creek that affected the McCloud River (de la Fuente 2014).

Snow Avalanches Avalanche hazards near the Shasta Lake and Vicinity area typically occur in steep, high-elevation terrane. These areas are generally above the tree line or in sparsely vegetated areas. Significant avalanche areas are limited to locations on the upper slopes outside of the Shasta Lake and vicinity area. It is noteworthy that a large snow avalanche occurred in the Sacramento River canyon near Dunsmuir, California, in the 1890s (Southern 1966).

Slope Instability (Mass Wasting) Slope instability hazards occur in areas of active and relict mass wasting features (e.g., active and relict landslides, debris flows, inner gorge landscape positions, and complexes of these features.) Slope instability hazards occur throughout the Shasta Lake and vicinity area, and are most common in areas of steep topography. Locations in the Shasta Lake and vicinity area of mapped slope instability hazards are shown in Figure 1-4.

Reservoir Triggered Seismicity Shasta Lake and vicinity area could be subjected to reservoir triggerd seismicity (RTS) The International Committee on Large Dams (ICOLD 2011), in their draft “Reservoirs and Seismicity – State of Knowledge” accept reservoir triggered seismicity as the most adequate term to describe the phenomena of earthquakes occurring in the vicinity of man-made water reservoirs. The two principal triggers of RTS are added weight stresses and pore pressure propagation. Lake Shasta experienced an RTS event during the initial filling. Based on the work by Packer et al. (1979) the seismic event occurred subsequent to reservoir impoundment. The largest magnitude was approximately 3.0 and occurred a few kilometers southeast of the reservoir (Packer et al. 1977).

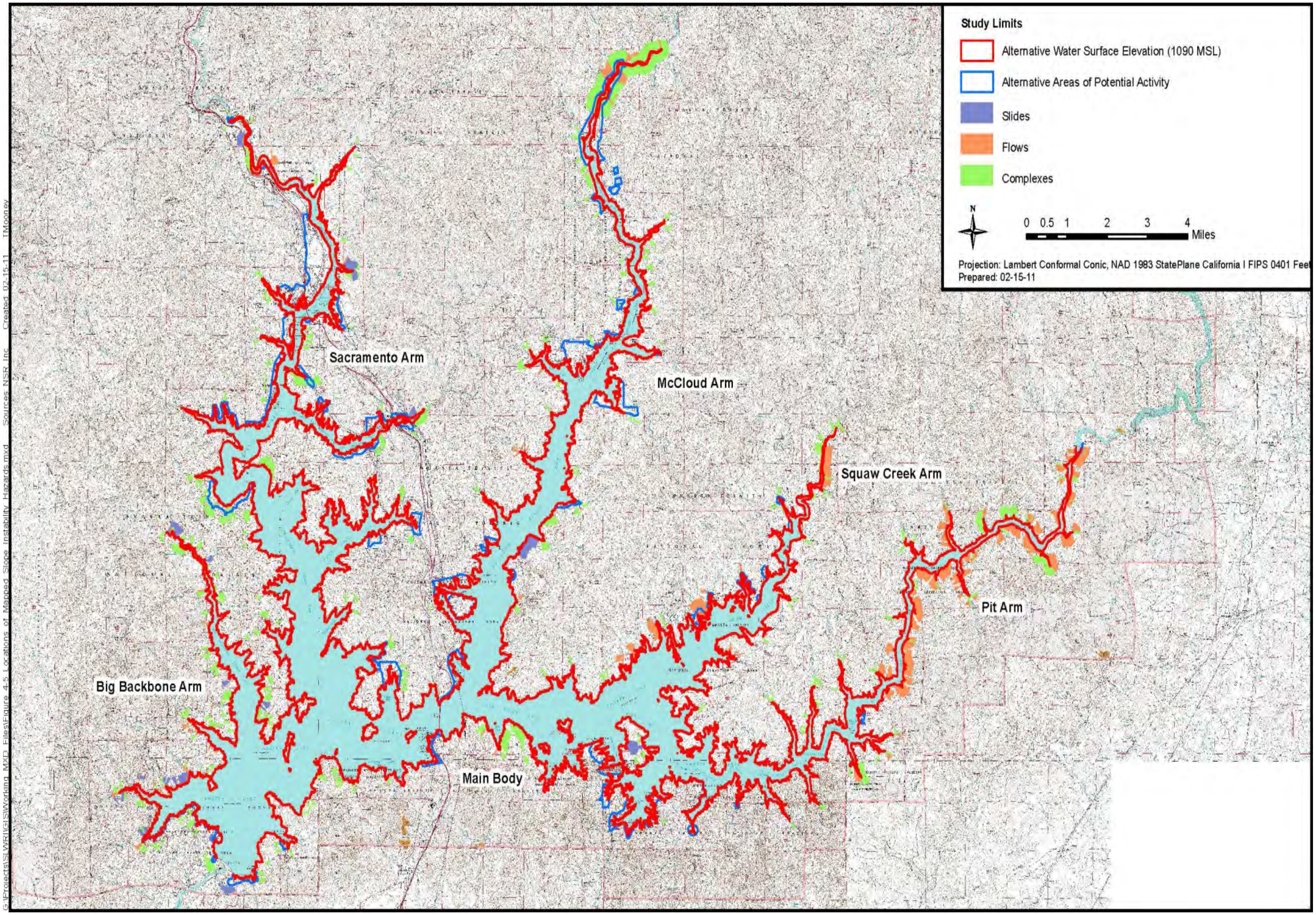


Figure 1-4. Locations of Mapped Slope Instability Hazards – Shasta Lake and Vicinity

The terrane underlying the Shasta Lake and vicinity area and the surrounding region has been influenced by a combination of tectonic uplift, mass wasting, and fluvial and surface erosion processes. The influence of these processes is ongoing, with evidence of ancient and more recent mass wasting features over the entire area, consisting of debris slides, torrents, and flows, with lesser amounts of rotational/translational landslides. The extent or distribution of mass wasting features across the region is believed not to have changed appreciably as a result of land use activities following Anglo-American settlement (USFS 1998).

Much of the topography in the general vicinity of the Shasta Lake and vicinity area is steep, with concave swales; therefore, landslides are relatively common, ranging from small mudflows and slumps to large debris slides, debris flows, and inner gorge landslides. Small shallow debris slides associated with localized alluvial/colluvial rock units also occur along the shoreline of Shasta Lake. Rock slides caused by mining activities have also occurred on the slopes surrounding Shasta Lake.

The areal extent of mapped slope instability hazards in the Shasta Lake and Vicinity area is presented in Table 1-6 for the portion of the area between 1,070 feet and 1,090 feet above msl (Impoundment Area); and in Table 1-7 for the portion potentially disturbed by construction activities under the action alternatives (Relocation Areas). About 173 acres (7 percent) of the Impoundment Area is occupied by features that are potentially unstable. Potentially unstable features occupy about 232 acres (7 percent) of the Relocation Area. Most of the mapped slope instability hazards are debris flows.

Table 1-6. Areal Extent of Mapped Slope Instability Hazards – Shasta Lake and Vicinity (Impoundment Area)

Map Unit	Formation	Acres	% of Impoundment Area Acreage)
1050	Slides	9.5375	0.38%
1100	Flows	66.6091	2.67%
1200	Complexes	97.1695	3.89%

Table 1-7. Areal Extent of Mapped Slope Instability Hazards – Shasta Lake and Vicinity (Relocation Areas)

Map Unit	Formation	Acres	% of Relocation Total Area Acreage
1050	Slides	2.9947	0.09%
1100	Flows	52.9767	1.59%
1200	Complexes	175.8020	5.26%

Seiches A seiche is an oscillation of a body of water in an enclosed or semi-enclosed basin that varies in period, depending on the physical dimensions of the basin, from a few minutes to several hours, and in height from a few millimeters to a few meters. Seiches arise chiefly as a result of sudden local changes in atmospheric pressure, aided by wind and occasionally tidal currents. Seiches can also be triggered by strong earthquake ground motion or large landslides entering a body of water.

If Mount Shasta were to erupt again, volcanic ash could fall in the study area, though as described previously Mount Shasta is not likely to erupt large volumes of pumiceous ash (tephra) in the future. Minor seiches in Shasta Lake also could be generated by debris flows in the arms of the lake where its tributaries enter (City of Redding 2000). A large megathrust on the Cascadia subduction zone off the Pacific coast could generate enough ground shaking to generate a seiche in Shasta Lake. The Good Friday 1964 movement of the Cascadia subduction zone caused a seiche at Shasta Lake.

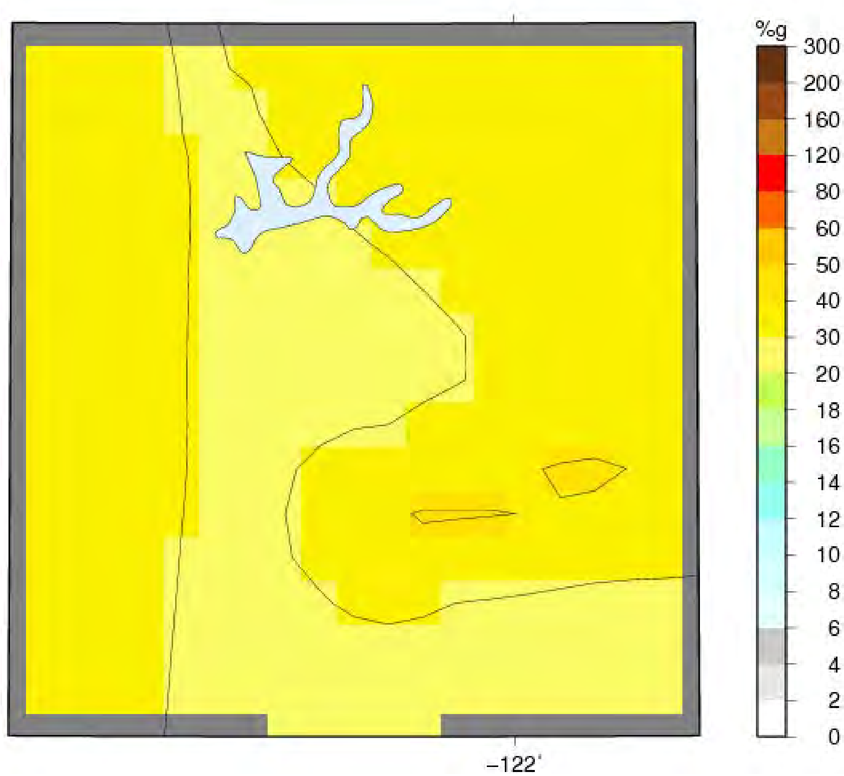
Regardless of its cause, the effects of a seiche would depend on the local conditions at the time. If the reservoir were filled to capacity, there may be some overspill by way of the dam spillways. Substantial overtopping of the dam itself is extremely unlikely, as such an event would require a seiche more than six meters high, even if the reservoir were filled to capacity. Excess flows into the Sacramento River triggered by a seiche in Shasta Lake would be attenuated by Keswick Reservoir (City of Redding 2000).

Upper Sacramento River (Shasta Dam to Red Bluff) The upper Sacramento River portion of the primary study area could potentially be affected by geologic hazards in the region attributed to seismic hazards and volcanic eruptions and associated hazards. Mudflows, snow avalanches, slope instability, and seiches are not considered geologic hazards in this portion of the primary study area.

Seismic Hazards The northeastern area of Shasta County is part of an area between Lassen Peak and the Medicine Lake Highlands (in Siskiyou County that is cut by a series of active normal faults that are part of the Sierra Nevada–Great Basin dextral shear zone (Shasta County 2004). These faults are likely to affect the upper watersheds northeast of the Sacramento Valley. These faults include the Mayfield–MacArthur–Hat Creek fault system (Blakeslee and Katterhorn 2013) approximately 50 miles east-northeast of Shasta Lake; the Gillem–Big Crack Faults, near the California-Oregon border southeast of Lower Klamath Lake; and the Cedar Mountain Fault, southwest of Lower Klamath Lake. The faults in this zone are capable of earthquakes up to magnitude 7.0. LaForge and Hawkins (1986) identified the Battle Creek fault approximately 15 miles south of Redding as the nearest Quaternary age fault but indicated that it is not a credible seismic hazard.

Shasta County is a seismically active region but has not experienced significant property damage or loss of life from earthquakes in the past 120 years. The City of Redding (2005) reported that maximum recorded intensities have reached Modified Mercalli VII. The majority of intense seismic activity in Shasta County has occurred in the eastern half of the county, around Lassen Peak (City of Redding 2005).

The *Shasta County General Plan* states that the maximum intensity event expected to occur in eastern Shasta County is Modified Mercalli VIII (Shasta County 2004). In the western half of Shasta County, the maximum intensity is expected to be Modified Mercalli VII (City of Redding 2005). Shasta County is entirely within Seismic Zone 3 of the 2004 Uniform Building Code. Redding is an area of “moderate seismicity” and the Hat Creek and McArthur areas are of “moderate-to-high seismicity” (Shasta County 2004). A probabilistic seismic hazard map from the 2008 USGS is presented in Figure 1-5, which illustrates the peak ground acceleration (PGA) for 2 percent chance of exceedence in 50 years or a return period of 2,475 years (USGS 2014). This figure shows that in the vicinity of Shasta Lake the PGA varies from 0.3 – 0.4 g.



Source: USGS 2014

Figure 1-5. USGS 2008 Peak Ground Acceleration 2 Percent Chance of Exceedence in 50 Years in the Primary Study Area

Processes that generally are grouped with ground failure include seismically induced landslides, liquefaction, lateral spreading and slumping, settlement, and lurch cracking. All of these processes involve a displacement of the ground surface from loss of strength or failure of the underlying materials during earthquake shaking. Landslides occur throughout Shasta County, are more prevalent in the eastern and northern portions of Shasta County than in the western portion of the county, and are commonly related to the sedimentary and volcanic rocks in these vicinities. Seismically induced landsliding is not considered a significant hazard in Shasta County (Shasta County 2004).

Liquefaction is the phenomenon in which soils experience a loss in strength and stiffness due to earthquake shaking or rapid loading, and the soils behave like a fluid. Liquefaction can result in the temporary transformation of a loose, saturated, granular soil from a solid into a semiliquefied state. This phenomenon is most likely in alluvial (geologically recent, unconsolidated sediments) and stream channel deposits, especially when the groundwater table is high. Areas of potential liquefaction are located along the Sacramento River and its tributaries in the north central valley area, referred to in this technical report as the South Central Region of the primary study area (Shasta County 2004).

South of Shasta County along the upper Sacramento River, potential slipping and seismic shaking could be associated with the Great Valley blind thrust fault system, which is capable of earthquakes up to magnitude 6.8 along the west side of the Sacramento Valley. This fault system is not considered active by the Alquist-Priolo Act, because blind thrust faults do not exhibit surface traces, but is identified in a database of potential earthquakes (Working Group of Northern California Earthquake Potential 1996). This fault system forms the boundary between the Coast Ranges and the Sacramento and San Joaquin Valleys.

The San Andreas Fault system is located west of the Sacramento and San Joaquin Valleys and is made up of a series of faults that lie along a 150-mile long northwest trending zone of seismicity. This zone is 10 – 45 miles west of the Sacramento Valley and extends from Suisun Bay past Lake Berryessa and Lake Pillsbury to near the latitude of Red Bluff. The Green Valley, Hunting Creek, Bartlett Springs, Round Valley, and Lake Mountain faults are the mapped active faults of the San Andreas Fault system most likely to affect the upper watersheds west of the Sacramento Valley. The faults in this system are capable of earthquakes of up to 7.1 in magnitude.

The Indian Valley Fault, located southeast of Lake Almanor and the Honey Lake Fault zone, located east of Lake Almanor are likely to affect the upper watersheds east of the Sacramento Valley, and are capable of a magnitude 6.9 earthquake. Surface rupture occurred in 1975 along the Cleveland Hill Fault south of Lake Oroville. The Foothills Fault system, which borders the east side of the Sacramento and San Joaquin valleys, is judged to be capable of a magnitude 6.5 earthquake.

Volcanic Eruptions and Associated Hazards As described in the Shasta Lake and vicinity discussion of volcanic eruptions and associated hazards above, three active centers of volcanic activity merit discussion in the primary study area, including the Medicine Lake Highlands, Lassen Peak, and Mount Shasta. Shasta County is at the southern end of the Cascade Range (described in the Geology of the Upper Sacramento River above). The most recent volcanic activity in Shasta County occurred between 1914 and 1917, when Lassen Peak erupted, producing lava flows, numerous ash falls, and a large mudflow. The mudflow, a result of melting snow and ash, flowed down Lost Creek and Hat Creek (Shasta County 2004).

There is no evidence of recent historic volcanic activity on Mount Shasta, but the danger from volcanic activity on the mountain may not be due to an eruption, but to mudflows, which have been recorded to travel more than 18 miles down the flanks of Shasta. It is unlikely that a large mudflow from Mount Shasta would endanger Shasta County (Shasta County 2004) or the upper Sacramento River between Shasta Dam and RBPP.

Extended Study Area

The following section describes the seismicity of the lower Sacramento River, the Delta, and the CVP/SWP service areas.

Lower Sacramento River and Delta The lower Sacramento River and Delta portion of the extended study area could potentially be affected by geologic hazards in the region attributed to seismic hazards. Volcanic eruptions and associated hazards, mudflows, snow avalanches, slope instability, and seiches are not considered geologic hazards in this portion of the extended area.

The nearest fault to the Sacramento River along this segment of the extended study area is the Dunnigan Hills Fault, which has experienced fault displacement in the Late Quaternary and potential displacement in the Holocene along a separate segment of the fault (Jennings and Bryant 2010). The Dunnigan Hills Fault runs along the Sacramento River and is located between 6 and 10 miles west of the river near the town of Dunnigan. The Cleveland Fault is located approximately 30 miles east of the Sacramento River near the city of Oroville and is considered historic, having experienced displacement in the last 200 years (Jennings and Bryant 2010). In addition to these active faults, a number of inactive faults as defined by the Alquist-Priolo Act, run along the Sacramento River. In addition, the Great Valley blind thrust fault system (not considered active by the Alquist-Priolo Act) and San Andreas Fault System extend along the Sacramento River to the west, as described above for the upper Sacramento River portion of the primary study area.

Failure of the Delta levees is the primary threat to the region as a result of seismic activity. Levee failure would result from displacement and deformation caused by ground shaking and liquefaction of levee materials. Levees in the region consist of some sandy sections, which have low relative density and are highly susceptible to liquefaction. As a result, seismic risk to the Delta levees is variable across the Delta and depends on the proximity to the source of the earthquake, the conditions of the levee, and levee foundation.

The Delta levees are located in a region of relatively low seismic activity compared to the Bay Area. The major strike-slip faults in the Bay Area (the San Andreas, Hayward, and Calaveras faults) are located more than 16 miles from the Delta. The less active Green Valley and Marsh Creek–Clayton Faults are more than 9 miles from the Delta region. Small but significant local faults are situated in the Delta, and there is a possibility that blind thrust faults occur along the west Delta.

CVP/SWP Service Areas The CVP/SWP service areas portion of the extended study area could potentially be affected by geologic hazards in the region attributed to seismic hazards. Volcanic eruptions and associated hazards, mudflows, snow avalanches, slope instability, and seiches are not considered geologic hazards in this portion of the extended study area. A number of active faults exists along the Sacramento and San Joaquin rivers in the CVP/SWP service areas.

Major earthquake activity has centered along the San Andreas Fault zone, including the great San Francisco earthquake of 1906. Since that earthquake, four events of magnitude 5.0 on the Richter scale or greater have occurred in the Bay region. The San Andreas and Hayward faults remain active, with evidence of recent slippage along both faults.

In the San Joaquin River region, the Great Valley blind thrust fault system forms the boundary between the Coast Ranges and the west boundary of the San Joaquin Valley. This fault system is capable of earthquakes up to magnitude 6.7 along the west side of the San Joaquin Valley.

The Diablo Range west of the valley is mainly subject to seismicity from northwest-trending faults associated with the right-lateral strike-slip San Andreas Fault system.

The mapped active faults of this system that are most likely to affect the upper watersheds west of the San Joaquin Valley are the Ortigalita Fault and the Greenville-Marsh Creek Fault. These faults lie along northwest-trending zones of seismicity 5 to 20 miles west of the San Joaquin Valley; each fault is capable of earthquakes up to magnitude 6.9.

Active faults likely to affect the upper watersheds east of the San Joaquin Valley include major faults along the east margin of the Sierra Nevada. The Foothills Fault system, which borders the east side of the northern part of the San Joaquin Valley, is judged to be capable of a magnitude 6.5 earthquake. Active faults along the east margin of the Sierra Nevada include the Owens Valley Fault, which ruptured in a magnitude 7.6 earthquake in 1872 and is within the Sierra Nevada Fault zone. Seismic activity along this fault zone can significantly affect the upper watersheds that drain to the San Joaquin Valley. The Foothills Fault system is considered potentially active and borders the east side of the northern part of the San Joaquin Valley. The Foothills system is judged to be capable of a magnitude 6.5 earthquake (Jennings and Bryant 2010).

Active faults likely to affect the upper watersheds at the end of the San Joaquin Valley include the White Wolf Fault, which ruptured in 1952 with a magnitude 7.2 earthquake; the Garlock Fault, capable of a magnitude 7.3 earthquake; and several smaller faults 10 – 30 miles north of the White Wolf Fault.

Table 1-8 lists all of the reported faults, fault zones, and systems according to the California Geological Survey, located south– of– the– Delta in the CVP/SWP service areas (Bryant 2005).

Table 1-8. Faults, Fault Zones, and Systems Within the South-of-Delta Central Valley Project/State Water Project Service Areas

Fault Name	Fault Zone Name
NA	Beaumont Plain Fault Zone
NA	Blackwater Fault Zone
Burnt Mountain Fault	Burnt Mountain Fault Zone
NA	Calaveras Fault Zone
Calico Fault	Calico-Hidalgo Fault Zone
Camp Rock Fault	Camp Rock-Emerson-Copper Mountain Fault Zone
Chicken Hill Fault	Crafton Hills Fault Zone
East Montebello Hills Fault	East Montebello Hills Fault
Chino Fault	Elsinore Fault Zone
Eureka Peak Fault	Eureka Peak Fault
El Paso Fault	Garlock Fault Zone
Greenville Fault	Greenville Fault Zone
Black Mountain Fault	Harper Fault Zone
Crosley Fault	Hayward Fault Zone
Helendale Fault	Helendale-South Lockhart Fault Zone
Hollywood Fault	Hollywood Fault
Homestead Valley Fault	Homestead Valley Fault Zone
Hot Springs Fault	Hot Springs Fault
Kickapoo Fault	Johnson Valley Fault Zone
Johnson Valley Fault	Johnson Valley Fault Zone
Lenwood Fault	Lenwood-Lockhart Fault Zone
Llano Fault	Llano Fault
Long Canyon Fault	Long Canyon Fault
Los Positas Fault	Los Positas Fault
Solstice Fault	Malibu Coast Fault
Manix Fault	Manix Fault
Mount General Fault	Mount General Fault
Avalon-Compton Fault	Newport-Inglewood - Rose Canyon Fault Zone
Sky High Ranch Fault	North Frontal Fault Zone
North Frontal Fault Zone	North Frontal thrust system

Table 1-8. Faults, Fault Zones, and Systems Within the South– of– the–Delta Central Valley Project/State Water Project Service Areas (contd.)

Fault Name	Fault Zone Name
Old Woman Springs Fault	Old Woman Springs Fault
Palos Verdes Fault	Palos Verdes Fault Zone
Morongo Valley Fault	Pinto Mountain Fault Zone
Pleasanton Fault	Pleasanton Fault
Pleito Fault	Pleito Fault Zone
Quien Sabe Fault	Quien Sabe Fault Zone
Raymond Fault	Raymond Fault
Etiwanda Avenue Fault	Red Hill-Etiwanda Avenue Fault
NA	San Andreas Fault Zone
San Gabriel Fault	San Gabriel Fault Zone
San Gorgonio Pass Fault	San Gorgonio Pass Fault Zone
Casa Loma Fault	San Jacinto Fault Zone
Santa Monica Fault	Santa Monica Fault
Castro Fault	Sargent Fault Zone
Cucamonga Fault	Sierra Madre Fault Zone
Silver Reef Fault	Silver Reef Fault
Camarillo Fault	Simi-Santa Rosa Fault Zone
Tres Pinos Fault	Tres Pinos Fault
Verdugo Fault	Verdugo Fault
Verona Fault	Verona Fault
NA	Wheeler Ridge
Wright Road Fault	Wright Road Fault

Key:
NA = unnamed fault

1.1.3 Geomorphology

Geomorphology in the study area is described below for both the primary and extended study areas.

Primary Study Area

The following section describes geomorphology in the primary study area, including Shasta Lake and vicinity and the upper Sacramento River (Shasta Dam to Red Bluff).

Shasta Lake and Vicinity As described previously, most of the Shasta Lake and vicinity area is within the Klamath Mountains Geomorphic Province. The topography of the study area ranges from moderate to steep, and elevation ranges from approximately 1,070 feet to more than 6,000 feet above msl. The orientation and slopes of the ridges are controlled by the bedrock geology and structure. Generally speaking, the eastern slopes of the ridges are steeper than the western slopes. Hillslope gradient in the Shasta Lake and vicinity area ranges from 0 percent to more than 100 percent.

The regional stream network and boundaries of watersheds adjacent to Shasta Lake are shown in Figure 1-6. The boundaries of watersheds adjacent to Shasta

Lake (shown in Figure 1-6) are the same as the boundaries of the area's 6th Field Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC) watersheds defined by USFS. Regional-scale characteristics of the streams that are tributary to Shasta Lake are presented in Figure 1-7, where they are organized by arm. The total area of watersheds draining to the lake on a regional scale is 6,665 square miles. Of this total, watersheds that are immediately adjacent and contribute directly to Shasta Lake (i.e., 6th Field HUC watersheds) occupy about 512 square miles (Table 1-9). These immediately adjacent watersheds include small portions of the five major tributaries to Shasta Lake (Big Backbone Creek, the Sacramento and McCloud rivers, Squaw Creek, and the Pit River) and small watersheds that are adjacent and directly contributory to the Main Body of the lake.

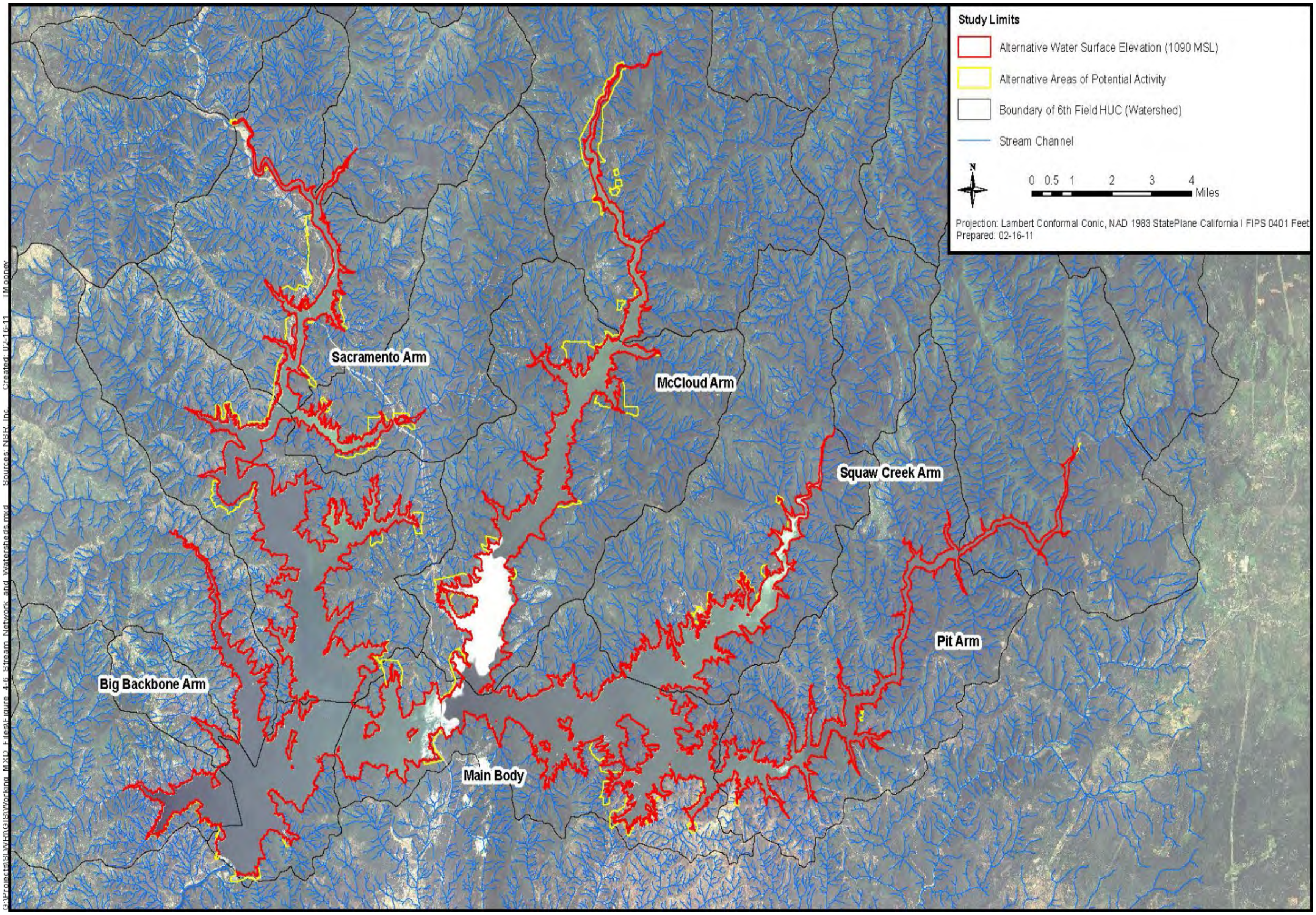
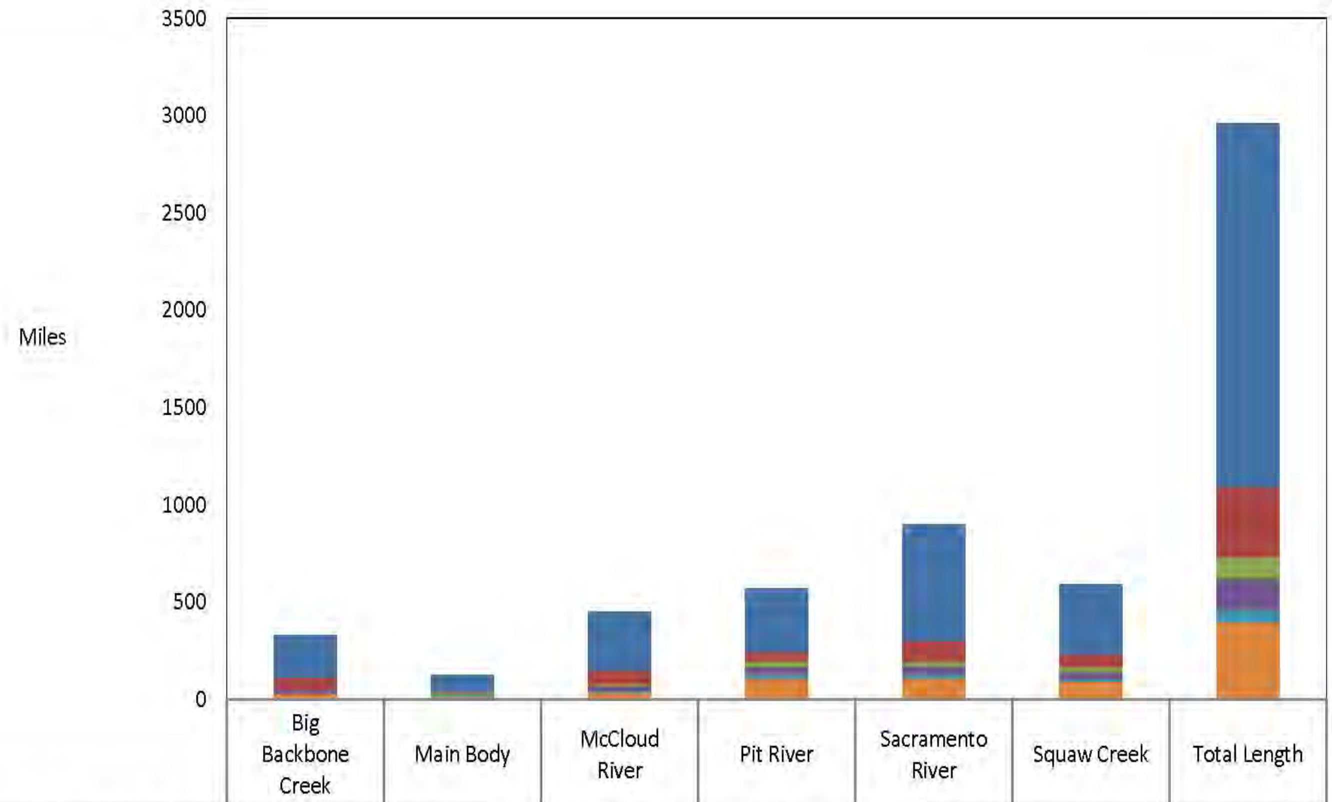


Figure 1-6. Regional Stream Network and Boundaries of Watersheds that are Adjacent to Shasta Lake and Vicinity



	Big Backbone Creek	Main Body	McCloud River	Pit River	Sacramento River	Squaw Creek	Total Length
Intermittent >10% Grade	214	83	297	321	597	355	1867
Pererrial >10% Grade	60	6	75	51	101	71	364
Intermittent 7-10% Grade	4	10	9	31	30	24	108
Pererrial 7-10% Grade	18	3	25	36	41	38	161
Intermittent <7% Grade	2	10	5	21	20	8	66
Pererrial <7% Grade	30	14	38	109	109	96	396

Figure 1-7. Regional-Scale Characteristics of Streams that are Tributary to Shasta

Table 1-9. Characteristics of Watersheds That Are Adjacent and Directly Tributary to Shasta Lake

Lake Arm	Drainage Area (square miles)	Stream Length (miles)	Drainage Density (miles/sq. miles)	Average Elevation (feet)	Max Elevation (feet)	Mean Annual Precipitation (inches)
Big Backbone Creek	60	325	5.4	2,185	4,633	74
Main Body	37	112	3.0	1,260	2,723	67
McCloud River	77	444	5.7	1,911	4,669	79
Pit River	100	551	5.5	1,700	3,246	73
Sacramento River	137	880	6.4	1,825	4,589	76
Squaw Creek	100	583	5.8	2,100	5,046	83
Total	512	2,903	5.7	1,885	5,046	77

In general, the stream networks adjacent and directly tributary to Shasta Lake are irregular and dendritic. The drainages are steep, and the drainage density ranges from 3.0 to 6.4 miles of stream per square mile of drainage area (Table 1-9). The drainage density is the lowest in the Main Body of the lake because this area has several small catchments. The density is the highest in the more well-defined arms, a function of their larger catchment areas of the tributary watersheds.

The lengths of streams within watersheds that are adjacent to Shasta Lake are also reported in Figure 1-7, where they again are aggregated by arm and further subdivided by flow regime (intermittent or perennial) and stream gradient. There are about 1,200 intermittent, and perennial stream channels totaling about 2,903 miles that enter directly into Shasta Lake. These values do not include large parts of the Sacramento River, Squaw Creek, Pit River, McCloud River, and Big Backbone Creek watersheds; only the “face drainages” within the arms themselves.

Most of the stream channels that flow into Shasta Lake are intermittent and have stream slopes greater than 10 percent (mean gradient of 27 percent). Net Trace model results indicate that about 33 percent of these stream channels are perennial. About 20 percent of these channels (716) have gradients less than 10 percent and are likely to support fish and other aquatic organisms. In terms of the total number of channels, the Sacramento arm has the highest proportion (27 percent). There is approximately 707 miles of low gradient channel; 61 percent of this channel type contributes flow, sediment and organic material in the Pit (145 miles), Sacramento (150 miles) and Squaw Creek (134 miles) arms.

Again, the values reported in Table 1-9 do not include large parts of the Sacramento River, Squaw Creek, Pit River, McCloud River, and Big Backbone Creek watersheds; only the “face drainages” within the arms themselves are included in the reported values.

Using existing data and information (NSR 2003, Reclamation 2014), the following observations were made about the relative stability of the riverine reaches. Of the five main tributaries tributary to Shasta Lake, all except Big Backbone Creek and the Sacramento River are underlain by shallow bedrock that limits channel incision. For this reason, Squaw Creek, and the Pit and McCloud rivers have relatively stable channels that are unlikely to change significantly in response to average floods. Although they occur infrequently, debris flows have the potential to substantially affect particularly shallow bedrock reaches of smaller tributaries to Shasta Lake, as is evident in Dekkas Creek. The Sacramento River and Big Backbone Creek are relatively dynamic because the channel bed has the potential to undergo physical changes in response to a moderate flood. Although Big Backbone Creek and Squaw Creek have similar watershed areas, Squaw Creek has more bedrock reaches than Big Backbone Creek and therefore is inherently more stable.

Upper Sacramento River (Shasta Dam to Red Bluff) The geomorphology of the Sacramento River is a product of several factors: the geology of the Sacramento Valley, hydrology, climate, vegetation, and human activity. Large flood events drive lateral channel migration and remove large flow impediments. Riparian vegetation stabilizes riverbanks and reduces water velocities, inducing deposition of eroded sediment. In the past, a balance existed between erosion and deposition along the Sacramento River. However, construction of dams, levees, and water projects has altered streamflow and other hydraulic characteristics of the Sacramento River. In some areas, human-induced changes have stabilized and contained the river, while in other reaches the loss of riparian vegetation has reduced sediment deposition and led to increased erosion.

The upper Sacramento River between Shasta Dam and Red Bluff is bounded and underlain by resistant volcanic and sedimentary deposits that confine the river, resulting in a relatively stable river course. This reach of river is characterized by steep vertical banks, and the river is primarily confined to its channel with limited overbank floodplain areas. There is limited meander of the river above Red Bluff.

Human-induced changes have also affected geomorphology of downstream tributaries to the Sacramento River in the study area. Major tributaries include Clear, Cottonwood and Cow Creeks.

Cow Creek The 275,000-acre Cow Creek Watershed is a large, generally uncontrolled tributary to the Sacramento River on the eastern side of the Sacramento River. The watershed is unique in that land ownership is almost evenly divided between commercial forestland, commercial agriculture, and small rural property owners, with minimum government ownership (WSRCD and CCWMG 2005).

Copper, coal, gravel and quarry stone have been mined from the Cow Creek watershed in the past. In contrast to other tributaries, gold was not discovered on the eastside of the Sacramento River in this area. However, the available timber and grazing lands on the eastern lands became primary supply areas for the initial gold and copper mining that occurred in other parts of the region (WSRCD and CCWMG 2001).

Gravel was mined in Little Cow Creek near Bella Vista (at Dry Creek and at Salt Creek), near Palo Cedro (Graystone Court and near Bloomingdale Road), and in the lower reaches of the main stem of Cow Creek. Mining of gravel in active floodways has likely reduced available spawning gravel in Little Cow Creek and the main stem of Cow Creek. Gravel removal may also have contributed to channel incisement (WSRCD and CCWMG 2005).

Ranching is currently a dominant land use in the watershed. Diversions of water for ranching activities significantly affect instream flow on the lower reaches of Cow Creek during the summer season (WSRCD and CCWMG 2005).

Major issues in the Cow Creek watershed are water quality and quantity for agriculture uses and natural barriers to fish passage (waterfalls) located at geologic contacts which limit anadromous fish passage into four of the five tributaries to Cow Creek. Geomorphic changes in Cow Creek (i.e., knickpoints) are attributed to natural breaks in the geology of the area and not to human activities. A review of historic aerial photos and available maps show that the configuration of the channel on the main stem has not changed significantly over the last century (WSRCD and CCWMG 2005).

Cottonwood Creek Cottonwood Creek is the largest undammed watershed on the west side of the Sacramento Valley. The watershed is characterized by a flashy hydrology, due to the absence of any flow regulating dams, low intra-annual storage resulting from a combination of very little recharge to aquifers in the upper reaches of the watershed and a small amount of snow pack (CH2M HILL 2005, 2007).

Human impacts on Cottonwood Creek began in the 1850s with placer and dredge gold mining operations. Two major gravel mines currently operate on Cottonwood Creek. The Shea Mine, which is in Shasta County, is immediately downstream from Interstate 5 and the Cottonwood Creek Sand and Gravel Mine (formerly XTRA), which is in Tehama County, is approximately 0.5 mile upstream from Interstate 5 (CH2M HILL 2001).

Several reports suggest that persistent gravel mining combined with a flashy hydrology contribute to instability in channel conditions, excessive bank erosion and bed degradation in Cottonwood Creek (DWR 1992, Matthews 2003). Cross-sectional survey locations established by the USGS in 1983 and re-surveyed in 2002 show that considerable channel incision has occurred on Cottonwood Creek; in some areas, the channel is scoured to bedrock. These changes are likely caused by instream aggregate mining in excess of annual replenishment rates (Matthews 2003).

Clear Creek To characterize existing fluvial geomorphic conditions, Clear Creek is divided into upper clear Creek and lower Clear Creek, with the delineation occurring at Whiskeytown Dam. Upper Clear Creek (upstream from Whiskeytown Dam) is not discussed further in this section.

The lower Clear Creek watershed has been impacted by direct and indirect human activities for over a century. Widespread alterations to the watershed began in the 1800s, when the channel was placer mined and then dredged for gold, which caused extensive modifications to natural channel form and process by removing point bars, floodplains and riparian vegetation (WSRCD 1996). In some areas, the stream is incised completely down to clay hardpan or bedrock. Clear Creek is straight and highly entrenched in some areas; in others, it has multiple, braided channels due to direct and indirect human impacts (GMA 2007). Later, timber harvesting and associated road building caused excessive erosion throughout the watershed (WSRCD 1996).

The construction of McCormick-Saeltzer Dam in 1903 (dam removed in 2000) caused further changes in streamflow and sediment transport in the stream. Alteration of the natural flow and sediment regime in Clear Creek continued with construction of Whiskeytown Dam in 1963. Whiskeytown Dam greatly reduced the volume and magnitude of historical flows and effectively blocks the downstream transport of coarse sediment to lower Clear Creek (WSRCD 1996).

More recently, instream and off-channel aggregate mining began in 1950 and continued through the mid-1980s. Several hundred thousand cubic yards of aggregate were removed from Clear Creek below the former site of McCormick Saeltzer Dam, destroying the bankfull channel and in some areas completely removing the floodplain (WSRCD 1996).

Lower Clear Creek is the subject of several ongoing geomorphic studies and monitoring efforts, and fish habitat and channel restoration activities intended to offset past impacts on the watershed and stream channel by introducing spawning gravels into lower Clear Creek, implementing erosion control programs, reducing fuels within the watershed (Reclamation 2012). The Lower Clear Creek Floodway Rehabilitation Project, an extensive effort to restore the natural form and function of the Clear Creek channel and floodplain in areas highly affected by gold and aggregate mining.

Two headcuts have been observed on lower Clear Creek. The upstream-most headcut was observed in 2003, upstream from the former McCormick-Saeltzer Dam location. This headcut is the result of natural channel adjustment following dam removal in 2000 combined with a large storm event that occurred in December 2002 (UC Berkeley 2003). The headcut near the former dam site was observed again during monitoring activities in 2006 (GMA 2007). As of 2011, the channel appears to have stabilized in the vicinity of the former dam, with normal patterns of aggradation and deposition occurring within the reach (UC Berkeley 2011).

A second headcut has been observed farther downstream in Clear Creek, near the location of the Lower Clear Creek Floodway Rehabilitation Project. This headcut is migrating from the upstream end of the restoration site and has been attributed to past gravel mining and reduction of coarse sediment by upstream dams. In some areas above and below the site, the channel has incised to clay hardpan. Continued gravel augmentation upstream from the restoration area may reduce the rate of channel downcutting in the future (GMA 2007).

Extended Study Area

The following section describes the geomorphology in the extended study, including the lower Sacramento River and Delta and CVP/SWP service areas.

Lower Sacramento River and Delta Downstream from Red Bluff, the lower Sacramento River is relatively active and sinuous, meandering across alluvial deposits within a wide meander belt. The active channel consists of point bars composed of sand on the inside of meander bends, and is flanked by active floodplain and older terraces. Most of these features consist of easily eroded, unconsolidated alluvium; however, there are also outcrops of resistant, cemented alluvial units such as the Modesto and Riverbank formations. Geologic outcroppings and human-made structures, such as bridges and levees, act as local hydraulic controls and confine movement of much of the lower Sacramento River. Natural geomorphic processes in the Delta have been highly modified by changes to upstream hydrology (reservoirs and stream flow regulation) and construction of levees, channels, and other physical features.

In the channel itself, the bed is composed of gravel and sand (less gravel farther downstream), and point bars are composed of sand. The bottomlands flanking the channel consist of silts and sands (deposited from suspended load in floodwaters), commonly overlying channel gravels and sands. Higher, older surfaces consisting of (often cemented) Pleistocene deposits also are encountered.

The river channel migrates (maintaining roughly constant dimensions) across the floodplain to the limits of the meander belt, constrained only by outcrops of resistant units or artificial bank protection. As meander bends grow, they may become unstable and form cutoffs.

Since construction of Shasta Dam in the early 1940s, flood volumes on the river have been reduced, which has reduced the energy available for sediment transport. Straightening and a reduced rate of meander migration of the river may be associated with flow regulation because of Shasta Dam. The reduction in active channel dynamics is compounded by the physical effects of riprap bank protection structures, which typically eliminate shaded bank habitat and associated deep pools, and halt the natural processes of channel migration.

Sediment loads in the streams draining the upper watersheds have been artificially increased because of past and current logging and grazing practices. Historically, hydraulic mining in the Sierra Nevada near streams draining the upper watershed contributed sediment from gold mining. Both practices remove soil-stabilizing vegetation, create preferential drainages, and promote localized soil compaction. Erosive overland flow is enhanced by the loss of vegetation and compacted soils. Larger amounts of sediment are delivered to the streams from increased rates of soil erosion and from enhanced rates of mass movement, such as landslides. During high runoff events, the sharp increases in sediment yields can lead to widespread channel aggradation, which in turn can lead to lateral migration of the channels and increased rates of landsliding.

Where reservoirs have been created by dams, most of the sediment is trapped behind the dam and, during the life of the reservoir, will not be transported downstream from the dam. Where such sediment traps are not in place, the sediment load will be transferred downstream.

CVP/SWP Service Areas Geomorphology in the CVP/SWP service areas is a product of the same factors mentioned above–geology, hydrology and climate, vegetation, and human activity. Geomorphology in the CVP service areas is summarized in the descriptions of the primary study area and the lower Sacramento River and Delta portions of the extended study area.

Geomorphology in the SWP service areas extends into the southern geomorphic provinces of California and along part of the coast. The southern geomorphic provinces and coastal province include the Transverse Ranges, Peninsular Ranges, Mojave Desert, and Coast Ranges. The Transverse Ranges, composed of overlapping mountain blocks, consist of parallel and subparallel ranges and valleys. The Peninsular Ranges Geomorphic Province is composed of northwest to southeast trending fault blocks, extending from the Transverse Ranges into Mexico. The Peninsular Ranges are similar to the Sierra Nevada in that they have a gentle westerly slope and generally consist of steep eastern faces. The Mojave Desert Geomorphic Province topography is controlled by two faults: the San Andreas Fault, trending northwest to southeast, and the Garlock Fault, trending east to west (Jennings 1938). Before development of the Garlock Fault, sometime during the Miocene, the Mojave Desert was part of the Basin and Range Geomorphic Province. The Mojave Desert is now dominated by alluvial basins, which are aggrading surfaces from adjacent upland continental deposits (Norris and Webb 1990). The Coast Ranges have been greatly affected by plate tectonics. The Coast Ranges Geomorphic Province consists of elongate ranges and narrow valleys that run subparallel to the coast. Some of the mountain ranges along the Coast Range terminate abruptly at the sea (Norris and Webb 1990).

The mainstem San Joaquin River meanders within a meander belt of Recent alluvium. The river is characterized by an active channel, with point bars on the inside of meander bends, flanked by an active floodplain and older terraces. While most of these features consist of easily eroded, unconsolidated alluvial deposits, there are also outcrops of resistant, cemented alluvial units such as the Modesto and Riverbank formations.

The river channel migrates (maintaining roughly constant dimensions) across the floodplain to the limits of the meander belt, constrained only by outcroppings of resistant units or artificial bank protection. As meander bends grow, they may become unstable and form cutoffs, leaving oxbow lakes like those visible along lower reaches of the mainstem.

Sediment loads in streams draining the upper watersheds of the San Joaquin River region are similar to those described for the Sacramento River region.

1.1.4 Mineral Resources

This section describes the known mineral resources of commercial or otherwise documented economic value in both the primary and extended study areas. The mineral resources of concern include metals, industrial minerals (e.g., aggregate, sand, and gravel, oil and gas, and geothermal resources that would be of value to the region).

Primary Study Area

The following section describes the minerals resources in the primary study area, including Shasta Lake and vicinity and the upper Sacramento River.

Shasta Lake and Vicinity The following section describes mineral resources in the Shasta Lake and vicinity portion of the primary study area.

Metals The lands in the Shasta Lake and vicinity area are highly mineralized, with a history of significant mineral production. The Shasta Lake and vicinity area encompasses portions of two historic base metal mining districts, the west Shasta and east Shasta copper-zinc districts. The two districts focused on development of massive sulfide (Kuroko-type) deposits of submarine volcanogenic origin that formed contemporaneously with, and by the same process as, the host volcanic rocks. As in other areas in the Klamath Mountains, copper was by far the predominant commodity produced. Zinc, sulfur, iron, limestone, gold, and silver were produced as byproducts of copper production.

The Golinsky mine complex is located in the west Shasta district, approximately 7 miles west of Shasta Dam in the headwaters of Dry Creek and Little Backbone Creek. This inactive, abandoned mine complex is the only large historic producing mine within the Shasta Unit of the Whiskeytown-Shasta-Trinity NRA. Other mines within the NRA occur in the east Shasta district, concentrated between the McCloud and Squaw arms of Shasta Lake. The east Shasta district includes the Bully Hill, Copper City, and Rising Star mines, all of which are located in the Bully Hill area. These mines ceased operation before Shasta Dam was built.

These types of mineral deposits, in conjunction with the historic lode mining methods, have resulted in the discharge of toxic mine waste and acidic waters to Shasta Lake and some tributaries on a recurring basis (USFS 2000). The Golinsky mine complex has been subject to extensive remediation to reduce the discharge of toxic mine waste and acidic waters to Shasta Lake.

Industrial Minerals Industrial minerals occurring in the vicinity of Shasta Lake area include alluvial sand and gravel, crushed stone, volcanic cinders, limestone, and diatomite. In 2002, Shasta County produced 462,000 tons of sand and gravel, 852,000 tons of crushed stone (including limestone), and 51,000 tons of volcanic cinders. Limestone, used to produce Portland cement, and diatomite are not included in these figures.

The supply of Portland cement concrete grade alluvial sand and gravel within the region is more limited than the supply of non-Portland cement concrete grade material. The primary sources for alluvial sand and gravel near the Shasta Lake and vicinity area are the Sacramento River (downstream from Keswick Dam), Clear Creek, Cottonwood Creek, and Hat Creek. Crushed stone has been produced at a limestone quarry in Mountain Gate, a granite quarry in Keswick, an andesite quarry in Mountain Gate, a shale quarry in Oak Run, and two basalt quarries in the Lake Britton area near Burney. Volcanic cinders are produced at sites east of the Shasta Lake and vicinity area.

Areas inundated by the reservoir have aggregate source areas available through dredging and/or excavation. The U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) has ongoing efforts to characterize the quality and quantity of aggregate sources that may be used for various project-related needs.

Limestone is used in a variety of industrial applications, but the bulk of limestone is used for the production of Portland cement concrete. Most of the limestone resources found in and near the Shasta Lake and vicinity area are located in fairly remote mountainous areas where extraction is uneconomical. However, significant mining of limestone for Portland cement concrete production occurs immediately south of Shasta Lake, in Mountain Gate. Diatomite is produced from sources near Lake Britton, east of the Shasta Lake and vicinity area.

Geothermal Resources Significant geothermal resources occur in the Medicine Lake Highlands, approximately 65 air miles northeast of Shasta Lake. The potential capacity of the Medicine Lake Highlands has been estimated at 480 megawatts (PacifiCorp 2010). Development of the Medicine Lake Highlands' geothermal resources has been the subject of extensive litigation of environmental issues and Native American concerns.

Upper Sacramento River (Shasta Dam to Red Bluff) Economically viable minerals found within the upper Sacramento River portion of the primary study area consist of alluvial sand and gravel, crushed stone, volcanic cinders, limestone, and diatomite. Additional mineral resources are found in the surrounding regions in Shasta and Tehama counties. These mineral resources include asbestos, barium, calcium, chromium, copper, gold, iron, lead, manganese, molybdenum, silver, and zinc (USGS 2005).

Extended Study Area

The following section describes mineral resources in the extended study area, including the lower Sacramento River and Delta and CVP/SWP service areas.

Lower Sacramento River and Delta Economically viable minerals found within the lower Sacramento River and Delta portion of the extended study area consist of alluvial sand and gravel, crushed stone, calcium, and clay. Additional mineral resources are found in the surrounding regions, including chromium, gold, granite, lithium, manganese, mercury, pumice, and silver (USGS 2005).

CVP/SWP Service Areas The USGS' mineral resources database indicates that numerous mineral resources found within the CVP and SWP service areas are or have been mined. These minerals include antimony, asbestos, barium, bismuth, boron, calcium, chromium, clay, copper, diatomite, feldspar, fluorite, gold, gypsum-anhydrite, halite, iron, lead, limestone, magnetite, manganese, marble, mercury, molybdenum, pumice, quartz, sand and gravel, silica, silver, slate, stone (crushed/broken), talc, tin, titanium, tungsten, uranium, and vanadium (USGS 2005).

1.1.5 Soils

Soils and erosion in the study area are described below for both the primary and extended study areas. Soils in the study area are described in the following sections in terms of their biomass productivity; susceptibility to erosion, subsidence, liquefaction, and expansion; and suitability for on-site application of waste material.

Soil biomass productivity is a measure of the capability of a site to produce biomass. The purpose of this management interpretation is to measure the site's productive capability when vegetative indicators (e.g., crop yields, site trees, and other vegetative biomass data) are not directly available. Factors that influence soil biomass productivity include soil depth, parent material, available water-holding capacity, precipitation, soil temperature regime, aspect, and reaction (i.e., pH). Soil biomass productivity is characterized using four relative rankings: high, moderate, low, and non-productive.

The susceptibility of soil to erosion is characterized in terms of the soil's erosion hazard rating. The ratings indicate the hazards of topsoil loss in an unvegetated condition as might occur following disturbance by construction. Ratings are based on the soil erosion factor (K), slope, and content of rock fragments. The soil erosion factor (K) is a measure of the susceptibility of soil particles to detachment and transport by rainfall and runoff, based primarily on soil texture but also considering structure, organic matter, and permeability.) Three ratings are recognized: slight, moderate, and severe. A rating of “slight” indicates that no post-disturbance acceleration of naturally occurring erosion is likely; “moderate” indicates that some acceleration of erosion is likely, and that simple erosion-control measures are needed; and “severe” indicates that significant erosion is expected, and that extensive erosion-control measures are needed.

Land subsidence is broadly defined to mean the sudden sinking or gradual downward settling of the land surface with little or no horizontal motion. Land subsidence can arise from a number of causes; the weathering characteristics of the underlying bedrock (e.g., as occurs for certain limestone formations); decomposition of the organic matter fraction of soils that are derived from peaty or mucky parent materials; aquifer-system compaction; underground mining; and natural compaction. Three processes account for most instances of water-related subsidence: compaction of aquifer systems, drainage and subsequent oxidation of organic soils, and dissolution and collapse of susceptible rocks.

Soil liquefaction is a phenomenon in which the strength and stiffness of a soil is reduced by earthquake shaking or other rapid loading. Liquefaction occurs in saturated soils when the pore spaces between individual soil particles are completely filled with water. This water exerts a pressure on the soil particles that influences how tightly the particles themselves are pressed together. Before an earthquake, the water pressure is relatively low. However, earthquake shaking can cause the water pressure to increase to the point where the soil particles can readily move with respect to each other. When liquefaction occurs, the strength of soils decreases, and the ability of soils to support foundations for buildings and bridges is reduced.

Expansive soils are soils that contain water absorbing minerals, mainly “active” clays (e.g., montmorillonite). Such soils may expand by 10 percent or more when wetted. The cycle of shrinking and expanding exerts continual pressure on structures, and over time can reduce structural integrity. Soil susceptibility to expansion (i.e., shrinking and swelling) is tested using Uniform Building Code Test Standard 18-1.

Soil suitability for onsite application of waste material focuses on the suitability of the soil to support the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems. Suitability interpretations are based on consideration of soil depth, permeability, rock content, depth to groundwater (including seasonally perched water), and slope.

Primary Study Area

The following sections describe soils and erosion in the primary study, including Shasta Lake and vicinity and the upper Sacramento River (Shasta Dam to Red Bluff).

Shasta Lake and Vicinity Soils in the Shasta Lake and vicinity area derive from materials weathered from metavolcanic (e.g., basalt and greenstone) and metaigneous (e.g., granitic rocks and serpentinite) rocks, and metasedimentary rocks. Soils derived from the metavolcanic sources, such as greenstone, include the Goulding and Neuns families. Soils derived from metasedimentary materials include the Marpa family. Holland family soils are derived from metasedimentary and granitic rocks.

In general, metamorphosed rocks do not weather rapidly, and shallow soils are common in the area, especially on steep landscape positions. Soils from metamorphosed rocks generally contain large percentages of coarse fragments (e.g., gravels, cobbles, stones), which reduce their available water holding capacity and topsoil productivity. Granitic rocks may weather deeply, but soils derived from them may be droughty (unable to store water) because of high amounts of coarse quartz grains and low content of “active” clay. Soils derived from granitic rocks commonly are highly susceptible to erosion.

Soil map units in the Shasta Lake and vicinity area are shown in Figure 1-8; Table 1-10 presents the mapping legend that accompanies the figure. The areal extent of soil map units within the Shasta Lake and vicinity area is presented in Table 1-11 for the portion of the area between 1,070 feet and 1,090 feet above msl (Impoundment Area), and in Table 1-12 for the portion potentially disturbed by construction activities (Relocation Areas). Sixty soil map units, comprising soil families and miscellaneous land types (e.g., Rock outcrop, limestone), are recognized to occur in the area. Common soil families are Marpa, Neuns, Goulding, and Holland. These are well-drained soils with fine loamy or loamy-skeletal (i.e., gravelly or cobbly) profiles.

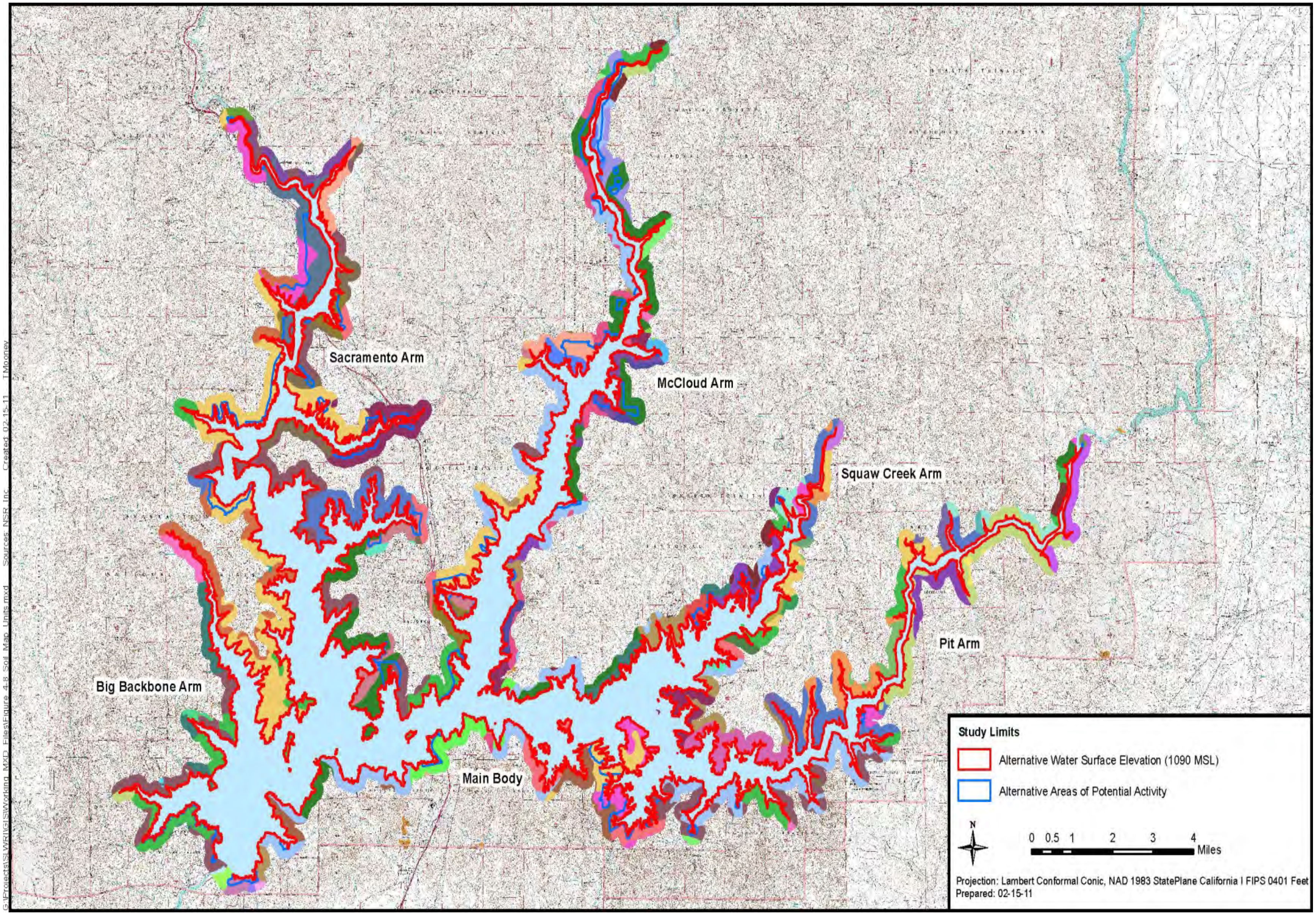


Figure 1-8. Soil Map Units – Shasta Lake and Vicinity

Table 1-10. Key to Soil Map Units – Shasta Lake and Vicinity

Map Unit, Map Unit Name
101, Holland-Goulding families association, 20 to 40 percent slopes.
102, Holland-Goulding families association, 40 to 60 percent slopes.
103, Holland-Goulding families association, 60 to 80 percent slopes.
104, Holland family-Holland family, deep complex, 20 to 40 percent slopes.
105, Holland family-Holland family, deep complex, 40 to 60 percent slopes.
107, Holland-Neuns families complex, 40 to 60 percent slopes.
109, Holland family, ashy, 0 to 20 percent slopes.
111, Holland, ashy-Leadmount families association, 0 to 20 percent slopes.
114, Holland, ashy-Washougal families complex, 25 to 65 percent slopes.
115, Holland family, deep, 0 to 20 percent slopes.
116, Holland family, deep, 20 to 40 percent slopes.
117, Holland family, deep, 40 to 60 percent slopes.
119, Holland family, deep-Holland families complex, 20 to 40 percent slopes.
120, Holland family, deep-Holland family complex, 40 to 60 percent slopes.
123, Holland, deep-Marpa families complex, 20 to 40 percent slopes.
127, Holland, deep-neuns families complex, 40 to 60 percent slopes.
133, Hugo family, 60 to 80 percent slopes.
139, Hugo-Neuns families complex, 60 to 80 percent slopes.
174, Marpa family, 20 to 40 percent slopes.
175, Marpa family, 40 to 60 percent slopes.
176, Marpa family, 60 to 80 percent slopes.
177, Marpa-Chawanakee families complex, 40 to 60 percent slopes.
178, Marpa-Goulding families association, 20 to 40 percent slopes.
179, Marpa-Goulding families association, 40 to 60 percent slopes.
18, Chaix family, 40 to 60 percent slopes.
180, Marpa-Goulding families association, 60 to 80 percent slopes.
182, Marpa-Holland, deep families complex, 20 to 40 percent slopes.
183, Marpa-holland, deep families complex, 40 to 60 percent slopes.
187, Marpa-Neuns families complex, 40 to 60 percent slopes.
188, Marpa-Neuns families complex, 60 to 80 percent slopes.
195, Millsholm family, 20 to 60 percent slopes.
203, Neuns family, 40 to 60 percent slopes.
204, Neuns family, 60 to 80 percent slopes.
209, Neuns-Goulding families association, 60 to 80 percent slopes.
214, Neuns-Holland, deep families complex, 40 to 80 percent slopes.
218, Neuns-Marpa families complex, 40 to 60 percent slopes.
219, Neuns-Marpa families complex, 60 to 80 percent slopes.
224, Neuns family-Typic Xerorthents association, 50 to 80 percent slopes.
228, Neuns family, deep-Neuns family complex, 40 to 70 percent slopes.
24, Chawanakee-Chaix families complex, 40 to 60 percent slopes.
250, Rock outcrop, limestone.

Table 1-10. Key to Soil Map Units – Shasta Lake and Vicinity (contd.)

Map Unit, Map Unit Name
251, Rock outcrop, metamorphic.
252, Rock outcrop, sedimentary.
259, Rock outcrop-Goulding family complex, 40 to 80 percent slopes.
27, Chawanakee family-Rock outcrop complex, 60 to 80 percent slopes.
35, Deadwood-Neuns families complex, 40 to 60 percent slopes.
61, Etsel family, 40 to 80 percent slopes.
79, Goulding family, 20 to 40 percent slopes.
80, Goulding family, 40 to 60 percent slopes.
81, Goulding family, 60 to 80 percent slopes
82, Goulding-Holland families association, 40 to 60 percent slopes.
83, Goulding-Marpa families association, 40 to 60 percent slopes.
85, Goulding family-Rock outcrop complex, 50 to 80 percent slopes
98, Holland family, 40 to 60 percent slopes.
99, Holland family, 60 to 80 percent slopes
AtE2sh, Auburn very stony clay loam, 30 to 50 percent slopes, eroded
AuF2sh, Auburn very rocky clay loam, 50 to 70 percent slopes, eroded
BoF3sh, Boomer very stony clay loam, 50 to 70 percent slopes, severely eroded
GeF2sh, Goulding very rocky loam, 50 to 70 percent slopes, eroded
W, Water

Table 1-11. Areal Extent of Soil Map Units – Shasta Lake and Vicinity (Impoundment Area)

Map Unit	Map Unit Name	Acres	% of Total Subarea
18	Chaix family, 40-60% slopes	43.6	1.75%
27	Chawanakee family-Rock outcrop complex, 60-80% slopes	0.8	0.03%
35	Deadwood-Neuns families complex, 40-60% slopes	2.5	0.10%
61	Etsel family, 40-80% slopes	39.4	1.58%
79	Goulding family, 20-40% slopes	32.0	1.28%
80	Goulding family, 40-60% slopes	153.1	6.13%
81	Goudling family, 60-80% slopes	7.3	0.29%
82	Goulding-Holland families association, 40-60% slopes	45.3	1.81%
83	Goulding-Marpa families association, 40-60% slopes	118.5	4.74%
85	Goulding family-Rock outrcrop complex, 50-80% slopes	10.8	0.43%
98	Holland family, 40-60% slopes	3.6	0.14%
99	Holland family, 60-80% slopes	8.4	0.34%
101	Holland-Goulding families association, 20-40% slopes	66.5	2.66%
102	Holland-Goulding families association, 40-60% slopes	145.0	5.80%
103	Holland-Goulding families association, 60-80% slopes	4.6	0.18%
104	Holland family-Holland family, deep complex, 20-40% slopes	60.6	2.43%
105	Holland family-Holland family, deep complex, 40-60 % slopes	215.3	8.62%
109	Holland family, ashy, 0-22% slopes	0.1	0.00%
111	Holland, ashy-Leadmount families association, 0-20% slopes	93.4	3.74%
114	Holland, ashy-Washougal families complex, 25-65% slopes	6.2	0.25%
115	Holland family, deep, 0-20% slopes	38.6	1.54%
116	Holland family, deep, 20-40% slopes	8.5	0.34%
117	Holland family, deep, 40-60% slopes	32.1	1.29%
119	Holland family, deep-Holland families complex 20-40% slopes	111.5	4.46%
120	Holland family, deep-Holland family complex, 40-60% slopes	70.4	2.82%
123	Holland, deep-Marpa families complex, 20-40% slopes	66.7	2.67%
127	Holland, deep Neuns families complex, 40-60% slopes	4.1	0.16%
133	Hugo family, 60-80% slopes	5.2	0.21%
139	Hugo-Neuns families complex, 60-80% slopes	4.3	0.17%
174	Marpa family, 20-40% slopes	28.2	1.13%
175	Marpa family, 40-60% slopes	28.4	1.14%
177	Marpa-Chawanakee families complex, 40-60% slopes	47.1	1.89%
178	Marpa-Goulding families association, 20-40% slopes	74.7	2.99%
179	Marpa-Goulding families association, 40-60% slopes	309.8	12.40%
180	Marpa-Goulding families association, 60-80% slopes	10.2	0.41%

Table 1-11. Areal Extent of Soil Map Units – Shasta Lake and Vicinity (Impoundment Area) (contd.)

Map Unit	Map Unit Name	Acres	% of Total Subarea
182	Marpa-Holland, deep families complex, 20-40% slopes	89.1	3.57%
183	Marpa-Holland, deep families complex, 40-60% slopes	162.4	6.50%
187	Marpa-Neuns families complex, 40-60% slopes	5.6	0.22%
188	Marpa-Neuns families complex, 60-80% slopes	0.2	0.01%
195	Millsholm family, 20-60% slopes	39.7	1.59%
203	Neuns family, 40-60% slopes	7.6	0.30%
204	Neuns family, 60-80% slopes	43.5	1.74%
209	Neuns-Goulding families association, 60-80% slopes	1.7	0.07%
214	Neuns-Holland, deep families complex, 40-80% slopes	8.5	0.34%
218	Neuns-Marpa families complex, 40-60% slopes	1.1	0.04%
219	Neuns-Marpa families complex, 60-80% slopes	23.9	0.96%
250	Rock outcrop, limestone	9.3	0.37%
251	Rock outcrop, metamorphic	0.0	0.00%
259	Rock outcrop-Goulding family complex, 40-80% slopes	0.5	0.02%
AtE2sh	Auburn very stony clay loam, 30-50% slopes, eroded	0.1	0.01%
BoF3sh	Boomer very stony clay loam, 50-70% slopes, severely eroded	7.4	0.30%
W	Water	200.7	8.03%

Table 1-12. Areal Extent of Soil Map Units – Shasta Lake and Vicinity (Relocation Areas)

Map Unit	Map Unit Name	Acres	% of Total Subarea
18	Chaix family, 40-60% slopes	48.6	1.46%
35	Deadwood-Neuns families complex, 40-60% slopes	1.5	0.04%
61	Etsel family, 40-80% slopes	42.2	1.26%
79	Goulding family, 20-40% slopes	50.4	1.51%
80	Goulding family, 40-60% slopes	179.3	5.37%
82	Goulding-Holland families association, 40-60% slopes	13.9	0.42%
83	Goulding-Marpa families association, 40-60% slopes	6.6	0.20%
85	Goulding family-Rock outrcrop complex, 50-80% slopes	14.6	44.00%
102	Holland-Goulding families association, 40-60% slopes	280.0	8.38%
103	Holland-Goulding families association, 60-80% slopes	2.0	0.06%
104	Holland family-Holland family, deep complex, 20-40% slopes	79.1	2.37%
105	Holland family-Holland family, deep complex, 40-60 % slopes	170.9	5.12%
109	Holland family, ashy, 0-22% slopes	1.1	0.03%
111	Holland, ashy-Leadmount families association, 0-20% slopes	533.6	15.98%

Table 1-12. Areal Extent of Soil Map Units – Shasta Lake and Vicinity (Relocation Areas) (contd.)

Map Unit	Map Unit Name	Acres	% of Total Subarea
114	Holland, ashy-Washougal families complex, 25-65% slopes	1.5	0.05%
115	Holland family, deep, 0-20% slopes	120.0	3.59%
117	Holland family, deep, 40-60% slopes	71.2	2.13%
119	Holland family, deep-Holland families complex 20-40% slopes	163.5	4.90%
120	Holland family, deep-Holland family complex, 40-60% slopes	28.6	0.86%
123	Holland, deep-Marpa families complex, 20-40% slopes	86.8	2.60%
174	Marpa family, 20-40% slopes	150.5	4.51%
175	Marpa family, 40-60% slopes	17.0	0.51%
177	Marpa-Chawanakee families complex, 40-60% slopes	3.1	0.09%
178	Marpa-Goulding families association, 20-40% slopes	107.6	3.22%
179	Marpa-Goulding families association, 40-60% slopes	545.8	16.34%
180	Marpa-Goulding families association, 60-80% slopes	11.7	0.35%
182	Marpa-Holland, deep families complex, 20-40% slopes	247.0	7.40%
183	Marpa-Holland, deep families complex, 40-60% slopes	167.2	5.01%
195	Millsholm family, 20-60% slopes	36.7	1.10%
204	Neuns family, 60-80% slopes	19.4	0.58%
250	Rock outcrop, limestone	43.3	1.30%
259	Rock outcrop-Goulding family complex, 40-80% slopes	20.1	0.60%
AtE2sh	Auburn very stony clay loam, 30-50% slopes, eroded	2.7	0.08%
BoF3sh	Boomer very stony clay loam, 50-70% slopes, severely eroded	43.6	1.30%
W	Water	28.6	0.86%

Soil Biomass Productivity Soil biomass productivity in the Shasta-Trinity National Forest ranges from nonproductive to high (USFS 1994). Using Forest Service Site Class as a surrogate metric for soil biomass productivity, approximately 36 percent of the Shasta Lake and vicinity by soils of low biomass productivity, about 39 percent by soils of moderate productivity, and about 13 percent by “nonproductive” soils and miscellaneous land types (e.g., rock outcrop). Soils of high biomass productivity are unlikely to occur in the Shasta Lake and vicinity area.

Soil Susceptibility to Erosion (Uplands) Interpretations of soil susceptibility to erosion are presented in Table 1-13 for the portion of the area between 1,070 feet and 1,090 feet above msl (Impoundment Area), and in Table 1-14 for the portion potentially disturbed by construction activities. Of the approximately 4,881.36 acres in the Shasta Lake and vicinity area, 4,481 acres (92 percent of total area) are assigned a hazard rating of severe.

Table 1-13. Summary of Soil Erosion Hazard – Shasta Lake and Vicinity (Impoundment Area)

Soil Erosion Hazard	Acres	% of Total Subarea
Moderate	38.55	1.54%
Severe	2248.81	90.03%
Not Rated	210.00	8.41%

Table 1-14. Summary of Soil Erosion Hazard – Shasta Lake and Vicinity (Relocation Areas)

Soil Erosion Hazard	Study Area (acres)	% of Total Subarea
Moderate	85.59	3.59%
Severe	2232.61	93.65%
Not Rated	65.80	2.76%

Soil Susceptibility to Erosion (Shoreline) There are approximately 420 miles of shoreline around Shasta Lake. As described below under "Methods and Assumptions," a conceptual model was developed to quantify current erosion rates and predict future erosion rates (see Attachment 1, Shoreline Erosion Technical Memorandum, Revised). Data for the model were collected synoptically in 2002, 2004, 2007, and 2013, providing a "snapshot" of shoreline conditions. This analysis of shoreline erosion provides an insight into the potential for erosion as the reservoir level rises.

Based on the model output, about 18 percent of the shoreline has a low severity rating for erosion potential for the first 15 years when most of the erosion takes place. The remaining shoreline has a moderate (58 percent) to high (23 percent) severity rating for erosion potential Most of the shoreline that is exposed during routine drawdown periods (i.e., drawdown zone) has been subject to substantial erosion, and very little soil remains after more than 60 years of reservoir operations.

Soil Susceptibility to Subsidence Published interpretations of soil susceptibility to subsidence are generally not available for the Shasta Lake and vicinity area. The likelihood that subsidence would occur as a result decomposition of soil organic matter is low because of the absence of soils derived from peaty or mucky parent materials. Similarly, the likelihood of subsidence caused by aquifer-system compaction is low because of the absence of significant, widespread groundwater withdrawal in the Shasta Lake and vicinity area. Land subsidence has the potential to occur in areas underlain by highly-weatherable, carbonate-rich rocks (e.g., certain limestones), and in areas affected by underground construction.

Soil Susceptibility to Liquefaction Published interpretations of soil susceptibility to liquefaction are generally not available for the Shasta Lake and vicinity area. The likelihood that soil liquefaction would occur is low because of the absence of the necessary high groundwater conditions in the Shasta Lake and vicinity area.

Soil Susceptibility to Expansion Published interpretations of soil susceptibility to expansion (i.e., shrinking and swelling) are generally not available for most of the Shasta Lake and vicinity area. The likelihood that expansive soils occur is low because the weathering products derived from the local bedrock typically contain low concentrations of “active” clays (e.g., montmorillonite).

Soil Suitability for On-site Application of Waste Material Published interpretations of soil suitability for onsite application of waste material (i.e., capability to support use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems) are generally not available for the Shasta Lake and vicinity area. In general, soils in the Shasta Lake and vicinity area are poorly suited to these uses because of shallow soil depth, high rock content, and excessive slope.

Upper Sacramento River (Shasta Dam to Red Bluff) The following section describes the susceptibility of soil in the upper Sacramento River portion of the primary study area to erosion (channel shoreline), erosion (wind), subsidence, liquefaction, and expansion.

Soils in the Sacramento River basin are divided into four physiographic groups: upland soils, terrace soils, valley land soils, and valley basin soils (Figure 1-9). Upland soils are prevalent in the hills and mountains of the region and are composed mainly of sedimentary sandstones, shales, and conglomerates originating from igneous rocks. Terrace and upland soils are predominant between Redding and Red Bluff; however, valley land soils border the Sacramento River through this area. Valley land and valley basin soils occupy most of the Sacramento Valley floor south of Red Bluff. Valley land soils consist of deep alluvial and aeolian soils that make up some of the best agricultural land in the state. The valley floor was once covered by an inland sea, and sediments were formed by deposits of marine silt followed by mild uplifting earth movements. After the main body of water disappeared, the Sacramento River began eroding and redepositing silt and sand in new alluvial fans.

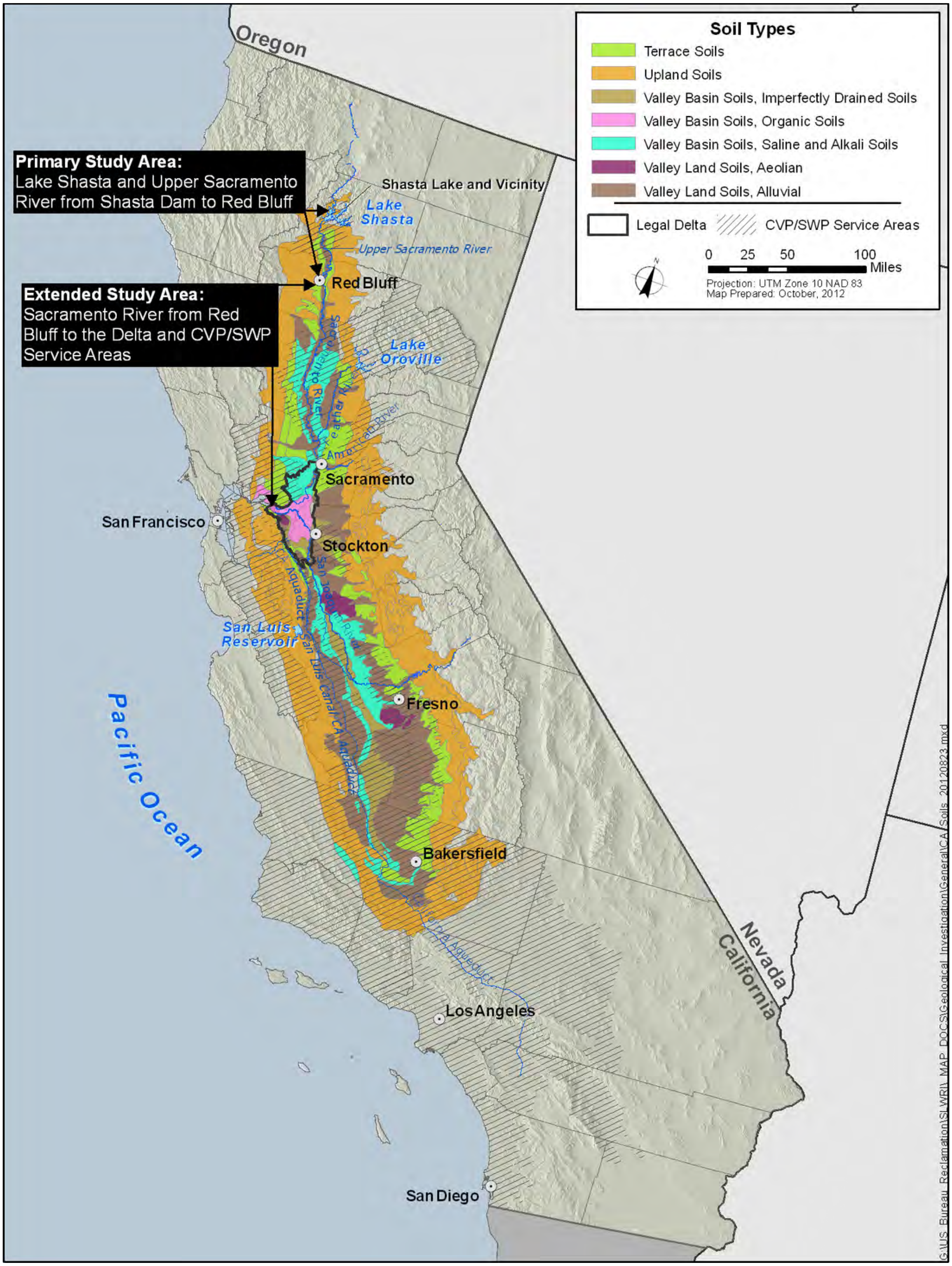


Figure 1-9. Soil Types of the Central Valley

The upper Sacramento River between Shasta Lake and Red Bluff is bounded and underlain by resistant volcanic and sedimentary deposits that confine the river, resulting in a relatively stable river course. This reach of river is characterized by steep vertical banks, and the river is primarily confined to its channel with limited overbank floodplain areas. There is limited meandering of the river above Red Bluff.

Soil Susceptibility to Erosion (Channel Shoreline) Sedimentation and erosion are natural processes of the mountainous streams that are tributary to Shasta Lake. The watershed above Shasta Lake is generally well forested, and erosion is moderate compared with more disturbed areas. However, watersheds for many of the tributaries of Shasta Lake have been significantly altered by a number of factors, including logging and hydraulic mining; construction of dams, roads, reservoirs; channel modifications; wildfires; and agricultural and urban activities. These cause sediment influxes and accelerated erosion. The changes in stream morphology often have negatively affected aquatic habitat and adjacent wetlands. The average annual flood flow was 121,000 cubic feet per second (cfs) at Red Bluff before construction of Shasta Dam (1879 through 1944), and 79,000 cfs after (1945 through 1993). The l0-year flood has been reduced from 218,000 to 134,000 cfs, which has reduced the energy available to transport sediment in the Sacramento River. Moreover, the sediment supply to the river has been reduced by sediment trapping in reservoirs, by mining of sand and gravel from channel beds, and by artificial protection of river banks. The erosion of the river banks had supplied sediment to the channel.

Shasta and Keswick dams have a significant influence on sediment transport in the Sacramento River because they block sediment that would normally be transported downstream. The result has been a net loss of coarse sediment, including salmon spawning gravels, in the Sacramento River below Keswick Dam. In the recent past, Reclamation, California Department of Water Resources, and California Department of Fish and Wildlife have cooperated to artificially replenish salmon spawning gravel downstream from Keswick Dam. In alluvial river sections, bank erosion and sediment deposition cause river channel migrations that are vital to maintaining instream and riparian habitats, but which can cause loss of agricultural lands and damage to roads and other structures. In the Sacramento River, these processes are most important in the major alluvial section of the river, which begins downstream from the RBPP. The river channel in the Keswick-to-RBPP reach is constrained by erosion-resistant formations and therefore is more stable.

Rates of bank erosion and channel migration have declined since 1946, presumably from change in peak flows and blockage of upstream sediment supply as a result of Shasta Dam, and from the construction of downstream bank protection projects. The channel sinuosity (ratio of channel length to valley length) also has decreased.

Rivers and floodplains are created, maintained, and modified by geomorphic processes whose rates and patterns are regulated through complex interactions of flow, sediment transport, and the properties of the channel and floodplain (including slope, erodibility, and morphology). Because large systems such as the Sacramento River are affected by the interaction of a wide variety of geomorphic processes, quantifying and understanding how they evolve can be complex.

The effects of management decisions on physical parameters (such as the magnitude and frequency of peak flow, for example) can often be quantified more or less straightforwardly. The implications for geomorphic processes and habitat dynamics are conversely much more difficult to determine, because relationships between process and form for channels and floodplains are typically complex and therefore not always easy to understand. Of particular concern are uncertainties in estimates of sediment supply, and the magnitude, timing, and duration of peak flows, which together are the fundamental regulators of sediment mobilization, bed scour, riparian recruitment, and bank erosion.

Soil Susceptibility to Erosion (Wind) Soil erodibility, climatic factors, soil surface roughness, width of field, and quantity of vegetative coverage affect the susceptibility of soils to wind erosion. Wind erosion leaves the soil shallower and can remove organic matter and needed plant nutrients. In addition, blowing soil particles can damage plants, particularly young plants. Blowing soils also can cause off-site problems such as reduced visibility and increased allergic reaction to dust.

Soil Susceptibility to Subsidence Land subsidence in the Sacramento Valley is localized and concentrated in areas of overdraft from groundwater pumping. Land subsidence had exceeded 1 foot by 1973 in two main areas in the southwestern part of the valley near Davis and Zamora; however, additional subsidence since then has not been reported.

Soil Susceptibility to Expansions Some soils have a potential to volumetrically swell when they absorb water and shrink when they dry out. Expansive soils, most commonly associated with montmorillonites, contain clays that volumetrically expand when moisture is absorbed into the crystal structure. Most of Shasta County is characterized by moderately expansive soils with areas of low expansiveness in the South Central Region and southeastern corner of the county. Small scattered areas of highly expansive soils exist in the mountains of the Western Upland, French Gulch, and North East Shasta County planning areas. The hazard associated with expansive soils is that areas of varying moisture or soil conditions can differentially expand or shrink, causing stresses on structures that lead to cracking or settling. This hazard is identifiable through standard soil tests. Its effects on structures can be mitigated by the requirements of proper engineering design and standard corrective measures.

Extended Study Area

Soils and erosion in the extended study area are described below.

Lower Sacramento River and Delta The following section describes the susceptibility of soil in the lower Sacramento River and Delta portion of the extended study are to erosion (channel shoreline), erosion (wind), subsidence, liquefaction, and expansion.

The soils of the Sacramento River basin are divided into four physiographic groups, as described above for the upper Sacramento River portion of the primary study area.

The soils of the Delta region vary primarily as a result of differences in geomorphological processes, climate, parent material, biological activity, topography, and time. The soils are divided into the following four general soil types:

- Delta organic soils and highly organic mineral soils
- Sacramento River and San Joaquin River deltaic soils
- Basin and basin rim soils
- Moderately well- to well-drained valley, terrace, and upland soils

The Delta region contains soils primarily with the required physical and chemical soil characteristics, growing season, drainage, and moisture supply necessary to qualify as Prime Farmland. This includes 80 – 90 percent of the area of organic and highly organic mineral soils, Sacramento River and San Joaquin River deltaic soils, and basin and basin rim soils. Most of the remaining soils of the Delta region qualify as farmland of Statewide Importance.

The Delta soils that have been most affected by agricultural development are the organic soils and highly organic mineral soils. These effects are caused by the flood protection of levees and the lowering of groundwater tables by pumps and drainage ditches to make production possible.

Soil Susceptibility to Erosion (Channel Shoreline) In the extended study area, the Sacramento River is a major alluvial river section that is active and sinuous, meandering across alluvial deposits within a wide meander belt. In alluvial river sections, bank erosion and sediment deposition cause migrations of the river channel. These migrations are extremely important in maintaining instream and riparian habitats, but also can cause loss of agricultural lands and damage to roads and other structures. Geologic outcroppings and human-made structures, such as bridges and levees, act as local hydraulic controls along the river. Bank protection, consisting primarily of rock riprap, has been placed along various sections of the Sacramento River to reduce erosion and river meandering.

The great quantities of sediment transported by the rivers into the Delta move primarily as suspended load. Of the estimated 5 million tons per year of sediment inflow into the Delta, about 80 percent originates from the Sacramento River and San Joaquin River drainages; the remainder is contributed by local streams. Approximately 15 – 30 percent of the sediment is deposited in the Delta; the balance moves into the San Francisco Bay system or out through CVP and SWP facilities.

Sediment circulation within the Bay-Delta system is complex because of the numerous interconnected channels, tidal flats, and bays, within which interaction of freshwater flows, tides, and winds produce an ever-changing pattern of sediment suspension and deposition. Pumping at the CVP and SWP Delta facilities alters this circulation of sediments within the system and may cause erosion of the bed and banks by inducing higher water velocities in the channels.

The mechanics of sediment transport in either saline or tidally affected streams, such as the lower Sacramento River and the Delta, are even more complex than in freshwater streams. This complexity results from changes in flow velocity, water density, flow direction, and water depth caused by changing tides. The Delta is primarily a depositional environment, but variations in water and sediment inflow may result in either erosion or deposition.

Erosion may occur when (1) the velocity of flow in a channel is increased, (2) the sediment inflow to a channel in equilibrium is reduced, or (3) predominance of flow in one direction is altered in a channel that experiences reverse flows. The actual rate of erosion depends on the composition of the material on the bed and banks, and on the amount of change in the factors listed previously in addition to other factors including subsidence or uplift.

Deposition is induced when conditions are the opposite of those favorable for erosion. The rate of deposition depends on the type and amount of sediment in suspension, the salinity, and the extent to which the transport capacity of the channel has been changed by reduction in flow velocity and channel size. Increasing salinity causes the suspended load of clay and silt particles to form aggregates that settle and deposit more rapidly than individual sediment particles. Deposition near Rio Vista may be caused by the convergence of the Sacramento River with the Deep Water Channel, forming a wider channel with resultant lower water velocities.

Flows induced by use of the Delta Cross Channel (DCC) have affected the North Fork of the Mokelumne River by eroding a rather deep channel near New Hope, thereby accelerating the need for riprap on the Mokelumne River levees. DCC flows that go down the South Fork pass through Dead Horse Cut and impinge on the Staten Island levee at a right angle, resulting in erosion of the bank in this area.

The discharges and velocities in the channels south of the San Joaquin River are influenced significantly by exports at the CVP and SWP pumping plants. Sediment deposition and gain from local drainage alter the amount and composition of the sediment transported in the channels. In addition, degradation or aggradation and widening or narrowing of certain channels may be occurring because of the higher velocities caused by pumping.

Soil Susceptibility to Erosion (Wind) The Delta's organic soils and highly organic mineral soils have wind erodibility ratings of 2 – 4 on a scale where 1 is most erodible and 8 is least erodible. The high wind erodibility of Delta soils is caused by the organic matter content of the soil. The rate of wind erosion is estimated at 0.1 inch per year.

Soil Susceptibility to Subsidence Subsidence of the Delta's organic soils and highly organic mineral soils continues to be a concern and could present a threat to the present land use of the Delta islands. Interior island subsidence is attributable primarily to biochemical oxidation of organic soil material as a result of long-term drainage and flood protection. The highest rates of subsidence occur in the central Delta islands, where organic matter content in the soils is highest.

Development of the islands resulted in subsidence of the islands' interiors and greater susceptibility of the topsoil to wind erosion. Subsidence, as it relates to Delta islands, refers generally to the falling level of the land surface from primarily the oxidation of peat soil. Levee settlement may be partially caused by peat oxidation if land adjacent to levees is not protected from subsidence.

Soil Susceptibility to Expansion Soils in the Lower Sacramento River and Delta portion of the extended study area vary from having low to high shrink-swell potential. In general, soils in the narrow corridor upstream along the Sacramento River have low shrink-swell potential according the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) State Soil Geographic (STATSGO) Database Soil Surveys, with the exception of some soils with moderate shrink-swell potential near the Red Bluff Pumping Plant (NRCS 1995). Downstream, the shrink-swell potential of soils near the Delta is generally classified by the STATSGO Soil Surveys as "high." The hazard associated with expansive soils is that areas of varying moisture or soil conditions can differentially expand or shrink, causing stresses on structures that lead to cracking or settling. This hazard is identifiable through standard soil tests. Its effects on structures can be mitigated through the requirements of proper engineering design and standard corrective measures.

CVP/SWP Service Areas The following section describes soil susceptibility to erosion (channel shoreline) and soil susceptibility to subsidence in the CVP/SWP service areas. As described above for the upper Sacramento River portion of the primary study area, soils in the CVP service areas are divided into four physiographic groups: valley land, valley basin, terrace land, and upland soils. According to USDA STATSGO Database, soils within the CVP/SWP service areas consist of clay, loam, silt, and sand, some of which is gravelly. The CVP/SWP service areas also consist of unweathered and weathered bedrock that is evident through outcrops at the ground surface (NRCS 1995).

San Joaquin River Region The following section describes soils and erosion in the San Joaquin River region.

Soils The San Joaquin River region contains four major landform types (each with its own characteristic soils):

- Floodplain
- Basin rim/basin floor
- Terraces
- Foothills and mountains

Floodplain lands contain two main soil types: alluvial soils and aeolian soils. The alluvial soils make up some of the best agricultural land in the State, whereas the aeolian soils are prone to wind erosion and are deficient in plant nutrients. Basin lands consist of poorly drained soils and of saline and alkali soils in the valley trough and on the basin rims. These soils are used mainly for pasture, rice, and cotton.

Areas above the valley floor contain terrace and foothill soils, which are primarily used for grazing and timberland.

The upper watersheds of the Sacramento and San Joaquin Valleys mainly drain foothills soils, which are found on the hilly to mountainous topography surrounding the San Joaquin Valley. Moderate depth to bedrock (20 – 40 inches) soils occur on both sides of the northern San Joaquin Valley, where the annual rainfall is intermediate to moderately high. Deep (greater than 40 inches) soils are the important timberlands of the area and occur in the high rainfall zones at the higher elevations in the mountains east of the valley. Shallow (less than 20 inches) soils, used for grazing, occur in the medium- to low-rainfall zone at lower elevations on both sides of the valley. Very shallow (less than 12 inches) soils are found on steep slopes, mainly at higher elevations. These soils are not useful for agriculture, grazing, or timber because of their very shallow depth, steep slopes, and stony texture. The geologic provinces comprising the San Joaquin River region include the Coast Ranges, Central Valley, and Sierra Nevada.

Soil Susceptibility to Subsidence After nearly 2 decades of little or no land subsidence, significant land subsidence was detected in the San Joaquin Valley along the Delta-Mendota Canal because of increased groundwater pumping during the 1987 through 1992 drought.

It was not until the 1920s that deep well pumping lowered the water table below the root zone of plants on the east side of the valley. Dry-farming practices were replaced with irrigated agriculture on the west side in the l940s, leading to the spreading and worsening of drainage problems on the west side of the valley and near the valley trough in the 1950s.

As a result of heavy pumping, groundwater levels declined by more than 300 feet in certain areas during the 1940s and 1950s. The groundwater level declines resulted in significant land subsidence over large areas. Significant historical land subsidence caused by excessive groundwater pumping has been observed in the Los Banos-Kettleman Hills area, the Tulare-Wasco area, and the Arvin-Maricopa area.

Bay Region The following section describes soils and erosion in the Bay region.

Soils The bay region can be divided into four major landform types (each with characteristic soils):

- Basin floor/basin rim
- Floodplain/valley land
- Terraces
- Foothills and mountains

Basin lands consist of organic-rich saline soils adjacent to the bay and poorly drained soils somewhat farther from the bay. Valley land soils generally are found on gently sloping alluvial fans that surround the floodplain and basin lands. These soils, along with floodplain alluvial soils, represent the most important agricultural group of soils in California. In the Bay Area, most of the floodplain and valley land soils have been urbanized.

Terrace land soils are found along the southeastern edge of the Bay Area at elevations of 5 to 100 feet above the valley floor. Most of these soils are moderately dense soils of neutral reaction.

Soils of the foothills and mountains that surround the bay are formed through the decomposition and disintegration of the underlying parent material. The most prevalent foothills soil group has a moderate depth to bedrock (20 – 40 inches), with lesser amounts of the deep depth (greater than 40 inches) and shallow depth (less than 12 inches) to bedrock soil groups present. Moderate-depth soils generally are dark colored and fairly high in organic matter, and constitute some of the best natural grazing lands of the state. Deep soils occur in the high rainfall zones at the higher elevations in the Coast Ranges. They generally support forest lands in the bay region and are characterized by acid reaction and depths to bedrock of 3 – 6 feet. Shallow soils occur in the mediumto low-rainfall zone. They are loamy in character and are used principally for grazing.

Soil salinity problems occur primarily in the western and southern portions of the San Joaquin Valley. Most soils in this region were derived from marine sediments of the Coast Ranges, which contain salts and potentially toxic trace elements such as arsenic, boron, molybdenum, and selenium. Soil salinity problems in the San Joaquin Valley have been, and continue to be, intensified by poor soil drainage, insufficient water supplies for adequate leaching, poor-quality (high-salinity) applied irrigation water, high water tables, and an arid climate. A 1984 study estimated that about 2.4 million of the 7.5 million acres of irrigated cropland in the Central Valley were adversely affected by soil salinity.

Soil Susceptibility to Erosion (Wind) The major source of suspended sediment in the bay is outflow from the Delta. Approximately three-quarters of the suspended sediment enters the bay with the high winter and early spring flood flows. The highest suspended sediment and turbidity levels occur during these periods. Although much of the suspended sediment begins to aggregate at the salinity gradient, and deposit in the shallow areas of Suisun and San Pablo bays, high seasonal flows can transport incoming sediment as far as the Central and South bays.

Sediments deposited in the shallower regions are resuspended by wave and wind action. Approximately 15 times the material that enters the bay is resuspended each year. Resuspension of sediment is the most important process for maintaining turbidities in the bay from late spring through fall.

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Chapter 2
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