Welcome

Planning for Sea Level Rise and Flooding in the Lower Eel River Estuary

Community Meeting

March 2, 2026

Agenda

1:00-1:10 Welcome & Meeting Overview

1:10-1:40 Project Overview Presentation

1:40-2:00 Mapping Activity & Q&A

Safety & Accessibility

Restrooms

Emergency Exits

Other

Study Area

We acknowledge that we are gathering on the traditional territory and homelands of the Wiyot peoples which include the Wiyot Tribe, Bear River of the Rohnerville Rancheria, and Blue Lake Rancheria.

The Eel River is known as *Wiyat* in the Soulatluk (Wiyot) language . The Wiyot peoples continue their relationships with these lands and waters through ceremony, culture, and stewardship.

Study Area

Lower estuary at or below the 23 feet NAV88 elevation

~ 31 square miles

Based on the High sea level rise scenario for 2150

(13 ft of SLR + 100 year tidal level)

1889

- Water depths of 9-15 ft
- Complex network of sloughs and water bodies
- 2 dikes southwest and west of Morgan's slough
- Cannery east of Morgan's slough

1916-1921

- Greater water depths of 10-27 feet
- Increased channelization and diking
- Reduced wetland extent
- Cock Robin Island

McNulty's Slough

Mosley's Cut-off

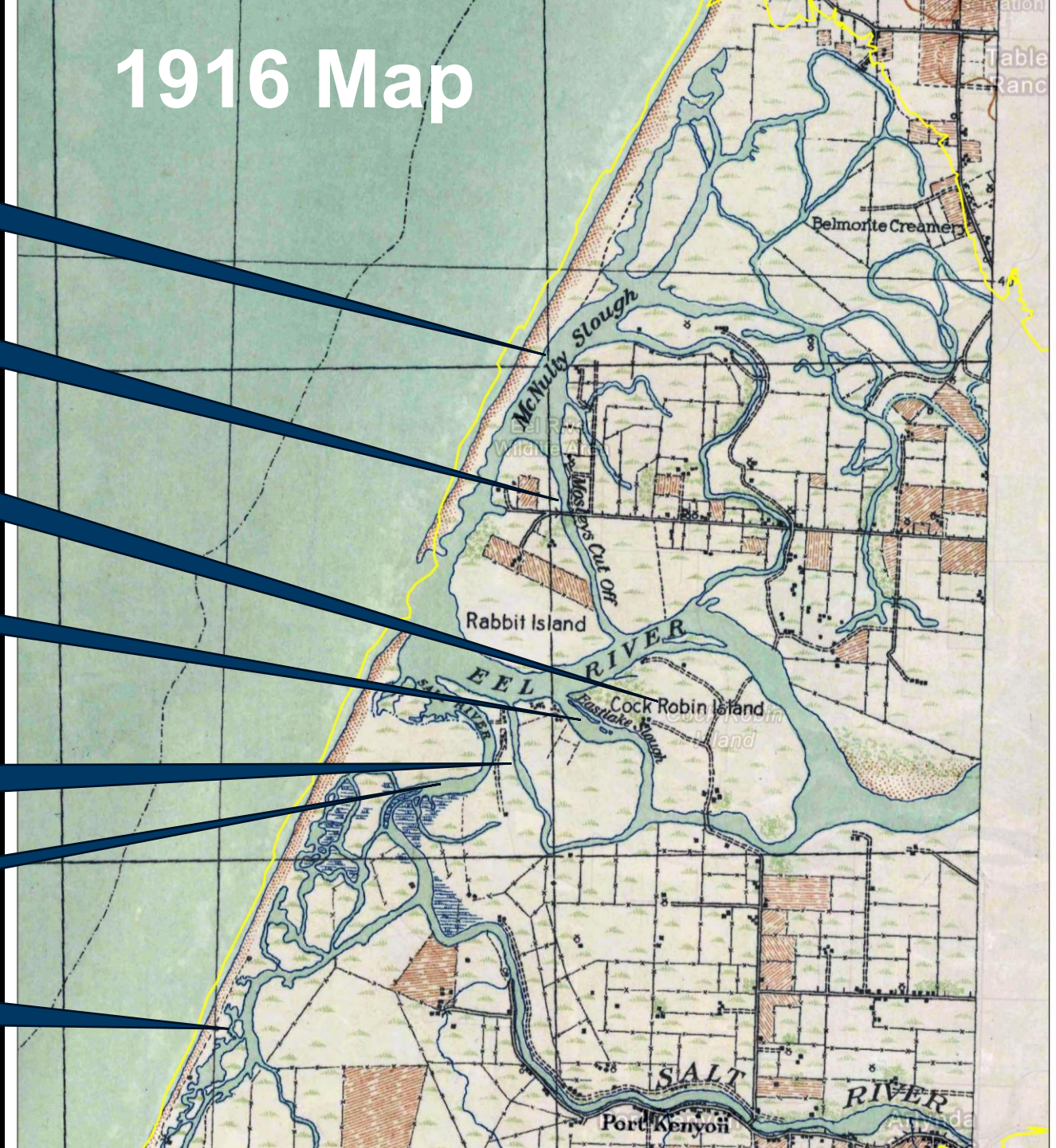
Cock Robin Island

Eastlake Slough

Morgan's Slough

Salt River

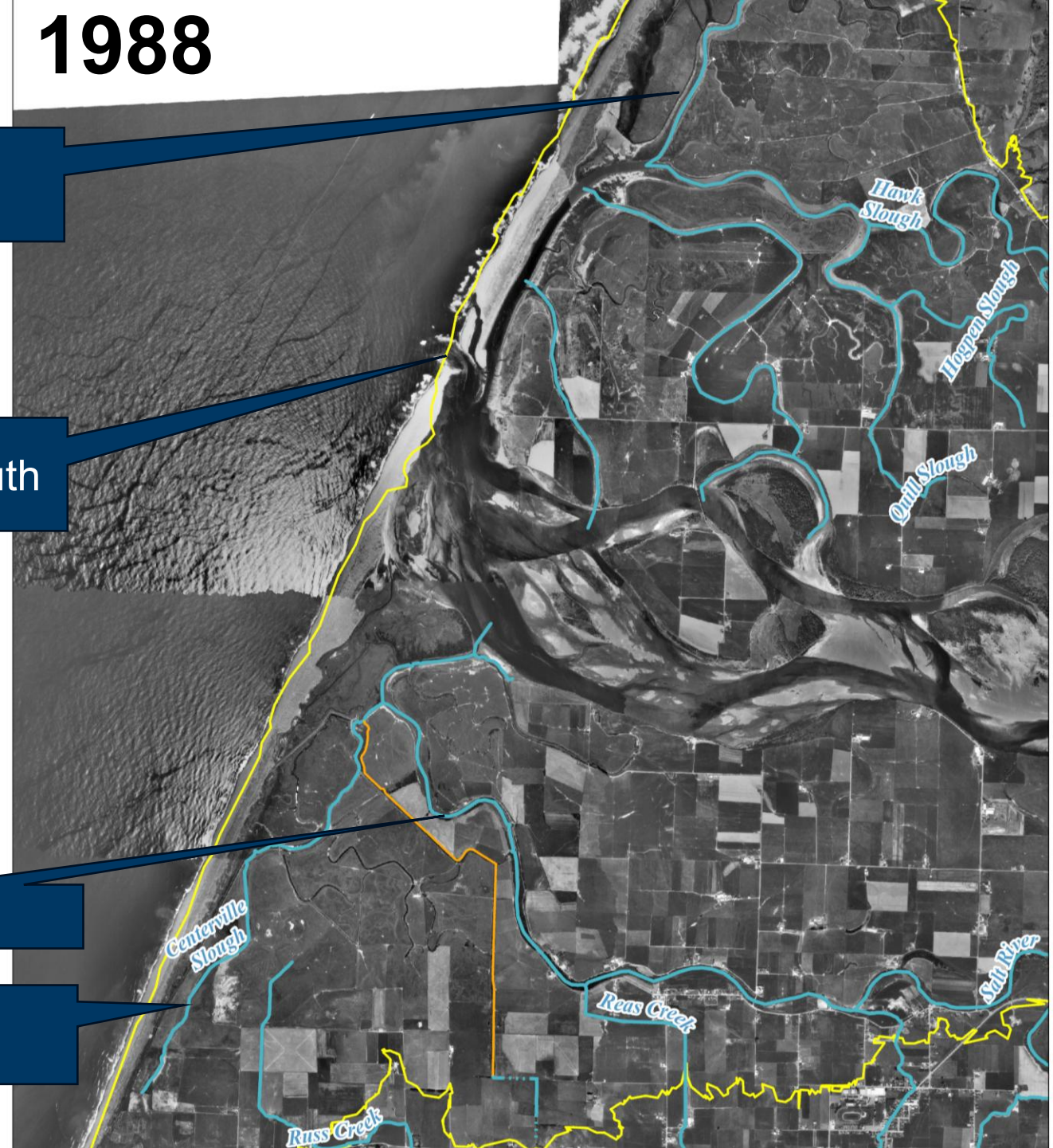
Centerville Slough



1977-1994

- Channelization of Salt River, reduction in size
- Highway and Navy station near Centerville Beach
- Mosley's Cut-off disappears
- Eel River mouth migrates to the north
- Erosion of shoreline south of the mouth, increasing shoreline north of the mouth

1981 – Designated a National Wild and Scenic River



Current Conditions:
Geomorphology

1. Subtidal and intertidal

   Sloughs, mudflats, tidal marshes and mouths of tributary creeks

2. Constructed landforms

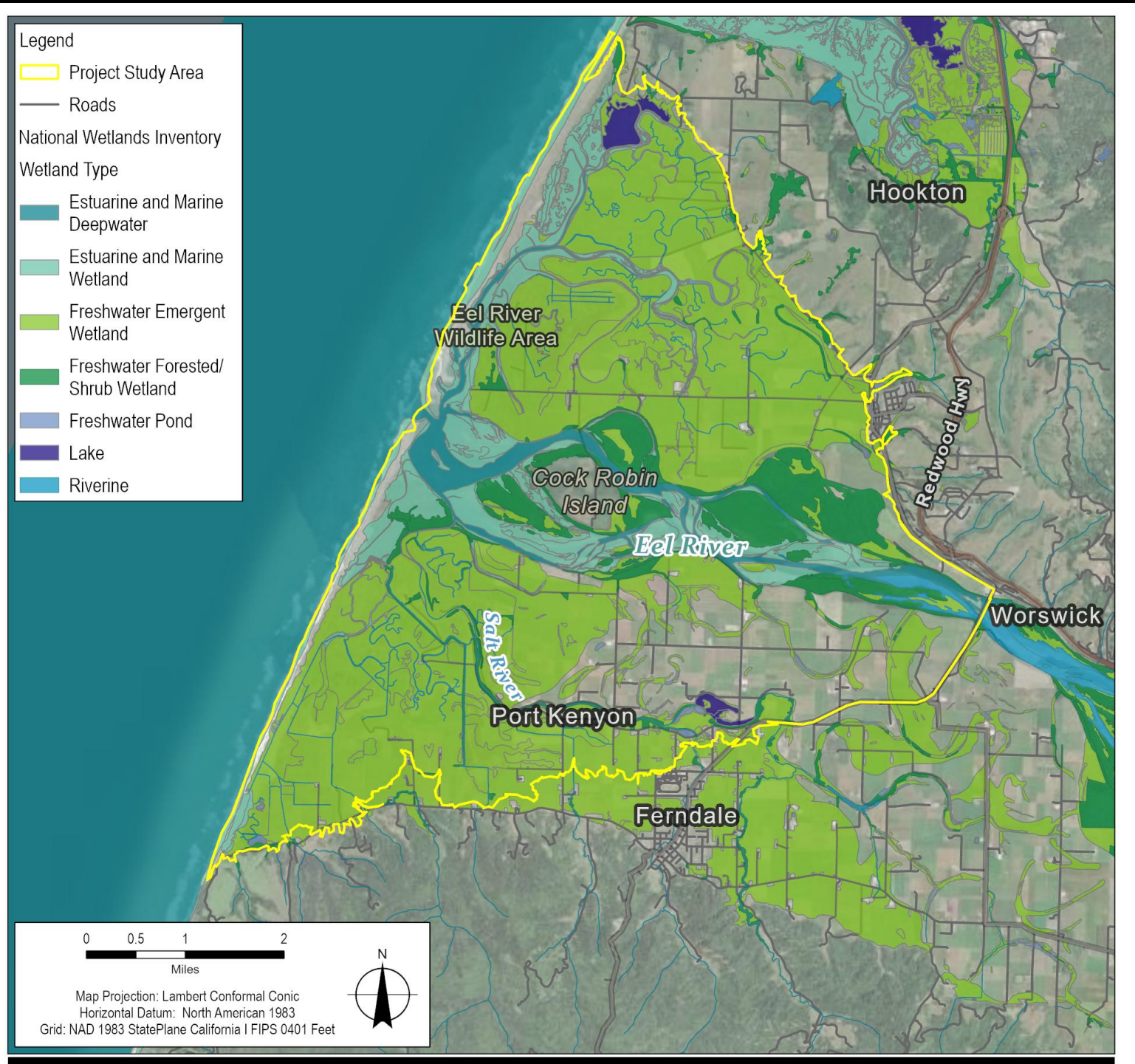
   Earthen levees, dikes, and tide gates

3. Diked former tidelands

   Tidal marsh converted to agricultural use

4. Uplands

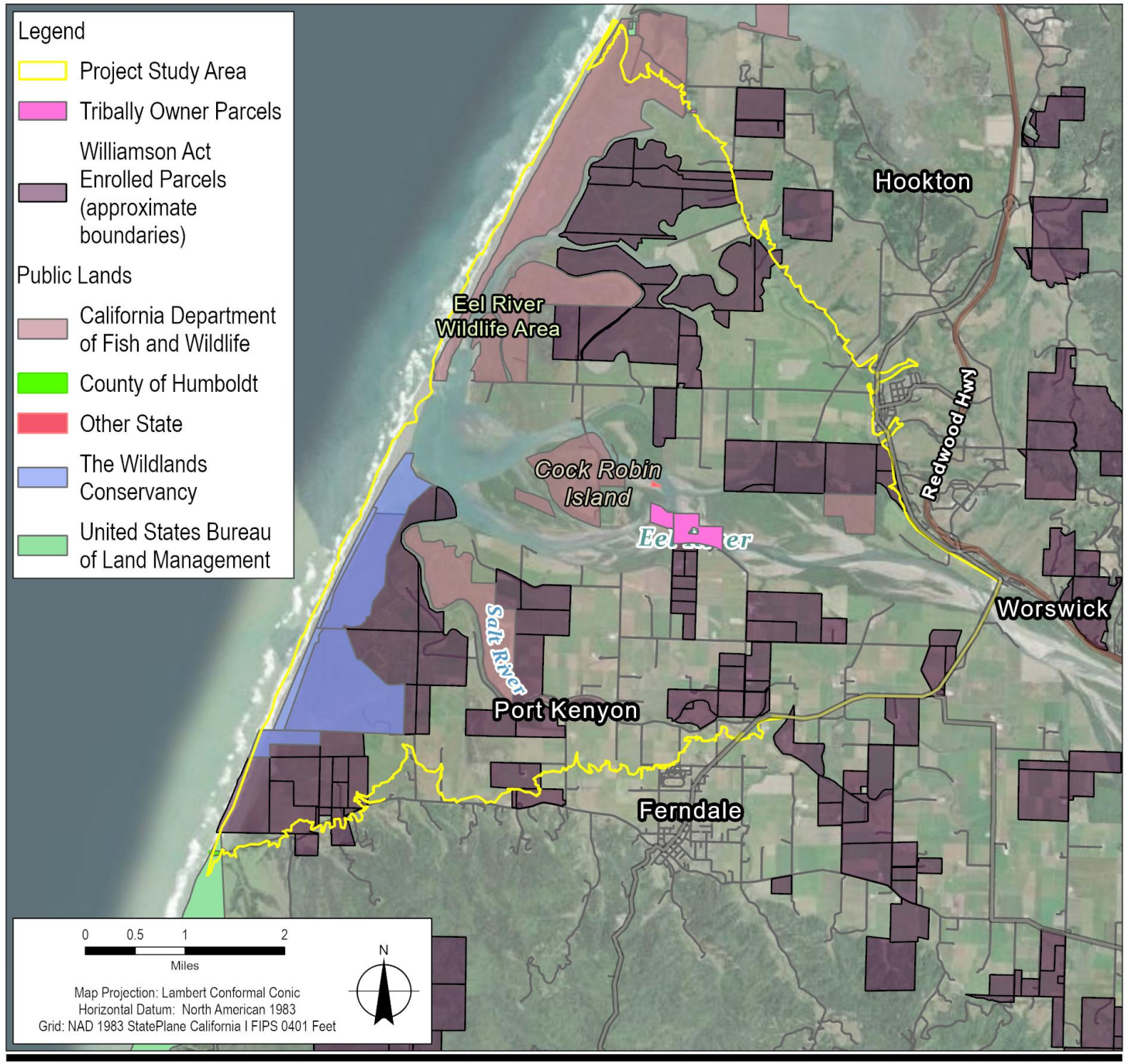
5. Coastal beach and dunes



Current Conditions:

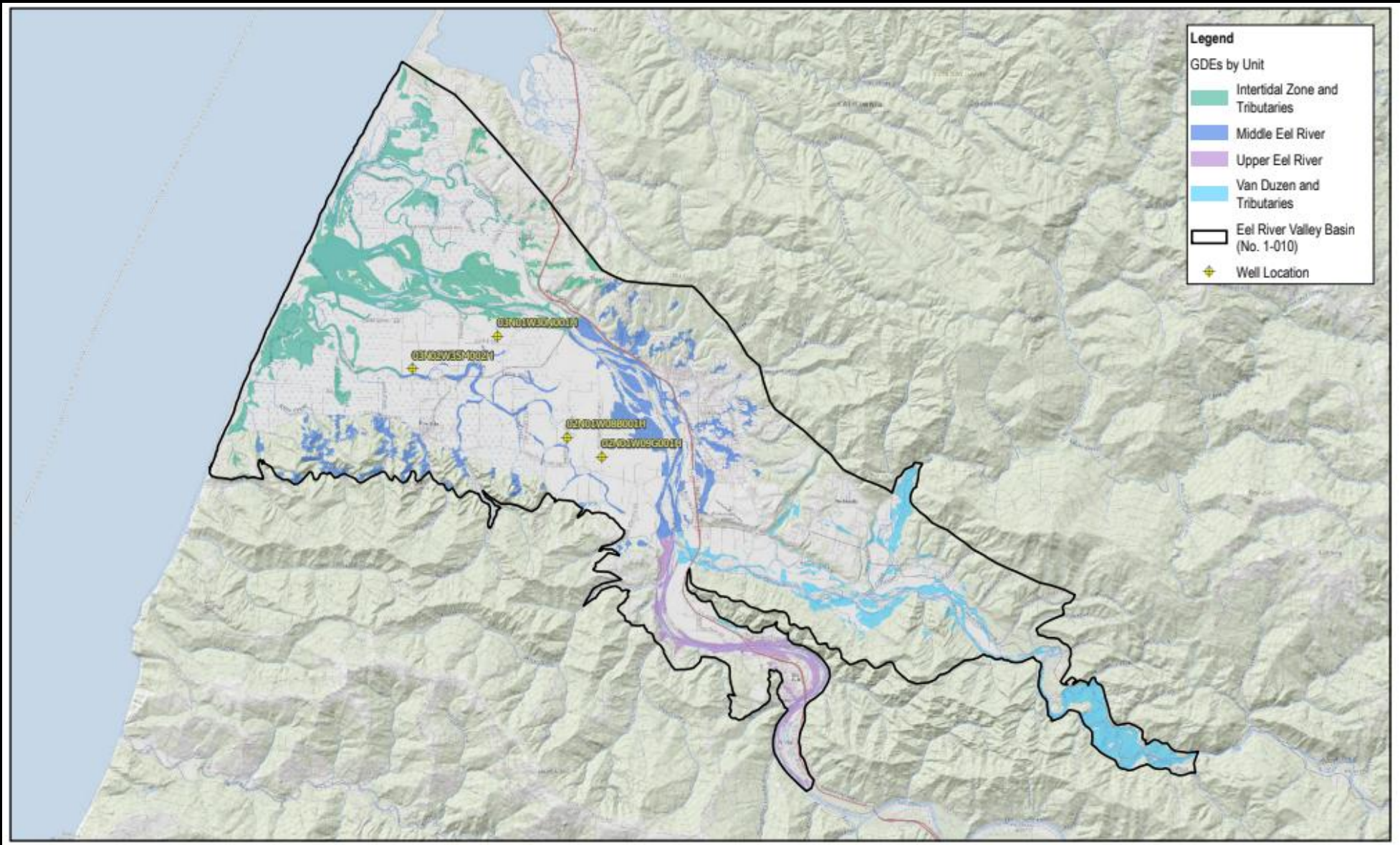
Land Management

- Humboldt County/ private lands
- Tribal lands
- State of California
- Wildlands Conservancy



Current Conditions:

Groundwater



Engineers & Geologists | Stillwater Sciences | GHD

Paper Size ANSI A
0 1 2 3
Miles
Map Projection: Lambert Conformal Conic
Horizontal Datum: North American 1983
Grid: NAD 1983 StatePlane California I FIPS 0401 Feet

N

Humboldt County Groundwater Sustainability Agency
Eel River Valley Groundwater Sustainability Plan

Potential Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems

Project No. 11217388
Revision No. -
Date Jan 2022

FIGURE 33

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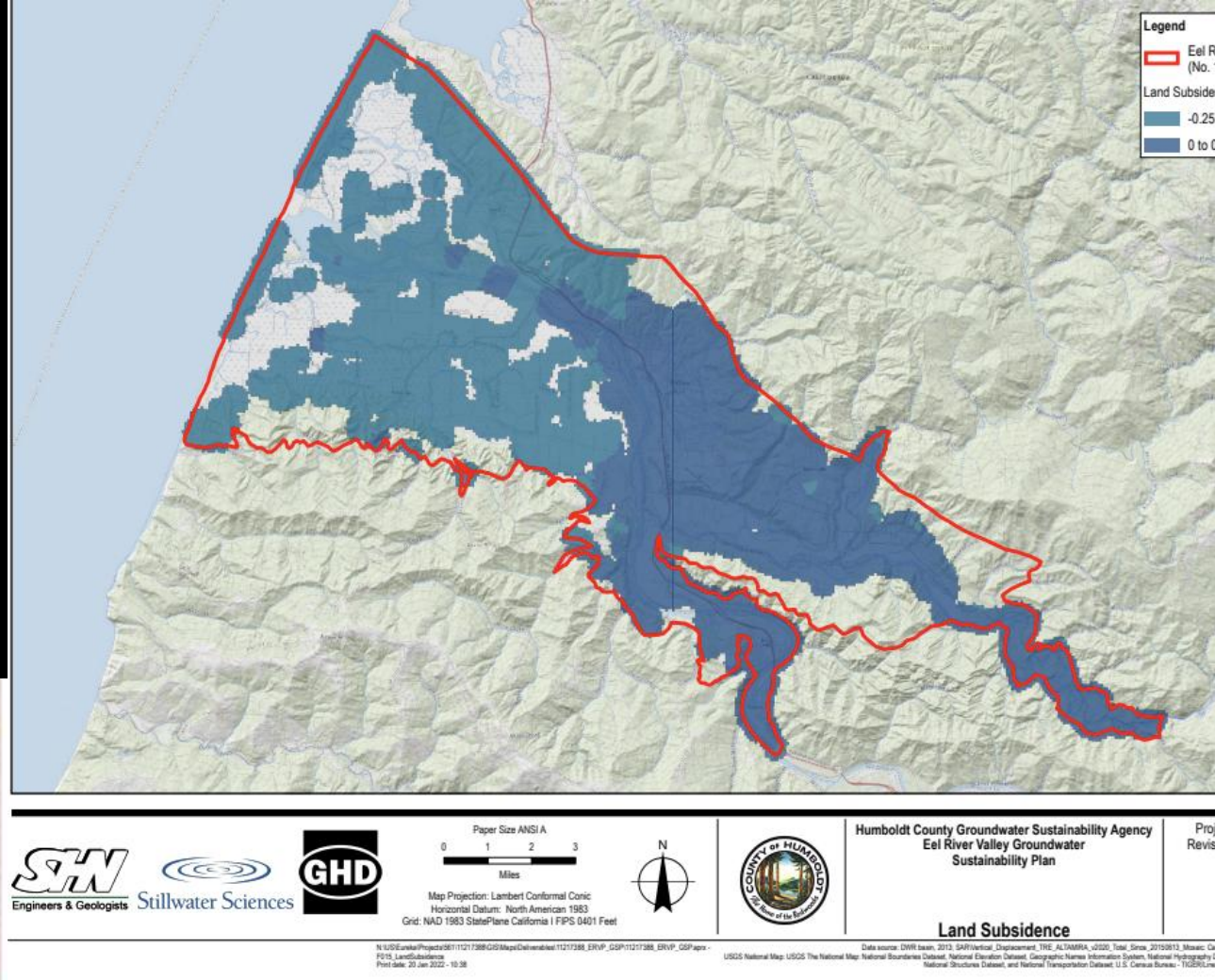
Print date: 20 Jan 2022 - 11:09

Data source: DWR basin, 2013; GDE, Stillwater Sciences; USGS National Map: USGS The National Map: National Boundaries Dataset, National Elevation Dataset, Geographic Names Information System, National Hydrography Dataset, National Land Cover Database, National Structures Dataset, and National Transportation Dataset; U.S. Census Bureau - TIGER/Line; HERE Road Data. Created by: jclark2

Ongoing Landscape Changes:

Land Subsidence

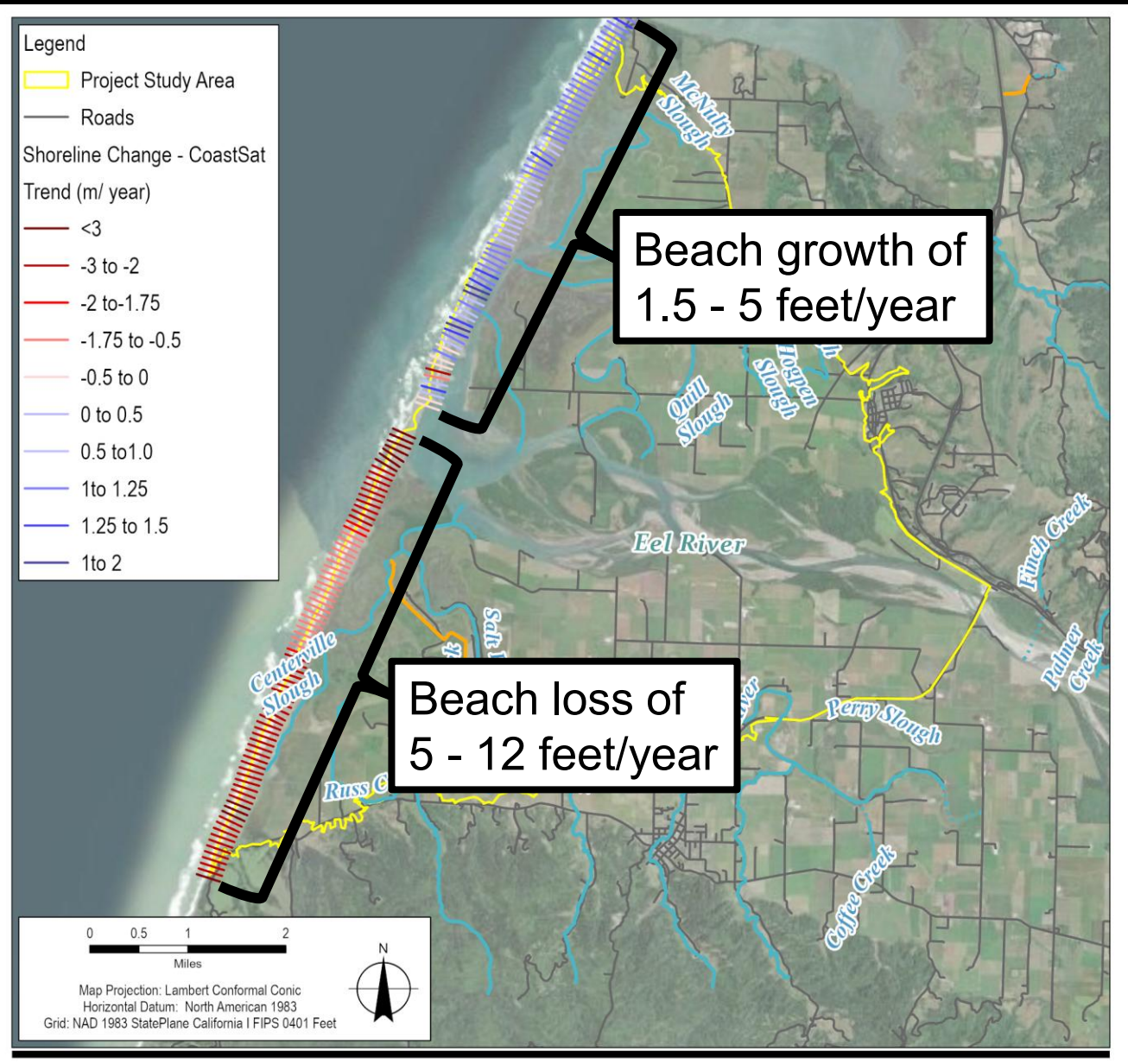


Tectonics - Cascadia

Global vertical land movement

Consolidation of marsh soils due to diking

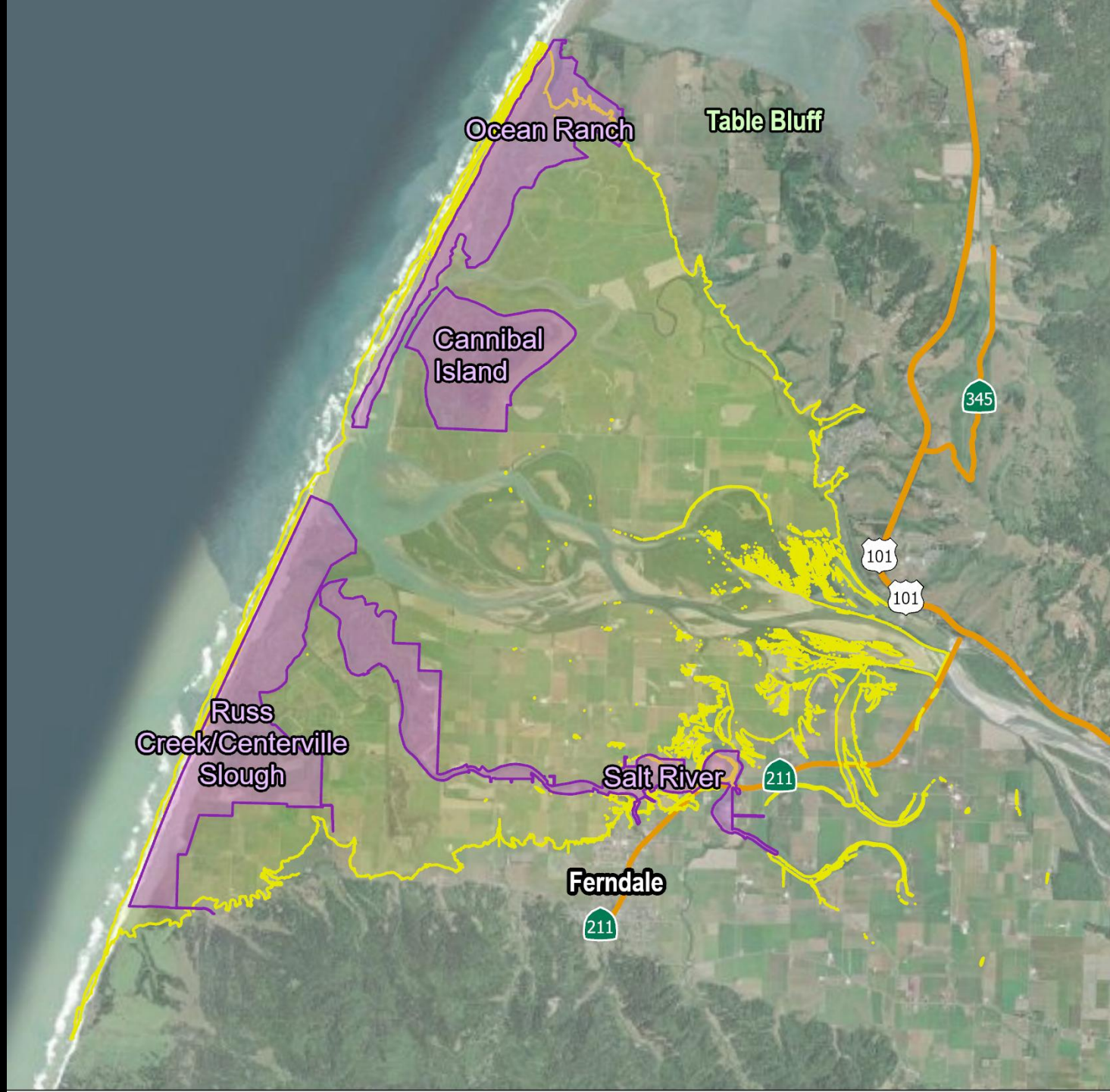
Beach Erosion and Accretion



Ongoing Landscape Changes:

Ecological Restoration Projects

- Ocean Ranch
- Cannibal Island
- Salt River
- Russ Creek / Centerville Slough



Flooding and Future Sea Level Rise

Scope of Work

Data Collection

Historic and current conditions to provide more accurate evaluation of future flooding risks with sea level rise

- *Lower Eel River Estuary Background Report*

Community Engagement

Community meetings, Tribal engagement, meetings with focused stakeholders

- *Community visioning report – summary of efforts and recommendations*

Scope of Work

Estuary Flood Hazard Assessment

- *Flood inundation maps showing various sea level rise scenarios*
- *Groundwater maps showing depth, duration, and salinization for various sea level rise scenarios*

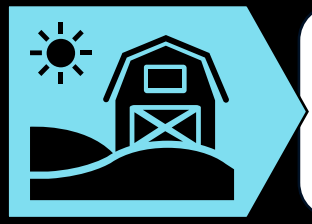
Sea Level Rise Impact and Vulnerability Assessment

- *Report summarizing potential flooding exposure and risks*

Timeline: September 2025 – December 2026

More participation opportunities

Ongoing



Landowner Interviews & Site Visits

Website Updates

Email:
eelsealevelrise@googlegroups.com

HCRCD Program Manager:
(707) 498-1072

Upcoming

Community Meeting on Draft Report

Online Survey

Community Visioning

What do you love about the Lower Eel River Valley area?

Mapping Activity

Flooding Experiences

Where/When did it happen?

What impact did it have on you?

What do you wish could change/improve?

Thank you

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