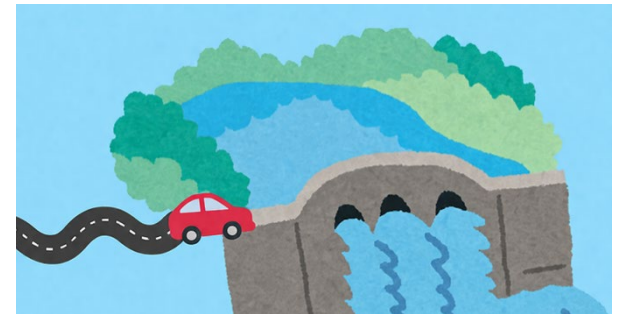


ITEM 10.1: SOSCOL JUNCTION & SUSCOL CREEK FISH PASSAGE

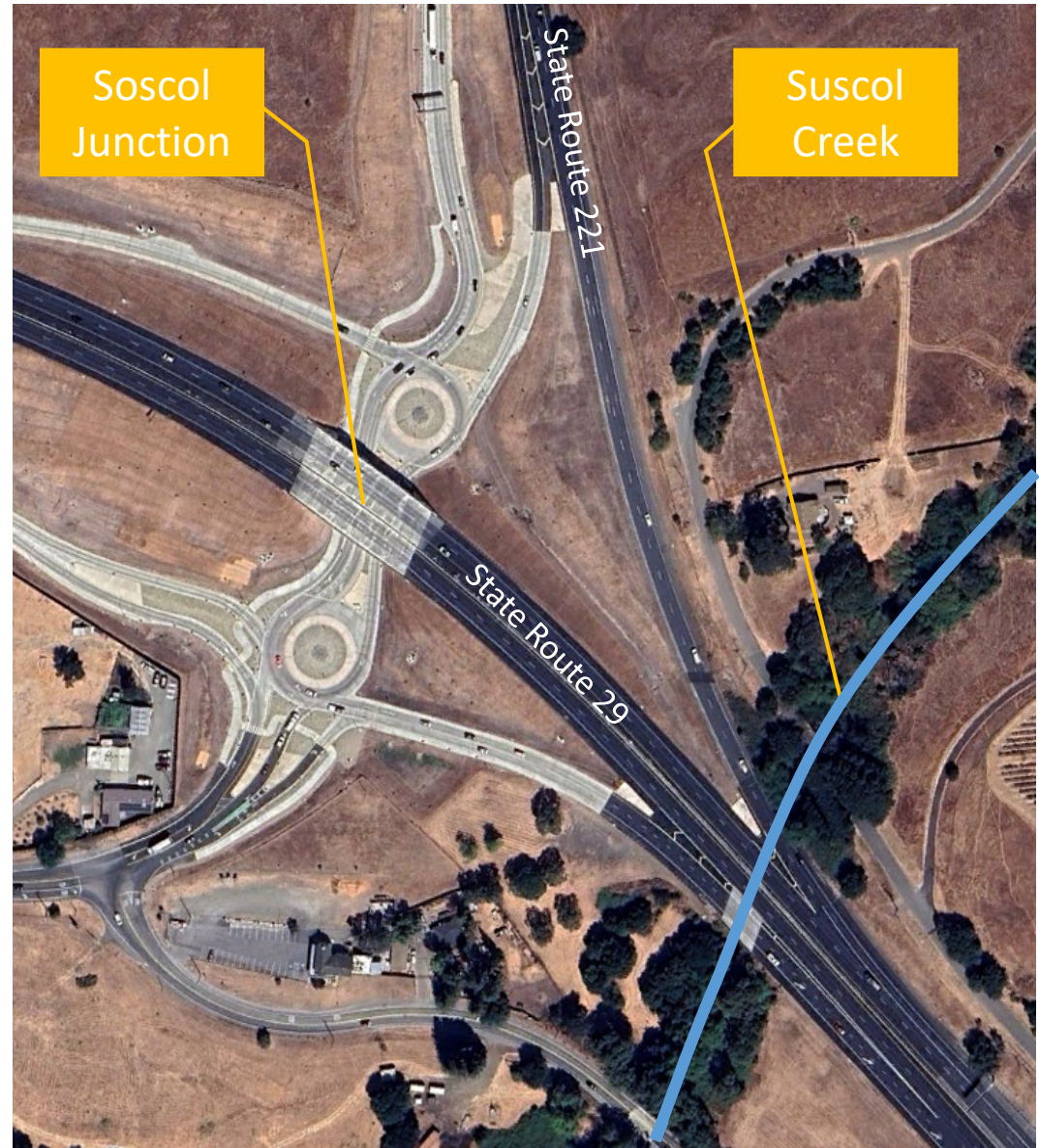


- **April 15, 2026**
- Grant Bailey, P.E.
 - NVTA Program Manager – Engineer
- Aaron Fairbrook
 - Napa RCD Forest Health & Restoration Program Manager



Presentation Overview

- **NVTA:**
 - Soscol Junction Improvement Project
 - Fish Passage Evaluation
 - Decision to Not Construct
- **Napa RCD:**
 - Ongoing Fish Passage Efforts



Soscol Junction Improvement Project

• Project Goals

- ✓ Improve traffic operations at SR29/221 interchange
- ✓ Enhance safety
- ✓ Improve multimodal connectivity

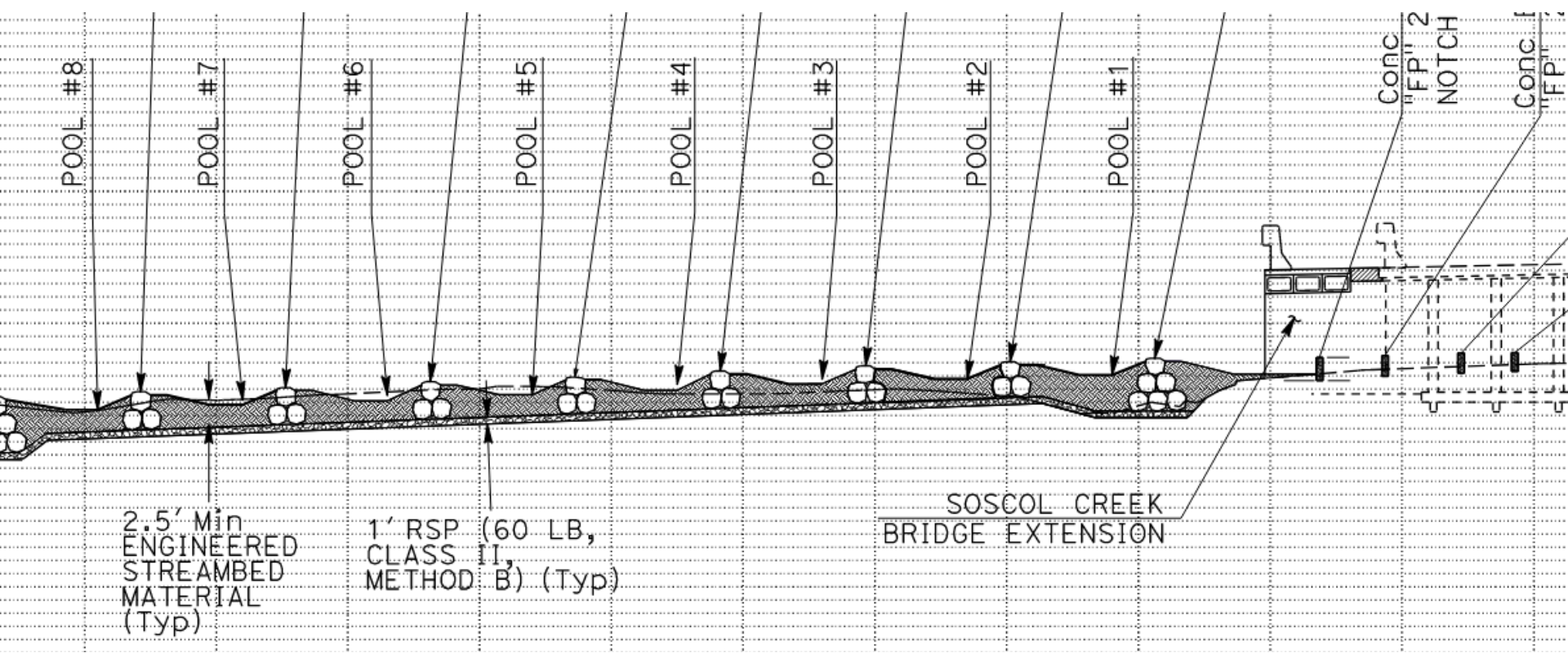
• Project Highlights

- \$56M project
- Reduced congestion and delay created by the signalized intersection
- 1,200 feet of new class I bike and pedestrian facilities



Credit: GHD/Tom Rennie

Soscol Creek Fish Passage Proposed Design



Why Fish Passage Was Not Constructed

- **Advancing design identified:**
 - Permitting complexity
 - Differing agency perspectives on in-channel work
- **Risks:**
 - Expanded creek mitigation scope
 - Significant schedule impacts
- **At ~95% design:**
 - Bridge widening was removed
- **Result:**
 - No creek impacts
 - In-channel improvements, including fish passage, no longer required



Project Environmental Mitigation

- Over \$1.13M in environmental mitigation delivered through the Soscol Junction project
- Included:
 - Red-legged frog habitat creation in Napa County
 - Swainson's Hawk nesting credit and foraging habitat



Next Steps: Fish Passage Efforts in Napa County

- Fish passage at Suscol Creek remains an important improvement
- Efforts are moving forward through local resource agencies
- Napa RCD is leading the work at Suscol Creek and countywide
- **Aaron Fairbrook, Napa RCD, will present on these efforts**



Bridging Roads and Rivers: A Path Forward for Fish Passage in Napa County



Building on
NVTA's
Work at
Suscol
Junction

As mentioned, fish passage at Suscol Creek was evaluated but ultimately not constructed due to permitting complexity and schedule risk.

*So the question becomes—
how do we still solve this
problem?*



Where Transportation Meets Fish Habitat

- This isn't just a Suscol issue—this is happening across the watershed
- Many fish barriers occur at road crossings
- Culverts can block migration
- Fish reaching habitat depends on transportation infrastructure

Not All Crossings Work For Fish...



Ford



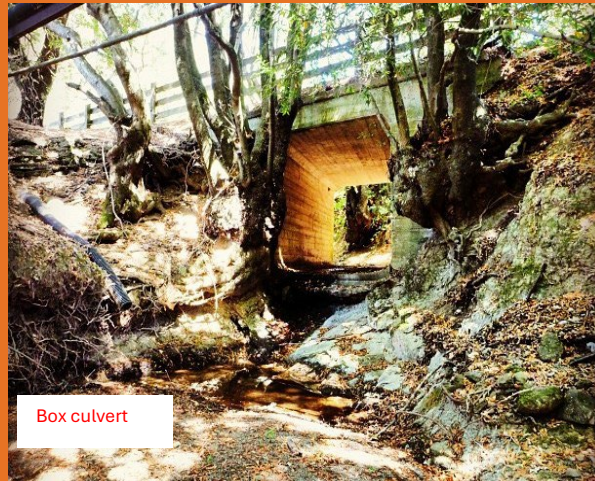
Arch



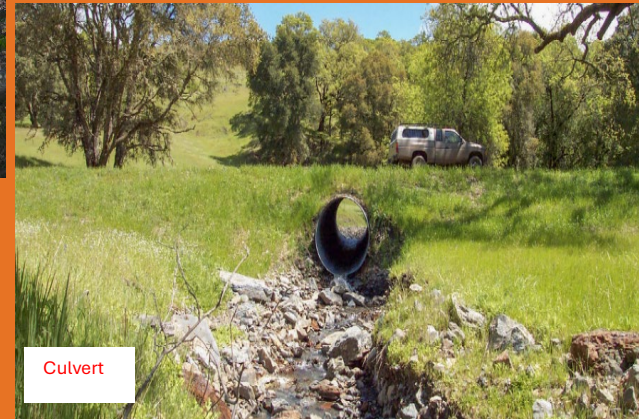
Oval culvert



Armored Fill



Box culvert



Culvert



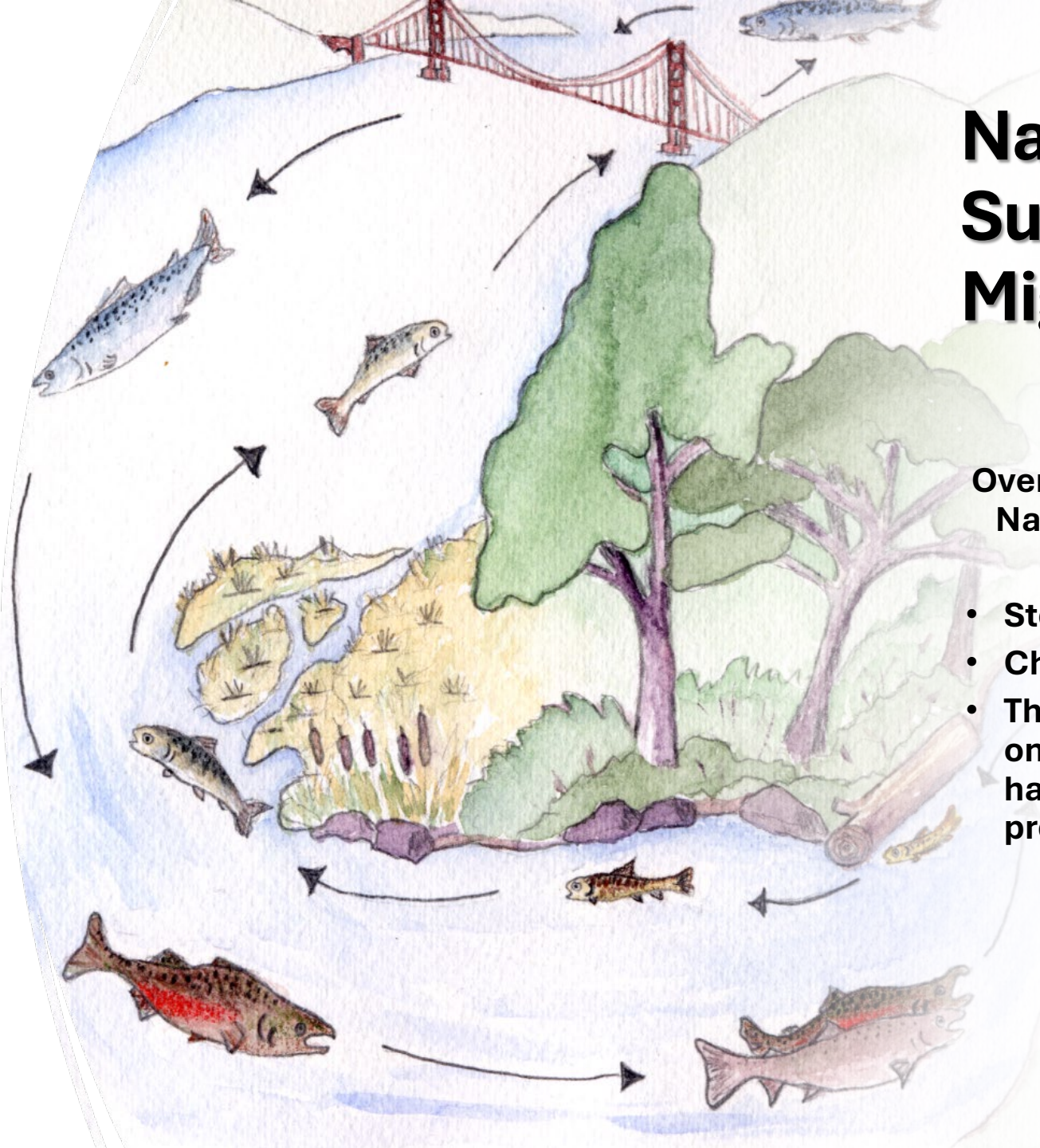
Bridge

Culverts = most common barrier

Napa River Supports Migratory Fish

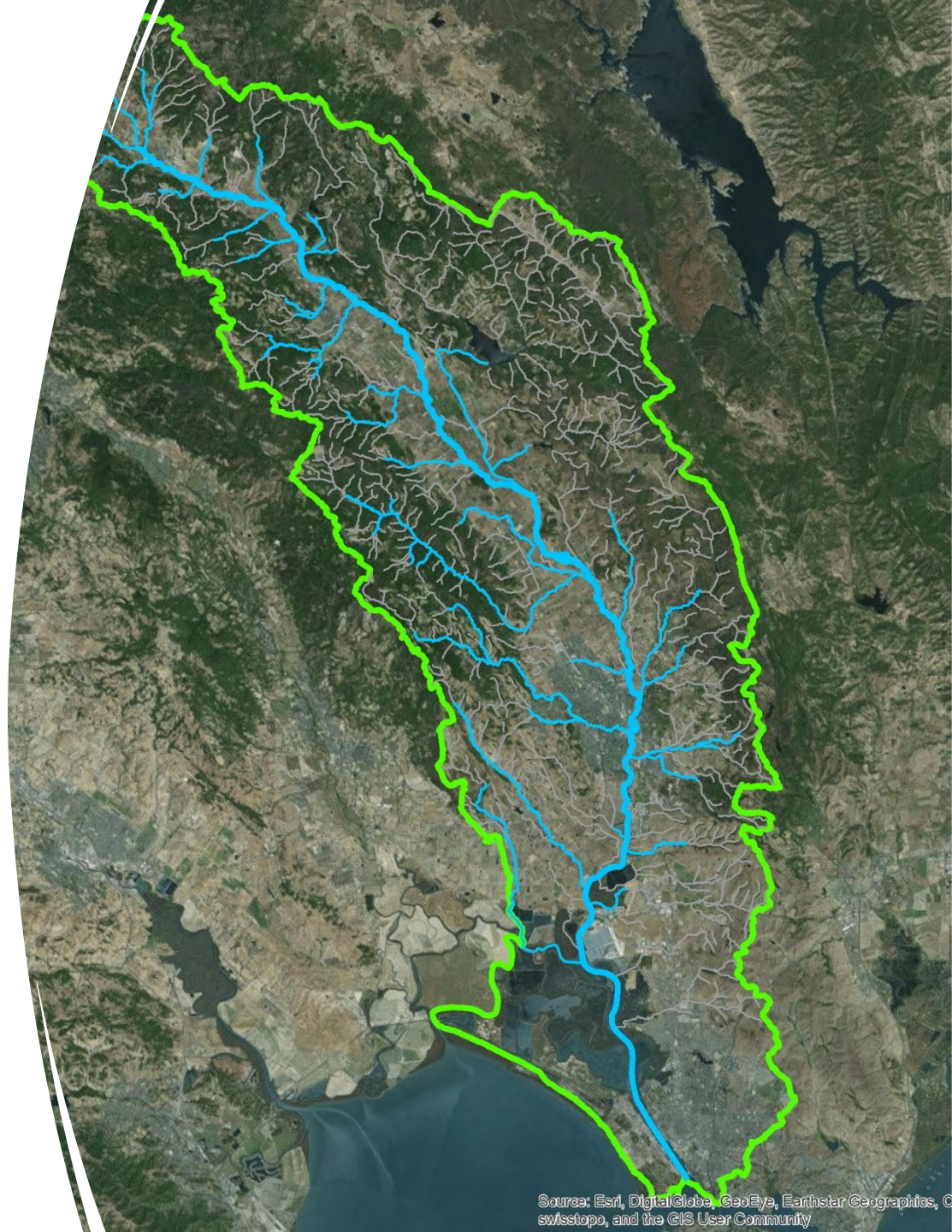
Over 50 fish species in the
Napa River and Estuary

- Steelhead (threatened)
- Chinook Salmon
- These species depend on reaching upstream habitat—and barriers prevent that.



Napa River Watershed

- 31 major tributaries
- 146 stream miles with unimpeded access to the ocean
- 76 miles of streams with limited access



Napa RCD Fish Passage Program

Napa RCD leads fish passage projects and monitoring in Napa County

- ~\$7M secured (NOAA + WCB)
- Assessment of 31 fish passage barriers
- Designs and implementation underway
- Creating a pipeline of projects
- Ongoing fish monitoring

For Suscol Creek, we don't have to wait decades for a road project—we can address fish passage now.

Habitat Restoration at Sulphur Creek (recently completed)

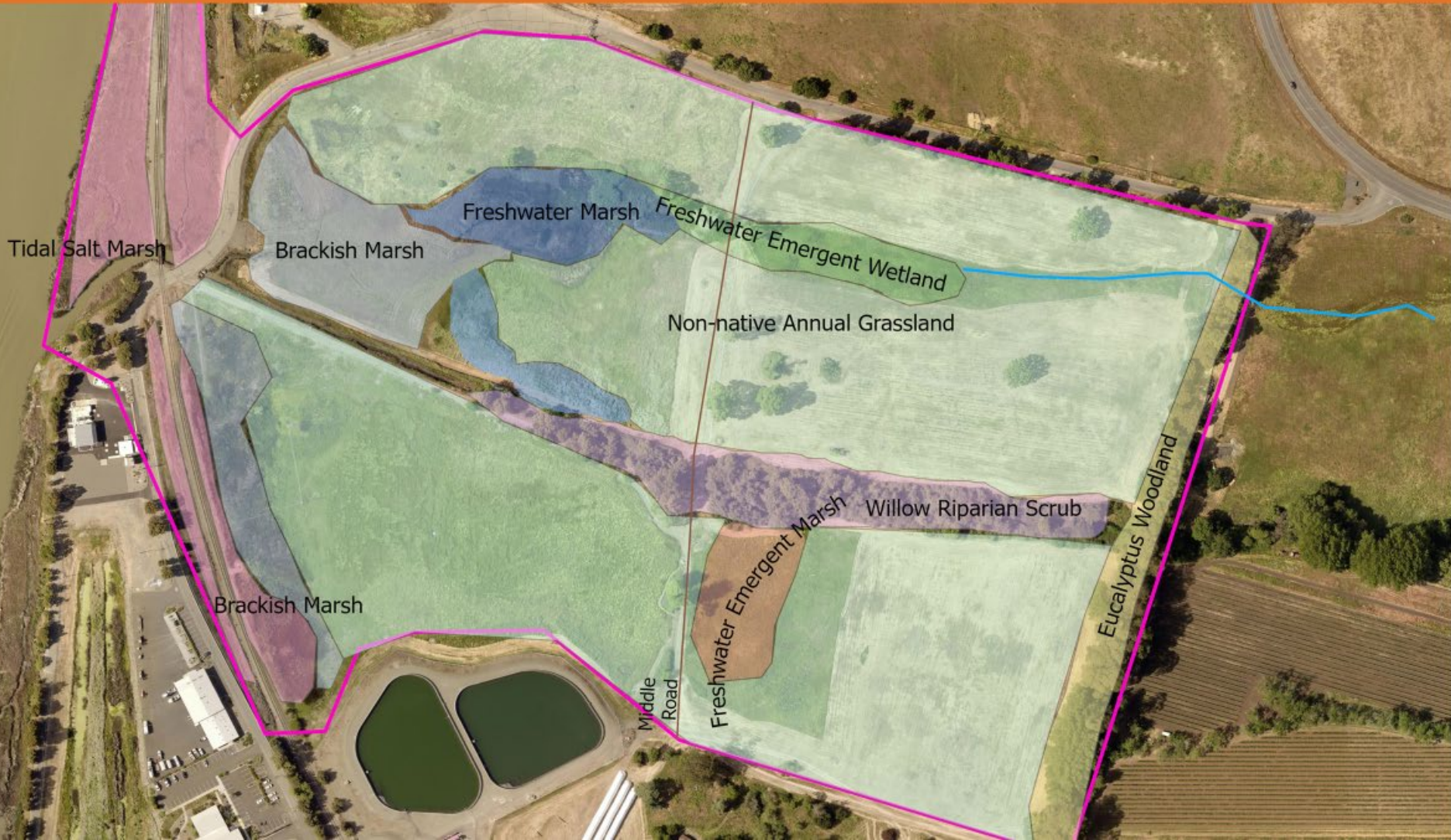




Coordinated Efforts on Suscol Creek

- High-priority barrier identified through RCD assessment. This smaller barrier was removed in 2024.

Suscol Creek Restoration Planning



A Path Forward For Suscol Creek at Soscol Junction

- Existing design provides a foundation for retrofit
- Napa RCD has funding to refine design and permit a retrofit approach
- Improve fish access now, while culvert upgrades follow the transportation timeline (40-50 years)

Next Step:

- Coordination with Caltrans and permitting agencies
- Building on existing partnerships



We have the funding, the partnerships, and the approach. We just need to keep moving forward.

