

July 15, 2024

# Recharge Opportunities 2024-25

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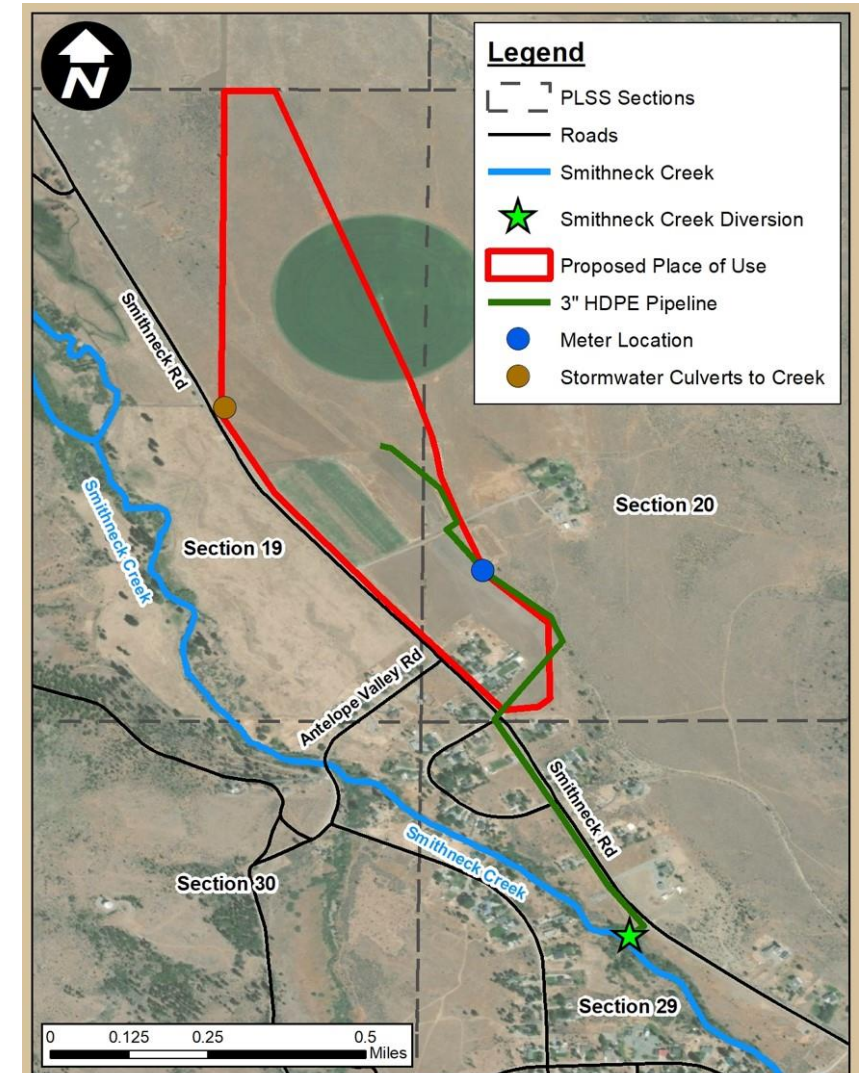
# Recharge Project Opportunities

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Project	Status
Smithneck Creek (Potter property)	Streamlined diversion permit approved, 2 <sup>nd</sup> year of implementation
Staverville Creek (Easley property)	In discussions with landowner Streamlined permit under development
Little Last Chance Creek (Williams/Dotta Ranch)	In discussions with landowner Streamlined permit under development
Smithneck Creek (Griffin Property)	Potential for recharge from nearby ephemeral stream Needs further evaluation

# Smithneck Creek – Potter Property

- Existing Diversion with 1st priority water rights
- Proof of concept completed in 2024 w delivery of 20 acre feet
- Streamlined diversion permit approved by State Board, waiting for posting and open comment period
- Watermaster stated no objections with diversion from December 1 – March 14
- Diversion based on flow thresholds
- Plan to measure impact to gw levels



# Potter Pilot Project – Plan for winter 24/25

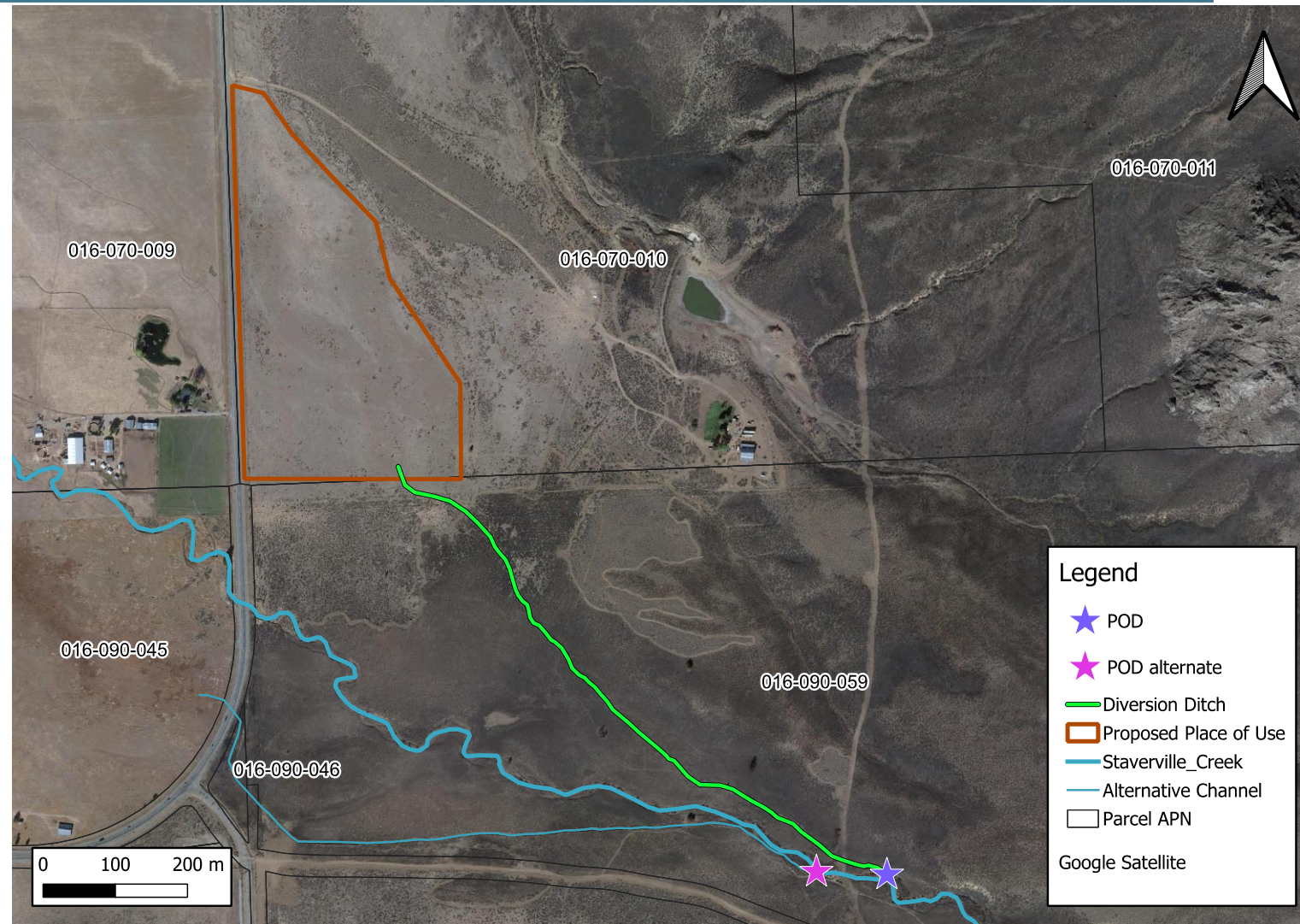
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- Temporary QUIET rental pump and fuel tank installed for winter recharge
- To be removed on March 15 prior to irrigation season
- Operation with siphon during irrigation season as in previous years



# Staverville Creek – Easley Property

- Existing Diversion with year round water rights
- Existing diversion ditch, diversion structure needs repair
- Low cost for pilot project effort in 2024/25 winter season



# Little Last Chance Creek – Williams Property

- Existing Diversion currently used for irrigation
- Large potential recharge area
- Irrigation areas with pivots to coordinate with irrigation efficiency project
- Recharge in winter only
- Potential increase in storage during winter, reduced water use in summer (irrigation efficiency)



# Potential impacts of winter recharge projects

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- Landowner costs
  - SVGMD use of land
  - Pump and fuel costs ONLY paid for during the winter recharge period
  - Water right fee for the diversion location
- Benefit to landowner
  - Infrastructure improvements (as needed)
  - Groundwater levels increase over winter time (this is a benefit for the entire basin)

- Other Irrigators' Concerns
  - Impact to downstream water users
  - Less water available or available for a shorter period
- Benefits to Irrigators
  - Effective recharge could ultimately increase availability
  - Groundwater level increase over winter season
  - **Water stays in Sierra Valley instead of going to Oroville**

# General Approach to Recharge Evaluation

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- Conduct Recharge Pilot Projects (Smithneck, Staverville, Little Last Chance) during 2024/25 winter season (December 1 – March 15)
- Evaluate impacts to groundwater levels and water availability
- In 2025/26, consider potential for future recharge and operating protocols to determine if permanent recharge is feasible and beneficial
- Included in the evaluation is determination of responsibilities of landowners and SVGMD
- Intention is benefit to entire valley with increased water availability



# Another possible resource

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- Water transfer – Lake Davis to Frenchman Lake
- Plumas County currently pays DWR for 2700 acre feet of water in Lake Davis but only utilizes 500 acre feet.
- Plumas County is interested in selling this water – could be a source of additional irrigation or recharge water
- Cost \$100/AF