COUNTY OF MENDOCINO
DEPT. OF PLANNING & BUILDING SERVICES

120 WEST FIR STREET
FORT BRAGG, CA 95437
Telephone: (707)-964-5379

Case No(s) _____
Date Filed _____
Fee $ _____
Receipt No. _____
Received by _____

Office Use Only

LCP CONSISTENCY REVIEW APPLICATION FORM

Name of Applicant	Name of Owner(s)	Name of Agent
Wild Blue Aquaculture, LLC	Aubree Gord	
Mailing Address	**Mailing Address**	**Mailing Address**
26400 Blueberry Hill Rd. Fort Bragg, CA 95437		
Telephone Number	**Telephone Number**	**Telephone Number**
(707) 234-8770		

Project Description:

Wild Blue Aquaculture is a restorative, sustainable aquaculture business based in Noyo Harbor within Mendocino County seeking to cultivate purple sea urchins to marketable size in order to alleviate ecological pressure on local kelp forests and promote biodiversity. Our business model supports both environmental restoration and local economic development by transforming an overabundant species into a premium seafood product for regional distribution and direct-to-consumer markets.

The proposed project includes the installation and use of both land-based tank systems inside the commercial building at the property, and mobile, moveable Floating Upweller Systems (FLUPSYs) in the waters of Noyo Harbor. These systems will support the cultivation of purple sea urchins and, in later phases, may be adapted for oyster, abalone, or other viable aquaculture operations. All infrastructure is designed to minimize environmental impact, and our operations are consistent with the goals of coastal resource protection and restoration.

Driving Directions

The site is located on the W (N/S/E/W) side of South Harbor Drive (name road)

approximately 1300 feet (feet/miles) N (N/S/E/W) of its intersection with

Fort Bragg-Willits Rd (Highway 20) (provide nearest major intersection).

Assessor's Parcel Number(s)

018-150-22-00

Parcel Size

0.18

☐ Square Feet
☒ Acres

Street Address of Project

19280 S Harbor Dr.
Fort Bragg, CA 95437

Please note: Before submittal, please verify correct street address with the Planning Division in Ukiah.

Wild Blue Aquaculture
Noyo Harbor - Fort Bragg, CA
Mailing Address:
26400 Blueberry Hill Rd.
Fort Bragg, CA 95437

March 26, 2026

Mendocino County - Department of Planning and Building Services
Ms. Julia Krog, Director
860 N Bush Street
Ukiah, CA 95482

Dear Ms. Krog,

Wild Blue Aquaculture is writing to request Mendocino County's agreement for the California Coastal Commission to process a consolidated Coastal Development Permit (CDP) application for a proposed aquaculture operation at 19280 S. Harbor Dr., Fort Bragg, CA 95437 (Assessor's Parcel Number: **018-150-22-00**), located within the Noyo Harbor.

Wild Blue Aquaculture is a restorative, sustainable aquaculture business based in Noyo Harbor within Mendocino County seeking to cultivate purple sea urchins to marketable size in order to alleviate ecological pressure on local kelp forests and promote biodiversity. Our business model supports both environmental restoration and local economic development by transforming an overabundant species into a premium seafood product for regional distribution and direct-to-consumer markets.

The proposed project includes the installation and use of both land-based tank systems inside the commercial building at the property, and mobile, moveable Floating Upweller Systems (FLUPSYs) in the waters of Noyo Harbor. These systems will support the cultivation of purple sea urchins and, in later phases, may be adapted for oyster, abalone, or other viable aquaculture operations. All infrastructure is designed to minimize environmental impact, and our operations are consistent with the goals of coastal resource protection and restoration.

We understand that this project qualifies as "development" under Public Resources Code Section 30106 and therefore requires a coastal development permit. Preliminary discussions with California Coastal Commission staff have confirmed that portions of the project site are within both the Commission's retained jurisdiction and the County's Local Coastal Program jurisdiction. As such, the proposed project is eligible for a consolidated CDP pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 30601.3.

With this letter, Wild Blue Aquaculture respectfully requests Mendocino County's agreement for the California Coastal Commission to serve as the permitting authority for this consolidated CDP. The following supporting materials are included for your review:

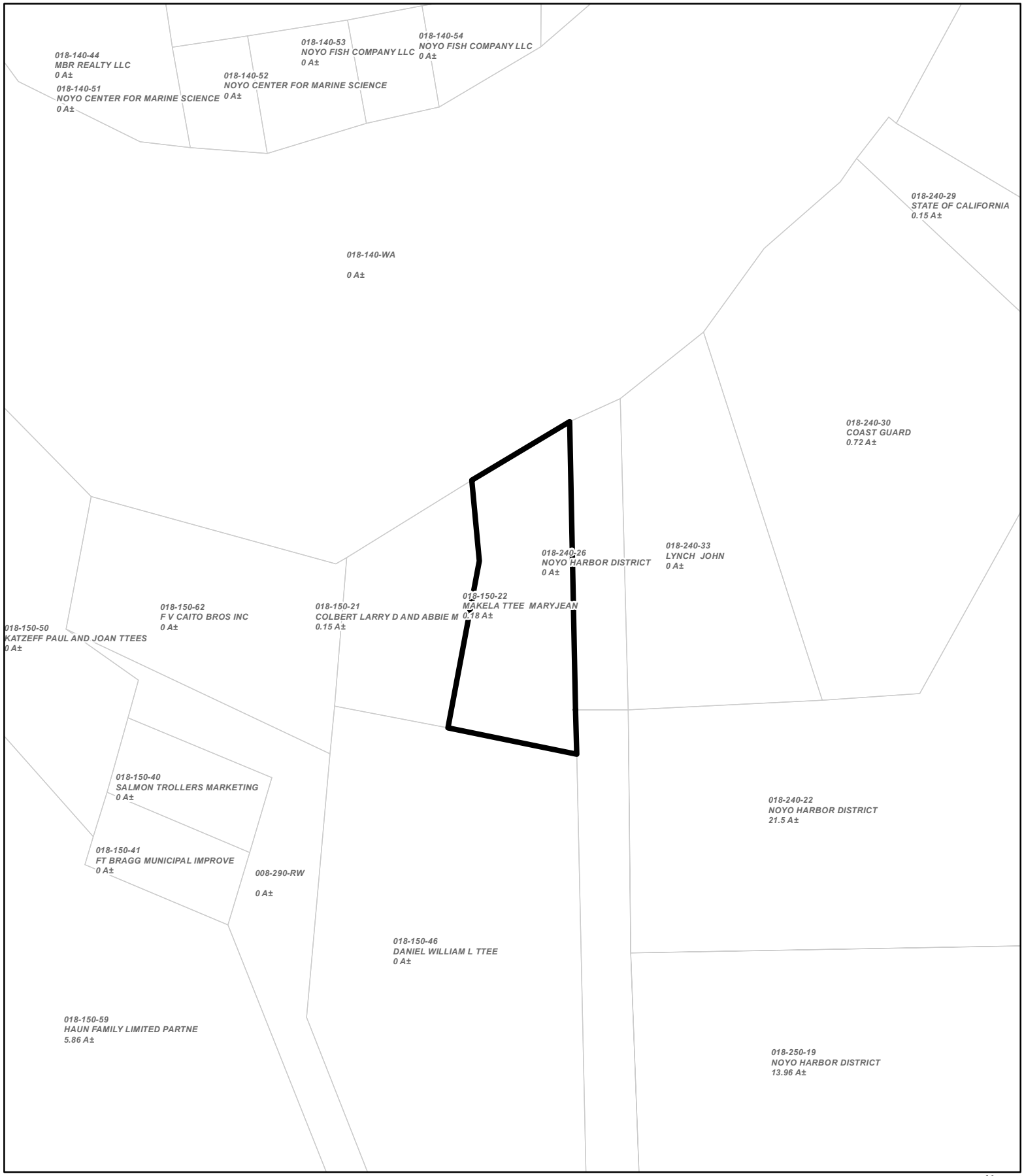
- LCP Application Form
- Business Summary (Includes Project Description, Site Map, and Coastal Commission Boundary Determination)

We are committed to complying with all applicable regulations and working cooperatively with state and local agencies to ensure environmentally sound and community-beneficial operations.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. Please feel free to contact me directly at (707)234-8770 or aubree@wildblueaquaculture.com if you have any questions or require additional documentation.

Sincerely,

Aubree A. Gord
Founder, Wild Blue Aquaculture



CASE: LCP 2026-0003
OWNER: GORD, Aubree
APN: 018-150-22
APLCT: Wild Blue Aquaculture, LLC
AGENT:
ADDRESS: 19280 S Harbor Dr, Fort Bragg

Assessors Parcels

0 35 70 Feet
0 0.005 0.01 Miles

N
W E
S

1:800

ADJACENT PARCELS

CASE: LCP 2026-0003
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AGENT:
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Public Roads

Driveways/Unnamed Roads

0 112.5 225 Feet
0 0.02 0.04 Miles

N
W E
S

1:2,500

AERIAL IMAGERY

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Public Roads

0 25 50 Feet
0 0.005 0.01 Miles

N
W E
S

1:600

AERIAL IMAGERY

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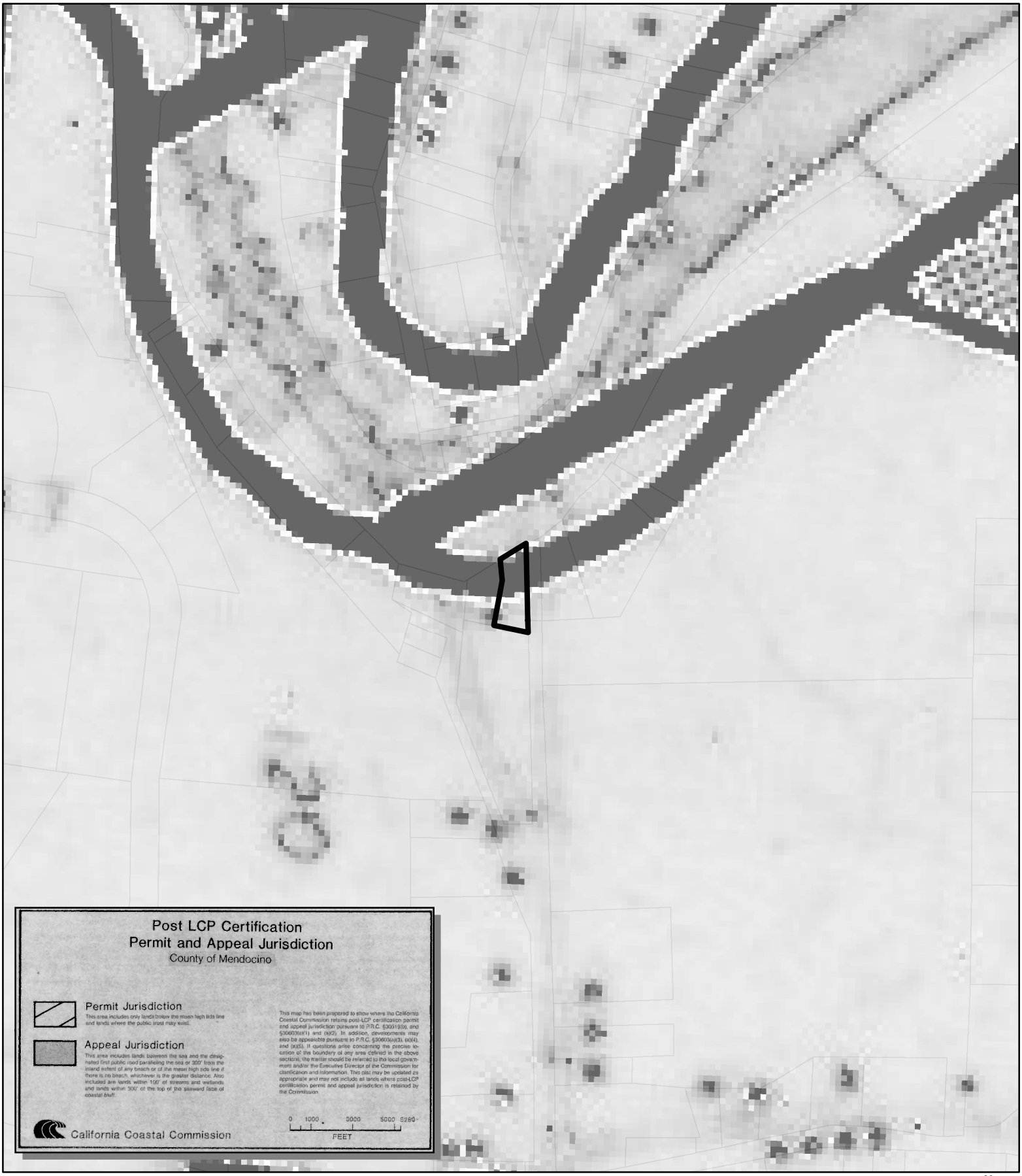

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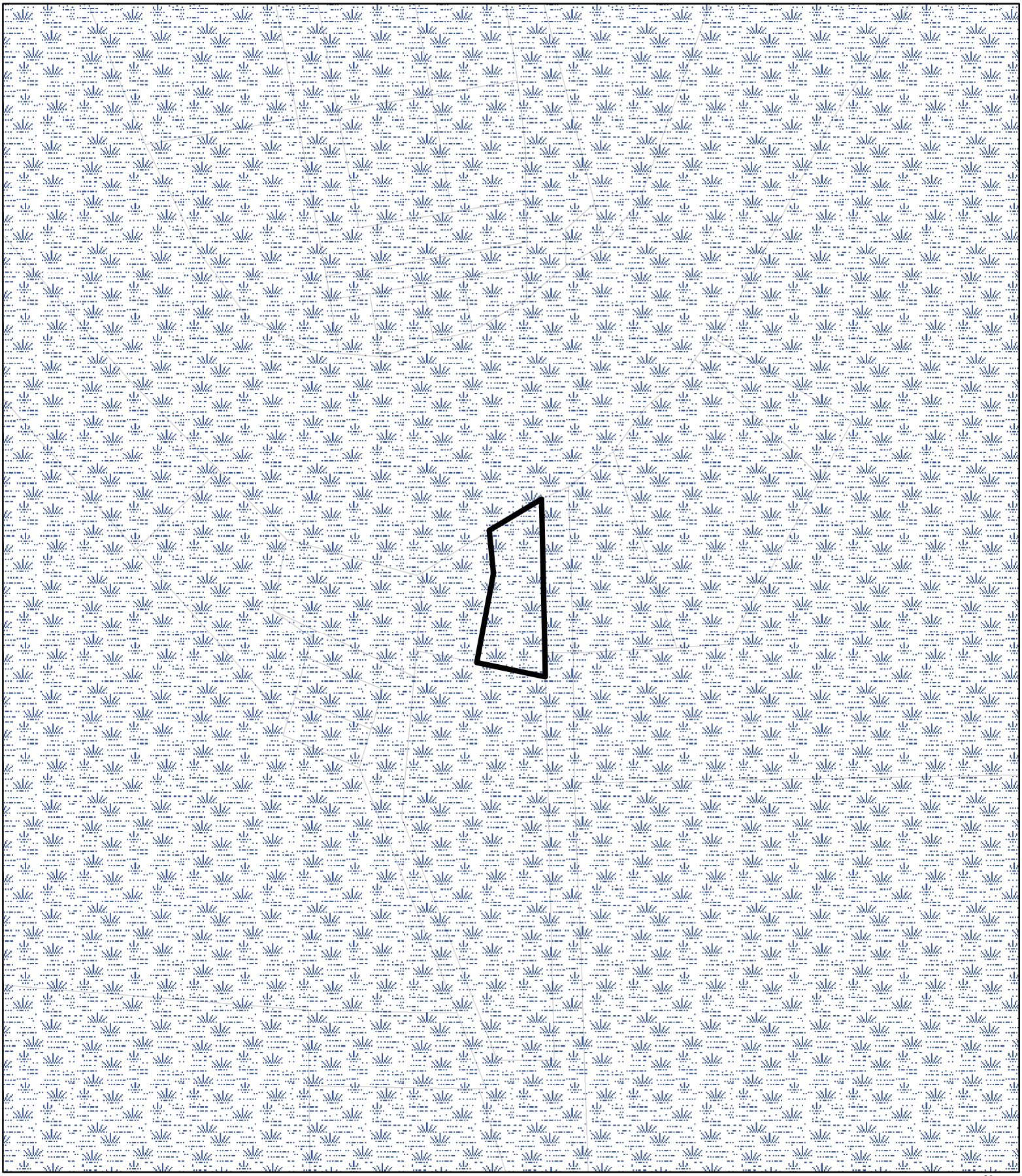
Assessors Parcels

0 135 270 Feet
0 0.0225 0.045 Miles
1:3,000

N W E S

POST LCP CERTIFICATION & APPEAL JURISDICTION



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Marginal Water Resources

Assessors Parcels

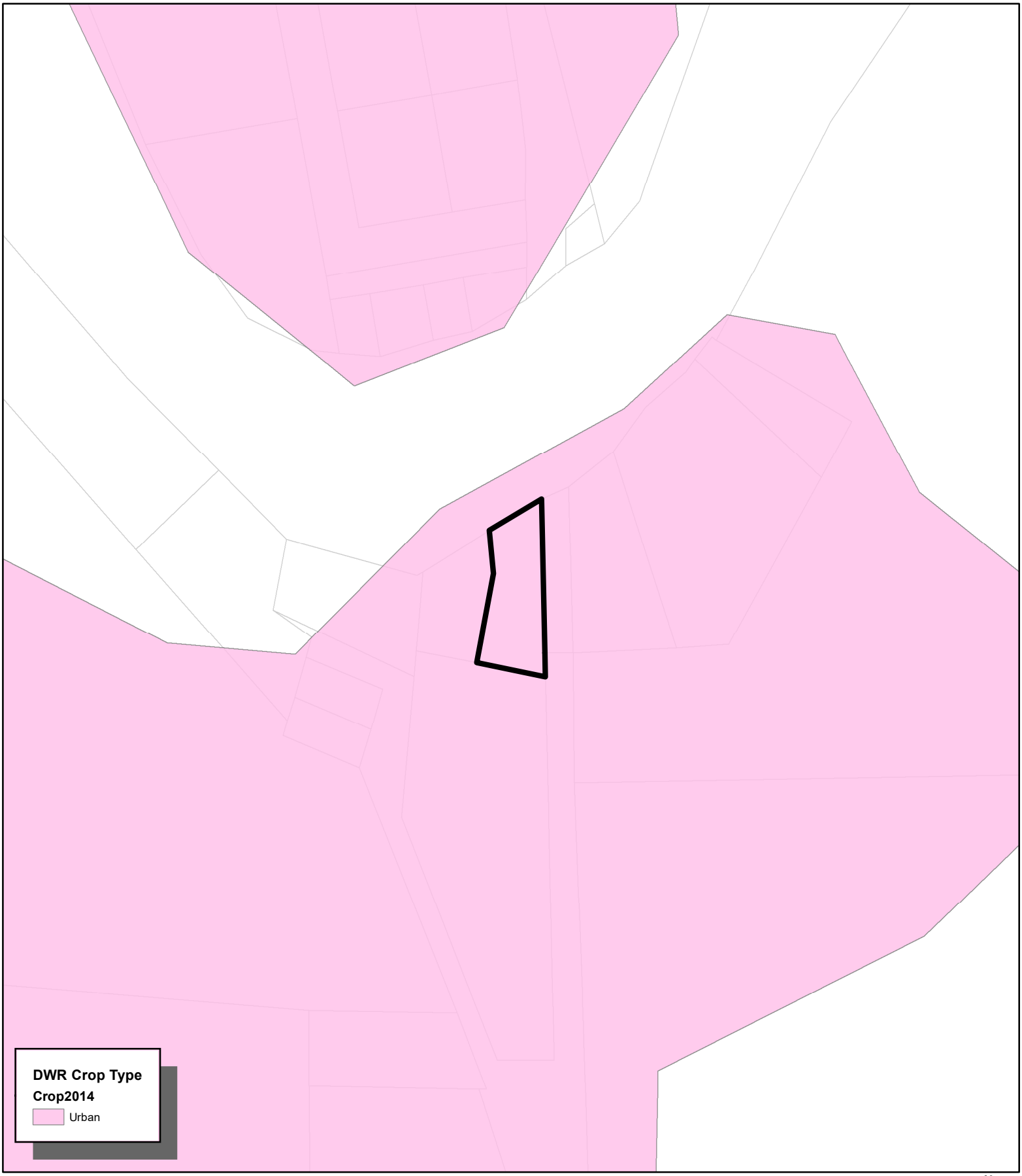
0 65 130 Feet

0 0.01 0.02 Miles

1:1,500

N W E S

COASTAL GROUND WATER RESOURCES



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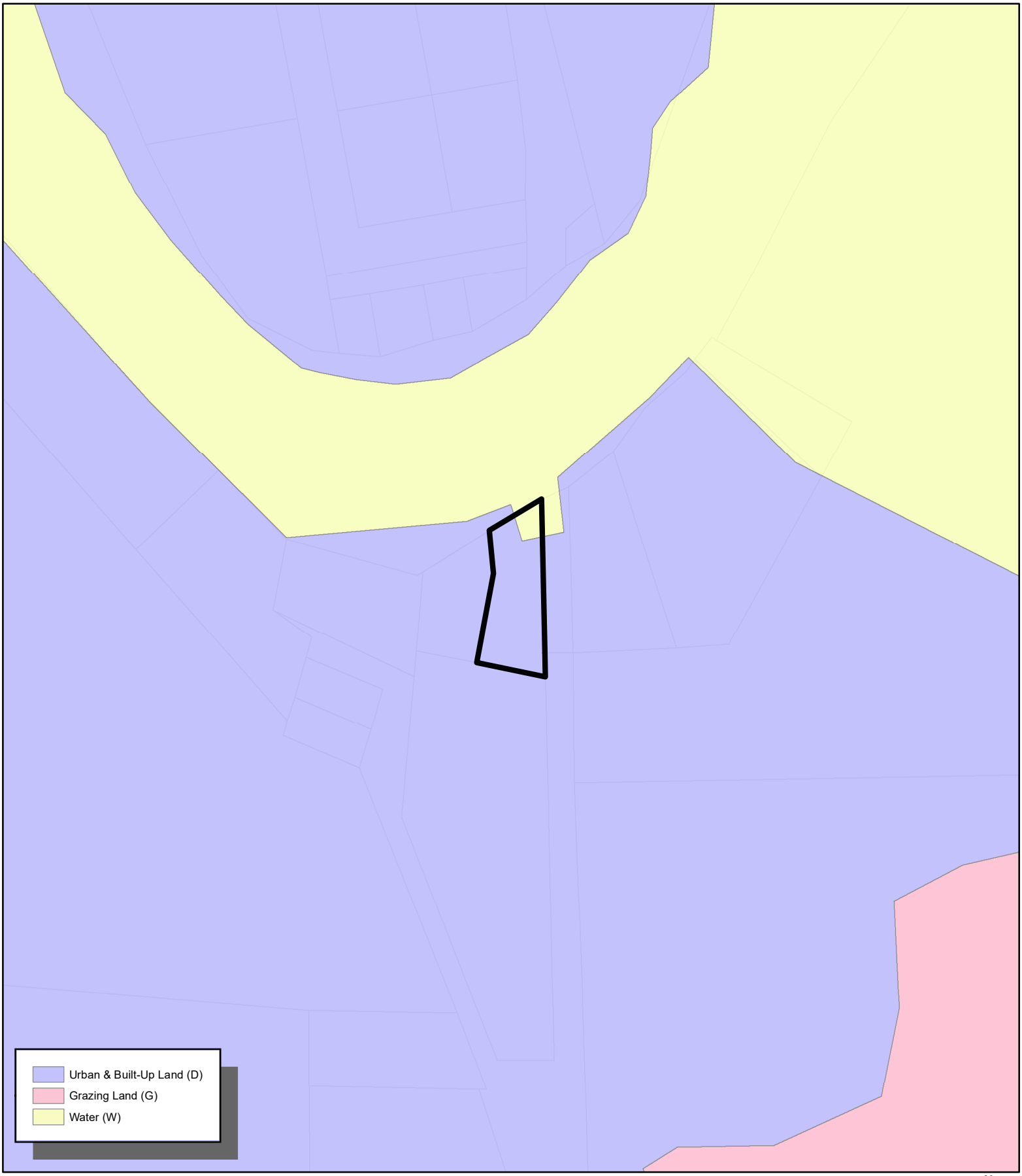
Assessors Parcels

0 65 130 Feet
0 0.01 0.02 Miles

N
W E
S

1:1,500

CROP TYPES



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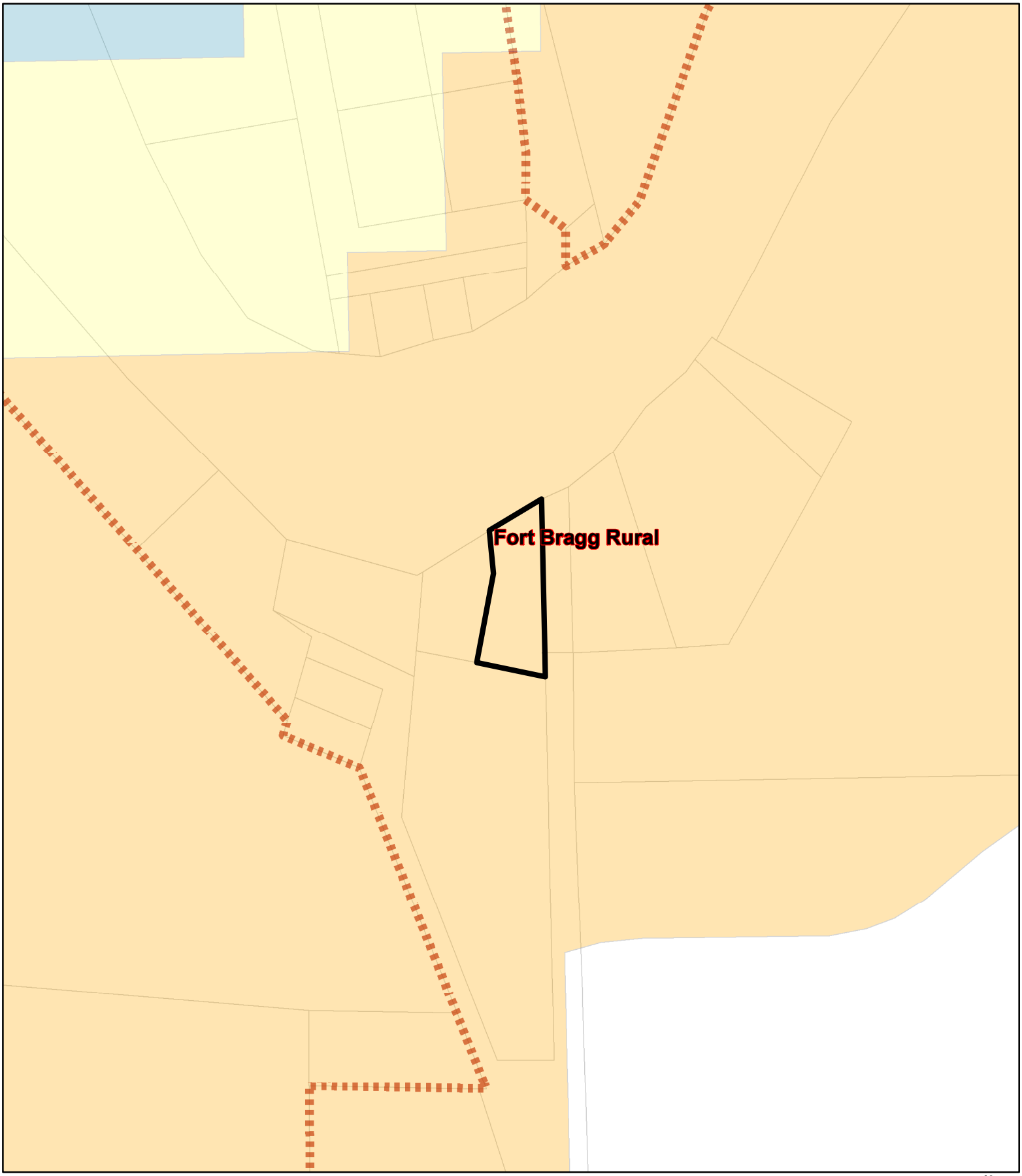
Assessors Parcels

0 65 130 Feet
0 0.01 0.02 Miles

N
W E
S

1:1,500

IMPORTANT FARMLANDS



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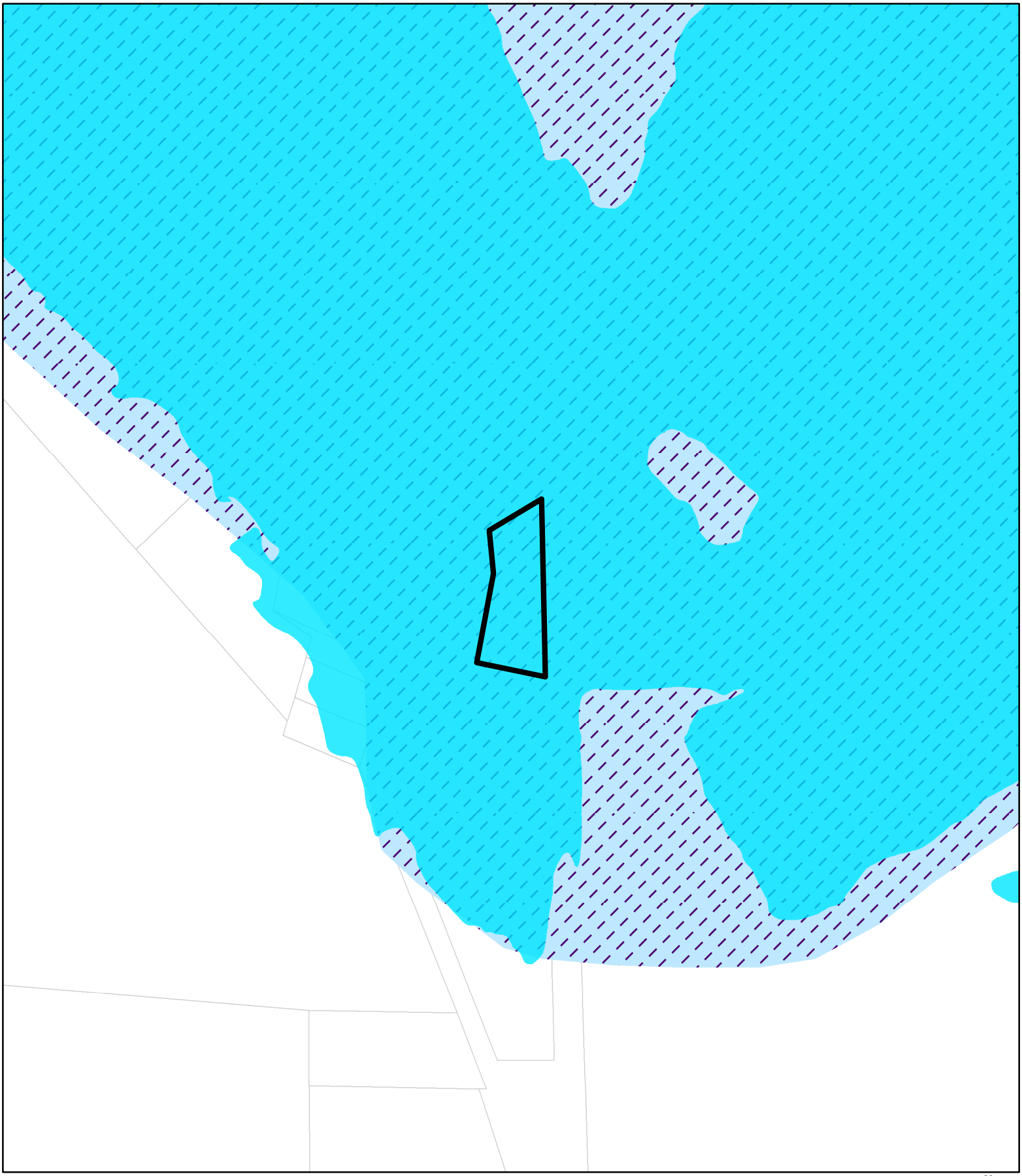
High
Moderate
NonWildland
County Fire Districts
Assessors Parcels

0 65 130 Feet
0 0.01 0.02 Miles

N
W E
S

1:1,500

FIRE HAZARD ZONES & RESPONSIBILITY AREAS
STATE RESPONSIBILITY AREA



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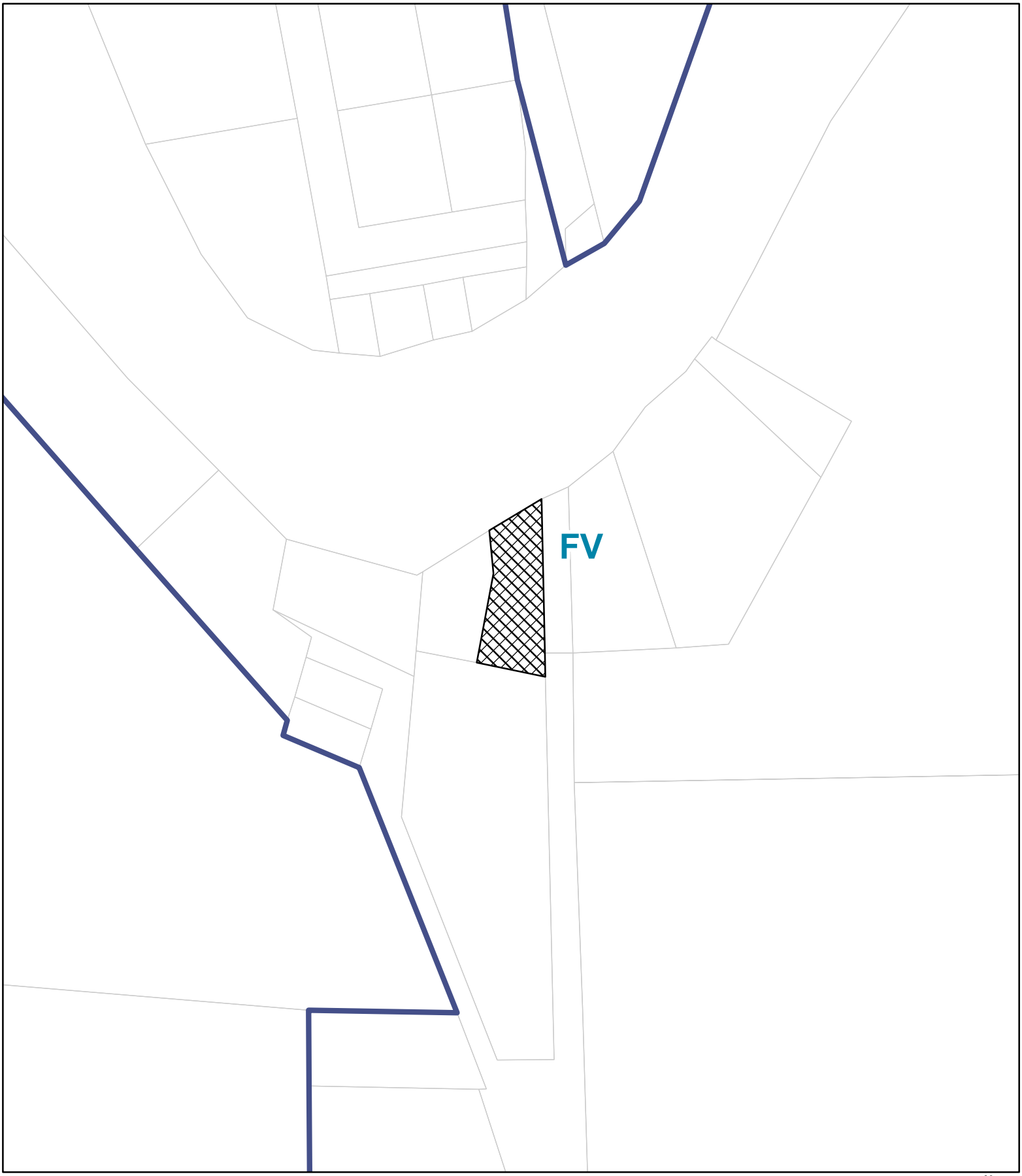
Zone A/AE
Tsunami Inundation Zones
Assessors Parcels

0 65 130 Feet
0 0.01 0.02 Miles
1:1,500

N
W E
S

FLOOD & TSUNAMI INUNDATION ZONES



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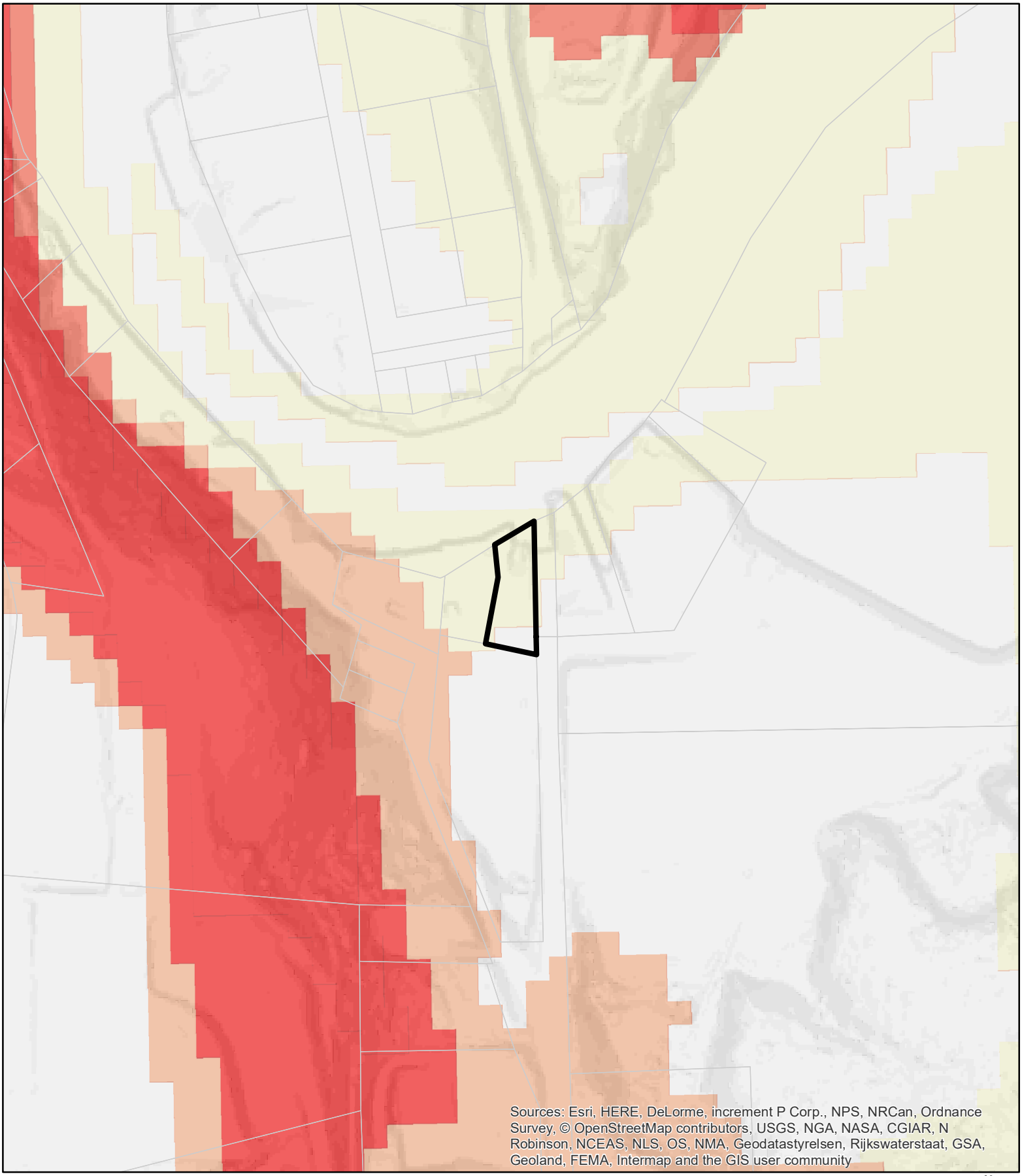
Assessors Parcels

0 65 130 Feet
0 0.01 0.02 Miles

N
W E
S

1:1,500

GENERAL PLAN



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Assessors Parcels
0
0 - 5
5 - 7
7 - 8
8 - 10

0 90 180 Feet
0 0.015 0.03 Miles
1:2,000

N W E S

LANDSLIDE HAZARDS

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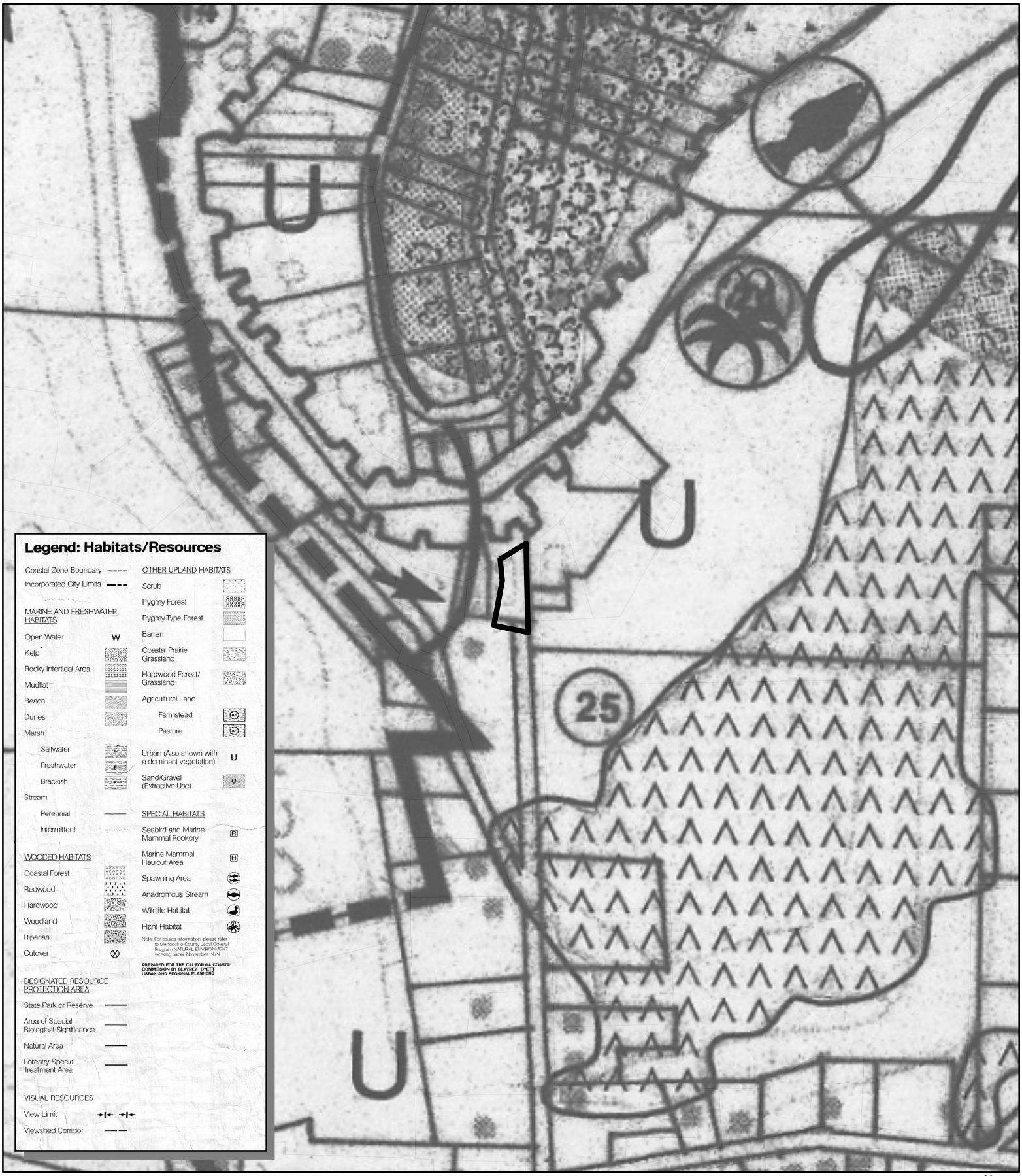

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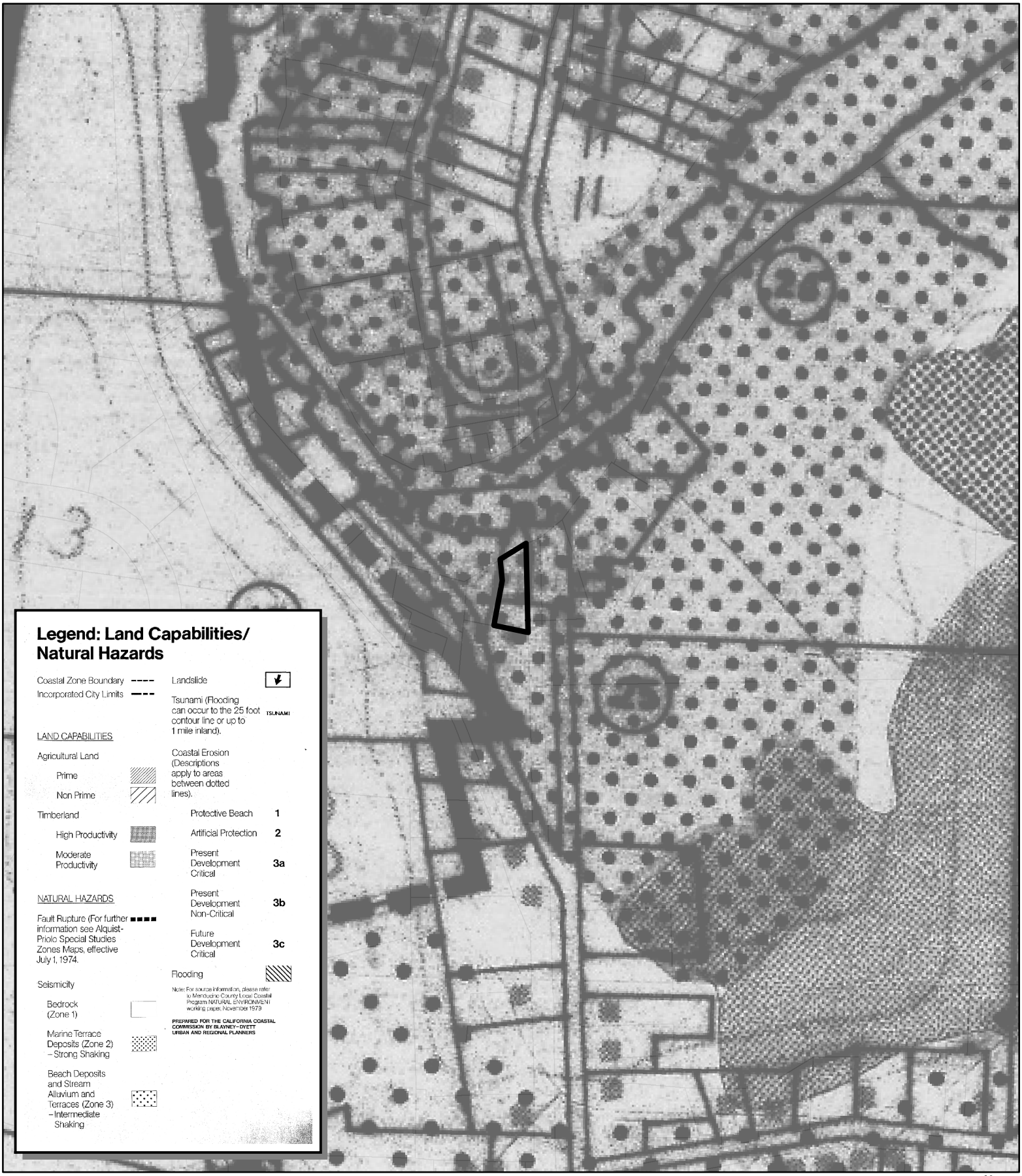
Assessors Parcels

0 135 270 Feet
0 0.0225 0.045 Miles
N W E S
1:3,000

LCP HABITATS & RESOURCES



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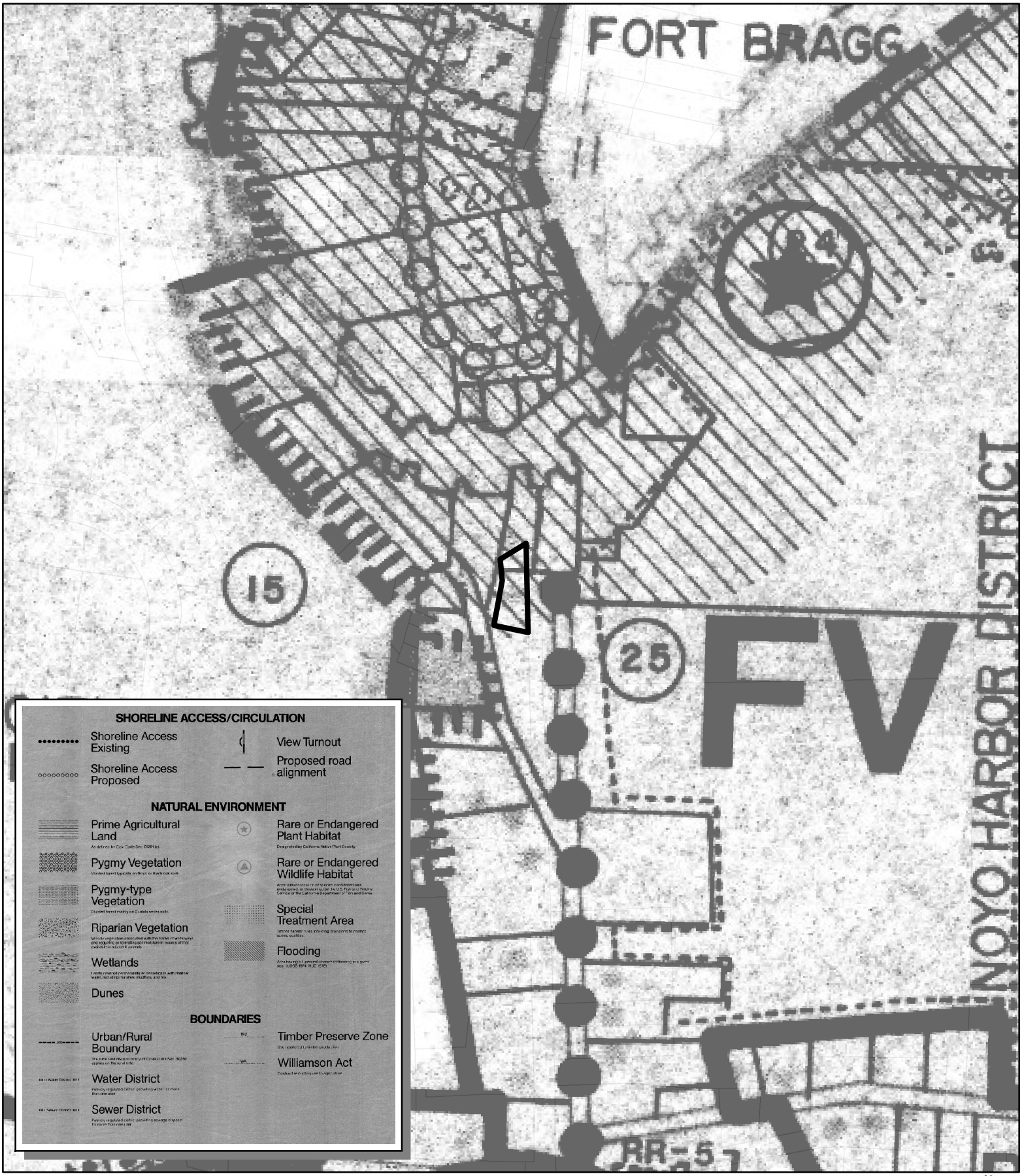
Assessors Parcels

0 135 270 Feet
0 0.0225 0.045 Miles
N W E S
1:3,000

LCP LAND CAPABILITIES & NATURAL HAZARDS



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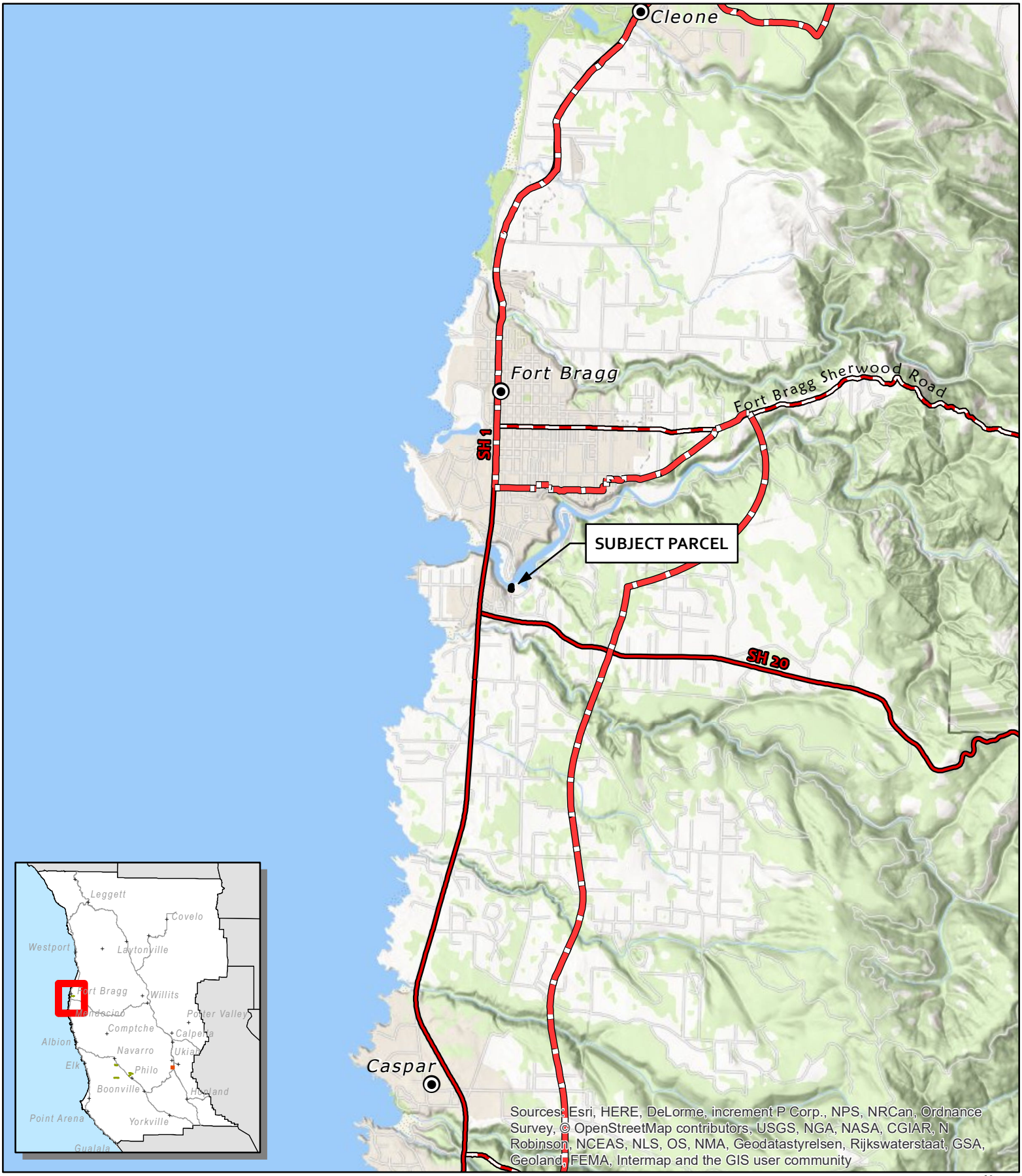
Assessors Parcels

0 135 270 Feet
0 0.0225 0.045 Miles
N W E S
1:3,000

LCP LAND USE MAP 14: BEAVER



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Major Towns & Places
Major Roads
Coastal Zone Boundary
Highways

0 2,800 5,600 Feet
0 0.5 1 Miles

N
W E
S

1:63,360

LOCATION

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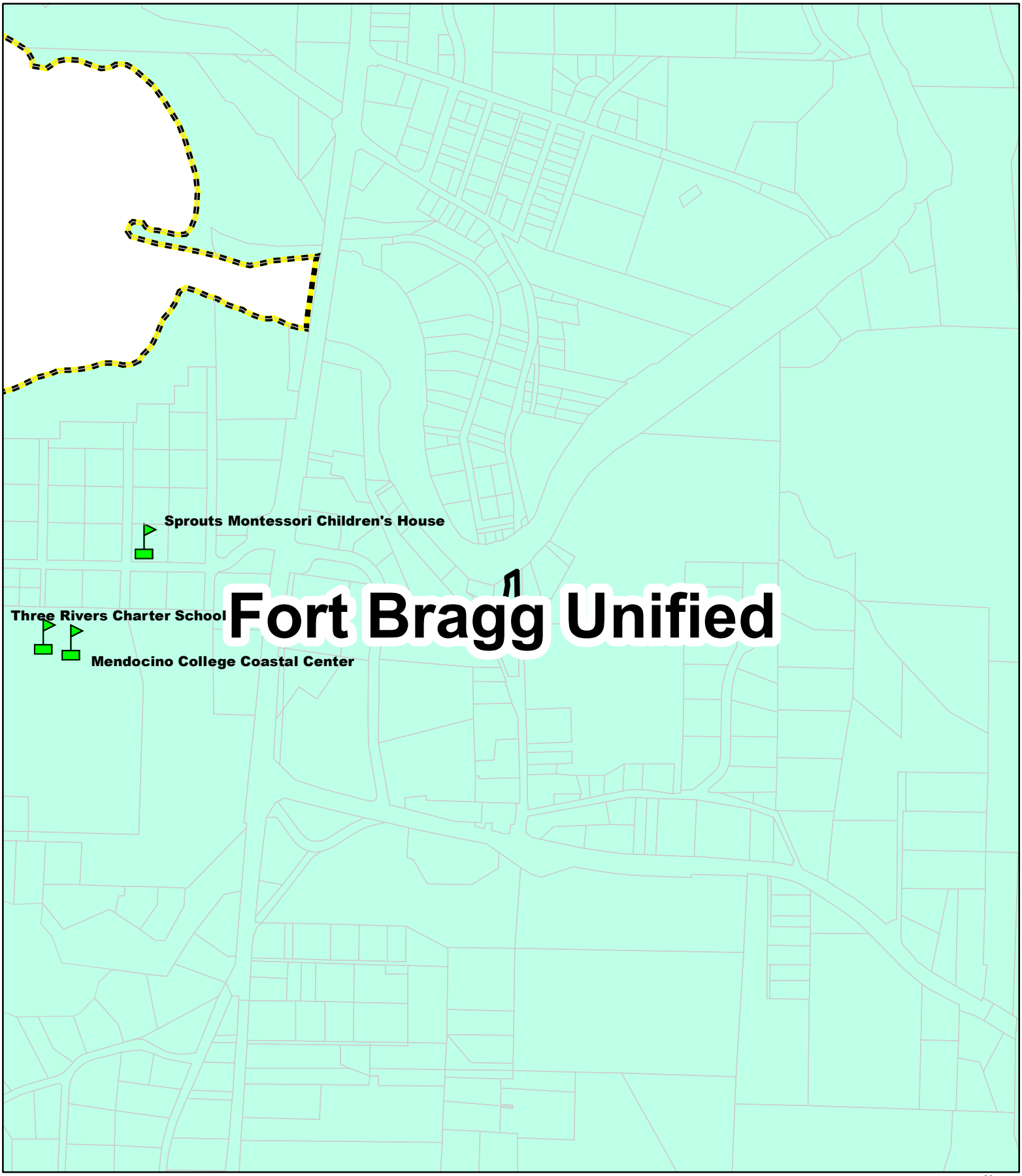

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Assessors Parcels

School Buildings

0 362.5 725 Feet
0 0.05 0.1 Miles

N W E S

1:8,000

SCHOOL DISTRICT

CASE: LCP 2026-0003
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Assessors Parcels
0 - 10%
10% - 20%
20% - 30%
30% - 40%
40% - 50%

0 90 180 Feet
0 0.015 0.03 Miles
1:2,000

N W E S

ESTIMATED SLOPE

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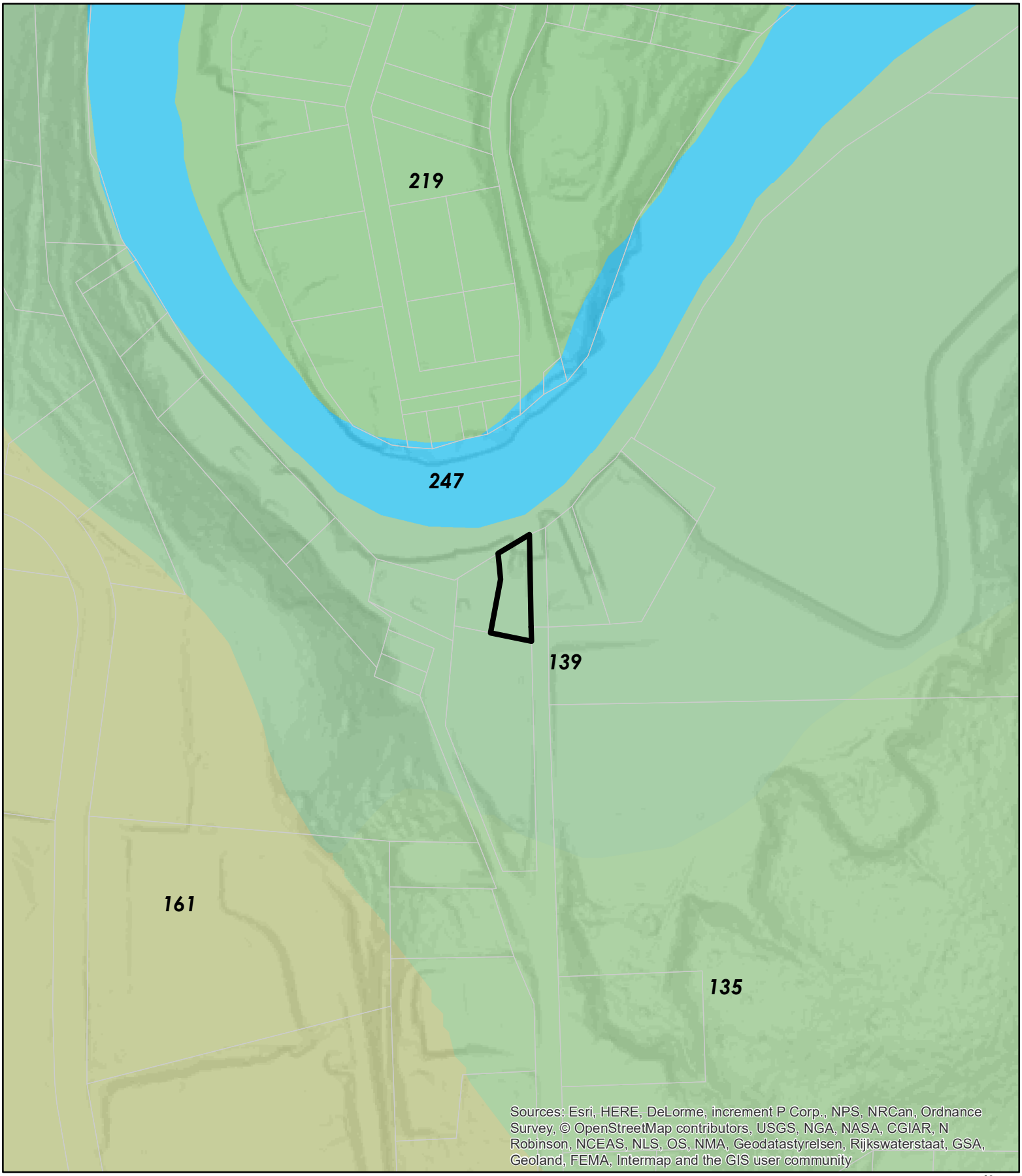

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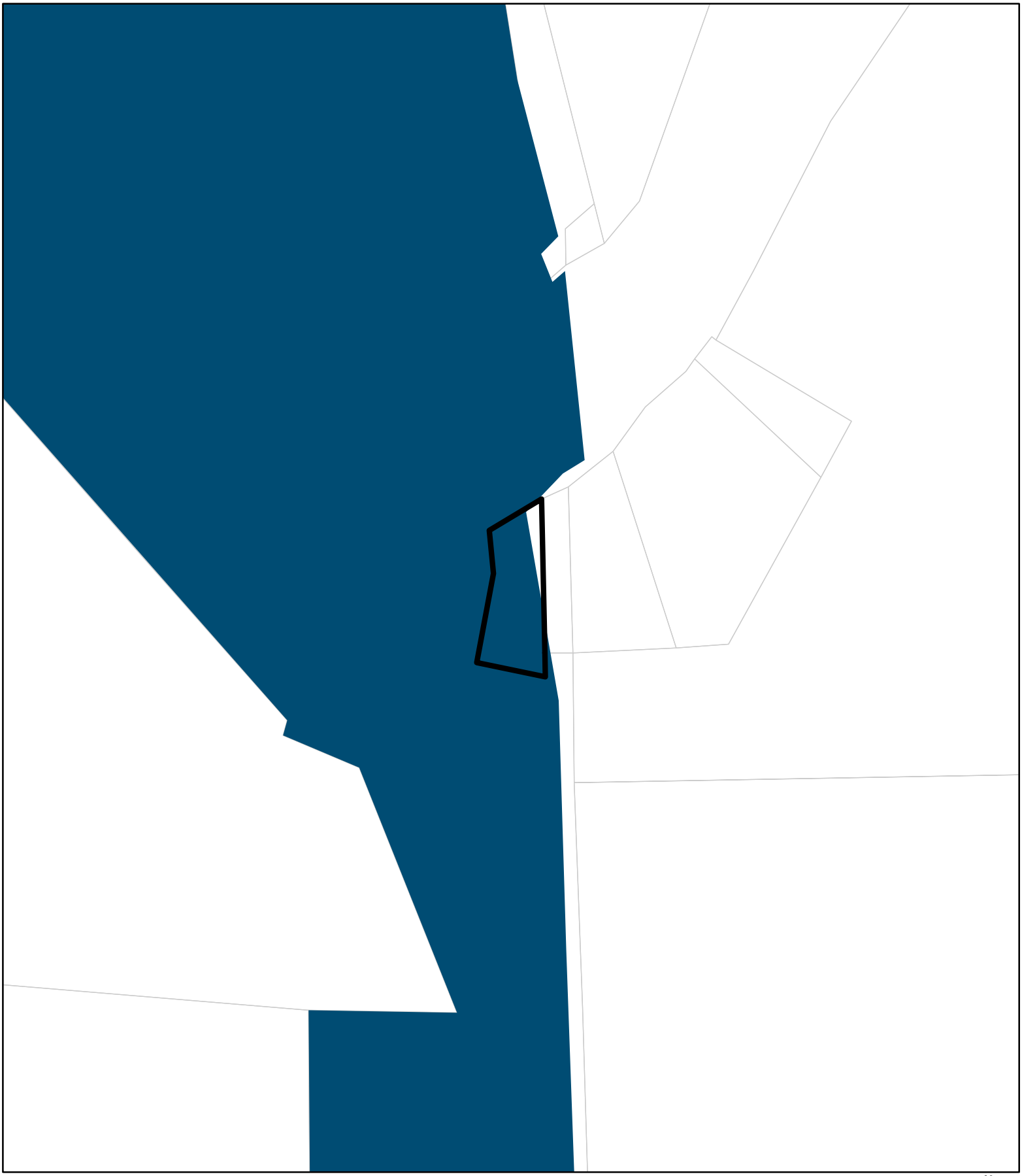
Assessors Parcels

0 112.5 225 Feet
0 0.02 0.04 Miles

N W E S

1:2,500

WESTERN SOIL CLASSIFICATIONS



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Fort Bragg Stormwater Areas

Assessors Parcels

0 65 130 Feet

0 0.01 0.02 Miles

1:1,500

N W E S

MS4 STORMWATER AREA

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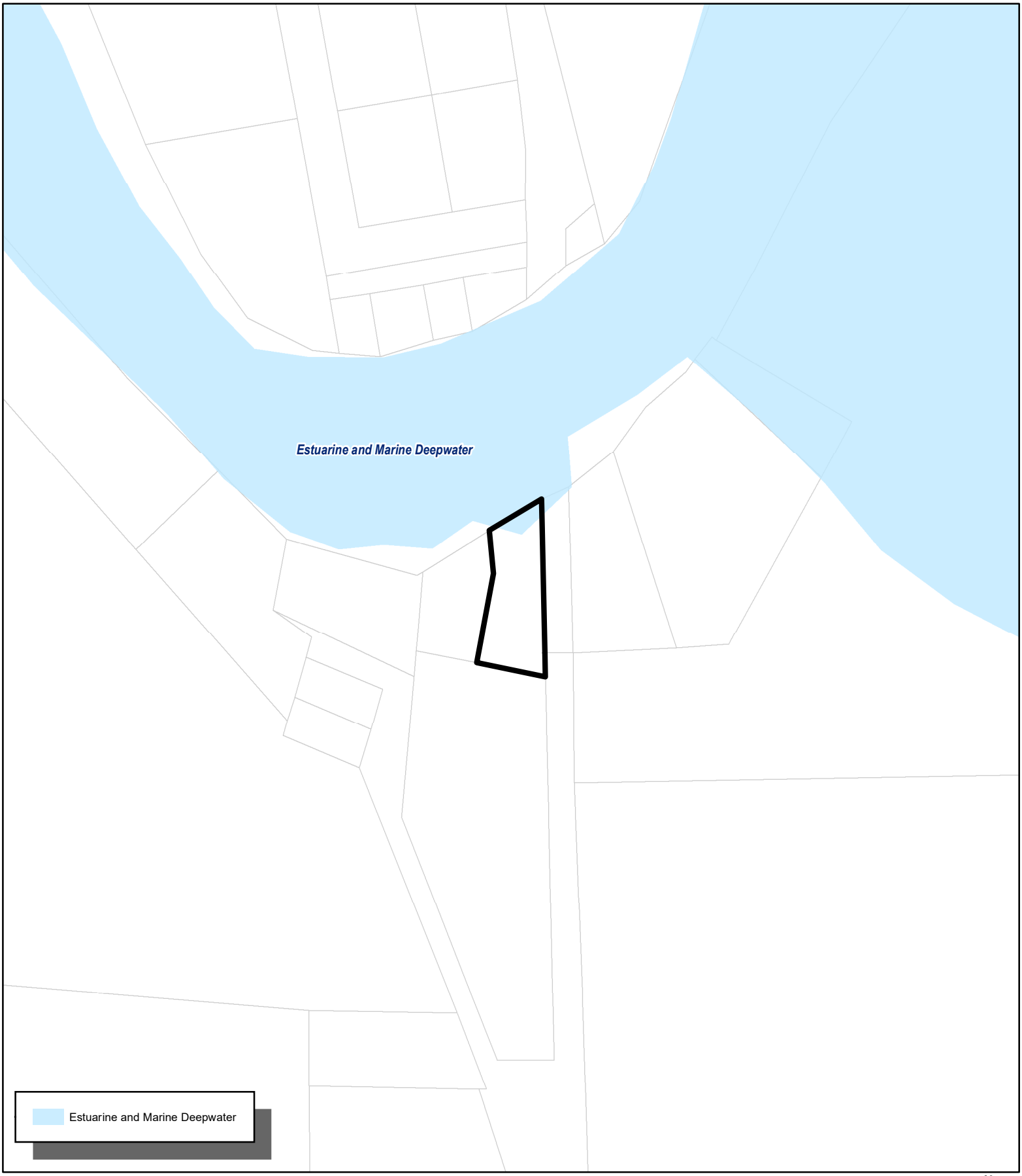
Assessors Parcels

0 180 360 Feet
0 0.03 0.06 Miles

N
W E
S

1:4,000

TOPOGRAPHIC MAP
CONTOUR INTERVAL IS 40 FEET



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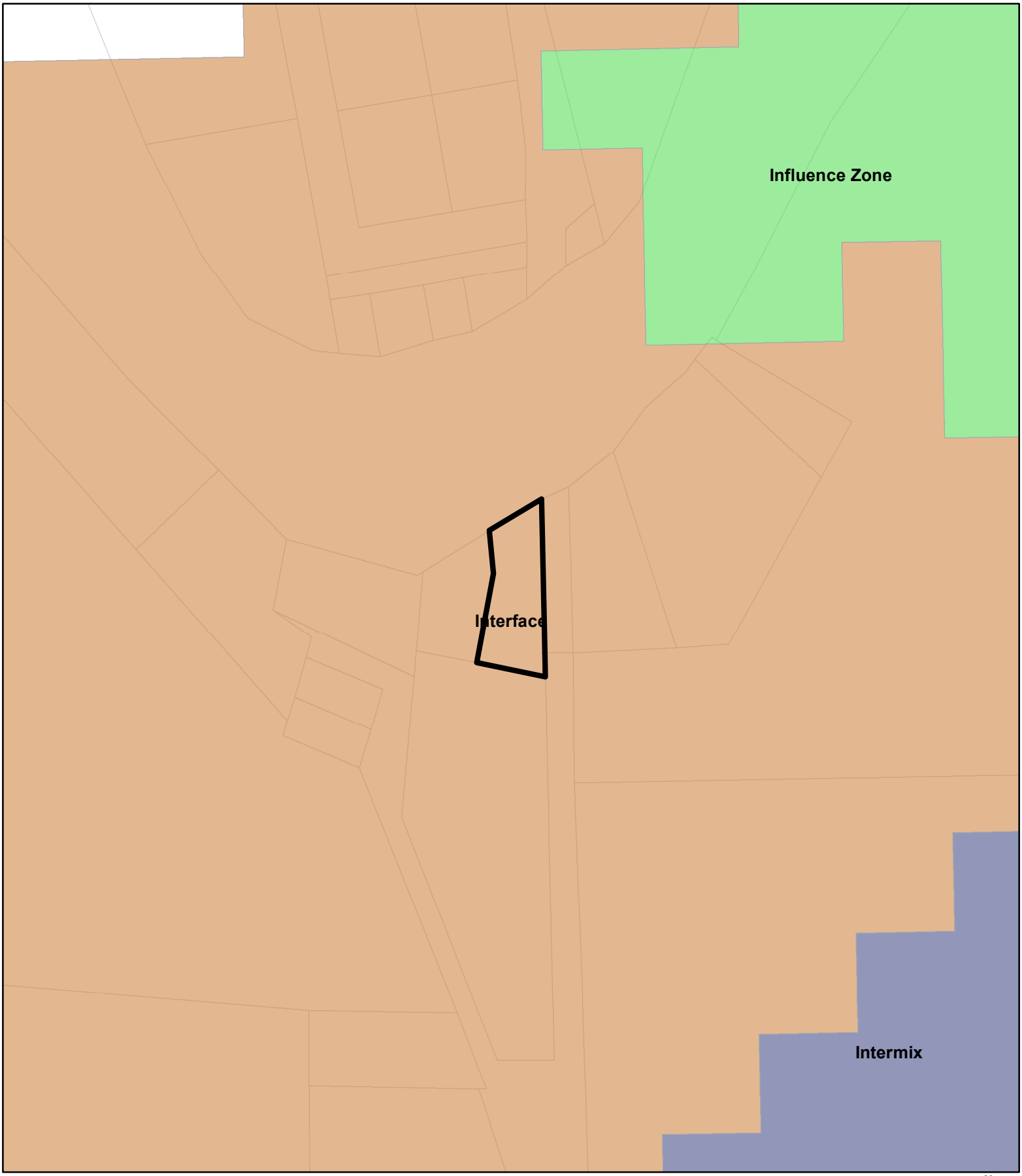
Assessors Parcels

0 65 130 Feet
0 0.01 0.02 Miles

N
W E
S

1:1,500

WETLANDS



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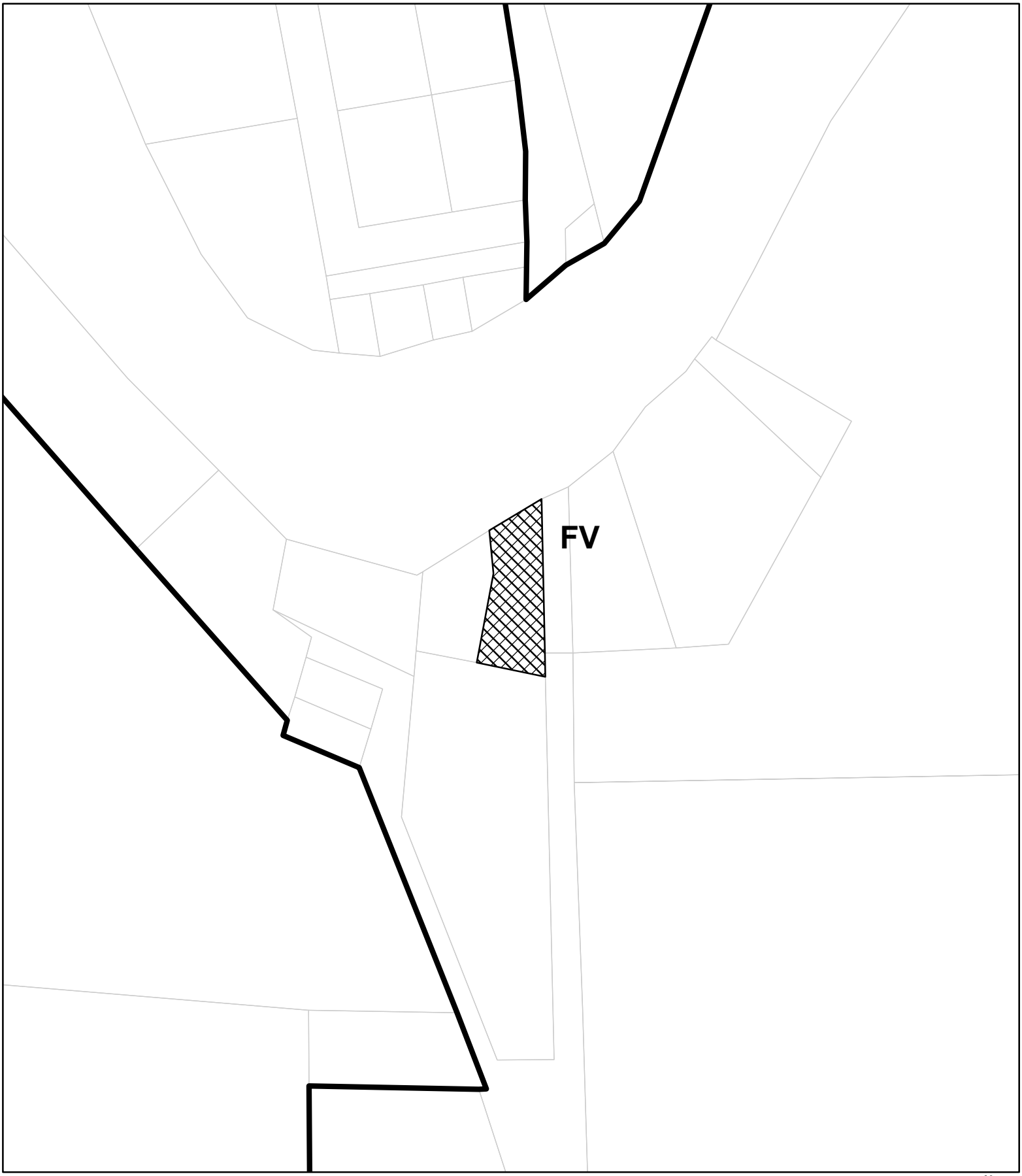
Assessors Parcels

0 65 130 Feet
0 0.01 0.02 Miles
1:1,500

N W E S

WILDLAND-URBAN INTERFACE



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Zoning Districts
Assessors Parcels

0 65 130 Feet
0 0.01 0.02 Miles
1:1,500

N
W E
S

ZONING

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Business Summary

WILD BLUE AQUACULTURE

PREPARED BY: AUBREE GORD

DATE: MAY 2026

Executive Summary

BUSINESS NAME:

Wild Blue Aquaculture, LLC

LOCATION:

19280 South Harbor Dr.
Fort Bragg, CA 95437

MISSION:

Restore Northern California's kelp forests by turning overabundant purple sea urchins into premium, locally ranched seafood while creating coastal jobs and a regenerative aquaculture model from Noyo Harbor.

VISION:

A thriving blue-green coastline where healthy kelp forests and a resilient seafood economy reinforce one another—anchored in Fort Bragg and recognized statewide for pioneering restorative aquaculture that scales from urchin ranching to complementary species.

GOALS:

- *Demonstrate Viability*
  - *Establish a land-based ranching system capable of converting barren urchins to marketable roe (>=15% Gonad Index) within 8–12 weeks*
- *Ecological Restoration*
  - *Partner with commercial divers to remove overpopulated purple urchins from Noyo Harbor reefs to facilitate kelp forest recovery*
- *Market Penetration*
  - *Secure distribution for consistent, premium-grade purple urchin roe during off-peak harvest seasons*

Company Overview

Legal Structure:

LLC

Company Name:

Wild Blue Aquaculture

Year Founded:

2025

Mangers:

Aubree Gord
Jake Gord

Products:

- Uni (sea urchin)

Team Size:

2

Values:

Cultivation | Sustainability | Restoration | Community

The Ecological Problem

ENVIRONMENTAL CONTEXT

Following a historic marine heatwave and the collapse of predatory sunflower sea star populations in 2014, purple sea urchin (*Strongylocentrotus purpuratus*) populations in Northern California have exploded, increasing by an estimated 10,000% above baseline levels. Unchecked populations of purple urchins have contributed to the widespread destruction (>90% loss) of Northern California's native kelp forests which are critical ecosystems essential for marine biodiversity and the health of commercially and culturally important marine species such as abalone.

Excessive urchin populations have caused a shift of the region's ecosystem from abundant kelp forests to urchin barrens, where millions of urchins exist in a starvation state. Often termed "zombie" urchins, they can survive for decades with minimal food, maintaining a metabolic dormancy that prevents kelp recovery but leaves their gonads (roe) emaciated and commercially valueless.

By sustainably harvesting wild purple urchins from impacted marine areas and nurturing them to market maturity, Wild Blue Aquaculture incentivizes their removal without reliance on state-funded intervention. This strategy actively supports kelp forest recovery and ecosystem balance.

Market & Opportunity

MARKET OVERVIEW

The global market for sea urchin roe (uni) is characterized by a significant and widening disparity between supply and demand. Historically, global sea urchin landings peaked in 1995 at approximately 120,000 tonnes but have since declined to roughly 75,000 tonnes annually due to overfishing and climate-driven kelp forest collapse in major harvest regions like Japan, Chile, and California. Despite this sharp decline in supply, global demand remains robust and unmet, particularly in premium markets.

Japan dominates the industry, consuming 80–90% of the world's total supply (approx. 50,000 tonnes annually), necessitating heavy reliance on imports. Other significant traditional markets include France, Italy, and South Korea. In the United States, the demand for uni has grown alongside the increasing popularity of sushi restaurants, yet domestic production from the wild red sea urchin fishery has declined significantly from its peaks in the late 1980s.

SUPPLY-SIDE ADVANTAGES

Wild Blue Aquaculture leverages ranching technology to disrupt the traditional volatility of the wild-capture fishery.

- **Consistency**: Wild urchin quality fluctuates drastically based on ocean conditions and available kelp. Ranching allows for the production of consistent, "A-Grade" roe (bright orange/yellow, firm texture) regardless of ocean conditions

- **Seasonality**: The wild urchin fishery is highly seasonal, often closing during spawning periods (winter/early spring) when quality degrades. Land-based ranching allows for the manipulation of feed and conditions to extend the harvest season, enabling Wild Blue to supply premium uni when wild stock is unavailable or of poor quality

- **Yield Improvement**: Research demonstrates that barren urchins can be enhanced from <5% yield to commercial viability (>15% yield) in as little as 9 weeks using formulated feeds

OPPORTUNITY

While the California commercial fishery has traditionally focused on the larger red sea urchin (*Mesocentrotus franciscanus*), the purple sea urchin represents a massive, underutilized resource. Historically, a robust fishery for wild purple urchins never developed because the species is smaller and, in the wild, yields less roe per animal than red urchins.

However, culinary assessments indicate that purple urchin roe is comparable in flavor and quality to the highly desirable Japanese domestic species, possessing a "sweet" and "nutty" flavor profile. The barrier to entry has always been yield since wild purple urchins from barren grounds typically have a gonad somatic index (GSI) of <5%, making them commercially worthless. Ranching solves this biological bottleneck, creating a high-value product from a pest species.

Target Market Breakdown

Wild Blue will focus on high-value domestic markets, prioritizing short supply chains to ensure maximum freshness and reduced carbon footprint. By bypassing the volatility and logistical complexities of export markets in the first phase of operations, the company will concentrate on satisfying the unmet demand on the West Coast and neighboring high-volume entertainment hubs.

PRIMARY CHANNELS:

REGIONAL HIGH-END FOODSERVICE (B2B)

Premium seafood eateries, sushi bars, and fine-dining establishments that value product traceability and sustainability.

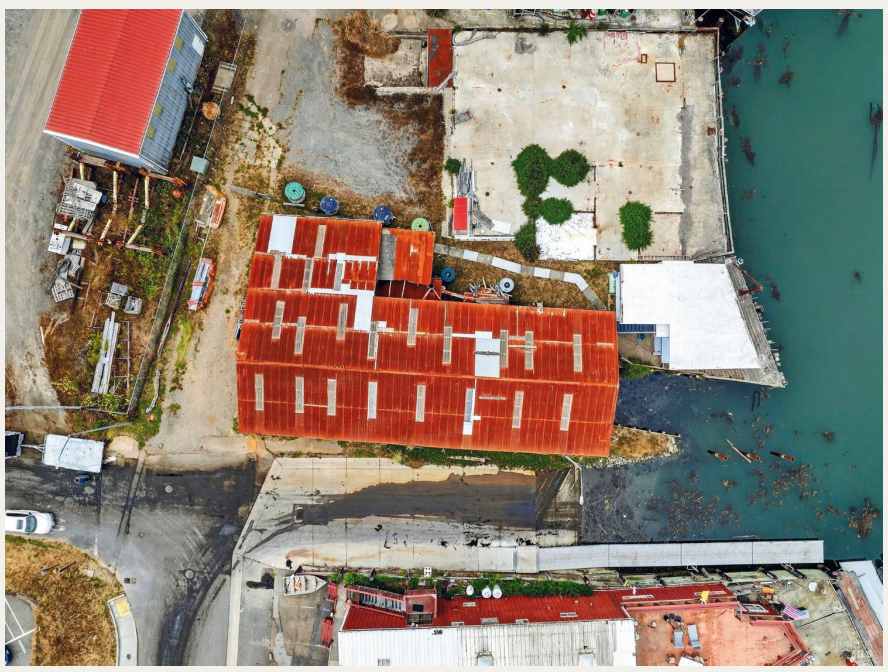
DIRECT-TO-CONSUMER & COMMUNITY SALES (DTC)

Certified farmers markets , festivals, and dockside sales where we can engage directly with the community to capture retail margins and drive brand awareness regarding kelp restoration.

Operations

FACILITIES

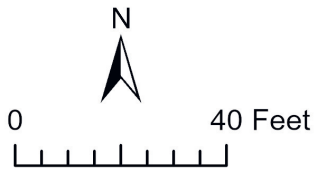
Wild Blue operates out of 19280 S Harbor Dr. in Fort Bragg, CA, strategically situated within Noyo Harbor. This location provides immediate proximity to the purple sea urchin barrens targeted for restoration along the Northern California Coast. Minimizing the transport time from harvest to ranching tanks is critical, as urchins from barrens are often in a weakened state; reducing air exposure and transit stress significantly lowers mortality rates. The facility will utilize a land-based indoor tank system to house and feed wild-caught urchin sourced through local, registered commercial urchin divers.



PROPOSED PROJECT AREA

BOUNDARY DETERMINATION

Wild Blue Aquaculture - Noyo Harbor



CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

Technical Services Division - GIS Unit

For illustrative purposes only. CL February 2026

Sources: Microsoft, Vantor

HUSBANDRY

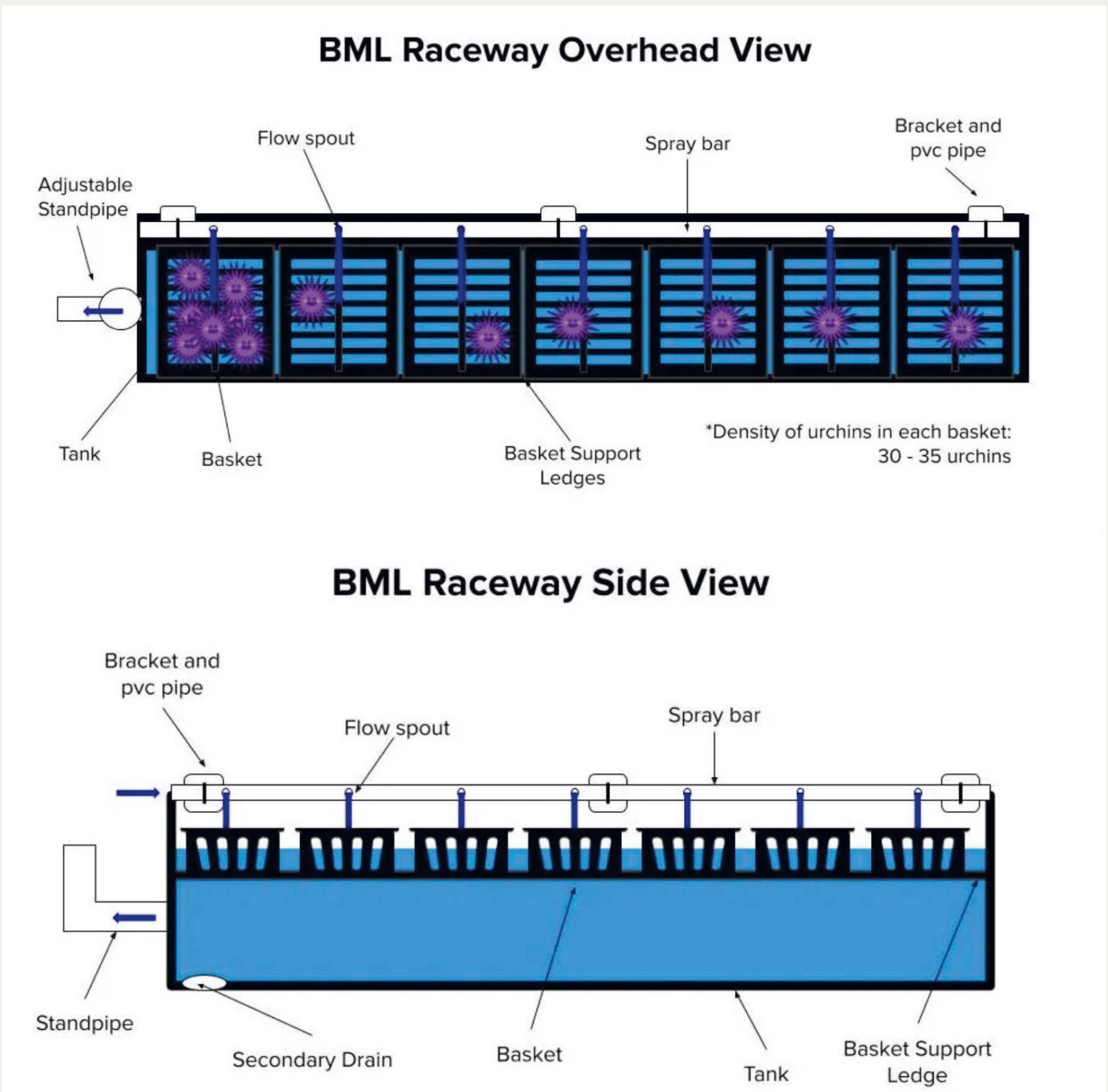
To ensure biosecurity and optimal growth conditions, we employ containment units (basket culture) within both our land-based systems. Basket culture prevents urchin escape, facilitates efficient feeding, and aids in the organization of stock.

Indoor Recirculating Aquaculture System (RAS)

Our primary ranching takes place in land-based, shallow raceway tanks integrated into a Recirculating Aquaculture System (RAS). RAS technology allows us to reduce water consumption significantly while maintaining strict control over environmental parameters

- **Tank Design** - We utilize rectangular raceways fitted with mesh baskets. To mitigate the natural tendency of urchins to crowd in corners—which can lead to air exposure and mortality—our baskets and tanks are designed to avoid high vertical surfaces where possible, favoring sloped sides to maintain full submersion

- **Infrastructure Safety** - Because urchins actively chew on soft materials, all airlines, hoses, and cables within the tanks are secured and constructed of durable materials to prevent damage and ingestion of plastics



WATER QUALITY & FLOW

Maintaining stable water chemistry is essential for converting barren urchins into premium seafood. Our systems are managed to meet optimal parameters for purple urchin. Water intake will come from a mobile, repositionable pump along the Noyo River frontage at 19280 S Harbor drive, and water discharge from our recirculating tank system will be intermittent, as needed using a repositionable hose system .

Key Parameters

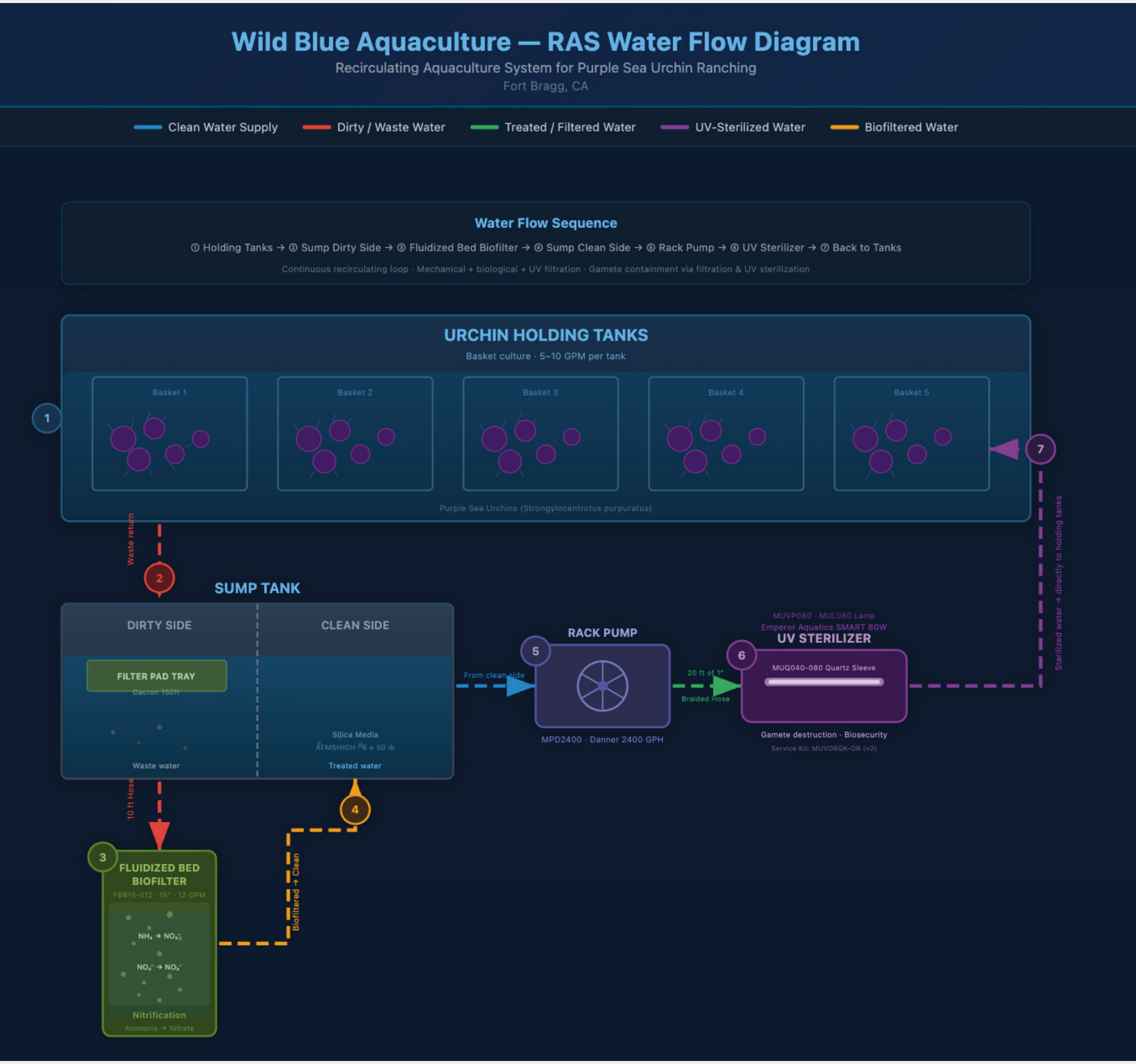
We target a temperature range of 10°C to 17°C, which supports metabolic activity without inducing heat stress. Dissolved oxygen is maintained between 80% and 100% saturation to ensure high grazing rates. Salinity is held consistent with nearshore conditions (32–34 ppt), and unionized ammonia is kept below 1 ppm to prevent toxicity.

Flow Dynamics

Water flow is critical for delivering oxygen and removing solid waste (feces and dropped spines), which is a primary factor in reducing mortality.

- **RAS Flow** - We utilize a flow rate sufficient to turnover water rapidly (e.g., ~2.5 L/min per culture tub or higher in raceways) to maintain water quality
- **Management** - We employ directional flow to move waste to drains but ensure inflow pressure is diffused (e.g., via spray bars) to avoid direct pressurized spray on the urchins, which can erode their epidermis

RAS FLOW DIAGRAM



FEED STRATEGY

We utilize a formulated, algae-based pellet feed rather than raw kelp to ensure consistent nutrition and rapid gonad enhancement without depleting local kelp biomass.

Diet Composition

We use a high-protein formulated feed (approx. 20% protein), which has been proven to produce significantly higher Gonad Index (GI) yields compared to macroalgae diets like Kelp. While protein drives growth, the feed includes macroalgal ingredients (e.g., Saccharina offcuts) to ensure palatability and provide beta-carotene, which is essential for achieving the desirable bright orange/yellow color and sweet, savory flavor profile required by the premium uni market

Production Timeline

This high-efficacy diet allows us to increase the GI of barren urchins (often <1% initial GI) to a marketable yield (>15% GI) in approximately 6 to 9 weeks, compared to 12+ weeks required for kelp-fed urchins.

Feeding Protocol

Urchins are fed ad libitum, typically 2–3 times per week, with uneaten food and waste siphoned or flushed daily to prevent bacterial growth and water quality degradation. We utilize sinking pellets sized appropriately for basket retention and ease of manipulation by the urchins.