



November 12, 2015

California Department of Water Resources
 Mr. Keith Wallace
 P.O. Box 942836
 Sacramento, CA 94236-0001

Re: Kings Basin Water Authority Comments Regarding the 2015 Implementation Grant Solicitation Draft Funding Recommendations

Dear Mr. Wallace:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments regarding the 2015 Grant Solicitation Draft Funding Recommendations. We appreciated the clarification you provided by conference call on Tuesday 11/10/2015 providing DWR's explanation of the reasons for the "No" scores received. We have summarized the explanation provided below as we understood it, and have included a response to those explanations. We request that you reconsider the score of the application.

#	Question	DWR Scoring Criteria	DWR Explanation of Reason for "No"
7	Are the anticipated primary and secondary physical benefits of the project described and quantified with the units specified in Table 5?	A properly completed Table 5 for at least the primary and secondary benefit of each project. If the primary and secondary physical benefits were not clearly identified or quantified for each year of the project's lifecycle using the specific units provided in the instructions for Table 5, a response of "no" will be given. For DAC projects that do not include construction, benefits do not need to be quantified, but must be qualitatively described.	Table 5 completed properly and benefits clearly identified, however reason "No" was given was that both the Primary and Secondary Benefits are from the same category (Water Supply) under the bullet list of benefit categories listed on page 19 of the PSP. To receive a "Yes", the project must have a benefit from 2 different categories of benefits from the bullet list on page 19.

Response to DWR Explanation – We request that DWR considers changing the "No" response to "Yes" for Question 7 for the following reasons:

- We do not find anywhere in the Proposal Solicitation Package (PSP) or the scoring criteria that it is stated that the primary and secondary benefits must come from different categories under the bullet list. The PSP only states (on page 18) that "Each project must present two benefits, but no more." The application should not be marked down for a criterion that was not specified.
- Although DWR views both benefits as water supply benefits, the Primary Benefit (Recharge) and Secondary Benefit (Dry Year Supply) are distinctly different, and were chosen because of that reason as the primary and secondary benefits of the project.
- The application does list and quantify additional benefits from the other categories described in the application on page 2-14 through 2-16 of the application, including Water Quality, Floodwater Diversion, Fishery Benefits and Habitat Creation. These

benefits were not included in Table 5 because of the language on page 18 of the PSP stating no more than 2 benefits should be presented in Table 5. Had the PSP stated that the primary and secondary benefits must be from separate categories, one of these additional benefits would have been included in Table 5 of the application under the secondary category. Even without the Table 5 format, the information in the application provides enough information for the reviewer to understand that there were primary and secondary benefits from different categories.

- It was also indicated that DWR graded this category consistently across the state, and several missed this item. Although other applications in the state did not receive a "Yes" for the same reason, we still believe a correction should be made to score the application in accordance with the criteria explicitly specified in the PSP.

#	Question	DWR Scoring Criteria	DWR Explanation of Reason for "No"
12	Does the project provide a direct water-related benefit to a DAC?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Proof that at least 25% of the area served by the project (by population or geography) meets the definition of a DAC. - A description of the water-related need(s) of a DAC. - Demonstration that the proposed project addresses the described need of the DAC. 	The description of the water-related need(s) of a DAC was accepted. There was demonstration that the proposed project addresses the described need of the DAC. The reason the application received a "No" was because there was no proof that at least 25% of the area served by the project (by population or geography) meets the definition of a DAC.

Response to DWR Explanation – We request that DWR consider changing the "No" response to "Yes" for Question 12 for the following reasons:

- On page 2-2 of the application, under the bulleted item for addressing the Critical Water Supply needs of a DAC, the application states, "The project will recharge 2,268 AF/yr to replenish the aquifer that the City of Parlier relies on." 2,268AF/yr is 100% of the project's anticipated recharge benefit as identified throughout the application.
- Both Figures 2-2 and 7-1 (attached unchanged as submitted in the application) show a map of the project area, and clearly show the yellow area as DAC, including the City of Parlier and surrounding area. From just a visual inspection of these maps, it is clear that more than 25% of the project area is a DAC.
- Map figure 2-2 shows an extent of more than 5 miles down gradient from the basin, well beyond the expected movement of the recharged water at the basin site. It should be understood that the recharge benefit will not extend beyond the area shown within the extent of these figures. However, if there was a question about the extent of the migration of recharged water from the basin, included within the application was sufficient detail to verify the extent of the recharge benefit area. The Feasibility Study for the project was included as Attachment 3b, and within that feasibility study, a mounding calculation (Table 2 on page 3-5 of the feasibility study and included below) showing the extent of the mounding from the basin to be less 2ft at just over one mile from the basin, clearly within the limits of the project area maps provided.

Table 2 - Estimated Groundwater Mounding with distance from center of basin

Ground-water Mounding (feet)	Distance from center of basin (feet)
14.1	0
10.8	1,000
6.9	2,000
4.9	3,000
3.5	4,000
2.5	5,000
1.9	6,000
Note: Distance 0 is the center of the basin	

- On page 2-18 under the Direct Water-Related Benefit to a DAC section, it is stated that "The project will provide recharge to Parlier as well as the area surrounding the basin which is also a DAC as shown in Figure 2-2." Later in that section, it goes on to say, "Groundwater flow in the area of the proposed basin is in the direction of Parlier and its sphere, so the recharged water will benefit Parlier and the nearby area." These statements make it clear that the recharge benefit of 2,268AF/yr goes to the DAC, as shown in Figure 2-2. It would seem that the application was marked "No" because the application did not state "100%" of the recharge benefit will benefit Parlier and the nearby area. As listed above, the application states "the" recharge benefit, which by definition means 100% of the recharge benefit.
- The water extracted will be delivered to the surrounding area (as stated on page 7-1) shown on Figure 2-2. Although not part of your explanation during our conference call, if there was a question regarding the amount of groundwater being extracted reducing the overall recharge benefit to the project area, it was clearly stated throughout the application that groundwater extraction amount is limited to 1,320Af/yr, leaving the difference (948AF/yr or 41.7%, well above the 25% threshold) in the aquifer around the basin. However, as stated, the entire benefit (recharge and extracted water) serves the DAC, including the water extracted that is delivered to the landowners in proximity to the basin.
- We recognize that on page 2-18, an incorrect reference was made to Attachment 7c. This was intended to reference Figure 7-1, which shows the DAC area around the project. Even if this sentence was disregarded as part of the application scoring, there are other references to Figure 7-1 and clear evidence that the surrounding project area is more than 25% DAC. This typographical error should not be reason for a "No" scoring.

#	Question	DWR Scoring Criteria	DWR Explanation of Reason for "No"
21	Does the schedule demonstrate that it is reasonable to expect that the project will start construction/implementation by April 1, 2016?	- Reasonable timeframes for the proposed tasks - A project ready to start by April 1, 2016 (For construction projects, ready to start means construction bids will be awarded by April 1, 2016)	DWR reviewer determined that the timeframes allotted for land acquisition, final design and environmental documentation were not reasonable.

Response to DWR Explanation – We request that DWR considering changing the “No” response to “Yes” for Question 21 for the following reasons:

- The project schedule showed construction ready to begin by March 14, 2016, more than two weeks ahead of the required timeline.
- The criterion for DWR is based on the word “reasonable”. We contend that the timeframes allotted for the tasks included are reasonable, and that other projects in the region, some funded by similar IRWM grants, have been completed in similar or shorter timeframes. The project schedule was prepared by the District and its consultant who perform these tasks on a weekly basis and who have determined they are reasonable, and are committed to completing the tasks within the allotted schedule.
- Regarding land acquisition, as stated on page 3-2 and 5-2 of the application, CID has already agreed to terms of purchase through an executed option for purchase of the property. All that remains is completion of a current appraisal, as typically required by DWR, and then finalizing the purchase through escrow with a title company. With the option in place, the remaining steps for land acquisition have typically only taken 6-8 weeks for other transactions by CID, but the schedule included 13 weeks.
- Regarding plan preparation, the basin layout is complete (as shown in Figure 2-8 on page 2-17 of the application). Preliminary design plans and specifications have been initiated and were included in the application as Attachments 3e and 3f. The Earthwork and Structures contract is the first work to be initiated on a basin project, as shown in the project schedule in the application. The project schedule included in the application allotted 15 weeks to take the preliminary plans and specifications to final bid documents. This is more than reasonable, as final design plans and specifications for other similar projects have been completed within 12 weeks.
- Regarding Environmental Documentation, the schedule shows 107 calendar days for completion of the Environmental Documentation, and is shown completing 26 days prior to construction start of 3/14/16. We recognize this is a tight timeframe but is still reasonable, especially recognizing that the project site has historically been farmed. Environmental documents have been accomplished in a similar timeframe before for other basin projects, including projects funded through this program by DWR. Most recently the Laguna Irrigation District Recharge Basin, funded under the Proposition 84, Round 2 Implementation Grant Program, had completed environmental documents in 109 days. CID has also previously prepared similar environmental documents within a like timeframe.

We understand that DWR staff is limited to funding allocation caps by region as determined by the bond law requiring the decision to fund projects in other regions that scored low in comparison to unfunded applications elsewhere. Nonetheless, we feel it is important to call attention to the fact that the KBWA application is the highest scoring un-funded project in the State and is not being recommended for funding primarily due to limited remaining Proposition 84 funding area allocation. KBWA has a track record of working closely with DWR on IRWM issues and delivering grant funded projects successfully, and this project is

clearly, even by DWR's scoring evaluation, an excellent project in an area of great need where KBWA and CID are well prepared to deliver a positive outcome.

We request that the State consider calling upon other funding sources to fully fund this project.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments, and for your assistance with our requests for clarification.

Sincerely,



Eric Osterling,
Program Manager
Kings Basin Water Authority (KBWA)

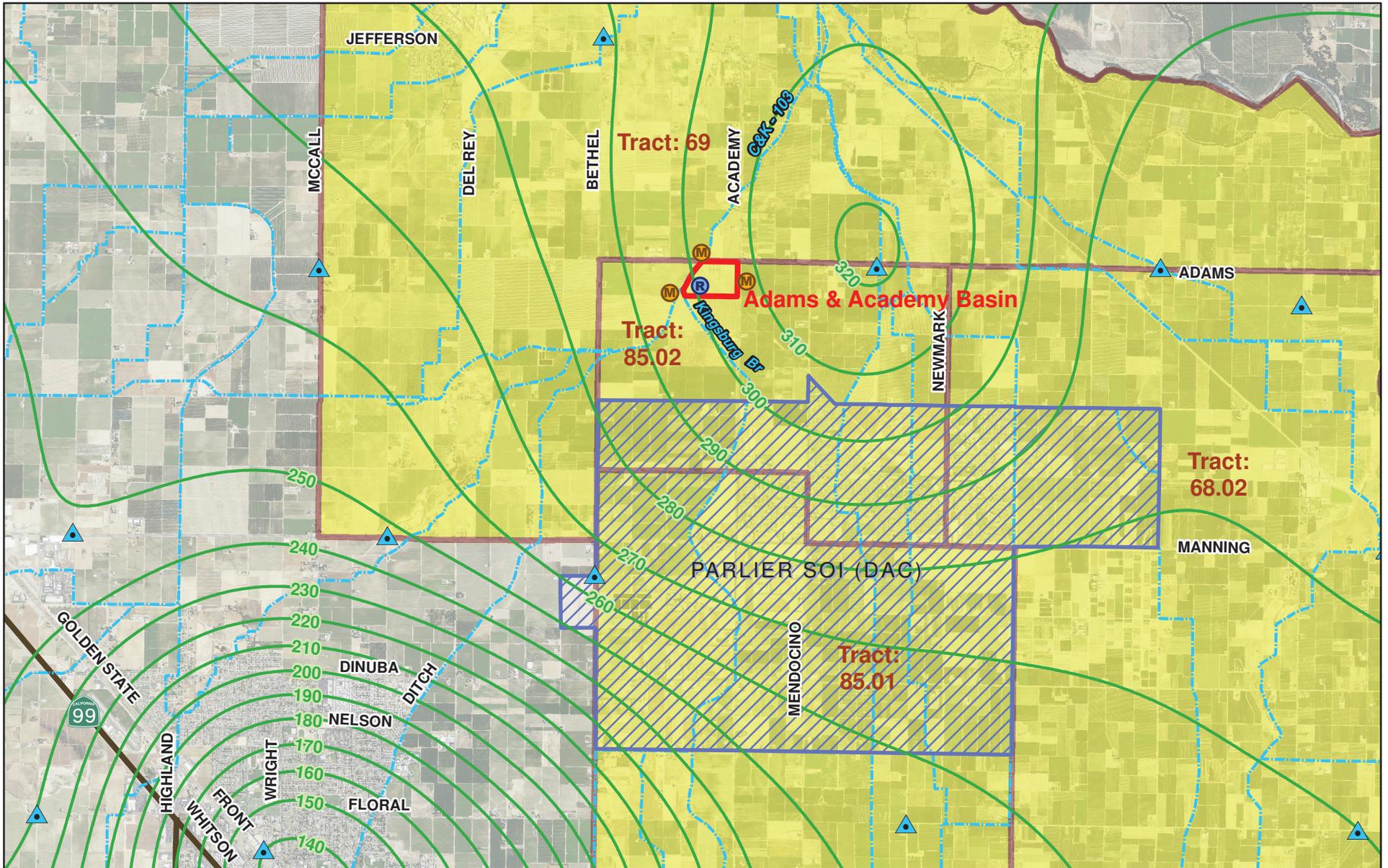


Phillip Desatoff
General Manager
Consolidated Irrigation District (CID)

EO/

Enclosures: As Stated

UKB L15-00120
File: UKB 301.01.06



0 0.25 0.5 0.75 1 Miles

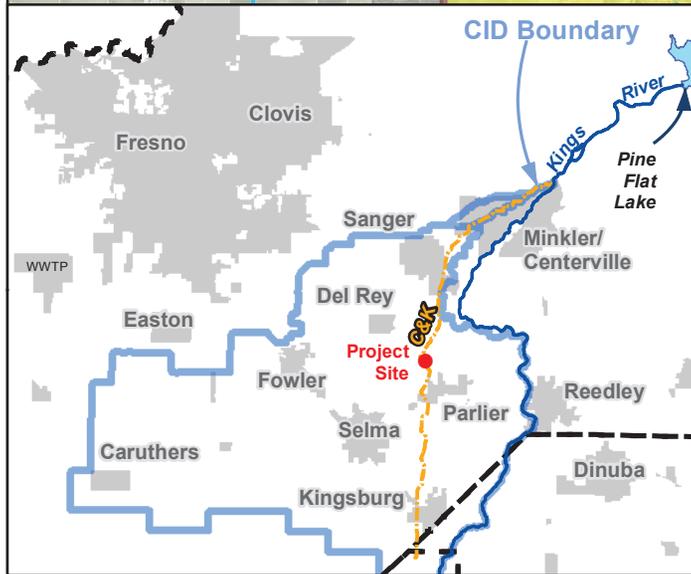
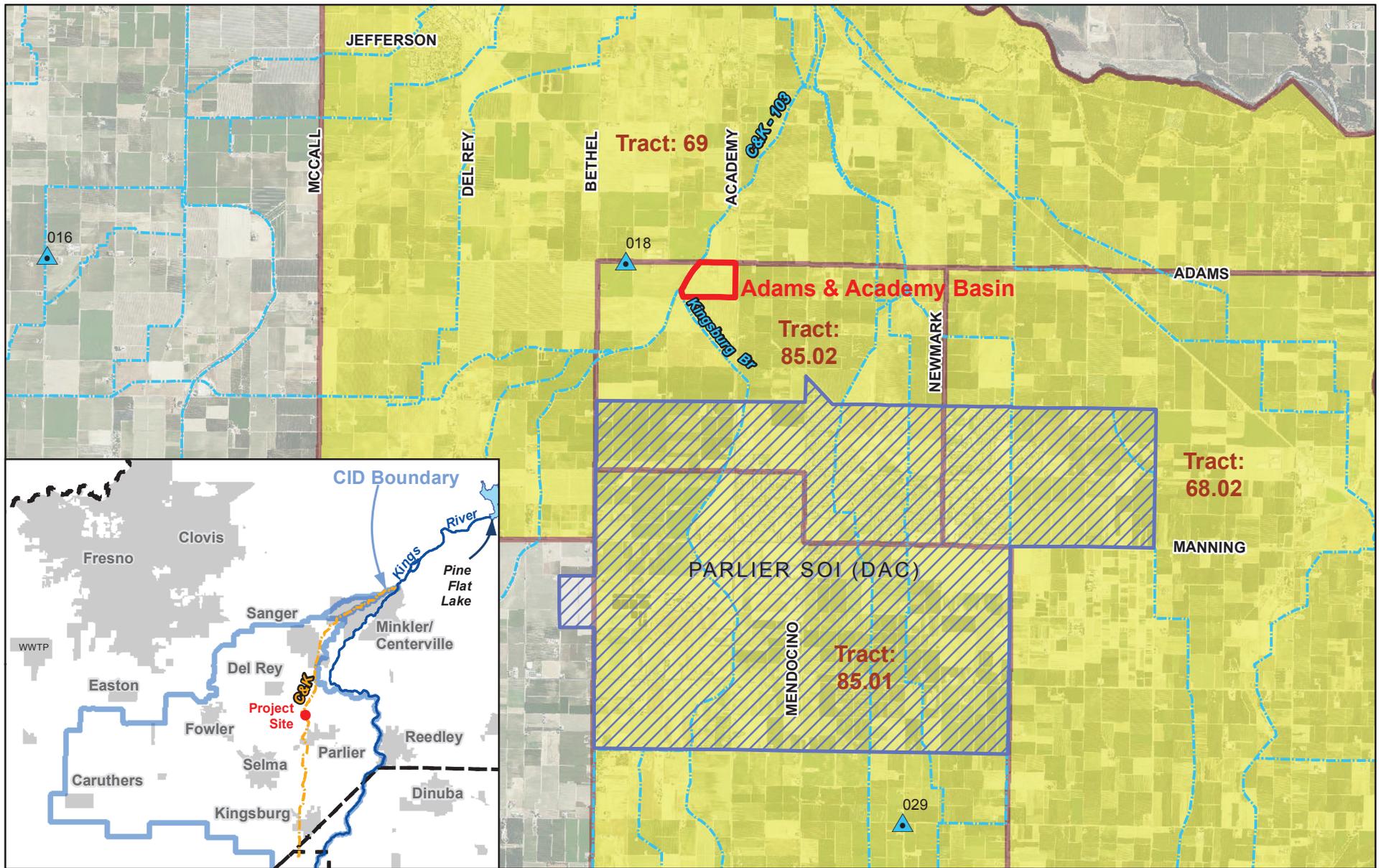
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Legend:

- Adams & Academy Basin Project Site
- Disadvantaged Census Tract (Source CA DWR)
- Parlier SOI (DAC)
- Elevation of Water in Wells March 2015
- M Proposed Monitoring Well
- R Proposed Recovery Well
- ▲ Monitoring Well
- Consolidated ID Facilities

Kings Basin Water Authority
CID: Adams & Academy Basin
Figure 2-2: Project Map
2015 IRWM
Implementation Solicitation



0 0.25 0.5 0.75 1 Miles

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Legend

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Kings Basin Water Authority
 CID: Adams & Academy Basin
Figure 7-1: Disadvantaged Communities Map
2015 IRWM
Implementation Solicitation