

CHAPTER 1.0 INTRODUCTION

Development of a Natural Resources Management Plan (NRMP) was initiated by Placer County Water Agency (PCWA) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) for operations and maintenance (O&M) activities within PCWA's raw water distribution system. This NRMP describes natural resources conditions along the PCWA distribution system and in the region, regulatory requirements for system O&M, potential effects of O&M activities on natural resources conditions, and identifies best management practices (BMP) for PCWA O&M activities.

1.1 STUDY AREA LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

The study area for the NRMP includes the PCWA raw water distribution system, shown in **Figure 1-1**, and natural resources in the region that may be affected by PCWA O&M activities conducted within the raw water distribution system. This includes areas adjacent to canals and reservoirs, as well as drainages and streams used for conveyance of water to PCWA customers, and streams that may receive flow contributions from the canal system through regulated or unregulated releases from canal outlets. Streams in the study area include Canyon Creek, Auburn Ravine, Clover Valley Creek, Antelope Creek, Secret Ravine, and Miners Ravine.

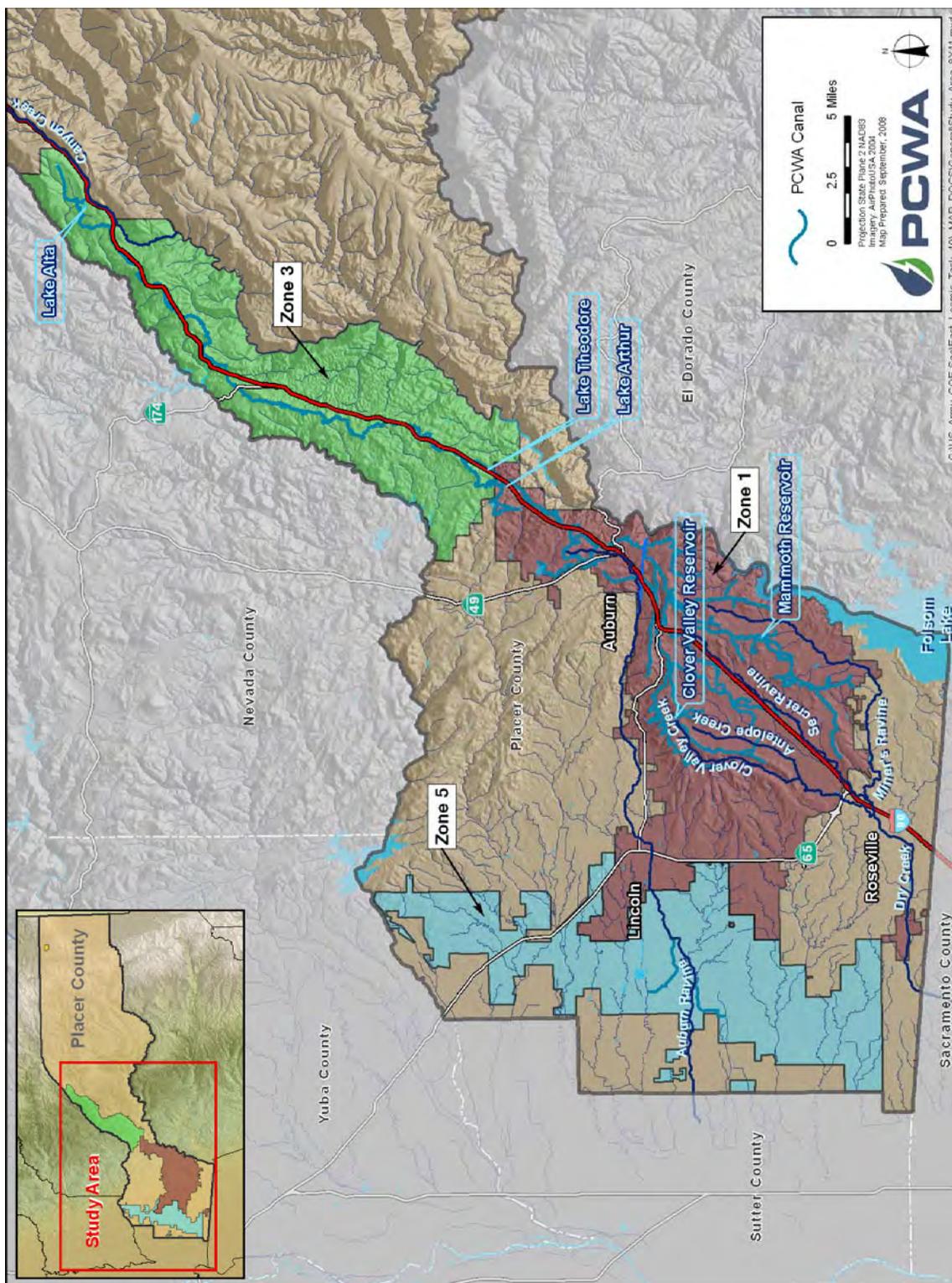
1.2 PURPOSE

The purpose of the NRMP is to provide a clear understanding of the regulatory setting for the canal system and receiving waters, and to identify how PCWA canal system O&M activities may affect natural resources conditions within and near the PCWA service area. This plan is intended to help PCWA staff identify BMPs that may assist in minimizing the effects of O&M activities on natural resources conditions.

1.3 REPORT ORGANIZATION

This plan includes the following topics:

- Background, study area location, descriptions, authorization, purpose, scope, and report organization (**Chapter 1**)
- Description of the PCWA raw water distribution system, and systemwide O&M activities (**Chapter 2**)
- Description of the physical and biological resources in the study area (**Chapter 3**)
- Description of the regulatory requirements potentially related to O&M activities (**Chapter 4**)



**FIGURE 1-1
STUDY AREA**

- Description of the potential effects of systemwide operations on natural resources conditions, regulatory framework for operations activities, and potential BMPs to minimize effects of operations activities on natural resources in the study area (**Chapter 5**)
- Description of the potential effects of maintenance activities on natural resources conditions, regulatory framework for maintenance activities, and potential BMPs to minimize effects of maintenance activities on natural resources in the study area (**Chapter 6**)
- Description of the potential effects of interrelated PCWA O&M activities on natural resources conditions, regulatory framework for interrelated PCWA O&M activities, and potential BMPs to minimize effects of interrelated activities on natural resources in the study area (**Chapter 7**)
- A list of the sources used in preparing this report (**Chapter 8**)

This plan is augmented by the following appendices:

- Appendix A – Benthic Macroinvertebrate Data Report
- Appendix B – Water Quality Conditions for Systemwide Operations
- Appendix C – Water Quality Conditions During Maintenance Activities