

Information for File # 2015-00769-ADB

Applicant: Ramsey County

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Primary County: Ramsey

Section: 9

Township: 30 North

Range: 23 West

Information Complete On: June 19, 2015

Posting Expires On: July 15, 2015

Authorization Type: LOP-05-MN

This application is being reviewed in accordance with the practices for documenting Corps jurisdiction under Sections 9 & 10 of the Rivers and Harbor Act of 1899 and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act identified in Regulatory Guidance Letter 07-01. We have made a preliminary determination that the aquatic resources that would be impacted by the proposed project are regulated by the Corps of Engineers under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. Our jurisdictional review and final jurisdictional determination could result in modifications to the scope of the project's regulated waterbody/wetland impacts and compensatory mitigation requirements identified above. Any approved jurisdictional determination made prior to reaching a permit decision would be posted on the St. Paul District web page at <http://www.mvp.usace.army.mil/>.

Project Description and Purpose (As stated by the applicant):

Ramsey County proposes to relocate and reintroduce meanders within a portion of Rice Creek, affecting approximately 925 feet of existing channel. The primary purpose of the project is to facilitate the reconstruction of the intersection at County Road (CR) H, I-35W northbound (NB) on-ramp, proposed I-35W NB exit ramp, and the proposed Rice Creek Commons, former Twin Cities Army Ammunition Plant (TCAAP site) access roads, into a five-legged double-lane roundabout. The realignment of the creek would

minimize the length of channel that would be in culverts and provide opportunity for creek enhancements.

The project involves adding over 500 feet of channel length to Rice Creek by realigning the creek around the new CR H roundabout intersection and adding meanders to the new creek channel. Currently CR H crosses Rice Creek via a 190 foot long, 8 foot by 10 foot double box culvert. CR H provides the northern access into the former TCAAP site, which is in the process of being redeveloped into the Rice Creek Commons mixed use development by Ramsey County and the City of Arden Hills. CR H would serve as one of two main access points into the site. The proposed roundabout intersection would include five legs:

1. Existing CR H from the west
2. Existing NB I-35W on-ramp
3. Proposed NB I-35W exit ramp
4. Proposed spine road within the Rice Creek Commons site
5. Proposed thumb road within the Rice Creek Commons site

Construction of the Rice Creek Meander Project would include soil excavation, grading, stream bank stabilization, construction of instream protection measures, and creation of various habitats for species in the region. To create the new channel alignment, approximately 35,500 cubic yards of material would be excavated. While designing the meander, consideration was given to the historic meandering course of the old creek channel based on historic aerial photo review. Although the historic meanders could not be replicated, the new creek channel would restore some fluvial morphology of the creek similar to pre-TCAAP conditions. The material removed would be stockpiled within the Rice Creek Commons redevelopment site for use in general site grading as part of the Rice Creek Commons Infrastructure project. The location for stockpile placement would be in upland areas at the discretion of the owner of the site, Ramsey County, and would be stabilized.

A number of utility crossings would be installed under the new channel for the future Rice Creek Commons development site. This includes a 30-inch sanitary sewer force main which would cross parallel to the east side of the CR H ramp culvert; two 18-inch water mains crossing parallel to the spine road bridge; and two 4-inch conduits for fiber crossing near the water mains. The sanitary and water crossings would be seven to eight feet below the channel, whereas the conduits would be roughly four feet below the channel.

As part of the separate CR H Interchange reconstruction project, a new exit ramp from Northbound I-35W to CR H would be added. This exit ramp would cross over Rice Creek. This new crossing would consist of two 10-foot high by 9-foot wide box culverts, 100 feet in length. These box culverts would be installed during the creek meander project in an effort to minimize work in the channel to one construction season. Similarly, extension of the existing creek culvert at I-35W as required for the interchange reconstruction project would be constructed as part of the creek meander project as well. The creek meander project, however, does not include the construction of the roadbed or

pavement for any of the CR H Interchange project. The existing CR H box culvert at Rice Creek would be removed as part of the CR H Interchange project. The new creek crossing for CR H/spine road would be constructed in a new location with a bridge as part of the Rice Creek Commons Infrastructure project. An arch type bridge structure would be used to span the new creek channel and floodplain.

Rice Creek is listed by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency as an impaired stream for aquatic macroinvertebrate/fish bioassessments and is considered an important ecological corridor through the region. Construction would include techniques to improve the ecology along the corridor. There are no existing building structures on site so no demolition of structures would take place as part of the Creek Meander project.

Construction of the Meander project is scheduled to begin after September 2015 and extend through July 2016. Construction would include two phases. Phase 1 includes the establishment of site erosion control measures, excavation of the new creek channel, the installation of the I-35W culvert extension and I-35W ramp culvert, and bank stabilization of the new creek channel. Phase 2, would occur between June 15 and July 15, 2016, and includes the diversion of Rice Creek into the new creek alignment, removal of the temporary diversion weir, backfilling the old channel and final site stabilization.

CR H Interchange project work east of I-35W would be prohibited until after July 15, 2016, for fish spawning protection and to allow for vegetation establishment. After that time, the existing creek channel and other poor soils would be excavated, then filled with acceptable road base material for the roundabout and road construction.

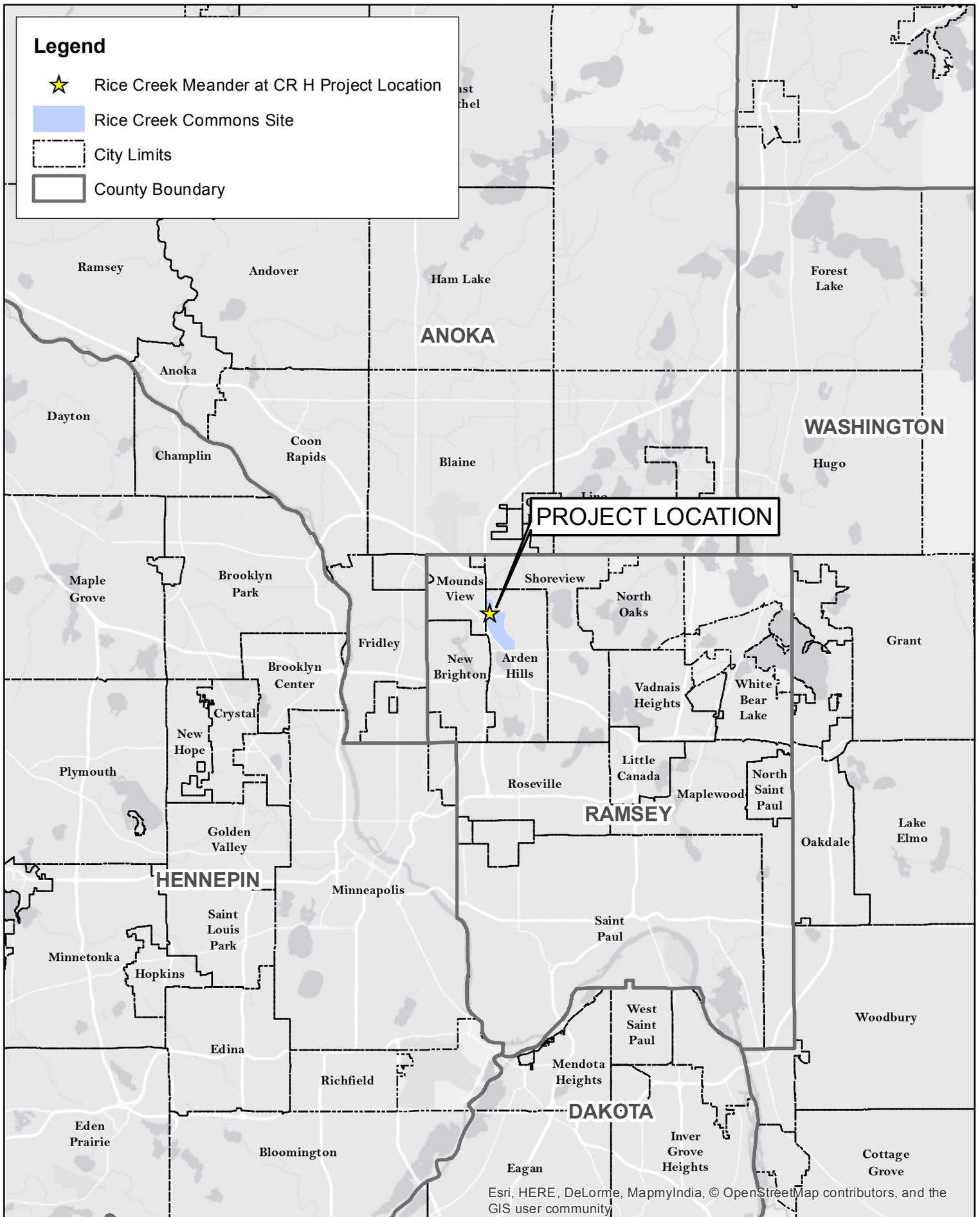
Name, Area and Types of Waters (Including Wetlands) Subject to Loss:

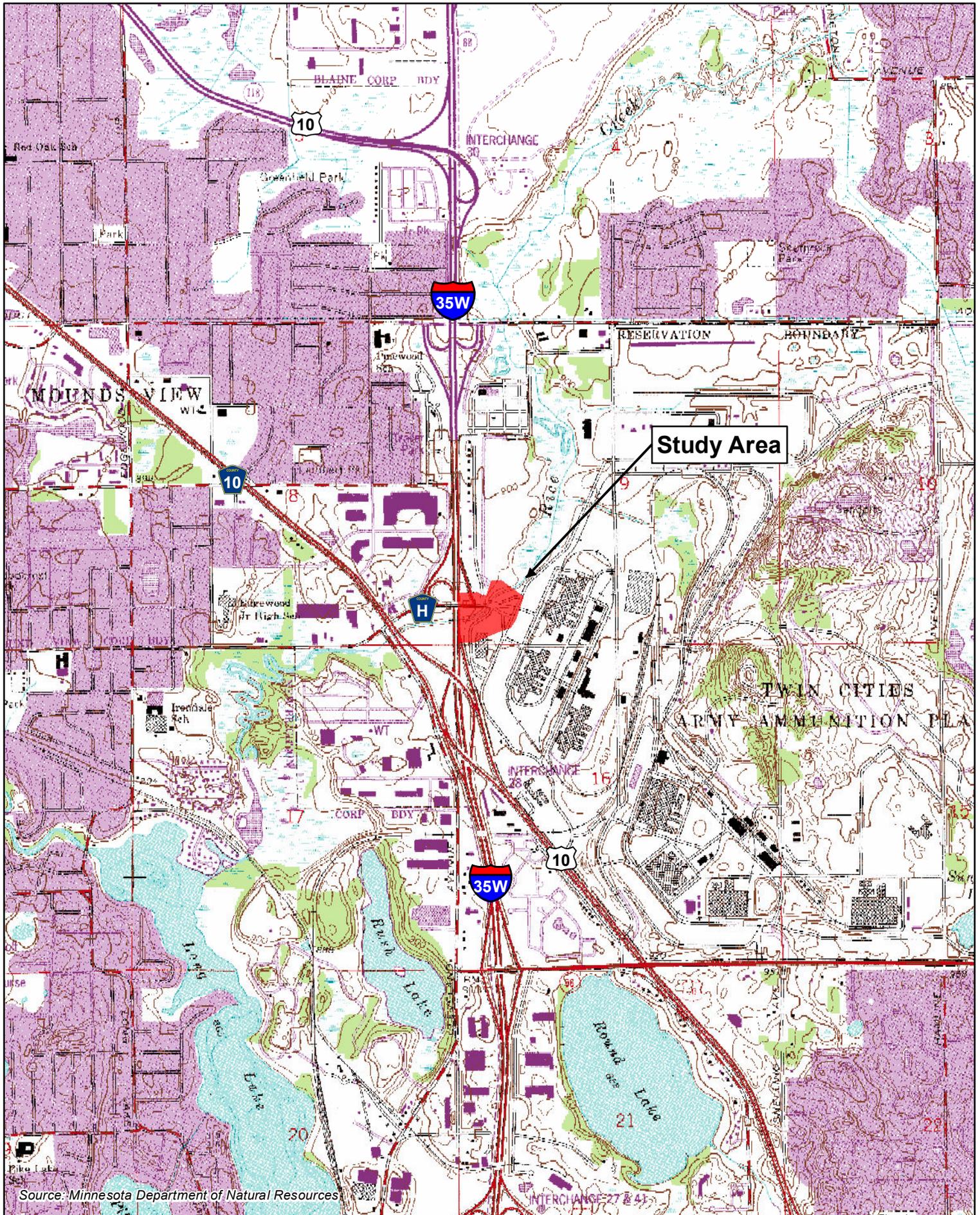
For the creek realignment project, the applicant requests a permit to impact 925 linear feet (0.79 acre) of Rice Creek. There is also 0.99 acre of wetland impacts associated with this project.

Compensatory Mitigation:

The applicant has proposed to add over 500 linear feet to Rice Creek and create 0.31 acre of wetlands adjacent to the new creek alignment.

Drawings: MVP-2015-00769-ADB Page 1 of 7 through MVP-2015-00769-ADB Page 7 of 7.





Source: Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

Figure 2. USGS 7.5 Minute Topo Map
Rice Creek Meander at CR H
Environmental Assessment Worksheet

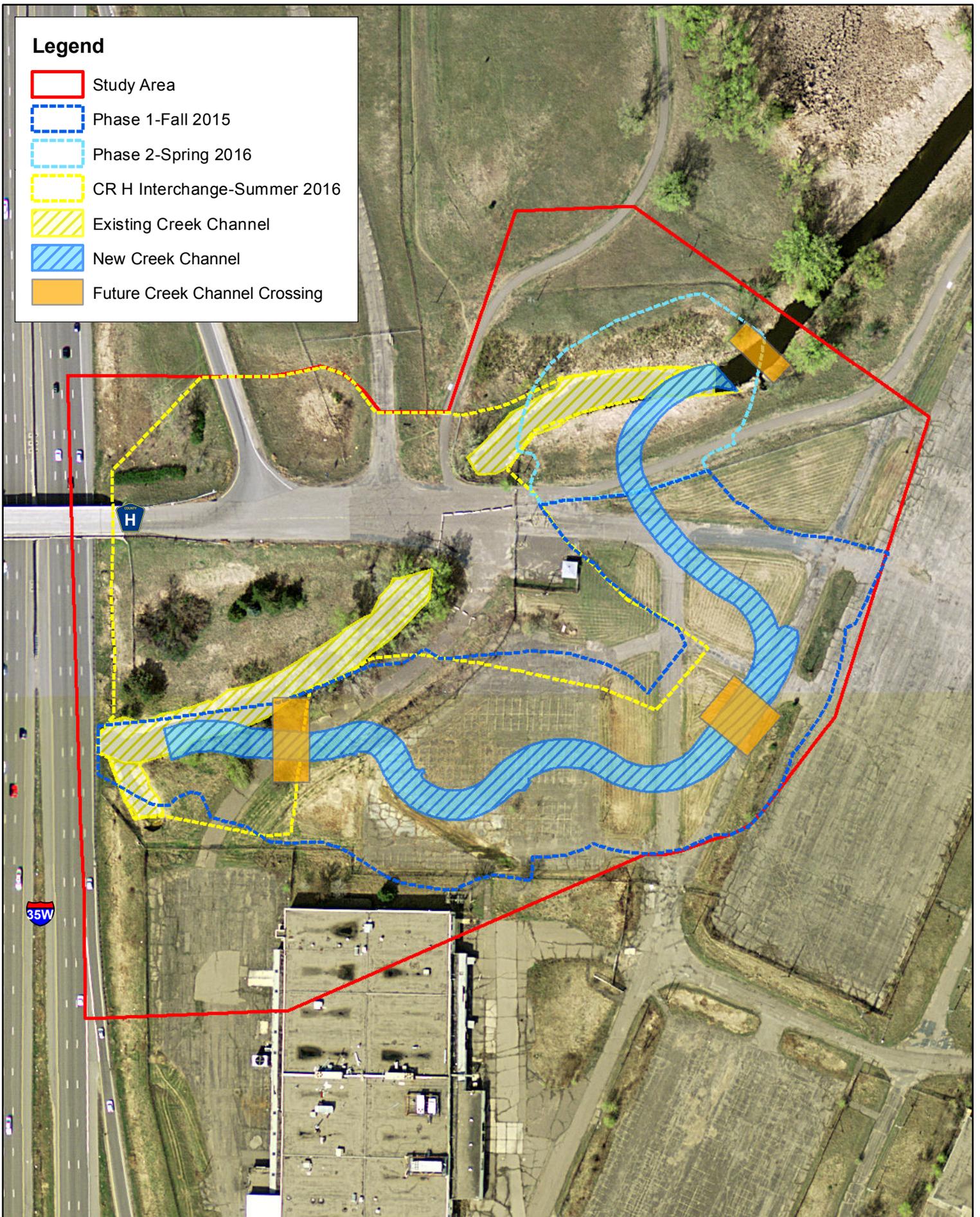


Figure 3. Construction Phasing
Rice Creek Meander at CR H
Environmental Assessment Worksheet

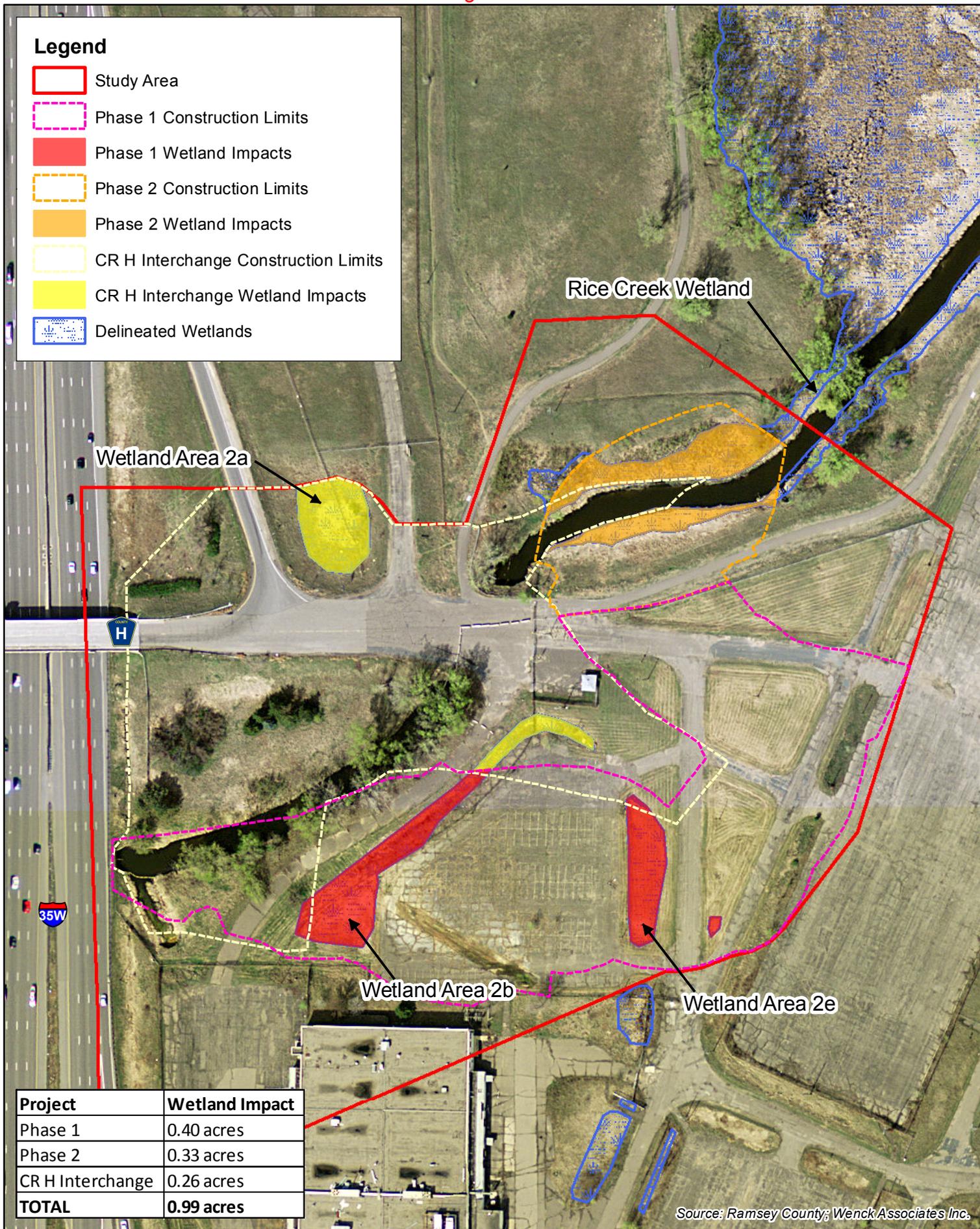
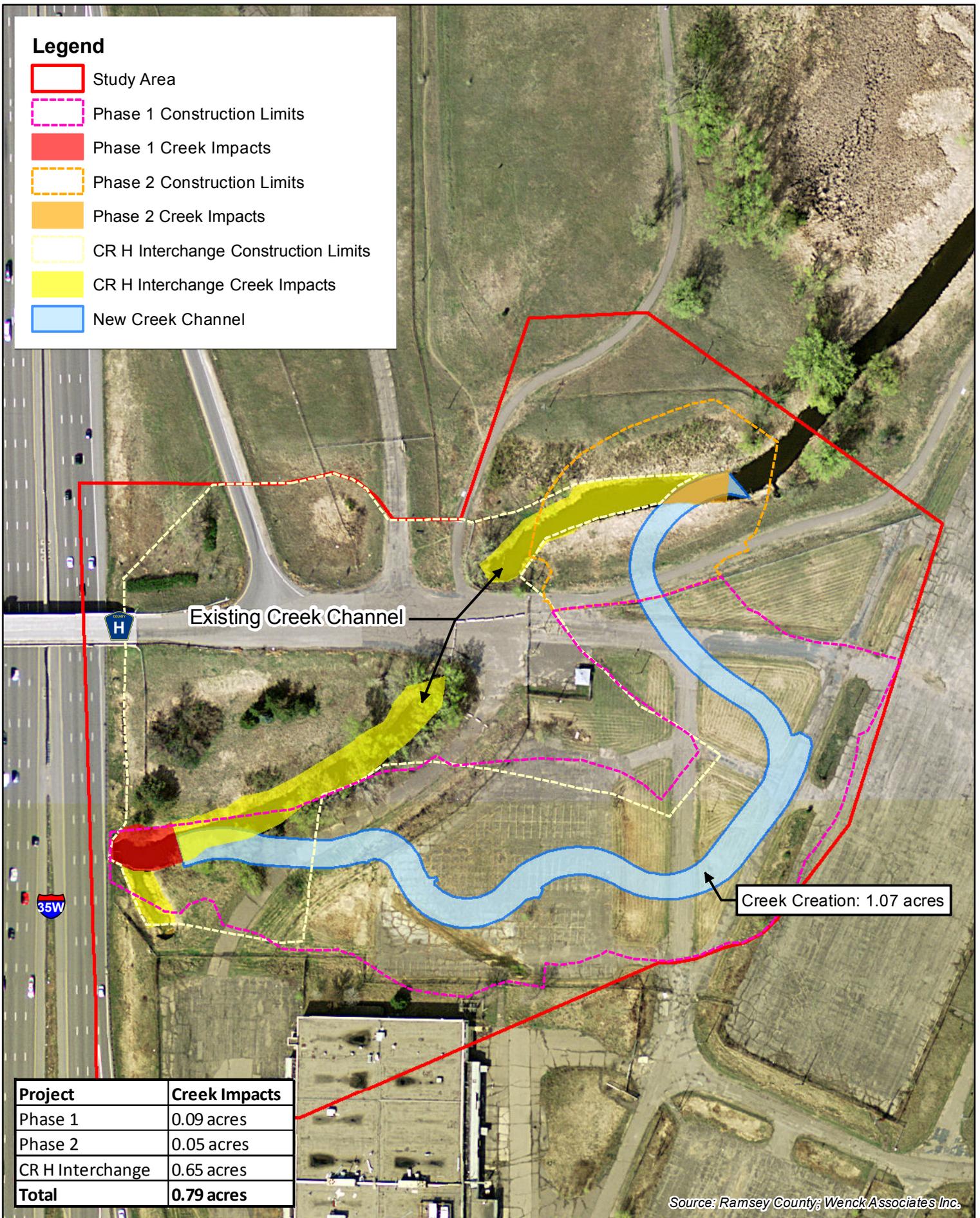


Figure 8a. Wetland Impacts
Rice Creek Meander at CR H
Environmental Assessment Worksheet



Project	Creek Impacts
Phase 1	0.09 acres
Phase 2	0.05 acres
CR H Interchange	0.65 acres
Total	0.79 acres

Source: Ramsey County; Wenck Associates Inc.

