United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Nevada State Office
P.O. Box 12000 (1340 Financial Blvd)
Reno, Nevada 89520-0006
http://www.nv.blm.gov

In reply refer to:
2800 (NV-910)
N-78803

Dear Interested Party:

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Nevada State Office is reopening the public scoping period for the proposed Clark, Lincoln, and White Pine Counties Groundwater Development (GWD) Project Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for comment on substantive project changes. The proposed project would develop and convey existing and proposed groundwater under rights authorized by the Nevada Division of Water Resources (Office of the State Engineer) to Southern Nevada Water Authority (SNWA) and the Lincoln County Water District. An EIS is being prepared to analyze the potential environmental and human resources that could be affected by the SNWA proposal to develop groundwater resources on public lands in rural Clark, Lincoln, and White Pine counties. The additional scoping input will be used to prepare the Draft EIS and begins with the publication of the Notice of Intent on July 19, 2006 and ends on September 18, 2006. Scoping offers the public an opportunity to participate in development of the EIS and assists the BLM in identifying the issues and concerns associated with construction and operation of the proposed project.

The BLM has reopened the scoping period for the proposed Clark, Lincoln, and White Pine Counties Groundwater Development Project EIS because two substantial changes have been made to the original proposed project: 1) conveyance of water to Lincoln County, and 2) removal of the Tikaboo Lateral in Tikaboo Valley North. These project changes are described in the enclosed informational sheet provided as part of this notification packet. Other changes such as project facilities and locations are shown on the attached maps. Previous scoping comment letters are part of the administrative record on this project and do not need to be re-submitted.

The BLM invites you to participate in the reopened scoping period for the proposed GWD Project. Scoping meetings will not be held during this public scoping period; however, you are encouraged to review the Scoping Summary Report that was prepared based on public comments received during scoping conducted in April to August 2005. The Scoping Summary Report and original project maps are available online at www.nv.blm.gov (*Nevada Groundwater Projects* link) or you may request a hard copy or electronic copy on CD from Penny Woods, BLM Nevada State Office (see address and telephone number listed below).

Enclosed within this package is an informational sheet describing the changes to the proposed project, project maps, and a comment form. If you do not wish to have your name released to the public in association with your comment, or would like your name removed from the mailing list, please be sure to indicate this on the comment form.

Submit written comments to the BLM Nevada State Office, 1340 Financial Boulevard, P.O. Box 12000, Reno, Nevada 89520-0006 or by facsimile: 775-861-6689. Comments must be submitted in writing by September 18, 2006. For additional project information, contact Penny Woods at the Nevada State Office at 775-861-6466.

Sincerely,

Penelope Dunn Woods

Penny Woods
Project Manager

Enclosures

Clark, Lincoln and White Pine Counties
Groundwater Develop Project
Environmental Impact Statement

BLM SCOPING COMMENT FORM

BLM believes that extensive public involvement will improve communication, development an understanding of the issues and concerns, and identify solutions to those concerns. You are encouraged to provide your comments below and mail this form to the address on the reverse side.

We look forward to hearing from you!

Name _____ County _____

Title _____ Organization _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Date: _____

NOTE: If you wish to withhold your name or address from public review or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, you must state this prominently at the beginning your comments or check the box below.

☐ Please check box if you do not want your name/address released when comments are made public.

☐ Please check box if you want to receive notice of the availability of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

COMMENT (additional space on the reverse side or you may attach additional sheets)

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Return comments postmarked by September 18, 2006

Fold in thirds so that BLM address (reverse side) is showing, add postage, tape bottom of fold, and mail.

From:

_____

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Place Stamp Here

Penny Woods
BLM Nevada State Office
Attn: Clark, Lincoln, and white Pine Counties
Groundwater Development Project Scoping Comments
1340 Financial Boulevard
P.O. Box 12000
Reno, NV 89520-006

THANK YOU FOR YOUR COMMENT!

To return via mail:
Fold in thirds so that BLM address (above) is showing,
add postage, tape bottom of fold, and mail.
Please postmark by: *September 18, 2006*

Comment continued:

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Clark, Lincoln, and White Pine Counties
Groundwater Development Project

The Clark, Lincoln, and White Pine Counties Groundwater Development (GWD) Project includes groundwater production, conveyance and treatment facilities, and power conveyance facilities located in central and eastern Nevada. The GWD Project is proposed by the Southern Nevada Water Authority (SNWA) to convey approximately 200,000 acre-feet per year (afy) of groundwater from Clark, Lincoln, and White Pine Counties.

The GWD Project will convey groundwater for which water rights will be issued by the Nevada Division of Water Resources (Office of the State Engineer), based upon existing groundwater applications. Additionally, the Project may convey groundwater for which water rights have already been issued. SNWA holds groundwater applications for approximately 168,000 afy in Spring, Snake, Cave, Dry Lake, Delamar, and Coyote Spring Valleys. These applications will be permitted through the Nevada water rights process. Furthermore, under the terms of a cooperative agreement with Lincoln County, SNWA is reserving capacity in the GWD Project conveyance system (pipelines) for future use by Lincoln County. Lincoln County does not currently have any specific plans or proposals for this capacity. SNWA anticipates that the County may acquire existing groundwater rights in Lake and Spring Valleys for conveyance through the GWD Project and use in Lincoln County.

SNWA has applied to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) for rights-of-way to construct and operate the GWD Project facilities. These facilities will be located predominantly on public lands managed by the BLM, primarily within designated utility corridors. Groundwater production wells, collector pipelines, and related production facilities have not yet been identified; but will be the subject of separate environmental analyses and federal approvals at the point such infrastructure requirements can be defined.

Water Facilities

- Pipelines – approximately 285 miles of buried water pipelines, 30 to 84 inches in diameter
- Pumping Stations – three pumping station facilities
- Regulating Tanks – six regulating tanks, each approximately 3 million gallons in capacity
- Buried Storage Reservoir – a 40 million-gallon buried storage reservoir
- Water Treatment Facility – a 150 million-gallon per day facility

Power Facilities

- Power Lines – approximately 300 miles of overhead 230 and 69 kilovolt power lines
- Electrical Substations – two primary electrical substations
- Hydroturbine Energy Recovery – two facilities

Anticipated Schedule

Environmental process	2004 - 2008
Geotechnical, surveying, and design	2006 - 2012
Groundwater monitoring, testing, and exploratory wells	2007 - 2009
Groundwater production wells	2009 - 2013
Pipeline and facility construction	2009 - 2014

Project Changes since April 2005 Public Scoping

There have been two substantive project changes that have occurred since the proposed GWD Project was first described during public scoping in April to August 2005:

1) Conveyance of water for Lincoln County

In January 2006, SNWA and the Lincoln County Water District completed an agreement that would allow Lincoln County to obtain capacity rights in the GWD Project. While a specific agreement on a capacity amount has not yet been determined, it is anticipated that the GWD Project may be used by Lincoln County to convey up to 36,000 afy of existing groundwater rights that have been or will be acquired from Spring and Lake Valleys to Lincoln County customers in Coyote Spring Valley. Any development and conveyance of this water to the GWD Project facilities would be undertaken by Lincoln County as a separate future project, when such plans are developed. Lincoln County does not currently have any specific plans or proposals for conveyance of water to and through the GWD Project.

This project change has resulted in an increased size of the main transmission pipeline of the GWD Project between Spring and Coyote Spring Valleys. It did not result in a project alignment change, or add any additional pumping or conveyance facilities.

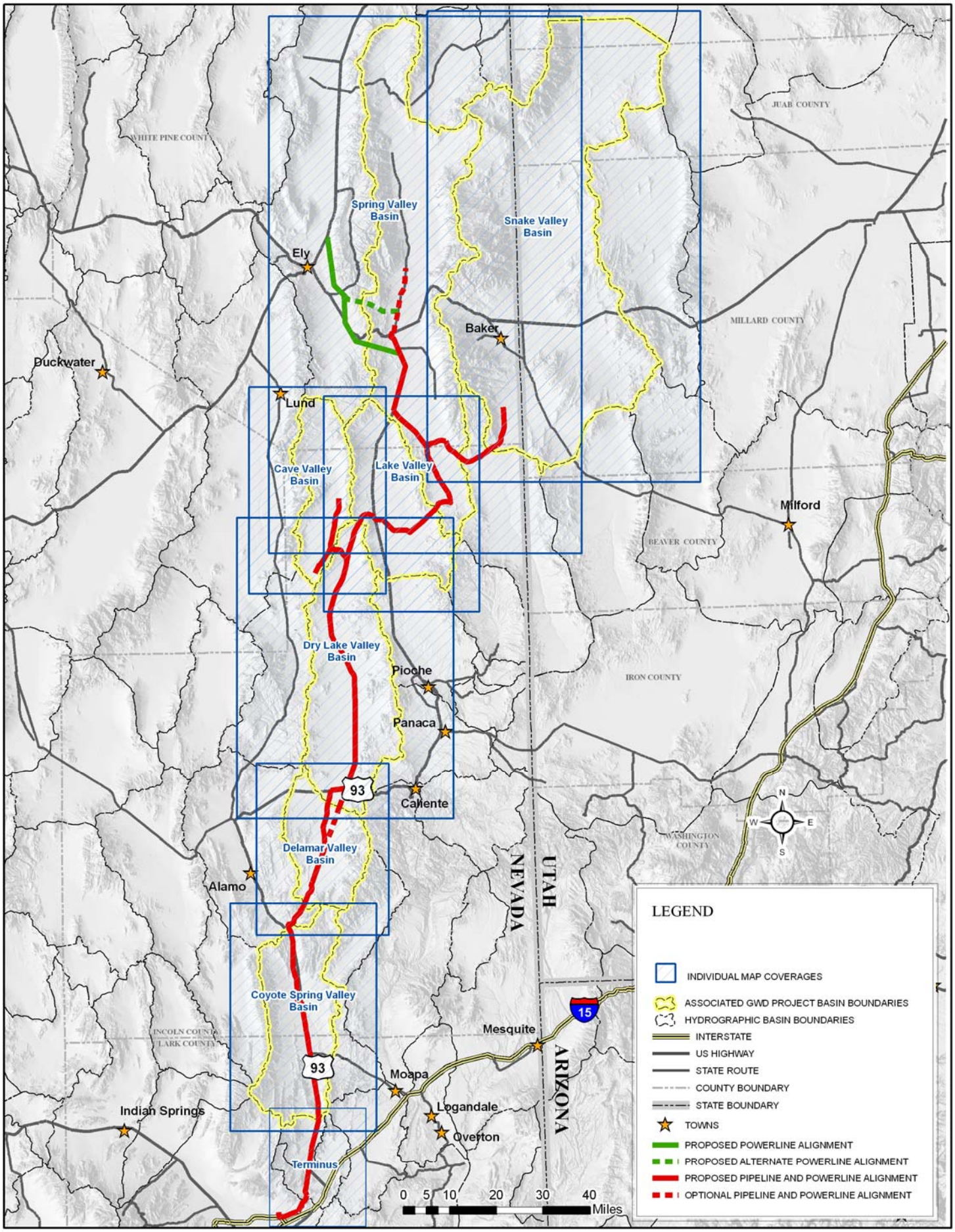
2) Removal of Tikaboo North Lateral

SNWA has withdrawn its proposal to develop groundwater from Tikaboo Valley North, as well as the associated lateral pipeline that would interconnect with the proposed main pipeline system. SNWA has concluded that the length of pipeline required for the anticipated volume of groundwater is not currently cost effective.

This project change has reduced the volume of groundwater that would be developed by SNWA through the GWD Project. It has also eliminated 60 miles of pipeline, two pumping stations, and 45 miles of powerline.

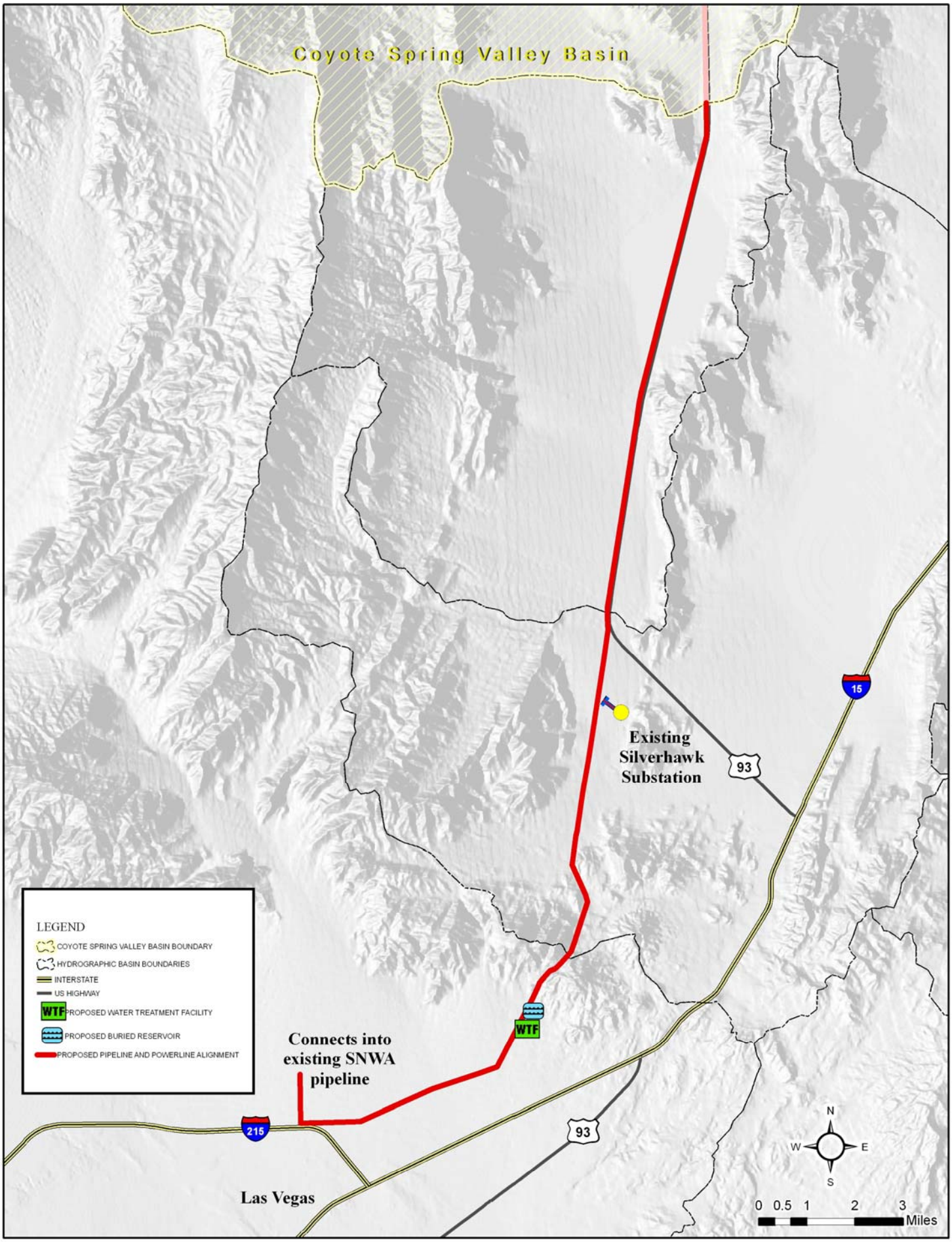
Clark, Lincoln, and White Pine Counties
Groundwater Development Project

Individual Map Coverages



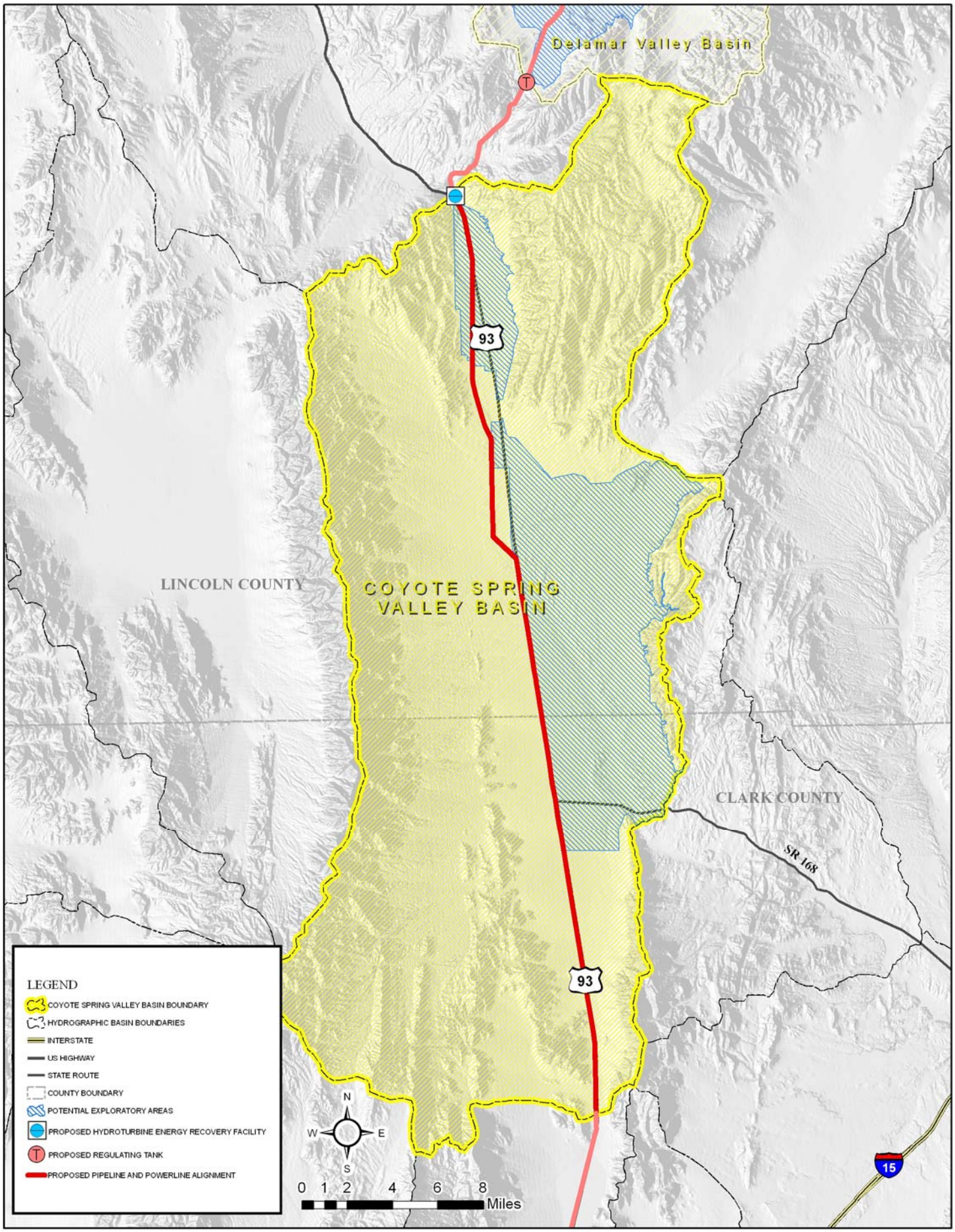
Clark, Lincoln, and White Pine Counties
Groundwater Development Project

Terminus



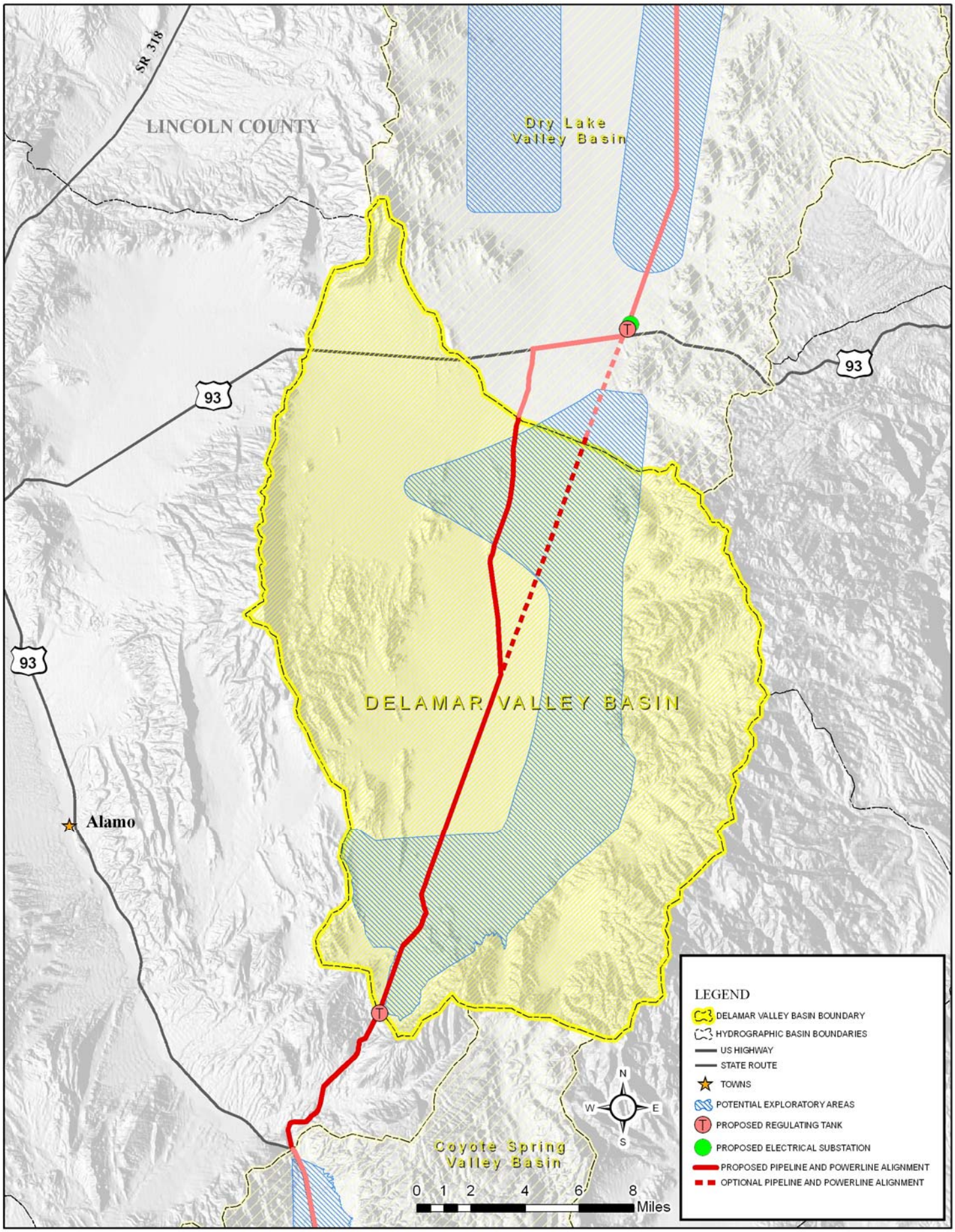
Clark, Lincoln, and White Pine Counties
Groundwater Development Project

Coyote Spring Valley Basin



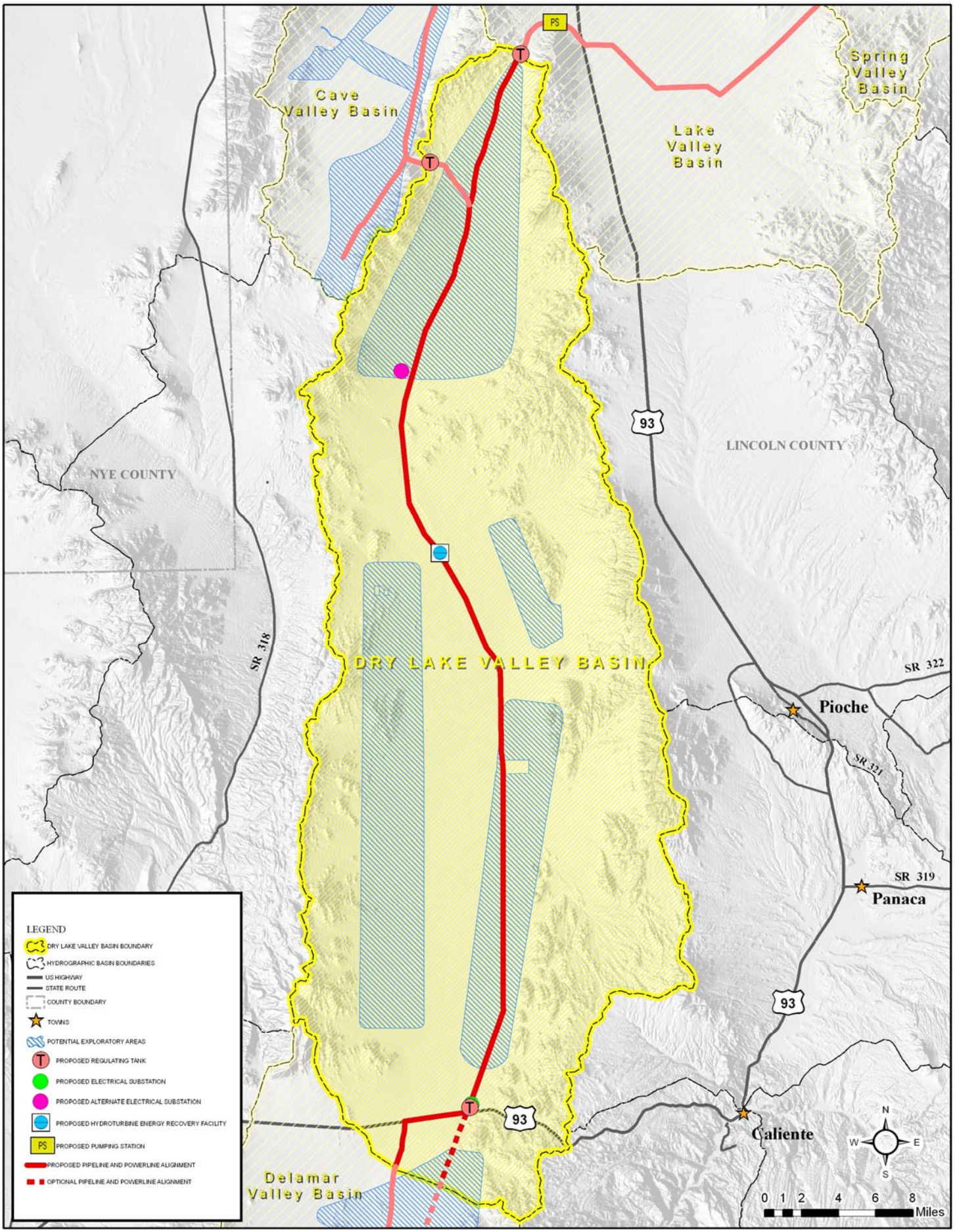
Clark, Lincoln, and White Pine Counties
Groundwater Development Project

Delamar Valley Basin



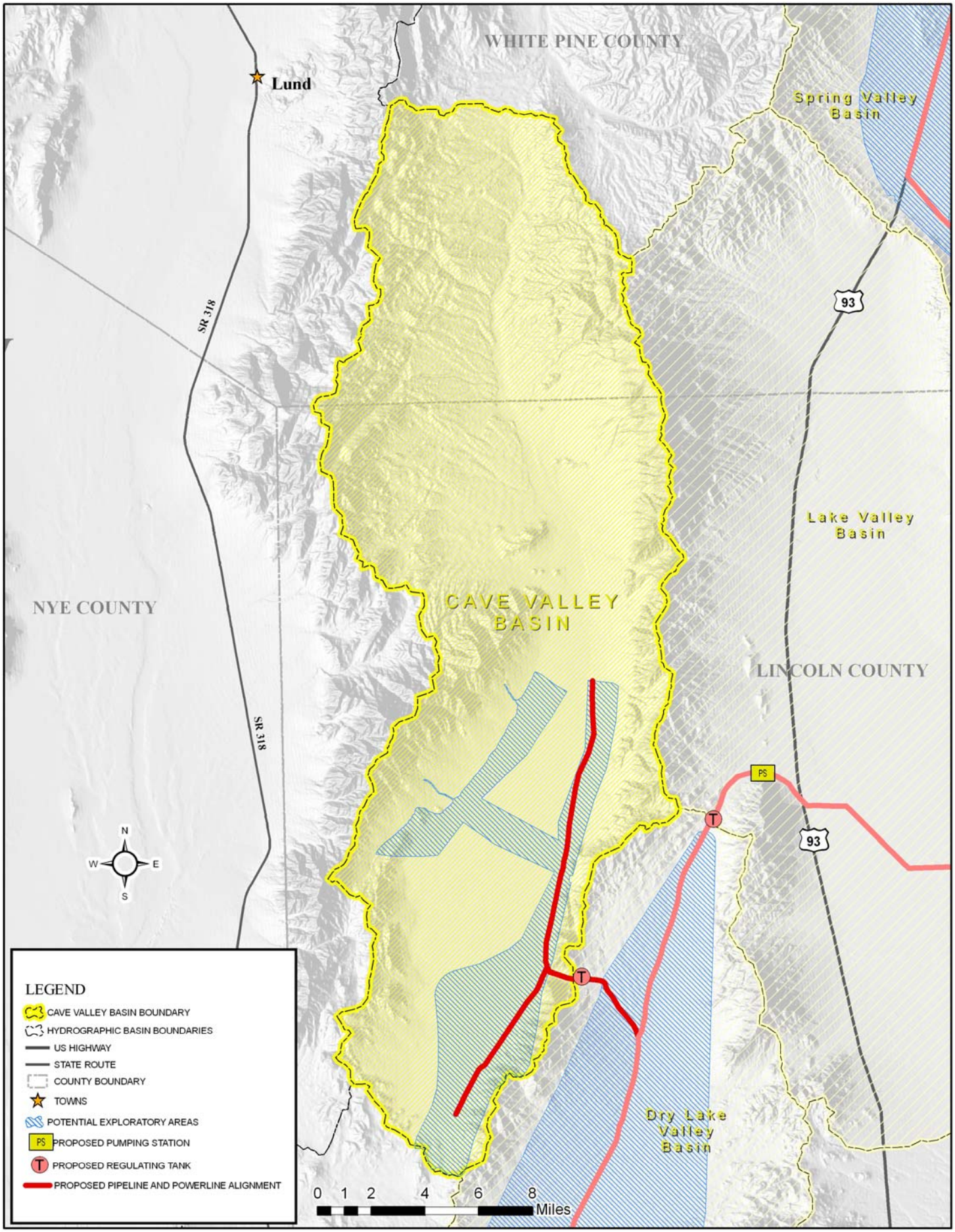
Clark, Lincoln, and White Pine Counties
Groundwater Development Project

Dry Lake Valley Basin



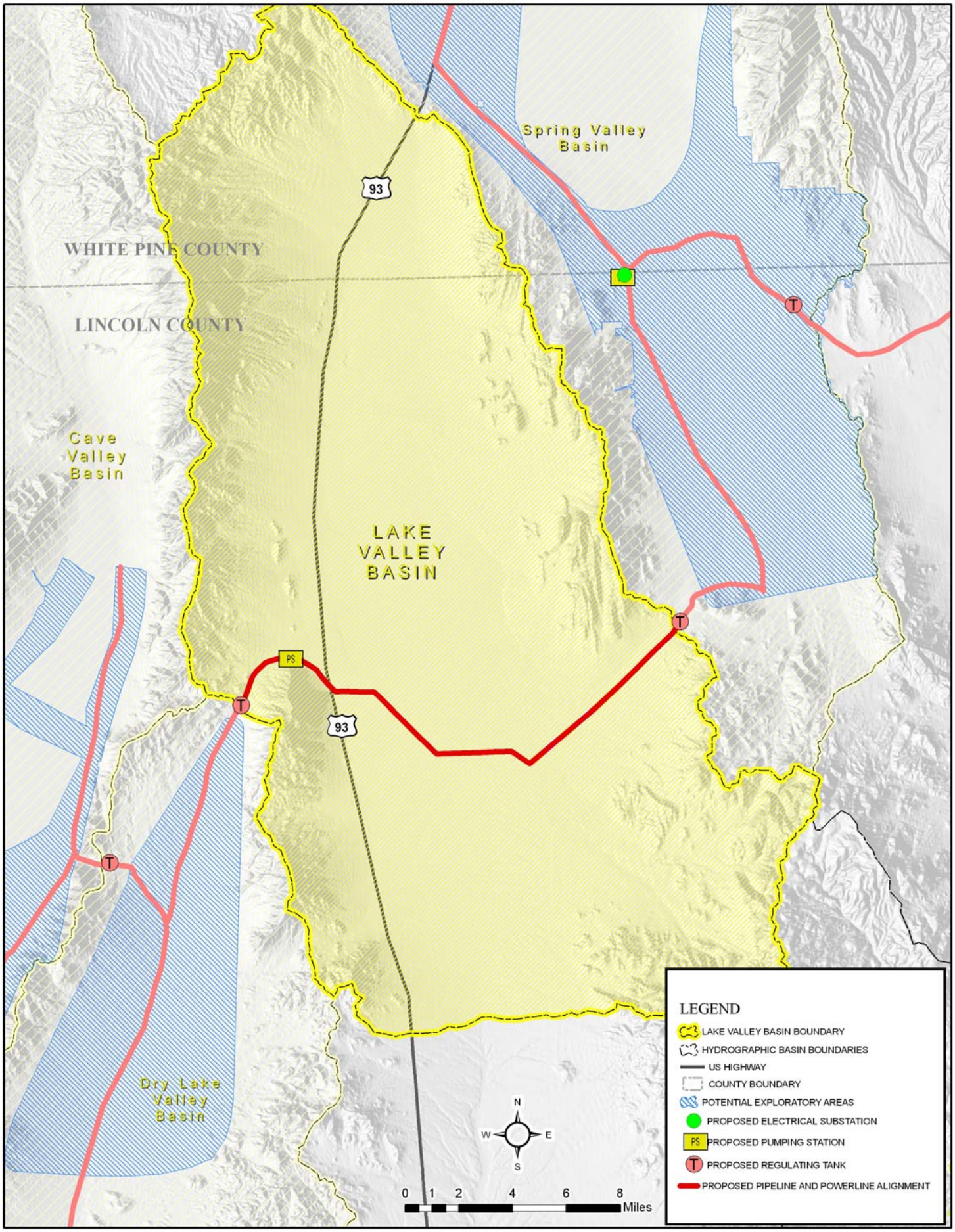
Clark, Lincoln, and White Pine Counties
Groundwater Development Project

Cave Valley Basin



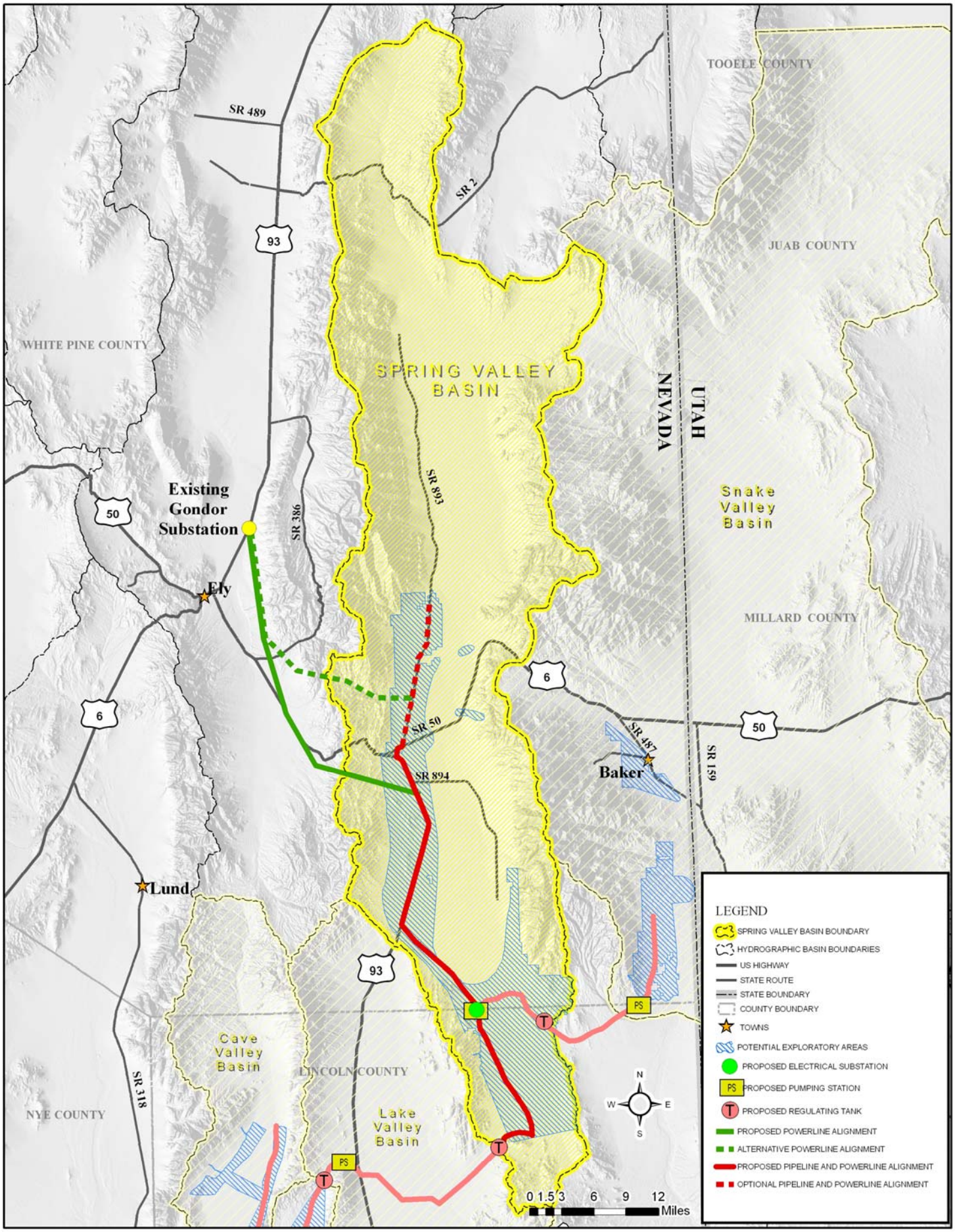
Clark, Lincoln, and White Pine Counties
Groundwater Development Project

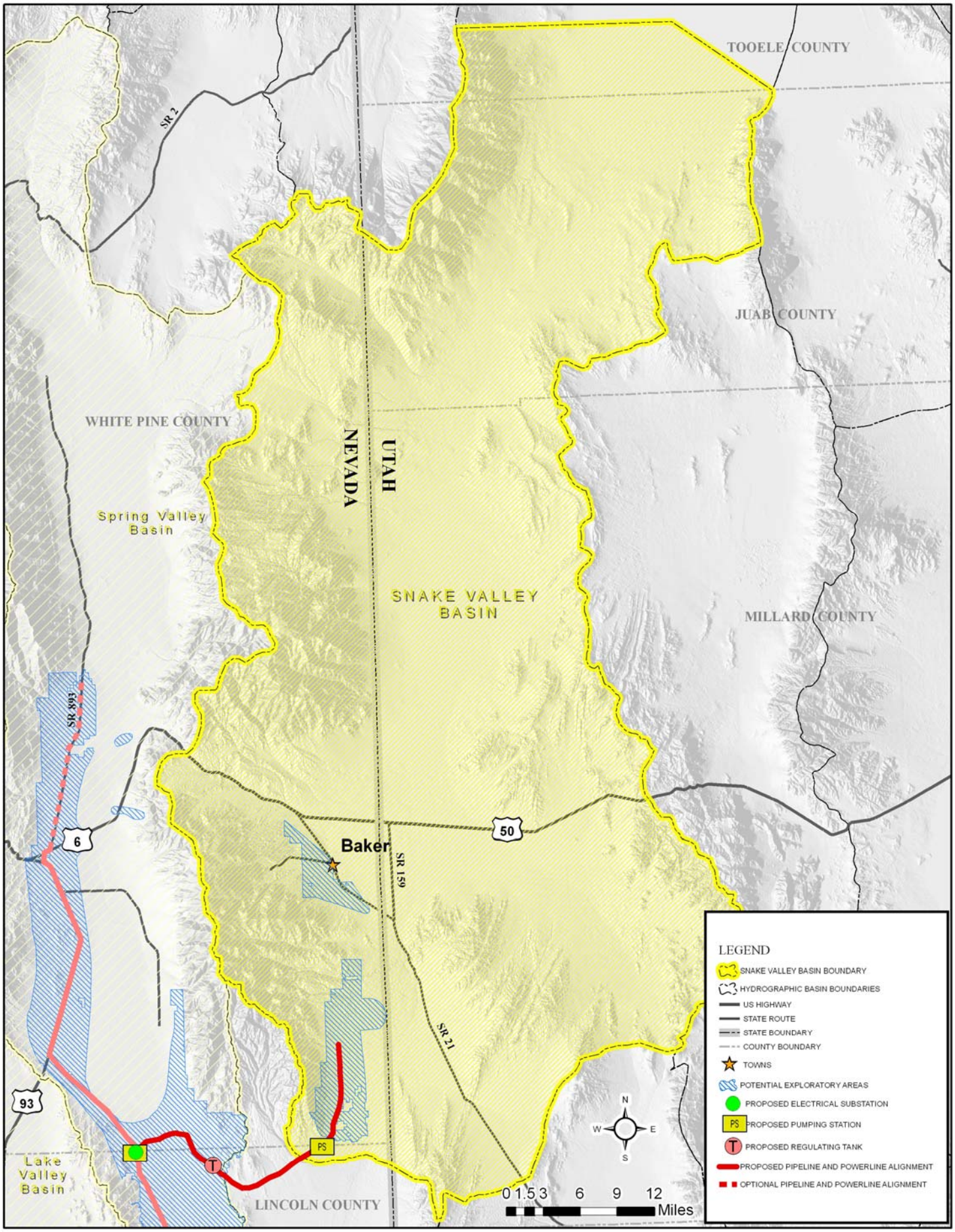
Lake Valley Basin



Clark, Lincoln, and White Pine Counties
Groundwater Development Project

Spring Valley Basin



Clark, Lincoln, and White Pine Counties
Groundwater Development Project

Snake Valley Basin