



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Use
October 1, 2015

Helicopter to Make Low-Level Fight over Tulare Irrigation District

Over the next month, landowners and residents of Tulare Irrigation District may see an unusual sight in the skies: a low-flying helicopter towing a large hexagonal frame. This unique equipment is part of a project to map groundwater aquifers and subsurface geology in the area.

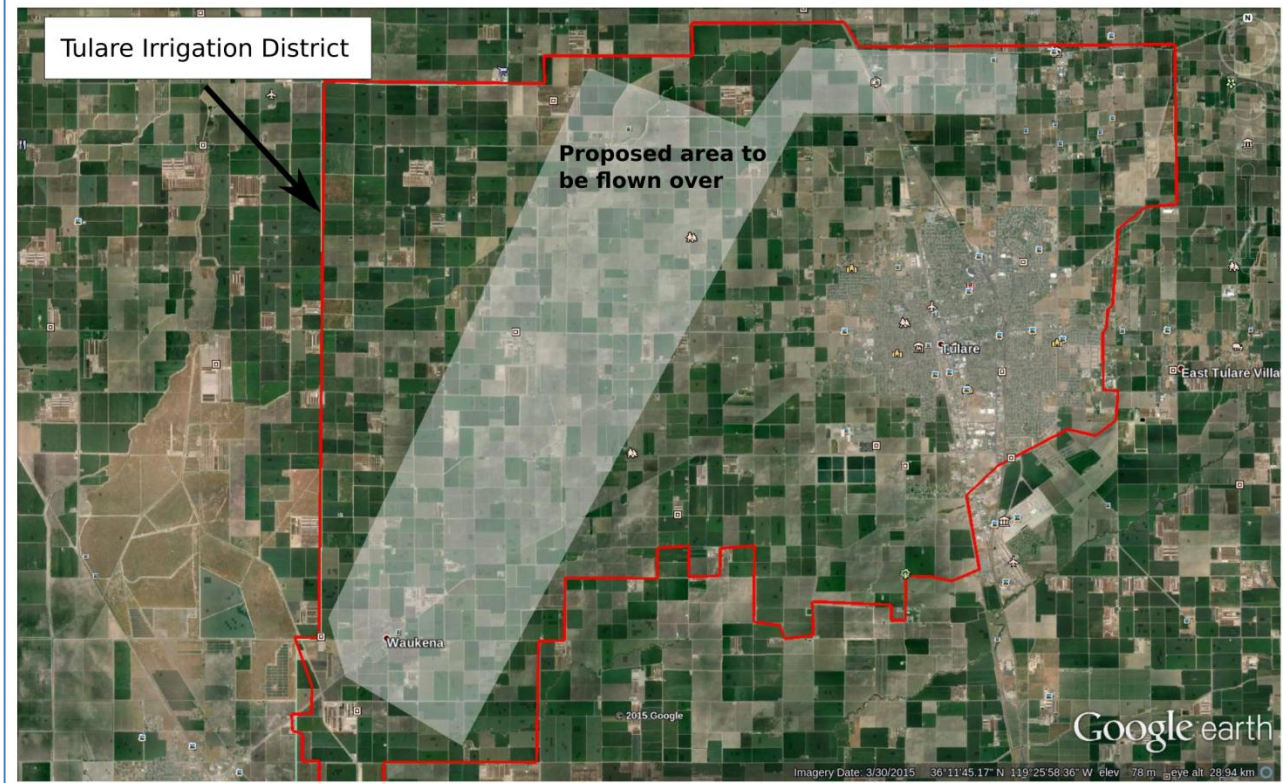
Sometime during the period of October 15th – 18th, and lasting up to one day, instruments mounted below a helicopter will collect and record measurements to learn more about buried sand and gravel aquifers. Tulare Irrigation District, working with Aqua Geo Frameworks and researchers from Stanford's School of Earth, Energy and Environmental Sciences has planned the flights to improve our understanding of the available groundwater resources.

Native American Helicopters will oversee the flights. Aqua Geo Frameworks will process the data and information and produce a final report. "This technology allows for fast data acquisition, upwards of 50 miles per hour, with exploration depth down to 900 feet below the land surface from the air," according to their spokespeople.

The helicopter will fly lines over a flight path designed to get the best available data from the subsurface. Scientific equipment is towed about 100 feet below the helicopter in a "spider web" array and is designed to map geologic structures beneath the ground. The helicopter will be manned by experienced pilots who are specially trained for low-level flying with this equipment (Native American Helicopters llc/SHI, 1 100% Native American owned minority certified company). The helicopter company operates under FAA unlimited part 135 unscheduled air-taxi operations, part 133 a,b,c, and d external loads, and part 137 agriculture dispersal.

For more information please visit the District's website www.tulareid.org or call Aaron Fukuda at the District office, (559) 686-3425.

The following shows the area over which we are planning to fly in order to acquire subsurface information. The area might change; updates to this map will be posted at www.tulareid.org.



Flight Plan Zone over Tulare ID