



# Quad Knopf

060328

August 17, 2006

Jennifer Patterson  
Geomatrix Consultants, Inc.  
2444 Main Street  
Fresno, CA 93721

**RE: Reconnaissance Level Biological Survey Results for the Proposed Gibson Environmental Site Located in the City of Bakersfield, California.**

Dear Jennifer:

Geomatrix Consultants are proposing a clean-up project located in the former Gibson Environmental Hazardous Waste Disposal Facility. The project will consist of removing approximately 80,000 cubic yards of lead-contaminated stockpiled soils, concrete platforms formerly containing tanks, and subsurface piping. The spoils from the clean-up will be removed and shipped to an approved off-site disposal facility. The Gibson Environmental Site is located in an industrial zoned area and is surrounded by vacant lots with industrial and commercial activities in the City of Bakersfield, Kern County, California. More specifically, the project site is located in the northwest  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 26 Township 29 South, Range 27 East, in the Oildale 7.5-minute USGS quadrangle (Figure 1). An additional parcel of land, known as the Burk property, is located south of the project site and will be used as additional access during the clean-up process.

Quad Knopf, Inc. was retained to conduct a reconnaissance level biological survey of the property. Prior to conducting the field survey, a query of the California Department of Fish and Game Natural Diversity Data Base (CNDDB) (CDFG 2006) was conducted for the Oildale, Famoso, North of Oildale, Oil Center, Lamont, Knob Hill, Rosedale, Stevens, and Gosford USGS 7.5-minute quadrangles. A review of literature and the CNDDB query indicated that nineteen special-status animal species, fourteen special-status plant species, and four vegetation communities of concern have been reported for these quadrangles (Figure 2). In addition to these reviews, a query of the California Native Plant Society's Electronic Inventory (CNPS 2006) was conducted for the same quadrangles to provide information on additional plant species of concern that have the

potential to occur on the property and surrounding vicinity. This review resulted in one additional plant species. Table 1 lists the results of these reviews and the potential for these species to be present on the property.

On August 4, 2006, a Quad Knopf, Inc. biologist conducted a reconnaissance level biological survey for threatened, endangered, and other special-status plant and animal species to determine whether such species or their habitats exist on the property. The entire project area and a 200-foot buffer zone were walked and/or driven in an effort to identify habitat for special-status species and/or signs of their presence. Because the property is located within the known range of the San Joaquin kit fox, and within the confines of the Metropolitan Bakersfield Habitat Conservation Plan (MBHCP), special effort was made to identify potential presence of this species (e.g., scat, tracks, dens, prey remains, etc.) on the property. According to the MBHCP 2004 map of known kit fox dens, no known dens have been mapped in this location. In addition, Christine VanHorn-Job, with the Urban Kit Fox Study Group, was contacted prior to the field survey to insure no foxes were utilizing the project site or the surrounding area. This query resulted in no known foxes utilizing the area.

The project area is completely barren of vegetation with the exception of common roadside weeds located along the fence bordering the perimeter and parts of the soil piles in the project area (Photoplates 1 and 2). The northern portion of the project site is a large concrete platform which once housed a tank farm; however, one tank still remains. The additional access property south of the project site also contained common roadside weeds and an old shed (Photoplate 3).

No special-status animal or plant species were observed in the project area during the field survey. No native vegetation habitats or habitat for special-status plant or animal species was observed in the project area during the field survey. No small mammal burrows, potential San Joaquin kit fox dens or their sign (e.g., scat, tracks, dens, prey remains, etc.) were observed in the project area. Table 2 is a list of the plant and animal species observed in the project area.

If you have any questions or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Russell E. Sweet', written in a cursive style.

Russell E. Sweet  
Biologist

Attachments

**Table 1**  
**List of special-status species reported to occur in the Oildale and**  
**eight surrounding USGS 7.5-minute quadrangles**

Species	Habitat	Status	Potential for Occurrence in Project Sites
<b>Animals</b>			
<i>Agelaius tricolor</i> (tricolored blackbird)	Occurs near fresh water with dense cattails, tules or willow thickets. May forage for waste grain in agricultural areas.	FSC, CSC, MBTA	Absent. Habitat does not occur on site.
<i>Ammospermophilus nelsoni</i> (San Joaquin antelope squirrel)	Dry, sparsely vegetated loam soils. Needs widely scattered shrubs, forbs, and grasses in broken terrain with gullies and washes.	FSC, CT	Absent. Habitat does not occur on site.
<i>Anniella pulchra pulchra</i> (silvery legless lizard)	Areas of loose soil; sandy loam, from inland foothills to coastal dunes, gravelly bank streams.	FSC	Absent. Habitat does not occur on site.
<i>Athene cunicularia</i> (Burrowing owl)	Open, dry grasslands, deserts, and sometimes, ruderal areas along the ditch levees. Requires burrows, principally those made by California ground squirrels.	FSC, CSC, MBTA	Absent. Habitat does not occur on site.
<i>Buteo swainsoni</i> (Swainson's hawk)	Stands with few trees in juniper-sage flats, riparian areas and in oak savannah. Requires adjacent suitable foraging areas such as grasslands, alfalfa, or grain fields supporting rodent population.	FSC, CT, MBTA	Absent. Habitat does not occur on site.
<i>Danaus plexippus</i> (monarch butterfly)	Roosts located in wind-protected tree groves (eucalyptus, Monterey pine, cypress), with nectar and water sources nearby.	---	Absent. Habitat does not occur on site.
<i>Desmocerus californicus dimorphus</i> (valley elderberry longhorn beetle)	Elderberry shrubs in the Sacramento and San Joaquin Valleys.	FT	Absent. Habitat does not occur on site.
<i>Dipodomys nitratoides nitratoides</i> (Tipton kangaroo rat)	Saltbush scrub and sink scrub communities. Needs soft friable soils which escape seasonal flooding. Digs burrows in elevated soil mounds at bases of shrubs.	FE, CE	Absent. Habitat does not occur on site.
<i>Emys (=Clemmys) marmorata pallida</i> (Southwestern pond turtle)	Locations with slow-moving waterways. Upland habitat and basking sites must be easily accessible.	CSC	Absent. Habitat does not occur on site.
<i>Gambelia sila</i> (Blunt-nosed leopard lizard)	Inhabits sparsely vegetated alkali and desert scrub habitats in areas of low topographic relief. Preferred habitat includes semiarid grasslands, alkali flats, and washes.	FE, CE	Absent. Habitat does not occur on site.
<i>Helminthoglypta callistoderma</i> (Kern shoulderband)	Known only from the Kern River, species has not been reported since 1916.	---	Absent. Habitat does not occur on site.
<i>Lytta moesta</i> (moestan blister beetle)	Parasitic on wild bees, observed on flowering plants, particularly the genus <i>Salvia</i> .	FSC	Absent. Habitat does not occur on site.
<i>Lytta morrisoni</i> (Morrison's blister beetle)	Inhabits the southern Central Valley.	---	Absent. Habitat does not occur on site.
<i>Onychomys torridus tularensis</i> (Tulare grasshopper mouse)	Arid shrubland communities in hot, arid grassland and shrubland.	CSC	Absent. Habitat does not occur on site.

<i>Perognathus inornatus inornatus</i> (San Joaquin pocket mouse)	Typically found in dry, open grasslands and blue oak savannas requiring friable soils.	FSC	Absent. Habitat does not occur on site.
<i>Sorex ornatus relictus</i> (Buena Vista Lake shrew)	Areas with a dense mesophytic cover and an abundant layer of litter.	FE, CSC	Absent. Habitat does not occur on site.
<i>Spea (=Scaphiopus) hammondi</i> (western spadefoot)	Vernal pools and other wet areas within grasslands.	CSC	Absent. Habitat does not occur on site.
<i>Taxidea taxus</i> (American badger)	Herbaceous, shrub and open stages of most habitats with dry, friable soils.	CSC	Absent. Habitat does not occur on site.
<i>Vulpes macrotis mutica</i> (San Joaquin kit fox)	Chenopod scrub, grasslands, sometimes forages in agricultural areas.	FE, CT	Low. Habitat needed to support this species is very low. No sign of present was observed during field survey.
<b>Plants</b>			
<i>Atriplex cordulata</i> (heartscale)	Chenopod scrub, valley and foothill grasslands, meadows. Alkaline flats and scaled, sandy soils.	FSC, 1B	Absent. Habitat does not occur on site.
<i>Atriplex tularensis</i> (Bakersfield smallscale)	Chenopod scrub; elevation 90-200 meters.	1B	Absent. Habitat does not occur on site.
<i>Caulanthus californicus</i> (California jewel-flower)	Sandy soils within chenopod scrub, pinyon and juniper woodland, and grasslands.	FE, CE, 1B	Absent. Habitat does not occur on site.
<i>Delphinium recurvatum</i> (recurved larkspur)	Alkaline soils in chenopod scrub, cismontane woodlands, and grasslands.	FSC, 1B	Absent. Habitat does not occur on site.
<i>Erodium macrophyllum</i> (round-leaved filaree)	Clay soils within cismontane woodlands and grasslands. 45-4,000 ft.	1B	Absent. Habitat does not occur on site.
<i>Layia leucopappa</i> (Comanche Point layia)	Dry hills in white-grey clay soils, often with annual grasses within chenopod scrubs and grasslands. 325-1,150 ft.	1B	Absent. Habitat does not occur on site.
<i>Mimulus pictus</i> (calico monkeyflower)	Woodlands, broadleaf forests. (Base of rocky outcrops with gooseberry).	1B	Absent. Habitat does not occur on site.
<i>Monardella linoides</i> ssp. <i>oblonga</i> (flax-like monardella)	Lower montane coniferous forest, pinyon and juniper woodland, upper montane coniferous forest.	1B	Absent. Habitat does not occur on site.
<i>Monolopia congdonii</i> (San Joaquin woollythreads)	Chenopod scrub and sandy valley and foothill grasslands.	FE, 1B	Absent. Habitat does not occur on site.
<i>Navarretia setiloba</i> (Piute Mountains navarretia)	Red clay soils, perhaps other clay soils or on gravelly loam in cismontane woodlands, pinyon-juniper woodlands, and grassland habitats.	1B	Absent. Habitat does not occur on site.
<i>Opuntia basilaris</i> var. <i>treleasei</i> (Bakersfield cactus)	Coarse or cobbly well-drained granitic sand on bluffs, low hills, and flats within chenopod scrubs, cismontane woodlands, and grasslands. 375-1,825 ft.	FE, CE, 1B	Absent. Habitat does not occur on site.
<i>Pterygoneurum californicum</i> (California chalkmoss)	Playas, valley foothill grassland / alkali soil.	1B	Absent. Habitat does not occur on site.
<i>Stylocline citroleum</i> (Oil neststraw)	Chenopod scrub, coastal scrub, valley and foothill grassland/clay.	1B	Absent. Habitat does not occur on site.

<i>Stylocline masonii</i> (Mason's neststraw)	Chenopod scrub, pinyon and juniper woodland / sandy.	1B	Absent. Habitat does not occur on site.
<i>Tortula californica</i> (California screw-moss)	Chenopod scrub, valley and foothill grassland / sandy, soil.	1B	Absent. Habitat does not occur on site.
<b>Vegetation Communities of Concern</b>			
Coastal and Valley Freshwater Marsh		Not present.	
Great Valley Cottonwood Riparian Forest		Not present.	
Great Valley Mesquite Scrub		Not present.	
Valley Saltbush Scrub		Not present.	

**Status Codes**

FE	Federal Endangered Species
FT	Federal Threatened Species
FSC	Federal Species of Concern
MBTA	Species Protected Under the Auspices of the Migratory Bird treaty Act
CE	California Endangered Species
CT	California Threatened Species
CSC	California Department of Fish and Game Species of Special Concern
1B	California Native Plant Society List 1B Species-Plants Categorized as Rare, Threatened, or Endangered in California and Elsewhere.

**Sources**

California Department of Fish and Game. 2006. California Natural Diversity Data Base, California Department of Fish and Game, Sacramento, CA.

California Native Plant Society. 2006. Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants of California Online Inventory, California Native Plant Society, Sacramento, CA.

**The "potential for occurrence in the project sites" ranking is based on the following criteria:**

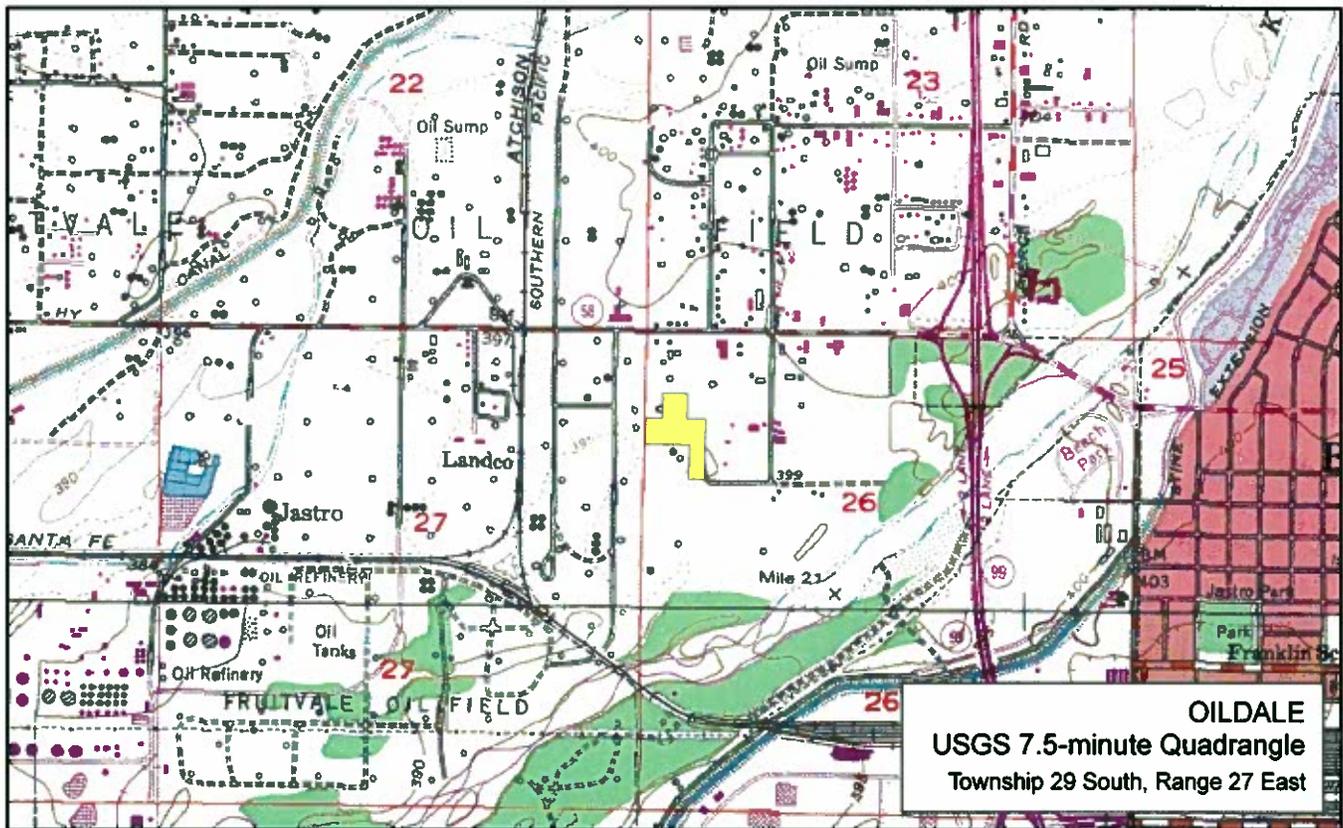
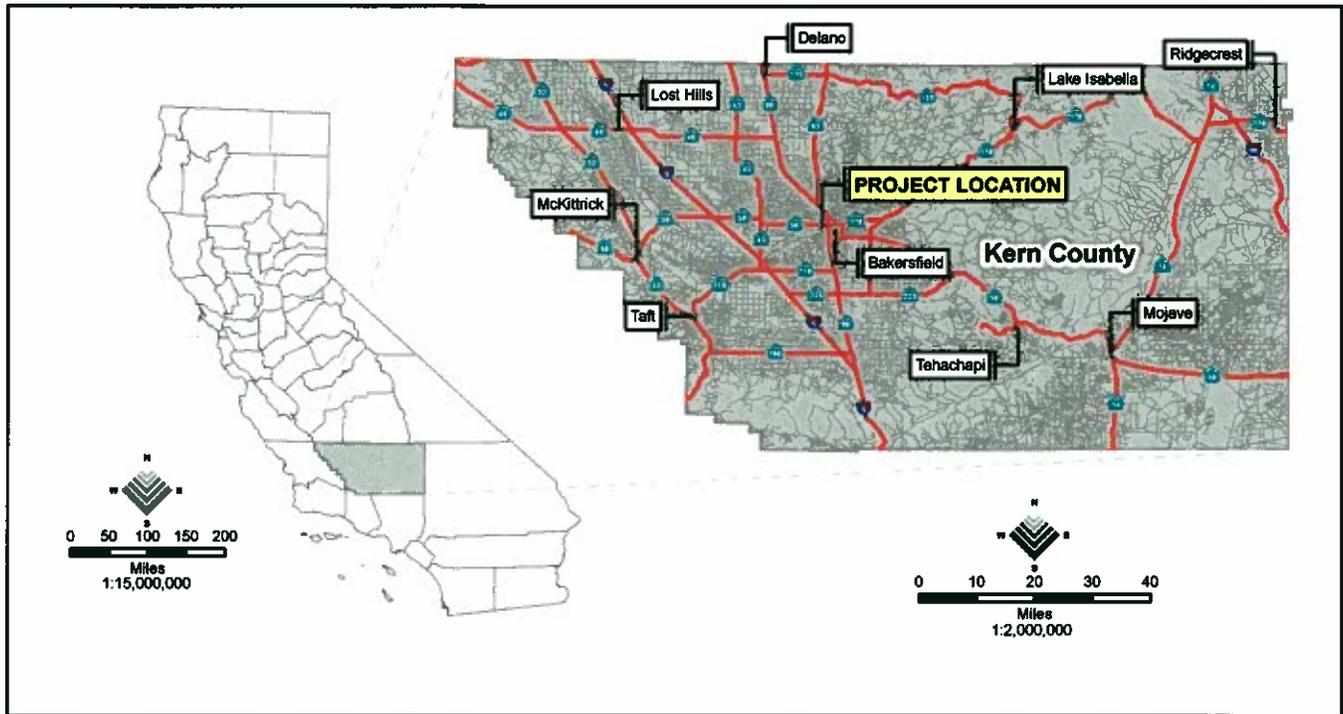
- **Absent.** Species was not observed during the focused surveys conducted at an appropriate time for identification of the species or species is restricted to habitats that do not occur within the proposed project.
- **Low.** No records exist of the species occurring within the proposed project or its immediate vicinity and/or habitats needed to support the species are poor quality.
- **Moderate.** Either a historical record exists of the species within the immediate vicinity of the proposed project (approximately 5 miles) or the habitat requirements associated with the species occur within the proposed project.
- **High.** Both a historical record exists of the species within the proposed project and its immediate vicinity (approximately 5 miles) and the habitat requirements associated with the species occur within the proposed project.
- **Occurs.** Species was observed within the proposed project at the time of the survey.

**Table 2**  
**List of Animal and Plant Species Observed during the Field Survey**

<b>Scientific Name</b>	<b>Common Name</b>
<b><u>Animals</u></b>	
<i>Felis domesticus</i>	Domestic cat
<i>Passer domesticus</i>	House sparrow
<i>Uta stansburiana</i>	Side-blotched lizard
<b><u>Plants</u></b>	
<i>Ambrosia</i> sp.	Ambrosia
<i>Amsinckia menziesii</i> var. <i>intermedia</i>	Fiddleneck
<i>Avena fatua</i>	Wild oat
<i>Bromus diandrus</i>	Ripgut
<i>Bromus madritensis rubens</i>	Red-brome
<i>Cynodon dactylon</i>	Bermuda grass
<i>Datura wrightii</i>	Jimson weed
<i>Distichlis spicata</i>	Desert saltgrass
<i>Helianthus annuus</i>	Annual sunflower
<i>Heliotropium curassavicum</i>	Heliotrope
<i>Lactuca serriola</i>	Prickly lettuce
<i>Populus fremontii</i> ssp. <i>fremontii</i>	Fremont cottonwood
<i>Salsola tragus</i>	Russian thistle
<i>Tribulus terrestris</i>	Puncturevine
<i>Vulpia myuros</i>	Foxtail

Source: Quad Knopf, Inc. reconnaissance level biological survey conducted on August 4, 2006.

**GEOMATRIX GIBSON ENVIRONMENTAL SITE  
Vicinity Map**

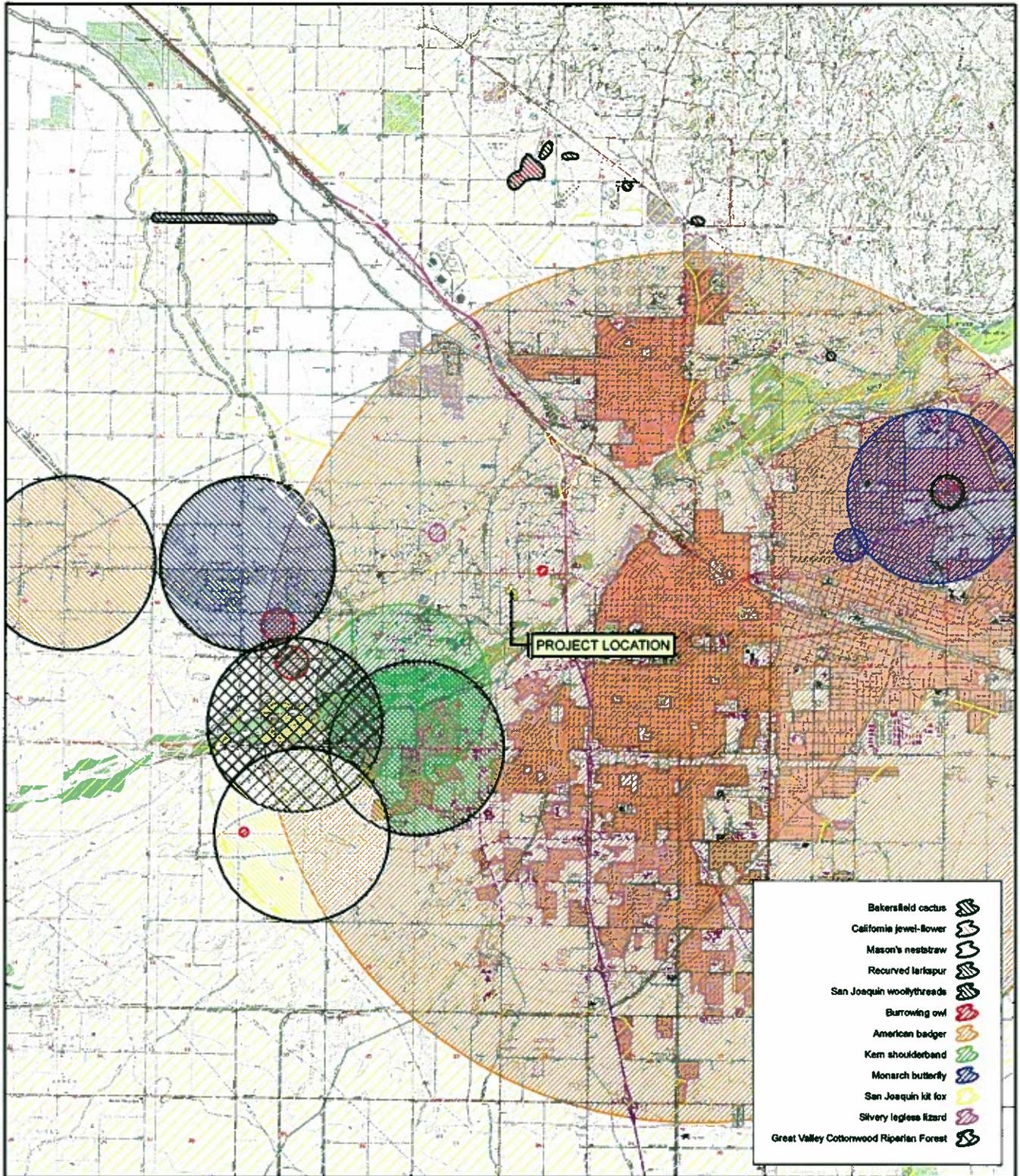


**OILDALE**  
USGS 7.5-minute Quadrangle  
Township 29 South, Range 27 East

Project Location

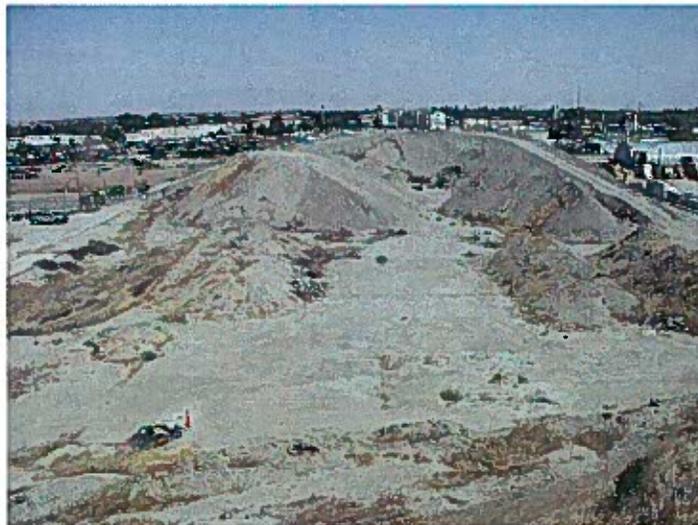
**Quad Knopf**  
Figure 1

**GEOMATRIX GIBSON ENVIRONMENTAL SITE  
Documented CNDDB Observation Locations**





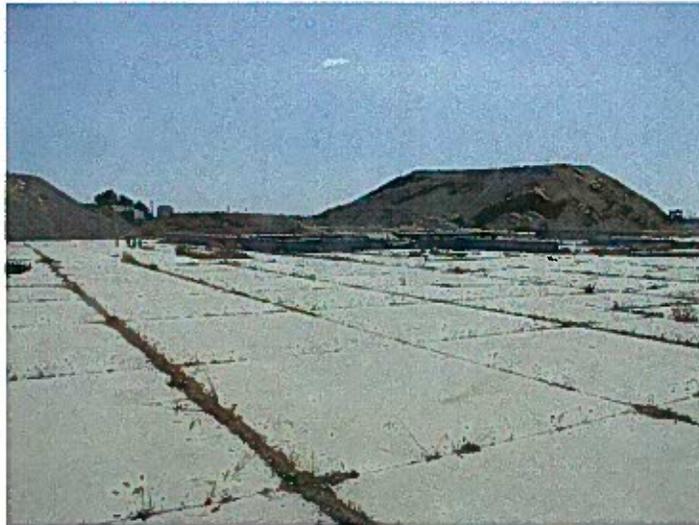
Looking northeast at the concrete platform where the tank farm was located.



Looking east at one of the large soil stockpiles.



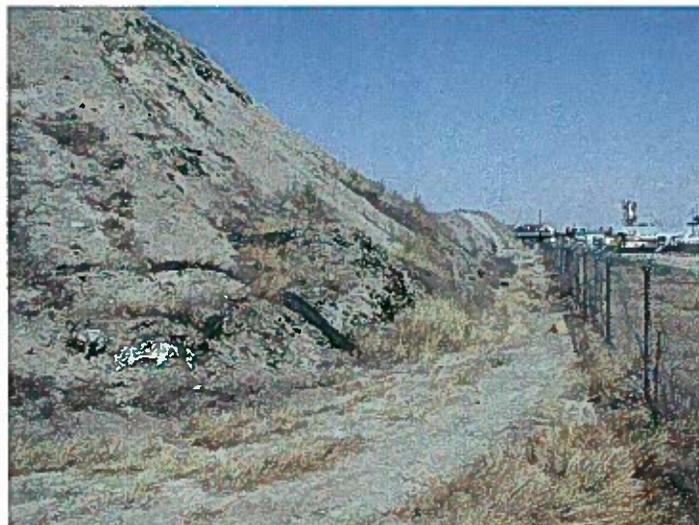
Looking west at remaining soil stockpiles.



Looking southwest from the northeast corner of the project area.



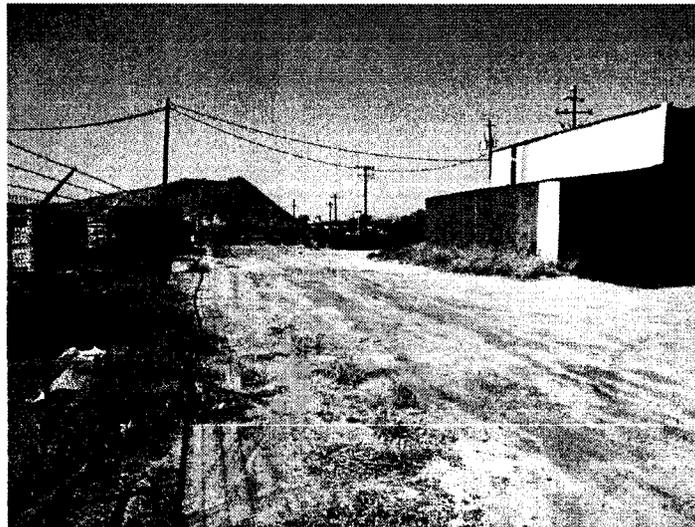
Looking southeast from the northwest corner of the project area.



Looking east from the southwest corner of the project area.



Looking north from the southeast corner of the Burk property



Looking north from the southwest corner of the Burk property.



Looking south at the Burk property.