

CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT  
NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

2019058315

**To:** Office of Planning and Research  
State Clearinghouse  
P.O. Box 3044, 1400 Tenth Street, Room 212  
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

**From:** Department of Toxic Substances Control  
Cleanup Program  
8800 Cal Center Drive  
Sacramento, California 95826-3200

**Project Title:** Former Branstetter Mill Site Removal Action Workplan

**Project Location:** 1535 Branstetter Lane, Redding, California

**County:** Shasta County

**Project Description:** Project activities include excavation and removal of contaminated soil, backfill with clean soil, development of a stormwater retention pond, and implementation of a Land Use Covenant restricting use of a portion of the property to commercial/industrial use. The purpose of the project is to provide a remedy to two areas within this 26-acre property which pose unacceptable risk to human health under a proposed future development plan.

The first area identified in the Removal Action Workplan (RAW) is called the "Dip Tank and Greenchain" area. This portion of the property is planned for residential use and soil in this area exceeds the cleanup level for dioxins of 50 pico grams per gram (pg/g) which is the identified chemical of concern (COC). The RAW indicates that approximately 1,200 cubic yards of soil (54 truckloads) from the Dip Tank and Greenchain area will be excavated and removed. The area of excavation is less than 1 acre in size and is anticipated to extend between 5 and 10 feet below ground surface (bgs) based on sampling completed at the Site. Following removal of the contaminated soil, verification samples will be collected from the excavation to ensure the cleanup goal has been met. The excavation will be brought to grade with clean fill dirt (up to 54 truckloads). Excavated soil will be loaded directly into trucks for offsite disposal at an appropriate landfill.

The second area of the Site identified in the RAW is called the "Log Pond" area. This portion of the property will be zoned for commercial/industrial use and a stormwater detention pond is planned for a part of this area. The size of the detention pond is estimated to be approximately 350 feet by 200 feet. The RAW indicates that the Log Pond area has dioxin concentrations that are all within the allowable commercial/industrial cleanup level (between 220 and 700 pg/g) and an exposure point concentration that is below this level. Since the construction of the detention pond is planned as a future effort, no excavation will occur in this area as part of the RAW. However, a Land Use Covenant that restricts residential use is proposed under this RAW to ensure the control of exposure on this portion of the property as part of the remedy.

The following table presents the current exposure point concentrations for the two areas of the Site and the proposed cleanup goal for each one identified in the RAW.

Contaminant	Location	Current Exposure Point Concentration (pg/g TEQ)	Cleanup Goal (pg/g TEQ)	Basis for Cleanup Goal
Dioxin	Dip Tank & Greenchain	1,300	50	HHRA Note 2 (DTSC, 2017)
Dioxin	Log Pond	115	220 – 700	HHRA Note 2 (DTSC, 2017)

DTSC – Department of Toxic Substances Control  
TEQ – Dioxin Toxic Equivalent  
HHRA – Human Health Risk Assessment

Project activities are expected to commence during the summer of 2019 and are expected to take approximately two weeks to complete.

**Background:**

The project Site is a 26-acre property located at 1535 Branstetter Lane in Redding, California (Figure1). It is surrounded by residential property to the north, unoccupied and undeveloped land to the west and south, and commercial and residential property to the east. Branstetter Lane borders the property to the north and Onley Creek defines the Site's southern boundary (Figure 2). The Site was previously used as a sawmill from 1944 to 1976. In 1976, the structures associated with the former sawmill were removed and the Site has remained vacant. The proponent has prepared a

development plan for the Site that includes residential properties, infrastructure to support residential use, and a stormwater detention pond.

The property has been subject to several investigations to determine the environmental concerns associated with the Site. In 2002, Kennedy/Jenks Consultants completed Phase 1 and Phase 2 Environmental Site Assessments. Based on the results of those Reports, VESTRA completed a Report of Findings in late 2006 and early 2007 for the property which included the removal of soil impacted with pentachlorophenol. In July of 2007, VESTRA completed additional sampling to ascertain the presence of dioxins, metals and hydrocarbons in soil at the Site. The results of this investigation determined that dioxins were present in the soil above the remedial goal identified above of 50 pg/g at two locations. Additional investigations were completed by VESTRA in 2016 and 2017 at the request of DTSC to further characterize the soil and groundwater at the Site.

The investigations completed at the Site primarily used targeted sampling in areas where the former sawmill structures used to be located. The sampling was done under either Regional Water Quality Control Board or DTSC oversight and conformed with generally accepted professional practice and DTSC guidance.

Based on the result of the Site characterization investigations presented above, the primary COC remaining at the Site is dioxin. The lateral and vertical extent of the dioxin-impacted soil appears to be limited to two areas of the Site. One of these areas is proposed to be remediated via excavation and the other will include the planned detention pond and will be restricted to commercial use as shown on Figure 3 below.

#### Project Activities:

Removal of soil is planned from one area of the Site as depicted in Figures 4 and 5 below and the depths shown are expected to be the maximum extent of the excavation. However, confirmation sampling will be used to ensure all contaminated soil is removed. The amount of soil to be removed and the number of anticipated truckloads presented in this NOE are based on the estimated maximum volume. As indicated above, the excavation is anticipated to go as deep as 10 feet bgs in some locations. Up to 54 truckloads of clean fill dirt from off site will be used to backfill the excavation to a level grade.

Construction of the detention pond is not planned as part of this RAW, so details of its design are unknown. However, DTSC will require a soil management plan to be submitted and approved prior to any soil movement or excavation if such activities will be necessary for building the pond.

Specific environmental safeguards and monitoring procedures that are enforceable and made a condition of project approval to ensure that impacts to the environment will be less than significant are discussed in the RAW, including Site preparation and security measures, fugitive dust monitoring and dust control, a transportation plan, and the confirmation sampling plan. A Health and Safety Plan has been prepared for the project and will be followed during all removal activities. Additionally, in the event resources of biological, cultural, or historical significance are found in the course of project activities, work will be suspended while a qualified biological, archaeologist, cultural, or historical resources specialist makes an assessment of the area and arrangements are made to protect or preserve any resources that are located.

It is anticipated that the project will start in June or July of 2019 and take approximately 10 weeks to complete.

An analysis of project activities upon existing environmental conditions indicates that implementation of environmental safeguards and monitoring procedures are enforceable and made a condition of project approval and will ensure that impacts to the environment will be less than significant. As a result, DTSC finds that the project is exempt from further environmental review under CEQA.

#### Tribal Consultation

The activities proposed in the RAW will involve the removal of the contaminated soils that are located within part of the proposed area to be developed into a residential community. The site has been depleted of any cultural resources that may have been present due to the long-term repeated disturbance of the site through historic operations associated with development of the former lumber mill and log pond, as well as historic excavation of organic materials left over from the previous operations to be used for garden mulch. Based on this conclusion, activities proposed in the RAW would not create any new potentially significant impacts to Cultural Resources. No mitigation measures are required.

A Cultural Resources Inventory Report was completed in March 2017 by ENPLAN, summarizing a records review and a site survey which covered the entire proposed residential development area. The report identified one historic resource, the Branstetter Mill Site, originally owned by the Olney Creek Lumber Company, onsite. The mill operated as a lumber mill

from 1944 to 1976. The site consists of assorted structural remains of a mid- to late-20th century sawmill. Analyses find that Branstetter Mill does not qualify for the California Register of Historical Resources because most mill features of historical interest no longer exist onsite.

The DTSC has consulted with the Winnemem Wintu Tribe regarding this site. While the site is adjacent to a stream that would typically have a potential for the presence of historic and/or prehistoric cultural resources, this site has been degraded by historical activities through the years and any resources that may have been on the site have been obliterated. While no significant historic or archaeological features are likely to remain, there is the remote possibility that significant, unidentified cultural materials could be unearthed during construction. This being the case, Sierra Pacific Industries (SPI) has agreed to supply a Native American monitor, who shall be assigned by the Redding Rancheria and be present during any and all ground-disturbing activities.

Contractors performing the ground-disturbing activities will comply with the following steps if potential Native American cultural or archaeological resources and/or human remains are encountered:

- In the event of accidental discovery of human remains during ground-disturbing activities, SPI shall stop excavation or disturbance of the site or any nearby area and notify the County Coroner to determine its origin (CEQA Guidelines, Title 14 CCR section 15064.5(e); HSC section 7050.5). The coroner will determine disposition within 48 hours (Public Resources Code, section 5097.98). If the remains are Native American, the coroner will be responsible for contacting the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) for further direction. SPI may reinstate activities at the site based on direction of the coroner and/or NAHC or affected tribes as identified by NAHC; and,
- In the event of accidental discovery of potential cultural or archaeological resources, SPI shall stop excavation activities in the immediate area and the surrounding 50 feet of the discovery. SPI shall contact Jack Potter, Jr., Cultural Resources Manager of the Redding Rancheria at (530) 225-8979, to be alerted of the discovery. DTSC staff should also be immediately notified. The Redding Rancheria may require SPI to implement measures deemed necessary to record and/or protect the cultural or archaeological resource(s). SPI may reinstate activities at the site based on resolution with the Redding Rancheria.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: California Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Toxic Substances Control

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Sierra Pacific Industries is the project proponent and VESTRA Resources Inc. is their consultant.

Exemption Status: (check one)

- ☐ Ministerial [PRC, Sec. 21080(b)(1); CCR, Sec. 15268]
- ☐ Declared Emergency [PRC, Sec. 21080(b)(3); CCR, Sec. 15269(a)]
- ☐ Emergency Project [PRC, Sec. 21080(b)(4); CCR, Sec. 15269(b)(c)]
- ☒ Categorical Exemption: Class 30 [Cal. Code Regs. tit. 14, §15330]
- ☐ Statutory Exemptions: [State code section number]
- ☐ General Rule [CCR, Sec. 15061 (b) (3)]

Exemption Title: Minor Actions Taken to Prevent, Minimize, Stabilize, Mitigate, or Eliminate the Release or Threat of Release of Hazardous Waste or Hazardous Substance.

Reasons Why Project is Exempt:

1. The project is a minor action designed to prevent, minimize, stabilize, mitigate or eliminate the release or threat of release of hazardous waste or hazardous substances.
2. The project will not exceed \$1 million in cost.
3. The project does not involve the onsite use of a hazardous waste incinerator or thermal treatment unit or the relocation of residences or businesses and does not involve the potential release into the air of volatile organic compounds as defined in Health and Safety Code Section 25123.
4. The exceptions pursuant to Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 15300.2 have been addressed as follows:
  - Cumulative Impact. The project will not result in cumulative impacts because it is designed to be a short-term, final remedy that would not lead to a succession of projects of the same type in the same place over time.
  - Significant Effect. The environmental safeguards and monitoring procedures that are enforceable and made a condition of project approval will prevent unusual circumstances from occurring so that there is no possibility that the project will have a significant effect on the environment.

- Scenic Highways. The project will not damage scenic resources, including but not limited to, trees, historic buildings, rock outcroppings, or similar resources, because it is not located within a highway officially designated as a state scenic highway.
- Hazardous Waste Sites. The project is not located on a site which is included on any list compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the Government Code.
- Historical Resources. The project will not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource because none are anticipated, however, Native American monitors will be present during removal activities.

Evidence to support the above reasons is documented in the project file record, available for inspection at:

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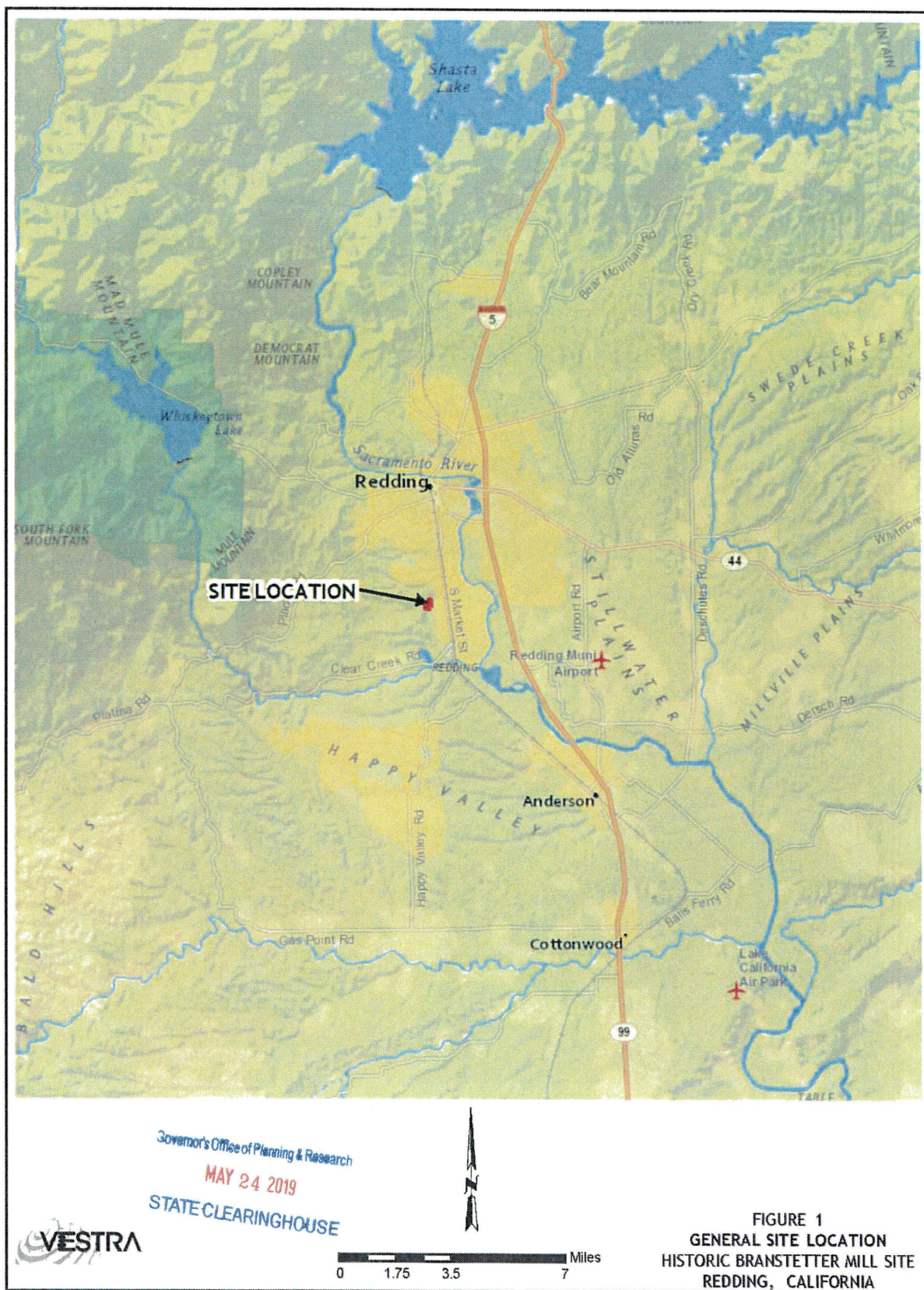
TO BE COMPLETED BY OPR ONLY

Date Received for Filing and Posting at OPR:

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MAY 24 2019  
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Figure 1

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Figure 2

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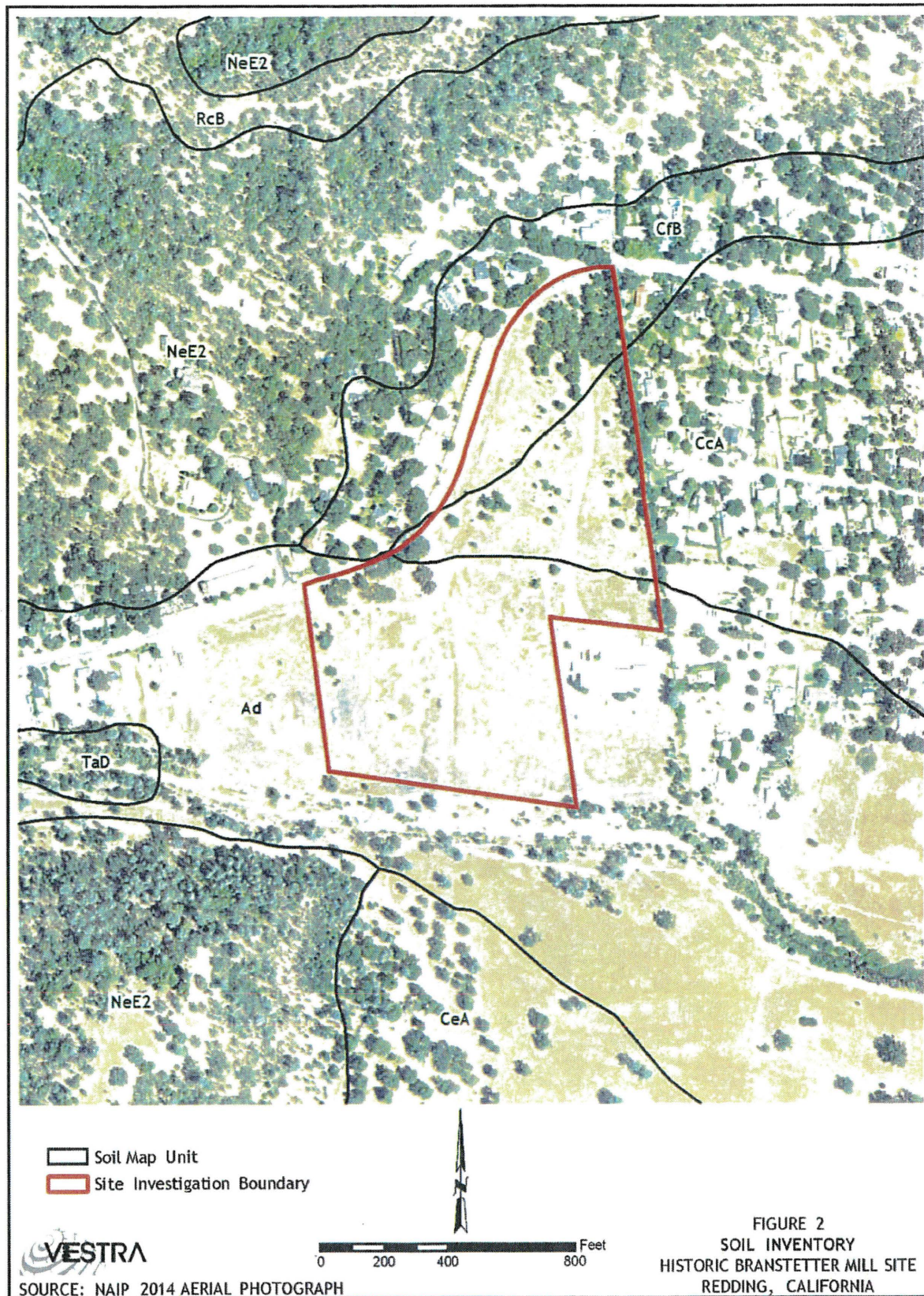


Figure 3

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Figure 4

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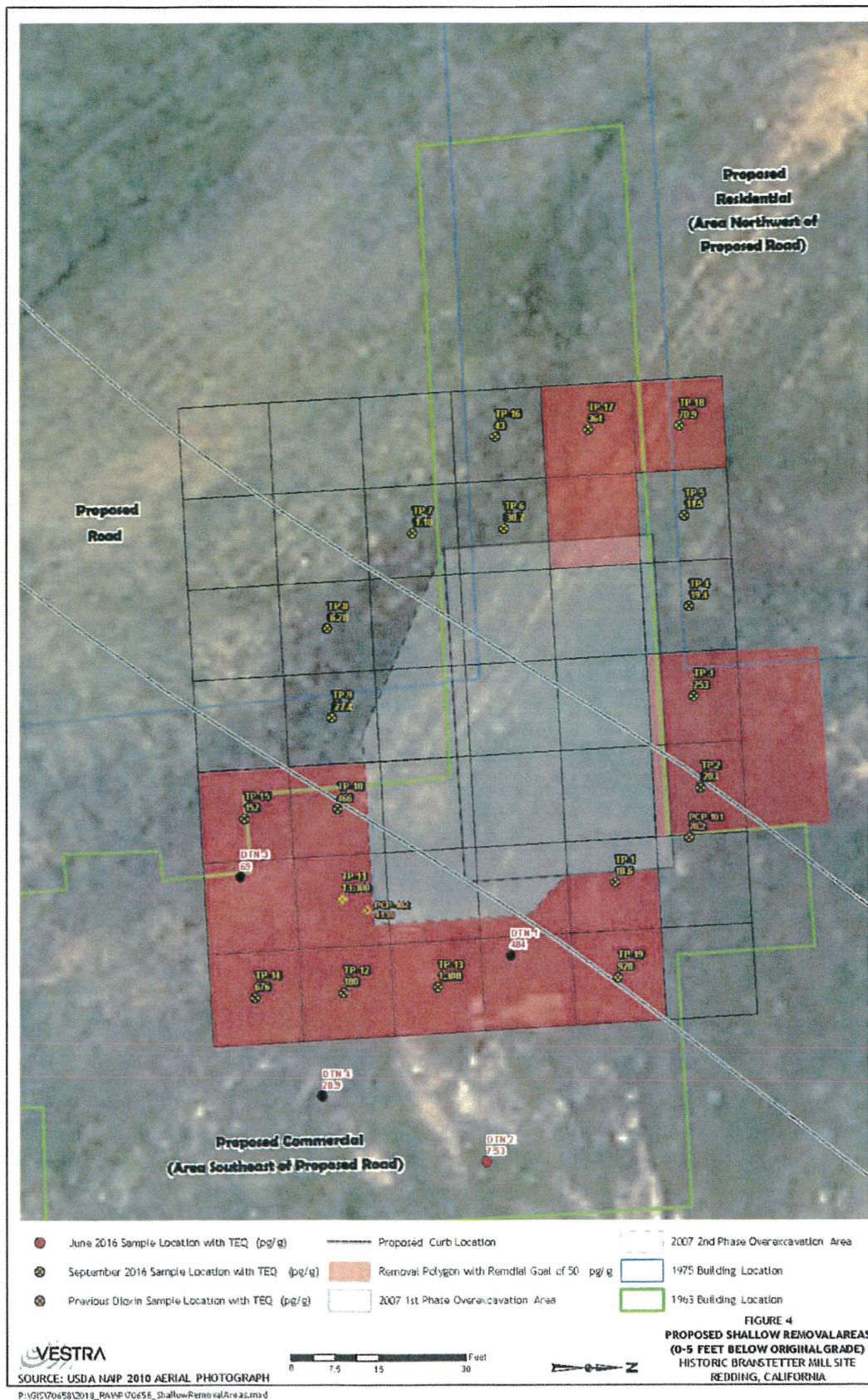


Figure 5

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