San Joaquin Kit Fox Habitat Evaluation Form

Cover Sheet

Project Name 13350 River Road Evaluation **Date** February 6, 2018

Project Location* San Miguel, California

*Include project vicinity map and project boundary on copy of U.S.G.S. 7.5 minute map (size may be reduced)

U.S.G.S. Quad Map Name San Miguel (3512076)

Lat/Long or UTM coordinates (if available) 35°45'01.81"N, 120°40'44.81"N

Project Description

Project Size 62.94 Acres **Amount of Kit Fox Habitat Affected** 7.62 Acres

Quantity of WHR Habitat Types Impacted (i.e., 2 acres annual grassland, 3 acres blue oak woodland)

WHR type Fallow Agriculture 7.62 Acres

WHR type _____ _____ Acres

WHR type _____ _____ Acres

WHR type _____ _____ Acres

Comments: Per the property owner, the area proposed for cannabis cultivation formerly consisted of grape vines, which were removed 3 years ago. The vegetation during the site visit for this evaluation was determined to be fallow, dense, and dominated by non-native plant species (refer to Attachment A, Photos 1–2). The surrounding areas where grape vines still exist were also determined to be fallow, and the vines and areas between rows were not maintained (refer to Photos 3–4). Non-native plants observed site-wide included doveweed (*Croton setigerus*), horseweed (*Erigeron canadensis*), telegraph weed (*Heterotheca grandiflora*), black mustard (*Brassica nigra*), brome (*Bromus* spp.), and oats (*Avena* spp.). A deer fence is located around the entire property; however, holes in the fence are approximately 4 × 4 inches and are large enough for kit fox passage (refer to Photo 5). Blue oak woodland habitat was observed to the east and north of the proposed growing areas (refer to Photo 6). Unlike the flat fallow areas on the site where grapes were grown previously, the blue oak woodland areas are steeper and not ideal for kit fox denning. No suitable kit fox denning habitat or ground squirrel burrow complexes were observed in the fallow agriculture areas where cannabis cultivation is proposed.

Form Completed By: Barrett Holland (SWCA Environmental Consultants)

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Is the project area within 10 miles of a recorded San Joaquin kit fox observation or within contiguous suitable habitat as defined in question 2 (A-E)

Yes - Continue with evaluation form
No - Evaluation form/surveys are not necessary

1. Importance of the project area relative to Recovery Plan for Upland Species of the San Joaquin Valley, California (Williams et al., 1998)

   A. Project would block or degrade an existing corridor linking core populations or isolate a subpopulation (20)
   B. Project is within core population (15)
   C. Project area is identified within satellite populations (12)
   D. Project area is within a corridor linking satellite populations (10)
   E. Project area is not within any of the previously described areas but is within known kit fox range (5)

2. Habitat characteristics of project area.

   A. Annual grassland or saltbush scrub present >50% of site (15)
   B. Grassland or saltbush scrub present but comprises<50% of project area (10)
   C. Oak savannah present on >50% of site (8)
   D. Fallow ag fields or grain/alfalfa crops (7)
   E. Orchards/vineyards (5)
   F. Intensively maintained row crops or suitable vegetation absent (0)

3. Isolation of project area.

   A. Project area surrounded by contiguous kit fox habitat as described in Question 2a-e (15)
   B. Project area adjacent to at least 40 acres of contiguous habitat or part of an existing corridor (10)
   C. Project area adjacent to <40 acres of habitat but linked by existing corridor (i.e., river, canal, aqueduct) (7)
   D. Project area surrounded by ag but less than 200 yards from habitat (5)
   E. Project area completely isolated by row crops or development and is greater than 200 yards from potential habitat (0)

4. Potential for increased mortality as a result of project implementation. Mortality may come from direct (e.g., - construction related) or indirect (e.g., - vehicle strikes due to increases in post development traffic) sources.

   A. Increased mortality likely (10)
   B. Unknown mortality effects (5)
   C. No long term effect on mortality (0)

5. Amount of potential kit fox habitat affected.

   A. >320 acres (10)
   B. 160 - 319 acres (7)
   C. 80 - 159 acres (5)
   D. 40 - 79 acres (3)
   E. < 40 acres (1)

6. Results of project implementation.

   A. Project site will be permanently converted and will no longer support foxes (10)
   B. Project area will be temporarily impacted but will require periodic disturbance for ongoing maintenance (7)
   C. Project area will be temporarily impacted and no maintenance necessary (5)
   D. Project will result in changes to agricultural crops (2)
   E. No habitat impacts (0)

7. Project Shape

   A. Large Block (10)
   B. Linear with > 40 foot right-of-way (5)
   C. Linear with < 40 foot right-of-way (3)

8. Have San Joaquin kit foxes been observed within 3 miles of the project area within the last 10 years?

   A. Yes (10)
   B. No (0)

Scoring

1.	Recovery importance	5
2.	Habitat condition	0
3.	Isolation	1
4.	Mortality	0
5.	Quantity of habitat impacted	1
6.	Project results	2
7.	Project shape	10
8.	Recent observations	0
TOTAL		**19**

Figure 1. Project vicinity map.

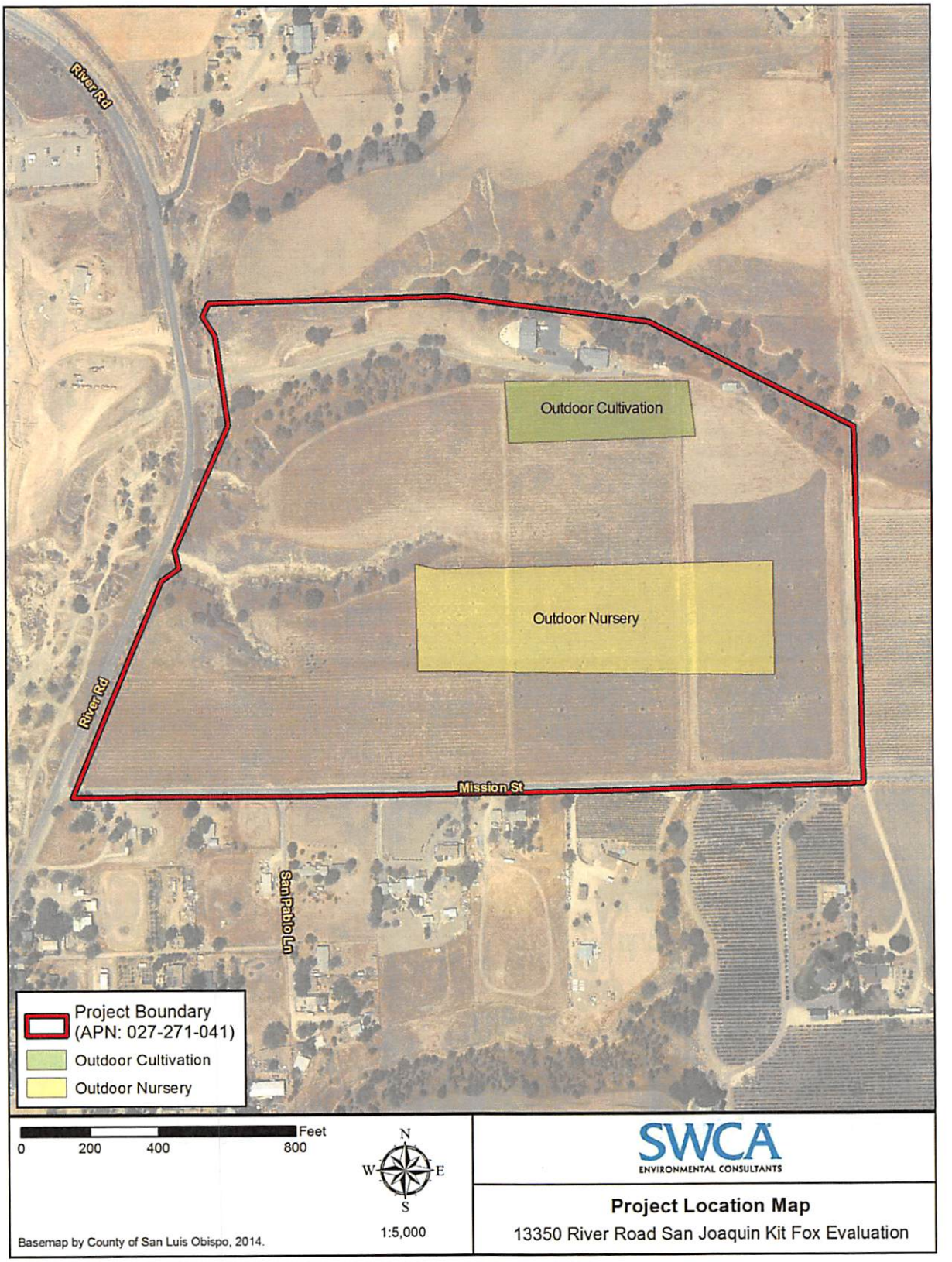


Figure 2: Project location map.

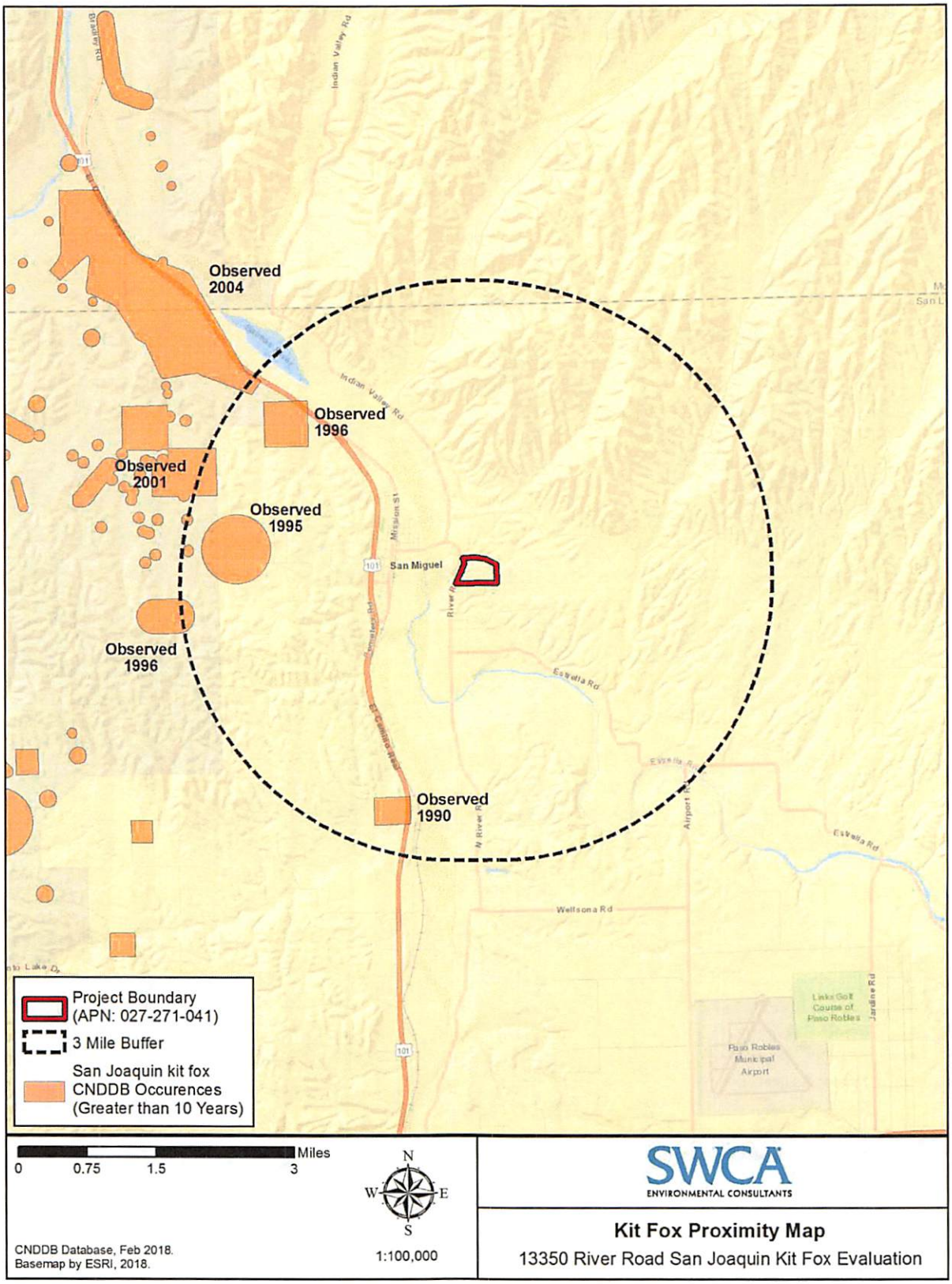


Figure 3. Kit fox proximity map.

Attachment A:
Photo Documentation

Photo A-4. View of the outdoor cultivation area, looking south. Note fallow conditions and compacted rows from where grape vines previously existed.

Photo A-5. View of the area where the outdoor nursery is proposed, looking east. Note fallow conditions/dense non-native vegetation, and existing vineyard and development to the southeast.

Photo A-6. View of vines removed and vines still in place. Note fallow conditions in both areas.

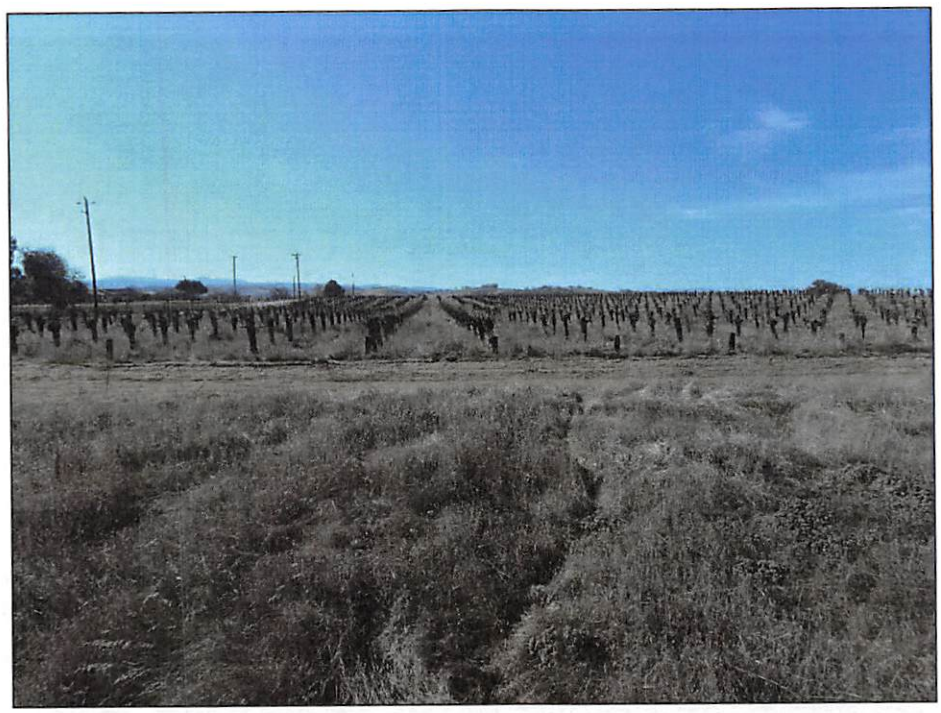
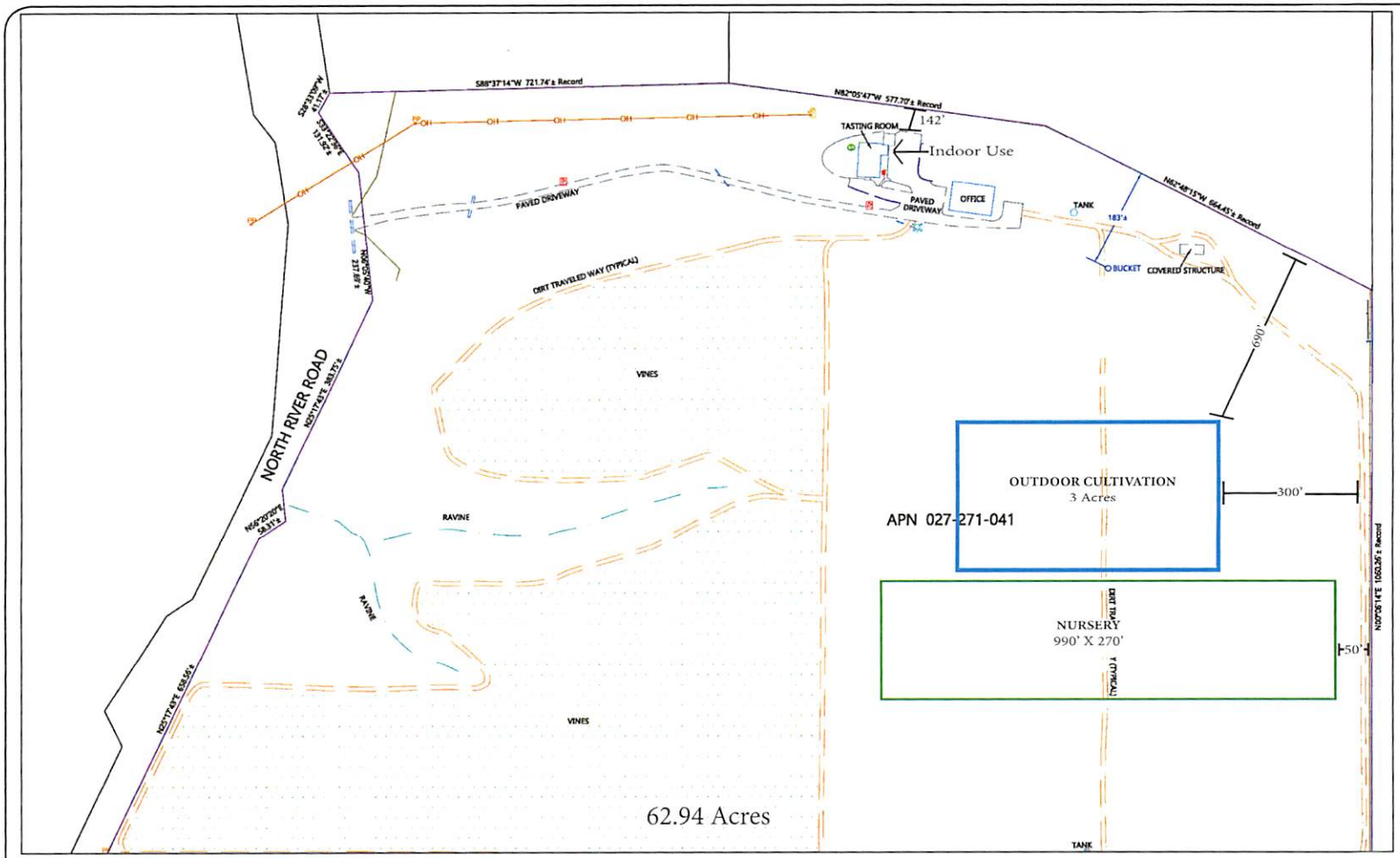


Photo A-7. View of vines removed and vines still in place. Note fallow conditions in both areas.

Photo A-8. View of a deer fence that surrounds the project site near the entrance to the site. The wire mesh on the fence is large enough to allow for kit fox passage.

Photo A-9. View of blue oak woodland located along the north boundary of the project site. This area is located west of the proposed indoor nursery.



* *Site is located over 1000 feet from any sensitive use, as defined by 22.40.050D.1, and 22.40.060D.1, Location*

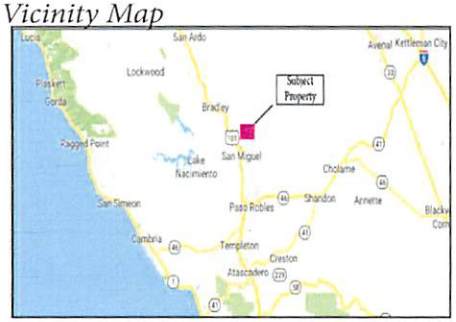
GRAPHIC SCALE

Scope of Work

1) 3 acres Outdoor Cultivation
2) 267,300 s.f. Outdoor Nursery
3) 2,480 s.f. Indoor Use (Existing Building)

Sheet Index

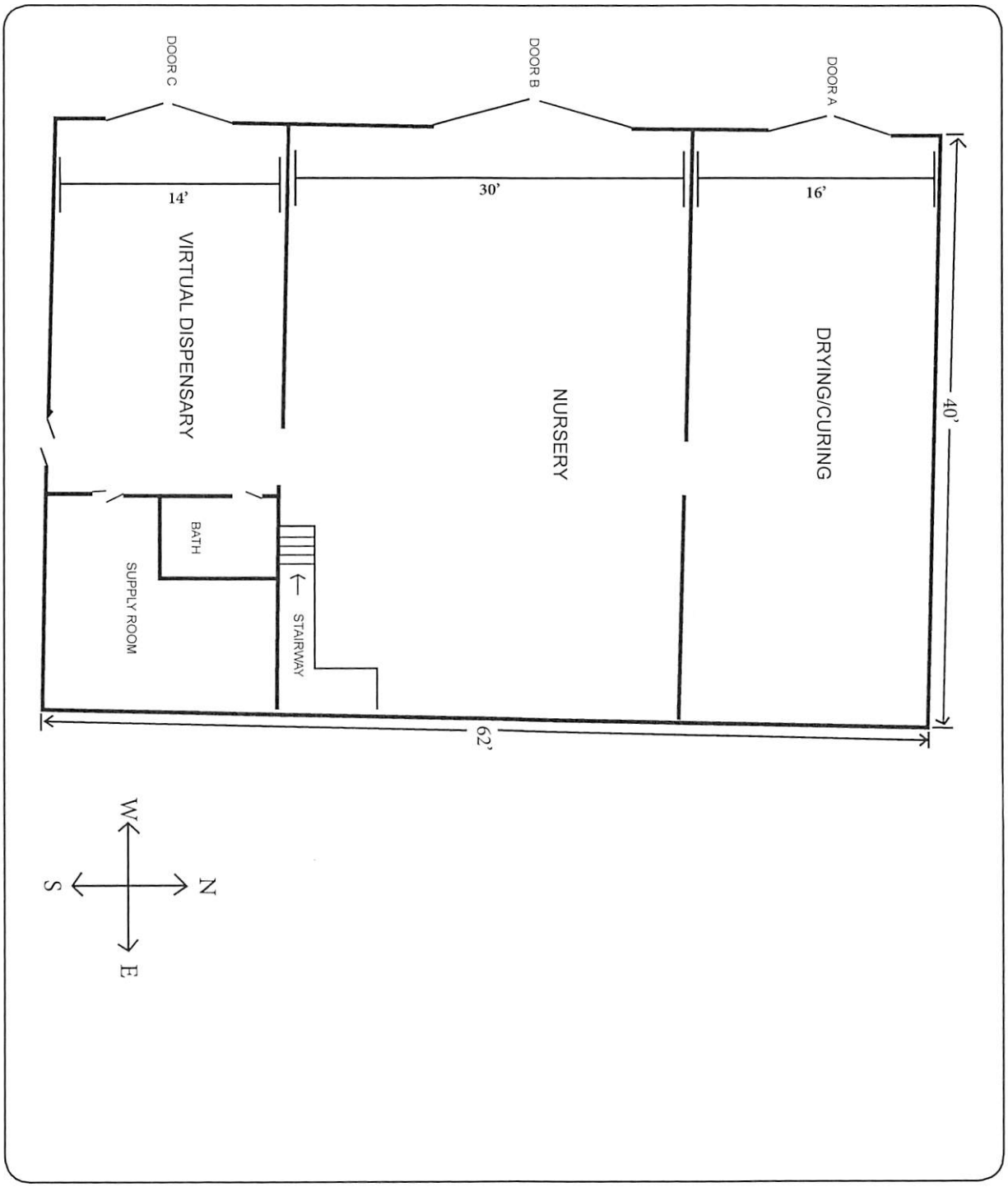
Vicinity Map



Kirk Consulting

Site Plan
Helios Dayspring
13340 River Road
San Miguel, CA
Sheet 1: Overall Site Plan
APN: 027-271-041

SCALE: 1" = 200'	
DATE: March 26 . 18	
Sheet 1 of 2	



SCALE: 1" = 100'	
DATE: March.26.18	
13350 River Road, San Miguel	
Sheet 2 of 2	

Site Plan
River Road Site Map
13350 River Road
San Miguel, CA
Sheet 2: Building PLan
APN: 027-271-041

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