

November 23, 2022

Steven Doctor
SASD Development Group, LLC.
4895 Pacific Highway
San Diego, CA 92110

Subject: Cultural Resources Assessment for the Veterans Affairs Bakersfield Community Based Outpatient Clinic Project, City of Bakersfield, County of Kern, California (Project Number C-0401)

Dear Mr. Doctor:

At the request of SASD Development Group, LLC. (CLIENT), Duke Cultural Resources Management, LLC (DUKE CRM) has prepared a cultural resources assessment for the Veterans Affairs Bakersfield Community Based Outpatient Clinic (Project), located in the City of Bakersfield, Kern County, California (see Attachment 1, Map 1. Project Aerial Map). The Project is approximately 7-acres located on APNs 365-020-28 and -30. The City of Bakersfield (City) is the lead agency for the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Veterans Affairs has already conducted compliance with the National Historic Preservation (NHPA or Section 106). There is no federal involvement in our work.

The Project is located in Section 15, Township 29 South, Range 27 East as shown on the 1954 United States Geological Survey *Oildale, Calif 7.5'* quadrangle map (photo revised 1968; see Attachment 1, Map 2. Project Location Map). It is located approximately 275 feet (ft.) southeast of the intersection of Knudsen Street and Olive Drive and includes the construction of a 30,000 square foot medical outpatient clinic (see Attachment 1, Map 3. Project Aerial Map). Maximum depth of excavation will be 7 ft., with the majority of excavation being 2 ft.

Cultural Resources Research

On March 22, 2022, DUKE CRM conducted a record search at the Southern San Joaquin Valley Information Center (SSJVIC). The SSJVIC is part of the California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS) and is located at California State University, Bakersfield. The records search included a review of all recorded cultural resources and reports within a ½ -mile radius of the Project (see Attachment 2).

The records search identified 13 cultural resources within ½-mile of the Project, with no cultural resources recorded within the Project boundaries. Table 1 below lists the cultural resources in the record search area and their proximity to the Project boundary.

Table 1. Cultural Resources within ½ -Mile of the Project Boundary

Resource No.	Resource Type	Description	Eligibility Status	Distance (ft.) and Direction
P-15-000560	Historic	Toll Road – Hesperia Road Bypass	Unknown	2,410 east
P-15-002050	Historic	Southern Pacific Railroad	3S	2,375 east
P-15-002874	Prehistoric	Steatite bowl fragment, one flake, one complete pestle	Unknown	2,335 south/southeast
P-15-004734	Historic	Beardsley Irrigation Canal	Unknown	2,000 north
P-15-007041	Historic	State Rt. 99 over Canal lateral #33	7R	3,600 east
P-15-007042	Historic	State Rt. 99 over Canal lateral #29	Unknown	740 east
P-15-017237	Historic	Beardsley One Ditch	6Y	560 east

P-15-017238	Prehistoric	Quartzite cobble isolate	Unknown	575 south
P-15-020640	Historic	Oil Pump KCL-B, #36-A	Unknown	2,610 south/southeast
P-15-020641	Historic	Oil Pump KCL-B, #54-A	Unknown	2,550 southeast
P-15-020642	Historic	Oil Pump KCL-B, #62	Unknown	2,100 south
P-15-020643	Historic	Industrial Foundation M-6	Unknown	2,610 south/southeast
P-15-020645	Prehistoric	Fragmented mano	Unknown	2,225 south/southeast

3S – Appears eligible for National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) individually through survey evaluation.

6Y – Determined ineligible for NRHP by consensus through Section 106 process – not evaluated for California Register of Historical Resources or local listing.

7R – Identified in Reconnaissance Level Survey or in an Area of Potential Effect (APE): Not evaluated.

The SSJVIC identified a total of 22 cultural resource reports within ½-mile of the Project. None of the reports are located within the Project boundary.

Additionally, an inquiry to the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) was submitted to ascertain the presence of known sacred sites, Native American cultural resources, and/or human remains within the boundaries of the proposed Project. On May 25, 2022, the NAHC indicated that there have been no Native American cultural resources identified within the Sacred Lands File for the Project location (see Attachment 2).

Field Survey

DUKE CRM Archaeologist Morgan Bender, M.A., RPA, conducted an intensive pedestrian survey of the Project on March 22, 2022. The survey included the 7-acres of the proposed Project. There was approximately 20 to 40 percent ground visibility of the Project. The survey was conducted using parallel transects no greater than 15 meters apart. The area had tall grasses that led to low to moderate visibility with modern debris scattered throughout the Project. The site has a mean elevation of approximately 430 feet above sea level. No cultural resources (prehistoric or historic greater than 45 years old) were observed as a result of the field survey. Visible sediment is medium brown silt with a moderate degree of surface disturbance due to pedestrian and vehicle traffic. See photographs in Attachment 5.

Conclusions

DUKE CRM assessed the proposed Project for the presence of cultural resources according to CEQA. Our research and pedestrian survey did not identify cultural resources within the Project boundaries. The Project is considered to have a low potential for the presence of prehistoric and historic era archaeological resources given the lack of previously or newly identified cultural resources within or near the Project area. The nearest recorded prehistoric resource is a quartzite cobble isolate located approximately 575 feet to the south of the Project. Additionally, the nearest historic resource is the Beardsley One Ditch, an abandoned portion of the Beardsley Irrigation Canal, located approximately 560 feet to east of the Project. The remainder of the historic resources in proximity to the Project area are structures that will not be impacted by the Project. Therefore, it is not likely that cultural resources will be impacted by the Project. DUKE CRM does not recommend any additional work for cultural resources. However, if ground disturbing activities associated with this Project change, these changes may have the potential to disturb sediments that are previously undisturbed and may contain previously unidentified cultural resources.

If previously unidentified archaeological materials are unearthed during construction, work shall be halted in that area until a qualified archaeologist can assess the significance of the find. If human remains are encountered, State Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 states that no further disturbance shall occur until the County Coroner has determined the origin and disposition pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 5097.98. The County Coroner must be notified of the find immediately. If the remains are determined to be prehistoric, the Coroner will notify the NAHC, which will determine and notify a Most Likely Descendant (MLD). With the permission of the landowner or their authorized representative, the MLD may inspect the site of the discovery. The MLD shall conduct the inspection within 48 hours of notification by the NAHC. The MLD may

recommend scientific removal and nondestructive analysis of human remains and items associated with Native American burials.

Thank you for contacting DUKE CRM on this Project. If you have any questions or comments, you can contact me at (949) 356-6660, or by e-mail at morganbender@dukecrm.com.

Sincerely,

DUKE CULTURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT, LLC

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Morgan Bender". The ink is dark and the signature is written in a fluid, connected style.

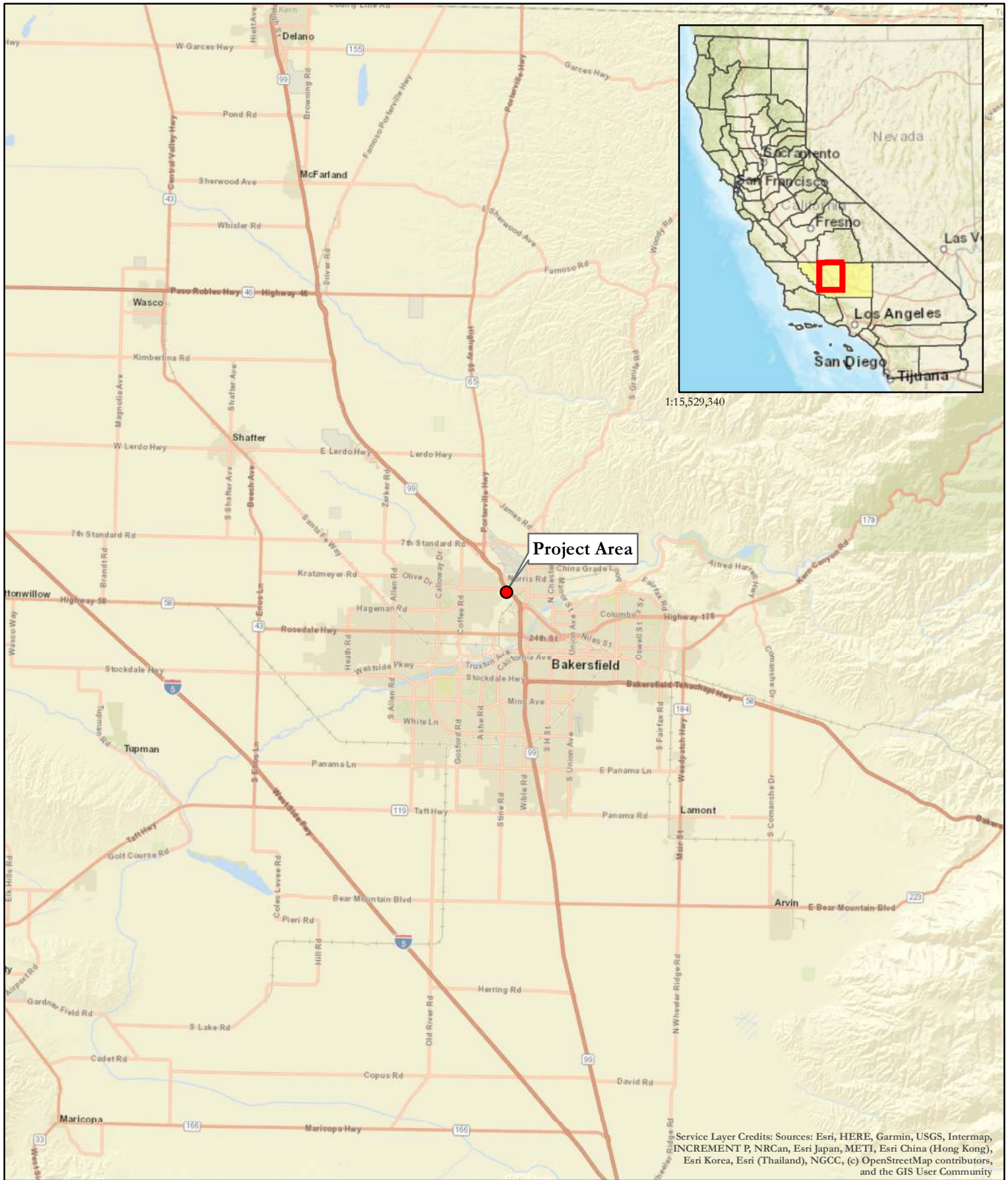
Morgan Bender, M.A., RPA
Archaeologist

Attachments

- 1: Project Maps
- 2: SSJVIC Search Results Maps
- 3: Native American Heritage Commission Letter
- 4: Project Photographs

ATTACHMENT 1

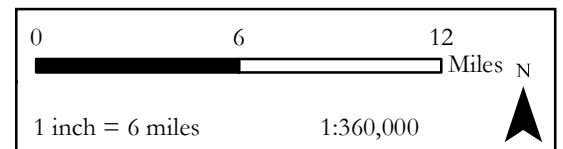
PROJECT MAPS

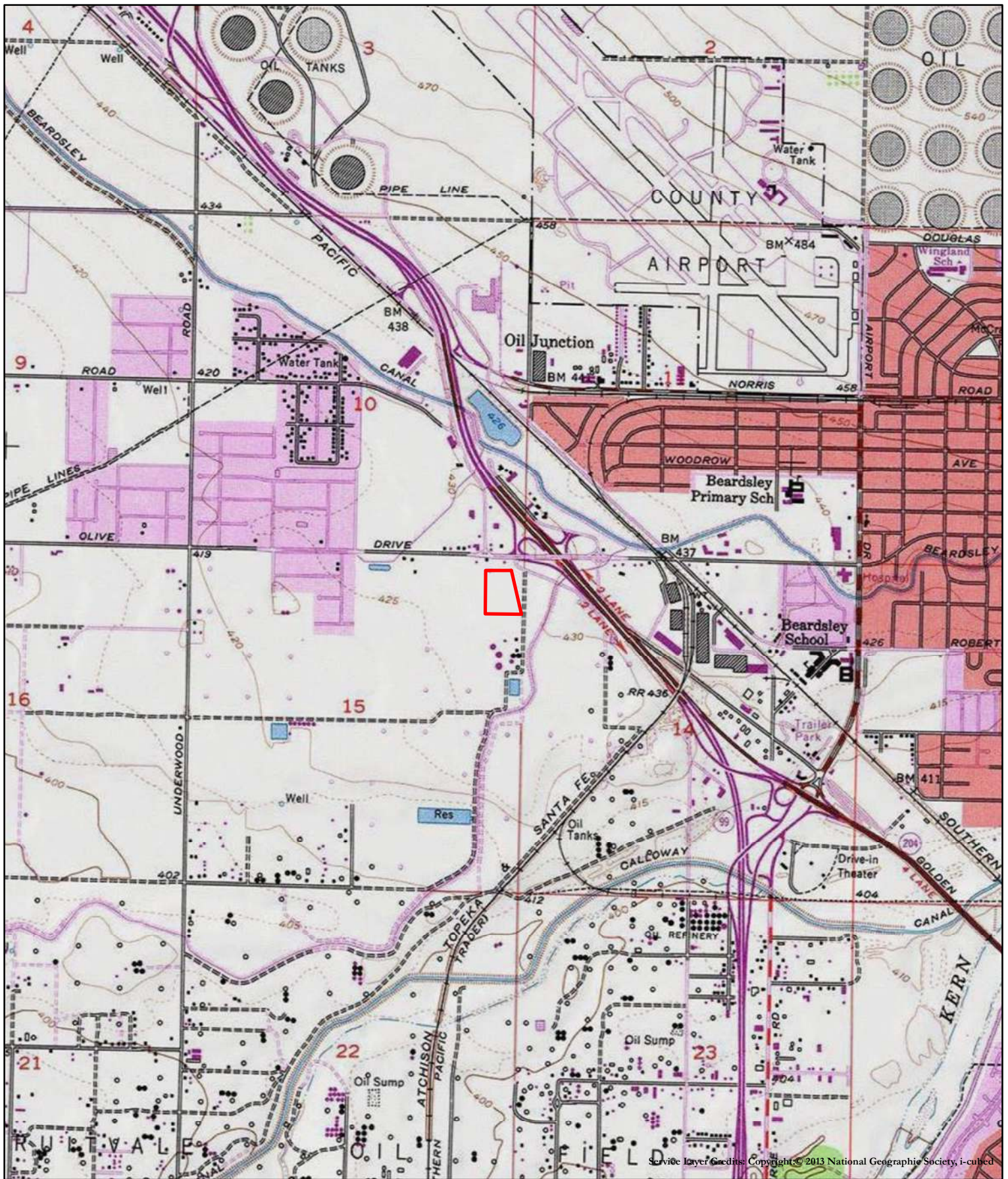


Map 1 - Project Vicinity
VA Bakersfield, C-0401



● Project Area





Map 2 - Project Location

VA Bakersfield, C-0401



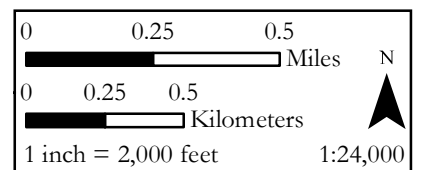
DUKE
CRM

Oildale, Calif USGS 7.5-minute quadrangle

T29S, R27E, Section 15

Date of Map: 1954 / Photorevised: 1968

 Project Area



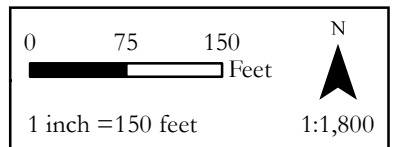


Map 3 - Project Aerial Photo
VA Bakersfield, C-0401



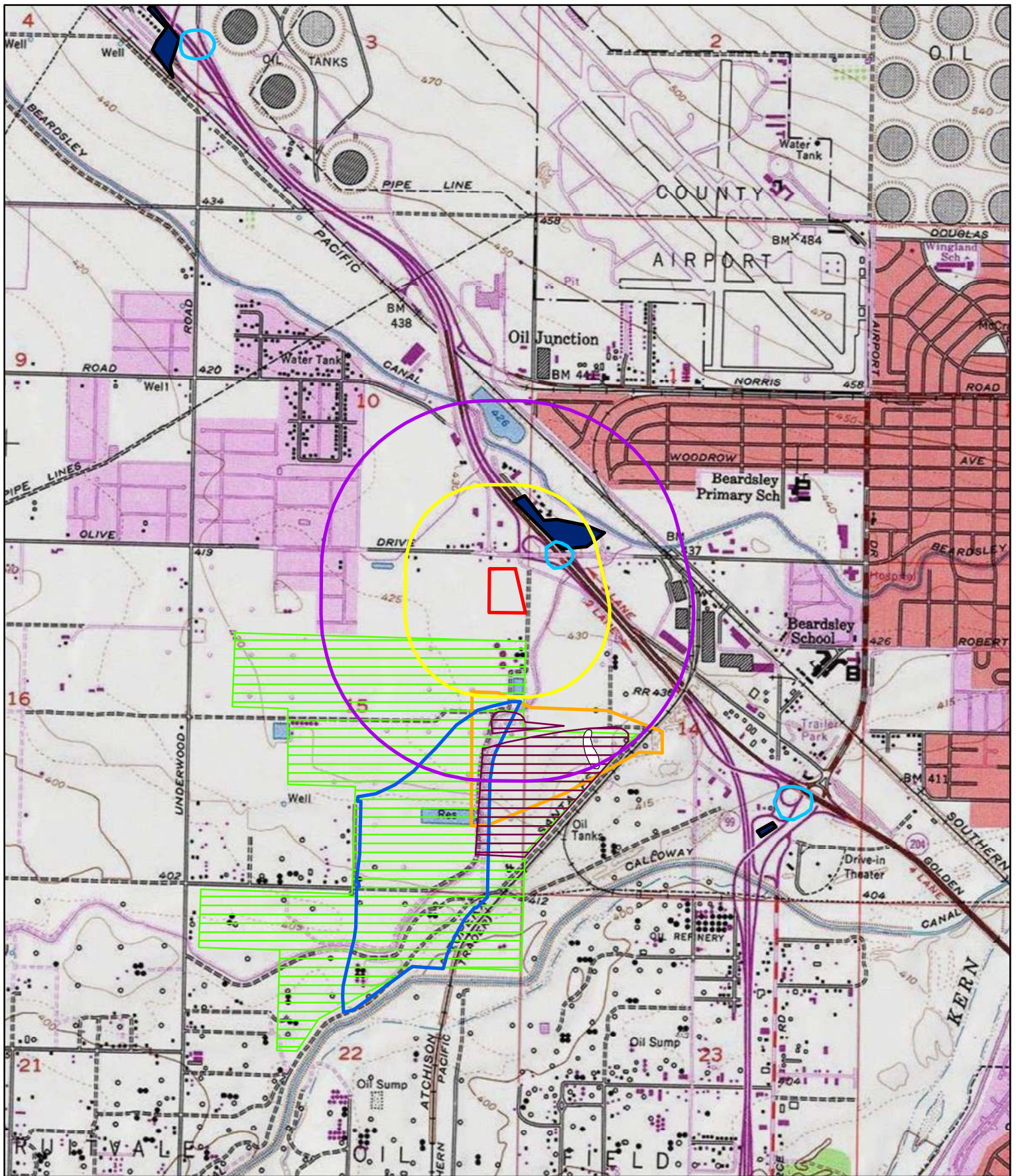
DUKE
CRM

 Project Area



ATTACHMENT 2

SSJVIC RECORD SEARCH MAPS

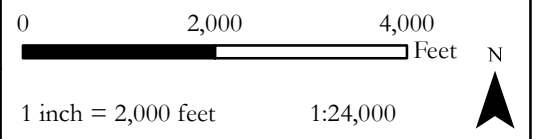


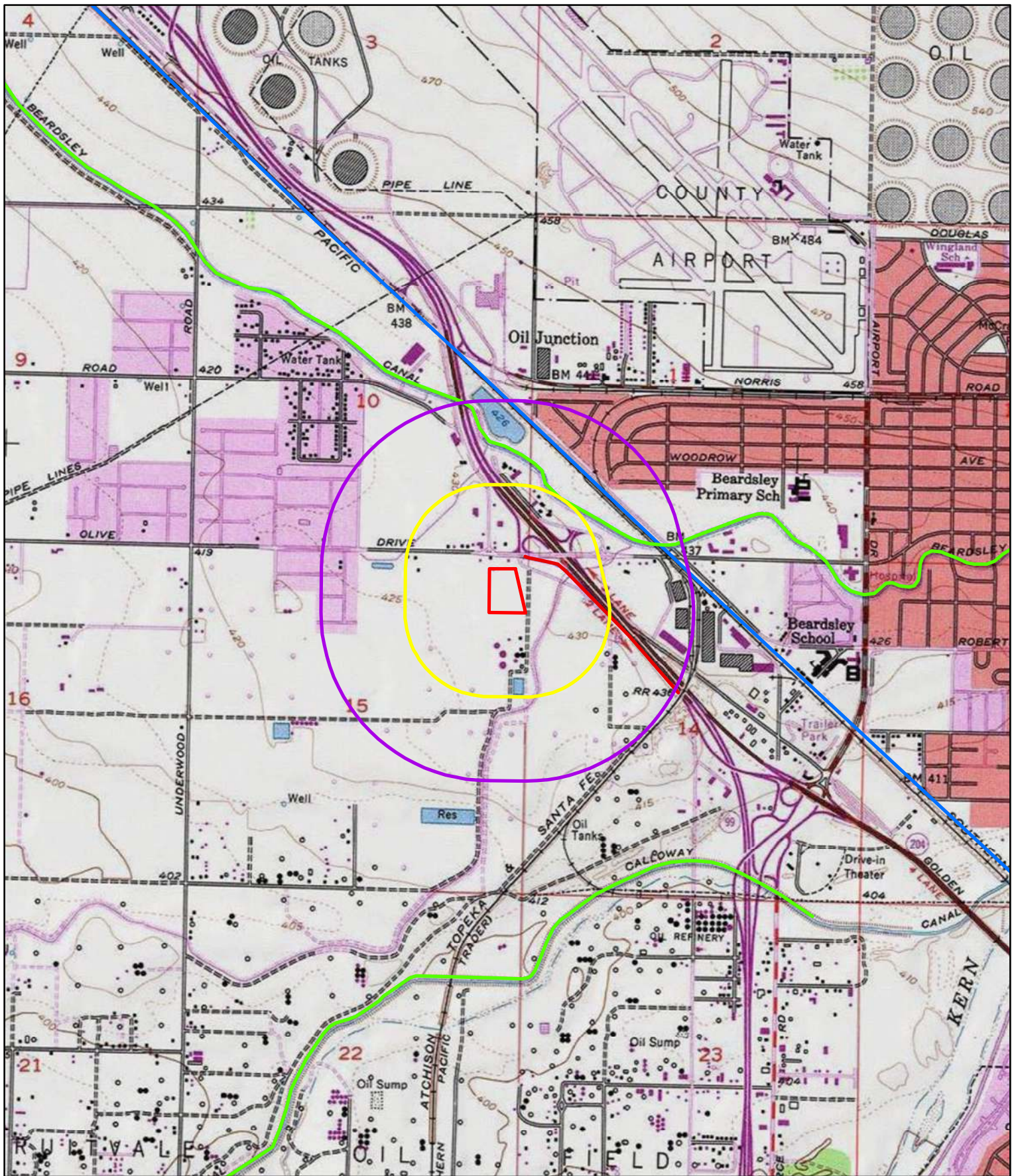
VA Bakersfield, C-0401

Kern County

Oildale, Calif. USGS 7.5-Minute Quadrangle
T29S, R27E, Section 15

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| Project Area | KE-00689 | KE-04511 |
| 1/4 Mile Radius | KE-01169 | KE-05153 |
| 1/2 Mile Radius | KE-02369 | KE-05235 |
| KE-02394 | | |



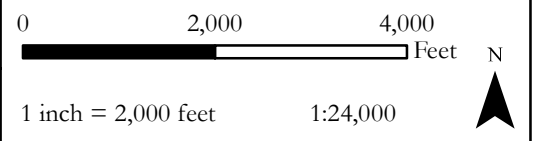


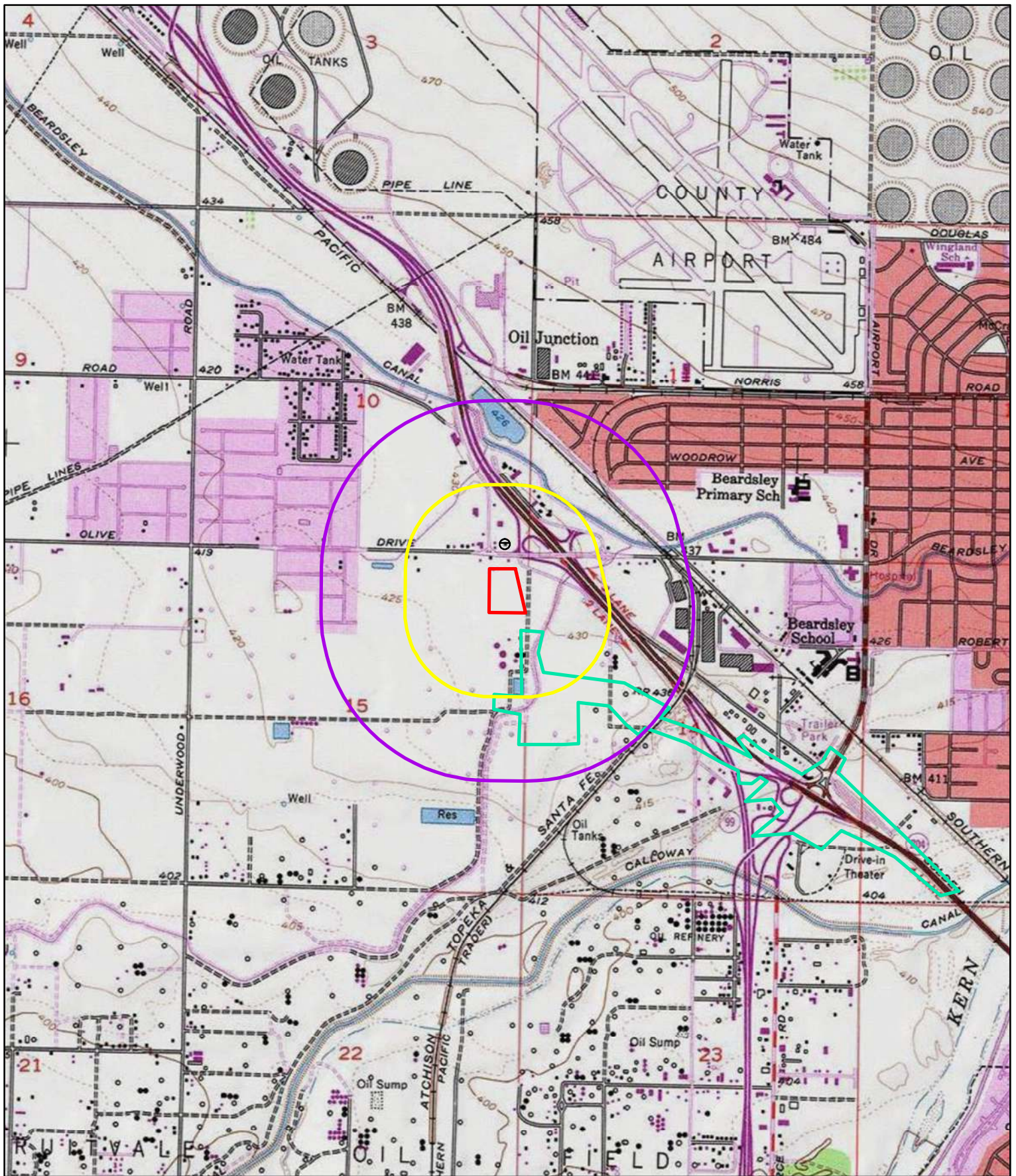
VA Bakersfield, C-0401

Kern County

Oildale, Calif. USGS 7.5-Minute Quadrangle
T29S, R27E, Section 15

- ▭ Project Area — KE-02807
- 1/4 Mile Radius — KE-03528
- 1/2 Mile Radius — KE-04011



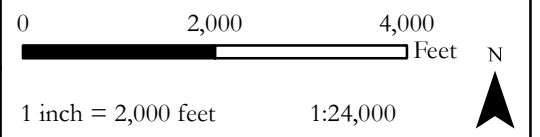


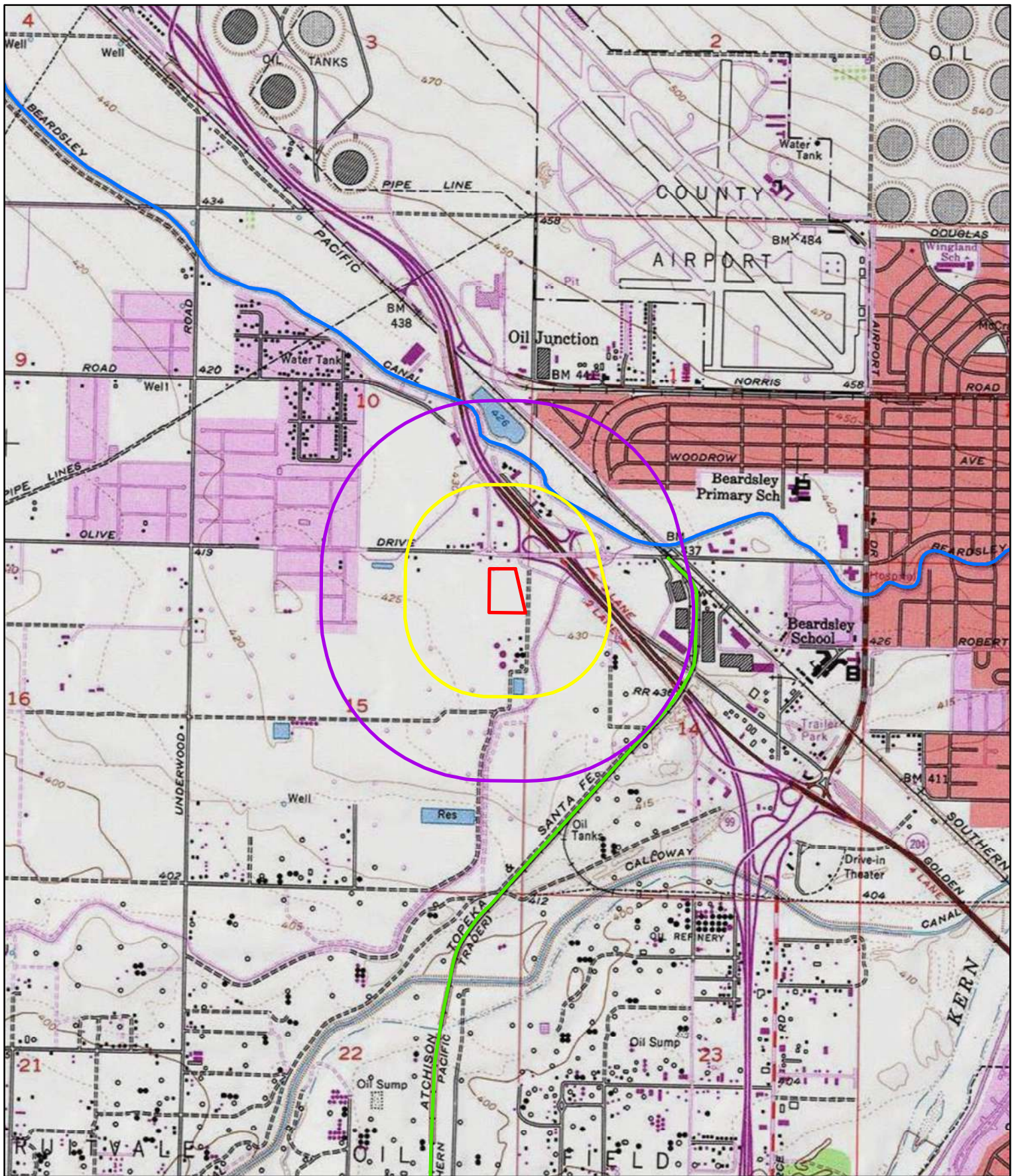
VA Bakersfield, C-0401

Kern County

Oildale, Calif. USGS 7.5-Minute Quadrangle
T29S, R27E, Section 15

- ▭ Project Area KE-04941
- 1/4 Mile Radius KE-04598
- 1/2 Mile Radius



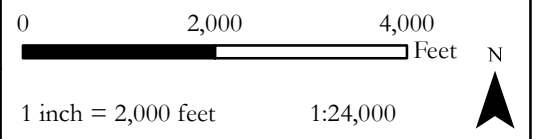


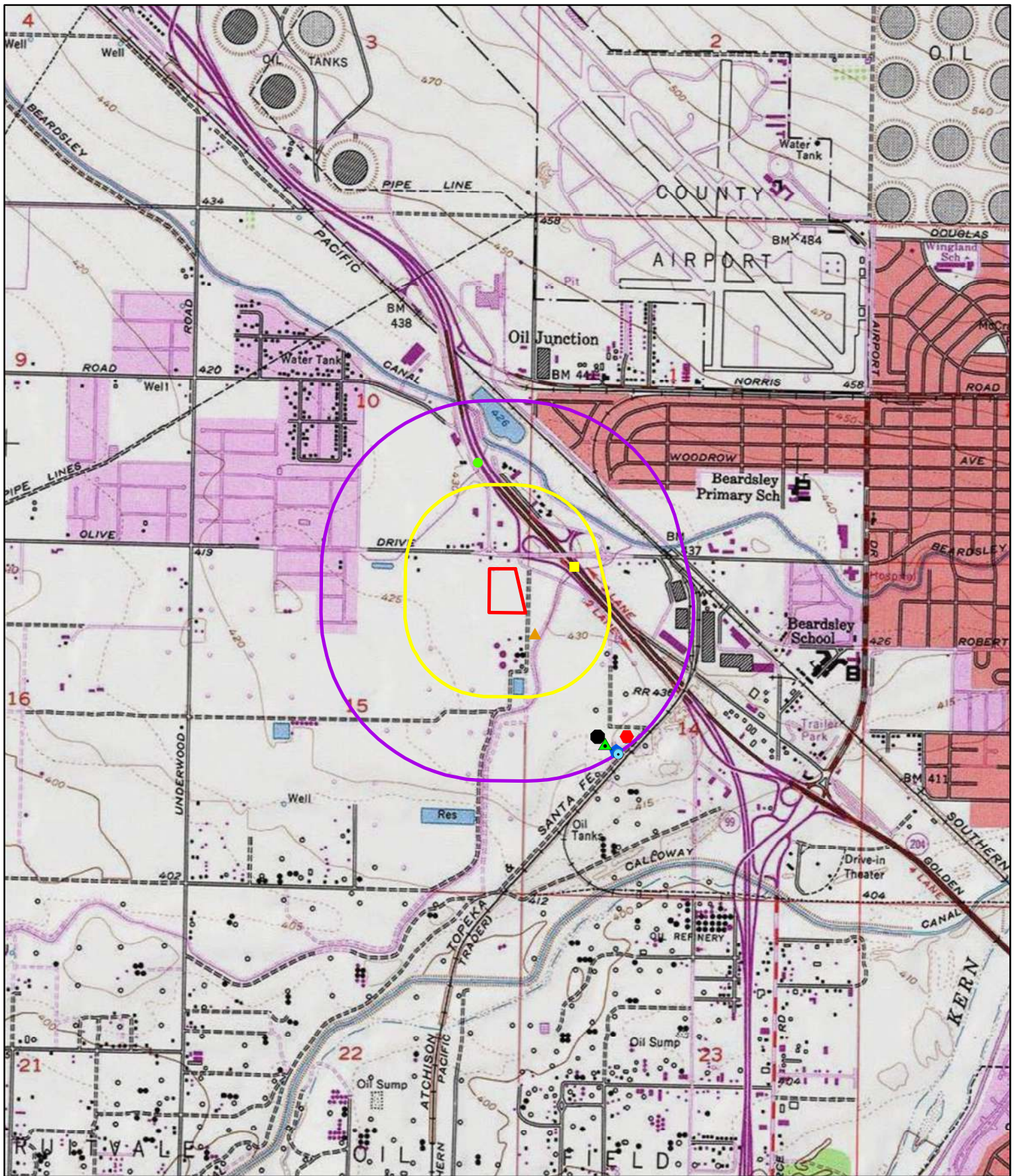
VA Bakersfield, C-0401

Kern County

Oildale, Calif. USGS 7.5-Minute Quadrangle
T29S, R27E, Section 15

- ▭ Project Area
- 1/4 Mile Radius
- 1/2 Mile Radius
- P-15-000560
- P-15-004734





VA Bakersfield, C-0401

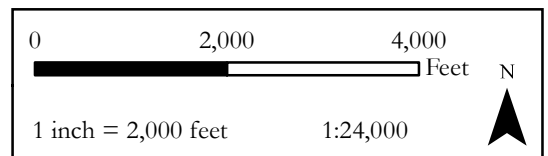
Kern County

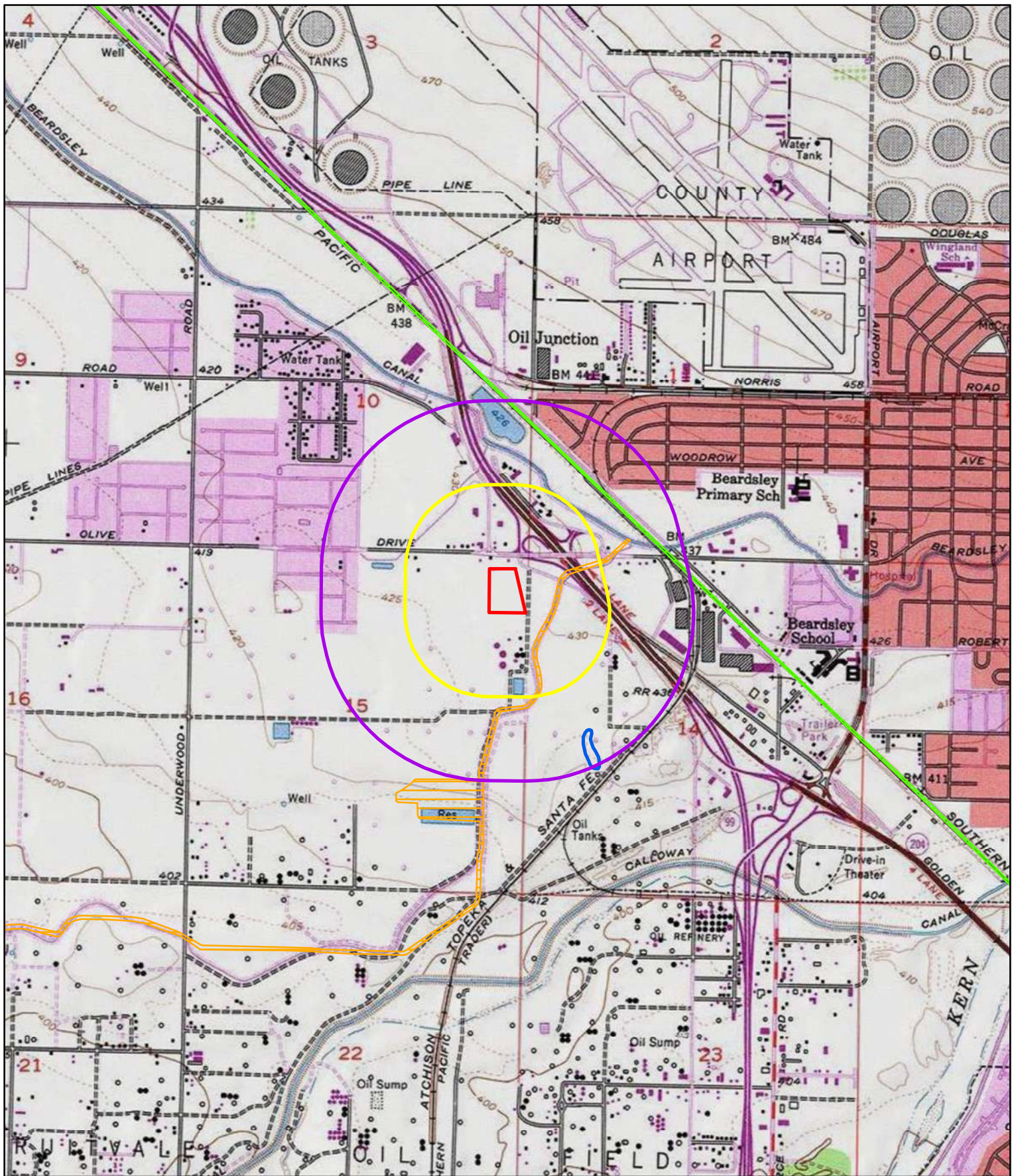
Oildale, Calif. USGS 7.5-Minute Quadrangle
T29S, R27E, Section 15



DUKE
CRM

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| Project Area | ● P-15-007041 | ● P-15-020641 |
| 1/4 Mile Radius | ■ P-15-007042 | ● P-15-020642 |
| 1/2 Mile Radius | ▲ P-15-017238 | ● P-15-020643 |
| | ◆ P-15-020640 | ▲ P-15-020645 |



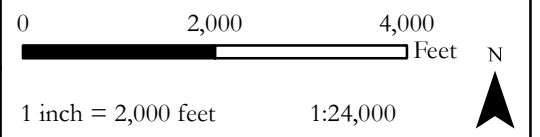


VA Bakersfield, C-0401

Kern County

Oildale, Calif. USGS 7.5-Minute Quadrangle
T29S, R27E, Section 15

- Project Area
- 1/4 Mile Radius
- 1/2 Mile Radius
- P-15-002050
- P-15-002874
- P-15-017237



ATTACHMENT 3

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION LETTER



NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION

May 25, 2022

Morgan Bender
DUKE CRM

Via Email to: morganbender@dukecrm.com

CHAIRPERSON
Laura Miranda
Luiseño

VICE CHAIRPERSON
Reginald Pagaling
Chumash

PARLIAMENTARIAN
Russell Attebery
Karuk

SECRETARY
Sara Dutschke
Miwok

COMMISSIONER
William Mungary
Paiute/White Mountain
Apache

COMMISSIONER
Isaac Bojorquez
Ohlone-Costanoan

COMMISSIONER
Buffy McQuillen
Yokayo Pomo, Yuki,
Nomlaki

COMMISSIONER
Wayne Nelson
Luiseño

COMMISSIONER
Stanley Rodriguez
Kumeyaay

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
**Raymond C.
Hitchcock**
Miwok/Nisenan

NAHC HEADQUARTERS
1550 Harbor Boulevard
Suite 100
West Sacramento,
California 95691
(916) 373-3710

Re: VA Bakersfield Project, Kern County

Dear Mr. Bender:

A record search of the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) Sacred Lands File (SLF) was completed for the information you have submitted for the above referenced project. The results were negative. However, the absence of specific site information in the SLF does not indicate the absence of cultural resources in any project area. Other sources of cultural resources should also be contacted for information regarding known and recorded sites.

Attached is a list of Native American tribes who may also have knowledge of cultural resources in the project area. This list should provide a starting place in locating areas of potential adverse impact within the proposed project area. I suggest you contact all of those indicated; if they cannot supply information, they might recommend others with specific knowledge. By contacting all those listed, your organization will be better able to respond to claims of failure to consult with the appropriate tribe. If a response has not been received within two weeks of notification, the Commission requests that you follow-up with a telephone call or email to ensure that the project information has been received.

If you receive notification of change of addresses and phone numbers from tribes, please notify me. With your assistance, we can assure that our lists contain current information.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me at my email address: Cameron.Vela@nahc.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Cameron Vela

Cameron Vela
Cultural Resources Analyst

Attachment

**Native American Heritage Commission
Native American Contact List
Kern County
5/25/2022**

Big Pine Paiute Tribe of the Owens Valley

James Rambeau, Chairperson
P. O. Box 700
Big Pine, CA, 93513
Phone: (760) 938 - 2003
Fax: (760) 938-2942
j.rambeau@bigpinepaiute.org

Paiute-Shoshone

Kern Valley Indian Community

Julie Turner, Secretary
P.O. Box 1010
Lake Isabella, CA, 93240
Phone: (661) 340 - 0032

Kawaiisu
Tubatulabal
Koso

Big Pine Paiute Tribe of the Owens Valley

Danelle Gutierrez, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
P.O. Box 700
Big Pine, CA, 93513
Phone: (760) 938 - 2003
Fax: (760) 938-2942
d.gutierrez@bigpinepaiute.org

Paiute-Shoshone

Kern Valley Indian Community

Brandy Kendricks,
30741 Foxridge Court
Tehachapi, CA, 93561
Phone: (661) 821 - 1733
krazykendricks@hotmail.com

Kawaiisu
Tubatulabal
Koso

Kitanemuk & Yowlumne Tejon Indians

Delia Dominguez, Chairperson
115 Radio Street
Bakersfield, CA, 93305
Phone: (626) 339 - 6785
2deedominguez@gmail.com

Kitanemuk
Southern Valley
Yokut

Big Pine Paiute Tribe of Owens Valley

Sally Manning, Environmental Director
P. O. Box 700
Big Pine, CA, 93513
Phone: (760) 938 - 2003
s.manning@bigpinepaiute.org

Paiute-Shoshone

Santa Rosa Rancheria Tachi Yokut Tribe

Leo Sisco, Chairperson
P.O. Box 8
Lemoore, CA, 93245
Phone: (559) 924 - 1278
Fax: (559) 924-3583

Southern Valley
Yokut

Chumash Council of Bakersfield

Julio Quair, Chairperson
729 Texas Street
Bakersfield, CA, 93307
Phone: (661) 322 - 0121
chumashtribe@sbcglobal.net

Chumash

Tejon Indian Tribe

Octavio Escobedo, Chairperson
P.O. Box 640
Arvin, CA, 93203
Phone: (661) 834 - 8566
oescobedo@tejonindiantribe-nsn.gov

Kitanemuk

Coastal Band of the Chumash Nation

Mariza Sullivan, Chairperson
P. O. Box 4464
Santa Barbara, CA, 93140
Phone: (805) 665 - 0486
cbcntribalchair@gmail.com

Chumash

Tejon Indian Tribe

Colin Rambo,
P.O. Box 640
Arvin, CA, 93203
Phone: (661) 834 - 8566
colin.rambo@tejonindiantribe-nsn.gov

Kitanemuk

Kern Valley Indian Community

Robert Robinson, Chairperson
P.O. Box 1010
Lake Isabella, CA, 93240
Phone: (760) 378 - 2915
bbutterbredt@gmail.com

Kawaiisu
Tubatulabal
Koso

This list is current only as of the date of this document. Distribution of this list does not relieve any person of statutory responsibility as defined in Section 7050.5 of the Health and Safety Code, Section 5097.94 of the Public Resource Section 5097.98 of the Public Resources Code.

This list is only applicable for contacting local Native Americans with regard to cultural resources assessment for the proposed VA Bakersfield Project, Kern County.

**Native American Heritage Commission
Native American Contact List
Kern County
5/25/2022**

Tubatulabals of Kern Valley

Robert Gomez, Chairperson
P.O. Box 226
Lake Isabella, CA, 93240
Phone: (760) 379 - 4590
Fax: (760) 379-4592

Tubatulabal

Tule River Indian Tribe

Neil Peyron, Chairperson
P.O. Box 589
Porterville, CA, 93258
Phone: (559) 781 - 4271
Fax: (559) 781-4610
neil.peyron@tulerivertribe-nsn.gov

Yokut

Tule River Indian Tribe

Kerri Vera, Environmental
Department
P. O. Box 589
Porterville, CA, 93258
Phone: (559) 783 - 8892
Fax: (559) 783-8932
kerri.vera@tulerivertribe-nsn.gov

Yokut

Tule River Indian Tribe

Joey Garfield, Tribal Archaeologist
P. O. Box 589
Porterville, CA, 93258
Phone: (559) 783 - 8892
Fax: (559) 783-8932
joey.garfield@tulerivertribe-nsn.gov

Yokut

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This list is only applicable for contacting local Native Americans with regard to cultural resources assessment for the proposed VA Bakersfield Project, Kern County.

ATTACHMENT 4

PROJECT PHOTOGRAPHS



Project overview. View to north.



Project overview. View to south.



Project overview. View to east.



Project overview. View to southwest.



Project overview. View to south.



Ground cover. Plan view.



High vegetation. View to north.



Debris along northern border. View to southeast.



Debris along northern border of site. View to northwest.



Animal burrows. View to south.