

APPENDIX F

Preliminary Archaeological Resource Evaluation

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION

FOR

KERN CANYON RANCH

Oil Center, CA 7.5' USGS Topographic Quadrangle

Kern County, California

Key Words:

Surface survey

2 Marginal Sites, 8 isolates

Yokuts

664.4

Portions of Sec. 17-20, T29S.; R29E.

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MANAGEMENT SUMMARY/ ABSTRACT

The following report documents the archaeological field survey for the proposed Kern Canyon Ranch, located in the eastern portion of the city of Bakersfield, Kern County, California. This project, encompassing 664.4 acres of land is being planned primarily for future residential development with a lesser amount of commercial development along Highway 178. This property, which is currently undeveloped, is located adjacent to, and north of State Highway 178.

The purpose of this investigation was threefold: 1. locate and evaluate any archaeological resources present within the study area, 2. assess their potential to yield significant cultural information, and 3. develop guidelines to reduce impacts to such remains. As a result of this investigation two prehistoric archaeological sites were found and recorded. In addition 8 of isolated cultural remains were found and recorded. Neither of the two sites or the eight isolated artifacts are considered significant cultural resources. Therefore, they require no further field work at this time.

There were no problems affecting the results of the survey with all portions of the study area examined. Overall, ground visibility varied from fair to good, enabling a fairly complete examination of the property. Based on this study, it is concluded that no significant cultural resources are known to be present. It is also unlikely that

significant remains will be unearthed during any development of the Kern Canyon Ranch property. Therefore, no additional field work is required at this time. As long as the recommendations suggested below are followed, it is recommended that archaeological clearance be granted to this development project.

UNDERTAKING

It has been argued that most areas have the potential to contain cultural resource materials. A records search from the Southern San Joaquin Information, first conducted in 1998 and recently updated (September 1999) reported that several previous archaeological surveys had been conducted in the general region. These earlier studies resulted in the identification of 10 archaeological sites and a number of isolated artifacts, though no remains are known to be on or immediately adjacent to the study area. As a result of the general proximity of known resources, it was recommended by the Southern San Joaquin Information Center that a cultural resources investigation be carried out prior to any development. Due to their recommendation and according to CEQA guidelines, a cultural resources investigation was performed.

The study area is located adjacent and north of Highway 178, between Highway 178 and Paladino Road, a paved road one mile to the north. It is bordered by Masterson

Road (paved) on the east and a dirt road along most of the western boundary. It is located north of the Mesa Marin race track. Prior impacts to the property include a north - south sewer line near the western boundary, a dirt road just north of the fence which separates Highway 178 from the property, a gas pipeline along the southern boundary, a dirt road that cuts diagonally from near the middle of the northern boundary to the southeast corner of the property and an east - west phone line that cuts diagonally across the section of land. The land also appears to have been partially graded, probably to control vegetation. There has been little development in the general area. To the south is Mesa Marin, a new residential tract to the east of the race way, and ranch homes along the north side of Paladino Road. Open lands extend to the east and west and the Kern Oil Field is located west to the in the adjoining section.

Specifically, Kern Canyon Ranch includes all of Section 17, the SW 1/4 of the SW 1/4 of Section 18, and small portions of the Ne 1/4 of the NE 1/4 of Section 19 and the NW 1/4 of the NW 1/4 of Section 20, Township 29S, Range 29E, as depicted on the Oil Center, 7.5' U.S.G.S. Topographic Quadrangle. The areas investigated by this study are identified in Appendix 3, Map 1.

The study area was examined and this report prepared by Robert A. Schiffman, consulting archaeologist, along with the assistance of Stephen B. Andrews. Brief

resumes are found in Appendix 1. The field work was completed in September and October, 1999.

NATURAL SETTING

The proposed residential development is located in the eastern portion of the city of Bakersfield. Although residential development has taken place to the north and southeast, and roads and a race track are located adjacent to the property, the study area remains undeveloped. The few impacts to the land are minimal. It also appears that the study area may have been graded at one time, possibly to control surface vegetation. The principal vegetation is a sparse to moderate grass cover, along with low brush. This is consistent with other undeveloped lands in the vicinity.

The elevation varies from 724' to 754' above sea level with the land sloping downhill from northeast to southwest. The southern portion of the parcel is more irregular, with gently rolling areas cut by marginal run off channels. The northern and eastern portions are flatter. The soil is a light brown, fine grained material, identified as a Plio-Pleistocene non-marine deposit on the Bakersfield Geologic Sheet. Scattered across the surface were small pebbles, an occasional hand sized cobble and a few larger rocks, mostly in the southwest and western portions of the property. Most were granitic in origin, though sedimentary and meta-sedimentary rocks were also

present. While small cobbles could have served various cultural uses, most of the rocks were of poor quality. Occasionally, a harder, rounder cobble was found and it is likely that appropriate stones were collected and used. This is verified by the recording of several hand tools. In addition, several small pebbles and hand sized cobbles of chalcedony were found that would have supplied a resource materials for chipped stone tool manufacture. Several pieces of this materials showed evidence of being altered (flaked) and flakes of this material were found on the property.

While marginal seasonal run off channels are present, there is no evidence that a usable or reliable source of fresh water existed on the property. The nearest sources of water would have been Cottonwood and the Kern River, several miles to the east or north. Neither were there any significant plant resources on or immediately adjacent to the property that would distinguish it from adjacent parcels. Ground visibility was good for most of the parcel.

CULTURAL SETTING

Prior to the field survey, a literature search was conducted at the Southern San Joaquin Valley Information Center. According to the archaeological record files, Eleven (11) prior field surveys have taken place within a one mile radius of section 17. As a result of prior investigations 6 archaeological sites and 3 isolated artifacts

were found and recorded, none within the study. The following is a brief statement on the nature and findings of these earlier studies. They are presented in chronological order.

The earliest study in the general area was a small parcel as part of a project for the Kern Bluff Co-generation Project, located ½ mile to the east in Section 16. This project is located with the Kern Oil Field. No archaeological sites were recorded by this survey of approximately 20 acres (Pruett 1988). The second study examined a linear corridor for the Mojave Pipeline which goes from California to Arizona. A small site in section 7, just under one mile distance, was recorded. A portion of this survey crossed the eastern portion and bordered west one half of the northern boundary of the present study area. No remains were found along this segment of the proposed corridor (McGuire 1990). A second study in 1990 examined alternative pipeline routes for the Mojave Pipeline project. This segment of the pipeline extending from the center of section 18 to the west southward and then turned east in the northern portion of section 19 and extending along Highway 178 near the southern border of the current study area boundaries. This particular corridor identified 4 historical archaeological sites, associated with early production within the Kern Oil Field. These sites consisted of concrete footings and historic trash and debris and an irrigation ditch. None of these sites appear to be significant resources (McGuire 1990).

The fourth study surveyed a for a proposed residential development to the east in section 16. No resources were found (Schiffman 1990). In 1992 a study was performed for the extension of Morning Drive in east Bakersfield. This study was located in a portion of section 7 to the northwest. No remains were reported (Par 1992). In 1993, a linear corridor was surveyed for a sewer line which crosses in two directions through section 20 and extending through section 16 before turning north. A portion of this project borders the southern and western sides of Section 17. An historic site, consisting of a concrete culvert built in 1929 across the extension of east Niles Street in section 20. No other resources were reported. This is not a significant resource (Valdez 1993).

The next study examined a 20 acre parcel for a proposed residential project in section 20. No cultural resources were found (Schiffman 1996). In 1998 a assessment of 8 acres for a proposed motor cross track took place. Located in the western side of section 20, no resources were found by this study (Pruett 1998). The second survey in 1998 examined a corridor for a proposed bike path route through a portion of section. In 1999, an alternate and parallel bike corridor was examined. No resources were found along either of these two proposed bike path routes (Pruett 1998, 1999). The last survey conducted in 1998 surveyed a large parcel in section 20 to the south for a proposed residential housing development. No archaeological remains were found (Schiffman 1998).

In addition to the sites reported above, one additional site and three isolated artifacts were found in section 21 to the south. All of these remains were prehistoric. The site is described as a small concentration of chipped stone remains including 9 flakes and one core. No buried deposits were present and the site is not a significant resource (McGuire 1990). The three isolated artifacts were also found in section 21. All were described as crypto-crystalline flakes and are not significant remains.

According to the information center, none of the above identified resources were significant and there are no known significant archaeological remains within or near the current study area. For more information regarding previous surveys, the reader should contact the Archaeological Information Center.

The aboriginal population who occupied the general region were the Yokuts (Latta 1977). The Yokuts lived in variable sized communities throughout the San Joaquin Valley and adjacent foothills. Their subsistence level was based on hunting and gathering, with small groups of people moving throughout their territorial range on a seasonal basis. Various plants were collected, animals trapped and hunted, and shellfish collected from the sloughs and marsh areas. Principal villages were generally in close proximity to reliable sources of fresh water. Day use areas, seasonal camps or hunting-kill sites could be found throughout their territory, as a result of various activities engaged in by this culture. Though not abundant, the

presence of a small amount of useful stone for hand tools and chipped stone artifacts allows for the possibility that these materials could have been gathered from the study area. Significant plant resources were not available. There are no known principal villages reported within or adjacent to the study area. It is likely that Native American peoples traversed the general region during a variety of hunting, foraging and other cultural activities, though it is unlikely that groups lived on the property.

RESEARCH DESIGN

The examination of previous surveys and sites found in the general region, along with personal experience, assisted with the development of a research design. The prehistoric archaeological sites and isolated artifacts recorded in the general region area are primarily associated chipped stone remains. These items are by-products of the manufacture of cutting and scraping tools. Historic remains commonly consist of discarded trash, concrete remains and what has been described as an irrigation ditch. The density of known sites for the region appears to be low.

In regards to aboriginal sites, the lack of substantial natural resources has affected the possible diversity and extent of site remains. The probable subsistence-settlement pattern of aboriginal peoples in the area would likely have been restricted to day activities such as hunting and gathering forays that traversed the region. Short

term camping may also have taken place, but with the Kern River nearby to the north, individuals would likely have gone north for any length of habitation. Also, due to the absence of abundant and significant resources on and immediately adjacent to the study area, combined with the dry and exposed setting of the property, it is unlikely that any significant remains or sites were ever present within the study area boundaries. Any remains at all would likely have been used by very small groups, limiting the amount and diversity of any cultural materials. Overall, the nature and limitation of local resources and the environmental setting of the project area are not particularly conducive to extensive occupation or use.

Based on the above observations and opinions, it was hypothesized that any cultural resources present in the area would be limited to small lithic scatters and isolated artifacts. This is consistent with the prehistoric remains found in section 21 to the southeast. And, since the study area is not part of the Kern Oil Field, historic remains were not anticipated.

Evaluation for this hypothesis would examine the nature and limits of any cultural remains found. Sites supporting this premise would consist of small areas containing sparse lithic scatters and hand tools. Isolated artifacts would consist of waste or worked flakes, projectile points, associated with hunting activities and possibly ground stone tool remains.

One of the principal goals of cultural resource investigations is the determination of significance for any archaeological resources found within a study area. Therefore, in addition to the predictive hypothesis of the research design, the underlying objective of this study was to evaluate the significance of any archaeological sites or remains found. The criteria upon which the designation of "unique" or "significant" is made is based on Appendix K, of CEQA. This document indicates that the importance or "uniqueness" of an archaeological resources is based on whether that site:

1. is associated with a person or event recognized as significant in California or American history, or of recognized scientific importance in prehistory.
2. can provide information useful in answering scientifically consequential and reasonable research questions which are of demonstrable public interest.
3. Has a special or particular quality such as oldest, best example or largest of its type.
4. Is at least 100 years old and possesses substantial stratigraphic integrity.
5. Involves important research questions that can be answered only through archaeological methods.

If it is determined that an archaeological resource is unique, then efforts are required to protect and preserve that resource. If the remains or sites do not meet the criteria, that is, "non-unique archaeological resources" they require no further consideration.

FIELD METHODOLOGY

The on-site field survey was conducted by one person, who walked transects through the project areas. Transects were spaced approximately 50 meters apart, providing sufficient coverage of the study area and were walked in a north south direction. The exposed roadways were also examined. Particular attention was given to the marginal drainage areas and any place where exposed rock concentrations were observed. For most of the parcel, there were no problems affecting the results of the survey. Ground visibility varied from poor to good with most of the parcel affording good visibility.

When archaeological remains were found, the area around the discovery was thoroughly inspected for additional cultural remains and then recorded. It is believed that the strategy used to survey the small parcel was likely to identify any significant archaeological sites that might be present.

RESULTS OF FIELD INVESTIGATION

In September and October 1999, the archaeological survey of the study area was completed. As a result of this investigation two archaeological sites and 8 isolated artifacts were found. Besides the artifactual remains, also found were several naturally occurring small cobbles of chalcedony, chert, and a fine grained quartzite. All of these materials can be used in the production of chipped stone tools, such as scraping and cutting tools and projectile points. Most of the rocks of these materials were unaltered. The fact that remains were found in the area would indicate that local native American peoples were aware of them. However, the quality of some of the materials examined was of poor quality. The following is a brief description of these remains.

Site 1: This site consists of a marginal uni-face grinding hand tool (mano), also used as a hammer stone, a chalcedony core and two flakes. Spread over an area approximately 10 x 20 meters, this site did not appear to contain a buried cultural deposit. None of the flakes showed signs of retouch. This site does not constitute a significant archaeological resource.

Site 2: This site consists of a chalcedony core, marginal hammer stone and 4 flakes of chalcedony. This site occupies an area approximately 15 x 30 meters in size. The

core was small in size and none of the flakes showed signs of retouch. There was no evidence of a buried cultural deposit. This site is not considered a significant cultural resource.

In addition to the two marginal sites, a total of 8 isolated artifacts were found. Six were chipped stone flakes and two were small cores. Four of the flakes were a dull light brown chert and one was chalcedony and one was quartzite. Both cores were a. light colored chert. None of these items were formal tools or significant cultural resources. See the isolate artifact records for more information.

Upon completion of this investigation, a copy of this report will be sent to the Southern San Joaquin Valley Information Center.

DISCUSSION/ INTERPRETATION

The discovery of archaeological remains is not surprising, considering the size of the parcel and the proximity to known prehistoric remains nearby. The nature and marginal quality or character of the remains found is also not surprising, considering the distance from water, the exposed nature of the property and the lack of significant plant or other important resources. There is no special quality about the location of the parcel that would have attracted aboriginal peoples to do anymore

than traverse the property on-route to other locals. Hunting was possible as was the gathering of small nodules of crypto-crystalline materials. It is realistic to assume that each site was the result of a single, one time only activity, as the property had little to offer aboriginal peoples. While it is still possible that additional archaeological remains might be present, it is unlikely that are significant remains will be found within the study area boundary. It is also a possibility that grading that took place in the past may have disturbed or destroyed additional sites, though the potential for large or significant sites being present there is very minimal. This was anticipated by the research design and is consistent with the environmental setting.

MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

While an on-site field survey allows researchers to draw conclusions about site presence or absence, there is always the possibility that buried remains or isolated artifacts could be found during construction and earth disturbing activities. While there was no indication of buried remains, it is possible that natural erosional and/or depositional processes, along with grading, may have obscured other cultural remains that may be present. Another impact to archaeological remains are several recent fires on the property. The fires, along with fire control efforts may have damaged or destroyed cultural remains. Based on the field assessment the following recommendation may be considered.

1. Should archaeological remains be unearthed during any stage of development, work in the area of discovery be stopped until the finds can be evaluated, and if necessary, mitigated prior to the resumption of development.

REFERENCES

Archaeological Research Center, Bakersfield College

Latta, F.F.

1977 Handbook of the Yokuts Indians. Bear State Books, Santa Cruz, CA.

Southern San Joaquin Information Center, CSUB.

APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Qualifications of Personnel

Appendix 2: Records Search

Appendix 3: Project Location Map

Appendix 4: Archaeological Site and Isolate Artifact Records (Confidential).

Appendix 1:- Qualifications of Personnel

Principal Archaeologist:-

Robert A. Schiffman. B.A. 1969, CSU Northridge; M.A. 1971, UC Santa Barbara. Professor of Anthropology, Bakersfield College, 1972- present. Has 27 years field experience in Kern and Tulare Counties. Has written over 300 environmental reports and has several publications.

Assistant:-

Stephen B. Andrews. B.A. 1967, CSU Fresno; Teaching Credential, 1968, CSU Fresno. 1969- Present, Teacher. Graduate Work in Anthropology at CSU Bakersfield. Has 30 years field experience in California archaeology. Has written several articles and has a number of publications.

**CALIFORNIA
HISTORICAL
RESOURCES
INFORMATION
SYSTEM**



FRESNO
KERN
KINGS
MADERA
TULARE

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To: Harold W. Robertson
Porter – Robertson Engineering & Surveying, Inc.
1200 21st Street
Bakersfield, CA 93301

(RS# 98-158)

RE: Porter-Robertson Job # 97-970; Development north of Mesa Marin Raceway

County: Kern

Map(s): Oil Center and Rio Bravo Ranch 7.5's

The Archaeological Information Center is under contract to the State Office of Historic Preservation and is responsible for the local management of the California Historical Resources Inventories. The Center is funded by research fees and a grant from the State Office of Historic Preservation. The Information Center does not conduct fieldwork and is not affiliated with any archaeological consultants who conduct fieldwork. A referral list of individuals who meet the Secretary of the Interior's standards for their profession is available upon request.

CULTURAL RESOURCES RECORDS SEARCH

The following are the results of a search of the cultural resources files at the Southern San Joaquin Valley Archaeological Information Center. These files include known and recorded archaeological and historic sites, inventory and excavation reports filed with this office, and properties listed on the National Register of Historic Places (3/98), the California Historical Landmarks, the California Inventory of Historic Resources, and the California Points of Historical Interest. The following summarizes the known historical resources information currently available for this subject property based in part on the sources outlined above.

PRIOR CULTURAL RESOURCE INVENTORIES OF THE SUBJECT PROPERTY AND THE SURROUNDING AREAS

According to the information in our files, there have been three linear surveys conducted along the boundaries and intersecting a portion of the project area.

1. KE-641) McGuire, Kelly-1990-Survey for the Mojave Pipeline Corridor in California and Arizona.
2. KE-642) McGuire, Kelly-1990-Mojave Pipeline Corridor: Mesa Marin Reroute
3. KE-1744) Valdez, S.-1993-Survey for Proposed NE Sewer Line, Bakersfield

PRIORITY

(RS# 98-158)

There have been seven surveys conducted within a mile radius of the project area.

KNOWN CULTURAL RESOURCES ON THE SUBJECT PROPERTY AND SURROUNDING AREAS

There are no recorded sites within the project area and it is not known if resources exist there. There are 10 recorded cultural resource sites within a mile radius.

There are no known cultural resources within the project area that are listed in the National Register of Historic Places, California Inventory of Historic Places, California Historic Resource Inventory or the California State Historic Landmarks.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Prior to any ground disturbance activities, we recommend that a qualified professional archaeologist conduct a field survey of the entire project area. Only general information is provided to developers, planners, and engineers. Site and survey locational information is confidential and available only to qualified professionals or the landowners of record. A current referral list of qualified professionals who meet the Secretary of the Interior Standards in their profession and conduct work in this area is enclosed.

If you have any questions or comments, please don't hesitate to contact me at (805) 664-2289.

By

Adele Baldwin
Assistant Coordinator

Date: May 29, 1998

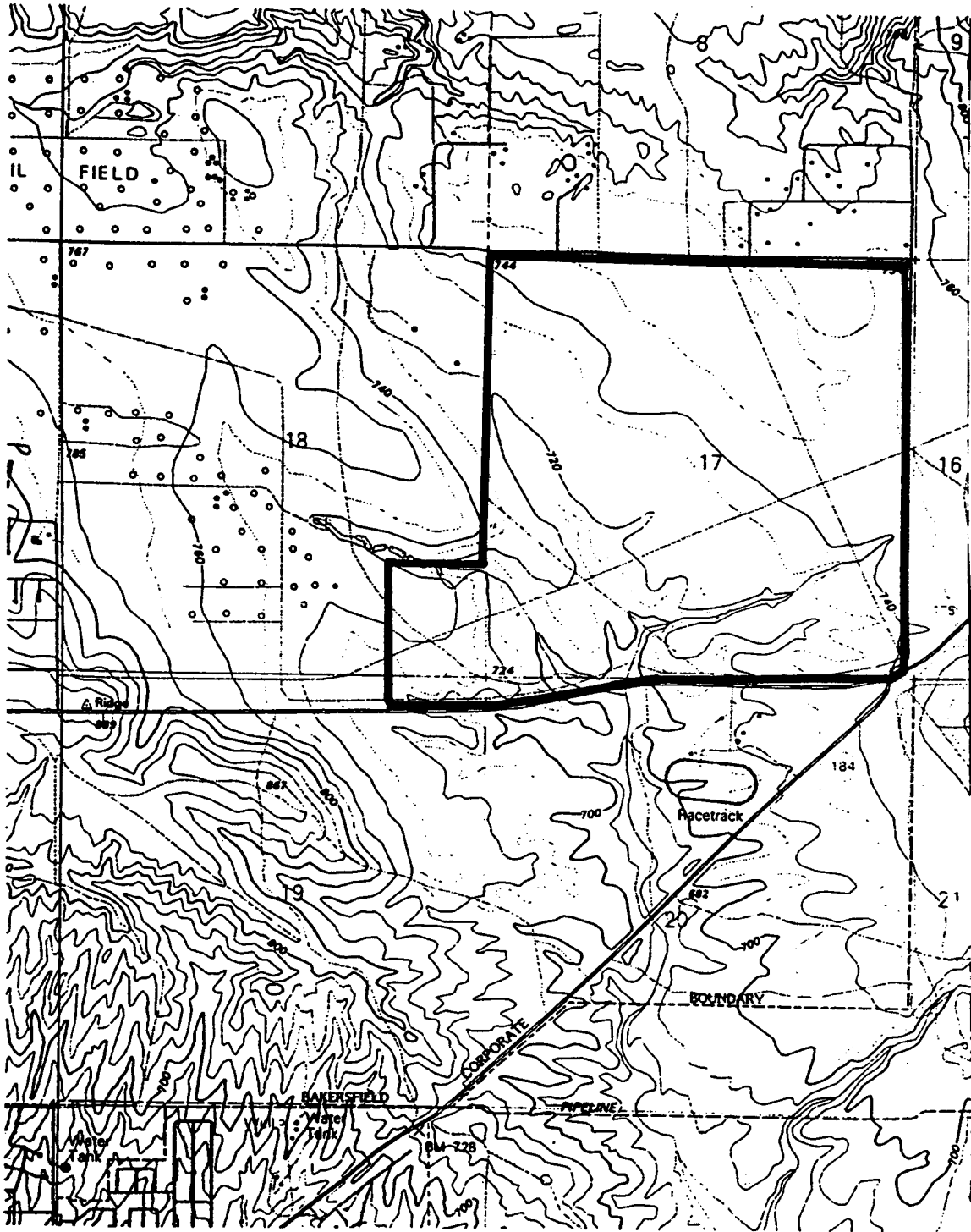
Fee: \$135.00/hr. (Priority)

Invoice # 8035

PRIORITY

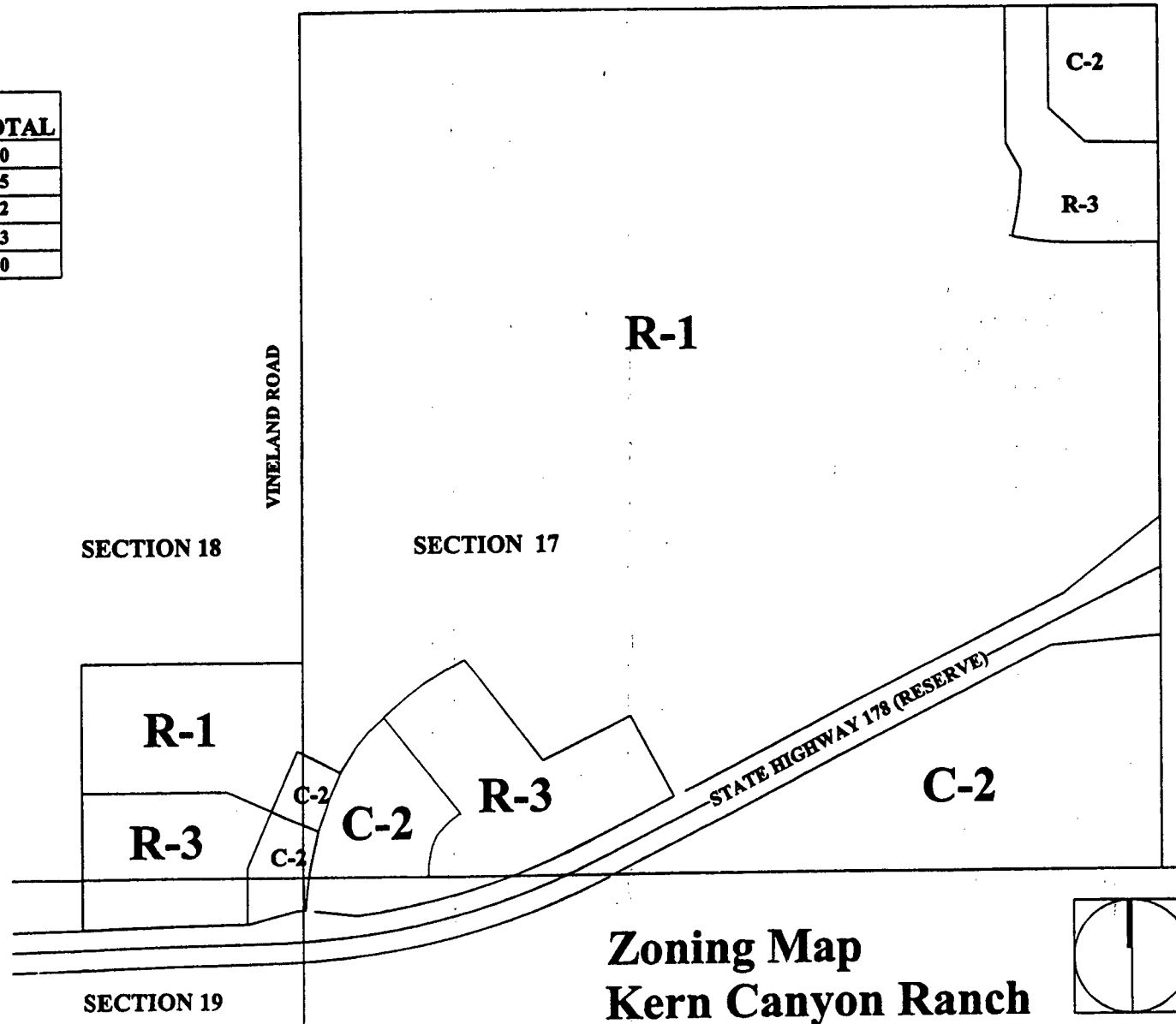
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PROJECT LOCATION MAP
Oil Center 7.5' U.S.G.S. Topographic Quadrangle



KERN CANYON RANCH

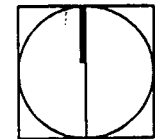
ZONE	SECTION			SUBTOTAL
	17	18	19	
R-1	481.0	24.0	—	505.0
R-3	44.0	13.2	7.3	64.5
C-2	87.8	2.8	1.6	92.2
FREEWAY	27.3	—	—	27.3
TOTAL	640.1	40.0	8.9	689.0



Zoning Map Kern Canyon Ranch

Section 17
Mountain View Bravo. LLC

8-12-99
Scale: 1"=1000'



NORTH

EDAW