

April 1, 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.

On March 23, 2022, DUKE CRM submitted a record search request to the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) to ascertain the presence of known sacred sites, Native American cultural resources, and/or human remains within the boundaries of the proposed Project. As of March 28, 2022, the results are pending.

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.

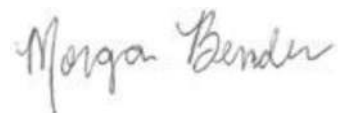
If previously unidentified archaeological materials are unearthed during construction, work shall be halted in that area until a qualified archaeologist can assess the significance of the find. If human remains are encountered, State Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 states that no further disturbance 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 centered on the page.

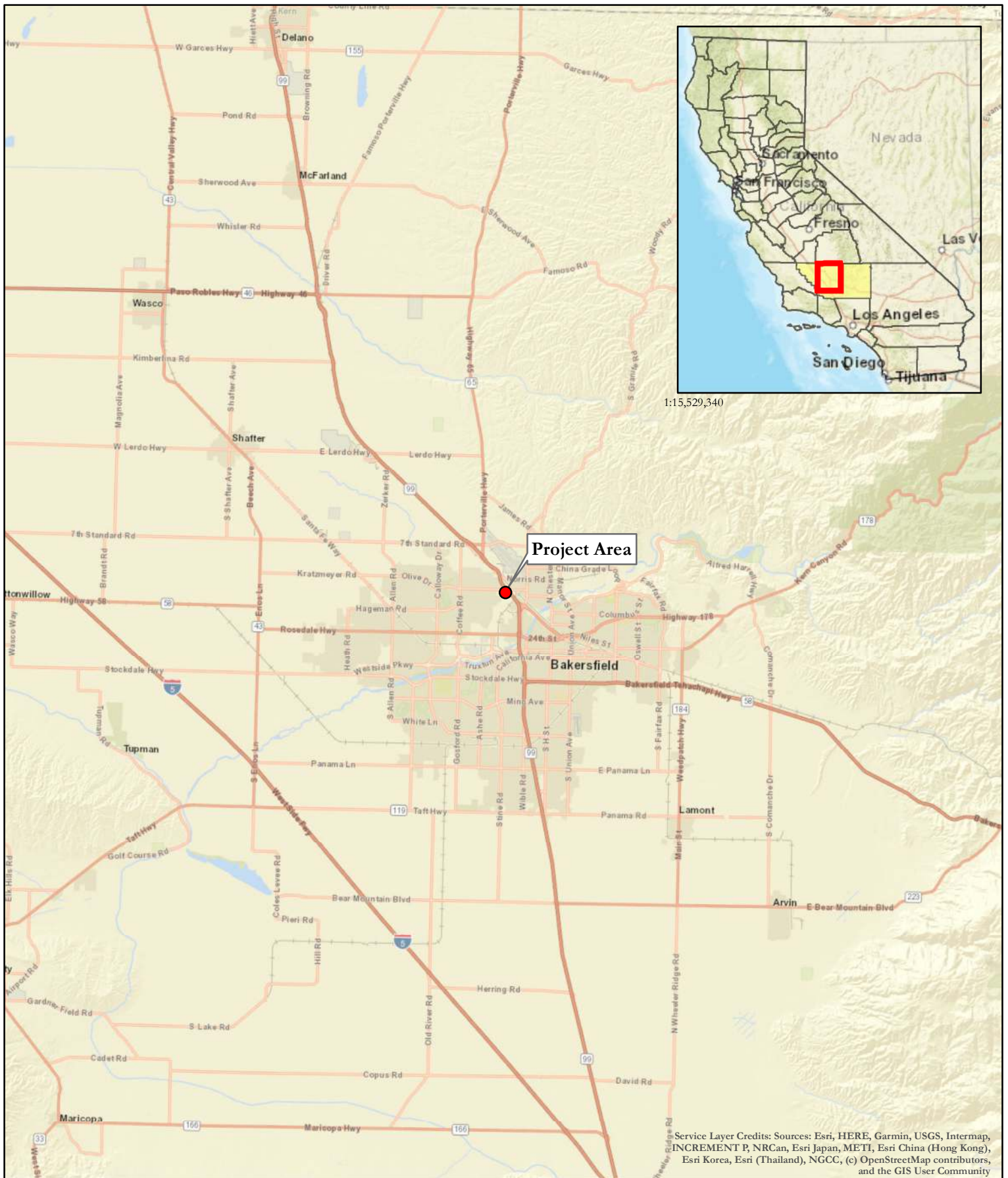
Morgan Bender, M.A., RPA
Archaeologist

Attachments

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

ATTACHMENT 1

PROJECT MAPS

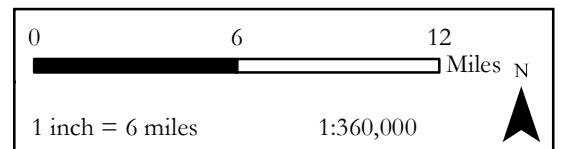


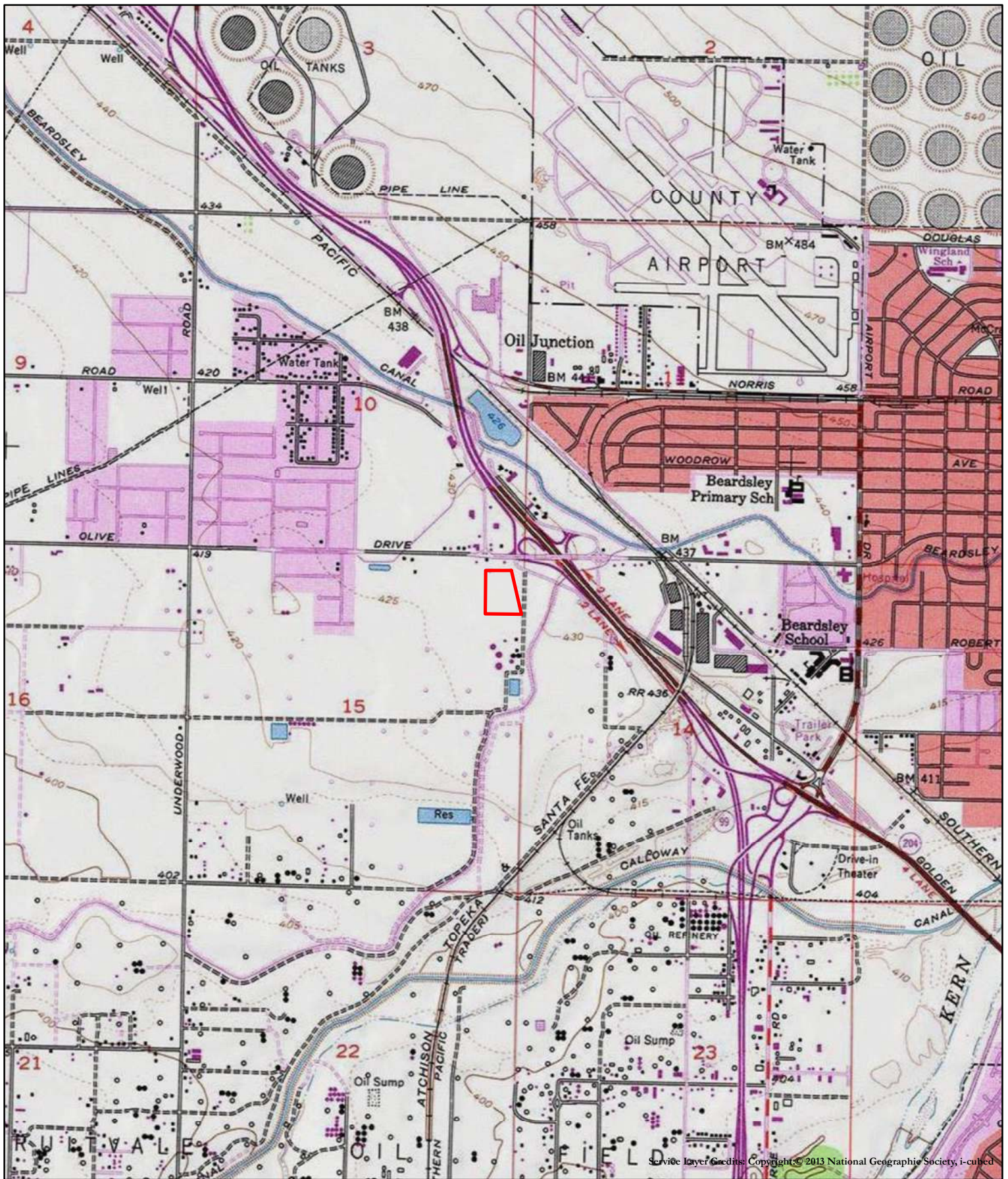
Map 1 - Project Vicinity

VA Bakersfield, C-0401



● Project Area



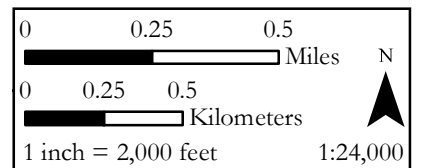


Map 2 - Project Location
 VA Bakersfield, C-0401



Oildale, Calif USGS 7.5-minute quadrangle
 T29S, R27E, Section 15
 Date of Map: 1954 / Photorevised: 1968

 Project Area

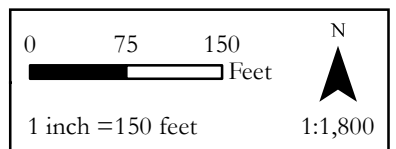




Map 3 - Project Aerial Photo
VA Bakersfield, C-0401

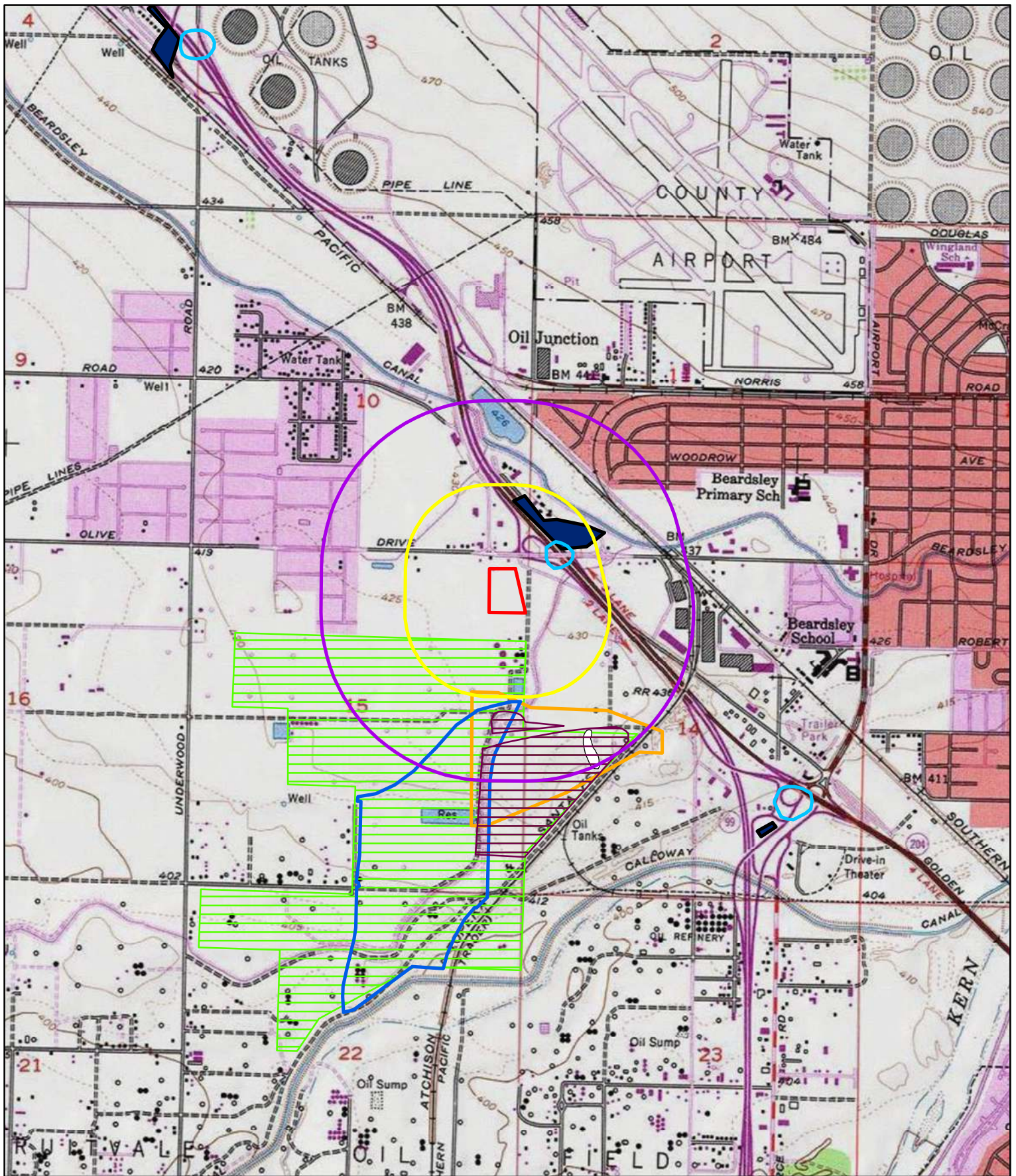


 Project Area



ATTACHMENT 2

SSJVIC RECORD SEARCH MAPS

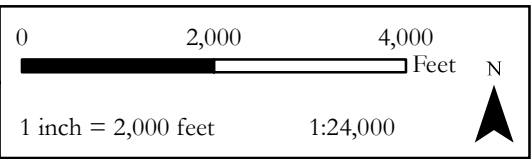


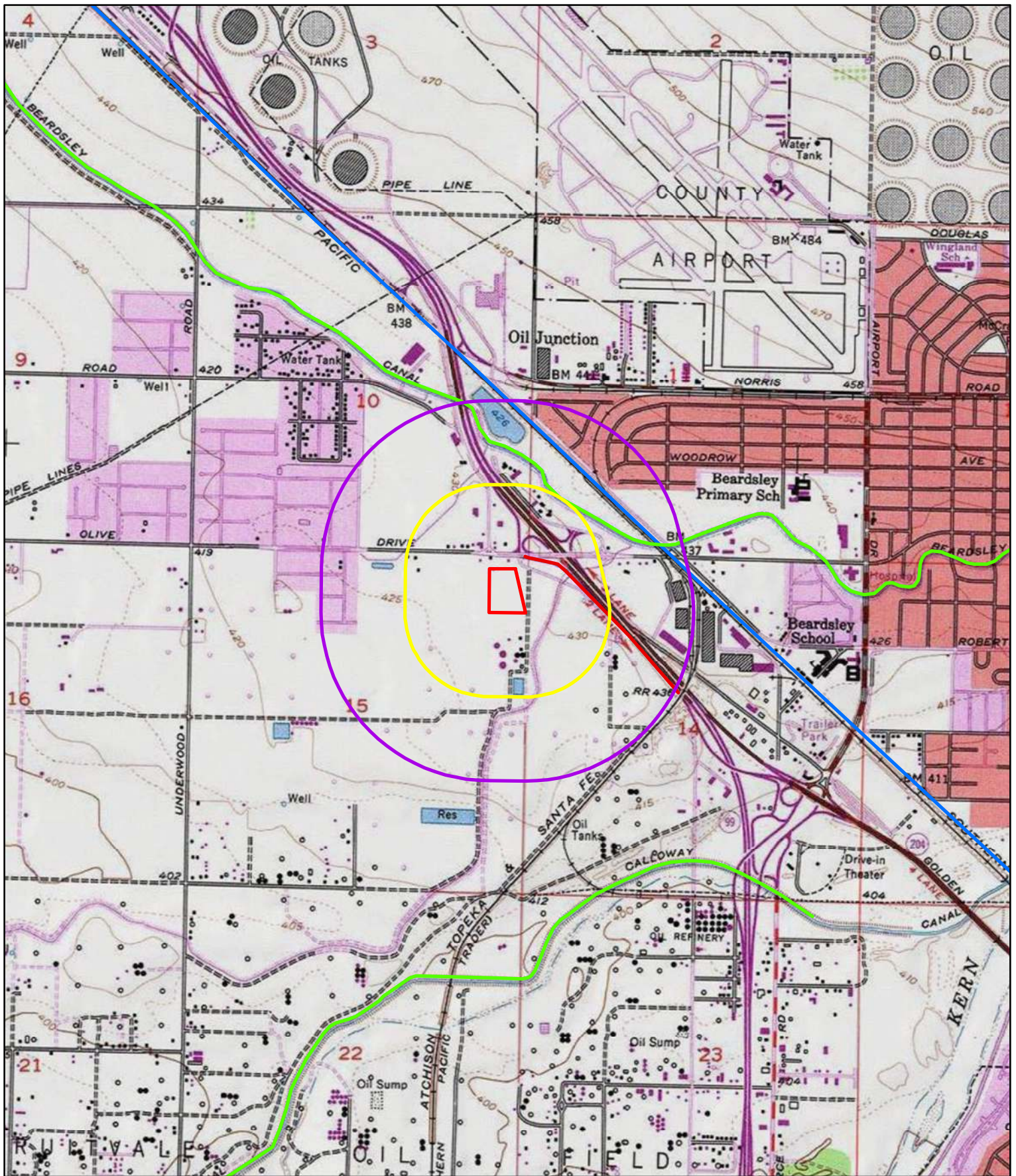
VA Bakersfield, C-0401

Kern County

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

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



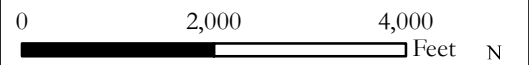


VA Bakersfield, C-0401

Kern County

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

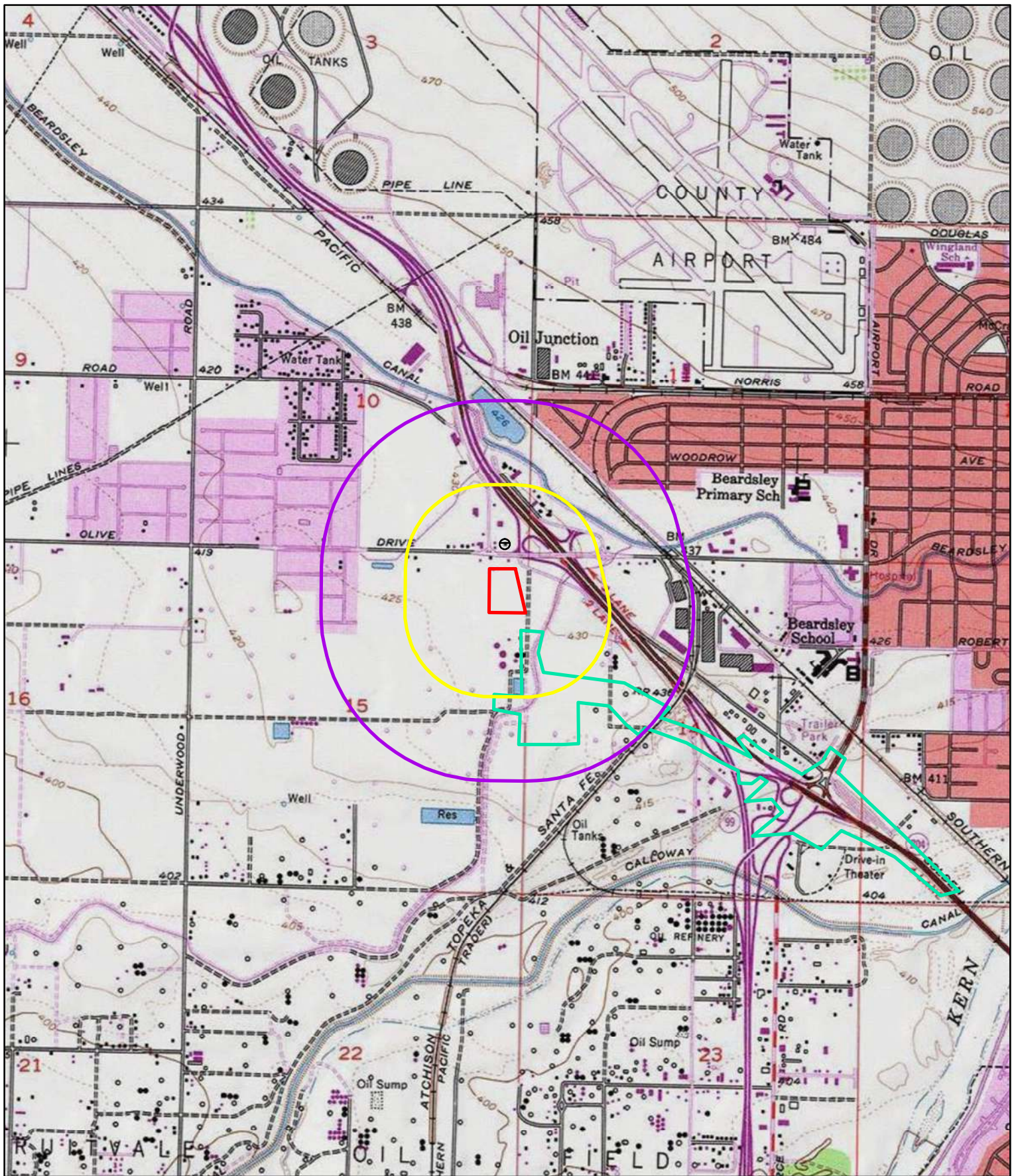
- ▭ Project Area
- 1/4 Mile Radius
- 1/2 Mile Radius
- KE-02807
- KE-03528
- KE-04011



1 inch = 2,000 feet

1:24,000



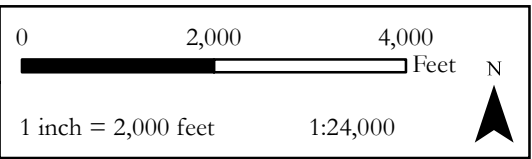


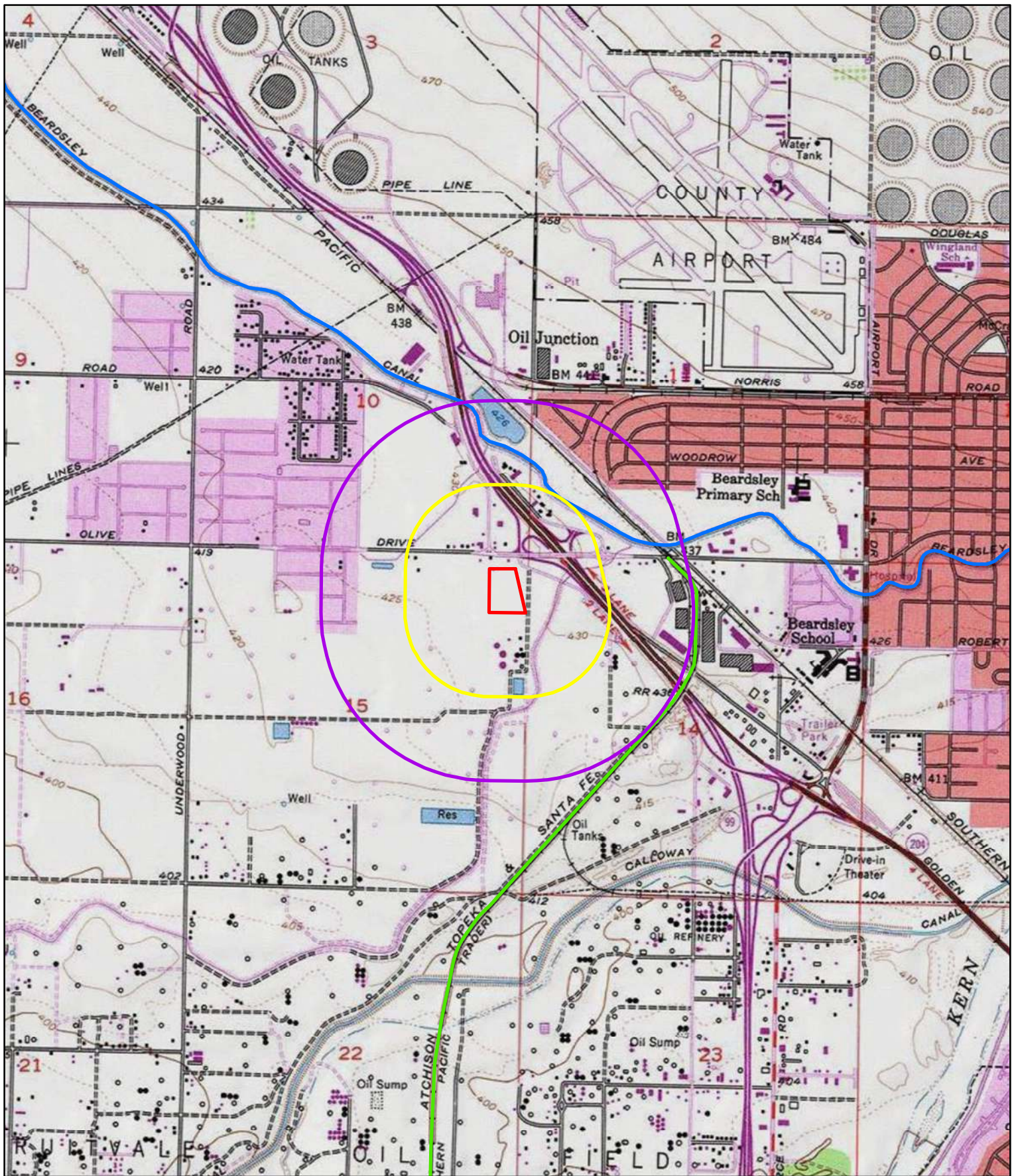
VA Bakersfield, C-0401

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



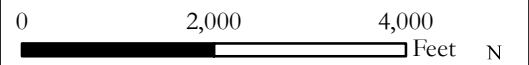


VA Bakersfield, C-0401

Kern County

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

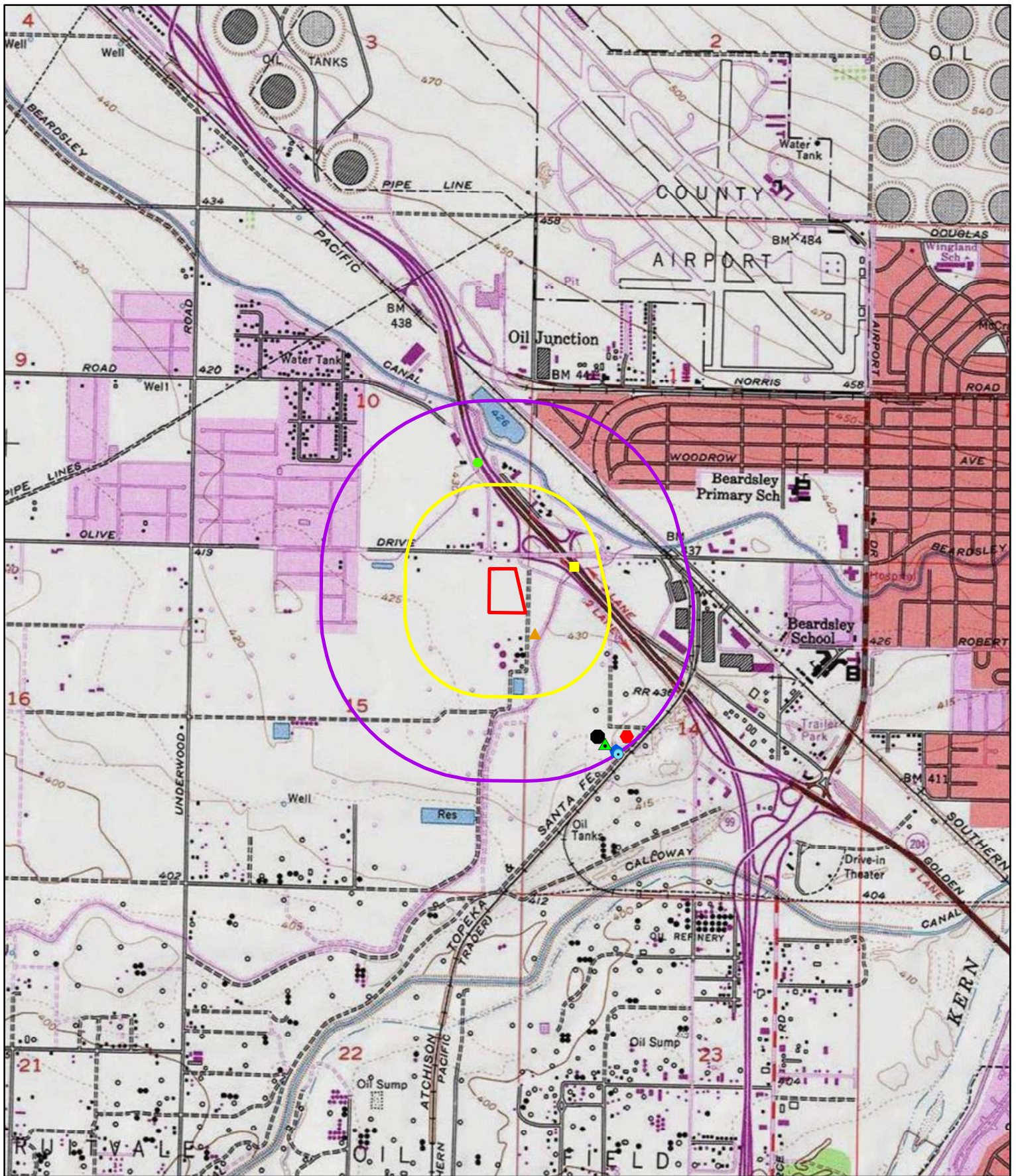
- ▭ Project Area
- 1/4 Mile Radius
- 1/2 Mile Radius
- P-15-000560
- P-15-004734



1 inch = 2,000 feet

1:24,000





VA Bakersfield, C-0401

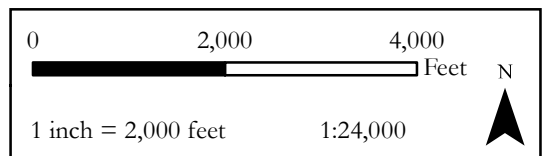
Kern County

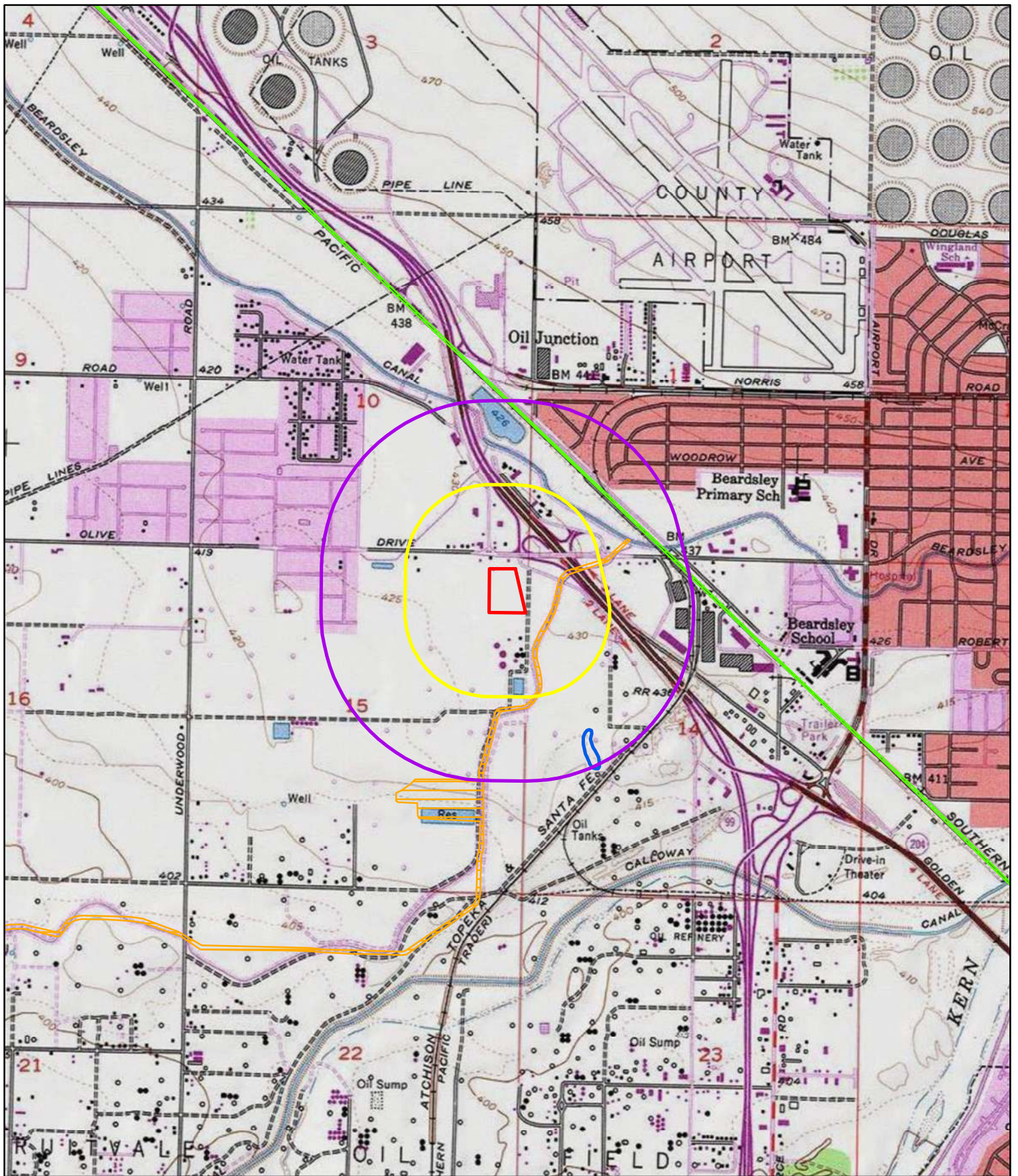
Oildale, Calif. USGS 7.5-Minute Quadrangle

T29S, R27E, Section 15



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



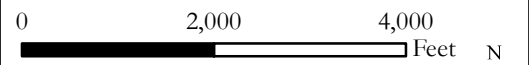


VA Bakersfield, C-0401

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



1 inch = 2,000 feet

1:24,000



ATTACHMENT 3

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION LETTER (PENDING)

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.