



# PUBLIC NOTICE

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
LOS ANGELES DISTRICT

BUILDING STRONG®

## APPLICATION FOR PERMIT SANTA MARIA INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT FACILITY

**Public Notice/Application No.:** SPL-2013-00118-CLH

**Project:** Santa Maria Integrated Waste Management Facility, Las Flores Ranch

**Comment Period:** August 6, 2014 through September 6, 2014

**Project Manager:** Crystal L.M. Huerta (805) 585-2143 [crystal.huerta@usace.army.mil](mailto:crystal.huerta@usace.army.mil)

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### Applicant

Steven Kahn  
City of Santa Maria  
2065 East Main Street  
Santa Maria, California 93454

### Contact

Colby Boggs  
Rincon Consultants  
1530 Monterey Street, Suite D  
San Luis Obispo, California 93401

### Location

The proposed project is located in the Solomon Hills in an unincorporated area of northern Santa Barbara County, California. The 1,774-acre site is approximately eight miles southeast of the city of Santa Maria, northeast of Highway 101 (Lat: 34.828146N, Long:-120.347859W).

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**Activity:** The proposed project is the grading of approximately 600 acres for the construction and operation of a modern Class III lined landfill with approximately 90 years of capacity. The proposed project would have a 286-acre refuse footprint spanning two adjacent canyons. The total project area, including the perimeter of disturbance associated with the landfill, soil stockpile areas, and associated infrastructure, is approximately 617 acres. The landfill would be a canyon fill developed in consecutive phases over the facility's life to enable the City to phase out the use of and close the existing Santa Maria Regional Landfill adjacent to the Santa Maria River in the next few years. The project includes construction of support facilities, such as a scale house and scales, equipment shop, landfill offices, access roads, and environmental controls. The landfill's containment system designed and constructed to prevent the potential for migration of leachate or landfill gas from the disposal unit, would be placed over the entire excavated subgrade and side slopes in accordance with all State and Federal regulations. A Leachate Collection and Removal System (LCRS) and protective soil cover would also be installed. For more information see page 3 of this notice.

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Interested parties are hereby notified that the Los Angeles District is proposing to issue a Department of the Army permit for the activity described herein. Interested parties are invited to provide their

views on the proposed work, which will become a part of the record and will be considered in the decision. This permit will be issued or denied under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 403) and Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 U.S.C.). Comments should be mailed to:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Los Angeles District  
Regulatory Division-Ventura Field Office  
ATTN: CESPL-RG-2013-00118-BAH  
2151 Alessandro Drive, Suite 110  
Ventura, California 93001

Alternatively, comments can be sent electronically to: [crystal.huerta@usace.army.mil](mailto:crystal.huerta@usace.army.mil).

The mission of the Corps' Regulatory Program is to protect the Nation's aquatic resources, while allowing reasonable development through fair, flexible and balanced permit decisions. The Corps Regulatory Division evaluates permit applications for essentially all construction activities that occur in the Nation's waters, including wetlands. The Regulatory Program in the Los Angeles District is executed to protect aquatic resources by developing and implementing short- and long-term initiatives to improve regulatory products, processes, program transparency, and customer feedback considering current staffing levels and historical funding trends.

Corps permits are necessary for any work, including construction and dredging, in the Nation's navigable water and their tributary waters. The Corps balances the reasonably foreseeable benefits and detriments of proposed projects, and makes permit decisions that recognize the essential values of the Nation's aquatic ecosystems to the general public, as well as the property rights of private citizens who want to use their land. The Corps strives to make its permit decisions in a timely manner that minimizes impacts to the regulated public.

During the permit process, the Corps considers the views of other Federal, state and local agencies, interest groups, and the general public. The results of this careful public interest review are fair and equitable decisions that allow reasonable use of private property, infrastructure development, and growth of the economy, while offsetting the authorized impacts to the waters of the United States. The permit review process serves to first avoid and then minimize adverse effects of projects on aquatic resources to the maximum practicable extent. Any remaining unavoidable adverse impacts to the aquatic environment are offset by compensatory mitigation requirements, which may include restoration, enhancement, establishment, and/or preservation of aquatic ecosystem system functions and services.

### **Evaluation Factors**

The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact including cumulative impacts of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit, which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered including the cumulative effects thereof. Factors that will be considered include conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, cultural values, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, flood plain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food production and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people. In addition, if the proposal would discharge dredged or fill material,

the evaluation of the activity will include application of the EPA Guidelines (40 CFR Part 230) as required by Section 404 (b)(1) of the Clean Water Act.

The Corps is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, state, and local agencies and officials; Indian tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps of Engineers to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

### **Preliminary Review of Selected Factors**

**EIS Determination** - A preliminary determination has been made that an environmental impact statement is not required for the proposed issuance of this permit.

**Water Quality** - The applicant is required to obtain water quality certification, under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act, from the California Regional Water Quality Control Board. Section 401 requires that any applicant for an individual Section 404 permit provide proof of water quality certification to the Corps of Engineers prior to permit issuance. The applicant has applied for a 401 Certification from the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board.

**Coastal Zone Management** - This project is located outside the coastal zone and preliminary review indicates that it would not affect coastal zone resources. After a review of the comments received on this public notice and in consultation with the California Coastal Commission, the Corps will make a final determination whether this project affects coastal zone resources.

**Essential Fish Habitat** - Essential Fish Habitat (EFH), as defined by the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, does not occur within the project area.

**Cultural Resources** - The proposed project would impact known prehistoric and historic archaeological sites. The Corps will initiate consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) as appropriate.

**Endangered Species** - California tiger salamander (*Ambystoma californiense*), listed as endangered under the federal Endangered Species Act, have occurred within two miles of the southern portion of the property as well as other occurrences to the north and south of the property. Due to absence of findings in surveys and the low potential for the salamander to use the southern and eastern portions of the site as upland refuge as well as dispersal, and that the property does not fall within 2,034 feet of any breeding ponds, preliminary determinations indicate the proposed activity may affect, but not adversely affect the species. Therefore, consultation under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act does appear to be required at this time.

**Public Hearing** - Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this proposal. Requests for public hearings shall state with particularity the reasons for holding a public hearing.

**Proposed Activity for Which a Permit is Required** - The City of Santa Maria proposes to construct and operate a modern Class III lined landfill with approximately 90 years of capacity, as well as expand the trail network and facilities to support continued passive recreational land uses within the property. The proposed project would have a 286-acre refuse footprint, and would span two adjacent canyons. The project would impact 2.99 acres of waters of the U.S., including 2.05 acres of wetlands. The proposed landfill would be a canyon fill developed in consecutive phases over the facility's life. The landfill's containment system, designed and constructed to prevent the potential for migration of lechate or landfill gas from the disposal unit, would be placed over the entire excavated sub grade and side slopes. A Lechate Collection and Removal System and soil cover would be installed. Construction of this liner would be monitored under State Construction Quality Assurance Guidelines.

**Basic Project Purpose** - The basic project purpose comprises the fundamental, essential, or irreducible purpose of the proposed project, and is used by the Corps to determine whether the applicant's project is water dependent (i.e., requires access or proximity to or siting within the special aquatic site to fulfill its basic purpose). Establishment of the basic project purpose is necessary only when the proposed activity would discharge dredged or fill material into a special aquatic site (e.g., wetlands, pool and riffle complex, mudflats, coral reefs). The basic project purpose for the proposed project is landfill creation and maintenance. The project **is not** water dependent.

**Overall Project Purpose** - The overall project purpose serves as the basis for the Corps' 404(b)(1) alternatives analysis and is determined by further defining the basic project purpose in a manner that more specifically describes the applicant's goals for the project, and which allows a reasonable range of alternatives to be analyzed. The overall project purpose for the proposed project is to construct and operate a modern Class III lined landfill with approximately 90 years of capacity, as well as expansion of trails and facilities to support continued passive recreation land uses within the property.

**Proposed Mitigation:** The applicant proposes to provide 4.32 acres of wetland mitigation and creation of 1.88 acres of non-wetland riparian to compensate for unavoidable impacts to jurisdictional waters of the U.S.

### **Proposed Special Conditions**

Special Conditions have not yet been proposed for the project.

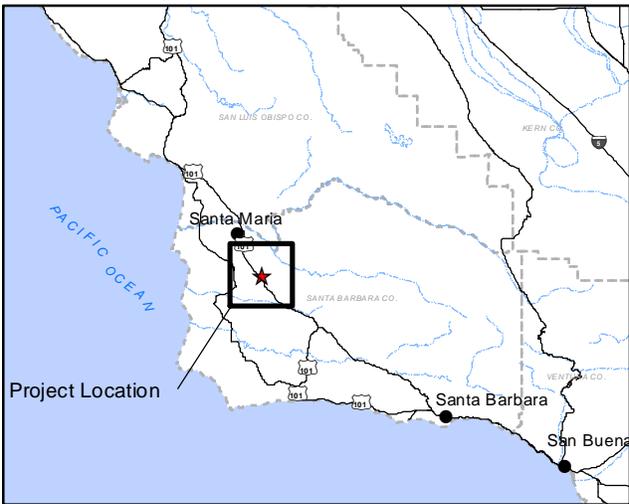
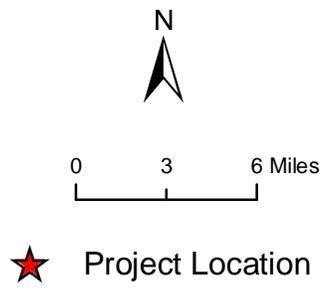
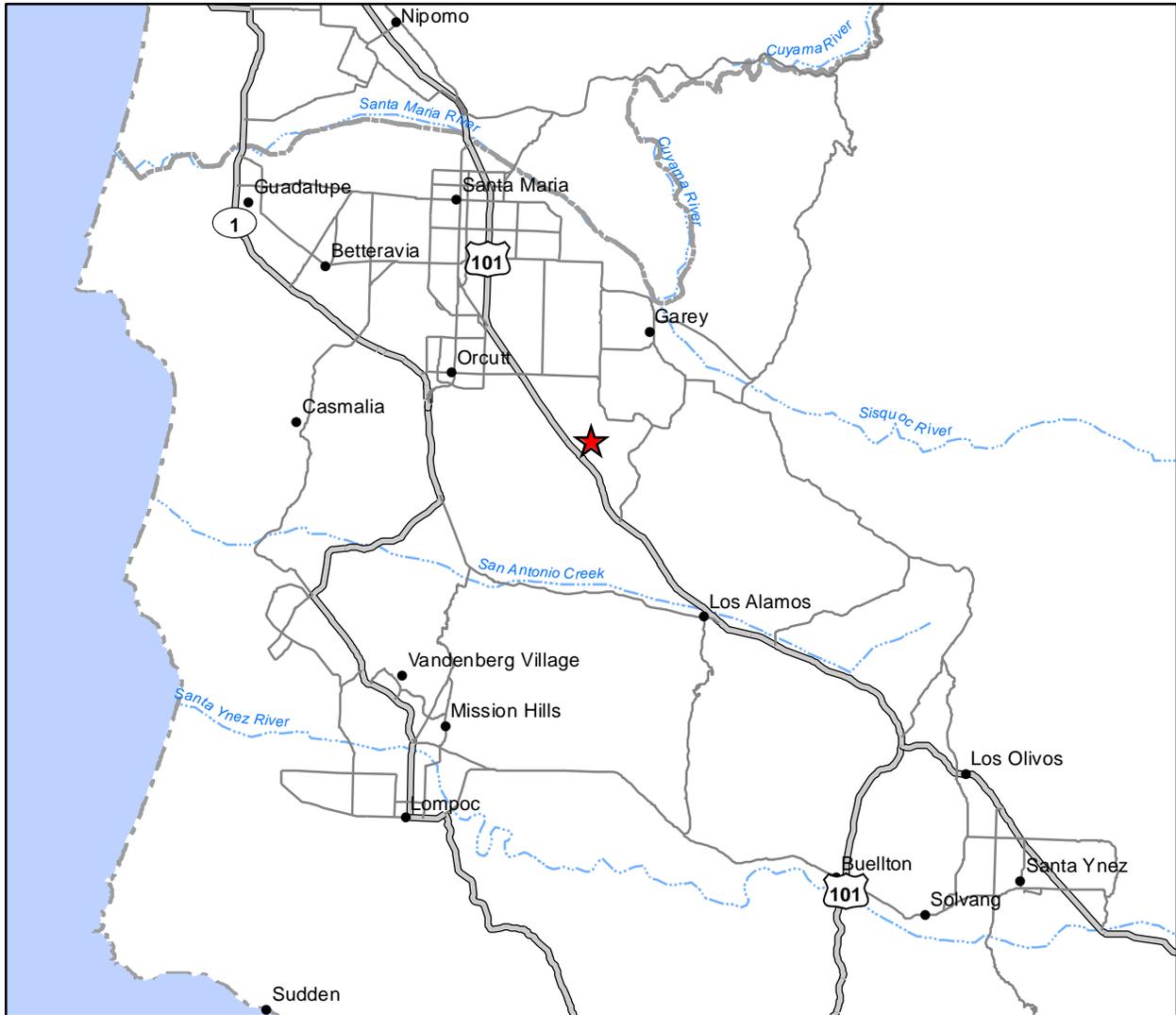
For additional information, please call Crystal L. M. Huerta of my staff at 805-585-2143 or via e-mail at [crystal.huerta@usace.army.mil](mailto:crystal.huerta@usace.army.mil). This public notice is issued by the Chief, Regulatory Division.



#### *Regulatory Program Goals:*

- To provide strong protection of the nation's aquatic environment, including wetlands.
- To ensure the Corps provides the regulated public with fair and reasonable decisions.
- To enhance the efficiency of the Corps' administration of its regulatory program.

Santa Maria Los Flores Ranch Integrated Waste Management Facility  
Wetlands Mitigation and Monitoring Plan

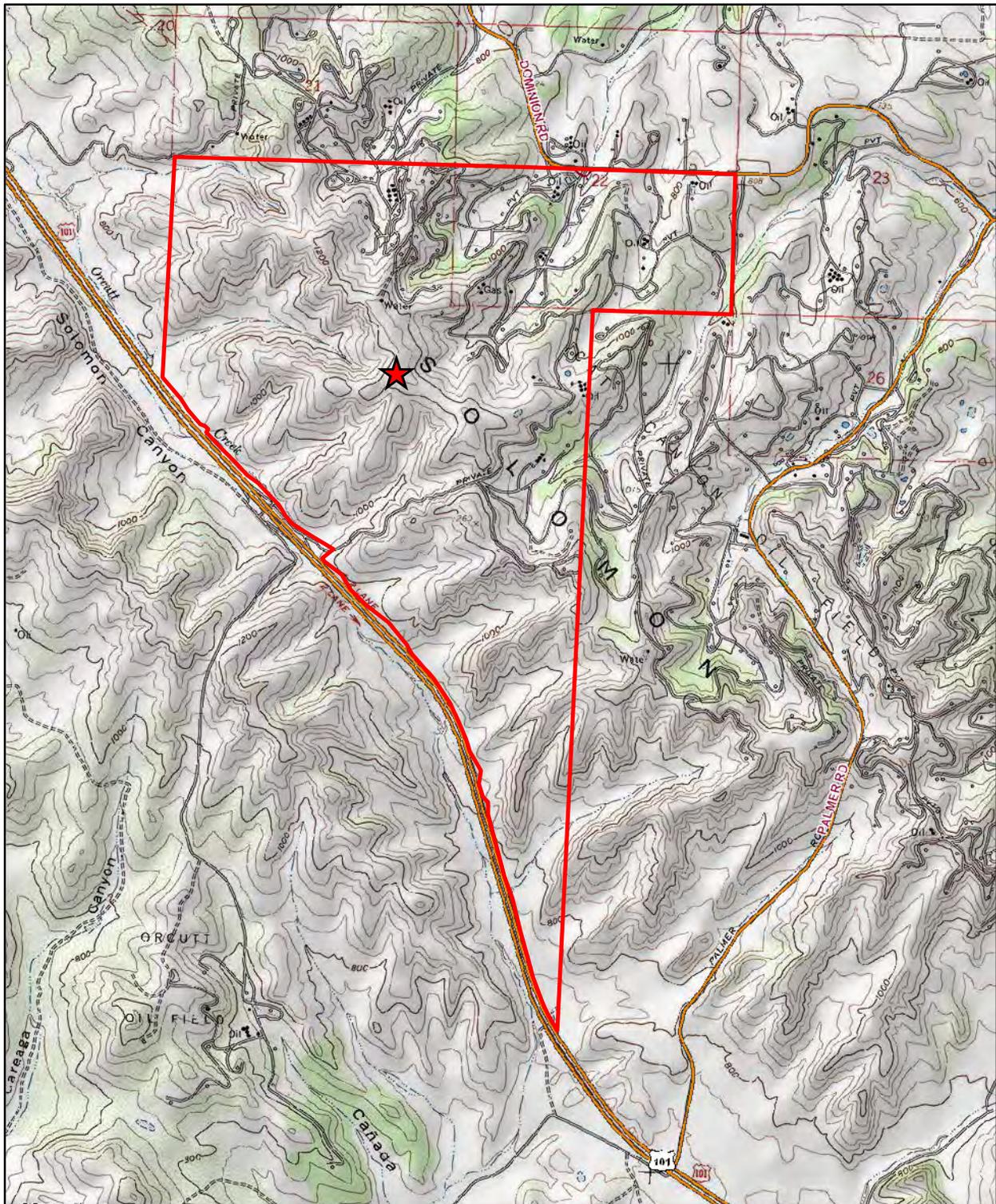


Base map source: U.S. Bureau of the Census Tiger 2000 data and ESRI, 2004.

Regional Location

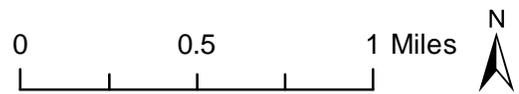
Figure 1

Santa Maria Los Flores Ranch Integrated Waste Management Facility  
Wetlands Mitigation and Monitoring Plan



Base map source: National Geographic TOPOI, 2004.

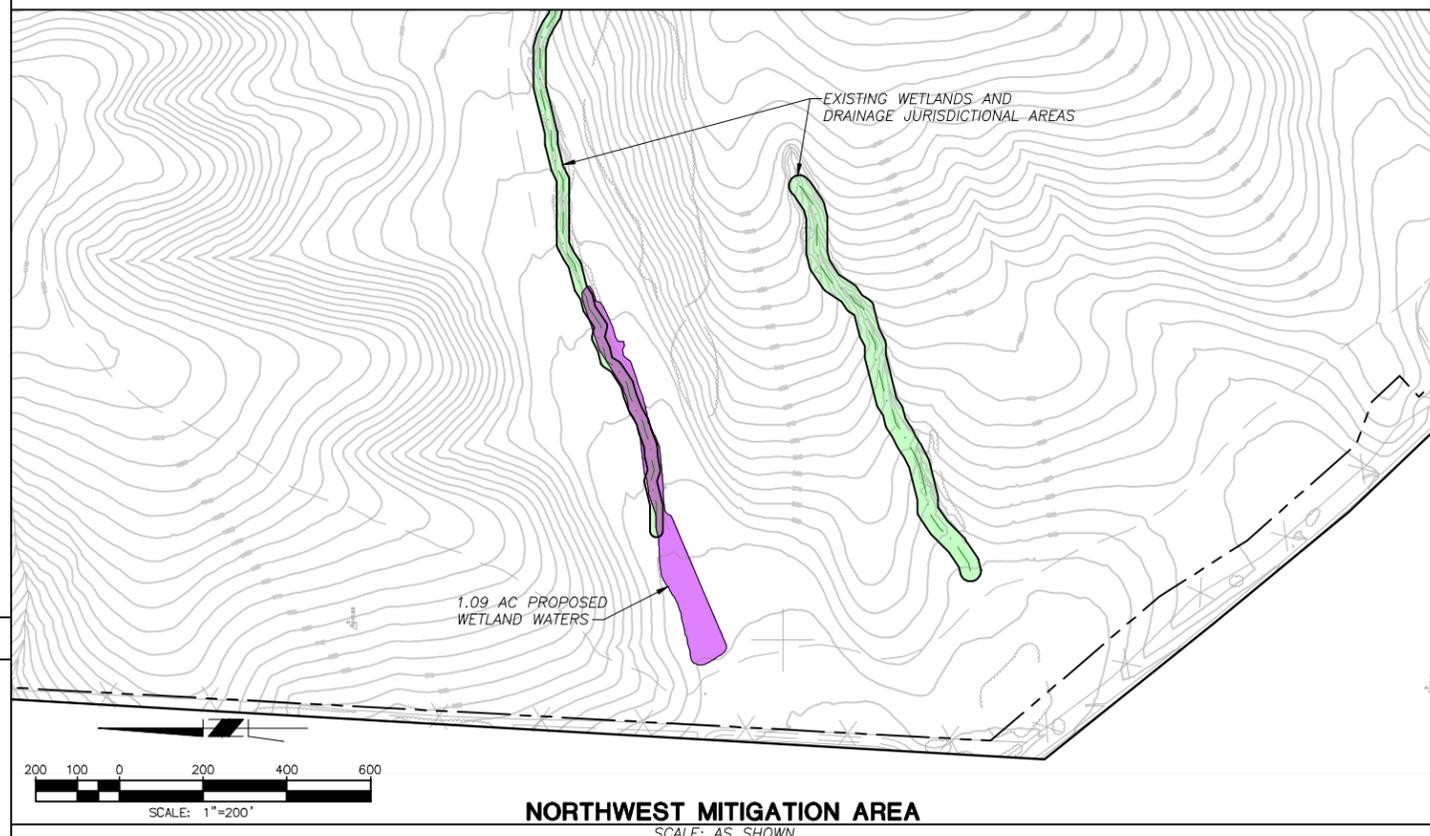
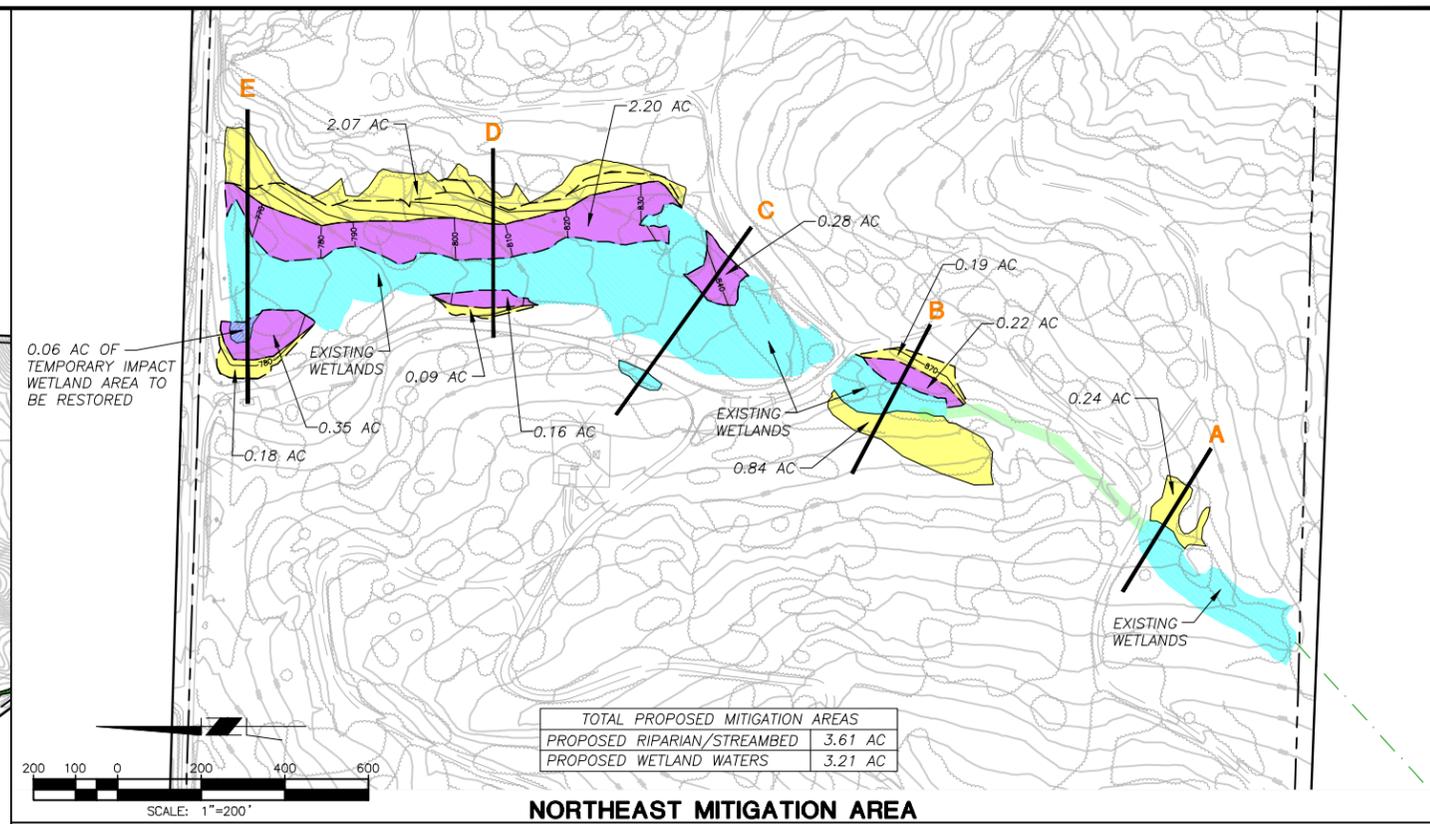
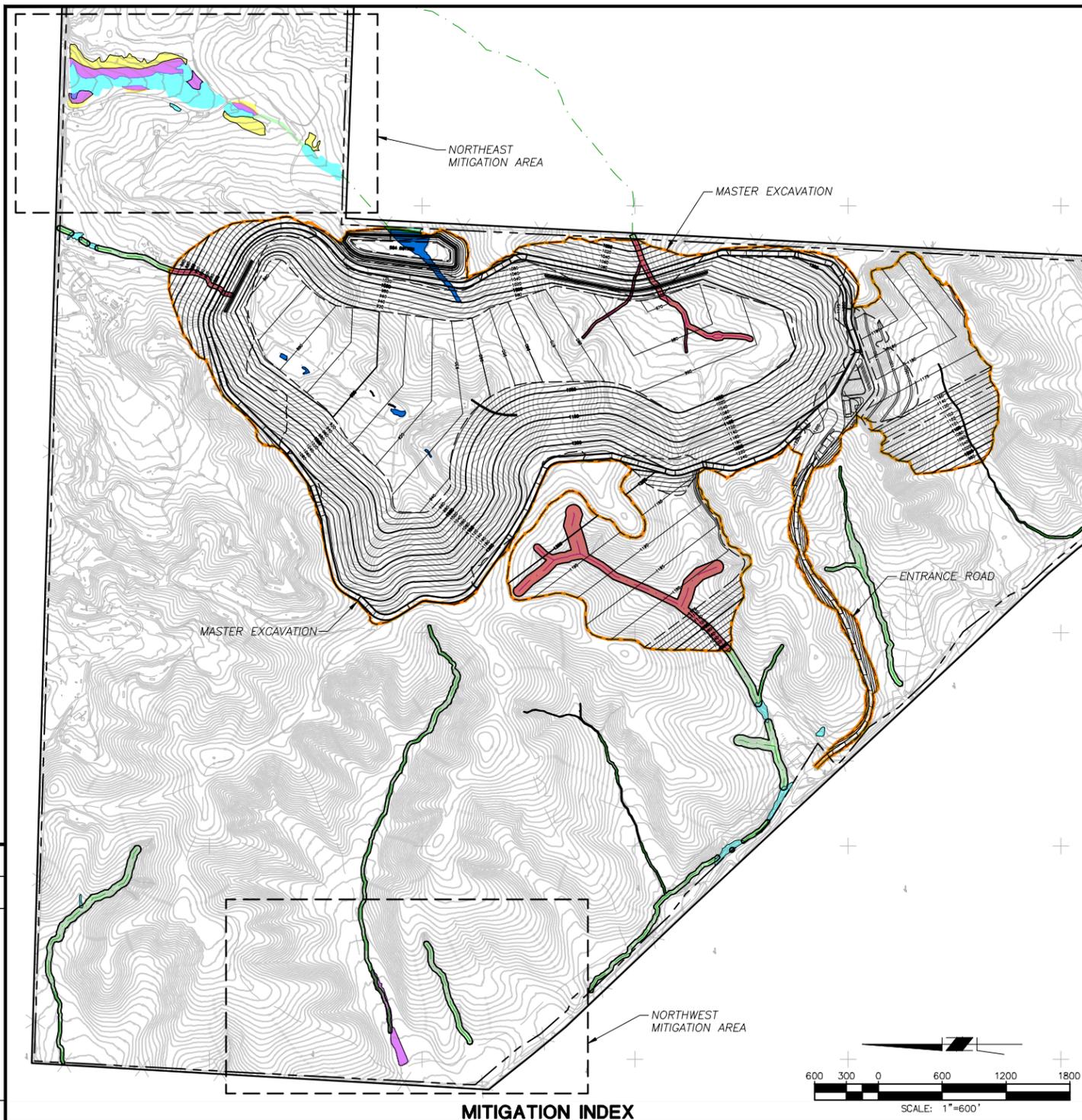
-  Project Boundary
-  Project Location



Project Location

Figure 2  
City of Santa Maria





APPR.	DATE
REVISIONS	
MARK	

APPR.	DATE
REVISIONS	
MARK	

**LEGEND**

	LIMITS OF DISTURBANCE		EXISTING USACE/RWQCB NON-WETLAND WATERS
	EXISTING CDFW RIPARIAN/STREAMBED AREAS TO REMAIN		USACE/RWQCB NON-WETLAND WATERS IMPACTED AREAS
	EXISTING USACE/RWQCB WETLAND WATERS AREAS TO REMAIN		PROPERTY BOUNDARY
	CDFW RIPARIAN/STREAMBED IMPACTED AREAS		EXISTING CONTOUR
	USACE/RWQCB WETLAND WATERS IMPACTED AREAS		PREVIOUS PHASE CONTOUR
	CDFW RIPARIAN/STREAMBED MITIGATION AREAS		PROPOSED CONTOUR
	USACE/RWQCB WETLAND WATERS MITIGATION AREAS		TOP OR TOE OF SLOPE
			PROFILE LINE (SEE SHEET 32)

MARK	CHANGES	RESIDENT ENGINEER	DATE
	NO CHANGES		
<b>FIELD CHANGES</b>			

PREPARED BY:  
**SWT Engineering** Civil & Environmental  
 800-C SOUTH ROCHESTER AVENUE  
 ONTARIO, CALIFORNIA 91761

PREPARED UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF



CITY OF SANTA MARIA  
**INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT**

DRAWN BY JS	DESIGNED BY JAB	PROJ. ENGR.	RECOMMENDED / APPROVED BY
SUBMITTED BY		CHIEF ENGINEER	DATE
PROJECT MANAGER	DATE	DIVISION MANAGER	DATE

SANTA MARIA INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT FACILITY  
 LOS FLORES LANDFILL  
 AFFECTED WETLANDS AND DRAINAGE AREA PLAN

DATE	DWG. NO.	SCALE	SHT. NO.	TOT. SH'T'S.
9-13		AS SHOWN	31	32

SOURCE: TETRA TECH/BAS CONCEPTUAL MASTER PLANS 2008

