



# PUBLIC NOTICE

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
LOS ANGELES DISTRICT

BUILDING STRONG®

**APPLICATION FOR PERMIT**  
Simi Valley Landfill Expansion Project

**Public Notice/Application No.:** SPL-2014-00034-AJS

**Project:** Simi Valley Landfill Expansion

**Comment Period:** September 17, 2014 through October 16, 2014

**Project Manager:** Antal Szijj; ph: 805-585-2147; email: [Antal.J.Szijj@usace.army.mil](mailto:Antal.J.Szijj@usace.army.mil)

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**Applicant**

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**Contact**

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**Location**

Within three unnamed ephemeral tributaries to Alamos Canyon and Arroyo Simi, in the city of Simi Valley, Ventura County, California (at lat: 34.3002N; long -118.7972W). See attached map (Figure 1, *Vicinity Map*).

**Activity**

Discharge of fill material into approximately 1.4 acres of non-wetland waters of the U.S. to accommodate 186 acres of additional waste disposal area in association with Simi Valley Landfill and Recycling Center Expansion Project (see attached drawings). For more information see page 3 of this notice.

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Interested parties are hereby notified that an application has been received for a Department of the Army permit for the activity described herein and shown on the attached drawing(s). We invite you to review today's public notice and provide views on the proposed work. By providing substantive, site-specific comments to the Corps Regulatory Division, you provide information that support the Corps' decision-making process. All comments received during the comment period become part of the record and will be considered in the decision. This permit will be issued, issued with special conditions, or denied under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. Comments should be mailed to:

LOS ANGELES DISTRICT, U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
REGULATORY DIVISION  
ATTN: Antal Szijj  
Ventura Field Office  
2151 Alessandro Drive, Suite 110  
Ventura, CA 93001

Alternatively, comments can be sent electronically to: [Antal.J.Szijj@usace.army.mil](mailto:Antal.J.Szijj@usace.army.mil)

The mission of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Regulatory Program is to protect the Nation's aquatic resources, while allowing reasonable development through fair, flexible and balanced permit decisions. The Corps 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 waters 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 of Engineers 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 work.

**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.

**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 of whether this project affects coastal zone resources after review of the comments received on this Public Notice.

**Essential Fish Habitat-** No Essential Fish Habitat (EFH), as defined by the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, occurs within the project area and no EFH would be affected by the proposed project.

**Cultural Resources-** A Cultural Resources Technical Report dated 2008 was prepared in support of the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Project that was certified on July 19, 2011 (State Clearing House Number 2007121148). The Cultural Resources Survey conducted in support of the EIR identifies four archaeological sites, one historic/archaeological site, two isolated occurrences of artifacts, and two unrecorded Areas of Interest that may be impacted during ground disturbing activities. Subsequent research on the sites and areas indicates that the four archaeological sites, the isolates, and the Areas of Interest appear ineligible for inclusion on the California Register of Historic Resources (CRHR). The remaining archaeological/historical site, the Wharton Ranch, was recommended for Phase II Testing if avoidance is not an option. Implementation of the expansion project would not affect the Wharton Ranch site.

Additionally, an updated records search through the South Central Coastal Information Center (SCCIC) was conducted in support of Section 404 permit application to determine if any cultural resources investigations have been conducted on or within a one-mile radius of the SVLRC property boundary project site, and if any recorded historic or archaeological sites have been recorded on or within a one-mile radius of the subject boundary and in particular within the approved expansion area of the SVLRC property. The records reviewed consisted of the following:

- USGS 7.5 Minute Simi Valley West Quadrangle;
- The Historic Property Data File for Ventura County
- Directory of California Historic Landmarks
- The National Register of Historic Properties
- Archived Cultural Resources Reports

In summary, the SCCIC records search and literature review shows that the approved expansion area subject property has been surveyed in its entirety once, and had portions of its southernmost boundary surveyed on two other occasions. None of these surveys resulted in the recordation of any cultural resources within the expansion area.

**Endangered Species-** A biological resources literature review and field surveys were conducted in 2004/2005 in support of the EIR. As a result of literature review and agency consultation, nine plant

species and 12 wildlife species listed as endangered or threatened pursuant to the federal or state Endangered Species Acts were identified as having the potential to occur within the vicinity of the proposed projects' sites. However, limited potentially suitable habitat was determined to be present on the project site for three federally listed plant species including: Braunton's milk vetch (*Astragalus brauntonii*), San Fernando Valley spineflower (*Chorizanthe parryi* var. *fernandina*), and Lyon's pentachaeta (*Pentachaeta lyoni*). In addition, the federally endangered coastal California gnatcatcher (*Polioptila californica californica*) was determined to have the potential to occur on the project site. Field surveys conducted in support of the EIR for the target listed species identified above, did not identify the presence of any listed plant or wildlife species.

Updated surveys for listed plant and wildlife species were also conducted in 2014 addressing the area for the next phase of expansion (Cell 2-1). As a result of 2014 floristic surveys and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) protocol-level surveys, no federally listed plant or wildlife species were identified to be present within this area. The project site is within designated critical habitat (Unit 13) for the California gnatcatcher and contains the primary constituent elements for this critical habitat. Therefore the Corps will be consulting with the USFWS pursuant to section 7 of the Endangered Species Act to address the effects to gnatcatcher critical habitat that may result from our federal action (issuance of the proposed permit).

**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 application. Requests for public hearing shall state with particularity the reasons for holding a public hearing.

### **Proposed Activity for Which a Permit is Required**

**Basic Project Purpose-** Because no fills are proposed within special aquatic sites, identification of the basic project purpose is not necessary.

**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 expand the existing SVLRC to provide waste disposal capacity within Ventura County to meet the County's current and projected waste diversion and disposal needs.

### **Additional Project Information**

**Baseline information-** The Simi Valley Landfill and Recycling Center (SVLRC) is an existing, permitted Class III, non-hazardous Municipal Solid Waste landfill owned and operated by Waste Management of California, Inc. (WMC). The current boundary of the SVLRC encompasses 297 acres of which 185 acres are used for waste disposal and 112 acres are allocated for buffer area (Figure 2, *Existing and Proposed Boundaries*). SVLRC is currently permitted to accept a combined permitted limit of 9,250 tons per day (tpd) which includes a maximum of 3,000 tpd of disposal material and 6,250 tpd of recyclable material. Recycling operations include tipping areas for materials such as green waste, asphalt/concrete, white goods (e.g., refrigerators and stoves), tires, and scrap metal. The existing facilities at the site include an operation and maintenance facility with fuel stations; a scale house and scales; a landfill gas flare station; a landfill gas to energy facility; three portable office structures; and a condensate knockout and leachate treatment facility. The site generally operates 7 AM to 4 PM, 312 days per year, but is permitted to operate from 6 AM to 8 PM, 365 days per year. Under the terms of the current conditional use permit (CUP) issued by the County of Ventura (CUP-3142-7), the facility is authorized to operate to a fill elevation of 1,118 feet above mean sea level (msl)

and to continue to receive waste until the designated fill elevations have been reached or until June 2034, whichever comes first.

Runoff (rainwater from the landfill surface to surrounding areas) and run-on (rainwater flow to the landfill surface or toe from the surrounding areas) is controlled by various design features. Run-on from areas upgradient of landfilled waste is diverted from the landfill via a perimeter concrete-lined ditch. The perimeter collection system drains to collection points near the landfill toe. Surface runoff from completed landfill surfaces is captured on benches along the face of the landfill and diverted to various collection pipes located below the toe of the site. These collection points in turn discharge into the perimeter collection system on the southern perimeter of the landfill proper. From this collection system, surface water flows through a 78-inch corrugated metal pipe (CMP) under the access roadway. From there, the water is directed under SR-118 in an 84-inch CMP and into the Arroyo Simi.

Three other small flow discharge points are located in the northeast, southeast, and west portions of the landfill. Drainage to these discharge points accumulates within the CUP boundary, but outside the waste footprint. Permanent landfill drainage facilities are designed to carry 100-year storm runoff volumes.

A detention/sedimentation basin is located on the property north of SR-118 and south of the SVLRC entrance road. The detention/sedimentation basin was designed to accommodate surface water flows from the facility and allow sediments to settle out prior to off-site discharge. The detention/sedimentation basin is maintained for adequate desilting capacity. During landfill operations, temporary berms and V ditches are placed near active refuse fill areas to control surface water runoff. The temporary berms and V ditches direct surface water around exposed refuse and prevent it from ponding on the refuse fill. Surface water runoff is carried over temporary refuse fill slopes via oversized drains comprised of metal flumes, corrugated metal pipe, ABS plastic pipe, or plastic-lined trenches.

The proposed expansion area is a broad, flat valley adjacent to the existing landfill which supports a complex mosaic of different vegetation associations with variable plant density. This complexity is most probably a reflection of fire history, grazing and dry-farming history, slope aspect, slope gradient, and soil type. The site also has a history of oil exploration as the expansion property was previously under the ownership of Unocal. Currently, ranching activities including horse and cattle grazing continue today under lease as a rotation between rangeland and pastures. All of the low grassland valleys, low foothills, and drainages are grazed heavily and some of the valleys are also mowed and plowed periodically. The plant communities found within the SVLRC expansion area include: Venturan coastal sage scrub, chamise chaparral, coast live oak woodland, riparian, non-native grassland, disturbed, and landscaped areas (Figure 3, *Plant Communities*). The expansion area is surrounded by coastal sage scrub, chaparral, and grassland. The area receives an average of approximately 20 inches of rainfall annually and is prone to wildfires, most recently in 2003.

The expansion area includes several unnamed ephemeral drainage channels (designated Drainages A, B and C) with a combined total of 1.44 acres along 8,555 linear feet (Figure 4, *Drainages and Delineation Points*). The drainages have been impacted by historic and ongoing farming and ranching activities. Drainages A and B are tributary to Arroyo Simi. Drainage C is tributary to Alamos Canyon Channel, which in turn drains to Arroyo Simi. The extent and condition of each drainage within the project boundary is summarized as follows:

- Drainage A is a sparsely vegetated ephemeral channel including a smaller ephemeral tributary with a total area of 0.22 acre over 2,402 linear feet; it contains approximately 356 feet of riparian vegetation consisting of mulefat within the drainage.

- Drainage B is comprised of two sparsely vegetated ephemeral tributaries to Drainage A with a combined area of 0.65 acre over 2,063 linear feet; it contains 1,538 feet of riparian vegetation consisting of mulefat within the drainage.
- Drainage C is a sparsely vegetated ephemeral channel that measures 0.57 acre along 4,091 linear feet; it does not contain any riparian vegetation.

Project description- The proposed project is an expansion of the existing SVLRC. The approved CUP boundary has expanded to encompass 887 acres, within which the existing 185-acre waste disposal area is proposed to expand north and west from its current location to encompass 186 acres of additional waste disposal area. The buffer area around the disposal footprint would expand from 112 acres to 516 acres, for a net increase of 404 acres. The buffer area surrounding the disposal footprint primarily consists of open space area, but may also include access roads, material and equipment storage yards, mitigation areas, recycling facilities and equipment, and drainage structures. The permitted fill elevation would increase from 1,118 feet above msl to approximately 1,270 feet above msl, for a net increase of 152 feet. The increase in elevation would be applied gradually as each phase of the landfill is developed. The Project would leave the existing natural ridgelines intact from most viewpoints and blend the proposed elevation of the landfill with the adjacent hilltops and ridges, which vary from approximately 1,000 to 1,350 feet above msl.

The expansion of the waste disposal area would be conducted in a phased manner over a number of years, beginning with Phase II, Cell 2-1 (see Figure 4). Each phase of waste disposal area at SVLRC is constructed by sequentially excavating disposal cells. As an active cell nears capacity, a new cell is excavated and lined. As phases near capacity, cells are developed in the subsequent phase. As phases are completed, intermediate or final cover is applied. A seven-layer liner system is installed in each new cell to separate waste from the underlying native soil. Waste is accumulated on top of the liner and then compacted with heavy equipment. At the end of each day, bulldozers spread a cover layer of compacted soils or alternative daily cover over that day's waste. As the active cell nears capacity, a new cell is excavated and lined. Once the existing cell reaches capacity it is capped with intermediate cover and the new cell begins receiving waste. The process continues until the permitted disposal area is filled to capacity at which point the entire waste disposal area is brought to final grade and covered with final cover. Phase I of the waste footprint will include additional filling of the existing landfill area. Construction of Phase II will begin as Phase I approaches its design capacity, which has been estimated to take approximately seven to eight years. The construction of each subsequent phase would begin as the previous phase reaches capacity. Each phase may contain from 4 to 8 cells that would be used for land filling. Each cell takes from 1 to 4 years to fill. It is estimated that new cells are excavated every 2 to 3 years.

Within the proposed expansion area, approximately 1.4 acres of waters of the United States along 8,001 linear feet would be permanently impacted with the completion of all phases (II through IV). The initial Phase II expansion, would impact approximately 0.84 acre (4,316 linear feet) of waters of the U.S. out of the total 1.4 acres through the creation of two disposal cells (2-1 and 2-2). The initial expansion (Cell 2-1) would affect 0.07 acre of Drainage A (699 linear feet) and 0.35 acre of Drainage B (1,478 linear feet) through filling as a result of stockpiling in support of expansion activities. Cell 2-2, expected to be constructed in 2017, would impact 0.42 acre of Drainage C (2,139 linear feet). Later expansion phases of the landfill would affect an additional 0.12 acre of Drainage A (1,380 linear feet), 0.29 acre of Drainage B (585 linear feet) and 0.15 acre of Drainage C (1,720 linear feet).

Operationally, the total capacity of the landfill would increase from 43.5 to 119.6 million cubic yards. The amount of municipal solid waste (MSW) that could be received per day is expected to increase from 3,000 tons to 6,000 tons, while the amount of recycling would be reduced from 6,250 tpd to 3,250 tpd. The total daily tonnage (i.e., combined MSW and recyclables) permitted for the facility

would not change. Assuming the additional disposal tonnage is delivered exclusively by transfer trucks averaging 20 tons each, there would be an increase of 150 deliveries per day if the full 6,000 tpd of disposal tonnage is received.

Proposed Mitigation– The proposed mitigation may change as a result of comments received in response to this public notice, the applicant's response to those comments, and/or the need for the project to comply with the 404(b)(1) Guidelines. In consideration of the above, the proposed mitigation sequence (avoidance/minimization/compensation), as applied to the proposed project is summarized below:

Avoidance: Expansion of the SVLRC, along with impacts to waters of the U.S., would occur in phases over several years. Upon project completion (through phase IV) of the total 1.4 acres of the total 1.44 acres of waters within the expansion area would be filled. Brea Canyon, a blue-line stream, and associated wetlands total approximately 5.91 acres and are located outside the expansion area and would not be impacted with implementation of the expansion project.

Minimization: minimization measures employed for the remaining portions of Drainages A and C that will not be impacted as well as for downstream drainages consist of the implementation of Best Management Practices (BMPs) consistent with the General Industrial Storm Water Permit. BMPs for landfill drainage and erosion control that are used on an as-needed basis include, but are not limited to the following: earth dikes, straw bale dikes, silt fences, temporary swales and culverts, sediment traps and basins, sand bag barriers, riprap drainage swales, and fabric erosion stops. As the phased fill sequence progresses, the landfill surface is contoured to drain runoff to perimeter ditches in order to minimize ponding on the landfill.

Compensation: For impacts to 1.40 acres (8,001 linear feet) of ephemeral drainages A, B, and C, the applicant has proposed restoration and preservation of six acres of waters of the U.S. in Alamos Canyon and its associated riparian habitat consistent with the final EIR and CUP. The subject six acres would be located within a 58-acre dedication area in Alamos Canyon as delineated by the County of Ventura in the Conditional Use Permit (CUP Condition #38) (Figure 5, *Alamos Canyon Dedication Area*).

Plant community mapping of the dedication area has identified approximately 25 acres comprised of braided channel, seasonal wetlands, and riparian vegetation, and approximately 33 acres of upland vegetation. Enhancement and restoration along the blue-line drainage would consist of weed abatement and planting of 135 riparian trees (oaks, sycamore and elderberry) in coordination with the Corps, CDFW and the County of Ventura. The dedication area would be preserved in perpetuity through a legal instrument such as a conservation easement or restrictive covenant.

Proposed Special Conditions- No specific special conditions are proposed at this time. If issued, the permit would likely include special conditions addressing mitigation for impacts to waters of the U.S. and well as other measures to avoid and minimize effects to the aquatic environment and federally listed species and/or their critical habitat. The CUP issued by the County of Ventura also includes the following mitigation measures addressing biological resources:

Mitigation Measure BIO-1:

Pre-construction botanical surveys shall be conducted by a qualified, USFWS and CDFG-approved biologist for the Braunton's milk vetch, San Fernando Valley spineflower, Lyon's pentachaeta, and other listed species during the appropriate flowering period prior to start of vegetation clearing and grading activities within suitable habitat for these species. The applicant shall notify USFWS for species listed under the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) and CDFG for species listed

under the California Endangered Species Act (CESA) within 24 hours of locating any individuals of listed species. In the event of positive survey results, the Project applicant will consult with the USFWS for species listed under the ESA to determine whether formal Section 7 consultation is required and CDFG to obtain an incidental take permit for species listed under the CESA. Compensatory mitigation for the loss of any listed plant species shall be at least on a 1:1 ratio as described in BIO-10.

Mitigation Measure BIO-2:

Prior to removal of coastal scrub habitat or habitat designated as critical habitat by the USFWS for coastal California gnatcatcher (CAGN), a qualified, USFWS-approved biologist shall conduct protocol surveys for CAGN and provide the results to the County of Ventura, USFWS, and CDFG. The applicant shall notify USFWS at least 7 days prior to initiation of surveys and within 24 hours of locating any CAGN individuals. In the event of positive survey results, the Project applicant will consult with the USFWS to determine whether formal Section 7 consultation is required or whether a Section 10 permit must be obtained. In addition, should this species be found on-site, a qualified, USFWS-approved biologist shall do the following:

- Perform additional surveys once a week during Project construction during the breeding season of CAGN. These additional surveys may be suspended as approved by the USFWS. The applicant shall notify the USFWS at least 7 days prior to the initiation of surveys, and within 24 hours of locating any CAGN individuals.
- Postpone work if a CAGN nest is found within 500 feet of Project construction activities. A qualified, USFWS-approved biologist shall coordinate with USFWS to devise an optimal strategy of postponing work only in areas where continued construction activities may pose an adverse impact to the CAGN, thereby allowing work to continue beyond the appropriate buffer determined for the documented CAGN nests. Removal of designated critical habitat for the coastal California gnatcatcher within the Project site shall be compensated through preservation of existing intact suitable habitat or improvement and preservation of disturbed habitat either on- or off-site and approved by USFWS and the County. Compensation shall be at a minimum of a 1:1 ratio for critical habitat lost due to construction of the Project. Off-site compensation shall be conducted within the critical habitat Unit 13 (Unit 13: Western Los Angeles and Ventura Counties) as designated by the USFWS. Preservation of critical habitat shall be ensured through recordation of a biological restrictive covenant with the County of Ventura.

Mitigation Measure BIO-3:

Removal of vegetation, grading, and/or other land disturbance activities shall be conducted outside the bird breeding and nesting season (February 1 through August 31) in order to avoid destruction of bird nests or eggs. If land disturbance activities cannot be completed outside the February 1 through August 31 breeding season, a breeding and nesting bird survey shall be conducted by a qualified biologist with a CDFG Scientific Collecting Permit within 7 days prior to the land disturbance activity. The nesting bird survey shall cover the construction footprint and a buffer of 500 feet from the construction footprint. If active nests are found, land disturbance activities within 300 feet of the nest (500 feet for raptors) shall be postponed or halted until the nest is vacated and juveniles have fledged and there is no evidence of a second attempt at nesting, as determined by the biologist. If the construction area is larger than the buffered nesting bird area(s), then land disturbance activities can commence outside the restricted area(s). If land disturbance activities are delayed after the survey has been conducted, then an additional nesting bird survey must be conducted such that no more than 7 days have elapsed between the last survey and the commencement of land disturbance activities.

Prior to the issuance of a zoning clearance for development, the applicant shall provide a signed contract with one of the Planning Division's approved biological consultants that guarantees that a nesting bird survey will be conducted 7 days prior to any land disturbing activities.

Mitigation Measure-BIO-4:

The Project applicant shall prepare and implement a Wetlands Mitigation Plan acceptable to the County of Ventura prior to initiation of vegetation clearing and grading activity within 100 feet of the known seeps. Appropriate mitigation includes enhancing, expanding, or restoring existing wetlands, or creating/establishment of new wetlands in the Project vicinity. The Wetlands Mitigation Plan shall include the following components at a minimum:

- A minimum mitigation ratio of 3:1 for acres of wetlands lost versus acres mitigated as a result of the Plan.
- Location(s) of mitigation on suitable portions of the Project site or other property that can be protected in perpetuity from future development.
- Timing which shall be initiated prior to acceptance of waste within the proposed expansion area.
- Detailed information on the vegetation, quality, soils, and hydrology of the mitigation site prior to implementation
- The mitigation shall have a goal of no net loss of wetlands.
- Methods for restoration, creation, or enhancement (as applicable).
- Baseline information (i.e., a description of the ecological characteristics of the proposed mitigation site) shall be obtained as a basis for measuring mitigation performance. Baseline information may include: descriptions of historic and existing plant communities, historic and existing hydrology, soil conditions, a map showing the locations of the impact and mitigation site(s) or the geographic coordinates for those site(s), and other characteristics appropriate to the type of resource proposed as compensation.
- Monitoring, maintenance, and reporting for a minimum monitoring period, which shall not be less than 5 years.
- Performance criteria that are based on replacement of the characteristics and functions of the wetlands being impacted must be approved by the County and any other appropriate regulatory agency. Performance criteria shall at a minimum include the following parameters: percent vegetative cover, plant diversity, percent non-native plant species, target functions and values, and target hydrological regime.
- The Plan shall include an adaptive management strategy to address unforeseen changes in site conditions or other components of the mitigation Project, including the party or parties responsible for implementing adaptive management measures.

Procedures to ensure protection of the mitigation sites in perpetuity, either through the recordation of a conservation easement, a biological restrictive covenant, or other agreement approved by the County and other relevant regulatory agencies.

Mitigation Measure BIO-5:

The permittee shall implement vector control methods to deter refuse scavenging species such as gulls and crows from the waste disposal area. In the vicinity of Alamos Canyon, vector control methods (such as noisemakers and propane cannons, distress call, and use of falcons and dogs) that could result in the avoidance of wildlife use of Alamos Canyon as a corridor shall be avoided.

Mitigation Measure BIO-6:

To ensure the continued availability of the Alamos Canyon Wildlife Corridor for the benefit of native

plants and wildlife, the permittee shall obtain, dedicate, enhance, and manage habitat in and adjacent to the Alamos Canyon wildlife corridor (including the riparian zone and adjacent upland habitats) from the SR-118 freeway extending northward at least to the latitude of the northernmost portion of buffer area associated with the proposed landfill expansion. Dedication shall be in perpetuity through a legal instrument such as a conservation easement. Enhancement shall be as described in Mitigation Measure BIO-7.

Mitigation Measure BIO-7:

As part of a Habitat Restoration and Management Plan, the permittee shall design and implement a plan acceptable to the County of Ventura for habitat enhancements along the channel in Alamos Canyon in order to improve overstory cover for migrating animals and to increase potential habitat for species that rely on riparian corridors. The plan must provide for planting and maintenance of sycamore and coast live oak trees in and adjacent to Alamos Canyon in areas void of trees. By focusing especially on areas of the canyon near the landfill and areas having direct line of sight to the landfill, the plan will create a pattern of more continuous tree cover. A minimum of 30 sycamores and 30 coast live oaks shall be established within the area identified above. In addition, planting of vegetation or other work within or adjacent to the channel above falls under the regulatory and permitting authority of the Ventura County Watershed Protection District per Ordinance FC-18 as amended. As such, habitat enhancement plans for Alamos Canyon shall be reviewed and approved by the Watershed Protection District.

Mitigation Measure BIO-8:

As part of a Habitat Restoration and Management Plan, the permittee shall design a plan for and implement at least 2 of the following improvements or enhancements to the Alamos Canyon crossings (i.e., Alamos Canyon East and West culverts and Alamos Canyon Road undercrossing).

Alamos Canyon West Corridor:

- Enhance and maintain riparian vegetation near culverts.

Alamos Canyon Road Undercrossing:

- Increase the vegetative cover along Alamos Canyon Road.
- Replace the paved road with a decomposed granite surface if it is still used for maintenance, otherwise remove the road surface and base entirely and replace it with native vegetation.
- Remove the barbed wire fencing along the road.

Alamos Canyon East Corridor:

- Increase vegetation cover along the drainage.

Measures Applicable to the three Alamos Canyon Corridors:

- Installation of fencing by the Project applicant to funnel wildlife into the Alamos Canyon undercrossings,

The permittee shall coordinate with Caltrans to ensure that the improvements selected will not conflict with any planned Caltrans Projects. Prior to initiation of Project construction activities, the permittee shall provide the plan for these improvements to the County and Caltrans for approval.

Planting of vegetation or other work within or adjacent to Los Alamos Canyon channel falls

under the regulatory and permitting authority of the Ventura County Watershed Protection District per Ordinance FC-18 as amended. As such, habitat enhancement plans for Alamos Canyon shall be reviewed and approved by the Watershed Protection District prior to implementation.

Mitigation Measure BIO-9:

The conditions applicable to minimizing off-site noise and vibration, nighttime lighting, control of wind-blown refuse, and control of nuisance species of birds (crows, ravens, gulls) and mammals (non-native rodents) in CUP-3142-7 shall be applied to the expansion Project including:

- Night lighting for the Project shall be in accordance with CUP-3142-7 Condition 34 limiting hours of operation to 6 AM to 8 PM and CUP-3142-7 Condition 105 requiring shielding to ensure that when night lighting is used, natural areas are not lighted. These measures shall be updated as necessary and applied to the Project.
- A revised dust suppression plan shall be implemented as required under CUP-3142-7 Condition 44.
- Litter shall be controlled through the use of portable wind fences to confine waste to the area of the working face and to ensure that adjacent habitats are maintained free of litter. Existing litter control measures (CUP-3142-7 Condition 45) shall be applied to the Project.

Mitigation Measure BIO-10:

As part of a Habitat Restoration and Management Plan, the permittee shall develop and implement a Sensitive Plant Species Restoration Plan acceptable to the Ventura County Planning Division for Plummer's and Catalina mariposa lily, and any federal or state listed plant species found during pre-construction surveys prior to onset of grading in the expansion area. The goal of the Plan shall be the replacement of these sensitive and/or listed plants on a 1:1 ratio. The Plan shall include:

- An up to date review of research on the reproductive success of each species and the success of previous attempts at salvage and transplanting;
- Methodology and timing for salvaging seed and plants (corms) from areas to be impacted and procedures for transplanting and/or propagation;
- Identification of suitable (approved) locations for transplants and the means to protect the locations from future development;
- Maintenance, monitoring, and replacement program to document the success of the transplantation; and,
- The number of individuals to be transplanted/propagated in order to meet the goal of the 1:1 replacement ratio.

Mitigation Measure BIO-11:

Pre-construction spring botanical surveys shall be conducted by a qualified, County-approved biologist for listed and locally important plant species with the potential to occur within the Project site prior to the start of vegetation clearing and grading. To the extent feasible, grading limits shall be adjusted to exclude documented occurrences of listed and locally important plant species, including Plummer's mariposa lily and Catalina mariposa lily. Because of the concentration of occurrences of Plummer's mariposa lily along the northwestern grading limits of the property, relatively slight adjustments in the grading limit could enable large numbers of individuals (up to 520 individuals in 13 occurrences) of this species to be avoided. The occurrences of Plummer's and Catalina mariposa lily and any other listed or locally important plant species located within the buffer zone shall be protected by identification of the area on a map and by placing construction fencing along the limits of grading where appropriate to prevent inadvertent loss or damage as a result of construction or other Project-related or property management activities. During years of unfavorable conditions for mariposa lilies, the distributional data from 2005 shall be used to adjust

grading limits, because the numbers and local distribution of mariposa lilies may vary considerably from year to year in response to environmental conditions, and conditions in 2005 were relatively favorable for identifying the distribution of the mariposa lilies.

Mitigation Measure BIO-12:

A preconstruction survey shall be conducted by a qualified, County-approved biologist for locally important wildlife species no sooner than 14 days prior to the start of vegetation removal and grading. Prior to vegetation removal, the biologist shall ensure that potential natal badger dens are avoided and that less mobile species, such as coast horned lizard, will be relocated to suitable habitat outside of the construction area. A qualified, County-approved biologist shall be on-site to monitor vegetation removal and topsoil salvaging and stockpiling to minimize injury or mortality to locally important wildlife species.

CDFG shall be contacted immediately if burrowing owls or burrowing owl sign are observed. No disturbance shall occur within 50 meters (approx. 160 feet) of occupied burrows during the non-breeding season of September 1 through January 31. No disturbance shall occur within 75 meters (approx. 250 feet) of occupied burrows during the nesting season, February 1 through August 31, unless CDFG verifies that the birds have not begun egg-laying and incubation or that the juveniles from those burrows are foraging independently and capable of independent survival at an earlier date.

When destruction of occupied burrows is unavoidable, the owls shall be passively relocated to alternate burrows, only during the non-breeding season. Occupied burrows during the breeding season shall be avoided. Passive relocation will involve enhancing existing unoccupied burrows or creating artificial burrows in a ratio of 1:1 in adjacent, protected, suitable habitat that is contiguous with the foraging habitat of the affected owls and at least 50 meters from the impacted area. The relocated owls shall be monitored for 90 days following relocation, and a report on the status of the relocated owls shall be submitted to the County and CDFG. If the monitoring results show the relocation effort to be unsuccessful, the County and CDFG will require contingency measures, which may include preservation of existing off-site burrowing owl habitat, in accordance with the off-site mitigation recommendations of the California Burrowing Owl Consortium.

Mitigation Measure BIO-13:

As part of a Habitat Restoration and Management Plan, the applicant shall develop a plan to revegetate all lands temporarily disturbed by grading as well as intermediate, permanent slopes and closed portions of the landfill as indicated below. Revegetation efforts shall emphasize native plant species and provision of quality habitat for locally important wildlife species and other native wildlife. The plan shall be subject to review and approval by Ventura County prior to the initiation of ground disturbance. The plan shall include the following:

- Provisions for salvaging and stockpiling topsoil and seed bank for use in revegetation.
- Procedures to stabilize soil and revegetate areas disturbed by site preparation or other grading outside the overall waste boundary with native species from seed or cuttings collected in the immediate Project area creating habitat conditions compatible with adjoining habitat not disturbed by the Project.
- Specifications that native plants and seed stock used in revegetation shall be locally collected or propagated from locally collected seed or cuttings (from the Simi Valley area) to maintain the genetic integrity of the local flora. An attempt shall be made to restore some of the existing native plant diversity by specifically including some of the less common native species currently found on the site.

- Specifics for seed mix, seed application, seeding methods, timing of monitoring and reporting and performance criteria.
- Provision that non-native, non-invasive species may be used for short-term erosion control (such as barley on temporarily denuded slopes). Where invasive species have persisted after having been used in the past, they shall be removed.
- Procedures for maintenance and reduction of non-native invasive plant species on the proposed SVLRC landfill site and adjacent property owned by the applicant. The invasive non-native plants/escaped non-natives listed in the following sources shall be targeted as undesirable plants:
  - Cal-IPC Inventory (<http://www.cal-ipc.org/ip/inventory/index.php>);
  - CDFA list of Noxious Weeds ([http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/PHPPS/IPC/weedinfo/wininfo\\_list-pestrating.htm](http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/PHPPS/IPC/weedinfo/wininfo_list-pestrating.htm)); and
  - Ventura County Landscape Design Criteria (Ventura County RMA 1992).

The goal is to reduce their presence at the landfill site and achieve complete eradication, where feasible, and to minimize the likelihood that non-native invasive species would escape into adjacent areas.

#### Mitigation Measure BIO-14:

The loss of habitat for locally important wildlife species, including sage scrub, chamise chaparral, grassland, and oak woodland as documented in Table 3.4-4 of the EIR, shall be mitigated through preservation of existing intact plant communities or restoration and preservation of disturbed plant communities at a 1:1 ratio in the Project vicinity. This measure can be coordinated with Mitigation Measure BIO-6. If disturbed plant communities are selected to meet this measure, a site-specific habitat restoration and enhancement plan including details of restoration measures appropriate to the site and performance criteria shall be developed by the applicant and approved by the County of Ventura prior to initiation of ground disturbance. Restoration measures could include control of invasive non-native species, increasing the prevalence of wildlife species by planting or use of other management techniques, revegetation of barren surfaces resulting from previous human activities or control of erosion related to human activities (e.g., originating from concentrated runoff from unpaved roads). Preserved and restored habitat shall be of similar or higher quality and integrity in comparison to the habitat removed and shall be dedicated and managed as vegetation and wildlife habitat in perpetuity through a legal instrument such as a conservation easement. In addition, a biological restrictive covenant shall be recorded with the County of Ventura to protect the habitat in perpetuity.

For additional information please call Antal Szijj of my staff at 805-585-2147 or via e-mail at [Antal.J.Szijj@usace.army.mil](mailto:Antal.J.Szijj@usace.army.mil) . This public notice is issued by the Chief, Regulatory Division.



Regulatory Program Goals:

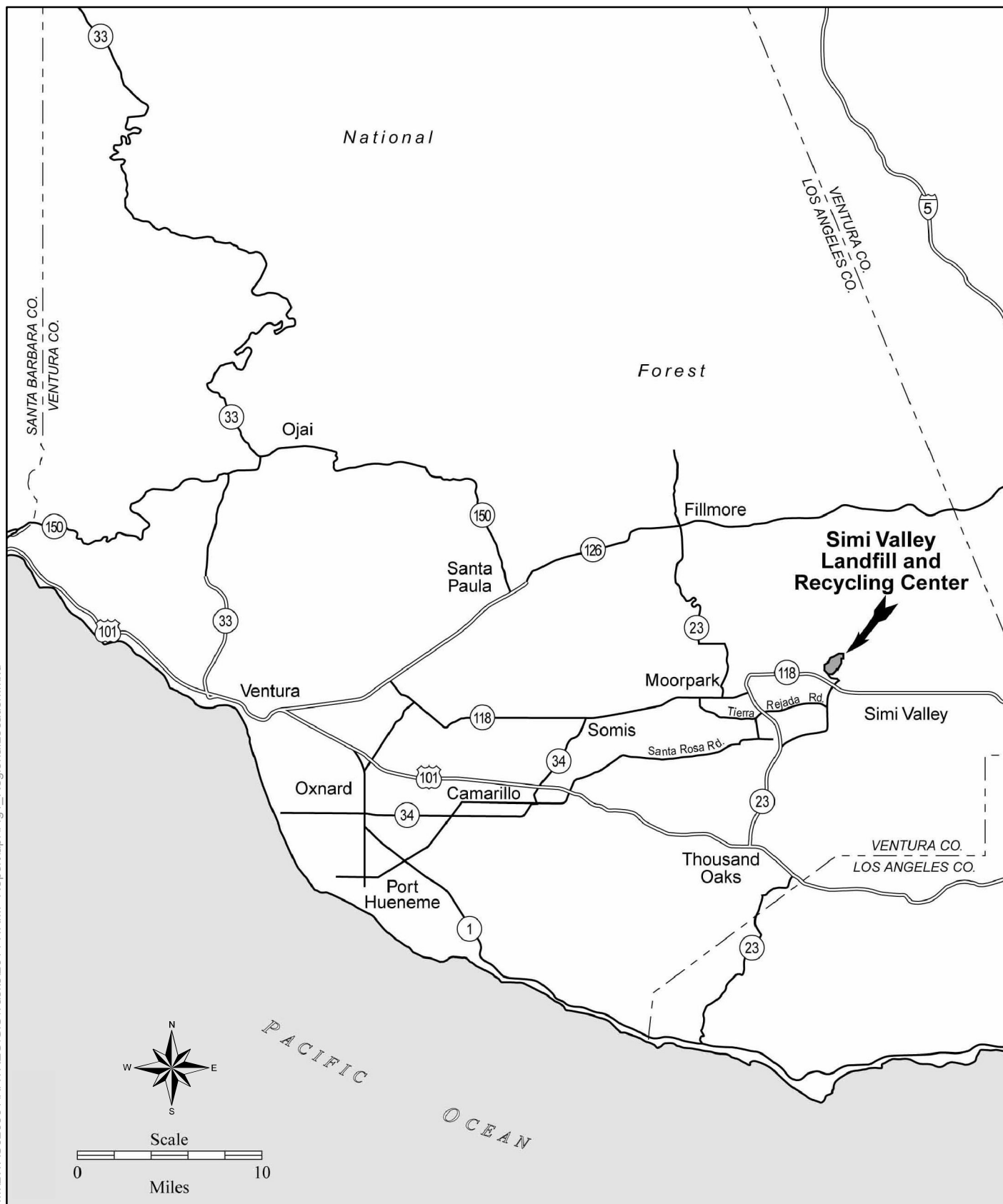
To provide strong protection of the nation's aquatic environment, including wetlands.  
To ensure the Corps provides the regulated public with fair and reasonable decisions.  
To enhance the efficiency of the Corps' administration of its regulatory program.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
LOS ANGELES DISTRICT, U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
Ventura Field Office  
2151 Alessandro Drive, Suite 110  
Ventura, CA 93001

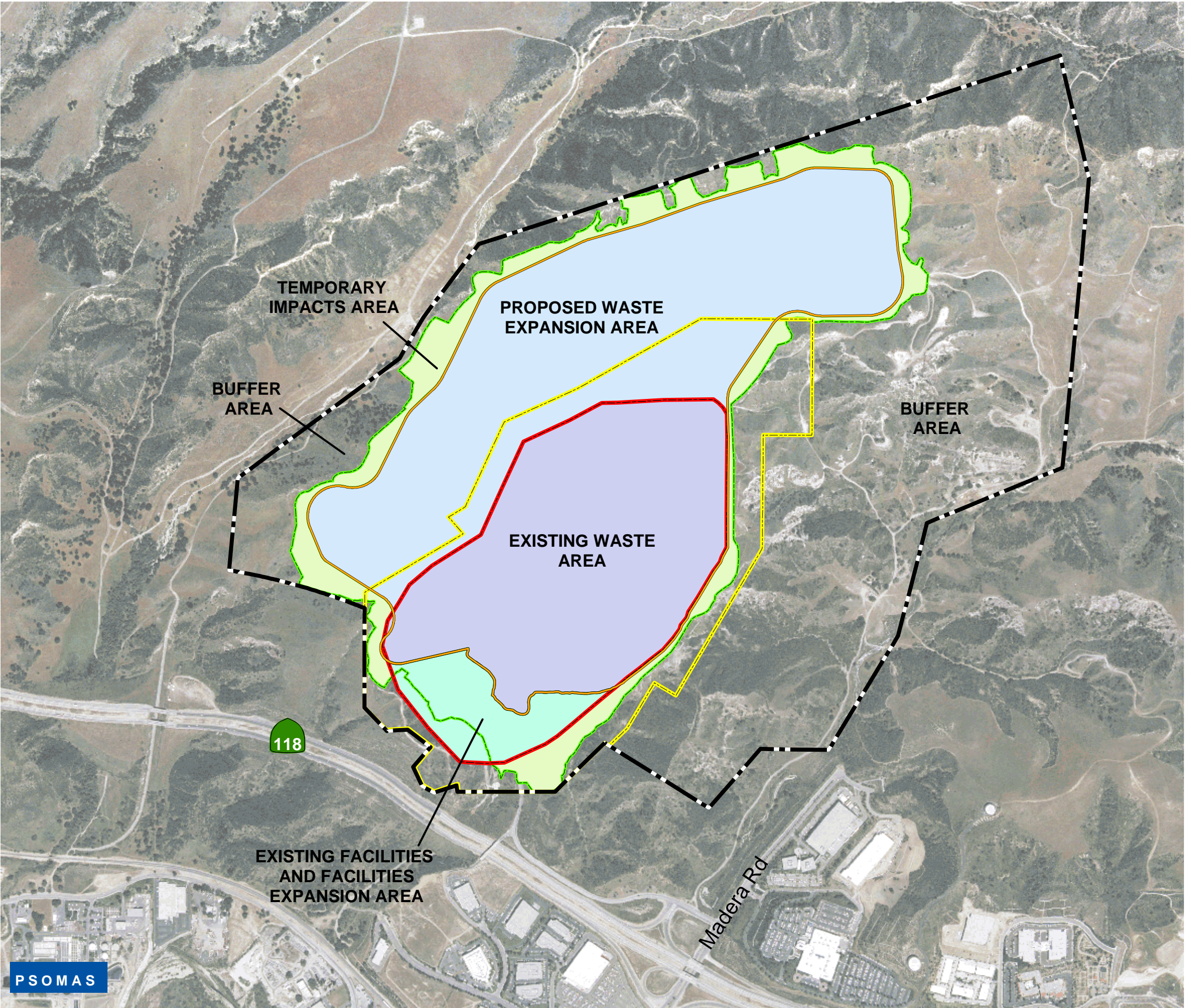
[WWW.SPL.USACE.ARMY.MIL/MISSIONS/REGULATORY](http://WWW.SPL.USACE.ARMY.MIL/MISSIONS/REGULATORY)

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## Regional Location

(COSTAMESA2\Projects\ M:\2\WAS020200\natres\tasks\2006 BioRes Report Figs\Prep\Fig 2-Existing and Proposed Boundaries\april.mxd

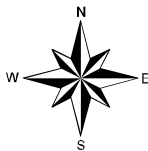


*Simi Valley Landfill Expansion  
Biological Resources Summary Report*

02/27/06

**Legend**

- Existing Landfill Boundary
- Proposed Landfill Boundary
- Permitted Waste Boundary
- Existing Waste Area
- Existing Facilities Area
- Waste Expansion Area
- Grading Limit
- Temporary Impacts Area
- Footprint of Proposed and Existing Waste Area



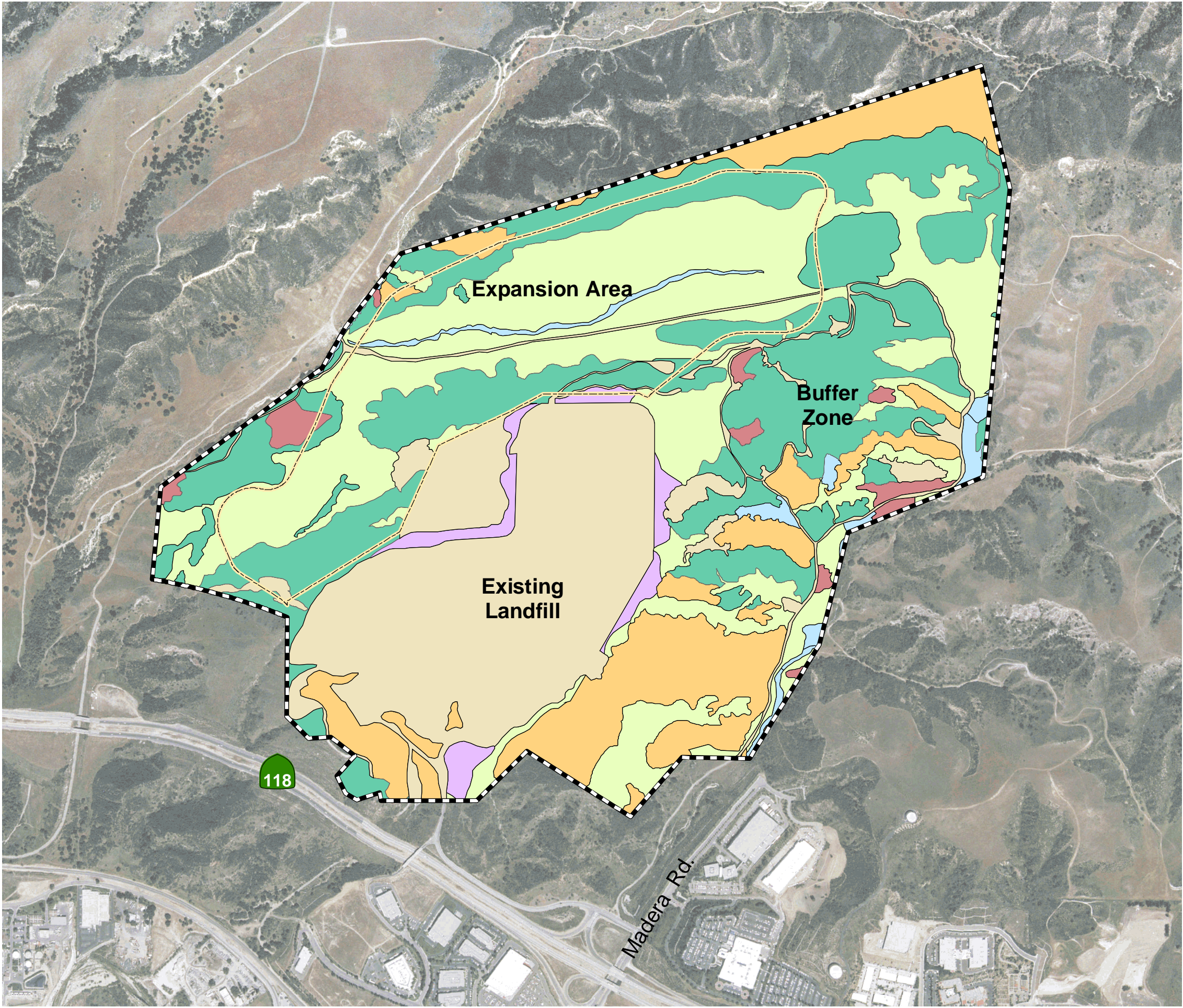
0 500 1,000 2,000 3,000 Feet

CA State Plane, Zone 5, NAD27

**Existing and  
Proposed Boundaries**

Figure 2

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**CDFG Jurisdictional Summary Report**

March 2008

**Legend**

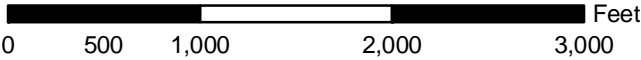
- Property Boundary
- Proposed Waste Expansion Area

Plant Communities	Acres
Chamise Chaparral	123.4
Non-Native Grassland	254.1
Venturan Coastal Sage Scrub	249.4
Coast Live Oak Woodland	13.3
Landscaped Areas	17.4
Riparian	14.4
Disturbed	215.1

**Total: 887.1**

Mapping Sources:

1. Psomas, 2000 and 2002: Field reconnaissance of Canyons Property
2. Padre Associates, 2001: Existing landfill and immediate surroundings. Slightly adjusted by Psomas based on aerial photography and comparison/merging with Psomas 2000/2002 vegetation mapping.



CA State Plane, Zone 5, NAD27

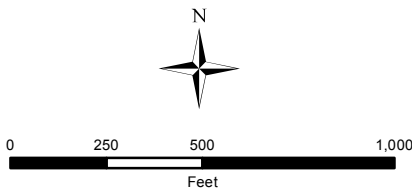
**Plant Communities**



*Simi Valley Landfill & Recycling  
Center HRMP Implementation*

**Legend**

- ◆ 2014 Delineation Points
- Drainages
- Cell 2-1 (2015 Impacts)
- - - Grading Phases
- ▭ Grading Limits





***Drainages and  
Delineation Points***



*Simi Valley Landfill & Recycling Center  
HRMP Implementation*

**Legend**

-  Dedication area
-  Landfill boundary