

Chron No.: CTO-0076/000028**MEETING MINUTES**

Meeting Subject: Informal Consultation for the Phase II RI/FS Field Activities in the MCAS El Toro Conservation Area		Meeting Date: September 11, 1995	
		Meeting Time: 9:00 a.m.	
		Meeting Place: MCAS El Toro ER Facility	
		Meeting Notes Prepared By: M. Dalrymple	
Attendees: (* Telephone)			
<u>Navy</u>		<u>Bechtel</u>	<u>Other</u>
Jason Ashman		Richard Blanchet	Linda Dawes (USFW)
Dave Crawley		Michelle Dalrymple	
Joseph Joyce		Tim Latas	
Vish Parpiani		Katrina Lyons	
Barbara Wilson		Kathleen Pahl	
Tom Wright			
Additional Distribution (In Addition to Attendees): None			

Summary of Meeting Discussion Topic(s)/Action Items :

Tim Latas opened the meeting with a brief overview of MCAS El Toro environmental issues. He said that Phase I RI work began at MCAS El Toro in 1991. In 1993, MCAS El Toro was placed on the BRAC III list for base closure in 1999. MCAS EL Toro is currently performing Phase II RI/FS activities under three active CTOs

Two previous studies identified sensitive habitats and special status species at Sites 2 and 17. A Biological Inventory was prepared by USFW in 1993, and a draft Conservation Area Plan was prepared by Dames & Moore in 1995. Linda Dawes inquired about the Biological Inventory study. Barbara Wilson explained that the Biological Inventory was still being updated. She mentioned that Site 1 (the unexploded ordnance area) may also contain coastal sage scrub habitat. Mr. Latas stated that Site 1 may not be an issue because it is an operating site and the RI/FS will be postponed. Joseph Joyce explained that the decision has for Site 1 closure not yet been made.

At this point, the meeting was turned over to Ms. Kathleen Pahl to discuss the results of the vegetation mapping. Ms. Pahl began with Site 17 and talked about the mapping effort. She explained that she and Richard Blanchet walked the entire site to delineate subtypes. At Site 17, coastal sage scrub is well developed on the hillsides surrounding the landfill, but occurs only in patches in the center of the landfill. Annual grassland is present on the lower slope, at the base of Site 17.

Ms. Pahl then discussed Site 2. She stated that Site 2 is predominantly annual grassland. Coastal sage scrub is present on hillslopes, predominantly outside the landfill area. The maps presented in the handouts showed the limits of investigation overlaid on the vegetation maps.

Barbara Wilson mentioned that a spring is also present at Site 2 which she said was created by an earthquake. Ms. Linda Dawes asked if these issues have been discussed with Bruce Henderson of

MEETING MINUTES (Continued)

the Army Corps. The answer was no. Ms. Wilson assured us that the spring at Site 2 has not been caused by a broken water line.

At this point Katrina Lyons began her presentation regarding the RI/FS activities. Ms. Lyons discussed the presumptive remedy and streamlined RI/FS process that we will be following for the landfill sites. The five components of the presumptive remedy were discussed and how they relate to the data quality objectives established for the RI/FS. The data collection is needed to support the presumptive remedy.

Tom Wright wanted to know the thickness of the existing landfill caps. Ms. Lyons estimated that they may range in depth from 0 to 10 feet. Mr. Wright asked about dates of operation. Ms. Lyons said that Site 2 was in operation from the mid-1950s to the mid-1980s. Site 17 probably operated from the early 1980s to approximately 1983. Site 2 is approximately 22 acres, and Site 17 is approximately 15 acres. The landfills received predominantly municipal solid waste, but could contain anything.

Ms. Lyons then began describing the proposed Phase II field activities. She explained that the purpose of the geophysics is to locate landfill boundaries. Ms. Dawes asked Ms. Lyons to describe exactly what it is that the geophysical crews will be doing. Ms. Lyons explained that the geophysical crews will be walking across the landfill while carrying equipment, and that they will need 3-foot wide transects to be cleared to about knee height. In some of the sensitive habitat areas, it may be possible to reduce the transect spacing from 50-foot intervals to 100-foot intervals, or even eliminate them altogether. Dave Crawley mentioned that this field work will be a one time event.

Ms. Wilson asked when we propose to do the geophysics. Ms. Lyons said that we are currently performing geophysics at Sites 3 and 5, and that we would like to mobilize the crews to Sites 2 and 17 as soon as possible. Ms. Lyons reminded the group that the RI is due on March 16, 1996. She said that we scheduled fieldwork to take place now because it is after the gnatcatcher's mating season.

Ms. Lyons mentioned that we can adjust transects, if necessary, to avoid big trees, rather than cut them down. Ms. Wilson and Ms. Dawes questioned the definition of a "big tree." Ms. Wilson stated that she would not allow the cutting down of any trees. She stated that a lot of trees are in the habitat, and that they are not necessarily all "big." Ms. Pahl pointed out that different types of trees occur in localized clumps at these sites.

Ms. Dawes stated that she needs to know what the impacts of the investigation will be to the sensitive habitats before she can authorize any work. She stated that under Section 7, the Navy needs to prepare a written Biological Assessment and present it to USFW. The Biological Assessment should describe the impacts of the work, and what measures (such as avoiding the gnatcatcher's nesting season and adjusting geophysical transects) will be taken to minimize the impacts. After the USFW reviews and evaluates the Biological Assessment, they will prepare a "Biological Opinion" authorizing work to proceed under the regulations. The Biological Opinion could take up to 135 days to prepare.

Dave Crawley mentioned that during Phase I, the Navy dealt with California Fish and Game. Ms. Wilson interjected that since the work for Phase I was done, the gnatcatcher birds went from "sensitive" to "federally listed threatened." This change in status requires Section 7 consultation.

MEETING MINUTES (Continued)

Joseph Joyce questioned Ms. Dawes about the 135-day time frame. He asked what the best case scenario would be for the Navy to get Ms. Dawes what she needed. Ms. Dawes said first you need to define the problem and prepare the Biological Assessment.

Mr. Wright asked what would change if we were to avoid the coastal sage scrub habitat altogether. Ms. Dawes said that she did not see how we could do that because both direct and indirect effects on the habitat need to be considered. She said that there are 92 pairs of nesting gnatcatchers at this site. Ms. Dawes suggested that breaking out the work might help to speed things up. She said that we could start work in areas that do not contain sensitive habitats while going through the Section 7 process for the sensitive habitat areas. Mr. Joyce said the work is tied to the FFA milestones which are enforced, and Sites 2 and 17 are on the same schedule.

Ms. Dawes suggested a site visit so that she could see the magnitude of the potential impacts. Mr. Joyce said "lets do it", and then asked Ms. Dawes how long a Biological Opinion would take under the best scenario Ms. Dawes said that if she received good, clean information, a Biological Opinion could be turned around in about a week. Mr. Joyce asked is that reasonable to expect? Ms. Dawes said no, since an assessment hasn't been developed.

Dave Crawley asked if we cap the entire area under the presumptive remedy, isn't this all academic? Ms. Dawes said no, you still would need to go through the Section 7 process.

The group assembled into vehicles for a site visit. Site 2 was visited first. The group started at the north side of Site 2 near the armed sentry gates and from there walked toward the coastal sage scrub on the southern side of the site. Ms. Dawes suggested we obtain a copy of the National Communities Conservation Planning Program (NCCPP) survey for information regarding gnatcatchers. Ms. Pahl stated that she had requested it but was unable to obtain a copy. Mr. Wright said that he would work on getting a copy.

Once the group reached the coastal sage scrub area, Mr. Wright asked Ms. Lyons if we would need to clear any paths. Ms. Lyons said that we would need 3-foot wide path cut to knee height at 50 to 100-foot intervals over some of the area. Ms. Lyons pointed out some of the staked locations for soil gas and the landfill perimeter.

After viewing the habitat and the proposed locations for investigation, Ms. Dawes stated that the impacts looked fairly minimal and straight forward. She suggested that a Biological Assessment would be fairly simple to prepare, and suggested that it should be kept brief. Ms. Dawes also suggested including removal of exotic, unwanted species as part of the mitigation. Mr. Joyce asked who should prepare the Biological Assessment. It was agreed that Tim Latas would take the lead and would coordinate the effort with Mr. Wright.

Site 17 was visited next. The group viewed Site 17 from the base of the Site and from the Communication Station. Ms. Lyons described the proposed investigation and indicated that some of the geophysical investigation may be able to be avoided in areas where there was sufficient topographic information to delineate the landfill boundaries. Ms. Lyons stated that the presumptive remedy would probably include a cap, and that revegetation of the cap could be included as a mitigation measure. Ms. Dawes stated that the impacts at Site 17 do not appear to be serious and that the Biological Assessment for both landfills could be presented in one document. Ms. Dawes said that we should state in the Biological Assessment that we will have

MEETING MINUTES (Continued)

two types of activities (geophysics and soil gas). Mr. Joyce asked whether we would need to include areas where we won't have impacts in the Biological Assessment. Ms. Dawes said no.

The group reassembled at the ER Facility to recap. Ms. Dawes stated that a single Section 7 Biological Assessment would be sufficient for the two sites. The Biological Assessment should include rationale for the investigation (brief), gnatcatcher data, habitat impacts (including quantified areas of impact), avoidance/minimization efforts, and mitigation measures.

Mr. Wright asked what would change if we did not need to cut any brush. Ms. Dawes responded, then you would only need a letter; however, you need zero impacts to avoid Section 7. Ms. Dawes said that after USFW evaluated the Biological Assessment then they would submit a Biological Opinion which would serve as authorization to proceed. Ms. Dawes reiterated that a biological assessment only needs to be prepared for the impacted areas. Field work can proceed right away in areas at that will not be impacted.

Ms. Dawes said that she would be available by telephone for questions. She also said that, if we wished, she would review a draft fax of the document. Mr. Joyce asked Mr. Latas if the Biological Assessment could be done by the end of the week. Mr. Latas said that it probably could.

Mr. Joyce asked Ms. Dawes whether she would require another site visit. Ms. Dawes said that she would not.

The meeting adjourned at about 12:15.

Item No.	Action Items	Responsible Individual	Due Date
1.	Obtain copy of NCCPP Survey	Tom Wright	ASAP
2.	Prepare Biological Assessment for USFW	Tim Latas	09/22/95

BECHTEL

401 West A Street
Suite 1000
San Diego, CA 92101-7905
Telephone: (619) 687-8700
Facsimile: (619) 687-8787/8786

CTO-076

F A X C O V E R S H E E T

DATE: 09/08/95

TIME: 11:36 AM

TO:	VISH PARPIANI	FAX:	714 -726-6586
	BARBARA WILSON		714-726-2639
	JASON ASHMAN		619-532-2469
	JOSEPH JOYCE		714-726-6586
	LINDA DAWES		619-431-9624
	TOM WRIGHT		619-532-3782
	KATHLEEN PAHL		510-874-7400
	RICHARD BLANCHET		206-562-4201
	KATRINA LYONS		714-733-0680

FROM: Tim Latas

PHONE: (619) 687-8848 (direct)
FAX: (619) 687-8787/8786

Number of pages including cover sheet: 16

Message:

The attached is a preliminary document of materials for the meeting scheduled for September 11, 1995 between U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service representatives and the Navy/Marine Corps representatives. The purpose of the meeting is to discussion the Phase II Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) activities that are proposed at 2 sites with known sensitive habitats and special status species. The meeting is scheduled to be held at the Environmental Restoration (ER) Facility field office at 9:00 AM.

A couple of the maps included are in their preliminary stage and will be presented in their final form on Monday. If you have questions before that time, please call me at 619-687-8848.

When you arrive at the ER Facility, please sign in at the office trailer. The Marines will make a van available for a field visit to the sites, if needed.

Meeting Agenda MCAS El Toro, California

9/11/95, 9:00 PM
Bechtel National, Inc.
ER Facility
MCAS El Toro, CA
(714) 733-3080 (K. Lyons)

Vision: Maximize restoration and reuse by 1999!!!

Mission: Fast-track remediation of MCAS El Toro to expedite reuse and protect human health and environment.

Meeting called by: Jason Ashman

Attendees:

Vish Parpiani, El Toro
Dave Cowser, Bechtel
Linda Dawes, USFW
Tom Wright, SWDIV

Joseph Joyce, El Toro
Tim Latas, Kleinfelder
Barbara Wilson, El Toro
Kathleen Pahl, Bechtel

Katrina Lyons, Kleinfelder
Jason Ashman, SWDIV
Dave Crawley, El Toro
Richard Blanchet, Kleinfelder

Purpose: INFORMAL CONSULTATION FOR PHASE II RI/FS FIELD ACTIVITIES IN THE MCAS EL TORO CONSERVATION AREA

- | | |
|--|---------------------------|
| 1. Introductions | Tim Latas |
| 2. Overview of Phase II RI/FS Activities | Tim Latas |
| 3. Overview of Habitats/Vegetation Communities | Kathleen Pahl |
| 4. Discussion of Field Activities at Sites 2 and 17 | Katrina Lyons |
| 5. Discussion of Potential Effects and Mitigation | Tim Latas |
| 6. Discussion of Potential Remedial Alternatives and Effects | Katrina Lyons & Tim Latas |
| 7. Discussion of USFW Policies and Procedures | |

Notes

Introductions

Linda Dawes	USFW	
Joseph Joyce	SWDIV	Base Environmental Coordinator
Jason Ashman	SWDIV	Remedial Project Manager
Tom Wright	SWDIV	Natural Resources
Vish Parpiani	MCAS El Toro	Environmental Office
Barbara Wilson	MCAS El Toro	Environmental Office
Dave Crawley	MCAS El Toro	Resident Officer In Charge Of Construction
Dave Cowser	CLEAN II	Project Manager
Katrina Lyons	CLEAN II	Technical Leader - Landfill RI/FS
Tim Latas	CLEAN II	CTO Leader
Kathleen Pahl	CLEAN II	Biologist
Richard Blanchet	CLEAN II	Ecological Risk Assessor

Overview of Phase II RI/FS Activities (con't.)

Currently 3 Operable Units (OU) established to categorize CERCLA sites

**OU-1 - Regional Groundwater Contamination
CLEAN I Interim Action RI/FS**

OU-2 Sites

Contract Task Order (CLEAN II) CTO 073

OU-2A Sites 24 (VOC Source Area) and 25 (Major Drainages)

CTO 076

OU-2B Sites 2 and 17 (Landfills)

OU-2C Sites 3 and 5 (Landfills)

OU-3 Sites (Remaining 18 sites)

CTO 079

Sensitive Habitats and Special Status Species

Known to occur at Sites 2 and 17

1993 Biological Inventory USFW

1995 Draft Conservation Area Plan

Overview of Phase II RI/FS Activities

1985 - Initial Assessment Study identified 17 sites (CERCLA)

1985 - Trichloroethene (TCE) discovered in agricultural well by Orange County Water District

1987 - Site Inspection Plan of Action (SIPOA) recommended 19 sites for study including off-base groundwater contamination

1988 - Perimeter Study indicated volatile organic compound (VOC) groundwater contamination from MCAS El Toro

1988 - Air Solid Waste Assessment Test (SWAT) submitted for 4 landfills (Sites 2, 3, 5, and 17)

1988 - MCAS El Toro recommended for listing as National Priority List (NPL) (listed in 1990) under CERCLA

1991 - Phase I Remedial Investigation (RI) work began at MCAS El Toro

1993 - Placed on BRAC III list for base closure in 1999

1993 - Draft Technical Memorandum submitted with results of Phase I RI for 22 sites

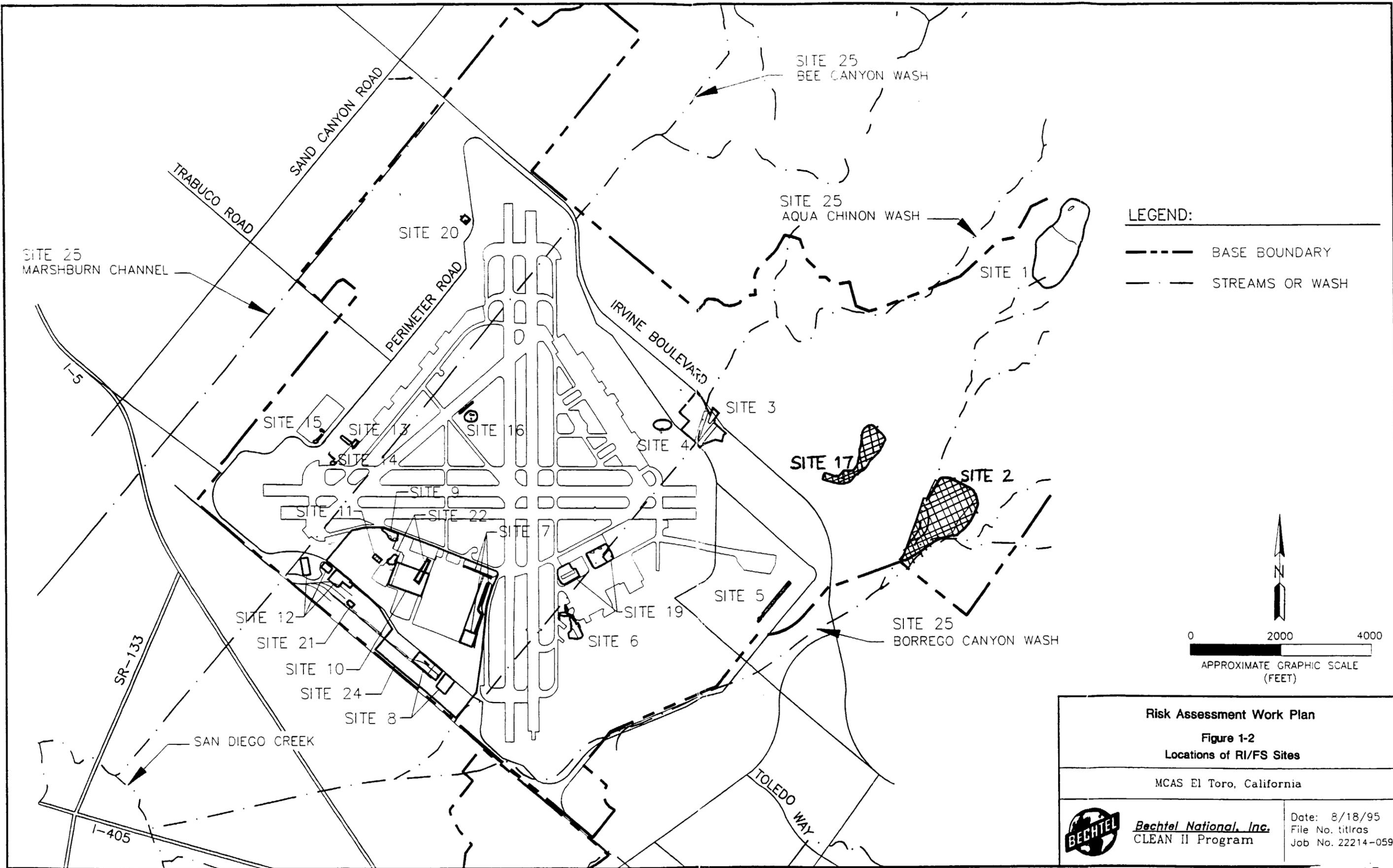
1993 - RCRA Facilities Assessment (RFA) completed for 140 sites

1993 - Draft Work Plan for Phase II RI/FS submitted for 25 sites (Site 23, 24, and 25)

1994 - Interim Action RI/FS on OU-1 - Regional Groundwater Contamination

1994- Began Revised Draft Work Plan and associated plans for Phase II RI/FS (CLEAN II)

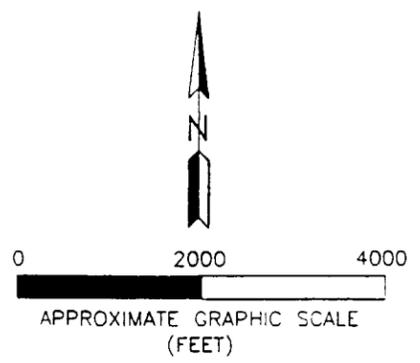
- **Work Plan**
- **Field Sampling Plan**
- **Quality Assurance Project Plan**
- **Data Management Plan**
- **Risk Assessment Plan**
- **Investigation Derived Waste Management Plan**
- **Health and Safety Plan**



LEGEND:

----- BASE BOUNDARY

----- STREAMS OR WASH

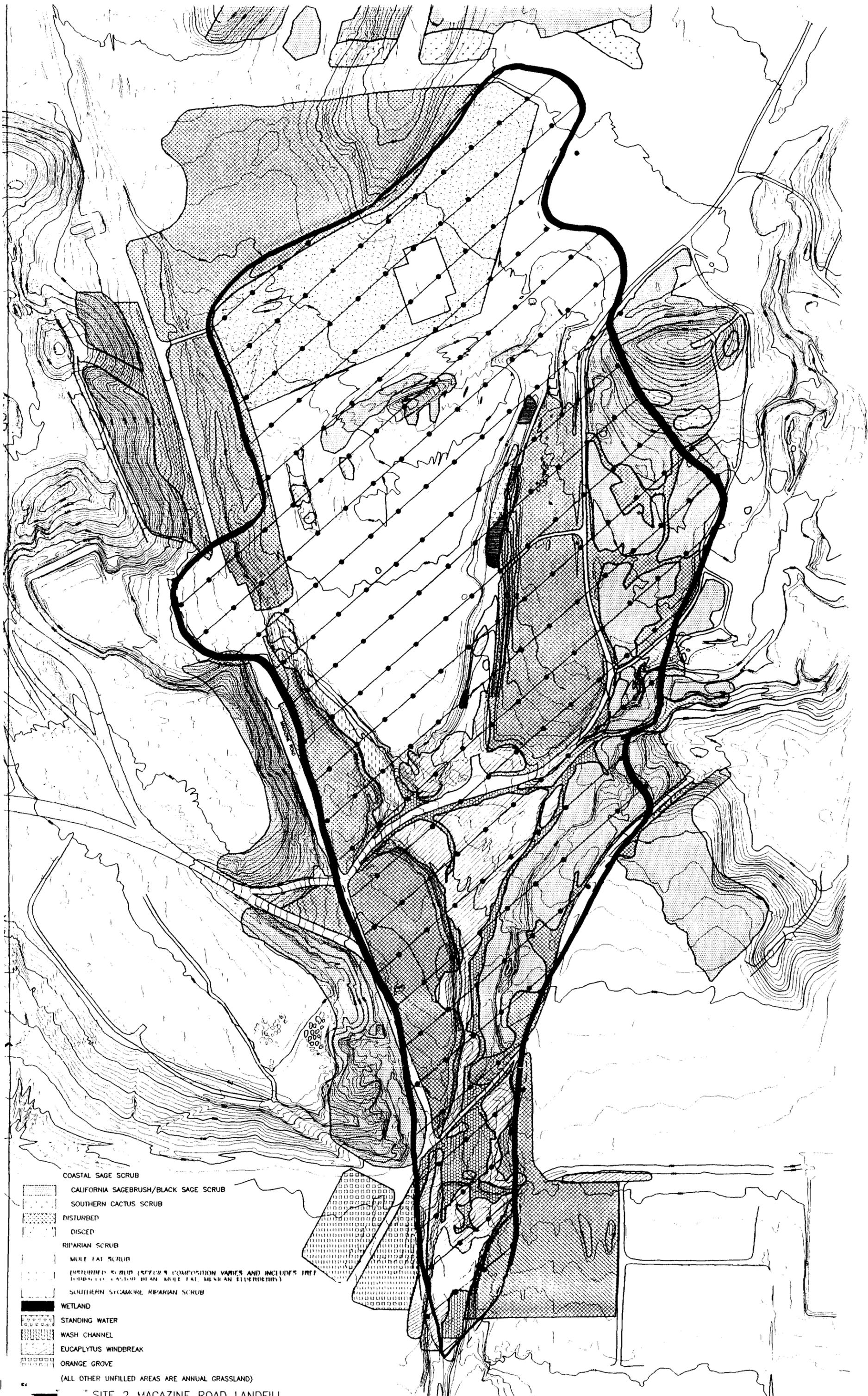


Risk Assessment Work Plan Figure 1-2 Locations of RI/FS Sites	
MCAS El Toro, California	
	Date: 8/18/95 File No. titlras Job No. 22214-059
Bechtel National, Inc. CLEAN II Program	

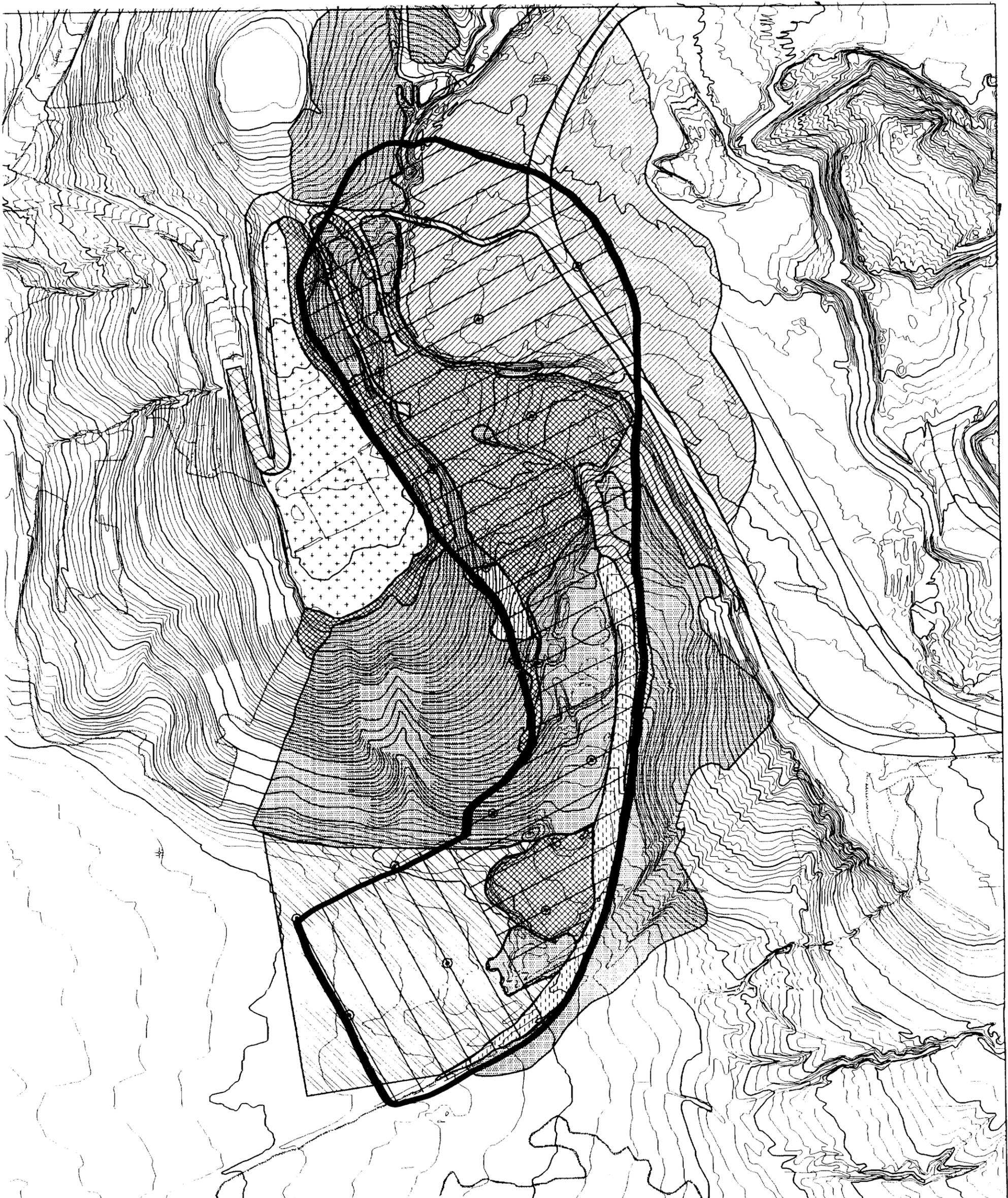
Overview of Habitats/Vegetation Communities

Map of Site 2 - Magazine Road Landfill

Map of Site 17 - Communication Station Landfill



- COASTAL SAGE SCRUB
- CALIFORNIA SAGEBRUSH/BLACK SAGE SCRUB
- SOUTHERN CACTUS SCRUB
- DISTURBED
- DISCARD
- RIPIARIAN SCRUB
- MULE FAT SCRUB
- DISTURBED SCRUB (SPECIES COMPOSITION VARIES AND INCLUDES TREE SPECIES SUCH AS CASAHUA, MULE FAT, MEXICAN ELDERBERRY)
- SOUTHERN SYCAMORE RIPIARIAN SCRUB
- WETLAND
- STANDING WATER
- WASH CHANNEL
- EUCALYPTUS WINDBREAK
- ORANGE GROVE
- (ALL OTHER UNFILLED AREAS ARE ANNUAL GRASSLAND)



-  COASTAL SAGE SCRUB
-  SANTA CRUZ SAGE SCRUB / BLACK SAGE SCRUB
-  SOUTHERN OAK SCRUB
-  DISTURBED
-  PRAIRIE GRASS
-  MULE FAT SCRUB
-  DISTURBED SCRUB (SPECIES COMPOSITION VARIES AND INCLUDES TREE TOBACCO, CASTOR BEAN, MULE FAT, MEXICAN ELDERBERRY, LAUREL SUMAC)
-  ANNUAL GRASSLAND
- 



SITE 17 Communication Station Landfill

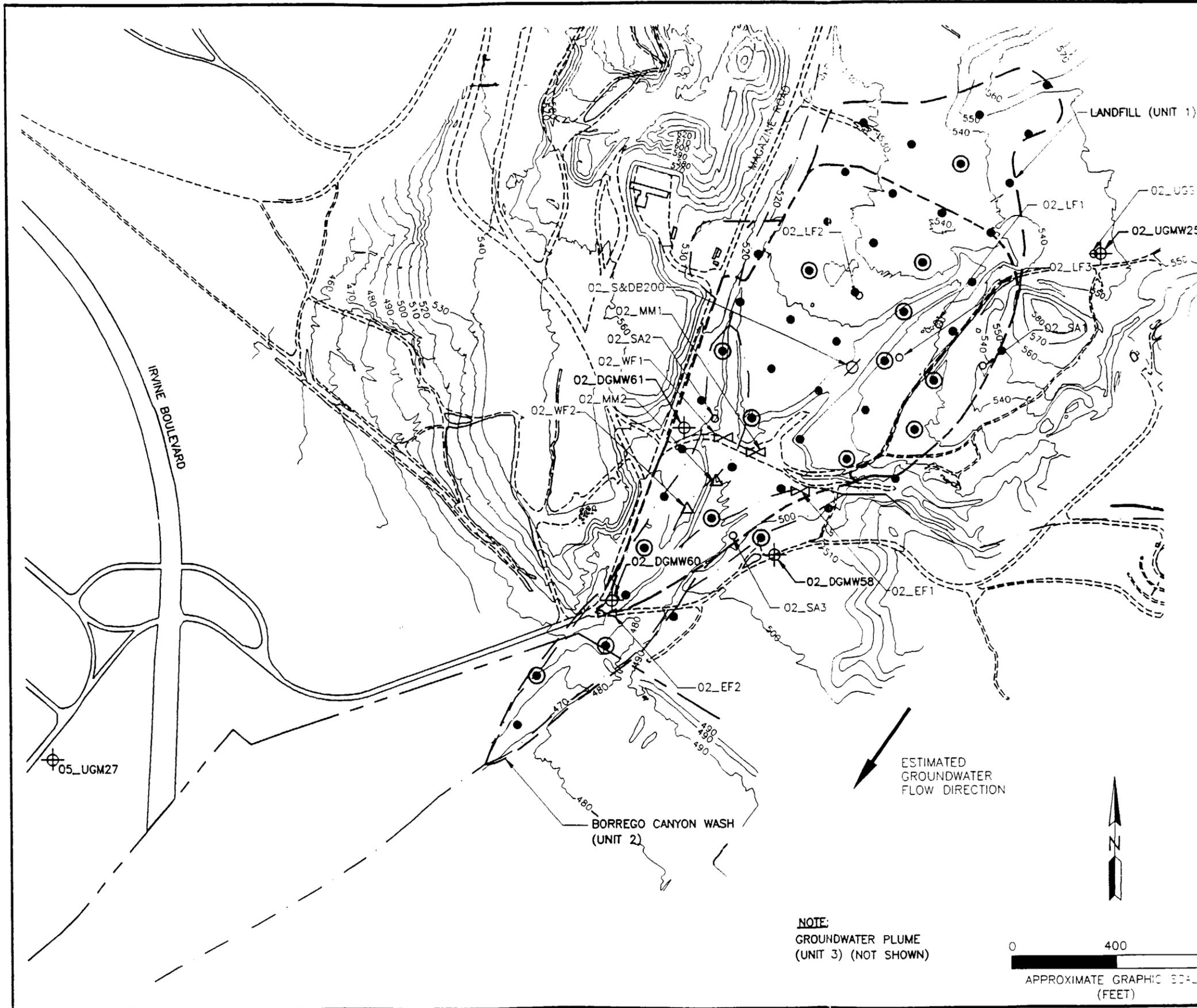
Phase II RI/FS Field Activities

MAGAZINE ROAD LANDFILL SITE 2

- **SURFACE GEOPHYSICS - (non-intrusive)**
 - Establish limits of refuse
 - 50 - 100 foot spacing
- **SOIL GAS SAMPLING - (intrusive)**
 - Locate the presence of Hot Spots (VOCs)
 - approximately 200 sample locations @ 100 foot grid spacing
- **SUBSURFACE INVESTIGATIONS, IF NECESSARY**
 - Possible remediation
- **AIR SAMPLING - (non-intrusive)**
 - Determine the integrity of existing cover
 - Instantaneous Gas Sampling
 - Integrated Surface Sampling
 - Ambient Air Sampling
 - Flux Chamber Sampling
 - Landfill Gas Migration Samples
- **TRENCHING - (intrusive)**
 - Only if necessary to determine the limits of landfilled wastes
 - estimated approximately 8 (includes fault investigation)
- **GROUNDWATER MONITORING WELLS - (intrusive)**
 - Define the vertical and horizontal extent of groundwater contamination
 - 7 Hydropunch Locations
 - 9 Groundwater Monitoring Wells
 - Aquifer Testing
- **SURFACE WATER - (non-intrusive)**
 - 4 samples
- **BIOTA SAMPLES**

Phase II RI/FS Field Activities
COMMUNICATION STATION LANDFILL
SITE 17

- **SURFACE GEOPHYSICS - (non-intrusive)**
 - Establish limits of refuse
 - 50 - 100 foot spacing
- **SOIL GAS SAMPLING - (intrusive)**
 - Locate the presence of Hot Spots (VOCs)
 - approximately 30 sample locations @ 200 foot grid spacing
- **SUBSURFACE INVESTIGATIONS, IF NECESSARY**
 - Possible remediation
- **AIR SAMPLING - (non-intrusive)**
 - Determine the integrity of existing cover
 - Instantaneous Gas Sampling
 - Integrated Surface Sampling
 - Ambient Air Sampling
 - Flux Chamber Sampling
 - Landfill Gas Migration Samples
- **TRENCHING - (intrusive)**
 - Only if necessary to determine the limits of landfilled wastes
 - estimated approximately 4
- **GROUNDWATER MONITORING WELL - (intrusive)**
 - Define the vertical and horizontal extent of groundwater contamination and compliance monitoring
 - 2 Groundwater Monitoring Wells
- **LYSIMETER - (intrusive)**
 - Determine if the landfill is leaking and compliance monitoring
 - 3 lysimeters
- **BIOTA SAMPLES**



LEGEND:

- BUILDING OR PAD
- STREAMS OR WASH
- IMPROVED ROADS
- UNIMPROVED ROADS
- PHASE I STRATUM BOUNDARY
- PHASE II UNIT MODIFICATIONS
- FENCE
- BASE BOUNDARY
- ELEVATION CONTOURS (FEET M.S.L. - 10 FOOT INTERVAL)

EXISTING:

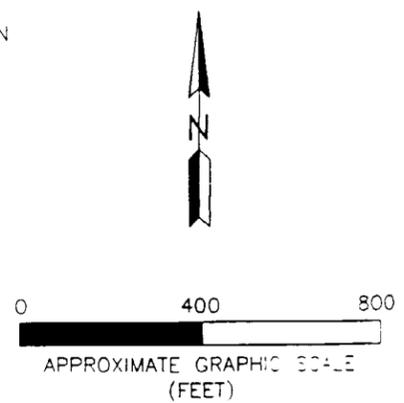
- PHASE I MONITORING WELL (RESULTS ON TABLE B3-3 AND B3-6 IN PHASE I T.M.)
- PHASE I DEEP ANGLE BORING
- PHASE I SURFACE AND NEAR SURFACE SOIL SAMPLE (RESULTS ON TABLE B3-2 IN PHASE I T.M.)
- PHASE I SURFACE WATER AND SEDIMENT SAMPLE (RESULTS ON TABLE B3-0 AND B3-2 IN PHASE I T.M.)
- PHASE I SEDIMENT SAMPLE

PROPOSED:

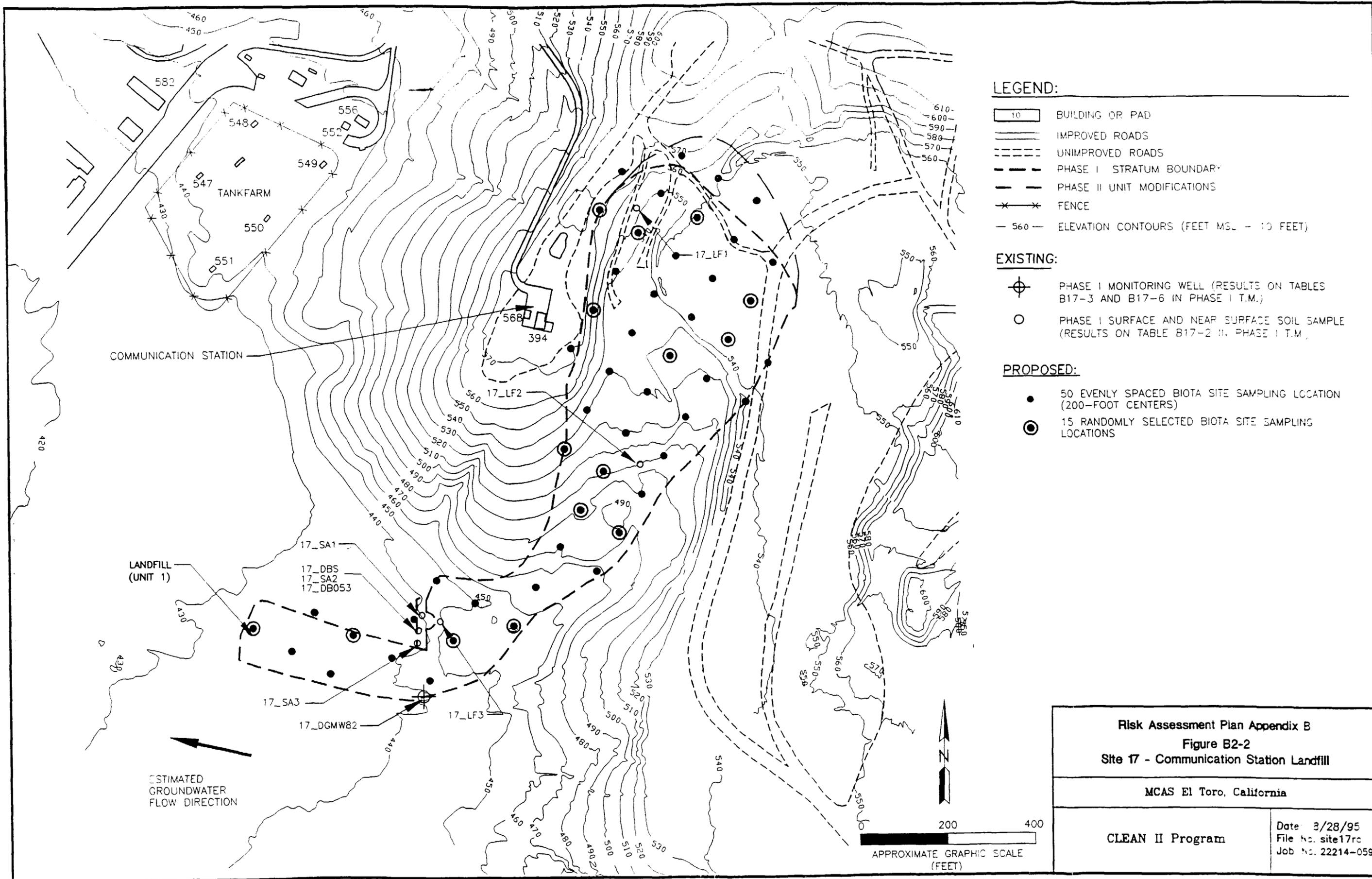
- 50 EVENLY SPACED BIOTA SITE SAMPLING LOCATION (200-FOOT CENTERS)
- 15 RANDOMLY SELECTED BIOTA SITE SAMPLING LOCATIONS

NOTE:
GROUNDWATER PLUME
(UNIT 3) (NOT SHOWN)

ESTIMATED
GROUNDWATER
FLOW DIRECTION



Risk Assessment Plan Appendix B	
Figure B2-1 Site 2 - Magazine Road Landfill	
MCAS El Toro, California	
CLEAN II Program	Date: 8/28/95 File No.: site2-ra Job No.: 22214-059



Risk Assessment Plan Appendix B Figure B2-2 Site 17 - Communication Station Landfill	
MCAS El Toro, California	
CLEAN II Program	Date: 3/28/95 File No. site17rc Job No. 22214-059

Discussion of Potential Effects and Mitigation

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Effect</u>	<u>Mitigation</u>
SURFACE GEOPHYSICS	linear transect	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Avoid majority of sensitive habitat 2. Move locations from very sensitive locations 3. Minimize trimming of vegetation to three (3) feet wide and at less one foot height 4. Worker education on identifying plant communities and avoiding disturbance 5. Activity to be conducted in fall and winter
SOIL GAS SAMPLING	linear transects	Same as for Surface Geophysics
SUBSURFACE INVESTIGATIONS	TBD	Use mitigation measures presented here
AIR SAMPLING	small diameter clearings (4-5 ft.)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Use transects above for access 2. Clear vegetation to surface only for footprint of flux chamber (18-24 inches)
TRENCHING	Backhoe excavation on existing roads or disturbed areas	In disturbed areas
GROUNDWATER MONITORING WELL	Drilling on roads or adjacent disturbed areas	In disturbed areas
LYSIMETER	Drilling on roads or disturbed areas with possible new roads	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In disturbed areas 2. New roads to be cleared in non-sensitive habitats 3. Work in fall and winter

Discussion of Potential Remedial Alternatives and Effects

Landfill Presumptive Remedies - U.S. EPA

- 1. Capping**
- 2. Groundwater Pump and Treat**
- 3. Leachate Collection and Treatment System**
- 4. Landfill Gas Collection and Treatment**
- 5. Institutional Controls to Supplement Engineering Controls**

Discussion of USFW Policies and Procedures

- 1. Natural Communities Conservation Planning**
- 2. Gnatcatcher policies**
- 3. Opinion of investigation stage to remedial action (construction) stage**