

**A PHASE I CULTURAL RESOURCES INVESTIGATION
OF APPROXIMATELY 40 ACRES NEAR NORMA
STREET AND SARATOGA AVENUE IN THE
CITY OF RIDGECREST, KERN COUNTY,
CALIFORNIA**

Prepared for:

TAFT CORPORATION
Attn: Aldrin Prestosa
26740 Via Linda Street
Malibu, California 90265

Prepared by:

McKENNA et al.
6008 Friends Avenue
Whittier, California 90601-3724
(562) 696-3852
(562) 693-4059 FAX

Author an Principal Investigator: Jeanette A. McKenna, M.A. and RPA

Job No. 11-05-02-1155
February 6, 2006

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A PHASE I CULTURAL RESOURCES INVESTIGATION OF APPROXIMATELY 40 ACRES NEAR NORMA STREET AND SARATOGA AVENUE IN THE CITY OF RIDGECREST, KERN COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

by:

Jeanette A. McKenna, Principal
McKenna et al., Whittier CA

INTRODUCTION

McKenna et al. (Appendix A) initiated the cultural resources investigation of the Taft Corporation property in Ridgecrest, Kern County, California, at the request of Aldrin Prestosa of Taft Corporation. The project area consists of 40.63 acres of unimproved land in the southeastern portion of the city of Ridgecrest. This location is just west of the county boundary between Kern County and San Bernardino County (approximately 2.5 miles west). The proposed development involves the subdivision and subsequent development of 128 lots. This study has been completed for compliance with the California environmental Quality Act, as amended, and the California Subdivision MaP Act.

LOCATION AND SETTING

The current project area consists of 40.63 acres of unimproved land in the City of Ridgecrest, Kern County, California (Figure 1). This area is located within Township 27 South, Range 40 East, and Section 16, Mount Diablo Base and Meridian (Figure 2). The County Assessor identified the properties as APNs 510-010-06 and -07 (Figure 3). As planned, the proposed development will front along Norma Street and will include the development of a relatively closed community (Figure 4).

At the time of this study, the access roads were unpaved, dirt roads with evidence of some utilities (e.g. power poles) and street signs. The project area, itself, was sparsely vegetated with low surface grasses, creosote bushes, Bursage, various species of cacti, and saltbush. The majority of the surface area was loosely compacted sandy soils with no bedrock outcrops. Ground coverage was excellent.

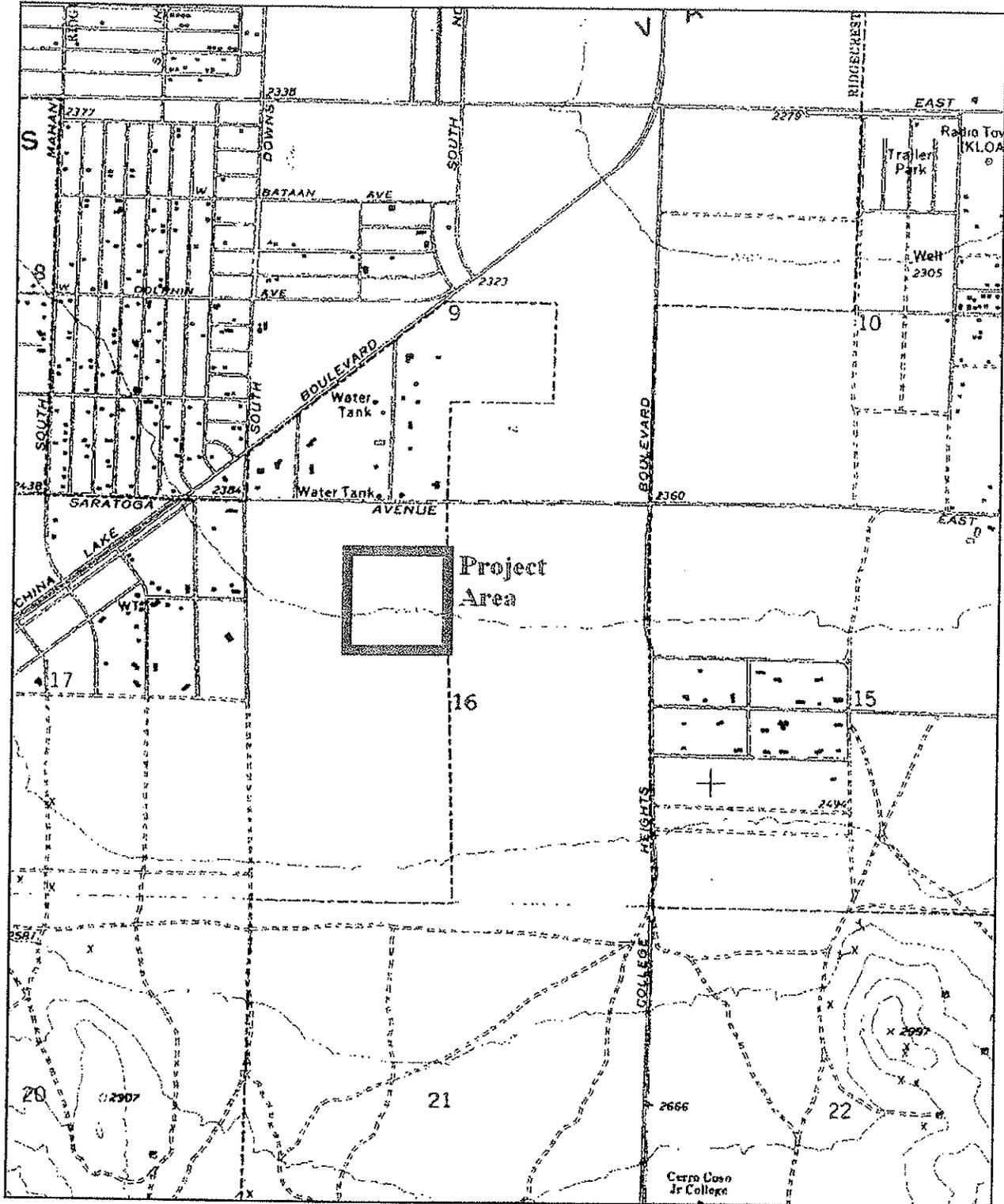


Figure 2. Specific Location of the Project Area (USGS Ridgecrest South Quadrangle).

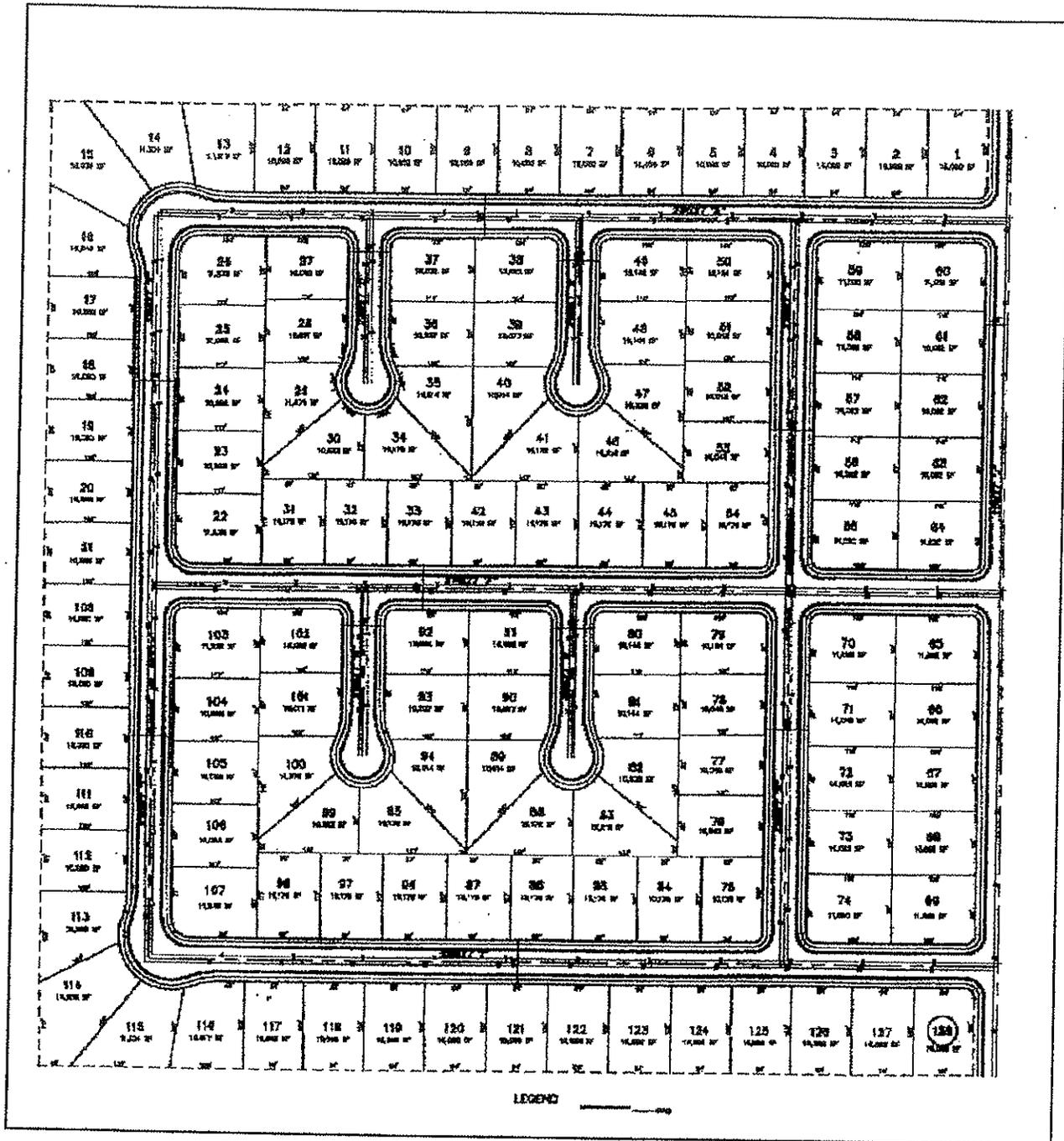


Figure 4. Proposed Site Plan.

A paleontological overview for this area identified the geologic elements consisting of younger Quaternary deposits originating in the nearby decomposing hills to the south. These deposits are not known to be fossil bearing and, therefore, no such specimens are expected.

BRIEF CULTURE HISTORY BACKGROUND

The project area is located in southeastern Kern County, an area generally associated with the Kaern and Owens Valleys and the Tubatulabal. The Tubatulabal are a Native American population also associated with the Sierra Nevada foothills and the Kern River areas. This population is identified as being of Uto-Aztecan stock, suggesting a relationship between them and their neighboring Serrano (Tataviam) populations (Smith 1978:437).

Little is known about the prehistory of this particular area of California. The earliest archaeological evidence for occupation dates to only A.D. 1450, a period when populations to the east and southeast essentially disappear, suggesting the populations may have migrated into this area from points east and southeast. First contact occurred in 1776 during the Garces Expedition. Later, Padre Font passed through the area, making contact near the Kern River.

Following 1900, the Tubatulabal were moved to a reservation to the north, essentially ending the occupation in the southern portion of the County. Their populations were always considered small and they are all but gone now. In the 1970s, only six individuals were known to still speak the native language.

The Tubatulabal lived in bands of mobile family groups, rendering them hunters and gathers. During the winter months, they did establish winter encampments of extended family units. The groups were territorially based and recognized around geographical units. Therefore, cultural variation within a given area was limited. Many items were individually owned, lessening the interdependency on other groups (Smith 1978:439). Upon the death of an individual, personal items were burned. With the exception of some items that may have been inherited or passed on as gifts, there was little "curation" of materials.

METHODOLOGY

To adequately address the CEQA requirements for compliance, McKenna et al. completed the following tasks.

1. Archaeological Records Check: McKenna et al. completed a standard archaeological records check through the California State University, Bakersfield, Southern San Joaquin Valley Archaeological Information Center (SSJVAIC; Appendix B). This research was designed to provide baseline information on studies completed within the area (one mile radius), site forms for recorded resources, and data pertaining to significant or listed properties in the area. This data was used to place the proposed project area within a

context for the preliminary identification and evaluation in accordance with CEQA criteria.

2. Native American Consultation: McKenna et al. conducted the Native American consultation by contacting the Native American Heritage Commission in Sacramento and inquiring into the presence/absence of significant sites in the general area. McKenna et al. also obtained a listing of Native Americans within Kern County that may have information regarding the area and forwarded letters to these individuals. These communications resulted in no written comments nor identification of specific concerns with respect to archaeological resources (Appendix C).
3. Supplemental Research: In addition to the standard archaeological records check, McKenna et al. reviewed previous completed reports, obtained information on the historic development of the area, and assessed the relative level of sensitivity for the project area to yield historic or prehistoric resources.
4. Paleontological Overview: A paleontological overview was prepared by Dr. Samuel McLeod of the Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History (Appendix D).
5. Field Survey: The field survey was completed by Richard S. Shepard, M.A., on December 12, 2005. The intensive field survey was accomplished by walking paralleling transects across the property at intervals averaging 15 meters apart. All areas of the project area were examined. The field survey was supplemented by general field notes and a photographic record (Appendix E) and the surveyor carried a Garmin GPS handheld system to record any locational data necessary to relocate a specific artifact or geographical location.
6. Analysis of the Data Compiled: Upon completion of the field studies and research, McKenna et al. had at least two major data sets available for analysis: 1) the previous research data; and 2) the recently compiled data. McKenna et al. used these two sets of data to address the sensitivity of this area to yield significant cultural resources.
7. Report Preparation: This technical report was prepared in a format and with data contents dictated by the state guidelines and slightly adapted this format to address the issues particular to this property and project. All pertinent data has been included for review and comment.

PREVIOUS RESEARCH

A record search was requested from the SSJVAIC on November 11, 2005. Because of backlog and "rush jobs" received by the Center, the McKenna et al. Records request was not completed until February 5, 2006 (Appendix B). This search includes a review of all recorded historic and prehistoric archaeological sites within a one mile radius of the project area as well as a review of all known cultural resource reports. In addition, the file of historic maps, the California Points of

Historical Interest (PHI), the listing of California Historical Landmarks (CHL), the California Register of Historic Resources Inventory (HRI), and the National Register of Historic Places listings have been checked for the referenced project.

Research showed that a minimum of five studies have been conducted within one mile of the project area and one, KE-2054, included the current study area. KE-2054 was essentially an overview report and did not necessarily include a pedestrian survey of the project area. As a result of all studies completed in the general area, no cultural resources have been recorded. Likewise, no significant or listed properties are in the area.

Overall, the project area is considered to have a low level of sensitivity for cultural resources, historic or prehistoric in origin.

RESULTS OF THE INVESTIGATIONS

The specific project area was identified as a 40 acre property bounded by dirt access roads and limited infrastructure. Nonetheless, it was readily identifiable by the present of survey stakes and landmarks (e.g. street signs). The area was fully accessible and ground visibility was excellent. The survey was completed in one extended field day and resulted in negative findings.

No evidence of prehistoric, historic, or paleontological resources were identified in the area. Therefore, McKenna et al. has concluded that the project area is clear of such resources and the proposed development will have no adverse impacts on any such resources.

SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the recent investigations, McKenna et al. has determined that the 40 acre project area is clear of any cultural resources and no further studies regarding cultural resources are warranted at this time.

Paleontological resources are not likely to be identified within the project area unless the excavations for development exceed the depths of the recent alluvium and impact fossil bearing deposits. This is unlikely, as the recent alluvium has considerable depth in this area of Kern County.

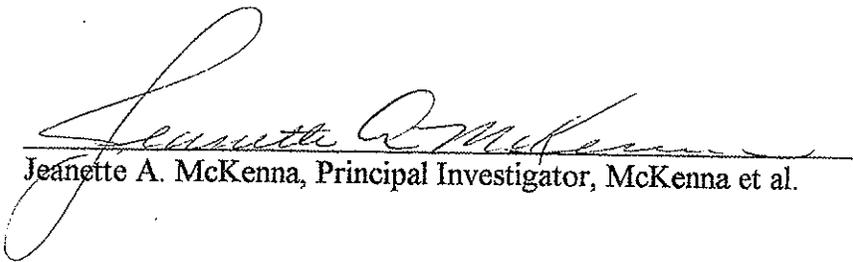
At this time, McKenna et al. is not recommending any archaeological or paleontological monitoring program(s). However, as there is always a potential for unidentified buried resources, the proponent should have an archaeological/paleontological consultant on-call and prepared to respond to any materials unearthed during future ground altering activities.

If human remains are identified at any time, the Los Angeles County Coroner must be notified immediately and, upon recommendations from the Coroner, the remains will be handled in accordance with State guidelines.

CERTIFICATION

CERTIFICATION. I hereby certify that the statements furnished above and in the attached exhibits present the data and information required for this archaeological report, and that the facts, statements, and information presented are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Feb. 7, 2006
Date


Jeanette A. McKenna, Principal Investigator, McKenna et al.

REFERENCES

- Baldwin, Adele
2006 Proposed Subdivision and Development in Ridgecrest, CA. California State University, Bakersfield, Southern San Joaquin Valley Archaeological Information Center, Bakersfield, California. On file, McKenna et al., Whittier, California.
- McLeod, Samuel
2005 Paleontological Resource for the Proposed Residential Development in the Ridgecrest Area of Kern County (T 27 S, R 40 E), Project Area. Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History, Vertebrate Paleontology Section. On file, McKenna et al., Whittier, California.
- Smith, Charles R.
1978 "Tubatilabal." In: Handbook of North American Indians, ed. By R.F. Heizer, pp. 437-445. Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.
- Wood, Rob
2005 Proposed Investigation of Two Properties Located in the Ridgecrest Area of Kern County. Native American Heritage Commission, Sacramento, California. On File, McKenna et al., Whittier, California.

APPENDIX A:

Professional Qualifications

JEANETTE A. MCKENNA
Owner and Principal Investigator
McKenna et al., Whittier CA

Ms. McKenna specializes in the field of Cultural Resource Management: prehistoric archaeology, historic archaeology, and history. She is a past member of the Board of Directors for the Society of Professional Archaeologists (SOPA 1993-97) and is certified by the Society to conduct both prehistoric and historic archaeological studies. With its inception, Ms. McKenna was registered with the Registry of Professional Archaeologists (RPA; 1998- Present). Ms. McKenna has 27 years of professional experience as an archaeologist and has participated on over 900 projects. The majority of her work has been conducted as a Field Director, Project Manager, and/or Principal Investigator in California and the Greater Southwest.

TECHNICAL CAPABILITIES

- Vast experience in the greater Southwest, Great Basin, and Southern California regions. Familiar with the full range of cultural resource investigations and has completed projects within the public and private sectors, including environmental management firms, planning and engineering firms, and State and federal agencies.
- Active in the discipline of Cultural Resource Management since 1976; over 27 years of experience in Southern California, Arizona, and Nevada.
- Particular interest in the desert regions of California and Arizona, with specializations in the Proto-historic and Historic Contact Periods.
- Considerable experience in dealing with prehistoric cultural remains and working directly with Native American groups in archaeological training programs (through Arizona State University and the Southern California Indian Center, Garden Grove).

EDUCATION AND AFFILIATIONS

B.A., Anthropology, 1977, CSU Fullerton
M.A., Anthropology, 1982, CSU Fullerton
Lambda Alpha Lambda Honors Society
Post Graduate Studies, Arizona State University, 1982-85
Post Graduate Studies, History Department
University of California, Riverside, 1991-92

Certification Program; CEQA, Land Use and Environmental Planning, University of California, Riverside, 1997-98

Society of Professional Archaeologists (SOPA)/Registry of Professional Archaeologists (RPA) Certification: Field/Prehistoric Archaeology and Historical Archaeology (1984 to Present)

Board of Directors, Society of Professional Archaeologists 1993-1997 (American Society of Conservation Archaeologists Representative)
BLM California Permit No. CA-02-30 (exp. 2005)
BLM Arizona State Permit No. AZ-000107 (renewable)
Arizona State Museum Antiquities Permit (renewal)
Curation Agreement, San Bernardino County Museum

SELECTED PROJECT EXPERIENCE

- Historic Architectural Studies for Renovation and Restoration of the Greek Theatre, Los Angeles CA
- Evaluation of Cultural Resources within the Burbank and West Hollywood Redevelopment Project Areas, Los Angeles County, CA
- Historic Property Survey for the City of Whittier, Los Angeles County, CA.
- Archaeological Investigations and Resource Evaluations for the Proposed Cajon Pipeline, San Bernardino and Los Angeles Counties, CA
- Archaeological Class I Investigations for the Proposed Mojave Pipeline, San Bernardino County, CA
- Cultural Resources Investigations (Phases I, II, III, and Mitigation Monitoring) for the RIX/SARI Projects, Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority (SAWPA), San Bernardino and Riverside Counties, CA
- Phase I, II, and III Archaeological Investigations for the County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County, Puente Hills Landfill Solid Waste Management Facility Expansion Project, Whittier, CA
- Archaeological Mitigation Program, The Phoenix Indian School Track Site Project. Arizona State University Office of Cultural Resource Management and the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Phoenix, AZ
- Archaeological and Testing Program for the Hidden Valley Golf Course and Van Buren Golf Course Properties, Riverside County, CA
- Cultural Resources Overview Studies for the Annexation of Unincorporated County Lands to the City of Ontario, CA
- Historic Property Survey Reports: Warner Bros. Main Lot Ranch Lot Properties, Burbank, CA
- Historic Archaeological Investigations for L.A. County Sheriff's Facility, Lancaster, CA.

APPENDIX B:

Archaeological Records Check

McKenna et al.

History/Archaeology/Architecture/Paleontology

Jeanette A. McKenna, M.A.
Owner and Principal Investigator
Reg. Professional Archaeologist

November 11, 2005

California State University, Bakersfield
Southern San Joaquin Valley Arch. Information Center
Attn: Adele Baldwin, Asst. Coordinator
9001 Stockdale Highway
Bakersfield, California 93311-1099

RE: Standard Archaeological Records Check.

Dear Ms. Baldwin:

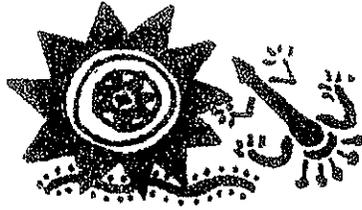
Please complete a standard archaeological records check for the property identified on the attached maps (USGSRidgecrest South Quad). The property is located within Township 27 South, Range 40 East, in the Northwest Quarter of Section 16, Mt. Diablo Base Meridian. The property is slated for subdivision and development as residential lots.

Please include all site records for a one mile radius, any applicable historic maps, the applicable bibliography, and let me know if you have any questions or comments. You can bill me at the address presented below.

Thanks,

Jeanette A. McKenna, Principal
McKenna et al.

**CALIFORNIA
HISTORICAL
RESOURCES
INFORMATION
SYSTEM**



**FRESNO
KERN
KINGS
MADERA
TULARE**

Southern San Joaquin Valley
Archaeological Information Center
California State University, Bakersfield
9001 Stockdale Highway
31 MW
Bakersfield, California 93311-1022
(661) 654-2289 FAX (661) 654-2415
E-mail: abaldwin@csub.edu

TO: Jeanette McKenna, M.A.,
Owner and Principal Investigator
McKenna et al
6008 Friends Avenue
Whittier, CA 90601-3724

(RS # 05-629)

DATE: February 5, 2006

RE: Proposed Subdivision and Development in Ridgecrest, CA

COUNTY: Kern

MAP(s): Ridgecrest South 7.5'

CULTURAL RESOURCES RECORDS SEARCH

The Information Center is under contract to the State Office of Historic Preservation and is responsible for the local management of the California Historical Resources Inventories. The following are the results of a search of the cultural resources files housed at the Southern San Joaquin Valley Information Center. These files include known and recorded archaeological and historic sites, inventory and excavation reports filed with this office, and properties listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the Historic Property Data File, (8/8/05), The California Register, the California Historical Landmarks, The California Inventory of Historic Resources, and The California Points of Historical Interest.

PRIOR CULTURAL RESOURCE STUDIES WITHIN THE PROJECT AREA AND A ONE-MILE RADIUS

According to the information in our files, the entire project area has been previously surveyed, report KE-2054. There have been (5) five surveys within a one-mile radius. Survey locations and their report designations are plotted on the enclosed project map.

KNOWN/RECORDED CULTURAL RESOURCES WITHIN THE PROJECT AREA AND A ONE-MILE RADIUS

There are no recorded cultural resources within the project area or within a one-mile radius.

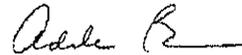
(RS # 05-629)

There are no resources within the project area that are listed on the National Register of Historic Places, The California Register, The California Inventory of Historic Resources, California State Historic Landmarks, or California Points of Historical Interest.

COMMENTS

Copies of title pages for the above referenced reports are enclosed. If you need any additional information for this project, please don't hesitate to contact me at (661) 654-2289.

By:



Adele Baldwin
Assistant Coordinator

Date: February 5, 2006

Fee: \$120.00/hr.

INVOICE #A3643

APPENDIX C:

Native American Consultation

McKenna et al.

History/Archaeology/Architecture/Paleontology

Jeanette A. McKenna, M.A.
Owner and Principal Investigator
Reg. Professional Archaeologist

November 11, 2005

Carol Gaubatz, Program Analyst
Native American Heritage Commission
915 Capitol Mall, Room 364
Sacramento, California 95814

RE: Native American Contact Listings.

Ms. Gaubatz:

McKenna et al. is initiating an investigation of two properties located in the Ridgecrest area of Kern County. The properties are located within Township 27 South, Range 40 East, Sections 3 and 16, Mt. Diablo Base Meridian, (USGS Ridgecrest South Quadrangle; attached). The property is slated for subdivision and development as residential lots.

Please forward me any information you may have on Sacred Sites for these areas and a copy of your referral listing for Native American Contacts within Kern County.

Sincerely,

Jeanette A. McKenna, Principal
McKenna et al.

STATE OF CALIFORNIAArnold Schwarzenegger Governor**NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION**

915 CAPITOL MALL, ROOM 304
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814
(916) 653-4082
Fax (916) 657-8390
Web Site www.nahc.ca.gov



November 8, 2005

Jeanette McKenna
McKenna et al.
6008 Friends Avenue
Whittier, CA 90601-3724

Sent by Fax: 562-693-4059
Number of Pages: 2

RE: Proposed investigation of two properties located in the Ridgecrest area of Kern County

Dear Ms. McKenna:

A record search of the sacred land file has failed to indicate the presence of Native American cultural resources in the immediate project area. The absence of specific site information in the sacred lands file does not indicate the absence of cultural resources in any project area. Other sources of cultural resources should also be contacted for information regarding known and recorded sites.

Enclosed is a list of Native Americans individuals/organizations who may have knowledge of cultural resources in the project area. The Commission makes no recommendation or preference of a single individual, or group over another. This list should provide a starting place in locating areas of potential adverse impact within the proposed project area. I suggest you contact all of those indicated, if they cannot supply information, they might recommend others with specific knowledge. By contacting all those listed, your organization will be better able to respond to claims of failure to consult with the appropriate tribe or group. If a response has not been received within two weeks of notification, the Commission requests that you follow-up with a telephone call to ensure that the project information has been received.

If you receive notification of change of addresses and phone numbers from any of these individuals or groups, please notify me. With your assistance we are able to assure that our lists contain current information. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me at (916) 653-4040.

Sincerely,

Rob Wood
Rob Wood
Environmental Specialist III

**Native American Contacts
Kern County
November 28, 2005**

Kern Valley Indian Council
Ron Wermuth, Chairperson
P.O. Box 1010
Lake Isabella , CA 93240
rweruth@earthlink.net
(760) 376-4240 - Home
(916) 717-1176 - Cell

Tubatulabal
Kawailsu
Koso
Yokuts

Tehachapi Indian Tribe
Attn: Charlie Cooke
32835 Santiago Road
Acton , CA 93510
suscol@interx.net
(661) 269-1244

Kawailsu

Kawailsu Tribe
David Laughinghorse Robinson
PO Box 20849
Bakersfield , CA 93390
(661) 664-3098 - work
(661) 664-7747 - home

Kawailsu

Harold Williams
15775 Setimo Creek Road
Caliente 93518
, CA
(661) 333-5032

Southern Paiute
Kawailsu

This list is current only as of the date of this document.

Distribution of this list does not relieve any person of statutory responsibility as defined in Section 7050.5 of the Health and Safety Code, Section 5097.24 of the Public Resources Code and Section 5097.98 of the Public Resources Code.

This list is only applicable for contacting local Native Americans with regard to cultural resources for the proposed investigation of two properties located in the Ridgecrest area of Kern County.

APPENDIX D:

Paleontological Overview

McKenna et al.

History/Archaeology/Architecture/Paleontology

Jeanette A. McKenna, M.A.
Owner and Principal Investigator
Reg. Professional Archaeologist

November 11, 2005

Dr. Samuel McLeod
Vertebrate Paleontology Section
Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County
900 Exposition Boulevard
Los Angeles, California 90007

RE: Paleontological Overview.

Dear Dr. McLeod:

Please provide me with a standard paleontological overview for the area identified on the attached map (USGS Ridgecrest South Quad). The property is located within Township 27 South, Range 40 East, in the Northwest Quarter of Section 16, Mt. Diablo Base Meridian. The property is slated for subdivision and development as residential lots, and is in Kern County.

Sincerely,

Jeanette A. McKenna, Principal
McKenna et al.

17 November 2005

McKenna et al.
6008 Friends Avenue
Whittier, California 90601-3724

Attn: Jeanette A. McKenna

re: Paleontological resources for the proposed residential development in the Ridgecrest area of Kern County (T 27 N, R 40 E), project area

Dear Jeanette:

I have conducted a thorough search of our paleontology collection records for the locality and specimen data for the proposed residential development in the Ridgecrest area of Kern County (T 27 N, R 40 E), project area as outlined on the section of the Ridgecrest South USGS topographic quadrangle map that you sent to me on 11 November 2005. We have no vertebrate fossil localities that lie directly within the proposed project area, nor do we have any localities nearby from the same sedimentary deposits that occur within the proposed project area.

The entire proposed project area has surficial sediments composed of younger Quaternary fan deposits derived from the hills immediately to the south. We have no vertebrate fossil localities anywhere nearby from these surficial deposits and they are unlikely to contain significant vertebrate fossils, at least in the uppermost layers. Our closest vertebrate fossil localities are to the north of the proposed project area centered around China Lake. Those fossil localities all come from the Quaternary lake deposits of China Lake, even when the surface deposits consist of younger Quaternary Alluvium, and have produced a typical Late Pleistocene fauna containing fossils such as from mammoth, *Mammuthus*, bison, *Bison*, camel, *Camelops*, horse, *Equus*, and duck, *Anas*. The proposed project area exists at a higher elevation though, centered around the 2400 foot contour, than all of the China Lake localities.

Surface grading or shallow excavations in the proposed project area probably will not encounter any significant vertebrate fossils. Deeper excavations that extend into underlying older sedimentary deposits, however, may uncover significant vertebrate fossil remains. Any substantial excavations below the uppermost layers, therefore, should be monitored closely to quickly and professionally recover any fossil remains discovered while not impeding development. Any fossils recovered during mitigation should be deposited in an accredited and permanent scientific institution for the benefit of current and future generations.

This records search covers only the vertebrate paleontology records of the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County. It is not intended to be a thorough paleontological survey of the proposed project area covering other institutional records, a literature survey, or any potential on-site survey.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Samuel A. McLeod". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Samuel A. McLeod, Ph.D.
Vertebrate Paleontology

enclosure: invoice

APPENDIX E:

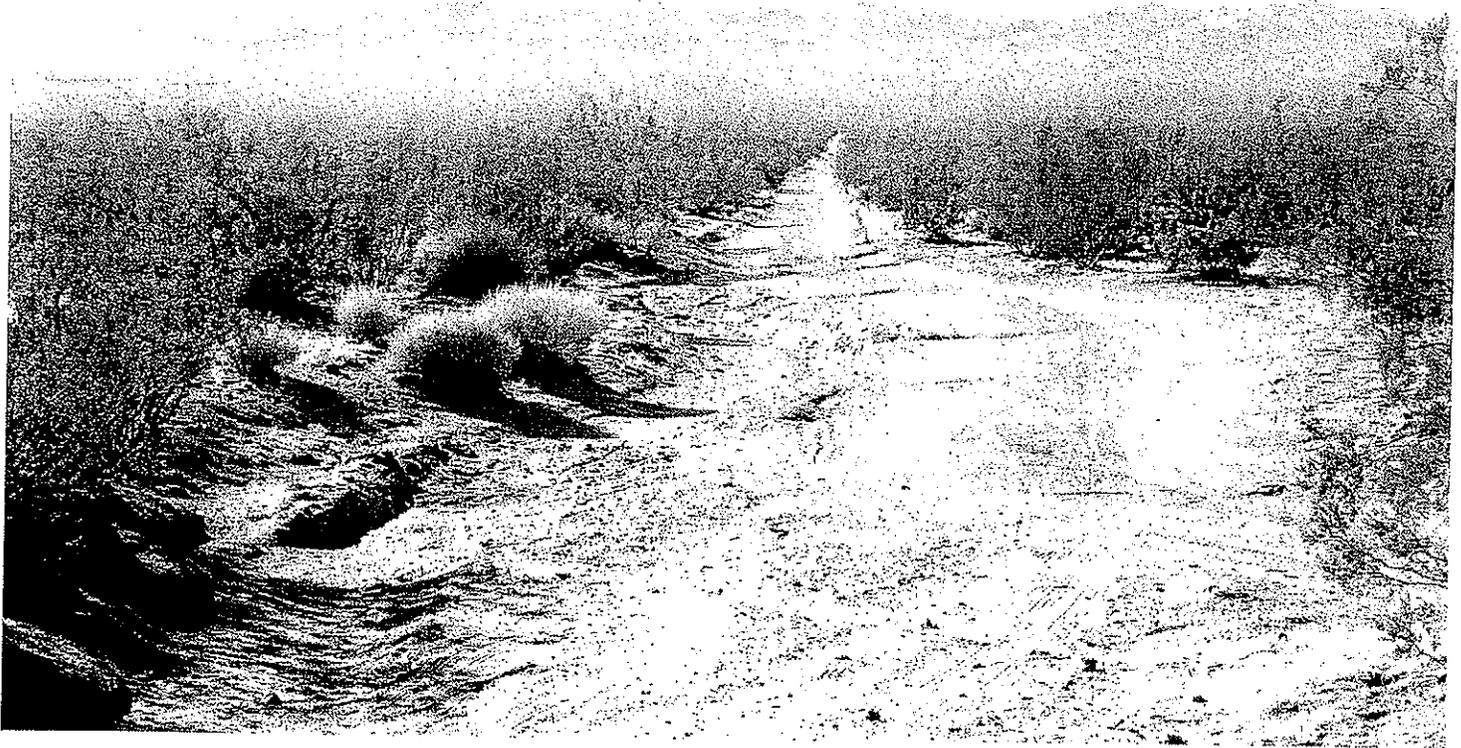
Photographic Record



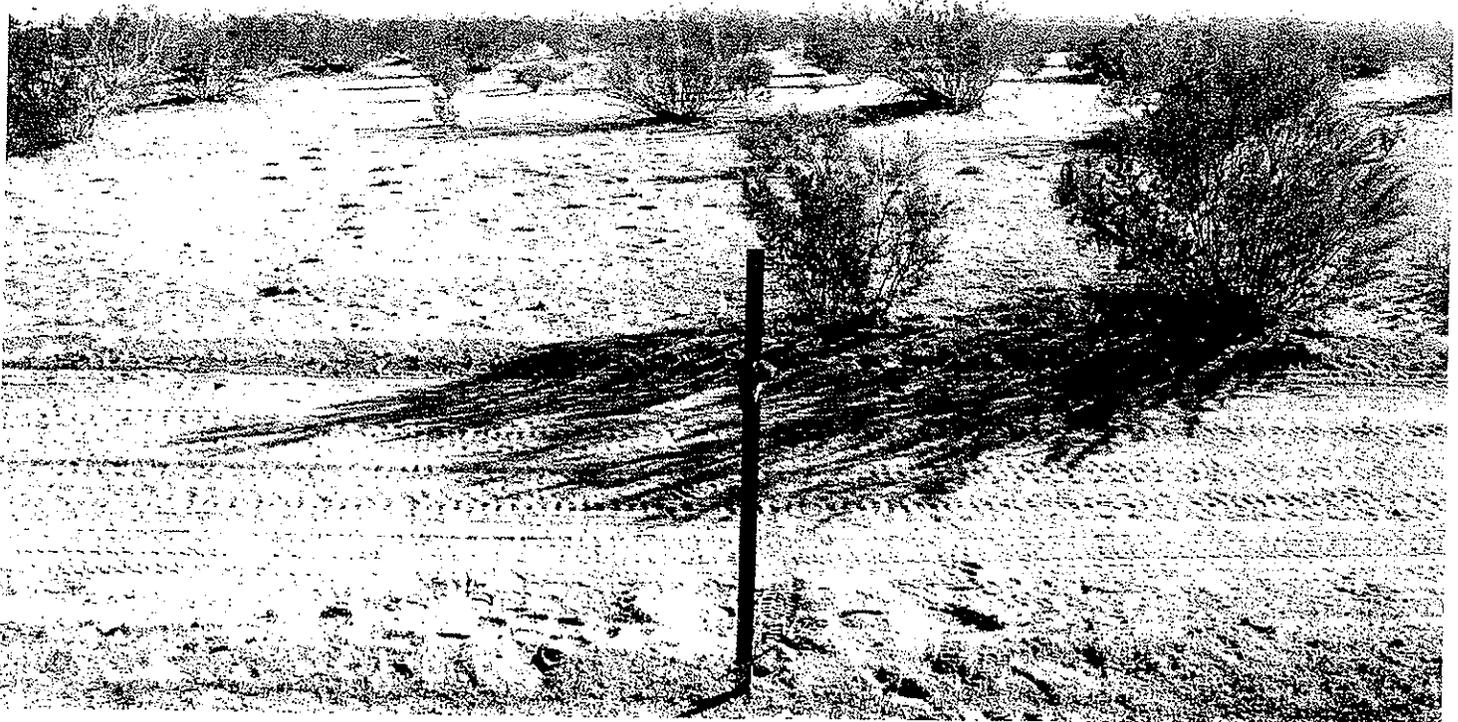
Signage at Springer and Downs, 1/4 Mile Northwest of Project Area (NW).



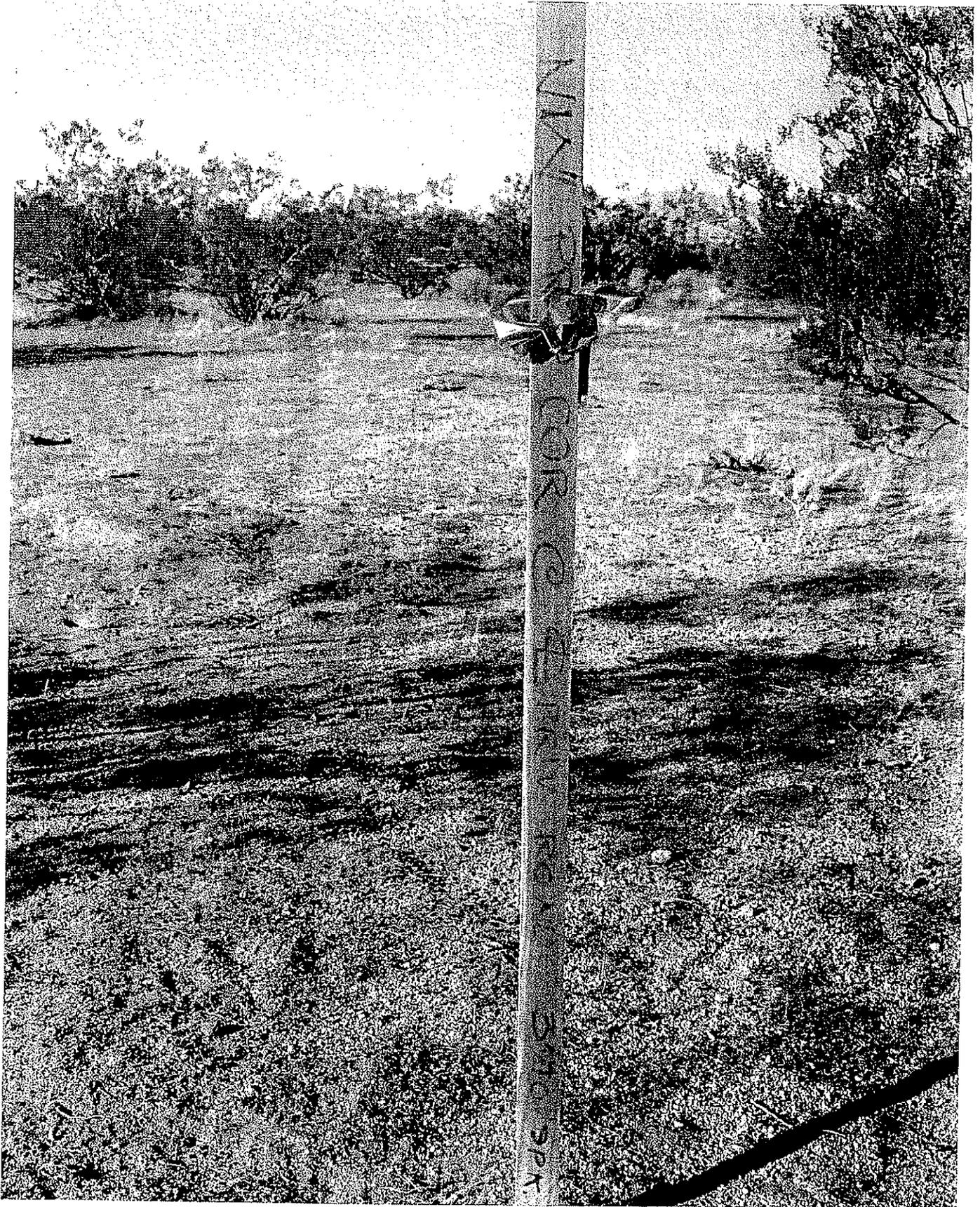
Overview of Springer Avenue from Sierra View Street (E).



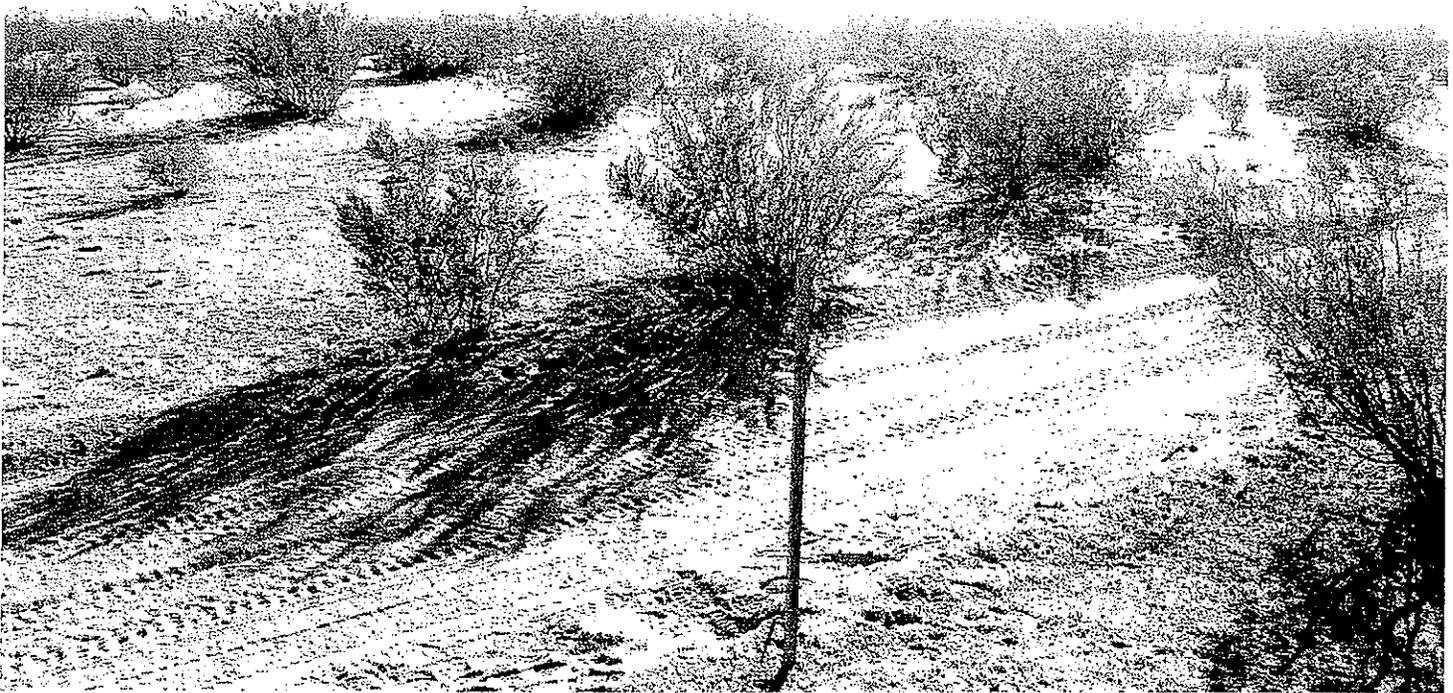
Sierra View Street from Springer Avenue (S).



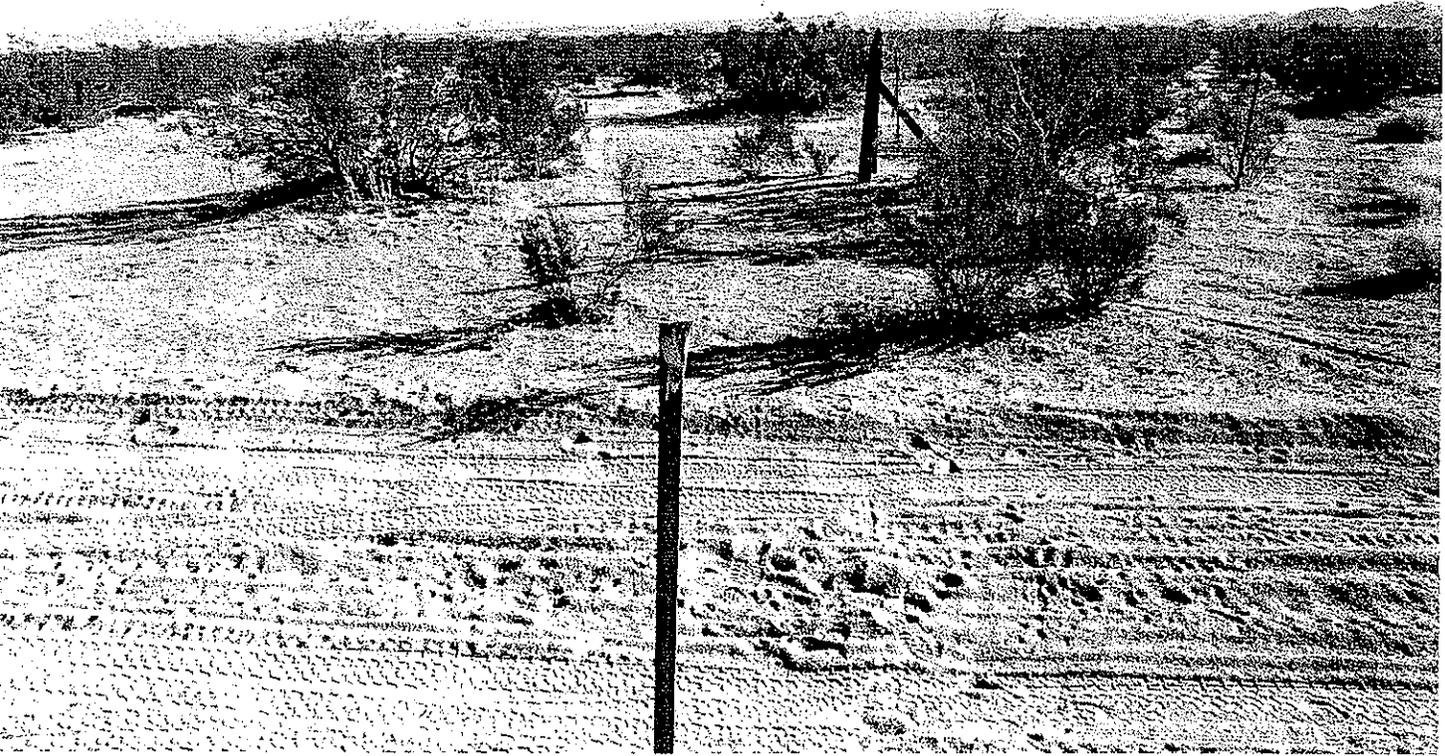
NW Surveyor's Stake on North Property Boundary (E).



Surveyor's Stake Marking the NW Corner of the Project Area (W).



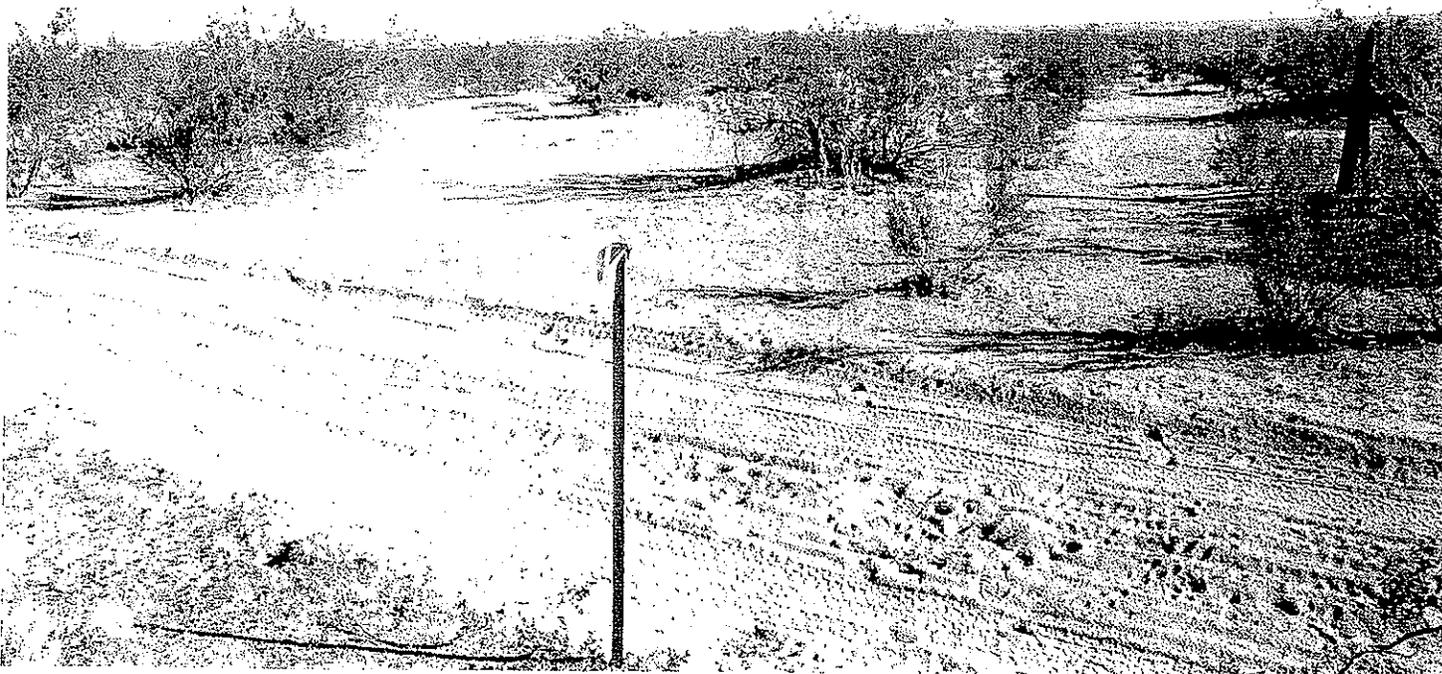
Overview of Property from NW Corner (with Stake; SE).



Surveyor's Stake Located in SW Corner of Property (E).



Overview of Surveyor's Stake in SW Corner of the Project Area (W).



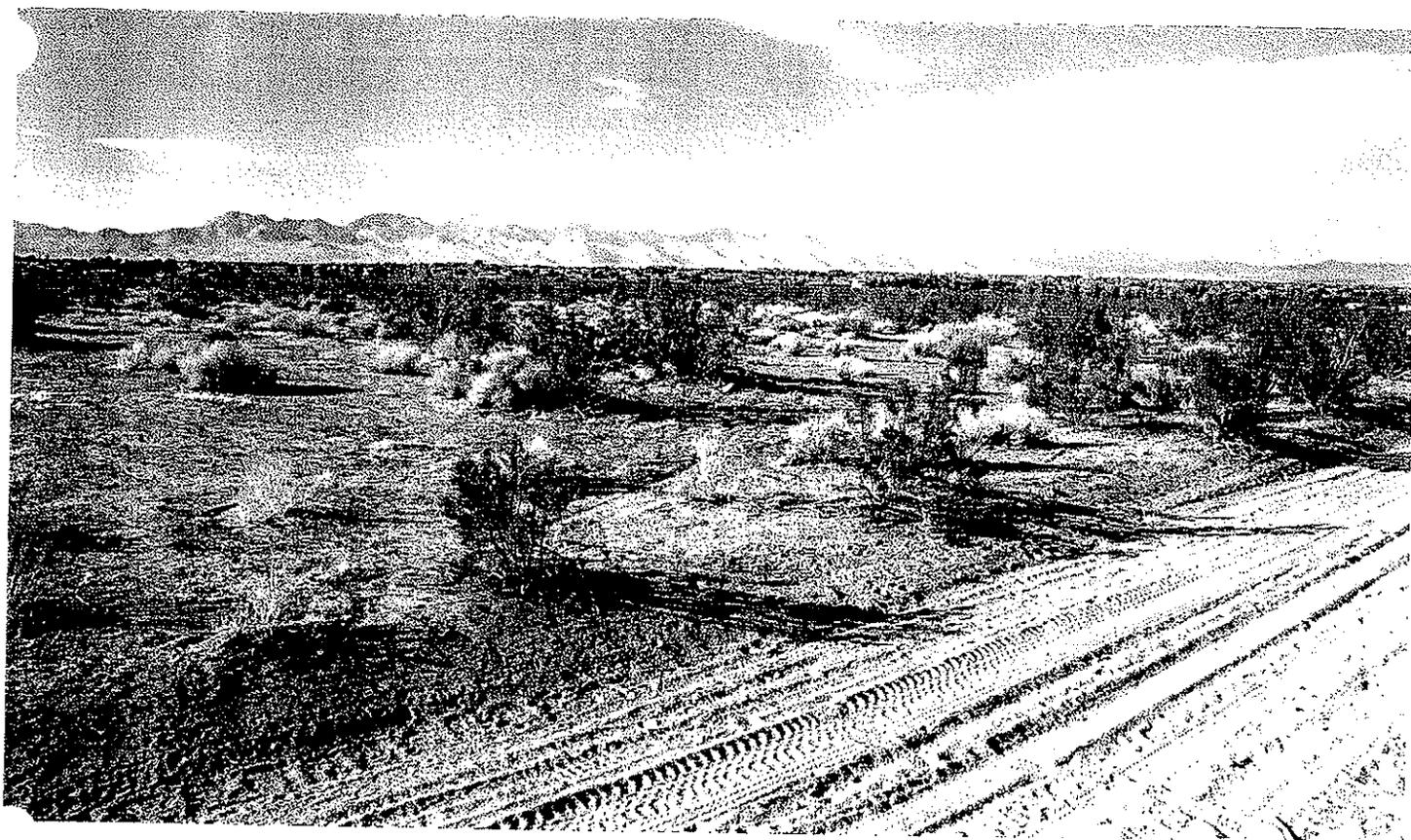
Overview of Project Area from SW Corner (NE).



Overview of Mountains on Horizon West of Project Area (W).



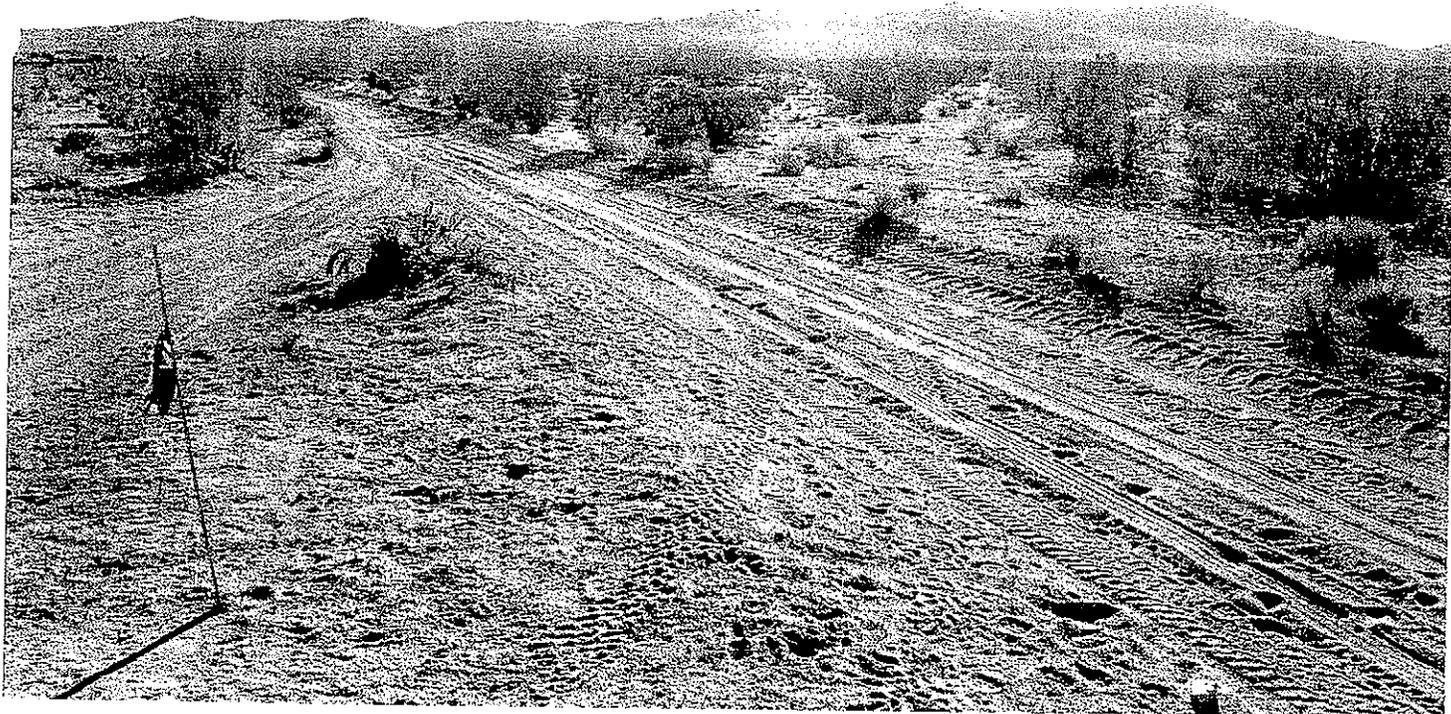
Alignment of Norma Street from SE Corner of Property (Eastern Boundary; N).



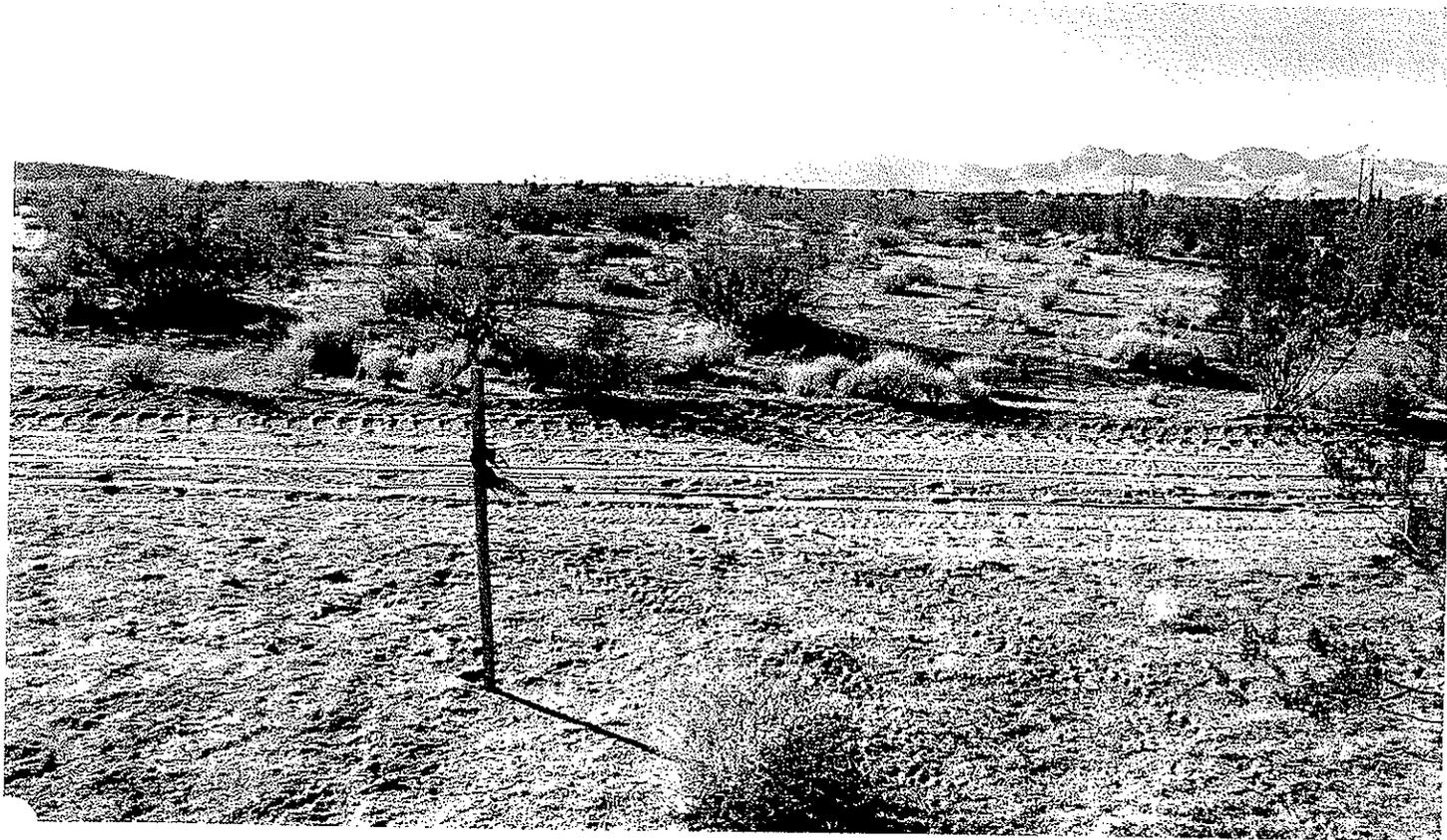
Overview of Project Area from SE Corner (NW).



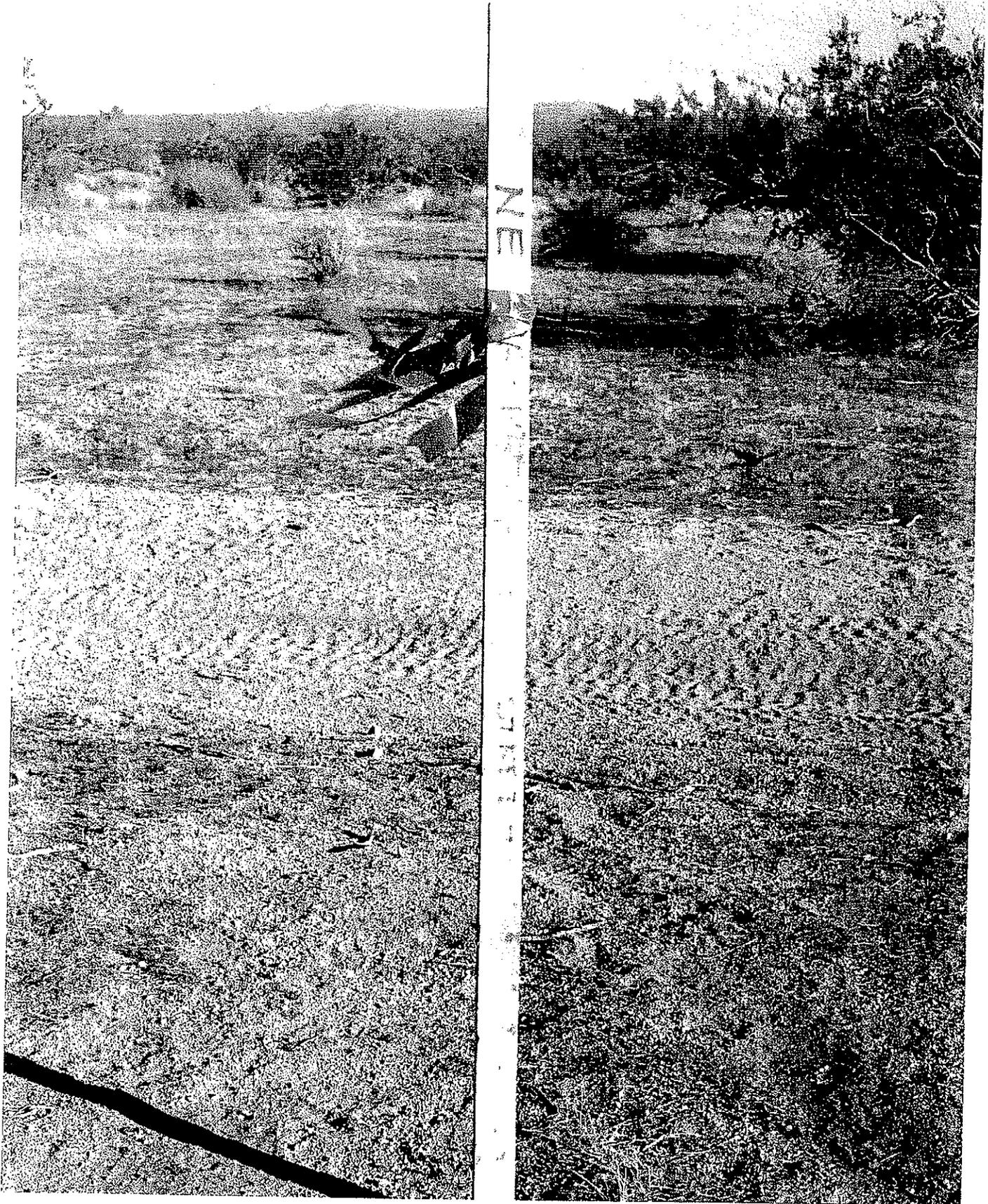
Overview of Surveyor's Stake in SE Corner of Project Area (E).



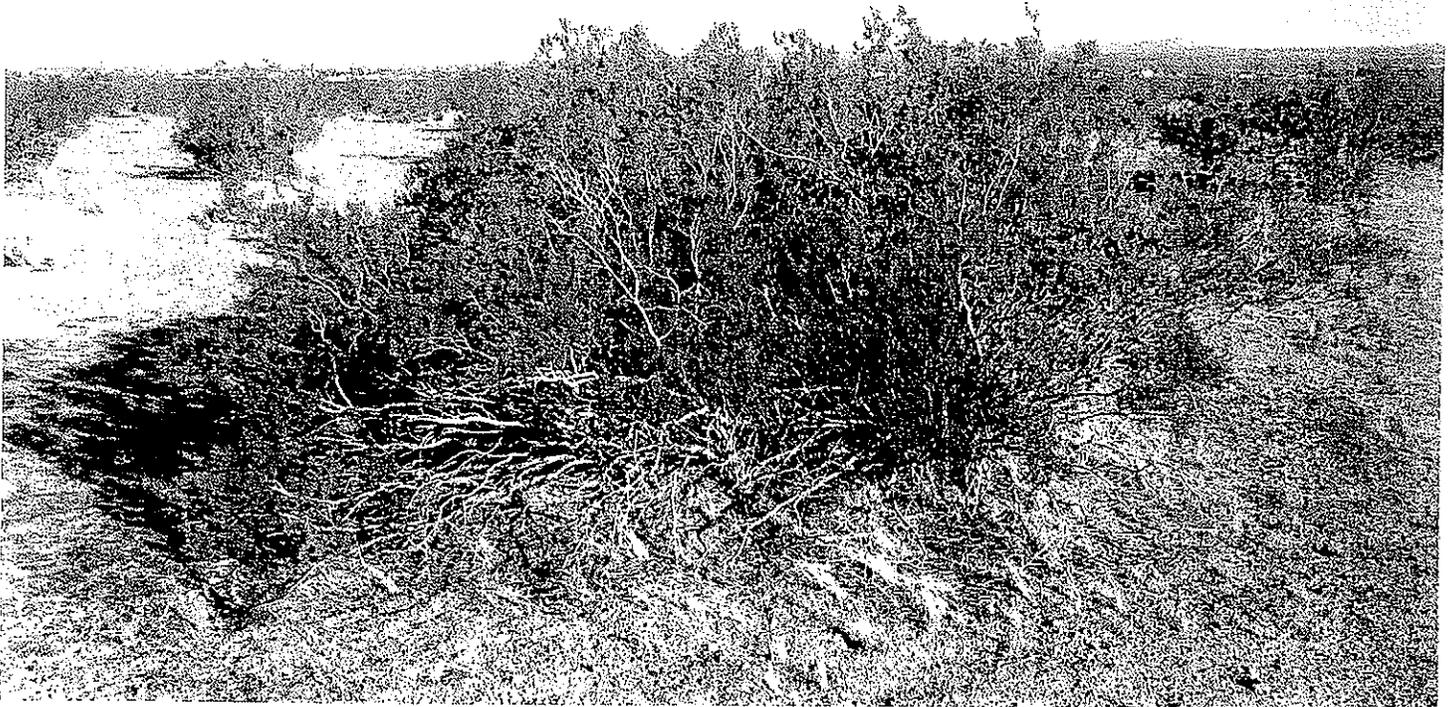
Alignment of Norma Street (Dirt road) from Stake in NE Corner of Property (S/SW).



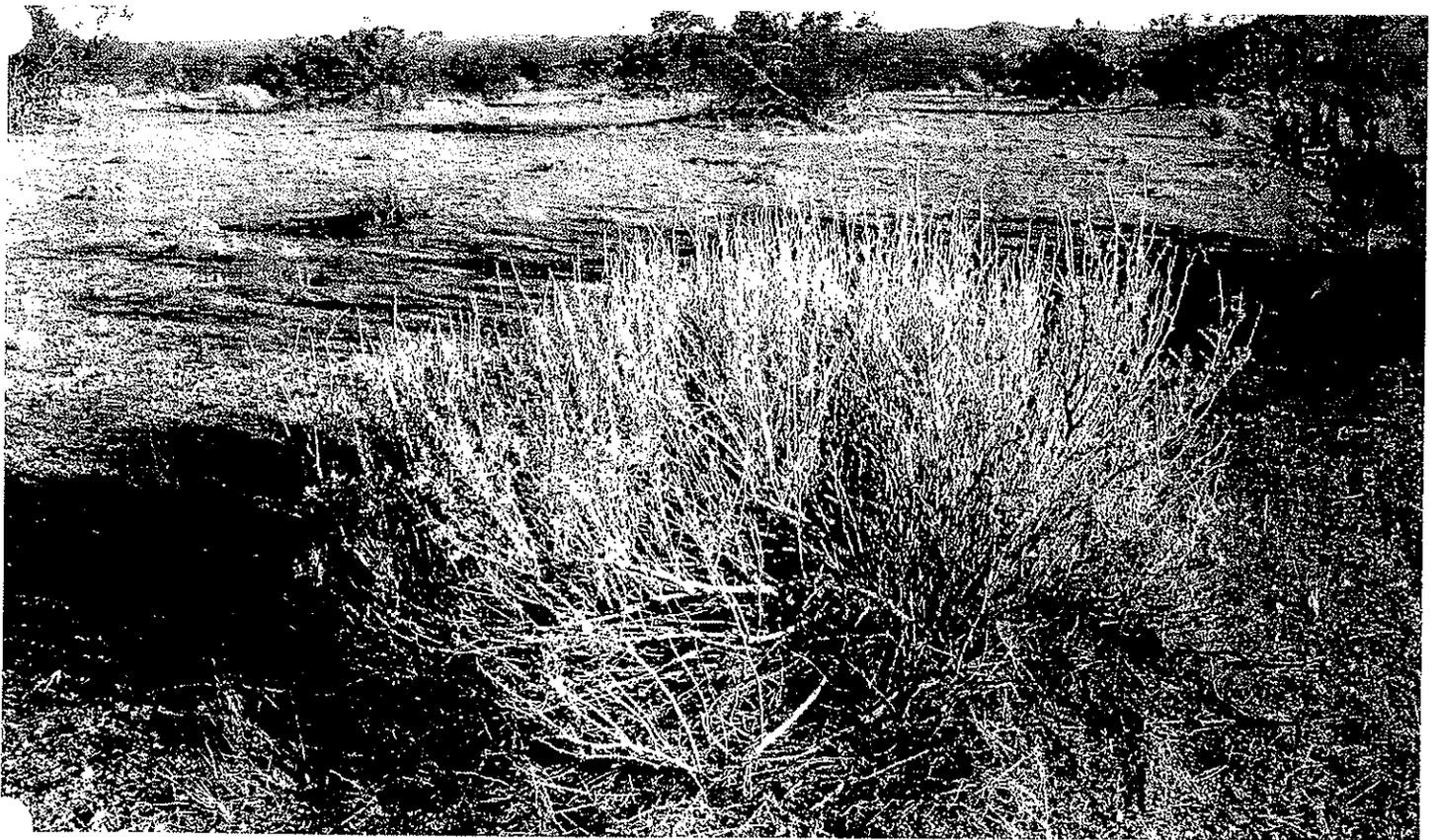
Overview of Surveyor's Stake Identified in NE Corner of Property (W).



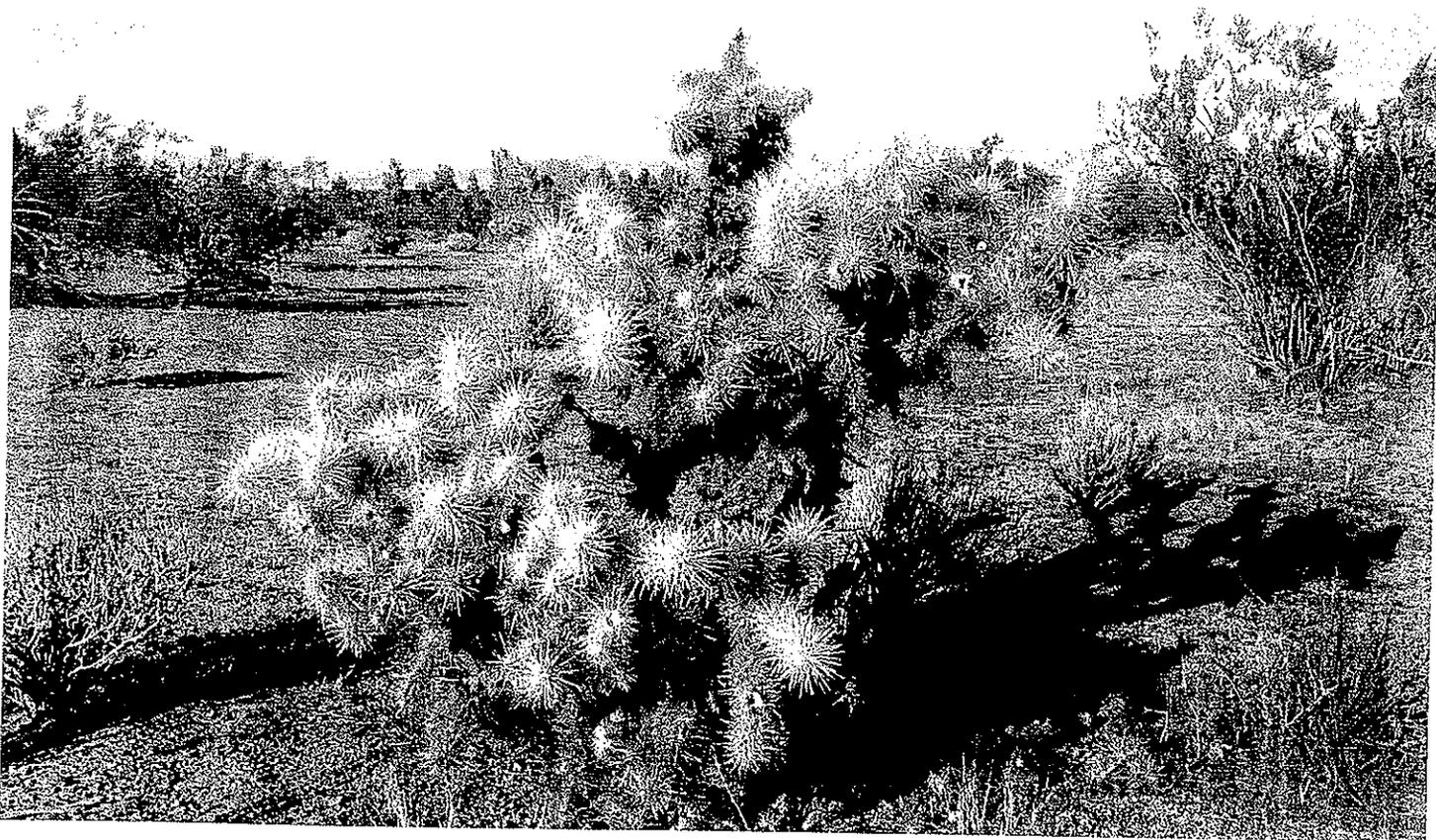
Overview of Surveyor's Stake in NE Corner of Project Area (E).



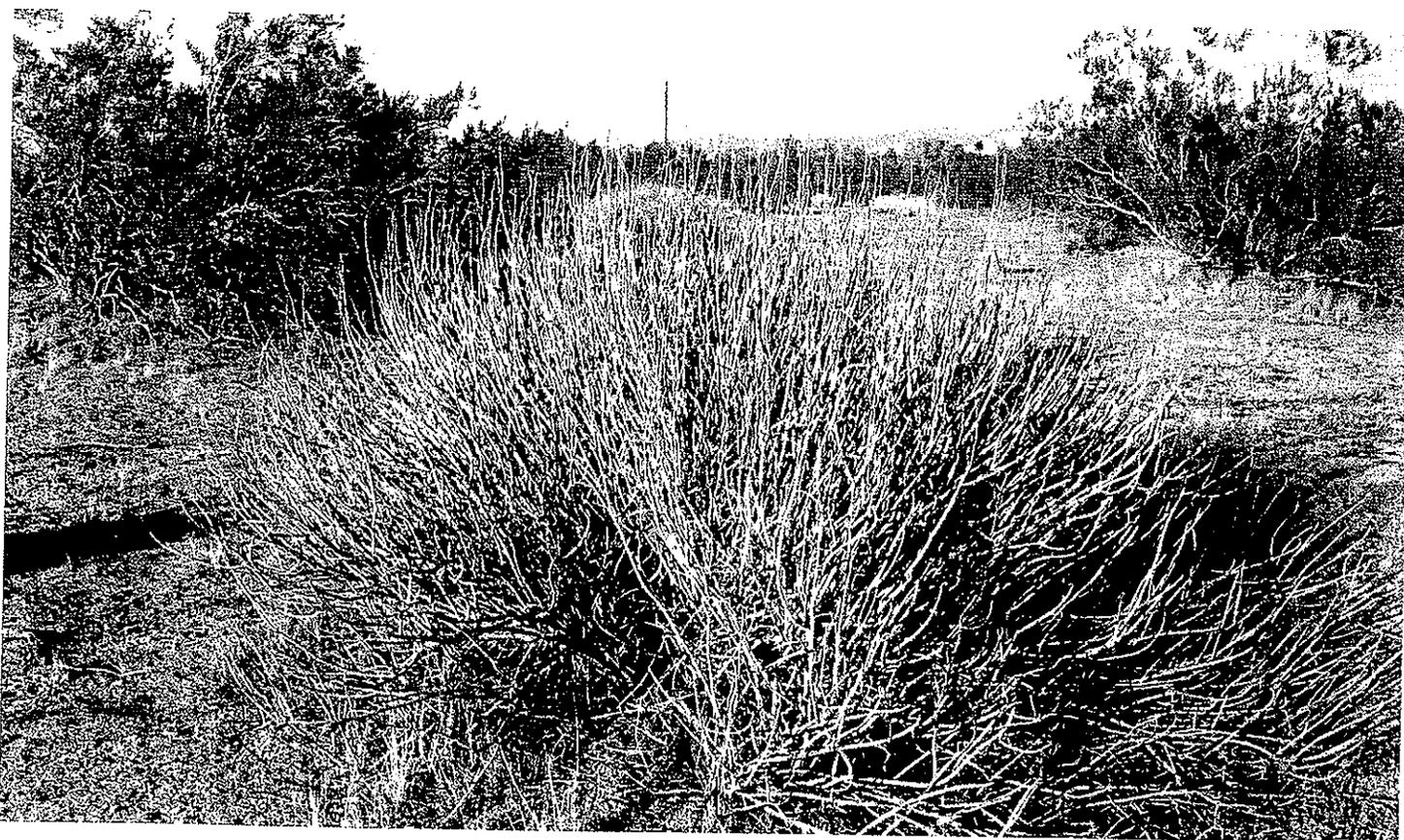
Example of Creosote Bush Identified within the Project Area.



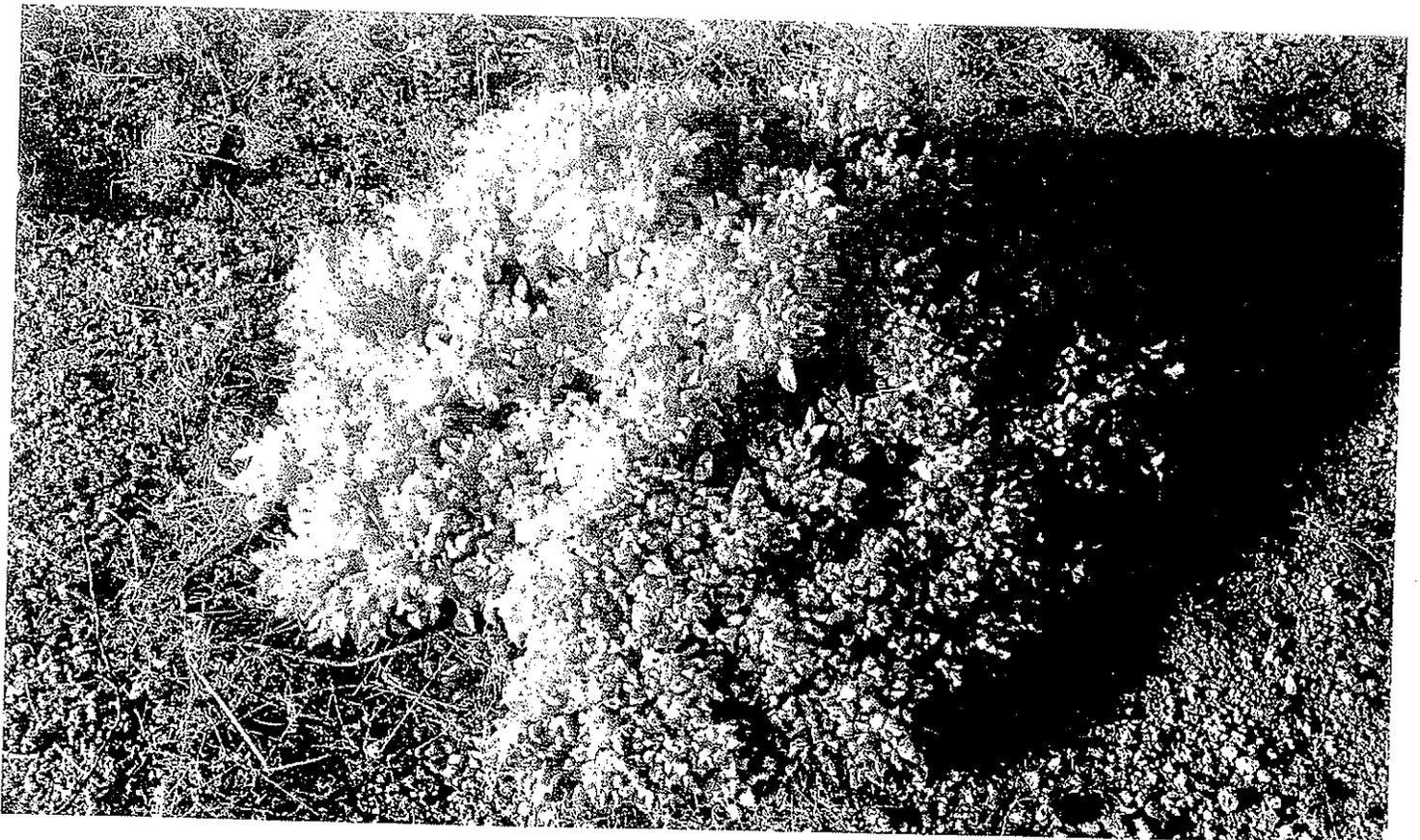
Example of White Bursage Identified within the Project Area.



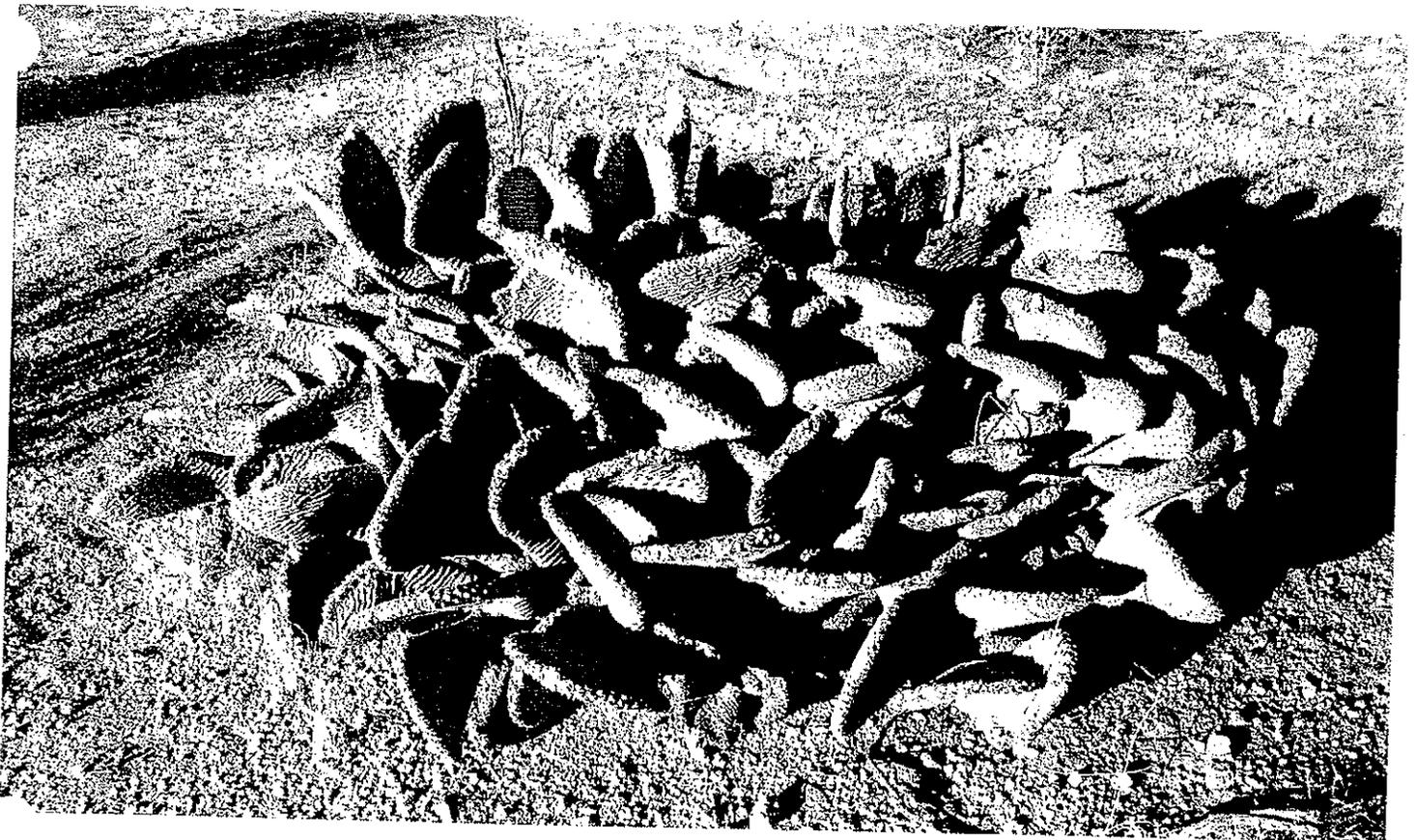
Example of Cholla Cactus Identified within the Project Area.



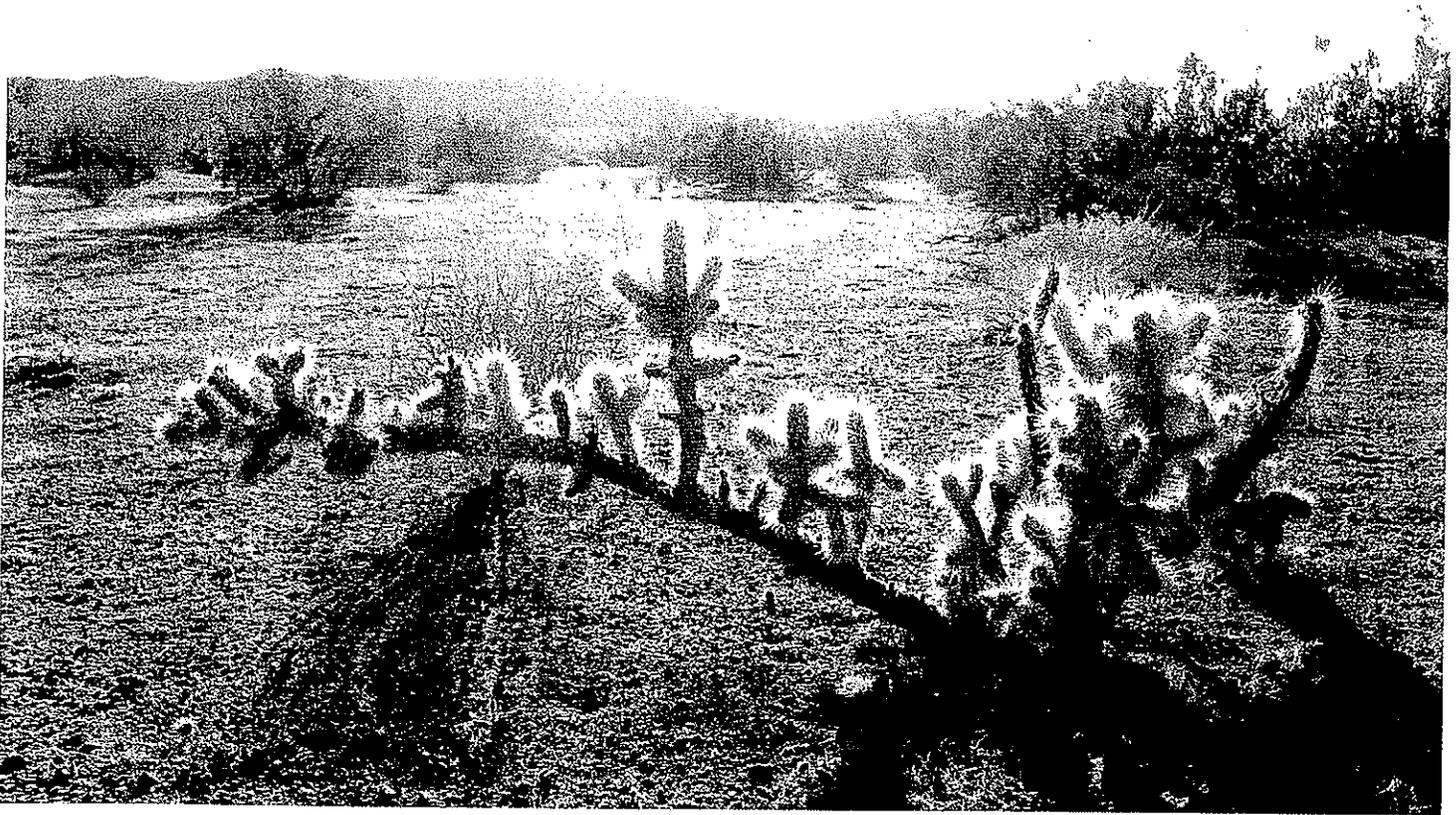
Example of Desert Senna Identified within the Project Area.



Small Saltbush Identified within the Project Area.



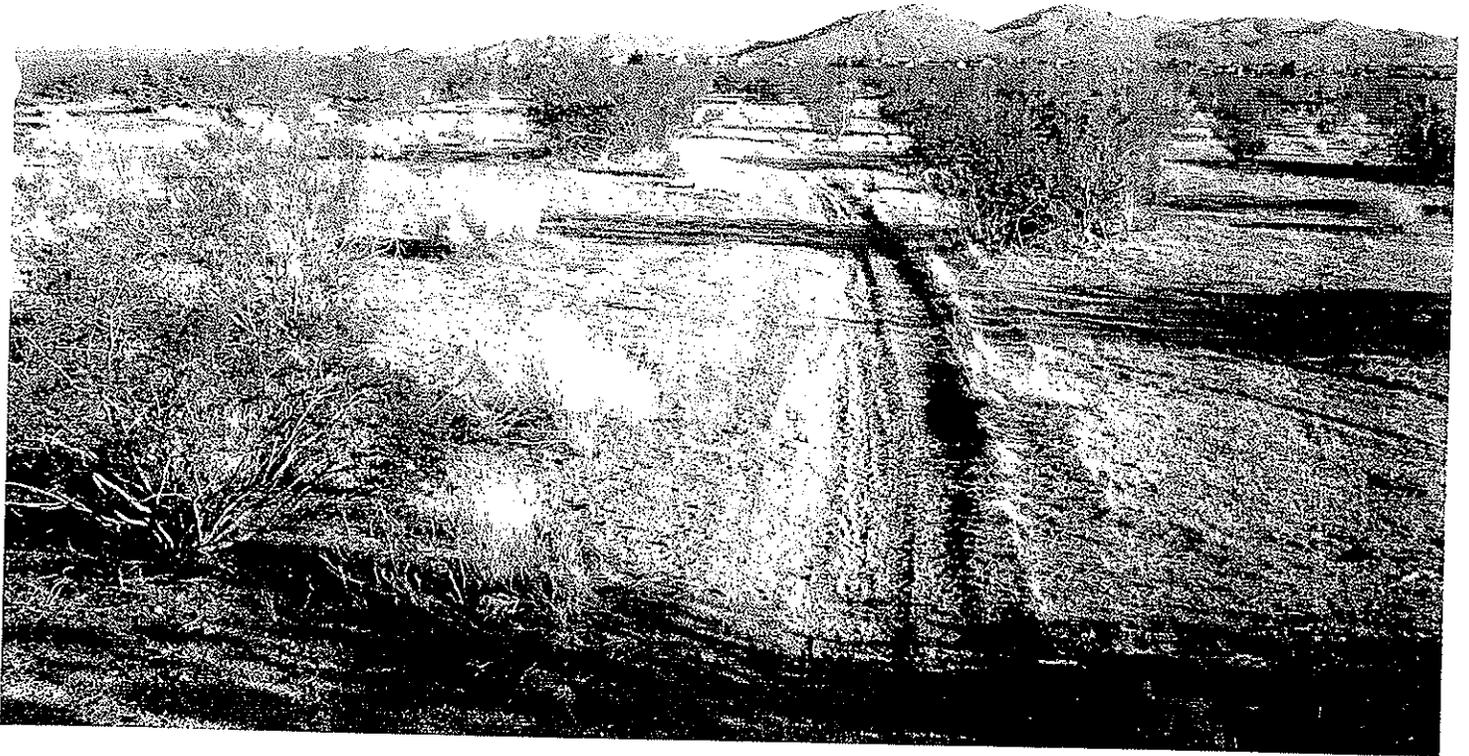
Example of Beavertail Cactus Identified within the Project Area.



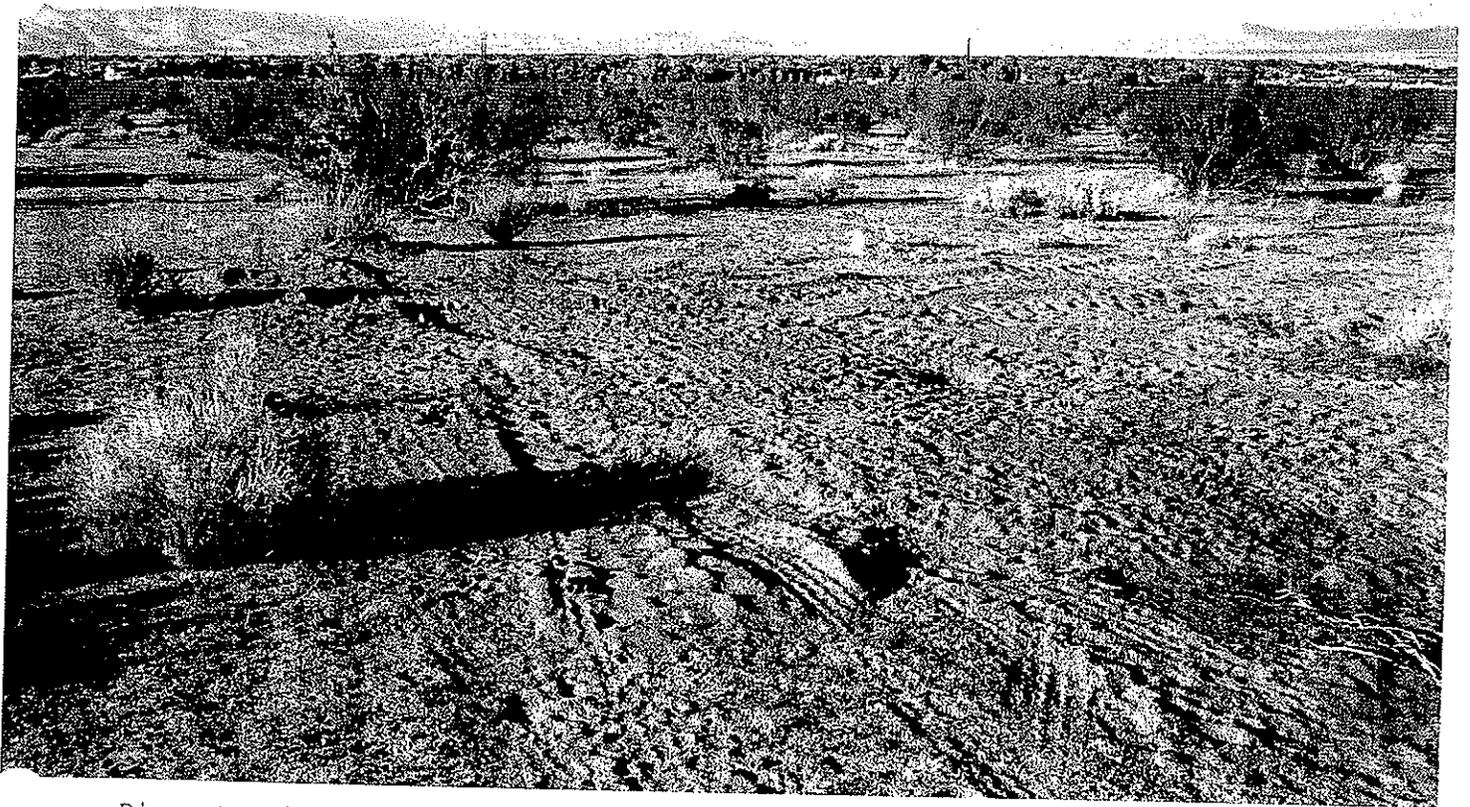
Example of Cholla Cactus Located on Property.



Shallow Run-off Drainage near SW Corner of Property (S).



Dirt Bike Trail Crossing Property (SE/NW; SE).



Discrete Disturbances in SE Portion of Property (possibly from geotechnical testing; N).

John Helms, CEG
40344 Wood Court, Palmdale, CA 93551
(661) 718-3646

December 7, 2005

Mr. Norik Bedassian, P.E.
A. Z. Geo Technics, Inc.
38733 9th Street East, Suite P
Palmdale, CA 93550
(661) 273-8666

Subject: Geologic Setting for Proposed Development, Area
West of Norma Street West and North of Kendall
Avenue, City of Ridgecrest, County of Kern,
California.

Dear Mr. Bedassian:

I am pleased to present to you geologic setting summary for A. Z. Geo Technics, Inc. job number GT 2812. The site consists of a two adjacent parcels that total approximately 1,328 feet by 1,900 feet in size. The parcels are located west of Norma Street West and north of Kendall Avenue, City of Ridgecrest, County of Kern, California. This letter report presents a geologic literature and map review for the area of the two parcels.

Geologic Setting

The project site, in southeast-central California, is located in the south central portion of Indian Wells Valley. The region is part of the southwestern most corner of the central Basin and Range geologic province of the western United States. The region, characterized as being located at the transition from the extensional Basin and Range province to the strike slip San Andreas Fault system (Roquemore, 1980), is one of the most seismically active regions of California (Bhattacharyya and Lees, 2002). Indian Wells Valley lies within the Eastern California shear zone (Dokka and Travis, 1990), which extends 500 km north-northwest from the San Andreas Fault, through the Mojave Desert region, and to Owens Valley and Death Valley. Individual faults within the region mainly consist of northwest-striking right-slip faults, and have slip rates of less than 1.0 mm/yr (Dokka, 1983). Total displacement across the zone is estimated at 8.0mm/yr (Dokka and Travis, 1990).