

**DEFENSE ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION PROGRAM
FORMERLY USED DEFENSE SITES
FINDINGS AND DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY**

**CARRIZO IMPACT AREA
EL CENTRO, CALIFORNIA
SITE NO. J09CA701800**

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. The Carrizo Impact Area consists of 28,993.24 acres acquired by the Department of the Navy. Acquisition of the property began during World War II, around 1945. Because the official acquisition documents were not found during research of the Inventory Progress Report (INPR) the best that we can determine from the available records for how the property was acquired is as follows: 10,325.24 acres of Federal Public Domain property acquired from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) (per a withdrawal application dated 3 April 1953); 16,748 acres of State property leased from the Division of Beaches and Parks (~1945); 1,160 acres of State property leased from the State Lands Commission (~1945) [Sections 16 and 36 of Township (T)14S and Range (R)9E]; 117.5 acres of State property leased from the Tax Deeded Lands Division (~1945) (total of 18,025.5 acres acquired from the State); 640 acres leased from Florence Marshall (Section 17 of T15S and R9E); and 2.5 acres acquired without a lease from C. T. McKeehan.

2. The Carrizo Impact Area was used as an air to ground impact bombing range associated with the Naval Air Facility (NAF) at El Centro. The property was used primarily during World War II and the Korean Conflict. Types of ordnance tested in the area included: bombs (3 to 1,000 pounds), rockets (including Tiny Tim), and small-arms cartridges. Records (correspondence from the Department of the Navy to the Chairman of the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives dated 29 July 1970) indicates that bombing of the area ceased 30 June 1959.

3. While the bombing activities stopped on 30 June 1959, no official disposal records were found in the files to indicate when the property was declared surplus and relinquished to the original owners. As best that can be determined from the records the Carrizo Impact area was relinquished as follows: 10,325.24 acres to the BLM when the withdrawal application was withdrawn on 21 August 1964; 16,748 acres to the State Division of Beaches and Parks (lease expired 1953); 1,160 acres to the State Land Commission (date unknown, after 1967 and possibly after 1977); 117.5 acres to the State Tax Deeded Lands Division (date unknown, after 1967 and possibly after 1977); and 2.5 acres to C. T. McKeehan in which the Department of Defense (DOD) never entered into an agreement.

Records indicate that a total of 28,353.24 acres of the Carrizo Impact area were relinquished. The 640 acres leased from Florence Marshall were transferred to the United States

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Government in the form of a Grant Deed dated 4 October 1965.

Since the Department of Defense relinquished their interest in the property, the BLM transferred 319.92 acres to National Gypsum Company and the State of California has transferred 57.5 acres to private parties (Baharloo, Champagne, Harvey, and Sanders).

Imperial County Assessor's record indicates that current ownership of the former Carrizo Impact area is as follows: 10,005.32 acres with the Federal BLM; 17,968 acres with the State of California (all agencies involved); and 379.92 acres with private parties. The U.S. Navy currently maintains ownership of 640 acres located in Section 17 T15S and R9E. Public access to the former Carrizo Impact Area is restricted by the U.S. Navy.

DETERMINATION

Based on the foregoing Findings of Fact, 28,353.24 acres has been determined to have been formerly used by the Department of Defense. Therefore, this portion is eligible for the Defense Environmental Restoration Program - Formerly Used Defense Sites established under 10 USC 2701 et seq.

3 May 95

Date

Bruce K. Scott
BRUCE K. SCOTT
Brigadier General, U.S. Army
Commanding

**SITE SURVEY SUMMARY SHEET
FOR DERP-FUDS SITE NO. J09CA701800**

CARRIZO IMPACT AREA
EL CENTRO, CALIFORNIA
ORIGINAL DECEMBER 1993
SUPPLEMENTAL JANUARY 1999

SITE NAME: Carrizo Impact Area, El Centro, California

LOCATION: Approximately 25 miles west of the Naval Air Facility (NAF) El Centro. The property is the eastern extent of Anza-Borrogo Desert State Park but access to the former bombing range is closed to the public.

SITE HISTORY: The precursor to the Carrizo Impact Area was the Vallecitos-Carrizo Air-to-Air Gunnery Range which covered approximately 140,225 acres which was leased from the California State Division of Beaches and Parks. In late 1945 the Vallecitos-Carrizo Air-to-Air Range was abandoned and the area that would become the Carrizo Impact Area was retained.

The Carrizo Impact Area was used as an air-to-ground bombing range during World War II and the Korean Conflict. The property consisted of approximately 28,993.24 acres of desert mountainous terrain. The property was acquired primarily from the Federal and State Governments and to a lesser extent (approximately 642.5 acres) from private land owners.

NAF El Centro used the area as a target range for various bombs (3 to 1,000 pounds) and rockets (including Tiny Tim). Other ordnance used in the area included 20 millimeter cartridges and 50 caliber bullets. Bombing activities at the site reportedly ceased in 1959.

After the U.S. Navy's bombing activities ceased at the site a few ordnance clearance activities were reported to have been conducted. The first clearance reportedly occurred during late 1959 and early 1960. The dedudiving activities were handled by the 1st Explosive Ordnance Disposal Company at Camp Pendleton. The Marines reportedly used metal detectors to sweep the area. The historical documents reviewed did not reference if the sweep encompassed the whole site, and did not identify the amount and type of ordnance recovered. However, the documents did indicate that not all of the ordnance was recovered. A subsequent decontamination sweep was conducted throughout January 1965. "Significant amounts" of both explosive and inert ordnance debris was recovered. As part of the clearance activity four by six foot warning signs were installed at the access points to the Impact

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Area. This decontamination sweep was not conducted on the entire property. The area cleared included 18,987.92 acres, which were State and privately owned lands. The clearance activities was not conducted on the remaining 10,325.24 acres owned by the BLM. On April 7, 1970, State and U.S. Navy representatives inspected the former bombing range. During the one-day inspection several aerial bombs and rockets, and numerous 20 millimeter rounds and 50 caliber bullets were discovered. While the location of the ordnance was not identified, all ordnance found was detonated or found non-explosive.

The records indicate that additional clearance measures (geophysical, aerial magnetic, etc.) were considered for the site (during the 1960's and early 1970's), but were never conducted due to the prohibitive cost. Numerous correspondences were exchanged between the U. S. Navy and the State of California, dated between 23 February 1963 and 3 September 1977, discussing alternative requirements for the disposal of the Navy owned property. The U. S. Navy and State were at an impasse because the U. S. Navy could not guarantee that all ordnance had been recovered and the State was not willing to provide a "hold harmless" commitment with the U. S. Navy over future possible injuries. The correspondence recovered never provided the resolution between the State and the U. S. Navy for the requirements or the relinquishments of the property.

Historical records do not indicate when all the former Impact Area was relinquished to the original owners. At present the former bombing range is part of the Anza-Borrego Park and is restricted to public access due to ordnance contamination. **The area east of the former Range is BLM land, and access to the former Range is also restricted by BLM.**

An Archive Search Report (ASR) was completed on the Navy-owned 640 acres in March 1996. This report concluded that the area was not eligible for DERP-FUDS funding, but the area was still contaminated with ordnance. The ASR also noted that this area should be included with the public land surrounding it if decontamination is initiated in the Impact Area.

During August and September 1996, Environmental Chemical Corporation (ECC) conducted a clearance of portions of the Navy-owned Section 17 (640 acres). The discrete areas that were cleared were cleared visually and subsurface anomalies were

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located by magnetic locator. The subsurface anomalies were not excavated. ECC noted both live and inert items located during the survey. The live items included; two 100 lb GP bombs, 5" HVAR warheads, small arms, and bare explosives. The inert items included; links, fragments, and practice bombs.

Another ASR was completed for the public land surrounding the Navy-owned land in September 1997. This ASR included Impact Area A thru Area D (Area A: Impact Area NE, 6,980 acres, Area B: Impact Area SE, 3,027 acres, Area C: Impact Area SW, 8,102 acres, Area D: Impact Area NW, 10,339, Total is 28,448 acres), and also designated Buffer Land F thru Buffer Land I (Area F: Buffer Land N, 5,680 acres, Area G: Buffer Land E, 5,124 acres, Area H: Buffer Land S, 5,650 acres, and Area I: Buffer Land W, 11,947 acres, Total is 28,401 acres). The Buffer Land was never under Navy ownership or jurisdiction. All of this land is currently owned by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the California Department of Parks, and very small parcels are under private ownership.

During previous decontamination sweeps ordnance was identified outside of the former Range. Additionally, during the ASR investigation ordnance was again discovered outside of the former Impact Area. The areas of confirmed ordnance were east and west of the former range, and the areas north and south listed as potential ordnance sites. The ASR designated the buffer zones to the north, east and south, as being one mile in width (1 Section) along the perimeter of the Impact Area. The ASR also designated the buffer zone west of the Impact Area as being two miles wide (2 Sections). Additionally, the ASR Team determined that the buffer zones surrounding the Impact Area had a RAC Score of 4 which recommends further action by CEHNC.

Mr. Tom Quick, Supervising Ranger for Anza-Borrego State Park, indicated that the State Park does not want any clearance activities taking place in the former impact area unless a guarantee of safety can be made for the site at the conclusion of the clearance activity. Mr. Quick indicated that if the site cannot be made "safe" than he indicated that State Parks would like to close the area to the public permanently using provisions of the Department of Defense proposed Range Rule.

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SITE VISIT: A site visit was not done of the property due to the difficulties associated with the restricted access of the site and overwhelming information concerning the presence of ordnance.

The POC for access to the site is **Jim Collins** at (760) 339-2261, **Environmental Office**, at NAF El Centro. (Access should be obtained through the **Anza-Borrego State Park, Rangers Office**)

The main Impact Area was not visited, as in the previous INPR, because of the extreme danger involved in traveling unescorted into the area. The State Department of Parks was unavailable to provide escort and BLM granted a "enter at your own risk" statement. The Buffer Zones to the south and west were visited by **Mike Sayre** and **Chuck Cleeves**, both with **SOTA Environmental Technology Inc.**, on 3 May 1998.

CATEGORY OF HAZARD: OE (1), OE (2)

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: OE (1). Recommend the **Huntsville Engineering and Support Center** make a determination regarding further investigation at this site OE (2). Recommend the **Huntsville Engineering and Support Center** make a determination regarding appropriate further action for the Buffer Zones that were designated in the **Archive Search Report**.

AVAILABLE STUDIES AND REPORTS:

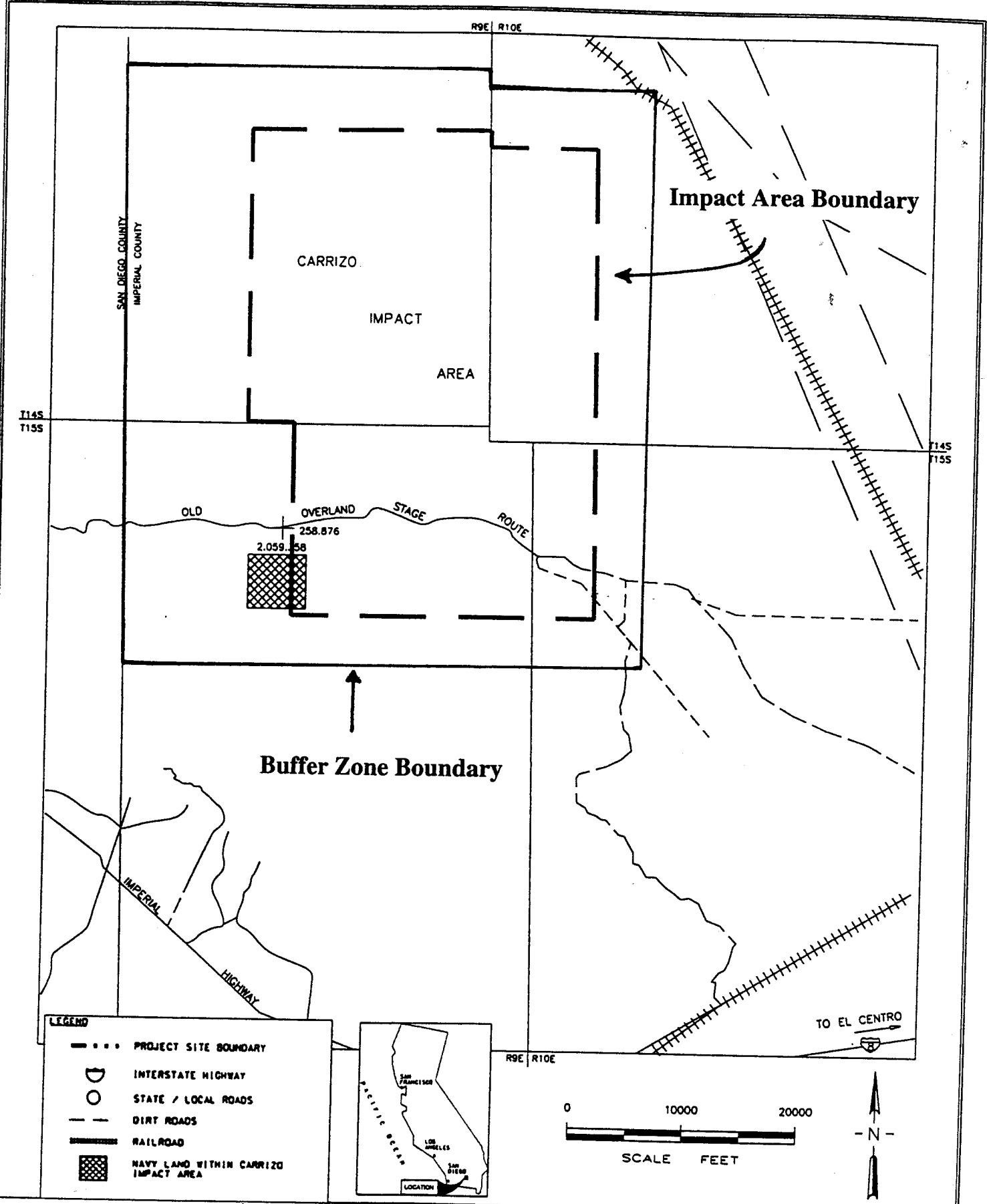
Tom Clark, U. S. Navy SWDIV - maintains limited historical information on the site. (Mr. Clark could not be located during the preparation of this Supplemental INPR).

- **Inventory Project Report, Carrizo Impact Area, December 1993.**

- **OE Archive Search Report of Navy-owned Land in Former Carrizo Impact Area, March 1996.**

- **OE Archive Search Report for the Carrizo Impact Area, September 1997.**

DISTRICT POC: **Jeff Armentrout**, Los Angeles District, (213) 452-3720.

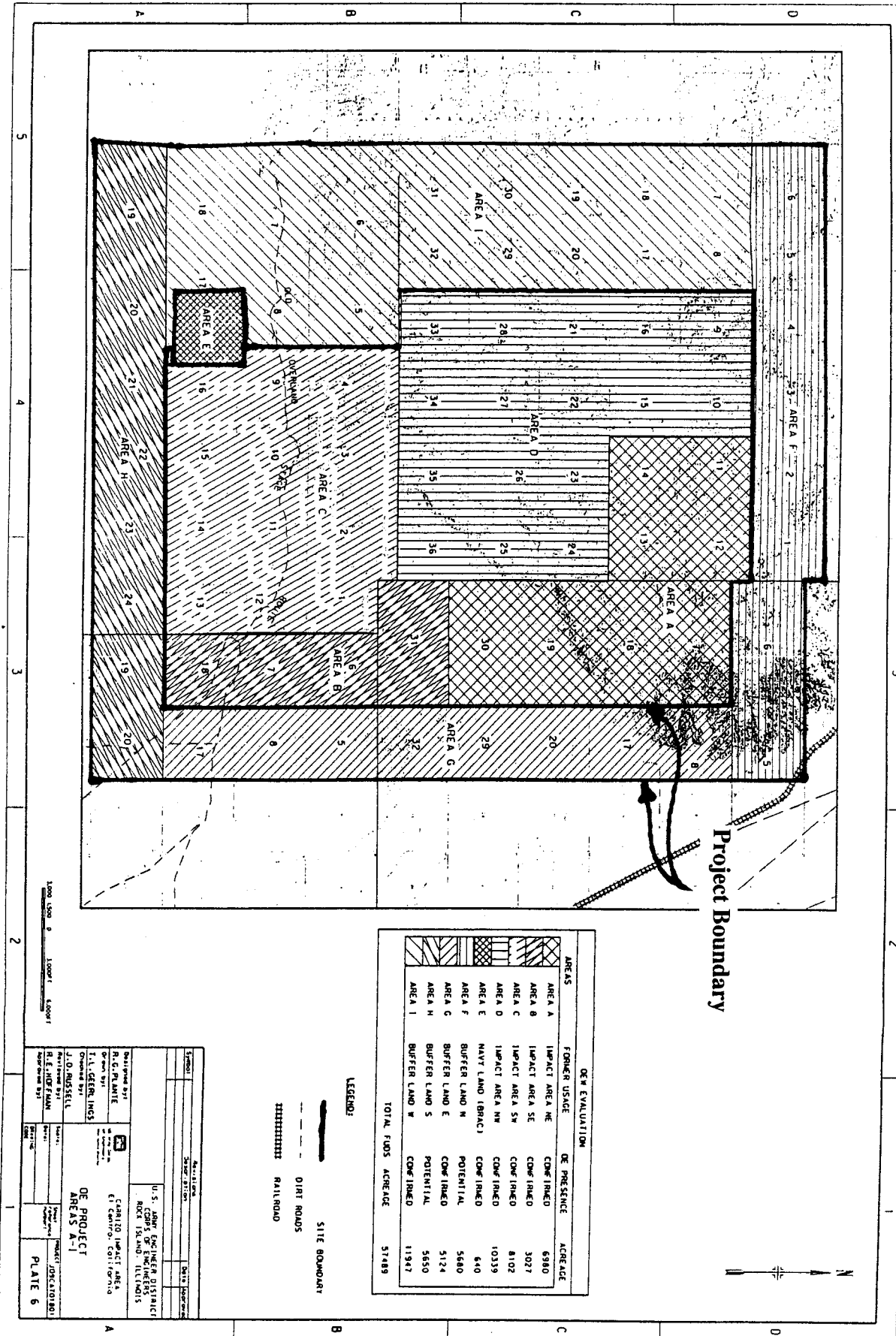


**SITE LOCATION MAP
 CARRIZO IMPACT AREA
 DERP-FUDS SITE J09CA701800
 EL CENTRO, CALIFORNIA**

Figure 1

Project No.
 97HW027

June 1998



Project Boundary

DEW EVALUATION		ACREAGE
AREAS	FORMER USAGE	DE PRESENCE
AREA A	IMPACT AREA NE	6980
AREA B	IMPACT AREA SE	3027
AREA C	IMPACT AREA SW	8102
AREA D	IMPACT AREA NW	10359
AREA E	NAVY LAND (BRAC)	640
AREA F	BUFFER LAND N	POTENTIAL
AREA G	BUFFER LAND E	POTENTIAL
AREA H	BUFFER LAND S	POTENTIAL
AREA I	BUFFER LAND W	POTENTIAL
TOTAL FUDS ACREAGE		57489

LEGEND:

— SITE BOUNDARY

- - - - - DIRT ROADS

||||| RAILROAD

DRAWING BY: M.C. PELANTE DATE: 11/10/98 CHECKED BY: J.L. ROBERTS DATE: 11/10/98 PROJECT: DE PROJECT AREAS A-I SHEET: PLATE 6	TITLE: DE PROJECT AREAS A-I PROJECT: DE PROJECT AREAS A-I SHEET: PLATE 6
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PROJECT LOCATION MAP
 CARRIZO IMPACT AREA
 DERP-FUDS PROJECT J09CA701802
 EL CENTRO, CALIFORNIA

FIGURE 2
 Project No. 97HW027
 Oct-98