Appendix C: Biological Resources

Biological Surveys

The property north of the Milliken Sanitary Landfill is located within critical habitat for the Delhi Sands Giant Flower-Loving Fly *(Rhaphiomidas terminatus abdominalis)*, a federally endangered species.

Additional species of concern include the Burrowing Owl and the San Diego horned toad lizard, both listed as a "California Special Concern Species." The Burrowing Owl is a migratory bird also protected by the international treaty under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918, protected by State law under the California Fish and Game Code (CDFG Code No. 3513 and 3503.5), and is listed as a Federal Special Concern species.

A series of surveys to determine the presence or absence of the Delhi Sands Giant Flower-Loving Fly (DSF) was conducted per protocol developed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). Per a report prepared in October 2004, DSF were not found to be present on the property after completing the protocol surveys (Osborne, October 15, 2004. *Second Year Focused Survey for Delhi Sands Flower-Loving Fly on a 103-acre Site North of the Milliken Sanitary Landfill, Ontario, California).*

Surveys for San Bernardino Kangaroo Rat (SBKR), another federally-endangered species, and Burrowing Owl were conducted in April 2005. SBKR was not found to be present on the site. However, several Burrowing Owls, possibly breeding/nesting on the property were discovered in several distinct locations (Tom Dodson & Associates, April 2005. *Focused Surveys for San Bernardino Kangaroo Rat and Burrowing Owl for a 103-acre Parcel North of Milliken Sanitary Landfill, City of Ontario, San Bernardino County, California).*

All of the above species have been known to thrive in sandy environments. The Milliken Landfill property has not been cleared of vegetation by the County. There are very few sections of the property that are void of, or have little, vegetation. The dense vegetation may be a factor in the absence of the DSF, SBKR, and the specific locations for the Burrowing Owl.

As of April 2005, it is the County's understanding that a new protocol survey for DSF may be required prior to development. The buyer/developer needs to satisfy itself as to the what, if any protocol, is required prior to development. Further, the Burrowing Owl may require relocation prior to development, grading or weed abatement. Again, the buyer/developer needs to satisfy itself as to all protocols for the noted species (and any other species), including but not limited to any additional survey and relocation requirements prior to development, grading, and weed abatement.

The County makes no guarantees that other endangered or threatened species or plants, or species or plants of concern, not studied in the above mentioned reports are not present on site. Further, the County makes no guarantees the State and/or Federal status of the above-studied species, or any others included or omitted from the above-mentioned reports, will not change by the time of sale or development. The buyer/developer needs to satisfy itself what, if any, biological evaluation in accordance with all State and Federal guidelines is necessary prior to weed abatement, grading maintenance, and final development.

FOR A 103-ACRE SITE NORTH OF THE MILLIKEN SANITARY LANDFILL, ONTARIO, CALIFORNIA

Prepared for

Solid Waste Management Division
County of San Bernardino
222 West Hospitality Lane, 2nd Floor
San Bernardino, CA 92415-0017

Prepared by

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

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Riverside, CA 92509

Nov. 4/2005
Date

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Osborne, K. H. 2003. Focused Survey for the Delhi Sands Giant Flower-loving Fly (*Rhaphiomidas terminatus abdominalis*) on a 103-acre site north of the Milliken Sanitary landfill, Ontario, California. Prepared for the Solid Waste Management Division County of San Bernardino.

Osborne, K. H. 2004. Second Year Focused Survey for the Delhi Sands Giant Flower-loving Fly (*Rhaphiomidas terminatus abdominalis*) on a 103-acre site north of the Milliken Sanitary landfill, Ontario, California. Prepared for the Solid Waste Management Division County of San Bernardino.

Osborne, K. H. 2005. Third Year Focused Survey for the Delhi Sands Giant Flower-loving Fly (*Rhaphiomidas terminatus abdominalis*) on a 103-acre site north of the Milliken Sanitary landfill, Ontario, California. Prepared for the Solid Waste Management Division County of San Bernardino.

Tom Dodson and Associates. 2005. Focused Surveys for San Bernardino Kangaroo Rat (*Dipodomys mariami parvus*) (SBKR) and Burrowing Owl (*Athene cunicularia*) for a 103-Acre Parcel North of Milliken Sanitary Landfill, City of Ontario, San Bernardino County, California. Prepared for Lilburn Corp., San Bernardino, California.

7.0 FIGURES

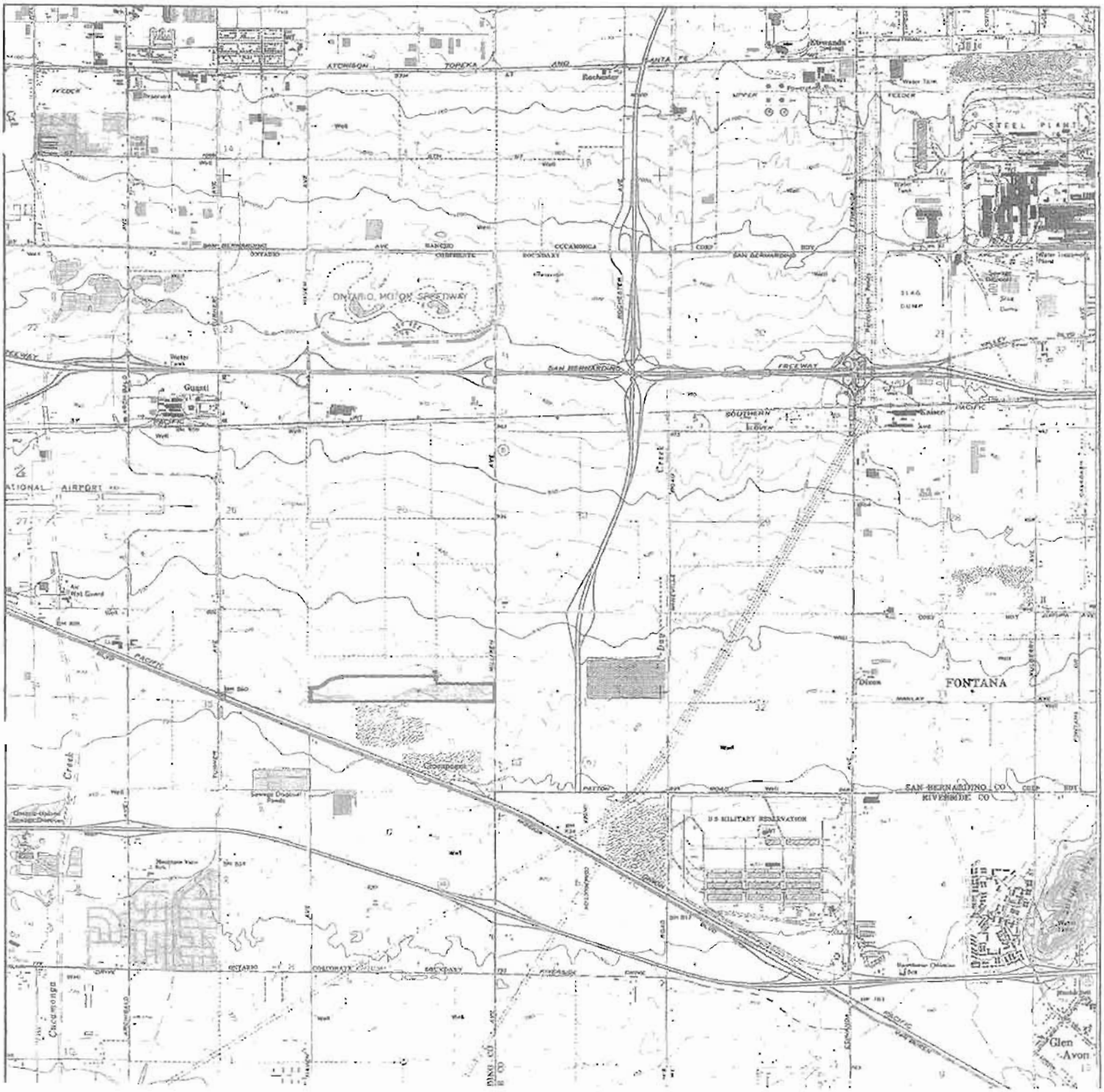

Figure 1. General vicinity of study site, Guaste, California USGS 7.5" quadrangle at 50%. 103-acre site is outlined in black and highlighted in yellow.

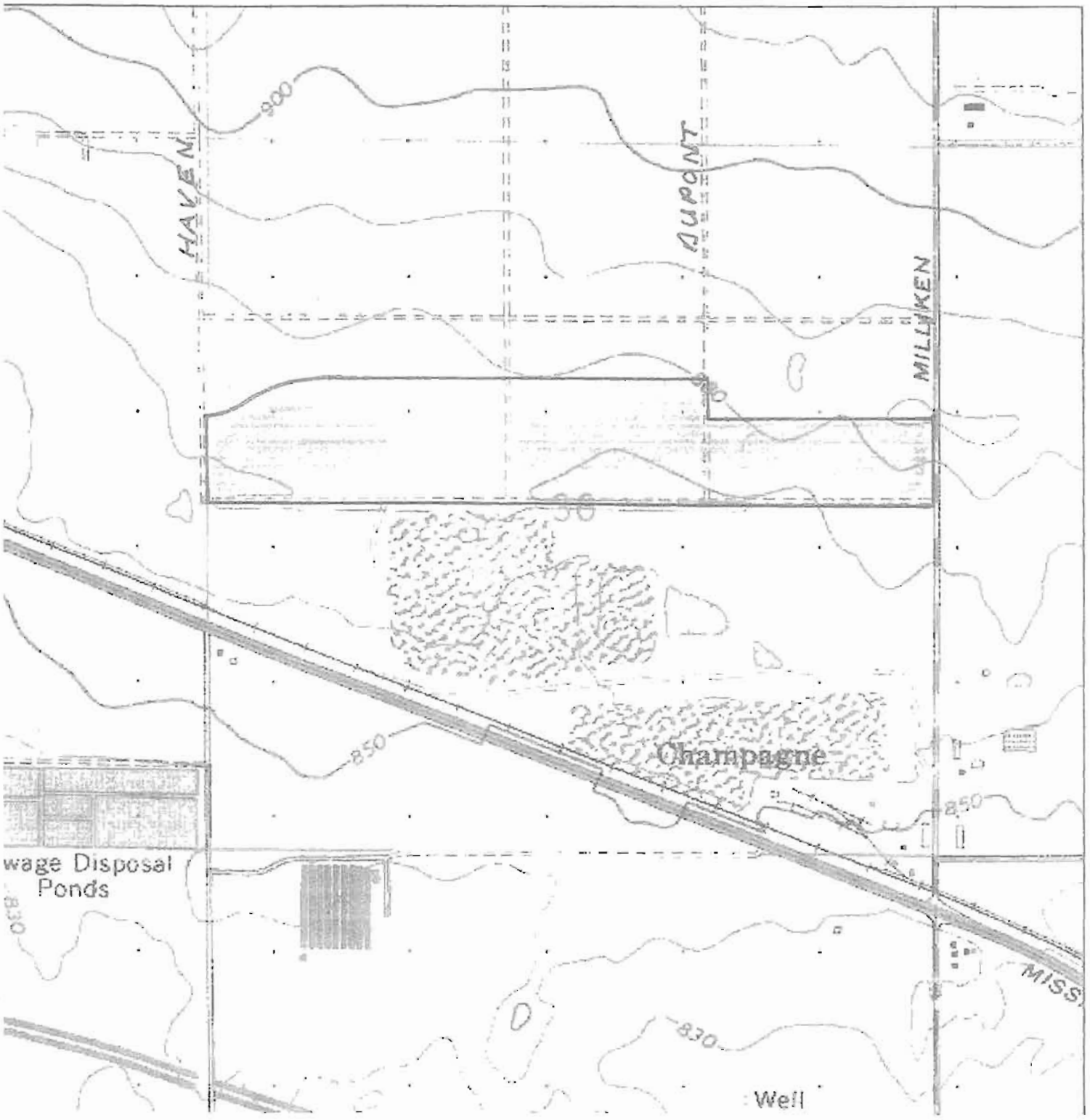

Figure 2. General vicinity of survey site, Guaste, California USGS 7.5" quadrangle at 200%. 103-acre study site is outlined in black and highlighted in yellow.

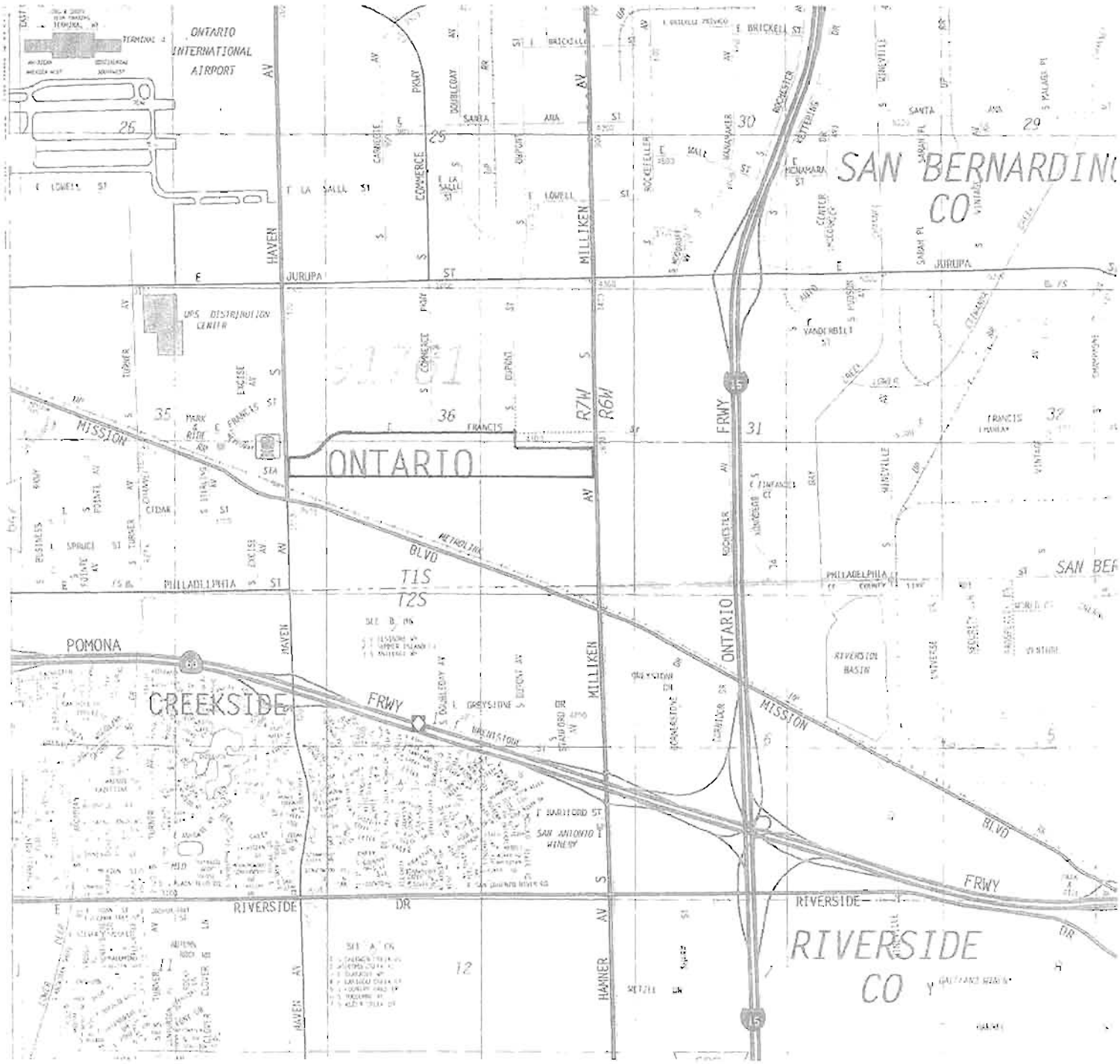

Figure 3. General site vicinity as it is given on page 643 in *the Thomas Guide* (2001). 103-acre study area is outlined in black and indicated by an arrow.

1.0 SUMMARY

The San Bernardino County Solid Waste Management Division has requested a general biological study a 103-acre site located north of the Milliken Sanitary Landfill, Ontario, California.

In order to assess the subject site for general biological attributes and resources, a field visit was made to the site on November 4, 2005. Notes were taken on vegetation communities and structure as well as plant and animal species observed on the site, along with photographs of the subject site. In addition, as a major source for this investigation, a review of recent reports of biological surveys of the site was undertaken.

This investigation determined that the subject property currently supports extensive areas of annual grassland/forbland vegetation, most associated with fine Delhi sands. A western portion of the site remains in active viticulture. A small strip of riparian scrub (with willows) occurs along a drainage giving off of the southern end of Dupont St. Additional scrub habitats on the southern central portion of the site have Mulefat (*Baccharis salicifolia*) in poorly drained areas. Coastal sage scrub elements such as deer weed, buckwheat, California sage bush, black sage, and white sage have become established on the slopes at the southern end of the borrow pits on the central site.

The federally endangered Delhi Sands Flower-Loving Fly (DSF, *Rhaphiomidas terminatus abdominalis*) and federally endangered San Bernardino Kangaroo Rat (SBKR, *Dipodomys mariami parvus*)have both been determined to be absent from the study site.

During the course of biological studies on the site, four "Special Animals" as defined by the California Department of Fish and Game Natural Diversity DataBase (CNDDB 2005) were detected within the study area: Burrowing Owl (*Athene cunicularia*), Loggerhead Shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*), San Diego horned lizard (*Phrynosoma coronatum blainvillei*), and San Diego Black-tailed jackrabbit (*Lepus californicus bennettii*). Populations of Burrowing Owl and San Diego horned lizard appear to represent populations of higher densities than normally appear in western San Bernardino or Riverside counties.

2.0 INTRODUCTION

This report presents the methods and results of a general biological assessment and review of recent biological surveys, for a 103-acre site located north of the Milliken Sanitary Landfill, Ontario.

A field investigation of the site was conducted on November 4, 2005. In the conduct of the field work, additional consideration was given to presence or absence of riparian or riverine habitats and vernal pools.

In addition to the field visit on November 4, 2005, previous biological survey reports for the site were reviewed. Recently, three years of focused surveys for the federally