



Appendix F. Reconnaissance-Level Biological Survey

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December 6, 2012

Mr. Jim Robinson
Vintage Production California, LLC.
9600 Ming Avenue, Suite 300
Bakersfield, California 93311

RE: Reconnaissance-Level Biological Survey Results
Vintage Production California, LLC. Kern Front Steam Generation Facilities Project

Dear Mr. Robinson,

Vintage Production California, LLC. (Vintage) proposes to construct two (2) steam generation facilities within the boundaries of the designated Kern Front Oil Field in Kern County of California. The location of the proposed project sites are as follows:

- Steam Generation Facility # 1 - Section 26, Township 28 South, Range 27 East, in the Oildale USGS 7.5-minute quadrangle
- Steam Generation Facility # 2 - Section 23, Township 28 South, Range 27 East, in the Oildale USGS 7.5-minute quadrangle

The proposed project sites are depicted on the attached Project Location Map (see Figure 1). Steam Generation Facility # 1 measures approximately 700 feet (east to west) by 675 feet (north to south), or 10.85 acres in size. Steam Generation Facility # 2 measures approximately 285 feet (east to west) by 170 feet (north to south), or 1.11 acres in size. Vintage retained the services of Robert A. Booher Consulting (RAB Consulting) to conduct a reconnaissance-level biological survey of the proposed project sites and a 500-foot buffer area around the proposed project sites.

On December 3 and 4, 2012, RAB Consulting conducted the requested surveys over the proposed project sites and a 500-foot buffer area around the proposed project sites. The surveys were conducted to identify special-status plant and wildlife species including sign i.e., nests, dens, burrows, scat, tracks, prey remains, etc. of special-status wildlife species including, but not limited to, San Joaquin antelope squirrel (*Ammospermophilus nelsoni*), San Joaquin kit fox (*Vulpes macrotis mutica*), Western burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*), giant kangaroo rat (*Dipodomys ingens*), and blunt-nosed leopard lizard (*Gambelia sila*). This report presents the results of the reconnaissance-level biological surveys.

The proposed Steam Generation Facility # 1 project site is located in an active oilfield setting. The majority of the project site is disturbed and contains limited ruderal vegetation. Areas of non-native annual grassland are found within portions of the proposed project site near its outer edges at the time of our biological surveys on December 3 and 4, 2012. The proposed project site is located immediately adjacent to existing oilfield access roads to the north, east, and west. As such, no new access roads will be required for the proposed project. The site is accessed by traveling 1.04 miles east and south on existing oilfield access roads from Oilfields Road (see Figure 1).

The proposed Steam Generation Facility # 2 project site is also located in an active oilfield setting. The entire project site is disturbed and contained no vegetation at the time of our biological surveys on December 3 and 4, 2012. The proposed project site is located immediately adjacent to existing oilfield access roads to the west. As such, no new access roads will be required for the proposed project. The site is accessed by traveling 0.17 miles east and south on existing oilfield access roads from Oilfields Road (see Figure 1).

Prior to the reconnaissance-level biological surveys of the project area, a query of the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB 2012) was conducted to identify the historical observations of threatened and endangered plant and animal species in the vicinity of the proposed project. As illustrated in Figure 2, several listed species have been recorded in the proximity of the proposed project sites including San Joaquin kit fox, blunt-nosed leopard lizard, western burrowing owl, San Joaquin pocket mouse (*Perognathus inornatus*), and Bakersfield cactus (*Opuntia treleasei*). However, as detailed below, no observations were made within 0.5 miles of the proposed project sites. Additionally, no observation has been recorded since 2009.

The closest sighting of San Joaquin kit fox to a proposed project sites is approximately 0.5 miles to the southwest of the proposed Steam Generation Facility # 1. This CNDDDB observance record dates from 2002 and the observation point was located in an existing oil field with scattered non-native annual grassland habitat. The observation point is still vegetated by this native habitat. The closest sighting of blunt-nosed leopard lizard to the proposed project sites is approximately 1.0 mile to the northeast of the proposed Steam Generation Facility # 2. This CNDDDB observance record dates from 1992 and the observation point was vegetated by non-native annual grassland habitat. The observation point is still vegetated by this native habitat. The closest sighting of western burrowing owl to the proposed project sites is approximately 1.5 miles to the southeast of the proposed Steam Generation Facility # 1. This CNDDDB observance record dates from 2002 and the observation point was vegetated by non-native annual grassland habitat. The observation point is still vegetated by this native habitat. The closest sighting of San Joaquin pocket mouse to the proposed project sites is approximately 1.5 miles to the west of the proposed Steam Generation Facility # 1 project site. This CNDDDB observance record dates from 2002 and the observation point was vegetated with non-native annual grassland habitat. The observation point is still vegetated by this native habitat. The closest sighting of Bakersfield cactus to the proposed project sites is approximately 0.7 miles to the southeast of the proposed Steam Generation Facility # 1. This CNDDDB observance record dates from 2009 and the observation point was vegetated by non-native annual grassland habitat. The observation point is still vegetated by this native habitat.

The proposed Steam Generation Facility # 1 project site is located in an active oilfield setting. The majority of the project site is disturbed and contains limited ruderal vegetation. Areas of non-native annual grassland are found within portions of the proposed project site near its outer edges at the time of our biological surveys on December 3 and 4, 2012. The proposed project site is located immediately adjacent to existing oilfield access roads to the north, east, and west. Existing oilfield infrastructure and non-native annual grassland habitat is found to the north, south, east, and west of the proposed project site.

The proposed Steam Generation Facility # 2 project site is also located in an active oilfield setting. The entire project site is disturbed and contained no vegetation at the time of our biological surveys on December 3 and 4, 2012. The proposed project site is located immediately adjacent to existing oilfield access roads to the west. Existing oilfield infrastructure and non-native annual grassland habitat is found to the north, south, east, and west of the proposed project site.

Summary of Survey Results

No special-status wildlife species or signs of their presence (i.e., nests, dens, burrows, scat, tracks, prey remains, etc.) were observed within the boundaries of the proposed project sites. No burrows or dens that support special-status wildlife species were observed within the boundaries of the proposed project sites. However, scattered small mammal burrows that could support special-status small mammal species and blunt-nosed leopard lizards were observed scattered within the buffer areas of both project sites. No special-status wildlife species or signs of their presence (i.e., nests, scat, tracks, prey remains, etc.) were observed within the buffer areas of the proposed project sites. No formal surveys utilizing agency approved survey methodologies were conducted as part of biological surveys.

CNDDDB records suggest that the general area surrounding the proposed project sites previously supported San Joaquin kit fox. However, it is still possible that the proposed project sites may accommodate the occasional transient foraging kit fox. No sign (scat, tracks, dens, prey remains etc.) of San Joaquin kit fox were observed in the project area. A list of plant and animal species observed within the project area is presented below in Table 1.

Table 1
List of Animal and Plant Species Observed within Biological Survey Area

Scientific name	Common name
Animals	
<i>Corvus corax</i>	common raven
<i>Lepus californicus</i>	black-tailed jackrabbit
<i>Passer domesticus</i>	House sparrow
<i>Zenaida macroura</i>	mourning dove
Plants	
<i>Amsinkia menziesii</i> var. <i>intermedia</i>	fiddleneck
<i>Atriplex polycarpa</i>	saltbush
<i>Avena barbata</i>	slender wild oat
<i>Brassica nigra</i>	black mustard
<i>Bromus diandrus</i>	ripgut brome
<i>Bromus madritensis</i> ssp. <i>rubens</i>	red brome
<i>Erodium botrys</i>	broadleaf filaree
<i>Erodium cicutarium</i>	redstem filaree
<i>Lactuca serriola</i>	wire lettuce
<i>Malva neglecta</i> Wallr.	common mallow
<i>Salsola tragus</i>	Russian thistle
<i>Sonchus asper</i>	sow thistle

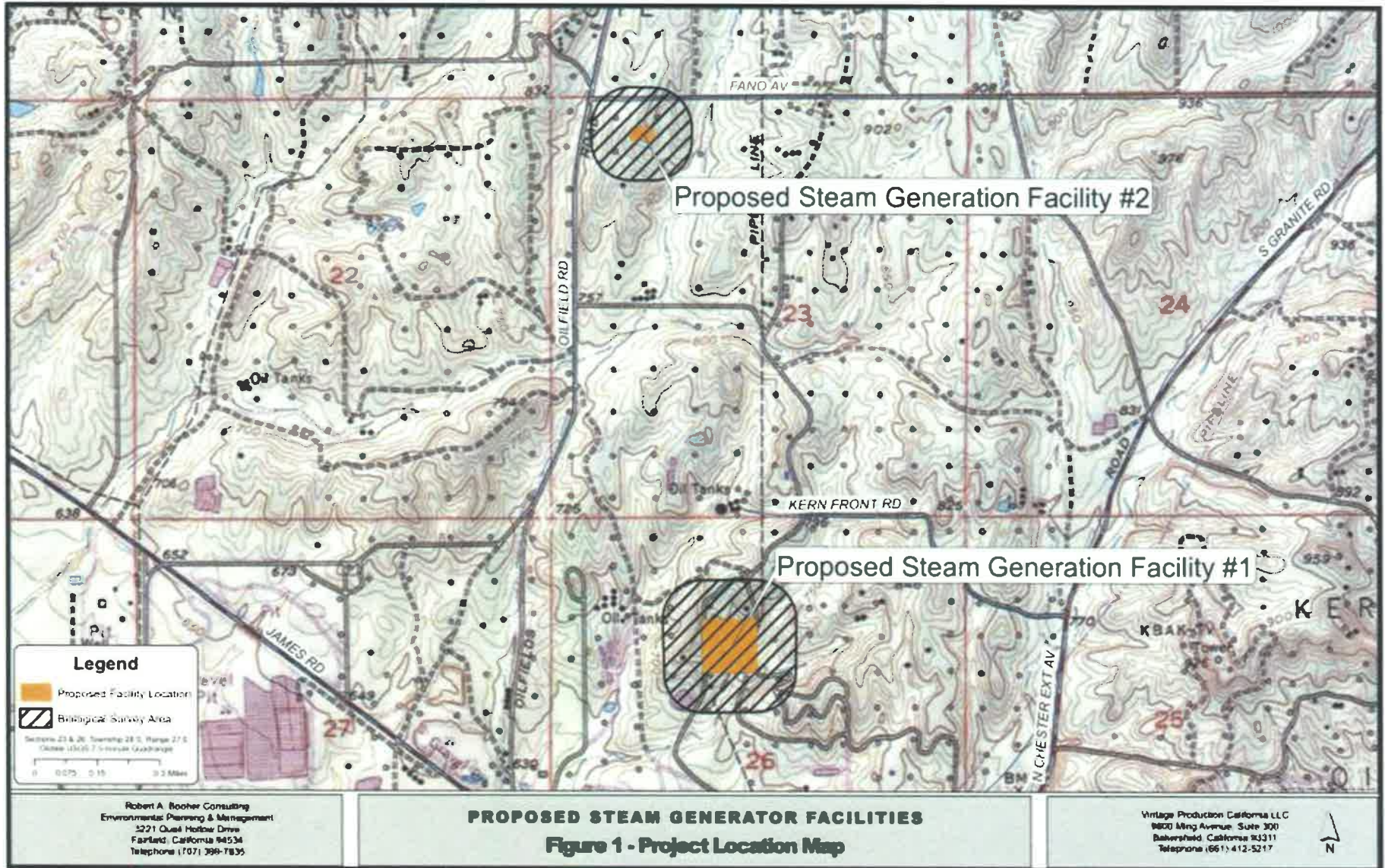
If you have any questions or require any additional information, please call me at (707) 399-7835.

Sincerely,
Robert A. Booher Consulting



Robert A. Booher
Principal Environmental Scientist

Figures



Legend

- Proposed Facility Location
- Biological Survey Area

Sections 23 & 26, Township 28 S, Range 27 E
 Offset 1/4 20 7 5-minute Quadrangle

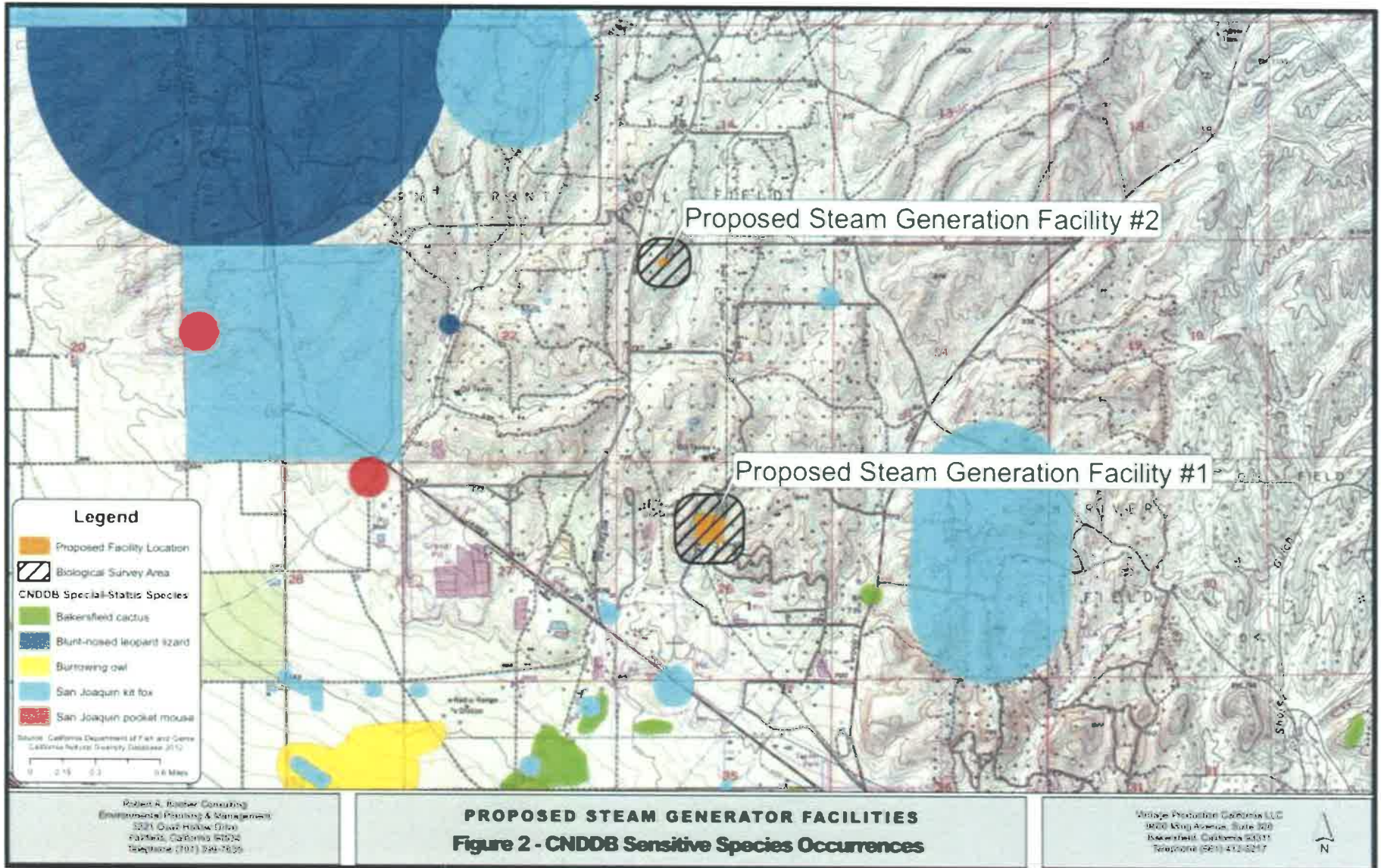
0 0.075 0.15 0.2 Miles

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PROPOSED STEAM GENERATOR FACILITIES
Figure 1 - Project Location Map

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Attachment A
Representative Photographs



Photograph 1

View to the north from the southern edge of proposed Steam Generation Facility # 1 location.



Photograph 2

View to the west from the eastern edge of proposed Steam Generation Facility # 1 location.



Photograph 3
View to the north from the southern edge of proposed Steam Generation Facility # 2 location.



Photograph 4
View to the west from the eastern edge of proposed Steam Generation Facility # 2 location.