



**United States Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management  
Bakersfield Field Office  
3801 Pegasus Drive  
Bakersfield, California 93308-6837  
[www.ca.blm.gov/bakersfield](http://www.ca.blm.gov/bakersfield)**



November 24, 2014

**Dear Valued Stakeholder:**

E&B Natural Resources Management Corp. (E&B) has submitted an application for a proposed right-of-way. E&B is proposing the following: installation of a new well meter on their existing Ritter C 22-11 well pad; installation of an underground 2-inch polyethylene produced fluids pipeline from their Ritter C 22-11 well pad along an existing access road right-of-way to a proposed connection point on the existing 4-inch Morales Canyon Pipeline, and the removal of an existing pipeline. The proposed project is located on Bureau of Land Management (BLM) managed lands located in Sections 3, 10, and 11, T. 11 N., R. 28W., SBBM. The project location within the Carrizo Plain National Monument (CPNM) as well as within the existing Russell Ranch Oil Field.

The purpose of the proposed action is to provide E&B with the ability to install a new produced fluids pipeline to transport produced fluids production off their federal mineral lease to an existing facility, and to supply energy resources to the American public. The need for the proposed action is to respond to the right-of-way application submitted by the proponent to conduct operations on public lands administered by the BLM Bakersfield Field Office.

This action conforms and is within the scope of the Carrizo Plain National Monument Resource Management Plan signed April 10, 2010. All stipulations and standard operating procedures will be followed as set for in this plan.

A draft Categorical Exclusion document (CX) has been prepared to consider the potential impacts on humans and the environment, and to formulate mitigating measures.

Enclosed are a copy of the draft Categorical Exclusion document (CX) and a map of the proposed E&B Pipeline Project. Should you have any comments, please send your comments to Christina Castellon at [ccastellon@blm.gov](mailto:ccastellon@blm.gov) before the 15 day comment period ends. The comment period will begin November 24, 2014 and end December 9, 2014.

If you should have, any additional questions please feel free to contact me at (661) 391-6093.

Sincerely,

/s/ Johna Hurl  
Monument Manager

Enclosures

**Categorical Exclusion Documentation**  
**DOI-BLM-CA-C069-2014-0208-CX**

**A. Background**

**BLM Office:** Bakersfield Field Office, LLCAC06000

**Case File #:** CACA 55417

**Project Title:** E&B Natural Resources Management Corp. Produced Water Pipeline

**Location:**

San Bernardino Meridian, California

T. 11 N., R. 28 W.,

sec. 3, SE ¼ SE ¼;

sec. 10, NE ¼ NE ¼;

sec. 11, NW ¼ NW ¼;

The area described contains 0.557 acres in San Luis Obispo County.

**Project Description, including any Stipulations**

An application has been filed by E&B Natural Resources Management Corporation to construct a 2" polyethylene produced water pipeline and install a new well meter. The pipeline would transport produced fluids (26 to 28 BBL/day) from E&B's existing Ritter C 22-11 well to a production facility at the Russell Ranch Central Tank Farm.

The pipeline would begin at the existing E&B Ritter C 22-11 well and would terminate at a connection point with an existing 4" Morales Canyon pipeline. The new well meter would be placed on the existing Ritter C 22-11 well. The pipeline would be buried entirely within an existing authorized road right-of-way CACA 27014. The approximate total length of the pipeline would be 2,426 feet all located on BLM land. The permanent width of the pipeline right-of-way would be 10 feet. No temporary work area will be needed since E&B will stay within their existing road right-of-way. The traffic control will consist of signs and directing personnel on each side of the job site.

The pipeline would be installed underground within an existing oilfield roadway by using traditional open-cut trench methods. A backhoe or trencher will be required to establish an open trench of approximately 12 to 18 inches deep and approximately 6 inches wide. The pipe will be placed beside the trench by project personnel. Pipe joints and connections will be bonded together and all joint connections would be inspected prior to placing in the trench. The pipe would then be lowered into the trench. A small side-boom crane would be used to lower the pipe into the trench. The pipe would then be covered with soils that were excavated during the trenching operation.

The project also includes the removal of an existing pipeline that is currently out of service. The pipeline is approximately 530 feet in length and runs from the well upslope to an idle tank

setting. Approximately 54 feet of this pipeline is buried. The existing pipeline runs through an area that does not have any roads. In the area that there are no roads, E&B will walk into those areas, cut the pipeline in half and drag half of it out to the well pad and half of it out to the old tank farm the other direction. E&B will use a backhoe from each road, near the old tank farm and the well to pull the pipeline each direction.

The following equipment would be used during construction: backhoe, small side-boom crane, welder, pick-up trucks, trencher, A-Frame, and water truck. The anticipated start date of construction would be late 2014 and is expected to take 4 weeks for completion.

The pipeline right-of way, CACA 55417, will be authorized pursuant to Title V of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) of October 21, 1976, as amended.

The proposed action would be to approve the application to construct a 2” produced fluids pipeline, as described above; standard rights-of-way stipulations are shown as **Exhibit B**.

Measures to avoid or minimize effects to special status species that must be complied with are included in **Exhibit B**.

## **B. Land Use Plan Conformance**

This action conforms to the Carrizo Plain National Monument Resource Management Plan, approved in 2010 because it is clearly consistent with the RMP objectives and decisions as follows:

Goal MNL-1(P): Manage the exploration, development, and abandonment of oil and gas on existing federal leases in a manner that protects the objects of the Monument Proclamation.

Objective MNL-4(I\*): Manage leases to minimize fragmentation of habitat (including removal of redundant roads and unused pipelines, storage tanks, and other infrastructure).

Action MNL-8(I\*): Design roads, well pads, and facilities to impact and fragment the least acreage practicable. New facilities will be designed to maintain natural drainage and runoff patterns, reduce visual impacts, and reduce hazards to wildlife, especially California condors. ...

Action MNL-9(I\*): Ensure BMPs are followed. Examples include: Placing pipelines along roads and consolidating facilities where feasible. ...

Allowable Use LR-2(I\*): Right-of-way applications would be evaluated on a case-by-case basis, such as applications for research or scientific rights-of-way or existing roads for private lands within the Monument. If granted, rights-of-way would contain terms and conditions to protect resources, such as any listed species and their habitat, other wildlife and their habitat, significant geologic features, and paleontological and cultural resources.

The proposed action has been reviewed for conformance with this plan, as required by 43 CFR 1610.5.

### C. Compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act

The action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with 516 DM 11.9, E (12):

“Grants of right-of-way wholly within the boundaries of other compatibly developed rights-of-way.”

This categorical exclusion is appropriate for this action because the proposed pipeline would be located within the existing right-of-way CACA 27014, and there are no extraordinary circumstances potentially having effects that may significantly affect the environment. The proposed action has been reviewed, and none of the following extraordinary circumstances (43 CFR 46.215) apply.

#### Review of Extraordinary Circumstances:

1) *Have significant impacts on public health or safety.*

Yes  No **Remarks:** The pipeline will be buried within an existing disturbed road right-of-way, CACA 27014. Burying the pipeline within an existing road will not change the existing conditions of the right-of-way area since construction would not be outside of the existing ROW boundary. The ROW grant will include terms and conditions requiring traffic control and barricades during the time the trench is open. Therefore, no impacts on public health or safety are anticipated.

2) *Have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (Executive Order 11990); floodplains (Executive Order 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas.*

Yes  No **Remarks:**

The proposed project takes place within a National Monument; however, implementation of project activities is designed in such a manner that would result in no significant impacts to the objects under protection by the Proclamation. Trenching would take place within an established, well-travelled roadway resulting in no new impacts. Removal of the existing pipe line off of existing roads would be accomplished through the use of hand tools and is consistent with CPNM RMP objectives to remove unused materials and maintain “good housekeeping”. Migratory birds, including prairie falcon and loggerhead shrike occur in the project area but project activities will be timed to avoid disturbance during the nesting season resulting in no impacts. The project area does not include historic or cultural resources, park, recreation or refuge lands; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands or floodplains, therefore there will be no impacts to these resources. In addition, the right-of-way grant includes a stipulation requiring the holder to contact the BLM prior to conducting any future ground disturbing activities, to receive guidance on compliance with the Endangered Species Act and Section 106 of the National Historic

Preservation Act. Based on this, the proposed action is not expected to have significant impacts on natural resources and unique geographic characteristics.

*3) Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA Section 102(2)(E)].*

Yes  No **Remarks:** The environmental effects of installing the produced fluids line and its standard maintenance and removal of the unused pipeline are not highly controversial; the pipeline will be buried within a previously disturbed area – a road currently used by the applicant for oil field operations, within an existing oil field. There are no unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of the available resources regarding the approval of the authorization.

*4) Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.*

Yes  No **Remarks:** The right-of-way is located on an existing road that is currently being used for oil field operations. Installation, maintenance, and removal of buried pipelines are a common practice within oil fields and numerous other rights-of-way have been granted under similar circumstances within the Bakersfield Field Office. Therefore, the potential environmental effects from this right-of-way are well known. There are no unique or unknown environmental risks from implementing the proposed installation, maintenance, and removal of produced water pipelines.

*5) Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.*

Yes  No **Remarks:** The project does not establish a precedent or have any additional connected actions that have not been analyzed in this review. FLPMA allows for the issuance of rights-of-ways therefore, issuing the right-of-way for the buried pipeline is not setting precedence. In addition the Carrizo RMP states that right-of-way applications would be evaluated on a case by case basis, and if granted, would contain terms and conditions to protect resources.

*6) Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.*

Yes  No **Remarks:** Stipulations incorporated into the right-of-way will avoid or minimize adverse effects and protect plants, wildlife, cultural resources, and other sensitive resources to the extent that residual effects would not be significant. As a result, there would not be any significant direct or indirect effects associated with this proposal; without direct effects, there can be no cumulative effects. The proposed pipeline will begin at an existing well and end at an existing pipeline. The existing road will be used to access the pipeline for future maintenance. The impacts from these individual actions are negligible. Dust caused from the removal and installation of the pipeline would be temporary in nature and would not cause cumulative effects beyond what has already been analyzed in the FEIS for the CPNM RMP (pp. 208). The overall impacts to soils would be minor to moderate and would be localized to the project area due to construction activities (pp. 4-210 to 4-211). The implementation of BMPs, terms and conditions, and promoting the use of preciously disturbed sites, however, would

reduce the risk of accelerated erosion. This project does not have the direct potential to affect water resources as discussed in the FEIS for the CPNM RMP (pp. 4-216 to 4-218).

7) *Have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by either the bureau or office.*

Yes  No **Remarks:** A BLM Class III, intensive, cultural resources survey was conducted for all areas that could be both directly or indirectly affected by the proposed project (BLM CRIR#6000-2014-34). No cultural remains were discovered as a result of this survey. As a result, the proposed action will not have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by either the bureau or office.

8) *Have significant impacts on species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat.*

Yes  No **Remarks:**

This proposed right-of-way is located within the CPNM, an area known to provide habitat for federally listed species. BLM-conducted threatened or endangered species surveys took place at the site. In addition, a literature review and thorough field surveys were completed by Booher Consulting for both plants and animals on three separate occasions: October, December and May of 2013. No threatened or endangered species were found by BLM or Booher Consulting. The only listed species with potential for occurrence are San Joaquin kit fox and San Joaquin antelope squirrel based on existing habitat characteristics. Implementation of the measures listed in Exhibit B during project execution would avoid or minimize effects to special status species resulting in no significant impacts. Formal consultation was completed on the CPNM RMP and an April 2, 2010 Biological Opinion (81420-2010-F-0089) was issued. The CPNM RMP Biological Opinion provides ESA compliance for the CPNM RMP and certain project level actions taken to implement the RMP, including the proposed action evaluated by this NEPA document. The CPNM RMP BO contains measures for conserving listed species and their habitats that have been incorporated into the proposed action. This project is subject to compliance with the April 2, 2010 Biological Opinion. Ground disturbing activities such as trenching were analyzed in the RMP and fully addressed by the April 2, 2010 Biological Opinion. No further consultation is required. No species proposed to be listed occur at or near the proposed project site nor does the project site fall within any designated Critical Habitat, therefore there will be no impacts to species proposed to be listed or to designated Critical Habitat.

9) *Violate a Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.*

Yes  No **Remarks:** This action will not violate State, local or tribal laws.

10) *Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898).*

Yes  No **Remarks:** In San Luis Obispo County and in the Carrizo Trade Area (an area within an approximately 10-mile radius on the Monument), only 18.3 and 25.5 percent of the population identify themselves as being of Hispanic or Latino origin; other races represent a

significantly smaller segment of the population. Based on US Census Bureau estimates, approximately 18.3 percent of families in the Carrizo Trade Area had an income that was below poverty level. The proposed projects would not affect any low income or minority populations beyond what was already analyzed within the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the CPNM RMP (pp. 3-118 to 3-119).

*11) Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (Executive Order 13007).*

Yes  No **Remarks:** Certified letters containing a description of the proposed action and a map depicting its location was mailed to Native American Tribes that have cultural affiliation with the project area (TNL# 14-14). None of the recipients of this letter responded to indicate that places of traditional cultural or religious importance would be impacted by the proposed project. As a result, it will not limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (Executive Order 13007).

*12) Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act and Executive Order 13112).*

Yes  No **Remarks:**

The proposed action is within an existing right-of-way boundary and not expected to contribute to the introduction, continued existence or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species. Soil disturbance associated with the project will be within an existing roadway and not be in a location where plants would be able to persist.

## EXHIBIT B STIPULATIONS

The right-of-way is subject to all valid existing rights.

The holder shall coordinate all maintenance and termination activities with the oil and gas leaseholder, grazing leaseholder, Underground Service Alert, and holders of rights-of-way on the subject lands, in order to avoid conflicts with existing operations. The name, address, and phone number of the holder(s) are available from the authorized officer.

**The holder shall attach and maintain a marker to the subject pipeline nearest the entry and exit points of the BLM land. These markers shall be of stamped or engraved metal, and shall state the BLM serial number of this grant in characters no smaller than one inch high.**

Any new surface disturbing activities, including maintenance will require notification to the BLM, and may require a BLM approved cultural resource survey prior to the issuance of a notice to proceed for the activity. A cultural monitor may be required, at the discretion of BLM, during the surface disturbing activities.

Any cultural and/or paleontological resource (historic or prehistoric site or object or human remains) discovered by the holder, or any person working on his behalf, on public or Federal land shall be immediately reported to the authorized officer. Holder shall suspend all operations in the immediate area of such discovery until written authorization to proceed is issued by the authorized officer. An evaluation of the discovery will be made by the authorized officer to determine appropriate actions to prevent the loss of significant cultural or scientific values. The holder will be responsible for the cost of evaluation and any decision as to proper mitigation measures will be made by the authorized officer after consulting with the holder.

The holder shall conduct all activities associated with the operation, maintenance and termination of the right-of-way within the authorized limits of the right-of-way.

Holder shall maintain the right-of-way in a safe, usable condition, as directed by the authorized officer.

Except rights-of-way expressly authorizing a road after construction of the project is completed, the holder shall not use the right-of-way as a road for purposes other than routine maintenance as determined necessary by the authorized officer in consultation with the holder.

Maintenance related traffic shall be restricted to routes approved by the authorized officer. New access roads or cross-country vehicle travel will not be permitted unless prior written approval is given by the authorized officer.

A site-specific weed control Environmental Assessment (EA) and a Pesticide Use Permit (PUP) must be completed before any use of pesticides on BLM lands. This can be a lengthy process and requires specific information, public notification, and review by the BLM State Office. In addition, any use of pesticides shall comply with all applicable Federal and State laws. Pesticides shall only be used in accordance with their registered uses, must be on the list of pesticides approved for use on California BLM lands, and used within limitations imposed by the Secretary of the Interior. Applicators of herbicides must have completed pesticide certification

training and have a Certified Pesticide Applicator's License. A Pesticide Use Report (PUR) must be completed within 48 hours of all herbicide applications and pesticide application records for the areas and acres treated must be submitted to the Authorized BLM Officer each year.

The record information must be recorded no later than 14 calendar days following the pesticide or herbicide application and must be maintained for ten years.

Rights-of-way sites shall be maintained in a sanitary condition at all times; waste materials at those sites shall be disposed of promptly at an appropriate waste disposal site. "Waste" means all discarded matter including, but not limited to, human waste, trash, garbage, refuse, oil drums, petroleum products, ashes, and equipment.

The holder shall meet Federal, State, and local emission standards for air quality.

All vehicle use by the holder or the holder's contractors during inspection or maintenance shall be confined to existing roads. No new vehicle routes shall be created or cleared by the holder or the holder's contractor. No off-road vehicle travel is authorized.

**Holder shall comply with the Endangered Species Act in the operation, maintenance and termination of the facilities, including any surface disturbance such as pipeline repair, replacement or right-of-way maintenance. The holder shall contact the Bakersfield Field Office, prior to commencement of any surface disturbing operations to receive guidance on how impacts from such activity must be minimized, including any requirements for compliance with any Endangered Species Act Section 7 consultation.**

All design, material, operation, maintenance, and termination practices shall be in accordance with safe and proven engineering practices.

No routine maintenance activities shall be performed during periods when the soil is too wet to adequately support the equipment. If such equipment creates ruts in excess of six (6) inches deep the soil shall be deemed too wet to adequately support the equipment.

If it has been longer than 30 days between the last biological survey and the proposed start of construction, additional surveys would be required and must be conducted by qualified personnel familiar with the target species and conducted at the appropriate time for detection.

Sensitive resources discovered in close proximity to activities associated with pipeline installation and removal activities would be flagged for avoidance and a biological monitor will be required to be on site during project activities.

If listed species or nesting birds are found within the project area, prior to construction all persons involved in project construction would be informed of the species and the measures that must be taken to avoid impacts to these species.

If nesting birds are found to occur at the project site, timing of activities would be planned to minimize impacts to nesting birds.

Vegetation removal and surface disturbance would be minimized. Any necessary removal of

vegetation will be done by hand.

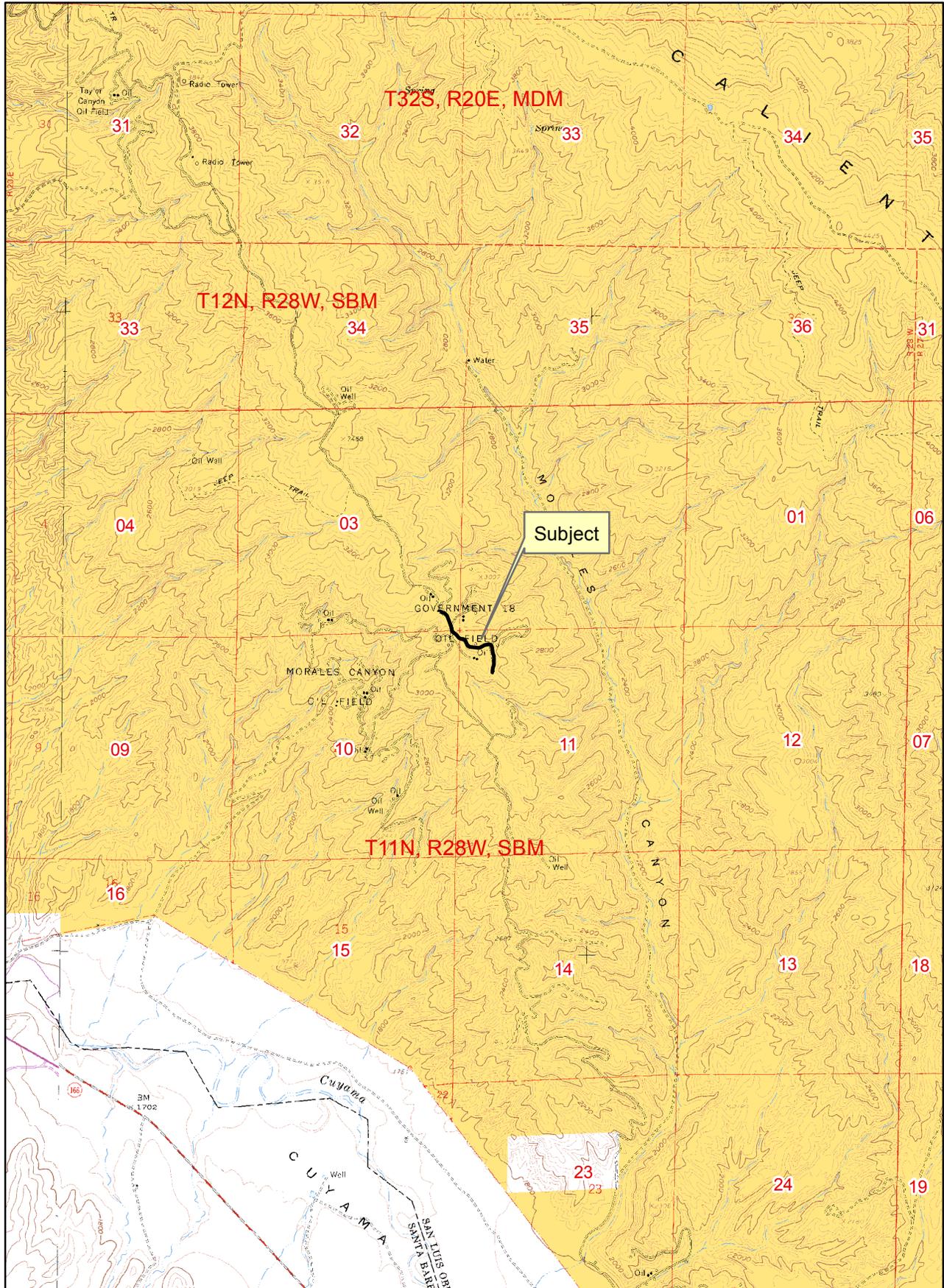
Measures should be taken to minimize the chance of introducing the seeds of invasive species to the site by construction vehicles. All vehicles and heavy equipment used for the proposed action should be cleaned of soil and debris capable of transporting weed seeds or other propagules, before entering the project area.

Pipe ends and similar structures with a diameter  $\geq 3$  (three) inches would be inspected for entrapped animals before being moved, capped or buried. Any animals found inside would be allowed to escape unharmed. During construction, ends of partially installed pipes will be closely monitored or covered to prevent animals from entering.

Prior to termination of the right-of-way, the holder shall contact the authorized officer to arrange a pre-termination conference. This conference will be held to review the termination provisions of the grant. The authorized officer may require the removal and rehabilitation of certain structures or facilities in order to protect public health and safety and/or the environment.

# CACA 55417

7/17/13



Caliente Mountain USGS Quad 1:40,000  
Sections 3, 10, 11, T. 11 N., R. 28 W., SBBM, San Luis Obispo County, CA

