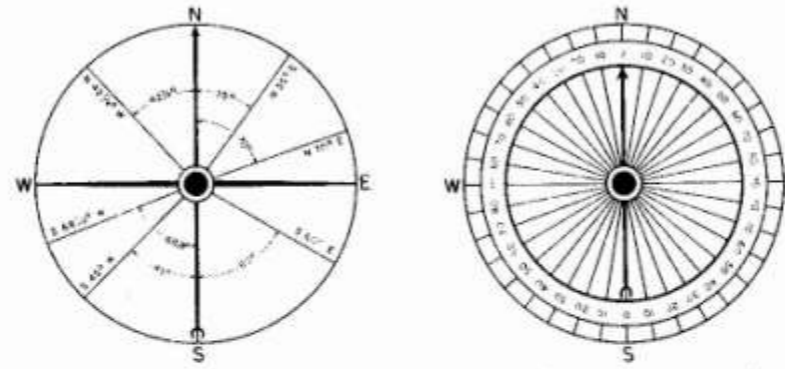






# LAND DESCRIPTION DIAGRAM



60 seconds equal one minute  
60 minutes equal one degree

90 degrees in a right angle  
360 degrees in a circle



## Table of Land Measurements

LINEAR MEASURE	SQUARE MEASURE
1 inch = .0833 ft.	144 sq. in. = 1 sq. foot
7.92 inches = 1 link	9 sq. feet = 1 sq. yard
12 inches = 1 foot	30 1/2 sq. yds. = 1 sq. rod
1 vara = 33 inches	16 sq. rods = 1 sq. chain
2 1/4 feet = 1 vara	1 sq. rod = 272 1/4 sq. ft.
3 feet = 1 yard	1 sq. ch. = 4356 sq. ft.
25 links = 16 1/2 feet	10 sq. chs. = 1 acre
25 links = 1 rod	160 sq. rods = 1 acre
100 links = 1 chain	4840 sq. yds. = 1 acre
16 1/2 feet = 1 rod	43560 sq. ft. = 1 acre
5 1/2 yards = 1 rod	640 acres = 1 sq. mile
4 rods = 100 links	1 sq. mile = 1 section
66 feet = 1 chain	36 sq. miles = 1 Twp.
80 chains = 1 mile	6 miles sq. = 1 Twp.
320 rods = 1 mile	1 sq. mi. = 2.59 sq. kilm
8000 links = 1 mile	
5280 feet = 1 mile	
1760 yards = 1 mile	

## An Acre is:

43,560 sq. feet.      660 feet x 66 feet.  
165 feet x 264 feet.      160 square rods.  
198 feet x 220 feet.      208' 8" square.  
or any rectangular tract, the product of the length and width of which totals 43,560 sq. ft.

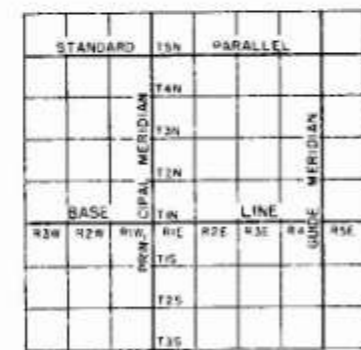


Diagram showing division of tract into Townships



Sectional map of Township showing adjoining Sections

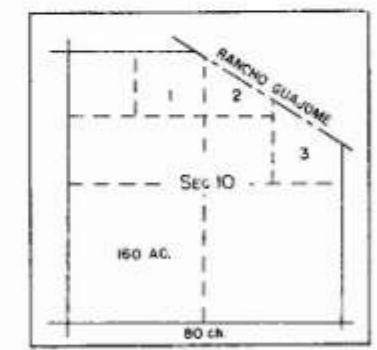


Diagram illustrating division of Fractional Section into Government Lots

# LAND STATUS RECORDS

The records in the California BLM Office consist of several elements. Each township has an ownership or Master Title Plat and a Historical Index. Some townships may also include Leasable Resource Plats or Oil and Gas Plats which show issued mineral leases and permits.

One additional record is the Miscellaneous Document Index which lists documents involving unidentified lands or orders of a general nature. These documents are an integral part of the records and this index should be examined in conjunction with the records for each township to determine the complete status of public lands.

Microfilm copies of the records may be inspected by the public, or paper copies may be purchased from the California State Office of the BLM or the respective BLM Field Offices in California. The State Office is located at 2800 Cottage Way, Rm W. 1834, Sacramento, CA 95825. This office is open to the public from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, except on legal holidays. There are fifteen Field Offices plus a District Office in Riverside. Each have land status for land under their jurisdiction.

## MASTER TITLE PLAT

The Master Title Plat shows the land which has been patented to private ownership, the patent numbers, and the reservations to the United States as stated in the patent. The absence of such information would indicate the land is still federal land - often referred to as public domain. Withdrawals, rights-of-way, national forests, Indian reservations, wildlife refuges, classifications, and other reservations and actions are also shown. Lands which have been patented and then reacquired by the United States by donation, purchase, or condemnation are shown as either reconveyed public domain or (stippled) acquired lands. Grazing permits or leases and timber sales are not a part of the new records, and information concerning them must be obtained from the District Offices.

The first step in building the Master Title Plat was the making of a basic township plat based on the most recent survey or protraction. If more than one survey has been made for a township, the basic plat is a composite of all the surveys, with the composite survey picture appearing on one page. Although it is a copy or a composite of the surveys, **the Master Title Plat must not be construed as an official survey plat.**

The Master Title Plat illustrates title information by the use of various weights and types of lines to show the area affected. Each weight or kind of line indicates a separate and distinct type of action. Each such action is shown by an abbreviated notation which identifies the action or authority for it.

## Procedure for Using Master Title Plat

As mentioned before, the records are designed to portray the title story by the use of lines and abbreviated notations. The guides listed below, if followed in each case, should help in making the records quite easy to read:

1. Always follow a particular line around until you come back to the point of beginning. The area within the bounds of the line is the land affected.
2. To find the notation for a particular line, know what the line stands for. Refer to the legend of abbreviations and symbols which explains the information portrayed by the different lines.
3. The identification for the area circumscribed by a line usually appears at the lower edge of the area involved. In some instances where space is limited, the identification may be "arrowed" in. The legend of abbreviations gives the full wording.
4. Whenever the plat is too small to adequately tell the story, a supplemental plat is prepared on a larger scale. Usually not more than four sections appear on a supplemental plat. If a supplemental plat has been made, the Master Title Plat will indicate it. The title information for those sections will be shown only on the supplemental plat.

The sample township plat included with this explanation sheet has been prepared to show most of the types of lines used. The following explanation will further assist the reader in using and understanding the sample plat.

The light-weight line surrounding Section 1 is the weight of the survey lines which appear on the **basic plat**. Sections 3 and 8 show how lots appear. Note that the subdivision lines separating lots are not full length, only partial: they are called tick marks. These partial subdivision lines are the only survey lines shown within a section. Survey lines for a full 40-acre subdivision in a section are not shown. Section 4 shows a boundary line between surveyed and unsurveyed lands.

In Sections 5 and 6 there is shown a line which is used to outline federal **withdrawals or classifications** affecting a part of the township. These are further identified as to type of order and purpose by notations at the lower edge of the area outlined. The date shown is the date of the last order affecting that area. If the entire township is affected, it is not outlined. Instead, a notation on the right-hand side of the plat will state that the entire township is in the withdrawal or classification. A good rule to follow is to always first check the right-hand side of the plat for notations.

Surveyed mines are shown in Section 7. A 1976 law requires that all mining claims on federal lands be recorded in the BLM State Office. Those records are available for public inspection.

The BLM Office has a record of mining claims which have been patented and those which have been included in approved mineral surveys. If an official mineral survey has been made of the mining claim, the claim is outlined with a survey weight line and is identified by the Mineral Survey Number such as MS1550. If a claim has been patented, a patent line is drawn around the claim and the patent number, such as 25389 in Section 7, is inserted in the affected area. The Mineral Survey number will also be shown in the patented area.

A 1955 law (Public Law 359) requires that the BLM Office must be advised of mining locations on withdrawn Power Site land. An index to mineral locations and contests has been prepared for each township where these have been filed.

The illustration in Section 9 is for **Public Law 167**, the Act of July 23, 1955. This law pertains to the right of the United States to manage surface resources on unpatented mining claims. Although it does not affect title, where a final determination has been made, it is noted on the right-hand side of the plat.

Sections 13, 14, 15, 23, and 24 illustrate **examples of patents**. A patent line is drawn around the lands described in the patent. When two patented areas adjoin, there is a double-weight line. The single and double-weight patent lines are shown in Section 14. The patent number usually appears in the lower extremity of the area patented. Land which is still in federal ownership will not have a patent number. Note the SW1/4NW1/4, SE1/4NW1/4, NW1/4SE1/4 in the middle of Section 14.

Whenever there are any reservations to the United States, a notation will appear below the patent number. If there is nothing below the patent number, the United States reserved nothing. The patent numbers and reservation for the patented areas outlined in Section 13, 23, and 24 are examples of the various types which can occur.

Section 16 and 36 illustrate grant of land made to the **State of California**. Sections 17, 20, and 21 show an example of a lease or permit line. As mentioned before, grazing leases or permits are not shown. Section 18 illustrates a pending application and an approved or allowed application. The notation identifies the serial number and type of application. Section 19 illustrates land classifications by **BLM**.

The United States occasionally reacquires lands which had been previously patented. Such land is referred to as **acquired land** if the law authorizing the reacquisition does not provide that the lands return to public domain status. Where the BLM Office has the acquisition information, such acquired lands are shaded, as shown in Sections 27 through 30. The fact that an area is shaded indicates that the United States has an acquired surface interest or an acquired mineral interest, or both. Exactly what was acquired by the United States is shown by the notations.

Section 27 illustrates that the United States does not own the surface, but has an acquired mineral interest: hence the shading. Section 28 and 29 both show the surface and the minerals are owned by the United States, but those originally retained, as in Section 28, are subject to disposition under one law, and those acquired, as in Section 29, are subject to disposition under a different law. Therefore, the new records will show whether the Government owns the surface or minerals or both.

Records of lands acquired by the federal agencies other than BLM may not always be available in the office. However, ownership status can usually be obtained from the records of the county where the lands are located.

The **right-of-way** symbols shown in Section 31 and 32 include the width from the centerline of the R/W and the act under which the R/W was granted. It should be emphasized that rights-of-way are only shown in their approximate location.

Section 25 is an example of a jurisdiction boundary line between California District Offices. Section 33 shows an example of a **county boundary line**. Various types of range improvements are shown in Section 34. Section 35 shows a notation referring to a supplemental plat.

## Historical Index

The Historical Index is a chronological narrative of all past and present actions which affect the use of or title to public lands and resources. It can be used to check title, but is not designed for that purpose, nor is it necessary for use in making title determinations. The primary value is its adaptability for abstract work.

## Source Documents

The title information on the Master Title Plat was taken from microfilm copies of documents such as patents, withdrawal orders, state selection lists, etc. These microfilm copies are filed in the BLM Office and paper copies can be made and purchased from that office.