

HISTORIC RESOURCES IDENTIFICATION  
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE  
Final 6/2/15 – Prepared by Carla Bollinger

**Chatsworth Nature Preserve/Reservoir**

Why is this individual resource or neighborhood significant? Chatsworth Nature Preserve (CNP) is a representation of San Fernando Valley (SFV)-Los Angeles history from pre-historic through the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. This is the last remaining opening space, 1325 acres, on the valley floor with rolling hills, native plants and oak trees, a vision of what the SFV once looked like with numerous cultural-historic landmarks.

**Native American site from pre-historic Middle Period (1500 – 500 AD), through Pre-Mission period:** A Gabrielino and Ventureño-Chumash, historical district

**Mission Period:** (1769 to 1833-1836) Spanish expedition and establishment of California Missions through the time period the Missions were secularized by the Mexican government.

**Mexican Period:** (1821-1848) Rancheros, cattle and sheep ranch, Rancho Ex-Mission San Fernando, Mexican land grant by Governor Pio Pico to Eulogio de Celis.

**Pioneering/Homesteading or American Period:** (1848 – early 1900's) Gold discovery north of San Fernando Mission in Placerita Canyon, 1848; California Statehood in 1850; and the Homestead Act, 1862, all contributed to the SFV changes from cattle and sheep ranching to agricultural, dry farming.

**20<sup>th</sup> Century:** Owens Valley-Los Angeles Aqueduct, building of the Chatsworth Reservoir, early Movie/TV Filming, and the development of commercial industry and growth of residential development surrounding the CNP-Reservoir.

. . .

**Native American Convergence site.** The CNP and surrounding area was a convergence location for Ventureño-Chumash, Gabrielino, and Fernandeño Native Americans to gather, trade, inter-marry, and hold ceremonies.

**Momonga Village (Fernandeño ) or Rancheria de las Piedras (Gabrielino/Tongva)**  
Location: Northeastern Simi Hills through Santa Susana Pass to Stoney Point on the west, and south to the north end of Chatsworth Reservoir. Momonga Village site is centered in the vicinity of Stoney Point; an extensive area with the exact boundaries unknown with indications it eclipsed the northern area of the CNP. Archaeological sites inside the CNP and in the surrounding area indicate the Native American occupancy.

**Ranchos: Rancho Ex-Mission San Fernando:** The largest land grant in California, 116,858 acres, awarded in 1846 by Governor Pio Pico to Eulogio de Celis, covered the former SFV Mission lands. **Rancho El Escorpion de las Salinas** (salt marshes) in the southern section of the CNP is an extension of the Rancho El Escorpion.

Joaquin Romero owned half of Rancho El Escorpion and the El Escorpion de las Salinos (south end of the CNP). He was a heavy drinker and in 1861 sold his land/cattle/sheep to Miguel Leonis, his ranch hand, for \$100; Leonis allowed him to live on Leonis Ranch until his death. After Leonis' death, his Chumash-Gabrielino wife, Espiritu Chijulla-Leonis, later won back her property, Rancho El Escorpion.

El Escorpion de las Salinos, disputed region with Eulogio de Celis (Rancho Ex-Mission San Fernando,) Pierre Domec took possession, "squatter's" property, of a section of the Lake Manor-reservoir where the limekiln is located. Pierre Domec, an industrious French-Basque immigrant, cooper, rancher, and operator of limekilns, was the husband of Maria Dolores, oldest sister of Juan Menendez's mother, Espiritu. Espiritu was the daughter of the last Indian owner, Chief Oden, Rancho El Escorpion.

CA-LAN-651H: Chatsworth Caldera, Reservoir Kiln Site: Los Angeles Historic Cultural Monument #141 (4/27/75); California Historical Landmark No. 911: Chatsworth Caldera Site location. The Caldera, limekiln, for industrial processing, vitrifying bricks, for the San Fernando Mission and other buildings in greater Los Angeles.

Ruins of old adobes: In the kiln site: J.P. Harrington Smithsonian Papers 91-31231: Several old adobe ruins were photographed on DWP property inside of the Chatsworth Nature Preserve, and on the west side of Valley Circle Boulevard."

Adobes in the limekiln area: Domec's first adobe, and Marcelina and Bernabel Odon; children of Native American Odon Chihuya, born 1797, when the San Fernando Mission is built. In 1839 Odon received his emancipation from the San Fernando Mission and resided at the El Escorpion Rancho. August, 1845, Odon, Urbano and Manuel, are granted partial ownership in El Escorpion Ranch. In 1849, they conveyed part of their ownership to Joaquin Romero (El Scorpion de las Salinas/Scorpion Ranch/Chatsworth Reservoir region.)

**Benjamin F. Porter:** Eulogio de Celis heirs sold (1874) the Rancho Ex-Mission San Fernando Plat to Maclay and George F. Porter; George F. Porter sold a share of his portion to Benjamin F. Porter, his cousin. With a flip of a coin, B.F. Porter became the land owner of Chatsworth-Porter Ranch, 20,000 acres, and George F. Porter, took the eastern section of his portion. The land is predominately dry-farmed. B.F. Porter sold the western end of his property, location of CNP and surrounding area to the San Fernando Valley Improvement Company.

**Homesteaders in CNP:**

**Pierre Domec:** Domec “homestead-squatting area” in Lake Manor-Reservoir is located where he worked the Chatsworth Calera/Limekiln, CA-LAN-651H. Circa 1861-62. His homestead area in Lake Manor/CNP, is not recorded in LA City records. His sister, Francesca Domec, homesteaded in Lake Manor with an edge of property in the reservoir. Her property is recorded.

**James & Alice Thrasher:** One of 13 parcels of land purchased from B.F. Porter/San Fernando Valley Improvement Company (1889 – 1912). The Thrashers dry farmed, wheat and grain, on their land in the Lake Manor-Chatsworth Reservoir location.

**Reservoir:** Los Angeles City purchased the land in 1913 to build a reservoir in the San Fernando Valley. Work began in July, 1917, to build the “Chatsworth Reservoir”, William Mulholland’s 19<sup>th</sup> and last reservoir connected with the Los Angeles Aqueduct. The reservoir was placed in service, 1919, to support the agriculture irrigation needs as the principal water storage facility in the western part of the San Fernando Valley. The reservoir held two earth-fill dams, 7,400 acre-feet x 884 feet high water elevation. Improvement occurred, 1930-31, when the dams were partially reconstructed to increase the water level of the reservoir to five feet elevation with increased capacity to 9,840 acre-feet. Later, 1969, the reservoir was drained and put out of service for the purpose of enlarging and upgrading. Because of the 1971 Sylmar 6.6 earthquake, the reservoir dam was declared seismically unsafe in 1972 and financially too costly to repair/upgrade.

**Ecology Pond:** After the Sylmar Earthquake, 1971, the Reservoir Detention Basin #2 was converted to an Ecology Pond, 30 acres. The Ecology Pond supports migratory birds in the Pacific Flyway during migration periods, and resident birds, all wildlife in the area. The Ecology Pond is adjacent to an oak savanna with both valley and coast live oak on the north side and surrounding grassland, a vital and unique eco-system in greater Los Angeles.

**Heritage oak trees** (California White Oak *Quercus Lobata* and Live Oak *Quercus Agrifolia*) in the woodland and savannas of the Chatsworth Nature Preserve, approximately 60, estimated to be 200 to 500 years old, are one of the last refuges for oak trees, woodlands and savannas, in the LA-SFV landscape. Oak tree acorns were a main food source for Native Americans, Chumash and Gabrielino/Tongva living in the region.

**Eucalyptus trees** Albert Workman, Australian immigrant and manager, for Los Angeles Farm & Milling Co. ordered eucalyptus tree seedlings from his native land and planted the trees in the 1870’s. Workman purchased the 9,000 acre ranch and cultivated another 4,000 acres outside of his property. The dry-land wheat farm became a cattle ranch; at its peak had 1,000 cattle. The ranch house, located in the vicinity of VanOwen and Platt, Canoga Park, sold in 1932. The new owners, Colin

Clements and Florence Ryerson, renamed the historic adobe, Shadow Ranch, in tribute to the eucalyptus trees' shadows. Workman most likely planted eucalyptus trees in the Ranch and surrounding area as a wind break, or to make the ranch-farm greener, or he simply missed his native trees. Legend reports Workman planted eucalyptus seedlings on his wedding day.

**20<sup>th</sup> Century film location** (1920 – 1960) movies and TV

Early Movie and TV film location from the 1920's through the 1960's. Tess of the Storm Country (1922) starring Mary Pickford, Hell's Angeles – a Howard Hughes film of a WWI aviator cost up to \$4.2 million and had a tragedy of two pilots that crashed and died during filming (1930's) . Western films: Home on the Range (1946), The Man from Rainbow Valley (1946), Out California Way (1946), Susanna Pass (1946) with film/TV stars Monte Hale, Roy Rogers and Dale Evans, Gene Autry. The Chatsworth Reservoir became the Sea of Galilee, a 1959 film, The Big Fisherman. TV series, Adventures of Rin Tin Tin (1954) with other TV series-segments were lensed in the reservoir and surrounding movie ranches.

**Listed in the County of Los Angeles Significant Ecology Areas (SEA #13):** The largest remaining natural area of oak woodlands and savannas, grassland, seasonal wetlands, riparian areas, chaparral, and Ecology Pond. The CNP contains the extremely rare Santa Susana Tarplant. The habitat supports Southern California wildlife from amphibians and reptiles, larger animals, mountain lions, bobcats, coyotes, and more than 200 species of birds, local residents and migratory. Los Angeles City Council and Mayor signed in 1994, city ordinance, no. 169723, changing the Chatsworth Reservoir, 1325 acres, to Chatsworth Nature Preserve/Reservoir.

**A crucial wildlife habitat-corridor** with the possibility of CNP being incorporated in the Federal Government's/National Park Service Rim of the Valley Corridor Special Resource Study (ROV). If the NPS-ROV extends into the Simi Hills-Santa Susana Mountains and beyond, there will be an opportunity for a possible cooperative partnership with DWP/CNP as a connection with the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area.

Prepared by:  
Carla Bollinger  
[Carla.bollinger@halo.com](mailto:Carla.bollinger@halo.com)  
818-307-6418

Chatsworth Nature Preserve Coalition: The nomination is consistent with the goals of the CNPC to preserve the natural resources of the site.



ZANDER ASSOCIATES

Environmental Consultants

Site Location

Chatsworth Reservoir Wetland/Riparian Mitigation Program

Los Angeles, California

Figure

1

JOB NUMBER  
BF19

REVIEWED BY  
LZ

DATE  
7/06

**Chatsworth Nature Preserve**  
**HCM Application Revisions**

Native American Resources

There are five previously recorded prehistoric Native American resources within the boundaries of the Chatsworth Nature Preserve (CNP) property (CA-LAN-249, CA-LAN-251, CA-LAN-418, CA-LAN-652 and CA-LAN-653). However, since the entirety of the property has not been subject to a systematic archaeological survey, this may under represent the actual extent of prehistoric-period sites extant within the CNP. The sites include bedrock milling features and/or prehistoric midden deposits. Only one of these sites (CA-LAN-418) has reportedly been investigated by archaeological excavation (Bob Edberg, personal communication); however, no final report on the findings has been located to date. Therefore, little is known about the age, extent and nature of the prehistoric Native American resources within the CNP.

Ethnographic accounts from the western San Fernando Valley do provide some information on specific Native American places within the modern boundary of the CNP (Harrington 1986:RI. 106). The area of the CNP was occupied by the Fernandeano tribe, who spoke a Takic language related to Gabrielino. The Ventureño Chumash (also known as Eastern Coastal Chumash) were located to the west, and regularly intermarried and traded with the Fernandeano people. To the north in the Santa Clarita Valley was the Tataviam tribe, who also had extensive interaction with the Fernandeano villages of the San Fernando Valley. J.P. Harrington, a linguist and ethnologist for the Smithsonian, interviewed Sétimo Lopez, a Fernandeano informant in 1916. In 1917, Harrington interviewed Juan Menéndez, who was the son of Espiritu, owner of Rancho El Escorpión at today's Bell Canyon.

Harrington and Menéndez, along with their wives Carobeth and Juana, began their 1917 placename field trip at the "luna hill" which was located above and just to the west of an old ranch at the southwest corner of Nordhoff and Canoga streets. The Luna Hill, which contained a distinctive moon-shaped rock outcrop, would be located at the southeastern boundary of the CNP (see Figure 2). They followed a passage ("portezuelo") between the Luna Hill to the south, and the "Loma de los Judios" to the north, where there was a cave, now since collapsed. The Loma de los Judios includes portions of the northeastern boundary of the CNP. Harrington and Menéndez continued west through the passage and reached a large lake owned by the city of Los Angeles that had been dammed and was filling with water. This was the recently completed Chatsworth Reservoir, although Menéndez noted that water would naturally collect in this area and it was known by the Spanish name "El Escurpión de las Salinas."

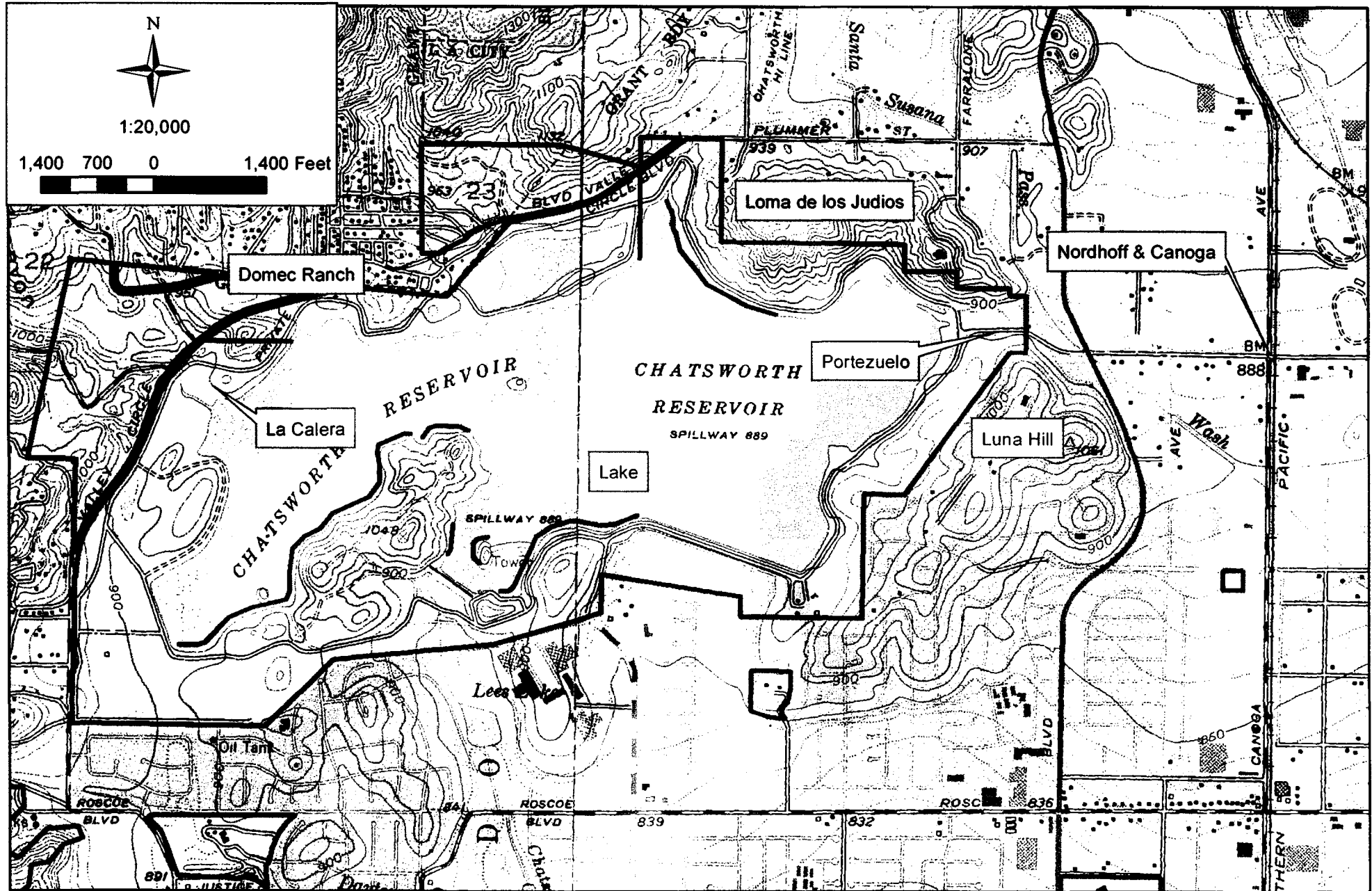
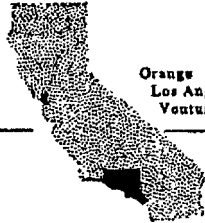


Figure 2 - Harrington Field Trip Placenames

California  
Archaeological  
Inventory



Regional  
Information  
Center

Orange  
Los Angeles  
Ventura

Mailing Address: Archaeological Information Center  
UCLA Institute of Archaeology  
Fowler Museum of Cultural History  
Los Angeles, CA 90024-1510  
Phone: (310) 825-1980 FAX: (310) 206-4723

August 15, 1994

Ann T. Hinckley  
Librarian Emeritus  
22719 Napa Street  
West Hills, CA 91304

RE: Archaeological Resources in the vicinity of the Chatsworth Reservoir.

Dear Ms. Hinckley,

Per your request I have reviewed the Chatsworth Reservoir for archaeological resources within a one-half mile radius. Our records indicate that there are thirteen (13) recorded archaeological sites within a one-half mile radius of the Chatsworth Reservoir. An archaeological survey was conducted on the western portion and covers approximately half of the reservoir. This survey (Information Center reference No. L-1973) was conducted in February 1990 for the Los Angeles International Golf Club. The survey was submitted to our office as part of a draft Environmental Impact Statement for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Due to the amount of recorded archaeological resources in a one-half mile of the reservoir it would be considered to be located in an archaeologically sensitive area.

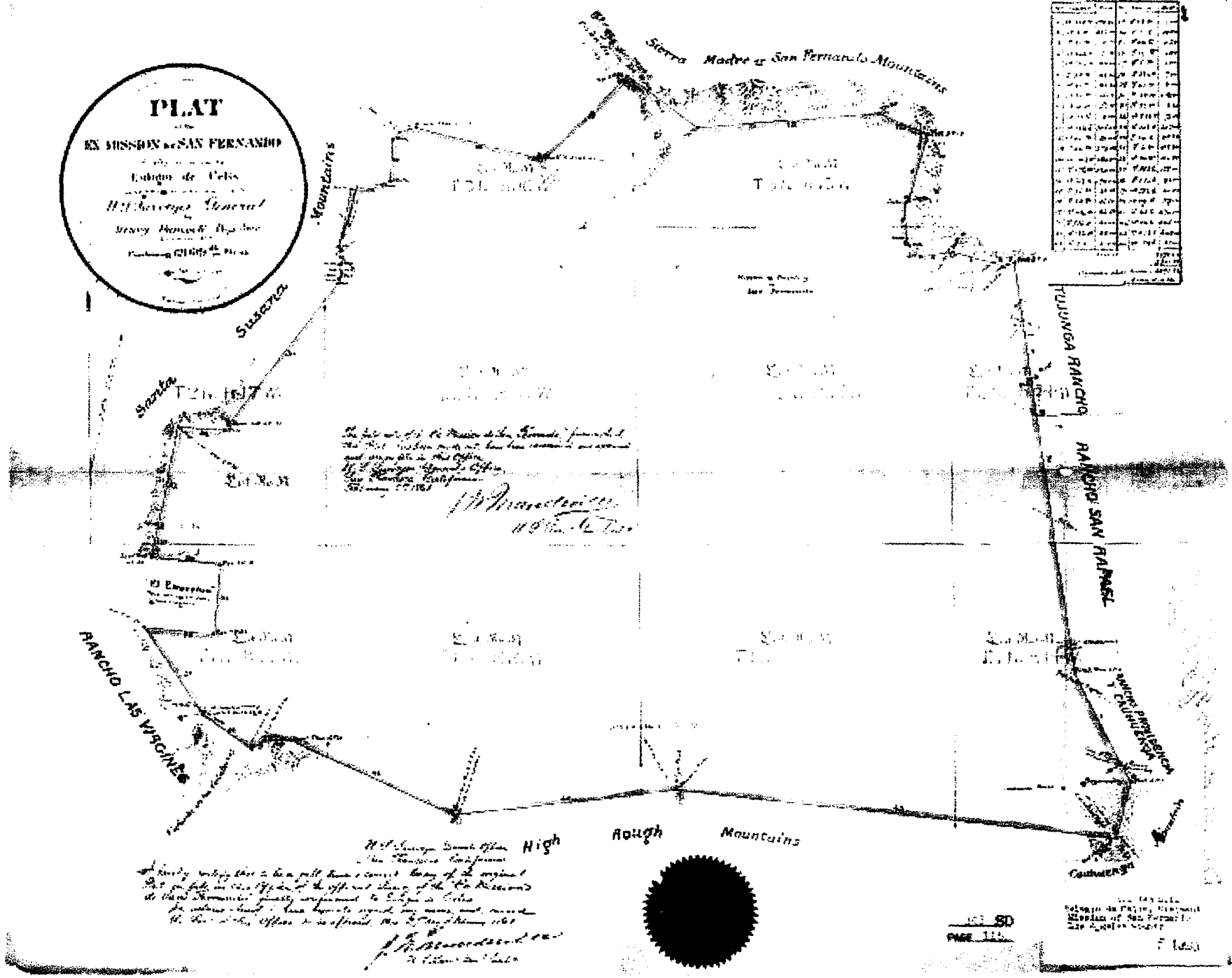
Thank you for consulting with our office. If you have any questions please call us at (310) 825-1980.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth E. Soriano  
Assistant Coordinator

**PLAT**  
 OF THE  
**EX MISSION DE SAN FERNANDO**  
 Establecimiento de Colon  
 U.S. Survey General  
 Henry Thomas, Topographer  
 1852

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*Be it remembered that the Commission of the Survey of the Territory of California, under the authority of the Act of Congress, passed March 3rd 1850, and approved by the President of the United States, has caused to be surveyed and plotted the above described land, and the same to be returned to the Survey General, Henry Thomas, California, on the 17th day of 1852.*

*H. Woodward*  
 U.S. Survey General

*Henry Thomas, Topographer*  
 I hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the original plat of the above described land, as shown to me by the Survey General, has been deposited in the office of the Survey General, at the City of San Francisco, California, and that a true and correct copy of the same has been deposited in the office of the Survey General, at the City of San Francisco, California, on the 17th day of 1852.

*H. Woodward*  
 U.S. Survey General

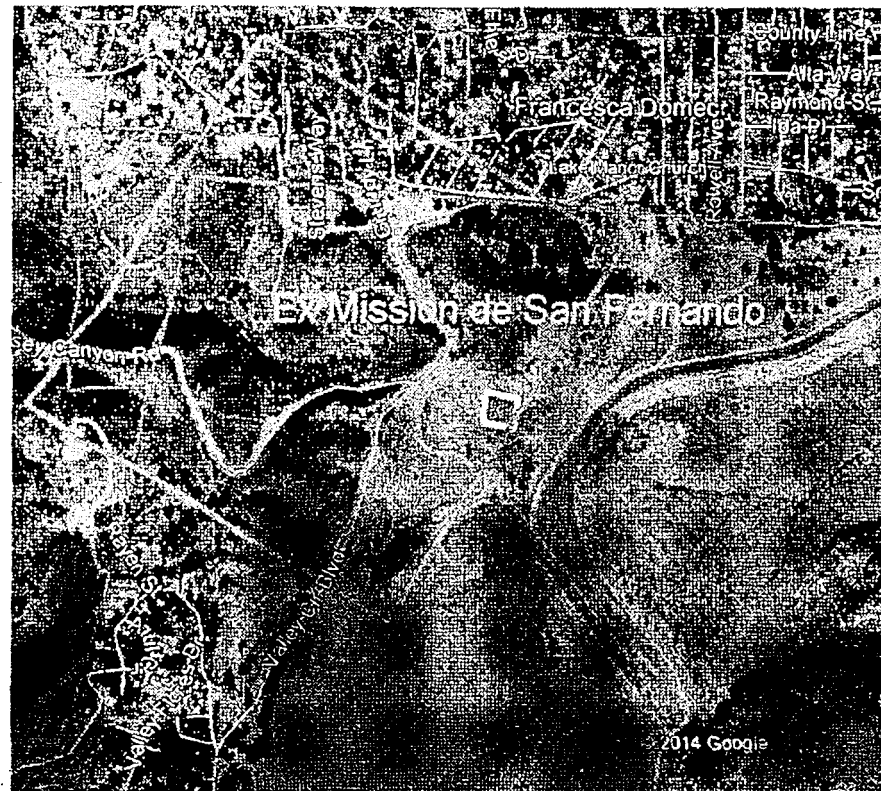
Survey of the Territory of California, under the authority of the Act of Congress, passed March 3rd 1850, and approved by the President of the United States, has caused to be surveyed and plotted the above described land, and the same to be returned to the Survey General, Henry Thomas, California, on the 17th day of 1852.

PLAT 50  
 PAGE 172

F. 1852



The 1865 formal survey of the 1861 sketch by the Deputy County Surveyor of Los Angeles County, was for 160 acres.



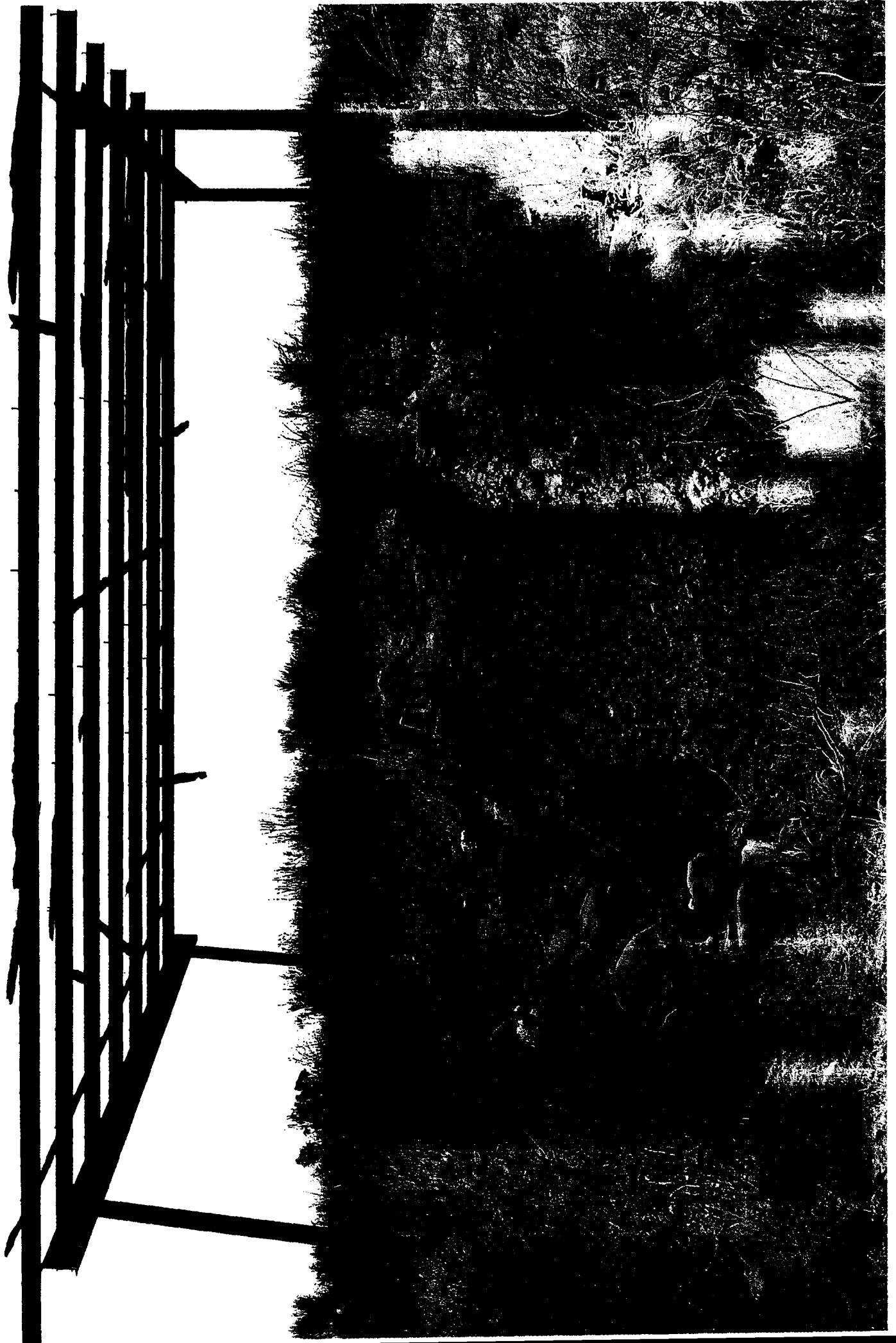
The 1865 survey boundaries overlaid on Google Earth in green. The white outline is Domec's limekiln.

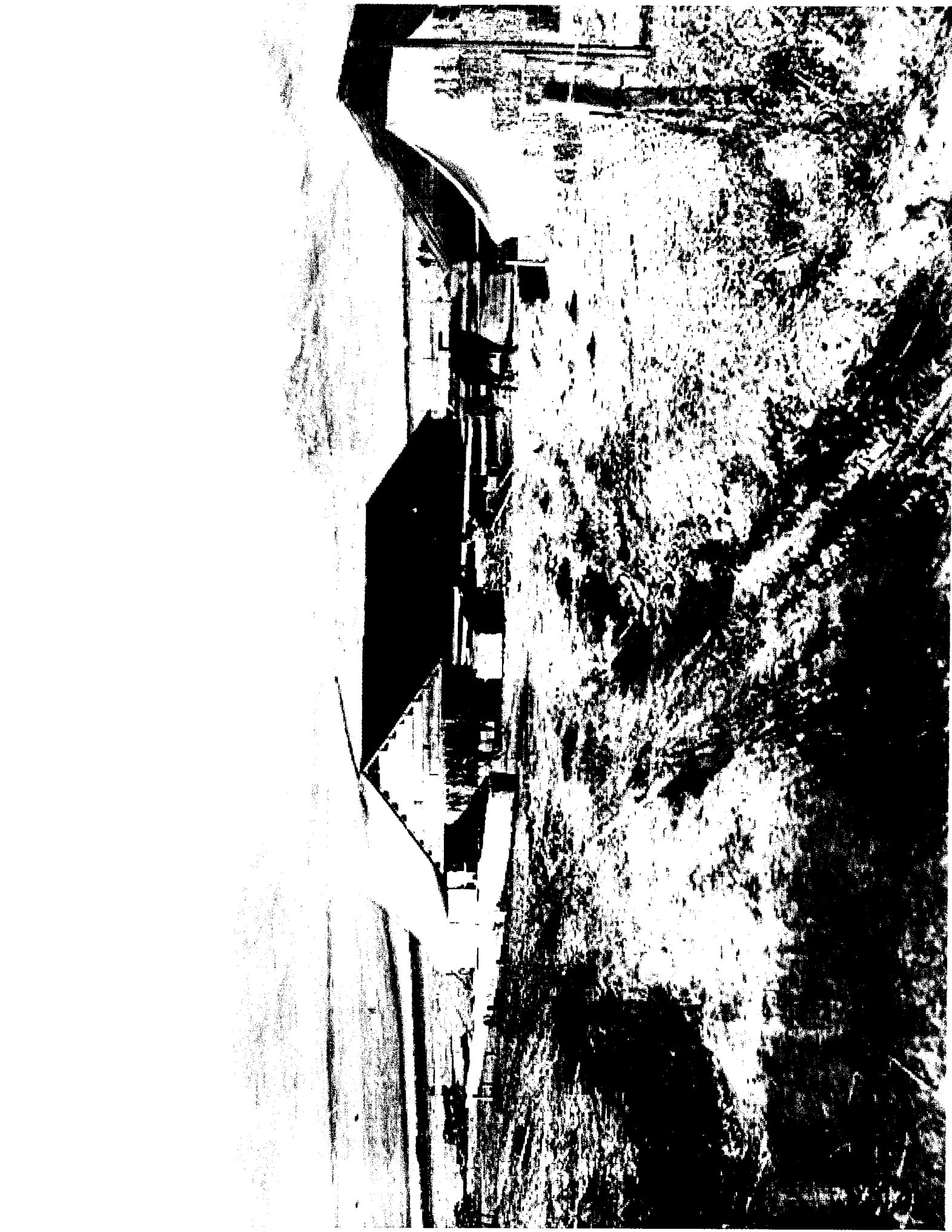


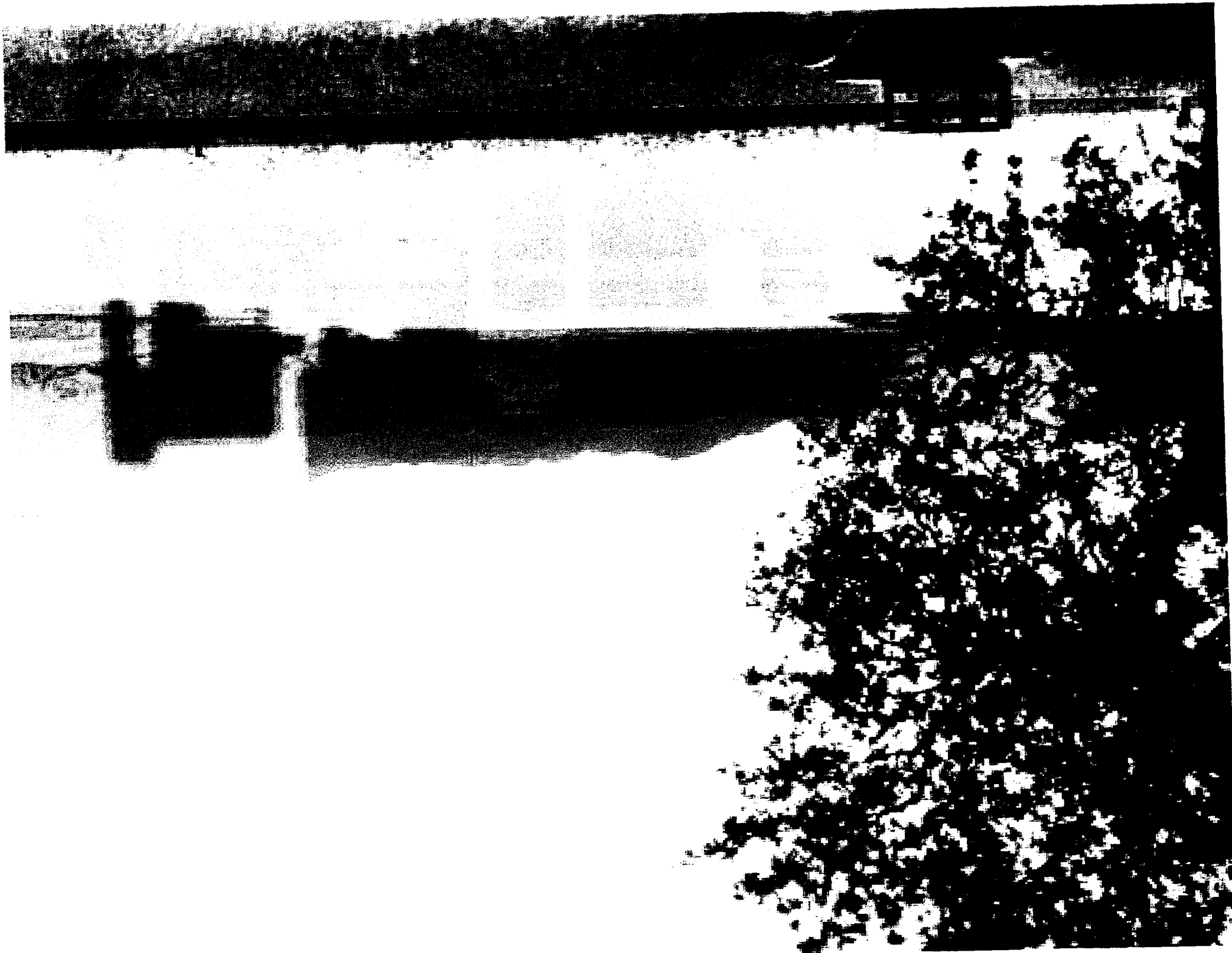
Figure 18. José Juan Olivas at the ruins of the old adobe where his "aunts" had lived near Chatsworth Reservoir. This ruin may be seen also towards the center of the photograph of the vicinity taken by Harrington about 1916 (see Fig. 5). *Harrington Papers, National Anthropological Archives, Smithsonian Institution, 91-31231.*



Figure 19. Juan and Juana Menéndez, Calabasas, 1917. *J. P. Harrington Collection, Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History.*







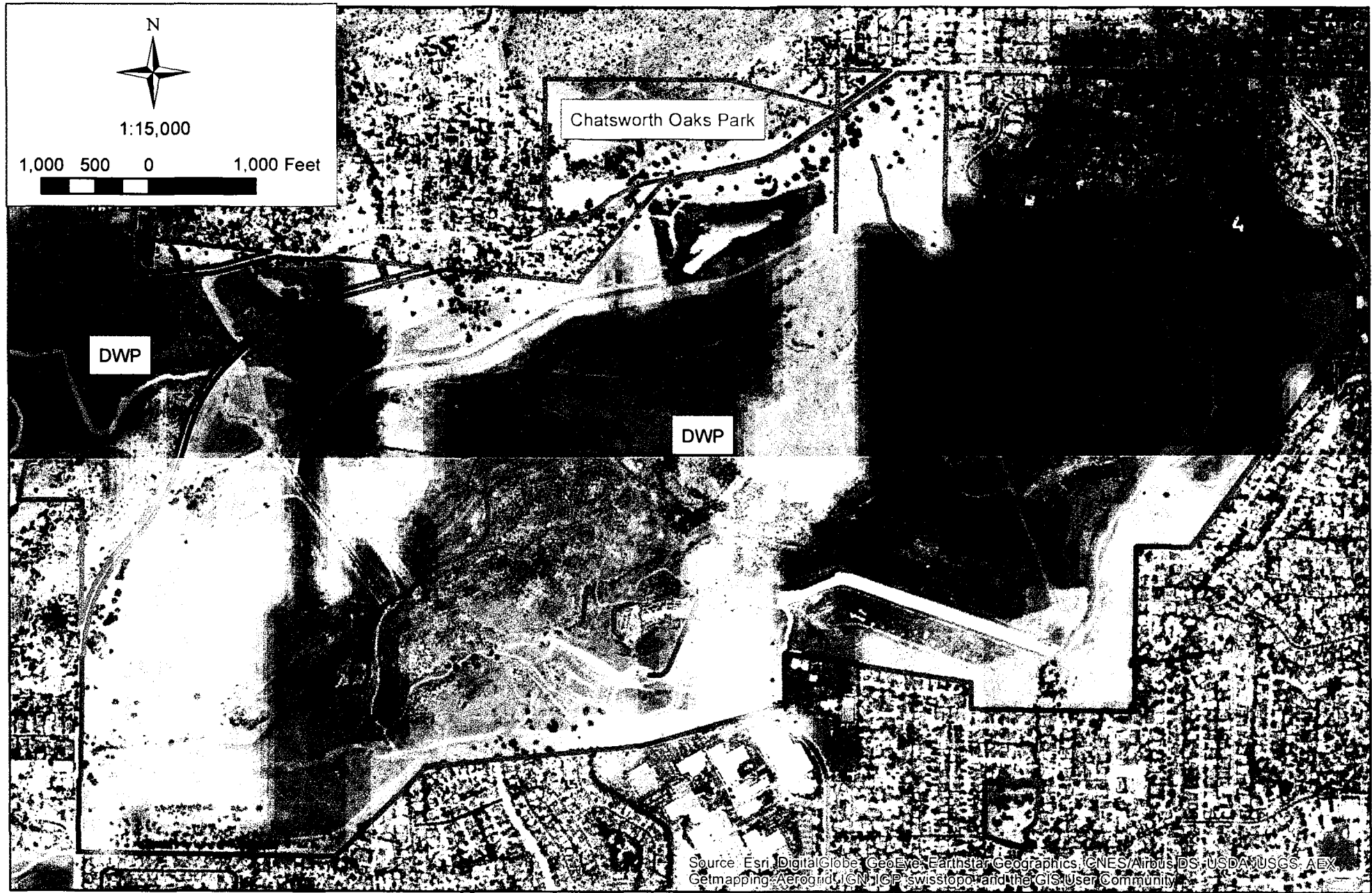
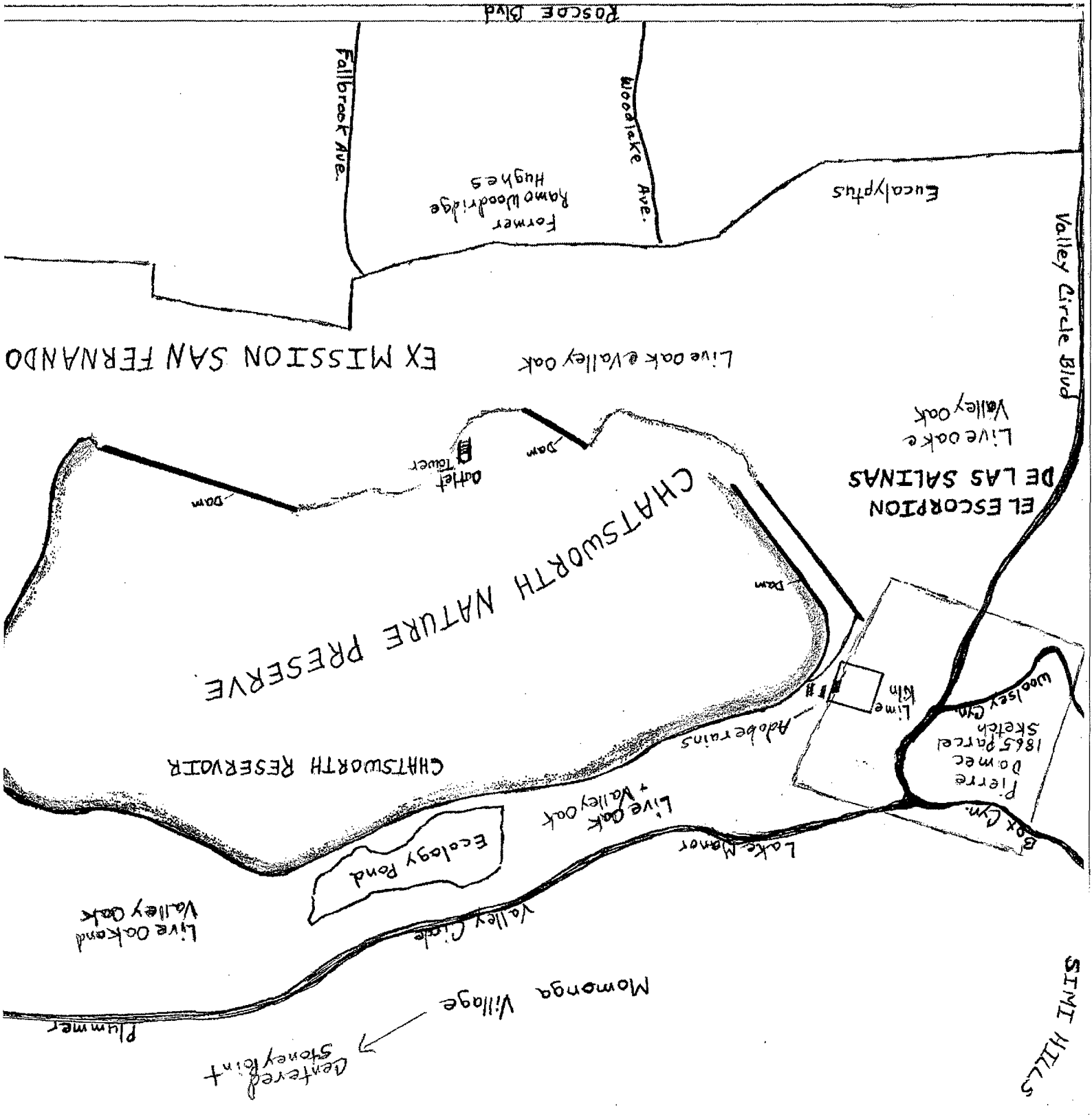
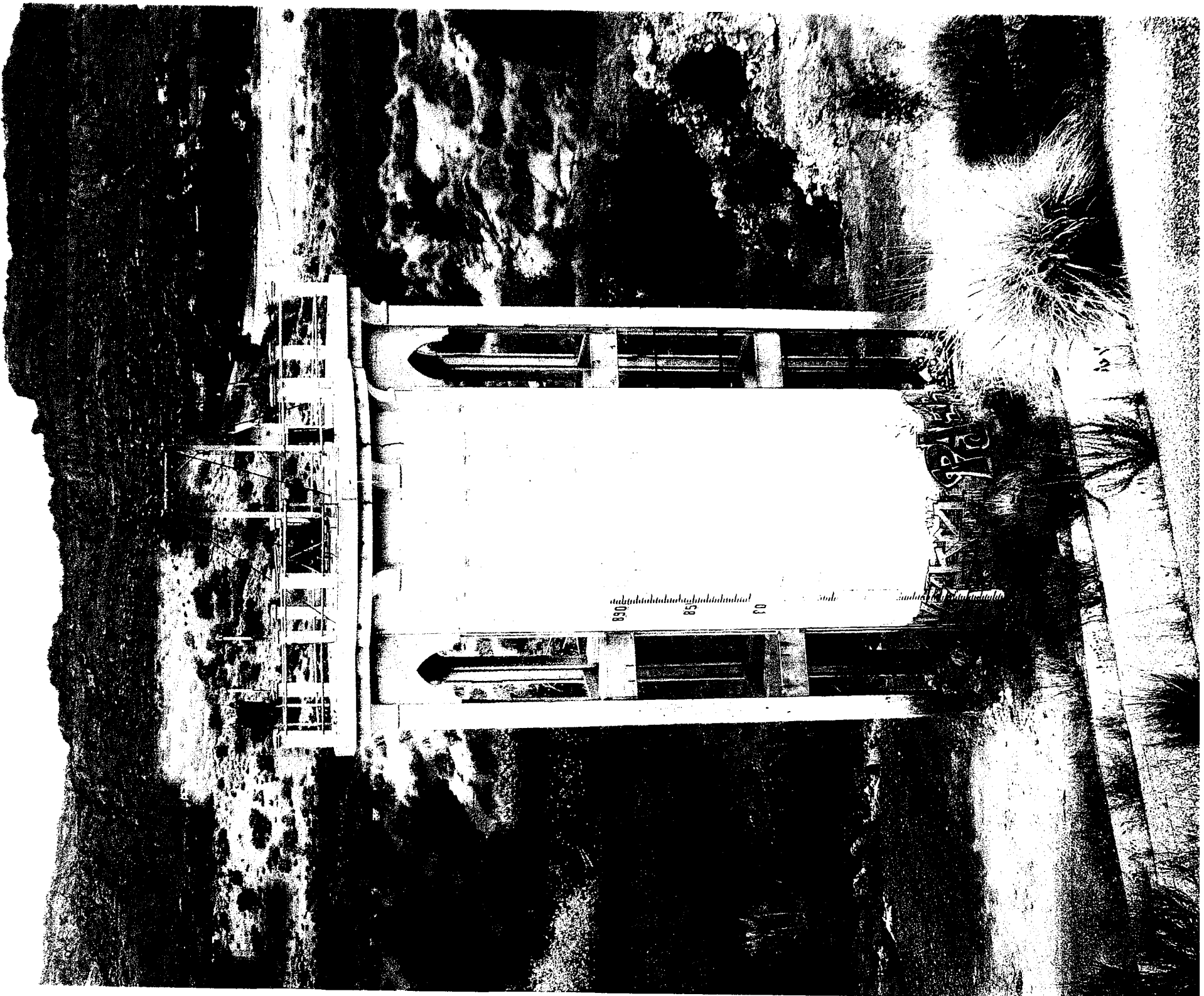
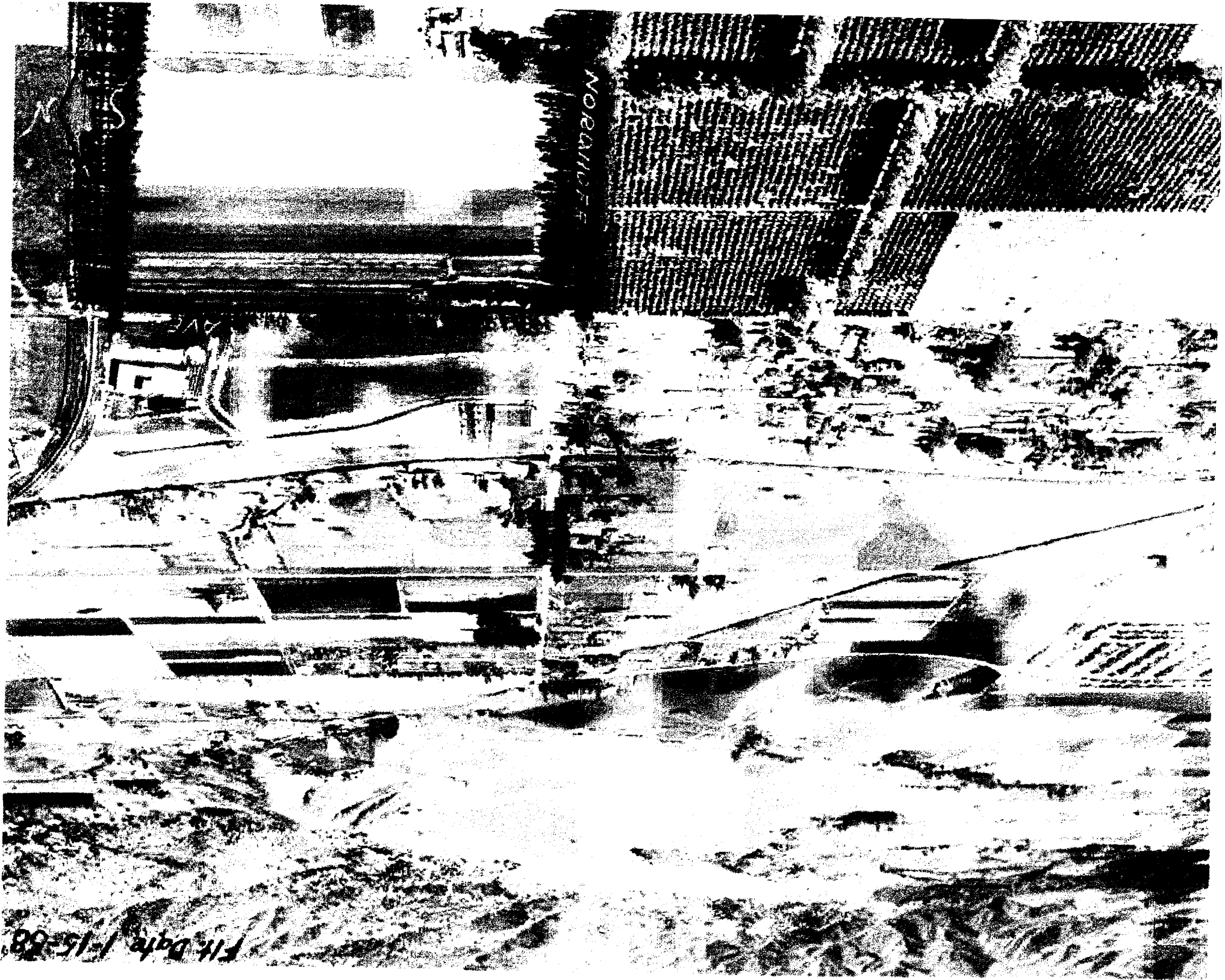


Figure 1 - Chatsworth Nature Preserve Boundary

Prepared: Carla Bollinger  
6/2015







N S

MORNING

Fit Date 1-15-68

## **CHATSWORTH NATURE PRESERVE: Film History**

To escape the control of Thomas Edison, one of the inventors of the movie camera, film, even the sprocket-holes in the film, film-makers, including legendary Cecil B. De Mille and D.W. Griffith, searched for locations out west, faraway from Edison's legal battles and thugs he hired to harass independent film-makers efforts. Cecil B. De Mille, looking for the right location to film *The Squaw Man*, discovered in 1913 the Santa Susana Mountains-Simi Hills in now Chatsworth, California. Other film-makers followed and the rugged beauty of the regions' rock outcroppings, boulders, canyons, majestic oak trees, and grasslands became the cinema backdrop for "B" Westerns or "oaters".

Thousands of Westerns and other movies and TV series filmed in Chatsworth were produced at Iverson Movie Ranch Studio and other Movie Ranches within 5 – 10 miles of the Chatsworth Reservoir-Chatsworth Nature Preserve (CNP).

**Iverson Ranch:** north and south of the 118 Freeway west of Topanga Canyon Boulevard. Over 70 years, from 1912 until 1970, approximately 2,000 films from Westerns to epic movies and television film productions were shot on location at the Iverson Movie Ranch. The building of the 118 Freeway sliced through the location ending movie/TV filming in this location.

**Brandeis Ranch,** north of the 118 Freeway and west of the Iverson Ranch

**Bell Ranch:** On Studio Road, east of Box Canyon Road

**Burro Flats:** West of Valley Circle Drive, north on Woolsey Canyon Rd; location is owned by Boeing at the Santa Susana Field Lab (SSFL) where rocket development/testing development began in 1940.

**Spahn Ranch:** On Santa Susana Pass Road, south of the 118, west of Topanga Canyon. Once owned in the 1920's by silent film star, William S. Hart, later in the late 1960's became the hangout for the Charlie Manson and his followers.

### **Film movies/TV series segments lensed in the Chatsworth Nature Preserve (CNP):**

1921: Three Word Brand; Actors: William S. Hart, Jane Novak and S.J. Bingham

1922: Tess of the Storm Country; Actors: Mary Pickford, Lloyd Hughes, and Gloria Hope

1929: Hell's Angels; Howard Hughes production with a soaring cost of \$3.8 to 4.2 million, film about World War I aviators with debut star, Jean Harlow. Several test pilots died during production.

1946: Home on the Range; Actors: Monte Hale, Lorna Gray, and Bob Nolan

1946: Out California Way; Actors: Monte Hale, Lorna Gray, Robert Blake, and Allan Lane

1946: Man from Rainbow Valley; Actors: Monte Hale, Lorna Gray, and JoAnn Marlow

1946: Sioux City Sue; Actors: Gene Autry & Champion, Lynne Roberts

A segment filmed at the CNP; majority of film location Corrigan Movie Range in Simi Valley

1950: Palomino, The; Actors: Jerome Courtney, Beverly Tyler, and Joseph Callera

Lensed at Bell Ranch Studio with CNP in background

1950: Donovan's Brain: Sci-Fi cult movie with a few minor action vehicle scenes

1956: Ten Commandments: Cecil B. DeMille Epic Movie: Charlton Heston, Yul Brenner (many other leading actors)

1959: The Big Fisherman: Centurion, Walt Disney Co., Howard Keel, Susan Kohner, John Saxon, Herbert Lom, Martha Hyer. First film shot in SuperPanavision 70

TV Series: The Adventures of Rin Tin Tin; Actors: Lee Aaker and James Brown: Filmed in Corrigan Movie Ranch-Simi Valley and in the CNP, segments of The Roy Roger's Show (1950's).

Scenes from some of these films can be seen on "A drifting cowboy: Chatsworth filming location – Chatsworth Reservoir"

HOWARD  
HUGHES'  
Thrilling  
Multi-Million  
Dollar -Air  
Spectacle



# HUGHES' STEEL WINGS

*with*  
JEAN  
HARLOW  
Ben Lyon  
James Hall



DECLARATION OF POSTING ORDINANCE

I, MARIA C. RICO, state as follows: I am, and was at all times hereinafter mentioned, a resident of the State of California, over the age of eighteen years, and a Deputy City Clerk of the City of Los Angeles, California.

Ordinance No. 169723, entitled: Open Space - changing the zone & height districts - Chatsworth - Subarea 620 - CPC 90-0596 GPC

a copy of which is hereto attached, was finally adopted by the Council of the City of Los Angeles on April 6, 1994, and under direction of said Council and said City Clerk, pursuant to Section 31 of the Charter of the City of Los Angeles, on May 3, 1994 I posted a true copy of said ordinance at each of three public places located in the City of Los Angeles, California, as follows: one copy on the bulletin board at the Main Street entrance to City Hall of said City, one copy on the bulletin board at the north entrance to the Hall of Administration of the County of Los Angeles in said City, and one copy on the bulletin board at the Temple Street entrance to the Hall of Records of the County of Los Angeles in said City.

The copies of said ordinance posted as aforesaid were kept posted continuously and conspicuously for ten days, or more, beginning 5-3-94 to and including 6-12-94.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Signed this 3rd day of May 1994 at Los Angeles, California.

Maria C. Rico  
Deputy City Clerk

Effective Date: June 12, 1994

Sec. 3 The City Clerk shall certify to the passage of this ordinance and cause the same to be published by posting for ten days in three public places in the City of Los Angeles, to wit: one copy on the bulletin board located at the Main Street entrance to the City Hall of the City of Los Angeles; one copy on the bulletin board located at the north entrance to the Hall of Administration in said City; and one copy on the bulletin board located at the Temple Street entrance to the Hall of Records in the said City.

I hereby certify that the foregoing ordinance was passed by the Council of the City of Los Angeles, at its meeting of APR 07 1994.

APR 06 1994

CITY CLERK

By Andrea L. George  
Deputy

Approved \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

Approved as to Form and Legality

\_\_\_\_\_  
JAMES K. HAHN, City Attorney

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy

Pursuant to Sec. 97.8 of the City Charter,  
approval of this ordinance recommended  
by the City Planning Commission \_\_\_\_\_

File No. 92-0163

FEB 24 1994

See attached report  
Car Anne  
Director of Planning

City Clerk Form 193

Said ordinance was presented to the Mayor on April 11, 1994; the Mayor returned said ordinance to the City Clerk on April 22, 1994 without his approval or his objections in writing, being more than ten days after the same was presented to the Mayor.

Said ordinance shall become effective and be as valid as if the Mayor had approved and signed it. (Sec. 30, City Charter)

C.F. 92-0163

## **ATTACHMENT B**

City of Los Angeles Ordinance 169723  
Chatsworth Open Space Ordinance

POSTED

ORDINANCE NO. 169723

An ordinance amending Section 12.04 of the Los Angeles  
Municipal Code by amending the zoning map.

THE PEOPLE OF THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES DO ORDAIN AS  
FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Section 12.04 of the Los Angeles Municipal Code  
is hereby amended by changing the zones and zone boundaries shown  
upon a portion of the zone map attached thereto and made a part of  
Article 2, Chapter 1 of the Los Angeles Municipal Code, so that such  
portion of the zoning map shall be as follows.

1 Section 2. Pursuant to Section 12.32 K of the Los Angeles  
2 Municipal Code, and any amendment thereto, the following limitations are  
3 hereby imposed upon the use of that property as shown in Section 1  
4 hereof which is subject to the Permanent [Q] Qualified classification.  
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CHATSWORTH OPEN SPACE ORDINANCE  
TABLE FOR SECTION II

SUB AREA NO.	NEW ZONE AND/OR HEIGHT DISTRICT	CONDITIONS AND LIMITATIONS
620	[Q]OS-1-XL	<p data-bbox="730 462 958 493">[Q] Condition:</p> <p data-bbox="730 525 1559 1188">Use of this property shall be limited to a Nature Preserve and accessory uses only. Accessory uses may include, but are not limited to: a nature center, environmental education center or local history display center. Development, including buildings and parking areas, shall not exceed 5,000 square feet in size or 18 feet in height. Any use of the property, included guided tours shall require a Conditional Use Permit from the City Planning Commission before obtaining any approvals.</p>



# Wildlife Refuge Sought for Dam: Conservation Group Proposes Nature ...

Los Angeles Times (1923-Current File); Feb 13, 1977;  
ProQuest Historical Newspapers: Los Angeles Times (1881-1990)  
pg. SF\_A1

## Wildlife Refuge Sought for Dam

### Conservation Group Proposes Nature Area Around Chatsworth Reservoir

Preservation of 400 acres surrounding Chatsworth Reservoir as a wildlife refuge is being proposed by the Save Orcutt Community.

The conservation-oriented group has taken the position that the land surrounding the 600-acre reservoir should be maintained as an outdoor nature classroom, available to the public only under controlled situations such as tours and school study programs.

The proposal now being put together was outlined by Mrs. Helen Treend, organization chairman, after a recent tour of the area co-sponsored with the Department of Water and Power (DWP).

During the tour, participants planted more than 60 pounds of wildflower seeds supplied by the DWP.

The tour included visits to archaeological sites as well as presentations by a host of speakers on future plans for the reservoir and the surrounding area's plant, bird and animal life.

Mrs. Treend said a key element of the plan now being formulated is creation of a nature center, similar to that in Placerita Canyon.

She said initial discussions propose locating the center at the edge of the reservoir property, with a museum for archaeological artifacts as well as displays of plant, animal and bird life.

"Right now, we are talking about possible matching funds for the center with money coming from the organization as well as outside agencies," Mrs. Treend said.

The proposal, when completed, will be the third submitted to the DWP by groups seeking use of land surrounding

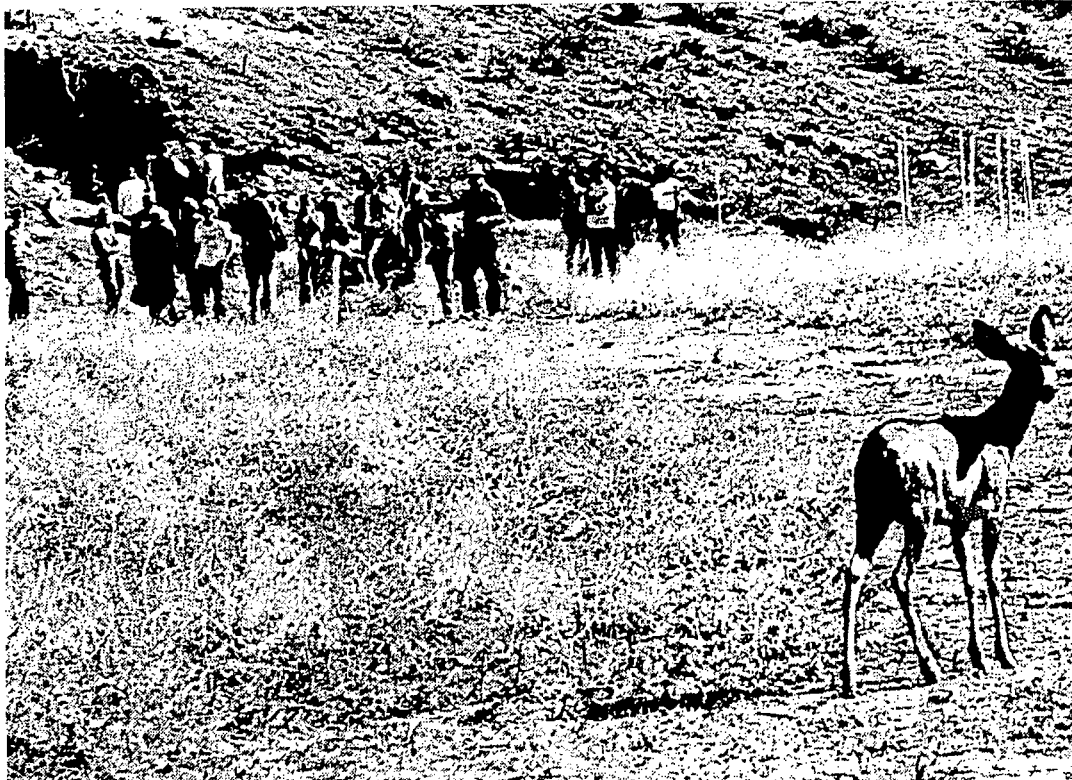
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**WELCOME, MIGRANTS**--This 30-acre ecology pond was created by the DWP near Chatsworth Reservoir to provide water for native animals as well as for the migratory

ducks and geese. Chatsworth Lake itself was drained in 1969 when a project was begun to increase its capacity and improve water quality. It has been dry since

Times photos by Ken Lub



**DEER AND PEOPLE-WATCHING SOCIETY**--This deer, one of more than 30 counted in the Chatsworth Lake area, would find a haven in the 400 acres surrounding

the reservoir if it becomes a wildlife refuge, as proposed by the Save Orcutt Community. The people? They're part of the tour group that observed flora and fauna.



**BIRD WATCHERS**--Young participants in the DWP Save Orcutt Community tour of Chatsworth Reservoir keep sharp lookout for bird life

## RESERVOIR PLAN

Continued from First Page

the reservoir. A youth baseball league has requested use of a portion of the property for ball fields, while the Air National Guard has requested permission for establishment of a training facility.

It is the Save Orcutt Community proposal which may have the inside track, since DWP officials say they would like to see the natural setting maintained.

However, the officials indicated the nature center portion of the proposal might have to undergo revision. They said a nature center might better serve the public at large by being located on nearby property recently turned over by the DWP to the city Department of Recreation and Parks.

The DWP has turned over three parcels to the parks department: 36 acres west of Valley Circle Drive south of Woolsey Canyon, 69 acres west of Valley Circle Drive north of Woolsey Canyon, and 51 acres north of Valley Circle and west of the extension of Plummer St.

In the meantime the 58-year-old reservoir, which was emptied for repair in 1969 and ordered rebuilt after analysis in 1972, is expected to remain in its present state for at least another five years.

The reason the facility will remain out of service is attributed to finances and to

work on other reservoirs within the DWP water system.

The reservoir was first placed in service in 1919, when the Valley was a sparsely populated agricultural area. Improvement work was carried out at various times, the most significant in the early 1930s when capacity was increased from 7,400 acre feet to 9,840 acre feet.

In the spring of 1969 the reservoir was drained and construction begun on a project aimed at improving water quality and increasing storage by an additional 690 acre feet.

The work was completed in 1972. However, the reservoir was never filled.

As a result of the 1971 earthquake the state Division of Safety of Dams called for an investigation of all hydraulic fill dams to determine their vulnerability to earthquake.

The study found that Chatsworth Reservoir "would perform in an unsatisfactory manner if subjected to a major earthquake, either a local or San Andreas event," and would have to be rebuilt.

To provide a water source for the area's animal population as well as migratory ducks and geese, the DWP has constructed a dike allowing storm water runoff to collect near the reservoir, creating a 30-acre ecology pond.

# CHATSWORTH NATURE PRESERVE FIELD LIST OF BIRDS – REVISED 2014

Please refer to end of report for accumulative field studies participation from 1958 - Present

## Key to Abbreviations

### Seasonality

W = Winter, November-February  
Sp = Spring, March-May  
Su = Summer, June-mid August  
F = Fall, mid August – October  
R = resident, present all year  
M = migrant

### Abundance

C = common, almost always seen  
Ca = frequently, but not always seen  
Irr. = irregular pattern of occurrence  
Acc. = accidental, out of range, season.  
? = status uncertain due to few observations  
Extirp. = extirpated; once, but no longer seen  
f = feral or introduced species

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## GEESE, SWANS, DUCKS

Greater White-fronted Goose	IrrWM
Snow Goose	IrrWM
Ross's Goose	IrrWM
Brant	Acc.SpM
Canada Goose	CWM
Tundra Swan	Acc.WM
Wood Duck	IrrWM
Gadwall	CaR
Eurasian Wigeon	Acc.
American Wigeon	CWSpM
Mallard	CFWSp
Blue-winged Teal	Acc.SpM?
Cinnamon Teal	CWSp
Northern Shoveler	CWSpM
Northern Pintail	IrrFWM
Green-winged Teal	CWSpM
Canvasback	CaWSpM
Redhead	Irr.WSpM.
Ring-necked Duck	Irr.WSpM
Lesser Scaup	IrrWM
Bufflehead	IrrWM
Hooded Merganser	CaWSpM
Common Merganser	Acc.WM
Ruddy Duck	CR

## QUAIL

California Quail	CR
Ring-necked Pheasant	f Extirp.

## LOONS and GREBES

Common Loon	Acc.WM
Pied-billed Grebe	CR
Horned Grebe	Acc.WM
Eared Grebe	IrrWM
Western Grebe	Acc.WM
Clark's Grebe	Acc.WM

## PELICANS

American White Pelican	IrrSpM
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**CORMORANTS**

Double-crested Cormorant	CaFWSpM
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**EGRETS, HERONS, IBISES**

American Bittern	WSpM?
Great Blue Heron	CaFWSp
Great Egret	CR
Snowy Egret	CaSuFWSp
Cattle Egret	AccWSpM
Black-crowned Night Heron	CR
White-faced Ibis	?

**NEW WORLD VULTURES**

Turkey Vulture	CR
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**KITES, EAGLES, HAWKS**

White-tailed Kite	CaFWSp
Northern Harrier	CFWSp
Sharp-shinned Hawk	CFWSp
Cooper's Hawk	CR
Red-shouldered Hawk	CaR
Red-tailed Hawk	CR
Ferruginous Hawk	IrrWM
Golden Eagle	Extirp.

**RAILS, GALLINULES, COOTS**

Virginia Rail	CaR
Sora	CaFWSp
Common Gallinule	IrrFWSp
American Coot	CR

**PLOVERS**

Semipalmated Plover	CaSpM
Killdeer	CR

**STILTS and AVOCETS**

Black-necked Stilt	IrrSpM
American Avocet	Acc.SpM

**SANDPIPERS**

Spotted Sandpiper	CaFWSp
Solitary Sandpiper	Acc.SpM
Greater Yellowlegs	CFWSpM
Lesser Yellowlegs	CaSpM
Western Sandpiper	CaFWSp
Least Sandpiper	CFWSp
Dunlin	Extirp.
Long-billed Dowitcher	CaFWSp
Wilson's Snipe	CWSp

**GULLS and TERNS**

Ring-billed Gull	CaWSp
California Gull	CaWSp
Caspian Tern	Acc.SpPM
Forster's Tern	Extirp.

**PIGEONS and DOVES**

Rock Dove	f CaR
Band-tailed Pigeon	Irr.?
Eurasian Collared Dove	f ?
Mourning Dove	CR

**ROADRUNNERS**

Greater Roadrunner	CR
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## OWLS

Barn Owl	CaR
Great Horned Owl	CR
Burrowing Owl	IrrWM
Long-eared Owl	SpWM?

## SWIFTS

Vaux's Swift	CaSpM
White-throated Swift	CSpM

## HUMMINGBIRDS

Black-chinned Hummingbird	CaSuM
Anna's Hummingbird	CR
Costa's Hummingbird	?
Allen's hummingbird	CR
Rufous Hummingbird	IrrSpM

## KINGFISHERS

Belted Kingfisher	CaFWSp
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## WOODPECKERS

Lewis's Woodpecker	IrrWM
Acorn Woodpecker	CR
Red-naped Sapsucker	IrrWM
Red-breasted Sapsucker	CaFWSpM
Nuttall's Woodpecker	CR
Downy Woodpecker	CaR
Northern Flicker	CFWSpM

## FALCONS

American Kestrel	CR
Merlin	CaFWSpM
Peregrine Falcon	CaWSp
Prairie Falcon	IrrFWSpM

## PARROTS

Red-crowned Parrot	f Acc.
Lilac-crowned Parrot	f Acc

## TYRANT FLYCATCHERS

Western Wood Pewee	CaFSpM
Hammond's Flycatcher	?SpM
Gray Flycatcher	?SpM
Pacific Slope Flycatcher	CaSpFM
Black Phoebe	CR
Eastern Phoebe	Acc.
Say's Phoebe	CR
Ash-throated Flycatcher	CaSpSuFM
Cassin's Kingbird	CR
Western Kingbird	CSpSumM

## SHRIKES

Loggerhead Shrike	CFWSp
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## VIREOS

Cassin's Vireo	CaSpM
Hutton's Vireo	?
Warbling Vireo	CaSpM

## JAYS, CROWS, RAVENS

Western Scrub Jay	CR
American Crow	CR
Common Raven	CR

## LARKS

Horned Lark	Extirp.
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**SWALLOWS**

Tree Swallow	CaSpM
Violet-green Swallow	CSpSuFM
No. Rough-winged Swallow	CSpSuWM
Cliff Swallow	CSpSuM
Barn Swallow	CaSpSuM

**CHICKADEES, TITMICE, BUSHTITS**

Mountain Chickadee	Acc.W
Oak Titmouse	CR
Common Bushtit	CR

**NUTHATCHES**

Red-breasted Nuthatch	Acc.WM
White-breasted Nuthatch	CaR

**WRENS**

Rock Wren	CaR
Bewick's Wren	CR
House Wren	CR
Marsh Wren	CaWSpM
Cactus Wren	Extirp.

**GNATCATCHERS, KINGLETS, WRENTITS**

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	CaFWM
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	CFW
Wrentit	CR

**THRUSHES**

Western Bluebird	IrrFWSpM
Mountain Bluebird	Acc.WM
Swainson's Thrush	IrrSpM
Hermit Thrush	IrrWM
American Robin	IrrFWSp

**MOCKINGBIRDS and THRASHERS**

Northern Mockingbirds	CR
California Thrasher	CR

**STARLINGS**

European Starling	f CR
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**PIPITS**

American Pipit	CaFWSpM
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**WAXWINGS**

Cedar Waxwing	CaFWSpM
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**SILKY-FLYCATCHERS**

Phainopepla	CSpSuFM
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**WOOD WARBLERS**

Orange-crowned Warbler	CSpFM
Nashville Warbler	CaSpFM
Yellow Warbler	IrrSpSuFM
Yellow-rumped Warbler	CFWSpM
Black-throated Grey Warbler	CaFWSpM
Townsend's Warbler	CaFWSpM
MacGillivray's Warbler	Irr.SpFM
Common Yellowthroat	CR
Hermit Warbler	IrrSpM
Wilson's Warbler	CSpFM

## NEW WORLD SPARROWS

Spotted Towhee	CR
Rufous-crowned Sparrow	CR
California Towhee	CR
Chipping Sparrow	IrrFSpM
Brewer's Sparrow	Acc.?
Vesper Sparrow	CWM
Lark Sparrow	CFWSpM
Savannah Sparrow	CFWSpM
Grasshopper Sparrow	?
Fox Sparrow	IrrFWM
Song Sparrow	CR
Lincoln's Sparrow	CaFWSpM
Golden-crowned Sparrow	IrrWSpM
White-crowned Sparrow	CFWSpM
Dark-eyed Junco	CaFWSpM

## TANAGERS, GROSBEAKS, BUNTINGS

Western Tanager	CaSpFM
Black-headed Grosbeak	IrrSpSuM
Blue Grosbeak	CaSpSuM
Lazuli Bunting	IrrSpM

## BLACKBIRDS

Red-winged Blackbird	CR
Tricolored Blackbird	? Extirp.
Western Meadowlark	CFWSp
Yellow-headed Blackbird	Acc.WSpM
Brewer's Blackbird	CR
Great-tailed Grackle	CaSp
Brown-headed Cowbird	CaR
Hooded Oriole	CaSuM
Bullock's Oriole	CSpSuM

## FINCHES

Purple Finch	Irr.WSpM
House Finch	CR
Pine Siskin	Acc.SpM?
Lesser Goldfinch	CR
Lawrence's Goldfinch	IrrFSpM
American Goldfinch	CaR

## OLD WORLD SPARROWS

House Sparrow	f CR
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## Field Study Participants

Individuals: Dustin Alacala, Wendi Gladstone, Arthur Langton, Irene Langton, and Stuart Wells

Dameron, Wanda

Chatsworth Reservoir Avian Survey – 1993 – 1994

Unpublished report to the Department of Water & Power (DWP) and Kimbell Garrett,  
Curator of collections for the Los Angeles County of Natural History

Fisler, George

Utilization of Chatsworth Reservoir

Unpublished memorandum to the DWP, June 3, 1975

Howell, Thomas

Author of the bird portion of an unpublished report to the DWP on the birds, mammals, and  
Reptiles of Chatsworth Reservoir, 1978, pp. 24-33

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Unpublished field trip reports from Chatsworth Reservoir, 1992 – 1995

San Fernando Valley Audubon Society

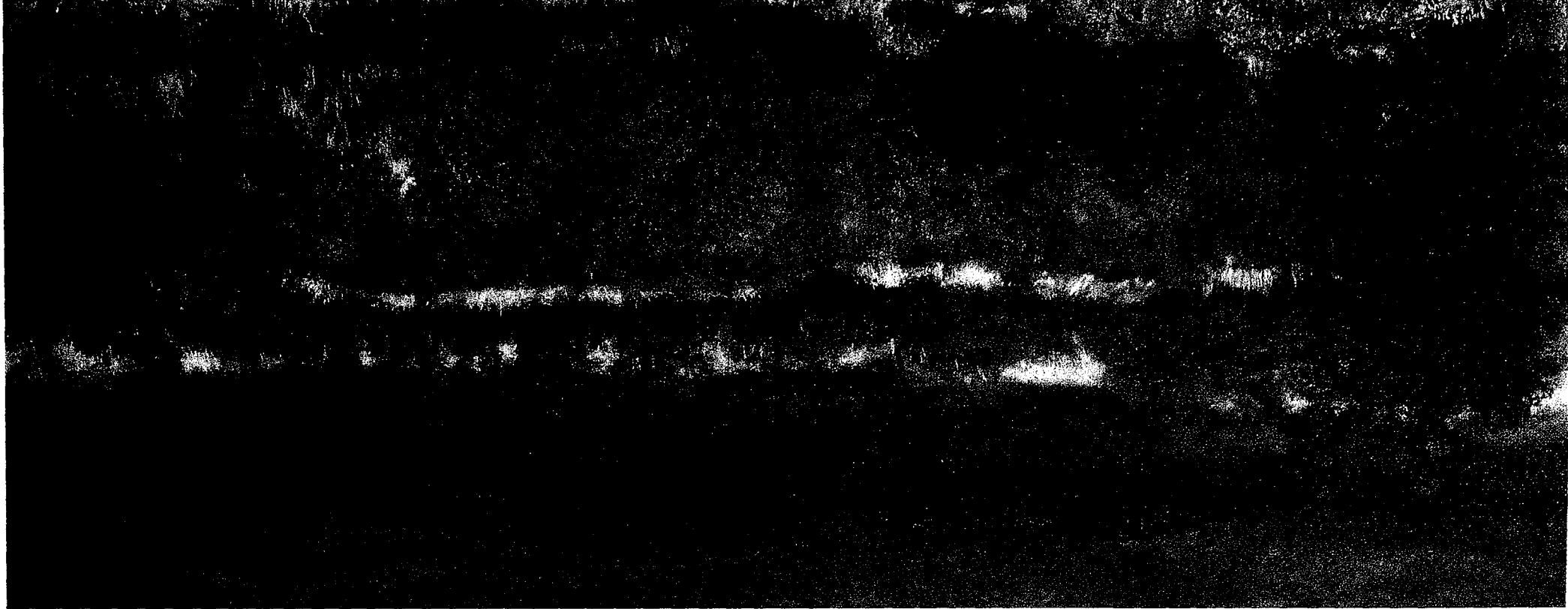
Unpublished Christmas Bird Count reports, 1958 – 2013

San Fernando Valley Audubon Society

Unpublished field trip reports from Chatsworth Nature Preserve, 1994 – 2012

ebird.org entries under Chatsworth Nature Preserve

Ecology Box





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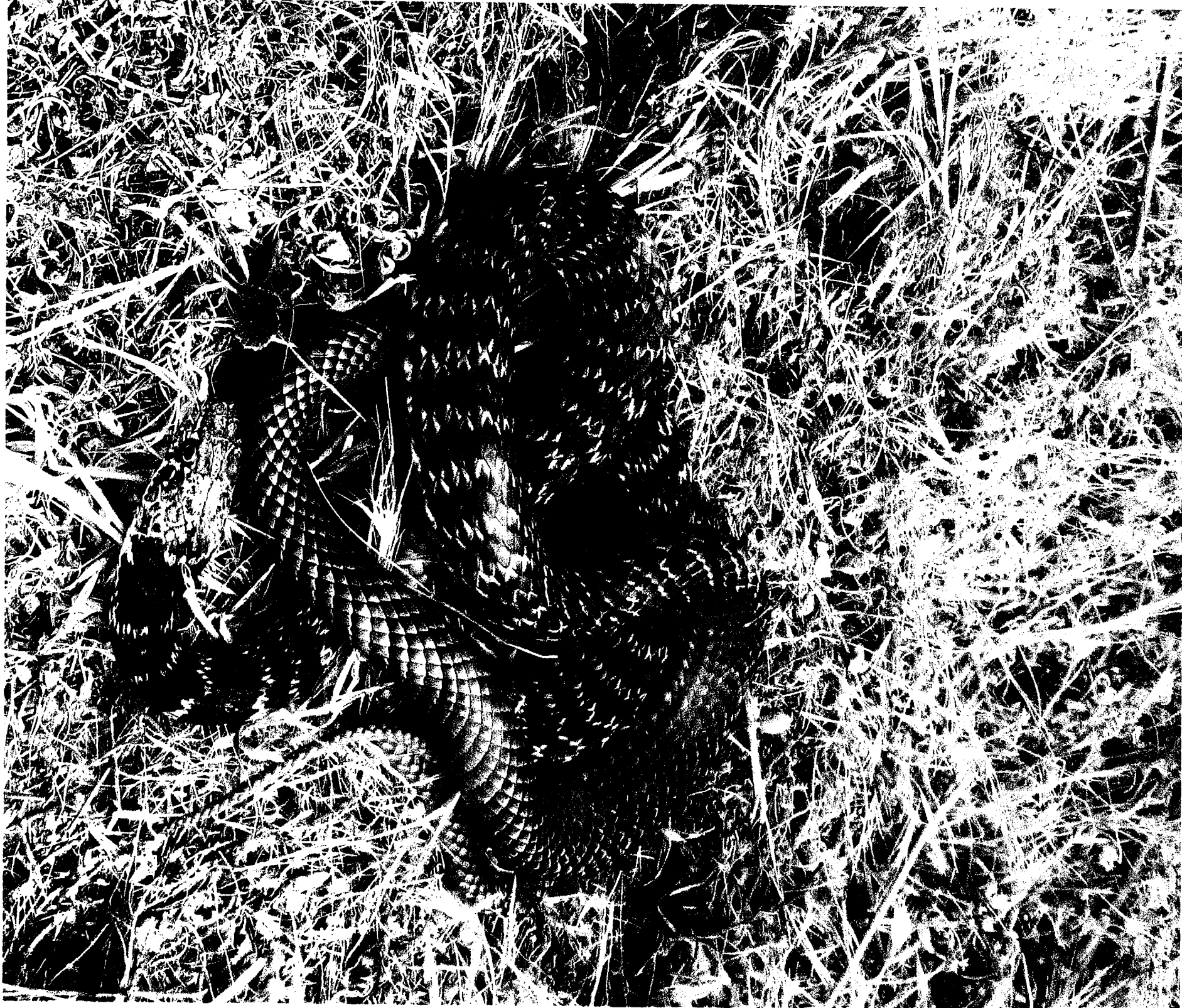
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Coach snake



Coyote

Eucalyptus

