

SITE SURVEY SUMMARY SHEET
FOR
DERP-FUDS SITE NO. J09CA087100
Merced Auxiliary Field
January 1993

SITE NAME(S): Merced Auxiliary Field, also known as Mount Bullion Airport; Mariposa County Airport; and Mariposa-Yosemite Airport.

LOCATION: Located in Mariposa County, 5.5 miles northwest of Mariposa, California (see Figure 1).

SITE HISTORY: In 1942, the United States (U.S) acquired 60.442 lease acres from the County of Mariposa, 0.364 lease acre from John Marre, and 1.388 lease acres from Richard and Willa May Morrissey. The total acreage acquired for the site was 62.194. The property acquired from Mariposa County existed as the Mariposa County Airport prior to the U.S. lease, which was built around 1937. The remaining leased acreage was used as an easement to a radio beacon located on BLM property atop Mount Bullion (see Figure 1.). The site was used by DoD as an emergency landing field and auxiliary to the Merced Airfield, since the site is located at an altitude above the typical valley fog layer. Aside from the radio beacon, no DoD-constructed improvements were identified. Improvements existing at the time of the lease included a hangar, gasoline fueling equipment, a runway, lighting, and a small cabin. In 1945, 62.194 lease acres were terminated. Available records do not indicate if restoration was required or if any recapture provisions existed in the lease. The current land owners include the State of California, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the County of Mariposa, and five

private parties.

SITE VISIT: A site visit was conducted on 8 January 1993 by Mr. Stephen Roe of Dynamac Corporation. Prior to visiting the site, Mr. Roe met with Mr. Mike Edwards of the Mariposa County Public Works Department. Mr. Edwards provided drawings of the site corresponding to conditions existing at the time of the lease (dated March 1942) and at the time of the airport reconstruction project conducted in 1972 (drawings dated May 1971).

Upon arrival at the site, a tour was provided by Mr. George Brannan, supervisor of the Mariposa-Yosemite Airport. The survey centered on determining the locations of potential underground storage tanks (USTs) that were associated with an existing gas pump identified on the 1971 drawings, as well as the potential existence of abandoned electrical equipment, heating fuel tanks, and other hazards. An abandoned gas pump island was observed approximately 150 feet southeast of the original eastern-most hangar (see Figure 2). Adjacent to this island, capped fill and vent pipes for two small USTs (estimated at less than 1000 gallons each) were observed. Also, 200 feet north of these USTs another small UST (estimated at 500 gallons capacity) was observed, that had been excavated at an unknown time and from an unknown location. The area in which the excavated tank was found is close to the location of the original airport cabin (see Figure 2). Most of the improvements located north of the runway are remnants of the original airport constructed around 1937. To the south of the runway are improvements including a terminal building, hangars, and a fueling facility that were constructed after 1970. No other hazards that could be associated with DoD usage of the site were identified during the investigation.

Interviews with several longtime residents of the area indicate that the facility was used at least once by DoD as an emergency landing strip during World War II. Additionally, one resident, Mr. Roger McElligott, recalls that the abandoned gasoline storage equipment was in use by Mariposa County in the early 1950's (i.e. after termination of the lease). Although it could not be verified by the personnel interviewed, this equipment was probably used by the County until the new fueling facility was installed in the early 1970's.

The Mariposa County Environmental Health Department was contacted regarding any known contamination at the site. Mrs. Nommi Brown related that leaks had occurred from piping associated with the existing 10,000 gallon UST adjacent to the airport terminal within the last several years (See Figure 2). This tank was installed in the early 1970's. No other pending issues related to hazardous materials/wastes are currently under investigation by the County.

The State of California Hazardous Waste and Substances Sites List (CORTESE), November 1990 was examined. No references concerning the site were noted.

CATEGORY OF HAZARD: None identified.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: NOFA

AVAILABLE STUDIES AND REPORTS: The Earth Technology Corporation (November 1988), "Site Visit Report: Merced Auxiliary Field", Defense Environmental Restoration

Program, Sacramento District Corps of Engineers.

PA POC: Larry Bergmooser, CESPKE-ED-E, US Army Corps of Engineers, Sacramento District, 916-557-7671.

DEFENSE ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION PROGRAM
FORMERLY USED DEFENSE SITES

FINDINGS AND DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY

MERCED AUXILIARY FIELD, MARIPOSA (MT. BULLION AIRPORT)
MARIPOSA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA
SITE NO. J09CA087100

FINDINGS OF FACTS

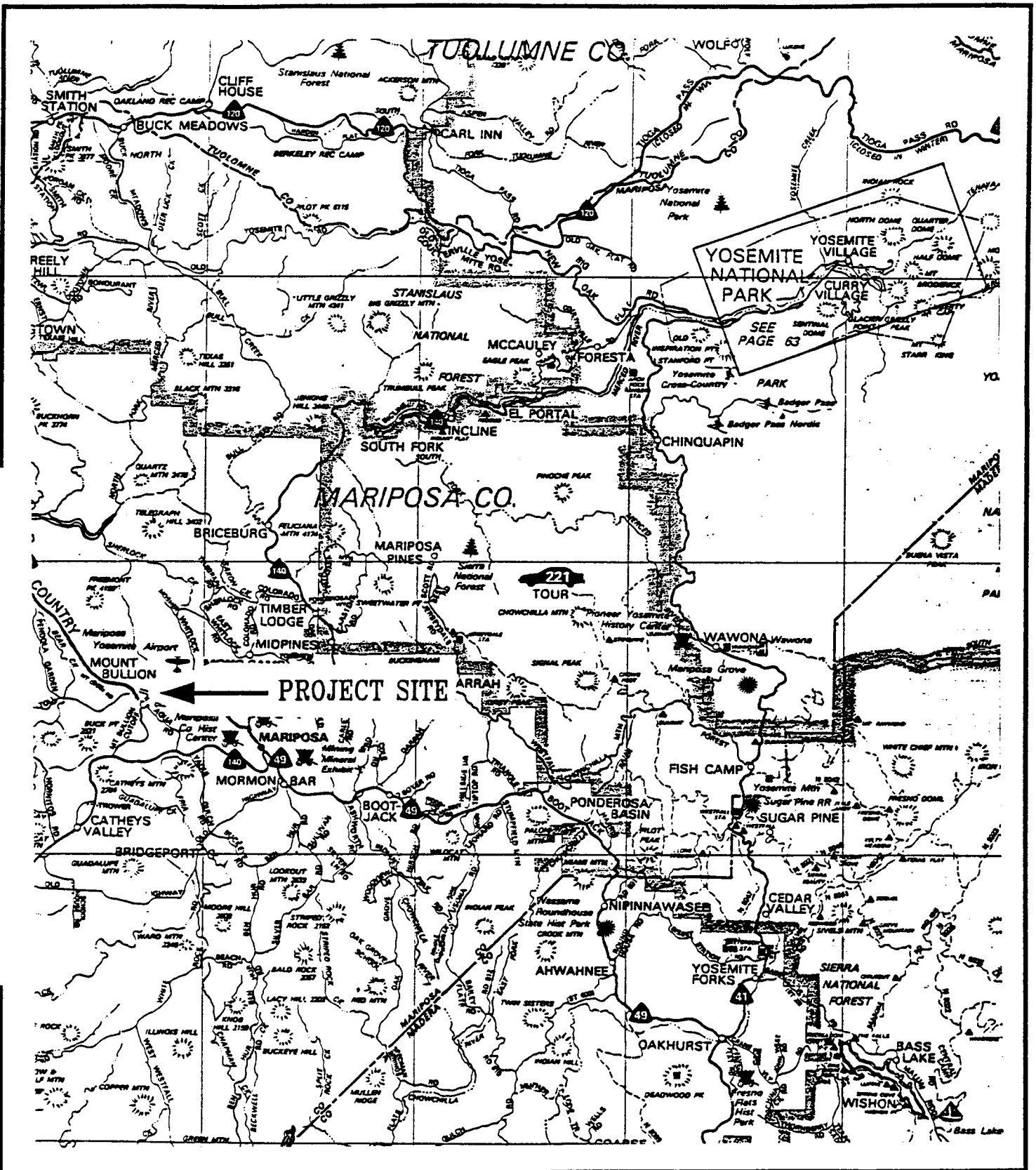
1. In 1942, the United States acquired 60.442 lease acres from the County of Mariposa, .364 lease acre from John Marre, and 1.388 lease acres from Richard and Willa May Morrissey. Total acreage acquired for the site was 62.194.
2. The site was known as Merced Auxiliary Field, Mariposa County, CA. The site was situated 5.5 miles northwest of Mariposa and was used by the Air Force as an auxiliary landing field. Improvements were not listed.
3. In 1945, 62.194 lease acres were terminated. Records did not indicate if restoration was required or if the property was recapturable. The current owners are the State of California, Bureau of Land Management, the County of Mariposa and five private parties. (Note: This information was compiled from the real estate map of the site and from the historical files of the Merced Auxiliary Field No. 1 (Athlone)).

DETERMINATION

Based on the foregoing findings of fact, Merced Auxiliary Field, Mariposa (Mt. Bullion Airport), has been determined to be formerly used by the Department of Defense (DoD). Therefore, it is eligible for the Defense Environmental Restoration Program for Formerly Used Defense Sites established under 10 U.S.C 2701 et seq.

Date

MILTON HUNTER
Brigadier General, U.S. Army
Commanding



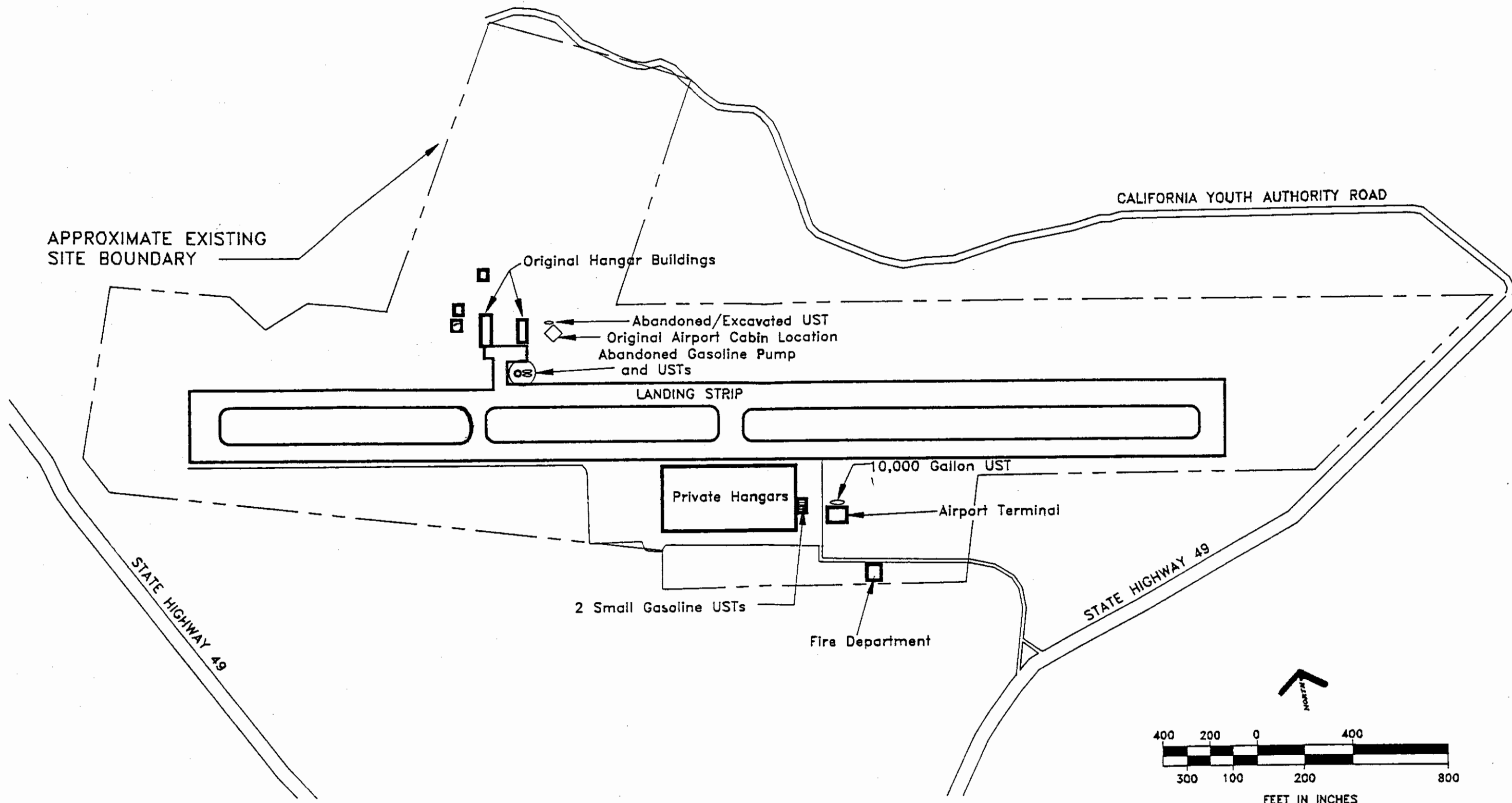
DYNAMAC
CORPORATION
Environmental Services

DRAWN: *S.R.C.* DATE: 01-15-93

APPROVED: *M. Berry* DATE: 01-15-93

FIGURE 1
VICINITY AND SITE MAP
MERCED AUXILIARY AIRPORT
MARIPOSA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA
 Project No. 6223-011
 Site No. J09CA087100





**FIGURE 2
SITE MAP**
 MERCED AUXILIARY AIRPORT
 MARIPOSA COUNTY, CA
 Project No. 6223-011
 Site No. J09CA087100



DYNAMAC CORPORATION
 Environmental Services

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