

Cosumnes Power Plant Natural Gas Line – Preservation Trees

TO: EJ Koford / SAC
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DATE: May 2, 2002

Introduction

A reconnaissance survey was done on May 2, 2002, along the entire natural gas pipeline alignment to identify potential heritage tree locations. Any native oak (*Quercus*) species with a diameter of 6 inches or more at breast height (DBH, i.e., 4'-6"), is considered to be a preservation tree by the Sacramento County Division of Landscape Design and Trees. Removal or trimming of any branches 2 inches in diameter or more, generally requires a permit from the county. The purpose of this survey was to identify areas along the alignment where preservation trees occur within, or in close proximity to, the construction corridor.

Results

A summary of large native trees either in, or immediately adjacent to, the construction corridor is provided in Table 1. This table only includes those native species specifically identified under state or county preservation programs.

One large valley oak (*Quercus lobata*) was identified within the limits of the construction corridor (Figure 1). This tree was located between the Union Pacific railroad tracks and a residential area, just south of Elliot Ranch Road. The tree lies to the west of the existing Pacific Gas and Electric pipeline and should not require removal for the installation of the new natural gas pipeline (Figure 3).

A small cluster of California black walnut (*Juglans hindsii*) trees was observed just south of Bilby Road (Figure 4). While native stands of this species are highly restricted in their distribution, it has been widely naturalized throughout California.

A large concentration of valley oaks was observed on the Cosumnes Preserve, west of Highway 99. Over 75 valley oaks were present along a farm access road (Figure 5). Trees in this area ranged from less than 6 inches up to 61.8 inches in diameter at breast height. These trees were all to the south of the construction corridor, and can easily be avoided during construction activities. Several valley oaks were also observed along the upper banks of the Cosumnes River overflow channel as well as along the outer riparian areas of the Cosumnes

River and Badger Creek (Figure 5). The pipeline will be installed by horizontal directional drill (HDD) in these areas; therefore, no trees should be adversely affected.

TABLE 1.
Summary of Preservation Trees

Tree#	Species	DBH	Condition	Notes
1	<i>Quercuslobata</i>	47.5"	Good	Inconstructioncorridor,justsouthof ElliotRanchRoad.
2	<i>JuglansHindsii</i>	32.5"	Good	JustsouthofBilbyRoad,westof constructioncorridor.
3	<i>JuglansHindsii</i>	11.3"	Good	JustsouthofBilbyRoad,westof constructioncorridor.
4	<i>JuglansHindsii</i>	10"	Good	JustsouthofBilbyRoad,westof constructioncorridor.
5	<i>JuglansHindsii</i>	19.8"	Good	JustsouthofBilbyRoad,westof constructioncorridor.
6	<i>JuglansHindsii</i>	10.2"	Good	JustsouthofBilbyRoad,westof constructioncorridor.
7	<i>Quercuslobata</i>	39.6"	Good	CosumnesPreserve,justeastof constructioncorridor.
8	<i>Quercus lobata</i>	28.0"	Good	CosumnesPreserve,justeastof constructioncorridor.

DBH=diameterbreastheight

Two large valley oaks were also present on the Preserve, just south of the open water area (Figures 2 and 6). These trees occur just east of the construction area, and should not be directly affected by the project.

A small valley oak riparian area was identified just to the east of Laguna Creek (Figure 7). Several large trees are present in this area. HDD will be used to install the pipe in this area; and therefore, no impacts to this habitat are anticipated.

Other large native trees observed along the alignment included species such as willow (*Salix* spp.), cottonwood (*Populus fremontii*) and Oregon Ash (*Fraxinus latifolia*). *Eucalyptus* was abundant in some areas as were other landscape and horticultural trees including various species of pine (*Pinus*), and various fruit trees (*Prunus* spp.).

Recommendations

In areas where preservation trees are present in the construction corridor, efforts should be made to minimize impacts. To the extent practicable, orange construction fencing should be placed around the tree. Trimming of branches should be avoided if possible. Areas where preservation trees occur in close proximity to the construction corridor should be clearly marked and avoided. If trimming or removal of tree is required, the Sacramento Landscape Design and Tree Division should be contacted regarding the necessary permits.



Figure 1. Valley Oak #1, 47.5 inch diameter at breast height (4'-6"). Located just south of Elliot Ranch Road, in the construction corridor.



Figure 2. Valley Oak (#7 and #8). Located on the south side of the open water area on the Cosumnes Preserve, immediately adjacent to the construction corridor.

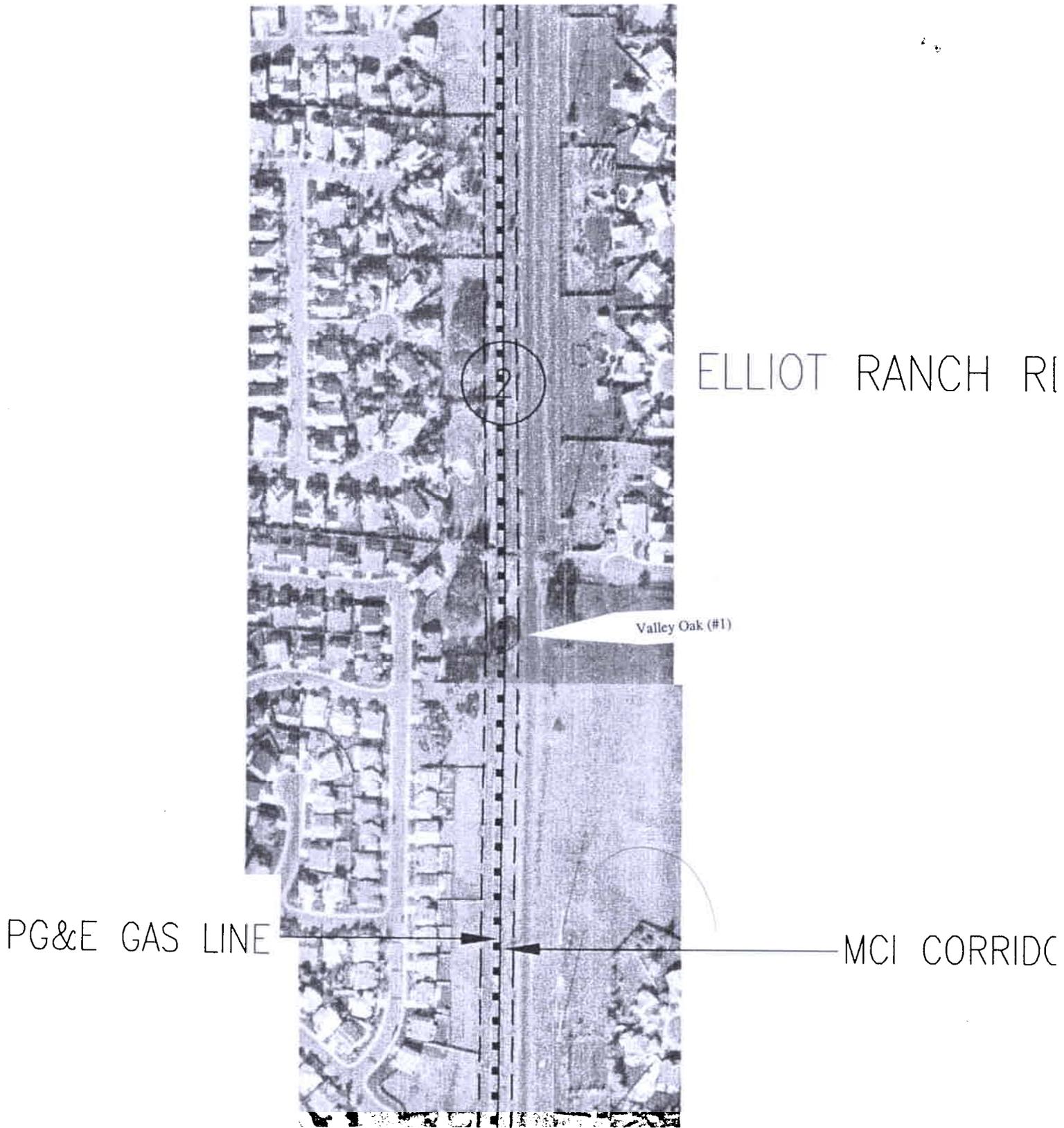


Figure 3. Location of Valley Oak #1, just south of Elliot Ranch Road, in the construction corridor.

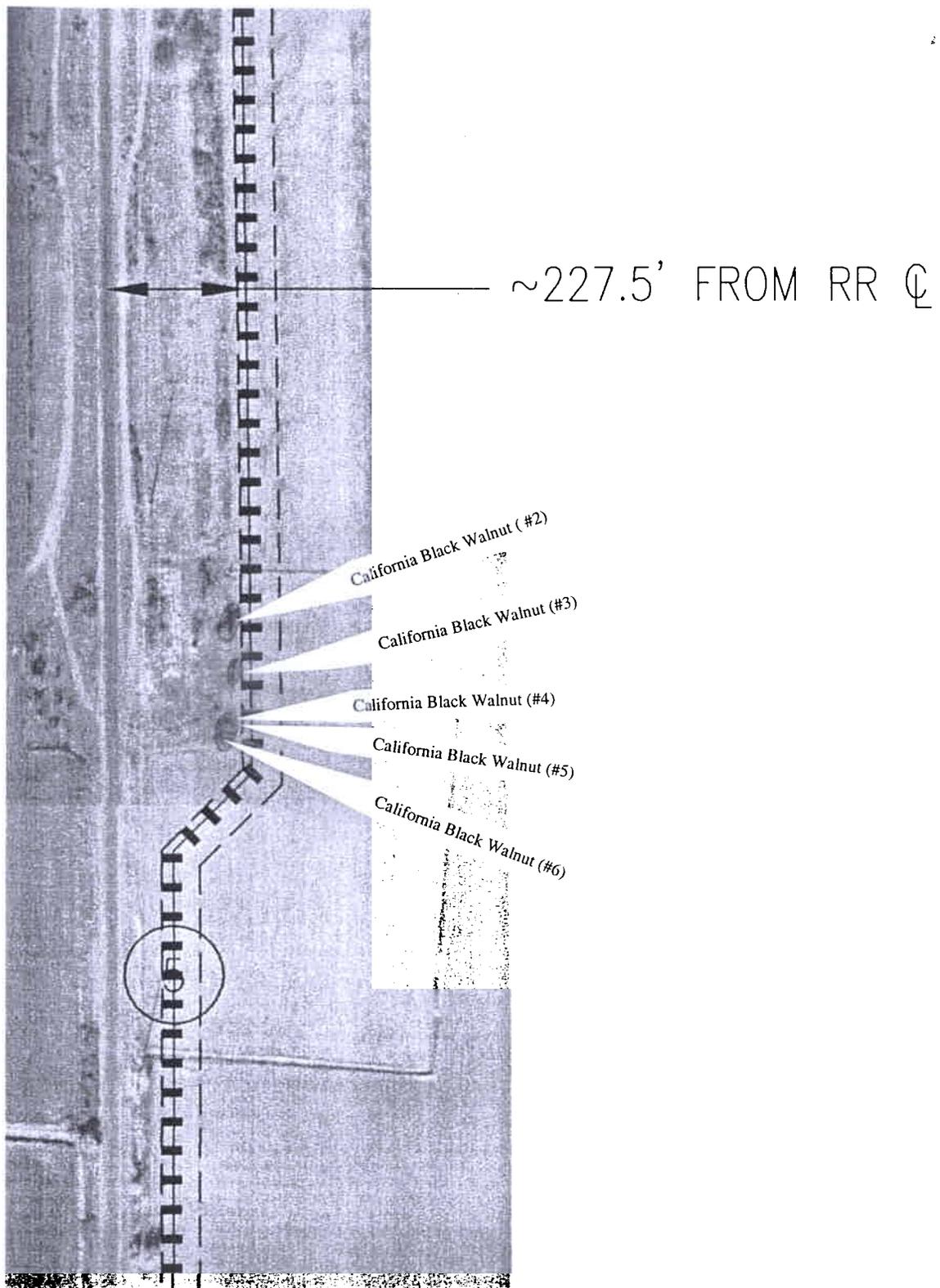


Figure 4. Location of California Black Walnut trees (#2- #6). Just south of Bilby Road, immediately west of the construction corridor.

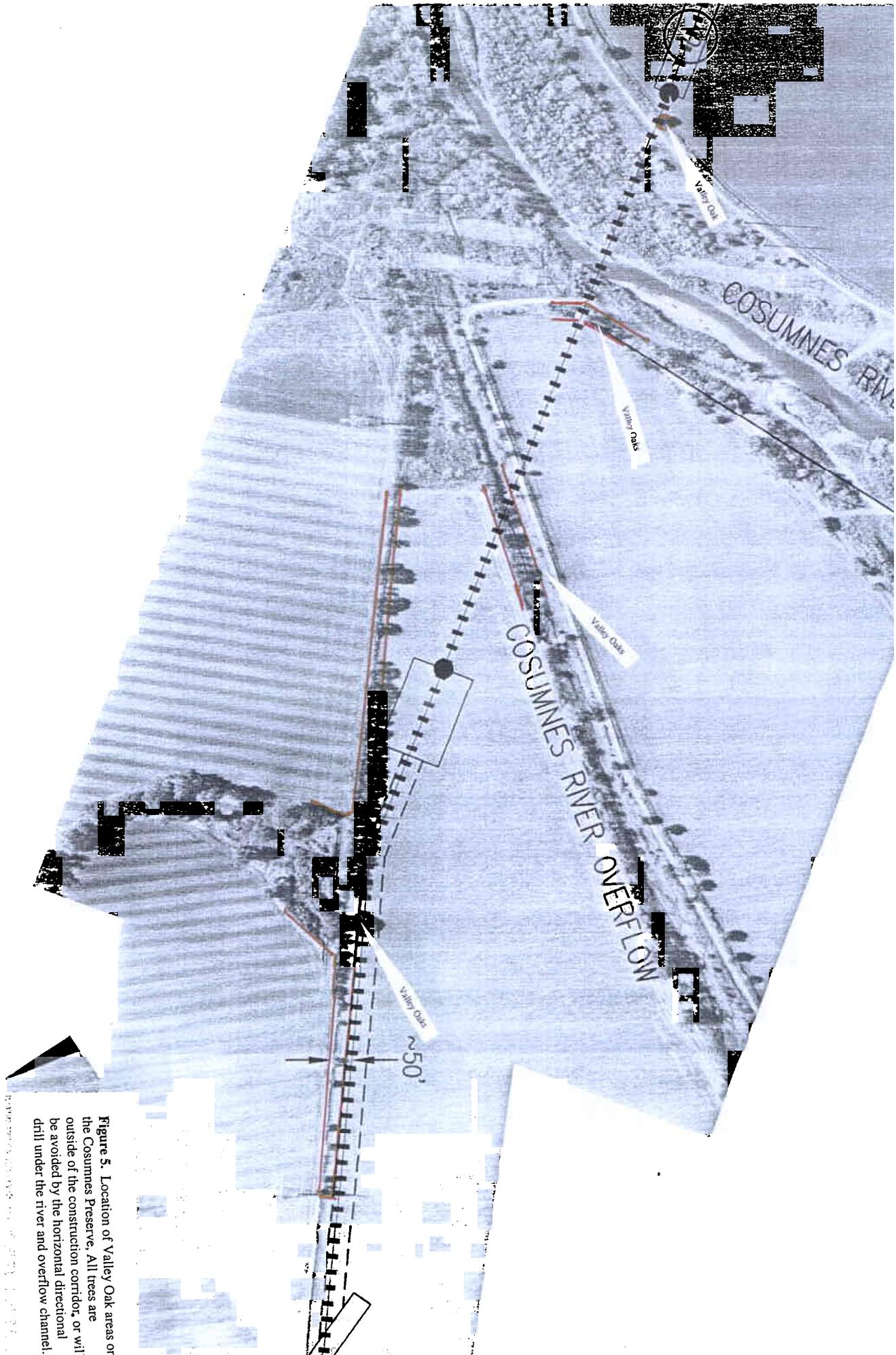


Figure 5. Location of Valley Oak areas or the Cosumnes Preserve. All trees are outside of the construction corridor, or will be avoided by the horizontal directional drill under the river and overflow channel.

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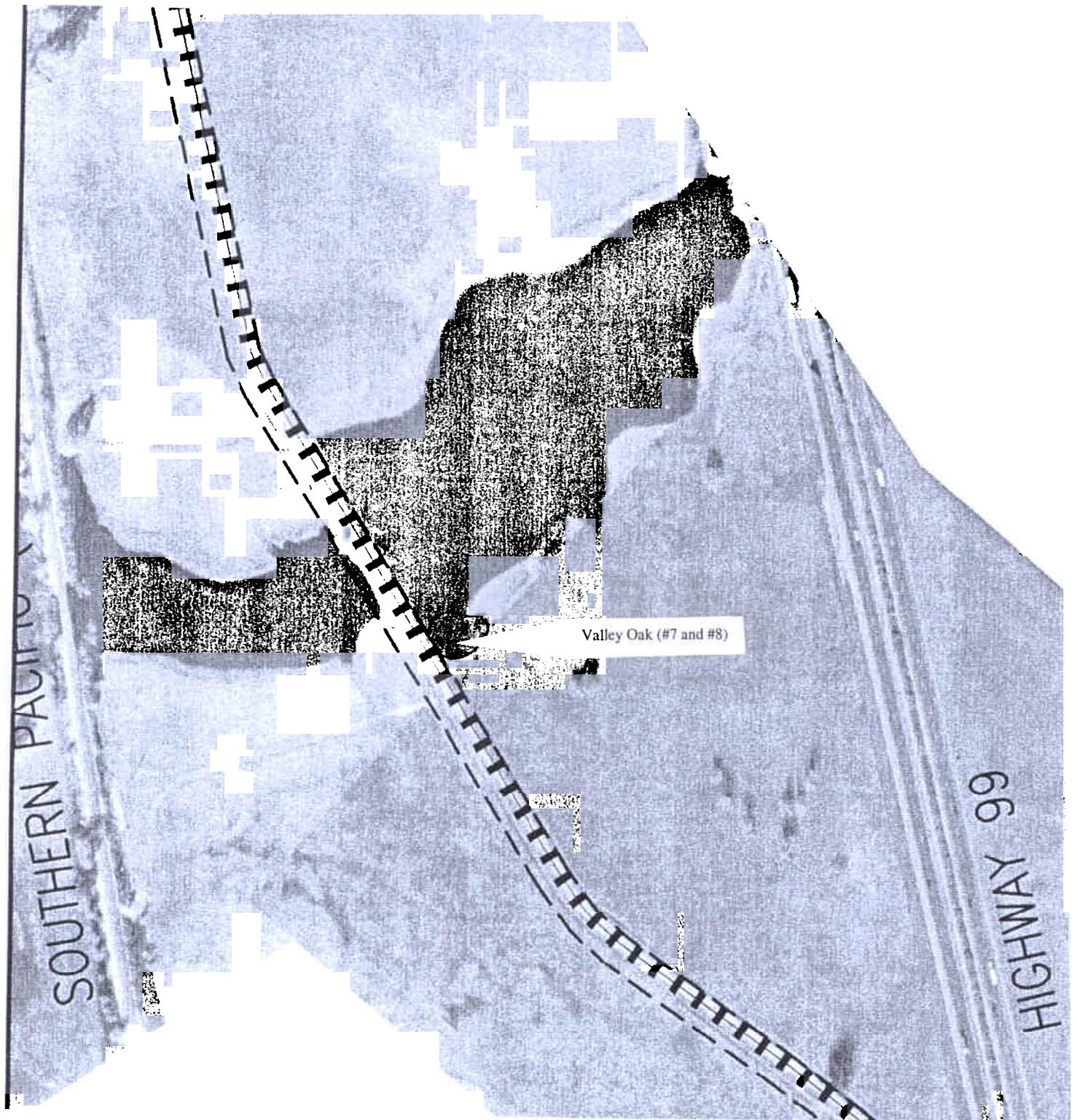


Figure 6. Location of Valley Oaks (Tree #7 and #8) south of the open water area on the Cosumnes Preserve, immediately adjacent to the construction corridor.

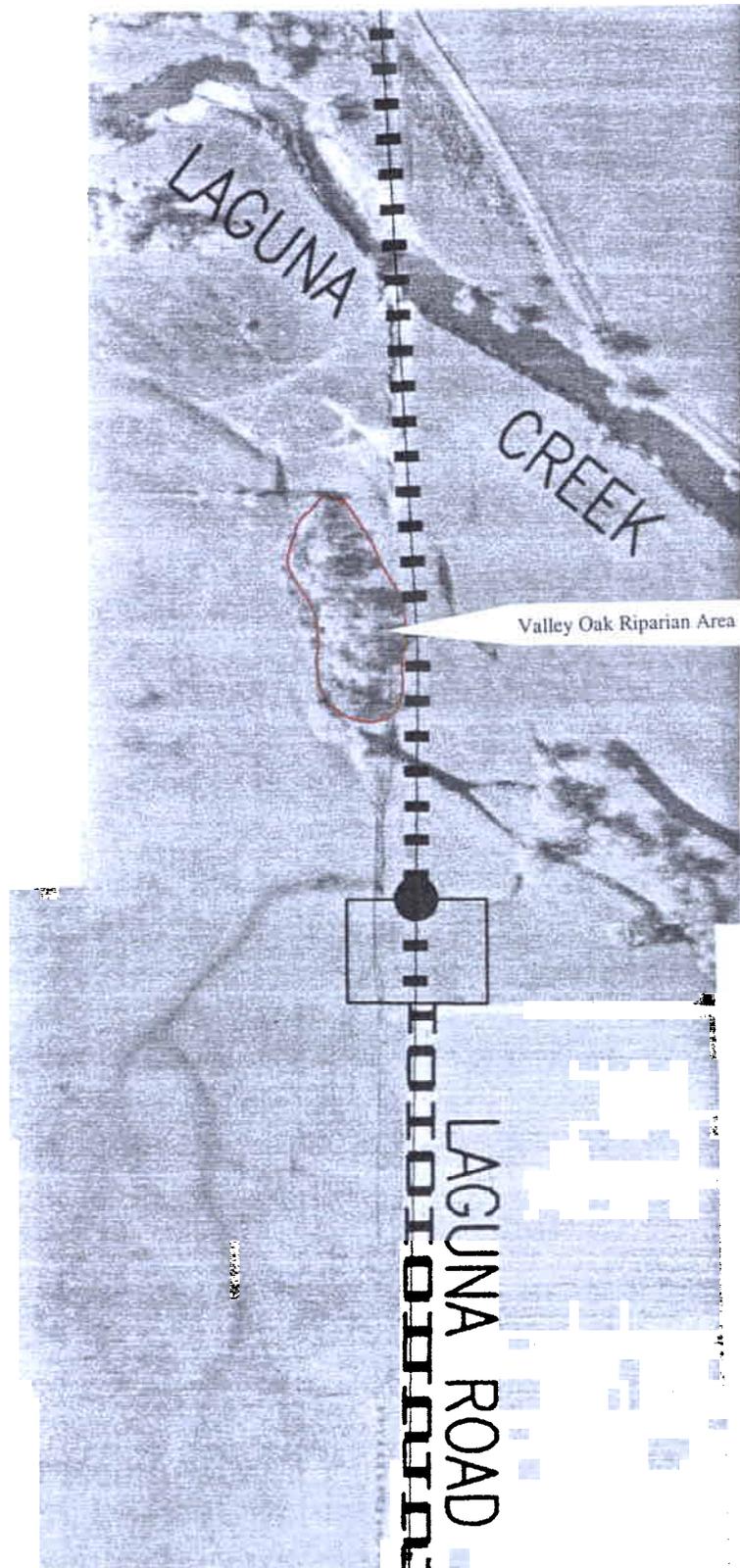


Figure 7. Valley Oak Riparian area, on the east side of Laguna Creek. The horizontal directional drill under the creek will avoid this area.