



County Permitting Requirements for Geotechnical Borings and Waivers

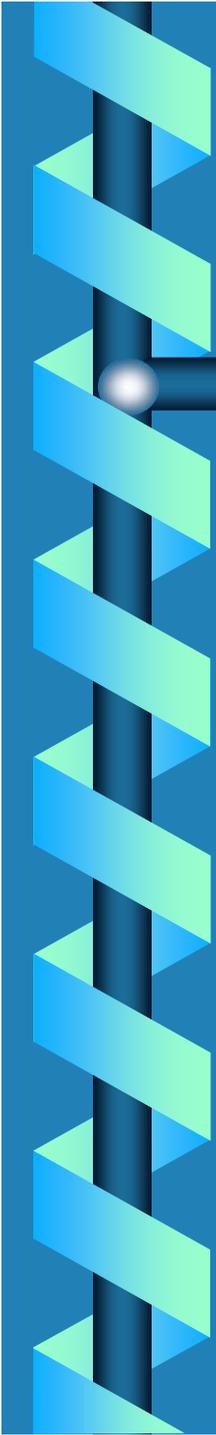
Presented by

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County of San Diego

Department of Environmental Health



History of Standards

- State Department of Water Resources (DWR) requirements
- Began working on standards in 1949.
- Initial draft of Bulletin 74 released in 1962.
- Put in the statutes of 1967, with amendments in Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act in 1969, with updates in 1981 (74-81) and 1990 (74-90)



History of Standards

- County of San Diego requirements – initially took effect 4-3-74, Ordinance #4286



History of Standards

- SAM standards – initially started permitting in 1986, with standards listed in SAM Manual. Those standards were presented at that time to the geotechnical community at an SDAG meeting by Kevin Heaton. Stricter local standards supercede State standards.



Specifics of the County Well Ordinance – Definitions:

- **ABANDONED AND ABANDONMENT:**
- The terms "abandoned" or "abandonment" shall apply to a well which has not been used for a period of one year,

Specifics of the County Well Ordinance – Definitions:

- (continued)... Test holes and exploratory holes shall be considered abandoned **twenty-four hours** after construction work has been completed, unless otherwise approved by the Director of the Department of Environmental Health of San Diego County.



Specifics of the County Well Ordinance – Definitions:

- DESTRUCTION:
- The proper filling and sealing of a well that is no longer useful so as to assure that the groundwater is protected and to eliminate a potential physical hazard



Specifics of the County Well Ordinance – Definitions:

- **MONITORING WELL:**
- A well used for monitoring or sampling the conditions of soil or water-bearing aquifer, such as water pressure, depth, movement, concentration of contaminants or quality.



Specifics of the County Well Ordinance – Definitions:

- TEST OR EXPLORATORY HOLE:
- An excavation used for determining the nature of underground geological or hydrological conditions, whether by seismic investigation, direct observation or any other means.

Specifics of the County Well Ordinance – Definitions:

- WELL
- Any artificial excavation constructed by any method for the purpose of extracting water from or injecting water into the underground, for providing cathodic protection or electrical grounding of equipment, for making tests or observations of underground conditions, or for any other similar purpose.

Specifics of the County Well Ordinance – Definitions:

- (continued) **Wells shall include**, but shall not be limited to, community water supply wells, individual domestic wells, commercial wells, industrial wells, agricultural wells, **test and exploratory holes**, monitoring wells and salt water (hydraulic) barrier wells, as defined herein, and other wells whose regulation is necessary to accomplish the purposes of this chapter.

Specifics of the County Well Ordinance – Definitions:

- **Wells shall not include:** (a) oil and gas wells, geothermal wells or other wells constructed under the jurisdiction of the State Department of Conservation, except those wells converted to use as water wells; (b) **wells used for the purpose of dewatering excavations during construction, or stabilizing hillsides or earthy embankments;** or (c) other wells whose regulation is not necessary to fulfill the purpose of this chapter as determined by the Director of the Department of Environmental Health.

Specifics of the County Well Ordinance – Definitions:

- **SEC. 67.440. ACTS PROHIBITED.**

No person shall construct, repair, reconstruct or destroy any well unless a written permit has first been obtained from the Director of the Department of Environmental Health as provided in this Chapter, and unless the work done shall conform to the standards specified in this Chapter and all the conditions of the said permit.

(Amended by Ord. No. 7428 (N.S.), effective 2-4-88; amended by Ord. No. 8477 (N.S.), adopted 11-8-94, operative 1-1-95)



Criteria For Well Permitting – 2000

- Well permits are required on sites for exploratory or test borings where hazardous waste or hazardous materials have been stored, are stored, are proposed to be stored; or where soil and groundwater contamination is known or suspected. Well permits are required for:
 - (1) any boring in which a casing will be installed,
 - (2) any boring that has a monitoring device installed,
 - (3) any soil boring greater than 20 feet in depth, or
 - (4) any soil boring, 20 feet or less in depth, where the groundwater table is anticipated to be encountered.



Criteria For Well Permitting – 2002

- Well permits are required **on all sites** for:
- Any boring in which a casing will be installed
- Any boring that has a monitoring device installed
- Any soil boring greater than 20 feet in depth
- Any soil boring, 20 feet or less in depth, where the groundwater table is anticipated to be encountered

Criteria For Well Permitting – 2002

- In areas where hazardous waste or hazardous materials have not been stored, are not now stored, are not proposed to be stored; or where soil and groundwater contamination is not known or suspected, a permit **may be waived after review by DEH**. For this determination, submit a detailed site map and a description of the proposed work to assist in the evaluation.



Why the change?

- Deep borings (some in excess of 80 feet) were being drilled on sites where contamination was known or should have been suspected without getting permits.
- Borings were being backfilled with contaminated cuttings and no sealing effort was made.
- These were done under the guise of “geotechnical borings, therefore the rules don’t apply”



Why now?

- It has only come to our attention in the last few years, since geotechnical work usually does not come into our office.
- With downtown redevelopment in full swing, we began receiving environmental reports on contaminated sites where geotechnical work had previously been done without getting a permit.



Why now? (continued)

- This represents an unfair business advantage for those companies that choose to ignore the rules.
- It is a potential threat to groundwater resources.
- It could be a significant liability for the firms doing the work.



How do I know if I need a permit?

- Review the guidance sheet on our web site
- If the boring is greater than twenty feet deep, encounters groundwater, or has a casing/monitoring device in it for more than 24-hours, it will require a permit or a waiver.
- Boring permit if open less than 24 hours
- Monitoring well permit if open for more than 24 hours

Will your boring exceed twenty feet in depth (including that last drive of the sampler)?

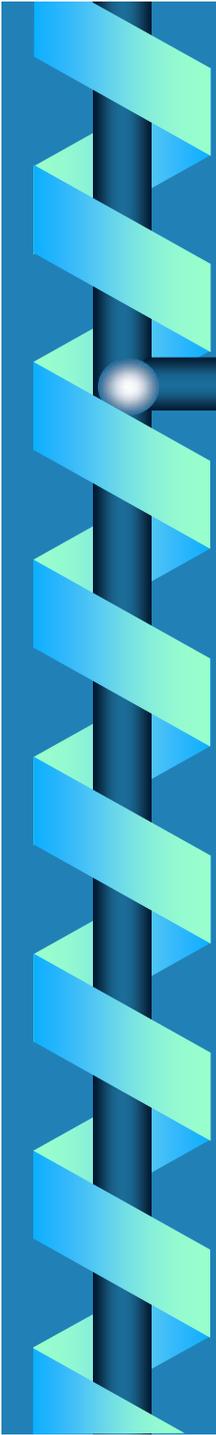
Will your boring encounter groundwater?

Will you be installing a casing or monitoring device which will remain for more than 24 hours?



If you answered **yes** to
any one of those questions

**You need a permit from
the Department of
Environmental Health**



If you answered **no** to
all three of those questions

You **do not** need a permit
from the Department of
Environmental Health



What if conditions change?

- Call the well permit desk the day change occurs (619-338-2339)
- Submit a new or modified permit application.



What about waivers?

- In some cases a waiver for a permit **may** be granted for geotechnical investigations.
- This will depend on past, present and proposed future uses of site and vicinity.
- The more information on the site and vicinity that you can provide when applying for a waiver, the better.
- Our goal is 48-hours turn-around on waivers



What sites can get waivers?

- Pristine sites in pristine areas
- Waivers are considered only for areas where hazardous materials or waste have not been stored, are not now stored, or are not proposed to be stored.
- Waivers are considered for areas where soil and groundwater contamination is not known or suspected.

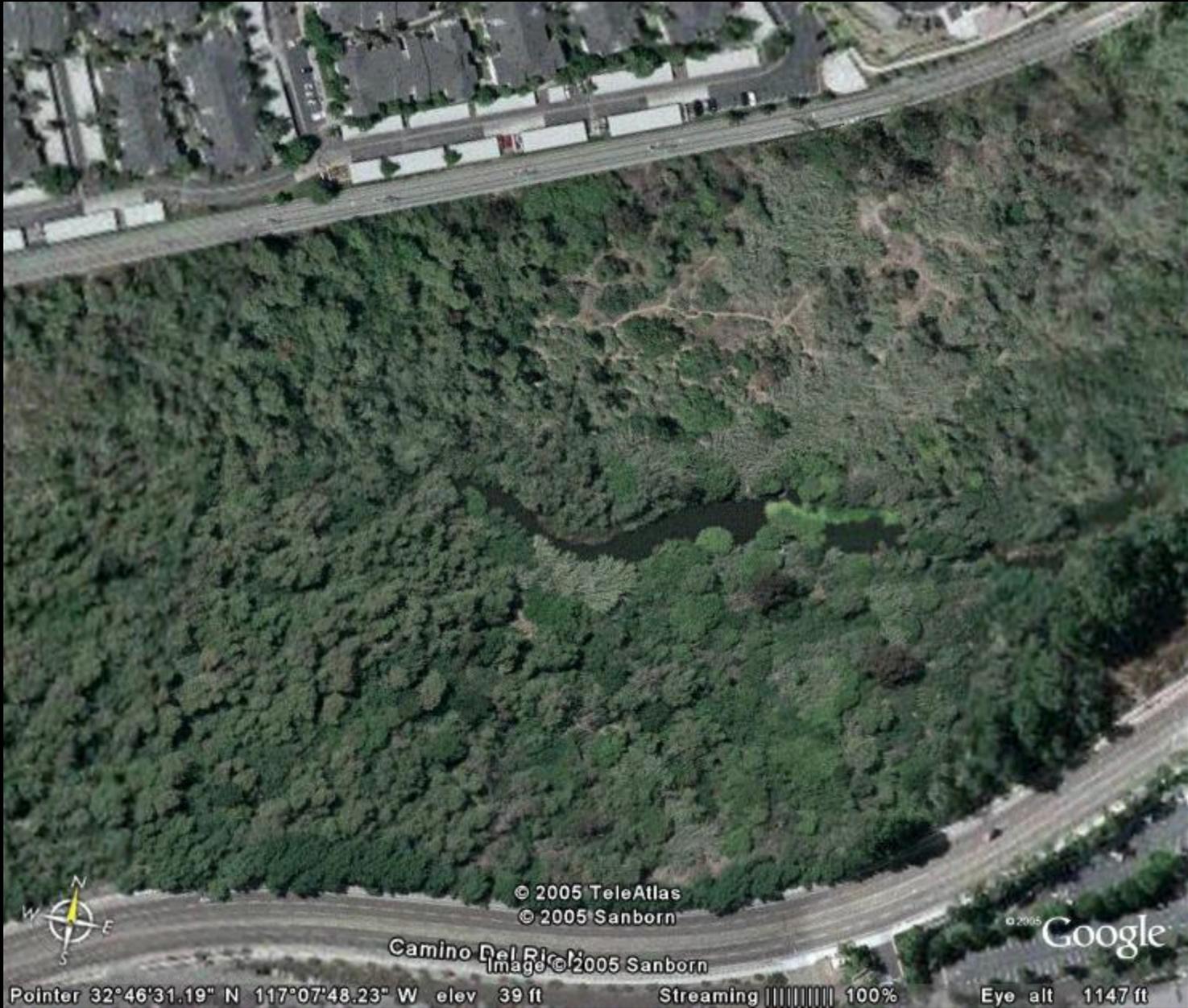


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Pointer 32°46'31.19" N 117°07'48.23" W elev 39 ft Streaming ||.|||| 80% Eye alt 589 ft

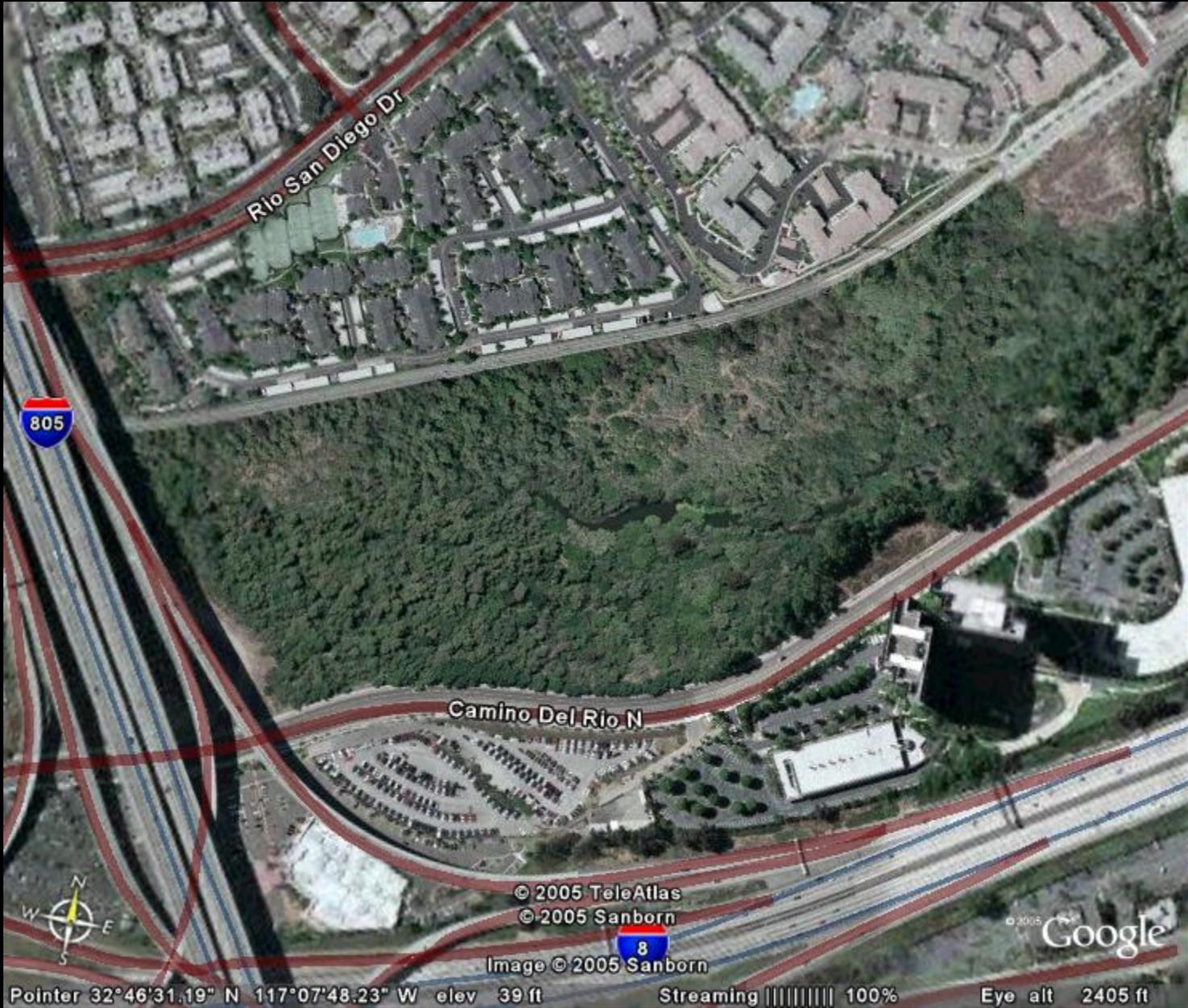


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Camino Del Rio
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Pointer 32°46'31.19" N 117°07'48.23" W elev 39 ft Streaming ||||| 100% Eye alt 1147 ft



Rio San Diego Dr



Camino Del Rio N



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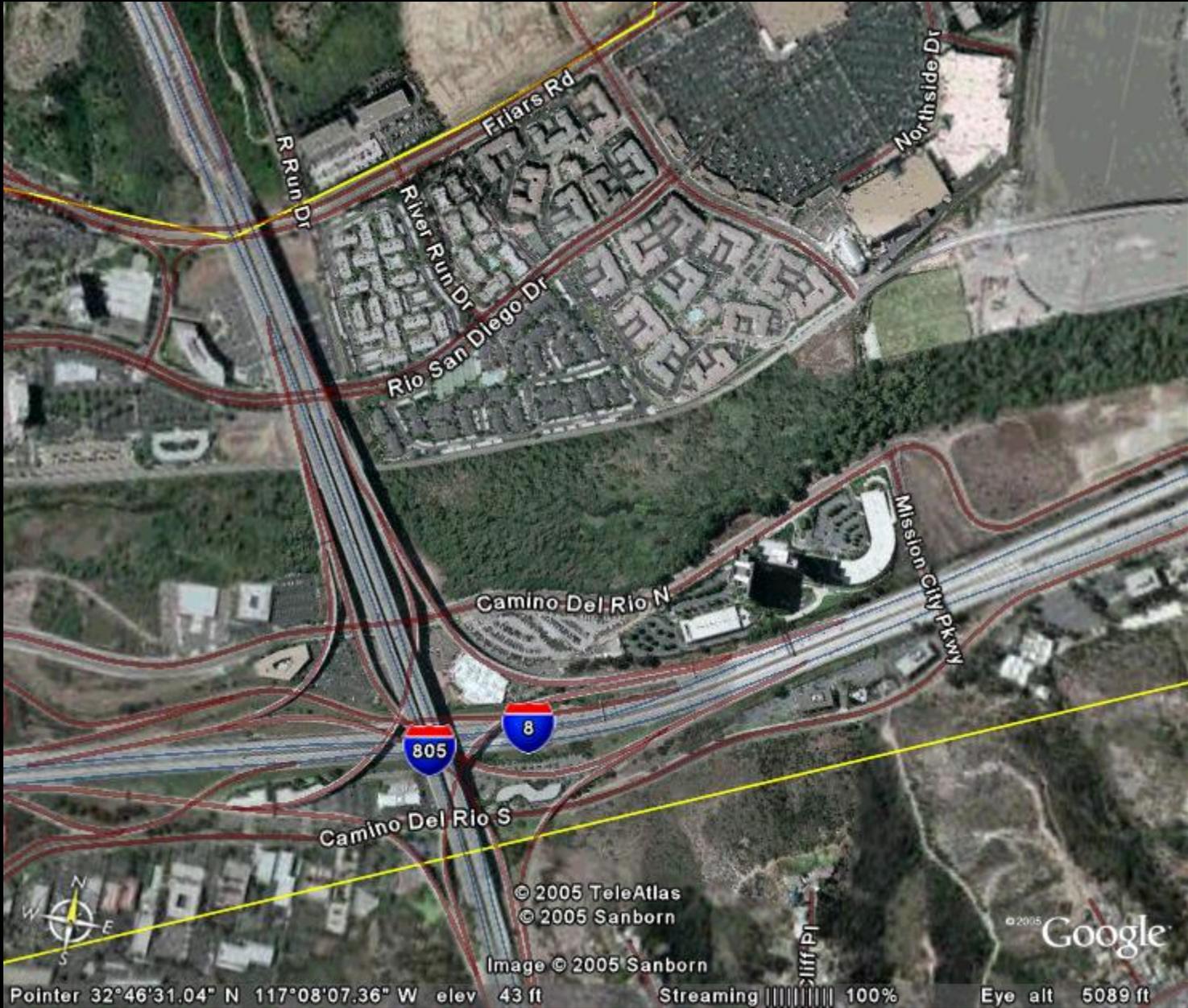
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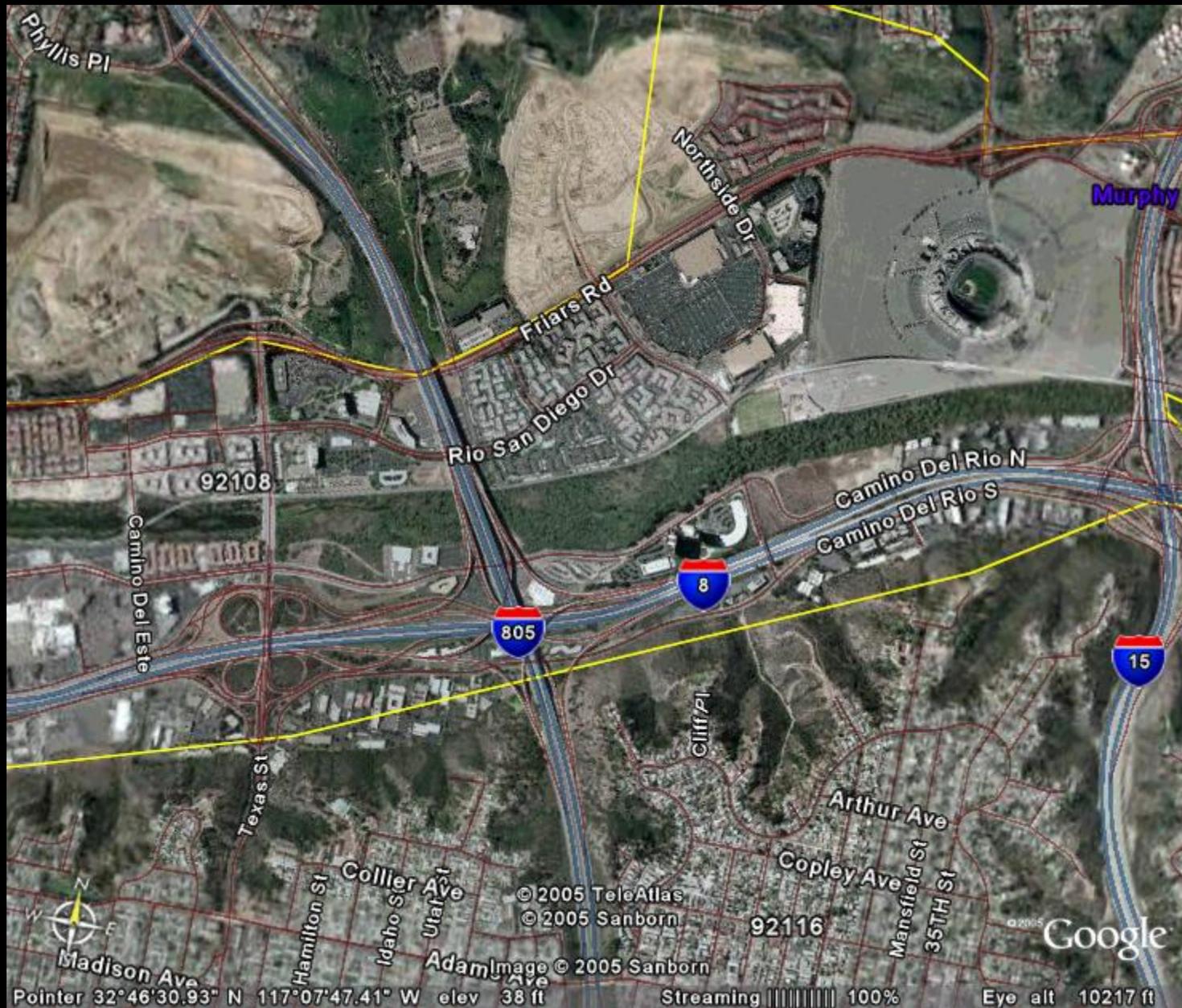
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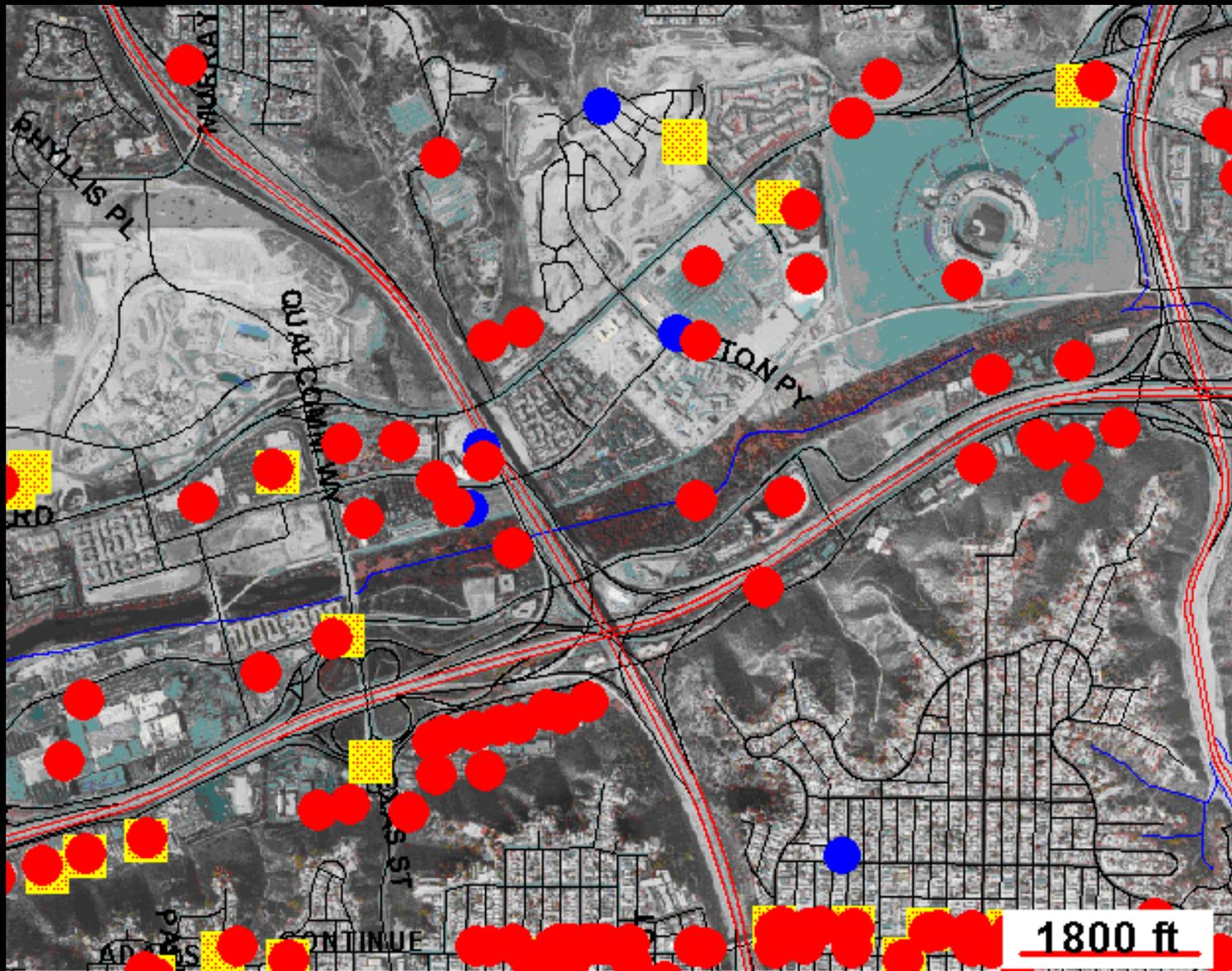
Streaming ||||| 100%

Eye alt 2405 ft



Pointer 32°46'31.04" N 117°08'07.36" W elev 43 ft Streaming 100% Eye alt 5089 ft







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Pointer 32°43'00.54" N 116°52'46.82" W elev 954 ft

Streaming ||||| 100%

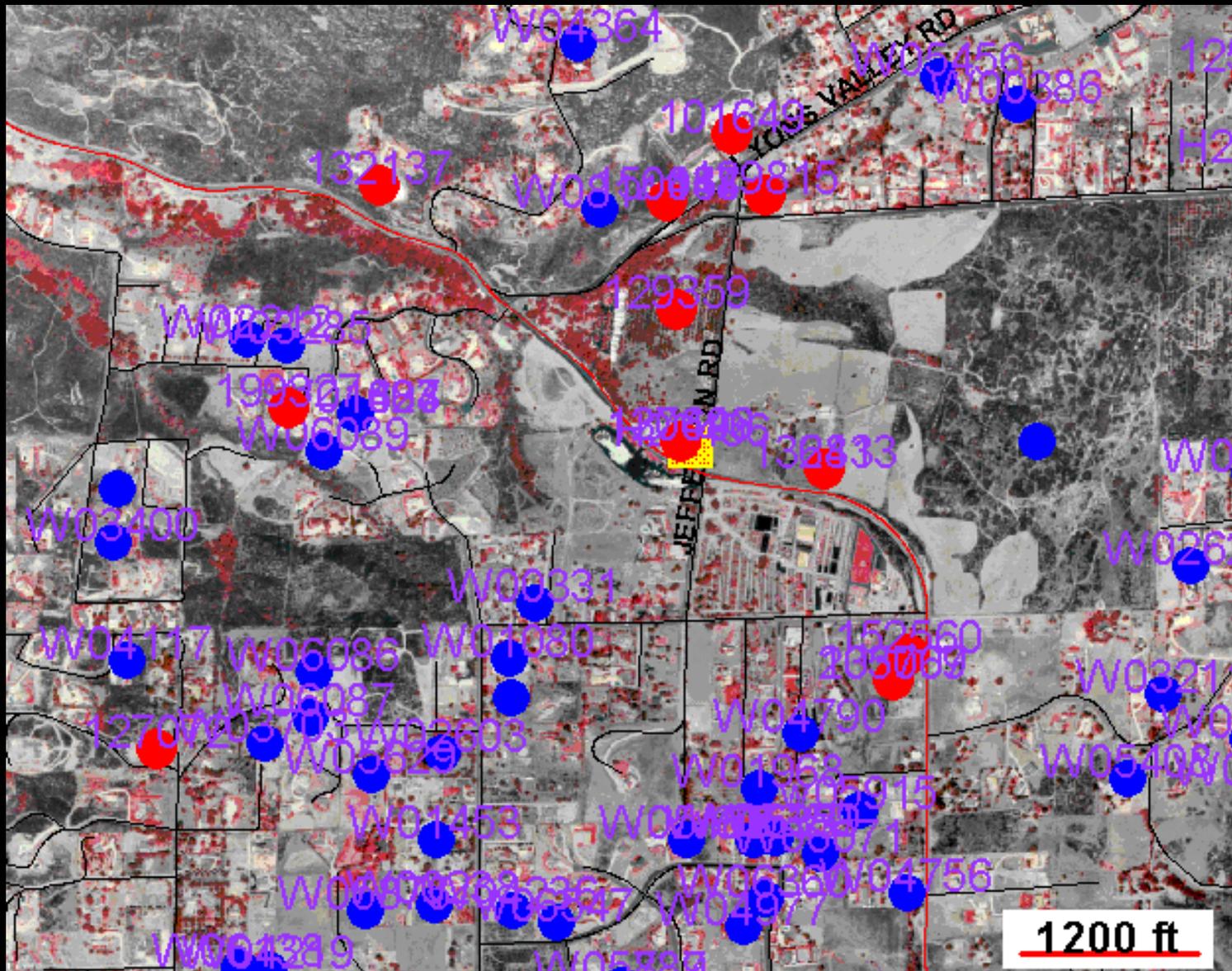
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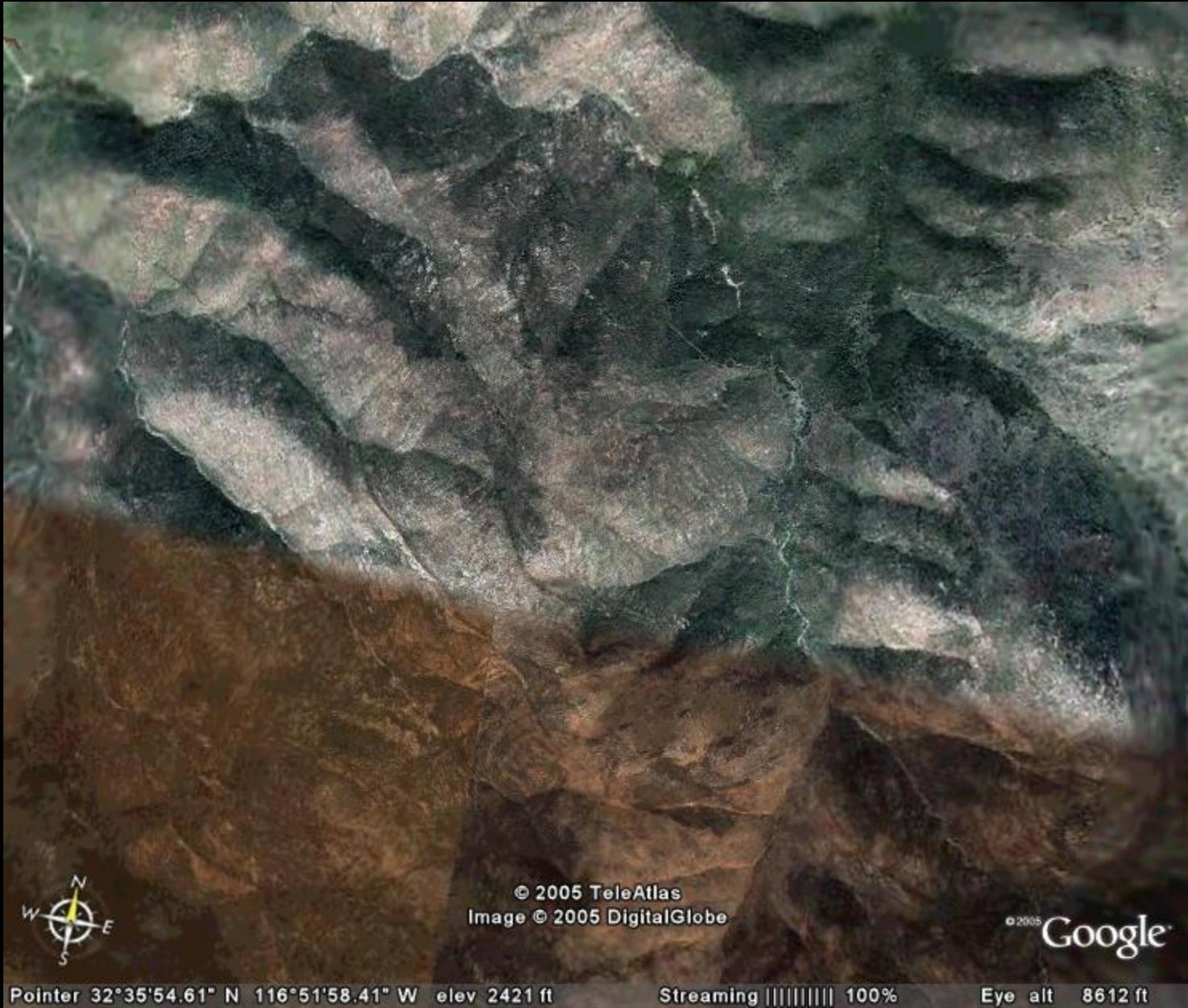


Pointer 32°43'06.23" N 116°52'45.29" W elev 932 ft

Streaming ||||| 60%

Eye alt 3568 ft

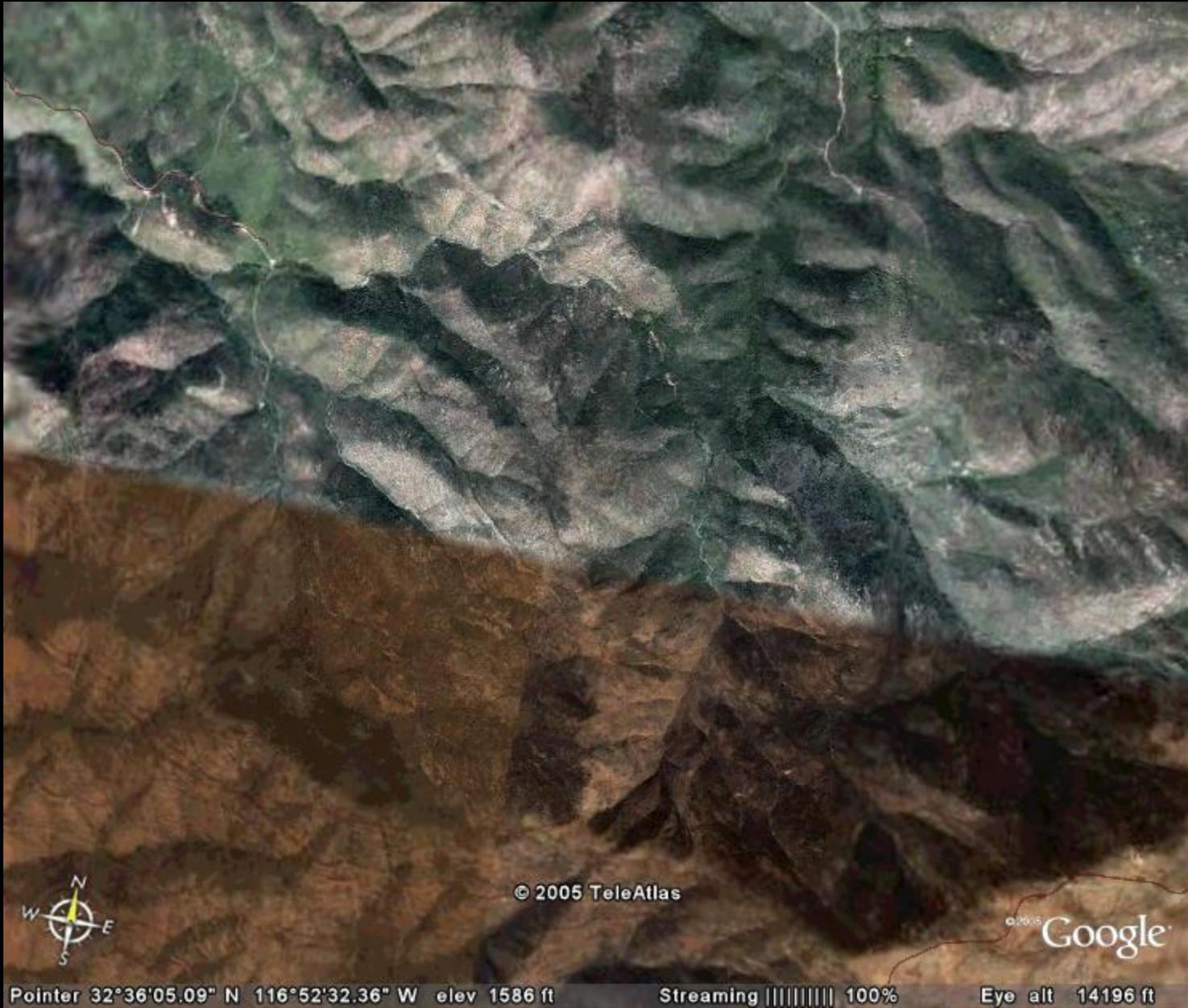




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Pointer 32°35'54.61" N 116°51'58.41" W elev 2421 ft Streaming ||||| 100% Eye alt 8612 ft



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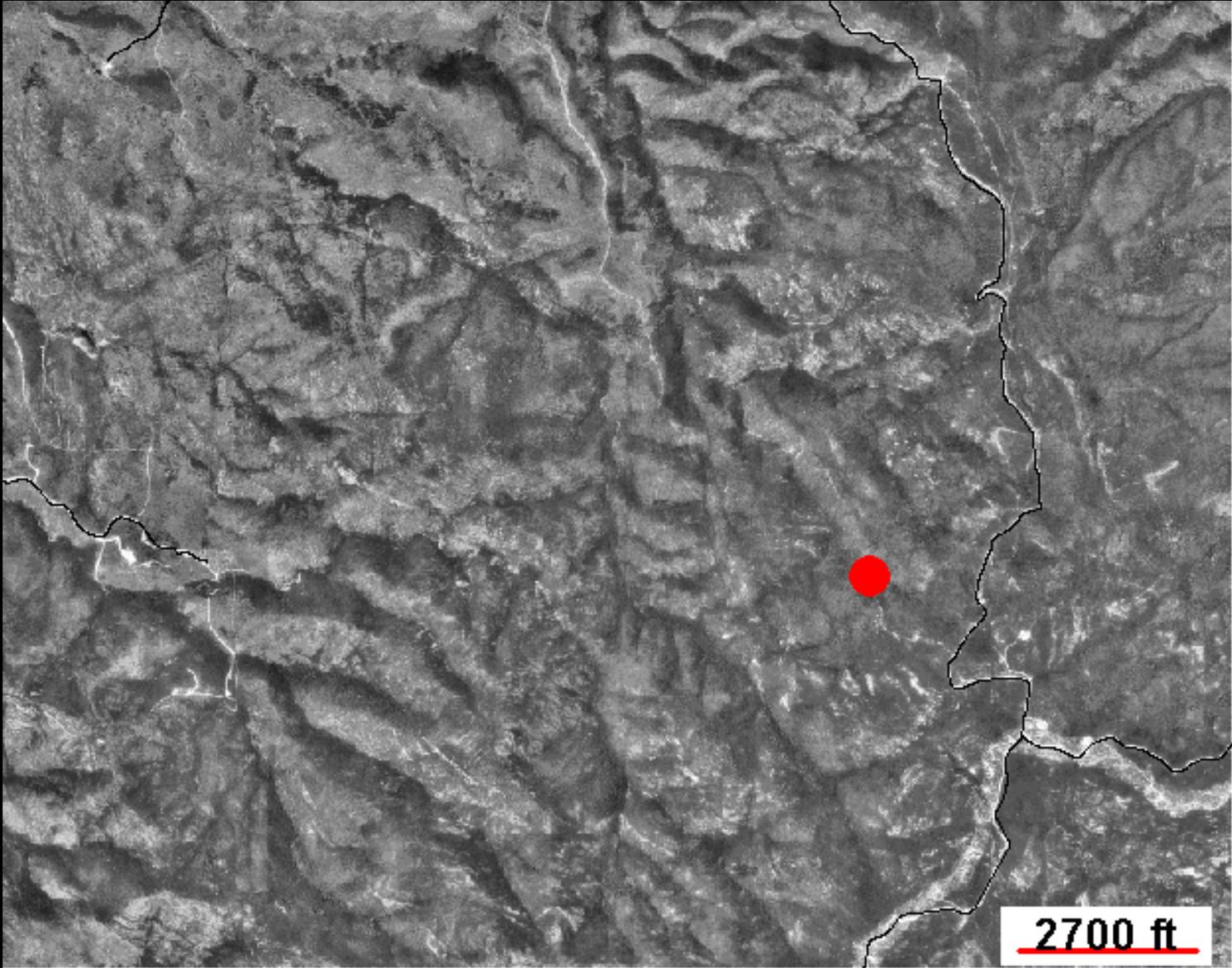
Pointer 32°36'05.09" N 116°52'32.36" W elev 1586 ft Streaming ||||| 100% Eye alt 14196 ft



Pointer 32°36'14.38" N 116°54'21.38" W elev 1398 ft

Streaming ||||| 100%

Eye alt 10.55 mi





What if I don't get permits or waivers?

- Investigative fee of 100% of permit fee.
- Repeat offenders will be referred to their respective state licensing board.
- Administrative civil liabilities of up to \$10,000 per day per occurrence from the time of drilling until the problem is corrected.
- Submissions of false or misleading data to a government agency is a felony.



Contact Information

Monitoring Well Desk 619-338-2339

[http://www.sdcounty.ca.gov/deh/lwq/sam/
monitoring_well.html#forms_and_applications](http://www.sdcounty.ca.gov/deh/lwq/sam/monitoring_well.html#forms_and_applications)