

WALKING TOUR
CARPINTERIA OIL SEEPS
SANTA BARBARA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

Gregg Wilkerson

2018



Carpinteria Oil Seeps, Santa Barbara County, California

Gregg Wilkerson*, 2018

*yosoygeologo@gmail.com

Acknowledgement and Disclaimer

The information in this paper is taken largely from published sources. I have reproduced this material and present it pretty much as I found it, not trying to harmonize discrepancies in mine or geologic descriptions. I have changed verb tenses for readability and have used some paraphrase. Italics indicate quotations. Authors of the original information are indicated at the end of each paragraph. Paragraphs without a citation are my own material. The maps in this report have been compiled and rectified from digital and paper copies of original sources that were made at different scales and in different geographic projections. Therefore, the maps are accurate, in most situations, to within 250 feet. PLSS means Public Land Survey System. That survey data was obtained from the U.S. Bureau of Land Management website. Seep location data from California Division of Oil and Gas and Geothermal Resources ("CDOOGR").

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LOCATION

The Carpinteria oil seeps are within the city limits of the town of Carpinteria, California. All of the seeps are along the coast on the old El Rincon-Arellanes Land Grant in Carpinteria State Park. They are in projected portions of T.4N, R.25W, Section 33 and 34, SBM.

CA Seep Number	LONGITUDE WEST	LATITUDE NORTH	Township	Range	Section	Base Meridian
2-61	-119.5120	34.3880	4N	25W	33	SB
2-62	-119.5080	34.3860	4N	25W	33	SB
2-63	-119.5070	34.3860	4N	25W	33	SB
2-64	-119.5040	34.3850	4N	25W	33	SB
2-88	-119.4990	34.3850	4N	25W	33	SB
2-89	-119.4950	34.3850	4N	25W	34	SB

TABLE 1. LIST OF OIL SEEPS AT CARPINTERIA STATE BEACH. From CDOGGR website. Data from Hodges (1980).

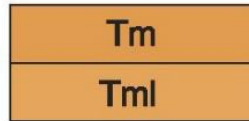
HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

Wagner and Yenne (1969) gave this summary of the asphalt use at Carpinteria:

The asphalt deposit at Carpinteria was located near the sea cliff, about half a mile southeast of town. The archeologic record reveals that aborigines used asphalt for holding points on weapons (Abbott, 1879); and Spanish explorers, dating back to at least 1775, observed that Indians near the present site of Carpinteria used tar from those deposits to calk their boats and to seal their water pitchers (Heizer, 1943). As early as 1857 the Carpinteria deposit supplied material from which illuminating oil was distilled; the quarry pits were as deep as 25 feet and covered several acres (Eldridge, 1901)(Wagner and Yenne, 1969, p. 13-14).

GEOLOGY

All of the seeps listed in the table, above are in Miocene Monterey Shale, except for seep 2-61 which is in Pleistocene Older Alluvium (Dibblee, 1986).



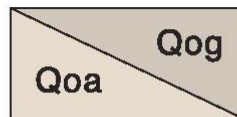
MONTEREY SHALE

Marine; early to late Miocene age

Tm Upper shale unit: white-weathering, thin bedded, hard, platy to brittle siliceous shale; Mohnian Stage

Tml Lower shale unit: white weathering, soft, fissile to punky clay shale with interbeds of hard siliceous shale and thin limestone strata; lower Mohnian to uppermost Saucian Stages

Figure 1. Lithologic description of the Monterey Shale. From Dibblee, 1986.



OLDER DISSECTED SURFICIAL SEDIMENTS

Qoa Former alluvial deposits of silt, sand and gravel, in places weakly consolidated; local unconformities at base

Qog Cobble-boulder fan gravel and conglomerate deposits composed largely of sandstone detritus

Figure 2. Lithologic description of Older Alluvium and Older Gravel. From Dibblee, 1986.

In 1969, Wagner and Yenne observed:

The asphalt impregnates the basal 12-15 feet of flat-lying older alluvium where it rests on steeply dipping Monterey Shale that forms the sea cliff. Eldridge also reported several active tar seeps, and one of these, a "tar volcano," is illustrated by Arnold (1907, pi. III B) Wagner and Yenne, 1969, p. 14).

Priestaf (1979, p. 168) said this of geology at the Carpinteria oil seeps:

The other major asphalt deposit along the southern California coast occurs immediately east of Carpinteria Beach State Park. Here the beach is wide and backed by vegetated dunes on its western end, with low bluffs increasing in height to the east. The cliffs are composed of Monterey Shale, here dipping nearly vertically and striking parallel to the coast. Here, too, the bituminous material contained in the shale seems to have migrated upward to escape at the surface, appearing as seeps along the cliff face (figure 10)(Priestaf, 1979, p. 168).

Oil has migrated upward through the Monterey Shale at Carpinteria to extensively impregnate the overlying alluvial material, including coarse gravels and cross-bedded sands. This alluvial material persists as hardened, bituminous sand, which crops out along the landward margin of the beach (Priestaf, 1979, p. 168).

Edwards provided a cross section for the geology of the Carpinteria oil seep area:

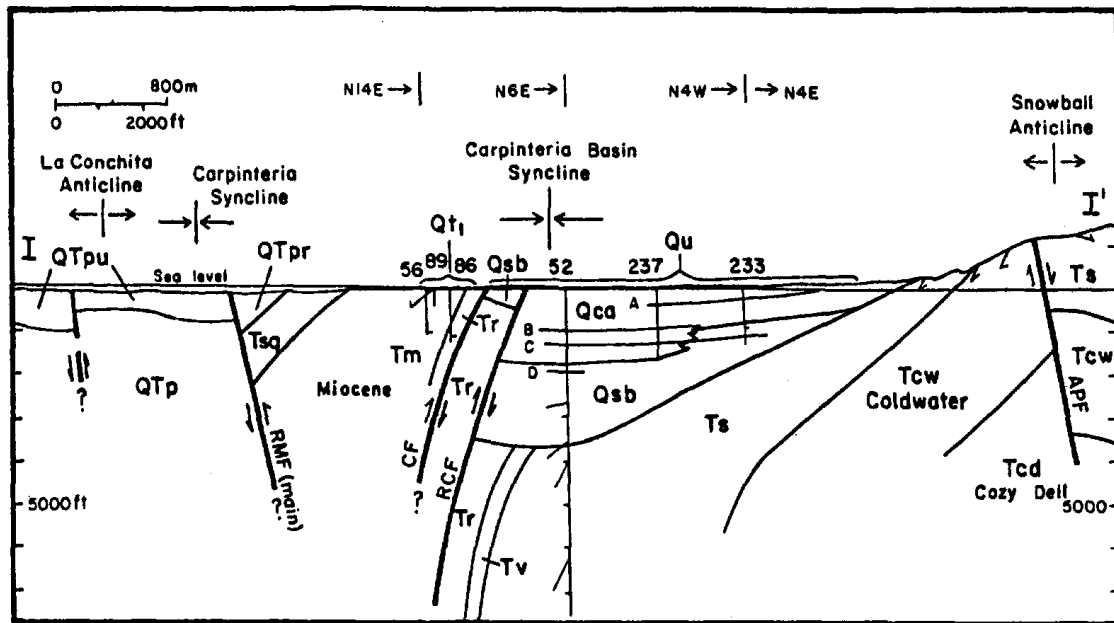


Figure 2: Geologic cross-section through Carpinteria State Beach, field trip stop 9. RMF, Red Mountain fault; CF, Carpinteria fault; RCF, Rincon Creek fault. From Jackson and Yeats, 1982.

Figure 3. Geologic cross section from Jackson and Yeats, 1982 in Edwards, 2087.

The following is Edwards (1987, p. 77) description of the structure and stratigraphy at Carpinteria State Beach:

Underlying Carpinteria State Beach Park and the beach east of the park boundary is a south-dipping, essentially homoclinal sequence of middle to upper Miocene sediments of the Monterey formation. These rocks are upthrust between the north-dipping Red Mountain fault, located approximately one mile offshore to the south, and the south-dipping Carpinteria fault located less than one-quarter mile to the north (Jackson and Yeats, 1982, fig. 11). North of the Carpinteria fault, a south-dipping wedge of lower Miocene Rincon shale is found in the subsurface below a thin cover of Pleistocene marine sediments of the Santa Barbara formation. Another quarter-mile to the north, beneath Carpinteria Avenue, the Rincon is terminated by the south-dipping Rincon Creek fault which, at this location, exhibits approximately 3600 feet of vertical offset and separates the Miocene coastal exposures from the thick Pleistocene marine and non-marine sediments which fill the Carpinteria Basin. Offshore, to the south, beyond the Red Mountain fault, seafloor outcrops consist of the Pliocene Pico formation and the underlying rocks of the Monterey formation dip south into a deep syncline before being thrust and folded into the anticlines of the offshore Rincon Trend (Ogle, et.al., 1987)(Edwards, 1987, p. 77).

The Red Mountain fault and the Rincon Creek fault form the boundaries of an upthrust wedge of Miocene rocks which parallel the coastline. This wedge is complexly cut by a series of north-and south-dipping reverse faults, including the Carpinteria fault, but also including many others which are of relatively small displacement and are un-named. To the west, the faults bounding the wedge separate and a drag fold is developed in the hanging wall of the Rincon Creek fault (Jackson and Yeats, 1982),

providing a trapping mechanism for the Summerland oilfield. To the east, near Rincon Point, the wedge narrows and the dips steepen, ultimately becoming overturned (Edwards, 1987, p. 77).

The area covered by this field trip segment extends from the mouth of Carpinteria Creek to the prominent headland approximately one-quarter mile east of the park boundary, which blocks further travel eastward at beach level (See fig. 4). In this area, the Monterey formation is fairly well exposed at the base of the sea cliff, and in the intertidal zone; however, because the strike of the exposures is essentially parallel to the coastline, only a thin stratigraphic interval is available for inspection. Some intertidal features mentioned in this report may not be apparent in summer when a thick cover of beach sand is deposited by longshore drift and not removed by storm surf. No detailed geologic mapping of this small area has been published (Edwards, 1987, p. 77).

The most recent published mapping of this small section of beach is that of Dibblee (1986) which shows a thin band of upper Monterey shale, of Mohnian age, dipping 81 to 48 degrees to the south within the park boundary, but overturned 80 degrees to the north in the eastern part. It is the author's opinion from field observation that these north dips represent the north limb of a small scale, faulted chevron-type fold which may be traced along the base of the sea cliff throughout most of the exposure, rather than an overturn. Numerous small-scale internal Monterey folds may be seen in the intertidal zone at the eastern park boundary, and in the cliffs of the eastern headland. These internal folds are common within the Monterey, occurring at scales ranging from hand specimen to outcrop and are believed to be a response to flexural slip deformation in a sequence characterized by zones of widely varying ductility (Snyder, 1987) (Edwards, 1987, p. 77-78).

PROXIMITY TO OIL FIELDS

The Carpinteria Oil Seeps are in an area surrounded by four oil fields:

OIL FIELD	DISTANCE FROM CARPINTARIA OIL SEEPS
Summerland Offshore	11,000 ft
Carpinteria Offshore	12,000 ft
Rincon Creek (Abandoned)	10,000 ft`
Rincon	11,500 ft

NEARBY OIL WELLS

There are 63 abandoned oil wells in the vicinity of the Carpinteria oil seeps. These are listed in Table 2 and illustrated in Figure 77. Wells near the route of the walking tour of the Carpinteria oil are described below.

Geo A. McDonald 120-1-A

Along the beach, near stop E09-W23 is the Geo A. McDonald 120-1-A well, API No. 28304306. According to CDOGGR on-line records the well is at Latitude 34.388196, Longitude -119.51509. It is plugged and abandoned. It is in T.04N, R.25W. Section 32. The well was drilled April 23, 1931 to a depth of 1024 feet. It is considered an off-shore well. The casing landed at 474 feet and bailed dry (479 feet) with 2-foot rise in 15.5 hours. Water Shut Off was OK. The well had "Brown shale" from 604 to 860 feet (a

thickness of 246 feet) showing heavy oil. At 926 to 966 feet (a thickness of 58 feet) there was more "Brown Shale" showing oil

(https://secure.conservation.ca.gov/WellRecord/283/28304306/28304306_DATA_10-01-2007.pdf; accessed Oct. 4, 2018)

R. W. Casper 130-1A

Along the beach, forty two feet northwest of Stop E03-W04 is the R.W. Casper 130-1A well, API No. 28304325. According to CDOGGR on-line data, the well is in T.04N, R.25W, Section 32 at Latitude 34.389282, Longitude -119.518455. It is considered an off-shore well. The well was plugged on November 22, 2002. It was drilled April 1, 1931 to a depth of 1029 feet. The casing landed at 55 feet. No oil was noted in the well log. The log noted sand, sandy shale, sticky shale, brown shale and tough shale (https://secure.conservation.ca.gov/WellRecord/283/28304325/28304325_DATA_02-15-2008.pdf, accessed Oct. 4, 2018).

Walter W. Gregg No. 1

Along the beach, near Stop E09-W24, is the Walter W. Gregg No. 1 well, API No. 08304298. According to CDOGGR on-line records the well is at Latitude 34.38799, Longitude -119.514283. It is plugged and abandoned. It is in T.04N, R.25W. Section 32. The well was drilled December 24, 1924 to a depth of 360 feet. It is considered an off-shore well. Soft asphalt and gas were encountered between 20 and 29 feet. There was a "hard cap rock" at 241 to 270 feet underlain by "brown shale showing a little oil" from 270 to 285 feet. There was a "showing of oil" between 302 and 360 feet. At 360 feet there was "oil and gas". No water was encountered in the well.

(https://secure.conservation.ca.gov/WellRecord/083/08304298/08304298_DATA_11-21-07.pdf, accessed Oct. 2, 2018)

Searoad Asphaltum & Refining Well No. 4

Above the beach, on the marine terrace, near Stop W30, is the Searoad Asphaltum and Refining Company Well No. 4, API No. 08304330. According to CDOGGR on-line records the well is at Latitude 34.387856, Longitude -119.512815. It is plugged and abandoned. It is in T.04N, R.25W. Section 33. The well was abandoned July 8, 1942. The well proposed to drill to 340 feet on April 19, 1926, but landed casing at 1,200 feet. It "never produced more than ½ barrel of asphalt per day"

(https://secure.conservation.ca.gov/WellRecord/083/08304330/08304330_DATA_10-01-2007.pdf, accessed Oct. 3, 2018). This well may be located incorrectly. It may be at the seep at Stop E10-28.

Conoco Kittie C. Bailard Well No. 1

Above the beach, on the marine terrace, north of the railroad tracks near Stop W46, is the Conoco Kittie C. Bailard Well No. 1, API No. 08304290. According to CDOGGR on-line records the well is at Latitude 34.386133, Longitude -119.502432. It is plugged and abandoned. It is in T.04N, R.25W. Section 33. The well was proposed for drilling to 4,000 feet on April 17, 1929 by the Continental Oil Company of Arizona. It was drilled to a depth of 4,535 feet. The well was sidetracked, and no oil sands were encountered. The Water Shut of test of May 15, 1929 reported that the test was 1,480 feet deep. From 1 to 500 feet there was "surface wash and shale. Heavy asphalt in fractures". From 500 to 1,480 feet there was "Brown shale and shells. Heavy asphalt in fractures with slight gas showings." The well was abandoned December 2, 1929 after a series of mishaps including twisting off of 2 strands of drill pipe, fishing, side tracking, and having pipe stuck in the hole. The lithologic log of April 26, 1929 noted the following:

1224-1231 feet: Shells and gas
1458-1470 feet: Blue clay and gas
2357-2372 feet: Core recovery, bottom foot had fractured and slickensided clay with oil
2574-2563 feet: Core recovery, brown clay shale – fractured dip 70 deg. – oil
2618-2620 feet: Core recovery hard compact thinly striated brown shale – dip 70 deg. Oil stains.
3016-3020 feet: Brown shale – gas
3070-2079 feet: Hard light brown shale – oil and gas
3228-3245: Core recovery, brown clay shale – fractured – do[55 deg. – oil stains
3433-3439 feet: Hard shell - gas

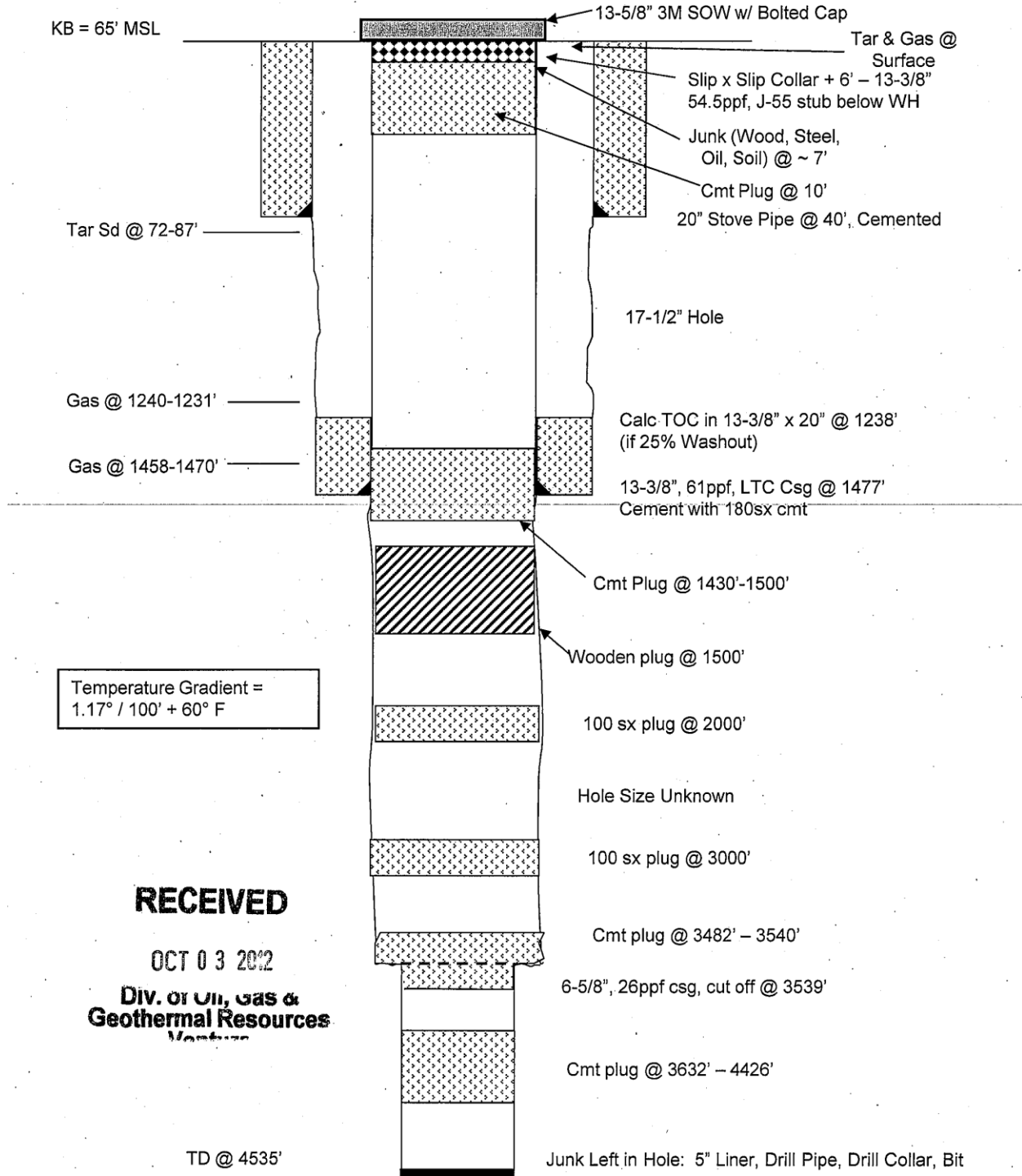
The well was transferred to Conoco, Inc on July 1, 1979. On December 20, 2011 the CDOGGR notified Conoco that they suspected oil seeps near the Kittie Bailard No. 1 well were due to leakage of that well. On January 6, 2012 Conoco proposed a work plan to dig an excavation 20 feet x 20 feet wide and 6 to 10 feet deep to expose the wellhead for the Kittie Bailard No. 1 Well. The wellbore diagram of September 27, 2012 is reproduced, below:

Kittie Bailard 1 – Current Wellbore

T4N, R25W, Sec 33, Santa Barbara County, CA

API# 04-083-04290

09/27/12



RECEIVED

OCT 03 2012

Div. of Oil, Gas & Geothermal Resources
Ventura

An notice of intention to re-abandon the well was received by CDOGGER on October 3, 2012. The well was re-abandoned on December 12 to 17, 2012. The area around the Kittie Bailard No. 1 Well began to seep oil again in 2017. In an "Approval of Concurrence" for this situation dated May 17, 1917 it states: *An initial site visit was conducted by Ewan Beenham, from the Division on April 4, 2017, after the initial excavation of the well to view the oil seep that was emanating from beside "Kittie Bailard" 1. From initial observations, it was clear that the oil seep was not connected to the now abandoned well. The seep was penetrating the earth in a 9-foot-long by ¼ inch wide stretch from the east side of the well cellar and was not evident inside the well cellar or around the abandoned casing* (Beenham, 2017).

Mr. Ernest Blevins from the Division, visited the site the following day on April 5, 2017 to once again inspect the seep to allow for any migration or expression of the seep inside the well cellar. There was still no oil inside the well cellar or around the casing (Beenham, 2017).

After reading the Wellhead Assessment Report for "Kittie Bailard" 1 and from the Divisions multiple inspections, the Division has come to the conclusion that the Oil Seepage near this well is of a natural nature and not connected to the presence of the Abandoned well (Beenham, 2017).

(The Beenham article can be downloaded from this site:
https://secure.conservation.ca.gov/WellRecord/083/08304290/08304290_DATA_03-04-2008.pdf,
accessed Oct. 4, 2018).

Bill Harz contributed the following about post-mining reclamation at Kittie Bailard No. 1:

For years, people who frequent the Carpinteria Bluffs have been wondering what the bubbling oily patch in the grass was near the train tracks along the path toward the seal rookery overlook. So in September 2011, the City of Carpinteria's parks director, Matt Roberts, contacted the state Department of Conservation, which investigated the site and, according to the department's Donald Drysdale, "made the determination that the oil seepage was likely from a well."(Harz, 2018; citing Carpinteria News).

That well, it turns out, was named after Catherine "Kittie" Bailard, who was born into one of the city's pioneering families in 1893 but never saw her namesake well give way to any gusher. Drilled by Continental Oil in 1929, the Kittie Bailard Well was shut down that same year, with no black gold in sight. But back then, shutting down a well was sometimes as primitive as jamming wooden electric poles down the hole, explained Drysdale, so it's no big mystery as to why Kittie's oil eventually started bubbling up. (Harz, 2018, citing Carpinteria News).

By the time the seepage showed up, though, Continental was no longer. Once part of John D. Rockefeller's Standard Oil, it was split off as part of an antitrust ruling and later was swallowed up — along with the Kittie Bailard Well, among thousands of other old sites — by ConocoPhillips. After determining ownership, Drysdale contacted the Houston-based corporation about the seepage, and the company then made the necessary cleanup arrangements with the city, including getting archaeological clearance due to the well-known Chumash history of the area. (Harz, 2018, citing Carpinteria News).

Today, there is fencing around the area, and a sealing-up project is underway, with crews from ATC Associates and MMI Service on-site last week and the state's Division of Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Resources overseeing the project to seal off the well. Drysdale estimated that the work is costing ConocoPhillips about a million dollars but that most abatement projects of this type usually cost "several hundred thousand." (Harz, 2018, citing Carpinteria News).

Workers will be at the site between the hours of 7 a.m. and 5 p.m. ConocoPhillips is planning to use air-monitoring devices, but as an apparent precaution, MMI Services has also closed off the immediate area and put up signs warning potential trespassers that, if they go into the space, they risk hydrogen sulfide gas exposure. (Harz, 2018, citing Carpinteria News).

ASPHALT MINING

Priestaf (1979, p. 168) described mining activities at Carpinteria:

Mining has extensively altered the Carpinteria deposits. In 1857, Charles Morrel, a San Francisco druggist, began a quarrying operation to provide material for distilling illuminants, but the mining venture did not prove to be very successful (Dibblee, 1966). Later quarrying operations, which lasted well into the 1920s, were far more successful. At one time more than 600 men were employed in the production of paving materials (Clark, 1962)(Priestaf, 1979, p. 168).

The mining operations resulted in a series of pits lying just inland from the beach. These pits are approximately 25 feet deep and extend over several acres. Deposits of massive asphalt were largely removed in one of these pits. Miners left intact some of this asphalt which is now preserved as a "dike" or seawall between the beach and the low-lying pit. Timbers used to brace the sagging asphalt during mining operations are still visible, though now covered in part by the slumping, sagging asphalt they were meant to support (figure 12) (Priestaf, 1979, p. 168).

The eastern quarry pits are still recognizable above the bluffs. Though most of the pit floors are now covered with iceplant, they are still obviously petroliferous. The bituminous sand is sticky and slightly yielding where softened in the sun, and thin pools of oil make walking hazardous. Seepage is still relatively active in the floor of the pits as indicated by miniature "tar volcanoes", similar but smaller than those described and photographed by Arnold in 1907 (figure 13) (Priestaf, 1979, p. 168).

Edwards (1987, p. 76) expanded on Priestaf's summary of Carpinteria's asphalt mining history:

With the coming of the Americans, the second phase of commercial asphalt development began. The first geologist known to have described these deposits was J. D. Whitney who, in the Geological Survey of California, noted the "black and highly bituminous" shales, later to be named the Monterey formation, and the asphaltum that "saturates the beach sand and flows down to the sea" (Caldwell, 1979). The first

development was attempted in 1857 by Charles Morrell, a San Francisco druggist, who, with little success, attempted to produce illuminating oils from the asphalt (Priestaf, 1979) (Edwards, 1987, p. 76).

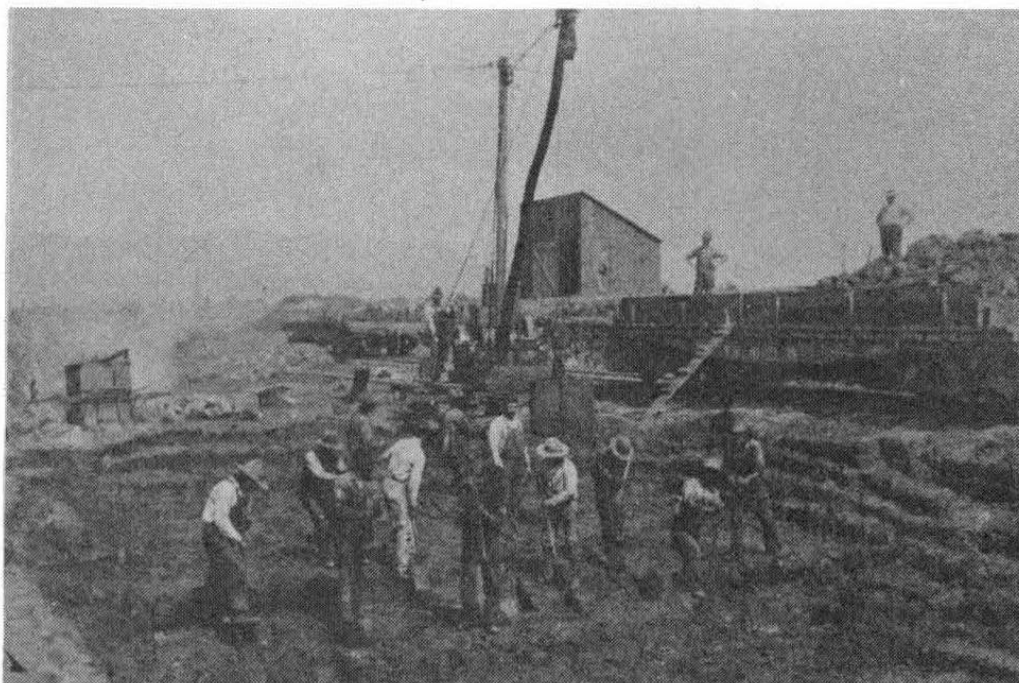


Figure 1: Early asphalt mining operations at Carpinteria. Location and date unknown. Photo courtesy of Carpinteria Valley Historical Society.

Figure 4. Asphalt mining at Carpinteria. From Edwards, 1987.

The first large-scale mining operation was undertaken, in 1875, by the Crushed Rock and Asphaltum Company of San Francisco which, by 1880, employed forty men. A succession of operators, notably Andrew Sattler, continued this effort throughout the late 1800's, at one time employing 200 men who were housed in barracks on the property, ate in the company dining room, and drank in the six saloons which had sprung up along Linden Avenue (Caldwell 1979). The miners worked in pits along the beach, using shovels heated in ovens to quarry blocks of bituminous sand which were loaded on rail cars and carried to a refinery near the mouth of Carpinteria Creek. The quarry pits were as much as 25 feet deep and covered several acres (Priestaf, 1979). At the refinery, the asphalt was heated in vats, washed with saltwater to remove the sand, loaded in barrels made on the property and shipped from a nearby wharf. Not all the uses to which this material was put are recorded, however, much of it was used to pave streets in Carpinteria and in Santa Barbara and to coat roofs. In 1887, a second asphalt mine, the Alcatraz, was opened on the bluffs to the east, near the present-day Chevron Oil Company property using the same mining methods as those used by Sattler. The first subsurface exploitation occurred in 1900 when a 350 foot "shaft" was sunk which filled with pure asphalt, selling in those days for thirty-six dollars a ton. Two years later this well was steamed through a two-inch line, allowing the asphalt to be recovered in liquid form. Operations such as these continued, off and on, until 1915, when both the

Alcatraz mine and the Sattler operation were closed down and the equipment sold (Edwards, 1987, p. 76).

Interest was renewed in 1924, when cable tool drilling for liquid asphalt was begun. This asphalt was refined, not for traditional petroleum products, but for a substance called Ichthyl which was a medicinal ingredient used in a skin remedy (Caldwell, 1979). The California Division of Oil and Gas wildcat map W3-1 shows eight wells drilled between 1924 and 1927 in this area, which were probably in response to this unusual play. Shortly these operations ceased, and the old asphalt pits ended their existence by becoming the town dump (Edwards, 1987, p. 76).

In 1930-31, sixteen wells were drilled along the beach, from just west of the mouth of Carpinteria Creek to within a half mile of Rincon Point, all in the intertidal zone and all undoubtedly by wildcatters following the trend of higher gravity Vaqueros (early Miocene) discoveries at Summerland oilfield the year before (see Kennett, this volume). The casings of two of these wells, the R. W. Casper 130-1A, total depth 1025 feet, and the G. A. McDonald 120-1A, total depth 1024 feet, are visible on the beach within the park boundaries during low sand conditions (Edwards, 1987, p. 76).

Little evidence of Carpinteria's asphalt mining industry remains today. The refinery and mining equipment have been removed, the pits filled with trash and covered over with asphalt of a newer vintage, and the remainder eroded by the sea. Along the beach east of the mouth of Carpinteria Creek, at the first exposure of asphalt, careful examination will reveal old timbers supporting a sea wall of asphalt, behind the protection of which asphalt and bituminous sand have been mined away. Viewing this sea wall from the top of the low sea cliff, the red bricks of one of the ovens which were used to heat the miners shovels may be seen. Walking farther east at beach level, the visitor may see blocks of coarse concrete, which were probably once equipment footings, among the rip-rap boulders which have been placed to protect the sea cliff from erosion. Trending southeastward in the intertidal zone, a long concrete trough is visible at low tide which was probably used to provide seawater to the refinery (Edwards, 1987, p. 76).

PALEONTOLOGICAL STUDIES

Many different kinds of fossils have been found in the Carpinteria oil seeps.

Edwards (1987, p. 76) relates that

In the late twenties, the asphalt deposits were once again mined, by the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History and the Carnegie Institute, this time for their fossil content. The asphalts have yielded a rich plant and bird assemblage and a mammalian fauna including mastadon, ground sloth and bison (Edwards, 1987, p. 76)



Figure 5. Tar with fossils, Carpinteria oil seeps. Photo by Bob Gray.



Figure 6. Bird bones in tar matrix. Photo by Bob Gray.

SEEPS (CDOGGR, 1980)

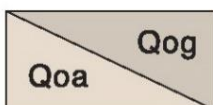
The California Division of Oil and Gas has compiled location data on seeps from Technical Report 26 (Hodgeson, 1980). These locations are shown in green on my maps.

Here is a listing of Carpinteria seep descriptions by Hodgeson (1980). The latitude and longitude designations are from the CDOGGR website.

2-61

326,400 N; 543,9001E; At foot of see cliff
Tar sand and fractured shale, Monterey Shale.
CDOG, March 1971, USGS Prof. Paper 679 (1969)
Trickle, Single tar seep from bluff (Hodgeson, 1980, p. 81).
-119.5120 34.3880

This is the western-most of the Carpinteria Oil Seeps in the CDOGGR database. It is mapped as being in Older Alluvium (Dibblee, 1986).



OLDER DISSECTED SURFICIAL SEDIMENTS

Qoa Former alluvial deposits of silt, sand and gravel, in places weakly consolidated; local unconformities at base

Qog Cobble-boulder fan gravel and fanglomerate deposits composed largely of sandstone detritus

Figure 7. Lithologic description of the Older Alluvium. From Dibblee, 1986.

2-62

325,800N; 1,545,000E; On beach, 550 feet northwest of pier.
Tar Sand and fractured shale; Monterey Formation;
CDOG, March 1971, USGS Prof. Paper 679 (1969)
Trickle. 500 ft. each way (along beach) from coordinate intersection (Hodgeson, 1980, p. 81).
-119.5080 34.3860



MONTEREY SHALE

Marine; early to late Miocene age

Tm Upper shale unit: white-weathering, thin bedded, hard, platy to brittle siliceous shale; Mohnian Stage

Tml Lower shale unit: white weathering, soft, fissile to punky clay shale with interbeds of hard siliceous shale and thin limestone strata; lower Mohnian to uppermost Saucian Stages

Figure 8. Lithologic description of the Monterey Formation. From Dibblee, 1986.

2-63

325,700N; 1,545, 200E; On beach, 400 feet northwest of pier.

Tar Sand and fractured shale; Monterey Formation;

CDOG, March 1971, USGS Prof. Paper 679 (1969)

Trickle from outcrop on beach. Extends 200 feet southwest from coordinate intersection (Hodgeson, 1981, p. 81).

-119.5070 34.3860

2-64

325,400N; 1,546, 200E; On beach, 600 feet northwest of pier.

Tar Sand and fractured shale; Monterey Formation;

CDOG, March 1971, USGS Prof. Paper 679 (1969)

Trickle from several locations in bluff, 300 ft. each way (along beach) from coordinate intersection (Hodgeson, 1981, p. 81).

-119.5040 34.3850

2-88

325,500N; 1,547, 800E; At foot of sea cliff.

Tar Sand and fractured shale; Monterey Formation;

CDOG, March 1971, USGS Prof. Paper 679 (1969)

Trickle. Single tar seep from base of bluff (Hodgeson, 1981, p. 81).

-119.4990 34.3850

2-89

325,300N; 1,688,100E; At foot of sea cliff.

Tar Sand and fractured shale; Monterey Formation;

CDOG, March 1971, USGS Prof. Paper 679 (1969)

Inactive. Tar has seeped from a few locations at base of bluff (Hodgeson, 1981, p. 81).

-119.4950 34.3850

EDWARDS FIELD GUIDE TO THE CARPINTERIA OIL SEEPS

In 1987, Edwin Edwards wrote a field guide and description of the Carpinteria oil seeps and associated geologic and historic-archaeologic features.

The field guide portion of his article is reproduced, below, with amendments by me.

INTRODUCTION

The following field guide begins at the east end of the Carpinteria Creek bridge in Carpinteria State Beach Park and continues as a walking tour along the beach and bluff top for a distance of approximately 0.7 miles eastward. None of the stops discussed below are marked. Location along the route may be made by reference to the oblique air photo and accompanying sketch map (fig. 4) or by counting paces between stops. A geographic description of each stop is given for additional reference. The "pace" used here is about five feet and is counted each time the right (or left, if you prefer) foot falls (i.e., a double step). Pace varies with each individual and with terrain but will be close enough for location along this route if geographic descriptions are observed (Edwards, 1987, p. 80-81).

I have added several stops to Edward's walking tour. His stops are labeled E01, E02..... My stops are lables W01, W02...



LEGEND

- State Beach Boundary
- ||||| Sea Cliff
- Beach Edge
- ▲ Asphalt Outcrop
- Bridge
- ▨ Asphalt Workings
- ③ Field Trip Stop

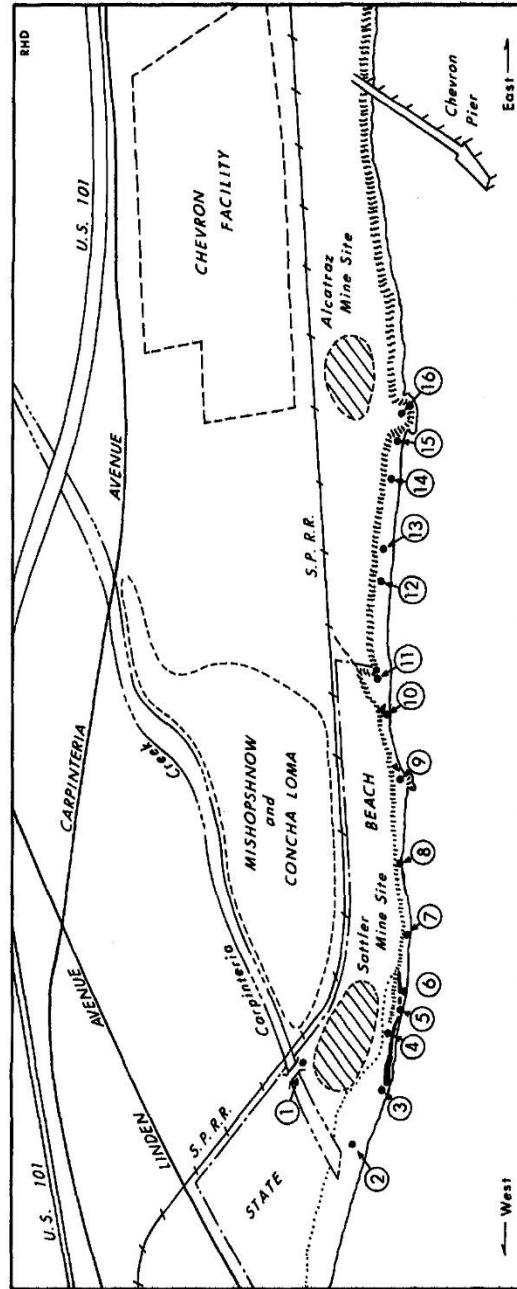


Figure 4: Oblique aerial photo and sketch map of Carpinteria State Beach and vicinity showing location of field guide stops. View is north. Photo courtesy of Pacific Western Aerial Surveys.

Figure 9. Oblique aerial photo and sketch map of Carpinteria oil seeps. From Edwards, 1987, Figure 4.

STOP E01, W01: Carpinteria Creek Bridge

*(0 paces, 0 feet) East end of Carpinteria Creek bridge facing east. Ahead is Santa Rosa RV drive-in campground which approximately overlies the original location of the Sattler asphalt workings active during the late 1800's and early 1900's. At one time, 200 men were employed here and were housed in barracks located on this property. A little to the right, perhaps near where the restroom now stands, was the refinery which processed the asphalt-saturated sands produced here (Edwards, 1987, p. 81). Turn right and proceed toward beach on path along bank of Carpinteria Creek. The small squirrels frequently seen along here are the California Ground Squirrel (*Citellus beecheyi*), which are common throughout the park. At the end of the path are some low dunes partially stabilized by growths of fleshy-leaved Sea-Fig (purple flowers) and Hottentot-Fig (yellow flowers). Continue onto beach (Edwards, 1987, p. 81).*



Figure 10. Carpinteria Creek Bridge. View to north. Stop E01/W01 is on the left (east) side of the bridge)

STOP E02, W02: Carpinteria Beach

(80 paces, 400 feet) Beach immediately east of mouth of Carpinteria Creek. In winter the beach here is covered with rounded cobbles consisting mostly of reddish and greenish Sespe formation (Oligocene) and tan to brown Eocene sandstones, and laminated siliceous Shales and massive dolomitic shales and porcelanites of the Monterey formation (middle to upper Miocene) (Edwards, 1987, p. 81). Turn left and proceed eastward along beach (Edwards, 1987, p. 81).

STOP E03-W03: First Asphalt Outcrop

*(107 paces, 535 feet) First outcrop of asphalt. Note pahoehoe-like texture of this relatively pure (sand-free) asphalt, caused by downslope flowage of the viscous liquid on warm days. On the seaward side of the outcrop, goose barnacles (*Pollicipes polymerus*) may be seen growing in protected crevices attached to the asphalt. The old timbers embedded in the asphalt are the remains of a sea wall built by early miners to keep sea water out of the diggings at high tide. Note numerous cans and brick and wood fragments which over the years have become embedded in the soft surface of the outcrop (Edwards, 1987, p. 81). On my maps, I label this first tar area TA-01. This area is west of the Sattler Mine Site shown on Edward's map between his stops E03 and E05.*



Figure 11. Stop E03-W03. West end of Tar Deposit 01.

Climb to top of low bluff and note red brick structure built into the back of the sea wall. This is the remains of one of the ovens in which the miners heated their shovels to facilitate quarrying the asphalt and bituminous sand into blocks for loading onto rail cars and delivery to the refinery (see fig. 1).

STOP E03-W04: Western Oven

There are 3 oven complexes in Tar Area-01. This is the western oven



Figure 12. Stop E01-W04, western oven.

Walk east along edge of bluff behind sea wall (Edwards, 1987, p. 81).

STOP E03-W05: Beach cobbles in tar.
Here we see large beach clasts in the tar.



Figure 13. Stop E03-W05 Tar conglomerate.

STOP E03-W06: Concrete Foundation

Cement foundation 5 feet x 3 feet with iron fasteners.



Figure 14. Stop E03-W06. Cement foundation.

STOP E03-W07: Central Furnace

This central oven has five brick foundations.



Figure 15. Stop E03-W07. Central oven with five foundations.

STOP E03-W08: Remnant of timbers for sea wall.



Figure 16. Stop E03-W08 Wood Planks in tar (TA-1)

STOP E03-W09. Eastern Oven

Here is a third oven, covered with ice plant.



Figure 17. Stop E03-W09. Eastern Oven.

STOP W10. Fossil Hash

A few feet east of the Eastern Oven is an exposure of oil sand with fossil “hash.”



Figure 18. Stop W10, fossil hash in oil sand above terrace deposits.

Here is a view of Tar Area 01 looking west from it's eastern end (Stop E03/W03-W10).

STOP E03-11: East End Tar Area 01



Figure 19. Stop E03-W11, east end of Tar area TA-01

STOP E04-W12

(40 paces, 200 feet) Base of east-trending asphalt "finger" which extends out onto beach (just past lifeguard station. Good view ahead of the sea wall behind which the relatively pure, sand-free asphalt of this outcrop has been mined away. To the right, (seaward) the dark outcrops in the intertidal zone are not rock but asphalt. Diagonally ahead, on the beach, the casing of the R. W. Casper 130-1A well, drilled in 1930 to a depth of 1025 feet, may be seen if thick summer sand deposits have not covered it. This is one of sixteen wells drilled along the beach from Carpinteria Creek to Rincon point following the discovery of relatively high-quality Vaqueros (lower Miocene) oil at Summerland field in 1929 (Edwards, 1987, p. 81). This is my Tar Area TA-03.



Figure 20. Stop E04-W12. East trending finger of tar.

Walk out along the asphalt "finger" and drop onto the beach (Edwards, 1987, p. 81).

STOP 04-W13 Tar Graffiti
People are creative.



Figure 21. Stop E04-W13, area with tar graffiti.



Figure 22. More tar graffiti at Stop E04-W13.

STOP E05-W14 : Casing of Caspar 130-1A Well

(26 paces, 130 feet) Casing of the Casper 130-1A well on beach just past the tip of the east-trending asphalt "finger of stop 4. Note erosion of the casing by surf-washed sand. This well appears to be adequately abandoned as no evidence of seepage has been observed by the author over the last fifteen years. The outcrops in the intertidal zone seaward of here are dolomitic siliceous shales of the organic shale member of the Monterey formation (Edwards, 1987, p. 81).

This well casing is covered with sand in the summer.

Continue eastward along beach (Edwards, 1987, p. 81).

STOP E06-W15: Asphalt "Finger"

(23 paces, 115 feet) Tip of west-trending asphalt "finger". The concrete trough trending diagonally offshore from this point was the bed for an iron pipe which may have supplied sea water to the asphalt refinery for use in de-sanding the asphalt or, alternatively, may have carried effluent away. Walk behind asphalt outcrops for close inspection of sea wall construction. Look among rip-rap boulders for active seep of heavy oil (Edwards, 1987, p. 81).



Figure 23. E06-W15. West end of Tar Area TA-4 with clasts of brick, rip rap and beach cobbles.

Continue eastward along beach (Edwards, 1987, p. 81).

STOP W16: Railroad Tracks

Archaeologists have exposed a buried railroad track that used to service the Alcatraz open pit asphalt mining operation.



Figure 24. Stop W16. Excavated narrow gauge railroad track.

Near the railroad track exposure, there is arcuate excavations of oil sand.



Figure 25. Man-made arcuate excavations into oil sand, near railroad track exposure.

STOP E07-W17: Punta Gorda Terrace Deposits

(49 paces, 245 feet) Lifeguard tower. First appearance of Punta Gorda terrace deposits. This terrace surface has been dated at 45,000 years further east at Rincon Mountain. Note asphalt impregnated sands rather than pure asphalt. Seeps of heavy oil are becoming more common along the base of the terrace. Outcrops offshore are Monterey fm. As you continue east, watch for asphalt impregnated pebble to cobble conglomerate at base of terrace and for asphalt-saturated cross-bedding in overlying sands (Edwards, 1987, p. 81).



Figure 26. Stop E07-W17 Conglomerate with tar at base of Punta Gorda terrace deposits.

Continue eastward along beach (Edwards, 1987, p. 81).

STOP W18. Active seep with shells and cross bedding in oil sand.



Figure 27. Stop W18 Cross bedding in oil sand.

STOP W19: Painted Cement “Oil Sand”

To control erosion, gunnite cement has been applied to the oil sand. The lower part is painted black to resemble the oil sand, and the upper part is buff to resemble the terrace deposits.



Figure 28. Painted cement covering oil sand for erosion control.

STOP E08-W20: Monterey Formation

(42 paces, 210 feet) Low outcrops of Monterey formation on both left and right. The ridges of Monterey outcrop seaward from here are erosion resistant dolomitic siliceous shale beds of the organic shale member. A few steps back the way you came, these intertidal outcrops have been heavily bored by pholad clams, the shells of which are still in evidence. The shell cavities have been filled with asphalt. Note mounds of asphalt intermixed with these intertidal outcrops. Shoreward, along the base of the cliff, is a good exposure of Monterey intraformational breccia. Note two generations of fracturing; one calcite-filled, the other filled with asphalt. Breccias such as these are most common in brittle rocks in the hinges of tight folds and may be in part due to transient over-pressuring (Snyder, 1987). The attitude of this outcrop approximates the average dip within this fault block and measures 77 degrees, north 81 west (Edwards, 1987, p. 81-82).



Figure 29. Stop E08-W20. Oil sand cliff overlying Casitas of Santa Barbara formations.

A park restroom is accessible from this point and is reached by climbing the low bluff and walking to the east end of the campground. Continue eastward along beach (Edwards, 1987, p. 82).

STOPS W21, W22 Tar deposits overlying Monterey Formation



Figure 30. Stop W21. Monterey Formation underlying tar.



Figure 31. Stop W22. Monterey Formation underlying tar.

STOP E09-W23: Stairway

(75 paces, 375 feet) Foot of beach access stairway. On the beach, about half-way between the foot of the stairs and the prominent outcrop to the right, is the casing of the G. A. McDonald 120-1A well, drilled in 1931 to a depth of 1024 feet. This casing may not be visible under high sand conditions. The author was unable to find any geologic records of this or the Casper well in the files of the California Division of Oil & Gas. This well, too, appears to be properly abandoned, as no seepage has been observed (Edwards, 1987, p. 82).



Figure 32. Stop E09-W23. Wooden staircase with tar flow.

This is a good location to observe the lithology of the organic shale member of the Monterey formation which is best exposed in the intertidal outcrops just to the east. Note the alternation of dark laminated shales up to several feet thick with hard, erosion-resistant beds of dolomitic siliceous shale ranging from several inches to one foot thick. The light-colored shale laminations are made up of blebs, lenses and laminae of phosphate (carbonate fluorapatite) while the dark material is organic-rich marlstone. Both the marlstone and the phosphate show microscopic evidence of bacterial structures suggesting that bacteria may have been important in apatite formation by releasing phosphate from the organic matter under low oxygen sea-bottom conditions (Garrison, Kastner and Kolodny, 1987). The distinctive appearance of the phosphate laminae aids in field recognition of the organic shale member, and it is repeated at smaller scale under the hand lens, frequently permitting recognition of this unit in drill cuttings. These intertidal outcrops also show significant intraformational folding which is common in

relatively incompetent units of the Monterey. Here the numerous sharp folds appear to plunge steeply eastward (Edwards, 1987, p. 82).



Figure 33. Stop E09-W24. Monterey Formation in intertidal zone.



Figure 34. Stop E09-W24. Phosphatic member of Monterey Formation.

Further evidence of the complexity of internal Monterey structure may be seen by closely examining the large outcrop at the low tide line. Here, individual blocks of phosphatic marlstone, dolomitic siliceous shale and dolomite are seen to be complexly intermixed, to the point of forming a breccia. Note that there is little evidence of soft sediment deformation; the laminae of marlstone blocks terminating sharply against other lithologies without contact distortion, suggesting that the individual blocks were at least partially lithified before being disturbed. Also, there is no evidence of significant, through-going fracturing as would be expected if this were a tectonic breccia. Probably the best interpretation is that this is a sea-floor slump deposit composed of partially lithified blocks of organic shale member lithologies with the interstices between blocks being filled in by continuing deposition of phosphatic marl. Other interpretations are welcome (Edwards, 1987, p. 82).

Examination of the sea cliff at this locality reveals a lobate seep of asphalt spilling out onto the beach just east of the foot of the stairs (see Fig. 29 Wilkerson). This seep appears to issue from the base of the Punta Gorda terrace deposits. Both left and right of the stairs, Monterey lithologies are exposed at the base of the cliff which are not typical of the organic shale member. These rocks consist of light tan, low density, diatomaceous, largely noncalcareous, somewhat punky shales lacking dolomitic interbeds. Such lithologies are more typical of the upper units of the Monterey, including the upper calcareous and upper siliceous members. If this is correct, a fairly significant fault is indicated between the rocks exposed on the beach and those in the sea cliff. Perhaps a fortuitous future storm will improve the exposure enough

to make a definitive interpretation; otherwise some paleontologic work would seem to be indicated (Edwards, 1987, p. 82).

Finally, observe the terrace deposits in the cliff to the left of the stairs. Note the white sand layer separating asphalt-impregnated sands at the base and top of the bluff. This may reflect episodic activity of these seeps over the last 45,000 years (Edwards, 1987, p. 82).

Continue eastward along the base of the cliff watching for tar-filled Monterey fractures and small seeps (Edwards, 1987, p. 82).

STOP W24 Salt grass in oil sand



Figure 35. Stop W24, salt grass growing in tar overlying fractured, brecciated Monterey Formation.

STOP W25 Cross bedding in oil sand.



Figure 36. Stop W25. Cross Bedding in oil sand above fractured Monterey Formation.

STOP W26 Oil seep "falls"

Tar seeps down the Monterey Formation like a slow-moving waterfall.



Figure 37. Stop W26, oil seep "falls" over Monterey Formation.

STOP E10-W-27: Lobate Asphalt Seep at abandoned oil well.

(38 paces, 190 feet) Lobate asphalt seep. This is one of the most active seeps along this beach, but as will be discussed shortly, it may not be entirely natural. Note the iron, brick, concrete and cobbles embedded in the surface of the semi-solid asphalt and observe the numerous seeps of heavy oil which are spilling onto the beach sand, slowly extending this outcrop toward the sea. Use caution in exploring here because small pools of fresh, wet oil are frequently found lurking under a quarter-inch of apparently dry beach sand in this area. In the cliffs here, and into the mouth of the small gully just ahead, are further exposures of Monterey lithologies which appear to be younger than the organic shale member (Edwards, 1987, p. 82).

This seep is 200 feet southwest of the CDOGGR location for the Searoad Asphaltum and Refining Well No. 4.



Figure 38. Stop E10-W27, lobate oil flow and seep at oil well site.



Figure 39. Stop E10-W28, pipe from oil well?

From the beach, you can walk up to the top of the terrace and view the oil seep coming out of a pipe. On the way you pass an area of Salt Grass, and a fresh water spring area with willows.

STOP W29 Salt Grass



Figure 40. Stop W29, salt grass and ice plant.

STOP W30: Spring with willows

Continue along the cliff into the mouth of the small gully and climb left onto the bluff at the first opportunity. Atop the bluff, turn left and walk out to the point. You are now directly above the lobate seep of stop 10. At the time of writing this was the site of a "tar-volcano", the result of gas bubbling up through liquid asphalt. On warm days when the seep was most active, these bubbles would burst and throw droplets of oil into the air where they would drift with the wind to coat the wooden barricade and sign which marked the site. This section is written in the past tense because the California Division of Oil & Gas believes this may be an old oil well (potentially the W. W. Gregg well, 1924, depth 360 feet) rather than a natural seep. If so, they will be obliged to attempt to abandon it properly and these features may not be visible at field trip time. About 20 feet to the north (toward the mountains) is a concrete circle which the D.O.G. believes may be an old tank footing (Edwards, 1987, p. 82).

Looking east from this vantage point, observe the Punta Gorda terrace deposits atop the headland at the east end of the beach and note that they dip approximately four degrees inland rather than seaward as would be expected. This is evidence of continued recent uplift of coastal rocks relative to those farther north under the terrace. Also note the asphalt impregnated sand outcrop just across the gully to the east. Return down the trail and proceed to that point (Edwards, 1987, p. 82-83).



Figure 41. Stop W30, willows at fresh water spring.

STOP W31: Names carved in oil sand
Here we see names carved in the oil sand.



Figure 42. Stop W31. Names carved in oil sand.

STOP W32: Sulfate

Yellow sulfate from hydrothermal alteration is seen along bedding planes with tar.



Figure 43. Stop W32 Sulfate in Monterey Formation.

STOP W33: Fossil Oil Seep

Here is a (relatively) inactive tar seep. The oil sand has flowed down slope, like a debris flow



Figure 44. Stop W33. Fossil oil seep (now inactive).

STOP E11-W34: Asphalt impregnated terrace deposits

(19 paces, 95 feet from point 10) Asphalt impregnated terrace deposits. This is a good exposure of the unconformity between the Monterey formation and the overlying Punta Gorda terrace. The unconformity here is at an elevation of about 5 feet whereas, looking east down the beach, the same unconformity can be seen to reach an elevation of about 30 feet. This tilting of the terrace surface has occurred since its formation, about 45,000 years ago. This same surface is at an elevation of 655 feet on Rincon Mountain, about 4 miles east. In this outcrop, notice the presence of a basal pebble conglomerate and well exposed cross-bedding in the asphalt-impregnated sands. Pebble lithologies consist primarily of two types; these are well-rounded greenish and tan sandstones, probably of Sespe (Oligocene) and Coldwater (Eocene) origin, and sub-rounded fragments of various Monterey lithologies. These units are well exposed in the mountains to the east and north. Also included are occasional well-rounded clasts of exotic lithologies such as quartzite which are probably re-worked from the highly conglomeratic Sespe. At the base of the cliff the Monterey lithology appears to be typical of the organic shale member. Although not a very clear exposure, these rocks appear to be tightly folded. Observe asphalt fracture filling and small active seeps (Edwards, 1987, p. 83).

Enroute to the next stop watch for sulfur staining on outcrops and notice the prevailing south dip of the Monterey. Also observe that asphalt- impregnation is restricted to the basal part of the terrace deposits and that it thins to a thickness of only two feet (Edwards, 1987, p. 83).



Figure 45. STOP E11-W34: Asphalt impregnated terrace deposits

Continue eastward along cliff base (Edwards, 1987, p. 83).

STOP W35: Sulfate

Here sulfate is at the contact between Monterey and Punta Gorda terrace deposits



Figure 46. STOP W35: Sulfate in Monterey Shale below Terrace deposit oil sand.

STOP E12-W36: Fresh water springs

(71 paces, 355 feet). At steep, narrow gully below somewhat sickly-looking tree on bluff edge. Notice the numerous small springs of water issuing from the Monterey at the base of the cliff. The shales here are both foraminiferal and diatomaceous under the hand lens and do not have the visual aspect of the organic shale member (Edwards, 1987, p. 83).



Figure 47. STOP E12-W36: Fresh water springs.

Continue eastward along cliff base (Edwards, 1987, p. 83).

STOP E13-W37: Overturned beds

(16 paces, 80 feet) Below the next tree on the cliff edge. Notice that these rocks, which again do not look like the organic shale member, dip north. Are they overturned or are they in the down-faulted north limb of a sharp anticline trending parallel to the coastline? While close inspection shows some of these shales to be laminated, it is a very even, fine-grained type rather than the blebby, grainy phosphate lamination of the organic shale member (Edwards, 1987, p. 83).



Figure 48. STOP E13-W37: Overturned beds.

Continue eastward watching for the re-appearance of typical organic shale member lithology (Edwards, 1987, p. 83).

STOP W38: Oil sands reappear.

From this point eastward, we see more oil sands and seeps.



Figure 49. STOP W38: Oil sands reappear.

Continue eastward along the base of the cliffs.

STOP E14-W39: Folded Monterey

(62 paces, 310 feet) Just past the next big tree on the bluff. Here, typical organic shale member is folded into a sharp, faulted anticline with a smooth syncline adjoining to the south. Close looking shows additional small, active seeps in this area (Edwards, 1987, p. 83).



Figure 50. STOP E14-W39: Folded Monterey.

Continue eastward (Edwards, 1987, p. 83).

STOP W40: Dolostone

Here is a 2 foot long concretion of dolostone.



Figure 51. STOP W40: Dolostone.

STOP E15-W41: End of Beach

(25 paces, 125 feet) End of beach. This large, west-facing outcrop shows very complex folding and faulting within the organic shale member. Examine the outcrop for step-shearing in the laminated shales and for numerous asphalt-filled fractures and heavy oil seeps. The rocks offshore of the point are dolomites and dolomitic siliceous shales of the organic shale member (Edwards, 1987, p. 83).

The next objective is the top of this bluff. This can be achieved in three ways. At low tide and in calm sea conditions, the nimble of foot can scramble quickly around the point into the next cove where, however, they will be faced with a twenty-foot climb up a pile of very large angular rip-rap boulders. In the alternative, retrace your steps until you find a negotiable section of bluff to climb. This field trip takes the conservative approach and returns along the beach to stop 10 from which a good trail is available along the top of the bluff (Edwards, 1987, p. 83).



Figure 52. STOP E15-W41: End of Beach

Return to stop 10 at the mouth of the large gully 300 yards west where a path leads up onto the bluff and thence eastward (Edwards, 1987, p. 83).

STOP E16-W42: High Point of Bluffs

(270 paces, 450 yards from stop 10) Concrete survey markers on high point at bluff edge. Looking east additional exposures of the Monterey formation are seen in the cliffs and coves between here and the Chevron pier. In the first cove, the rocks are typical organic shale member and dip generally south; however, entering the next cove dips steepen to vertical and ultimately overturn to steep north dip and the transitional contact with the underlying lower calcareous member is exposed. The lower calcareous shale member is composed of thick-bedded dolomites and dolomitic siliceous shales with only thin interbeds of phosphatic marlstone. If there is a significant, down-to-the-north fault paralleling the outcrops we have just visited, it must trend a little to the north under the terrace deposits at this point. If so, it might help explain the presence of another major asphalt deposit which once existed here (Edwards, 1987, p. 83).



Figure 53. STOP E16-W42: High Point of Bluffs. View is to the west.

Walk north to the Alcatraz abandoned mine area.

STOP W43: Alcatraz Mine

The hummocky, grassy swale just north of this point was the location of the Alcatraz (spanish for pelican) asphalt mine at the turn of the century. Very little evidence of it is left today, except for the subtle topographic disturbance. Along the near edge of the depression old timber fragments and metal parts may be found embedded in asphalt and around other edges small, active heavyoil seeps may be located in the grass. When the mine closed, the pit was used as the town dump (Edwards, 1987, p. 83, 84).



Figure 54. STOP W43: Alcatraz Mine. View to the north from Stop E16-W42.



Figure 55. Alcatraz tar mine, 1902. Photo from Bob Gray. Note railway. Compare with Figure 21, Stop W16.



Figure 56. Alcatraz tar mine with drag line, 1902. Photo from Bob Gray.



Figure 57. Alcatraz tar mine, 1902. Photo from Bob Gray.



Figure 58. Alcatraz tar mine. Digging with hot shovels. Photo from Bob Gray.



Figure 59. Fossil collecting at Alcatraz tar mine, 1927. Photo from Bob Gray.



Figure 60. Carpinteria tar mine.1927. Photo from Bob Gray.

On a clear day this is a good place to observe the string of production platforms which marks the crest of the Rincon offshore trend, the marine extension of the same structural feature which forms the trap for the Rincon, San Miguelito and Ventura Avenue fields. Looking back west, the two platforms which produce the Summerland offshore field should be visible (Edwards, 1987, p. 84).

Walk north to see active seeps in the old mine area.

STOP W44: Alcatraz Mine Seeps

Tar is still oozing up from the area of the old mine.



Figure 61. STOP W44: Alcatraz Mine Seeps.

Take trails north to the bike path. Go east to the paved road. Cross the railroad tracks and walk along the north side of them past oil processing facility and farm to a wind break.

STOP W45: Kitty Bailard No. 1 Re-abandonment site

This abandoned well started to leak in 2015. Excavations showed that the abandoned well was not leaking, but natural seepage around it was discharging from the well area. A discussion of this re-abandonment project is found on pages 6 to 9 of this report.



Figure 62. W45: Kitty Bailard No. 1 Re-abandonment site.

Go south, cross the railroad tracks, and head toward the bluffs.

STOP W45: Paved Road

Is this an old oil seep, or melted asphalt roadway? Walk down this old road to see the cliffs.



Figure 63. STOP W45: Paved Road.

Continue west along the bluff.

From the paved road, looking north you see outcrops illustrating the stratigraphy in this area: Terrace deposits are on top. These are underlain by gravels. The gravels rest on an unconformity above the Monterey Formation



Figure 64. Stratigraphic section with Punta Gorda terrace deposits lying above gravels. These rest unconformably on the Monterey Formation.



Figure 65. Stratigraphic section with Punta Gorda terrace deposits lying above gravels. These rest unconformably on the Monterey Formation.

STOP W46: Monterey Formation: No oil sands

At this point, we see no oil sands in the cliff face. We can see the stratigraphy with Monterey at the base, the gravels, and then terrace deposits.

STOP W47: Oil Sands in Fractured Shale

From this vantage, to the east, we see some oil sand development, and tar in brecciated Monterey Formation.



Figure 66. STOP W47: Oil Sands in Fractured Shale.

The Carpinteria Cliffs are dangerous



Figure 67. A reminder to be careful when hiking the Carpinteria bluffs.

STOP W48: Seal Sanctuary

There is a bench here. You can enjoy watching the seals.



Figure 68. STOP W48: Seal Sanctuary.

Continue west to return to Carpinteria State Beach campgrounds.

END OF WALKING TOUR

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PHOTOS



Figure 69. Carpinteria Oil Seeps in 1907. Photo by Ralph Arnold. Courtesy of CDOOG.



Figure 70. Carpinteria Oil Seeps. Photo by Steve Mulqueen. Courtesy of CDOORG.



Figure 71. Carpinteria Oil Seeps. Photo by Steve Mulqueen. Courtesy of CDOORG.



Figure 72. Carpinteria Oil Seeps. Photo by Steve Mulqueen. Courtesy of CDOOGR.

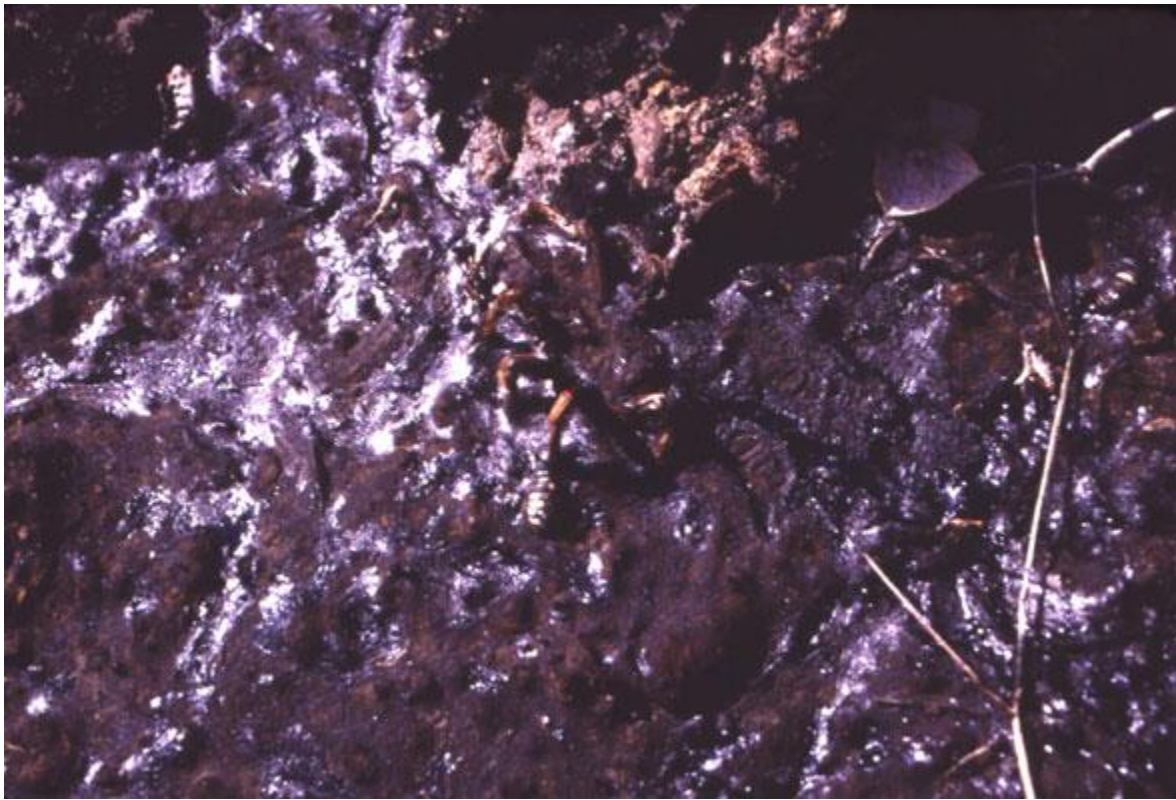


Figure 73. Carpinteria Oil Seeps. Photo by Steve Mulqueen. Courtesy of CDOOGR.

Figure 74. Topographic map of the Carpinteria Oil Seeps. Seep locations from Hodgeson, 1980.



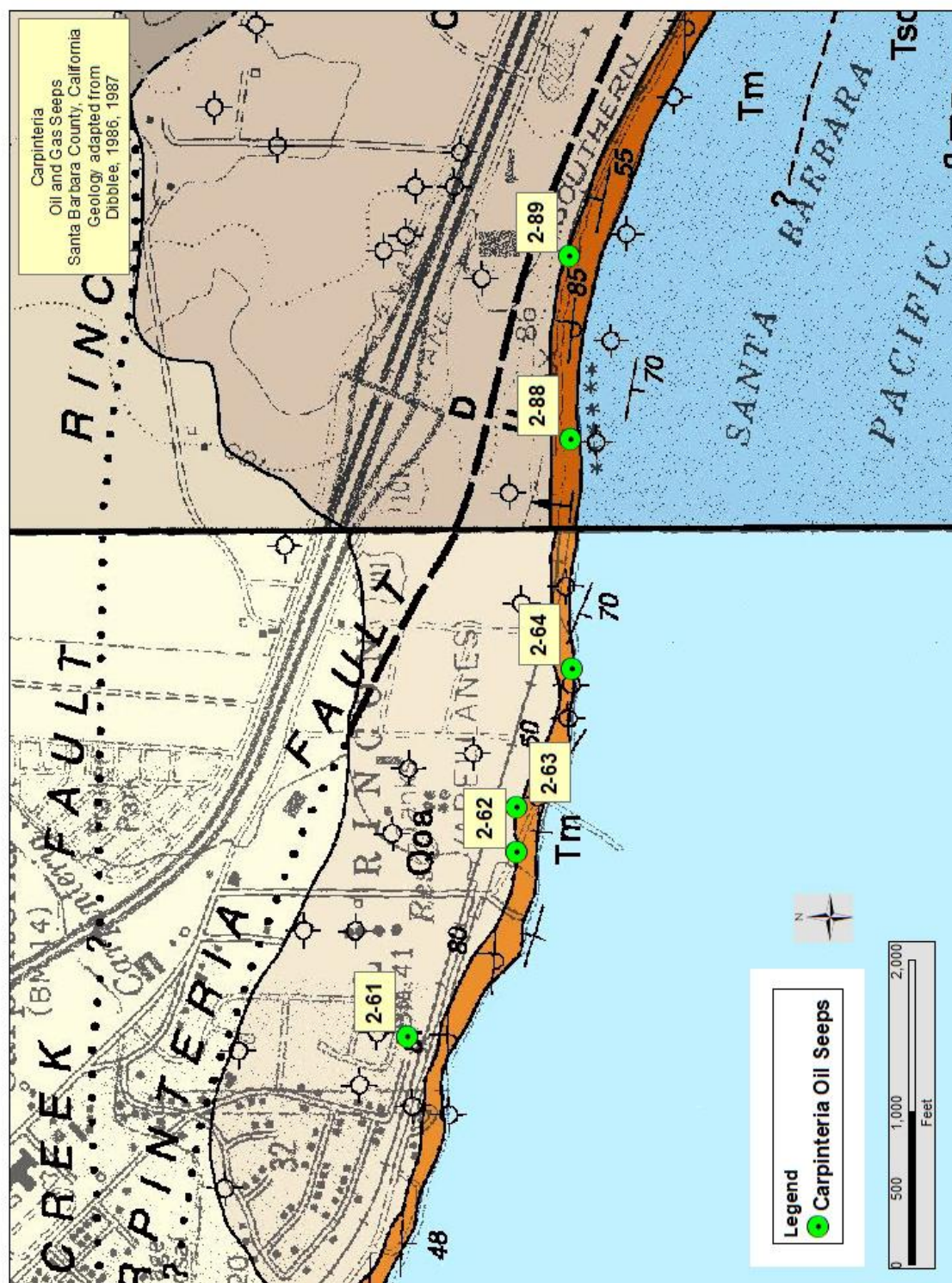


Figure 75. Geologic map of the Carpinteria Oil Seeps. Adapted from Dibblee, 1987 and Dibblee, 1986. Seep locations from Hodgeson, 1980.



Figure 76. Aerial photograph of the Carpinteria Oil Seeps. Photo adapted from ESIR, 2018. Seep locations from Hodgeson, 1980.

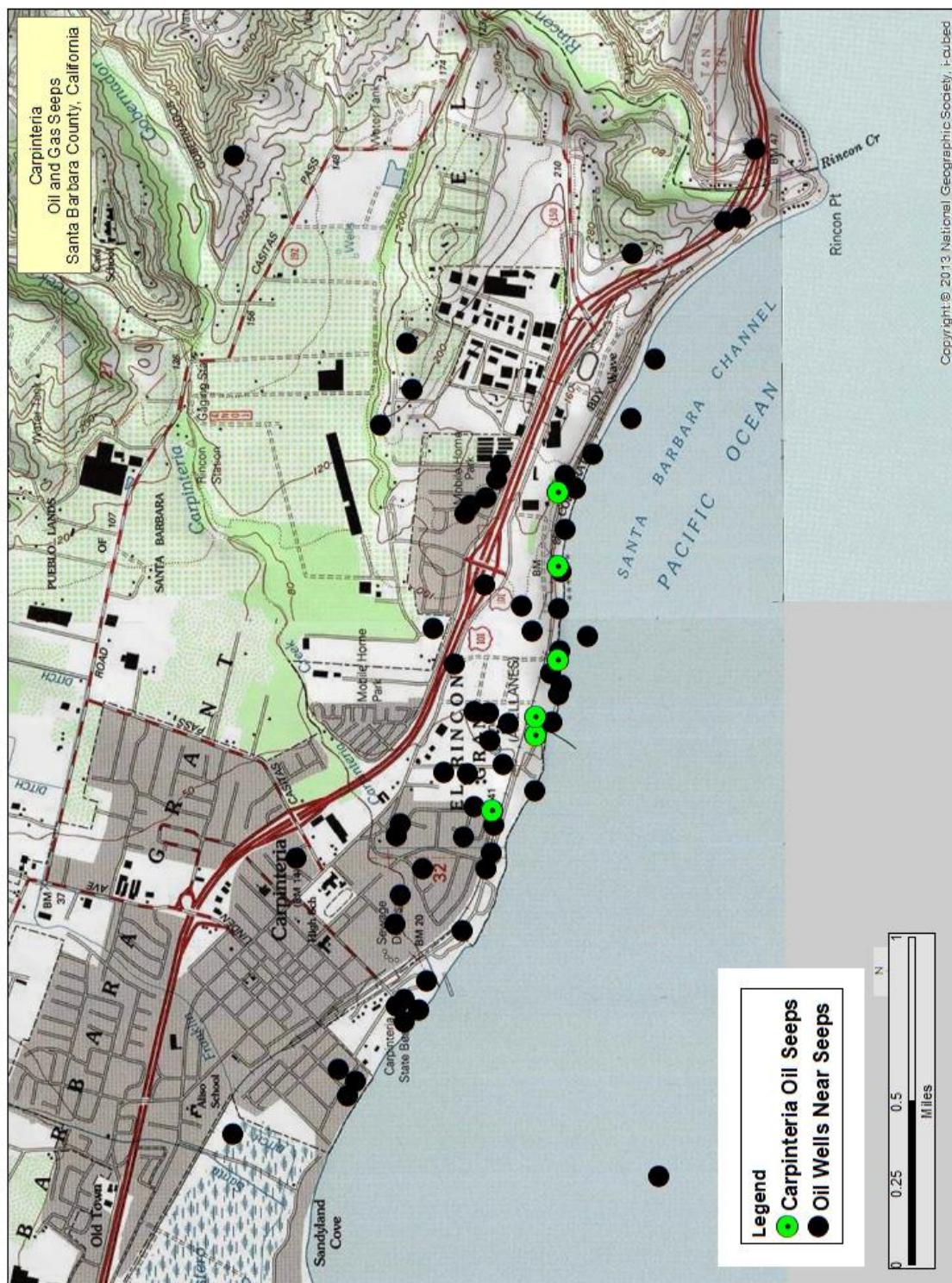
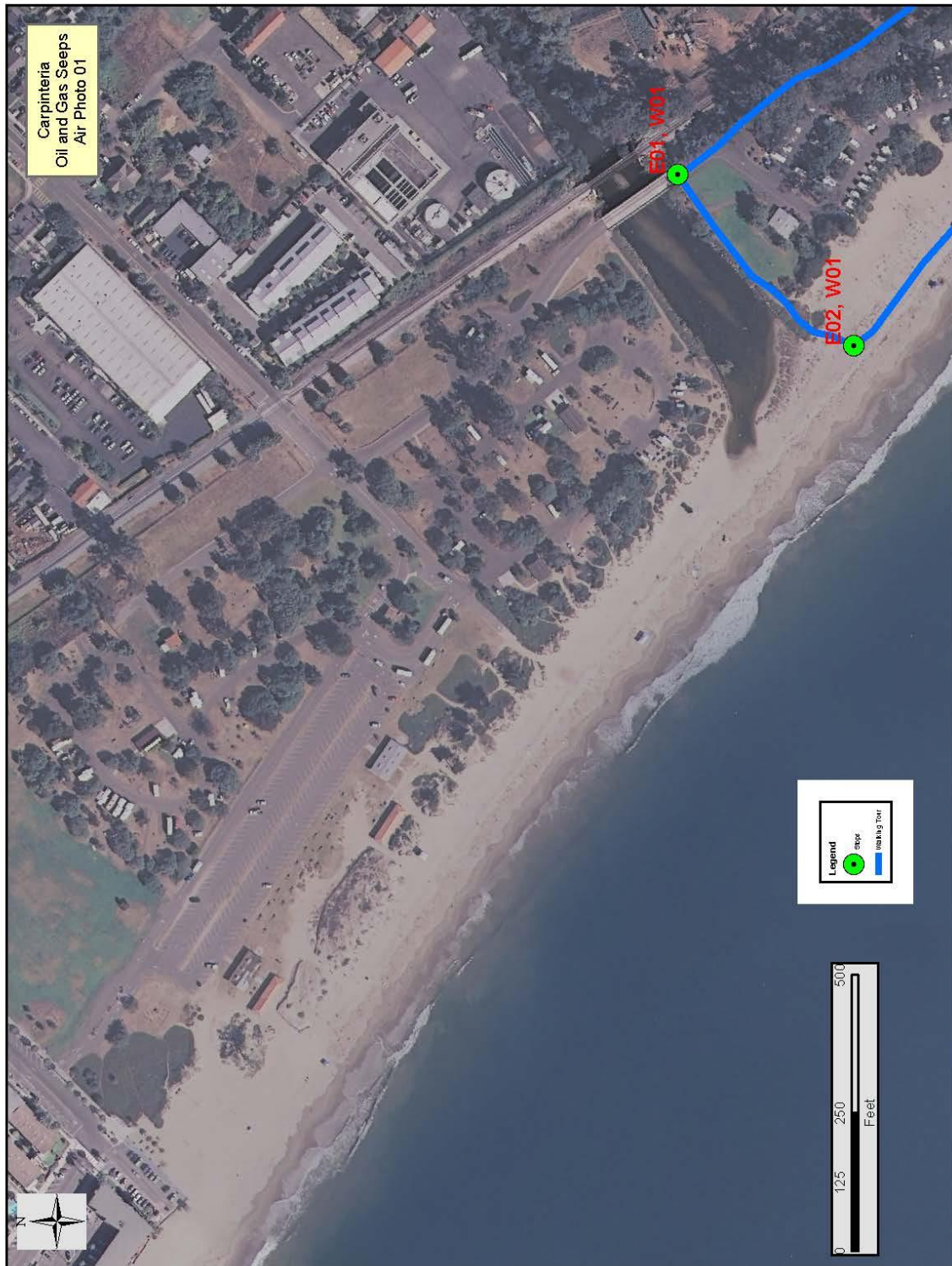


Figure 77. Abandoned oil wells near the Carpinteria Oil Seeps. Seep locations from Hodgeson, 1980. Well data from CDOOGR. For list of wells see Table 2.

AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHS FOR THE WALKING TOUR

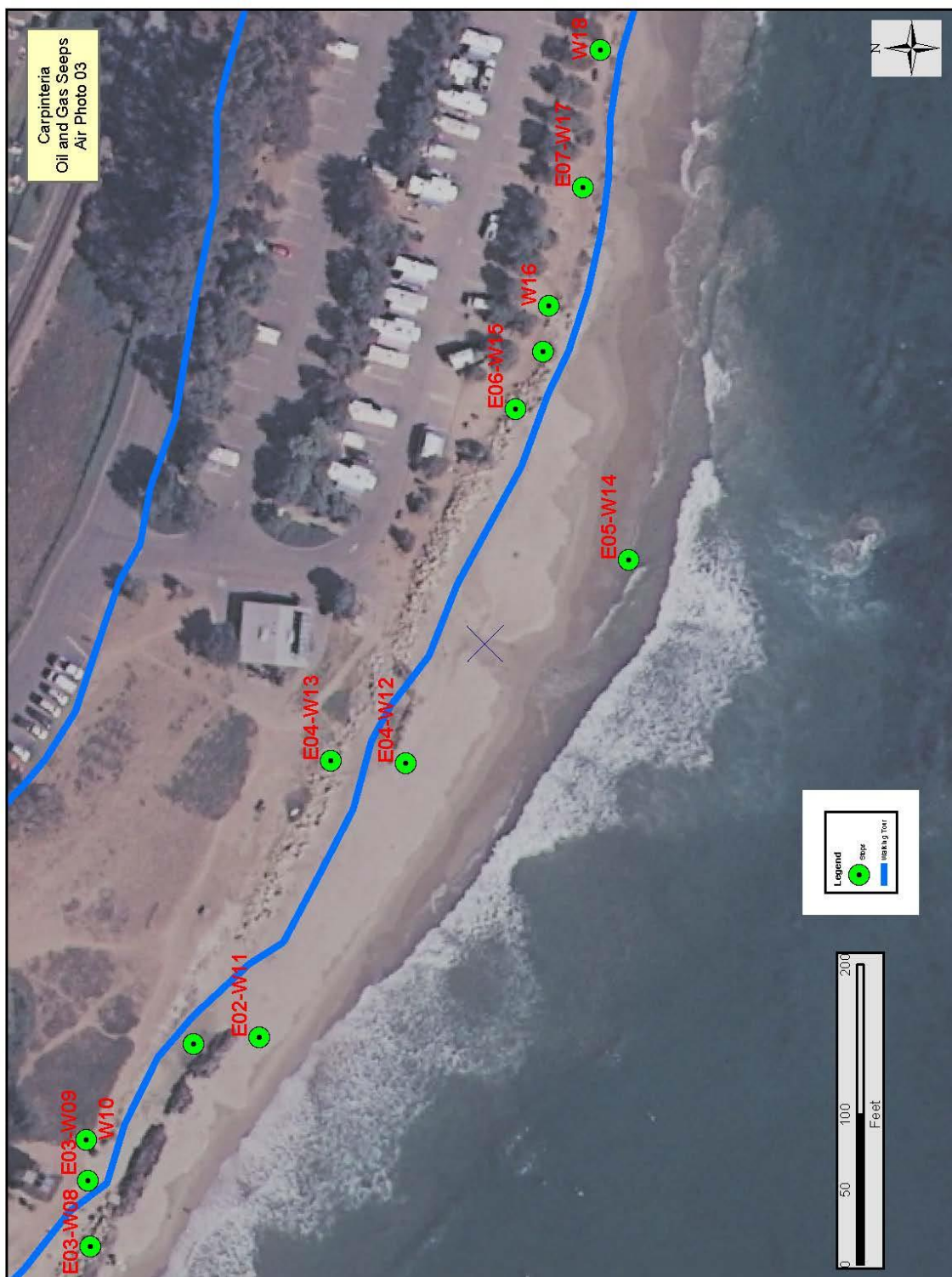
Aerial Photographs 01 to 07



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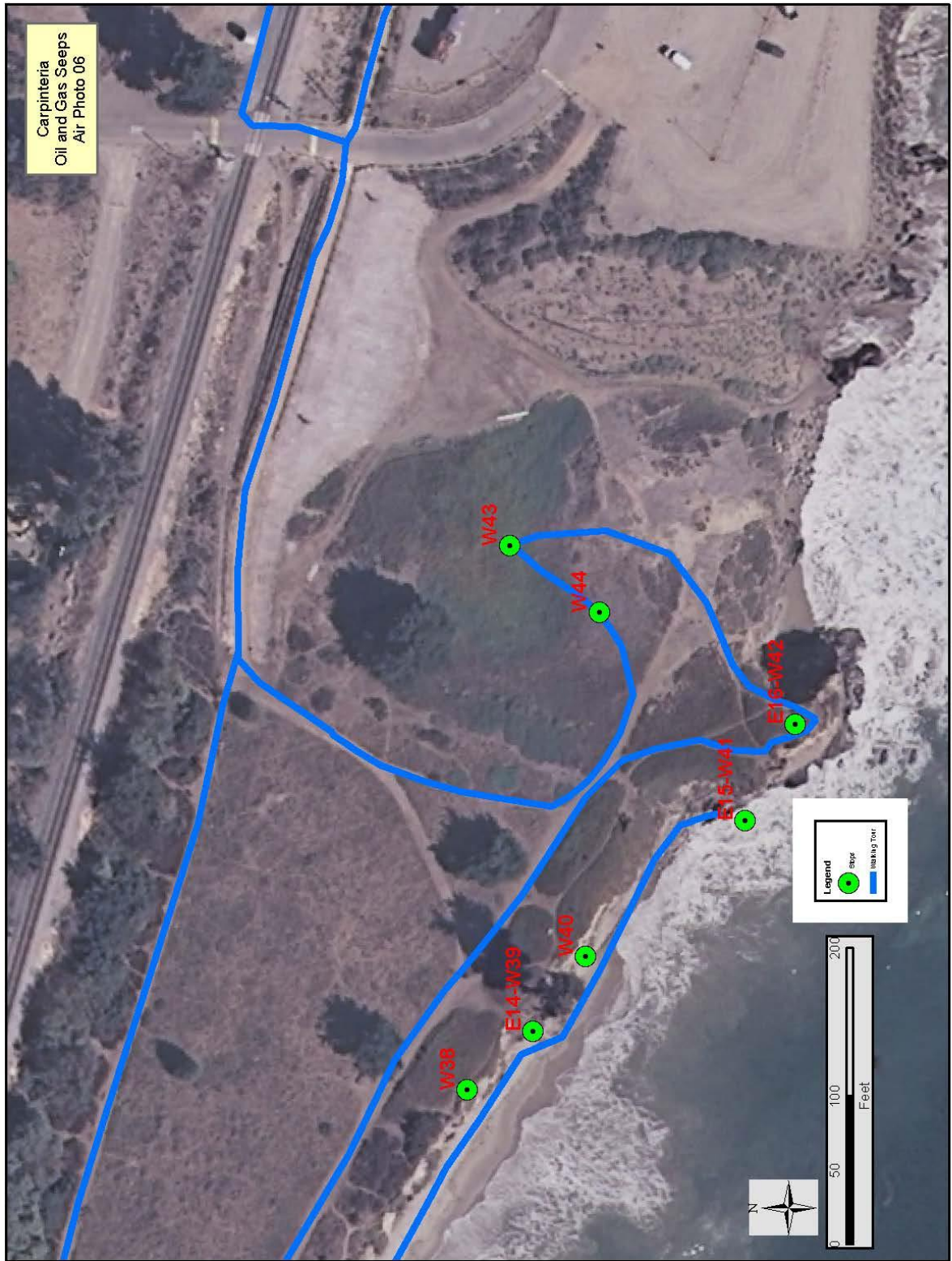
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TABLOID SIZE MAPS

11" X 17"

Topographic Map

Geologic Map

Aerial Photograph

Index map for aerial photographs

Carpinteria Oil Seeps
Santa Barbara County, California



Legend

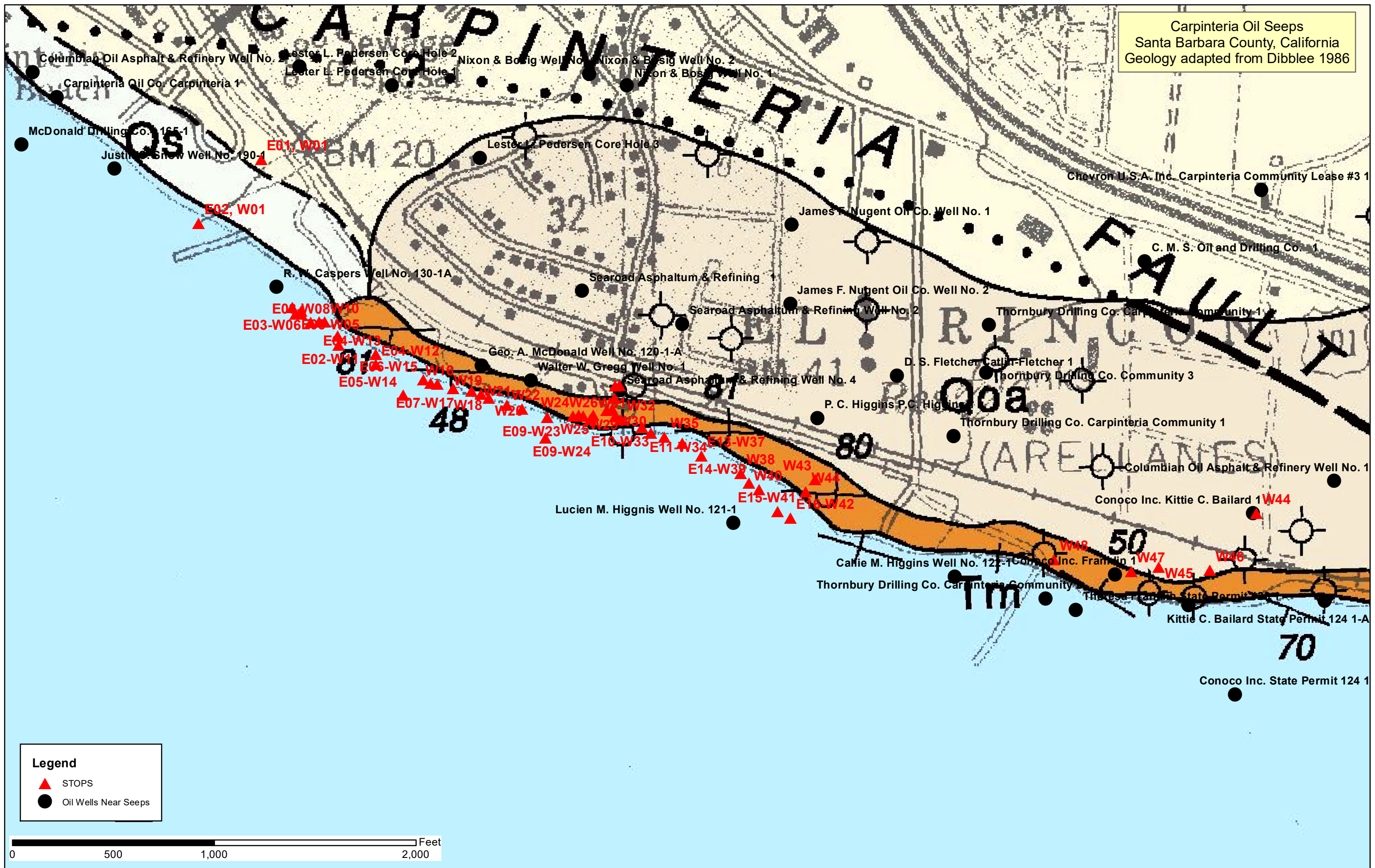


STOPS



Oil Wells Near Seeps

0 500 1,000 2,000 Feet



Carpinteria Oil Seeps
Santa Barbara County, California



Carpinteria Oil Seeps
Santa Barbara County, California
Aerial Photo Index Map



Photo 1

Photo 2

Photo 3

Photo 4

Photo 5

Photo 6

Photo 7

Columbian Oil Asphalt & Refinery Well No. 2
Henry Berrie Fish Fish 164 1
Carpinteria Oil Co. Carpinteria 1
McDonald Drilling Co. 165-1
Justin S. Snow Well No. 190-1
E01, W01
E02, W01
R. W. Caspers Well No. 130-1A
E03, W08, W10
E03, W06, W05
E04, W12
E04, W13
E02, W11
E05, W14, W20, W21
W22
E09, W23, W26, W31, W32, W35
E09, W24
W36
W40, W44
E16, W42
W45, W41
Lucien M. Higgins Well No. 121-1
James F. Nugent Oil Co. Well No. 1
James F. Nugent Oil Co. Well No. 2
Searoad Asphaltum & Refining 1
Searoad Asphaltum & Refining Well No. 2
Thornbury Drilling Co. Carpinteria Community 1
Thornbury Drilling Co. Carpinteria Community 2
Thornbury Drilling Co. Community 3
D. S. Fletcher Catlin-Fletcher 1
P. C. Higgins P.C. Higgins 1
Callie M. Higgins Well No. 122-1
Thornbury Drilling Co. Carpinteria Community 2
Theresa Franklin State Permit 123 1
Kittie C. Bailard State Permit 124 1-A
Conoco Inc. State Permit 124 1
Columbia Oil Asphalt & Refinery Well No. 1
Conoco Inc. Kittie C. Bailard 1
W44
W46
W47, W48
W46
Chevron U.S.A. Inc. Carpinteria Community Lease #3 1
C. M. S. Oil and Drilling Co. 1
Northern Consolidated Oil Co. Well No. 1

ARCH E SIZE MAP

36" X 42"

This map is posted on line at

[https://www.academia.edu/37644723/Map of the Carpinteria Oil Seeps Santa Barbara County California](https://www.academia.edu/37644723/Map_of_the_Carpinteria_Oil_Seeps_Santa_Barbara_County_California)



TABLES

Table 1: CDOGGR Oil Seeps (see page 4, this report).

Table 2: Oil wells near the Carpinteria Oil Seeps

Table 3: Points of Interest: Carpinteria Oil Seeps Walking Tour

TABLE 1: CDOGGR OIL SEEPS
(Hodges, 1980)

CARPINTERIA
STATE BEACH

CA Seep Number	LONGITUDE WEST	LATITUDE NORTH	Township	Range	Section	Base Meridian
2-61	-119.5120	34.3880	4N	25W	33	SB
2-62	-119.5080	34.3860	4N	25W	33	SB
2-63	-119.5070	34.3860	4N	25W	33	SB
2-64	-119.5040	34.3850	4N	25W	33	SB
2-88	-119.4990	34.3850	4N	25W	33	SB
2-89	-119.4950	34.3850	4N	25W	34	SB

API Number	Operator	Section	Township	Range	B&M	Latitude	Longitude	Lease	Well Number	Definition
08304845	Artic Oil Co.	34	04N	25W	SB	34.38459506600	-119.49408179200		1	Plugged Dry Hole
28304285	Benjamin F. Bailard	33	04N	25W	SB	34.38462304000	-119.49697891500	State Permit 127	1	Plugged Oil & Gas
28304286	Benjamin F. Bailard	34	04N	25W	SB	34.38337810400	-119.49301072400	State Permit 129	1	Plugged Oil & Gas
08304647	C. M. S. Oil and Drilling Co.	33	04N	25W	SB	34.38957293800	-119.50418737200		1	Plugged Oil & Gas
28304302	Callie M. Higgins	33	04N	25W	SB	34.38528507900	-119.50733148100	Well No.	122-1	Plugged Dry Hole
08304324	Carpinteria Oil & Gas Co.	34	04N	25W	SB	34.38161224300	-119.48228023900	Well No.	1	Plugged Dry Hole
08304177	Carpinteria Oil Co.	32	04N	25W	SB	34.39188513700	-119.52205149800	Carpinteria	1	Plugged Dry Hole
28304291	Casitas Oil Co.	34	04N	25W	SB	34.38063921600	-119.48792945900	Well No.	202-1	Plugged Oil & Gas
28304292	Casitas Oil Co.	34	04N	25W	SB	34.38170316100	-119.49110261300	Well No.	202-2	Plugged Oil & Gas
08304293	Century Oil Co.	34	04N	25W	SB	34.38767199100	-119.49432485900	Core Hole Hall	1	Plugged Dry Hole
08304309	Chevron U.S.A. Inc.	33	04N	25W	SB	34.39052989000	-119.50226627400	Carpinteria Community Lease #3	1	Plugged Dry Hole
08304310	Chevron U.S.A. Inc.	27	04N	25W	SB	34.39276489400	-119.49136082700	Core Hole	1	Plugged Dry Hole
08304311	Chevron U.S.A. Inc.	34	04N	25W	SB	34.38747000300	-119.49353082200	Core Hole	2	Plugged Dry Hole
08300769	Chevron U.S.A. Inc.	34	04N	25W	SB	34.39161795600	-119.48698061900	Core Hole	3	Plugged Dry Hole
28304441	Chevron U.S.A. Inc.	33	04N	25W	SB	34.38482901600	-119.49923301400	Well No.	126-1	Plugged Dry Hole
28301047	Chevron U.S.A. Inc.	32	04N	25W	SB	34.38063351300	-119.53157184900	Texaco-Monterey Core Hole	8-D-55	Plugged Dry Hole
08304573	Columbian Oil Asphalt & Refinery	33	04N	25W	SB	34.38656396400	-119.50109412800	Well No.	1	Plugged Dry Hole
08304574	Columbian Oil Asphalt & Refinery	32	04N	25W	SB	34.39222013500	-119.52243952800	Well No.	2	Plugged Dry Hole
08304290	Conoco Inc.	33	04N	25W	SB	34.38613255400	-119.50243170000	Kittie C. Bailard	1	Plugged Dry Hole
08304294	Conoco Inc.	32	04N	25W	SB	34.38530504200	-119.50469732200	Franklin	1	Plugged Dry Hole
28304289	Conoco Inc.	33	04N	25W	SB	34.38367005200	-119.50274217300	State Permit 124	1	Plugged Dry Hole
08304297	D. S. Fletcher	33	04N	25W	SB	34.38802903000	-119.50826258900	Catlin-Fletcher	1	Plugged Dry Hole
08304847	Dr. R. W. Hill	3	03N	25W	SB	34.37746636200	-119.48063209500		1	Plugged Dry Hole
28304306	Geo. A. McDonald	32	04N	25W	SB	34.38819612100	-119.51509000500	Well No.	120-1-A	Plugged Dry Hole
08304299	Guiberson-Cudahy	29	04N	25W	SB	34.39661792600	-119.51453513500	Shepard	1	Plugged Dry Hole
28304295	Henry Berrie Fish	32	04N	25W	SB	34.39190015400	-119.52327557300	Fish 164	1	Plugged Dry Hole
08304303	Imperial Gypsum & Oil Corp.	34	04N	25W	SB	34.38811197300	-119.49532091000	Bailard	1	Plugged Dry Hole
08304327	James F. Nugent Oil Co.	33	04N	25W	SB	34.39009000800	-119.50998173300	Well No.	1	Plugged Dry Hole
08304328	James F. Nugent Oil Co.	33	04N	25W	SB	34.38901803200	-119.51001171400	Well No.	2	Plugged Dry Hole
28304331	Justin S. Snow	32	04N	25W	SB	34.39090314500	-119.52110142200	Well No.	190-1	Plugged Dry Hole
28304287	Kittie C. Bailard	33	04N	25W	SB	34.38488403500	-119.50349624200	State Permit 124	1-A	Plugged Oil & Gas
28304288	Kyrtle Bailard	33	04N	25W	SB	34.38493600300	-119.50126010800	State Permit 125	1-A	Plugged Oil & Gas
08304537	Lester L. Pedersen	32	04N	25W	SB	34.39202105700	-119.51653816700	Core Hole	1	Plugged Dry Hole
08304538	Lester L. Pedersen	32	04N	25W	SB	34.39227507200	-119.51806026400	Core Hole	2	Plugged Dry Hole
08304539	Lester L. Pedersen	32	04N	25W	SB	34.39101805900	-119.51509806000	Core Hole	3	Plugged Dry Hole
08304305	Linc-Con Oil Operating Co.	34	04N	25W	SB	34.38908794300	-119.49612396200	Linc-Con	1	Plugged Dry Hole
28304301	Lucien M. Hignis	33	04N	25W	SB	34.38603311200	-119.51096671400	Well No.	121-1	Plugged Dry Hole
28304326	Mary B. Hall	34	04N	25W	SB	34.38415807000	-119.49479881400		1	Plugged Dry Hole
28304814	McDonald Drilling Co.	32	04N	25W	SB	34.39123616000	-119.52263452100		165-1	Plugged Dry Hole

API Number	Operator	Section	Township	Range	B&M	Latitude	Longitude	Lease	Well Number	Definition
08304645	Nixon & Bosig	33	04N	25W	SB	34.39200700300	-119.51267493300	Well No.	1	Active Oil & Gas
08304653	Nixon & Bosig	33	04N	25W	SB	34.39215800800	-119.51329697300	Well No.	1	Plugged Dry Hole
08304654	Nixon & Bosig	33	04N	25W	SB	34.39215900800	-119.51329597300	Well No.	2	Plugged Dry Hole
08304655	Northern Consolidated Oil Co.	33	04N	25W	SB	34.38820793200	-119.49994810800	Well No.	1	Plugged Oil & Gas
08304644	P. C. Higgins	33	04N	25W	SB	34.38745707000	-119.50957153000	P.C. Higgins	1	Plugged Oil & Gas
21106002	Phillips Oil Company	2	03N	25W	SB	34.37612093500	-119.47676384500	Signal State C.H.	1	Plugged Dry Hole
28304325	R. W. Caspers	32	04N	25W	SB	34.38928214400	-119.51845523000	Well No.	130-1A	Plugged Oil & Gas
08304308	Santa Barbara Oil and Gas Co.	29	04N	25W	SB	34.39947907400	-119.52926408700	S.B.	1	Plugged Dry Hole
08304650	Searoad Asphaltum & Refining	33	04N	25W	SB	34.38920907500	-119.51342892400		1	Plugged Dry Hole
08304329	Searoad Asphaltum & Refining	33	04N	25W	SB	34.38874606300	-119.51178381600	Well No.	2	Plugged Dry Hole
08304330	Searoad Asphaltum & Refining	33	04N	25W	SB	34.38785609700	-119.51281486100	Well No.	4	Plugged Dry Hole
08304304	Tesoro Petroleum Corporation	26	04N	25W	SB	34.39920884000	-119.47694832500	Gobernador	1	Plugged Dry Hole
28304479	Theresa Franklin	33	04N	25W	SB	34.38483106200	-119.50534435200	State Permit 123	1	Plugged Dry Hole
28304296	Thomas N. Fish	29	04N	25W	SB	34.39440415500	-119.52721086100	State Permit 163	1	Plugged Dry Hole
08304312	Thornbury Drilling Co.	34	04N	25W	SB	34.39140794200	-119.48946972100	Canfield	1	Plugged Dry Hole
08304313	Thornbury Drilling Co.	33	04N	25W	SB	34.38720103600	-119.50734251800	Carpinteria Community	1	Plugged Oil & Gas
28304313	Thornbury Drilling Co.	33	04N	25W	SB	34.38870999400	-119.50675151100	Carpinteria Community	1	Plugged Dry Hole
28304314	Thornbury Drilling Co.	33	04N	25W	SB	34.38498206500	-119.50584338500	Carpinteria Community	2	Plugged Dry Hole
08304315	Thornbury Drilling Co.	33	04N	25W	SB	34.38806300900	-119.50680250200	Community	3	Plugged Dry Hole
08304643	Unknown Operator	3	03N	25W	SB	34.37679538100	-119.48043507500	Unknown		Plugged Oil & Gas
08304300	W. C. Hamilton	34	04N	25W	SB	34.38884795200	-119.49571794000	Tyler-Hamilton	1	Plugged Dry Hole
8304298	Walter W. Gregg	33	04N	25W	SB	34.38799011400	-119.51428295200	Well No.	1	Plugged Dry Hole
08303804	Western Oil Royalties, Ltd.	29	04N	25W	SB	34.39482412600	-119.52578978300	Bryce	1	Plugged Dry Hole
08304316	Western Oil Royalties, Ltd.	32	04N	25W	SB	34.39403115200	-119.52641780600	Well No.	1	Plugged Dry Hole

STOP	Description	Longitude	Latitude
E03-W04	Western oven	-119.51819501800	34.38899720190
E03-W07	Cement foundation	-119.51805046200	34.38890703530
E03-W06	Central oven with 5 brick foundations	-119.51805246200	34.38895170190
E03-W09	Eastern oven	-119.51775151800	34.38879670190
W10	Fossil hash oil sand	-119.51766218400	34.38879997970
E02-W11	East end of TA-01	-119.51743668800	34.38848142800
	Tar area 02	-119.51745101800	34.38860164640
E04-W13	Tar graffiti	-119.51682507300	34.38834736860
E05-W14	Intertidal blocks of tar	-119.51638485100	34.38779947970
E06-W15	West end of TA-04	-119.51605040700	34.38800581300
	tar cliff	-119.51592368500	34.38795420190
W16	Railroad track	-119.51582101800	34.38794253520
E07-W17	Conglomerate in tar	-119.51556085100	34.38787897970
W18	active seep with shells and cross beds in oil sand	-119.51525718500	34.38784686850
W20	Sand below tar in Casitas or Santa Barbara Fm.	-119.51497079600	34.38775064630
W19	Painted cement made to look like tar sand	-119.51510450400	34.38780346100
W21	Monterey fm under tar	-119.51468129600	34.38765492410
W22	Monterey fm under tar	-119.51443157400	34.38759692410
E09-W24	Monterey in intertidal zone	-119.51404429200	34.38720590570
E09-W23	Wood staircase with cement foundation	-119.51401362900	34.38748431300
W24	Salt grass in oil sand	-119.51359029600	34.38750081290
W25	Crossbeds in oil sand	-119.51350279600	34.38750886850
W26	Oil seep "falls"	-119.51342724100	34.38749931290
E10-W27	Active lobate seep area	-119.51330218500	34.38745986850
W29	Salt grass	-119.51303590700	34.38756992400
W30	Fresh water spring with vegetation	-119.51294213000	34.38759631290
	TRACE of fault	-119.51290840700	34.38774036840
E10-W28	Oil well pipe seep	-119.51326218500	34.38751514620
	salt bush	-119.51282307400	34.38791403510
	yellow buck brush	-119.51290079600	34.38790842400
E01, W01	East end Carpinteria Creek Bridge	-119.51869538400	34.39101488850
E02, W01	Beach east of Carpinteria Creek	-119.51972392500	34.39014686330
E03-W05	Conglomerate in Tar	-119.51814445400	34.38890448950
E03-W08	Wood planks in Tar	-119.51789752700	34.38879283710
E04-W12	East trending finger of tar	-119.51683239300	34.38821041150
W31	Carvings in oil snd	-119.51290018500	34.38748875730
W32	Sulfate on bedding planes	-119.51279863000	34.38745109070
		-119.51245535200	34.38733664620
E10-W33	Fossil oil seep	-119.51245535200	34.38733664620
E11-W34	Conglomerate with tar	-119.51231402100	34.38726239850
W35	Sulfate at contact	-119.51209213000	34.38720864620

STOP	Description	Longitude	Latitude
E12 -W36	Sickly Tree, springs	-119.51180140800	34.38712120170
E13-W37	Tree in arroyo	-119.51148468500	34.38694442400
W38	Oil sand reappear	-119.51083987000	34.38670418330
E14-W39	Organic shale	-119.51070901900	34.38658097950
W40	Dolostone concretion	-119.51054268600	34.38648242400
E15-W41	End of beach	-119.51024090800	34.38618525730
E16-W42	High Point of Bluffs	-119.51002618600	34.38609147960
W43	Alcatraz Mine (Site)	-119.50962263000	34.38662042390
W44	Alcatraz Mine Seep	-119.50977200400	34.38645455320
W44	Kitty Balard No. 1 re-abandonment project	-119.50237429800	34.38612920130
W45	Paved Road	-119.50397718700	34.38540375710
W46	No oil sands	-119.50314251700	34.38535277520
W47	Oil sands in fractured shale	-119.50443396500	34.38534331270
W48	Seal Sancturay	-119.50569713100	34.38551264600