

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, SACRAMENTO DISTRICT 1325 J STREET SACRAMENTO CA 95814-2922

CESPK-RDI-U

3 April 2025

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: US Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) Approved Jurisdictional Determination in accordance with the "Revised Definition of 'Waters of the United States'"; (88 FR 3004 (January 18, 2023) as amended by the "Revised Definition of 'Waters of the United States'; Conforming" (8 September 2023),¹ [SPK-2023-00249]

BACKGROUND. An Approved Jurisdictional Determination (AJD) is a Corps document stating the presence or absence of waters of the United States on a parcel or a written statement and map identifying the limits of waters of the United States on a parcel. AJDs are clearly designated appealable actions and will include a basis of JD with the document.² AJDs are case-specific and are typically made in response to a request. AJDs are valid for a period of five years unless new information warrants revision of the determination before the expiration date or a District Engineer has identified, after public notice and comment, that specific geographic areas with rapidly changing environmental conditions merit re-verification on a more frequent basis.³

On January 18, 2023, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Department of the Army ("the agencies") published the "Revised Definition of 'Waters of the United States," 88 FR 3004 (January 18, 2023) ("2023 Rule"). On September 8, 2023, the agencies published the "Revised Definition of 'Waters of the United States'; Conforming", which amended the 2023 Rule to conform to the 2023 Supreme Court decision in *Sackett v. EPA*, 598 U.S., 143 S. Ct. 1322 (2023) ("*Sackett*").

This Memorandum for Record (MFR) constitutes the basis of jurisdiction for a Corps AJD as defined in 33 CFR §331.2. For the purposes of this AJD, we have relied on Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (RHA),⁴ the 2023 Rule as amended, as well as other applicable guidance, relevant case law, and longstanding practice in evaluating jurisdiction.

1. SUMMARY OF CONCLUSIONS.

¹ While the Revised Definition of "Waters of the United States"; Conforming had no effect on some categories of waters covered under the CWA, and no effect on any waters covered under RHA, all categories are included in this Memorandum for Record for efficiency.

² 33 CFR 331.2.

³ Regulatory Guidance Letter 05-02.

⁴ USACE has authority under both Section 9 and Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 but for convenience, in this MFR, jurisdiction under RHA will be referred to as Section 10.

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a. Provide a list of each individual feature within the review area and the jurisdictional status of each one (i.e., identify whether each feature is/is not a water of the United States and/or a navigable water of the United States).

(1) Wetland A-1 is a 2-acre palustrine emergent wetland that is not a water of the U.S. and not jurisdictional under CWA Section 404.

(2) Wetland A-2 is a 0.02-acre palustrine emergent wetland that is not a water of the U.S. and not jurisdictional under CWA Section 404.

(3) Wetland B is a 0.12-acre riverine emergent wetland that is not a water of the U.S. and not jurisdictional under CWA Section 404.

(4) Pond 1 is a 0.02-acre intermittent open water feature that is not a water of the U.S. and not jurisdictional under CWA Section 404.

(5) PL-1 is a 5.03-acre intermittent playa feature that is not a water of the U.S. and not jurisdictional under CWA Section 404.

(6) PL-2 is a 2.42-acre intermittent playa feature that is not a water of the U.S. and not jurisdictional under CWA Section 404.

(7) PL-3 is a 0.12-acre intermittent playa feature that is not a water of the U.S. and not jurisdictional under CWA Section 404.

(8) PL-4 is a 2.09-acre intermittent playa feature that is not a water of the U.S. and not jurisdictional under CWA Section 404.

(9) PL-5 is a 0.22-acre intermittent playa feature that is not a water of the U.S. and not jurisdictional under CWA Section 404.

(10) PDD-1 is a 433-linear-foot perennial channel that is not a water of the U.S. and not jurisdictional under CWA Section 404.

(11) PHS-1 is a 55-linear-foot perennial channel that is not a water of the U.S. and not jurisdictional under CWA Section 404.

(12) E-1 is a 4,493-linear-foot non-relatively permanent (ephemeral) channel that is not a water of the U.S. and not jurisdictional under CWA Section 404.

(13) E-2 is a 4,805-linear-foot non-relatively permanent (ephemeral) channel that is not a water of the U.S. and not jurisdictional under CWA Section 404.

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(14) E-3 is a 3,922-linear-foot non-relatively permanent (ephemeral) channel that is not a water of the U.S. and not jurisdictional under CWA Section 404.

(15) E-4 is a 533-linear-foot non-relatively permanent (ephemeral) channel that is not a water of the U.S. and not jurisdictional under CWA Section 404.

(16) E-5 is a 2,847-linear-foot non-relatively permanent (ephemeral) channel that is not a water of the U.S. and not jurisdictional under CWA Section 404.

(17) E-6 is a 1,543-linear-foot non-relatively permanent (ephemeral) channel that is not a water of the U.S. and not jurisdictional under CWA Section 404.

(18) E-7 is a 2,874-linear-foot non-relatively permanent (ephemeral) channel that is not a water of the U.S. and not jurisdictional under CWA Section 404.

(19) E-8 is a 862-linear-foot non-relatively permanent (ephemeral) channel that is not a water of the U.S. and not jurisdictional under CWA Section 404.

(20) E-9 is a 1,829-linear-foot non-relatively permanent (ephemeral) channel that is not a water of the U.S. and not jurisdictional under CWA Section 404.

(21) E-10 is a 1,325-linear-foot non-relatively permanent (ephemeral) channel that is not a water of the U.S. and not jurisdictional under CWA Section 404.

(22) E-11 is a 653-linear-foot non-relatively permanent (ephemeral) channel that is not a water of the U.S. and not jurisdictional under CWA Section 404.

(23) E-12 is a 188-linear-foot non-relatively permanent (ephemeral) channel that is not a water of the U.S. and not jurisdictional under CWA Section 404.

(24) E-13 is a 852-linear-foot non-relatively permanent (ephemeral) channel that is not a water of the U.S. and not jurisdictional under CWA Section 404.

(25) I-1 is a 1,629-linear-foot seasonal (intermittent) channel that is not a water of the U.S. and not jurisdictional under CWA Section 404.

(26) I-2 is a 503-linear-foot seasonal (intermittent) channel that is not a water of the U.S. and not jurisdictional under CWA Section 404.

(27) I-3 is a 1,593-linear-foot seasonal (intermittent) channel that is not a water of the U.S. and not jurisdictional under CWA Section 404.

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(28) I-4 is a 209-linear-foot seasonal (intermittent) channel that is not a water of the U.S. and not jurisdictional under CWA Section 404.

(29) I-5 is a 110-linear-foot seasonal (intermittent) channel that is not a water of the U.S. and not jurisdictional under CWA Section 404.

2. REFERENCES.

a. "Revised Definition of 'Waters of the United States," 88 FR 3004 (January 18, 2023) ("2023 Rule")

b. "Revised Definition of 'Waters of the United States'; Conforming" 88 FR 61964 (September 8, 2023)

c. Sackett v. EPA, 598 U.S., 143 S. Ct. 1322 (2023)

3. REVIEW AREA. The 2,035.85-acre review area is located within Crescent Valley, approximately 32 miles southeast of Battle Mountain, Latitude 40.3207, Longitude - 116.4605, Eureka and Lander Counties, Nevada (AJD MFR Enclosure 1). The review area is contained entirely within the Cottonwood Creek-Crescent Valley Watershed, a closed drainage basin with no outlet. No previous JDs were found within the review area. However, multiple AJDs have been completed for sites within this watershed and all identified aquatic features have been determined to be non-jurisdictional waters due to the lack of connectivity to a TNW. The delineation maps are attached as AJD MFR Enclosure 2.

4. NEAREST TRADITIONAL NAVIGABLE WATER (TNW), THE TERRITORIAL SEAS, OR INTERSTATE WATER TO WHICH THE AQUATIC RESOURCE IS CONNECTED. N/A. Aquatic resources within the review area do not flow north into the Humboldt River which has downstream connectivity to the Humboldt Lake, a Navigable in Fact Traditionally Navigable Waterway (SPK-2023-00332).

5. FLOWPATH FROM THE SUBJECT AQUATIC RESOURCES TO A TNW, THE TERRITORIAL SEAS, OR INTERSTATE WATER. N/A. Aquatic resources within the review area do not flow to a TNW. All delineated features would have to travel at least 20 miles across desert valley floor and dry lakebed to reach the nearest jurisdictional water (Humboldt River), which flows into Humboldt Lake, the nearest TNW (AJD MFR Enclosure 3).

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- SECTION 10 JURISDICTIONAL WATERS⁵: N/A.
- 7. SECTION 404 JURISDICTIONAL WATERS:
 - a. Traditional Navigable Waters (TNWs) (a)(1)(i): N/A.
 - b. The Territorial Seas (a)(1)(ii): N/A.
 - c. Interstate Waters (a)(1)(iii): N/A.
 - d. Impoundments (a)(2): N/A.
 - e. Tributaries (a)(3): N/A.
 - f. Adjacent Wetlands (a)(4): N/A.
 - g. Additional Waters (a)(5): N/A.

8. NON-JURISDICTIONAL AQUATIC RESOURCES AND FEATURES

 Describe aguatic resources and other features within the review area identified in the 2023 Rule as amended as not "waters of the United States" even where they otherwise meet the terms of paragraphs (a)(2) through (5). Include the type of excluded aquatic resource or feature, the size of the aquatic resource or feature within the review area and describe how it was determined to meet one of the exclusions listed in 33 CFR 328.3(b).⁶ N/A.

b. Describe aquatic resources and features within the review area that were determined to be non-jurisdictional because they do not meet one or more categories of waters of the United States under the 2023 Rule as amended (e.g., tributaries that are non-relatively permanent waters; non-tidal wetlands that do not have a continuous surface connection to a jurisdictional water). Wetlands A-1, A-2, B, and C, totaling 2.18 acres, occur in drainage swales that dissipate within or not far outside the review area boundary. Wetland A-1 (2 acres on the south side of Danna Road) and Wetland A-2 (0.02 acre on the north side of Danna Road) are connected via culvert under Danna Road. Wetland A extends off site to the northwest and contributes seasonal flow to the larger Crescent Valley Playa feature or dissipates before reaching it. Wetland B (0.12

⁵ 33 CFR 329.9(a) A waterbody which was navigable in its natural or improved state, or which was susceptible of reasonable improvement (as discussed in § 329.8(b) of this part) retains its character as "navigable in law" even though it is not presently used for commerce or is presently incapable of such use because of changed conditions or the presence of obstructions.

⁶ 88 FR 3004 (January 18, 2023)

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acre) is located in the drainage channel of Crescent Fault Hot Spring, which is just outside the review area. Moving down gradient, Wetland B becomes a channel with intermittent flow (I-1), then ephemeral flow (E-9), and finally spreads out and dissipates off site. Wetland C (0.03 acre) is located in the drainage channel of an unnamed hot spring. Moving down gradient, Wetland C becomes a channel with intermittent flow (I-2), then ephemeral flow (E-13), and finally spreads out and dissipates within the review area. All four wetland features have no continuous surface connection to a jurisdictional water.

Pond 1 sits in a small depression parallel to the north side of Danna Road and is intermittently inundated. There are no apparent signs of frequent inflow or outflow, and the hydrology sources are primarily precipitation and seasonal high water table. Any potential drainage from the pond would flow northwest toward Crescent Valley Playa. Only a small portion of the pond (0.02 acre) is within the review area boundary.

The two segments of perennial channel in the review area, consisting of PDD-1 (433 linear feet) and PHS-1 (55 linear feet), flow generally northwest and transition to intermittent and ephemeral channels before dissipating entirely in uplands. These channels have no potential connection to downstream jurisdictional waters.

Intermittent/seasonal channel segments within the review area consist of I-1 through I-5 and total 4,044 linear feet. These channels flow generally northwest and transition to ephemeral channels before dissipating entirely in uplands. These channels have no potential connection to downstream jurisdictional waters.

Non-relatively permanent (ephemeral) channel segments within the review area consist of E-1 through E-13 and total 26,725 linear feet. These channels flow generally northwest and dissipate entirely in uplands. These channels have no potential connection to downstream jurisdictional waters.

9. DATA SOURCES. List sources of data/information used in making determination. Include titles and dates of sources used and ensure that information referenced is available in the administrative record.

a. A second seco

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b. Google Earth 7.3.6.10201. Aerial images dated June 1994, May 2006, August 2010, May 2014, and October 2024. Accessed April 8, 2024 and April 2, 2025.

c. LiDAR - National Layer in the National Regulatory Viewer for the South Pacific Division. Accessed April 2, 2025.

d. USACE, OMBIL Regulatory Module, 2023. Corpsmap. Accessed April 2, 2025. (https://orm.ops.usace.army.mil/).

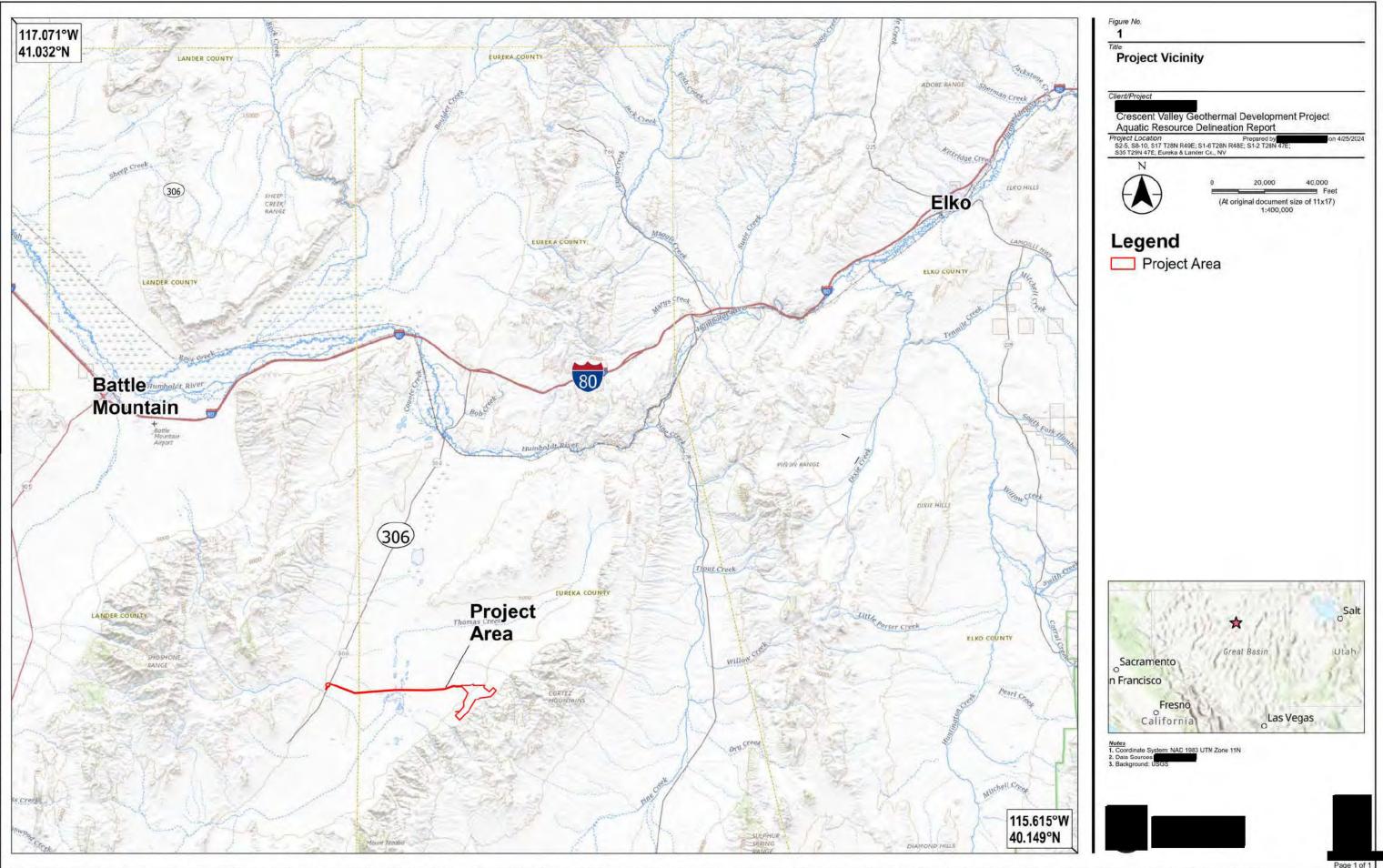
e. Office evaluations conducted April 8, 2024 and April 2, 2025.

10. OTHER SUPPORTING INFORMATION. All delineated features within the review area flow generally northwest and terminate in either upland/alluvial fan areas or in the Crescent Valley Playa. A review of available information demonstrated that flows terminating in the Crescent Valley playa are not sufficient to leave the HUC 10 watershed or flow north into the Humboldt River. Per the Amended 2023 Water Rule, all aquatic resources within the review area meet the definition of intrastate waters with no downstream continuous surface connection to TNW. Multiple previous AJDs within this watershed, such as SPK-2017-00476 (February 16, 2024), have made this same finding and further support the non-jurisdictional status of delineated features on site.

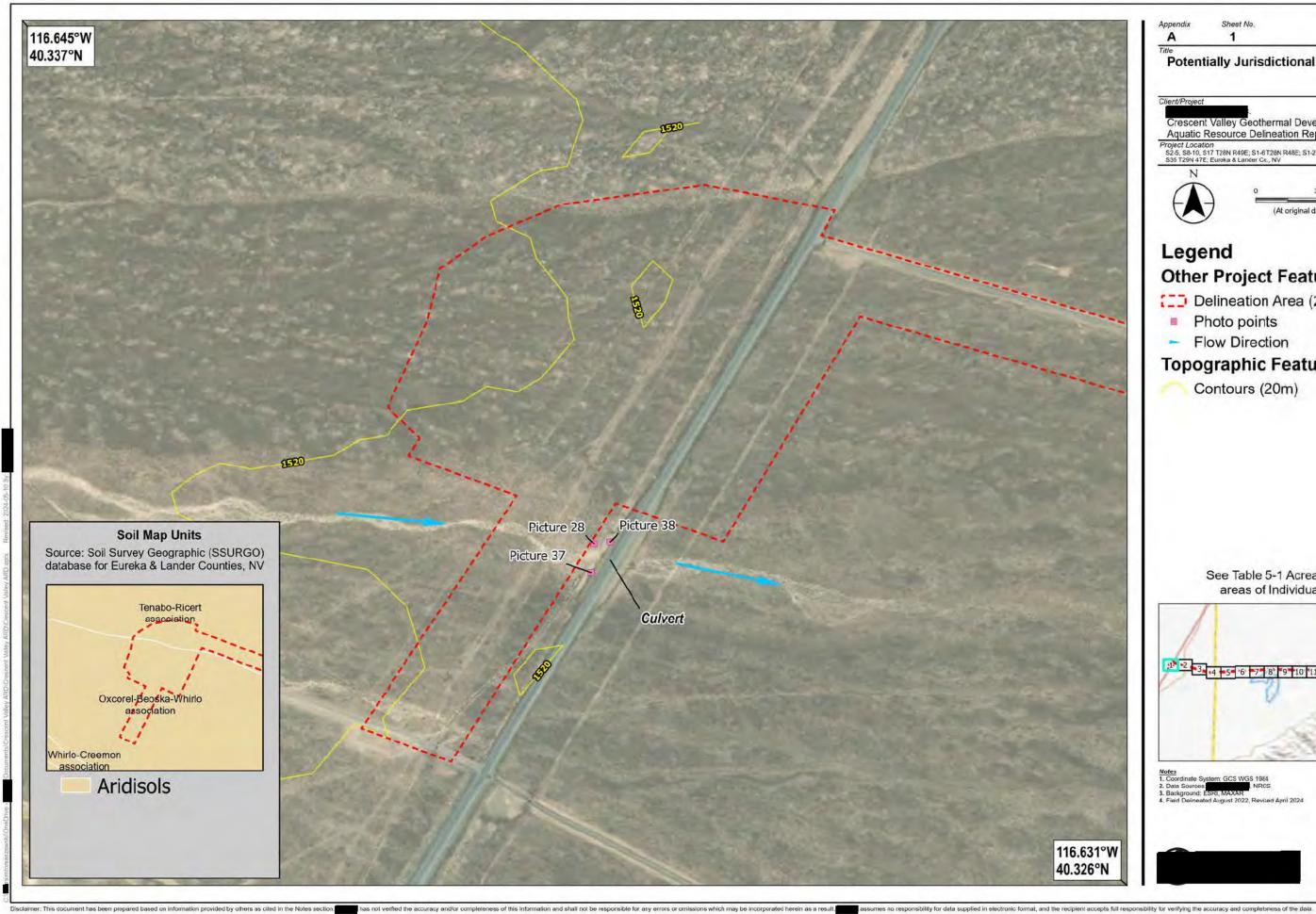
11. NOTE: The structure and format of this MFR were developed in coordination with the EPA and Department of the Army. The MFR's structure and format may be subject to future modification or may be rescinded as needed to implement additional guidance from the agencies; however, the approved jurisdictional determination described herein is a final agency action.

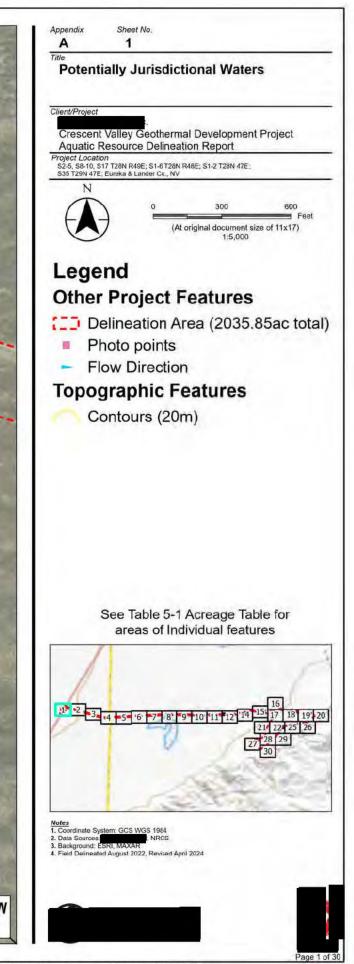
3 Enclosures AJD MFR Encl 1- Vicinity Map AJD MFR Encl 2- Delineation Maps AJD MFR Encl 3- TNW Map

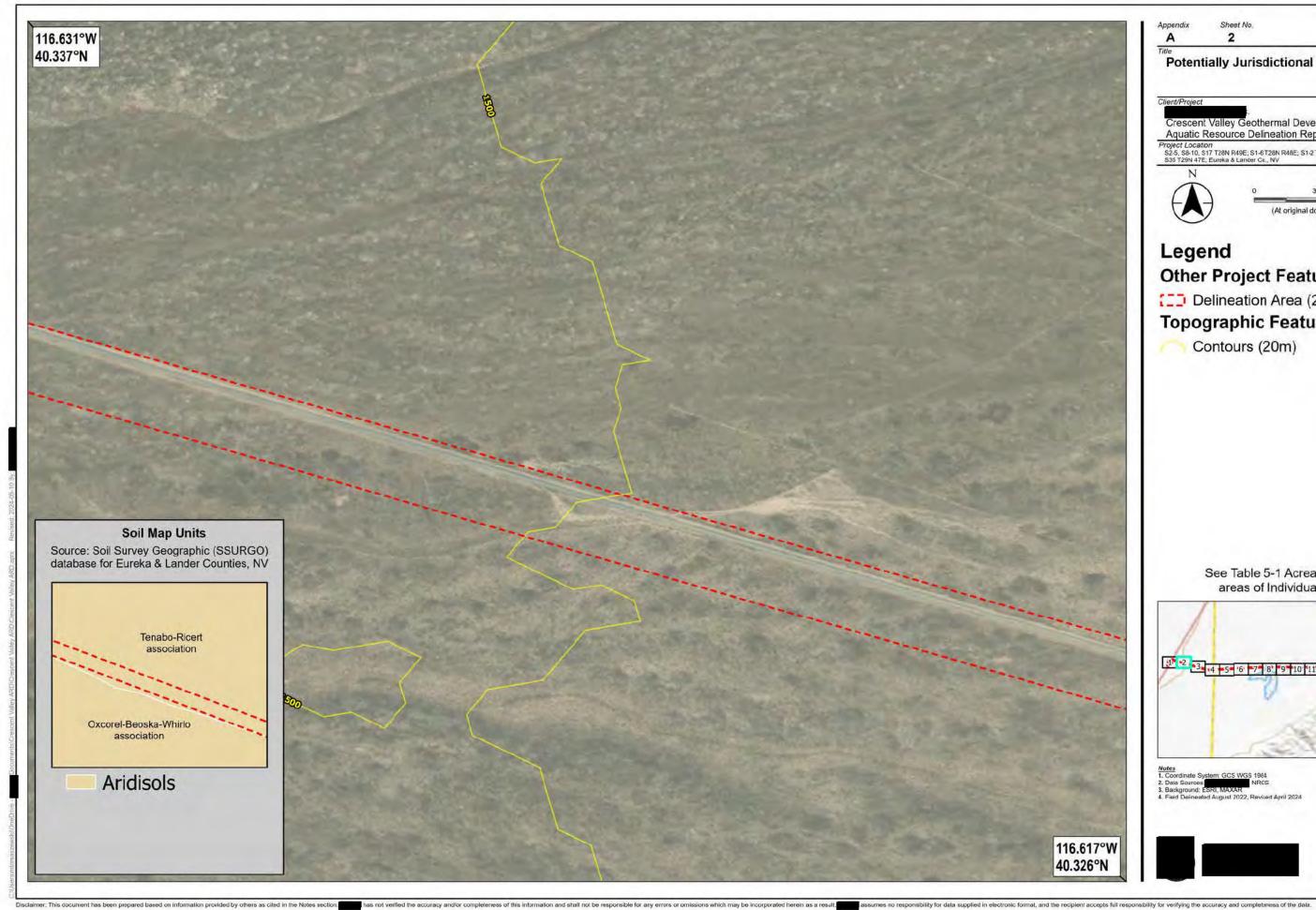


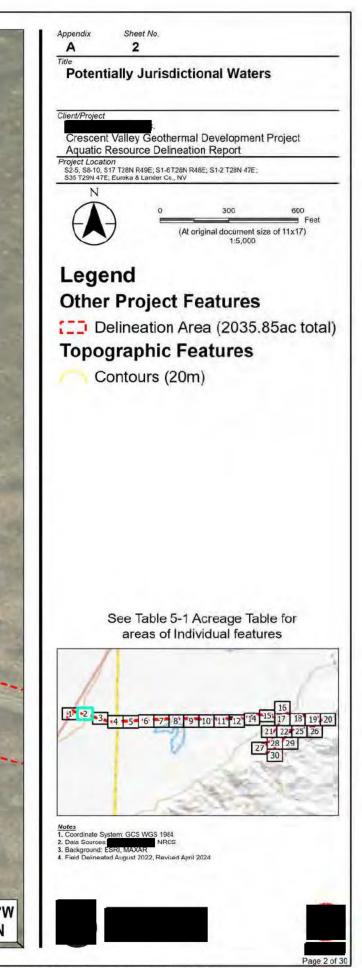


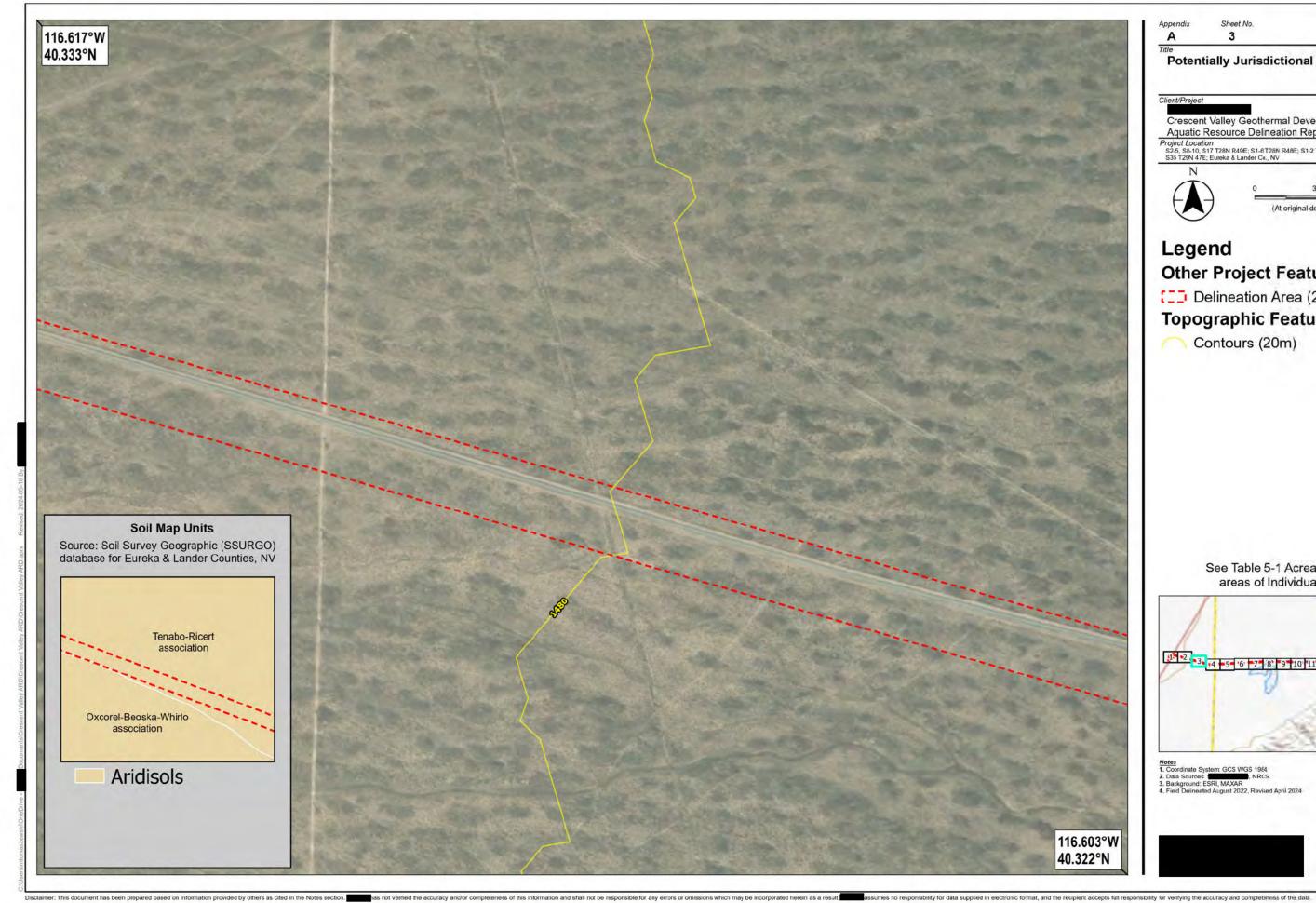
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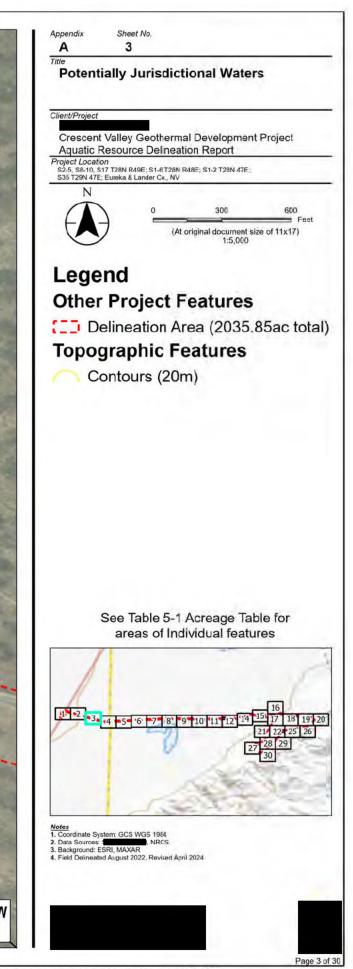


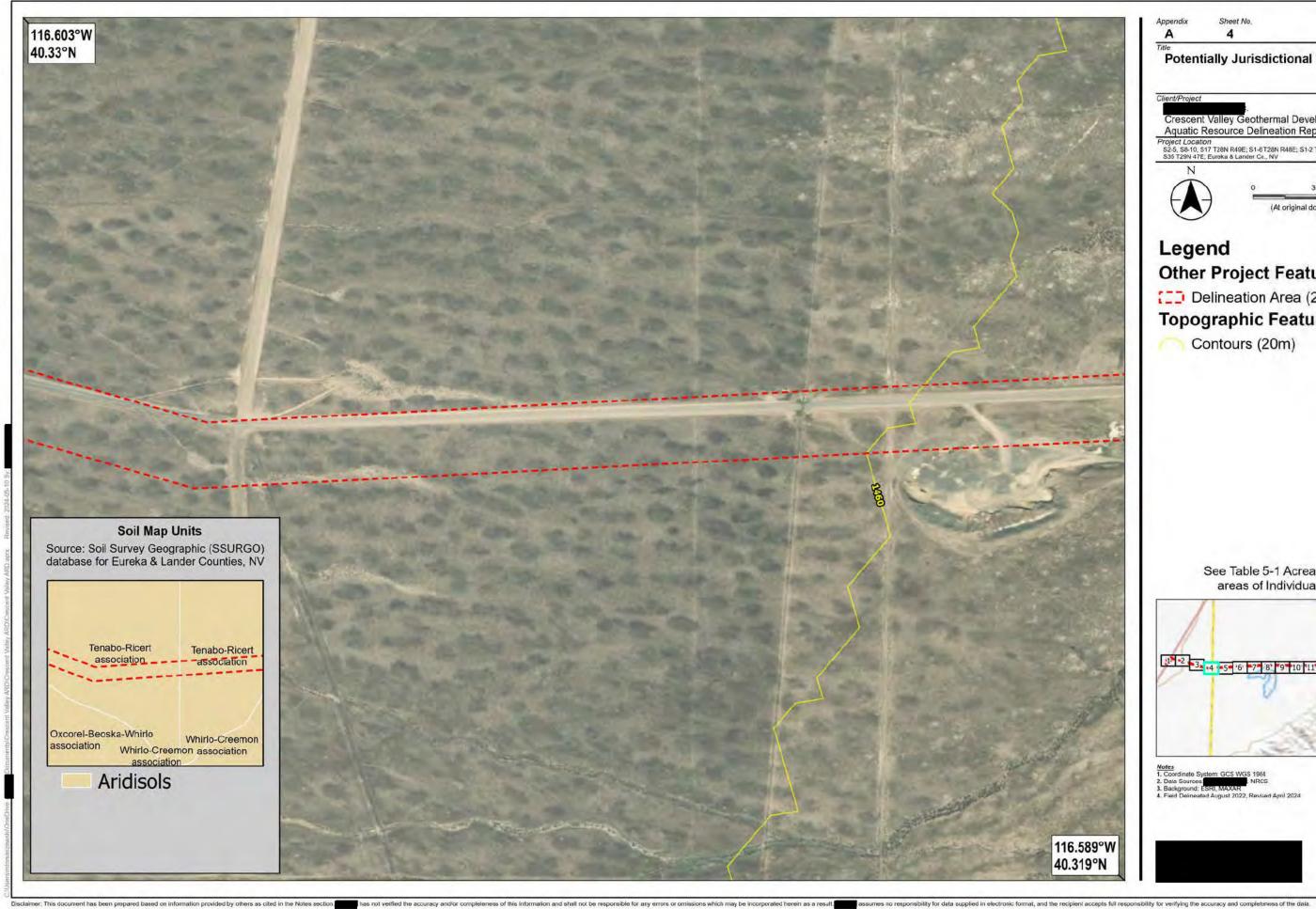


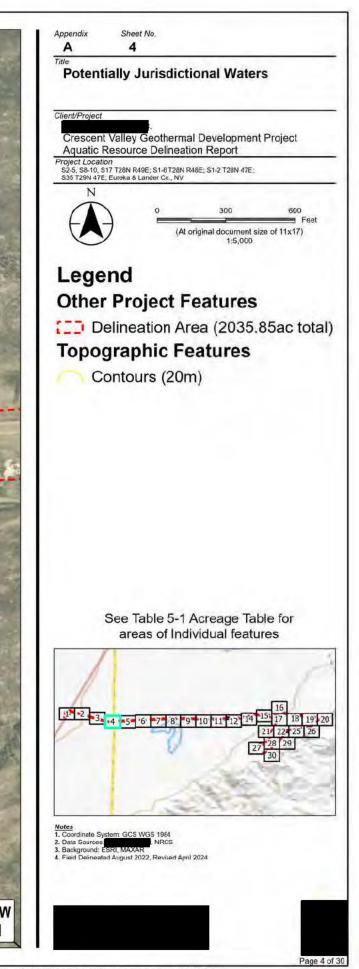


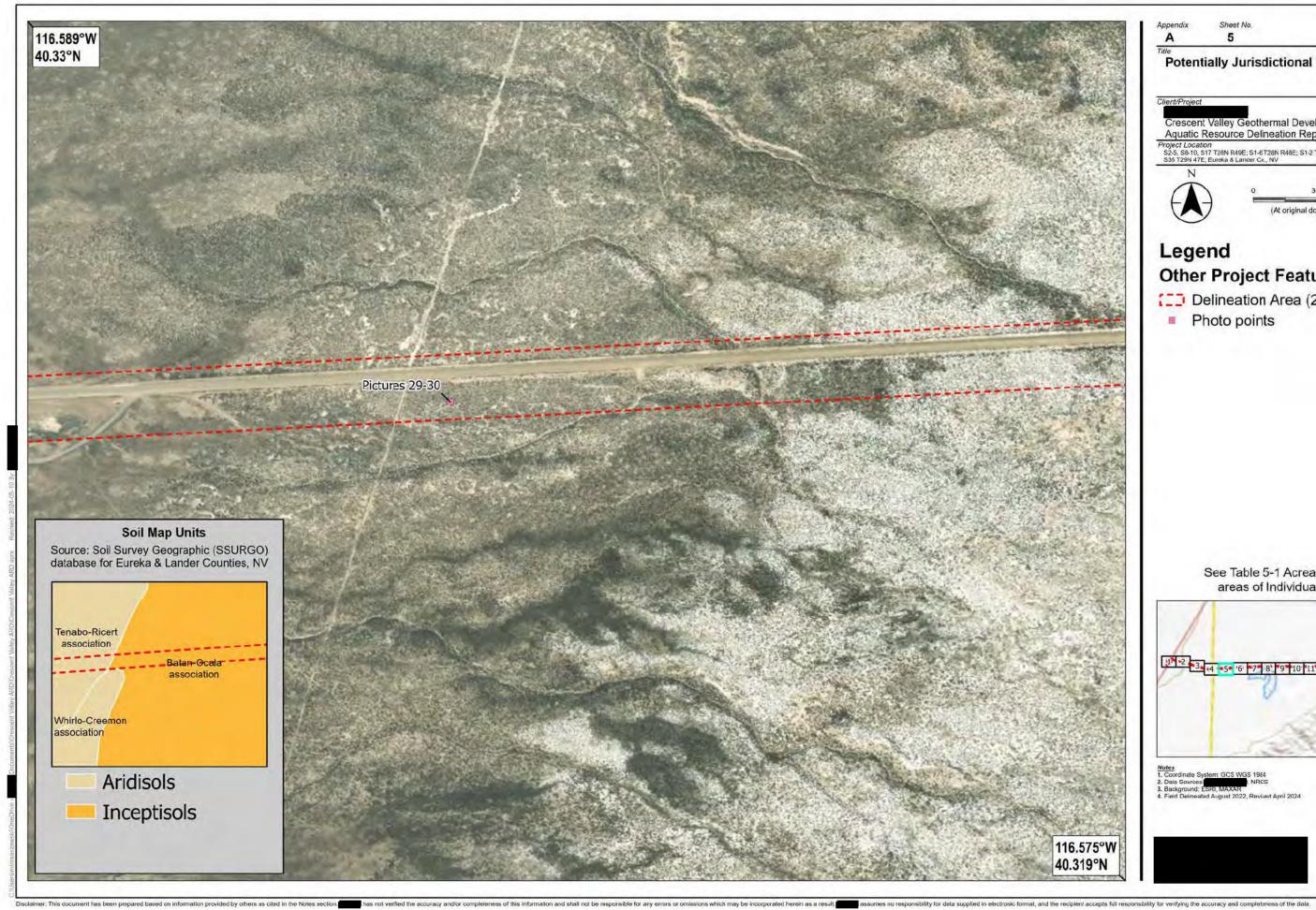


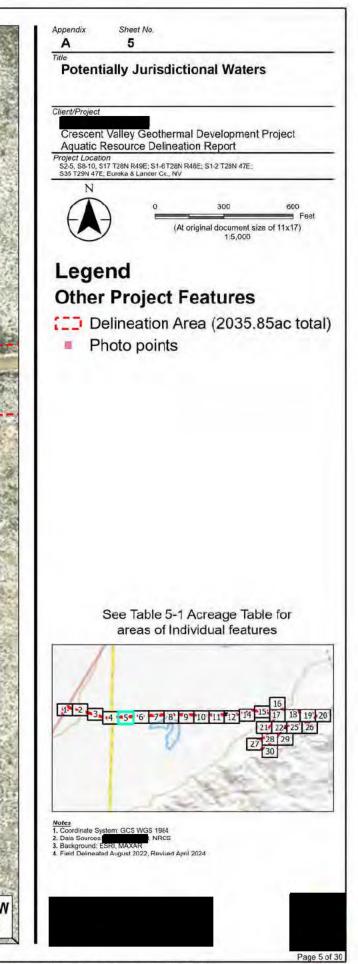


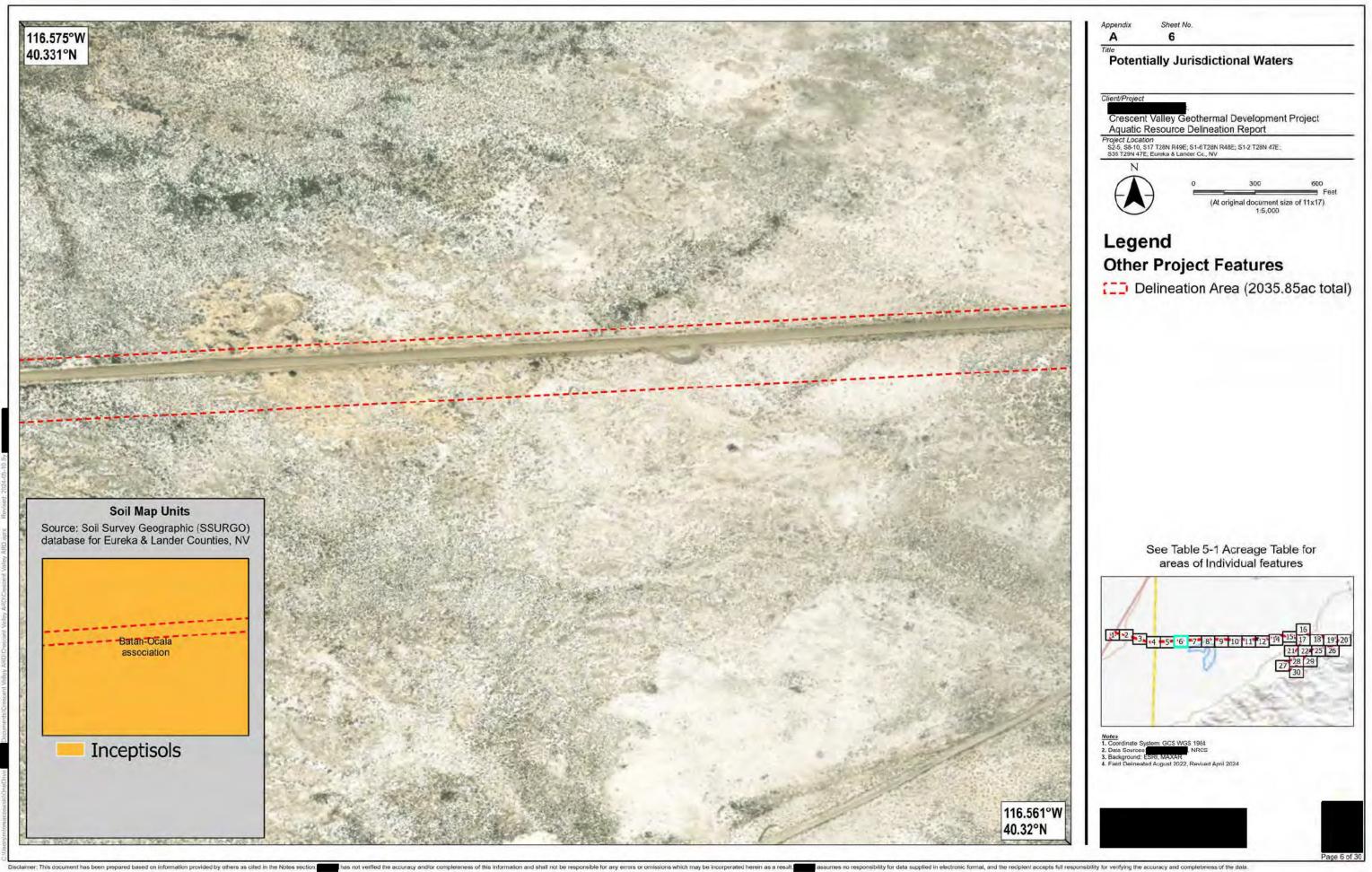


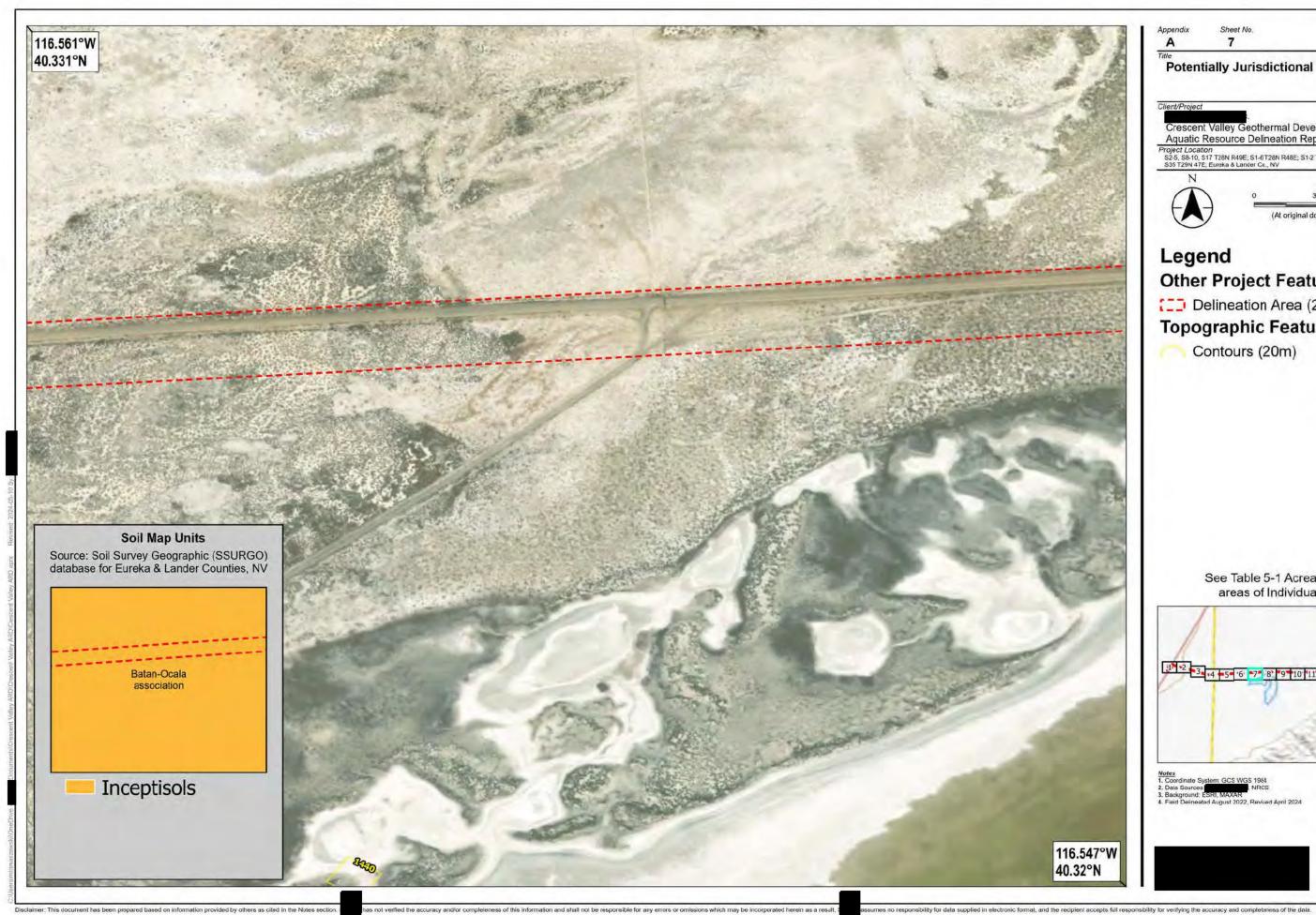


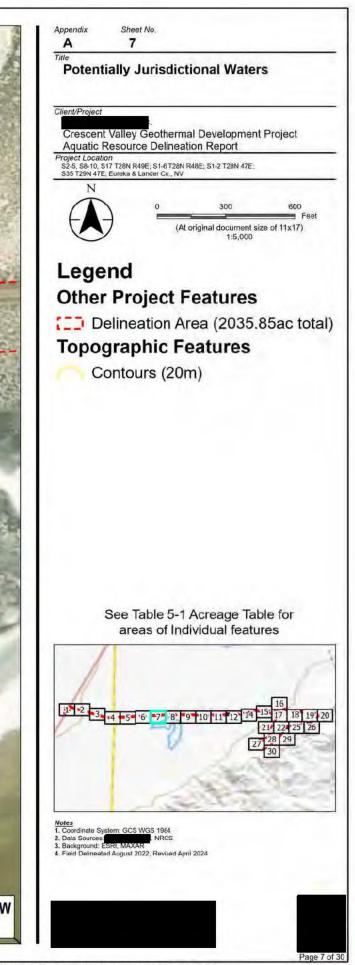


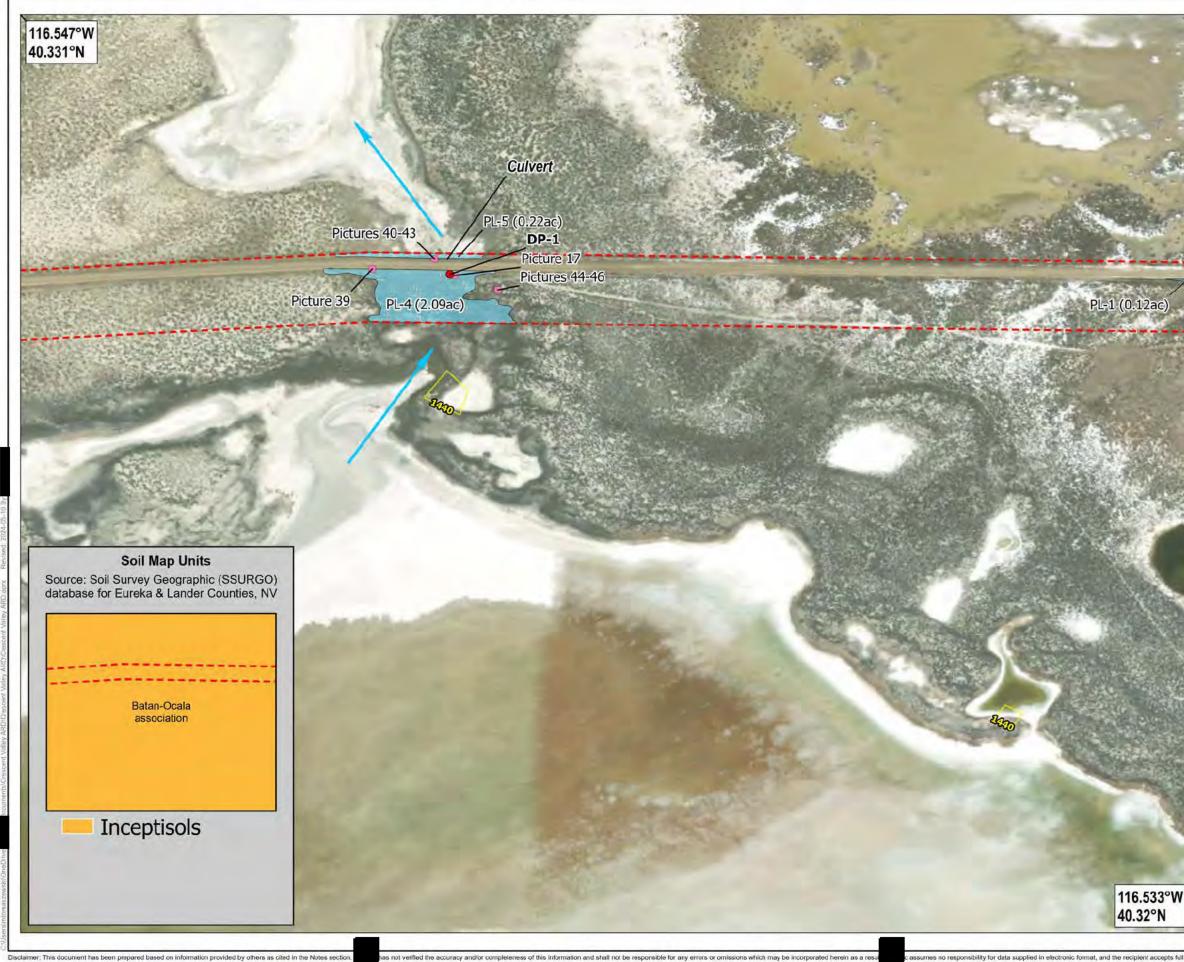


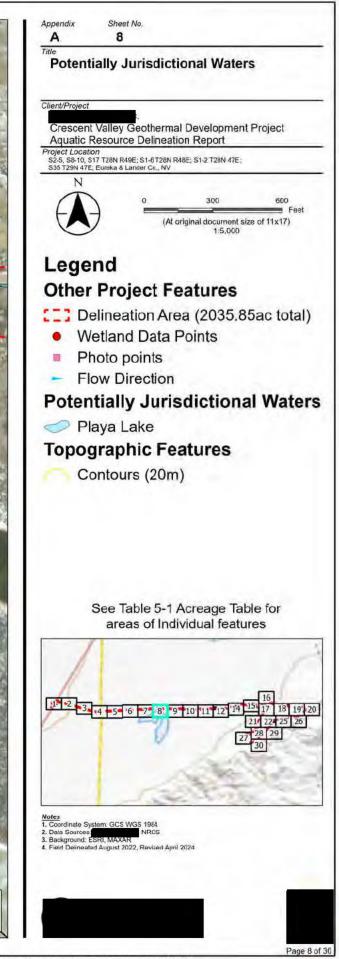




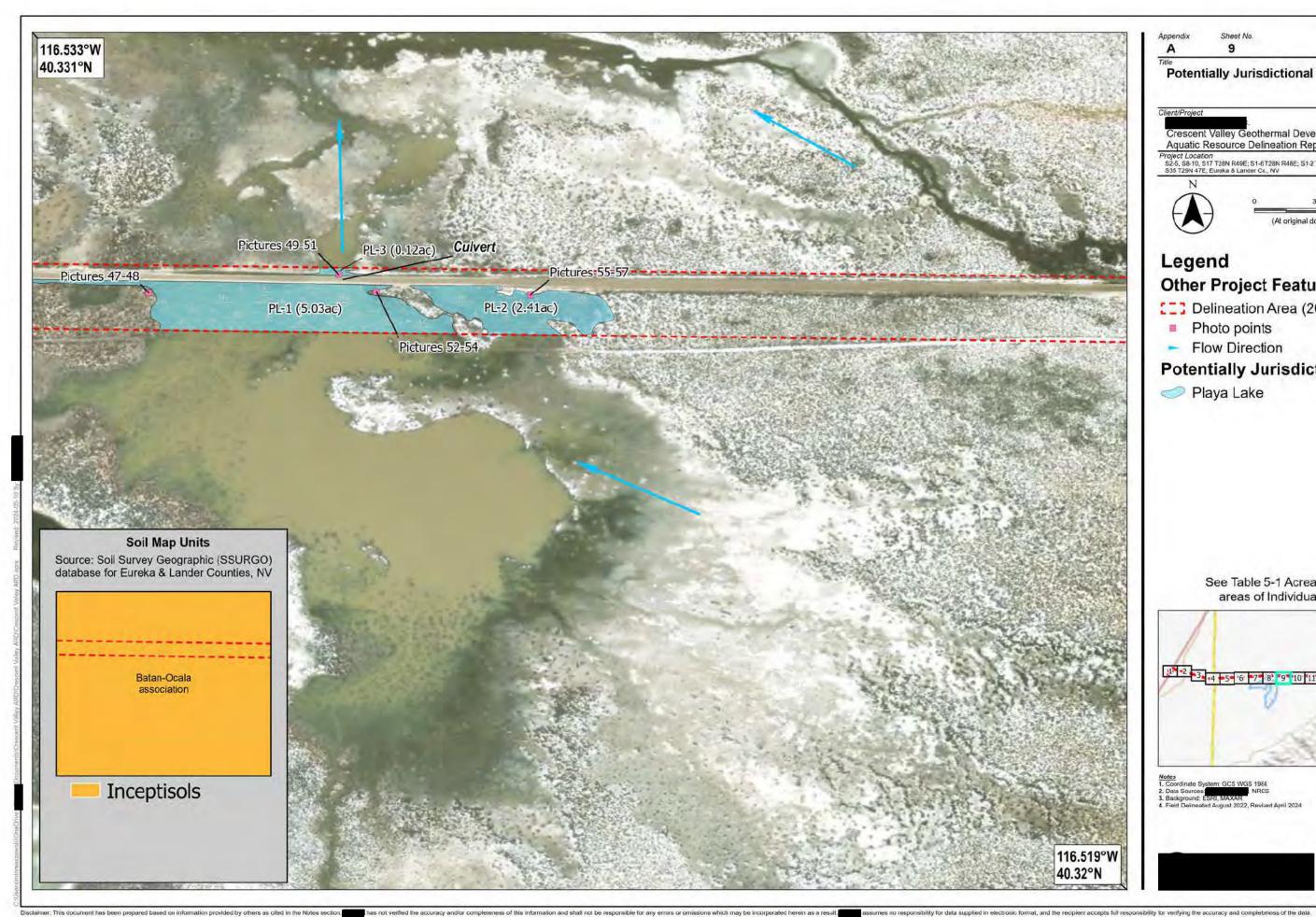


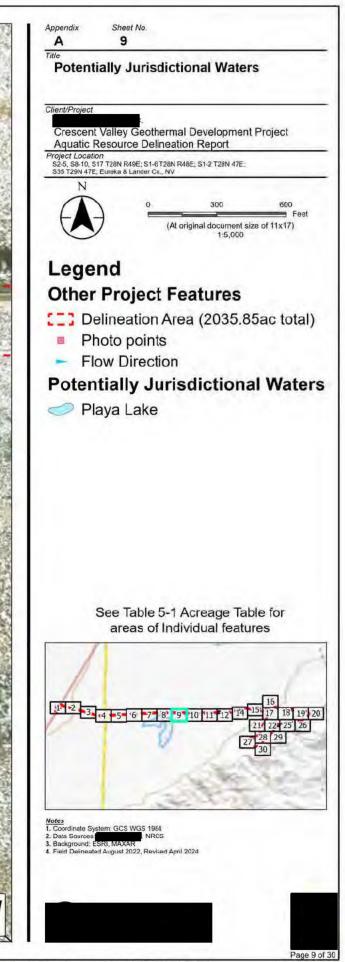


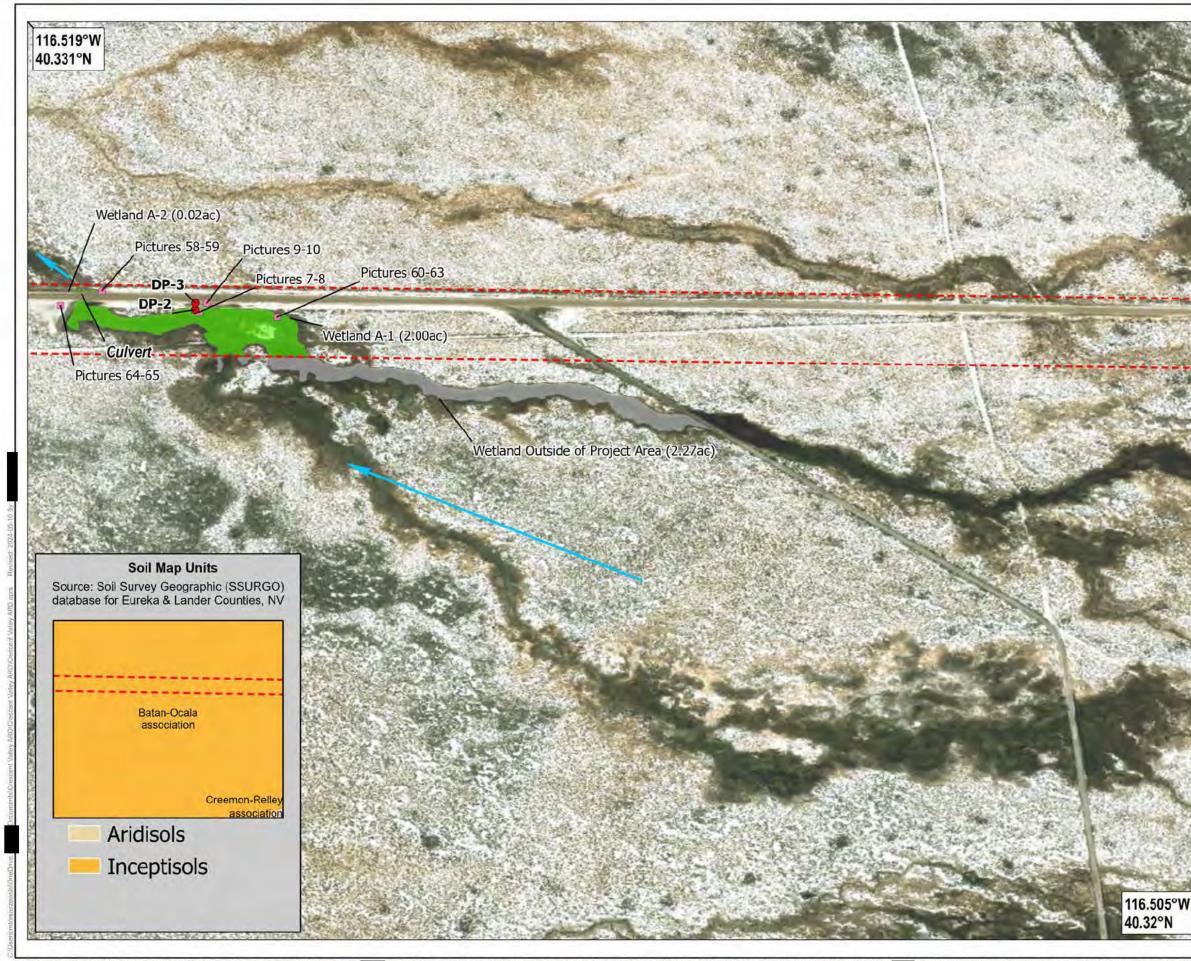


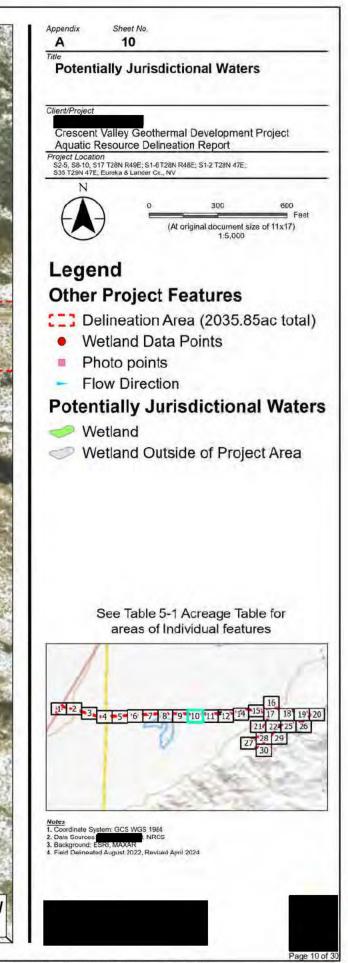


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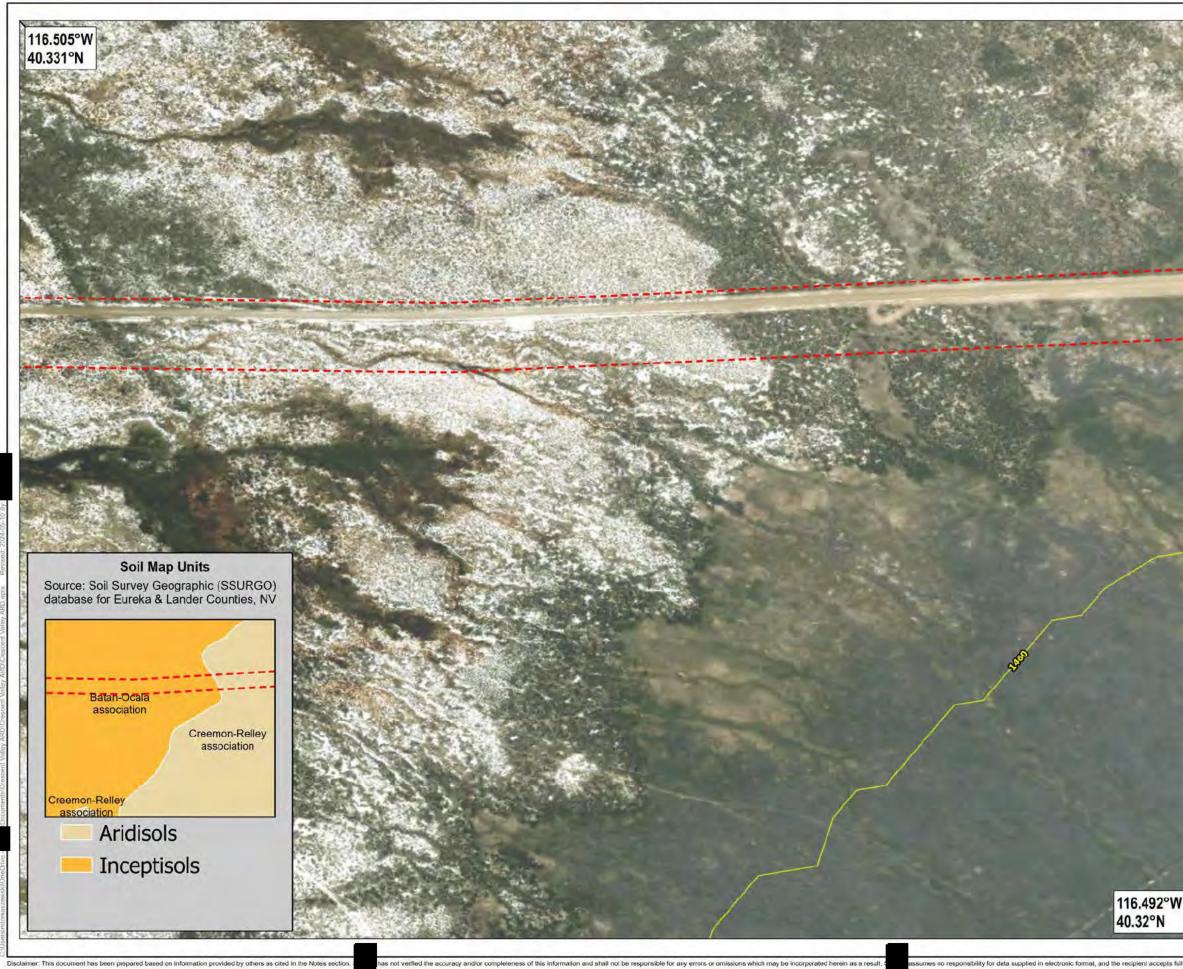


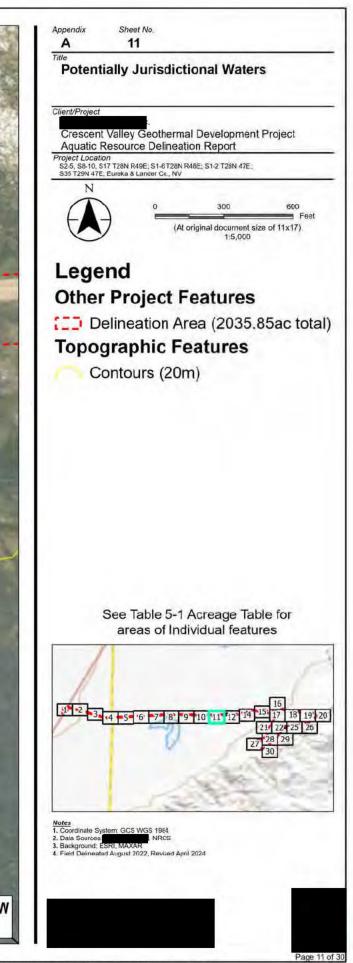




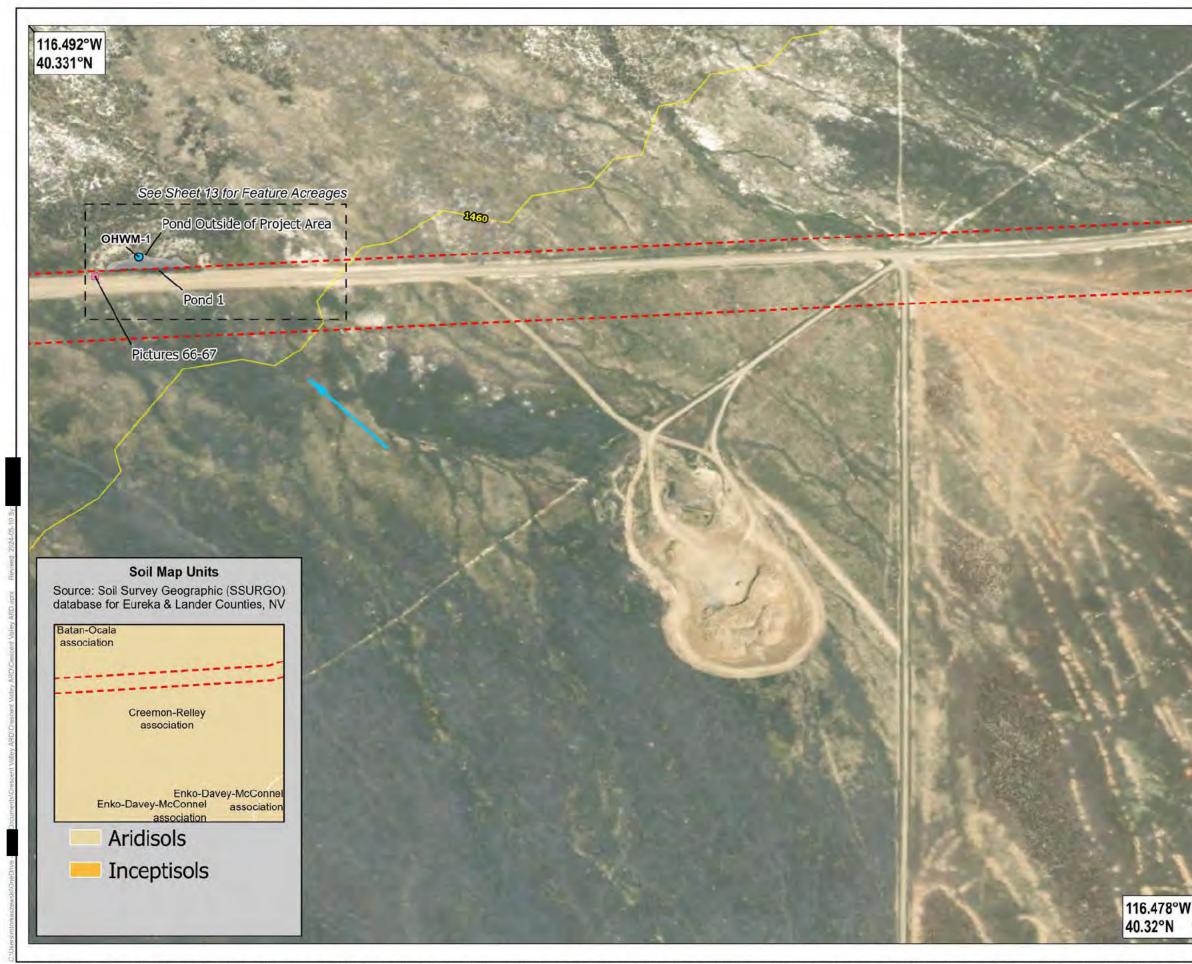


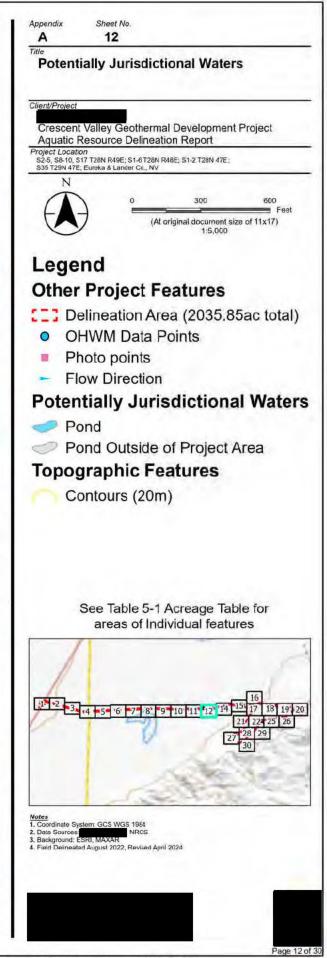
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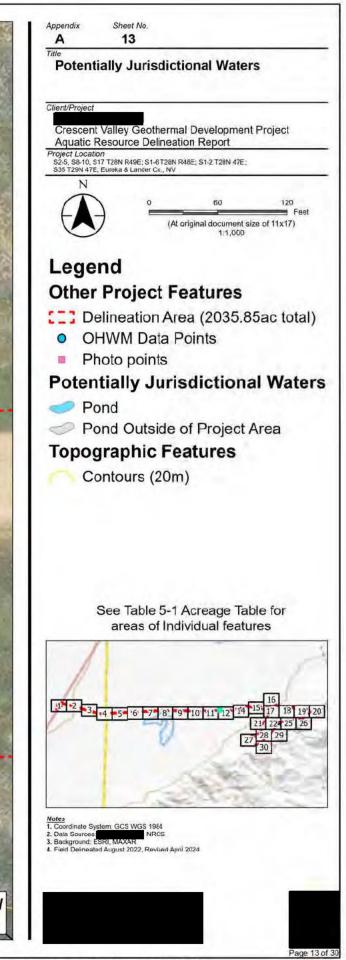
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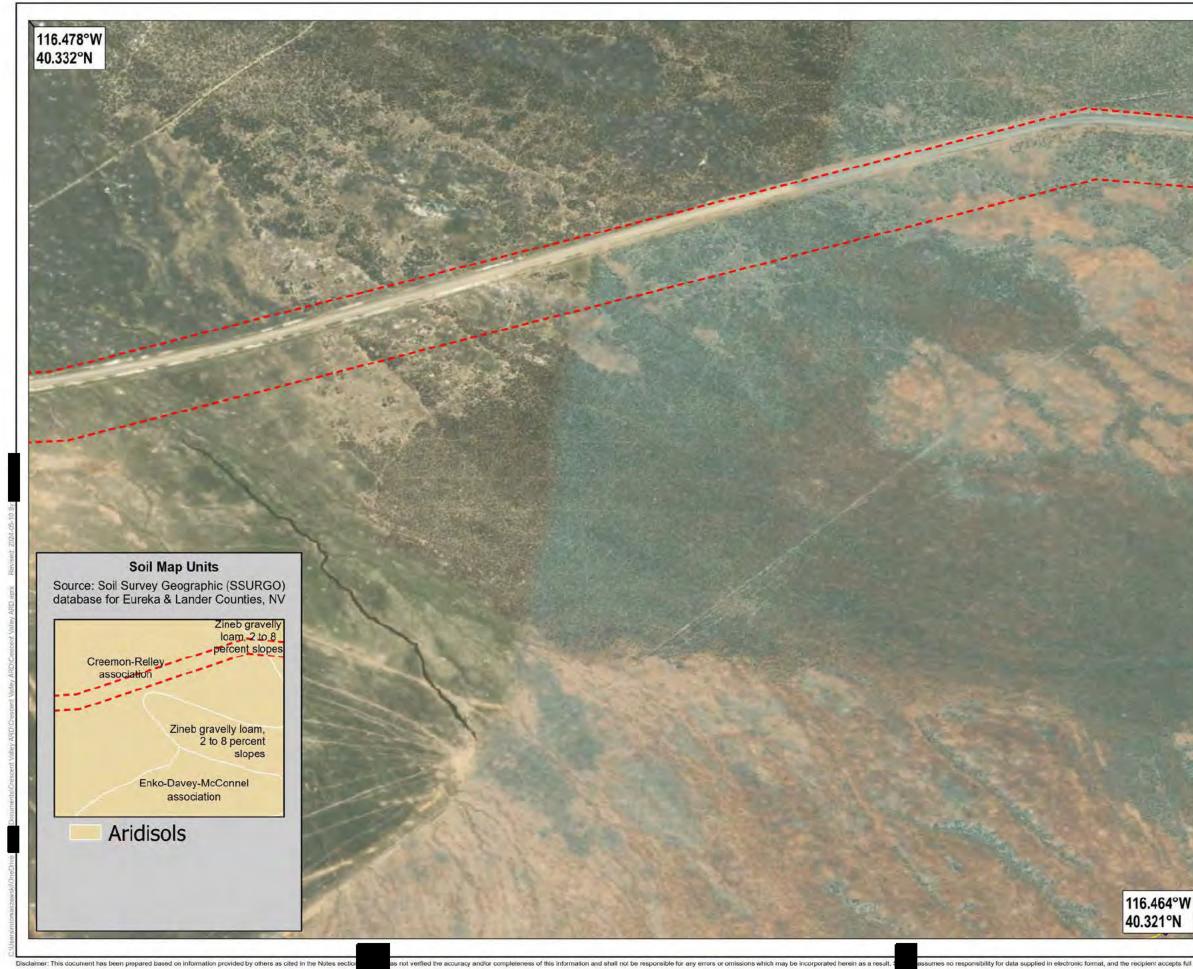


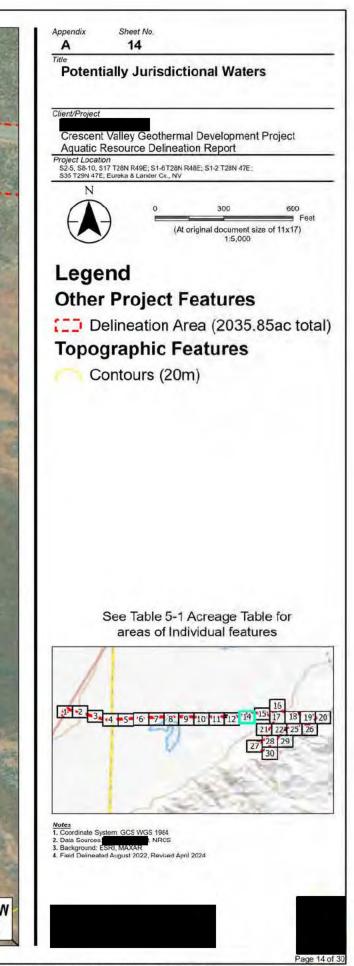
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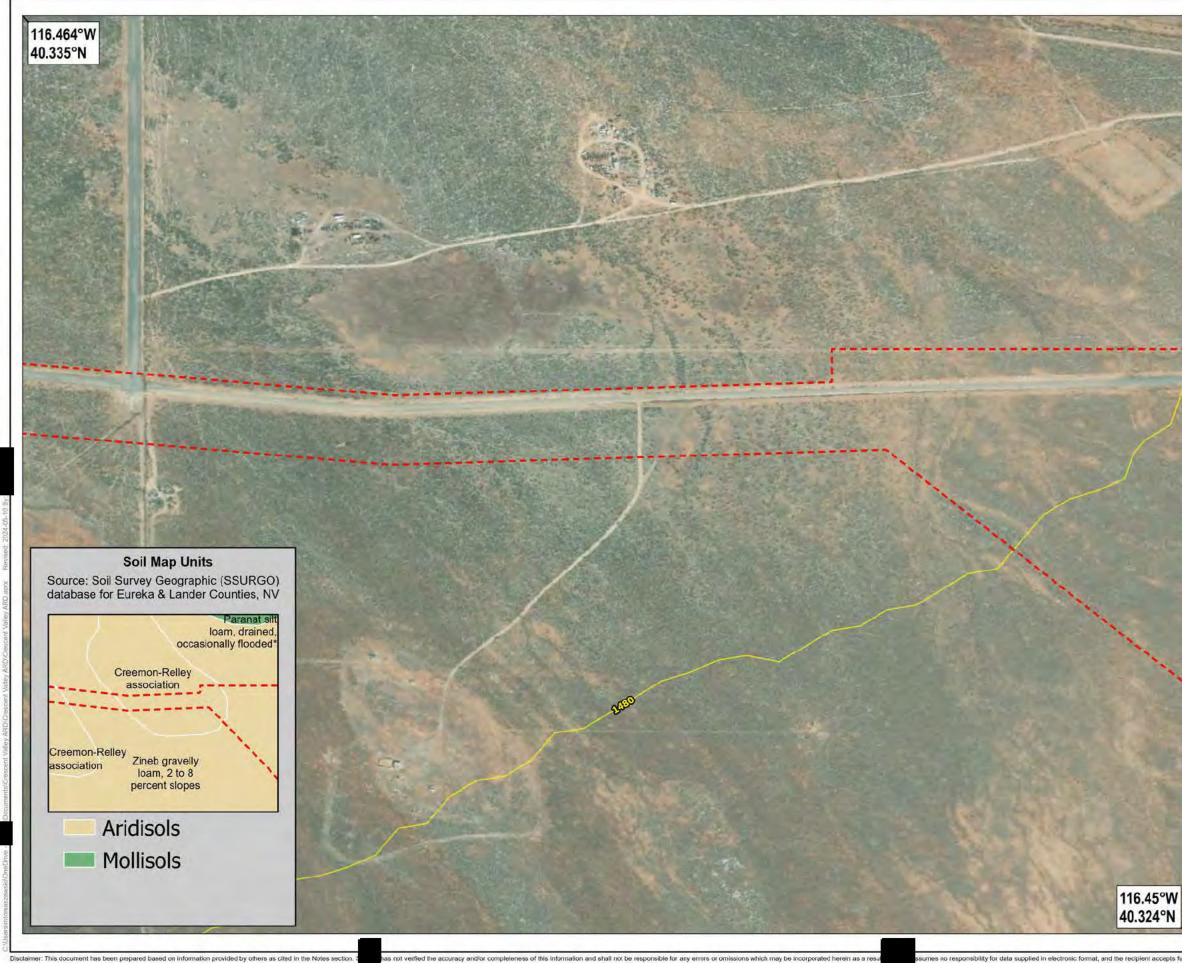


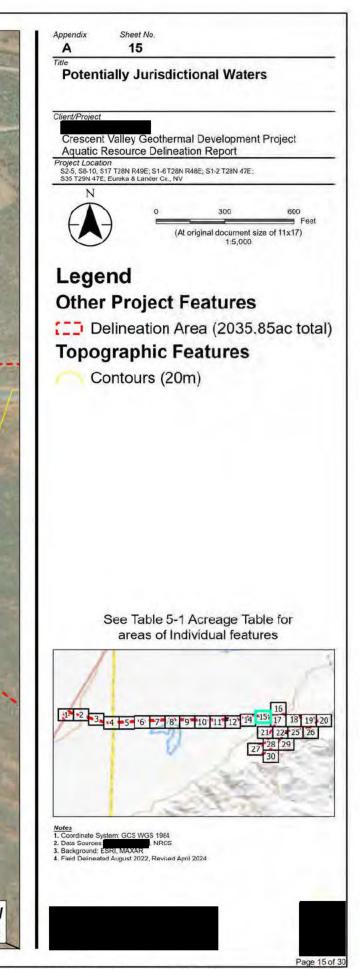
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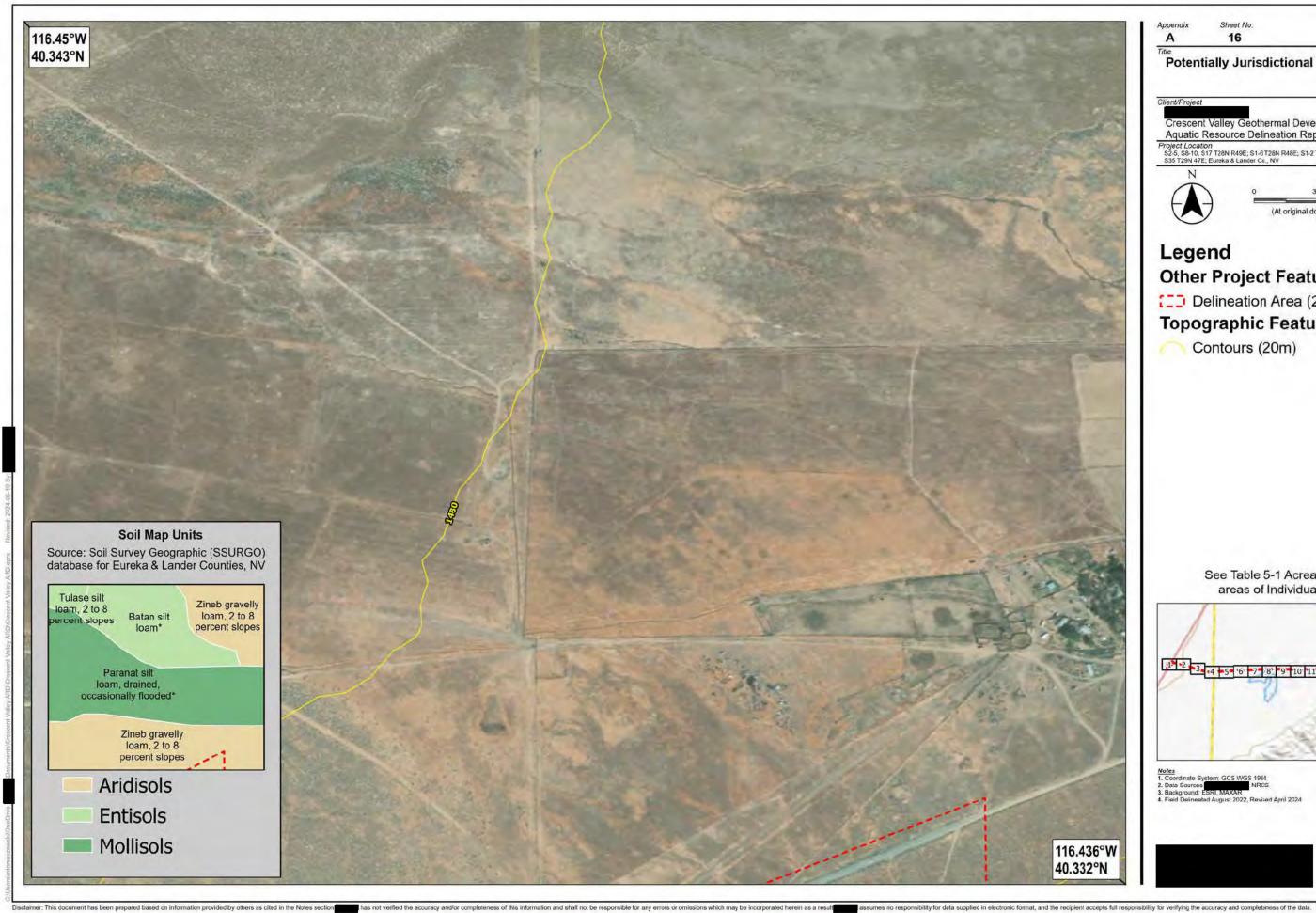


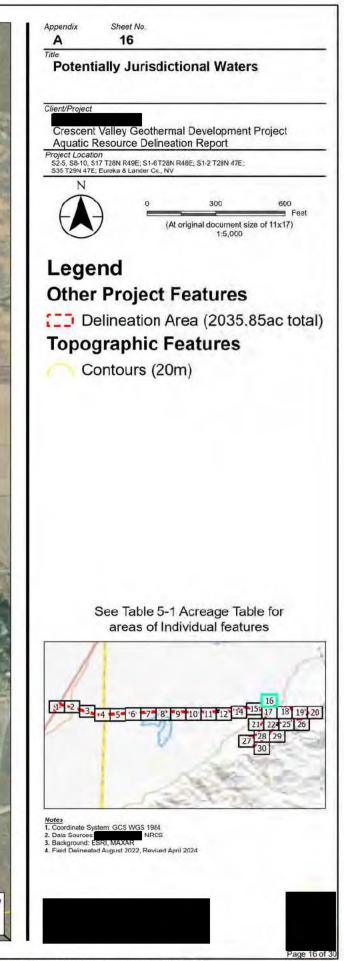
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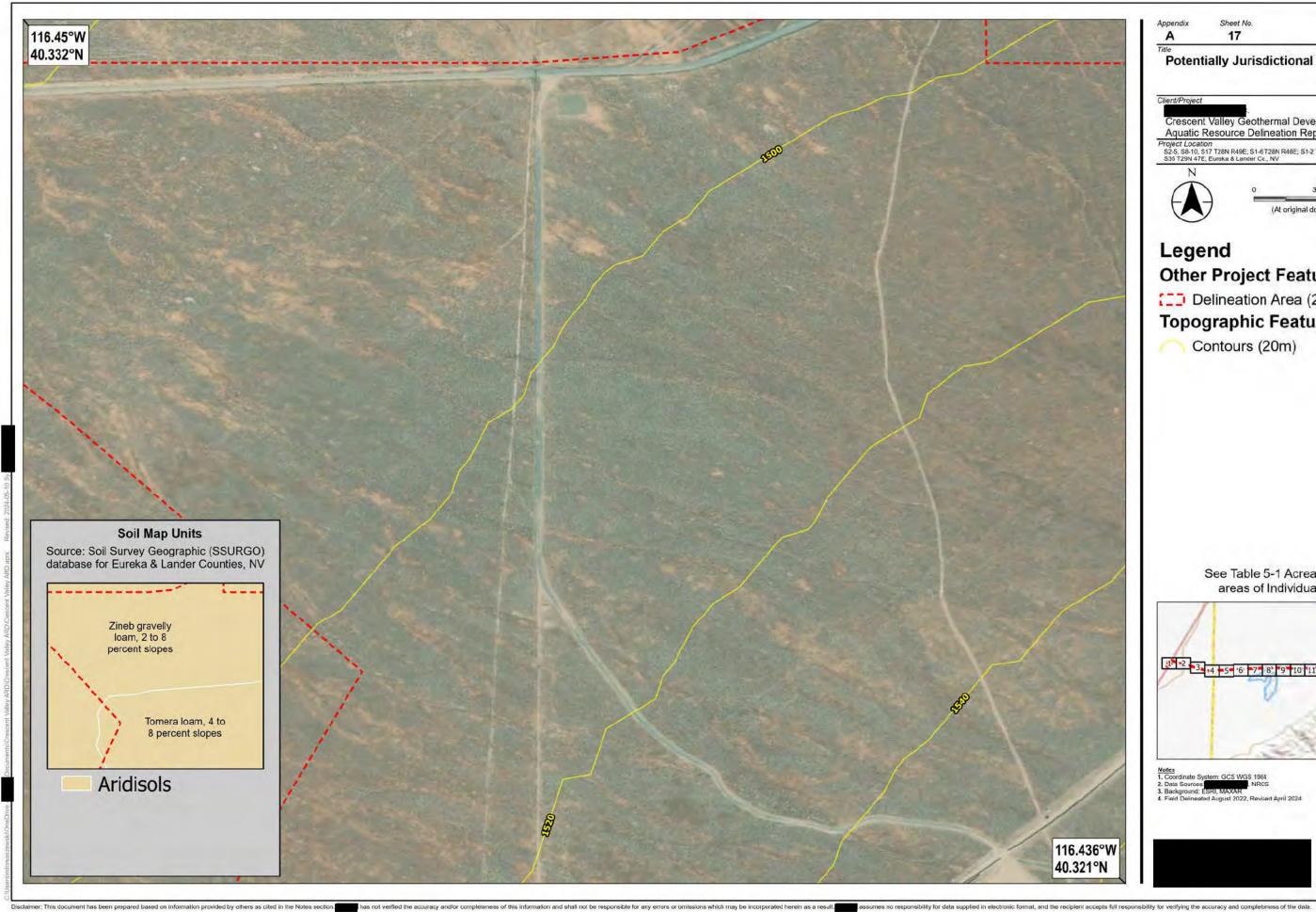


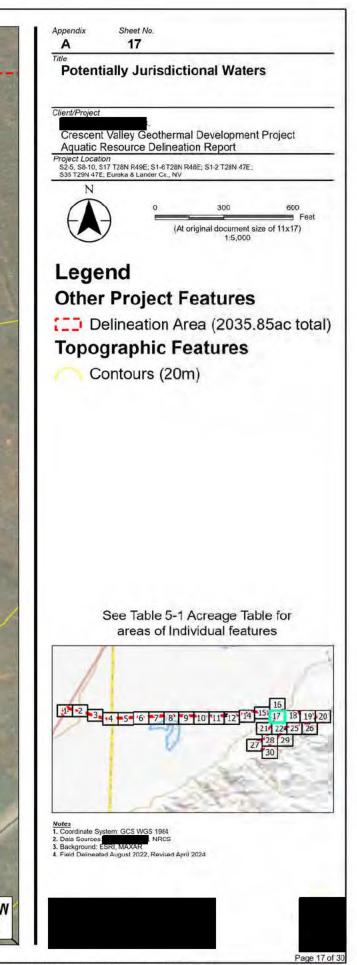


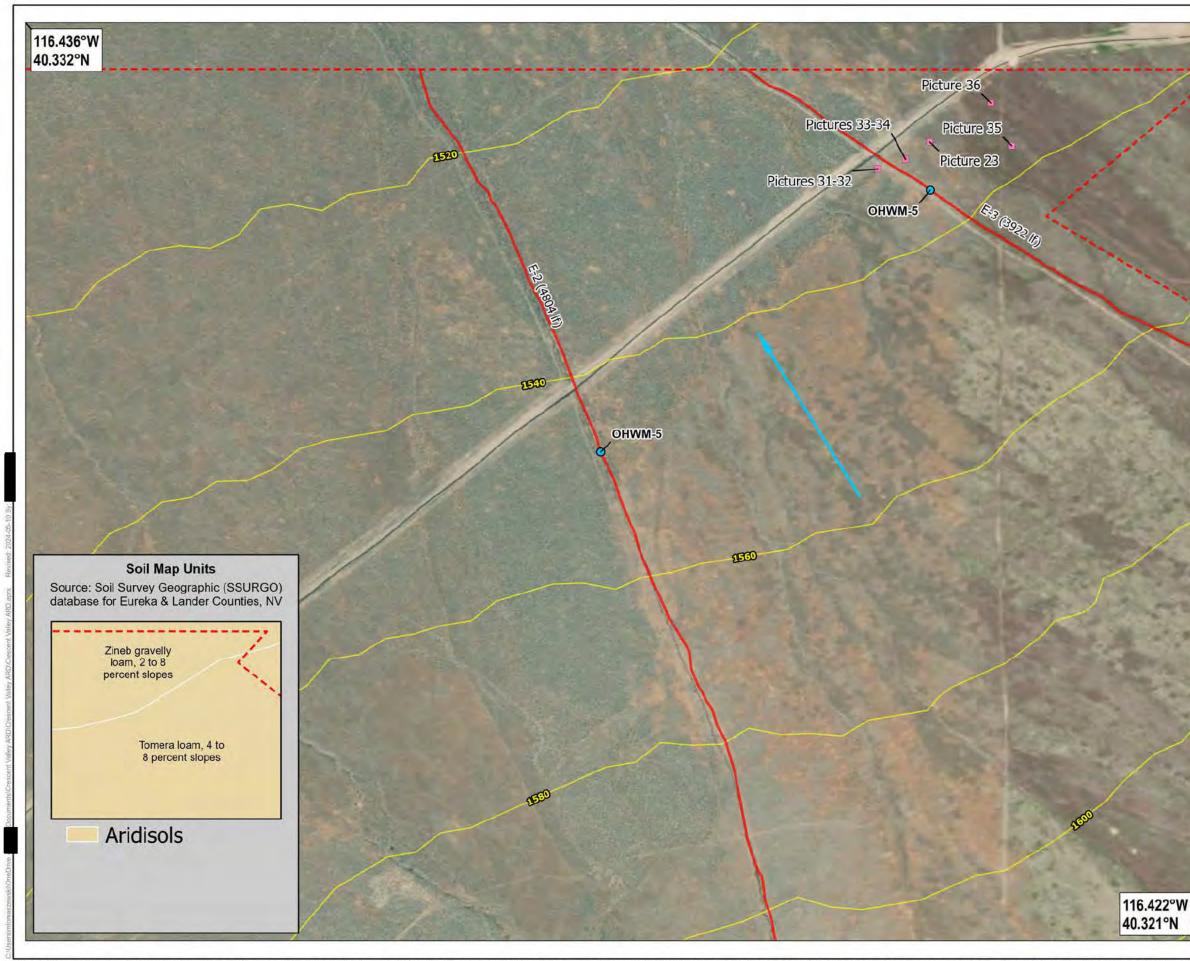
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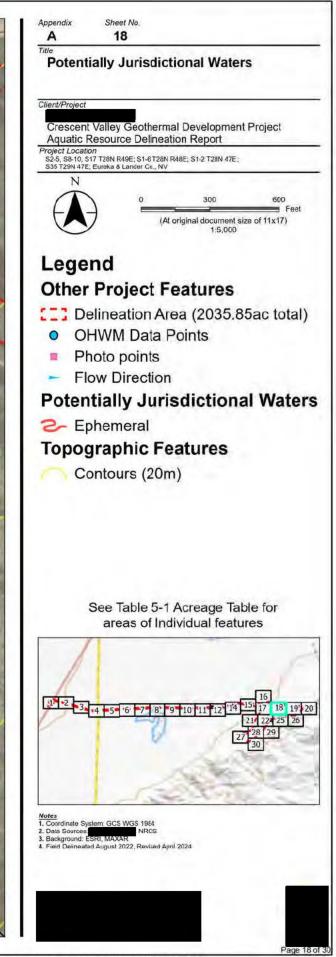




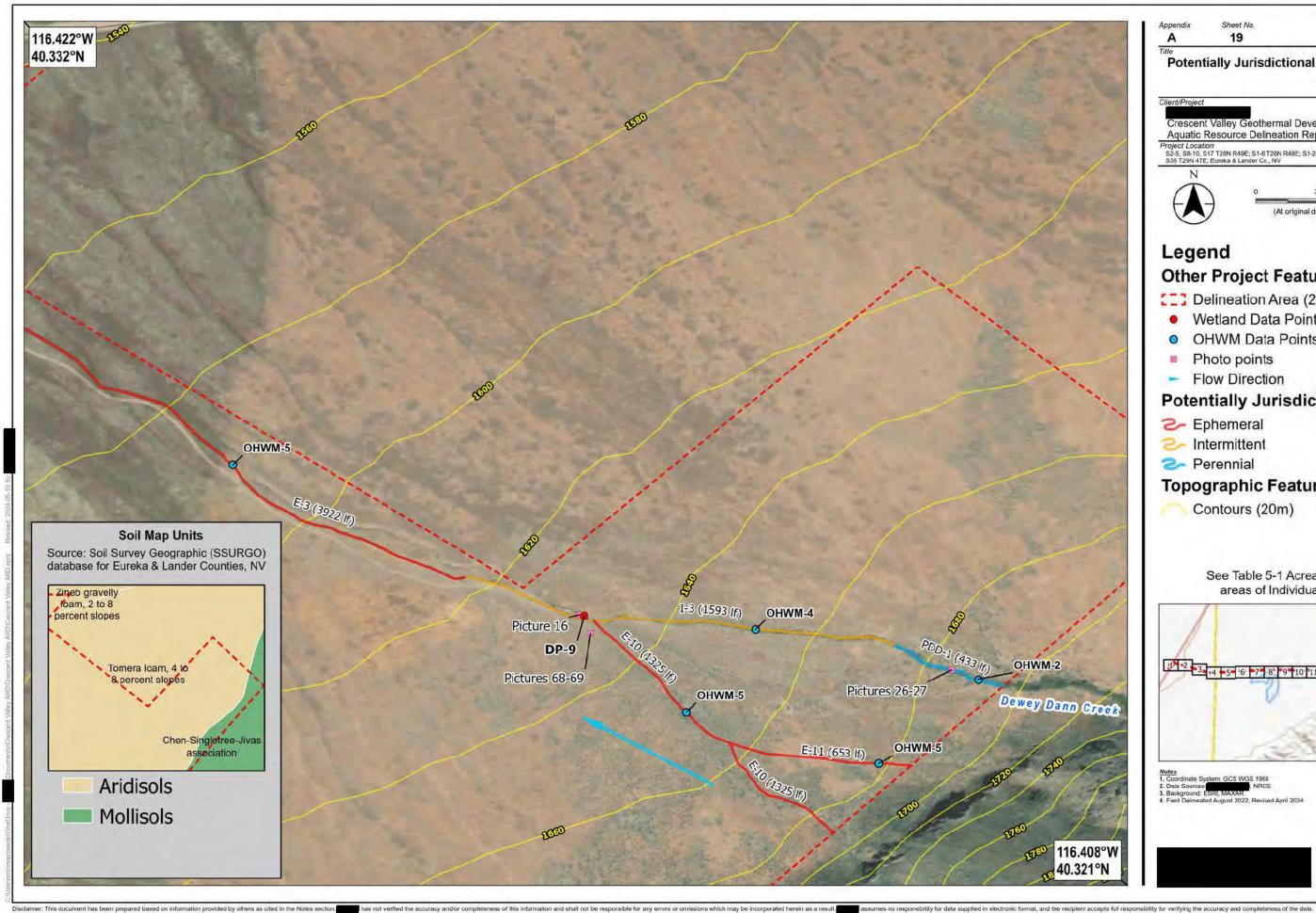


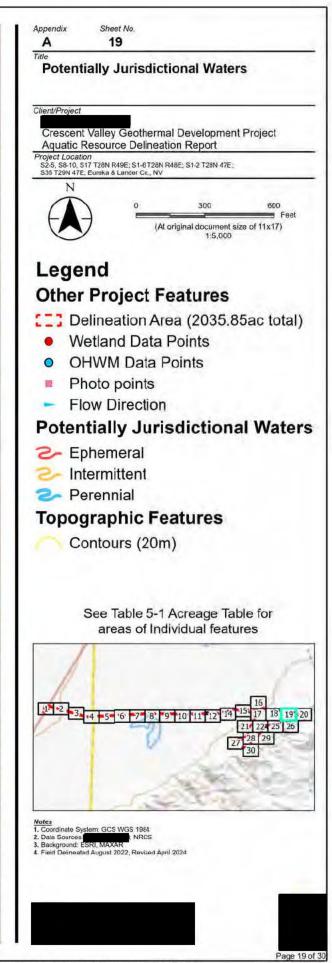


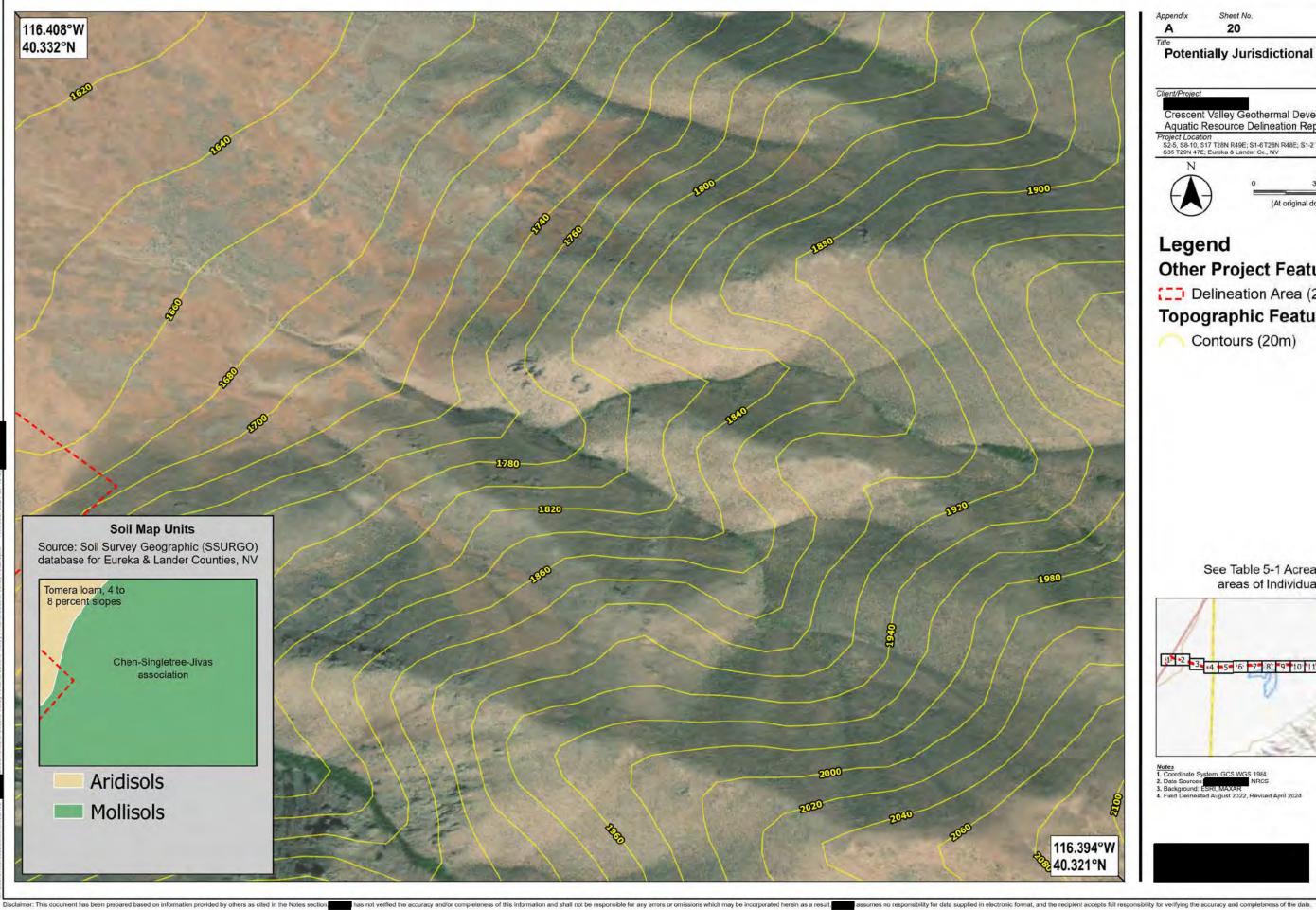


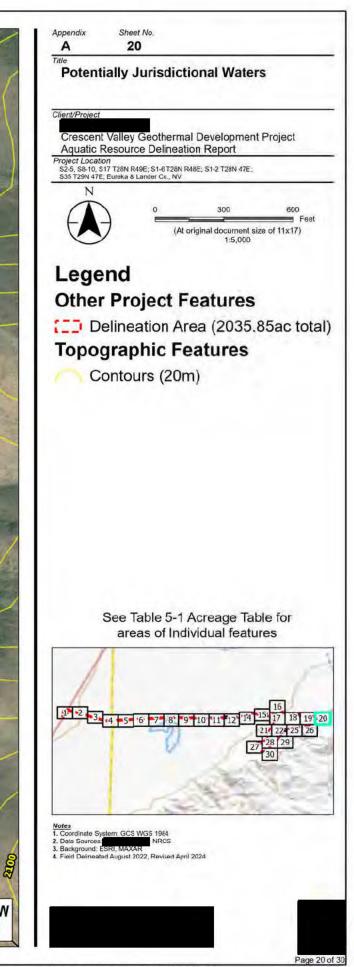


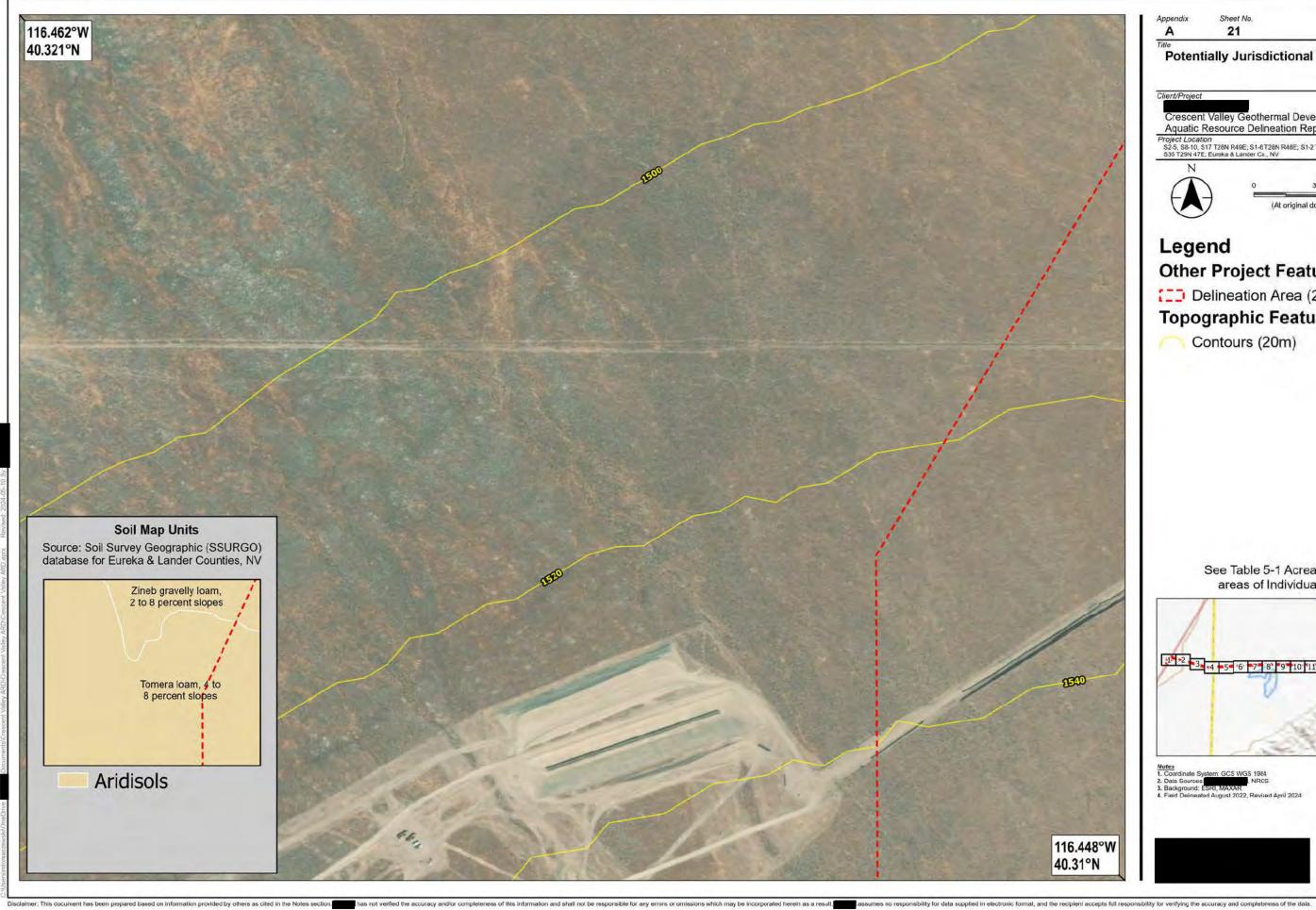
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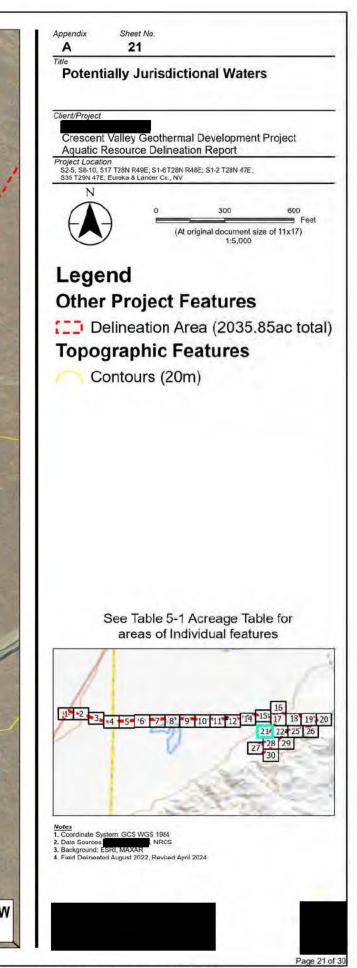


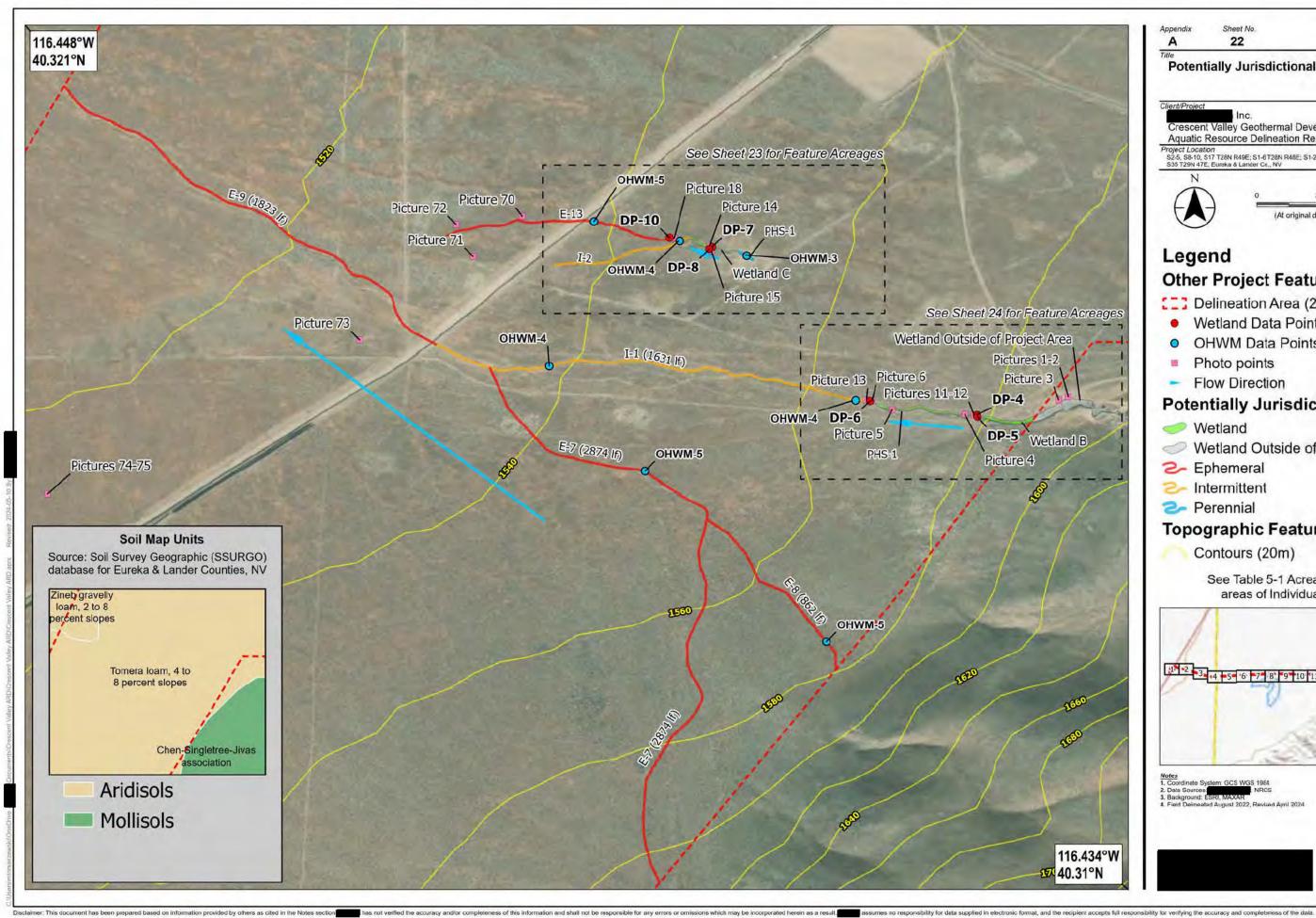


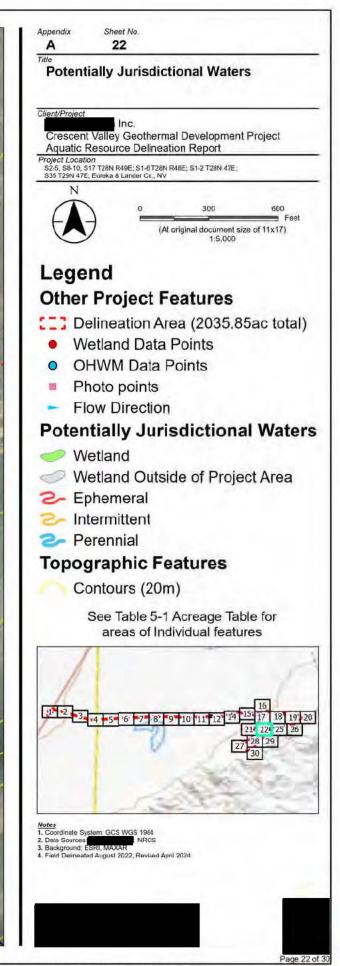


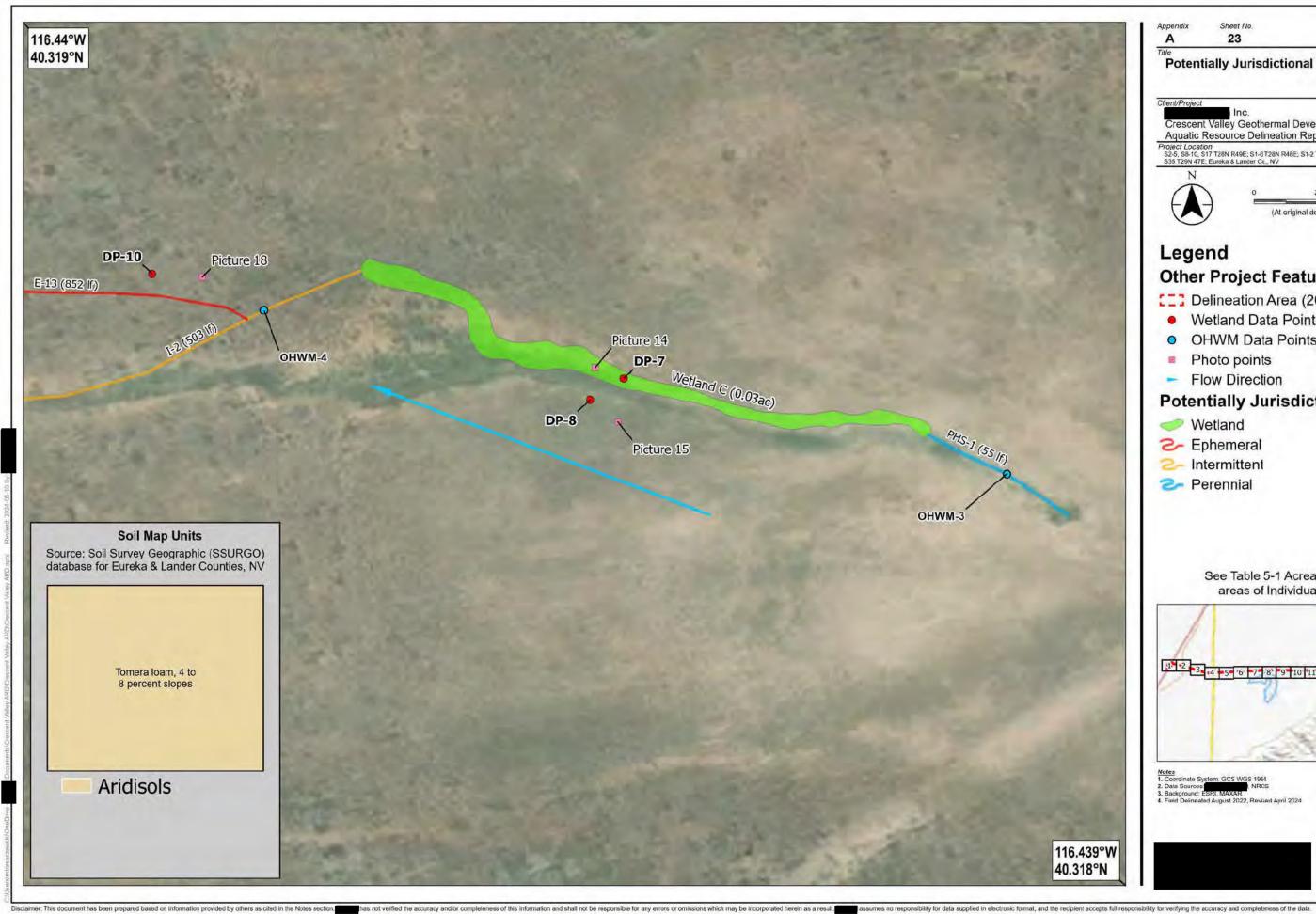


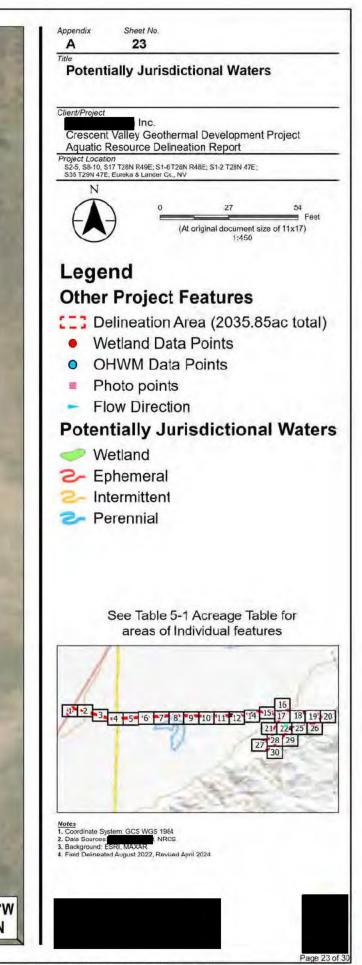


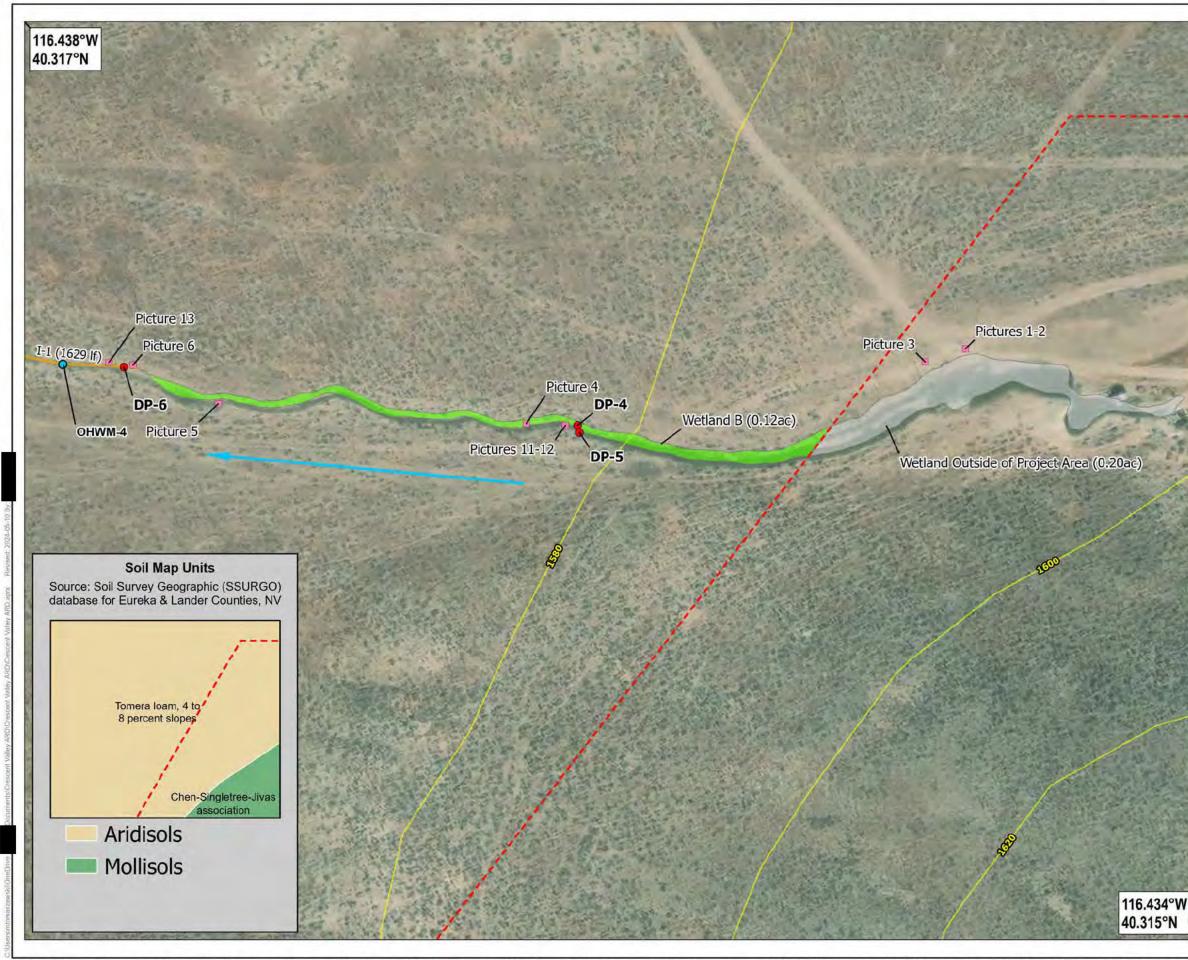


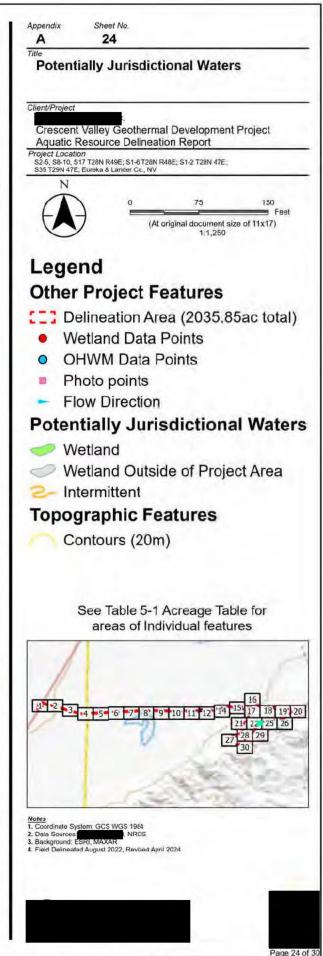




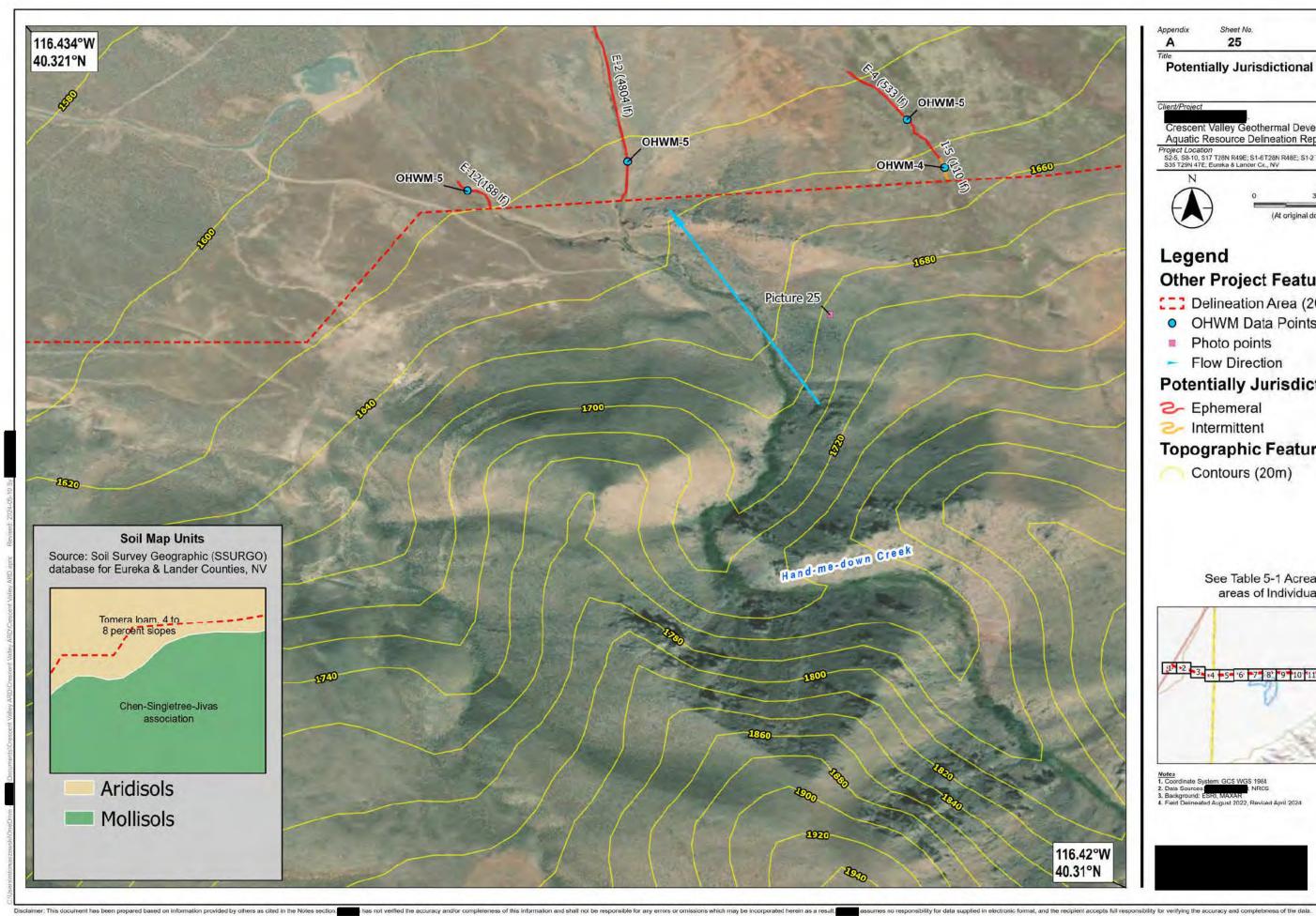


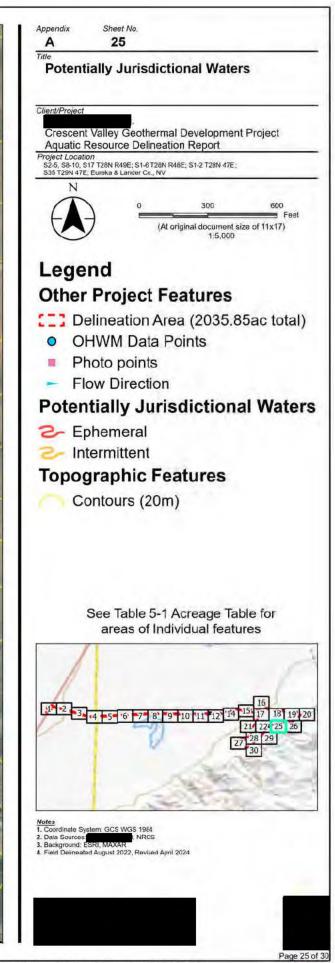


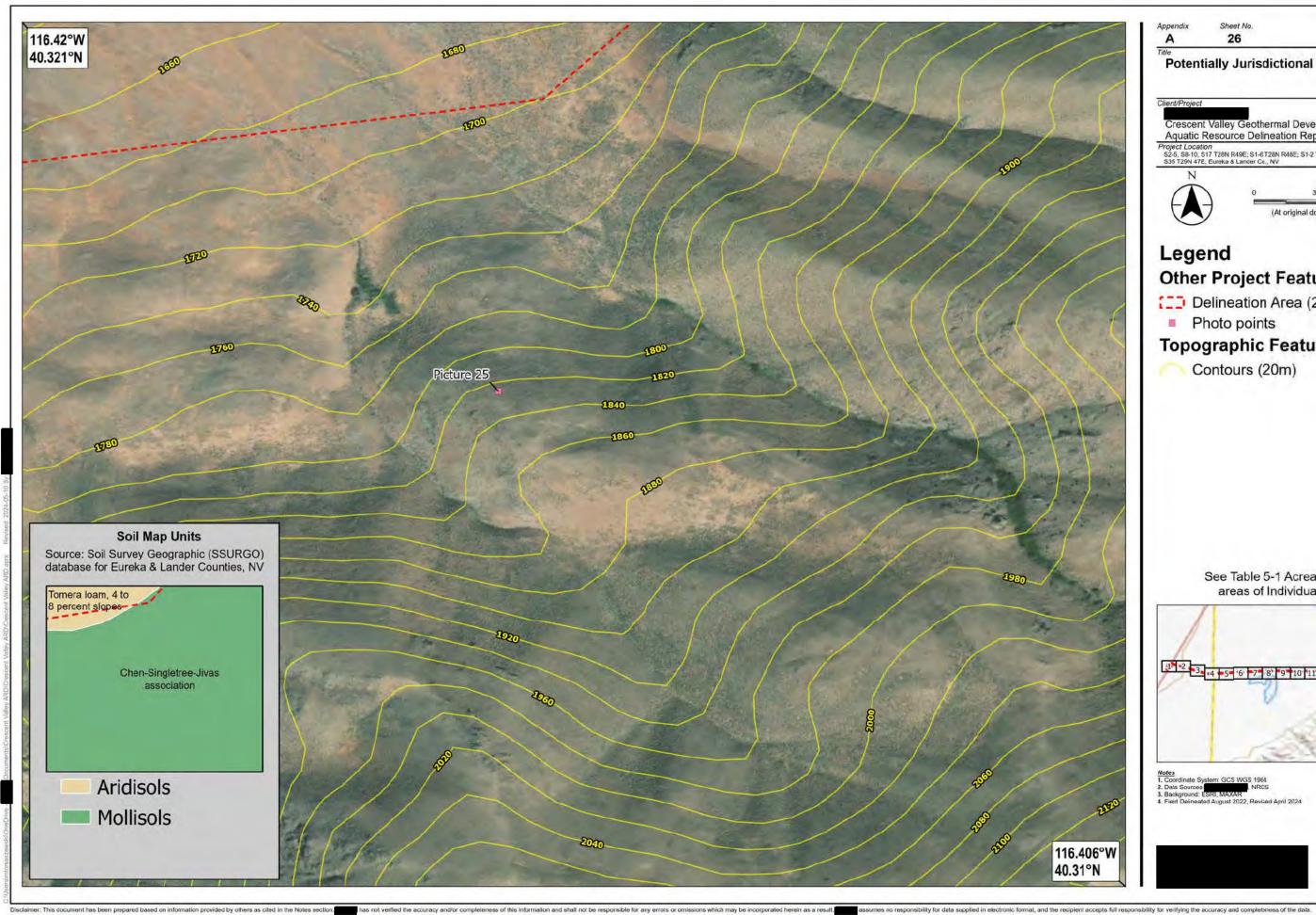


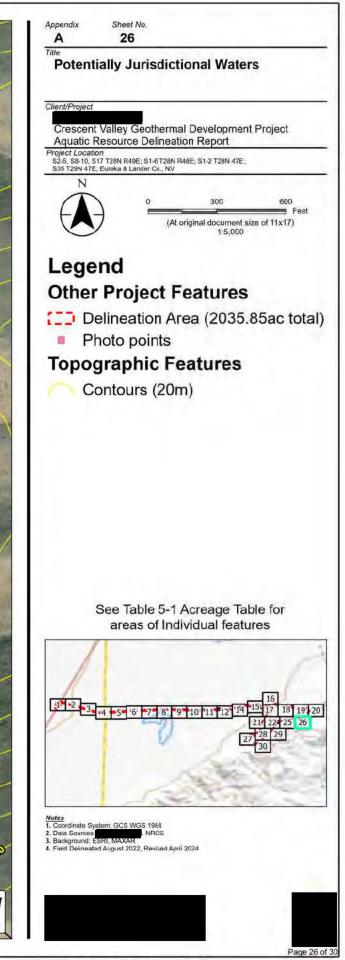


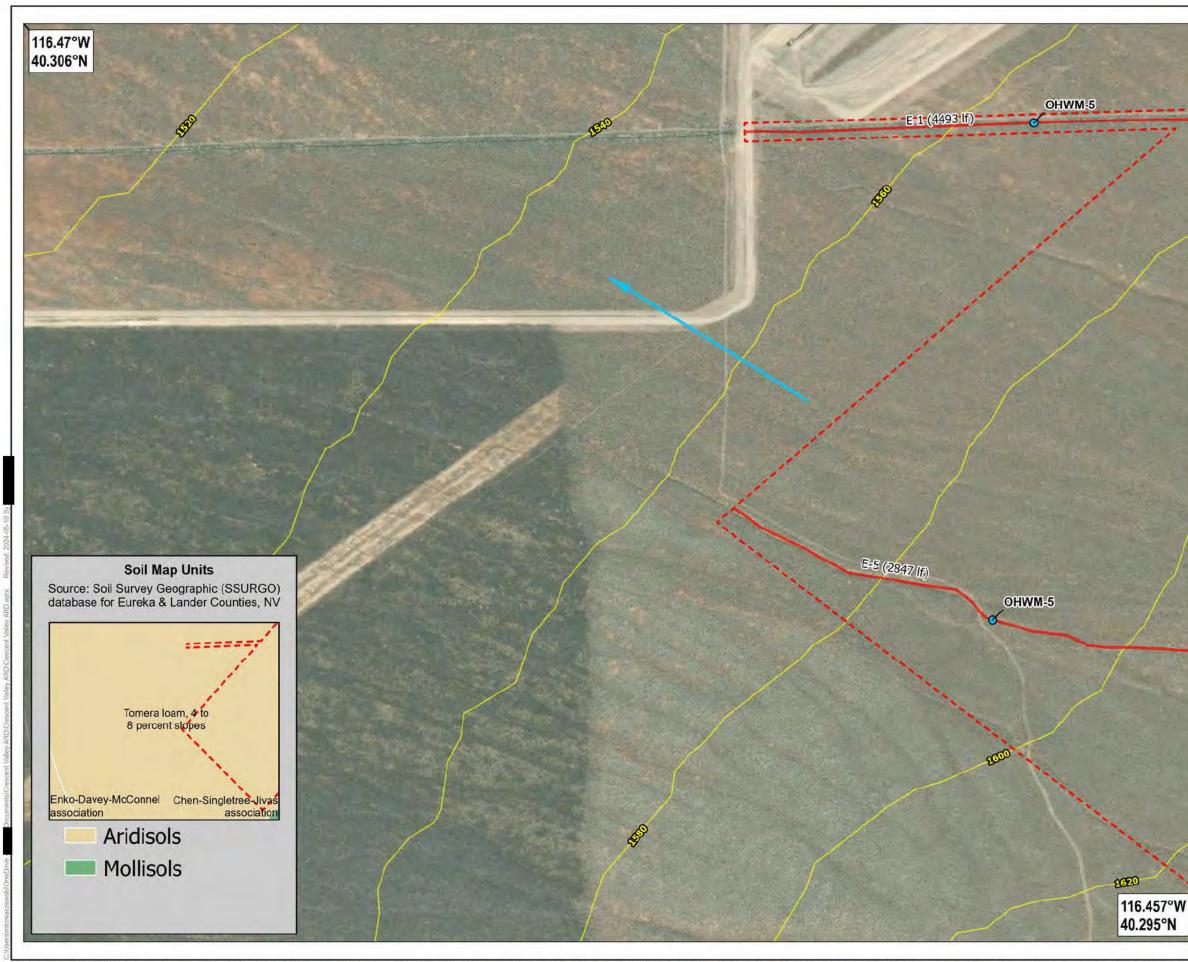
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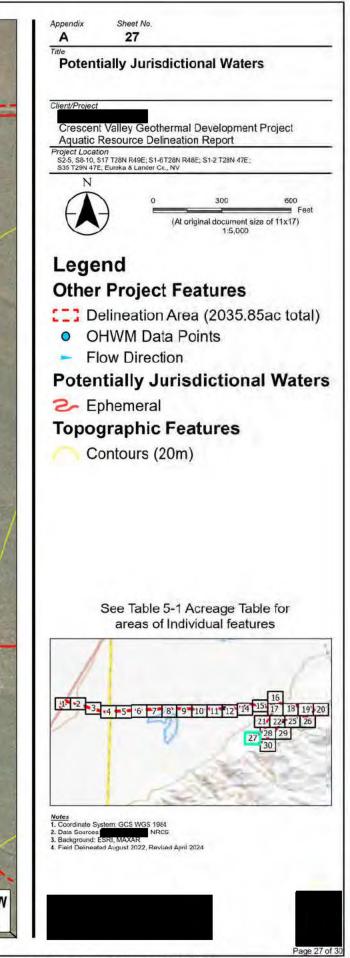




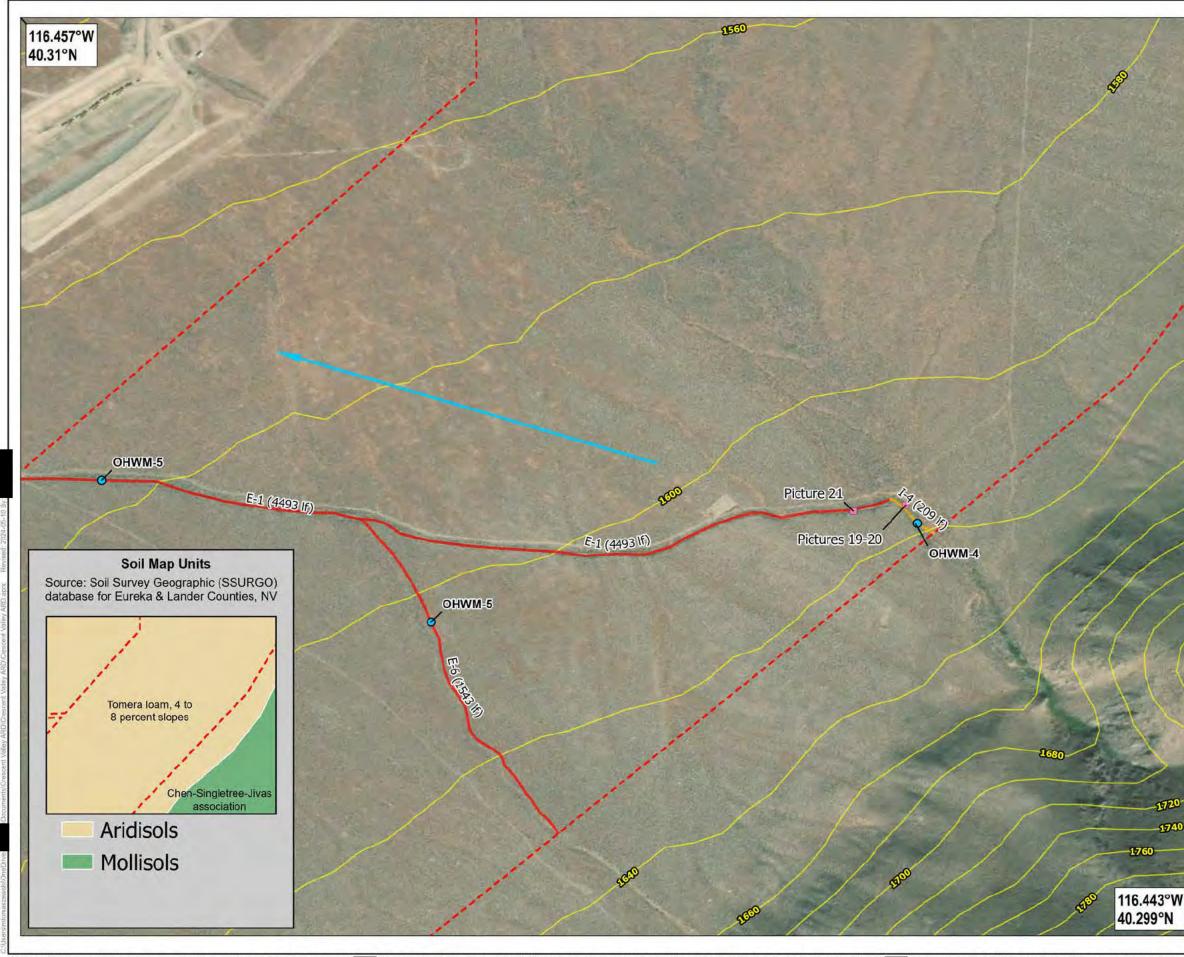


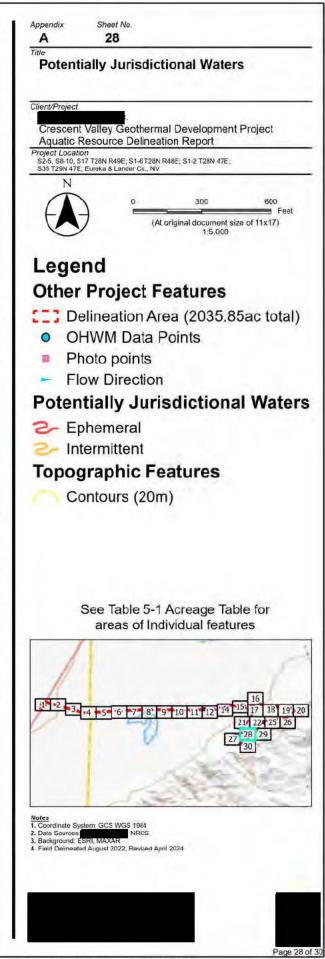






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