California Department of Transportation

DISTRICT 11 4050 TAYLOR STREET, MS-240 SAN DIEGO, CA 92110 (619) 985-1587 | FAX (619) 688-4299 TTY 711 www.dot.ca.gov





June 9, 2025

11-IMP-86 PM 56.45 - 67.82 Highway 86 Transmission Main Extension Phase 3 & 4 MND/SCH# 2025050494

Mr. William Patterson
Environmental Supervisor
Coachella Valley Water District
75515 Hovley Lane East
Palm Desert, CA 92211

Dear Mr. William Patterson:

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the environmental review process for the Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the Highway 86 Water Transmission Main Phase 3 and 4 Project located near State Route 86 (SR-86). The mission of Caltrans is to provide a safe and reliable transportation network that serves all people and respects the environment. The Local Development Review (LDR) Program reviews land use projects and plans to ensure consistency with our mission and state planning priorities.

Caltrans is committed to prioritizing projects that are equitable and provide meaningful benefits to historically underserved communities, to ultimately improve transportation accessibility and quality of life for people in the communities we serve.

We look forward to working with the Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD) in areas where the CVWD and Caltrans have joint jurisdiction to improve the transportation network and connections between various modes of travel, with the goal of improving the experience of those who use the transportation system.

Caltrans has the following comments:

Geotechnical Design

The Geotechnical Investigation Report (dated September 12, 2023) shows that subsurface soils are suitable for jack & bore tunneling crossing SR-86. However, the report didn't provide recommendations for a minimum depth of embedment under SR-86. It states that the contractor is responsible for the design of the jack & bore. Our office should be provided with the design report of the jack & bore for review.

Before granting the final encroachment approval, Caltrans needs to review the final geotechnical design report that should include the design and calculations for the jack & bore at all highway-crossing locations, as well as a complete set of construction plans.

Please have the project team follow the Caltrans "Utility Permits" section 600 subsection 623 "Trenchless Technologies" 623.1 "Bore & Jack" regarding all proposed trenchless pipe crossings of SR-86.

Hydraulics

The following comments were previously submitted to the applicant in comment letters from Caltrans District 11 on February 23, 2023 and July 15, 2024 but were not addressed by the applicant. Please see attachments. The unaddressed comments are listed below:

- There are several locations within the project site where proposed work crosses
 FEMA-defined floodways and floodplains. Please provide written documentation that coordination with the local FEMA administrator has been established.
- In coordination with the local FEMA administrator, provide written proof that no permanent alterations/impact will happen to FEMA-defined floodway/floodplains within Caltrans' Right of Way (R/W).
- There are locations where the proposed transmission line crosses Caltrans existing drainage infrastructure. Show these locations on the appropriate plan and profile sheets and ensure no conflict occurs between both crossings. Ensure there is sufficient clearance between Caltrans drainage infrastructure and the proposed transmission line.
- Include profiles on all plan sheets.
- Page 28 of 84 of 30% Plans: Verify Caltrans' R/W alignment.
- Page 28 of 84 of 30% Plans: plans call out a 15' CVWD easement within Caltrans' R/W.
- Please include a key map, with the plan sheet numbers, to show the overall site map for the project area.

Design

Ensure coordination with Caltrans District 11 SHOPP Project 11-43194. This a pavement preservation anchor asset project along SR-86 from postmile (PM) R37.2 to PM 67.8. This project also proposes drainage systems restoration, guardrail systems, sign panel replacements, lighting rehabilitation, census stations, and complete street elements. The CVWD Highway 86 Transmission Main Extension Phase 3 and 4 project is within the limits of the 11-43194 project. The 11-43194 project is currently in the Project Initiation Document (PID) phase. Per the preliminary schedule, the Project Approval & Environmental Document (PA&ED) phase of this project is expected to begin in August 2026 and end by March 2028. The Plans, Specifications, and Estimate (PS&E) phase is expected to begin in May 2028 with a Ready to List (RTL) milestone date of December 2029. The Construction phase is expected to begin in May 2030 with a Contract Acceptance date of February 2033. The above dates are preliminary and still being discussed internally in Caltrans District 11.

Additionally, there are following projects with proposed project limits:

- 4B018 Broadband project (PM 00.0 to PM 67.8)
- 11-43155 Pavement Rehabilitation project (PM 55.9 to PM 56.3)
- Safety project proposing Roundabout at the intersection of SR-86/Black Diamond Road (PM 62.38), the project is in preliminary stage. Further coordination would be required.

Environmental

Per the May 2025 Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND), a majority of the project will be within Caltrans' R/W. Caltrans has discretionary authority over the portion of the project within Caltrans' R/W and is a Responsible Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Thus, an encroachment permit will be required for all work within the Caltrans R/W prior to construction. The IS/MND, once finalized, and the Notice of Determination should be included with the encroachment permit.

Comments were previously submitted during an informal circulation of the Draft IS/MND for cultural resources, biological resources, and hazardous waste. Please ensure those comments are addressed and incorporated into the Final IS/MND. Also, a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) or Water Pollution Control Plan (WPCP) should be prepared and submitted with the encroachment permit.

Traffic Engineering and Analysis

- This area is access controlled; utilities will only allow to cross inside access-controlled area. Move the portion of waterline that's inside our access control to outside of our access controlled area if it runs longitudinally to SR-86. Consult with Utilities Engineering for additional information.
- Open trench will not be allowed for crossing utilities inside access control.
- A traffic control plans will be required for traffic controls, or any signs that will be placed inside Caltrans' R/W.
- All non-essential highway appurtenances above ground features shall be 52 feet from the edge of traveled way.

Hauling/Traffic Control Plan

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) has discretionary authority with respect to highways under its jurisdiction and may, upon application and if good cause appears, issue a special permit to operate or move a vehicle or combination of vehicles or special mobile equipment of a size or weight of vehicle or load exceeding the maximum limitations specified in the California Vehicle Code. The Caltrans Transportation Permits Issuance Branch is responsible for the issuance of these special transportation permits for oversize/overweight vehicles on the State Highway network. Additional information is provided online at: https://dot.ca.gov/programs/traffic-operations/transportation-permits

A Traffic Control Plan is to be submitted to Caltrans District 11 at least 30 days prior to the start of any construction. Traffic shall not be unreasonably delayed. The plan shall also outline suggested detours to use during closures, including routes and signage.

Potential impacts to the highway facilities (SR-86) and traveling public from the detour, demolition and other construction activities should be discussed and addressed before work begins.

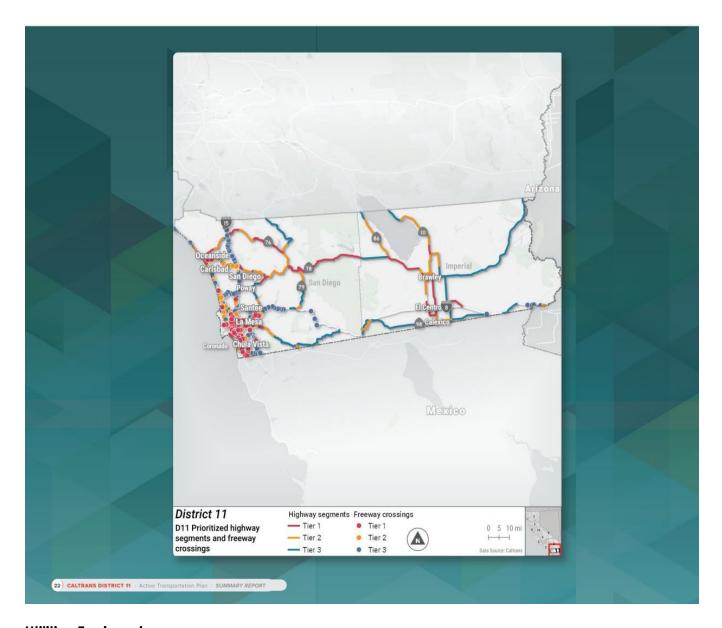
Complete Streets

The proposed project may impact the Class II bikeways planned for the segment of SR-86 in Imperial County. The 2022 Caltrans District 11 Active Transportation (CAT) Plan location-based needs for SR-86 are a Tier 2 and Tier 3 of the proposed work along SR-86. Tiers represent the highest concentration of need, Tier 2 being the second highest. The CAT Plan proposes Class II bikeways in both Tier 2 and Tier 3 segments of SR-86. If project construction impacts these areas, please work with Caltrans to accommodate pedestrians, bicyclists, and transit users during construction.

Bicycle, pedestrian, and public transit access during construction is important. Mitigation to maintain bicycle, pedestrian, and public transit access during construction is in accordance with Caltrans' goals and policies.

The pdf copy of the 2022 CAT Plan referenced is located here: https://dot.ca.gov/-/media/dot-media/programs/transportation-planning/documents/active-transportation-complete-streets/caltrans-reconnecting-communities-program/district11-finalreport-a11y.pdf

Page 22 of the referenced 2022 CAT Plan shows the Tier 2 and Tier 3 segments of SR-86 (see the screenshot on the next page).



Utilities Engineering

It is recommended to provide a key map or title sheet which includes alignment to be able to better verify location due to desert area.

Please clarify if other utilities in the area have been identified? For example, underground gas, telecom transmission lines, and/or utility manholes.

It is mentioned in your General Notes that it would be 48" with curb and gutter. Would the cover/depth of your facility be 48" along the entire length of the proposed pipeline along Caltrans' R/W?

The proposed pipeline should be outside of Caltrans' R/W and avoid any longitudinal crossings to avoid any conflicts. Any necessary longitudinal crossings should be minimal and would need to be via jack and bore to avoid any conflicts.

District Design Liaison (DDL)

Since this project is only at 30% design an Encroachment Policy Exception (EPE) will have to wait until after the environmental clearances/determination are obtained and the plans are at 90% completion. The review comments provided below are very high-level:

- The proposed alignment along SR-86 will require the submittal of an EPE request for access-controlled encroachment policies found in the Project Development Procedures Manual (PDPM), Chapter 17, "Encroachments and Utilities."
 - An EPE must be submitted after the project has obtained its environmental determination and after the project plans are at a level of 90% completion, at minimum, per Caltrans plan set requirements.
 - Examples of applicable encroachment policies, include but are not limited to: longitudinal installation, maintenance access points, and access modifications (temporary or permanent).
 - Please change the color of the Caltrans R/W line (light blue) in all your exhibits and make it bolder so we can clearly distinguish Caltrans' R/W versus private property.
 - Are there any utilities that are crossing the proposed transmission line along SR-86? All your exhibits should show profiles to show any utilities that are crossing this water line.
- As part of an EPE request, justifications must be included about the evaluation of other viable alignment options and why they were not selected, such as an alignment that is outside of Caltrans R/W and an alignment on the eastern side of SR-86, which would reduce the number of crossings underneath the state highway.
- If crossing of utility is not 90 degrees to highway, a longitudinal encroachment will need an EPE.
- Utility policies found in PDPM Chapter 17 must be complied with or a Utility Policy Exception (UPE) request will also be required.
- The existing Right of Way maps indicated that there is an existing easement for a water line in the northernmost segment of the project area. Will any part of the new water line be within this existing easement?
- If the project proposes trenchless installation, please consult the Encroachment Permits Manual (EPM), Chapter 600, for guidance.
 - Per Chapter 600, a geotechnical study may be needed for trenchless installation methods.
 - Please note that any proposals for open trench installation within any area of Caltrans' R/W will require an exception request to the District 11 during the QMAP process.
- Pipe installation with an outer diameter of 30 inches or greater are considered tunneling installations and have additional requirements to submit the package for a Structure review. This includes pipes with a casing where the outer diameter is 30 inches or areater.

- Disconnects must be located outside of access control lines.
- What is the proposed material and size of encasement (Reference EPM, Table 6.7 and 6.8)?

Right-of-Way

Per Business and Profession Code 8771, perpetuation of survey monuments by a licensed land surveyor is required, if they are being disturbed or destroyed by any construction.

Any work performed within Caltrans' R/W will require discretionary review and approval by Caltrans and an encroachment permit will be required for any work within the Caltrans' R/W prior to construction.

Additional information regarding encroachment permits may be obtained by visiting the website at https://dot.ca.gov/programs/traffic-operations/ep. Projects with the following:

- require a Caltrans Encroachment Permit
- have completed the Caltrans LDR process
- have an approved environmental document

need to have documents submitted for Quality Management Assessment Process (QMAP) process via email to D11.QMAP.Permits@dot.ca.gov. Early coordination with Caltrans is strongly advised for all encroachment permits.

Early coordination with Caltrans is recommended.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Charlie Lecourtois, LDR Coordinator, at (619) 985-4766 or by e-mail sent to charlie.lecourtois@dot.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Kimberly D. Dodson

KIMBERLY D. DODSON, GISP Branch Chief Local Development Review

Attachment:

- 1. Comment Letter from Caltrans District 11 Dated July 15, 2024
- 2. Comment Letter from Caltrans District 11 Dated February 23, 2023

California Department of Transportation

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July 15, 2024

11-IMP-86 PM 56.45 - 67.82 Coachella Valley Water District Highway 86 Transmission Main Extension Phase 3 & 4 Site Plan Review

Mr. Shane Bloomfield, PE Senior Engineer Albert A. Webb Associates 3788 McCray Street Riverside, CA 92506

Dear Mr. Bloomfield:

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the review process for the for the Site Plan Review (30% Design Plans dated May 2024) for the Coachella Valley Water (CVWD) District Highway 86 Transmission Main Extension Phase 3 & 4 Project located near State Route 86 (SR-86). The mission of Caltrans is to provide a safe and reliable transportation network that serves all people and respects the environment. The Local Development Review (LDR) Program reviews land use projects and plans to ensure consistency with our mission and state planning priorities.

Safety is one of Caltrans' strategic goals. Caltrans strives to make the year 2050 the first year without a single death or serious injury on California's roads. We are striving for more equitable outcomes for the transportation network's diverse users. To achieve these ambitious goals, we will pursue meaningful collaboration with our partners. We encourage the implementation of new technologies, innovations, and best practices that will enhance the safety on the transportation network. These pursuits are both ambitious and urgent, and their accomplishment involves a focused departure from the status quo as we continue to institutionalize safety in all our work.

Caltrans is committed to prioritizing projects that are equitable and provide meaningful benefits to historically underserved communities, to ultimately improve transportation accessibility and quality of life for people in the communities we serve.

Mr. Shane Bloomfield July 15, 2024 Page 2

Caltrans District 8 (Riverside County) and Caltrans District 11 (San Diego/Imperial County) will be providing comments separately.
Caltrans District 11 has the following comments:

Complete Streets

There are segments of SR-86 where pedestrians, bicyclists, and transit users may be present on shoulders and other locations. If project construction impacts these areas, please work with Caltrans to accommodate pedestrians, bicyclists, and transit users during construction.

Design

- 1. Please correct the street name "84th Avenue" which is called out in the plans and then in the project description both as "84th Avenue" and "84th Street." Please update all documents to the correct name.
- 2. Add any missing patterns to the legend on page 2.
 - The **edge of pavement** pattern is missing in the legend.
 - Pattern (/ / / / see page 4 and other sheets) is not included in legend and unclear what it represents. Please update legend.
 - Legend for **existing water main (with size)** does not match sheets. Size is not being included in sheets and unclear if the dashed line on the sheets is for that item (see page 8/9 for example of dashed line).
 - **Existing fence** pattern on legend also calls out access control fence Caltrans on sheets. Please update legend or call out on sheets to match pattern.
- 3. Understanding that the proposed alternative is being submitted at risk since the environmental study has not been completed and a 'preferred' alternative would be selected only at the approval of the environmental document, the proposed utility should be installed closest to the State's Right-of-Way (R/W) line as possible. The submitted plans show the proposed water line at a variety of distances away from the R/W line.
- 4. While understanding that there is a risk to remove the existing asbestos-cement (AC) pipe, abandoning in place will need to be approved by all divisions within Caltrans D11.
- 5. R/W line:
 - Explain the difference between 'access control fence' and 'Caltrans R/W.' In Caltrans terminology, access control means the R/W line with no breakage/opening allowance, and this is represented with 'tick' marks.

- Pages 23-25 and other sheets of the 30% plans includes a line with 'tick' marks and it is labeled Caltrans R/W which is different than the Caltrans R/W line shown on pages 13-22.
- Confirm R/W line, page 23 and other sheets of the same plan set, shows the R/W line perpendicular to the highway.
- Page 25 includes both types of lines (one with 'tick' marks and the other without them but they are both labeled 'Caltrans R/W" please revise.
- Confirm that Norm River Road and others are inside Caltrans R/W as shown on page 44 and others of the submitted plans.
- 6. Please explain the need for the proposed waterline to cross the highway at three locations (station 126-129, 484-487, and 587-590 of the pipeline).
- 7. Identify method of installation for the highway crossings (i.e., jack and bore, HDD, etc.) as trenching will not be allowed. A geotechnical report will be required for the project.
- 8. For all trenching (outside of SR-86), structural section details and cross section details, will be required. There are pavement restoration notes on page 2 (listing trench, backfill and pavement repair and including grinding and overlay) but no cross sections or plans to show the proposed work. Please provide cross sections or plans to show the proposed work.
- 9. Utility must follow requirements per PDPM Ch 17, including depth and encasement.
- 10. List D11 Roadway Permits also under Utility contacts on page 2 of the plans. It is only showing D8 now. Call out where it is Imperial County and where it is Riverside County (D11 and D8) on the plans.
- 11. See Chapters 800, 840, and 850 in Highway Design Manual (HDM) for guidance.
- 12. Profiles are missing. Please include profiles.
- 13. What is the *Proposed 25' Easement* on pg. 51 and other pages? Is page 78 matchline sta (golden avenue) correct? Page 20/21 access control line at R/W line also? Page 43/44 label roads. Page 50 (see pattern not labeled). Page 69 Rodeo Drive?
- 14. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Land is adjacent to pipeline (pg. 52-54). Is there a minimum distance it should be at? Confirm there is no Caltrans R/W there. Please confirm if any special coordination is needed.

District Design Liaison (DDL)

Since this project is only at 30% design and an Encroachment Policy Exception (EPE) will have to wait until after the environmental clearances/determination are obtained, the review comments provided below are very high-level:

- 1. The proposed alignment along SR-86 will require the submittal of an EPE request for access-controlled encroachment policies found in the Project Development Procedures Manual (PDPM), Chapter 17, "Encroachments and Utilities."
 - a. An EPE must be submitted after the project has obtained its environmental determination and after the project plans are at a level of 60% completion, at minimum, per Caltrans plan set requirements.
 - b. Examples of applicable encroachment policies, include but are not limited to: longitudinal installation, maintenance access points, and access modifications (temporary or permanent).
- 2. As part of an EPE request, justifications must be included about the evaluation of other viable alignment options and why they were not selected, such as an alignment that is outside of Caltrans R/W and an alignment on the eastern side of SR-86, which would reduce the number of crossings underneath the state highway.
- 3. If crossing of utility is not 90 degrees to highway, a longitudinal encroachment will need an EPE.
- 4. Utility policies found in PDPM Chapter 17 must be complied with or a Utility Policy Exception (UPE) request will also be required.
- 5. The existing right of way maps indicated that there is an existing easement for a water line in the northernmost segment of the project area. Will any part of the new water line be within this existing easement?
- 6. If the project proposes trenchless installation, please consult the Encroachment Permits Manual (EPM), Chapter 600, for guidance.
 - a. Per Chapter 600, a geotechnical study may be needed for trenchless installation methods.
 - b. Please note that any proposals for open trench installation within any area of Caltrans' R/W will require an exception request to the District 11 Encroachment Permits Office.
- 7. Pipe installation with an outer diameter of 30 inches or greater are considered tunneling installations and have additional requirements to submit the package for a Structure review. Please consult with the District 11 Encroachment Permits Office for more information. This includes pipes with a casing where the outer diameter is 30 inches or greater.
- 8. Disconnects must be located outside of access control lines.
- 9. What is the proposed material and size of encasement (Reference EPM, Table 6.7 and 6.8)?

Geotechnical Design

Caltrans EPM does not specify a minimum depth of soil cover for jack & bore method. We do require that a geotechnical report be submitted for review which should evaluate the suitability of the trenchless method (Jack & Bore), recommend the depth

Mr. Shane Bloomfield July 15, 2024 Page 5

of the pipe within Caltrans' R/W, and indicate that that depth is sufficient. The contractor should also establish a survey grid to monitor ground settlement and record the volume of soil cutting daily during construction.

Hydrology and Drainage Studies

- There are locations where the proposed transmission line crosses Caltrans' existing drainage infrastructure. Show these locations on the appropriate plan and profile sheets and ensure no conflict occurs between both crossings. Ensure there is sufficient clearance between Caltrans' drainage infrastructure and the proposed transmission line.
- 2. Include profiles on all plan sheets.
- 3. Page 28 of 73 of 30% Plans: Verify Caltrans' R/W alignment.
- 4. Page 28 of 73 of 30% Plans: plans call out a 15' CVWD easement within Caltrans' R/W. Please clarify if this is a proposed easement. Any proposed easements will have to be reviewed by Caltrans and will need further coordination.
- 5. Please include a key map, with the cut sheet numbers, to show the overall site map for the project area.

The following comments below were previously submitted by the Hydraulics Branch in January 2023 and were not addressed by the applicant. The unaddressed comments are listed below:

For the applicant's documents submitted in December 2022 the Hydraulics Branch has the following comments:

- 1. There are several locations within the project site where proposed work crosses FEMA-defined floodways and floodplains. Please provide written documentation that coordination with the local FEMA administrator has been established.
- 2. In coordination with the local FEMA administrator, provide written proof that no permanent alterations/impact will happen to FEMA-defined floodway/floodplains within Caltrans' R/W.

Noise

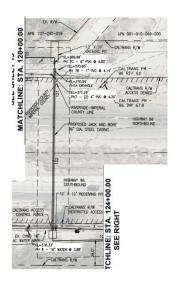
The applicant must be informed that in accordance with 23 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 772, Caltrans is not responsible for existing or future traffic noise impacts associated with the existing configuration of SR-86.

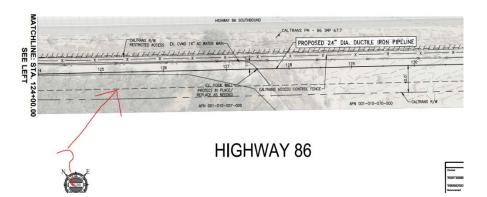
Planning

- 1. If the proposed water pipeline is going to exceed 30" in diameter it will be considered a tunnel. Tunnels require a Cal/OSHA permit for safety measures and to check for hazardous gasses in the tunnel.
- 2. Review and submittal of an application for an EPE and/or a Design Standard Decision Document does not guarantee approval.

Right-of-Way

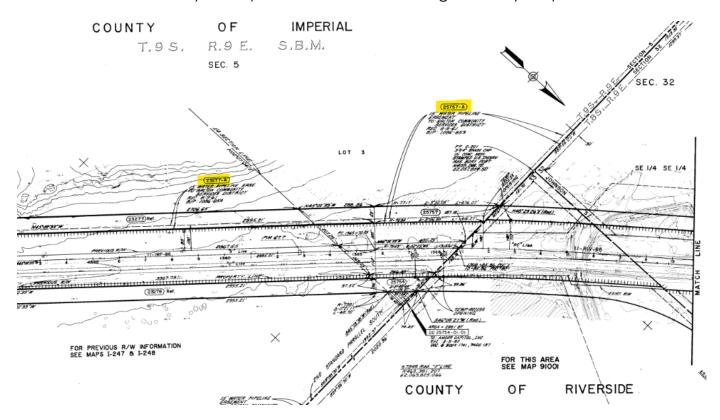
1. The proposed improvement will cross Caltrans' access controlled R/W in several places and then will run along Caltrans' R/W just outside of Caltrans' active R/W. The applicant should also clearly delineate land that is Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) regardless of Caltrans' R/W line since they will need to apply for the rights with BIA and get approval from the Native American tribes. They will need to document any and all encroachments including work area and grading or trenching on the plans. There are several areas that show a dashed line that has no label and appears to follow the new alignment of the proposed line.





2. Most of the line appears to be within Caltrans' easement and will need to be documented with an EPE and proposed ongoing maintenance of this waterline and documented as such. If there are any Caltrans monuments that will be destroyed during construction the applicant should perpetuate these monuments and send any survey work or R/W boundary work to Right of Way Engineering (RWE) for review. RWE will also need to document this line and the EPE on Caltrans' right of way maps as this line runs for several miles. Please provide as-built cad drawings when completed.

3. It appears there is a 15' easement in Caltrans' R/W for water pipeline. Is this the CVWD's easement? If so, please show this on the plans. It runs from the county line to Coolidge Springs Road. They should document any and all easements that may be in the area of construction for the full length of this alignment. Title search may be needed by the applicant to rule out any possible easements or utilities that may be impacted. See Caltrans' right of way maps attached.



- 4. Per Business and Profession Code 8771, perpetuation of survey monuments by a licensed land surveyor is required, if they are being destroyed by any construction.
- 5. Any work performed within Caltrans' R/W will require discretionary review and approval by Caltrans and an encroachment permit will be required for any work within the Caltrans' R/W prior to construction.

Traffic Engineering and Analysis

- 1. This area is access controlled; utilities will only allow to cross inside access-controlled area. Move waterline inside access control to outside of access control area if it runs longitudinally to SR-86. Consult with Utilities Engineering for additional information.
- 2. Open trench will not be allowed for crossing utilities inside access control.

Mr. Shane Bloomfield July 15, 2024 Page 8

3. Traffic control plans will be required for traffic control, or any signs will be placed inside Caltrans' R/W.

Utilities Engineering

It is recommended to provide a key map or a title sheet which includes alignment to be able to better verify location (see attachment examples attached). Please clarify if other utilities in the area have been identified (e.g., underground gas, telecom transmission lines, utility manholes). It is mentioned in the General Notes that it would be 48" with curb and gutter. Please clarify if the cover/depth of the facility would be 48" along the entire length of the proposed pipeline along Caltrans' R/W.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Charlie Lecourtois, LDR Coordinator, at (619) 985-4766 or by e-mail sent to charlie.lecourtois@dot.ca.gov.

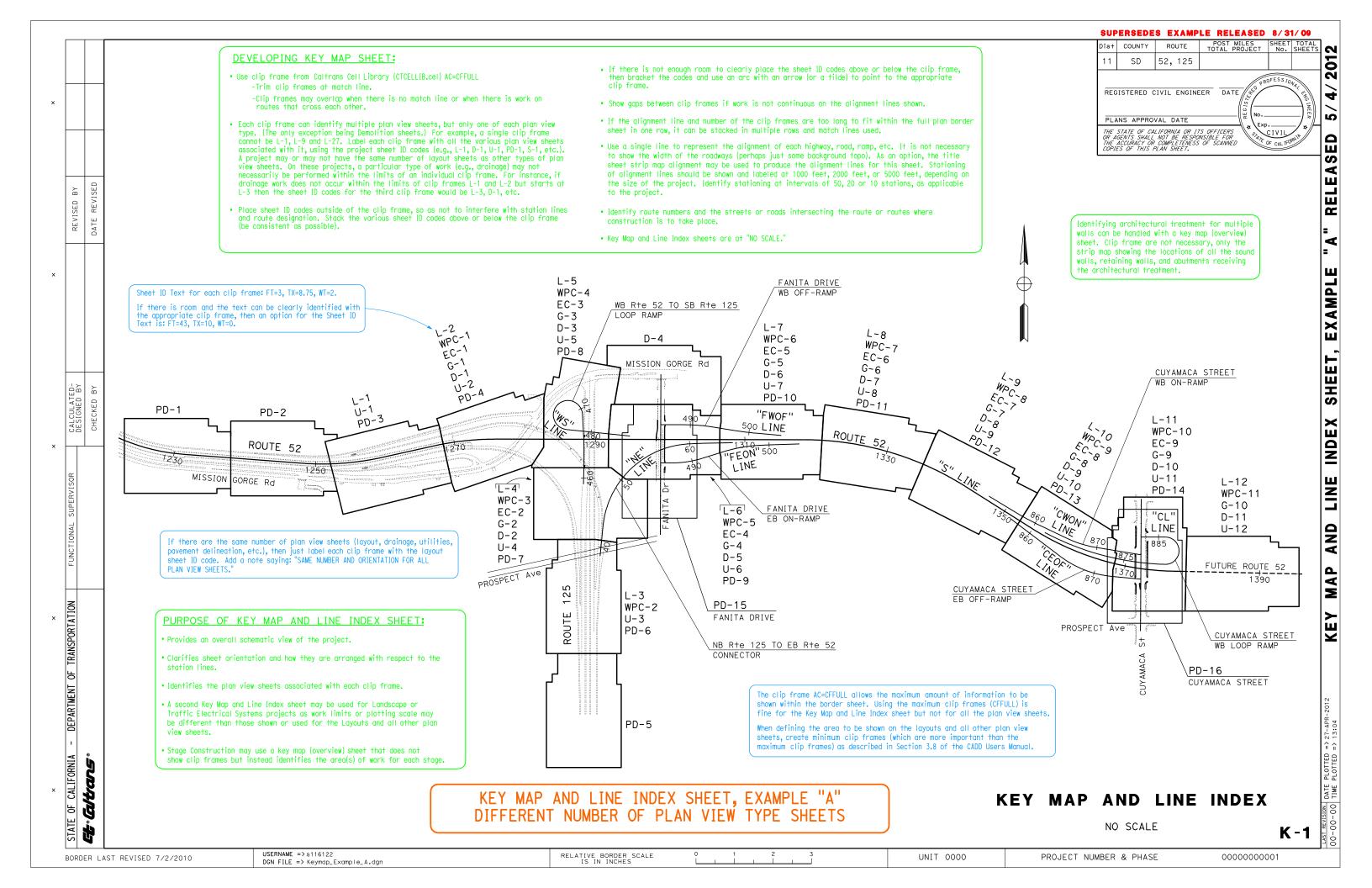
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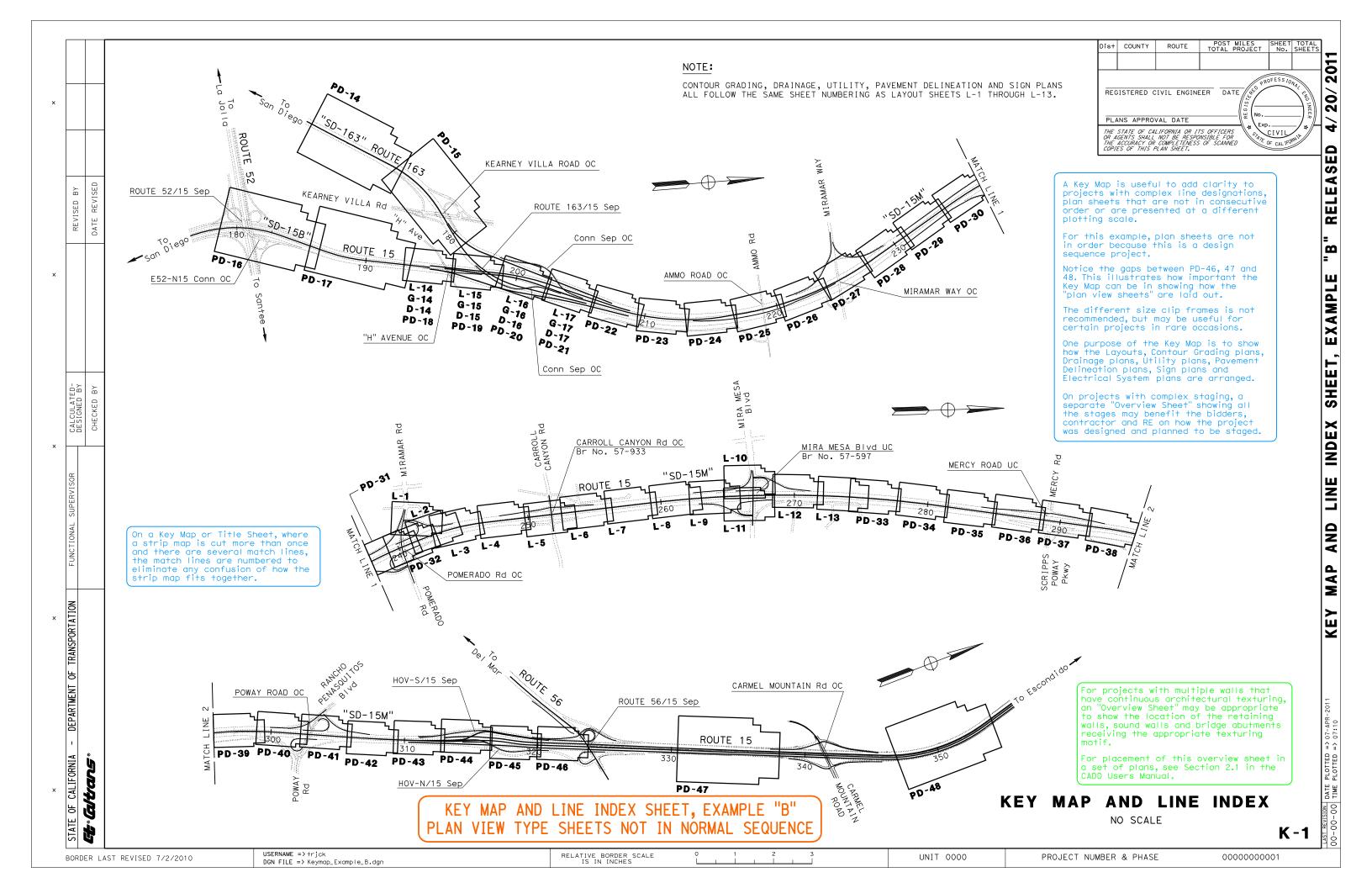
Kimberly D. Dodson

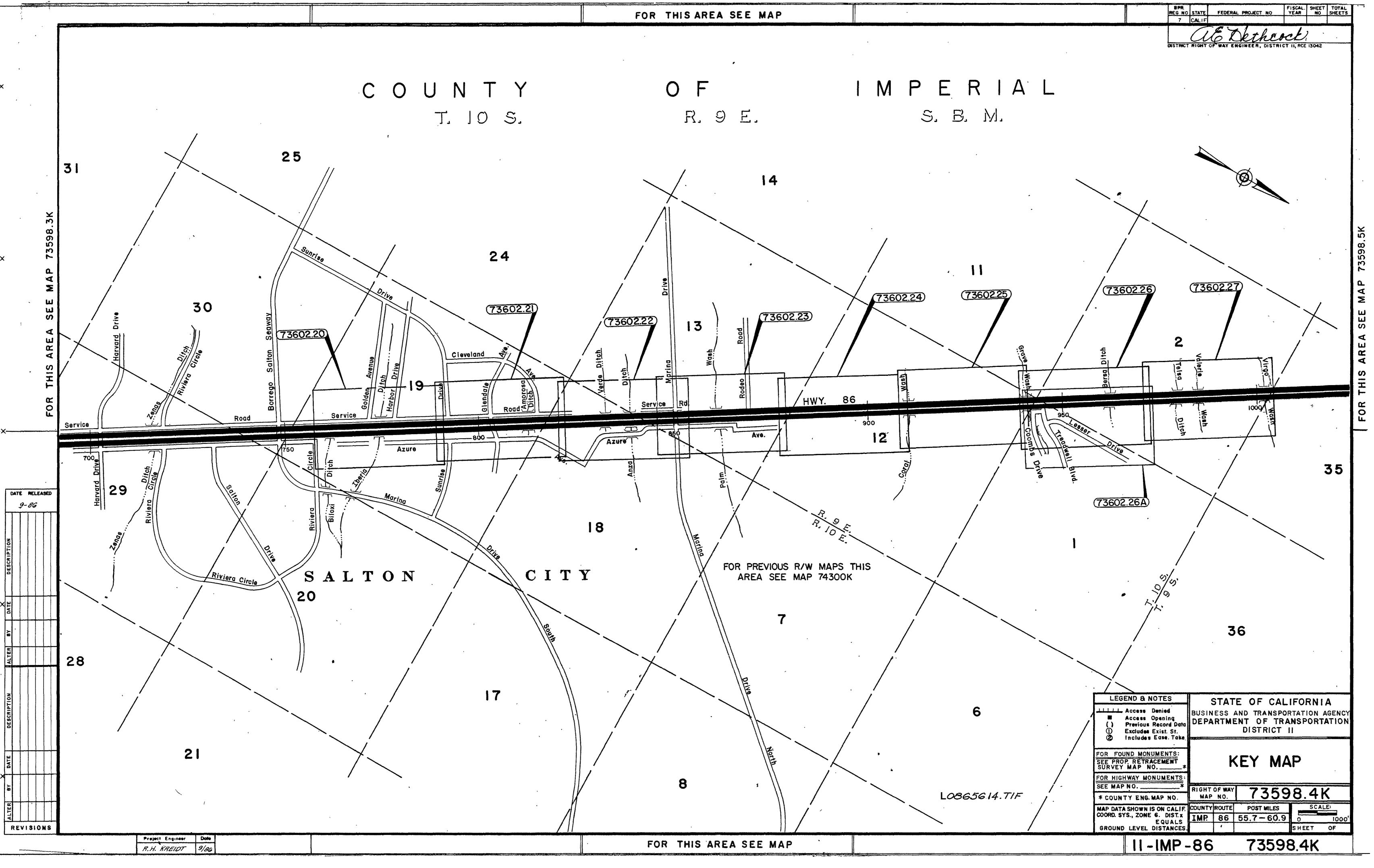
KIMBERLY D. DODSON, GISP Branch Chief Local Development Review

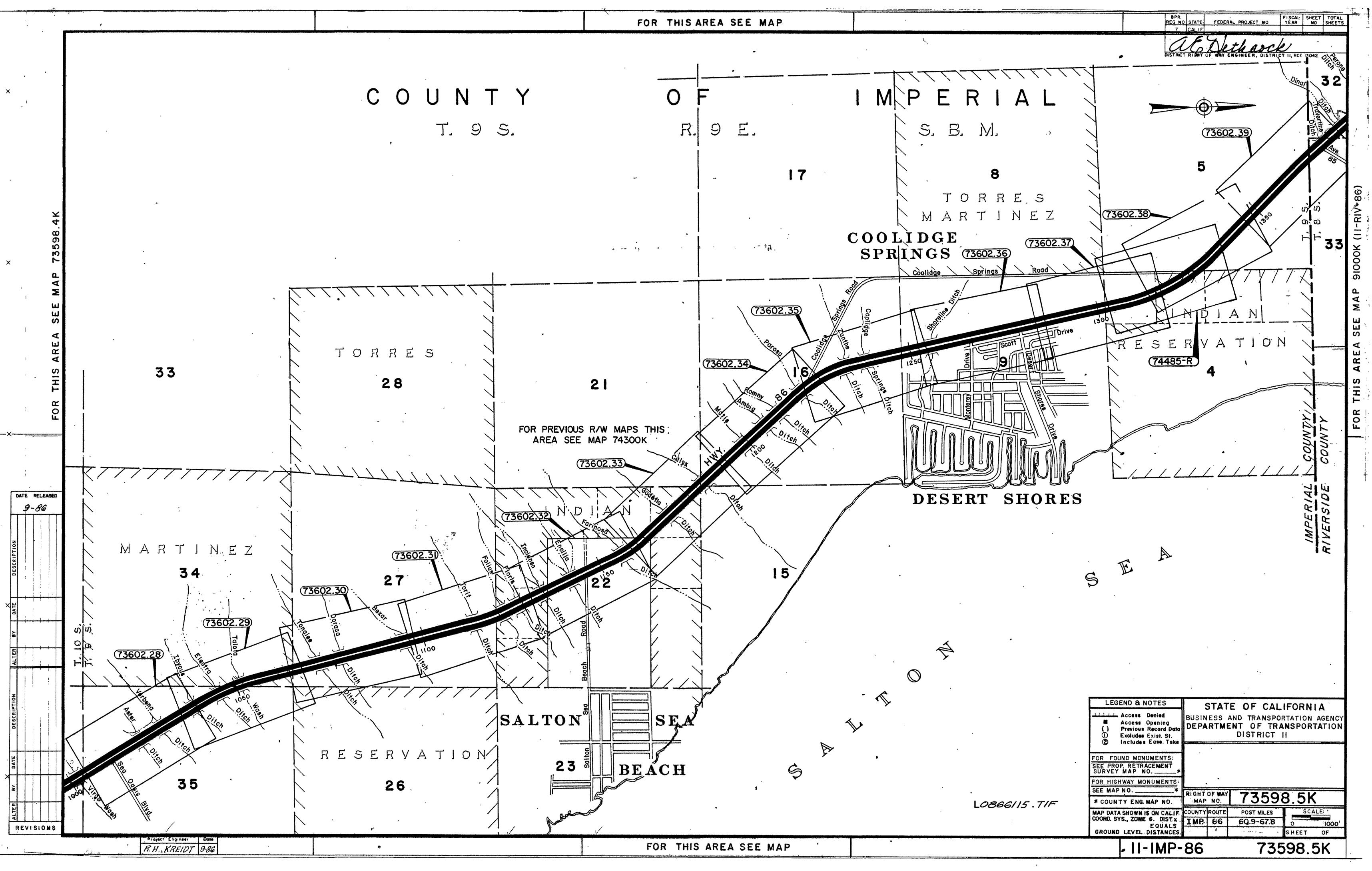
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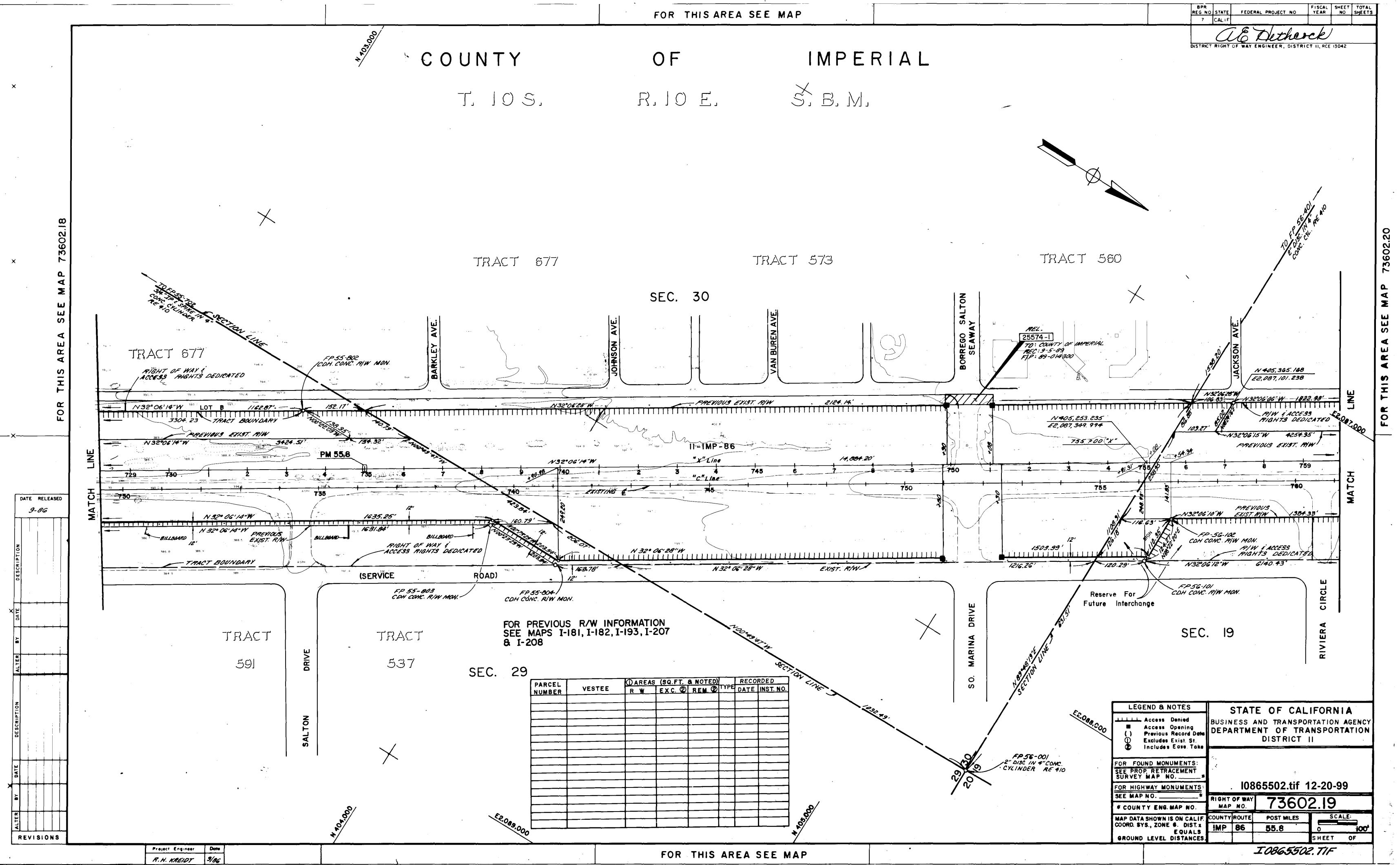
- 1. Utility Engineering Key Sheet Examples
- 2. District 11 Right of Way Maps Combined

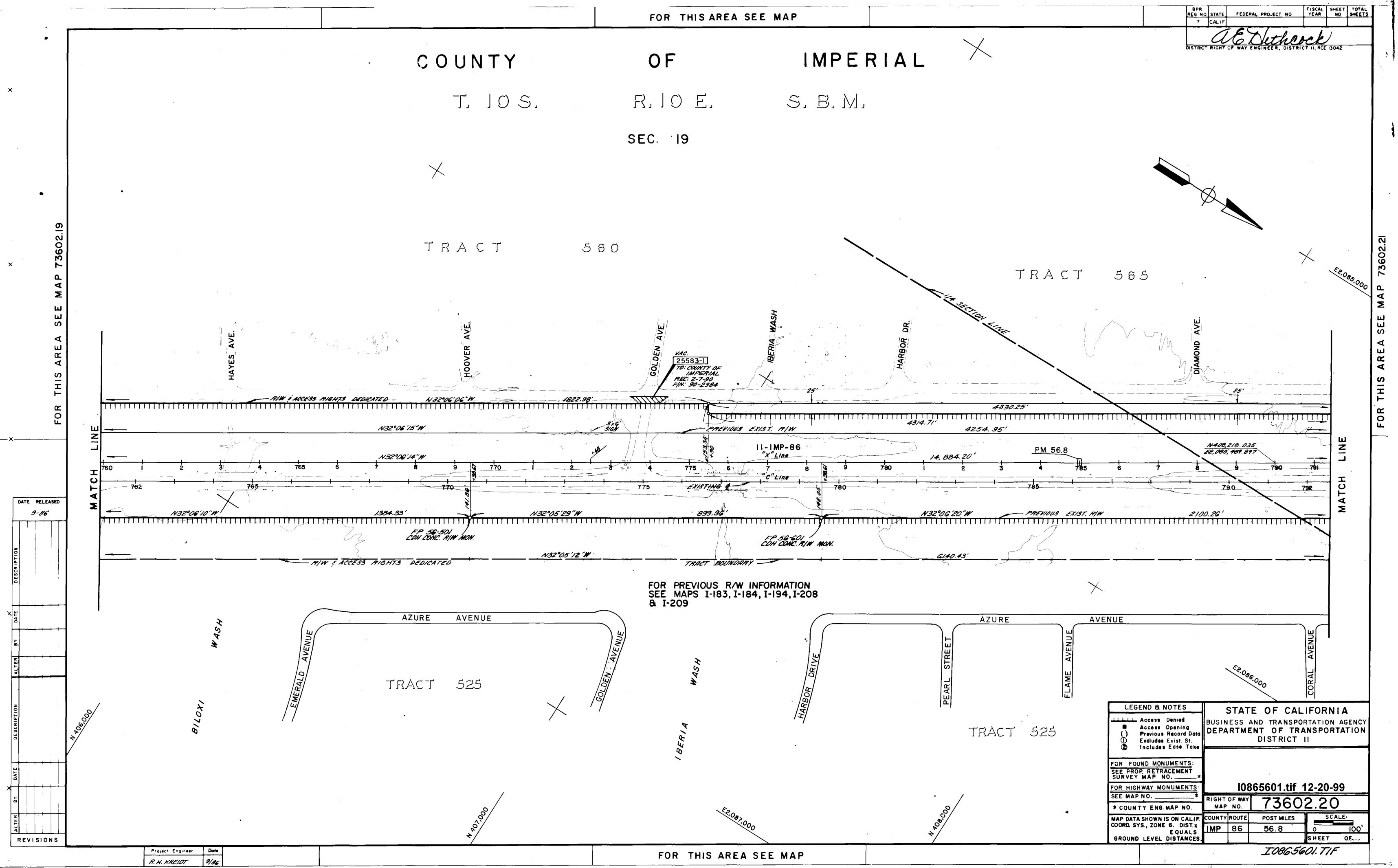


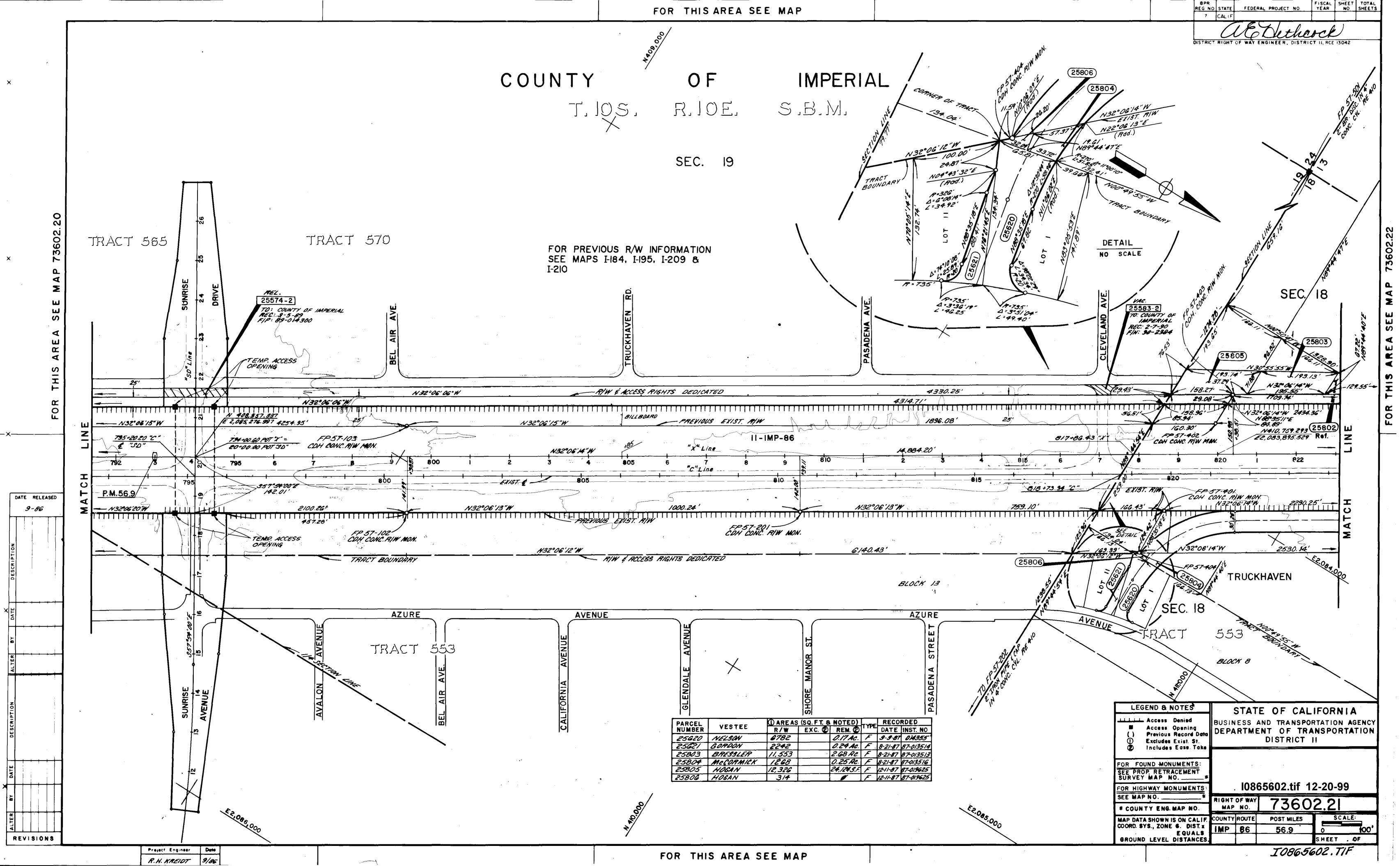


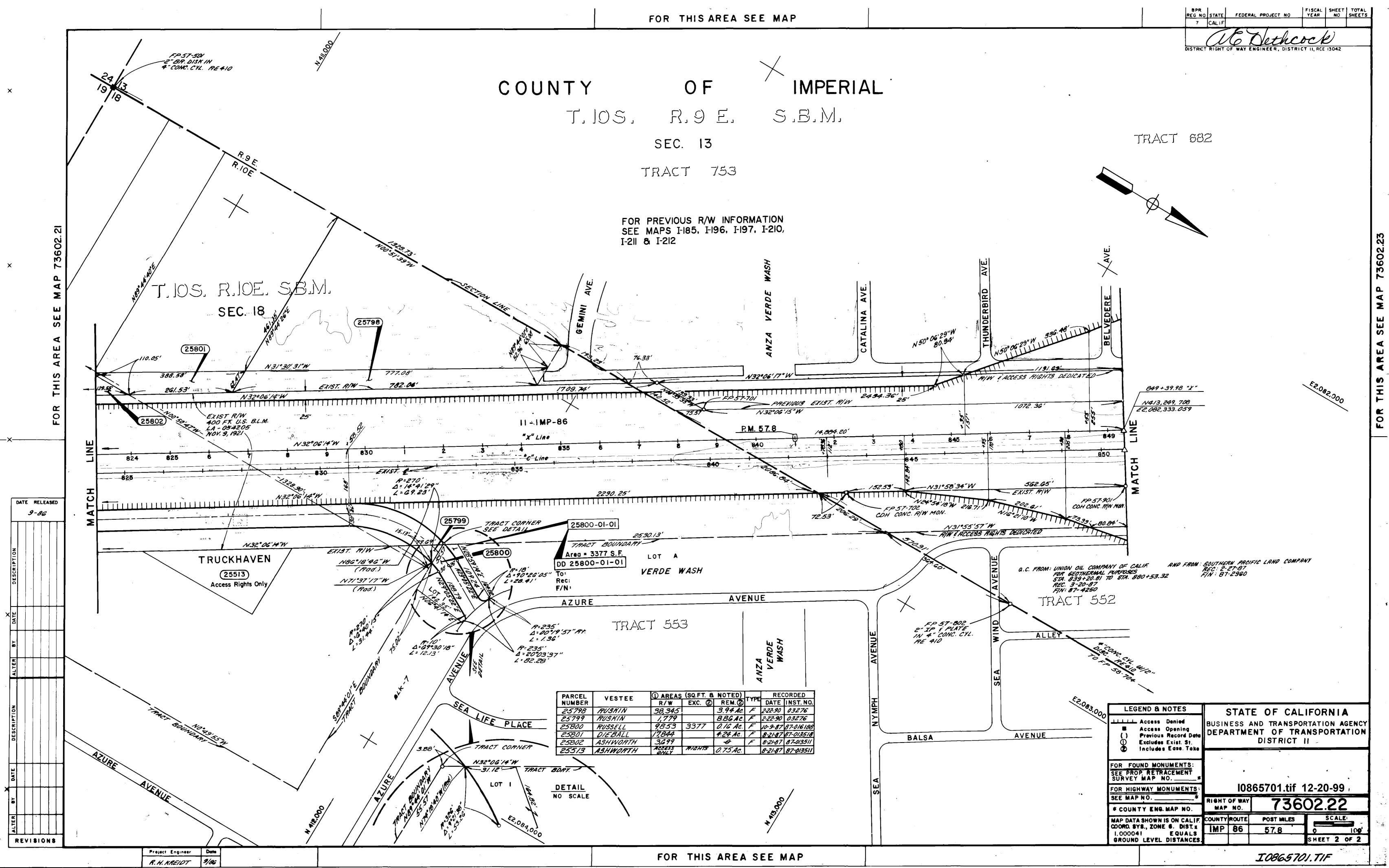


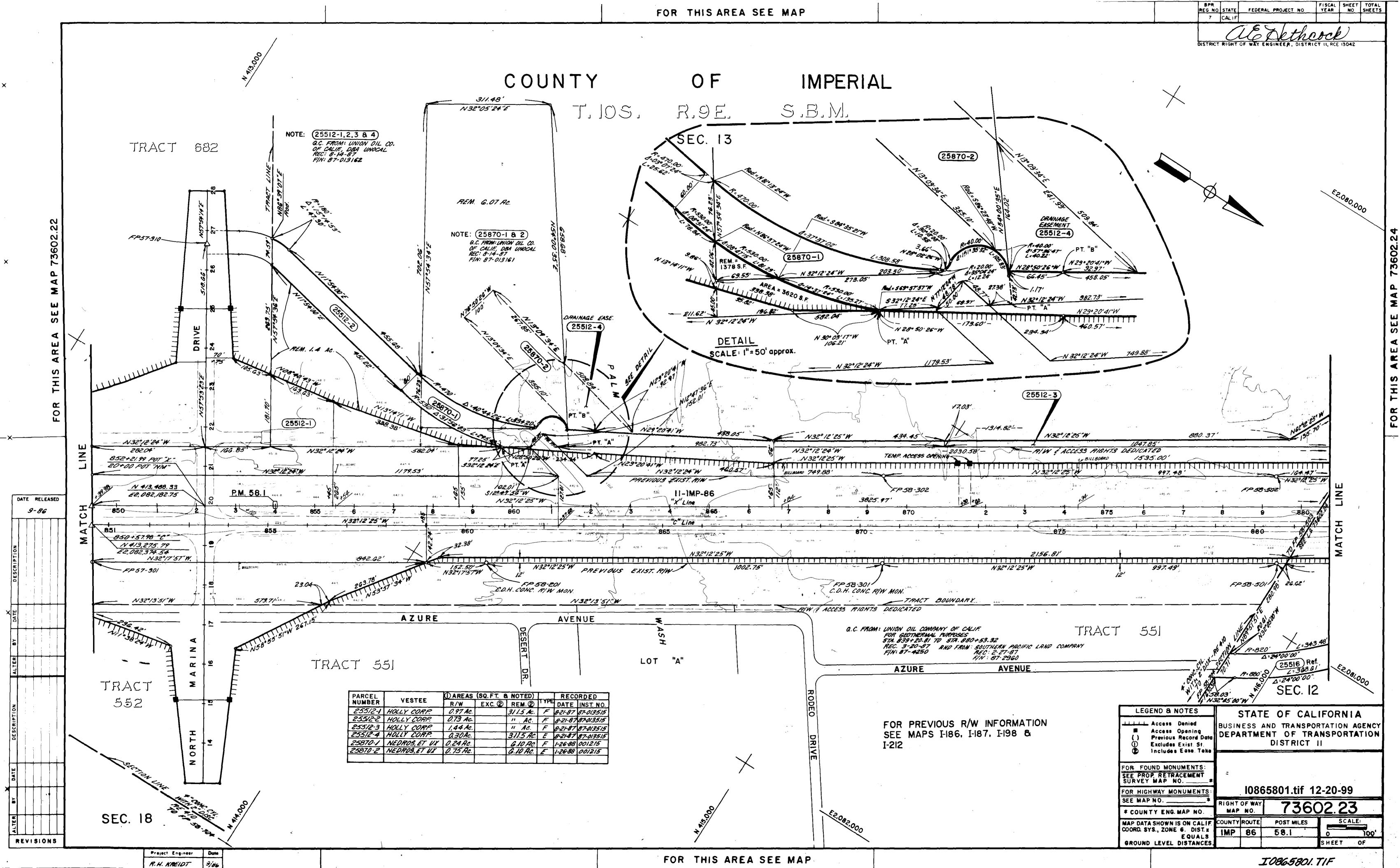


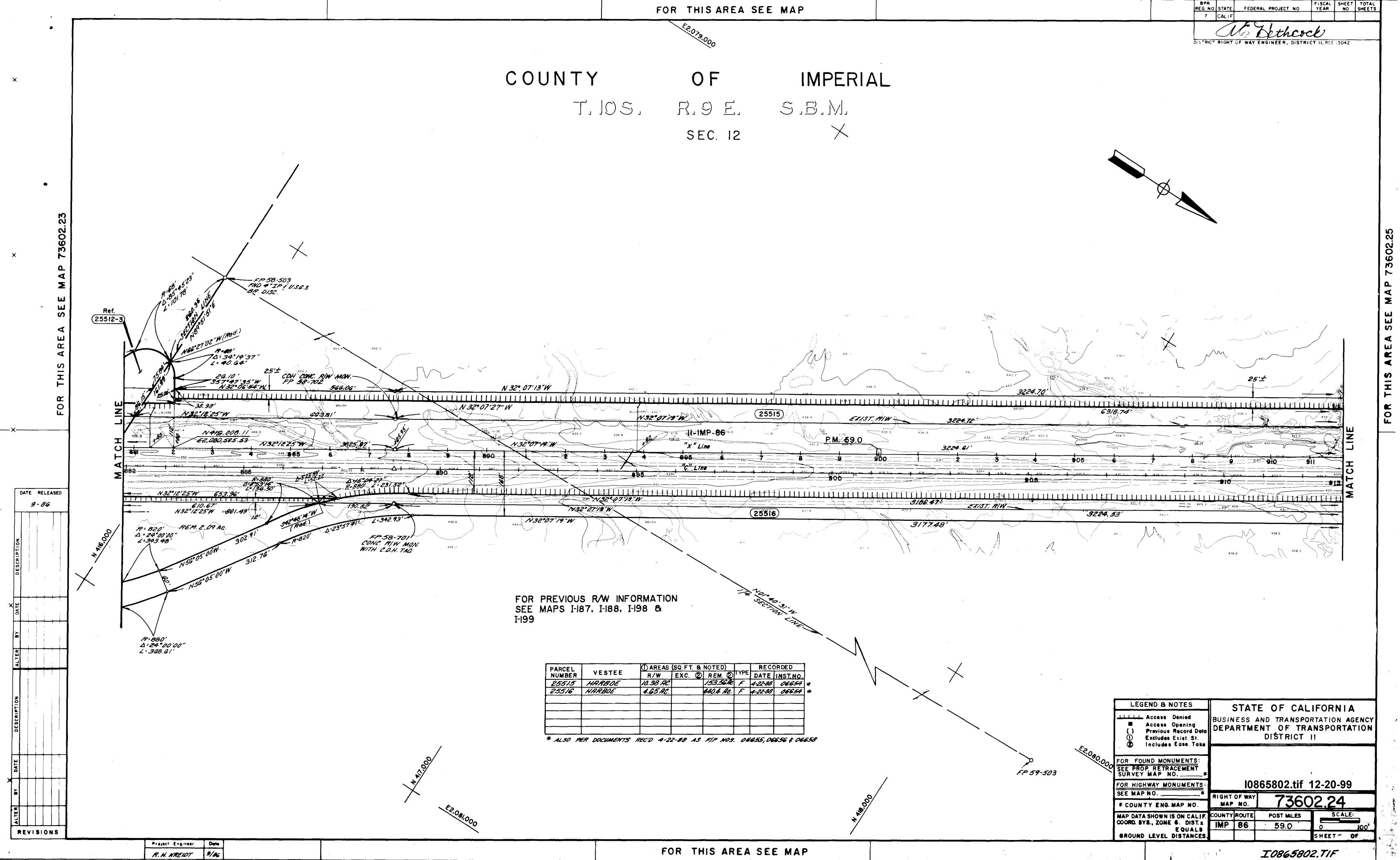


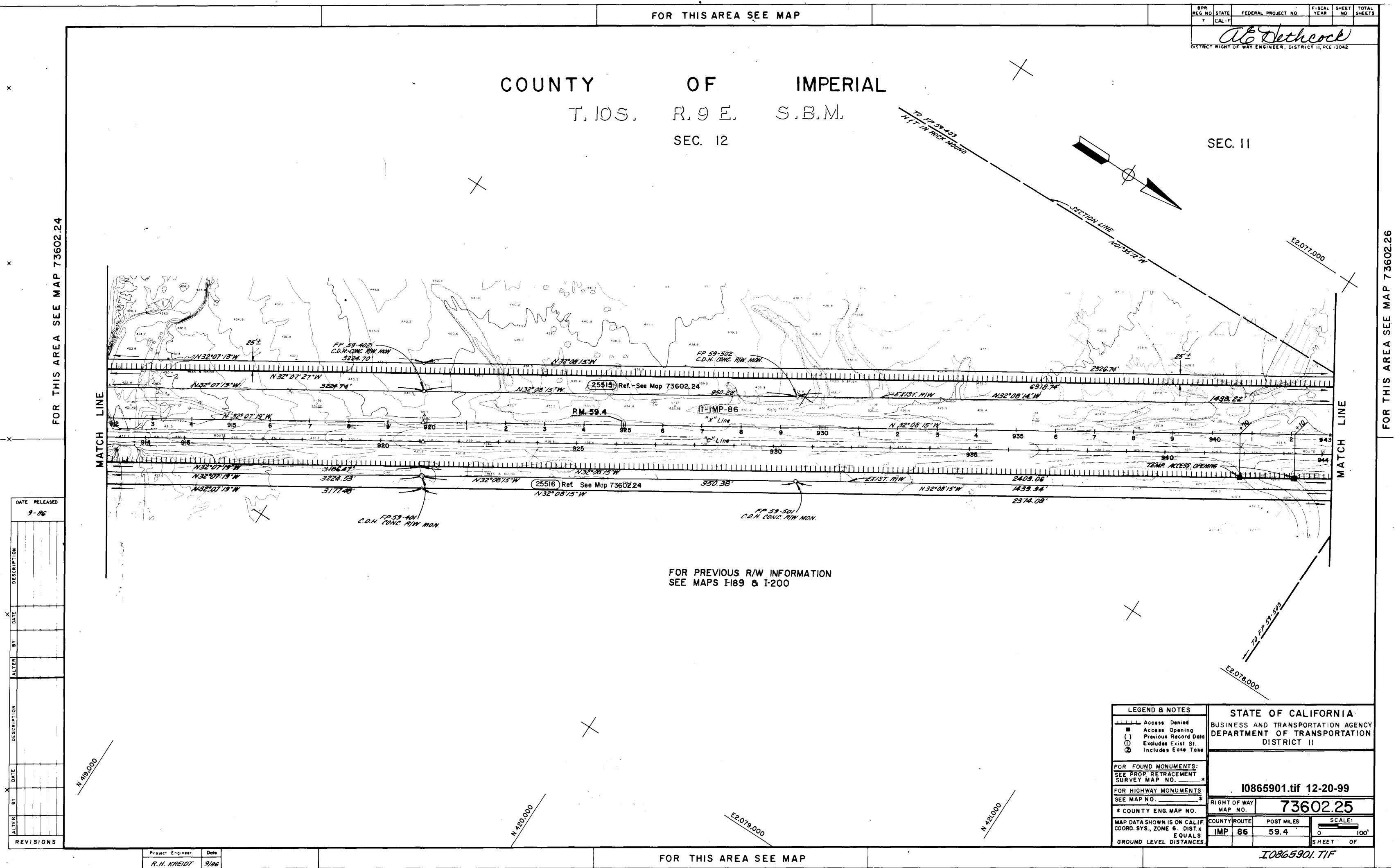


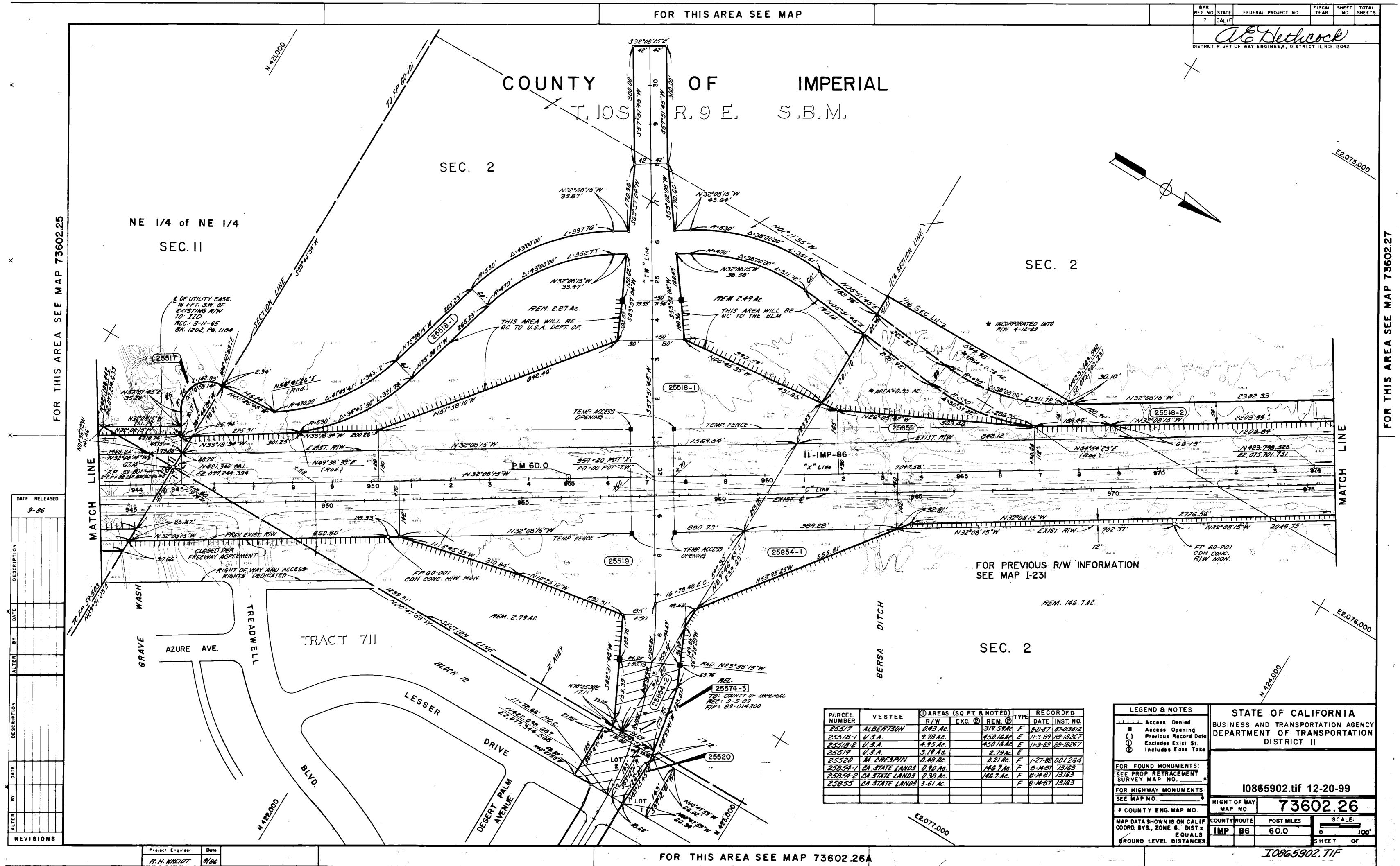


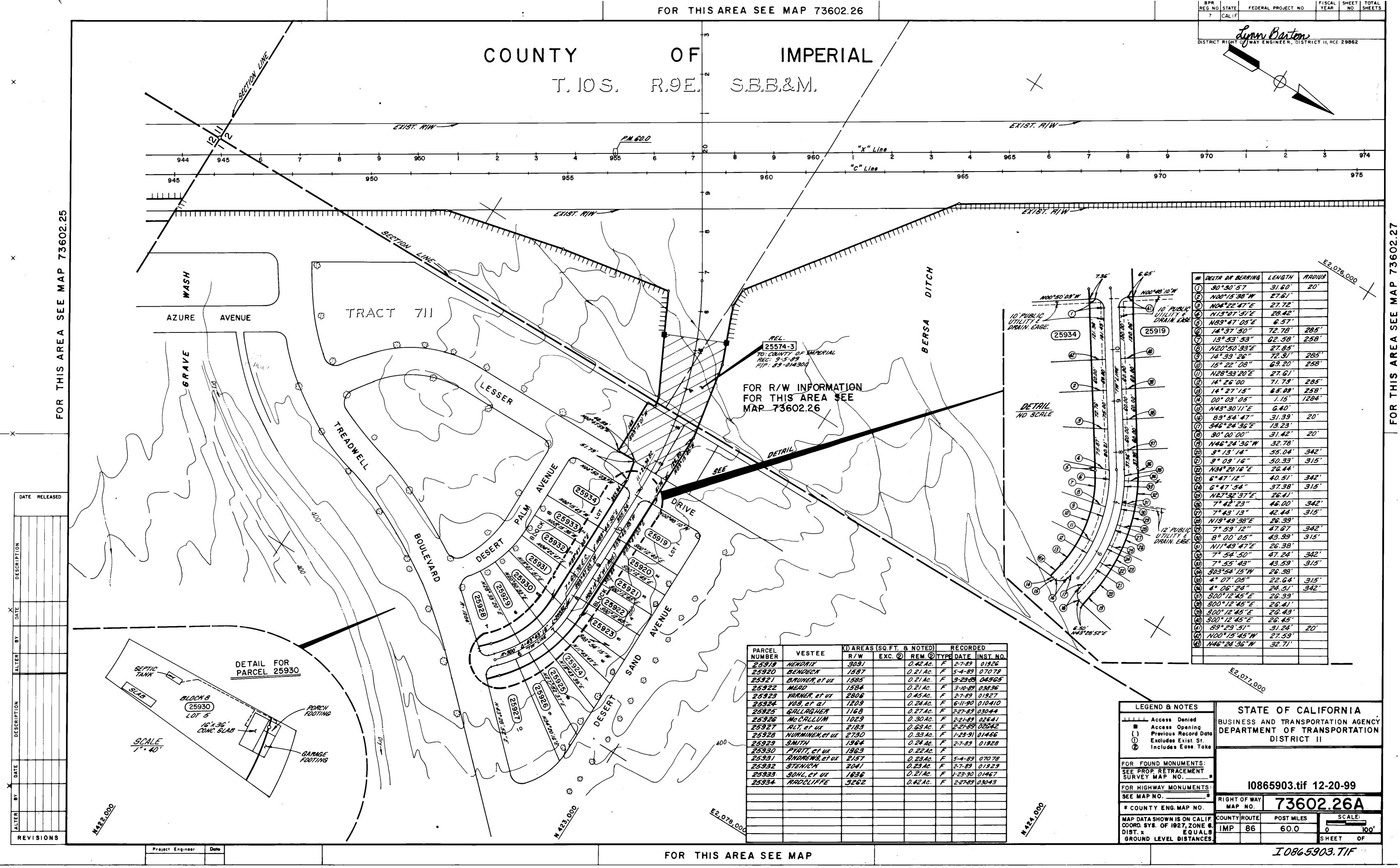


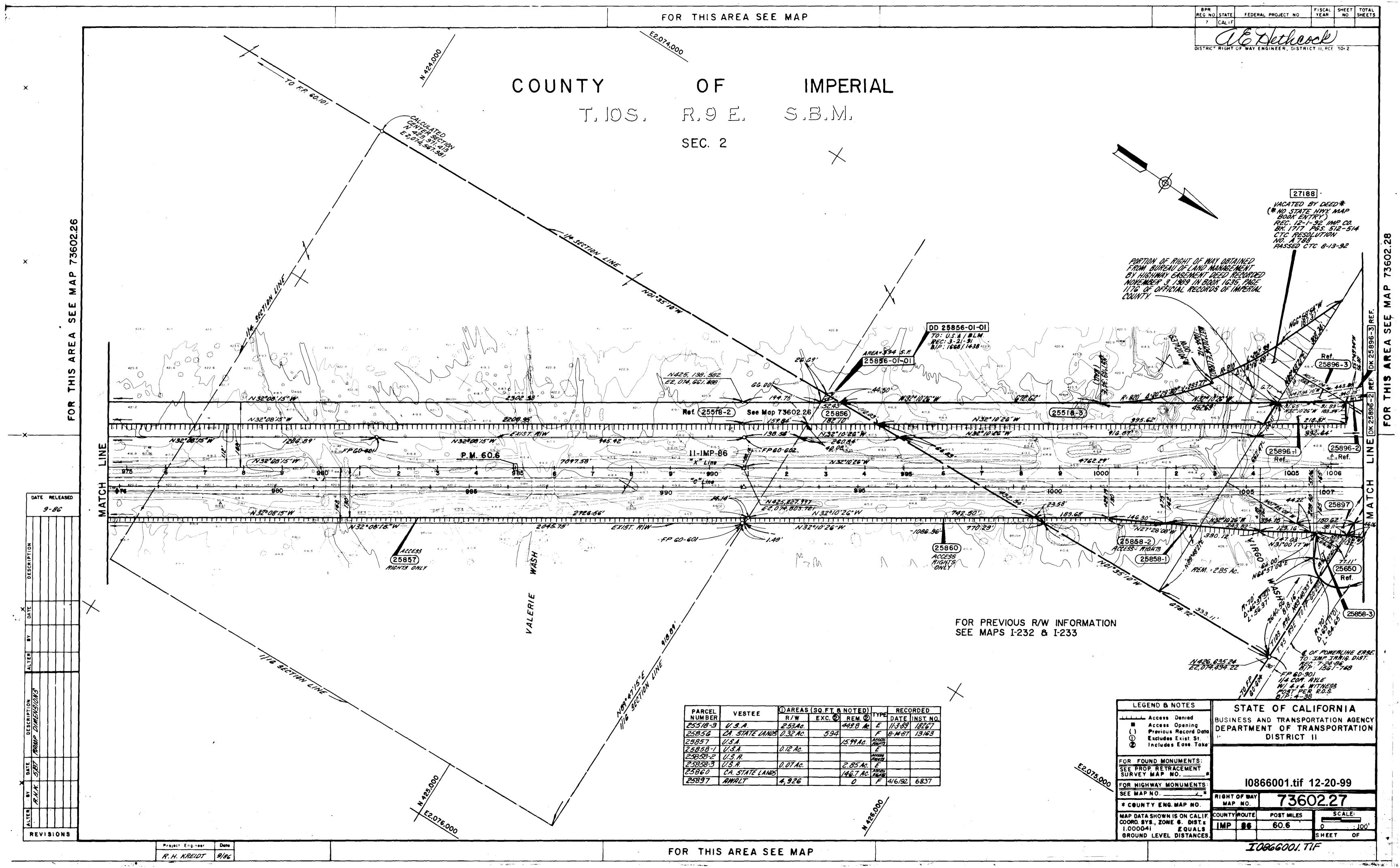


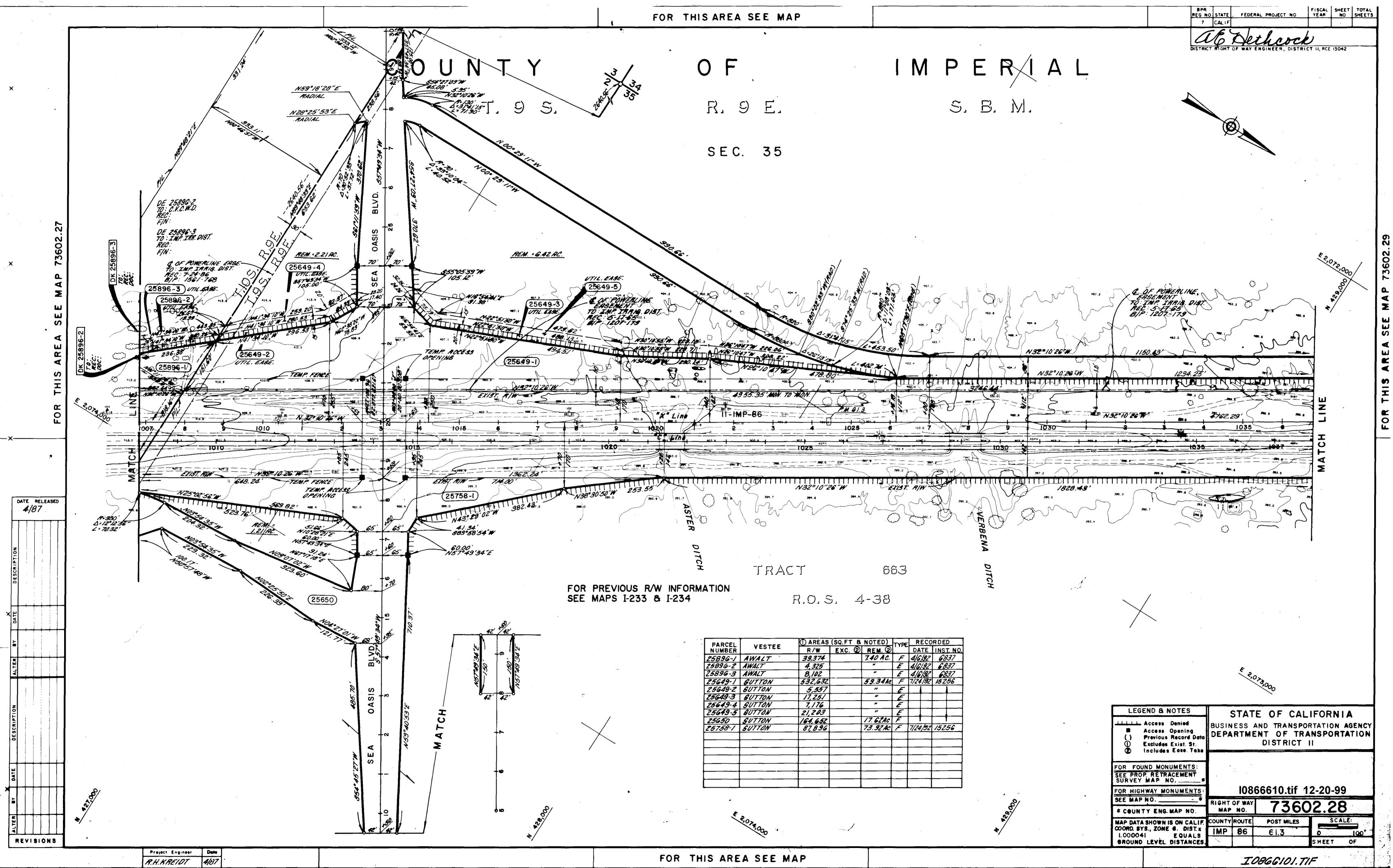


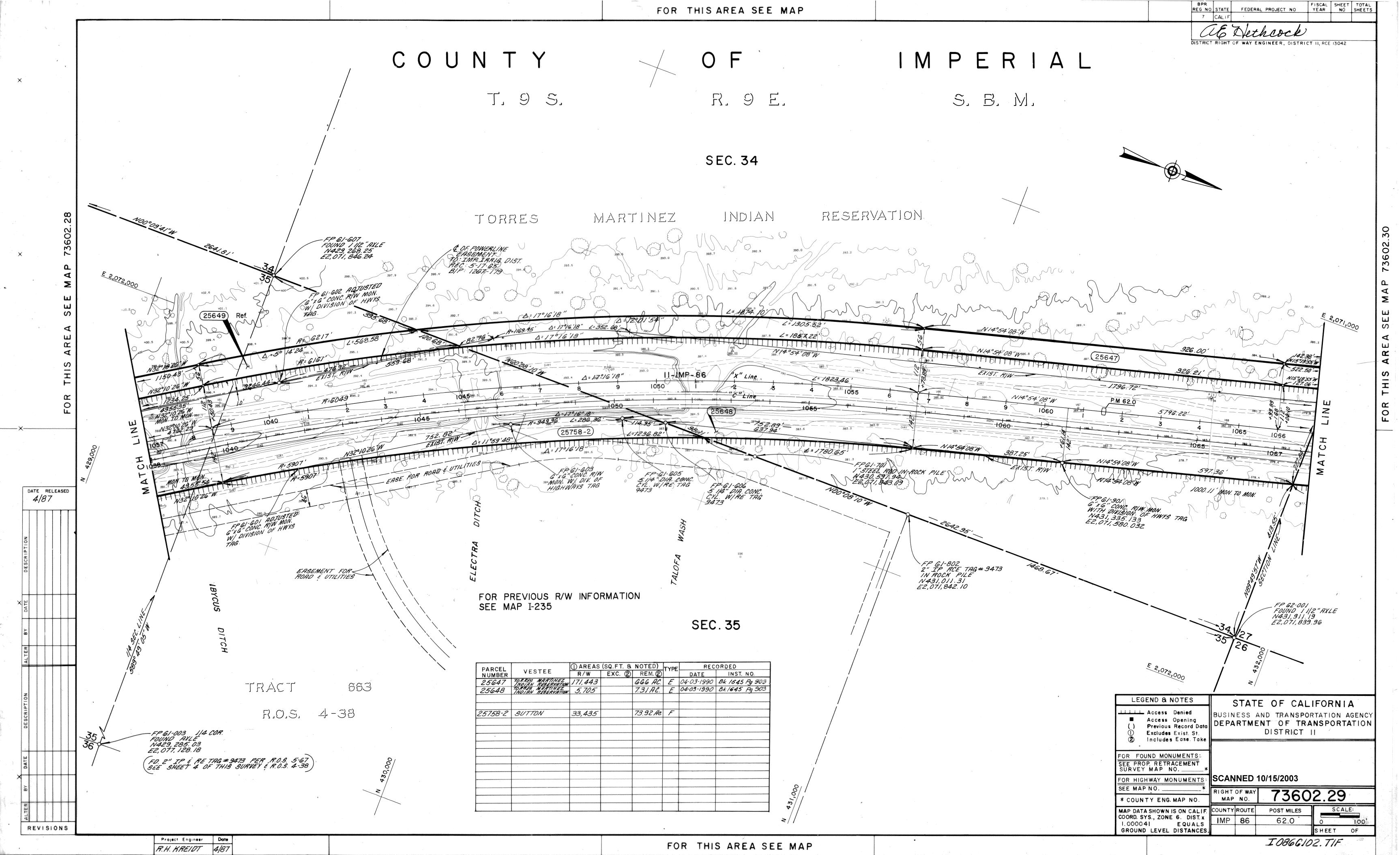


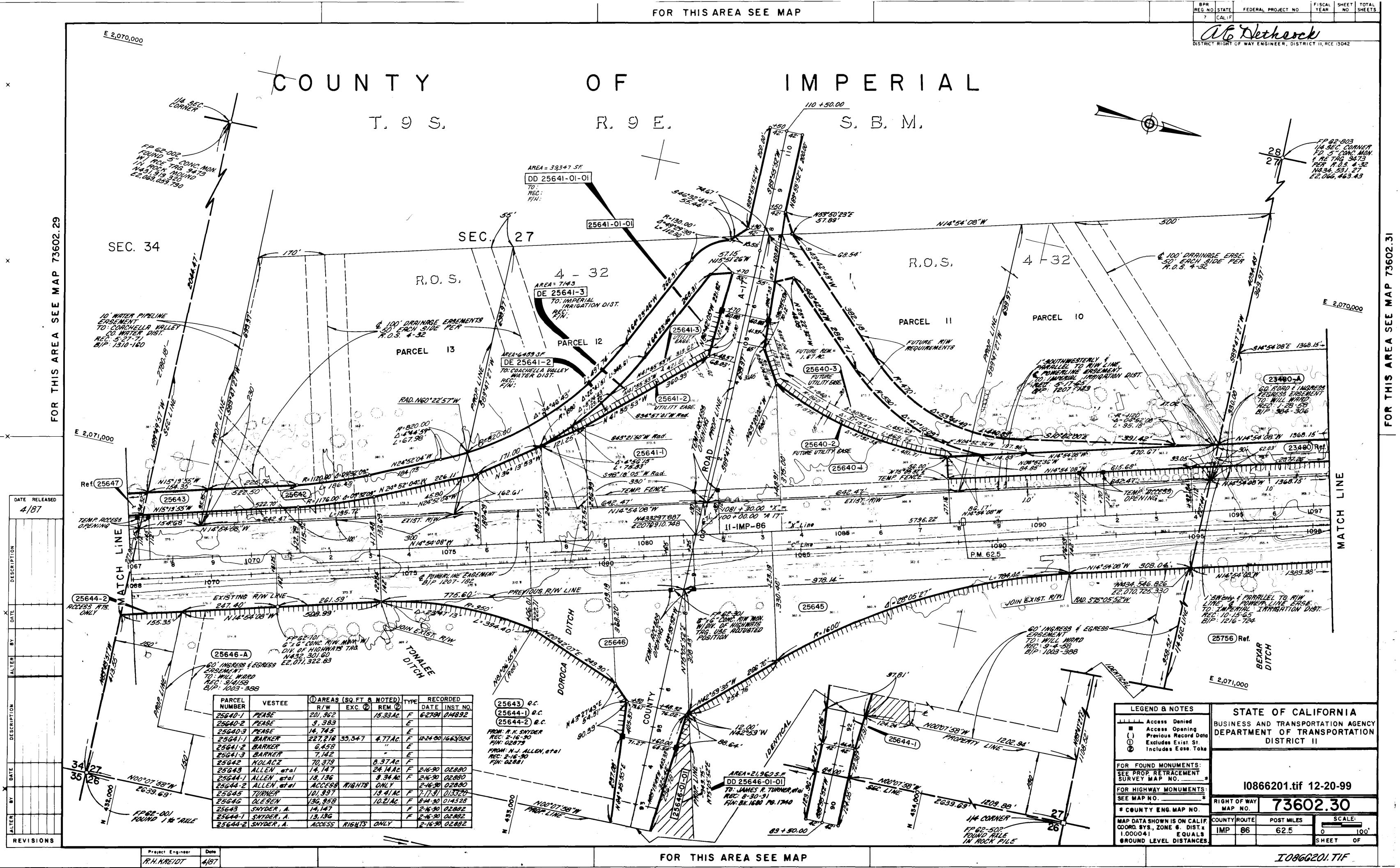


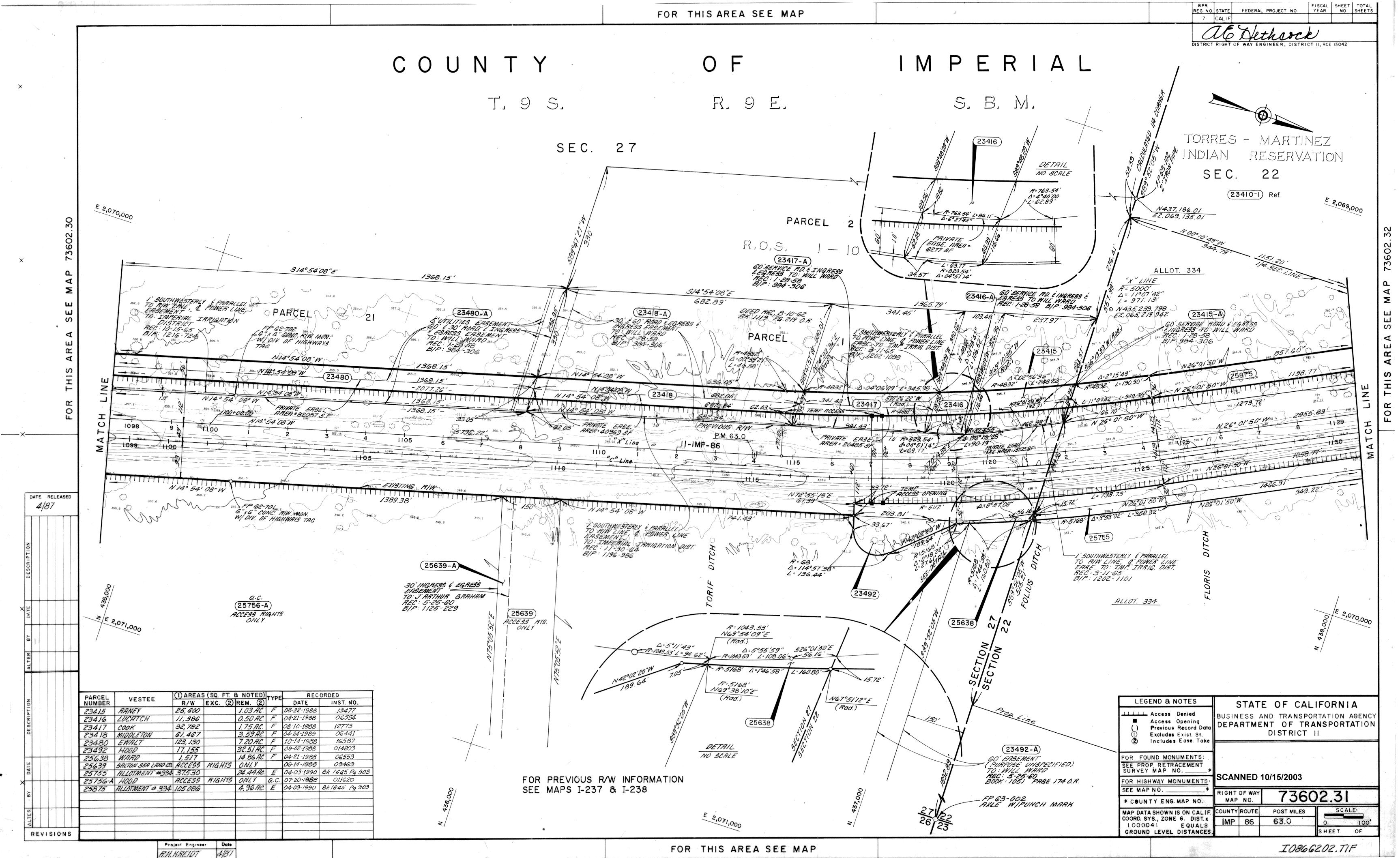


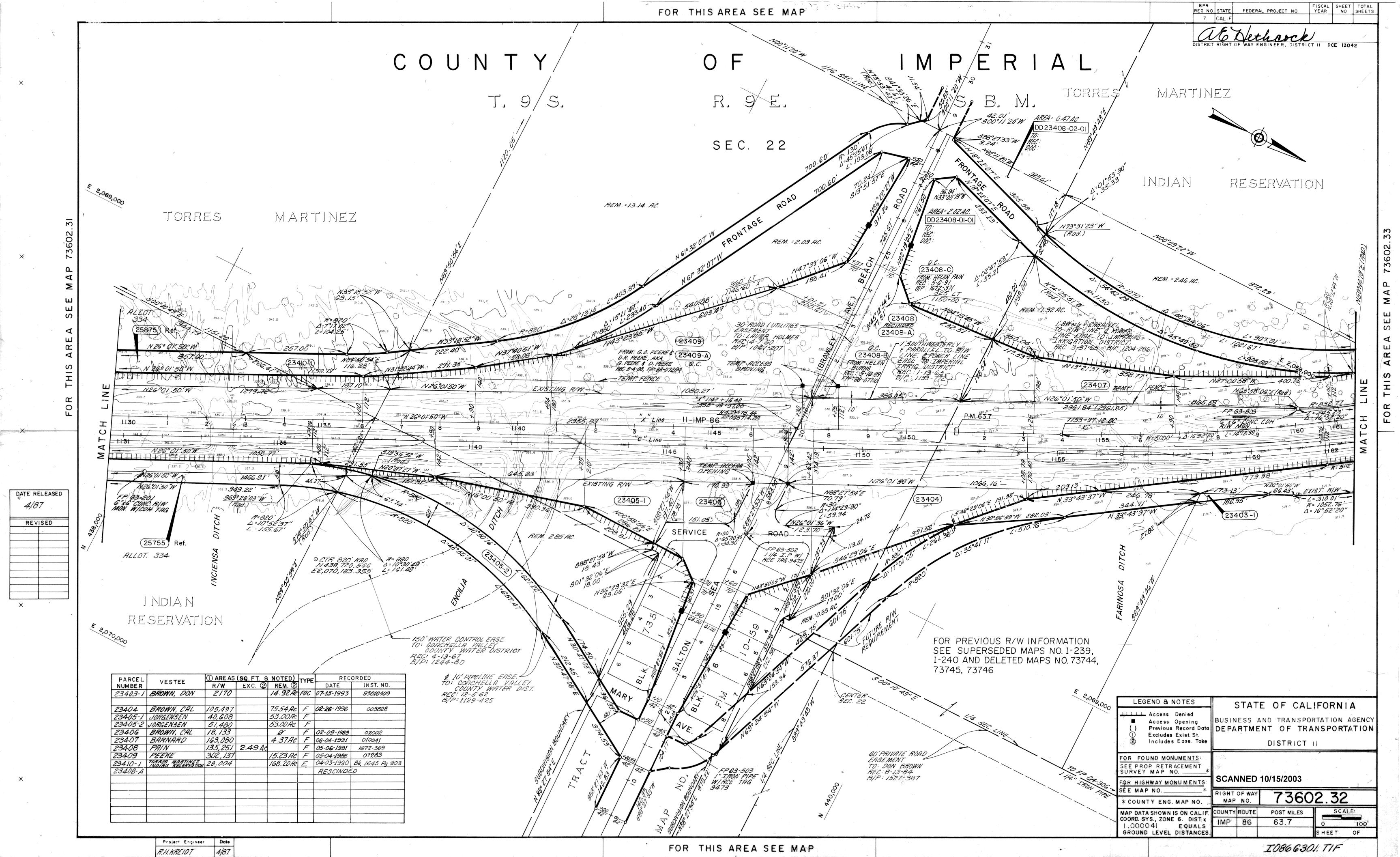


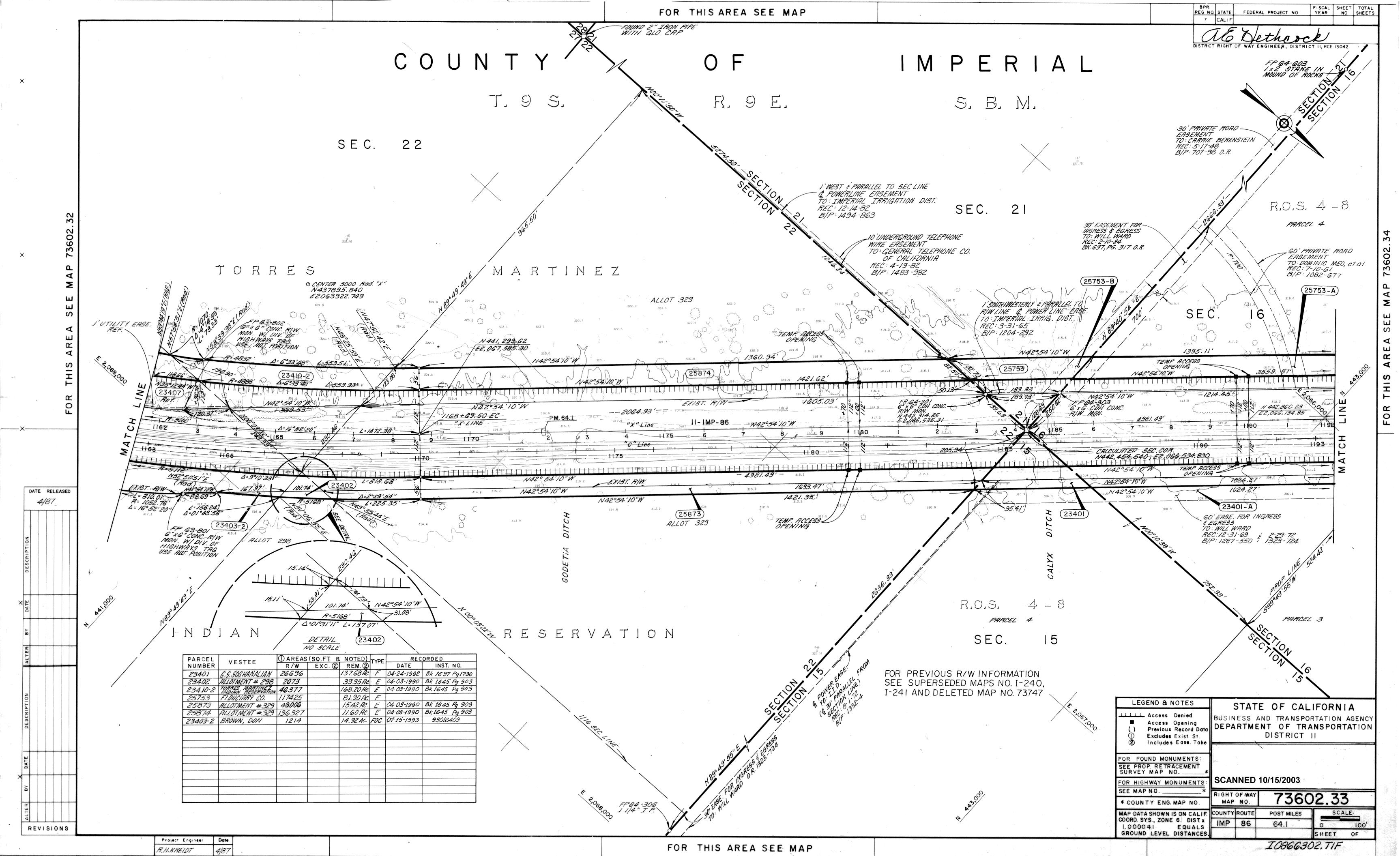


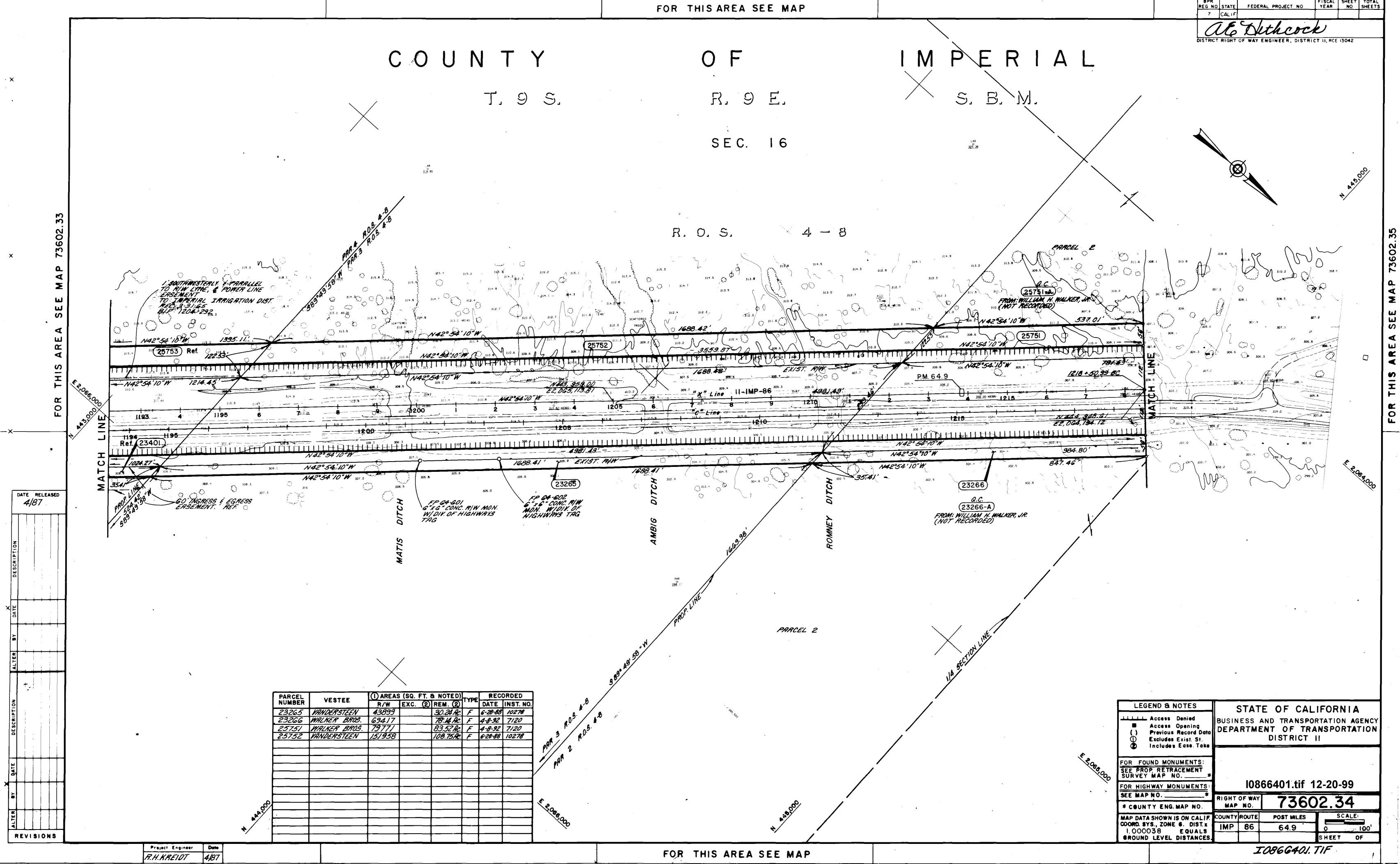


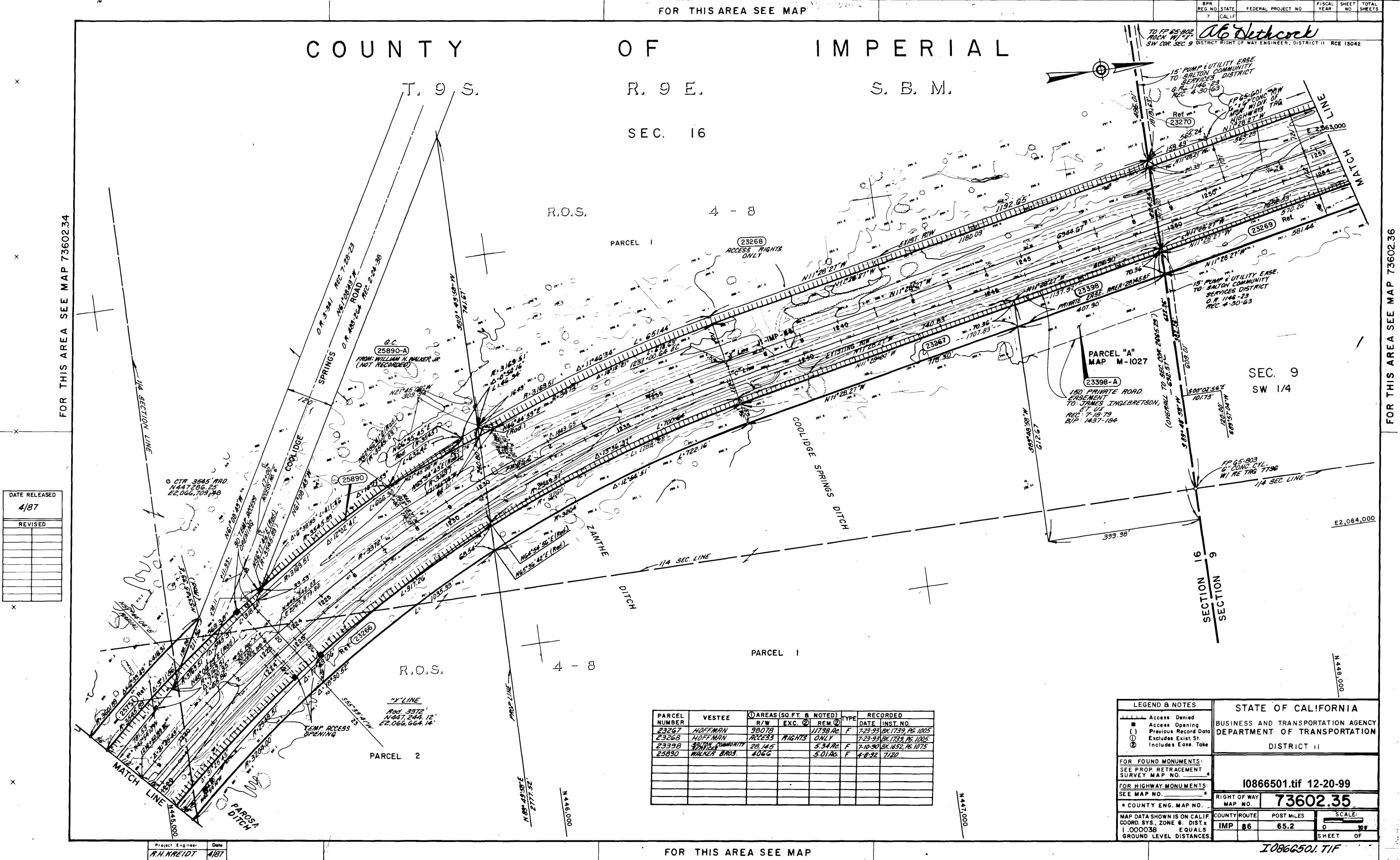


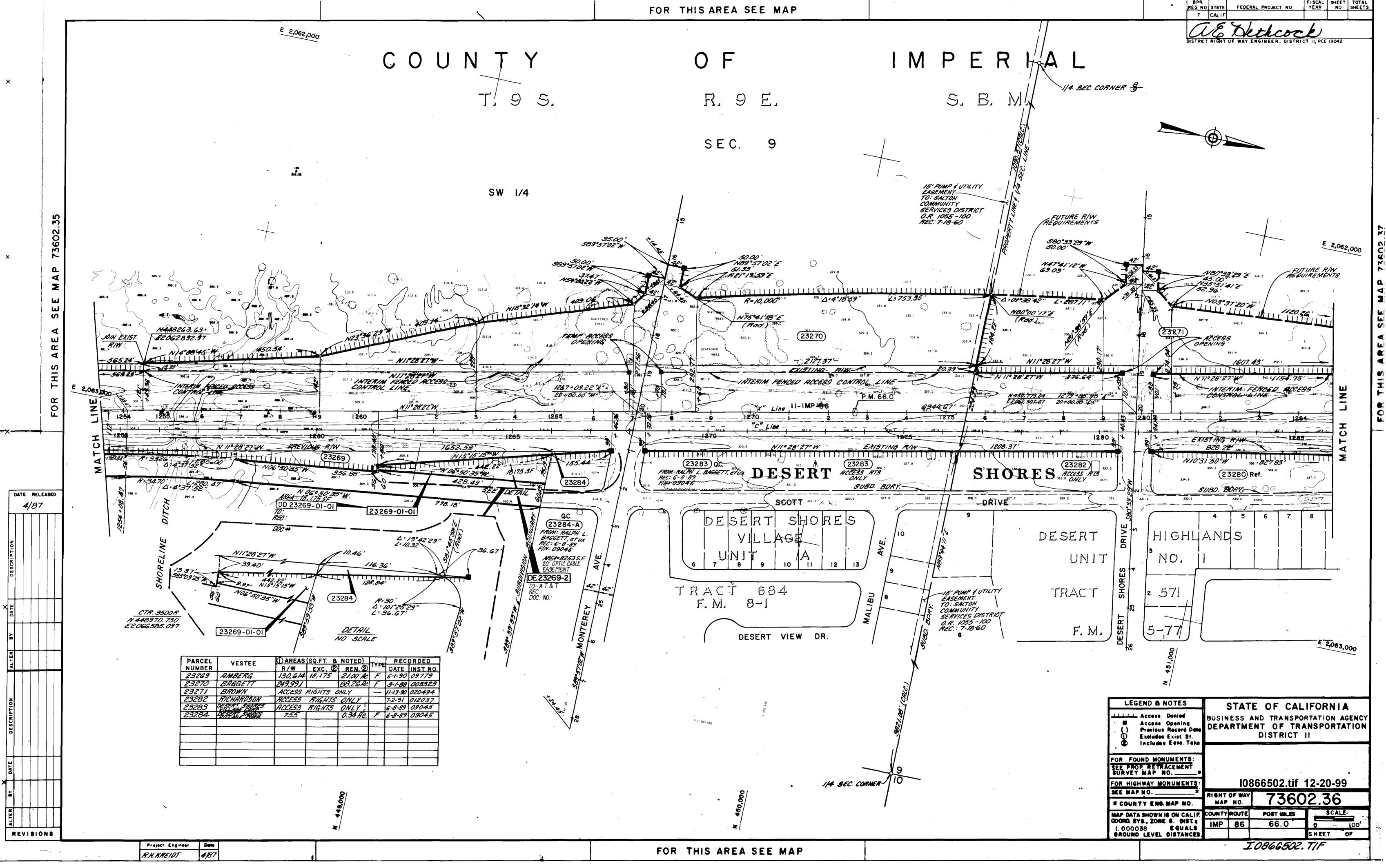


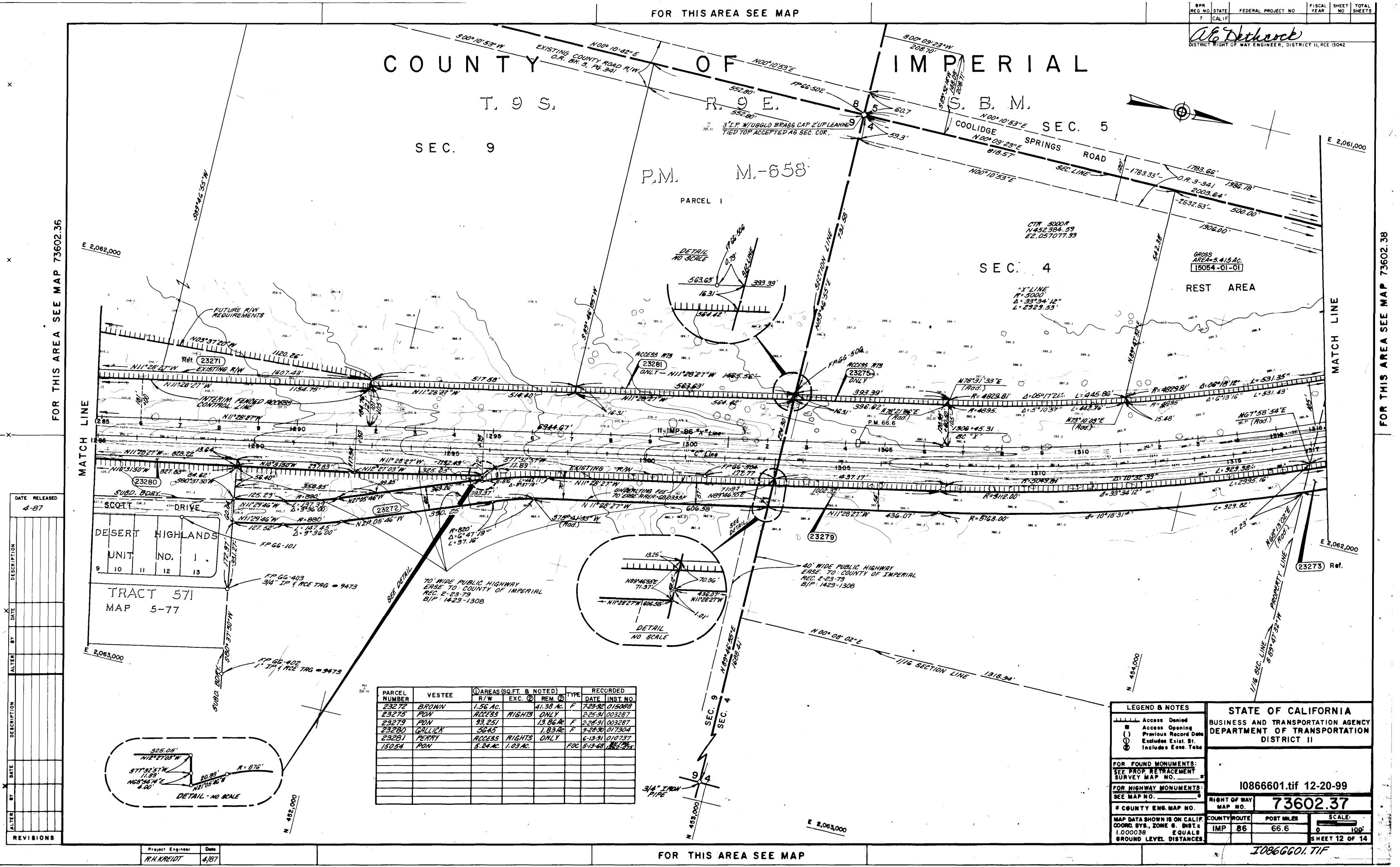


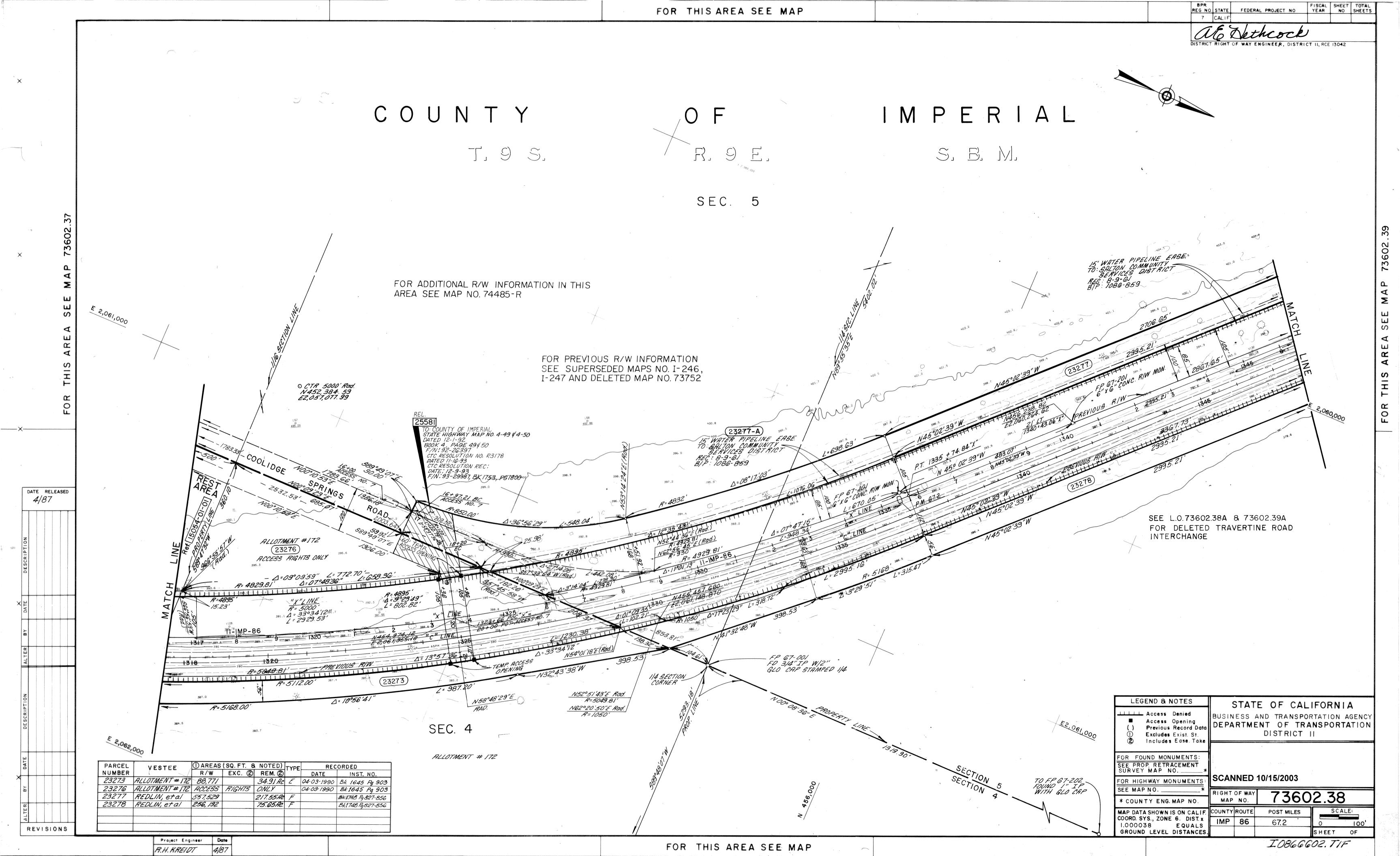


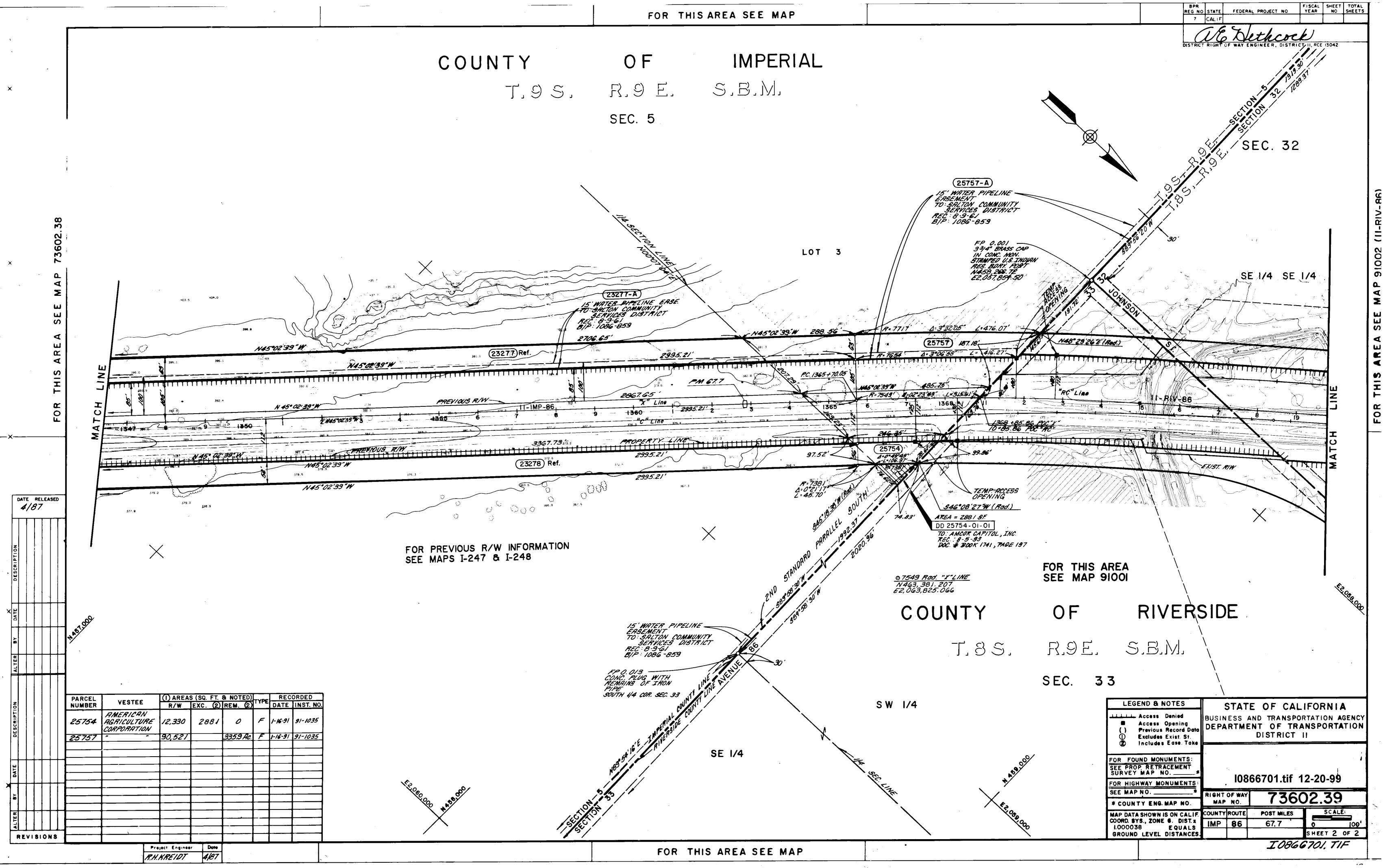












California Department of Transportation

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February 23, 2023

11-IMP-86 PM 66.593

Coachella Valley Water District Highway 86 Transmission Main Extension Phase 3 & 4
Site Plan Review

Mr. Shane Bloomfield, PE Senior Engineer Albert A. Webb Associates 3788 McCray Street Riverside, CA 92506

Dear Mr. Bloomfield:

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the review process for the for the Site Plan Review (30% Design Plans) for the Coachella Valley Water (CVWD) District Highway 86 Transmission Main Extension Phase 3 & 4 Project located near State Route 86 (SR-86). The mission of Caltrans is to provide a safe and reliable transportation network that serves all people and respects the environment. The Local Development Review (LDR) Program reviews land use projects and plans to ensure consistency with our mission and state planning priorities.

Safety is one of Caltrans' strategic goals. Caltrans strives to make the year 2050 the first year without a single death or serious injury on California's roads. We are striving for more equitable outcomes for the transportation network's diverse users. To achieve these ambitious goals, we will pursue meaningful collaboration with our partners. We encourage the implementation of new technologies, innovations, and best practices that will enhance the safety on the transportation network. These pursuits are both ambitious and urgent, and their accomplishment involves a focused departure from the status quo as we continue to institutionalize safety in all our work.

Caltrans is committed to prioritizing projects that are equitable and provide meaningful benefits to historically underserved communities, to ultimately improve transportation accessibility and quality of life for people in the communities we serve.

Caltrans has the following comments:

Design

- Per the plans, the proposed 24" Ductile Iron pipeline is to run longitudinally in Caltrans' Right-of-Way (R/W) for a long stretch along SR-86 starting when it crosses at Johnson Street until it crosses out and into Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Land. Then it crosses back into Caltrans' R/W from Azure Avenue, crosses SR-86 and then runs longitudinally along the SR-86, within Caltrans' R/W again until it crosses out of our R/W to a Service Road.
- Make sure that Caltrans' R/W is clearly defined on all sheets where the R/W is included and where the pipeline is within Caltrans' R/W.
- Make sure to follow the Project Development Procedures Manual (PDPM) and the Permit Manual for all clearances and other policies that need to be followed.
- Any time the pipeline crosses Caltrans R/W it needs to be encased and installed by a boring method, no trenching. If the pipeline is not encased within Caltrans' R/W, CVWD will need to submit an application for an Encroachment Policy Exception (EPE), with proper justification as to why the pipeline cannot be encased.
- Any time the pipeline runs longitudinally within Caltrans' R/W, it needs to be as close to the R/W fence as possible, and it will need to be documented in an EPE with proper justification as to why it can't be relocated outside Caltrans R/W.
- Any fire hydrant or valves within Caltrans' R/W will need to be included in an EPE as Maintenance Access Points.
- Make sure the abandoned pipe within Caltrans' R/W is abandoned per Caltrans standards, see Section 3, Article 10 of the PDPM.

Hydrology and Drainage Studies

 There are several locations within the project site where proposed work crosses FEMA-defined floodways and floodplains. Please provide written documentation that coordination with the local FEMA administrator has been established.

- Identify all locations in the project area within Caltrans R/W where proposed work crosses any FEMA-defined floodway or floodplain. Include the flooding source name.
- In coordination with the local FEMA administrator, provide written proof that no permanent alterations/impact will happen to FEMA-defined floodway/floodplains within Caltrans R/W.
- Provide more detailed improvement plans: existing and proposed grading, profiles, etc.
- Is the proposed ductile iron pipeline a 24" or a 30" pipe? Meeting minutes dated 11/04/2022 state the proposed pipeline to be 30", but the 30% Design plans show a 24" proposed pipeline.
- The waterline shall be encased where crossing SR-86.
- The 30% Design Plans are a little difficult to read since there are few landmarks. The legibility would be much better if a key map and Caltrans postmile (PM) was to be included in the submittal package. Sheet 2/84 of the 30% Design Plan, General Notes sheet should announce clearer depths to be minimum 42 inches in State R/W. We're not confident with the shown R/W on the 30% Design Plans. The 30% Design Plan will likely need a R/W Engineering review. If the watermain is snaking between the Caltrans fence line and Caltrans Access Controlled areas, as shown, then it would lead to wonder, how will CVWD build and maintain their watermain with a fence in the way. SR-86 is not considered a freeway, so the pipeline installation needs to be as close to the R/W edge as possible. There's a mixture of R/W lines on sheet 48/84 of the 30% Design Plan. (Appears sheet 50-60 is outside of the State's R/W). On sheet 50/84 & 61/84 of the 30% Design Plan indicate how the pipeline crossing is planned? - via jack and bore, etc. It appears sheets 71/84, and 74/84 of the 30% Design Plan onwards are mostly situations outside of State R/W, please confirm. Where the watermain falls outside Caltrans' jurisdiction and District please indicate that on your plans, possibly in the suggested key map sheet. This watermain will require appurtenances, such as blowoffs, etc. We will need to know where these are going to be placed, as these are the main aspects that will be accessed throughout the life of system. We suggest condensing the file to create a smaller manageable file. See attachment "Redline Comments Hwy86 Transmission Main Ext Phase 3 & 4."

- On all plans, show Caltrans' R/W.
- Early coordination with Caltrans is recommended.
- Caltrans generally does not allow development projects to impact hydraulics within the State's R/W. Any modification to the existing Caltrans drainage and/or increase in runoff to State facilities (i.e., Hydrological and water quality impacts to the highways, bridge, culverts, and drains) will not be allowed.

Complete Streets and Mobility Network

• Bicycle, pedestrian, and public transit access during construction is important. Mitigation to maintain bicycle, pedestrian, and public transit access during construction is in accordance with Caltrans' goals and policies.

Traffic Control Plan/Hauling

- A Traffic Control Plan is to be submitted to Caltrans District 11, at least 30 days prior to the start of any construction. Traffic shall not be unreasonably delayed. The plan shall also outline suggested detours to use during closures, including routes and signage.
- Potential impacts to the highway facilities (SR-86) and traveling public from the detour, demolition and other construction activities should be discussed and addressed before work begins.

Environmental

- Caltrans welcomes the opportunity to be a Responsible Agency under the
 California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), as we have some discretionary
 authority of a portion of the project that is in Caltrans' R/W through the form of
 an encroachment permit process. We look forward to the coordination of our
 efforts to ensure that Caltrans can adopt the alternative and/or mitigation
 measure for our R/W. We would appreciate meeting with you to discuss the
 elements of the Mitigated Negative Declaration that Caltrans will use for our
 subsequent environmental compliance.
- An encroachment permit will be required for any work within the Caltrans' R/W
 prior to construction. As part of the encroachment permit process, the
 applicant must provide approved final environmental documents for this
 project, corresponding technical studies, and necessary regulatory and
 resource agency permits. Specifically, any CEQA determinations or exemptions.

The supporting documents must address all environmental impacts within the Caltrans' R/W and address any impacts from avoidance and/or mitigation measures.

• We recommend that this project specifically identifies and assesses potential impacts caused by the project or impacts from mitigation efforts that occur within Caltrans' R/W that includes impacts to the natural environment, infrastructure including but not limited to highways, roadways, structures, intelligent transportation systems elements, on-ramps and off-ramps, and appurtenant features including but not limited to lighting, signage, drainage, guardrail, slopes and landscaping. Caltrans is interested in any additional mitigation measures identified for the project's draft Environmental Document.

Mitigation

• Caltrans endeavors that any direct and cumulative impacts to the State Highway network be eliminated or reduced to a level of insignificance pursuant to the CEQA and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) standards.

Right-of-Way Utilities

- CVWD shall prepare and submit to Caltrans closure plans as part of the
 encroachment permit application. The plans shall require that closure or partial
 closure of SR-86 be limited to times as to create the least possible inconvenience
 to the traveling public and that signage be posted prior to the closure to alert
 drivers of the closure in accordance with Caltrans requirements. Traffic shall not
 be unreasonably delayed. The plan shall also outline suggested detours to use
 during the closures, traffic, including routes and signage.
- The Highway Closure Plan, as part of the encroachment permit, should be submitted to Caltrans at least 30 days prior to initiating installation of the crossings. No work shall begin in Caltrans' R/W until an encroachment permit is approved.
- Any work performed within Caltrans' R/W will require discretionary review and approval by Caltrans and an encroachment permit will be required for any work within the Caltrans' R/W prior to construction. As part of the encroachment permit process, the applicant must provide an approved final environmental document including the CEQA determination addressing any environmental impacts with the Caltrans' R/W, and any corresponding technical studies.

Please see the following chapters in the Caltrans' manuals:

- Chapter 600 of the Encroachment Permits Manual for requirements regarding utilities and state R/W: https://dot.ca.gov/-/media/dot-media/programs/traffic-operations/documents/encroachment-permits/chapter-6-ada-a1ly.pdf.
- Chapter 2-2.13 of the Plans Preparation Manual for requirements regarding utilities and state R/W: https://dot.ca.gov/-/media/dot-media/programs/design/documents/cadd/ppm-text-ch2-sect2-13-a11y.pdf
- Chapter 17 of the Project Development Procedures Manual https://dot.ca.gov/media/dot-media/programs/design/documents/pdpm-chapter17-a11y.pdf.
- Per Business and Profession Code 8771, perpetuation of survey monuments by a licensed land surveyor is required, if they are being destroyed by any construction.
- Additional information regarding encroachment permits may be obtained by contacting the Caltrans Permits Office at (619) 688-6158 or emailing <u>D11.Permits@dot.ca.gov</u> or by visiting the website at https://dot.ca.gov/programs/traffic-operations/ep. Early coordination with Caltrans is strongly advised for all encroachment permits.
- If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Charlie Lecourtois, LDR Coordinator, at (619) 985-4766 or by e-mail sent to Charlie.Lecourtois@dot.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Maurice A. Eaton

MAURICE EATON
Branch Chief
Local Development Review

Attachment - Redline Comments_Hwy86 Transmission Main Ext Phase 3 & 4