

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION

**CERTIFICATE OF WAIVER OR AUTHORIZATION**

ISSUED TO

United States Special Operations Command (USSOCOM)

ADDRESS

210 Hartson Street  
Hurlburt Field, Florida 32544

This certificate is issued for the operations specifically described hereinafter. No person shall conduct any operation pursuant to the authority of this certificate except in accordance with the standard and special provisions contained in this certificate, and such other requirements of the Federal Aviation Regulations not specifically waived by this certificate.

OPERATIONS AUTHORIZED

Operation of the Puma UAS in Class E and G airspace at or below 400 feet above ground level (AGL) at Brennan Field, Upper and Lower Waste Management sites and 600 AGL at the Taft and Filmore, California sites. See Special Provisions.

LIST OF WAIVED REGULATIONS BY SECTION AND TITLE

Federal Aviation Regulation 91.215

**STANDARD PROVISIONS**

1. A copy of the application made for this certificate shall be attached and become a part hereof.
2. This certificate shall be presented for inspection upon the request of any authorized representative of the Federal Aviation Administration, or of any State or municipal official charged with the duty of enforcing local laws or regulations.
3. The holder of this certificate shall be responsible for the strict observance of the terms and provisions contained herein.
4. This certificate is nontransferable.


Note-This certificate constitutes a waiver of those Federal rules or regulations specifically referred to above. It does not constitute a waiver of any State law or local ordinance.

**SPECIAL PROVISIONS**

Special Provisions are set forth and attached.

This certificate 2008-WSA-53 is effective from October 9, 2008, through October 8, 2009, and is subject to cancellation at any time upon notice by the Administrator or his/her authorized representative.

BY DIRECTION OF THE ADMINISTRATOR



FAA Headquarters, AJR-36  
(Region)

Ardyth Williams  
(Signature)

October 9, 2008  
(Date)

Air Traffic Manager, Unmanned Aircraft Systems  
(Title)

**ATTACHMENT to FAA FORM 7711-1**

**ISSUED TO:** United States Special Operations Command (USSOCOM)

**ADDRESS:** 210 Hartson Street  
Hurlburt Field, Florida 32544

**NAME:** Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Certificate of Authorization (COA) for Puma Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) in the National Airspace System (NAS) outside of restricted/warning area airspace.

**ACTIVITY:** Operation of the Puma UAS in Class E and G airspace at or below 400 feet above ground level (AGL) at Brennan Field, Upper and Lower Waste Management sites and 600 AGL at the Taft and Filmore sites, California (See Attachment 1).

**PURPOSE:** To prescribe operating requirements in the NAS (outside of restricted and/or warning area airspace) for the purpose of training and/or operational flights.

**DATES OF USE:** This COA (2008-WSA-53) is valid from October 9, 2008, through October 8, 2009. Should a renewal become necessary, the proponent shall advise the FAA, in writing, no later than 60 days prior to the requested effective date.

**GENERAL PROVISIONS:**

- The review of this activity is based on our current understanding of the UAS operations, and the impact of such operations in the NAS, and therefore should not be considered a precedent for future operations. As changes occur in the UAS industry, or in our understanding of it, there may be changes to the limitations and conditions for similar operations.
- All personnel connected with the UAS operation must comply with the contents of this authorization and its special provisions.
- This COA will be reviewed and amended as necessary to conform to changing UAS policy and guidance.

**SAFETY PROVISIONS:**

Unmanned Aircraft (UA) have no on-board pilot to perform see-and-avoid responsibilities, and therefore, when operating outside of restricted/warning/Class A airspace areas, special provisions must be made to ensure an equivalent level of safety exists for operations had a pilot been on board. In accordance with 14 CFR Part 91, General Operating and Flight Rules, Subpart J-Waivers, 91.903, Policy and Procedures, the following provisions provide acceptable mitigation of 14 CFR Part 91.113 and must be complied with:

- Visual Observers, either ground-based or airborne, must be used.

- The applicant and/or its representatives are responsible for collision avoidance with all aircraft, other aviation operations, and the safety of persons or property on the surface.

### **AIRWORTHINESS CERTIFICATION PROVISIONS:**

- UA must be shown to be airworthy to conduct flight operations in the NAS.
- Public Use Aircraft applications must contain one of the following:
  - A civil airworthiness certification from the FAA, or
  - A statement specifying that the Department of Defense Handbook "Airworthiness Certification Criteria" (MIL-HDBK-516), as amended, was used to certify the aircraft or equivalent method of certification.

### **PILOT / OBSERVER PROVISIONS:**

- **Pilot Qualifications:** UA pilots interacting with Air Traffic Control (ATC) shall have sufficient expertise to perform that task readily. Pilots must have an understanding of and comply with Federal Aviation Regulations and Military Regulations applicable to the airspace where the UAS will operate. Pilots must have in their possession a current second class (or higher) airman medical certificate that has been issued under 14 CFR 67, Medical Standards and Certification, or a military equivalent. 14 CFR 91.17, Alcohol or Drugs, applies to UA pilots.
- **Observer Qualifications:** Observers must have been provided with sufficient training to communicate clearly to the pilot any turning instructions required to stay clear of conflicting traffic. Observers will receive training on rules and responsibilities described in 14 CFR 91.111, *Operating Near Other Aircraft*, and 14 CFR 91.113, *Right-of-Way Rules*. Observers must have in their possession a current second class (or higher) airman medical certificate that has been issued under 14 CFR 67, Medical Standards and Certification, or a military equivalent. 14 CFR 91.17, Alcohol or Drugs, applies to UA observers.
- **Pilot-in-Command (PIC) – Visual Flight Rules (VFR):**
  - The PIC is the person directly responsible for the operation of the UA. The responsibility and authority of the pilot in command as described by 14 CFR 91.3 (or military equivalent), applies to the UAS PIC.
  - The PIC must pass the required knowledge test for a private pilot certificate, or military equivalent, as stated in 14 CFR 61.105, and must keep their aeronautical knowledge up to date.
  - There is no intent to suggest that there is any requirement for the UAS PIC to be qualified as a crewmember of a manned aircraft.

**Pilot Proficiency – VFR:**

- Pilots will not act as a PIC unless they have had three qualified proficiency events within the preceding 90 days.
  - The term “qualified proficiency event” is a UAS-specific term necessary due to the diversity of UAS types and control systems.
  - A qualified proficiency event is an event requiring the pilot to exercise the training and skills unique to the UAS in which proficiency is maintained.
- Pilots flying UA on other than instrument flight plans must pass the required knowledge test for a private pilot certificate, or military equivalent, as stated in 14 CFR 61.105.

**PIC Responsibilities:**

- Pilots are responsible for a thorough preflight inspection of the UAS. Flight operations will not be undertaken unless the UAS is airworthy. The airworthiness provisions of 14 CFR 91.7, Civil Aircraft Airworthiness, or the military equivalent, apply.
- One PIC must be designated at all times and is responsible for the safety of the UA and persons and property along the UA flight path.
- The UAS pilot will be held accountable for controlling their aircraft to the same standards as the pilot of a manned aircraft. The provisions of 14 CFR 91.13, *Careless and Reckless Operation*, apply to UAS pilots.

**Pilot/ATC Instructions:** The PIC will maintain direct two-way communications with ATC and have the ability to maneuver the UA per their instructions as applicable.

**SPECIAL PROVISIONS:**

The FAA recognizes that, by nature, UAS have no on-board pilot to perform see-and-avoid responsibilities. Therefore, when operating outside of Restricted Airspace, special provisions must be made to ensure an equivalent level of safety exists for operations had a pilot been on board. Listed below are the special provisions that must be complied with. All personnel connected with this UAS operation shall comply with the contents of this authorization and its special provisions.

1. All UAS operations shall be conducted under Visual Flight Rules (VFR) in Visual Meteorological Conditions (VMC) in accordance with CFR 14 Part 91.
2. For the purpose of see-and-avoid, visual observers must be utilized at all times when operating outside of restricted, prohibited or warning area airspace. The visual observers must remain within 0.5 mile laterally and 400 feet vertically of the UAS during operations at Brennan Field, Upper, and Lower Waste Management sites and within 0.5 mile laterally and 600 feet vertically during operations at the Taft and

Filmore sites. Pilot/observers must not operate the Puma at a distance beyond that at which see-and-avoid responsibilities can be exercised.

The visual observers may be either ground based or in a chase aircraft. The observer(s) must keep the UAS in sight at all times.

3. Operations outside of restricted airspace may only be conducted during daylight hours.
4. The operational transponder requirement as listed in FAR Part 91.215 (5) (c) is waived, including the requirement to contact the Air Traffic Control facility.
5. The UAS position/navigation/anti-collision strobe lights shall be activated at all times during flight.
6. In the event of a lost link the:
  - Aircraft will return to its preprogrammed rally waypoint, which in most cases is the same as the "Home" waypoint.
  - All lost link procedure will be contained within the operations area depicted in "Activity" above and attachment 1 below.
7. Operations to include lost link procedures shall not be operated over populated areas, heavily trafficked roads, or an open-air assembly of people.
8. Special VFR operations are not authorized.
9. Flight operations shall be limited to only one UA at a time at each location.
10. Due to the proximity of the East Valley Sheriff's Station heliport (6CA4), the applicant shall coordinate flight activity at Brennan Field with the sheriff's office prior to flight operations.
11. While operating at the other 4 locations in near Simi Valley, CA, the applicant will monitor an appropriate aviation frequency to assist in situational awareness.
12. While operating in Taft, CA, the applicant will monitor the Taft-Kern County Airport UNICOM frequency during all operations.
13. Operations at the Taft flight operations area need to consider parachuting activity which is charted in the local area. Vigilance for this activity needs to be exercised and the applicant should cease operations until the area is clear of any conflicting parachuting activity. The applicant should check applicable Notices to Airmen (NOTAMs) and the appropriate radio frequencies for current parachuting status.

**NOTAM:** A distance (D) Notice to Airman shall be issued when UA operations are being conducted. Contact the Automated Flight Service Station at 1-800-WX-BRIEF (992-7433) not more than 72 hours in advance, but not less than 48 hours prior to the operation and provide:

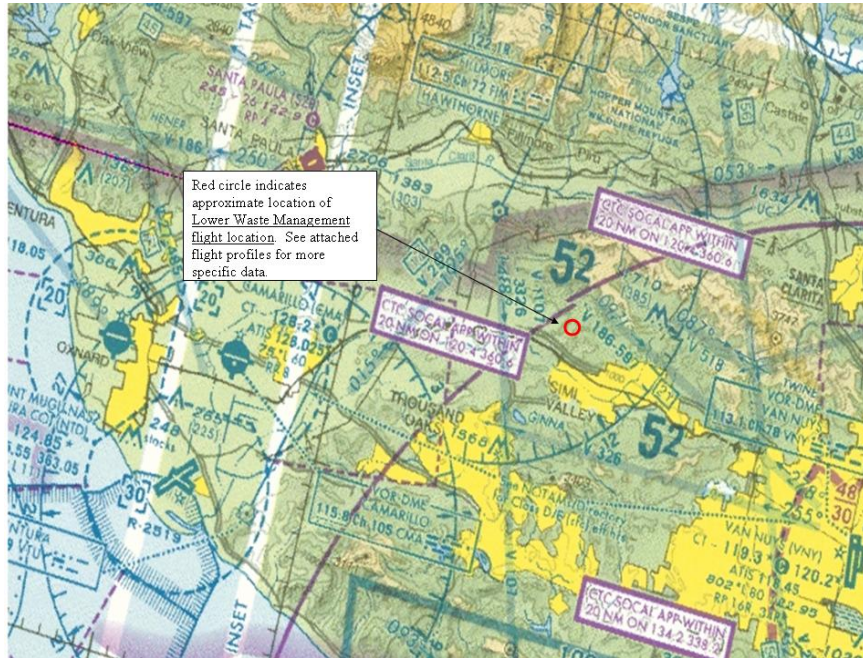
- Name and Address of the Using Facility
- Location, Altitude or the operating Area
- Time and nature of the activity

NOTE: This requirement to file with the AFSS is in addition to any local procedures/requirements for filing through DINS. The FAA Unmanned Aircraft Systems Office is working with the AFSS, and to eliminate the requirement to file a NOTAM with both the AFSS and DINS in the near future.

**INCIDENT / ACCIDENT REPORTING:** The following information is required to document unusual occurrences associated with UAS activities in the NAS.

- The proponent for the COA shall provide the following information to [Donald.E.Grampp@faa.gov](mailto:Donald.E.Grampp@faa.gov) on a monthly/annual basis:
  - Number of flights
  - Pilot duty time per flight
  - Aircraft operational hours per flight
  - Ground station operational hours per flight
  - Periods of lost communication with ATC
  - Deviations from ATC instructions
  - All periods of loss of link (telemetry, command and/or control)
- The following shall be submitted via email or phone (202-385-4542, cell 443-569-1732) to [Donald.E.Grampp@faa.gov](mailto:Donald.E.Grampp@faa.gov) within 24 hours:
  - All accidents or incidents involving UAS activities
  - Deviations from the "Special Provisions" contained in the COA

This COA does not, in itself, waive any Federal Aviation Regulation (FAR) nor any state law or local ordinance. Should the proposed operation conflict with any state law or local ordinance, or require permission of local authorities or property owners, it is the responsibility of the United States Special Operations Command (USSOCOM) to resolve the matter. This COA does not authorize flight within Special Use Airspace without approval from the Using Agency. The United States Special Operations Command (USSOCOM) is hereby authorized to operate the Puma UAS in the operations area depicted in "Activity" above and attachment 1 below.

**Lower Waste Management****Attachment 1**

- HOME 11SLT 3542 9728 / N34° 18'13" W118°47'18"
- Loss of Link RALLY Point 11SLT 3542 9728 / N34° 18'13" W118°47'18"

**Airspace Definition (MGRS / LAT/LONG)**

- |                    |                         |
|--------------------|-------------------------|
| 1) 11SLT 3570 9757 | N34° 18'22" W118°47'07" |
| 2) 11SLT 3570 9713 | N34° 18'08" W118°47'07" |
| 3) 11SLT 3449 9686 | N34° 17'59" W118°47'54" |
| 4) 11SLT 3422 9737 | N34° 18'15" W118°48'05" |
| 5) 11SLT 3459 9791 | N34° 18'33" W118°47'51" |





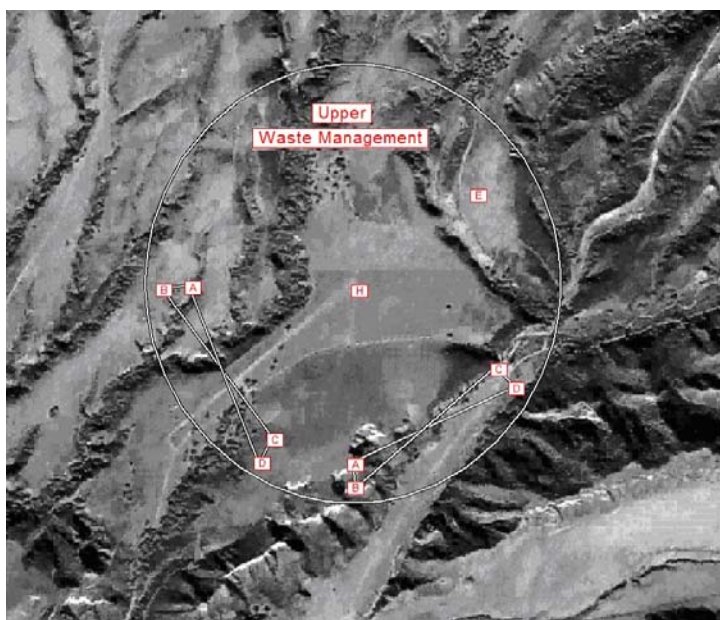
## Upper Waste Management



- HOME 11SLT 3416 9813 / N34° 18'40" W118°48'08"
- Loss of Link RALLY Point 11SLT 3416 9813 / N34° 18'40" W118°48'08"

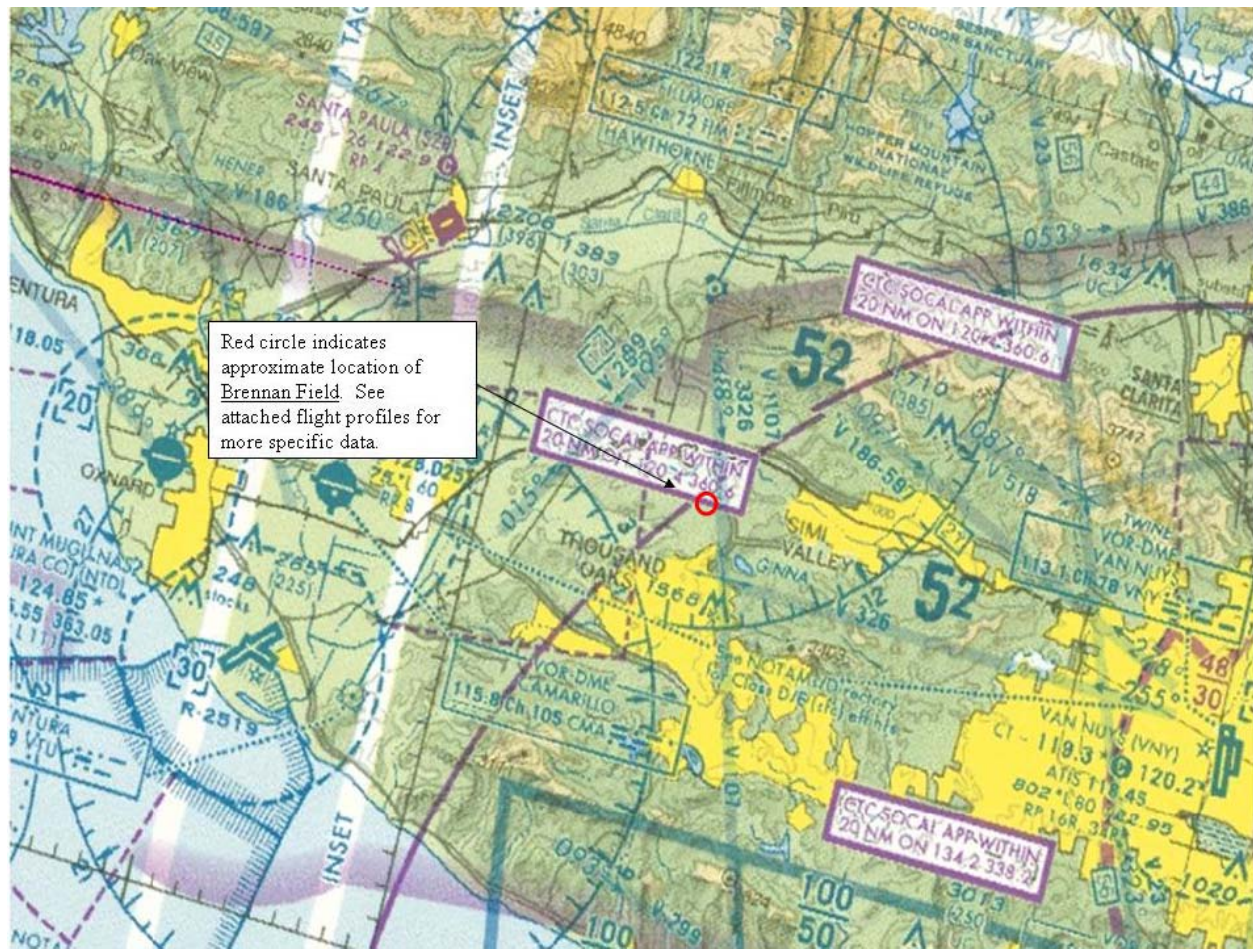
### Airspace Definition (MGRS / LAT/LONG)

- |                    |                         |
|--------------------|-------------------------|
| 1) 11SLT 3440 9905 | N34° 19'10" W118°47'59" |
| 2) 11SLT 3498 9861 | N34° 18'56" W118°47'36" |
| 3) 11SLT 3508 9789 | N34° 18'32" W118°47'32" |
| 4) 11SLT 3464 9731 | N34° 18'13" W118°47'48" |
| 5) 11SLT 3385 9697 | N34° 18'02" W118°48'19" |
| 6) 11SLT 3312 9752 | N34° 18'19" W118°48'48" |
| 7) 11SLT 3300 9843 | N34° 18'49" W118°48'53" |
| 8) 11SLT 3355 9917 | N34° 19'13" W118°48'32" |





## Brennan Field



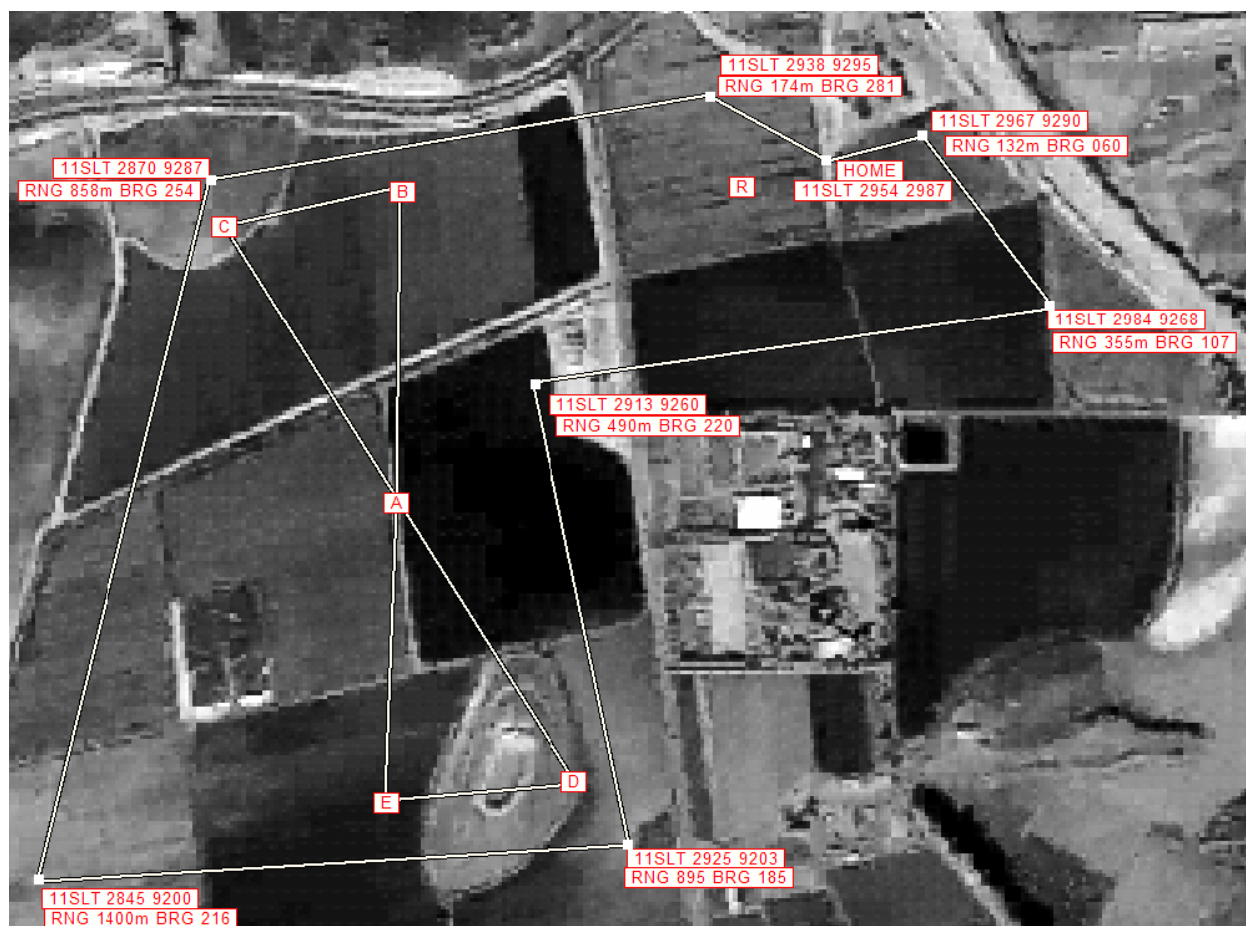
- HOME 11SLT 2954 9287 / N34° 15' 46" W118° 51' 05"

- Field elevation is approximately 600 ft MSL.

Loss of Link RALLY Point 11SLT 2954 9287 / N34° 15' 46" W118° 51' 05"

Airspace Definition (MGRS / LAT/LONG)

- 11SLT 2870 9287 N34°15'46" W118°51'38"
- 11SLT 2938 9295 N34°15'49" W118°51'11"
- 11SLT 2967 9290 N34°15'47" W118°51'00"
- 11SLT 2984 9268 N34°15'40" W118°50'53"
- 11SLT 2913 9260 N34°15'37" W118°51'21"
- 11SLT 2925 9203 N34°15'19" W118°51'15"
- 11SLT 2845 9200 N34°15'17" W118°51'47"



**Taft**



**Filmore**