

Santa Susana Pass

State Historic Park

This 670-acre historic park, located in Los Angeles County where the Simi Hills meet the Santa Susana Mountains, is rich in natural, historical and cultural significance. Here in the western part of the Transverse Ranges, the land is dominated by high, narrow ridges and deep canyons covered with an abundant variety of plant life. The park offers panoramic views of the rugged natural landscape as a striking contrast to the developed communities nearby.

The diverse terrain of ridges, canyons and rock outcrops houses several varieties of habitats within the park's environs. There are two seasonally intermittent streams whose flows—at times significant enough to produce waterfalls—depend on the rainfall. The presence or absence of springs and streams at different times of the year has a profound effect on the local vegetation.

The landscape of Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park consists of sandstone ramparts—relics of mountain-building forces exerted nearly five million years ago. These memorable formations have been used as the background for several western films.

The soil, which ranges from hard sandstone bedrock to various forms of the surrounding clay, shale and crushed sandstone, provides a perfect habitat for the abundant coastal sage scrub, chaparral and annual grasses among smaller areas of oak and riparian woodlands and riparian scrub. The sandstone rock outcrops shelter the rare Santa Susana tarplant, while the moister north-facing



The maroon monkey flower is a rare and distinctive form of the bush monkey flower (Mimulus aurantiacus). It is a perennial shrub found on dry slopes within chaparral, coastal sage scrub and oak woodlands. This form has deep red flowers and blooms from March to July.



slopes support more dense vegetation. Coastal sagebrush, buckwheat, laurel sumac, chamise and wild lilac are typical shrubs within the park environs. In the small canyons, where seasonal rains are more likely to be channeled, some riparian species such as willow and Mexican elderberry grow well. In the larger riparian channels, coast live oak, California walnut, sycamores and willows create a dense canopy. Spring rains produce acres of spectacular flowers and blooming shrubs.

Because of its greatly diverse plant communities, the availability of water, and a varied physical structure, this region supports a rich variety of wildlife. This rugged area is part of an important wildlife corridor that connects the San Gabriel, Santa Susana and Santa Monica Mountain ranges. Mule deer, bobcats, coyotes, gray foxes and ring-tailed cats are among the many native animals to be found here.

Cultural And Historical Value

Two distinct California Indian groups were the primary dwellers of this area: the Tongva and the Chumash. It is not known whether the area was equally shared by the two groups, or whether one was dominant. The Tongva people, highly proficient at deep-sea fishing, shellfish gathering and hunting sea mammals, were especially skilled at trading with their neighboring groups—with shell beads, steatite, dried fish and sea otter pelts among their trade items.

The Chumash people were technologically and artistically sophisticated, creating fine basketry, canoes capable of sea voyages and spectacular rock art. Today, descendants of the Chumash and Tongva people have maintained the traditions of their ancestors through community outreach and educational interpretive programs.

The Santa Susana Mountains and the San Fernando Valley have a history as a transportation corridor that dates back to 1769, when Spanish Army Captain Gaspar de Portolá led an expedition over the Sepulveda Pass from San Diego to Monterey Bay. During the next 52 years, the Spanish rulers established presidios, towns and a system of 21 missions. The route of

travel between the missions was known as El Camino Real (the King's Highway). Today, the Simi Valley Freeway—also known as State Highway 118—follows the 1895 route built to ease the grade of the old road over the Santa Susana Pass.

Activities

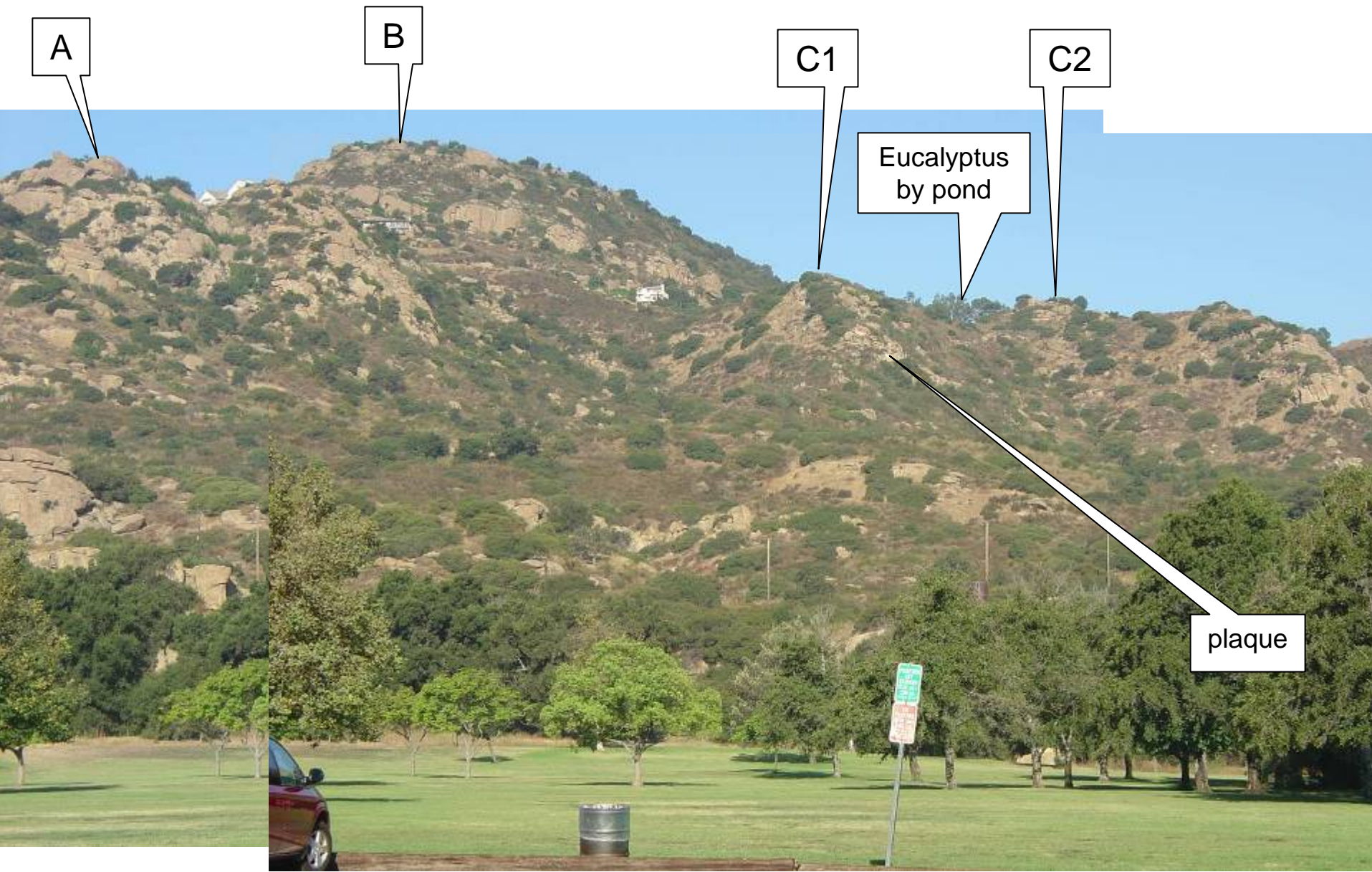
Located at the edge of an urban area, this rugged park provides exceptional outdoor recreation. Visitors can enjoy its scenic open space with a set of trails networking through the property. Docents from the Foundation for the Preservation of the Santa Susana Mountains lead regular environmental education programs for local school children, and on Sundays from October through June the Santa Susana Mountain Park Association leads guided hikes.

Photographers will find inspiration in the springtime blossoms, the striking rock formations and the views from the ridges. Equestrians will enjoy a system of horse trails through the park.

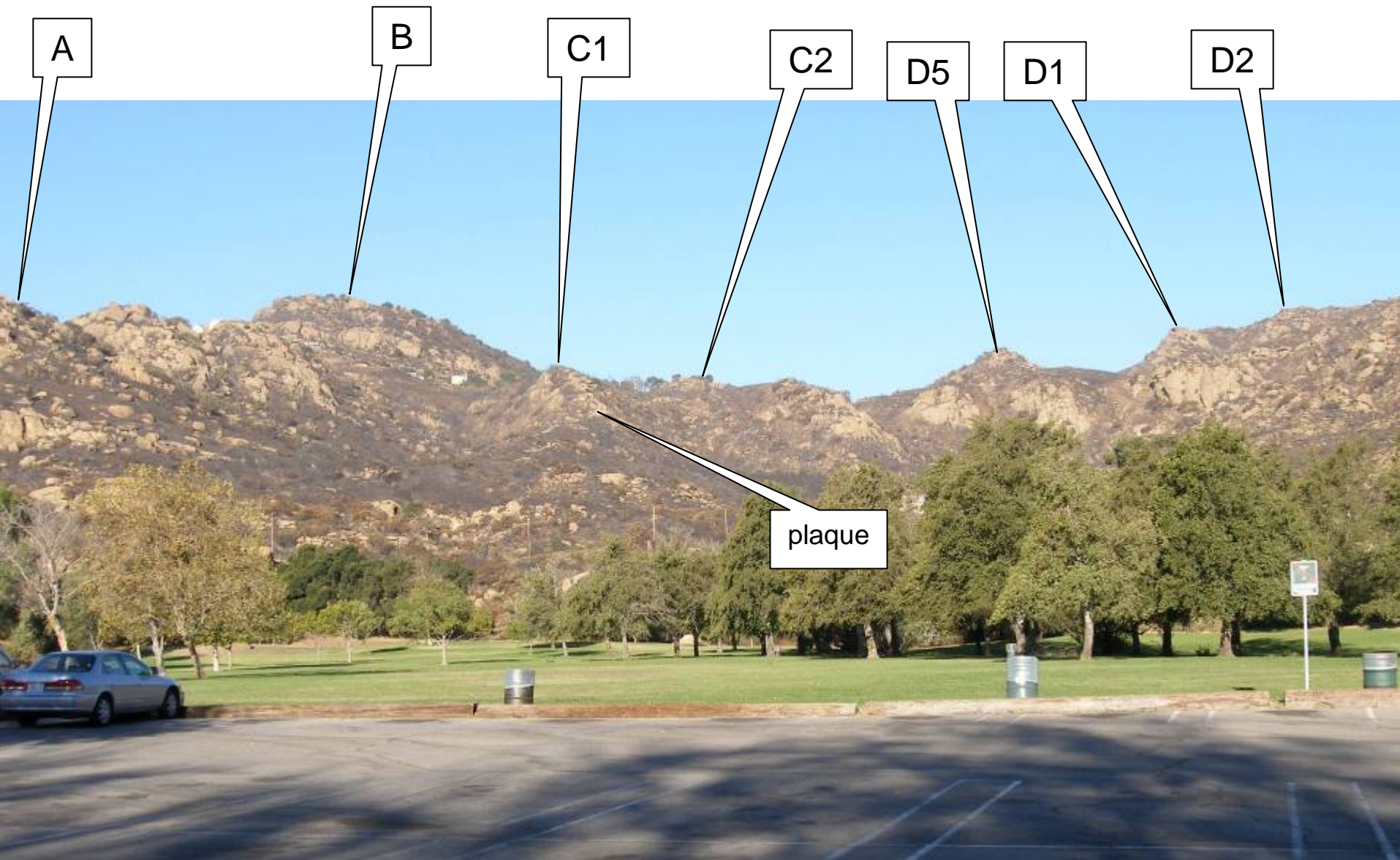


IV.

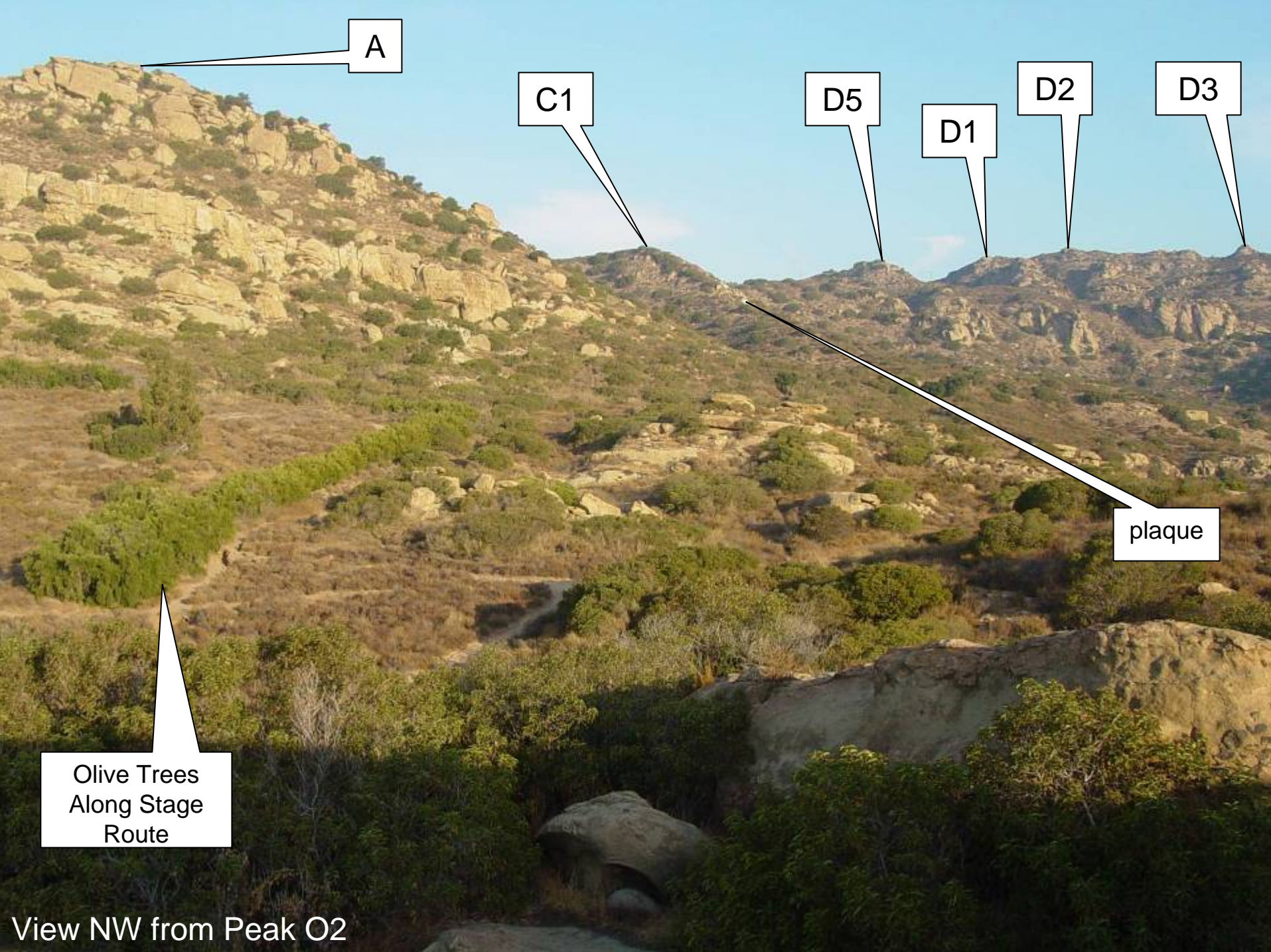
SSPSHP Immediate Use Trail Repair Plan (Padilla)



View West from Chatsworth Park South Parking Lot



View WNW from Chatsworth Park South Parking Lot (Post Fire)



A

C1

D5

D1

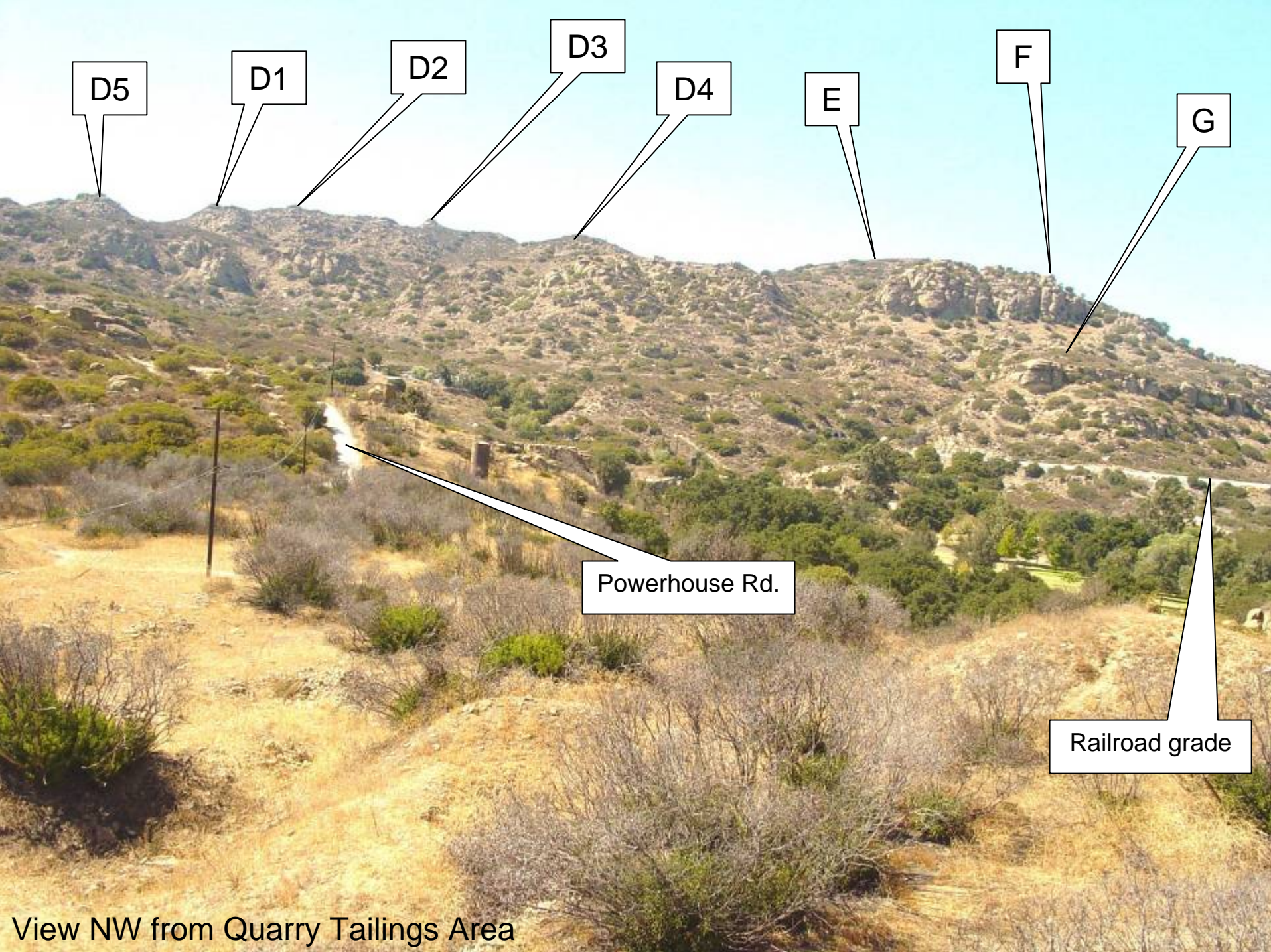
D2

D3

plaque

Olive Trees
Along Stage
Route

View NW from Peak O2



D5

D1

D2

D3

D4

E

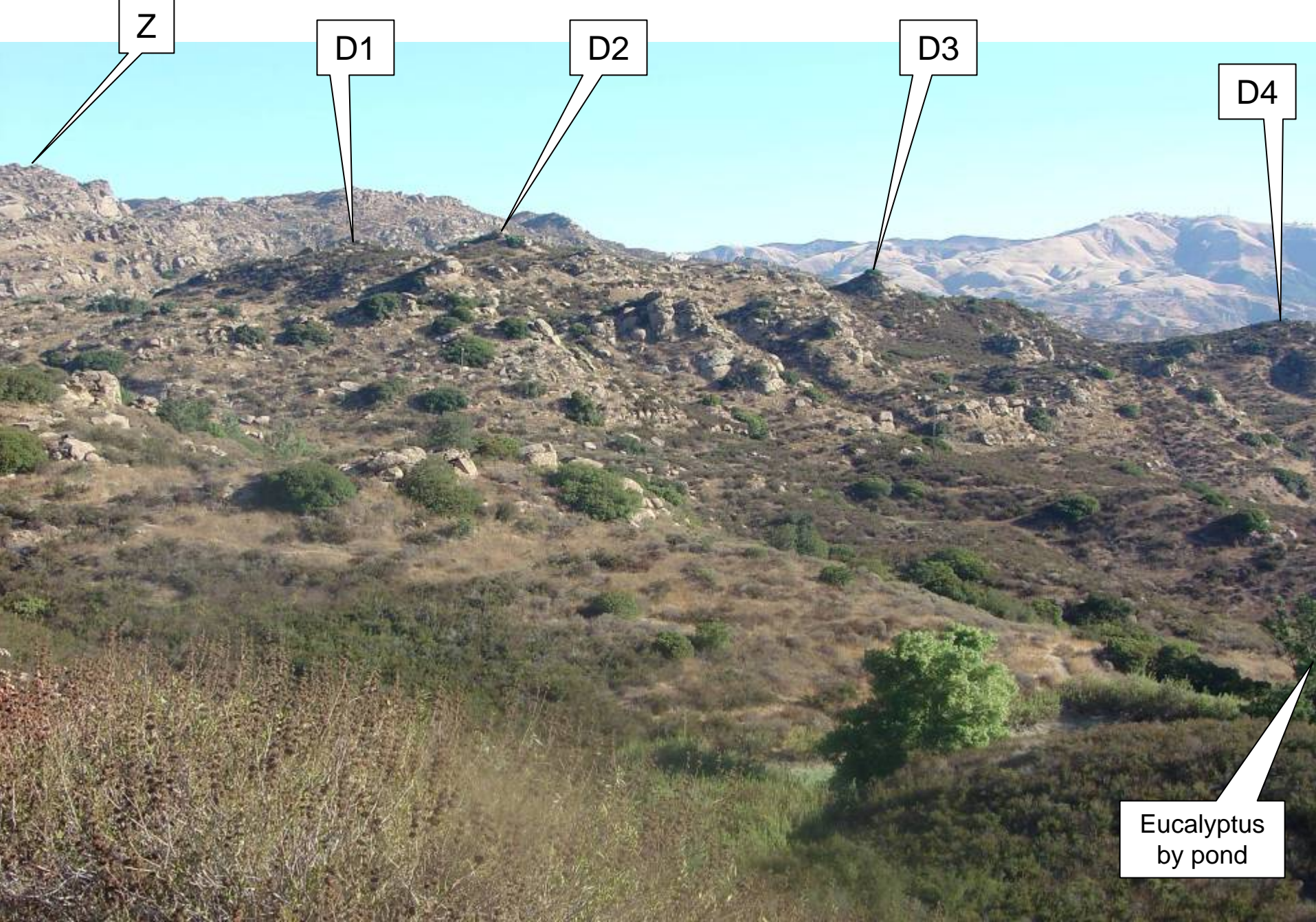
F

G

Powerhouse Rd.

Railroad grade

View NW from Quarry Tailings Area



Z

D1

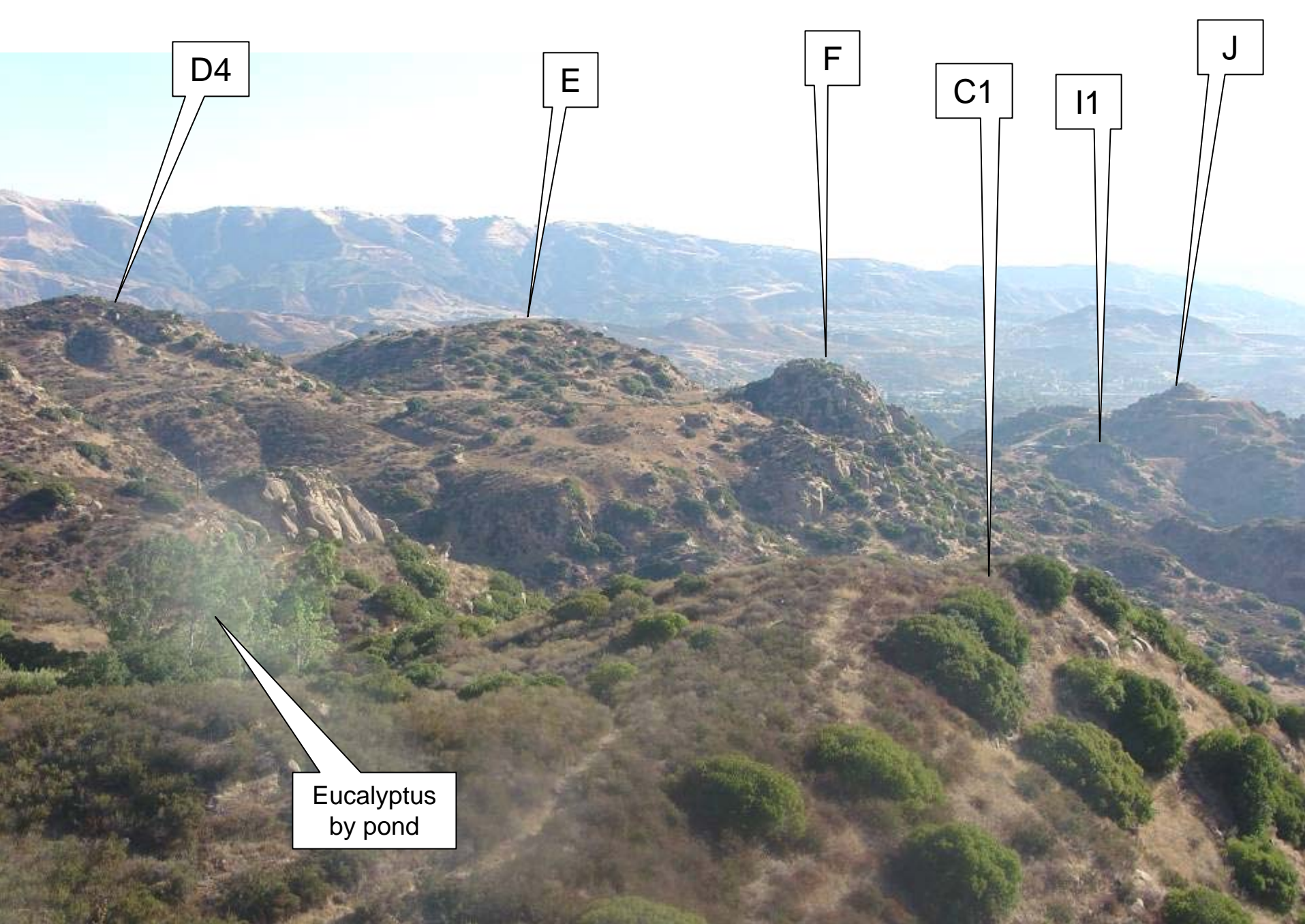
D2

D3

D4

Eucalyptus
by pond

View North from road between A & C1



D4

E

F

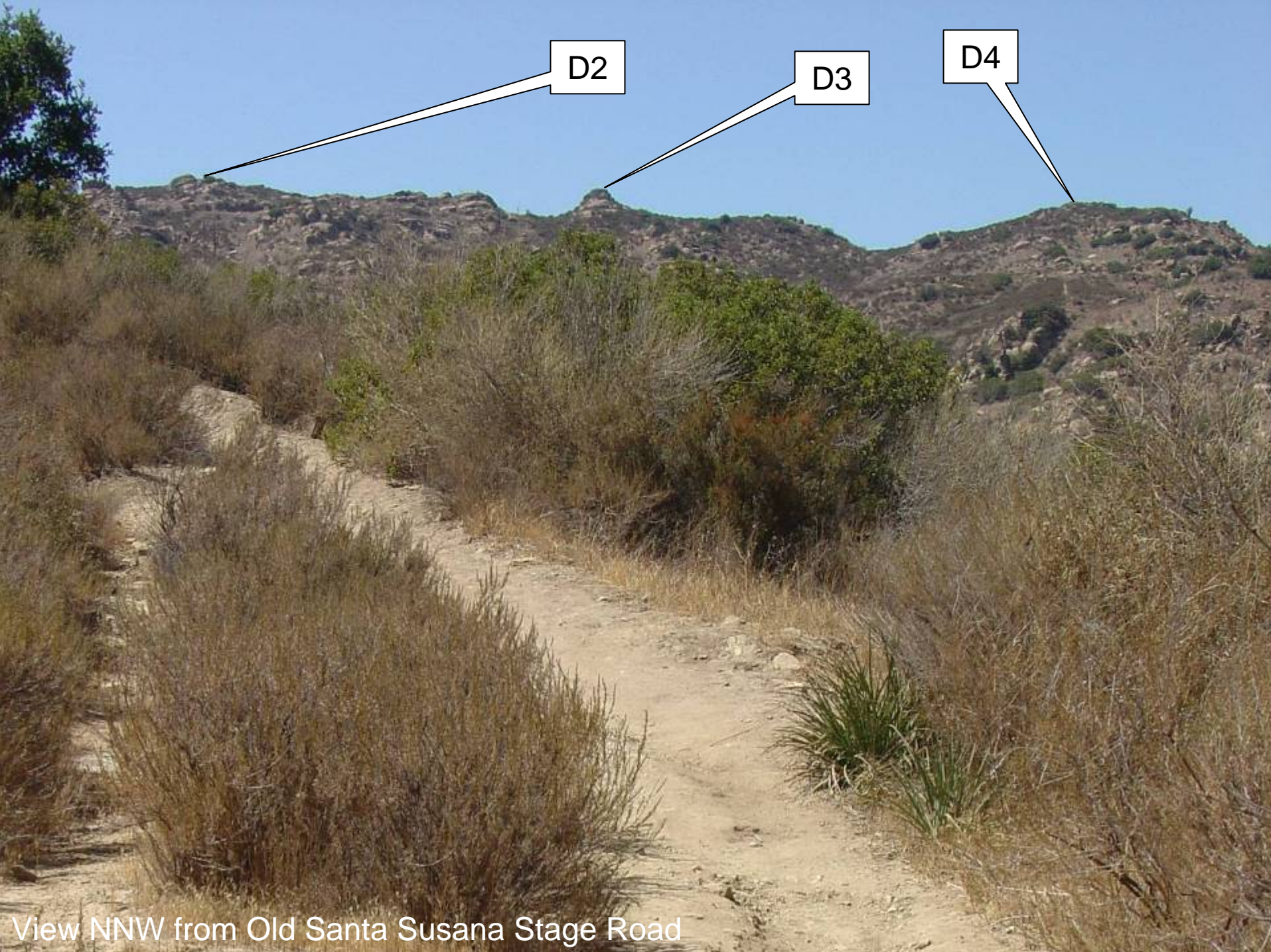
C1

I1

J

Eucalyptus
by pond

View NNE from road between A & C1



D2

D3

D4

View NNW from Old Santa Susana Stage Road



D2

D3

Balancing
Rock

View NW from Hill-Palmer Trail



Balancing
Rock

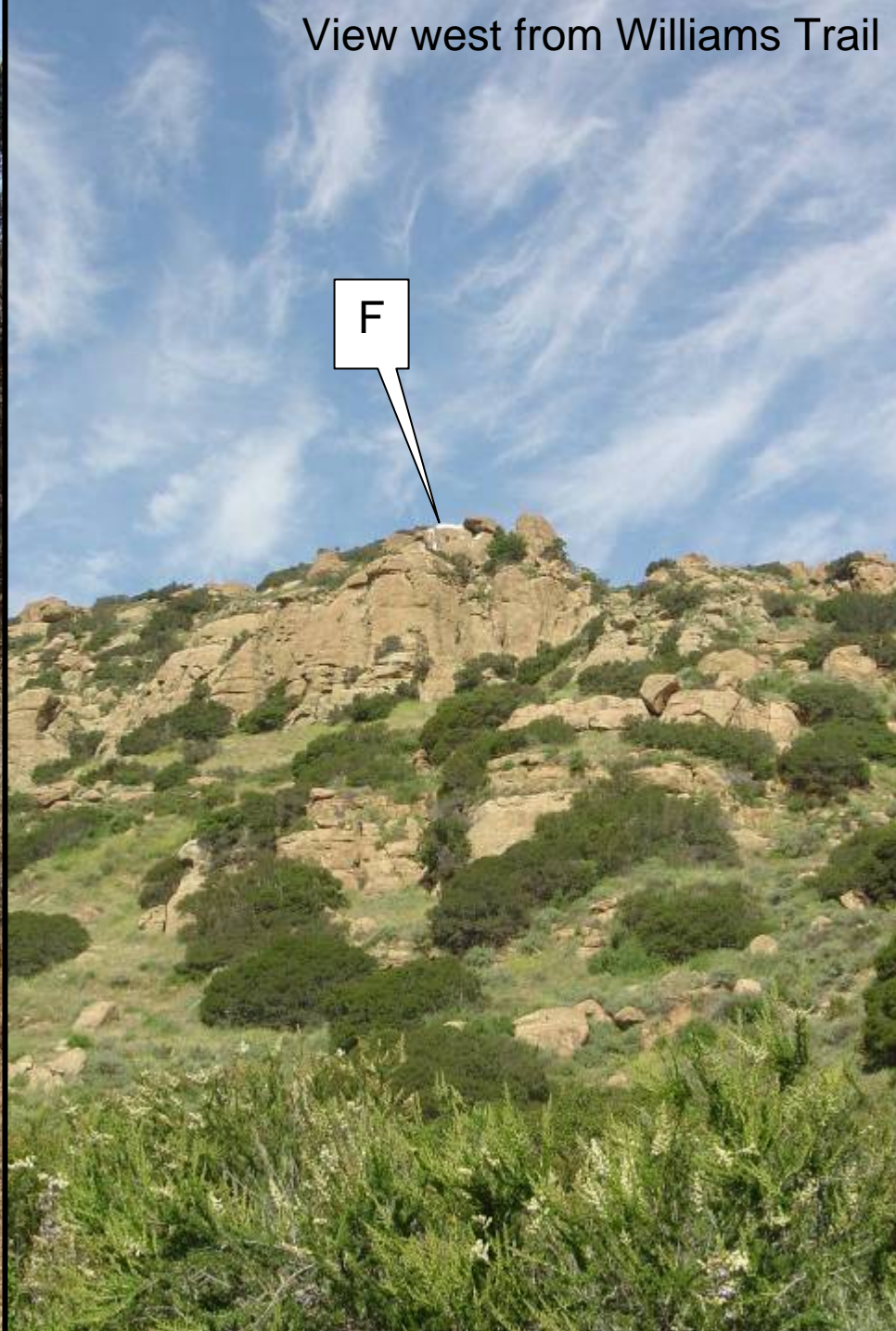
View NW from Hill-Palmer Trail



G

F

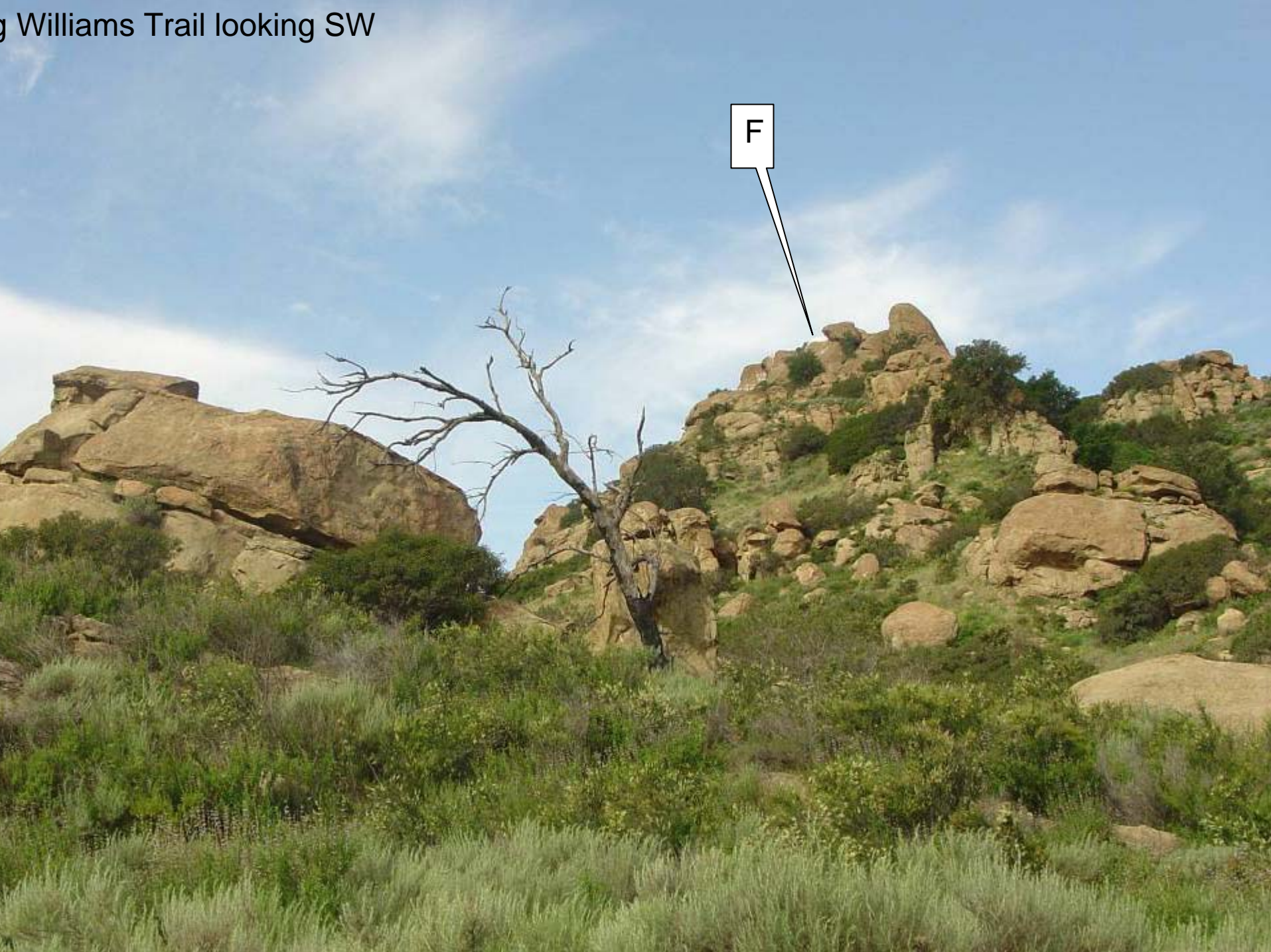
View North from Bannon Quarry Road



View west from Williams Trail

F

Williams Trail looking SW



F

F

O2

O3

View North from near S. junction of Ancestors' Trail & Stage Rd.

16 12:34

View east from top of north saddle on Williams Trail

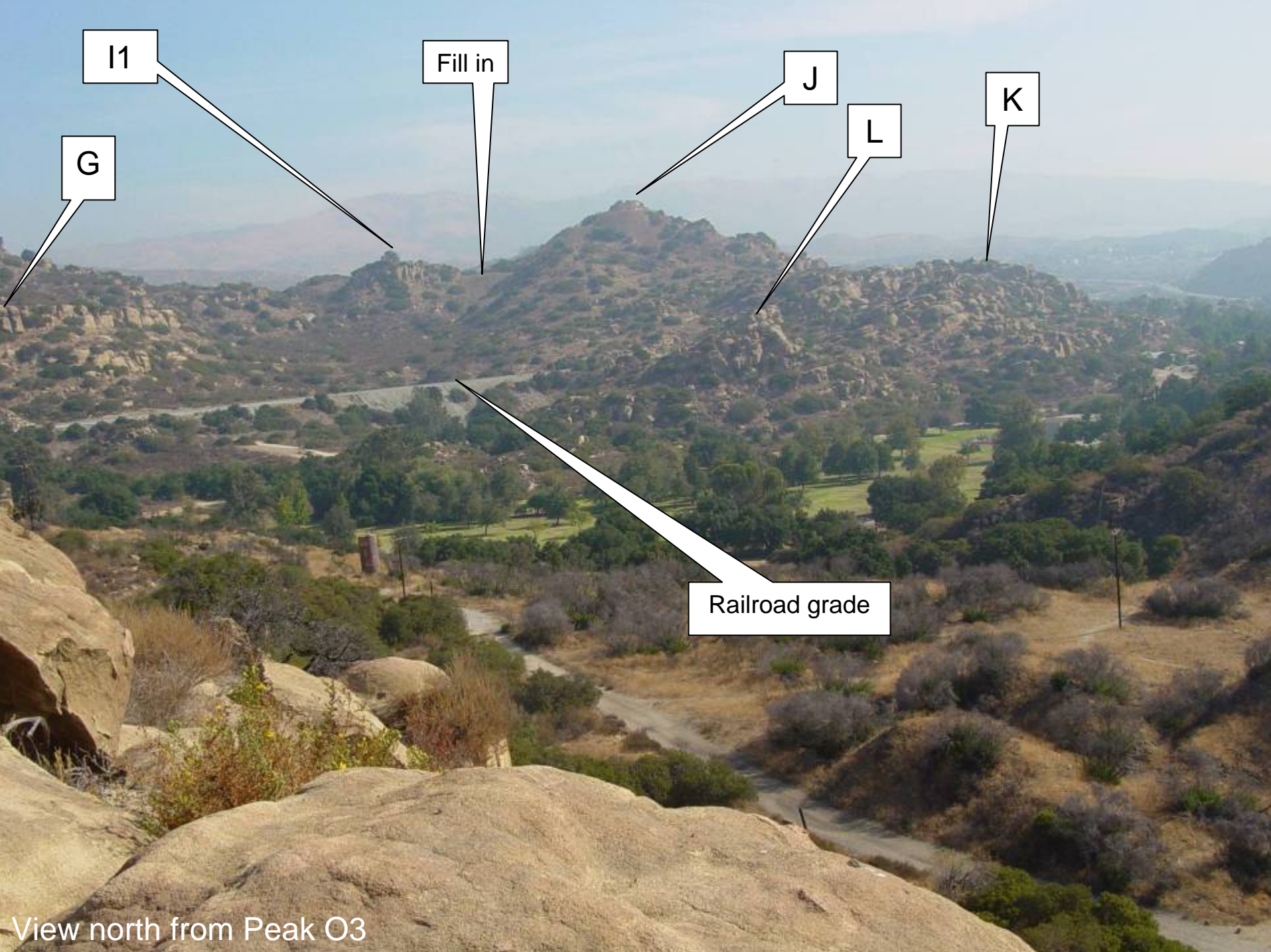


View NE from Williams Trail

I1

Fill in





I1

Fill in

J

K

G

L

Railroad grade

View north from Peak O3

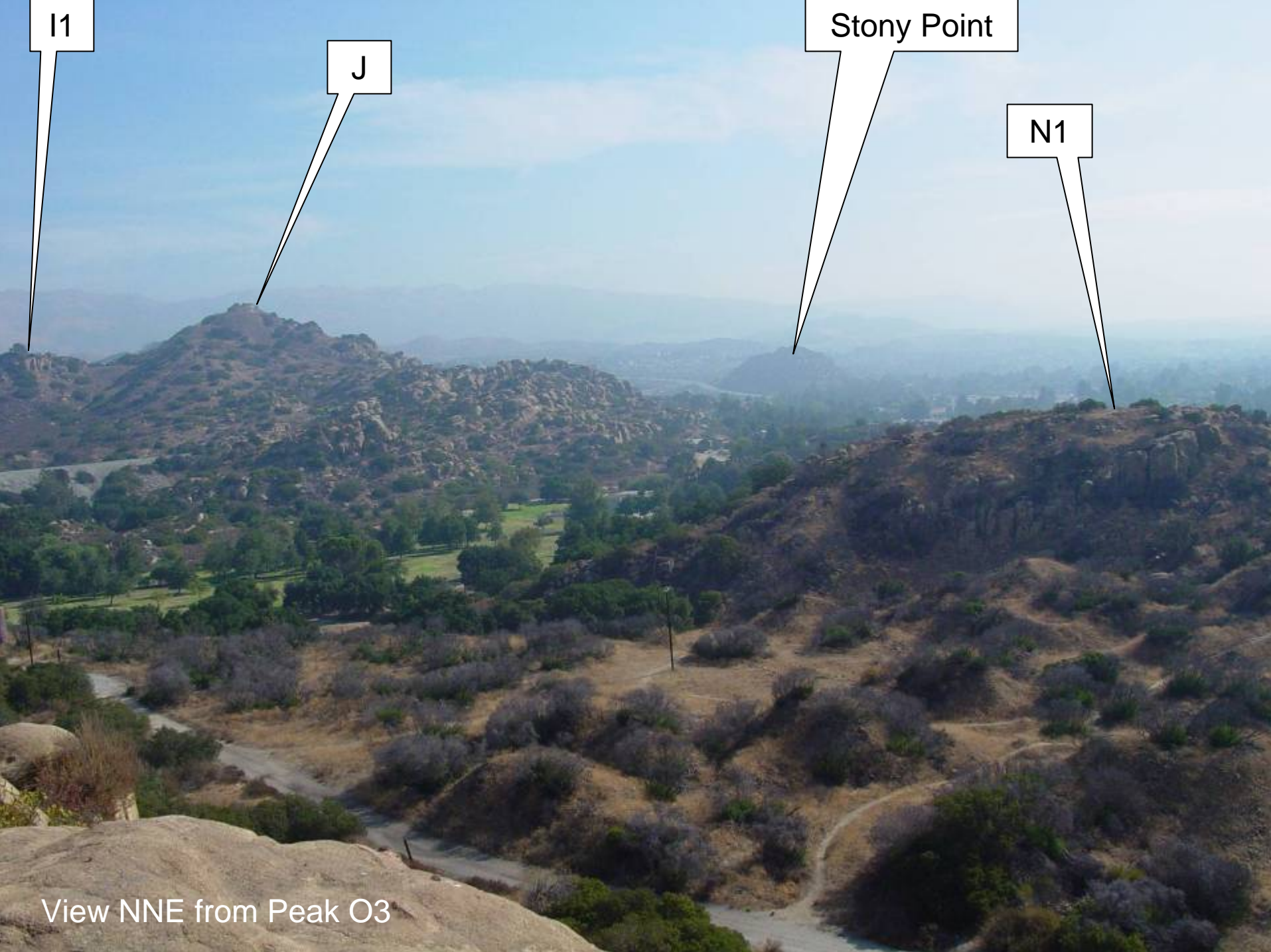
I1

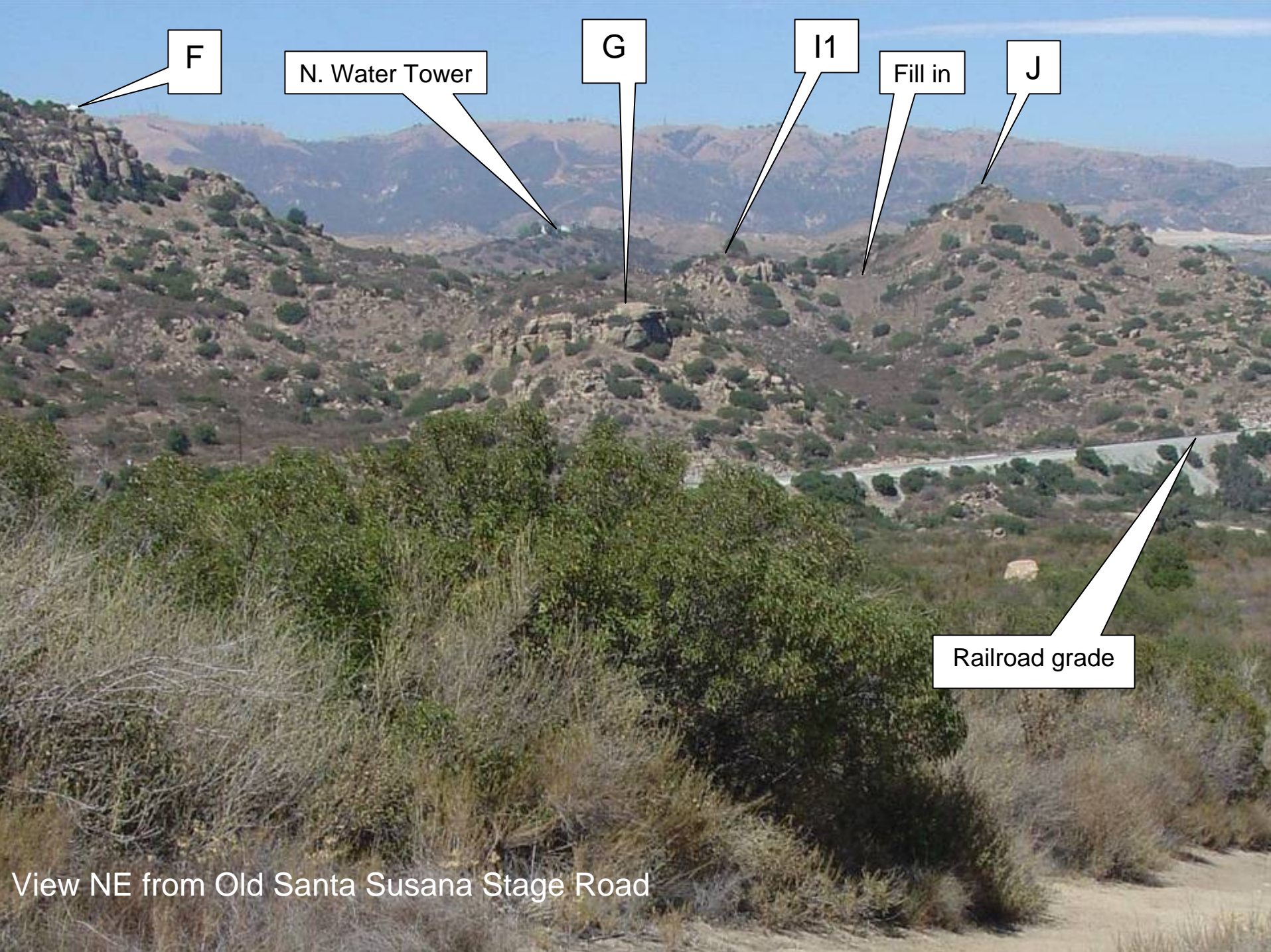
J

Stony Point

N1

View NNE from Peak O3





F

N. Water Tower

G

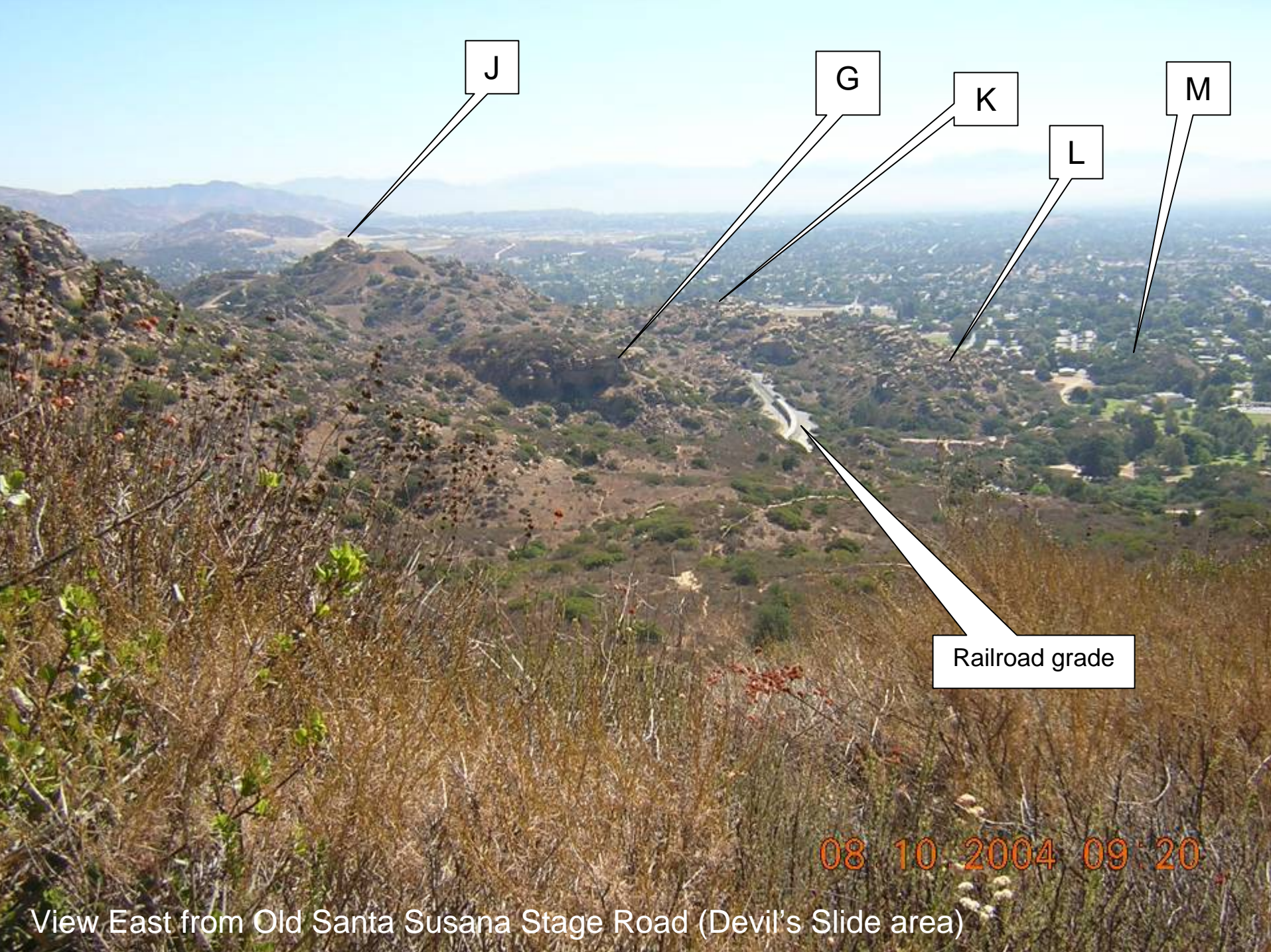
I1

Fill in

J

Railroad grade

View NE from Old Santa Susana Stage Road



J

G

K

L

M

Railroad grade

08 10 2004 09:20

View East from Old Santa Susana Stage Road (Devil's Slide area)

Water Tower

I1

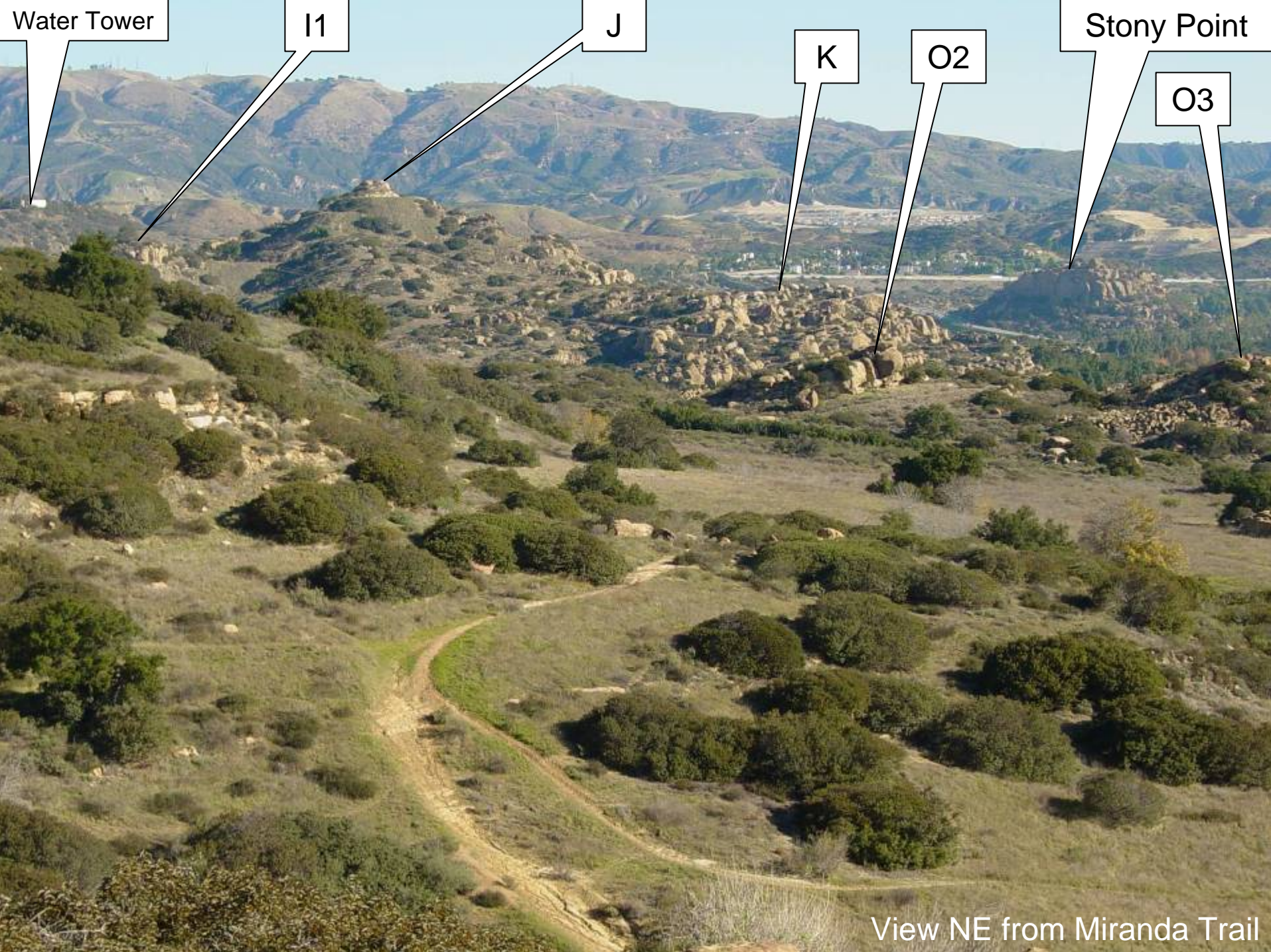
J

K

O2

Stony Point

O3



View NE from Miranda Trail

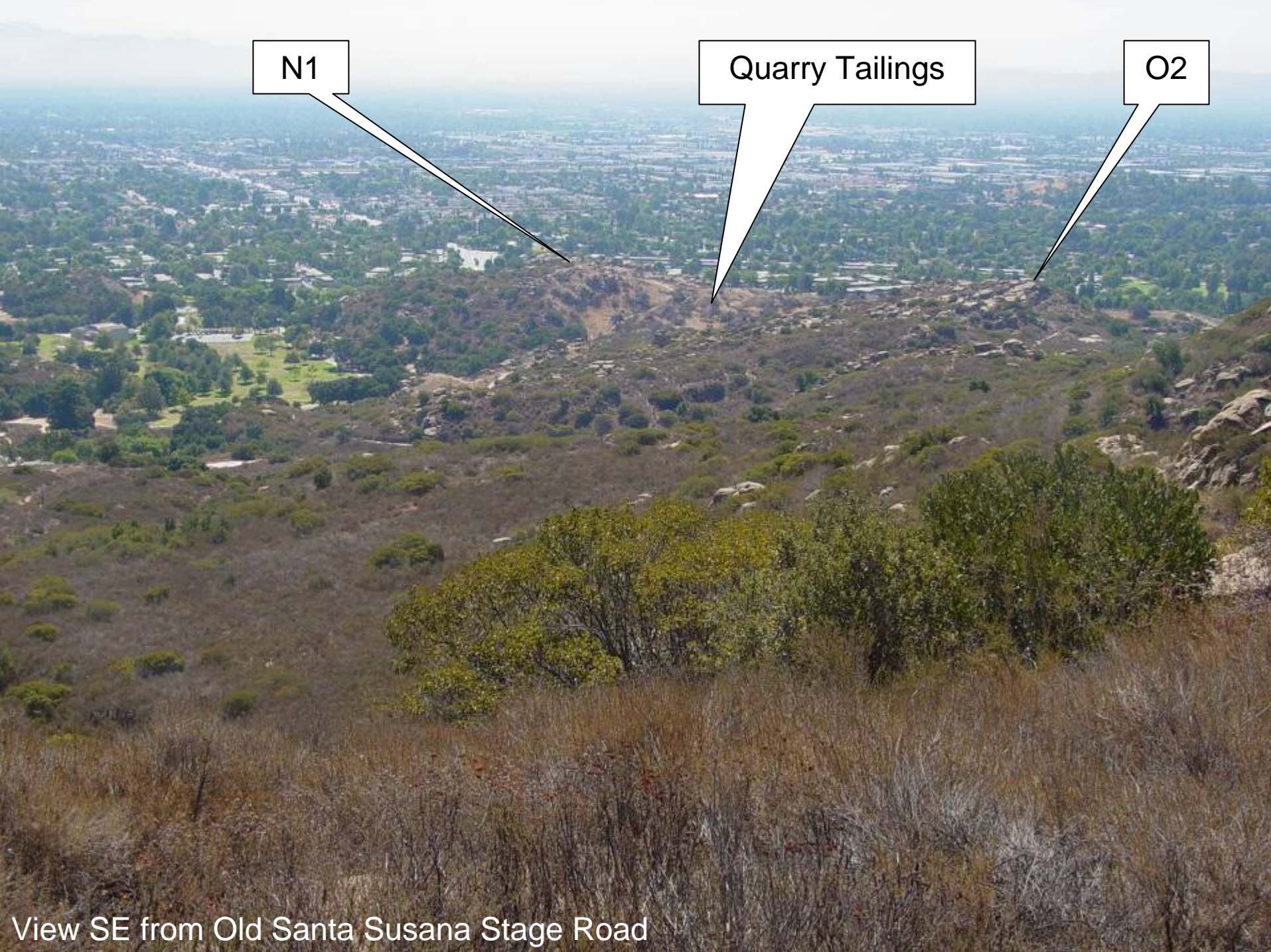
View NE from turn on Hill-Palmer Trail

J

G

K





N1

Quarry Tailings

O2

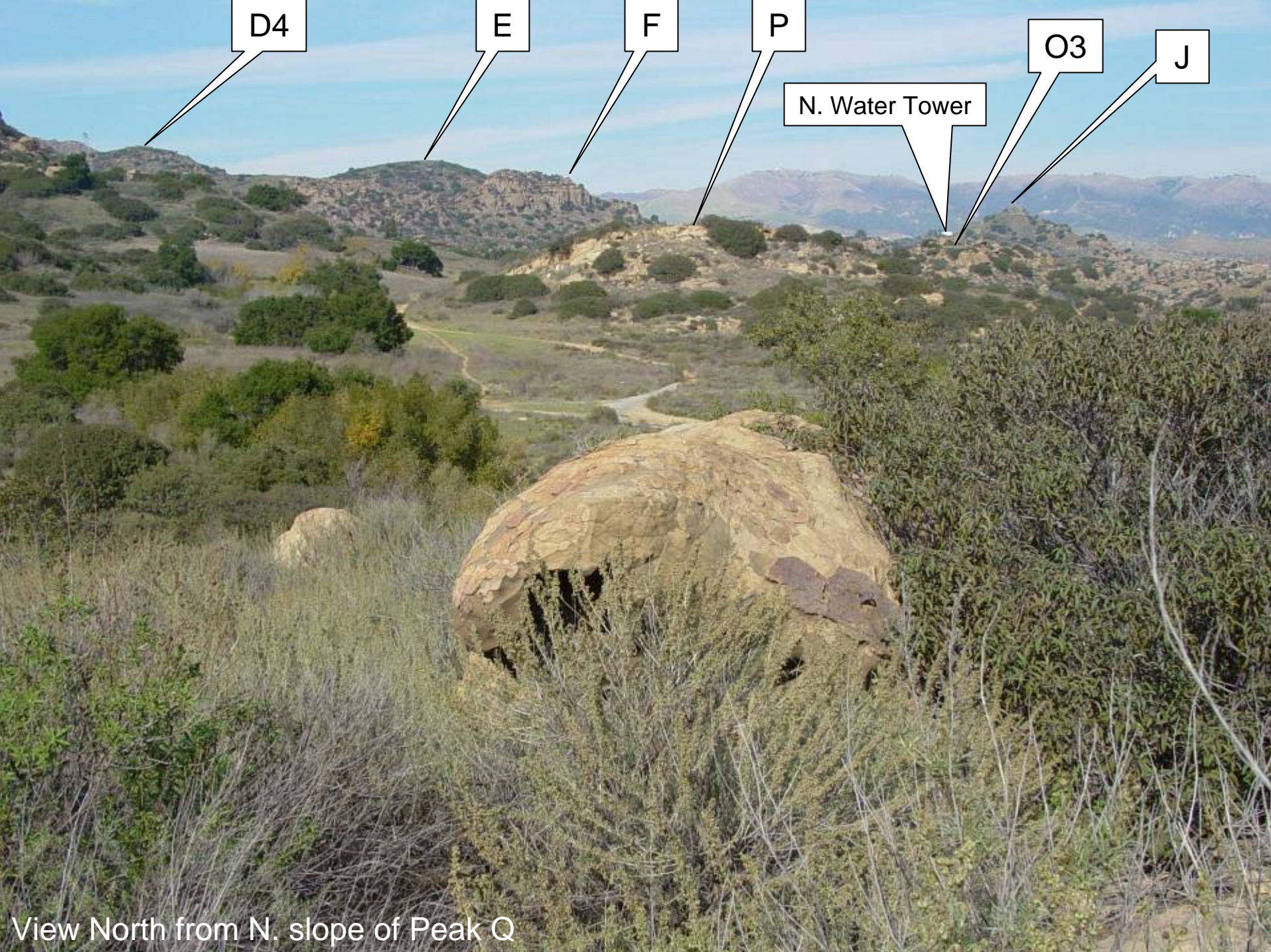
View SE from Old Santa Susana Stage Road



N1

08.10.2004 13:08

View north along Bannon Quarry Road



D4

E

F

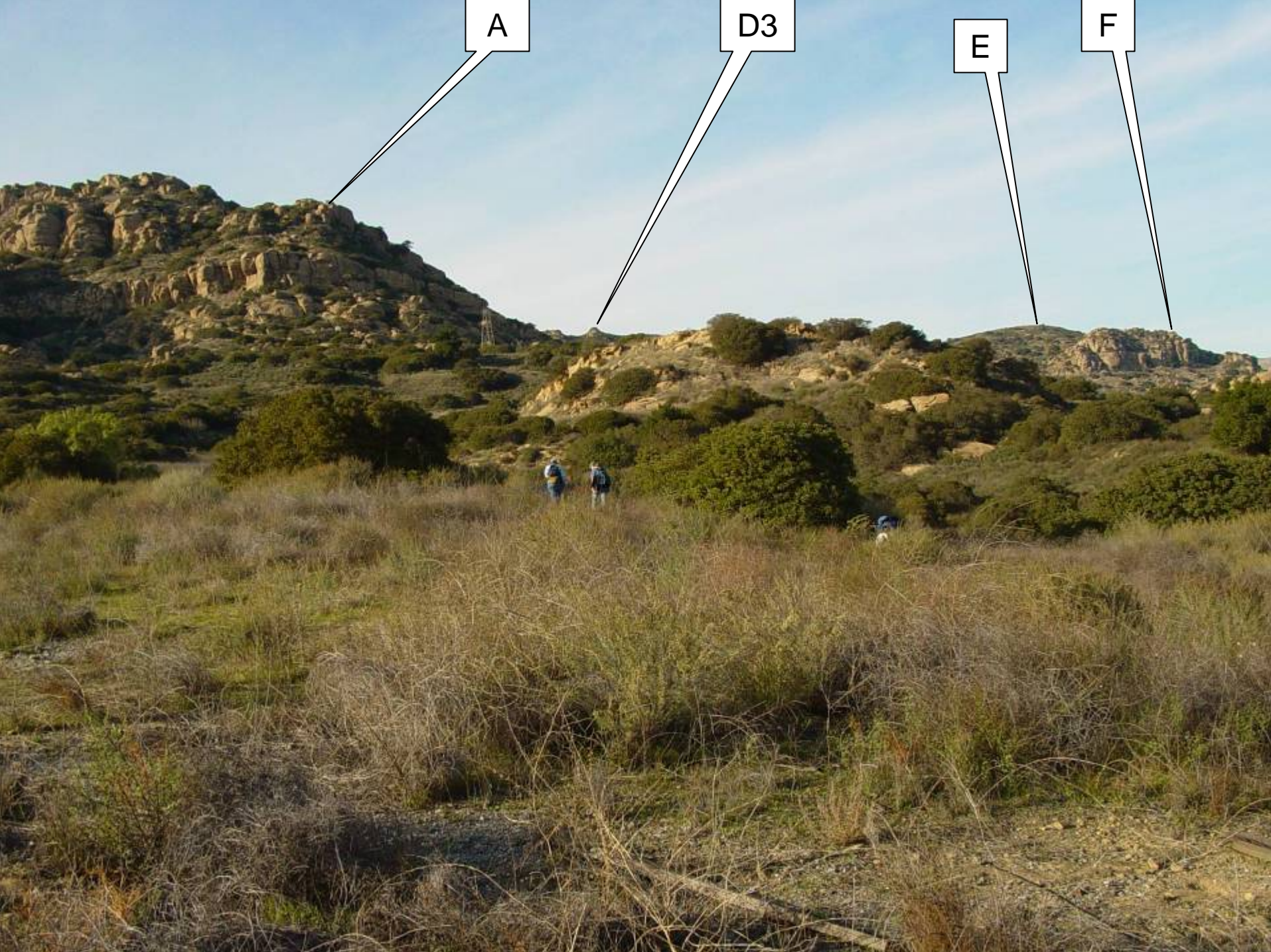
P

N. Water Tower

O3

J

View North from N. slope of Peak Q



A

D3

E

F

View SSW from Meadow

A

T

C1

plaque

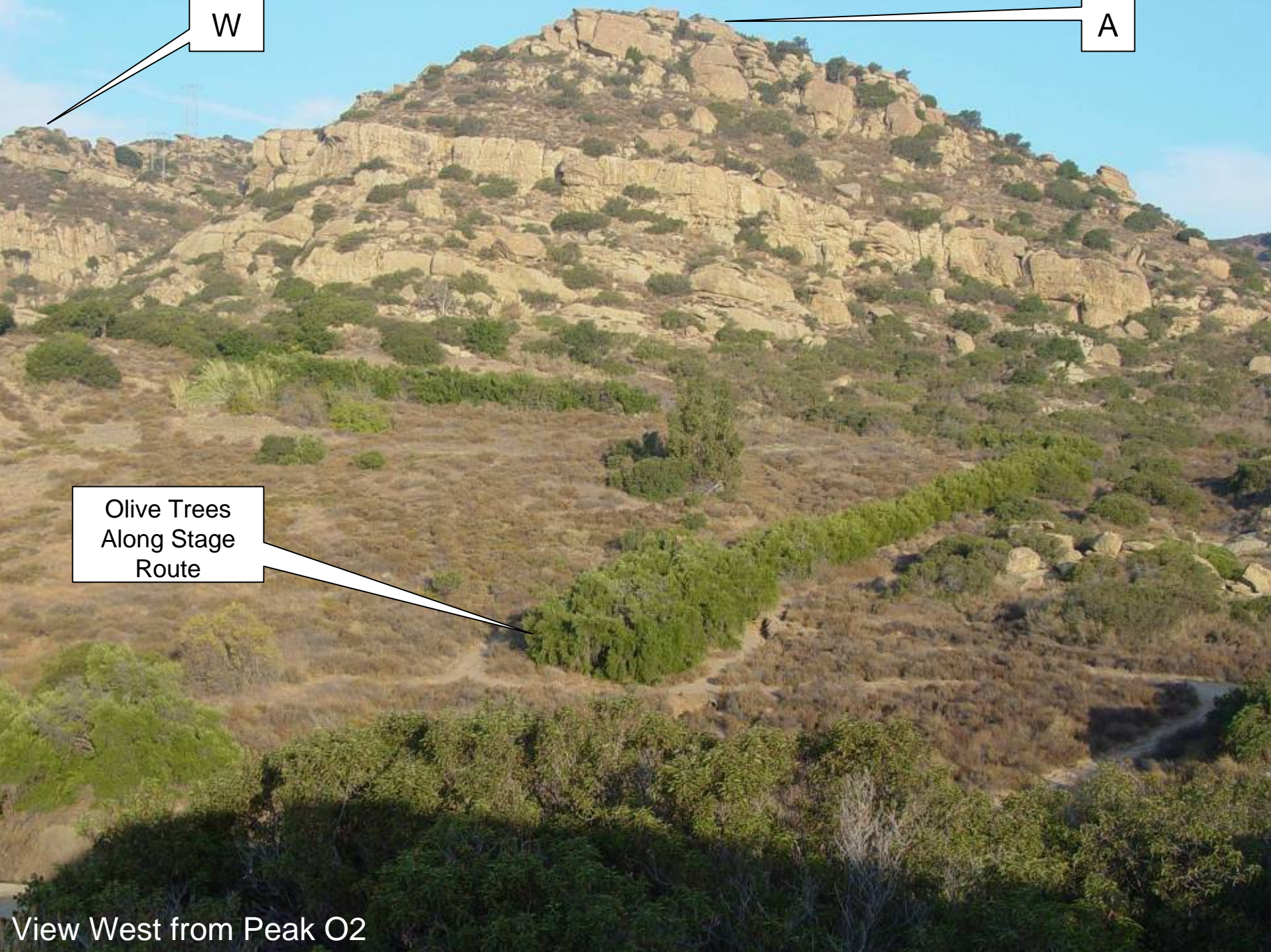


W

A

Olive Trees
Along Stage
Route

View West from Peak O2



Chatsworth Peak

W

B

A



16 12:40 PM

View WNW from Peak P

Southern Hills



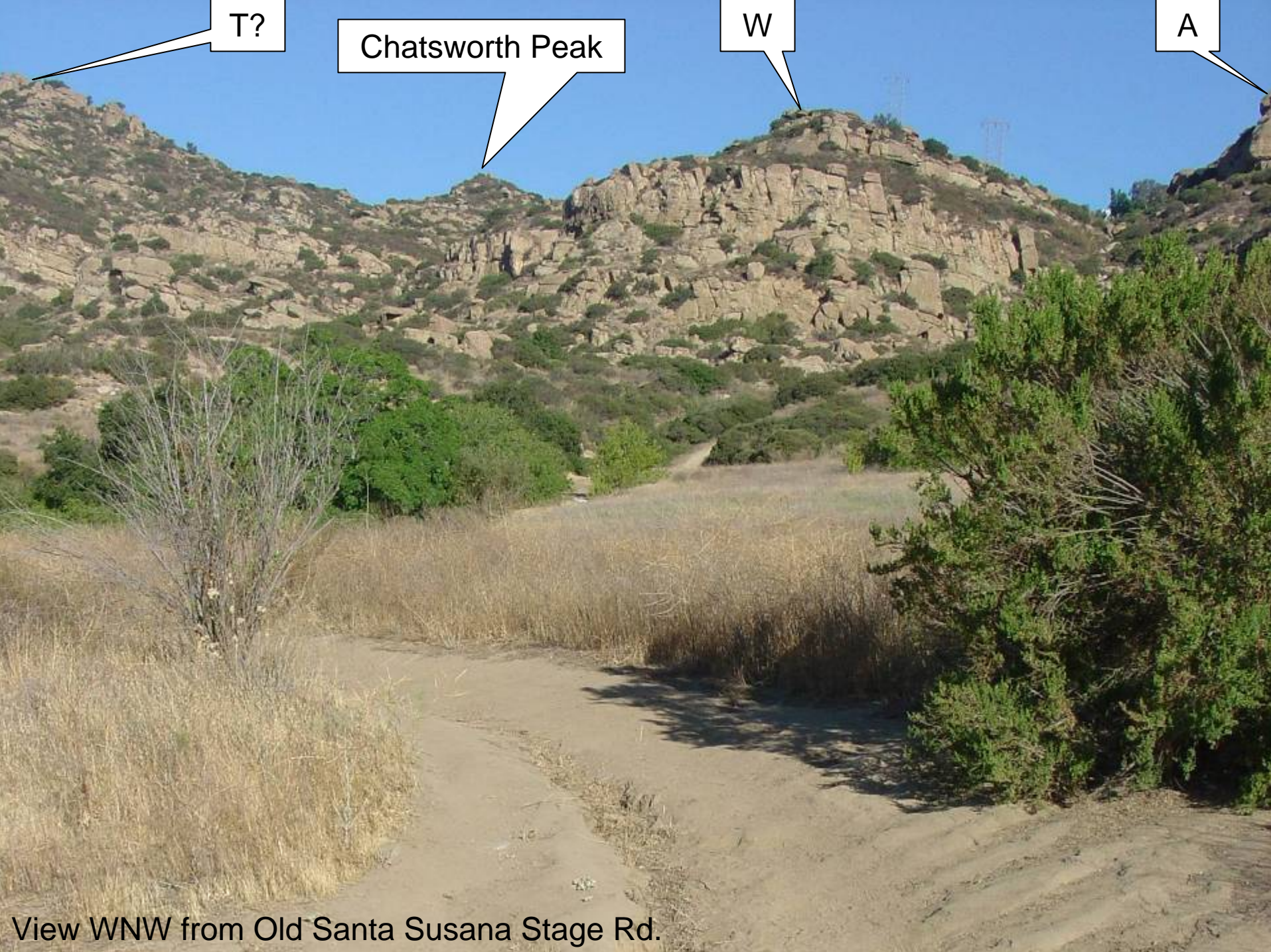
View SSW & SW from Peak O2

T?

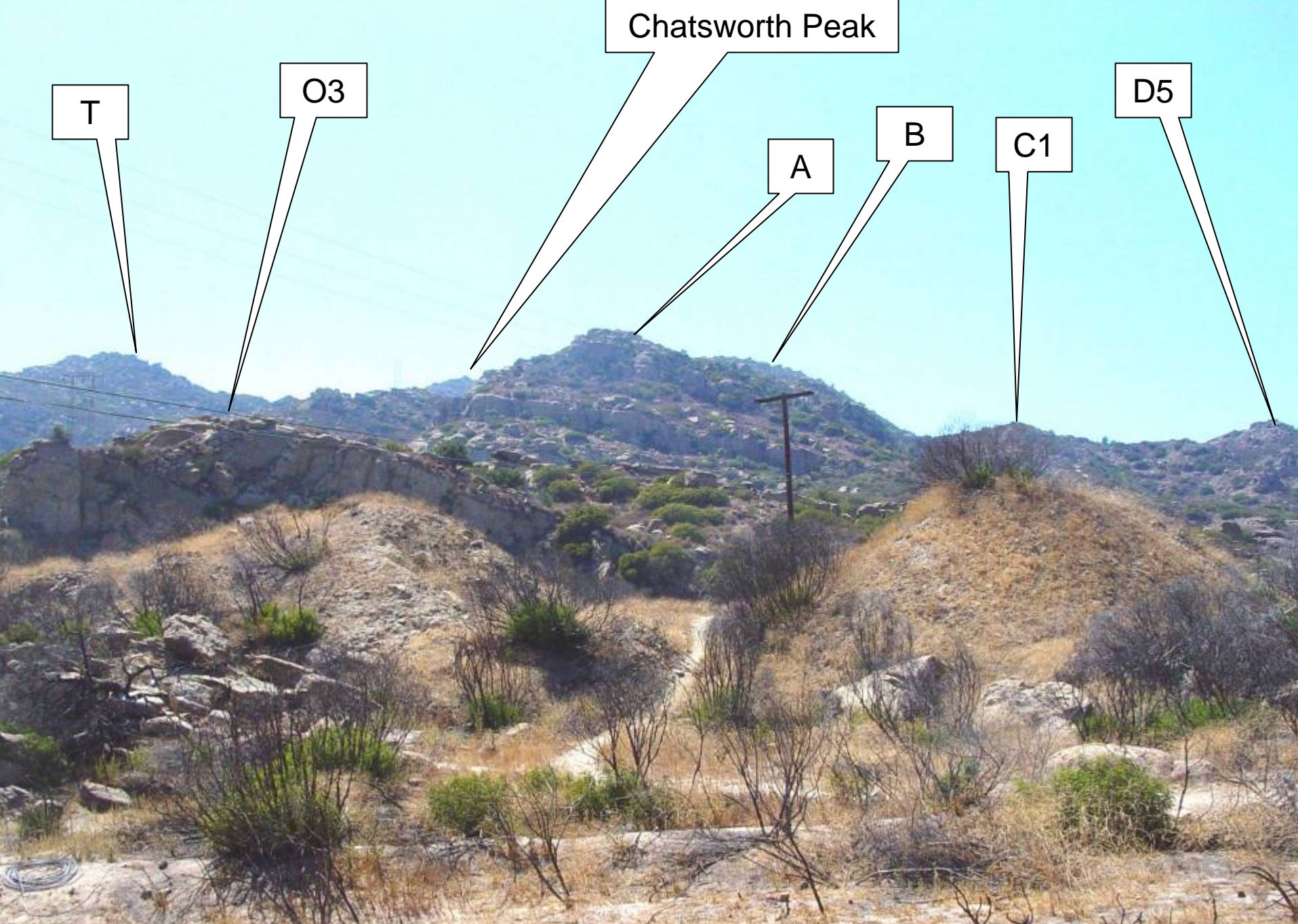
Chatsworth Peak

W

A



View WNW from Old Santa Susana Stage Rd.



Chatsworth Peak

T

O3

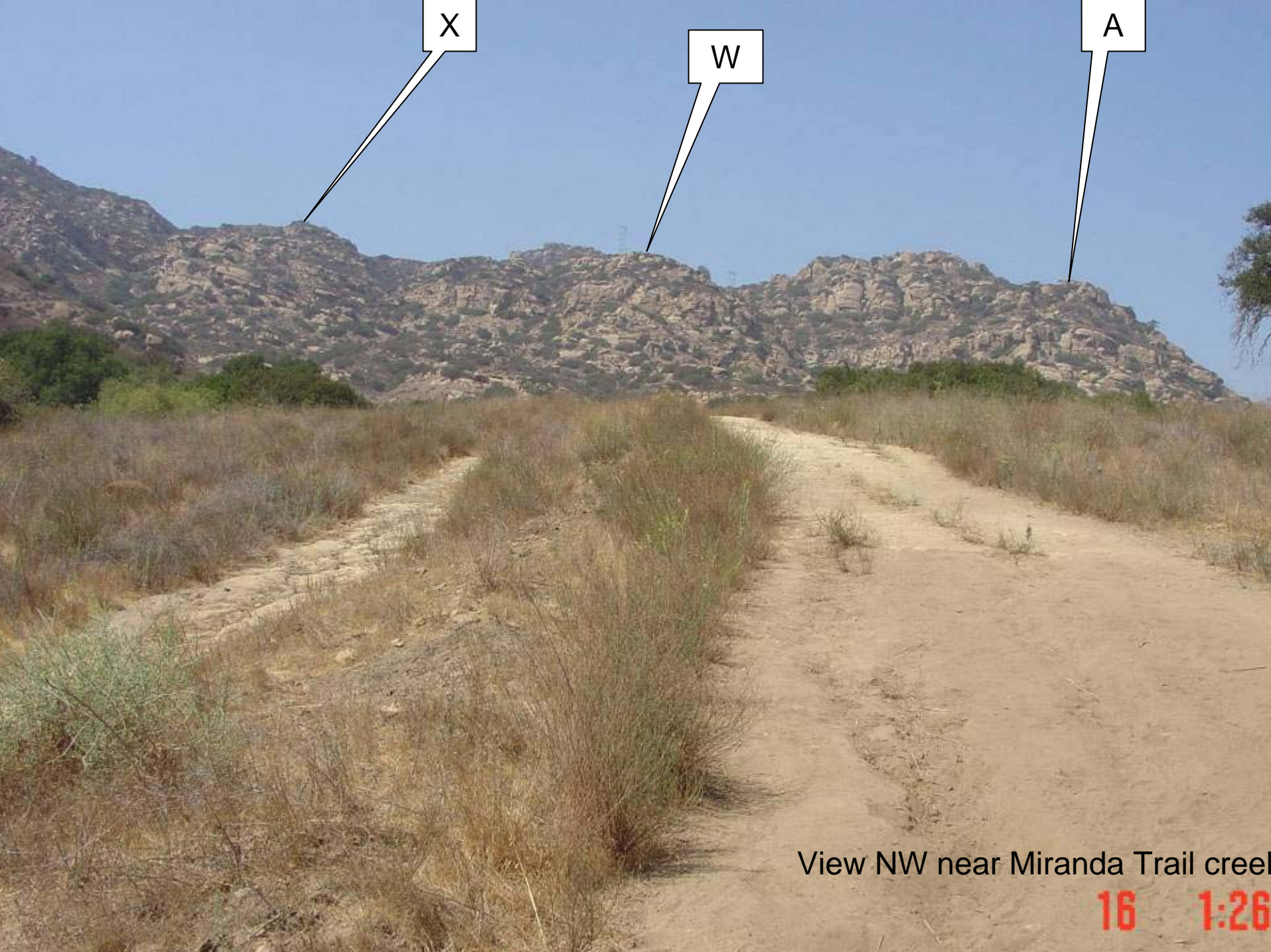
A

B

C1

D5

View West from Quarry Tailings area near Bannon Quarry Rd.

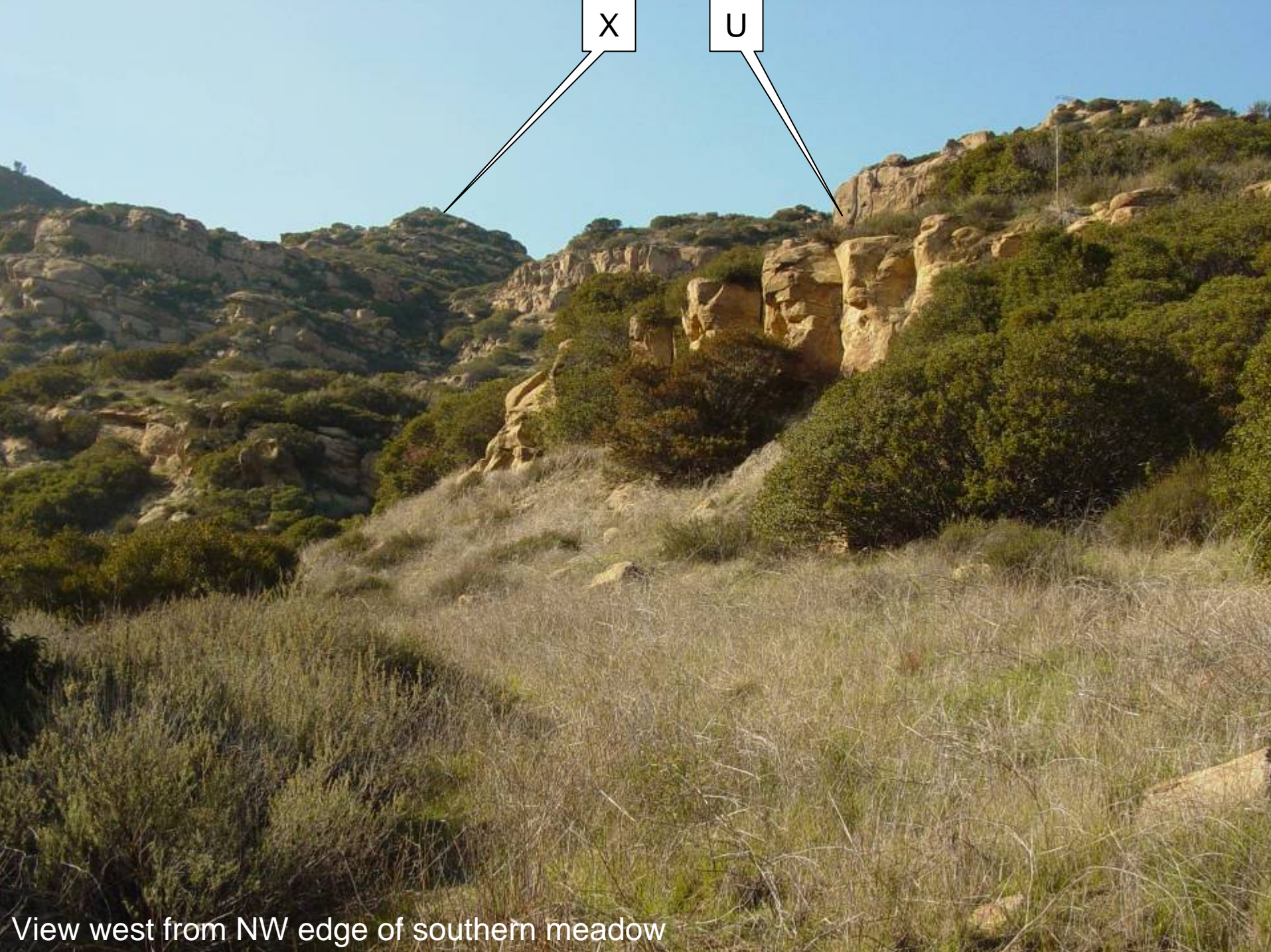


X

W

A

View NW near Miranda Trail creek



X

U

View west from NW edge of southern meadow



T

X

W

U

View WNW from eastern edge of southern meadow

Miranda Trail

T

X

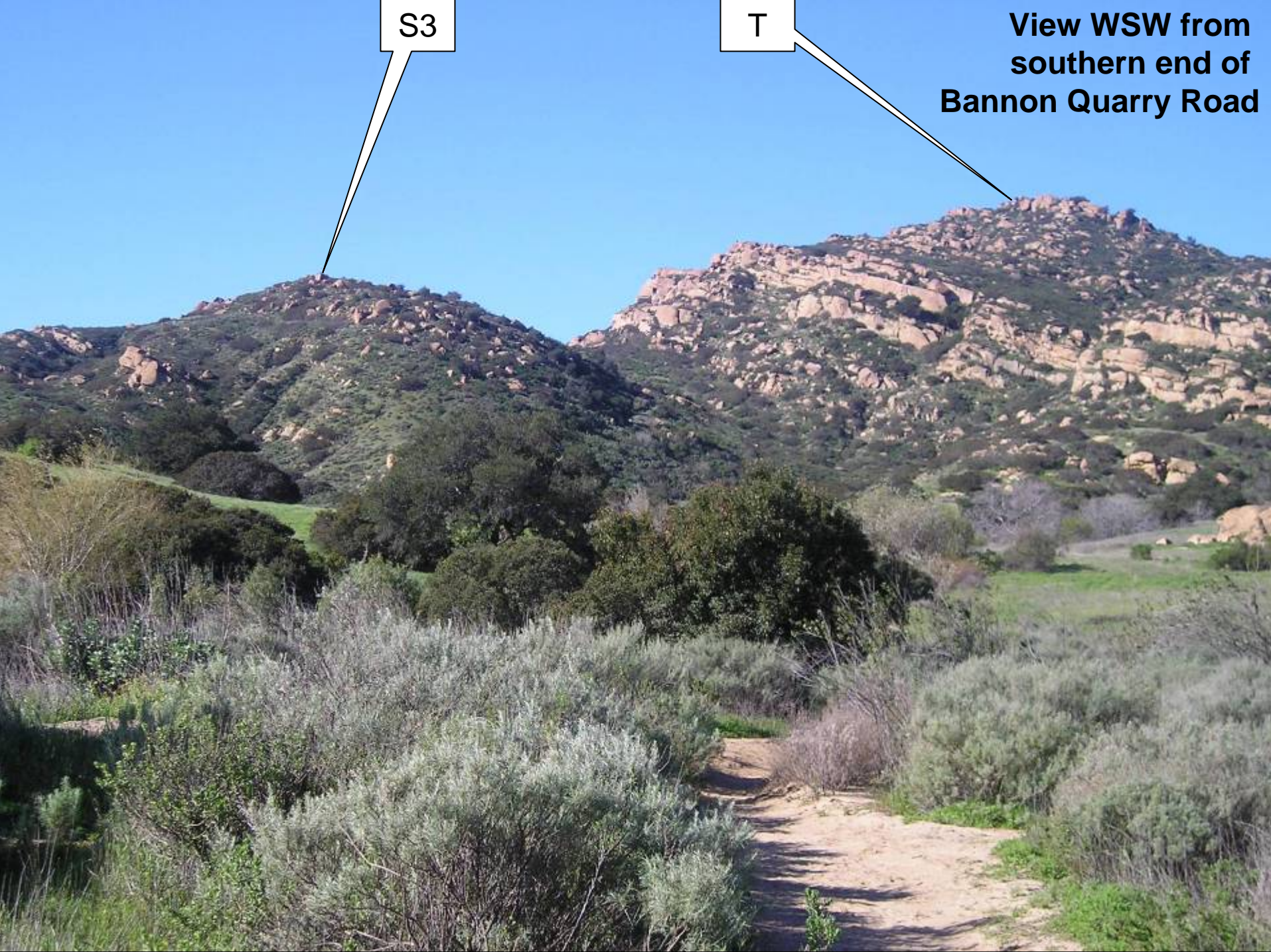
View SW from Southern Meadow

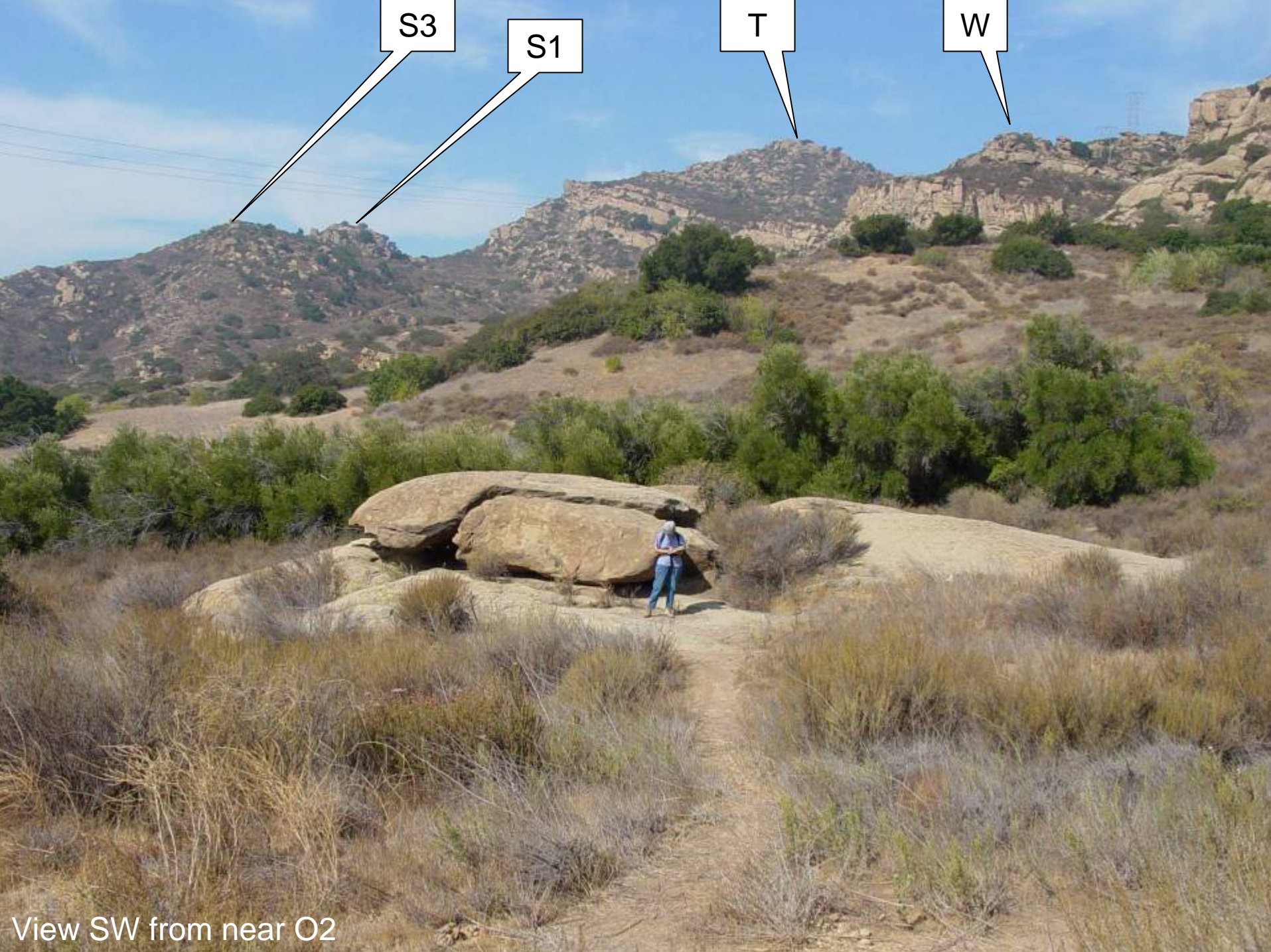
16 1:19 PM

S3

T

**View WSW from
southern end of
Bannon Quarry Road**





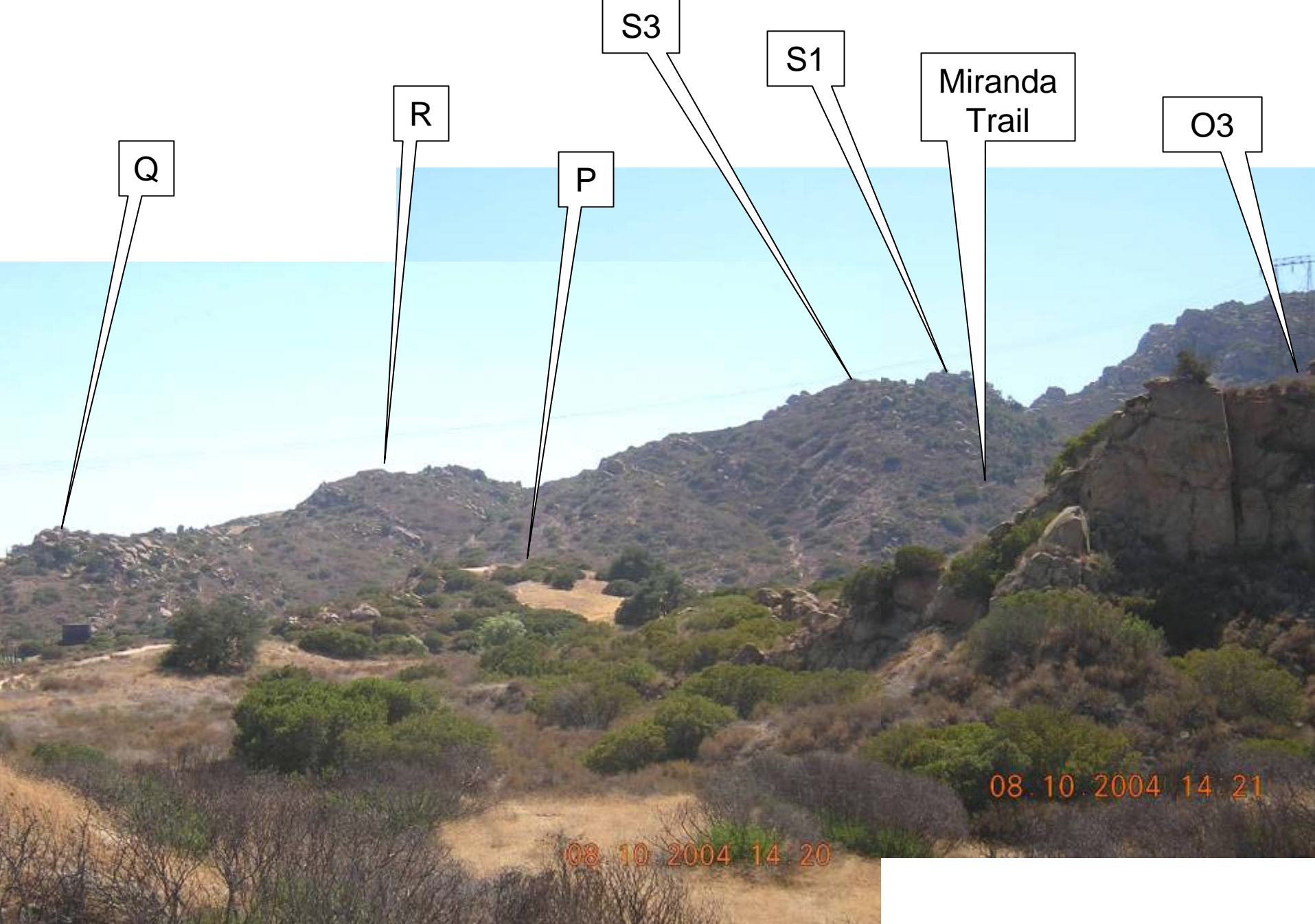
S3

S1

T

W

View SW from near O2



Q

R

P

S3

S1

Miranda
Trail

O3

08.10.2004 14:20

08.10.2004 14:21

View SW from Quarry Tailings Area near Powerhouse Rd.

E

5 1:45 PM

View SW from Intersection of Santa Susana Pass Rd. & Iverson Rd.

E

Z

Y

5 1:33 PM

View West from Spahn Ranch

E



5 2:50 PM

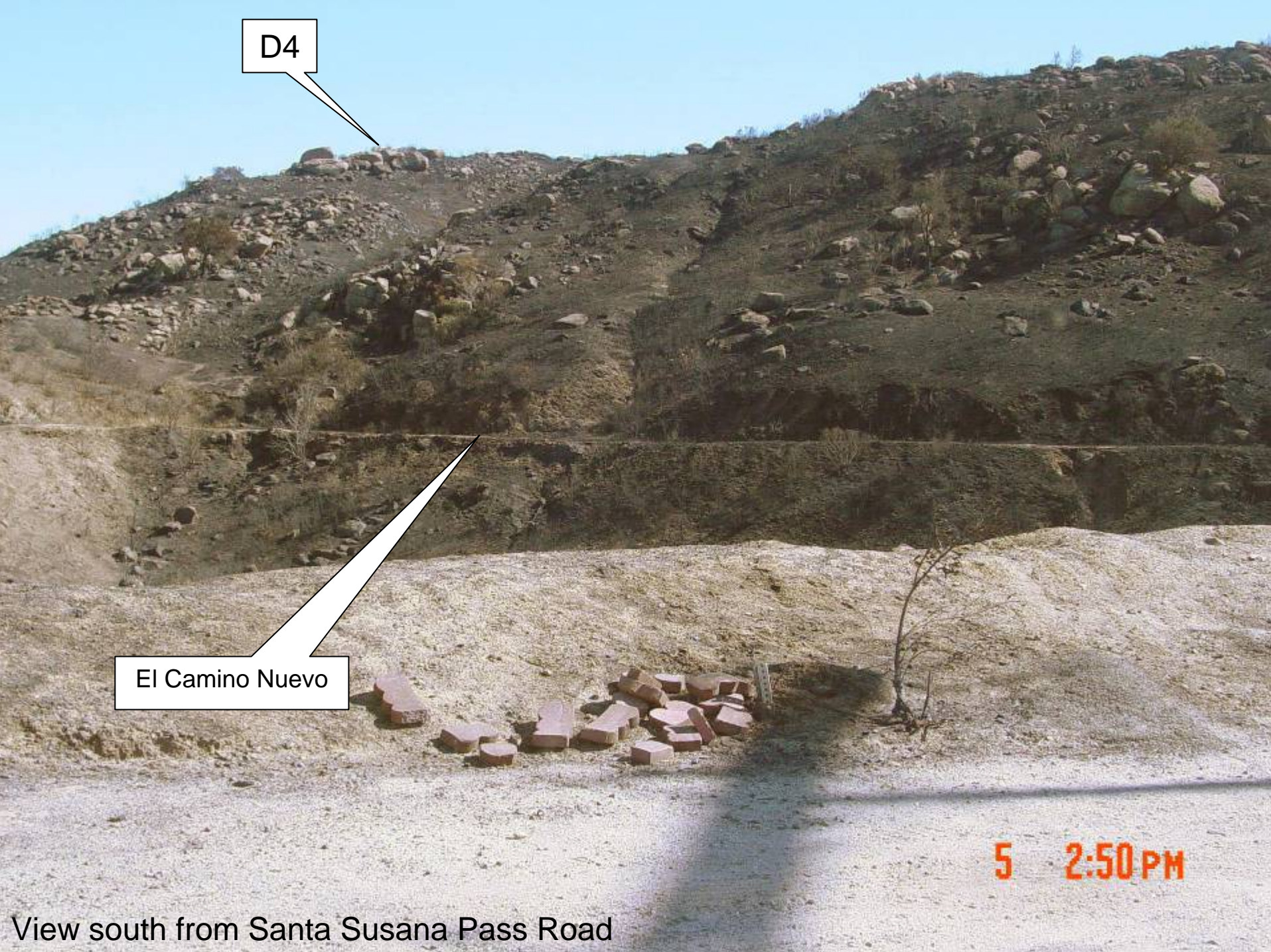
View SE from Santa Susana Pass Road

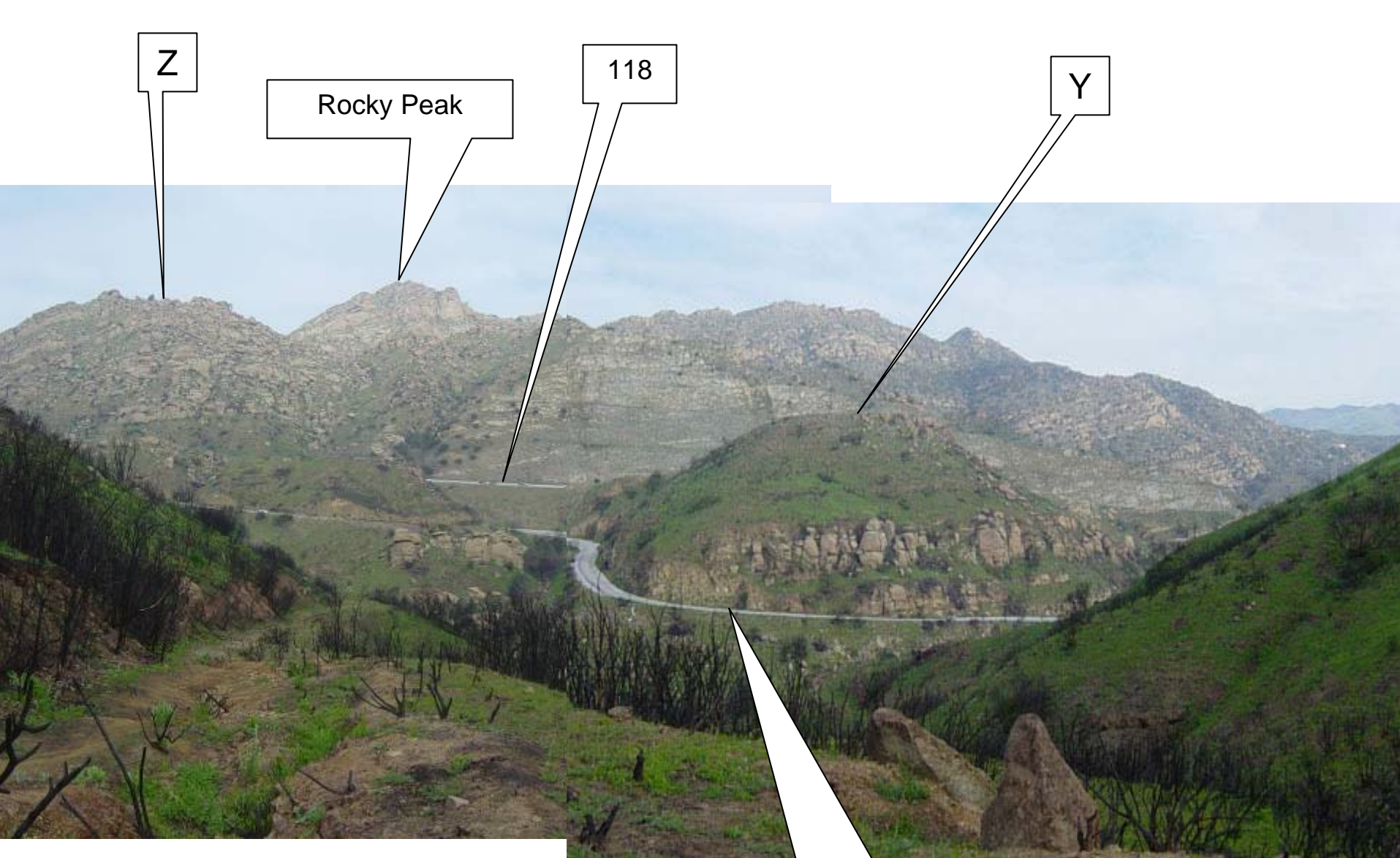
D4

El Camino Nuevo

5 2:50 PM

View south from Santa Susana Pass Road





Z

Rocky Peak

118

Y

Santa Susana Pass Rd.

View NW from Sanchez Trail

[INSIDE BACK COVER]

