

AIR CP_102610102_CP_20160623_INVESTIGATION_1342821
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
Investigation Report

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Customer: Blue Ridge Landfill TX, LP
Customer Number: CN602820599

Regulated Entity Name: BLUE RIDGE LANDFILL

Regulated Entity Number: RN102610102

Investigation # 1342821

Incident Numbers

235961

Investigator: GREGORY CROOK

Site Classification MAJOR SOURCE

Conducted: 06/23/2016 -- 06/23/2016

NAIC Code: 562212

SIC Code: 4953

SIC Code: 1521

Program(s): AIR OPERATING PERMITS

Investigation Type: Compliance Investigation

Location: LOCATED ON 2200 FM 521

Additional ID(s): FG0536E

Address: 2200 FM 521 RD,
FRESNO, TX , 77545

Local Unit: REGION 12 - HOUSTON

Activity Type(s): AIRCOMPL - AIR CMPL - AIR
COMPLAINT INV

Principal(s):

Role	Name
RESPONDENT	BLUE RIDGE LANDFILL TX LP

Contact(s):

Role	Title	Name	Phone
REGULATED ENTITY MAIL CONTACT	OPERATIONS MANAGER	MR MATT MONTAGNA	Work (713) 676-7664

Other Staff Member(s):

Role	Name
QA Reviewer	JOSEPH DOBY
QA Reviewer	JUSTIN MAYWORN
Investigator	KARLA HARDISON
Supervisor	JOSEPH DOBY

Associated Check List

<u>Checklist Name</u>	<u>Unit Name</u>
AIR GENERIC INVESTIGATION (10 ITEMS)	Shadow Creek Ranch Area
AIR INVESTIGATION - EQUIPMENT	Shadow Creek Ranch Area
MONITORING AND SAMPLING revised 06/2013	

Investigation Comments:

INTRODUCTION

Introduction

On the dates of June 21 through June 23, 2016 the TCEQ received sixty (60) complaints by telephone and e-mail regarding a strong odor in the vicinity of Shadow Creek Ranch neighborhood in Pearland, Texas. The complaints were documented in TCEQ incident #235961.

Complainants were contacted via telephone by Mr. Chris Crook on July 7 & 8, 2016. Complainants claimed a strong odor described as having a rotten garbage, chemical, rotten egg, noxious, chemical gas, sulfur like, pungent, burnt chemical, mercaptan, sour, putrid, sharp gas, metallic chemical, and landfill gas character was present either in the early morning (12:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m.) or in the evening (5:00 p.m.-11:00 p.m.). One complainant claimed that the odor problem has occurred for a couple of years. The majority of complainants believed that the source of the odor is Blue Ridge Landfill (BRL), located at 2200 Farm to Market (FM) 521 road, and/or an unspecified chemical plant. Several complainants claimed various health effects such as nausea, vomiting, headaches, eye irritation, breathing irritation, while others only expressed concern for their health.

In order to identify the most probable source and to determine whether a nuisance condition existed, the investigators conducted odor logs at various points near BRL at a distance that was approximately equidistant to the complainants' locations from the alleged source. Odors were assessed for frequency, intensity, duration, and offensiveness. It is important to note that during these odor surveys a MultiRAE analyzer was on the entire time. Other gear utilized during the investigation included a Kestrel wind & temperature meter.

An area map is in Attachment 1.

Investigation Narrative

The investigation took place on June 23, 2016. The investigation was conducted by Mr. Chris Crook and Ms. Karla Hardison. The surrounding land use is a mix of residential, commercial, and industrial areas. The terrain is flat with sporadic forest. Meteorological conditions for the alleged incident dates and investigation dates are as follows:

Meteorological conditions June 21, 2016 (alleged incident date)

Cloud Cover: Scattered Clouds

Wind Direction: South

Wind Speed: 0-8 mph

Temperature: Minimum 73° Fahrenheit- Maximum 88° Fahrenheit

Precipitation: 0.09 in

Source of Meteorological Conditions: Weather Underground (KAXH)

Meteorological conditions June 22, 2016 (alleged incident date)

Cloud Cover: Scattered Clouds

Wind Direction: Southeast

Wind Speed: 0-10 mph

Temperature: Minimum 73° Fahrenheit- Maximum 88° Fahrenheit

Precipitation: 0.05 in

Source of Meteorological Conditions: Weather Underground (KAXH)

Meteorological conditions June 23, 2016 (investigation date)

Cloud Cover: Scattered Clouds

Wind Direction: South Southeast

Wind Speed: 0-10 mph

Temperature: Minimum 71° Fahrenheit- Maximum 90° Fahrenheit

Precipitation: 0.00 in

Source of Meteorological Conditions: Weather Underground (KAXH)

TCEQ Investigators Mr. Chris Crook and Ms. Karla Hardison arrived in the Shadow Creek Ranch area at the intersection of Discovery Bay Drive and Business Center Drive at 5:15 a.m. The investigators conducted odor surveys throughout the neighborhood starting at the Enclave Terrace subsection of the Shadow Creek Ranch area. The investigators conducted an odor survey in area #1 (SEE ATTACHMENT 2) from 5:15 a.m. to 5:45 a.m. No odors were detected.

BLUE RIDGE LANDFILL - FRESNO

6/23/2016 Inv. # - 1342821

Page 3 of 5

At 5:45 a.m. the investigators continued their survey throughout the Shadow Creek Ranch area. At 5:52 a.m. the investigators arrived at the intersection of Shadow Creek Parkway and Kingsley Drive. The investigators drove down Kingsley Drive and surveyed for odor throughout survey area #2 (SEE ATTACHMENT 2.1). During this survey, no odors were detected. The investigators departed from survey area #2 at 6:05 a.m.

At 6:05 a.m. the investigators continued onto Shadow Creek Parkway and continued onto FM522 (McHard Road). At 6:09 a.m. the investigators detected a highly offensive moderate landfill gas/ honeysuckle odor at Triple A Storage (SEE ATTACHMENT 2.2- First & Second Odor Log Locations) located at McHard Road and Hiram Clarke Road from 6:10 a.m. to 6:40 a.m. The one-minute and 10 minute weighted averages were each moderate intensity. The wind direction was variable with speeds below one mph. (SEE ATTACHMENT 3- page 1).

At 6:40 a.m. the investigators traced the odor down to the intersection of Hiram Clarke Road and McHard Road, directly across from the Green Valley Estates sign (SEE ATTACHMENT 2.2- First & Second Odor Log Locations). Light landfill gas odors were detected at this location. The investigators documented the odor at this intensity from 6:40 a.m. to 7:10 a.m. The one minute weighted average was very light, and the 10 minute weighted average was light. The wind direction was variable with speeds below one mph. (SEE ATTACHMENT 3- page 2). The investigators departed from this location at 7:12 a.m.

At 7:12 a.m. the investigators headed into Green Valley Estates via Hiram Clarke Road. The investigators continued to the end of Hiram Clarke Road & Clark Springs Drive, approximately 480 yards south of Lonestar Recycling & Disposal (SEE ATTACHMENT 2.3- End of Hiram Clarke Road). During the survey, no odors were detected. The investigators left this location at 7:25 a.m. The investigators exited out of Green Valley Estates and took a left onto McHard Road and followed McHard Road until a left turn was made at FM 521. The wind direction was variable with speeds below one mph.

At 7:30 a.m. the investigators continued to survey, took a left down West Broadway Street, and continued left onto Windward Bay Drive in the Shadow Creek Ranch area. During the survey the investigators drove down Arcadian Bay Drive until the intersection of Trinity Bay Drive (SEE ATTACHMENT 2.4). The investigators surveyed this area until 8:30 a.m. No odor was detected. The wind direction was variable with speeds below one mph.

At 8:35 a.m. the investigators surveyed the Green Valley Estates area once more. No odor was detected. The investigators continued to survey the Shadow Creek Ranch area until 9:25 a.m. The subsections of Shadow Creek that were surveyed included Crystal Cove and Westhaven. In addition, the MultiRAE that was operated during the investigation did not detect any ppm readings. The wind was blowing from the South Southeast at 0-5 mph.

During the odor logs taken at 6:10 a.m. and 6:40 a.m. Ms. Karla Hardison of the TCEQ alleged health effects caused by the landfill gas odors. Ms. Hardison alleged that the odors caused her to have a headache and nausea.

Exit Interview

An exit interview was not conducted since there were no alleged violations, additional issues, or records requested.

In addition, the complainants were contacted by phone with the results of the investigation July 7 & 8, 2016. Several of the complainants were anonymous and were not contacted.

GENERAL FACILITY AND PROCESS INFORMATION

Process Description

Blue Ridge Landfill accepts waste and has a gas collection and control system. Detailed process descriptions can be found in the Houston Region files.

BACKGROUND

Agreed Orders, Court Orders, and Other Compliance Agreements

BLUE RIDGE LANDFILL - FRESNO

6/23/2016 Inv. # - 1342821

Page 4 of 5

Based on review of CCEDS and the regional office files, there were no agreed orders, court orders, or other compliance agreements for the site.

Prior Enforcement Issues

Based on a review of CCEDS and the regional office files, violations were issued by the TCEQ to the alleged source during the past five years. There are no repeat violations.

Complaints

Based on a review of CCEDS and regional office records, there have been hundreds of odor complaints received from within the survey area and numerous investigations related to odors. At the time of the review, multiple related odor investigations were being conducted by the Region 12 office. Many of these incidents include complaints received from multiple complainants.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Conclusions, Recommendations, and Current Enforcement Actions

Landfill gas/honeysuckle odors were detected at two locations during the investigation. Investigators characterized the landfill gas odors as highly offensive based on experience, training, and the examples on the TCEQ Frequency, Intensity, Duration and Offensiveness (FIDO) chart. The landfill gas odor and honeysuckle odor were the same as experienced by Investigator Chris Crook on May 25, 2016 (investigation #1349609), May 26, 2016 (investigation #1337795), and June 6 & 7, 2016 (investigation #1337792). During this investigation, the investigators experienced a landfill gas/honeysuckle odor that was highly offensive and a moderate intensity for ten minutes. During this investigation and in investigation #1331231, Blue Ridge Landfill was determined to be the source of the odors detected at offsite locations. The findings from this investigation will be addressed in investigation #1331231.

Additional Issues

No additional issues were noted during this investigation.

REPORT ATTACHMENTS

1. Area Map
2. Survey Area #1
 - 2.1. Survey Area #2
 - 2.2. First & Second Odor Log Locations
 - 2.3. End of Hiram Clarke Rd
 - 2.4. Survey Area #3
3. Investigators' Odor Logs

No Violations Associated to this Investigation

Signed Chris Gook
Environmental Investigator

Date 10/27/2016

Signed [Signature]
Supervisor

Date 10/27/16

Attachments: (in order of final report submittal)

- Enforcement Action Request (EAR)
- Letter to Facility (specify type) : _____
- Investigation Report
- Sample Analysis Results
- Manifests
- Notice of Registration

- Maps, Plans, Sketches
 - Photographs
 - Correspondence from the facility
 - Other (specify) :
See Attachments
-
-

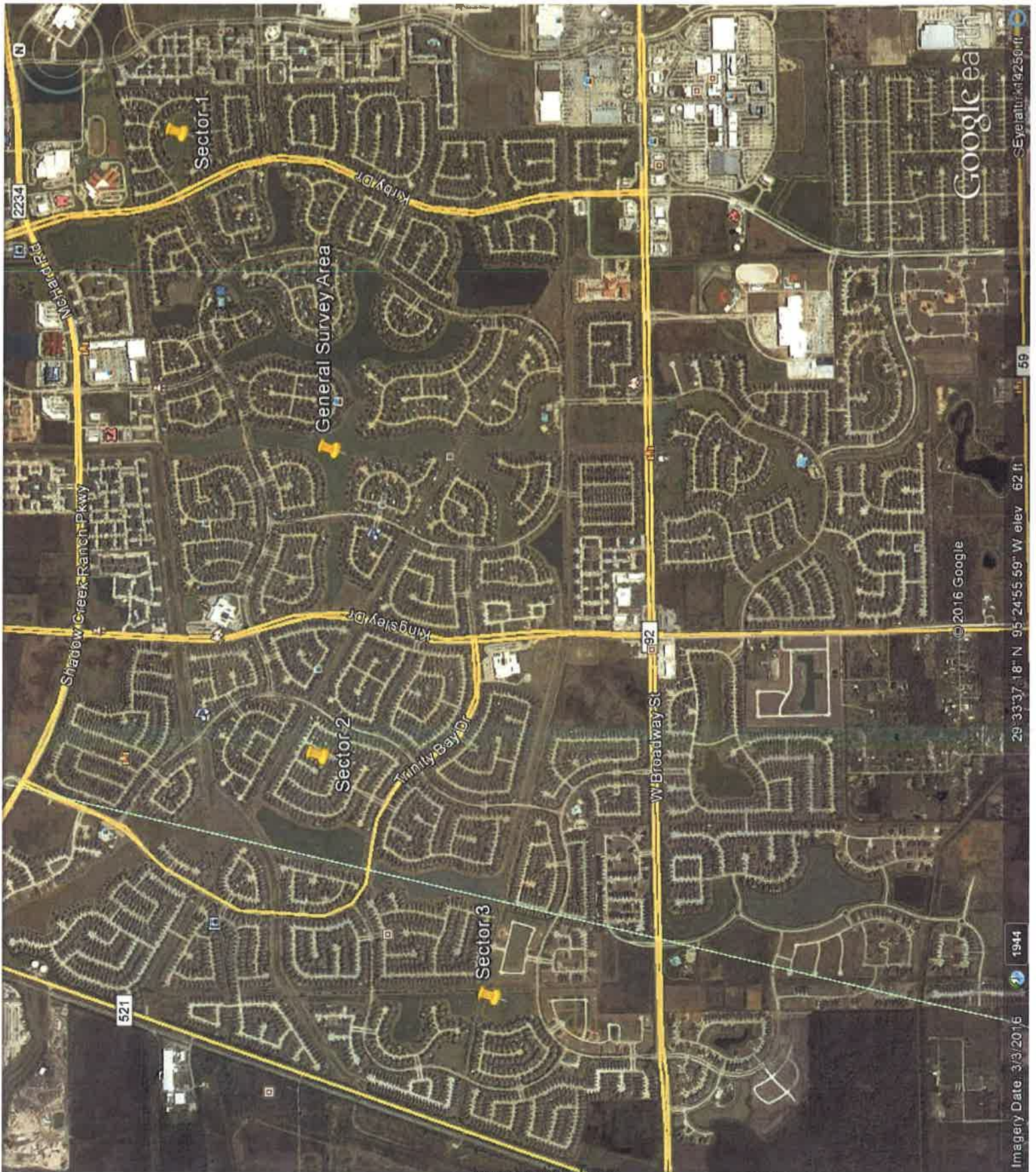
Attachment 1

Area Map

RN #102610102

Investigation #1342821

June 23, 2016



Investigation Type: CMPL

Air Account NO: NA

Attachment: 1. Area Map

Page: 1 of 1

Attachment 2

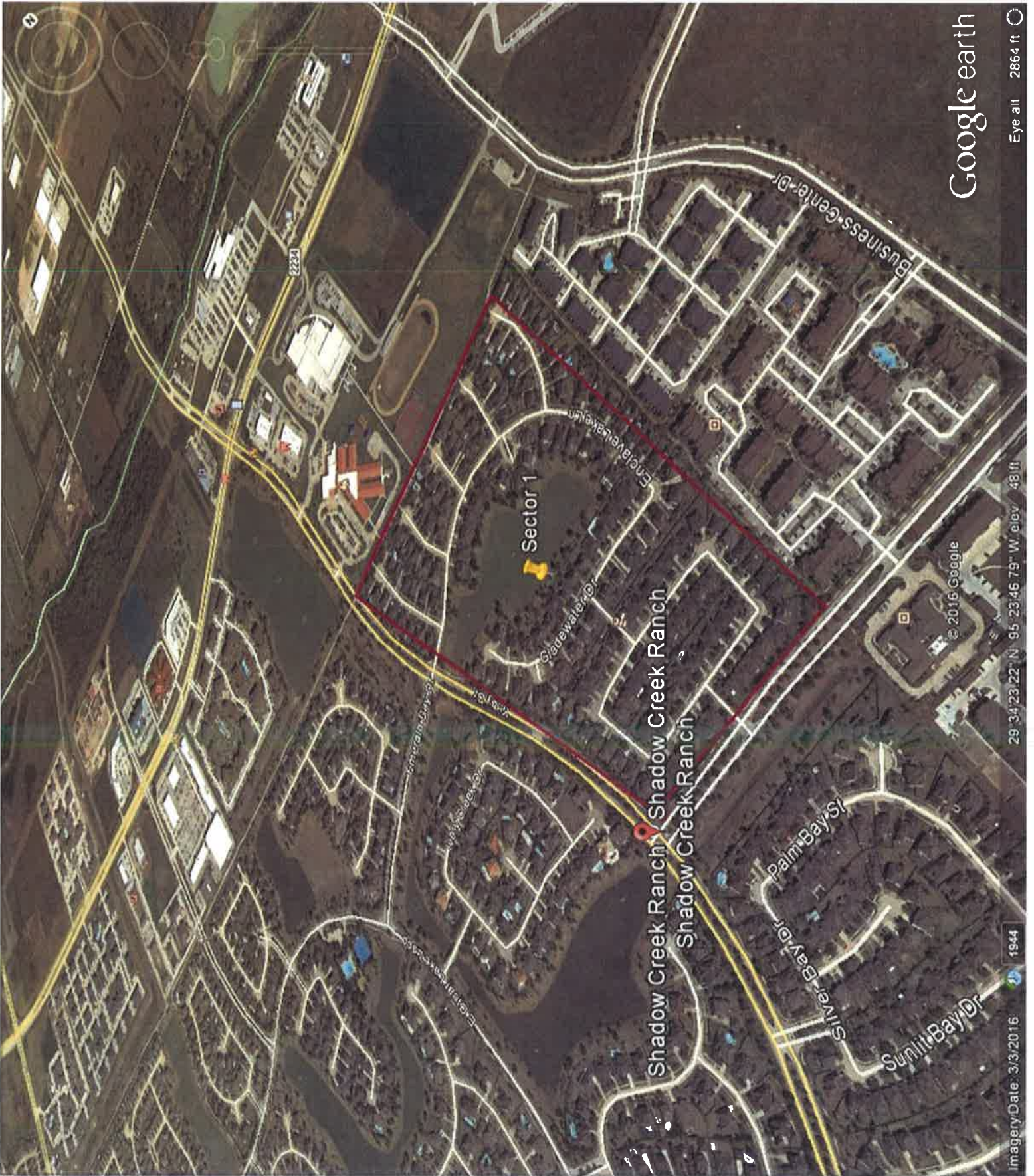
Survey Area #1

Blue Ridge Landfill

RN #102610102

Investigation #1342821

June 23, 2016



Google earth

Eye alt 2864 ft

© 2016 Google
29° 34' 23.22" N, 95° 23' 46.79" W, elev. 48 ft

Imagery Date: 3/3/2016 1944

Investigation Type: CMPL

Air Account NO: NA

Attachment: 2. ~~Survey~~ Survey area #1

Page: 1 of 2

Attachment 2.1

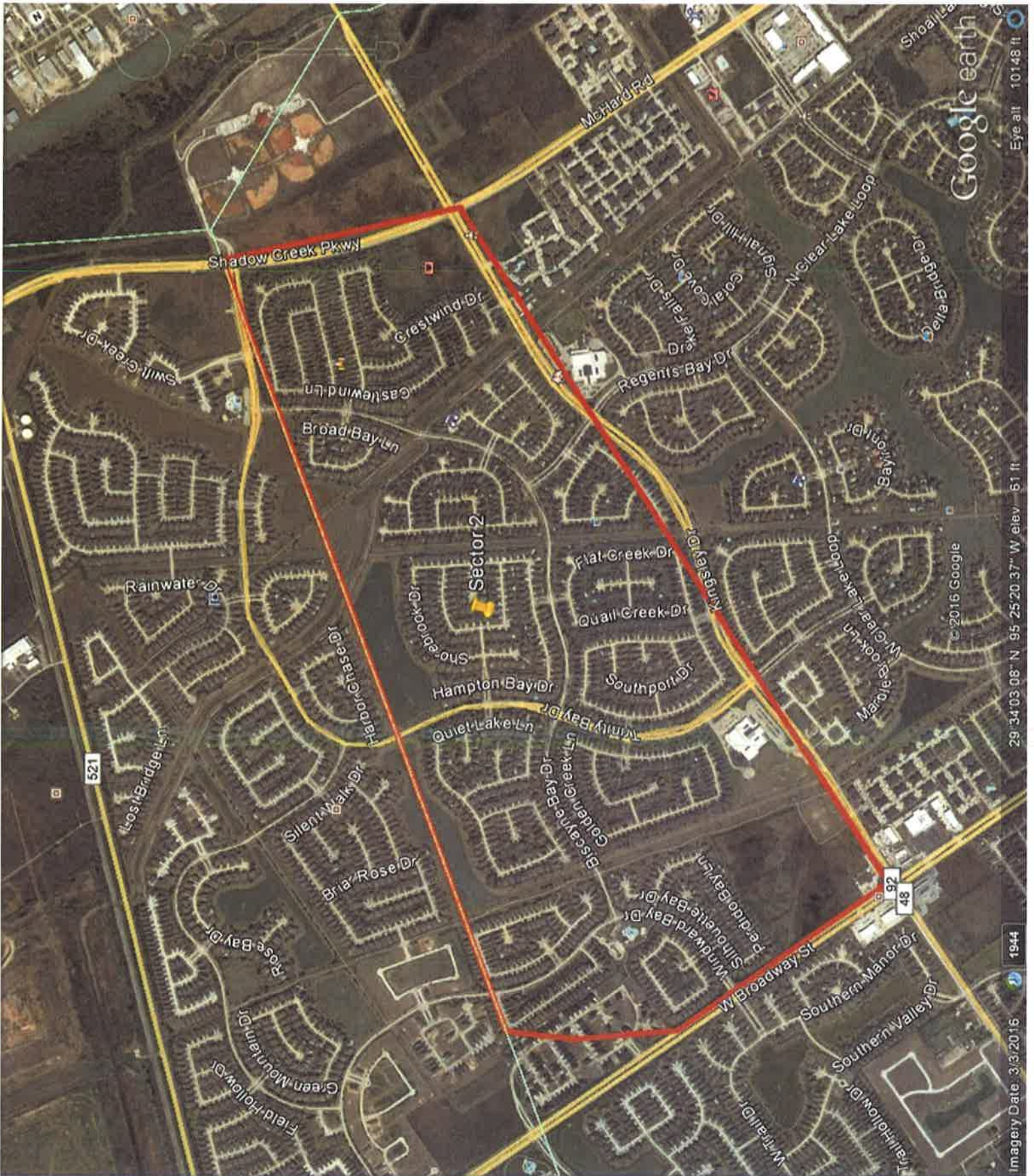
Survey Area#2

Blue Ridge Landfill

RN #102610102

Investigation #1342821

June 23, 2016



Investigation Type: CMPL

Air Account NO: N/A

Attachment: 2. Survey Area #2

Attachment 2.2

First & Second Odor Log Locations

RN #102610102

Investigation #1342821

June 23, 2016



Hartman Ridge Ct

N Ripple Ridge Dr

Bonny Ridge Ct

Second Odor Log

Triple A Storage (First Odor Log)

Hiram Clarke Rd

Google earth

Eye alt: 629 ft

© 2016 Google
25°34'55.52" N 95°27'12.77" W elev: 65 ft

Imagery Date: 3/3/2016
1944

Investigation Type: CMP

Air Account NO: NA

Attachment: 2.2 First & Second odor log locations

Page: 10 of 10

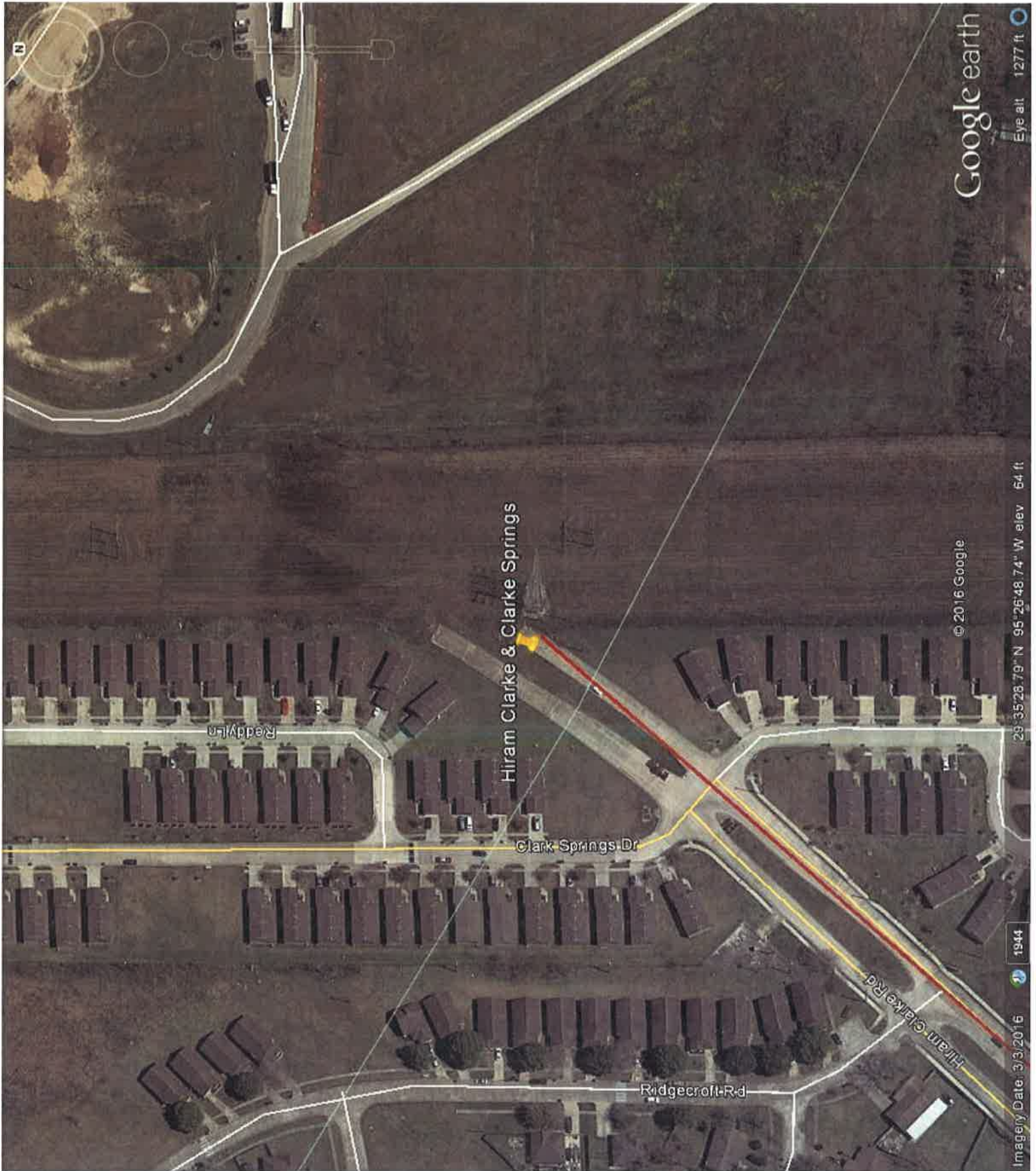
Attachment 2.3

End of Hiram Clarke Rd

RN #102610102

Investigation #1342821

June 23, 2016



Investigation Type: CMPL

Air Account NO: NA

Attachment: End of Hiram Clarke Rd

Page: 1 of 1

Attachment 2.4

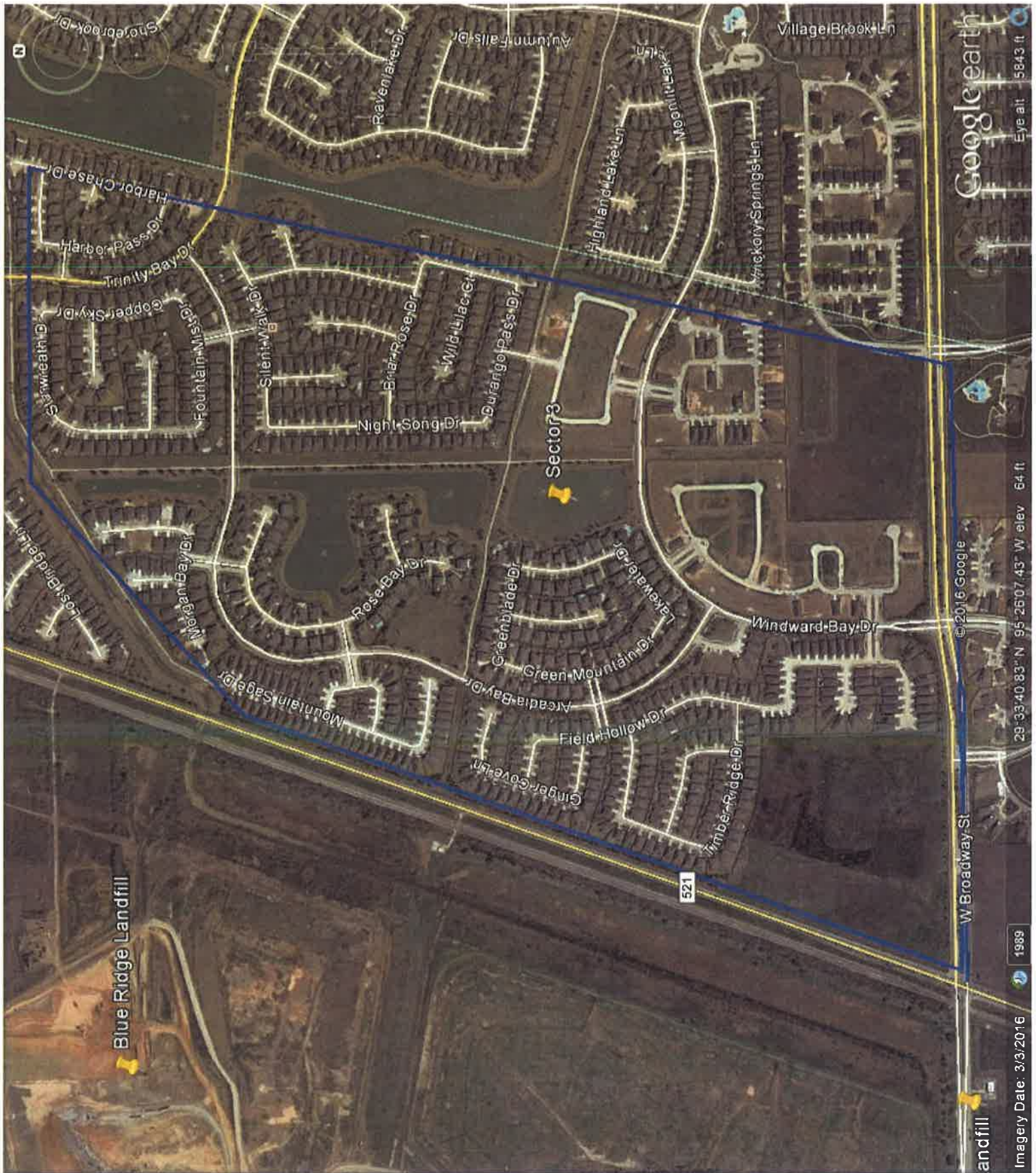
Survey Area #3

Blue Ridge Landfill

RN #102610102

Investigation #1342821

June 23, 2016



Investigation Type: _____

Air Account NO: NA CMPL

Attachment: 24 sector 3 Survey area #3

Page: 10 of 01

Attachment 3

Investigator's Odor Logs

RN #102610102

Investigation #1342821

June 23, 2016

Investigator's Odor Intensity Time Log

Date of Investigation: 6/23/2016 Start Time 6:10
 Name and Address of Alleged Source: Blue Ridge Landfill / Log Location Triple A Storage
 Investigator's Name: Print: Chris Crade Sign: Chris Crade

Minutes	Odor Intensity VL, L, M, S, VS
1 min	M
2	M
3	M
4	M
5	L
6	M
7	M
8	M
9	M
10	M
11	M
12	M
13	M
14	M
15	M
16	M
17	M
18	M
19	VL
20	L
21	M
22	VL
23	M
24	M
25	M
26	M
27	M
28	L
29	L
30	L

Minutes	Odor Intensity VL, L, M, S, VS
31 min	
32	
33	
34	
35	
36	
37	
38	
39	
40	
41	
42	
43	
44	
45	
46	
47	
48	
49	
50	
51	
52	
53	
54	
55	
56	
57	
58	
59	
60	

Offensiveness: Highly Offensive Unpleasant Not Unpleasant
 Weighted Average For:

	VS	S	M	L	VL	No Odor
1 Min			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
10 Min			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
1 Hour						

Investigation Type: CMPL
 Air Account NO: FG0536E
 Attachment: 3. Investigator's odor logs
 Page: 1 of 2

Investigator's Odor Intensity Time Log

Date of Investigation: 6/23/2016 Start Time 6:40
 Name and Address of Alleged Source: Blue Ridge Landfill/Hiram Clarke Road
 Investigator's Name: Print: Chris Crook Sign: Chris Crook

FM 2234
 Across from
 Green Valley
 Estates sign

Minutes	Odor Intensity VL, L, M, S, VS
1 min	VL
2	VL
3	VL
4	VL
5	L
6	M
7	M
8	M
9	L
10	L
11	L
12	M
13	VL
14	L
15	M
16	L
17	L
18	L
19	VL
20	VL
21	L
22	L
23	VL
24	L
25	L
26	L
27	VL
28	VL
29	VL
30	VL

Minutes	Odor Intensity VL, L, M, S, VS
31 min	
32	
33	
34	
35	
36	
37	
38	
39	
40	
41	
42	
43	
44	
45	
46	
47	
48	
49	
50	
51	
52	
53	
54	
55	
56	
57	
58	
59	
60	

Offensiveness: Highly _____ Offensive _____ Unpleasant _____ Not Unpleasant _____
 Weighted Average For:

	VS	S	M	L	VL	No Odor
1 Min					✓	✓
10 Min				✓		
1 Hour						

Investigation Type: CMPL
 Air Account NO: FG0536E
 Attachment: Investigator's odor logs
 2 of 2