

Approach Info:

Getting to Cuyama Valley -- I highly recommend driving north on the 101 to the hwy 166 junction north of Santa Maria to reach the Cuyama valley. It is a little bit longer, but it is significantly faster due to terrain. It's pretty, too.

The approaches I am providing for Sites 5 and 6 aren't the easiest, but they are the most straight forward. You'll figure out better descents and ascents.

Site 1:

From Cuyama head east on 166 and take 33 south. Drive a few miles and as the town appears, you'll see the Santa Barbara Pistachio Co. general store. Turn right just before the SBP Co.'s parking lot, staying north of the line of trees. You'll see a bunch of scrap metal, park your car and walk due west. There's an opening in the fence and you're there.

Site 2:

From Site 1, drive north on 33 roughly a mile. Watch for the Harrington Farms sign on the right. Just across 33 is a dirt road. Take a left on to the dirt road. Drive 50 m past a rusty gas tank and park next to the portion of fence that is missing it's center wire. Duck the fence and keep left along the fence and pass a stand of yuccas to your right. Then you're there. The plot starts around there and goes south.

Site 3:

From Site 2, drive north on 33, take a right at the junction on to 166. Drive for a couple miles, you'll see a pile of gravel on the left side of the road. Park near the pile of gravel in the big pull out. Walk along 166 100 m and you'll see gas line signage. Jump the fence and you're at Site 3.

Site 4:

Head north from the dirt road at Site 3 and navigate the two or three drainages and cross the prairie. Look for the Atriplex polycarpa slope and gain the ridge. The ridge will take you to Site 4. To gain the lower parts of Site 4. Walk down the same ridge from the Ephedra with loggers and you'll find a shallower grade down to the gully. Take the shallow grade to the floor of the gully and the rest of the site is there. You can exit Site 4 by following the gully to the basin.

Site 5:

From Site 3, take 166 west and drive past Cuyama, New Cuyama, Aliso Campground signs, and Cal Trans. You'll see a bridge crossing Cottonwood Creek. Look for a pile of gravel on the right side of the road. Park just after the pile in the same pullout. You'll see a drainage on the north side of 166 with no barbed wire fence and a lot of grass. Cross the drainage and head up the western most slope. Hug the right side of the slope, and you'll reach a plateau, stay right and jump the creek. Site 5 starts around there. BRING PANTS, spiky plants are abundant

Site 6:

From Site 5, drive 0.3 miles heading west on 166. You'll see a drainage with no fence and tall grasses on the north side of 166. Park on the opposite side of the road. Head up the western slope of the drainage. Once on the plateau, head north west and cross the creek. Site 6 is on the upslope of this dome.