

Paiz Collection

Arrow, Dart and Fragmented Projectile Points

Found Within the Lower Rio Grande Valley Region

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Community Historical Archaeology Project with Schools

University of Texas – Pan American

Edinburg, TX

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## **OUR GOAL**

Our goal at the CHAPS Program is to identify evidence of human occupation for the past 10,000 years of the Rio Grande Valley region. This entails photographing, describing and sometimes drawing or casting projectile points and establishing their date within known typologies, identifying the stone or lithic source materials for the points and locating their place of discovery. With the permission of the “finder” and the landowner, we will record sites with the Texas Historical Commission to ensure information on the sites is preserved for future generations. Information gleaned from these descriptive endeavors will be used for scholarly research purposes. All site locations will be kept confidential per the guidelines established by the State of Texas and the larger code of ethics adhered to by the Register of Professional Archaeologists.

## **SITE LOCATION**

The projectile points included in this report were found in a field at the south east corner of the intersection of Mile 7 Road and Jara Chinas Road (F.M. 2221) in La Joya, Texas.

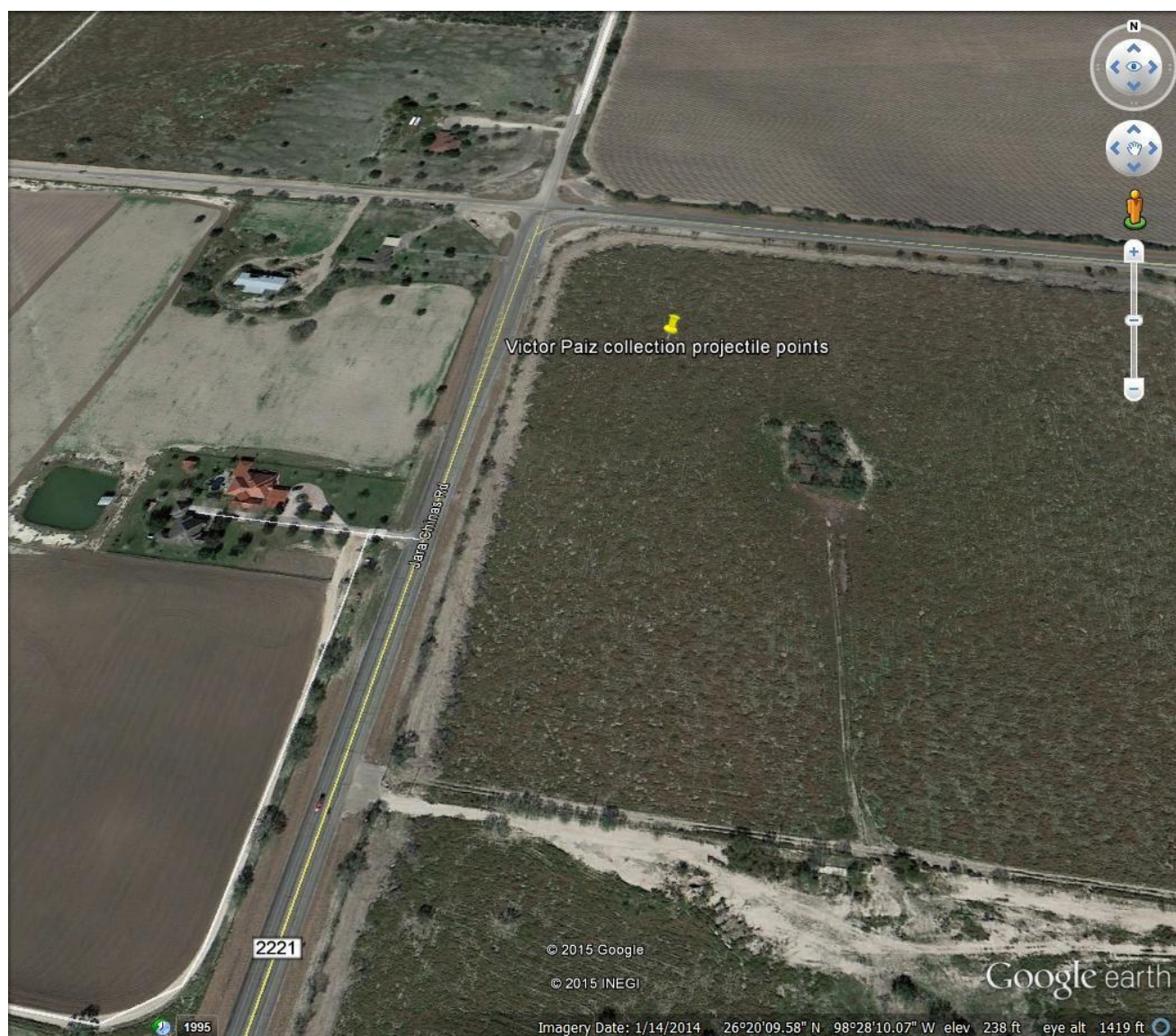
## LOCATION COORDINATES

South East Corner Mile 7 Road and Jara Chinas Road in La Joya, TX

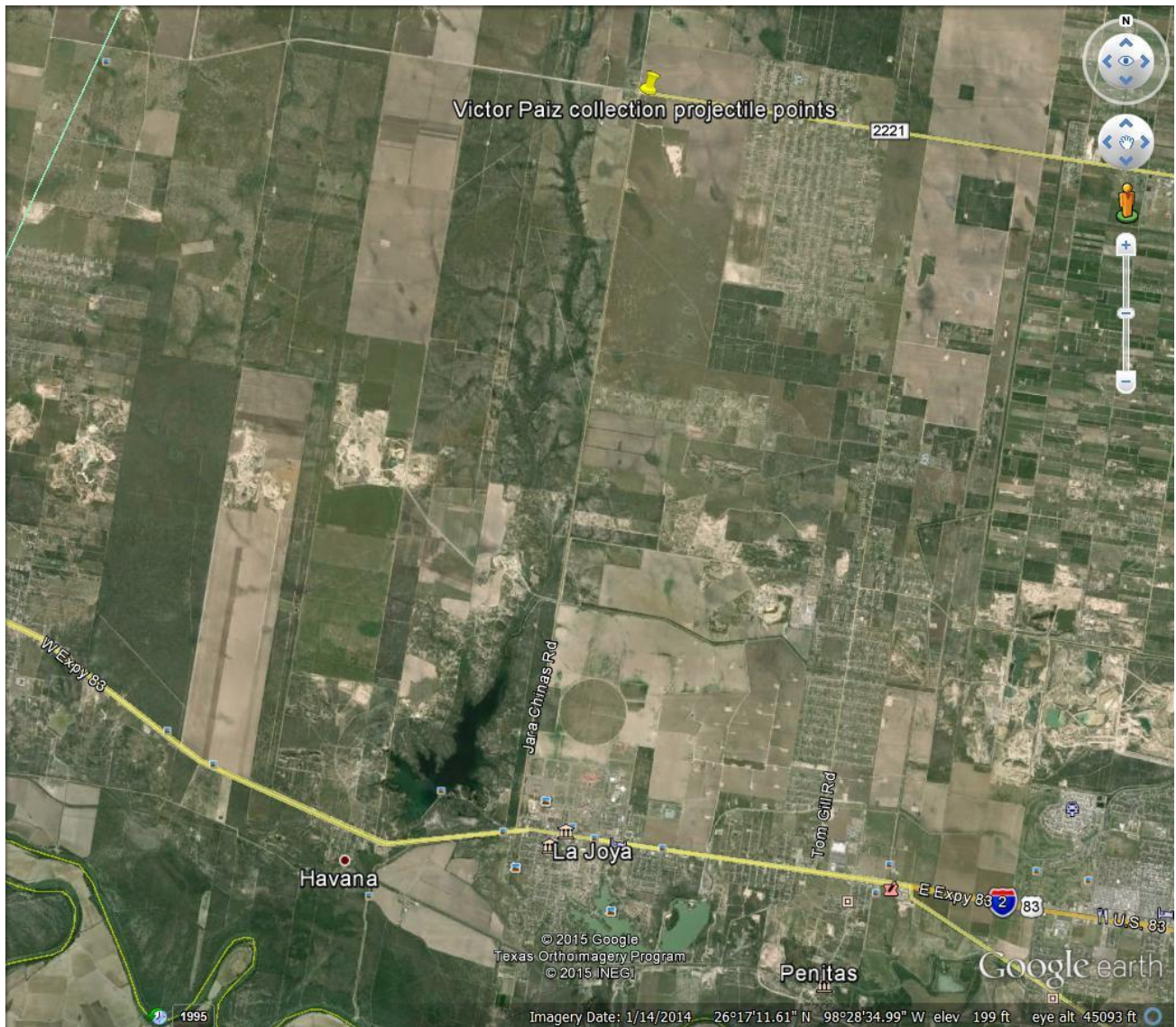
Latitude: 26°20'14.2"N

Longitude: 98°28'08.6"W

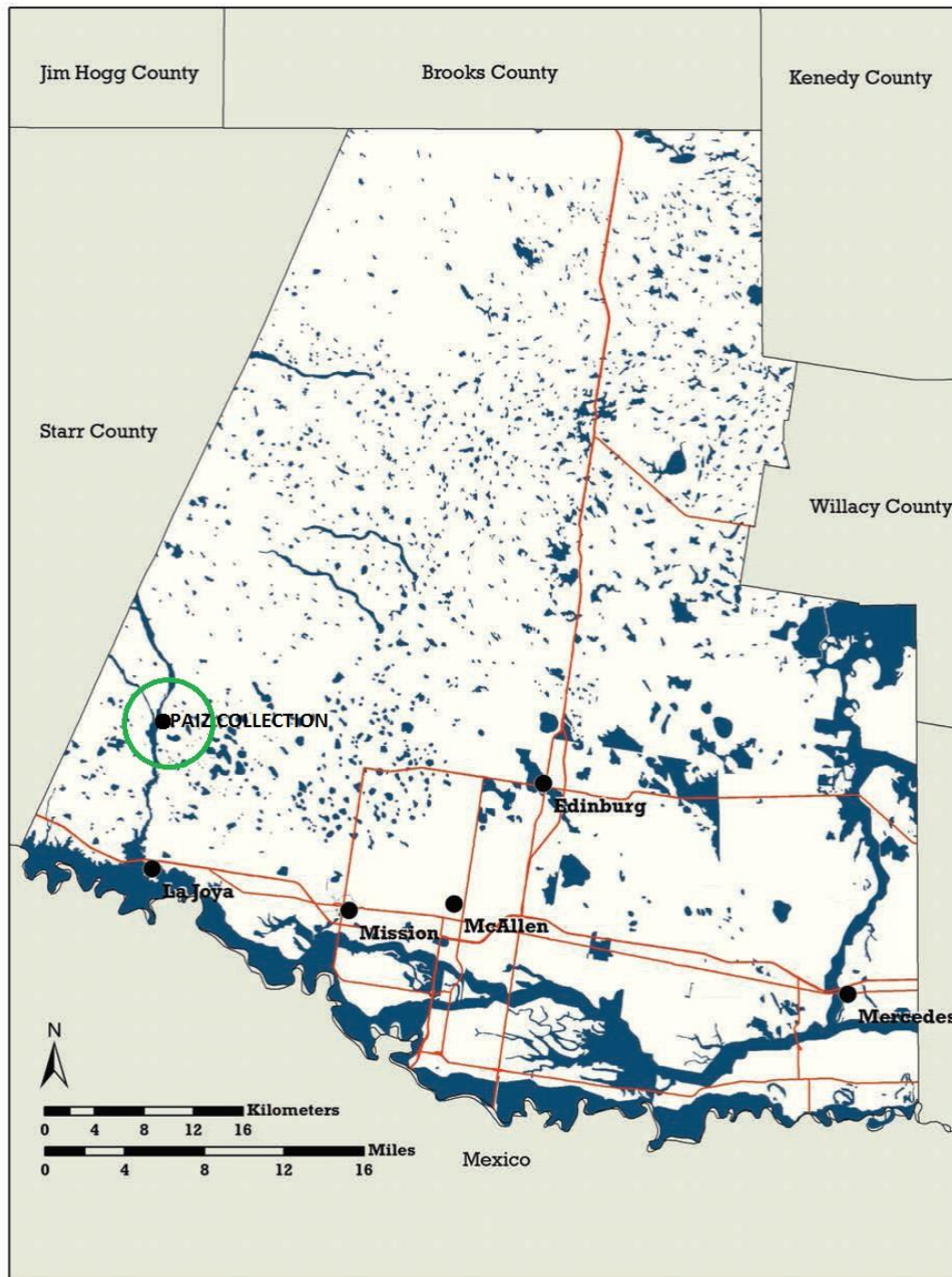
73 meters (239 feet) above sea level



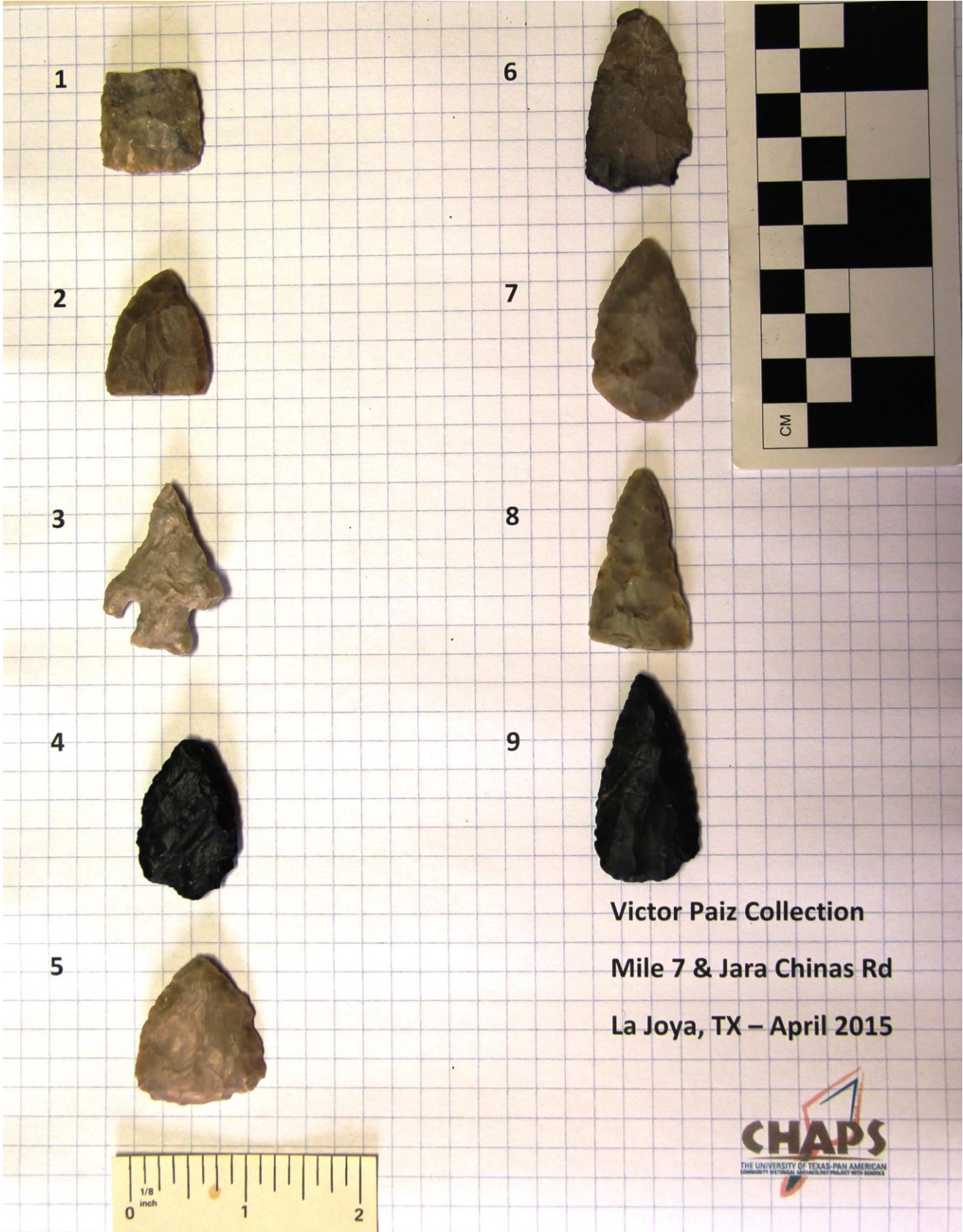
Google Earth image of the south east corner of Mile 7 Road and Jara Chinas Road (FM 2221) in La Joya, TX. This is the field where Victor Paiz's father found the projectile points this report.



Google Earth image of the site where the Victor Paiz collection of projectile points was found at the south east corner of Mile 7 Road and Jara Chinas Road in La Joya, TX (FM 2221). Note: in this aerial view, you can see how La Joya Lake stretching to the north with many fingers that branch off to the east and to the west. As the identified points in the report represent the Middle to Late Archaic periods (1000 BC – 2500 BC), this may suggest that this was a location of a prehistoric campsite, adjacent to a water source during that time.



According to research conducted by Juan L. Gonzalez, Russell K. Skowronek and Bobbie L. Lovett for their 2014 journal article in the *Journal of Texas Archaeology*, this Hidalgo County GIS flood map (below) shows flood data collected following Hurricane Beulah in 1967. Note the location where the Paiz Collection artifacts were found at the fork of a waterway north of La Joya Lake. The four to six-mile catchment circle shows several drainage areas, water basins and river basins as water sources located nearby the site.



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Victor Paiz Collection  
Mile 7 & Jara Chinas Rd  
La Joya, TX – April 2015



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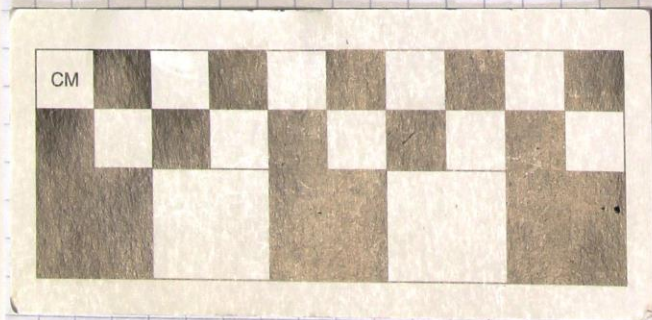
12



11



13



Victor Paiz Collection  
Mile 7 & Jara Chinas Rd  
La Joya, TX – April 2015



Projectile Points: Victor Paiz Collection – April 2015

#	Material	Type	Color	Location	Period
1	chert	Broken base – most likely Pandora	2.5Y 7/1 Light Gray	La Joya, TX Jara Chinas Rd & 7 Mile Line	Middle Archaic 2500 BC
2	chert	Broken Tip	7.5YR 6/1 Gray	La Joya, TX Jara Chinas Rd & 7 Mile Line	Cannot identify
3	quartz	Shumla	10YR 8/1 White	La Joya, TX Jara Chinas Rd & 7 Mile Line	Late Archaic 1000 BC
4	Fine grain black chert	Catan	GLE Y1 2.5/N Black	La Joya, TX Jara Chinas Rd & 7 Mile Line	Late Archaic 1000 BC
5	Fine grain chert	Could be a preform in preparation to be a Matamoros point	7.5YR 7/2 Pinkish Gray	La Joya, TX Jara Chinas Rd & 7 Mile Line	Late Archaic 1000 BC
6	Poorly silicified chert – highly weathered surface	Matamoros	10YR 6/2 Light Brownish Gray	La Joya, TX Jara Chinas Rd & 7 Mile Line	Late Archaic 1000 BC
7	El Sauz chert	Catan	2.5Y 7/1 Light Gray	La Joya, TX Jara Chinas Rd & 7 Mile Line	Late Archaic 1000 BC
8	El Sauz chert	Broken Tip	2.5Y 7/1 Light Grey	La Joya, TX Jara Chinas Rd & 7 Mile Line	Cannot identify



9	Fine grain black chert	Catan	GLE Y1 2.5/N Black	La Joya, TX Jara Chinas Rd & 7 Mile Line	Late Archaic 1000 BC
10	Not chert – has a weathered surface	Tool used to process or flatten animal skin	7.5YR 4/3 Brown	La Joya, TX Jara Chinas Rd & 7 Mile Line	Cannot identify
11	El Sauz chert	Small hatchet or ax head	2.5Y 7/1 Light Gray	La Joya, TX Jara Chinas Rd & 7 Mile Line	Cannot identify
12		Pebble or river rock	5YR 4/2 Dark Reddish Gray	La Joya, TX Jara Chinas Rd & 7 Mile Line	Cannot identify
13	Igneous rock – too weathered to know what it is (not chert)	Preform with outer cortex attached at one side – most likely blade or scraper	7.5YR 5/1 Gray	La Joya, TX Jara Chinas Rd & 7 Mile Line	Cannot identify

**Catán** (dart point) is a triangular, unstemmed point that has straight to slightly convex lateral edges that are sometimes beveled and a convex, well-rounded base that has been thinned by the removal of one or two broad, arc-shaped flakes. The outline is similar to *Abasolo*, but *Catan* points are smaller. (Turner, Hester and McReynolds 2011: 73)

**Matamoros** (dart point) is a small, often thick, triangular or sub triangular, unstemmed point that is similar to *Tortugas*, but markedly smaller. Average length of *Tortugas* is 4.9 mm – 6.7 mm and *Matamoros* ranges from 3.2 mm to 4.7 mm in length. (Turner, Hester and McReynolds 2011: 133)

**Shumla** (dart point) is a triangular point with straight to convex lateral edges that are often slightly serrated. Basal notches form a more or less rectangular stem and short to long barbs. They are usually well made and usually made of heat-treated chert, with the thermal alteration giving the

points a pinkish color, a vitreous sheen, and a greasy feeling. (Turner, Hester and McReynolds 2011: 162).

## **SPECIAL COMMENTS**

Victor Paiz, a student at the University of Texas-Pan American, brought a small collection of projectile points for the CHAPS Program to review. He explained that his father was the one who found the points in what he thought to be considered the Mission, TX area.

His father found the points on a piece of land that managed while he was employed by a company called Forever Living Products. This company is located on Inspiration Road in Mission, TX. The points were found in a rural area in a field at the south east corner of Mile 7 Line and Jara Chinas Road. Further investigation shows that this property is actually located in La Joya, TX – several miles due north of La Joya High School.

Victor's father found points during the early to mid-1990s when he worked with Forever Living Products. The company grows and harvests aloe vera. He remembers climbing a windmill on this particular property and seeing a reservoir nearby to the west. He left the company in 2005 and does not know what has become of the land.

Although Victor's father does not remember exactly where he found each point, he knows it was within the area listed in the google maps region above (see image p. 3). It has been around 20 years since he found the points.

Victor provided a link to google maps to mark the location of the field where these points were found as <https://maps.google.com/maps?q=26.337268,-98.469046&hl=en&ll=26.279255,-98.298018&spn=0.338173&num=1&t=m&z=12> While looking at the property on Google Earth at an aerial view, you can see the outline of what would have been a water source that branches upward to the north from La Joya Lake (see image p. 4-5). This former and extensive body of water had many fingers branching off to the east and to the west as it moved to the north. As the identified points in the report represent the Middle to Late Archaic periods (1000 BC – 2500 BC), suggesting that this was a prehistoric campsite, adjacent to a water source that perhaps was flowing freely during that time.

## **SOURCES**

Munsell Color

2009 Munsel Soil-Color Charts. Munsel Color, Grand Rapids, MI.

Turner, Ellen Sue and Thomas R. Hester

1999 A Field Guide to Stone Artifacts of Texas Indians. Gulf Publishing, New York.

Turner, Ellen Sue, Thomas R. Hester and Richard McReynolds

2011 Stone Artifacts of Texas Indians. Taylor Trade Publishing, New York.

Gonzalez, Juan L., Russell K. Skowronek, and Bobbie L. Lovett

2014 "Deflation Troughs, Water, and Prehistoric Occupation on the Margins of the South Texas Sand Sheet. *Journal of Texas Archaeology and History*, November 20, 2014, Vol. 1, Article 4.