4.1 - Aesthetics

4.1.1 - Introduction

This section describes the existing aesthetics setting and potential effects from project implementation on the sites and their surrounding areas. Human perceptions of aesthetic qualities are somewhat subjective in nature and can thus make impact assessment problematic. In these cases, this analysis incorporates a methodology that is somewhat analogous to the "Reasonable Person Rule", in that assessments are made based upon the conclusion most likely to be made by a reasonable person who is guided by considerations that would ordinarily be considered reasonable and prudent. Typically, the level of visual change likely to be incurred by a project is given the greatest consideration in determining significance.

4.1.2 - Existing Conditions

A summary of the existing aesthetic conditions for each site is provided below in Table 4.1-1. The table provides information on the general visual features in the area. More detailed information, as well as site photos of each proposed site, is contained in the individual site descriptions contained in Appendix A of this DEIR.

Besides a general aesthetic overview of each site, Table 4.1-1 also contains other information that is necessary to adequately assess each site according to the CEQA Guidelines. The Guidelines ask Lead Agencies to consider the aesthetic impacts of a project in terms of their visual impact when viewed from State Scenic Highways. Therefore, aesthetic impact analysis must include information on the proximity of proposed sites in relation to these roadways. Table 4.1-1 notes each site's proximity to a State Scenic Highway, and Exhibit 4.1-1 shows the locations of both Designated and Eligible State Scenic Highways within the County and peripheral areas of other counties where sites are proposed.

The table also assesses the existing environment in terms of light and glare. The CEQA Guidelines ask Lead Agencies to determine if a project will introduce light sources that could impact nighttime views in the area. The project sites will contain security lighting that will be equipped with a motion sensor that will turn the lights on and off when movement is detected. Since use of these lights will be infrequent at best, the impact from security lighting will be negligible. However, some of the sites will require a white strobe light at their apex per FAA regulations, so some of the towers will create an additional light source in some areas. For that reason, an overall description of existing lighting sources in the vicinity of each site is provided.

4.1.3 - Thresholds of Significance

According to the CEQA Guidelines' Appendix G, Environmental Checklist, to determine whether impacts to aesthetic resources are significant environmental effects, the following questions are analyzed and evaluated. Would the project:

Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista, or substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings? Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic building within a state scenic highway? Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?

4.1.4 - Project Impact Analysis and Mitigation Measures

This section discusses potential aesthetic resources impacts associated with the development of the project. If feasible, mitigation measures are provided.

Scenic Vistas, Scenic Resources, Light and Glare

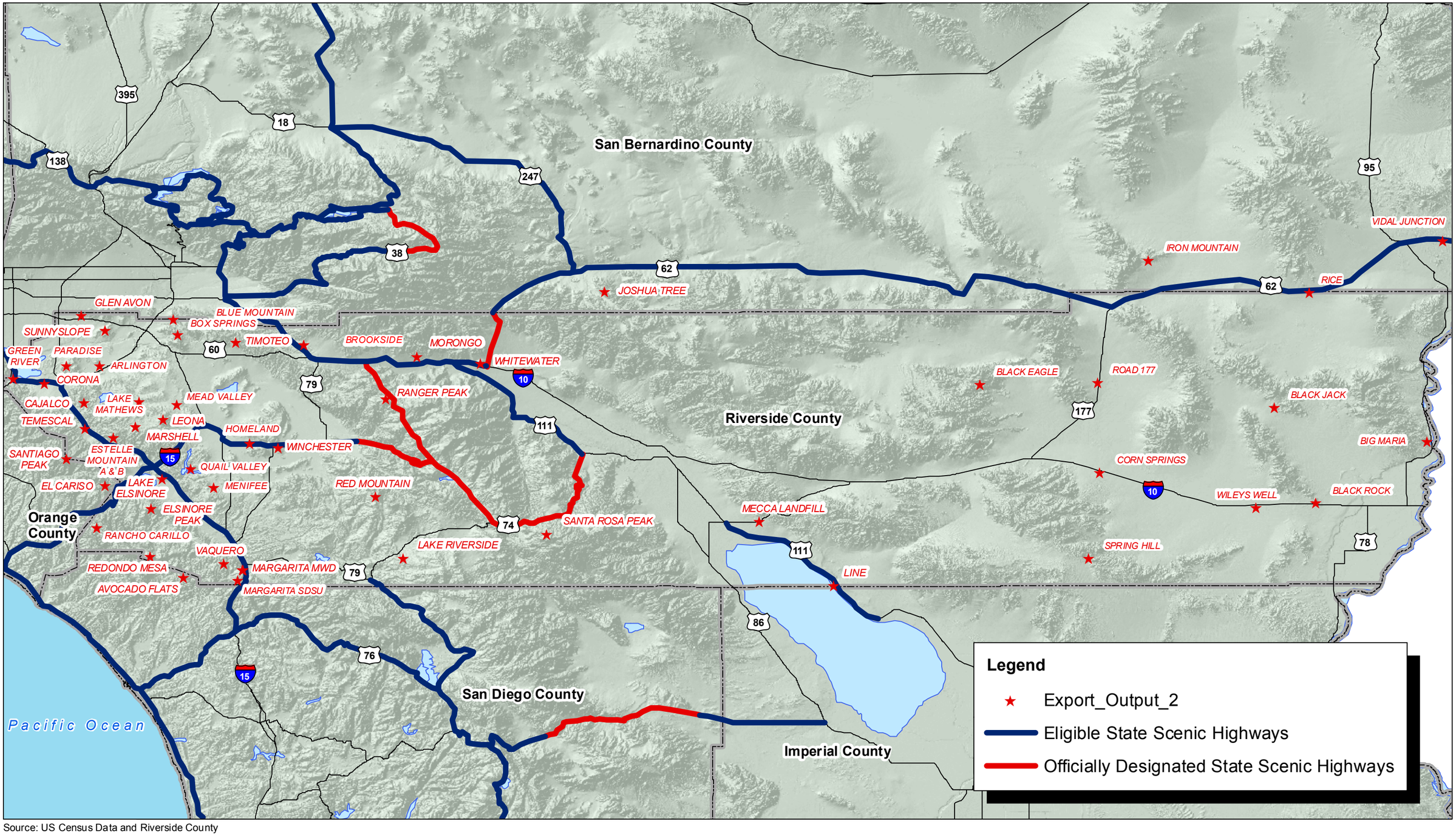
Impact AES-1	**Would the project:**
	Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista, or substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings? Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic building within a state scenic highway? Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?
	[CEQA Aesthetic Thresholds 1(a), 1(b), 1(c), and 1(d)]

Impact Analysis

Table 4.1-2 describes the impacts to aesthetic resources likely to be incurred at each site location, especially as those impacts relate to the significance thresholds provided above. The discussion provides a rationale for determining the significance of the impacts at each site. It also contains a determination regarding the significance of the impact for each of the tower sites.

The determination of significance is largely derived from the level of visual change that will be incurred as a result of project implementation. For example, if a site will be located adjacent to structures that are similar in appearance and/or stature as the proposed tower, then the change to the visual environment will be less than a site where similar structures are not already present. Similarly, if the lighting associated with each site will be introduced into an area that already contains similar light sources, then the impact will be less than if the lighting sources were to be introduced into an area that is currently devoid of similar light sources.

As can be seen in the impact analysis contained in Table 4.1-2, a substantial number of the sites required for the PSEC project will result in a significant impact to aesthetic and visual resources. For ground-level infrastructure, the County will evaluate the aesthetic environment of each site and will offer solutions that can be implemented with respect to equipment shelters and fencing. Some of the solutions that may be offered are block walls, painted buildings, customized gates and fencing, and other features. While addition of these features will not eliminate the aesthetic impacts of the towers themselves, it will serve to mitigate some of the visual impacts at ground level.



Source: US Census Data and Riverside County

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Michael Brandman Associates

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Exhibit 4.1-1
California State Scenic Highways

Table 4.1-1: Existing Aesthetic Conditions Summary

Site Name	Overview of Visual and Scenic Character	Proximity to State Scenic Highway*	Overview of Light Sources in the Vicinity
Arlington	The site is located in an urban environment adjacent to a large industrial-type cinderblock building and a water tank that is approximately 50 feet in height. Residential development lies to the east of the site and is screened by a security fence.	Not applicable	The site is located in an urban environment, and light sources from typical urban sources are abundant.
Avocado Flats	The site is located in a rural environment adjacent to an existing water tank that is approximately 20 feet in height.	Not applicable	The site is located in a rural area, with scattered light sources from residences surrounding the project area.
Big Maria (existing County site)	The site is located within an existing telecommunication facility that currently contains more than half a dozen communication towers. Towers are a long established use at this facility.	Not applicable	The site is located in a rural area, but light sources from the existing communication facilities at the site are present. Typical light sources include security lighting, etc.
Black Eagle	The site is located in a portion of the Black Eagle open pit mine that has been subjected to significant earth moving and disturbance. The area for several miles in all directions is highly disturbed and is also restricted in terms of public access.	Not applicable	The site is located in an area of the Black Eagle Mine that is currently not operational. Therefore, light sources in the area are minimal. The site is highly restricted in terms of public access.
Black Jack	The site is located in a rural desert area that currently contains no similar structures. The surrounding area is composed of an open, desert landscape that is currently devoid of significant human disturbance. The site could be considered "natural" in terms of its visual character.	Not applicable	The site is located in an open desert valley where there are currently no sources of nighttime lighting in the immediate vicinity.
Blue Mountain	The site is located within an existing communication facility that contains several communication towers. Towers are a long established use at this facility.	Not applicable	The site is located atop a mountain adjacent to a large metropolitan area. Light sources from the existing communication facilities at the site are present. Typical light sources include security lighting, etc.
Box Springs (existing County site)	The site is located within an existing communication facility that contains numerous communication towers. Towers are a long established use at this facility.	Not applicable	The site is located atop a mountain adjacent to a large metropolitan area. Light sources from the existing communication facilities at the site are present. Typical light sources include security lighting, etc.

Site Name	Overview of Visual and Scenic Character	Proximity to State Scenic Highway*	Overview of Light Sources in the Vicinity
Brookside	The site is located in a semi-rural area that currently contains numerous high-tension power lines and other types of electrical transmission lines. The overall scenic character of the area is mixed, with rolling hills and agricultural areas, intermixed with areas of significant disturbance.	1 mile south – Interstate 10 is an Eligible State Scenic Highway. The site is visible from the highway.	The site is located in a semi-rural area with scattered homes and streetlights. Existing security lighting is present at the County maintenance compound where the site will be located.
Cajalco	The site is located in a semi-suburban environment adjacent to an Metropolitan Water District (MWD) concrete standpipe that is approximately 40 feet in height and 20 feet wide. An existing communication tower is also immediately adjacent. Surrounding land uses include mining approximately 0.5 mile northwest of the site.	1.5 miles west – Interstate 15 is an Eligible State Scenic Highway. The site is visible from the highway.	The site is located adjacent to an existing communication tower, and security lighting is present at this site. Mining operations also are presently adjacent to the site, as well as scattered residences in the surrounding hills.
Corn Springs	The site is located adjacent to an existing monopole communication tower that is approximately 150 feet in height. Interstate 10 lies immediately north. To the south, the area is largely undisturbed open desert.	Not applicable	The existing communication tower adjacent to the site contains security lighting, and light from traffic on Interstate 10 immediately north of the site is the dominant light source in the area.
Corona	The site is located in an urban environment at the rear of a large industrial-type storage and school maintenance facility. An apartment complex lies immediately west of the site, and a commercial distribution warehouse lies to the northwest. A water well pumping facility is immediately south.	0.5 mile north – State Highway 91 is an Eligible State Scenic Highway. The site is visible from the highway.	The site is located in an urban environment, and light sources from typical urban sources are abundant.
El Cariso	The site is located in a rural area of the Cleveland National Forest. A residential compound used to house firefighters lies immediately adjacent to the west. A series of 40-foot telephone poles adjoins the site, and a water well and pumping station lies approximately 200 feet to the east.	1.25 miles southeast – State Highway 74 is an Eligible State Scenic Highway. The site is not visible from the highway.	The site is located adjacent the El Cariso Hotshot Camp, and light sources are present from residential structures and security lighting.
Elsinore Peak (existing County site)	The site is located within an existing communication facility on the Cleveland National Forest that contains approximately half a dozen communication towers. Towers are a long established use at this facility.	4.3 miles east – Interstate 15 is an Eligible State Scenic Highway. The site is visible from the highway at great distance.	The site is located in an existing communication facility, and light sources in the form of security lighting and airway beacons are present. A residential development lies to the northwest of the site.

Table 4.1-1 (Cont.): Existing Aesthetic Conditions Summary

Site Name	Overview of Visual and Scenic Character	Proximity to State Scenic Highway*	Overview of Light Sources in the Vicinity
Estelle Mountain (A)	The site is located in a rural area within an area of steep hills overlooking the Temescal Valley. No similar structures are located within the immediate area. The surrounding area could be described as "natural" in regards to its visual character.	1.5 miles west – Interstate 15 is an Eligible State Scenic Highway. The site is visible from the highway.	The site is located atop a mountain in an area that currently contains only widely scattered residences. Existing light sources in the area are minimal, but extensive lighting sources are present from residences on the other side of I-15.
Estelle Mountain (B)	The site is located in a rural area within an area of steep hills overlooking the Temescal Valley. No similar structures are located within the immediate area. The surrounding area could be described as "natural" in regards to its visual character.	1.5 miles west – Interstate 15 is an Eligible State Scenic Highway. The site is visible from the highway.	The site is located atop a mountain in an area that currently contains only widely scattered residences. Existing light sources in the area are minimal, but extensive lighting sources are present from residences on the other side of I-15.
Glen Avon	The site is located adjacent to several large water tanks and two monopole communication towers located along the same ridge.	Not applicable	The site is located adjacent to a water tank facility that contains security lighting. Residential development lies at the base of the hill where the site is located.
Green River	The site is located in an area that was formerly used as a gravel pit area and remains moderately disturbed. No other similar structures are present in the immediate area. A hill to the south of the site shields Highway 91 from view.	0.5 mile south – State Highway 91 is an Eligible State Scenic Highway. The site is not visible from the highway.	The site is located adjacent to State Highway 71, and lights from traffic along the roadway are visible. Scattered homes and other lighting sources are also present in the surrounding hills.
Homeland	The site is located in a semi-suburban area composed of agricultural lands and low-density residential development. A County fire station lies immediately north of the site, and a line of 40-foot telephone poles runs adjacent to the west.	0.5 mile south – State Highway 74 is an Eligible State Scenic Highway. The site is visible from the highway.	The site is located in a semi-rural area that contains scattered residences and street lighting. A County fire station lies immediately north of the site.
Iron Mountain	The site is located atop a desert peak overlooking the Ward Valley. Two communication towers lie on a ridge approximately 0.25 mile to the north. The site is very remote, and public access is highly restricted due to the fact that the surrounding lands are controlled by MWD and are traversed by the Colorado River aqueduct.	Not applicable	The site is atop a mountain upslope from MWD's Iron Mountain Pumping Station. The MWD facility contains residences and industrial structures with substantial lighting. The existing communication towers in the vicinity contain security lighting.

Site Name	Overview of Visual and Scenic Character	Proximity to State Scenic Highway*	Overview of Light Sources in the Vicinity
Joshua Tree	The site is located immediately adjacent to a large communication tower that has been in place since at least the 1970s. Another, smaller tower is also a part of this complex. Telecommunication facilities are a long established use in the area.	3.5 miles north – State Highway 62 is an Eligible State Scenic Highway. The site is visible from the highway.	The site is located adjacent to a large communication tower with a rotating beacon or strobe light mounted at its top. Security lighting is also present at the site.
Lake Elsinore	The site is located adjacent to an existing telecommunication tower on a ridge overlooking Interstate 15. The hill on which the site is located is largely surrounded by urban development.	0.25 mile east – Interstate 15 is an Eligible State Scenic Highway. The site is visible from the highway.	The site is located adjacent to Interstate 15, and residential development is also present in the area. The existing communication tower contains security lighting.
Lake Mathews	The site is located in a semi-suburban area near Lake Mathews. A County fire station is scheduled to be built on the same site, and the communication tower would be built adjacent. An MWD maintenance facility lies to the west. El Sobrante Road is immediately north. The area is largely rolling hills composed mostly of open space.	Not applicable	The site will be located adjacent to a planned County fire station, and is also located near a substantial MWD maintenance facility. Traffic from nearby El Sobrante Road also provides a source of nighttime lighting.
Lake Riverside	The site is located in a rural area that is largely composed of open space and low-density residential development. The San Jacinto and Santa Rosa Mountains are visible to the east. A 60-foot high communication tower lies approximately 0.25 mile west of the site.	Not applicable	The site is located in a rural area with scattered residences and occasional street lighting.
Leona	The site is located in semi-rural area that is largely composed of rolling hills interspersed with low-density residential development. An existing guy-lined tower lies approximately 0.25 mile to the east, and could be considered the dominant visual feature in the area.	4 miles southeast – State Highway 74 is an Eligible State Scenic Highway. The site is not visible from the highway.	The site is located in a rural area with scattered residences and occasional street lighting.
Line	The site is located adjacent to State Highway 111 and approximately 0.25 mile from the Salton Sea. The area is nearly exclusively open space, with minimal vegetation and very few visual obstructions.	350 feet east – State Highway 111 is an Eligible State Scenic Highway. The site is visible from the highway.	The site is located in an area with scattered residential development and commercial uses nearby. Traffic from State Highway 111 provides sources of nighttime lighting.

Table 4.1-1 (Cont.): Existing Aesthetic Conditions Summary

Site Name	Overview of Visual and Scenic Character	Proximity to State Scenic Highway*	Overview of Light Sources in the Vicinity
Margarita (MWD)	The site is located on an east-facing slope overlooking Interstate 15 and the City of Temecula. The slope and the area in the immediate vicinity is covered with chaparral vegetation and large oak trees. No similar structures are present in the vicinity. The site is located approximately 0.25 mile from a National Register Archaeological District.	0.25 mile east – Interstate 15 is an Eligible State Scenic Highway. The site is visible from the highway.	The site overlooks Interstate 15, as well as commercial facilities located along the freeway. Residential development also occurs in the area, including along the ridgeline that lies above the site.
Margarita (SDSU)	The site is located on a south-facing slope overlooking Interstate 15 and the City of Temecula. An existing communication tower lies immediately adjacent to the site. The slope and the area in the surrounding vicinity is covered with chaparral vegetation.	0.25 mile east – Interstate 15 is an Eligible State Scenic Highway. The site is visible from the highway.	The site overlooks Interstate 15, as well as the City of Temecula. Residential development also occurs in the area adjacent to I-15.
Marshell	The site is located adjacent to several water tanks that are approximately 20 feet in height. The surrounding area is largely composed of semi-rural, low density residential development located amongst rolling hills. There are no tower structures in the immediate vicinity.	4.5 miles west – Interstate 15 is an Eligible State Scenic Highway. The site is not visible from the highway.	The site is located in an area of low-density residential development. The water tanks adjacent to the site contain security lighting.
Mead Valley	The site is located adjacent to an existing County fire station in an area that is largely composed of low to medium density residential development. A cellular communication tower approximately 0.25 mile to the north adjacent to the Cajalco Expressway has been concealed with a faux water tower treatment.	4.5 miles east – State Highway 74 is an Eligible State Scenic Highway. The site is not visible from the highway.	The site is located in an area with residential development on all sides of the site. The local streets contain streetlights, and a County fire station lies immediately adjacent to the site.
Mecca Landfill	The site is located adjacent to the Mecca Landfill and the Coachella Canal. A line of high-tension power lines runs approximately 0.25 mile south of the site. The Mecca Hills lie approximately 1 mile to the east. Agricultural lands are immediately south of the site.	2 miles west – State Highway 111 is an Eligible State Scenic Highway. The site is not visible from the highway.	The site is located in a rural area at the edge of an agricultural area and the County landfill. Security lighting is installed at the landfill and at the adjacent Coachella Canal pumping station.
Menifee	The site is located in a semi-rural neighborhood composed largely of low-density residential development and open space.	3 miles west - Interstate 15 is an Eligible State Scenic Highway. The site is not visible from the highway.	The site is located in an area with residential development on all sides of the site. The local streets contain streetlights, and a County fire station lies immediately adjacent to the site.

Site Name	Overview of Visual and Scenic Character	Proximity to State Scenic Highway*	Overview of Light Sources in the Vicinity
Morongo	The site is located in the San Gorgonio Pass area, approximately 0.5 mile north of Interstate 10. The site itself is largely open space that is free of visual obstructions. The multi-story Morongo Indian casino lies approx. 3 miles to the west. The western edge of the San Gorgonio windmill complex lies approximately one mile to the southeast.	0.5 mile south – This portion of Interstate 10 is an Eligible State Scenic Highway. The site is visible from the highway.	The site is located adjacent to a wastewater treatment facility that contains security lighting. The brightly-lit Morongo casino and traffic from Interstate 10 also provides a source of nighttime lighting.
Paradise	The site is located on a series of low hills overlooking the City of Norco. The hills are largely composed of chaparral vegetation with limited disturbance. Several communication towers are also housed in the area, but these sites are located on the other side of the hill and are not visible from the proposed site.	2.5 miles southwest - Interstate 15 is an Eligible State Scenic Highway. The site is visible from the highway.	The site is located on a hill that is largely surrounded by residential development and a densely populated urban area.
Quail Valley	The site is located atop a ridgeline that overlooks the semi-rural community of Canyon Lake. A water tank is immediately adjacent, as well as a monopole cellular tower disguised as a pine tree.	3 miles west – Interstate 15 is an Eligible State Scenic Highway. The site is not visible from the highway.	The site is located in an area of residential development. Security lighting is installed at the adjacent water tank facility and the existing cellular tower.
Rancho Carrillo	The site is located in the Cleveland National Forest adjacent to a large water tank on a low ridge overlooking the community of Rancho Carrillo to the west, and the San Mateo Canyon Wilderness to the east. Chaparral vegetation covers the ridgeline, and the bulk of the area could be considered open space.	2.5 miles west – State Highway 74 is an Eligible State Scenic Highway. The site is not visible from the highway.	The site is located in an area of scattered residential development to the west of the site. East of the site lies the San Mateo Canyon Wilderness, and no sources of light are present in that area.
Ranger Peak	The site is located in the San Bernardino National Forest on a ridge overlooking the northern San Jacinto Mountains. An older-style AT&T microwave tower lies approximately 600 feet to the south of the site. The USFS Vista Grande Fire Station is located approximately 1 mile southeast of the site.	0.25 mile east – State Highway 243 is a Designated State Scenic Highway. The site is visible from the highway.	The site is located near an existing communication tower with security lighting. Residential development is also in the area, but overall the amount of lighting sources is minimal.

Table 4.1-1 (Cont.): Existing Aesthetic Conditions Summary

Site Name	Overview of Visual and Scenic Character	Proximity to State Scenic Highway*	Overview of Light Sources in the Vicinity
Red Mountain (existing County site)	The site is located in the San Bernardino National Forest on a prominent ridge overlooking the southern San Jacinto Mountains. The historic USFS Red Mountain lookout lies approximately 100 feet to the north of the site. The lookout tower is approximately 30 feet in height. A line of wooden power poles runs up the side of the ridge to the site. The lookout tower remains operational, and has been evaluated by an architectural historian and has been determined to be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.	Not applicable	The site is located atop a mountain in a rural area with no lighting sources in the immediate vicinity.
Redondo Mesa	The site is located adjacent to several large water tanks atop a prominent hilltop in the southwestern portion of the County. Currently, the most prominent visual feature on the hilltop is a non-operation AT&T tower located approximately 500 feet south of the proposed tower location. The AT&T tower is clad in a concealment treatment that could best be described as monolithic in nature, and is located on private land that serves as a part-time residence. Several estate-style homes are also located on top of the hill, and the area could largely be considered rural in nature.	Not applicable	The site is located in a rural area that contains nearby residences. The water tank facility adjacent to the site contains security lighting.
Rice	The site is located in a rural area between two 250-foot communication towers, and communication towers are a long established use at this location. The surrounding area is largely composed of open desert, with State Highway 62 and the Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) Railroad immediately north of the site.	0.25 mile north – State Highway 62 is a Designated State Scenic Highway. The site is visible from the highway.	The site is located adjacent to two large communication facilities that have rotating beacons or strobe lights on their tops. Security lighting is also installed at these facilities. Other than these light sources, there are no substantial lighting sources in the area.
Road 177	The site is located immediately adjacent to a recently-constructed cellular tower. A line of wooden power poles runs adjacent to Highway 177 to the site. The surrounding area is open desert with few visual obstructions.	Not applicable	The site is located adjacent to a communication facility that has security lighting installed. Other than this light source, there are no substantial lighting sources in the area.

Site Name	Overview of Visual and Scenic Character	Proximity to State Scenic Highway*	Overview of Light Sources in the Vicinity
Santa Rosa Peak (existing County site)	The site is located in a forested area of the Santa Rosa Mountains. Coniferous vegetation largely blocks the views both of and from the site. The proposed facility will replace an existing County tower facility, and several other telecommunication users are located in the immediate vicinity. Communication facilities are a long established use at the site.	2 miles north – State Highway 74 is a Designated State Scenic Highway. The site is not visible from the highway.	The site is located on a forested mountaintop. The only lighting source in the area is from the security lighting at the existing County communication facility.
Santiago Peak	The site is located in the Cleveland National Forest in an area that houses a major telecommunication complex with numerous telecommunication towers. Towers are a long established use at this facility.	4.5 miles east – Interstate 15 is an Eligible State Scenic Highway. The site and the existing tower complex is visible from the highway at great distance.	The site is located in a rural area, but light sources from the existing communication facilities at the site are present. Typical light sources include security lighting and aircraft beacons.
Spring Hill	The site is located in a mountainous area of undisturbed desert. There are no towers or other facilities in the vicinity. The surrounding terrain could be considered natural and undisturbed.	Not applicable	The site is located on a desert mountaintop where there are currently no sources of nighttime lighting in the immediate vicinity.
Sunnyslope	The site is located on the slope of a hill in a suburban area adjacent to an existing water tank. Residential development lies to the west of the site. Much of the upslope portion of the site is open space and is covered with moderately disturbed sage scrub vegetation.	Not applicable	The site is located immediately adjacent to a residential development. The adjacent water tank facility also contains security lighting.
Temescal	The site is located on a low spur ridge approximately 250 feet west of Interstate 15. A 120-foot high monopole communication tower lies approximately 0.5 mile south of the site. The area to the west of the site is semi-rural in nature, and is checkered with low-density residential development and ranchette-style properties.	250 feet east – Interstate 15 is an Eligible State Scenic Highway. The site is visible from the highway.	The site is located in an area with scattered residential development immediately adjacent. Traffic on Interstate 15 provides a substantial source of nighttime illumination.
Timoteo	The site is located in the San Timoteo Badlands, approximately 700 feet west of Redlands Boulevard and 1.5 miles south of San Timoteo Canyon Road. The broken topography in the area largely obscures the site from view, except for those areas in the immediate surroundings.	Not applicable	The site is located in an area with no substantial sources of lighting in the immediate vicinity.

Table 4.1-1 (Cont.): Existing Aesthetic Conditions Summary

Site Name	Overview of Visual and Scenic Character	Proximity to State Scenic Highway*	Overview of Light Sources in the Vicinity
Vaquero	The site is located between two large water tanks atop a ridgeline overlooking the Temecula Valley. An existing FM transmission tower is located within the water tank compound. The surrounding area is largely developed with estate-style homes on large lots. Remnant agricultural properties are interspersed throughout the area.	2.5 miles east – Interstate 15 is an Eligible State Scenic Highway. The site is visible from the highway.	The site is located in an area with scattered estate residential properties in the immediate vicinity. Security lighting is installed at the water tank complex next to the site.
Vidal Junction	The site is located adjacent to an existing communication tower. The existing tower is approximately 50 feet in height. A line of wooden telephone poles runs from the west along State Highway 62 to the site. The surrounding area is largely undisturbed open desert.	250 feet north – State Highway 62 is an Eligible Scenic Highway. The site is visible from the highway.	The site is located in an open desert area adjacent to State Highway 62. Security lighting is installed at the existing communication tower, and traffic from the adjacent roadway provides a source of nighttime illumination.
Whitewater (existing County site)	The site is located amongst the hundreds of windmill towers of the San Gorgonio Pass area, and the proposed tower would replace an existing County tower at the same location. Several other telecommunication facilities are also located in the vicinity, but the windmills are the dominant visual feature of the area.	0.5 mile east – State Highway 62 is an Eligible State Scenic Highway. The site is eligible from the highway.	The site is located amongst the hundreds of windmills of the San Gorgonio Pass area. Security lighting and aircraft beacons are scattered throughout the complex.
Wileys Well	The site is located immediately south of Interstate 10 and adjacent to an existing telecommunication tower. A paved road leads from the site vicinity to a prison complex several miles to the south. The area immediately surrounding the site is largely open desert.	Not applicable	The site is located adjacent to an existing communication tower, and security lighting is installed at this facility. Traffic from Interstate 10 north of the site provides sources of nighttime illumination.
Winchester	The site is located atop a series of hills in an area that already contains several telecommunication towers. Towers are a long established use at this location. The surrounding area is largely composed of abandoned agricultural land and mixed residential development.	0.25 mile north – State Highway 74 is an Eligible State Scenic Highway. The site is visible from the highway.	The site is located adjacent to several existing communication towers, and security lights are installed at those facilities. Residential development is located at the base of the hill upon which the site is located.

*When the distance to a Designated or Eligible State Scenic Highway is greater than five miles, the distance is listed as "Not Applicable".

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Table 4.1-2: Aesthetic Impacts Summary

Site Name	Description of Visual and Scenic Impacts	Level of Significance (Visual Impacts)	Description of Light and Glare Impacts	Level of Significance (Light and Glare)	Overall Level of Significance
Arlington	The site will be located in an urban environment adjacent to a cinderblock building and a water tank of similar stature as the proposed tower. As such, placement of a tower at this location does not constitute a significant change in the existing visual character of the area.	Less than significant	Urban lighting sources in the area are prevalent, and any lighting at the proposed site would not constitute a significant change from existing conditions in regards to nighttime light sources.	Less than significant	Less than significant
Avocado Flats	The site will be located in a rural environment that currently does not contain any similar tower structures. In addition, the tower's location atop a prominent ridge will make it visible from a distance.	**Significant**	Residential lighting sources in the area are widespread, and any lighting at the site would not constitute a significant change from existing conditions in regards to nighttime light sources.	Less than significant	**Significant**
Big Maria (existing County site)	The proposed tower will replace an existing facility within an area that already contains more than a half dozen telecommunication towers. As such, placement of a tower at this location does not constitute a significant change in the existing visual character of the area.	Less than significant	Security lighting is currently utilized at the existing communication sites adjacent to the proposed tower site. Therefore, the addition of lighting at the site would not constitute a significant change in existing conditions in regards to nighttime light sources.	Less than significant	Less than significant
Black Eagle	The proposed tower will be built in a portion of the Black Eagle open pit mine that is already highly disturbed. The area is also highly restricted in terms of public access, and the tower location is not likely to be prominently visible from locations where public access is allowed. As such, placement of a tower at this location does not constitute a significant change in the existing visual character of the area.	Less than significant	Even though existing light sources in the area are limited, the area in which the site is to be located is largely inaccessible by the public, and the placement of any lighting at the site location would be unlikely to create significant impacts to persons in the area.	Less than significant	Less than significant
Black Jack	Placement of a tower at this location will introduce a visual element that is out of character with the existing visual environment and land use. There are currently no similar structures in the vicinity, and the overall character of the area could be considered natural and undisturbed. Therefore, placement of a	**Significant**	The tower will be located in an area where there are currently no existing light sources. The area is regularly used by campers and other recreationists, and the area's solitude and relative lack of human activity is likely a significant aspect of their experience. However, since the security lighting	Less than significant	**Significant**

Table 4.1-2 (Cont.): Aesthetic Impacts Summary

Site Name	Description of Visual and Scenic Impacts	Level of Significance (Visual Impacts)	Description of Light and Glare Impacts	Level of Significance (Light and Glare)	Overall Level of Significance
	tower at this location would constitute a substantial change to the existing visual environment.		installed at the tower site would only be on when someone was actually working at the site and therefore very infrequently, the impact can be considered less than significant.		
Blue Mountain	The proposed tower will be located in an area that already contains several telecommunication towers, and towers are a long established use at this facility. As such, placement of a tower at this location does not constitute a significant change in the existing visual character of the area.	Less than significant	Security lighting is currently utilized at the existing communication sites adjacent to the proposed tower site. Therefore, the addition of any lighting at the site would not constitute a significant change in existing conditions in regards to nighttime light sources.	Less than significant	Less than significant
Box Springs (existing County site)	The proposed tower will be located in an area that already contains several telecommunication towers, and towers are a long established use at this facility. As such, placement of a tower at this location does not constitute a significant change in the existing visual character of the area.	Less than significant	Security lighting is currently utilized at the existing communication sites adjacent to the proposed tower site. Therefore, the addition of any lighting at the site would not constitute a significant change in existing conditions in regards to nighttime light sources.	Less than significant	Less than significant
Brookside	The proposed tower will be located in an area that already contains numerous high-tension electrical lines and other similar visual features. As such, placement of a tower at this location does not constitute a significant change in the existing visual character of the area.	Less than significant	Security lighting is currently utilized at the existing County maintenance facility adjacent to the proposed tower site. Residential properties provide other light sources in the area. Therefore, the addition of any lighting at the site would not constitute a significant change in existing conditions in regards to nighttime light sources.	Less than significant	Less than significant
Cajalco	The proposed tower will be located adjacent to a substantial MWD concrete standpipe as well as an existing telecommunication tower. As such, placement of a tower at this location does not constitute a significant change in the existing visual character of the area and mitigation is not required.	Less than significant	Security lighting is currently utilized at the existing communication site adjacent to the proposed tower site. Industrial and residential properties provide other light sources in the area. Therefore, the addition of any lighting at the site would not constitute a significant change in existing conditions in regards to nighttime light sources.	Less than significant	Less than significant

Table 4.1-2 (Cont.): Aesthetic Impacts Summary

Site Name	Description of Visual and Scenic Impacts	Level of Significance (Visual Impacts)	Description of Light and Glare Impacts	Level of Significance (Light and Glare)	Overall Level of Significance
Corn Springs	The proposed tower will be located adjacent to an existing and much larger communication tower. As such, placement of a tower at this location does not constitute a significant change in the existing visual character of the area and mitigation is not required.	Less than significant	Security lighting is currently utilized at the existing communication site adjacent to the proposed tower site. Therefore, the addition of any lighting at the site would not constitute a significant change in existing conditions in regards to nighttime light sources.	Less than significant	Less than significant
Corona	The proposed tower will be located in an urban environment that already contains numerous telephone poles and lines, as well as adjacent industrial and commercial structures. As such, placement of a tower at this location does not constitute a significant change in the existing visual character of the area.	Less than significant	Urban lighting sources in the area are prevalent, and any lighting at the proposed site would not constitute a significant change from existing conditions in regards to nighttime light sources.	Less than significant	Less than significant
El Cariso	The proposed tower would be located in a rural area that currently does not contain other telecommunication towers, high-tension electrical lines, or similar visual elements. Therefore, placement of a tower at this location would constitute a substantial change to the existing visual environment.	**Significant**	Residential lighting is currently utilized at the El Cariso Hotshot compound immediately adjacent to the proposed tower site. Therefore, the addition of any lighting at the site would not constitute a significant change in existing conditions in regards to nighttime light sources.	Less than significant	**Significant**
Elsinore Peak (existing County site)	The proposed tower will be located in an area that already contains several telecommunication towers, and towers are a long established use at this facility. As such, placement of a tower at this location does not constitute a significant change in the existing visual character of the area and mitigation is not required.	Less than significant	Security lighting is currently utilized at the existing communication sites adjacent to the proposed tower site. Therefore, the addition of any lighting at the site would not constitute a significant change in existing conditions in regards to nighttime light sources.	Less than significant	Less than significant

Table 4.1-2 (Cont.): Aesthetic Impacts Summary

Site Name	Description of Visual and Scenic Impacts	Level of Significance (Visual Impacts)	Description of Light and Glare Impacts	Level of Significance (Light and Glare)	Overall Level of Significance
Estelle Mountain (A)	The proposed tower will be located in a rural conservation area and will introduce a visual element that is out of character with existing surroundings. The site would be prominently visible from Interstate 15 (an Eligible State Scenic Highway). Therefore, placement of a tower at this location would constitute a substantial change to the existing visual environment.	**Significant**	The area in which the site will be located is currently devoid of substantial sources of lighting. However, since the security lighting installed at the tower site would only be on when someone was actually working at the site and, therefore, very infrequently, the impact can be considered less than significant.	Less than significant	**Significant**
Estelle Mountain (B)	The proposed tower will be located in a rural conservation area and will introduce a visual element that is out of character with existing surroundings. The site would be prominently visible from Interstate 15 (an Eligible State Scenic Highway). Therefore, placement of a tower at this location would constitute a substantial change to the existing visual environment.	**Significant**	The area in which the site will be located is currently devoid of substantial sources of lighting. However, since the security lighting installed at the tower site would only be on when someone was actually working at the site and, therefore, very infrequently, the impact can be considered less than significant.	Less than significant	**Significant**
Glen Avon	The proposed tower will be located adjacent to several large water tanks as well as a much taller existing telecommunication tower located to the northwest along the same ridge. As such, placement of a tower at this location does not constitute a significant change in the existing visual character of the area.	Less than significant	Security lighting is currently utilized at the existing communication sites adjacent to the proposed tower site, as well as at the nearby water tanks. Therefore, the addition of any lighting at the site would not constitute a significant change in existing conditions in regards to nighttime light sources.	Less than significant	Less than significant
Green River	Even though the tower proposed for this location is only 0.5 mile from Highway 91 (an Eligible State Scenic Highway), the tower's location behind a substantial hill will effectively shield the facility from the highway. As such, placement of a tower at this location does not constitute a significant change in the existing visual character of the area.	Less than significant	Residential and industrial lighting is common in the area adjacent to the proposed site. Therefore, the introduction of any lighting at the site would not constitute a significant change in the nighttime environment.	Less than significant	Less than significant

Table 4.1-2 (Cont.): Aesthetic Impacts Summary

Site Name	Description of Visual and Scenic Impacts	Level of Significance (Visual Impacts)	Description of Light and Glare Impacts	Level of Significance (Light and Glare)	Overall Level of Significance
Homeland	The proposed tower will introduce a visual element that is out of character with the semi-rural nature of the existing visual environment. The site is also visible from State Highway 74, which is an Eligible State Scenic Highway. Therefore, placement of a tower at this location would constitute a substantial change to the existing visual environment.	**Significant**	Residential lighting is common in the area adjacent to the proposed site. Therefore, the introduction of any lighting at the site would not constitute a significant change in the nighttime environment.	Less than significant	**Significant**
Iron Mountain	The proposed tower will be located within the vicinity of two other telecommunication towers to the north. In addition, the facility is very remote, and public access is highly restricted due to the fact that the surrounding lands are controlled by MWD and are traversed by the Colorado River aqueduct. The tower location is not likely to be prominently visible from locations where public access is allowed. As such, placement of a tower at this location does not constitute a significant change in the existing visual character of the area.	Less than significant	Security lighting is currently utilized at the existing communication sites near the proposed tower site, and residential and industrial lighting is also present at the MWD facility downslope of the site. Therefore, the addition of any lighting at the site would not constitute a significant change in existing conditions in regards to nighttime light sources.	Less than significant	Less than significant
Joshua Tree	The proposed tower will be located immediately adjacent to a much larger communication tower that has been in place since at least the 1970s. Therefore, telecommunication facilities are a long established use in the area, and construction of an additional facility at this location would not constitute a significant change to the existing visual character of the area.	Less than significant	Security lighting is currently utilized at the existing communication sites adjacent to the proposed tower site. Therefore, the addition of any lighting at the site would not constitute a significant change in existing conditions in regards to nighttime light sources.	Less than significant	Less than significant
Lake Elsinore	The proposed tower will be located adjacent to an existing telecommunication tower. However, the proposed tower will be substantially taller and more obtrusive than the existing cellular tower, and will thus be highly visible from Interstate 15 (an Eligible State Scenic Highway), which is less than 1,500 feet	**Significant**	Security lighting is currently utilized at the existing communication sites adjacent to the proposed tower site, and residential areas in the vicinity also provide sources of lighting. Therefore, the addition of any lighting at the site would not constitute a significant change in existing conditions in regards	Less than significant	**Significant**

Table 4.1-2 (Cont.): Aesthetic Impacts Summary

Site Name	Description of Visual and Scenic Impacts	Level of Significance (Visual Impacts)	Description of Light and Glare Impacts	Level of Significance (Light and Glare)	Overall Level of Significance
	from the tower site. Therefore, placement of a tower at this location would constitute a substantial change to the existing visual environment.		to nighttime light sources.		
Lake Mathews	The proposed tower will be constructed in an area that is currently without other towers, high-tension power lines, etc. The tower will introduce an obtrusive visual element to the existing semi-rural landscape that will be visible from great distance. Therefore, placement of a tower at this location would constitute a substantial change to the existing visual environment.	**Significant**	Security lighting is currently utilized at the adjacent MWD facility, and traffic on El Sobrante Road also provides a source of nighttime illumination, as will the County fire station proposed for construction immediately adjacent to the site. Therefore, the addition of any lighting at the site would not constitute a significant change in existing conditions in regards to nighttime light sources.	Less than significant	**Significant**
Lake Riverside	The proposed tower will be located in a rural area that is noteworthy for its views of the San Jacinto and Santa Rosa Mountains to the east. Placement of a tower at this location would introduce a visual element that would detract from and possibly interfere with those views. Therefore, placement of a tower at this location would constitute a substantial change to the existing visual environment.	**Significant**	Residential lighting sources in the area are widespread, and any lighting at the site would not constitute a significant change from existing conditions in regards to nighttime light sources.	Less than significant with mitigation	**Significant**
Leona	The proposed tower will be located less than 0.25 mile from an existing guy-lined tower that could be considered the dominant visual feature in the area. Therefore, placement of the proposed tower in the immediate vicinity would not introduce a significant new visual element to the landscape, and would be consistent with the existing visual environment.	Less than significant	Residential lighting sources in the area are widespread, and any security lighting at the site would not constitute a significant change from existing conditions in regards to nighttime light sources. Since the tower will also be over 200 feet in height, FAA regulations will require a strobe light at its top. However, the existing tower to the east already contains a similar strobe light, so the installation of such a light source at the proposed project site will not constitute a significant change to the nighttime environment.	Less than significant	Less than significant

Table 4.1-2 (Cont.): Aesthetic Impacts Summary

Site Name	Description of Visual and Scenic Impacts	Level of Significance (Visual Impacts)	Description of Light and Glare Impacts	Level of Significance (Light and Glare)	Overall Level of Significance
Line	The proposed tower would introduce a strikingly notable feature to the visual landscape in an area where similar structures currently do not exist. The structure would be located immediately adjacent to Highway 111 (an Eligible State Scenic Highway), and with its great height would be visible for many miles from all directions. Therefore, placement of a tower at this location would constitute a substantial change to the existing visual environment.	**Significant**	Scattered light sources are located in the general area, and traffic from Highway 111 would also provide a source of nighttime illumination, so the addition of security lighting at the site would create a negligible change in the nighttime environment. However, the 330-foot tall tower would also be required to have a strobe light at its apex to mitigate for hazards to aviation, thus introducing a prominent nighttime light source into the area that would be visible for many miles in all directions. Therefore, the placement of a light source at the site would present a significant change to the nighttime environment and would constitute a significant impact.	**Significant**	**Significant**
Margarita (MWD)	The proposed tower would be constructed in an area that is known for its scenic values, and would be located less than 0.5 mile from Interstate 15, which is an Eligible State Scenic Highway. The tower will also be located in the vicinity of a National Register Archaeological District, and placement of a tower in this area could be considered a significant impact.	**Significant**	Residential lighting sources in the area are widespread, and any lighting at the site would not constitute a significant change from existing conditions in regards to nighttime light sources.	Less than significant	**Significant**
Margarita (SDSU)	The proposed tower would be constructed in an area that is known for its scenic values, and would be located less than 0.5 mile from Interstate 15, which is an Eligible State Scenic Highway.	**Significant**	Residential lighting sources in the area are widespread, and any lighting at the site would not constitute a significant change from existing conditions in regards to nighttime light sources.	Less than significant	**Significant**

Table 4.1-2 (Cont.): Aesthetic Impacts Summary

Site Name	Description of Visual and Scenic Impacts	Level of Significance (Visual Impacts)	Description of Light and Glare Impacts	Level of Significance (Light and Glare)	Overall Level of Significance
Marshell	The proposed tower will be constructed in an area without similar visual elements. Though several water tanks are immediately adjacent, these structures are relatively low in stature, and the proposed tower would become a dominant visual element in the immediate area. Therefore, placement of a tower at this location would constitute a substantial change to the existing visual environment.	**Significant**	Residential lighting sources in the area are widespread, and any lighting at the site would not constitute a significant change from existing conditions in regards to nighttime light sources.	Less than significant	**Significant**
Mead Valley	The proposed tower will be constructed in a semi-rural neighborhood where similar structures (telecommunication towers, high-tension power lines, etc.) currently do not exist. The proposed tower would become a dominant visual element in the area. Therefore, placement of a tower at this location would constitute a substantial change to the existing visual environment.	**Significant**	Residential lighting sources in the area are widespread, and any lighting at the site would not constitute a significant change from existing conditions in regards to nighttime light sources.	Less than significant	**Significant**
Mecca Landfill	The proposed tower will be constructed in an area that has been subjected to a fair degree of disturbance (landfill, Coachella Canal, roadways), and a line of high-tension power lines runs approximately 0.25 mile south of the site. Therefore, construction of a tower at this location would not markedly alter the existing visual character of the area.	Less than significant	Residential and other lighting sources in the area are widespread, and any lighting at the site would not constitute a significant change from existing conditions in regards to nighttime light sources.	Less than significant	Less than significant
Menifee	The proposed tower will be constructed in a semi-rural neighborhood where similar structures (telecommunication towers, high-tension power lines, etc.) currently do not exist. The proposed tower would become a dominant visual element within the area. Therefore, placement of a tower at this location would constitute a substantial change to the existing visual environment.	**Significant**	Residential and other lighting sources in the area are widespread, and any lighting at the site would not constitute a significant change from existing conditions in regards to nighttime light sources.	Less than significant	**Significant**

Table 4.1-2 (Cont.): Aesthetic Impacts Summary

Site Name	Description of Visual and Scenic Impacts	Level of Significance (Visual Impacts)	Description of Light and Glare Impacts	Level of Significance (Light and Glare)	Overall Level of Significance
Morongo	The proposed tower location would be located in an area that is currently devoid of similar visual features. Unlike many portions of the San Gorgonio Pass area, this particular location is relatively free of communication towers, windmills, high-tension power lines, etc. Therefore, placement of a tower at this location would constitute a substantial change to the existing visual environment.	**Significant**	Residential and other lighting sources in the area are common, and any lighting at the site would not constitute a significant change from existing conditions in regards to nighttime light sources.	Less than significant	**Significant**
Paradise	The proposed tower is located in the vicinity of several existing communication structures, but those structures are generally located on the other side of the ridge to the east. The proposed tower would therefore introduce a new visual element to the ridgeline that would be visible from all areas to the west of the proposed tower location. Therefore, placement of a tower at this location would constitute a substantial change to the existing visual environment.	**Significant**	Residential and other lighting sources in the area are widespread, and any lighting at the site would not constitute a significant change from existing conditions in regards to nighttime light sources.	Less than significant	**Significant**
Quail Valley	The proposed tower will be located immediately adjacent to an existing cellular tower and a large water tank. Therefore, construction of an additional facility at this location would not constitute a significant change to the existing visual character of the area.	Less than significant	Security lighting is currently utilized at the existing communication sites adjacent to the proposed tower site, as well as at the nearby water tank. Therefore, the addition of any lighting at the site would not constitute a significant change in existing conditions in regards to nighttime light sources.	Less than significant	
Rancho Carrillo	The proposed tower would be constructed on USFS (Cleveland National Forest) land on a low ridge overlooking the community of Rancho Carrillo to the west, and the San Mateo Canyon Wilderness to the east. A trailhead leading into the Wilderness lies approximately 300 feet from the proposed tower, and the Wilderness boundary lies immediately adjacent to	**Significant**	Residential and other lighting sources in the area to the west are widespread. To the east, in the Wilderness Area, lighting is essentially non-existent. However, since the security lighting installed at the tower site would only be on when someone was actually working at the site and therefore very infrequently, the impact can be	Less than significant	**Significant**

Table 4.1-2 (Cont.): Aesthetic Impacts Summary

Site Name	Description of Visual and Scenic Impacts	Level of Significance (Visual Impacts)	Description of Light and Glare Impacts	Level of Significance (Light and Glare)	Overall Level of Significance
	the proposed tower location. The proposed tower would become a dominant visual element in the area, and would be especially visible from the Wilderness area to the east. Therefore, placement of a tower at this location would constitute a substantial change to the existing visual environment.		considered less than significant.		
Ranger Peak	The proposed tower would be constructed on USFS land on a prominent ridge overlooking the northern San Jacinto Mountains. The site lies approximately 0.25 mile from Highway 243, a Designated State Scenic Highway. However, an older-style AT&T microwave tower lies approximately 600 feet to the south of the site, and this site has been in place for many years. Therefore, communication facilities are a long and established use at this site, so placement of a tower at this location would not constitute a significant change to the existing visual environment.	Less than significant	Lighting sources in the area are minimal. However, since the security lighting installed at the tower site would only be on when someone was actually working at the site and therefore very infrequently, the impact can be considered less than significant.	Less than significant	Less than significant
Red Mountain (existing County site)	The proposed tower would be constructed to replace and expand an existing County facility on USFS land on a prominent ridge overlooking the southern San Jacinto Mountains. The historic Red Mountain USFS lookout tower lies approximately 100 feet north to the north. The lookout tower remains operational, and has been evaluated by an architectural historian and has been determined to be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. The proposed 200-foot County tower will be substantially taller than the 30-foot high lookout tower. Vegetation in the immediate vicinity is largely low-lying chaparral, with very few large trees, especially along the ridgeline where the facility would be located. Thus, the County tower would	**Significant**	The 200-foot tall tower would be required to have a strobe light at its apex to mitigate for hazards to aviation, thus introducing a prominent nighttime light source into the area that would be visible for many miles in all directions. Therefore, the placement of a light source at the site would present a significant change to the nighttime environment and would constitute a significant impact.	**Significant**	**Significant**

Table 4.1-2 (Cont.): Aesthetic Impacts Summary

Site Name	Description of Visual and Scenic Impacts	Level of Significance (Visual Impacts)	Description of Light and Glare Impacts	Level of Significance (Light and Glare)	Overall Level of Significance
	become the dominant visual feature in the area, and would be visible for many miles in all directions. Therefore, placement of a tower at this location would constitute a substantial change to the existing visual environment.				
Redondo Mesa	The proposed tower will be located adjacent to several water tanks atop a prominent hilltop in the southwestern portion of the County. Currently, the most prominent visual feature on the hilltop is a non-operation AT&T tower located approximately 500 feet south of the proposed tower location. Therefore, construction of an additional facility at this location would not constitute a significant change to the existing visual character of the area.	Less than significant	Lighting sources in the area are minimal. However, since the security lighting installed at the tower site would only be on when someone was actually working at the site and therefore very infrequently, the impact can be considered less than significant.	Less than significant	Less than significant
Rice	The proposed tower would be located approximately 600 feet south of Highway 62 (an Eligible State Scenic Highway). However, the tower would be located between two other telecommunication towers that are both substantially taller and more obtrusive than the proposed tower. Therefore, construction of the tower would not introduce a new visual element that is substantially different from the existing visual character and land use in the area.	Less than significant	Lighting sources in the area are minimal, but the motion detector-operated security lighting would create a negligible impact. Since the tower will also be over 200 feet in height, FAA regulations will require a strobe light at its top. However, the existing towers to the east and west already contain similar strobe lights, so the installation of such a light source at the proposed project site will not constitute a significant change to the nighttime environment.	Less than significant	Less than significant
Road 177	The proposed tower will be constructed immediately adjacent to a recently-constructed cellular tower. As such, placement of a tower at this location does not constitute a significant change in the existing visual character of the area.	Less than significant	The tower will be located in an area where there are currently no existing light sources. However, since the security lighting installed at the tower site would only be on when someone was actually working at the site and therefore very infrequently, the impact can be considered less than significant.	Less than significant	Less than significant

Table 4.1-2 (Cont.): Aesthetic Impacts Summary

Site Name	Description of Visual and Scenic Impacts	Level of Significance (Visual Impacts)	Description of Light and Glare Impacts	Level of Significance (Light and Glare)	Overall Level of Significance
Santa Rosa Peak (existing County site)	The proposed tower will be constructed to replace an existing County facility, and will possess many of the same visual characteristics as the original structure. In addition, the proposed tower is relatively low in stature and would be surrounded by large conifer trees. The tower would be largely unnoticeable from a distance as well as from the immediate vicinity. Therefore, the proposed tower will not introduce a substantially different visual element to the area.	Less than significant	The tower will be located in an area where there are currently no existing light sources. However, since the security lighting installed at the tower site would only be on when someone was actually working at the site and therefore very infrequently, the impact can be considered less than significant.	Less than significant	Less than significant
Santiago Peak	The proposed tower will be located in an area that already houses a major telecommunication complex with numerous telecommunication towers, and towers are a long established use at this facility. As such, placement of a tower at this location does not constitute a significant change in the existing visual character of the area.	Less than significant	Security lighting is currently utilized at the existing communication sites adjacent to the proposed tower site. Therefore, the addition of any lighting at the site would not constitute a significant change in existing conditions in regards to nighttime light sources.	Less than significant	Less than significant
Spring Hill	Placement of a tower at this location will introduce a visual element that is out of character with the existing visual environment and land use. There are currently no similar structures in the vicinity, and the overall character of the area could be considered natural and undisturbed. Therefore, placement of a tower at this location would constitute a substantial change to the existing visual environment.	**Significant**	The 330-foot tall tower would be required to have a strobe light at its apex to mitigate for hazards to aviation, thus introducing a prominent nighttime light source into the area that would be visible for many miles in all directions. Therefore, the placement of a light source at the site would present a significant change to the nighttime environment and would constitute a significant impact.	**Significant**	**Significant**
Sunnyslope	The proposed tower will be constructed in an area that is currently lacking similar visual elements (telecommunication towers, high-tension power lines, etc.). The site's position on a slope above a residential neighborhood also would place it within the view of a substantial number of homeowners in the immediate vicinity. Therefore, placement of a	**Significant**	Residential and other lighting sources in the area are widespread, and any lighting at the site would not constitute a significant change from existing conditions in regards to nighttime light sources.	Less than significant	**Significant**

Table 4.1-2 (Cont.): Aesthetic Impacts Summary

Site Name	Description of Visual and Scenic Impacts	Level of Significance (Visual Impacts)	Description of Light and Glare Impacts	Level of Significance (Light and Glare)	Overall Level of Significance
	tower at this location would constitute a substantial change to the existing visual environment.				
Temescal	The proposed tower will be located on a low spur ridge approximately 250 feet west of Interstate 15, which is an Eligible State Scenic Highway. The nearest structure of similar stature is a monopole cell phone tower approximately 0.5 mile south of the proposed site. Therefore, placement of a tower at this location would constitute a substantial change to the existing visual environment.	**Significant**	Residential and other lighting sources in the area are widespread, and any lighting at the site would not constitute a significant change from existing conditions in regards to nighttime light sources.	Less than significant	**Significant**
Timoteo	The proposed tower will be located in the San Timoteo Badlands, approximately 700 feet west of Redlands Boulevard and 1.5 miles south of San Timoteo Canyon Road. Normally, construction of a tower in this area would be considered a significant impact deserving of mitigation. The proposed site, however, is situated in such a manner that it will be largely obscured by the surrounding hills and will for the most part not be visible from Redlands Boulevard or the surrounding area. As such, placement of a tower at this location does not constitute a significant change in the existing visual character of the area.	Less than significant	The tower will be located in an area where there are currently few existing light sources. However, since the security lighting installed at the tower site would only be on when someone was actually working at the site and therefore very infrequently, the impact can be considered less than significant.	Less than significant	Less than significant
Vaquero	The proposed tower will be located between two large water tanks atop a ridgeline overlooking the Temecula Valley. However, the proposed tower is substantially taller than the adjacent water tanks, and will become a dominant visual feature in the area. Therefore, placement of a tower at this location would constitute a substantial change to the existing visual environment.	**Significant**	Residential and other lighting sources in the area are widespread, and any lighting at the site would not constitute a significant change from existing conditions in regards to nighttime light sources.	Less than significant	**Significant**

Table 4.1-2 (Cont.): Aesthetic Impacts Summary

Site Name	Description of Visual and Scenic Impacts	Level of Significance (Visual Impacts)	Description of Light and Glare Impacts	Level of Significance (Light and Glare)	Overall Level of Significance
Vidal Junction	The proposed tower will be adjacent to an existing tower. The existing tower is approximately 50 feet in height and the proposed tower would be 170 feet in height, which is substantially taller than the existing structure. The site is also only 300 feet from Highway 62, which is an Eligible State Scenic Highway. Therefore, placement of a tower at this location would constitute a substantial change to the existing visual environment.	**Significant**	The tower will be located in an area where there are currently few existing light sources. However, since the security lighting installed at the tower site would only be on when someone was actually working at the site and therefore very infrequently, the impact can be considered less than significant.	Less than significant	**Significant**
Whitewater (existing County site)	The proposed tower will be located amongst the hundreds of windmill towers of the San Gorgonio Pass area, and would in fact be overshadowed by these structures. Several other telecommunication facilities are also located in the vicinity. As such, placement of a tower at this location does not constitute a significant change in the existing visual character of the area.	Less than significant	Security lighting is currently utilized at the existing communication sites and windmills adjacent to the proposed tower site. Therefore, the addition of any lighting at the site would not constitute a significant change in existing conditions in regards to nighttime light sources.	Less than significant	Less than significant
Wileys Well	The proposed tower will be located adjacent to an existing telecommunication tower. As such, placement of a tower at this location does not constitute a significant change in the existing visual character of the area.	Less than significant	Security lighting is currently utilized at the existing communication site adjacent to the proposed tower site. Therefore, the addition of any lighting at the site would not constitute a significant change in existing conditions in regards to nighttime light sources.	Less than significant	Less than significant
Winchester	The proposed tower will be located in an area that already contains several telecommunication towers, and towers are a long established use at this location. As such, placement of a tower at this location does not constitute a significant change in the existing visual character of the area.	Less than significant	Security lighting is currently utilized at the existing communication sites adjacent to the proposed tower site. Therefore, the addition of any lighting at the site would not constitute a significant change in existing conditions in regards to nighttime light sources.	Less than significant	Less than significant

As was noted in Section 3, *Project Description*, the County has investigated the feasibility of providing stealth-type concealment treatments for the tower sites, and has come to the determination that the feasibility of these treatments for this project is very problematic. Stealth treatments include designs that attempt to disguise communication towers as trees, water towers, and other objects. These treatments have been utilized extensively for cellular telephone towers, but the feasibility for two-way radio systems has not been established, and the County's efforts to find a way to feasibly implement these treatments have not been successful.

Two-way radio systems utilize substantially different antennas than do cellular facilities. Two-way components do not lend themselves well to placement in artificial tree-like structures while still retaining functionality. Besides the aerial antennas that will be placed on the towers, each tower will also utilize one or more microwave dishes, as it is not possible to mount and adequately disguise these units on a stealth structure. The heights of many of the towers required for the PSEC project also place limitations on the use of stealth treatments, as treatments on towers over 85 feet in height are typically not feasible. Stealth towers over 85 feet in height are subjected to extreme wind-loading, which creates problematic engineering constraints. Stealth towers over this height can actually be more aesthetically unpleasing due to their seemingly out-of-place appearance.

Stealth treatments are clearly not appropriate in many parts of the County, especially in the eastern desert portion. In these areas, and even in large portions of the western County, existing vegetation is low and is devoid of large trees. The placement of an artificial tree-like structure in these areas can be strikingly out-of-place. This constraint effectively eliminates stealth as an option in many portions of the County.

A further constraint is the flammable nature of some of the materials that are used in stealth tower construction. Many of the proposed sites will be placed in areas where wildland fire incidents have a high probability of occurring at some point during the life of the project. Such a situation could take a tower out of commission at a time when the need for reliable communication is most critical.

The County is continuing to investigate each of these issues in hopes of finding an adequate solution, but at this time, the ultimate results of that investigation are unknown. For this reason, this DEIR will not present stealth treatments as mitigation, since the feasibility of adequate implementation remains uncertain.

Therefore, the only possible finding in regards to aesthetic resources is that the project will result in a significant and unavoidable impact. Should the County desire to approve and implement the project, a Statement of Overriding Considerations will be required.

Level of Significance Before Mitigation

Significant

Mitigation Measures

No feasible mitigation has been identified.

Level of Significance After Mitigation

Significant and unavoidable