

Big Maria Communication Site

Overview

The site is located approximately 11 miles north of Blythe and 0.50 mile west of Highway 95 on a low ridge overlooking the Colorado River Valley. The site is located within an existing communication tower complex that houses approximately six towers and support buildings, including an existing County tower facility. The proposed project will replace the existing facility with an upgraded tower and new equipment shelter.

Table 1: Big Maria Communication Site

Latitude ¹	Longitude ¹	Elev ²	Address	T/R/S ³	APN ⁴	USGS Quadrangle
33°45'04.0"	114°31'27.1	650	6400 Highway 95, Blythe, CA 92225	5S 23E Sec. 12	815-090-021	Big Maria Mts. SE
1 – All coordinates utilize NAD83 datum 2 – All elevations in feet above mean sea level 3 – Township/Range/Section (San Bernardino Base Meridian)				4 – All Assessors Parcel Numbers are located in Riverside County, unless noted: OC = Orange County; SD = San Diego County; SB = San Bernardino County		

Surrounding Land Uses

The site is located within a rural desert area overlooking the Colorado River Valley. Highway 95 lies approximately 0.50 mile east of the site, with agricultural fields lying east of the highway and continuing to the Colorado River, approximately 1.25 miles from the site. The site is located within an existing communication tower complex. The tower facility lies immediately adjacent to the eastern boundary of the 45,367-acre Big Maria Mountains Wilderness Area.

Topography and Vegetation

There is extensive disturbance at the communications site including the towers already present at the location. The general topography of the area is mountainous, with hills overlooking the Colorado River floodplain. Vegetation in the area includes creosote and occasional barrel cactus, although vegetation is generally sparse. There is minimal soil development, consisting of broken rock; and the geology of the area includes volcanic and metamorphic rocks characteristic of this desert area.

Land Ownership and Applicable Habitat/Land Management Plan

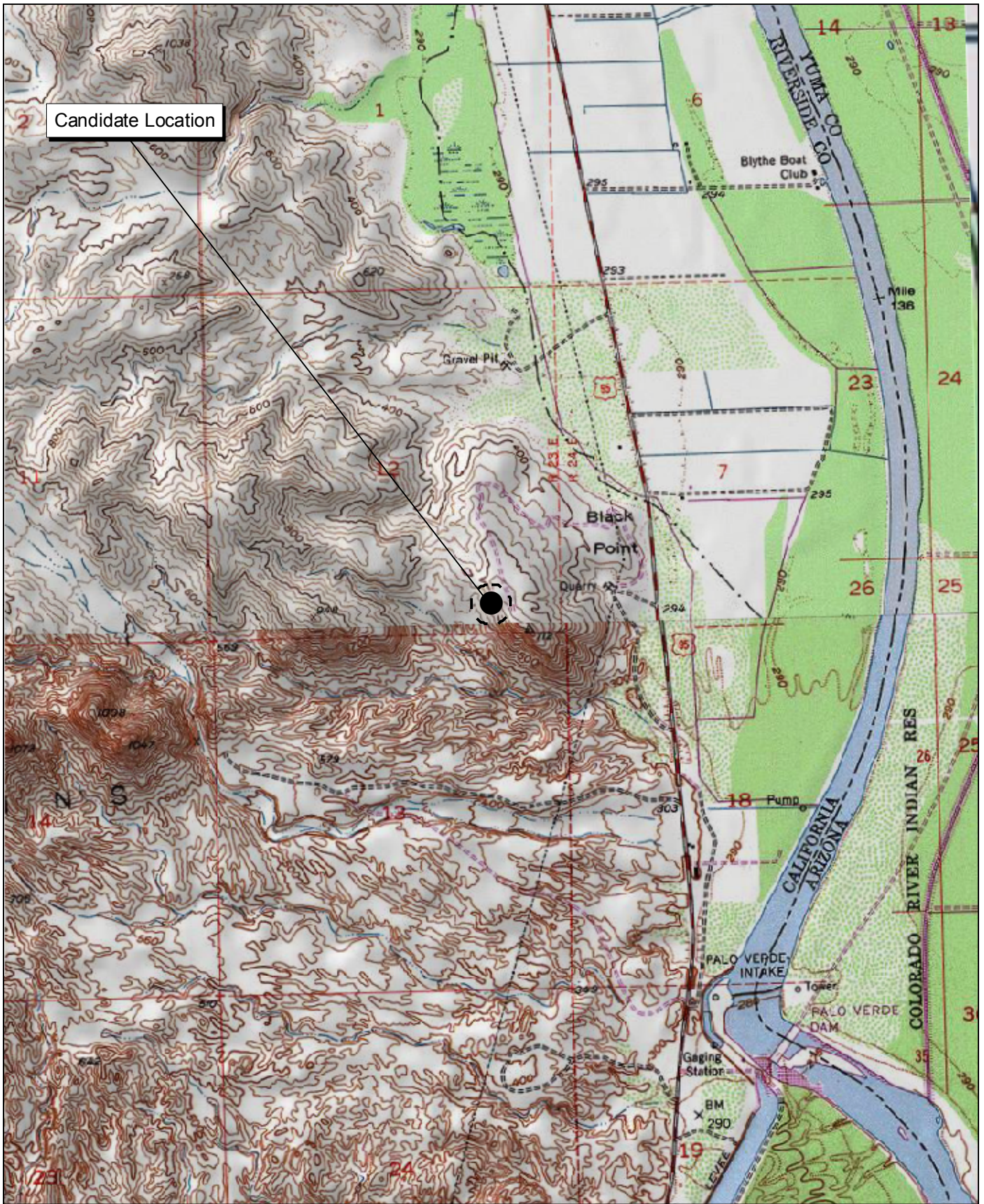
The site is located on federal land managed by the BLM. The site is managed by the Yuma Field Office of the BLM and is subject to the Yuma Field Office Resource Management Plan.

Road Access

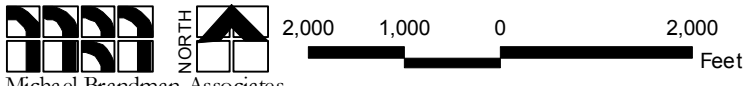
A dirt road accesses the site from Highway 95.

Commercial Power Access

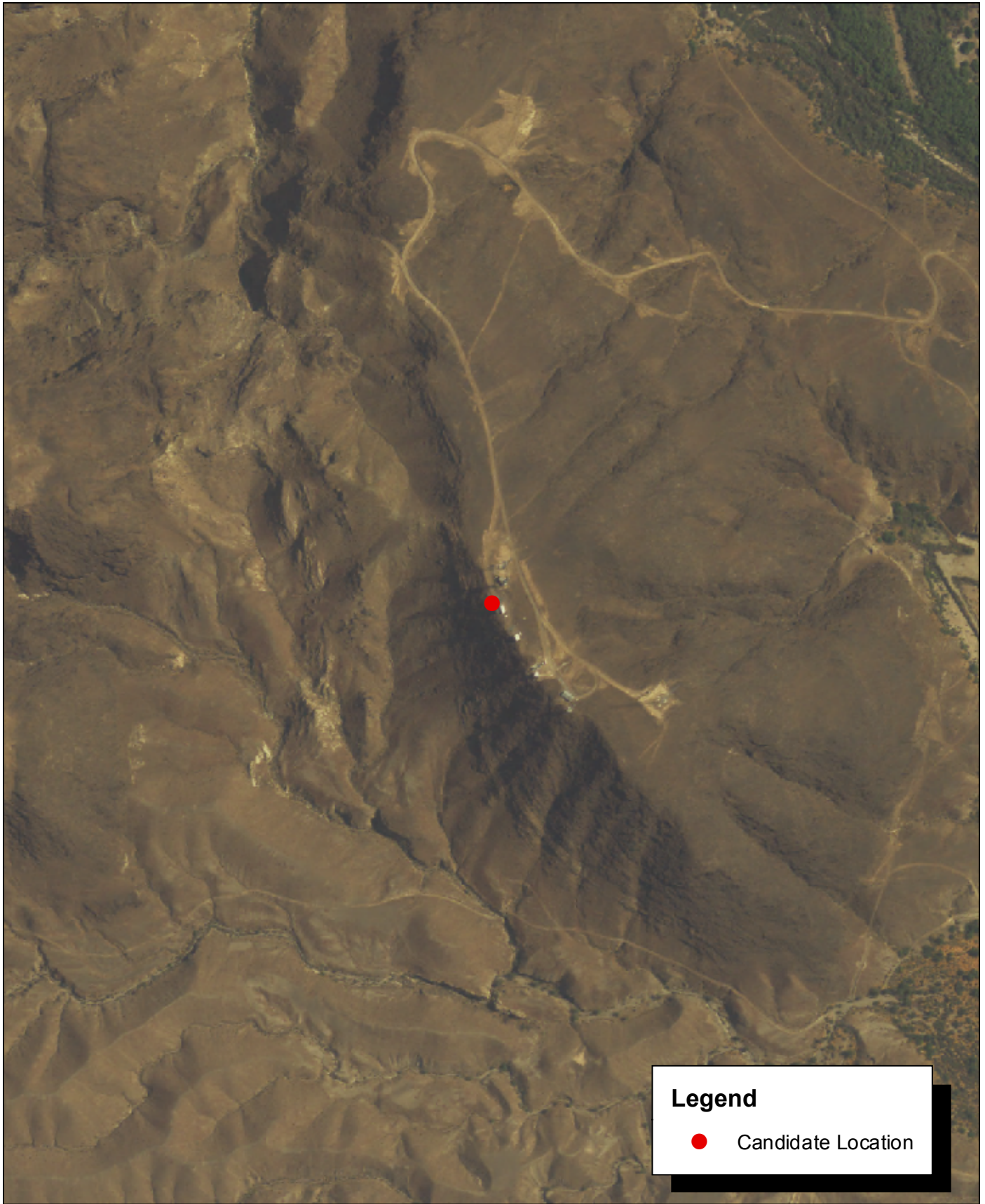
Commercial power is already available at the site to serve the existing communication complex.



Source: USGS Big Maria Mts SE 7.5' Topographic Map.



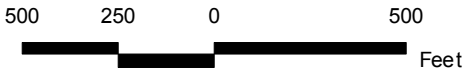
Big Maria Communication Site Local Vicinity Topographic Map



Source: Riverside County NAIP, 2005.



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Big Maria Communication Site Local Vicinity Aerial Map

COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE
PUBLIC SAFETY ENTERPRISE COMMUNICATION PROJECT



Photograph 1: Overview of Big Maria candidate location, facing south.



Photograph 2: View of the Big Maria candidate area, facing east-southeast.



Photograph 3: View of the Big Maria candidate area, facing north.



Photograph 4: View of the Big Maria candidate area, facing north. (Similar to Photograph 3)

Source: Michael Brandman Associates, 2008.



Michael Brandman Associates

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Big Maria Candidate Photographs 1 to 4
PSEC Project



Photograph 5: View from Big Maria candidate location, facing east.



Photograph 2: View from Big Maria candidate location, facing north.



Photograph 3: View from Big Maria candidate location, facing south.



Photograph 4: View from Big Maria candidate location, facing west.

Source: Michael Brandman Associates, 2008.



Michael Brandman Associates

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Big Maria Candidate Photographs 5 to 8
PSEC Project