

**Whitewater Communication Site**

**Overview**

The site is located atop a hill at an existing County communication facility within the San Gorgonio Pass “windmill farm,” approximately 1 mile northwest of the Interstate 10 and State Route 62 junction. The proposed project would remove the existing County tower and equipment shelter and replace them with upgraded facilities.

**Table 1: Whitewater Communication Site**

Latitude <sup>1</sup>	Longitude <sup>1</sup>	Elev <sup>2</sup>	Address	T/R/S <sup>3</sup>	APN <sup>4</sup>	USGS Quadrangle
33°55’26.2”	116°37’01.1”	1,726	79 Whitewater Hill, Banning, CA 92282	3S, 3E, Sec. 12	516-130-011	Desert Hot Springs
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 atop a hill within the San Gorgonio Pass “windmill farm.” Interstate 10 is located approximately 0.50 mile to the south, and State Route 62 is located approximately 1 mile to the east. Several hundred large wind turbines are located in this portion of the windmill farm, as well as several communication towers. This area is at the eastern end of San Gorgonio Pass at the head of the Coachella Valley, and serves as an important thoroughfare for a variety of critical infrastructure elements that serve the greater Los Angeles Basin, including the underground Colorado River Aqueduct, numerous electrical transmission lines, the Union Pacific Railroad, several high-pressure gas lines, and Interstate 10.

**Topography and Vegetation**

The site is located on a low hill that is locally known as “Whitewater Hill.” The Whitewater River emerges from the San Bernardino Mountains approximately 1 mile west of the site. The activities at the windmill farm have significantly impacted the landscape and vegetation in the area. The site itself is highly disturbed by the existing communication facilities, access roads, and wind turbines in the immediate vicinity. The vegetation around the site consists of a sparse, heavily-disturbed, creosote bush scrub plant community. The plant species include creosote bush and burro-weed.

**Land Ownership and Applicable Habitat/Land Management Plan**

The site is located on federal land managed by the BLM South Coast/Palm Springs Office and is subject to the Coachella Valley amendment (CVP) of the California Desert Conservation Area Plan. The CVP was designed to coincide with the Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (CVMSHCP), so that compliance with the CVMSHCP would provide consistency with the CVP. The study area is located within the “Upper Mission Creek/Big Morongo Canyon”

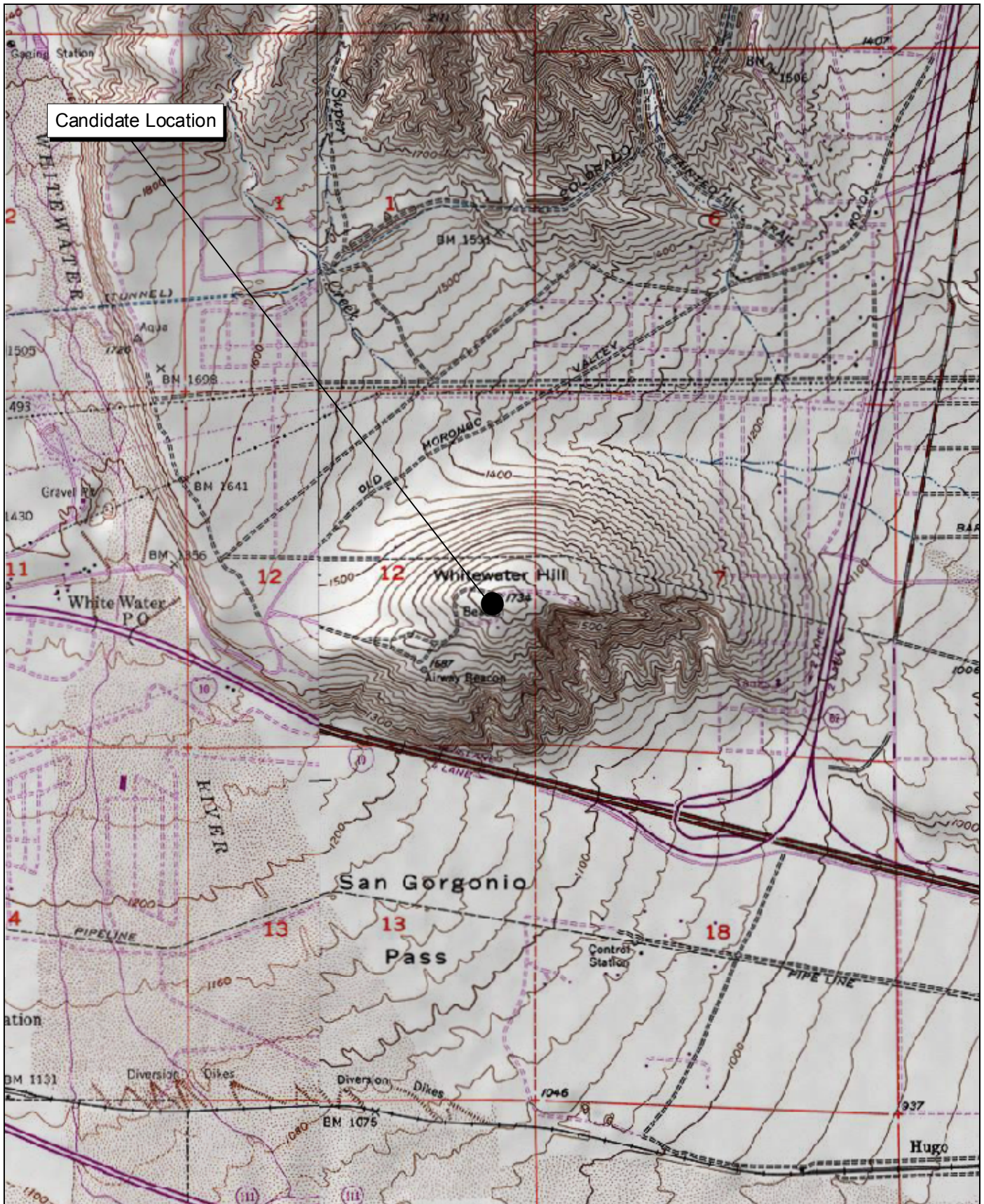
Conservation Area. The species targeted for conservation include Coachella Valley Jerusalem cricket, Coachella Valley milkvetch, and desert tortoise.

**Road Access**

Numerous dirt access roads lead directly to the site and the surrounding wind turbines.

**Commercial Power Access**

Commercial power is available at the existing communication facility.



Source: USGS Desert Hot Springs 7.5' Topographic Map.



Michael Brandman Associates  
 27490003 • 04/2008 | whitewater.mxd

## Whitewater Communication Site Local Vicinity Topographic Map

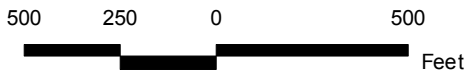
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE  
 PUBLIC SAFETY ENTERPRISE COMMUNICATION PROJECT



Source: Riverside County NAIP, 2005.



27490003 • 02/2008 | whitewater\_aerial.mxd



## Whitewater Communication Site Local Vicinity Aerial Map

COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE  
PUBLIC SAFETY ENTERPRISE COMMUNICATION PROJECT



Photograph 1: View toward Whitewater candidate location, facing west.



Photograph 2: View toward Whitewater candidate location, facing southwest.



Photograph 3: View toward Whitewater candidate location, facing south.



Photograph 4: View toward Whitewater candidate location, facing west.

Source: Michael Brandman Associates, 2008.



Michael Brandman Associates

27490003 • 02/2008 | Whitewater\_Photo1.doc

Whitewater Candidate Photographs 1 to 4  
PSEC Project



Photograph 5: View from Whitewater candidate location, facing east.



Photograph 6: View from Whitewater candidate location, facing south.



Photograph 7: View from Whitewater candidate location, facing west.



Photograph 8: View from Whitewater candidate location, facing north.

Source: Michael Brandman Associates, 2008.



Michael Brandman Associates

27490003 • 02/2008 | Whitewater\_Photo2.doc

Whitewater Candidate Photographs 5 to 8  
PSEC Project