
Box Springs

The Box Springs study area is located in the Box Springs Mountains, 0.5 mile northwest of the City of Moreno Valley.

Existing Conditions

General Site Conditions

The study area is located along the ridge of the Box Springs Mountains. The elevation of the study area is approximately 3,080 feet above sea level. The soils present consist of rockland, based on the USDA soil survey. Land use in the vicinity consists of open space to the north, west, and east, and an existing communication facility to the south. A north-south dirt access road also occurs along the ridge. The study area is subject to disturbance associated with illegal dumping, off-road vehicle use, and maintenance activities associated with the existing communication facility.

Vegetation

The vegetation in the study area consists of a non-native grassland with sparsely scattered shrubs. The plant species observed predominantly include non-native grasses and ruderal species, such as brome grass (*Bromus* sp.) and black mustard (*Brassica nigra*). The shrubs observed include California buckwheat (*Eroginum fasciculatum*) and deerweed (*Lotus scoparius*).

Wildlife

Wildlife activity was low during the survey. Wildlife species observed includes common raven (*Corvus corax*) and Anna's hummingbird (*Calypte anna*). Species expected to occur are those commonly found in open, hilly, rocky habitats such as western rattlesnake (*Crotalus viridis*), deer mouse (*Peromyscus maniculatus*), and mourning dove (*Zenaida macroura*).

Sensitive Biological Resources

Sensitive Species

Federally and State Listed Species

No habitat for any State- or federally-listed threatened or endangered species occurs within the study area. Therefore, the development of the study area is not anticipated to impact any plant or animal species protected under CESA or FESA.

WRMSHCP

The study area is located within an area identified by the WRMSHCP as requiring a habitat assessment for Nevin's barberry (*Berberis nevinii*), a State- and federally-listed endangered species covered by the WRMSHCP, burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*), a CSC covered by the WRMSHCP, round-leaved filaree (*California macrophylla*), and smooth tarplant (*Centromadia pungens* ssp. *laevis*), both CNPS listed species covered by the WRMSHCP. However, no suitable habitat for any of these species was observed on or adjacent to the study area and no impacts to the species are anticipated.

The study area does contain suitable habitat for California horned lark (*Eremophila alpestris actia*) and northern red diamond rattlesnake (*Crotalus ruber ruber*), both CSC covered by the WRMSHCP, Robinson's peppergrass (*Lepidium virginicum var. robinsonii*), Payson's jewel-flower (*Caulanthus simulans*), and Plummer's mariposa lily (*Calochortus plummerae*), all CNPS List 1B.2 species covered by the WRMSHCP. None of these species were observed within the study area. Impacts to these species' habitats have been adequately accounted for by the WRMSHCP and if the development of the study area is found consistent with the WRMSHCP, then further consideration of potential impacts will not be necessary.

Other Sensitive Species

No suitable habitat for sensitive species not specifically protected under any other policy occurs on the study area.

Critical Habitat

The study area is not located within any USFWS designated Critical Habitat.

Nesting Birds

No nests or nesting activities were observed during the survey; however, the vegetation adjacent to the study area contains suitable nesting habitat for ground-nesting avian species, such as horned lark.

California Desert Native Plant Act

No plant species protected under the CDNPA were observed within the study area and no impacts associated with the development of the study area are anticipated to occur.

Jurisdictional Waters

No drainage features, wetlands, vernal pools, or suitable habitat for sensitive fairy shrimp species occur on or in the vicinity of the study area. No waters or wetlands potentially under the jurisdiction of the State or the United States will be impacted by the development of the study area.

Wildlife Corridors and Movement

Given the limited size and minimal disturbance associated with the development of the study area, no impacts to any wildlife corridors or wildlife movement patterns are anticipated.

Applicable HCP or Land Use Management Plan

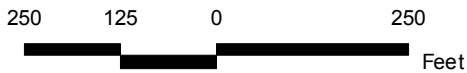
The study area is owned and operated by the County of Riverside and is subject to the WRMSHCP. The study area is located within the "Reche Canyon/Badlands" Area Plan, SU-1 Sycamore Canyon/Box Springs Sub-unit, and falls within Criteria Cell 640.

SKRHCP

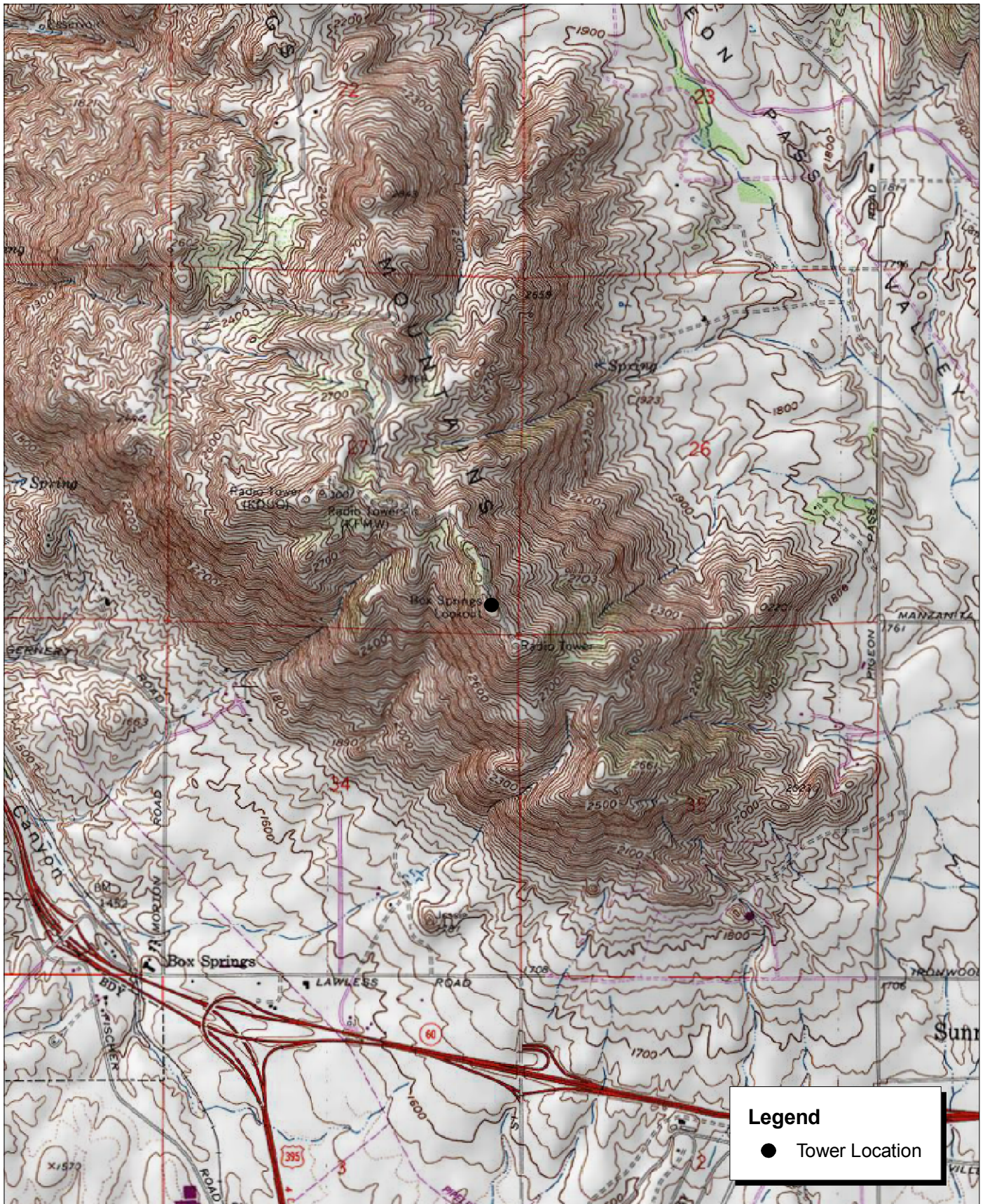
The study area is located within a fee area under the Western Riverside County SKRHCP.



Source: Riverside County NAIP, 2005.



Box Springs Communication Site Local Vicinity Aerial Map



Source: USGS Riverside East 7.5' Topographic Map.



Box Springs Communication Site Local Vicinity Topographic Map



Source: USDA Soils Data (NRCS).



Michael Brandman Associates

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Box Springs Communication Site USDA Soils Map

COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE
PUBLIC SAFETY ENTERPRISE COMMUNICATION PROJECT



Photograph 1: View toward Box Springs candidate location, facing east.



Photograph 2: View toward Box Springs candidate location, facing northwest.



Photograph 3: View toward Box Springs candidate location, facing south.



Photograph 4: View toward Box Springs candidate location, facing north.

Source: Michael Brandman Associates, 2008.



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Box Springs Candidate Photographs 1 to 4
PSEC Project



Photograph 5: View from Box Springs candidate location, facing east.



Photograph 6: View from Box Springs candidate location, facing south.



Photograph 7: View from Box Springs candidate location, facing southwest.



Photograph 8: View from Box Springs candidate location, facing northwest.

Source: Michael Brandman Associates, 2008.



Michael Brandman Associates

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Box Springs Candidate Photographs 5 to 8 PSEC Project

Box Springs

 RIVERSIDE
 COUNTY
 T L M A

TRANSPORTATION & LAND MANAGEMENT AGENCY


Western Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP)

APN	Cell	Cell Group	Acres	Area Plan	Sub Unit
256030006	Not A Part	Independent	1.14	Reche Canyon / Badlands	Not a Part
256030006	640	B	13.52	Reche Canyon / Badlands	SU1 - Sycamore Canyon/Box Springs East

HABITAT ASSESSMENTS

Habitat assessment shall be required and should address at a minimum potential habitat for the following species:

APN	Amphibia Species	Burrowing Owl	Criteria Area Species	Mammalian Species	Narrow Endemic Plant Species	Special Linkage Area
256030006	NO	YES	YES	NO	NO	NO

Burrowing Owl

Burrowing owl.

Criteria Area Species

6) Nevin's Barberry, Smooth tarplant, Round-leaved filaree

If potential habitat for these species is determined to be located on the property, focused surveys may be required during the appropriate season.

Background

The final MSHCP was approved by the County Board of Supervisors on June 17, 2003. The federal and state permits were issued on June 22, 2004 and implementation of the MSHCP began on June 23, 2004.

For more information concerning the MSHCP, contact your local city or the County of Riverside for the unincorporated areas. Additionally, the Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority (RCA), which oversees all the cities and County implementation of the MSHCP, can be reached at:

Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority
 4080 Lemon Street, 12th Floor
 Riverside, CA 92502-1604

Phone: 951-955-9700
 Fax: 951-955-8873

www.wrc-rca.org

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