
Cajalco

The Cajalco study area is located on a ridge of the rolling hills north of Cajalco Canyon, in the southeast portion of the City of Corona.

Existing Conditions

General Site Conditions

The study area is located on a mostly undeveloped ridge adjacent to an existing water tank and communication facility. The elevation of the study area is approximately 1,215 feet above sea level. The soils present consist of Temescal rocky loam, based on the USDA soil surveys. Land use in the vicinity consists of open space to the north and west, a dirt access road followed by open space to the east, and the water tank and communication facility with associated dirt access roads to the south. An east-west drainage feature occurs approximately 200 feet north of the study area. The study area was recently subject to a low-intensity burn. In addition to the burn event, the study area is subject to disturbance associated with off-road vehicle use.

Vegetation

The vegetation on the study area consists of a non-native grassland with sparsely scattered shrubs and trees. Two Mexican elderberry (*Sambucus mexicana*) trees were the only living specimens observed on the study area. Remnants of deceased plant specimens observed on the study area include brome grass (*Bromus* sp.), tocalote (*Centaurea melitensis*), California goldfields (*Lasthenia californica*), and sparse occurrences of brittlebush (*Encelia farinosa*).

Wildlife

Wildlife activity was moderate during the survey. Wildlife species observed include western fence lizard (*Sceloporus occidentalis*), red coachwhip (*Masticophis flagellum piceus*), American kestrel (*Falco sparverius*), and wrentit (*Chamaea fasciata*).

Sensitive Biological Resources

Sensitive Species

Federally and State Listed Species

Habitat for any State- or federally-listed threatened or endangered species not already covered by an existing HCP does not occur 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 San Diego (dwarf burr) ambrosia (*Ambrosia pumila*), a federally-listed endangered species covered by the WRMSHCP, Brand's phacelia (*Phacelia stellaris*), San Miguel savory (*Satureja chandleri*), both CNPS listed species covered by the WRMSHCP, and burrowing owl, a CSC covered by the WRMSHCP. None of the above species were observed on the study area. The

study area contains suitable habitat for San Diego ambrosia, Brand's phacelia and San Miguel savory, however, no suitable habitat for burrowing owl was observed on or in the vicinity of the study area. Focused surveys for San Diego ambrosia, Brand's phacelia, and San Miguel savory will be required to determine the current occupancy status.

SKRHCP

The study area contains suitable habitat for Stephens' kangaroo rat (*Dipodomys stephensii*), a federally-listed endangered and State-listed threatened species covered under the SKRHCP. The species was not observed within the study area. Impacts to the species' habitat have been adequately accounted for by the SKRHCP and if the payment of the SKRHCP fee is paid, 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 (*Eremophila alpestris*).

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

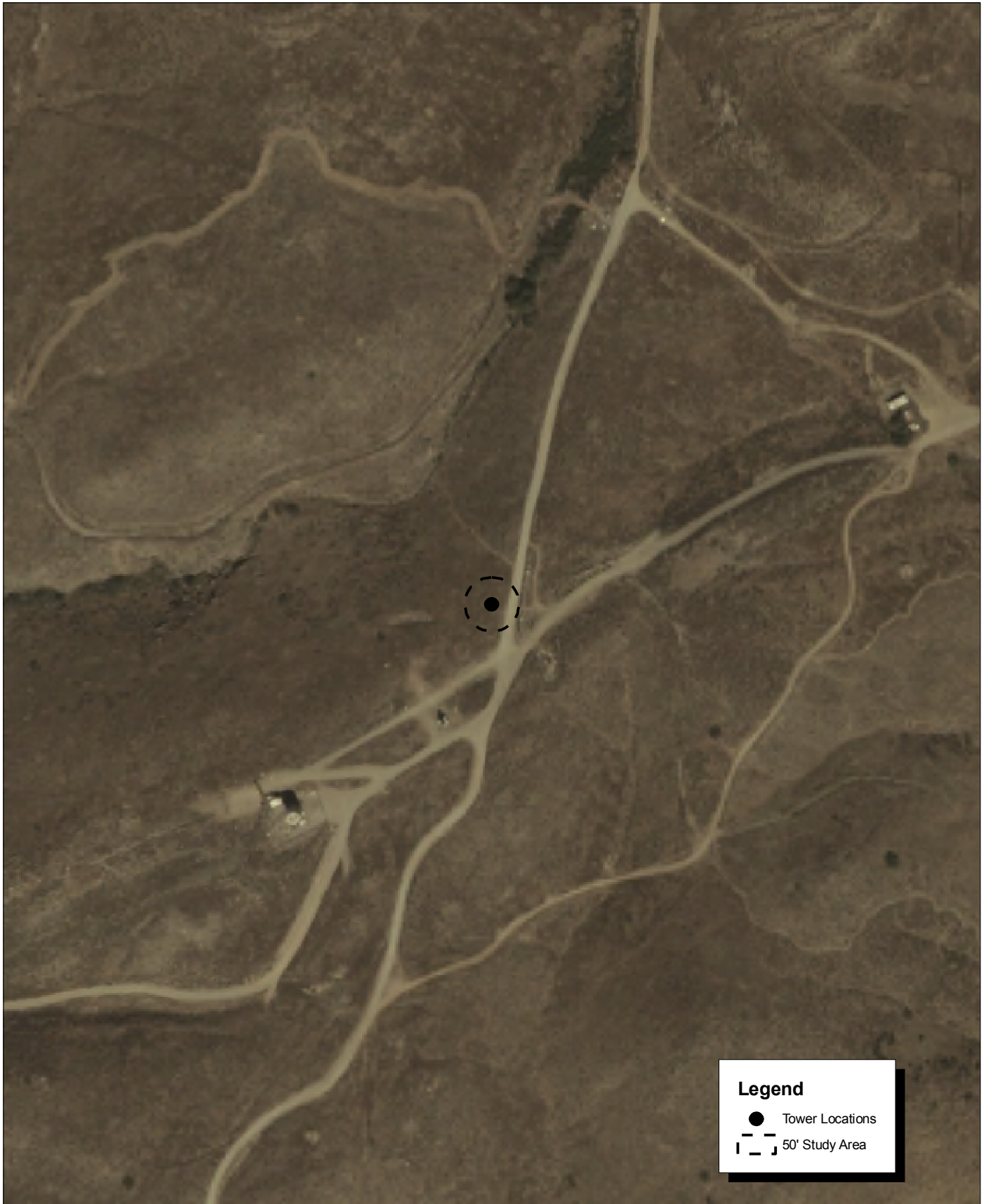
WRMSHCP

The study area is located on land owned by the Metropolitan Water District (MWD) but will be leased by the County so development of the project at this site would be subject to the WRMSHCP.

The study area is located within an Existing Core Area in the “Temescal Canyon” Area Plan, SU4-Sierra Hills/Lake Mathews West Sub-unit, and falls within Criteria Cell 7355.

SKRHCP

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

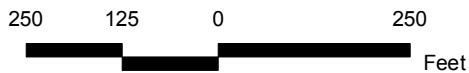


Source: Riverside County NAIP, 2005.



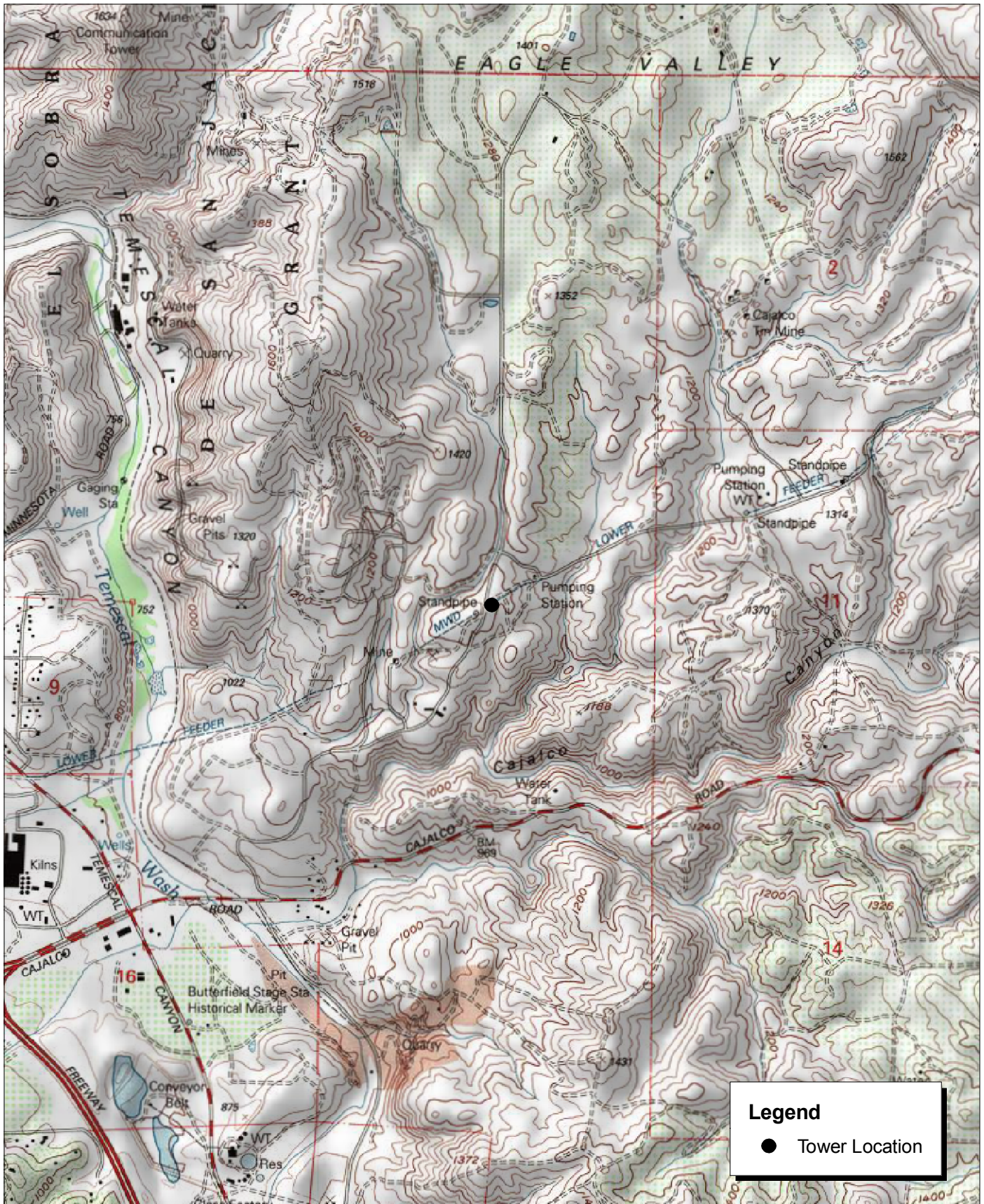
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Cajalco Communication Site Local Vicinity Aerial Map

COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE
PUBLIC SAFETY ENTERPRISE COMMUNICATION PROJECT



Source: USGS El Lake Mathews 7.5' Topographic Map.



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Cajalco Communication Site Local Vicinity Topographic Map

COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE
PUBLIC SAFETY ENTERPRISE COMMUNICATION PROJECT

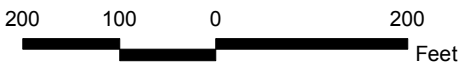


Source: USDA Soils Data (NRCS).



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Cajalco Communication Site USDA Soils Map

COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE
PUBLIC SAFETY ENTERPRISE COMMUNICATION PROJECT



Photograph 1: Overview toward Cajalco candidate location, facing northeast.



Photograph 2: View toward Cajalco candidate location, facing southeast.



Photograph 3: View toward Cajalco candidate location, facing southwest.



Photograph 4: View toward Cajalco candidate location, facing northwest.

Source: Michael Brandman Associates, 2008.





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



Photograph 6: View from Cajalco candidate location, facing northeast.



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



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

Source: Michael Brandman Associates, 2008.



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Cajalco Candidate Photographs 5 to 8
PSEC Project

Cajalco

Western Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP)

APN	Cell	Cell Group	Acres	Area Plan	Sub Unit
278150005	Not A Part	Independent	75.55	Temescal Canyon	Not a Part
278150005	2211	Independent	39.44	Temescal Canyon	SU4 - Sierra Hills/Lake Mathews West
278150005	2307	Independent	4.33	Temescal Canyon	SU4 - Sierra Hills/Lake Mathews West

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
278150005	NO	YES	NO	NO	YES	NO

Burrowing Owl

Burrowing owl.

Narrow Endemic Plant Species

7) San Diego ambrosia, Brand's Phacelia, San Miguel savory

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