
Elsinore Peak

The Elsinore Peak study area is located in the Cleveland National Forest (CNF) on Elsinore Peak, approximately 2 miles south of Lake Elsinore.

Existing Conditions

General Site Conditions

The study area is located mostly on a graded portion of Elsinore Peak within a large and well-established communication tower complex. The majority of the study area is enclosed within chain-link fencing associated with the existing communication facilities. The elevation of the study area is approximately 3,557 feet above sea level. The soils present consist of Cieneba-rock outcrop complex, Cieneba-Blasingame-rock outcrop complex, and Bosanko-Balcom complex, based on the USDA soil surveys. Land use on and in the vicinity consists of multiple communication facilities in all directions. Beyond the facilities is undeveloped open space. The study area is subject to disturbance associated with existing facility maintenance.

Vegetation

The vast majority of the study area contains no vegetation, as it occurs on a graded pad within a fenced communication facility. What little vegetation there is consists of sparse, disturbance-associated plant species such as black mustard (*Brassica nigra*), filaree (*Erodium* sp.), and non-native grasses such as vulpia (*Vulpia* sp.) and wild oat (*Avena* sp.). Various sprouting native plant species are also sparsely scattered across the pad, including Davidson's buckwheat (*Eriogonum davidsonii*), California aster (*Lessingia filaginifolia*), and deerweed (*Lotus scoparius*). The vegetation beyond the communication facilities along the slopes consist of a coastal sage scrub plant community that transitions into an adjacent, low growing, mixed chaparral plant community to the east.

Wildlife

No wildlife was observed during the survey. Evidence of bobcat (*Felis rufus*) was observed. Species expected to occur are those commonly found in open chaparral habitats such as California towhee (*Pipilo crissalis*), western rattlesnake (*Crotalus viridis*), and woodrat (*Neotoma* sp.).

Sensitive Biological Resources

Sensitive Species

Federally and State Listed Species

The study area contains suitable habitat for Munz's onion (*Allium munzii*), a federally-listed endangered and a State-listed threatened species. The species was not observed within the study area. Focused surveys are necessary to determine the occupancy status of the species onsite.

USFS Sensitive and Watch List Species

The study area contains suitable habitat for San Diego (coast) horned lizard (*Phrynosoma coronatum*), long-spined spineflower (*Chorizanthe polygonoides* var. *longispina*), and rainbow

manzanita (*Arctostaphylos rainbowensis*), all USFS Region 5 Sensitive List species; and Bell's sage sparrow (*Amphispiza belli belli*), northern red-diamond rattlesnake (*Crotalus ruber ruber*), orange-throated whiptail (*Aspidoscelis hyperythra*), San Diego black-tailed jackrabbit (*Lepus californicus bennettii*), and southern California rufous-crowned sparrow (*Aimophila ruficeps canescens*), all species USFS Region 5 Watch List species. None of the species were observed within the study area. Regardless, species identified as sensitive by the USFS are not directly protected by any State or federal laws or policies.

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 located within Critical Habitat for Munz's onion (*Allium munzii*), as designated by the USFWS. Because marginally suitable habitat occurs on the study area, focused surveys must be conducted for Munz's onion prior to consultation with the USFWS and USFS.

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 shrub nesting avian species, such as California towhee.

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 located on federal land managed by the USFS. The study area is subject to jurisdiction under the Cleveland National Forest Management Plan (CNFMP). Approval by the USFS must be obtained prior to construction.



Legend

- Tower Location
- 50' Study Area

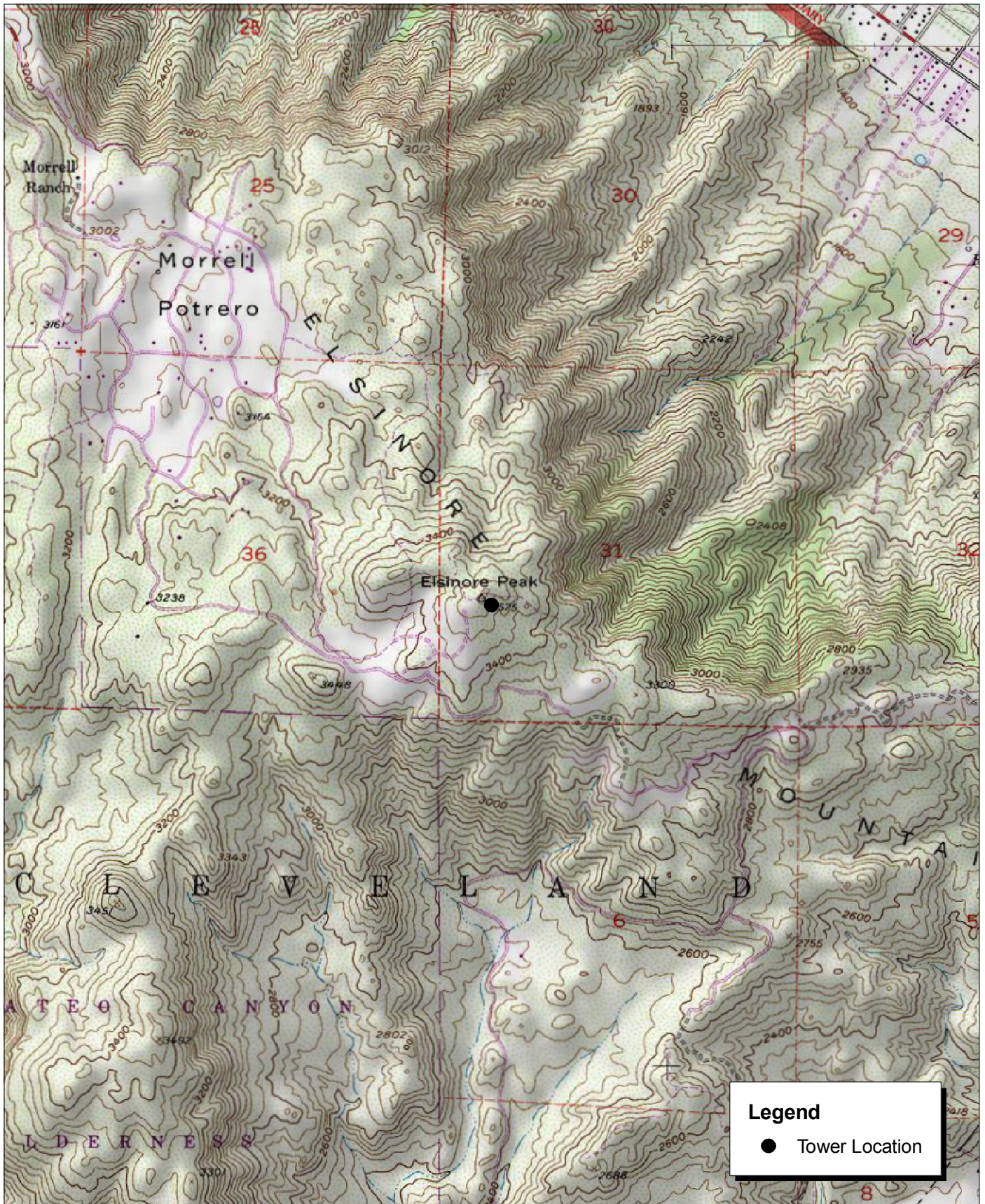
Source: USDA Soils Data (NRCS).

NORTH

200 100 0 Feet

Michael Brandman Associates

Elsinore Peak Communication Site Local Vicinity Map



Source: USGS Wildomar 7.5' Topographic Map.



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Elsinore Peak Communication Site Local Vicinity Topographic Map

COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE
 PUBLIC SAFETY ENTERPRISE COMMUNICATION PROJECT



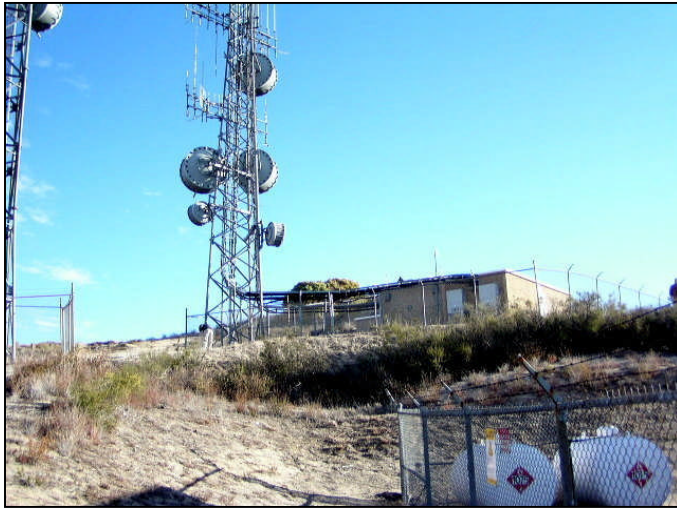
Source: USDA Soils Data (NRCS).



Photograph 1: View toward Elsinore Peak candidate location, facing east.



Photograph 2: View toward Elsinore Peak candidate location, facing west.



Photograph 3: View toward Elsinore Peak candidate location, facing northeast.



Photograph 4: View toward Elsinore Peak candidate location, facing south.

Source: Michael Brandman Associates, 2008.



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Elsinore Peak Candidate Photographs 1 to 4
PSEC Project



Photograph 5: View from Elsinore Peak candidate location, facing north.



Photograph 6: View from Elsinore Peak candidate location, facing west.



Photograph 7: View from Elsinore Peak candidate location, facing south.



Photograph 8: View from Elsinore Peak candidate location, facing east.

Source: Michael Brandman Associates, 2008.



Michael Brandman Associates

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Elsinore Peak Candidate Photographs 5 to 8
PSEC Project

Elsinore Peak**Western Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP)**

APN	Cell	Cell Group	Acres	Area Plan	Sub Unit
382090004	Not A Part	Independent	39.7	Elsinore	Not a Part

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
382090004	YES	NO	NO	NO	YES	NO

Amphibia Species

2) California red-legged frog.

Narrow Endemic Plant Species

9) Many-stemmed dudleya, California Orcutt grass, Spreading navarretia, San Miguel savory, Hammitt's clay-cress, Wright's trichocoronis

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