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## Lake Mathews

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The Lake Mathews study area is located approximately 1.5 miles east of Lake Mathews, and approximately 0.2 mile north of the Colorado River Aqueduct.

### Existing Conditions

#### General Site Conditions

The study area is located on a generally flat, undeveloped lot adjacent to a MWD facility. The elevation of the study area is approximately 1,494 feet above sea level. Soils present consist of Cienega rocky sandy loam and Vista coarse sandy loam, based on the USDA soil survey. Land use in the vicinity consists of a paved road to the north and east, the MWD facility to the west, and open space to the south. The study area is subject to disturbance associated with overflow vehicle parking from the MWD facility.

#### Vegetation

The vegetation on the study area consists of a non-native grassland plant community. The dominant plant species includes short-podded mustard (*Hirschfeldia incana*) and unidentified, non-native grasses. A sparse scattering of native shrubs, including California buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum*) and California aster (*Lessingia filaginifolia*), occur throughout the study area, but are not sufficient enough to constitute a separate plant community.

#### Wildlife

No wildlife species were observed or otherwise detected during the survey. Wildlife species expected to occur are those commonly observed in disturbed grassland habitats such as desert cottontail (*Sylvilagus audubonii*), western fence lizard (*Sceloporus occidentalis*), and killdeer (*Charadrius vociferus*).

### 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 WRMSCHP as requiring a habitat assessment for burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*), a CSC covered by the WRMSHCP, Munz's onion (*Allium munzii*), a federally-listed endangered and State-listed threatened species covered by the WRMSHCP, San Diego (dwarf burr) ambrosia (*Ambrosia pumila*), a federally-listed endangered species covered by the WRMSHCP, spreading navarretia (*Navarretia fossalis*), a federally-listed threatened species covered by the WRMSHCP, slender-horned spineflower (*Dodecahema*

*leptoceras*), many-stemmed dudleya (*Dudleya multicaulis*), California orcutt grass (*Orcuttia californica*), Hammitt's clay-cress (*Sibaropsis hammittii*), Wright's trichocoronis (*Trichocoronis wrightii wrightii*), and San Miguel savory (*Satureja chandleri*), all CNPS listed species covered by the WRMSHCP. None of the species were observed within the study area. Suitable habitat for San Miguel savory and burrowing owl was observed on the study area and focused surveys are necessary to determine the occupation status of the species onsite. However, no suitable habitat for Munz's onion, San Diego ambrosia, slender-horned spineflower, many-stemmed dudleya, spreading navarretia, California orcutt grass, Hammit's clay-cress, or Wright's trichocoronosis was observed on or adjacent to the study area and no impacts to the species are anticipated.

The study area also contains suitable habitat for California horned lark (*Eremophila alpestris actia*), and San Diego pocket mouse (*Chaetodipus fallax fallax*), both CSC covered under the WRMSHCP. Neither of the 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. California horned lark, however, is also protected under the MBTA and CDFG code and impacts to its nesting activities will still need to be avoided.

#### **SKRHCP**

The study area contains suitable habitat for Stephens' kangaroo rat (*Dipodomys stephensi*), a federally-listed endangered and State-listed threatened species covered by the SKRHCP. The species was not observed on the study area. However, because the study area is located in a reserve area of the SKRHCP, focused surveys are necessary to determine the occupancy status of the species onsite.

#### **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 study area contains suitable nesting habitat for ground nesting avian species, such as killdeer.

#### **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**

#### ***WRMESHCP***

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 WRMESHCP. The study area is located within an Existing Core Area in the "Lake Mathews/Woodcrest" Area Plan, but does not fall within a Criteria Cells.

#### ***SKRHCP***

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

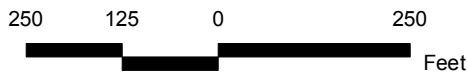


Source: Riverside County NAIP, 2005.



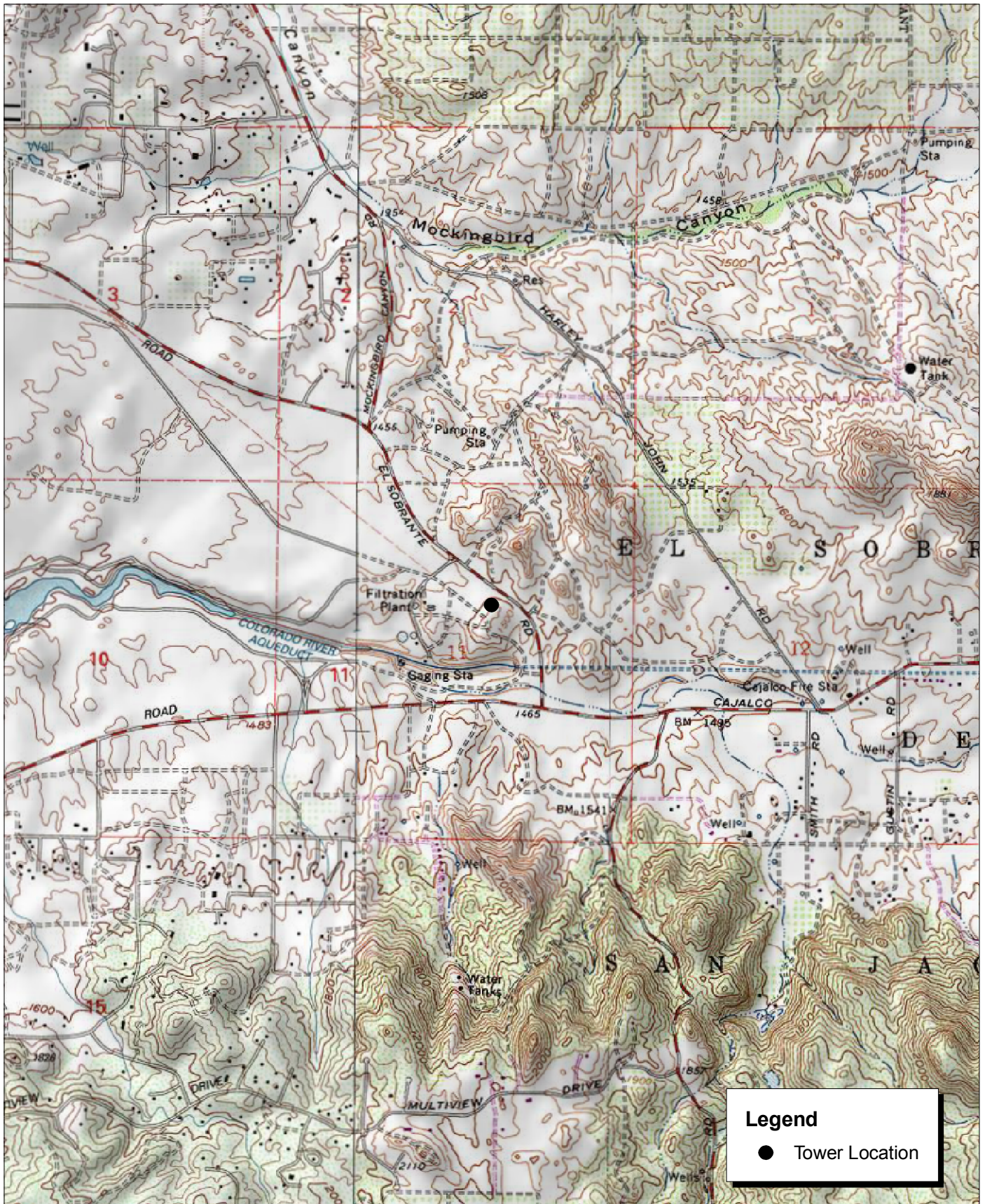
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# Lake Mathews Communication Site Local Vicinity Aerial Map

COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE  
PUBLIC SAFETY ENTERPRISE COMMUNICATION PROJECT



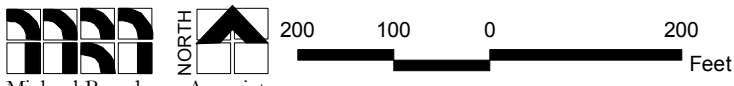
Source: USGS Steele Peak 7.5' Topographic Map.



## Lake Mathews Communication Site Local Vicinity Topographic Map



Source: USDA Soils Data (NRCS).



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# Lake Mathews Communication Site USDA Soils Map

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Photograph 1: View toward Lake Mathews candidate location, facing northwest.



Photograph 2: View toward Lake Mathews candidate location, facing southwest.



Photograph 3: View toward Lake Mathews candidate location, facing south.



Photograph 4: View toward Lake Mathews candidate location, facing west.

Source: Michael Brandman Associates, 2008.



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## Lake Mathews Candidate Photographs 1 to 4 PSEC Project



Photograph 5: View from Lake Mathews candidate location, facing northeast.



Photograph 6: View from Lake Mathews candidate location, facing southeast.



Photograph 7: View from Lake Mathews candidate location, facing southwest.



Photograph 8: View from Lake Mathews candidate location, facing north.

Source: Michael Brandman Associates, 2008.





**Lake Mathews****Western Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP)**

<b>APN</b>	<b>Cell</b>	<b>Cell Group</b>	<b>Acres</b>	<b>Area Plan</b>	<b>Sub Unit</b>
285120030	Not A Part	Independent	230.81	Lake Mathews / Woodcrest	Not a Part

**HABITAT ASSESSMENTS**

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

<b>APN</b>	<b>Amphibia Species</b>	<b>Burrowing Owl</b>	<b>Criteria Area Species</b>	<b>Mammalian Species</b>	<b>Narrow Endemic Plant Species</b>	<b>Special Linkage Area</b>
285120030	NO	YES	NO	NO	YES	NO

**Burrowing Owl**

Burrowing owl.

**Narrow Endemic Plant Species**

1) Munz's onion, San Diego ambrosia, Slender-Horned Spineflower, Many-stemmed dudleya, Spreading navarretia, California Orcutt grass, 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](http://www.wrc-rca.org)