
Margarita (SDSU)

The Margarita (SDSU) study area is on land owned and managed by San Diego State University (SDSU) and is located in the southern portion of the City of Temecula.

Existing Conditions

General Site Conditions

The study area is located on a cleared area adjacent to an existing communication facility. The elevation of the study area is approximately 1,600 feet above sea level. The soils present consist of rockland, based on the USDA soil survey. Land use in the vicinity consists of the communications facility to the east, a dirt access road followed by open space to the north, a trail leading into open space to the west, and undeveloped open space to the south. The study area is subject to disturbance associated with access road maintenance and activities at the adjacent communication tower.

Vegetation

The study area is predominantly bare ground. The vegetation that occurs on the northern, eastern and southern extents of the study area consists of a dense, mixed chaparral plant community. The plant species observed include chamise (*Adenostoma fasciculatum*), manzanita (*Arctostaphylos* sp.), and scrub oak (*Quercus berberidifolia*).

Wildlife

Wildlife activity was low during the survey. Wildlife species observed includes gopher snake (*Pituophis catenifer*). Species expected to occur include those commonly observed in chaparral habitats, such as California towhee (*Pipilo crissalis*) and desert woodrat (*Neotoma lepida*).

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 burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*), a CSC covered by the WRMSHCP. However, no suitable habitat for the species was observed on or adjacent to the study area and no impacts are anticipated.

The study area contains suitable habitat for Quino checkerspot butterfly (*Euphydryas editha quino*), a federally-listed endangered species covered by the WRMSHCP, Bell's sage sparrow (*Amphispiza belli belli*), San Diego (coast) horned lizard (*Phrynosoma coronatum blainvillii*), and red diamond

rattlesnake (*Crotalus ruber ruber*), all SSC covered by the WRMSHCP, and rainbow manzanita (*Arctostaphylos rainbowensis*), a CNPS listed species covered by the WRMSHCP. None of these species were confirmed to occur within the study area. Impacts to these species' habitat 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. Bell's sage sparrow, however, is also protected under the MBTA and CDFG code and impacts to its nesting activities will still need to be avoided.

CNPS Listed Species

The study area contains suitable habitat for lakeside ceanothus (*Ceanothus cyaneus*), Parry's tetradococcus (*Tetradococcus dioicus*), and Gander's ragwort (*Packera ganderi*), all CNPS list 1B.2 species. None of the species were observed within the study area. Regardless, plant species identified as sensitive only by CNPS are not protected by any State or federal laws or policies.

CSC

The study area contains suitable habitat for Coronado skink (*Eumeces skiltonianus interparietalis*), and Dulzura pocket mouse (*Chaetodipus californicus femoralis*), both CSC. The species was not observed within the study area. Regardless, CSC are not 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 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 tree 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

WRMSHCP

The study area is privately owned and operated and is subject to the WRMSHCP. The study area is located within the “Southwest” Area Plan, but does not fall within a Criteria Cell. Development of the study area has potential to impact urban/wildlands interface areas, but would not impact any riparian/riverine areas, as designated by the WRMSHCP.

SKRHCP

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



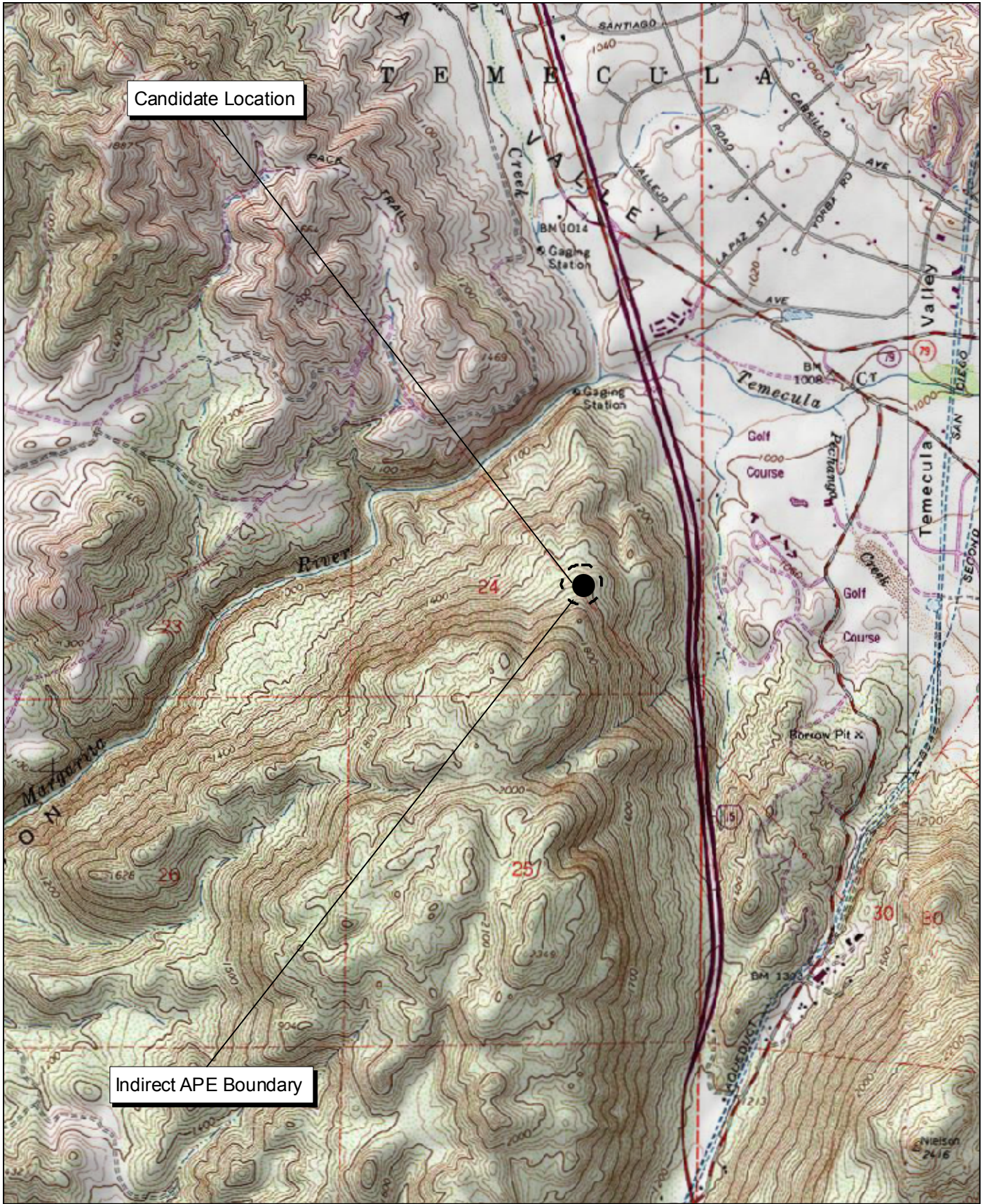
Legend

- Tower Location
- ⊞ 50' Study Area

Source: Riverside County NAIP, 2005.

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Margarita SDSU Communication Site Local Vicinity Aerial Map



Source: USGS Temecula 7.5' Topographic Map.



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Margarita SDSU Communication Site Local Vicinity Topographic Map

COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE
PUBLIC SAFETY ENTERPRISE COMMUNICATION PROJECT

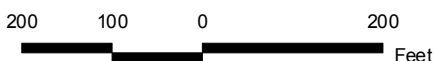


Source: Riverside County NAIP, 2005.



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Margarita SDSU Communication Site USDA Soils Map

COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE
PUBLIC SAFETY ENTERPRISE COMMUNICATION PROJECT



Photograph 1: View toward Margarita SDSU candidate location, facing southwest.



Photograph 2: View toward Margarita SDSU candidate location, facing southeast.



Photograph 3: View toward Margarita SDSU candidate location, facing northeast.



Photograph 4: View toward Margarita SDSU candidate location, facing east.

Source: Michael Brandman Associates, 2008.



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Margarita SDSU Candidate Photographs 1 to 4 PSEC Project



Photograph 5: View from Margarita SDSU candidate location, facing northeast.



Photograph 6: View from Margarita SDSU candidate location, facing south.



Photograph 7: View from Margarita SDSU candidate location, facing east.



Photograph 8: View from Margarita SDSU candidate location, facing west.

Source: Michael Brandman Associates, 2008.



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Margarita SDSU Candidate Photographs 5 to 8
PSEC Project

Margarita (SDSU)RIVERSIDE
COUNTY
TLMA

TRANSPORTATION & LAND MANAGEMENT AGENCY

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

| APN | Cell | Cell Group | Acres | Area Plan | Sub Unit |
|-----------|------------|-------------|-------|----------------|------------|
| 922220013 | Not A Part | Independent | 55.68 | Southwest Area | 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 |
|-----------|------------------|---------------|-----------------------|-------------------|------------------------------|----------------------|
| 922220013 | NO | YES | NO | NO | NO | NO |

Burrowing Owl

Burrowing owl.

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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