
Mecca Landfill

The Mecca Landfill study area is located at a Riverside County Landfill facility, approximately 3 miles north of the Salton Sea and 3 miles east of Mecca.

Existing Conditions

General Site Conditions

The study area is located on an open, transition area between a graded, future landfill pad and a dirt access road that borders a canal. The elevation of the study area is approximately 45 feet above sea level. The soils present consist of Myoma fine sand soils, based on the USDA soil survey; however, because of the study area's proximity to a levee and a landfill, the soils are compilation of the pre existing sand and imported fill material from borrow pits. The soils observed consist of a loamy sand. The study area is bordered by the landfill to the west and Coachella Canal to the east. The study area is subject to heavy disturbance associated with the landfill and the access road.

Vegetation

The vegetation in the study area consists of a heavily disturbed, very sparse stand of creosote bush scrub. The plant species observed include creosote bush (*Larrea tridentata*), four-winged saltbush (*Atriplex canescens*), sand verbena (*Abroni* sp.), black mustard (*Brassica nigra*), and Russian thistle (*Salsola kali*).

Wildlife

Wildlife activity was high during the survey. Wildlife species observed include cliff swallow (*Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*), hooded oriole (*Icterus cucullatus*), great-tailed grackle (*Quiscalus mexicanus*), zebra-tailed lizard (*Callisaurus draconoides*), and western fence lizard (*Sceloporus occidentalis*).

Burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*) was also observed during the survey; however, the species is located offsite, on the parcel east of the Coachella Canal. No burrowing owl or sign of burrowing owl was observed in the study area itself.

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.

CVMSHCP

The study area contains suitable habitat for Palm Springs round-tailed ground squirrel (*Spermophilus tereticaudus chlorus*), burrowing owl, and flat-tailed horned lizard (*Phrynosoma mcallii*), all CSC

covered under the CVMSHCP. Impacts to the species' habitats have been adequately accounted for by the CVMSHCP and if the development of the study area is found consistent with the CVMSHCP, then further consideration of potential impacts will not be necessary. Burrowing owl, however, is also protected under the MBTA and CDFG code and impacts to its nesting activities will still need to be avoided.

CSC

The study area contains suitable habitat for pallid San Diego pocket mouse (*Chaetodipus fallax pallidus*), a CSC. The species was not observed within the study area. Regardless, CSC are not protected by any State or federal laws or policies.

CNPS Listed Species

The study area contains suitable habitat for chaparral sand verbena (*Abronia villosa* var. *aurita*), a CNPS List 1B.1 species; and slender wooly heads (*Nemacaulis denudata* var. *gracilis*), a CNPS List 2.2 species. Neither 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.

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 marginally suitable nesting habitat for disturbance-tolerant, ground nesting birds, such as burrowing owl.

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

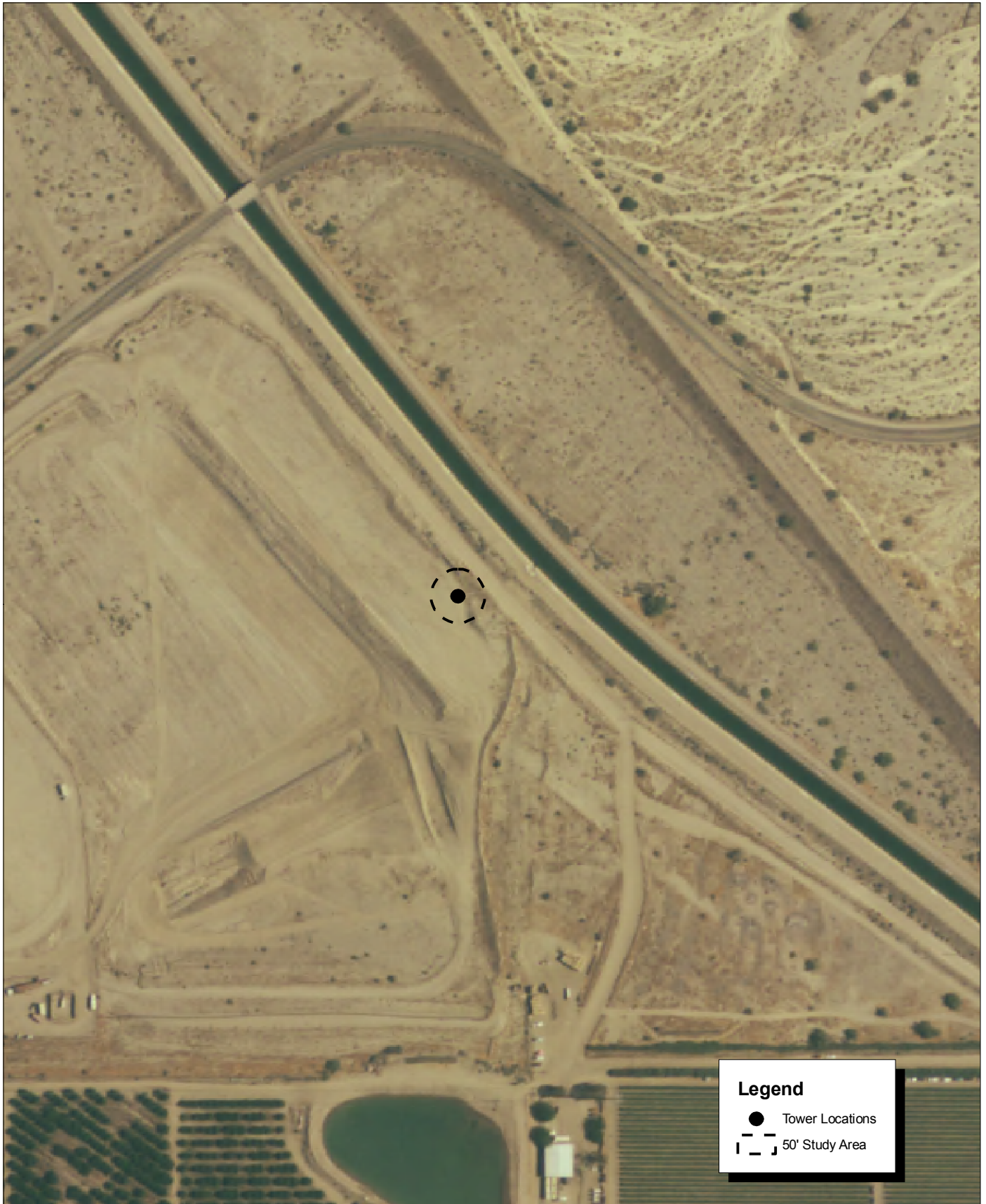
No drainage features, wetlands, vernal pools, or suitable habitat for sensitive fairy shrimp species occur on or in the vicinity of the study area. Coachella Canal, a State and federal jurisdictional water, is located 50 feet east of the study area. However, the canal is bordered by a chain link fence and an access road, and development within the study area will not encroach on the canal facilities.

Wildlife Corridors and Movement

Given the limited size and minimal disturbance associated with the development for 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 CVMSHCP. The study area is not located within any designated Conservation Areas.

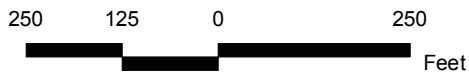


Source: Riverside County NAIP, 2005.



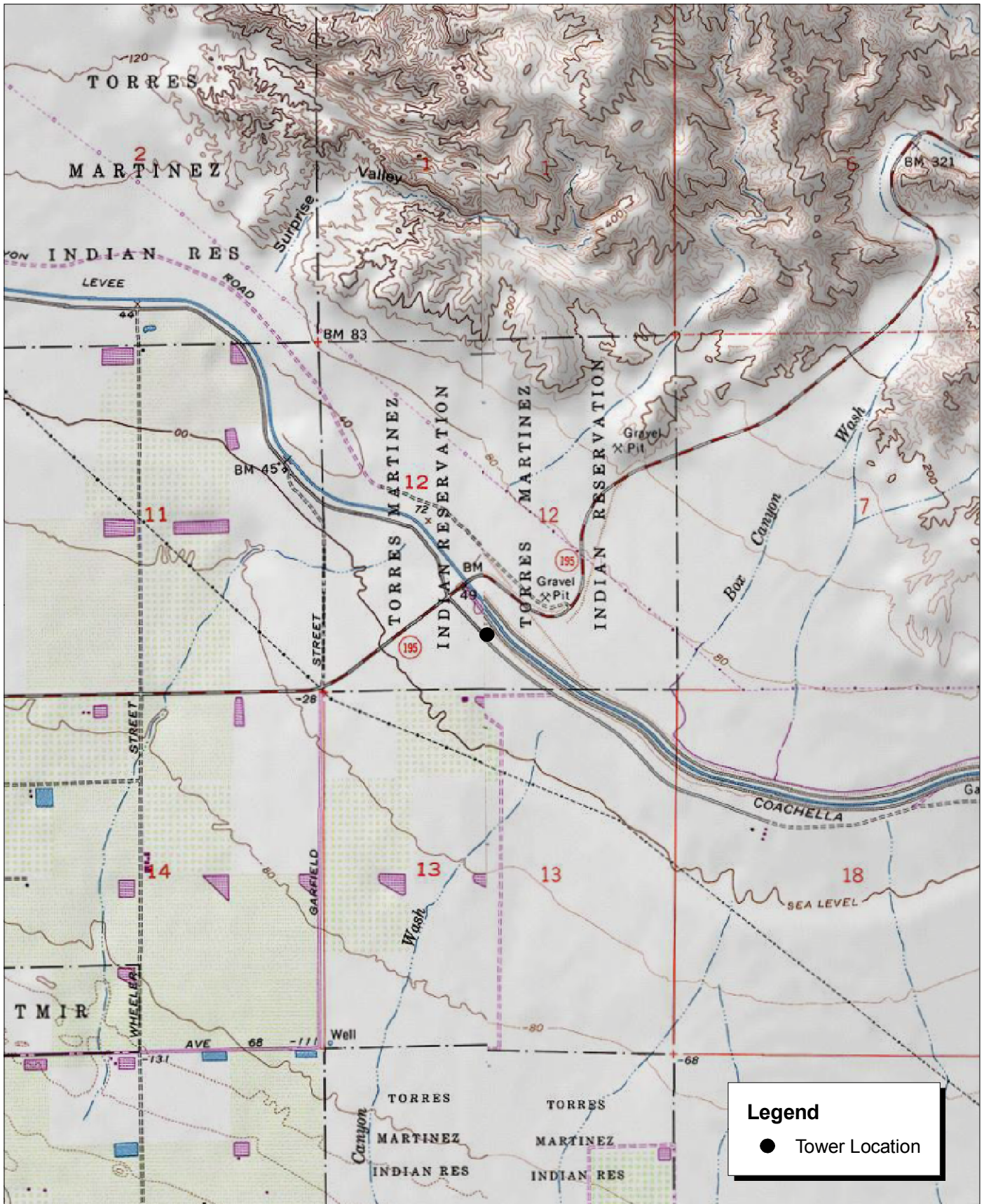
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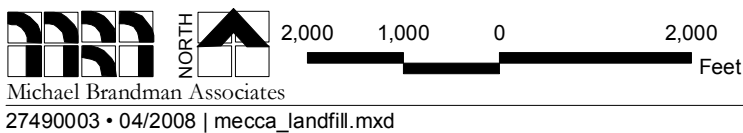


Mecca Landfill Communication Site Local Vicinity Aerial Map

COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE
PUBLIC SAFETY ENTERPRISE COMMUNICATION PROJECT



Source: USGS Mortmar 7.5' Topographic Map.



Mecca Landfill Communication Site Local Vicinity Topographic Map

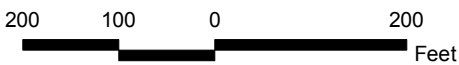


Source: USDA Soils Data (NRCS).



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Mecca Landfill Communication Site USDA Soils Map

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Photograph 1: View toward Mecca Landfill candidate location, facing north-northwest.



Photograph 2: View toward Mecca Landfill candidate location, facing east-southeast.



Photograph 3: View toward Mecca Landfill candidate location, facing west.



Photograph 4: View from Mecca Landfill candidate location, facing north.

Source: Michael Brandman Associates, 2008.



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Mecca Landfill Candidate Photographs 1 to 4
PSEC Project



Photograph 5: View from Mecca Landfill candidate location, facing west.



Photograph 6: View from Mecca Landfill candidate location, facing south.



Photograph 7: View from Mecca Landfill candidate location, facing east.

Source: Michael Brandman Associates, 2008.



Preliminary Conservation Report

Mecca Landfill

Enter your APN (Assesor's Parcel Number) below.
Do not use "-" or other non-numeric characters.

Example 123456789 **NOT** 123-456-789

Your parcel does not appear to be in a conservation area.
If no records are returned and you typed the number correctly your parcel is *not* in a conservation area.

This is a **PRELIMINARY** report and is for informational purposes only.
Property owners with parcels **INSIDE CONSERVATION** areas should contact CVAG for detailed information.

For more information, you can visit the [CVAG](#) and [CVMSHCP](#) websites.



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