
Morongo

The Morongo study area is located north of I-10 in San Geronio Pass, approximately 4 miles east of the City of Banning.

Existing Conditions

General Site Conditions

The study area is located on a flat, undeveloped area. The elevation of the study area is approximately 1,725 feet above sea level. Soils present consist of Soboba cobbly loamy sand, based on the USDA soil survey. Land use in the vicinity consists of an east-west gas pipeline easement and associated dirt access road followed by open space to the south, a dirt access road followed by open space to the east, and undeveloped open space to the north and west. The study area is subject to disturbance associated with illegal dumping.

Vegetation

The vegetation on the study area consists of a dense, tall-growing creosote scrub plant community. The plant species observed include creosote bush (*Larrea tridentata*), ephedra (*Ephedra* sp.), brittlebush (*Encelia farinosa*), snake cholla (*Cylindropuntia californica*), and California barrel cactus (*Ferocactus cylindraceus*).

Wildlife

No wildlife species were observed or otherwise detected during the survey. Species expected to occur are those common in disturbed, desert scrub habitats, such as zebra-tailed lizard (*Callisaurus draconoides*), greater roadrunner (*Geococcyx californianus*), and black-tailed jackrabbit (*Lepus californicus*).

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.

CVMSHCP

The study area contains suitable habitat for desert tortoise (*Gopherus agassizii*), a State- and federally-listed threatened species covered by the CVMSHCP, and Coachella Valley milk-vetch (*Astragalus lentiginosus* var. *coachellae*), a federally-listed endangered species covered by the CVMSHCP, Palm Springs round-tailed ground squirrel (*Spermophilus tereticaudus chlorus*), Le Conte's thrasher (*Toxostoma lecontei*), all CSC covered by the CVMSHCP. None of these species were observed within the study area. Impacts to these species' habitat 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. Le Conte's thrasher, 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 San Diego (coast) horned lizard (*Phrynosoma coronatum*), northwestern San Diego pocket mouse (*Chaetodipus fallax fallax*), and pallid San Diego pocket mouse (*Chaetodipus fallax pallidus*), all CSC species. 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 white-bracted spineflower (*Chorizanthe xanti* var. *leucotheca*), a CNPS List 1B.2 species. The species was not 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 vegetation in the study area contains suitable nesting habitat for shrub nesting avian species, such as wren tit.

California Desert Native Plant Act

Snake cholla and California barrel cactus were observed in the study area and both species are protected under the CDNPA. Snake cholla is protected under Section 80073 of the act, and California barrel cactus is protected under Section 80072. Removal of either species requires that an appropriate permit be obtained.

Jurisdictional Waters

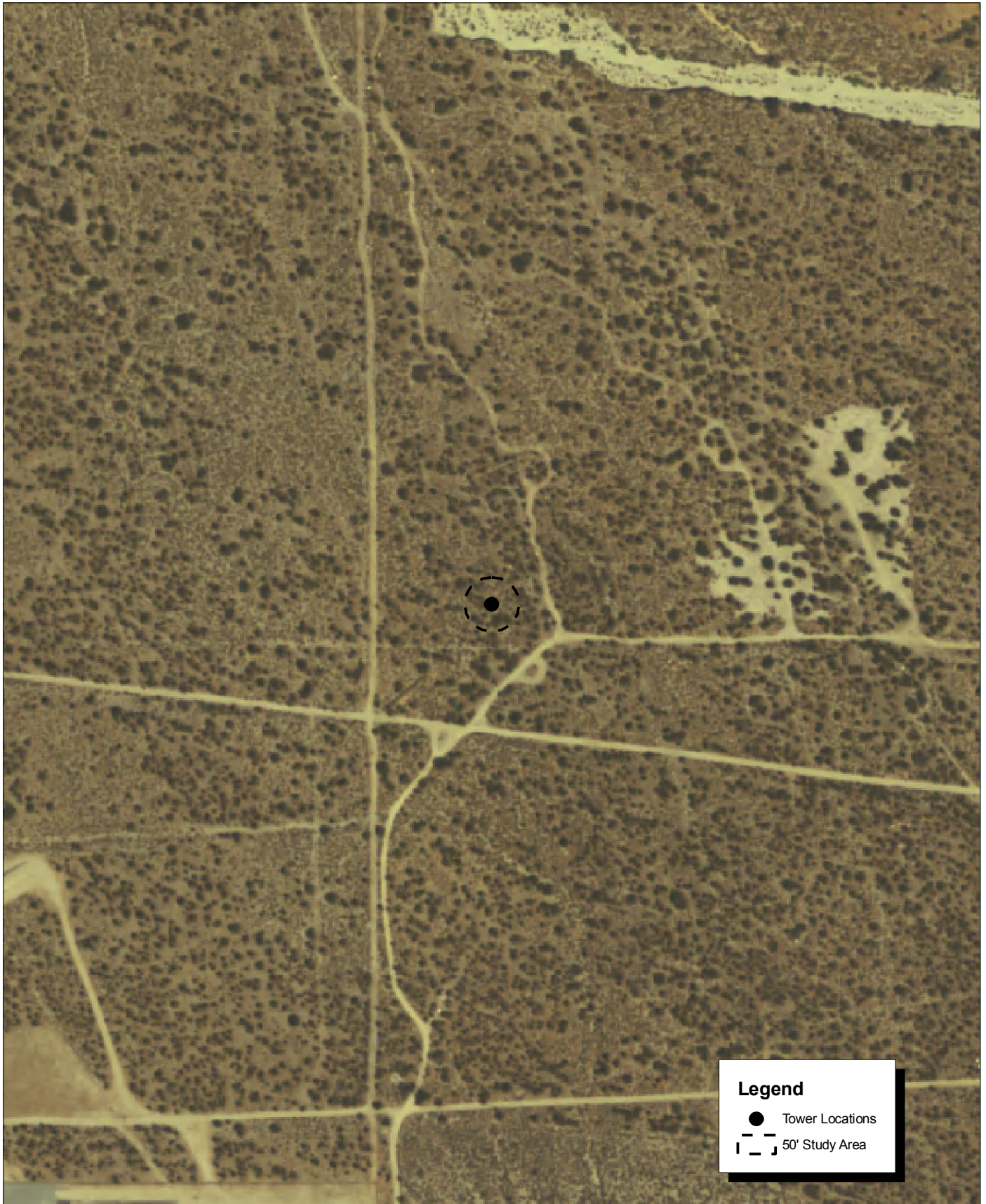
No drainage features, wetlands, vernal pools, or suitable habitat for sensitive fairy shrimp species occur on or in the vicinity of the study area. No waters or wetlands potentially under the jurisdiction of the State or the United States will be impacted by the development of the study area.

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 privately owned and managed, and is subject to the CVMSHCP. The study area is not located within any designated Conservation Area.



Legend

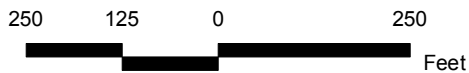
- Tower Locations
- 50' Study Area

Source: Riverside County NAIP, 2005.

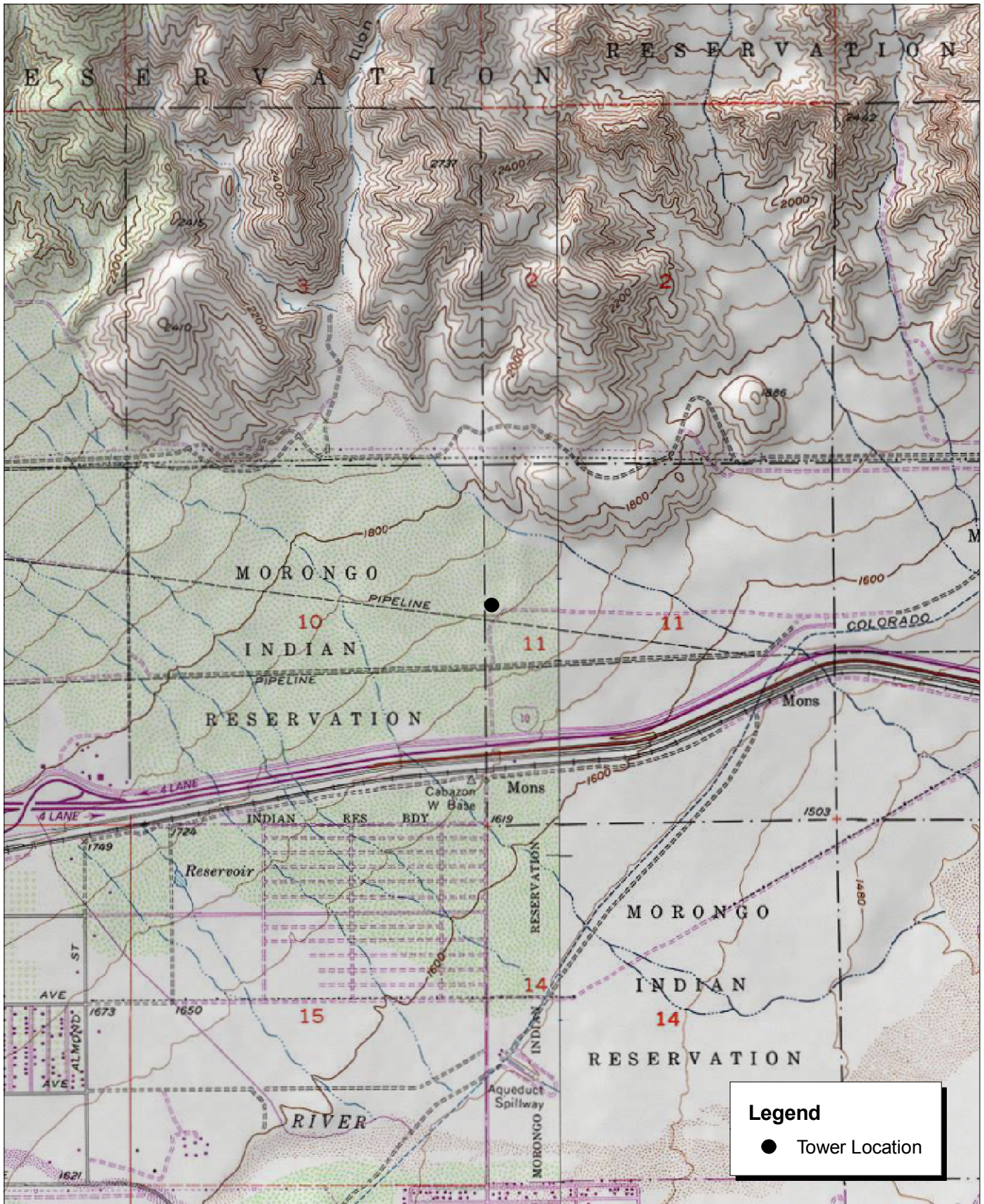


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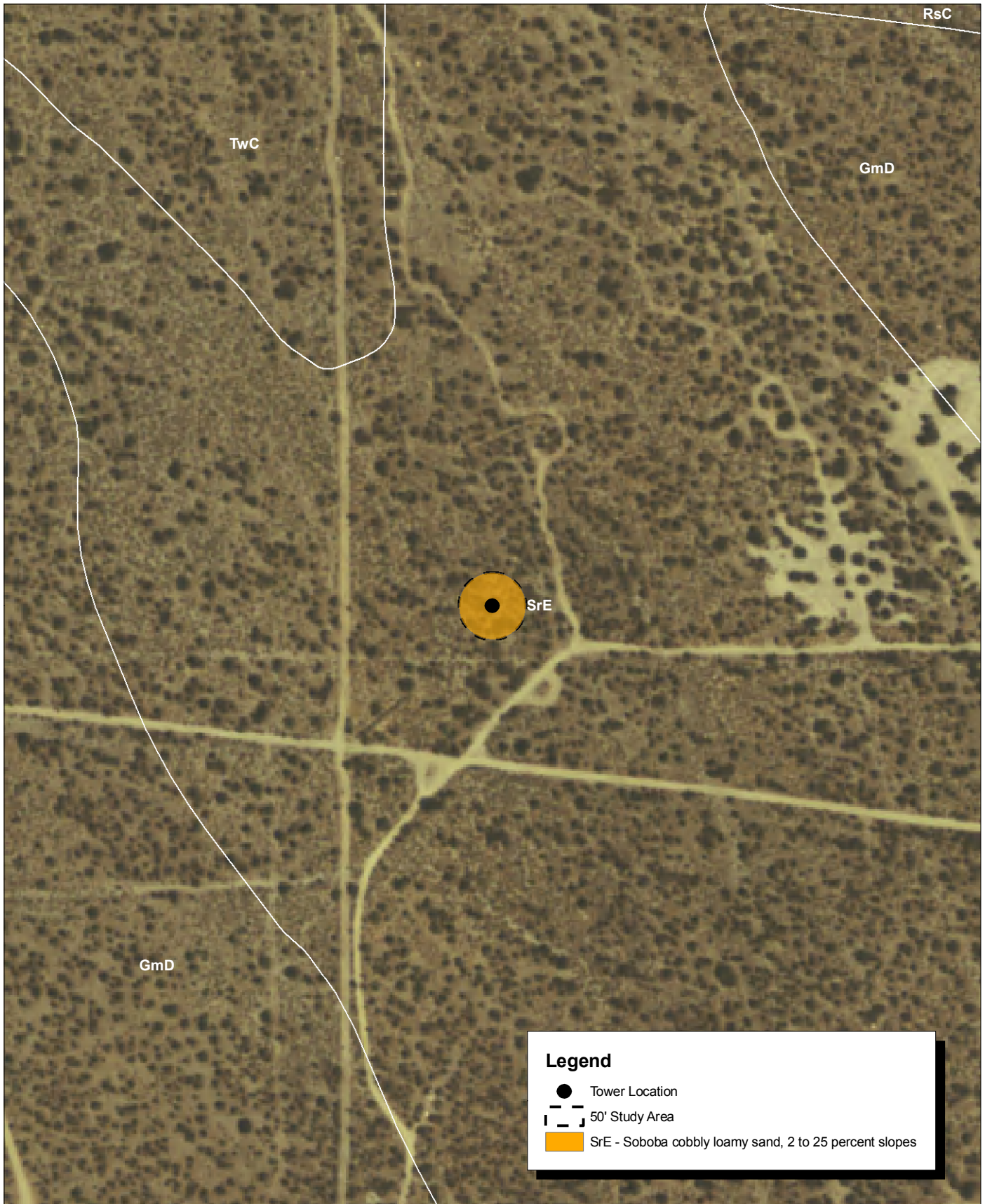
Morongo Communication Site Local Vicinity Aerial Map



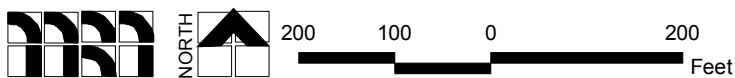
Source: USGS Cabazon 7.5' Topographic Map.



Morongo Communication Site Local Vicinity Topographic Map



Source: USDA Soils Data (NRCS).



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Morongo Communication Site USDA Soils Map

COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE
 PUBLIC SAFETY ENTERPRISE COMMUNICATION PROJECT



Photograph 1: View toward Morongo candidate location, facing north.



Photograph 2: View toward Morongo candidate location, facing south



Photograph 3: View toward Morongo candidate location, facing west.



Photograph 4: View toward Morongo candidate location, facing west.

Source: Michael Brandman Associates, 2008.



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Morongo Candidate Photographs 1 to 4
PSEC Project



Photograph 5: View from Morongo candidate location, facing southwest.



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



Photograph 7: View from Morongo candidate location, facing northwest.



Photograph 8: View from Morongo candidate location, facing southeast.

Source: Michael Brandman Associates, 2008.



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Morongo Candidate Photographs 5 to 8
PSEC Project

Preliminary Conservation Report

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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