
Sunnyslope

The Sunnyslope study area is located in the Pedley Hills, south of the Jurupa Mountains, approximately 2 miles north of the City of Riverside.

Existing Conditions

General Site Conditions

The study area is located on a moderately steep, graded slope, adjacent to an existing water tank facility. The elevation of the study area is approximately 1,094 feet above sea level. Soils present consist of Cienega rocky sandy loam, based on the USDA soil survey. Land uses in the vicinity consist of the water tank facility to the south, residential development to the north and west, and undeveloped open space to the east. The study area is subject to disturbance associated with vegetation clearing activities.

Vegetation

The vegetation on the study area consists predominantly of sparse, ruderal plant species, such as short-podded mustard (*Hirschfeldia incana*), horehound (*Marrubium vulgare*), and tree tobacco (*Nicotiana glauca*), but also contains sparse occurrences of brittlebush (*Encelia farinosa*). The southeastern portion of the study area contains vegetation associated with a coastal sage scrub plant community. Plant species observed include brittlebush, deerweed (*Lotus scoparius*), black sage (*Salvia mellifera*), snake cholla (*Cylindropuntia californica*), and short-podded mustard.

Wildlife

Wildlife activity was moderate during the survey. Wildlife species observed during the survey include black-tailed jackrabbit (*Lepus californicus*), house finch (*Carpodacus mexicanus*), red-tailed hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*), and domestic dog (*Canis familiaris*).

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 San Diego ambrosia (*Ambrosia pumila*), a federally-endangered species covered by the WRMSHCP, burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*), a CSC covered by the WRMSHCP, San Miguel savory (*Satureja chandleri*), and Brand's phacelia (*Phacelia stellaris*), both CNPS listed species covered by the WRMSHCP. None of the species were observed within the study area. Suitable habitat for San Diego ambrosia, San Miguel savory, and Brand's phacelia 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 burrowing owl 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 coastal California gnatcatcher (*Polioptila californica californica*), a federally-listed threatened species covered by the WRMSHCP, San Diego (coast) horned lizard (*Phrynosoma coronatum*), northwestern San Diego pocket mouse (*Chaetodipus fallax fallax*), orange-throated whiptail (*Aspidoscelis hyperythra*), and San Diego black-tailed jackrabbit (*Lepus californicus bennettii*), all CSC covered by the WRMSHCP, Mesa horkelia (*Horkelia cuneata* ssp. *puberula*), and Robinson's peppergrass (*Lepidium virginicum* var. *robinsonii*), both CNPS listed species covered by the WRMSHCP. None of these species were observed 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. Coastal California gnatcatcher, however, is also protected under the MBTA and CDFG code and impacts to its nesting activities will still need to be avoided.

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 ground and shrub nesting avian species, such as horned lark (*Eremophila alpestris*) and wrentit (*Chamaea fasciata*).

California Desert Native Plant Act

Snake cholla was observed in the study area and this species is protected under Section 80073 of the CDNPA. According to Section 80073 of the CDNPA, no snake cholla (including both dead and live) may be harvested except under a permit issued by the County Agricultural Commissioner or the sheriff. The commissioner may establish limits on the quantity of snake cholla which may be taken under any permit and on the number of permits for the taking of snake cholla which may be issued.

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 owned and managed by the Jurupa Community Services District (JCSD) but will be leased by the County which is subject to the WRMSHCP. The study area is located within the “Jurupa” Area Plan, and does not fall within a Criteria Cell. Development of the study area also has potential to impact urban/wildland interface areas.

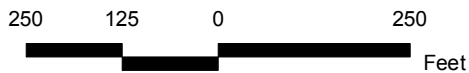


Source: Riverside County NAIP, 2005.



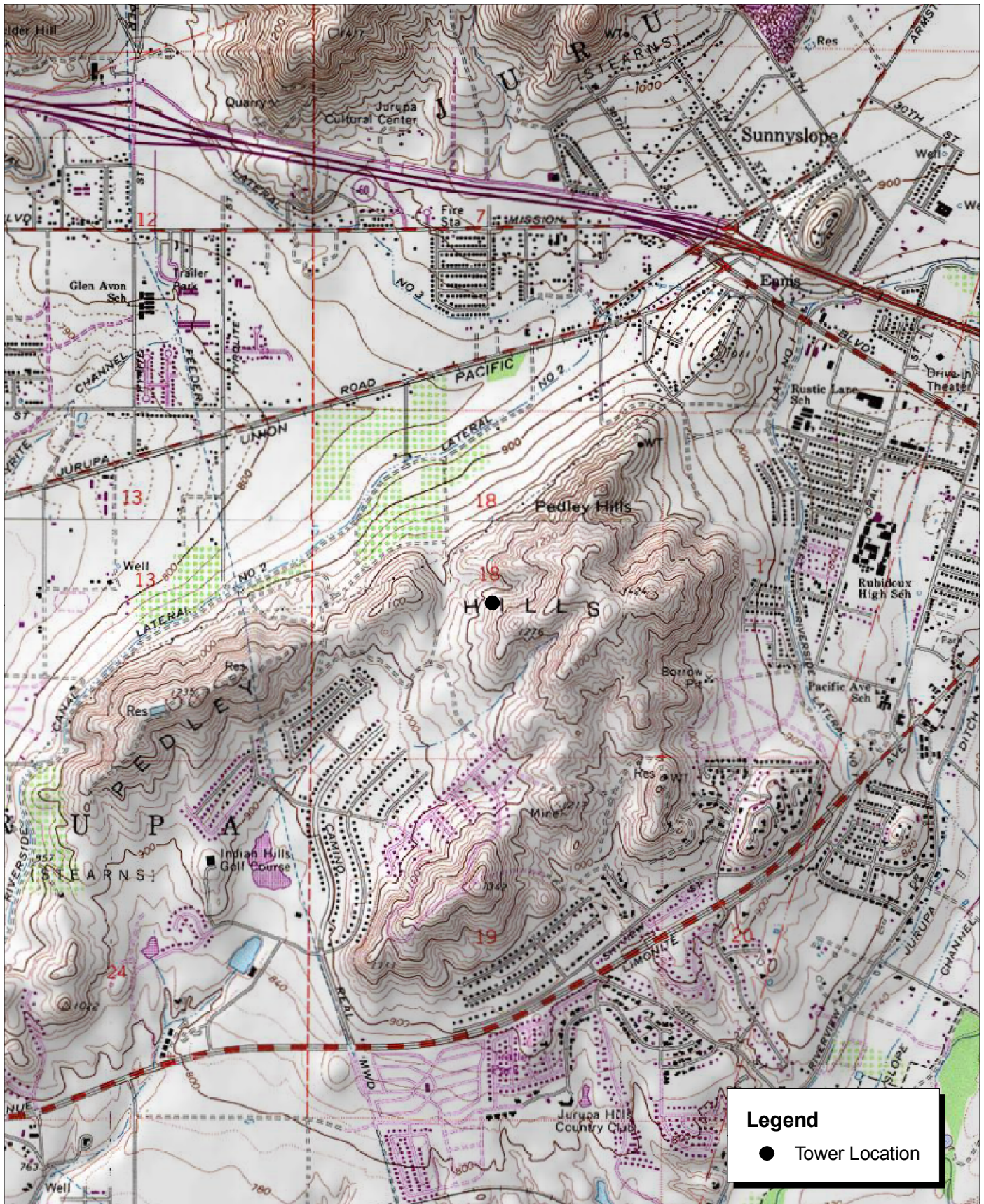
Michael Brandman Associates

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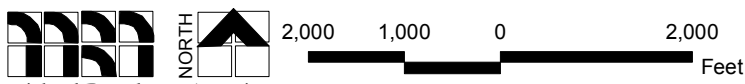


Sunnyslope Communication Site Local Vicinity Aerial Map

COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE
PUBLIC SAFETY ENTERPRISE COMMUNICATION PROJECT



Source: USGS Riverside West 7.5' Topographic Map.



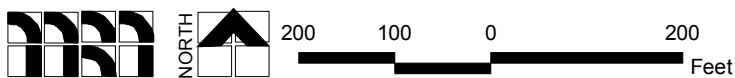
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Sunnyslope Communication Site Local Vicinity Topographic Map

COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE
 PUBLIC SAFETY ENTERPRISE COMMUNICATION PROJECT



Source: USDA Soils Data (NRCS).



Sunnyslope Communication Site USDA Soils Map



Photograph 1: View toward Sunnyslope candidate location, facing southwest.



Photograph 2: View toward Sunnyslope candidate location, facing northwest.



Photograph 3: View toward Sunnyslope candidate location, facing northeast.



Photograph 4: View toward Sunnyslope candidate location, facing southeast.

Source: Michael Brandman Associates, 2008.



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Sunnyslope Candidate Photographs 1 to 4
PSEC Project



Photograph 5: View from Sunnyslope candidate location, facing north.



Photograph 6: View from Sunnyslope candidate location, facing south.



Photograph 7: View from Sunnyslope candidate location, facing east.



Photograph 8: View from Sunnyslope candidate location, facing west.

Source: Michael Brandman Associates, 2008.



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Sunnyslope Candidate Photographs 5 to 8
PSEC Project

Sunnyslope

Western Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP)

APN	Cell	Cell Group	Acres	Area Plan	Sub Unit
183240027	Not A Part	Independent	2.01	Jurupa	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
183240027	NO	YES	NO	NO	YES	NO

Burrowing Owl

Burrowing owl.

Narrow Endemic Plant Species

7) San Diego ambrosia, Brand's Phacelia, San Miguel savory

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