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## Vidal Junction

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The Vidal study area is located in Vidal Valley, south of the State Route (SR)-62 in San Bernardino County, approximately 35 miles north of the City of Blythe.

### Existing Conditions

#### General Site Conditions

The study area is located on a flat lot adjacent to an existing communications facility. The elevation of the study area is 941 feet above sea level. Soils observed within the study area during the survey consist of disturbed, desert pavement; no USDA soil surveys have been completed for this area. Two north-south drainage features occur to the east and the west of the study area. Land use in the vicinity of the study area consists of SR-62 to the north, the communications facility to the east, and open space to the south and west. The study area is subject to disturbance associated with maintenance of the existing communications tower.

#### Vegetation

The study area is void of vegetation. A creosote bush scrub plant community occurs to the west and south of the study area. The plant species observed include creosote bush (*Larrea tridentata*), brittlebush (*Encelia farinosa*), burro-weed (*Ambrosia dumosa*), and California barrel cactus (*Ferocactus cylindraceus*).

#### Wildlife

Wildlife activity was low during the survey. Wildlife species observed include western kingbird (*Tyrannus verticalis*) and red-tailed hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*). A raptor nest was observed in the adjacent communications tower. No rodent burrows were observed on the study area. Species expected to occur are those common in disturbed, desert pavement habitats, such as zebra-tailed lizard (*Callisaurus draconoides*) and horned lark (*Eremophila alpestris*).

### Sensitive Biological Resources

#### Sensitive Species

##### Federally and State Listed Species

The study area has suitable habitat for desert tortoise (*Gopherus agassizii*), a State- and federally-listed threatened species. The species was not observed within the study area. 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 located within Critical Habitat for desert tortoise, as designated by the USFWS. Because suitable habitat occurs on the study area, focused surveys must be conducted for desert tortoise prior to consultation with the USFWS and BLM.

### ***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 nesting avian species, such as horned lark.

### ***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***

Two drainage features located to the east and west of the study area are continuous, visible from aerial photography, and have definable bed and bank features. While neither is located on the study area itself, the study area does drain into the western feature.

### ***Wildlife Corridors and Movement***

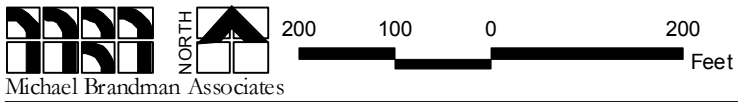
Given the limited size and minimal disturbance associated with the development of the study area, no impacts to any wildlife corridors or wildlife movement patterns are anticipated.

### ***Applicable HCP or Land Use Management Plan***

The study area is located on federal land managed by the BLM and is subject to the NECD amendment of the California Desert Conservation Area Plan. Approval by the BLM must be obtained prior to construction.

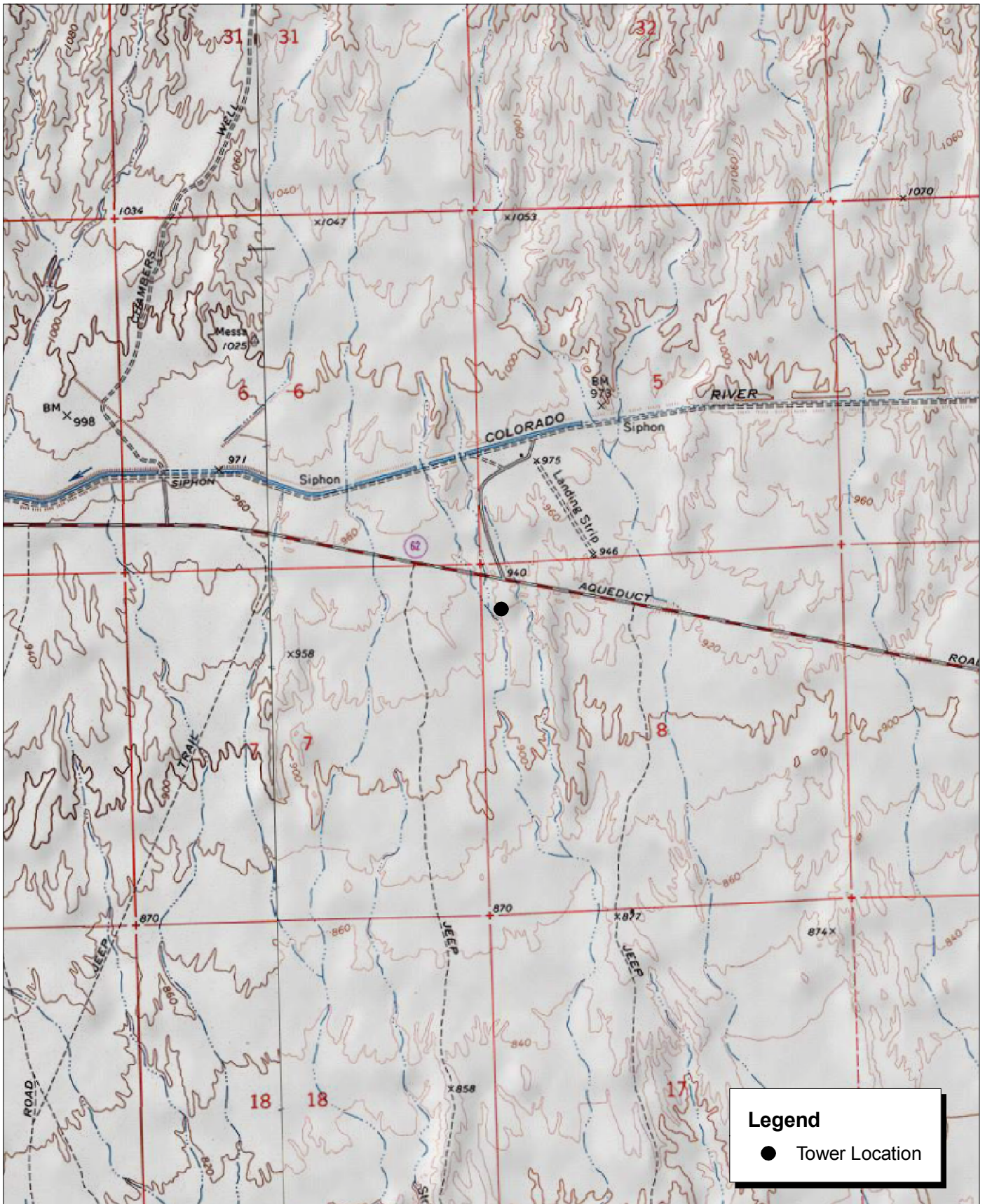


Source: USDA Soils Data (NRCS).



## Vidal Junction Communication Site Local Vicinity Aerial Map





Source: USGS Parker NW 7.5' Topographic Map.



Michael Brandman Associates

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
## Vidal Junction Communication Site Local Vicinity Topographic Map

COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE  
PUBLIC SAFETY ENTERPRISE COMMUNICATION PROJECT



NOTCOM

**Legend**

-  Tower Location
-  50' Study Area
-  NOTCOM - USDA Soils Not Complete

Source: USDA Soils Data (NRCS).



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## Vidal Junction Communication Site USDA Soils Map

COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE  
PUBLIC SAFETY ENTERPRISE COMMUNICATION PROJECT





Photograph 1: View toward Vidal Junction candidate location, facing south.



Photograph 2: View toward Vidal Junction candidate location, facing west.



Photograph 3: View toward Vidal Junction candidate location, facing northwest.



Photograph 4: View toward Vidal Junction candidate location, facing east.

Source: Michael Brandman Associates, 2008.



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Vidal Junction Candidate Photographs 1 to 4  
PSEC Project



Photograph 5: View from Vidal Junction candidate location, facing northwest.



Photograph 6: View from Vidal Junction candidate location, facing east.



Photograph 7: View from Vidal Junction candidate location, facing south.



Photograph 8: View from Vidal Junction candidate location, facing west.

Source: Michael Brandman Associates, 2008.



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Vidal Junction Candidate Photographs 5 to 8  
PSEC Project