
Whitewater

The Whitewater study area is located on Whitewater Hill at the eastern end of San Gorgonio Pass, southeast of the San Bernardino Mountains, and approximately 1.5 miles east of the City of Desert Hot Springs.

Existing Conditions

General Site Conditions

The study area is located on a hilltop mesa adjacent to an existing communications facility within a windmill farm. The elevation of the study area is approximately 1,726 feet above sea level. Soils present consist of Chuckawalla cobbly fine sandy loam, based on the USDA soil survey. Land use in the vicinity consists of the communications facility to the south, and a windmill farm in all other directions. The study area is subject to heavy disturbance associated with regular maintenance of the windmill facilities.

Vegetation

The vegetation on the study area consists of a sparse, heavily-disturbed, creosote bush scrub plant community. The plant species observed include creosote bush (*Larrea tridentata*) and burro-weed (*Ambrosia dumosa*).

Wildlife

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

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 marginally suitable habitat for desert tortoise (*Gopherus agassizii*), a State- and federally-listed threatened species, covered by the CVMSHCP, and burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*), a CSC covered by the CVMSHCP. Neither species were observed within the study area; however, because of the presence of suitable habitat and the study area's location in a Conservation Area, focused surveys are necessary to determine the occupation status of the species onsite.

The study area is located within an area identified by the WRMSCHP as requiring a habitat assessment for Coachella Valley Jerusalem cricket (*Stenopelmatus calhuilaensis*) and Coachella Valley milk-vetch (*Astragalus lentiginosus* var. *coachellae*). However, no suitable habitat for either of these species was observed on or adjacent to the study area and no impacts to the species are anticipated.

CNPS Listed Species

The study area contains suitable habitat for cliff spurge (*Euphorbia misera*), a CNPS List 2.2 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 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 roadrunner.

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 roadrunner.

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

The study area is located on federal land managed by the BLM. The study area is managed by the South Coast/Palm Springs Office of the BLM and is subject to the Coachella Valley amendment (CVP) of the California Desert Conservation Area Plan. The CVP was designed to coincide with the Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (CVMSHCP), so that compliance with the CVMSHCP would provide consistency with the CVP. The study area is located within the "Upper Mission Creek/Big Morongo Canyon" Conservation Area. Approval by CVAG and BLM must be obtained prior to construction.

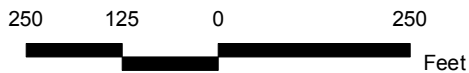


Source: Riverside County NAIP, 2005.



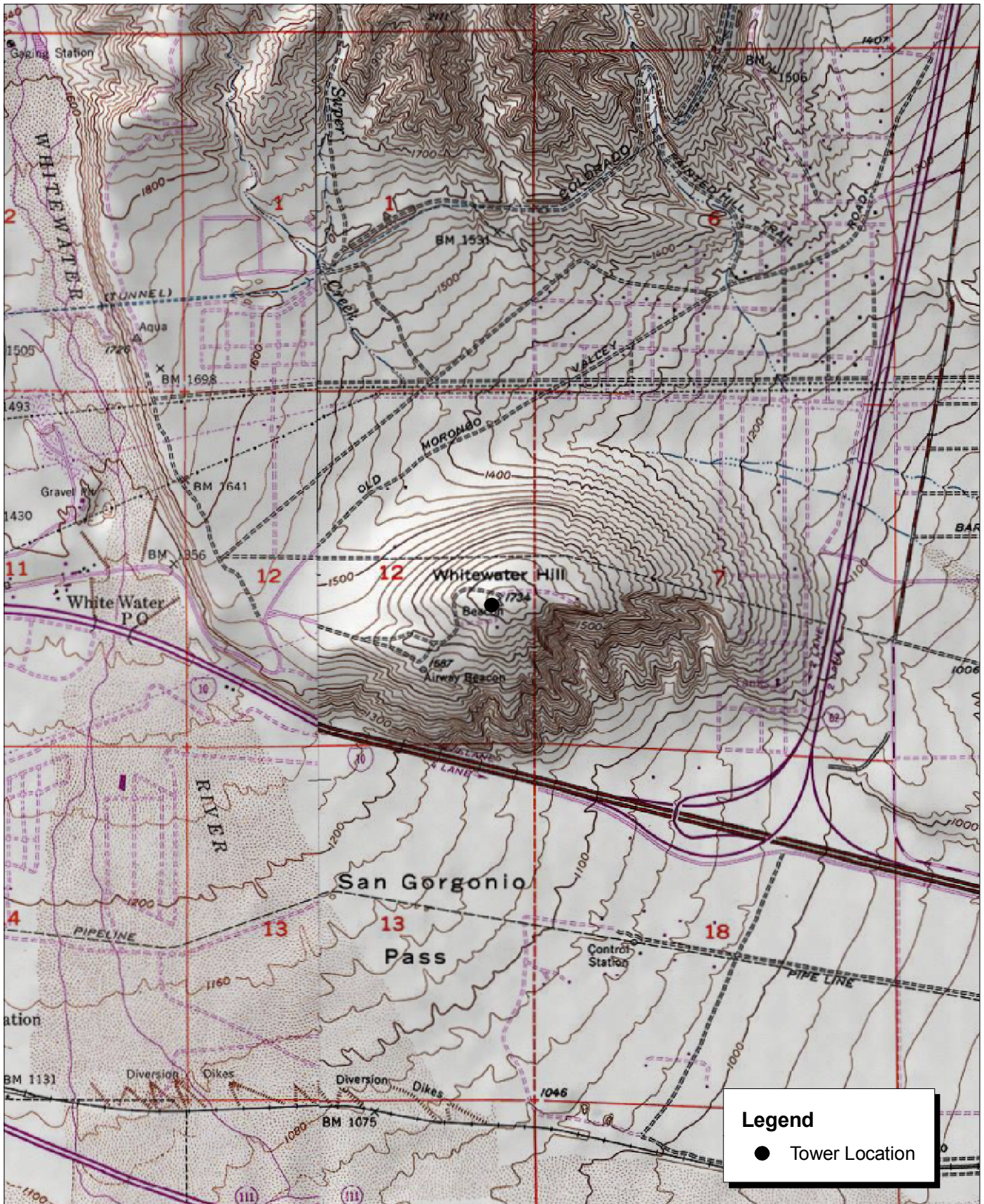
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Whitewater Communication Site Local Vicinity Aerial Map

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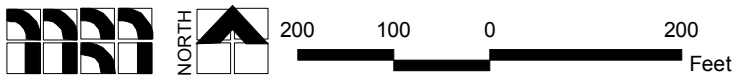
Source: USGS Desert Hot Springs 7.5' Topographic Map.



Whitewater Communication Site Local Vicinity Topographic Map



Source: USDA Soils Data (NRCS).



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Whitewater Communication Site USDA Soils Map

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Photograph 1: View toward Whitewater candidate location, facing west.



Photograph 2: View toward Whitewater candidate location, facing southwest.



Photograph 3: View toward Whitewater candidate location, facing south.



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

Source: Michael Brandman Associates, 2008.



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Whitewater Candidate Photographs 1 to 4
PSEC Project



Photograph 5: View from Whitewater candidate location, facing east.



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



Photograph 7: View from Whitewater candidate location, facing west.



Photograph 8: View from Whitewater candidate location, facing north.

Source: Michael Brandman Associates, 2008.



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Whitewater 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

This parcel appears to be in Riverside County and is inside a conservation area.

Parcel 516130011 is approximately 214.59 acres and is within the following conservation areas:

Upper Mission Creek/Big Morongo Canyon Conservation Area

The following covered species were modeled to occur on this property:

Coachella Valley Jerusalem cricket

Coachella Valley milkvetch

Desert tortoise

The following covered natural communities were determined to be on the property:

Sonoran creosote bush scrub

Sonoran mixed woody & succulent scrub

Has this property been determined to be a part of a biological corridor or linkage?

No

Do natural ecological processes such as sand source or sand transport occur on this property?

Sand Source

No sand transport.

Are there any additional special provisions required on this property?

No Additional Provisions

Important Notices
Proposed development on privately owned parcels will be subject to a Joint Project Review Process and must be in line with the conservation objectives of the Plan. See Section 4 of the Plan for info.

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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