Wileys Well

The Wileys Well study area is located in the eastern portion of the Chuckwalla Valley, approximately 15 miles west of the City of Blythe.

Existing Conditions

General Site Conditions

The study area is located in an area of small, moderately stabilized and vegetated sand dunes adjacent to an existing cellular facility. The elevation of the study area is approximately 391 feet above sea level. Soils observed on the study area during the survey consist of undesignated sand; no USDA soil surveys have been completed for the area. Land use in the vicinity consists of the existing cellular communication facility with Interstate 10 to the north, an older and largely vegetated borrow pit to the south, a paved road followed by open space to the east, and open space to the west. The borrow pit to the south of the study area is a shallow, linear, excavated area that runs approximately 1 mile from east to west and is approximately 200 feet wide. The study area is subject to disturbance associated with the existing communication facility maintenance.

Vegetation

The vegetation on the study area is comprised of a sparse, creosote bush plant community. The plant species observed include creosote bush (*Larrea tridentata*) and sparse occurrences of dead annual plants. The borrow pit located south of the study area supports a dense grove of tamarisk (*Tamarix* sp.) with scattered creosote bush and burro-bush (*Hymenoclea salsola*). The grove extends throughout the borrow pit.

Wildlife

No wildlife species were observed or otherwise detected during the survey. Species expected to occur are those commonly found in sand dunes and desert scrub 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, and Coachella Valley fringe-toed lizard (*Uma inorta*), a federally-listed threatened and State-listed endangered species. Neither species was observed within the study area. Focused surveys are necessary to determine the occupancy status of the species onsite.

CNPS Listed Species

The study area contains suitable habitat for Abrams' spurge (*Chamaesyce abramsiana*) and Harwood's milk-vetch (*Astragalus insularis* var. *harwoodii*), both 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.

CSC

The study area contains suitable habitat for flat-tailed horned lizard (*Phrynosoma mcallii*), and Crissal thrasher (*Toxostoma crissale*), both CSC species. Neither species were observed within the study area. Regardless, CSC are not protected by any State or federal laws or policies.

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 and shrub nesting avian species, such as horned lark and greater roadrunner (*Geococcyx californianus*).

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

The borrow pit located south of the study area contains vegetation characteristic of a desert riparian plant community. No bed or bank features were observed, but it most likely collects water during heavy rain events. Additionally, connectivity with nearby drainages can be seen on aerial photos. The borrow pit is potentially jurisdictional. While development within the study area will be unlikely to directly impact the borrow pit area, the study area does drain into this potentially jurisdictional 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 and is subject to the NECD amendment of the California Desert Conservation Act. Approval by the BLM must be obtained prior to construction.

Source: Riverside County NAIP, 2005.

NORTH

250 125 0 250

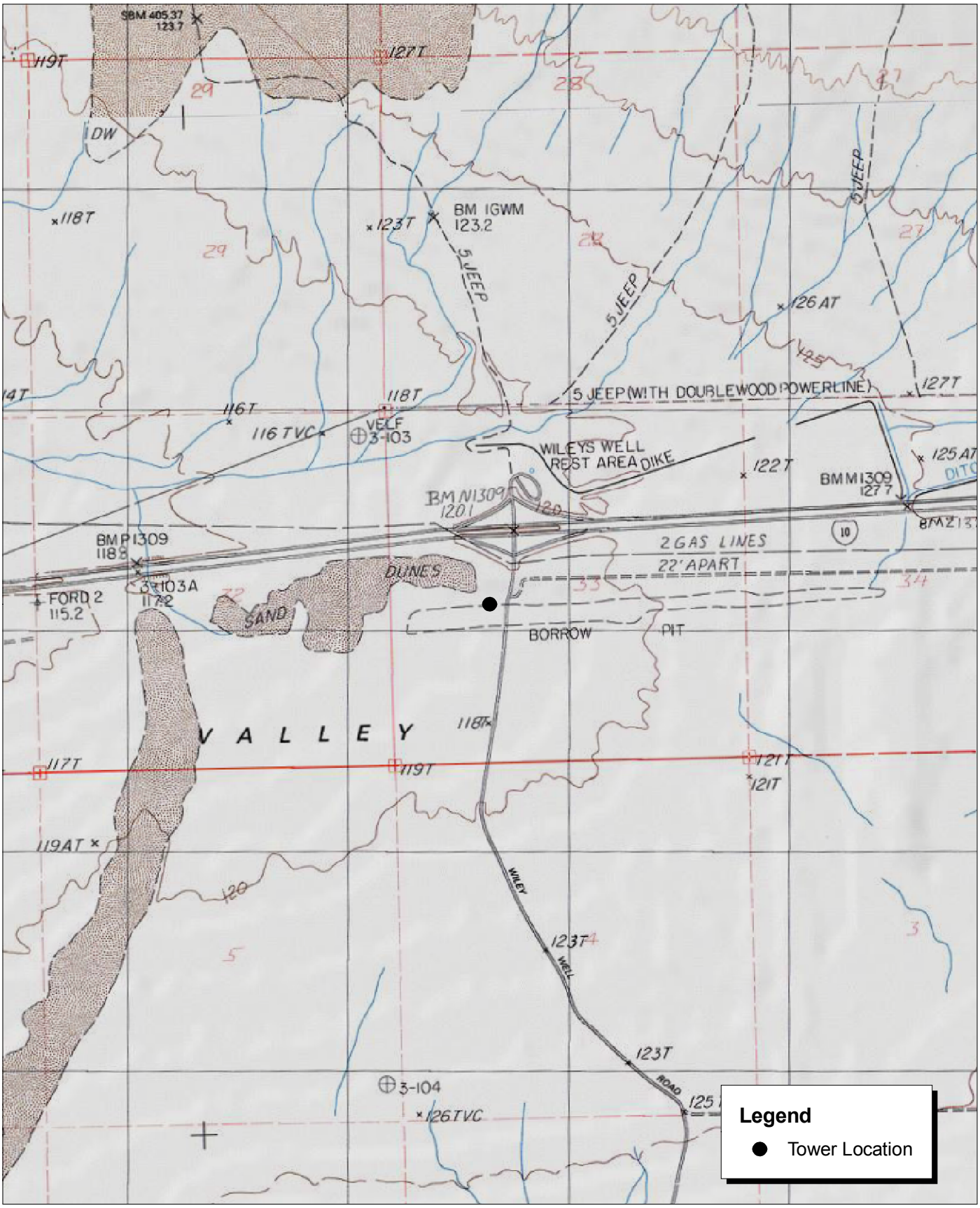
Feet

Michael Brandman Associates

Wileys Well Communication Site
Local Vicinity Aerial Map

27490003 • 04/2008 | wileys_well_aerial.mxd

COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE
PUBLIC SAFETY ENTERPRISE COMMUNICATION PROJECT



Source: USGS Hopkins Well 7.5' Topographic Map.

NORTH

2,000 1,000 0 2,000 Feet

Michael Brandman Associates

27490003 • 04/2008 | wileys_well.mxd

Wileys Well Communication Site
Local Vicinity Topographic Map

COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE
PUBLIC SAFETY ENTERPRISE COMMUNICATION PROJECT

Source: USDA Soils Data (NRCS).

NORTH

200 100 0 200

Feet

Michael Brandman Associates

Wileys Well Communication Site
USDA Soils Map

27490003 • 05/2008 | wileys_well_soils.mxd

COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE
PUBLIC SAFETY ENTERPRISE COMMUNICATION PROJECT

Photograph 1: View toward Wileys Well candidate location, facing west.

Photograph 2: View toward Wileys Well candidate location, facing north.

Photograph 3: View toward Wileys Well candidate location, facing east.

Photograph 4: View toward Wileys Well candidate location, facing south.

Source: Michael Brandman Associates, 2008.

Wileys Well Candidate Photographs 1 to 4
PSEC Project

Photograph 5: View from Wileys Well candidate location, facing north.

Photograph 6: View from Wileys Well candidate location, facing east.

Photograph 7: View from Wileys Well candidate location, facing south.

Photograph 8: View from Wileys Well candidate location, facing west.

Source: Michael Brandman Associates, 2008.