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## Winchester

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The Winchester study area is located an isolated hill range southeast of the Lakeview Mountains, approximately 1 mile west of the City of Hemet.

### Existing Conditions

#### **General Site Conditions**

The study area is located on a graded peak adjacent to an existing communication facility. The elevation of the study area is approximately 2,031 feet above sea level. The soils consist of Cajalco rocky fine sandy loam, based on the USDA soil survey. Land use in the vicinity consists of open space in all directions, with the exception of the existing communication facility to the south and a dirt access road to the north. The study area is subject to disturbance associated with illegal dumping, off-road vehicle recreation, and maintenance of the existing communication facilities.

#### **Vegetation**

The majority of the study area is void of vegetation. The slopes surrounding the study area contain vegetation associated with a continuous coastal sage scrub plant community. The plant species observed include California buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum*), black sage (*Salvia mellifera*), brittlebush (*Encelia farinosa*), annual sunflower (*Helianthus annuus*), and star thistle (*Centaurea melitensis*).

#### **Wildlife**

No wildlife was observed during the survey. Wildlife species expected to occur include those common in disturbed coastal sage scrub habitat, such as wren tit (*Chamaea fasciata*), side-blotched lizard (*Uta stansburiana*), and deer mouse (*Peromyscus maniculatus*).

### Sensitive Biological Resources

#### **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 WRMSCHP as requiring a habitat assessment for Munz's onion (*Allium munzii*), a federally-listed endangered and State-listed threatened species covered by the WRMSHCP, San Diego ambrosia (*Ambrosia pumila*), a federally-listed endangered species covered by the WRMSHCP, spreading navarretia (*Navarretia fossalis*), a federally-listed threatened species covered by the WRMSHCP, burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*), a CSC covered by the WRMSHCP, many-stemmed dudleya (*Dudleya multicaulis*), California orcutt grass (*Orcuttia californica*), and Wright's trichocoronis (*Trichocoronis wrightii*), all CNPS listed species covered by the WRMSHCP. None of the species were observed within the study area.

Suitable habitat for San Diego ambrosia 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 any of the remaining species was observed on or adjacent to the study area and no impacts to the species are anticipated.

The area adjacent to the study area contains suitable habitat for coastal California gnatcatcher (*Polioptila californica californica*), a federally-listed threatened species covered by the WRMSHCP, San Diego black-tailed jackrabbit (*Lepus californicus bennettii*), Southern California rufous-crowned sparrow (*Aimphila ruficeps canescens*), southern grasshopper mouse (*Onychomys torridus ramona*), all CSC covered by the WRMSHCP, Robinson's peppergrass (*Lepidium virginicum* var. *robinsonii*), and Payson's jewel-flower (*Caulanthus simulans*), both CNPS listed species covered by the WRMSHCP. None of the species were observed on or adjacent to 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 and Southern California rufous-crowned sparrow, however, are also protected under the MBTA and CDFG code and impacts to their nesting activities will still need to be avoided.

#### **SKRHCP**

The study area contains suitable habitat for Stephens' kangaroo rat (*Dipodomys stephensi*), a federally-listed endangered and State-listed threatened species, covered by the SKRHCP. The species was not observed within the study area. Impacts to the species' habitat have been adequately accounted for by the SKRHCP and if the SKRHCP fee is paid, then further consideration of potential impacts will not be necessary.

#### **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 adjacent to the study area contains suitable nesting habitat for shrub nesting avian species, such as wren tit.

#### **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**

#### ***WRMSHCP***

The study area is located on land owned and operated by the County of Riverside and is subject to the WRMSHCP. The study area is located within the “Harvest Valley/Winchester” area plan, and does not fall within a Criteria Cell.

#### ***SKRHCP***

The study area is located within a fee area under the Western Riverside County SKRHCP.

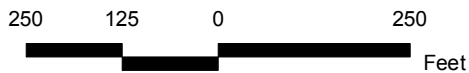


Source: Riverside County NAIP, 2005.



Michael Brandman Associates

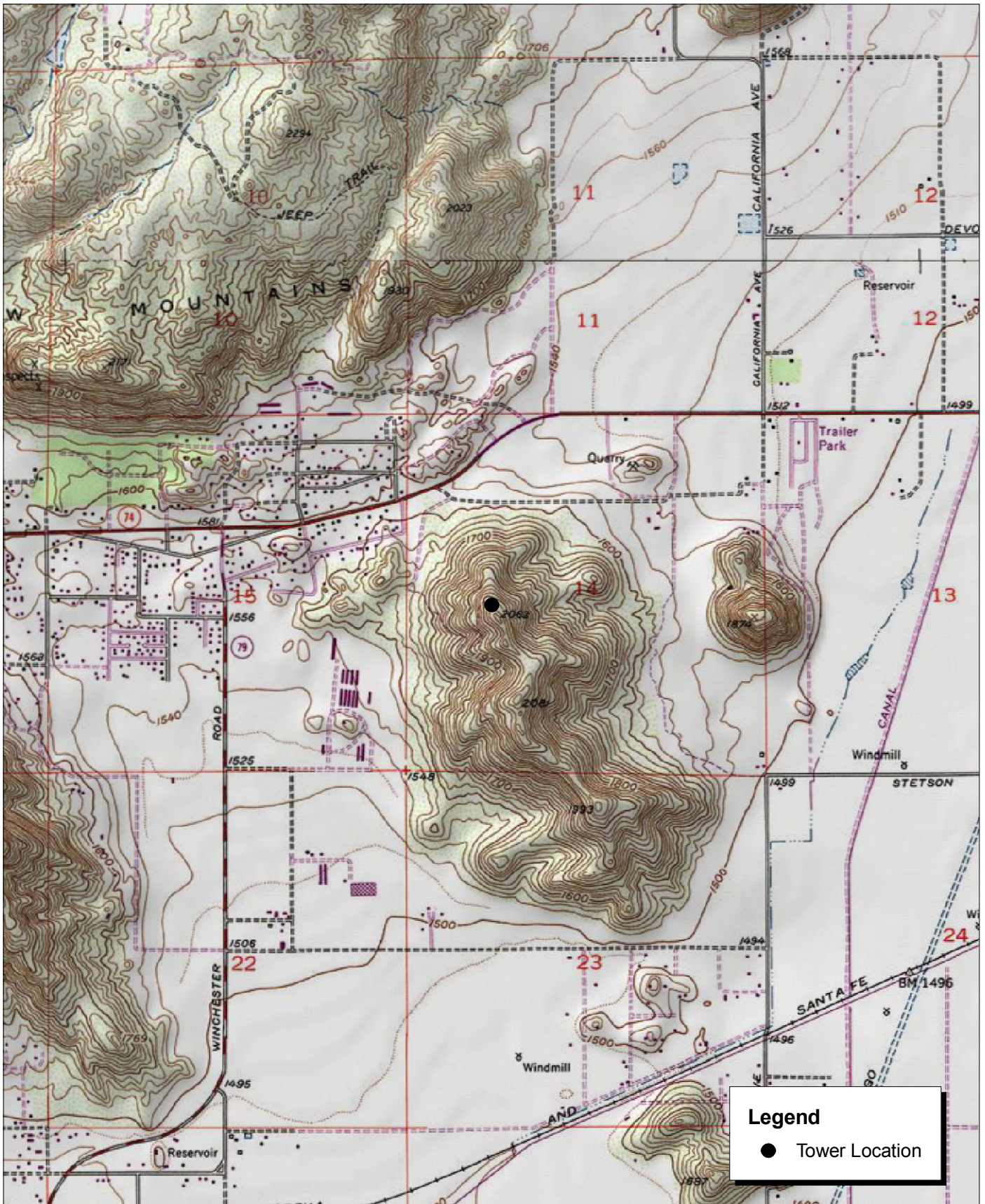
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## Winchester Communication Site Local Vicinity Aerial Map

COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE  
PUBLIC SAFETY ENTERPRISE COMMUNICATION PROJECT





Source: USGS Winchester 7.5' Topographic Map.



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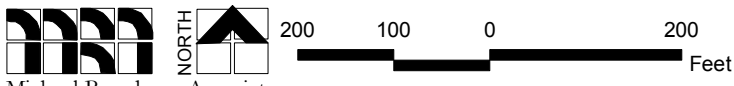
## Winchester Communication Site Local Vicinity Topographic Map

COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE  
PUBLIC SAFETY ENTERPRISE COMMUNICATION PROJECT





Source: USDA Soils Data (NRCS).



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## Winchester Communication Site USDA Soils Map

COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE  
PUBLIC SAFETY ENTERPRISE COMMUNICATION PROJECT



Photograph 1: Overview of Winchester candidate location, facing southeast.



Photograph 2: View toward Winchester candidate location, facing north.



Photograph 3: View toward Winchester candidate location, facing northwest.



Photograph 4: Overview of Winchester candidate location, facing northwest.

Source: Michael Brandman Associates, 2008.



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Winchester Candidate Photographs 1 to 4  
PSEC Project



Photograph 5: View from Winchester candidate location, facing northeast.



Photograph 6: View from Winchester candidate location, facing southeast.



Photograph 7: View from Winchester candidate location, facing southwest.



Photograph 8: View from Winchester candidate location, facing northwest.

Source: Michael Brandman Associates, 2008.





**Winchester**

## Western Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP)

APN	Cell	Cell Group	Acres	Area Plan	Sub Unit
465050019	Not A Part	Independent	20.09	Harvest Valley / Winchester	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
465050019	NO	YES	NO	NO	YES	NO

#### Burrowing Owl

Burrowing owl.

#### Narrow Endemic Plant Species

3) Munz's onion, San Diego ambrosia, Many-stemmed dudleya, Spreading navarretia, California Orcutt grass, Wright's trichocoronis

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](http://www.wrc-rca.org)