







PHOTO 1: CHILOPSIS LINEARIS (DESERT WILLOW WOODLAND) ALLIANCE

PHOTO 2: ERICAMERIA PANICULATA (BLACK-STEM RABBITBRUSH SCRUB) ALLIANCE



PHOTO 3:

PANICUM URVILLEANUM (DESERT PANIC GRASS PATCHES) ALLIANCE



PHOTO 4: PLEURAPHIS RIGIDA (BIG GALLETA SHRUB-STEPPE) ALLIANCE





PHOTO 5:

PRUNUS FASCICULATA (DESERT ALMOND SCRUB) ALLIANCE

PHOTO 6: PSOROTHAMNUS SPINOSUS (SMOKE TREE WOODLAND) ALLIANCE



PHOTO 7:

RHUS TRILOBATA (BASKET BUSH THICKETS) PROVISIONAL ALLIANCE

PHOTO 8: YUCCA BREVIFOLIA (JOSHUA TREE WOODLAND) ALLIANCE





PHOTO 9: ACACIA GREGGII (CATCLAW ACACIA THORN SCRUB) ALLIANCE

PHOTO 10: AMBROSIA DUMOSA (WHITE BURSAGE SCRUB) ALLIANCE



PHOTO 11:

AMBROSIA SALSOLA (CHEESEBUSH SCRUB) ALLIANCE



PHOTO 12: ATRIPLEX HYMENELYTRA (DESERT HOLLY SCRUB) ALLIANCE





PHOTO 13:

ATRIPLEX POLYCARPA (ALLSCALE SCRUB) ALLIANCE

PHOTO 14:
BROMUS (DIANDRUS, HORDEACEUS) BRACHYPODIUM DISTACHYON (ANNUAL
BROME GRASSLANDS) SEMI-NATURAL
STANDS



PHOTO 15:

BROMUS RUBENS - SCHISMUS

(ARABICUS, BARBATUS) (RED BROME OR

MEDITERRANEAN GRASS GRASSLANDS)

SEMI-NATURAL STANDS

PHOTO 16: ENCELIA FARINOSA (BRITTLE BUSH SCRUB) ALLIANCE





PHOTO 18: LARREA TRIDENTATA (CREOSOTE BUSH SCRUB) ALLIANCE

PHOTO 17:

EPHEDRA NEVADENSIS (NEVADA
JOINTFIR SCRUB) ALLIANCE



PHOTO 19:

LARREA TRIDENTATA - AMBROSIA

DUMOSA (CREOSOTE BUSH - WHITE

BURSAGE SCRUB) ALLIANCE

PHOTO 20: SALAZARIA MEXICANA (BLADDER SAGE SCRUB) ALLIANCE





PHOTO 21: YUCCA SCHIDIGERA (MOJAVE YUCCA SCRUB) ALLIANCE



# Appendix C: FLORAL AND FAUNAL COMPENDIA



## **PLANTS** (\*introduced/non-native)

**AGAVE FAMILY** 

Banana yucca Joshua tree Mojave yucca

**AMARANTH FAMILY** 

Fringed amaranth

**DOGBANE FAMILY** 

Desert milkweed Rush milkweed Hairy milkweed

SUNFLOWER FAMILY

Rayless goldenhead Annual bur-sage Burrobush

Woolly fruit bur ragweed

Burrobrush Big sagebrush Desert marigold Sweetbush

California brickellbush Woolly brickellbush Esteve's pincushion New Mexico thistle Desert twinbugs

Brittlebush

Button brittlebush Virgin River brittlebush Cooper's goldenbush Turpentine bush

Narrowleaf goldenbush Mojave rabbitbrush Green rabbitbrush Hairy desertsunflower Threadleaf snakeweed Common sunflower Golden aster

Whiteflower tansyaster

Manybristle chinchweed Slender poreleaf Threadleaf ragwort Small wirelettuce Brownplume wirelettuce

Mojave cottonthorn Mojave woodyaster AGAVACEAE

Yucca baccata Yucca brevifolia Yucca schidigera

**AMARANTHACEAE** 

Amaranthus fimbriatus

**APOCYNACEAE** 

Asclepias erosa Asclepias subulata Funastrum hirtellum

**ASTERACEAE** 

Acamptopappus sphaerocephalus

Ambrosia acanthicarpa Ambrosia dumosa Ambrosia eriocentra Ambrosia salsola Artemisia tridentata Baileya multiradiata Bebbia juncea Brickellia californica Brickellia incana

Chaenactis cf. stevioides Cirsium cf. neomexicanum

Dicoria canescens
Encelia farinosa
Encelia frutescens
Encelia virginensis
Ericameria cooperi
Ericameria laricifolia
Ericameria linearifolia
Ericameria paniculata
Ericameria teretifolia
Geraea canescens

Gutierrezia microcephala Helianthus annuus Heterotheca sessiliflora

Machaeranthera canescens var. leucanthemifolia

Pectis papposa Porophyllum gracile Senecio flaccidus

Stephanomeria cf. exigua Stephanomeria pauciflora Tetradymia stenolepis Xylorhiza tortifolia



## **CATALPA FAMILY**

Desert willow

## **BORAGE FAMILY**

Panamint cryptantha

Moth combseed

Combseed

Purplestem phacelia

Distant phacelia

Honeysweet

## **MUSTARD FAMILY**

\*Short podded mustard

Pepper grass

\*London rocket

Long beaked twist flower

## **CACTUS FAMILY**

Wiggins' cholla

Branched pencil cholla

Cottontop cactus

Engelmann's hedgehog cactus

Barrel cactus

Matted cholla

Common fish hook cactus

Beavertail cactus

Dollarjoint pricklypear

Mojave prickly pear

Grizzlybear pricklypear

## **GOOSEFOOT FAMILY**

Fourwing saltbush

Shadscale

Desert holly

Allscale saltbush

Winterfat

\*Russian thistle

# **CUCUMBER FAMILY**

Coyote melon

## **CYPRESS FAMILY**

Utah juniper

## **DODDER FAMILY**

Desert dodder

## **JOINTFIR FAMILY**

California jointfir Nevada jointfir

## **BIGNONIACEAE**

Chilopsis linearis

#### **BORAGINACEAE**

Cryptantha angustifolia

Pectocarya setosa

Pectocarya sp.

Phacelia crenulata var. ambigua

Phacelia distans

Tidestromia suffruticosa var. oblongifolia

## BRASSICACEAE

\*Hirschfeldia incana

Lepidium sp.

\*Sisymbrium irio

Streptanthella longirostris

## CACTACEAE

Cylindropuntia echinocarpa

Cylindropuntia ramosissima

Echinocactus polycephalus

Echinocereus engelmannii

Ferocactus cylindraceus

Grusonia parishii

Mammillaria tetrancistra

Opuntia basilaris var. basilaris

Opuntia chlorotica

Opuntia phaeacantha

Opuntia polyacantha var. erinacea

## CHENOPODIACEAE

Atriplex canescens

Atriplex confertifolia

Atriplex hymenelytra

Atriplex polycarpa

Krascheninnikovia lanata

\*Salsola tragus

## **CUCURBITACEAE**

Cucurbita palmata

## **CUPRESSACEAE**

Juniperus osteosperma

## **CUSCUTACEAE**

Cuscuta cf. denticulata

## **EPHEDRACEAE**

Ephedra californica

Ephedra nevadensis

## **SPURGE FAMILY**

Turkey-mullein

Rattlesnake sandmat

Spurge

Annual stillingia

# **PEA FAMILY**

Downy dalea Annual lupine

Honey mesquite

Mojave indigo bush

Smoketree

Catclaw

Desert senna

## **GERANIUM FAMILY**

\*Red-stem Filaree

## RHATANY FAMILY

White rhatany

Littleleaf ratany

## **MINT FAMILY**

Mexican bladdersage

Chia sage

Desert sage

# LOASA FAMILY

Desert bush nettle

Many flowered mentzelia

Sandpaper plant

# **MALLOW FAMILY**

Mallow

## FOUR O'CLOCK FAMILY

Wishbone bush

Desert four o'clock

# **OLIVE FAMILY**

Spiny menodora

# **EVENING PRIMROSE FAMILY**

Primrose

Dune primrose

## **POPPY FAMILY**

Mohave prickly poppy

## PLANTAGO FAMILY

Penstemon

## **EUPHORBIACEAE**

Croton setigerus

Euphorbia albomarginata

Euphorbia sp.

Stillingia spinulosa

# FABACEAE (LEGUMINOSAE)

Dalea mollissima

Lupinus bicolor

Prosopis glandulosa

Psorothamnus arborescens

Psorothamnus spinosus

Senegalia greggii

Senna armata

## **GERANIACEAE**

\*Erodium cicutarium

## KRAMERIACEAE

Krameria bicolor

Krameria erecta

## LAMIACEAE (LABIATAE)

Salazaria mexicana

Salvia columbariae

Salvia dorrii

## LOASACEAE

Eucnide urens

Mentzelia cf. longiloba

Petalonyx thurberi

# MALVACEAE

Sphaeralcea sp.

## **NYCTAGINACEAE**

Mirabilis laevis var. retrorsa

Mirabilis multiflora var. pubescens

# **OLEACEAE**

Menodora spinescens

# **ONAGRACEAE**

Camissonia sp.

Oenothera deltoides

## **PAPAVERACEAE**

Argemone corymbosa

# **PLANTAGINACEAE**

Penstemon sp.



Desert plantain Woolly plantain

**GRASS FAMILY** 

Sixweeks threeawn Purple threeawn

\*Foxtail brome

\*Bermuda grass

Bottlebrush squirreltail

Bottlebrush squiffeltan

Low woollygrass

Big galleta

\*Farmer's foxtail

Bush muhly

Desert panicgrass

\*Common Mediterranean grass

Indian rice grass
Desert needle grass

PHLOX FAMILY

Eriastrum Gilia

**BUCKWHEAT FAMILY** 

Devil's spineflower

Flat topped buckwheat

California buckwheat

Desert trumpet

Birdnest buckwheat

Yucca buckwheat

Wright's buckwheat

Roundleaf oxytheca

**BUTTERCUP FAMILY** 

Desert larkspur

**ROSE FAMILY** 

Blackbrush

Apache plume

Desert almond

**RUE FAMILY** 

Turpentine broom

**QUASSIA FAMILY** 

Emory's crucifixion thorn

NIGHTSHADE FAMILY

Wright's datura

Anderson thornbush

Cooper's box thorn

Thick leaved ground cherry

Plantago ovata Plantago patagonica

**POACEAE (GRAMINEAE)** *Aristida adscensionis* 

Aristida purpurea

\*Bromus madritensis ssp. rubens

\*Cynodon dactylon

Elymus elymoides

Erioneuron pulchellum

Hilaria rigida

\*Hordeum murinum

Muhlenbergia porteri

Panicum urvilleanum

\*Schismus barbatus

Stipa hymenoides

Stipa speciosa

POLEMONIACEAE

Eriastrum sp.

Gilia sp.

**POLYGONACEAE** 

Chorizanthe rigida

Eriogonum deflexum

Eriogonum fasciculatum var. polifolium

Eriogonum inflatum

Eriogonum nidularium

Eriogonum plumatella

Eriogonum wrightii var. wrightii

Oxytheca perfoliata

RANUNCULACEAE

Delphinium cf. parishii

**ROSACEAE** 

Coleogyne ramosissima

Fallugia paradoxa

Prunus fasciculata

RUTACEAE

Thamnosma montana

**SIMAROUBACEA** 

Castela emoryi

**SOLANACEAE** 

Datura wrightii

Lycium andersonii

Lycium cooperi

Physalis crassifolia



TAMARISK FAMILY

\*Tamarisk

MISTLETOE FAMILY

Desert mistletoe

**CALTROP FAMILY** 

Creosote bush

**TAMARICACEAE** 

\*Tamarix aphylla

VISCACEAE

Phoradendron californicum

ZYGOPHYLLACEAE

Larrea tridentata





## WILDLIFE

REPTILESREPTILIASCALED REPTILES (SNAKES)SQUAMATAHarmless Egg-laying SnakesColubridae

Mohave Patch-nosed Snake Salvadora hexalepis mojavensis

SCALED REPTILES (LIZARDS)

Zebra-tailed, Earless, Fringe-toed, Spiny,

Tree, Side-blotched, and Horned Lizards

SQUAMATA

Phrynosomatidae

Southern Desert Horned Lizard Phrynosoma platyrhinos calidiarum Mohave Fringe-toed Lizard Uma scoparia

TURTLESTESTUDINESTortoisesTestudinidaeDesert TortoiseGopherus agassizii

BIRDS AVES

GALLINACEOUS BIRDS

New World Quail

Gambel's Quail

Callipepla gambelii

PIGEONS AND DOVES
Pigeons and Doves
Mourning Dove
COLUMBIFORMES
Columbidae
Zenaida macroura

CUCKOOS AND ALLIES
Cuckoos, Roadrunners, and Anis
Greater Roadrunner

Geococcyx californianus

Greater Roadrunner Geococcyx californianus

NIGHTJARS CAPRIMULGIFORMES

NightjarsCaprimulgidaeLesser NighthawkChordeiles acutipennisCommon PoorwillPhalaenoptilus nuttallii

NEW WORLD VULTURES
New World Vultures
Turkey Vulture

Cathartidae
Cathartes aura

HAWKS, KITES, EAGLES, AND ALLIES
Hawks, Kites, Eagles, and Allies
Red-tailed Hawk

ACCIPITRIFORMES
Accipitridae
Buteo jamaicensis

PUFFBIRDS, JACAMARS, TOUCANS,
WOODPECKERS, AND ALLIES
Woodpeckers and Allies
Northern Flicker
Picidae
Colaptes auratus

PASSERINE BIRDS
Tyrant Flycatchers
Say's Phoebe

PASSERIFORMES
Tyrannidae
Sayornis saya

Shrikes Laniidae
Loggerhead Shrike Lanius ludovicianus

Crows and JaysCorvidaeCommon RavenCorvus corax

Larks

Horned Lark

**Penduline Tits and Verdins** 

Verdin

Wrens

Rock Wren

Cactus Wren

**Gnatcatchers and Gnatwrens** 

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher Black-tailed Gnatcatcher

Fringilline and Cardueline Finches and Allies

House Finch

**Wood-Warblers** 

Yellow-rumped Warbler

**Emberizids** 

Bell's Sparrow

White-crowned Sparrow

**MAMMALS** 

RODENTS

Pocket Mice and Kangaroo Rats

Desert Kangaroo Rat

Merriam's Kangaroo Rat

**Rats And Mice** 

Desert Woodrat (middens)

**CARNIVORES** 

Wolves, Foxes, and the Coyote

Coyote

Desert Kit Fox (den)

Weasels, Skunks, and their Kin

American Badger (den)

Cats

Mountain Lion (scat)

**EVEN-TOED HOOFED MAMMALS** 

Deer and their Kin

Mule Deer

Alaudidae

Eremophila alpestris

Remizidae

Auriparus flaviceps

Troglodytidae

Salpinctes obsoletus

Campylorhynchus brunneicapillus

Polioptilidae

Polioptila caerulea

Polioptila melanura

Fringillidae

Haemorhous mexicanus

Parulidae

Setophaga coronata

Emberizidae

Artemisiospiza belli

Zonotrichia leucophrys

**MAMMALIA** 

RODENTIA

Heteromyidae

Dipodomys deserti

Dipodomys merriami

Muridae

Neotoma lepida

**CARNIVORA** 

Canidae

Canis latrans

Vulpes macrotis arsipus

Mustelidae

Taxidea taxus

Felidae

Puma concolor

**ARTIODACTYLA** 

Cervidae

Odocoileus hemionus



Habitat and Resource Assessment April 2017

# APPENDIX D:

SPECIAL-STATUS BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES OCCURRING OR POTENTIALLY OCCURRING ON OR IN THE VICINITY (WITHIN 3 MILES) OF THE LVRAS PROJECT



Potential Sites (based on range)  Federal State CNPS  Desert willow is dominant or co-dominant in the tree or tall shrub canopy, with desert ironwood (Olneya tesota), honey mesquite (Prosopis glandulosa), smoke tree (Psorothamnus spinosus) and Joshua tree (Yucca brevifolia). Shrubs may include cheese bush (Ambrosia salsola), cattle	Activity /	Status <sup>1</sup> Distribution, Habitat, and Occurrence Potential <sup>2</sup>		Status <sup>1</sup>		Species Name		
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saltbush (Atriplex polycarpa), sweetbush (Bebbia juncea), buck horn cholla (Cylindropuntia acanthocarpa), encelia (Encelia virginensis), California jointfir (Ephedra californica), and California buckwheat (Eriogonum fasciculatum). Habitats include washes, intermittent channels, canyon bottoms, arroyos, along floodplains, and wash terraces, where flooding is infrequent. Soils are typically well-drained sands and gravels that are moderately acidic to slightly alkaline. Elevation ranges from 100-1,200m.  Occurs. See Table 1 for locations.	May-Jun	desert ironwood squite (Prosopis hamnus spinosus) lia). Shrubs may a salsola), cattle weetbush (Bebbia (Cylindropuntia virginensis), californica), and um fasciculatum). mittent channels, floodplains, and infrequent. Soils and gravels that are lkaline. Elevation	tree or tall shrub canopy, with de (Olneya tesota), honey mesqui glandulosa), smoke tree (Psorotham and Joshua tree (Yucca brevifolia) include cheese bush (Ambrosia saltbush (Atriplex polycarpa), swee juncea), buck horn cholla (Cacanthocarpa), encelia (Encelia California jointfir (Ephedra california buckwheat (Eriogonum Habitats include washes, intermitt canyon bottoms, arroyos, along flowash terraces, where flooding is intare typically well-drained sands and gmoderately acidic to slightly alkaltranges from 100-1,200m.	-	S3		(Desert willow	

Species Name		Status <sup>1</sup>		Distribution, Habitat, and Occurrence Potential <sup>2</sup>	Activity /
Potential Sites (based on range)	Federal	State	CNPS		Bloom Period
Ericameria paniculata (Black-stem rabbitbrush scrub) Alliance	<del>-</del>	S3		Black-stem rabbitbrush is dominant or co-dominant in the shrub canopy with woolly bursage ( <i>Ambrosia eriocentra</i> ), cheesebush, woolly brickellbush ( <i>Brickellia incana</i> ), coyote melon ( <i>Cucurbita palmata</i> ), brittlebush ( <i>Encelia farinosa</i> ), encelia, and California buckwheat. Emergent trees or tall shrubs may be present at low cover, including catclaw ( <i>Acacia greggii</i> ) or desert willow. Habitats include intermittently flooded arroyos, channels, and washes. Soils are typically coarse to fine sands, usually well drained and moderately acidic to slightly saline. Elevation ranges from 100-1,100m.  Occurs. See Table 1 for locations.	Jun-Dec
Panicum urvilleanum (Desert panic grass patches) Alliance		S1		Desert panic grass is dominant or co-dominant in the herbaceous and sub-shrub layers with Indian rice grass ( <i>Stipa hymenoides</i> ), desert dicoria ( <i>Dicoria canescens</i> ), sunflower ( <i>Helianthus annuus</i> ), dune primrose ( <i>Oenothera deltoides</i> ) and Thurber's sandpaper plant ( <i>Petalonyx thurberi</i> ). Habitats include active to partially stabilized dunes and sand fields. Elevations range from 10-1,200m.	Mar-May
				and sand fields. Elevations range from 10-1,200m.  Occurs. See Table 1 for locations.	

Species Name		Status <sup>1</sup>		Distribution, Habitat, and Occurrence Potential <sup>2</sup>	Activity /
Potential Sites (based on range)	Federal	State	CNPS	Distribution, Habitat, and Occurrence I otential	Bloom Period
Pleuraphis rigida (Big galleta shrub-steppe) Alliance	-	S2		Big galleta is dominant or co-dominant in the herbaceous and sub-shrub layers with Indian rice grass, black grama (Bouteloua eriopoda), foxtail brome (Bromus madritensis spp. rubens), downy dalea (Dalea mollissima), and matchweed (Gutierrezia sarothrae). Emergent trees and shrubs may be present at low cover, including catclaw, white bursage (Ambrosia dumosa), cheese bush, shadescale (Atriplex canescens), and creosote bush (Larrea tridentata). Habitats include flat ridges, lower bajadas, slopes, dune aprons, and stabilized dunes. Soils are typically clayey, sandy, or rocky. Elevation ranges from 500-1,400m.  Occurs. See Table 1 for locations.	Year-round
Prunus fasciculata (Desert almond scrub) Alliance		\$3	-	Desert range almond ( <i>Prunus fasciculata</i> ) is dominant or co-dominant in the shrub canopy with catclaw, white bursage, cheesebush, golden cholla ( <i>Cylindropuntia echinocarpa</i> ), Nevada jointfir ( <i>Ephedra nevadensis</i> ), California buchwheat, and spiny hopsage ( <i>Grayia spinosa</i> ). Emergent trees may be present at low cover, including California juniper ( <i>Juniperus californica</i> ), Utah juniper ( <i>Juniperus osteosperma</i> ), and Joshua tree. Habitats include arroyos, canyons, washes, and disturbed upland sites on calcareous and granitic substrates. Soils are typically loams and gravels. Elevation ranges from 15-1,880m. <b>Occurs.</b> See Table 1 for locations.	Feb-Mar

Species Name		Status <sup>1</sup>			Activity /
Potential Sites (based on range)	Federal	State	CNPS	Distribution, Habitat, and Occurrence Potential <sup>2</sup>	Bloom Period
Psorothamnus spinosus (Smoke tree woodland) Alliance	_	S3		Smoke tree is dominant or co-dominant in the tree or tall shrub canopy with desert willow, desert ironwood, and blue palo verde ( <i>Parkinsonia florida</i> ). Shrubs may include catclaw, cheesebush, Emory's baccharis ( <i>Baccharis emoryi</i> ), sweetbush, brittlebush, California jointfir, desert lavender ( <i>Hyptis emoryi</i> ), creosote bush, and Parish's wire lettuce ( <i>Stephanomeria pauciflora</i> ). Habitats include arroyos, intermittently flooded channels and washes. Soils are typically sandy and well drained, moderately acidic or slightly saline. Elevation ranges from sea level-1,000m.  Occurs. See Table 1 for locations.	Jun-Jul
Rhus trilobata (Basket bush thickets) Provisional Alliance		S3		Basket bush is dominant in the shrub canopy with pinebush ( <i>Ericameria pinifolia</i> ), Wright's buckwheat ( <i>Eriogonum wrightii</i> ), hollyleaf redberry ( <i>Rhamnus ilicifolia</i> ), chaparral currant ( <i>Ribes malvaceum</i> ), Sierra gooseberry ( <i>Ribes roezlii</i> ), black elderberry ( <i>Sambucus nigra</i> ) and poison oak ( <i>Toxicodendron diversilobum</i> ). Emergent trees may be present at low cover. Habitats include stream terraces, swales, shallow valleys, and upland topography. Elevation ranges from 385-2,200m.  Occurs. See Table 1 for locations.	Mar-May

Species Name		Status <sup>1</sup>			Activity /
Potential Sites (based on range)	Federal	State	CNPS	Distribution, Habitat, and Occurrence Potential <sup>2</sup>	Bloom Period
Yucca brevifolia (Joshua tree woodland) Alliance	_	S3		Dominant plant species in this alluvial vegetation community include white bursage, cheese bush, big sagebush (Artemisia tridentata), yellow rabbitbush (Chrysothamnus viscidiflorus), blackbrush (Coleogyne ramosissima), buck-horn cholla (Cylindropuntia acanthocarpa), Nevada ephedra, and California Buckwheat. The canopy may be open to intermittent, and the herbaceous layer is open to intermittent with perennial grasses and seasonal annuals. Stands occur on alluvial fans and ridges with gentle to moderate slopes. Soils are often coarse sands, very fine silts, gravel, or sandy loams. Elevation ranges from 750-1,800m.	May-Jun
				Occurs. See Table 1 for locations.	
PLANTS					
Aloysia wrightii	-	V	4.3	A perennial evergreen shrub that occurs in rocky, often carbonate, areas of Joshua tree woodland and pinyon and juniper woodland. 900-1,600m.	Apr-Oct
Wright's beebrush				<b>Likely</b> . Collected on the alignment in 2010 (André 14918) just south of Nipton Rd.	•

Species Name		Status <sup>1</sup>		Distribution, Habitat, and Occurrence Potential <sup>2</sup>	Activity /
Potential Sites (based on range)	Federal	State	CNPS		Bloom Period
A. J.				Occurs in the vicinity of Pisgah Crater, Cronese Valley, Rice Valley, and at scattered sites along the California/Nevada border. A perennial herb found in desert dunes and creosote bush scrub, with sandy to rocky soil. 100-1,600m.	
Androstephium breviflorum  — — — Small-Flowered Androstephium	-	2B.2	Likely. Several recent collections were made from within the Project buffer, from the vicinity of the Pisgah Substation, and northeastward along Powerline Rd. towards the Cady Mountains. Collected in 2008 at Dunn, 2 miles southwest of the proposed material yard along Highway 15 on Afton Rd. (Honer 2813).	Mar-Apr	
Astragalus bernardinus			1B.2	Occurs on the desert slope of the San Bernardino Mountains, the Little San Bernardino Mountains, and in the eastern Mojave National Preserve, especially in the vicinity of Cima. A perennial herb found in stony areas among desert shrubs in Joshua tree and pinyon-juniper woodlands. 900-2,300.	Apr-Jun
San Bernardino Milk-Vetch			<b>Does not occur.</b> Suitable habitat occurs outside project alignment in the hills south of Cima. No recent collections in the area and exact location of historical records are unknown.		

Species Name		Status <sup>1</sup>		Distribution, Habitat, and Occurrence Potential <sup>2</sup>	Activity /
Potential Sites (based on range)	Federal	State	CNPS	Distribution, Habitat, and Occurrence Potential	Bloom Period
				Occurs in Mid Hills and the New York Mountains in the eastern Mojave National Preserve. Perennial herb in Great Basin scrub, Joshua tree woodland, and pinyon-juniper woodlands. 1,250-1,850m.	
Astragalus cimae var. cimae Cima Milk-Vetch	_	-	18.2	Does not occur. Species restricted to higher elevations and habitat not found along project alignment. The type locality, given as "Cima," is likely an imprecise attribution. The species is probably absent from Joshua tree woodland within the project boundaries near Cima, as numerous records suggest the species is locally restricted to the desert mountain ranges south of the Project boundary.	Apr-May
Astragalus lentiginosus var. borreganus Borrego milk-vetch	- (		4.3	An annual herb that occurs in sandy areas of Mojavean and Sonoran desert scrub. 30-895m.  Unlikely. Suitable habitat in Devil's Playground in	Feb-May
Berberis fremontii Fremont Barberry			2B.3	vicinity of Old Dad Mountain; Cima Dome.  Occurs in the New York Mountains, Mid Hills, and Granite Mountains, and the desert slope of the San Bernardino Mountains. A perennial evergreen shrub found in rocky and sometimes granitic habitats in chaparral, pinyon-juniper woodlands, and Joshua tree woodlands. 900-1,850m.  Does not occur. Suitable habitat not present.	Apr-Jun

Species Name		Status <sup>1</sup>			Activity /
Potential Sites (based on range)	Federal	State	CNPS	Distribution, Habitat, and Occurrence Potential <sup>2</sup>	Bloom Period
Bouteloua trifida Three-Awned Grama	-	-	2B.3	Occurs in mountain ranges of the eastern Mojave Desert. A perennial grass found in dry, rocky areas, on calcareous soils. 200-1,600m.  Does not occur. Suitable habitat not present.	May-Sep
Castela emoryi Emory's Crucifixion-Thorn	-		2B.2	Occurs throughout much of the Mojave Desert, although apparently not documented within the Mojave National Preserve. A perennial deciduous shrub found in dry, gravelly washes, low-grade alluvial slopes, and on playas in Mojavean and Sonoran creosote bush scrub. 30-1350m.  Occurs. Twelve (12) plants observed within the survey area during surveys, including two within 80 feet north of the transmission lines, on low-grade alluvial slopes in the valley just northeast of the Cady Mountains. Additional population may occur in creosote bush scrub in the western portion of the project.	Jun-Jul
Chamaesyce parryi Parry's Spurge		-	2B.3	An annual herb that occurs in sandy areas of desert dunes and Mojavean desert scrub. 395-730m.  Unlikely. Collected in Devil's Playground (La Cass 186) in 1980, 2 miles SE of alignment.	May-Nov

Species Name Potential Sites (based on range)		Status <sup>1</sup>			Activity /
	Federal	State	CNPS	Distribution, Habitat, and Occurrence Potential <sup>2</sup>	Bloom Period
Coryphantha vivipara var. rosea Viviparous Foxtail Cactus	_	-	2B.2	Occurs in desert mountain ranges of the Mohave National Preserve and adjacent valleys. A perennial stem succulent found on limestone slopes, on hills, and on low-grade granitic slopes, in creosote bush scrub, Joshua tree woodland, and pinyon-juniper woodland. 1,400-2,700m.  Unlikely. Collected adjacent to SCE powerlines 1.5 mi. SSE of Wildcat Butte in 1998 (Sanders et al. 21962). Habitat in this region is essentially unchanged, and the lack of more recent collections in this region is doubtless an artifact of restrictions on collecting within the Preserve.	May-Jun
Cryptantha costata Ribbed Cryptantha	-		4.3	An annual herb found in sandy habitats in desert dunes, Mojavean desert scrub, and Sonoran desert scrub. 60-500m.  Unlikely. Collected on sandy alkali east of Crucero, about 2 miles northwest of the project boundary, in 2011 (André and Fulton 16304). Similar habitat associated with Kelso Wash occurs along the alignment just north of the railroad tracks.	Feb-May

Species Name		Status <sup>1</sup>		Distribution, Habitat, and Occurrence Potential <sup>2</sup>	Activity /
Potential Sites (based on range)	Federal	State	CNPS	Distribution, Habitat, and Occurrence Potential	Bloom Period
				Occurs widely in within the Desert Floristic Province of California. An annual herb found in Mojavean desert scrub and Sonoran desert scrub. 100-1,690m.	
Cryptantha holoptera Winged Cryptantha	_	-	4.3	Unlikely. Collected in the vicinity of Old Dad Mountain very near the Project boundary in 1993 and 1980. Several recent collections near Baker. Habitat in the region is virtually unchanged. The species is doubtless under-collected, widely distributed, and has some potential to occur throughout the Project.	Mar-Apr
Cymopterus multinervatus  Purple-Nerve Cymopterus	-		2B.2	Occurs in mountain ranges of Eastern Mojave Desert, and on the desert slope of the San Bernardino Mountains. A perennial herb found on rocky, gravelly and sandy slopes in Joshua tree woodland and pinyon-juniper woodland. 630-1,800m.	Mar-Apr
Purple-Nerve Cymopterus			<b>Unlikely</b> . Collected in Joshua tree woodland along Cima Rd., about 1 mile north of the Project boundary in 2009 (André 11773).		
Cynanchum utahense			4.2	A perennial herb found in sandy or gravelly habitats of Mojavean desert scrub and Sonoran desert scrub. 100-1,435m.	Mar-Oct
Utah Vine Milkweed	-		4.2	<b>Likely</b> . Recent collections have been made within and near the Project boundaries in the vicinity of Pisgah, the Cady Mountains, and in Ivanpah Valley.	war-oct

Species Name		Status <sup>1</sup>		Distribution, Habitat, and Occurrence Potential <sup>2</sup>	Activity /
Potential Sites (based on range)	Federal	State	CNPS	Distribution, Habitat, and Occurrence Potential	Bloom Period
Eremothera boothii ssp. boothii				Occurrences scattered throughout the Mojave Desert. An annual herb found on sandy flats, steep loose slopes, and low volcanic slopes in Joshua tree and pinyon-juniper woodlands. 900-2,400m.	
Booth's Evening-Primrose	-	-	2B.3	Does not occur. Collected recently several times in the Cima Cinder Cone Lava Beds less than 4 miles northwest of the project boundary. Volcanic soils are located south of and outside the project areas within the Marl Mountains.	Jun-Aug
Eriastrum harwoodii				Occurs widely in the Eastern Mojave Desert. An annual found on sandy desert dunes and in creosote bush scrub. <1,000m.	
Harwood's Eriastrum	-		1B.2	Unlikely. Collected at Crucero Hill about 4 miles northwest of the Project boundary in 2008 (Gowen 813). Annual Eriastrum indeterminable to species were encountered throughout the Project during recent surveys.	Mar-Jun
Erioneuron pilosum			2B.3	Occurs in the desert mountain ranges of the Eastern Mojave. A perennial grass found on rocky and sometimes carbonate slopes and ridges in pinyon-juniper woodlands. 1,280-2,000m.	May-Jun
Hairy Erioneuron				<b>Does not occur</b> . Suitable habitat not present. Recorded only from desert mountain ranges of the Eastern Mojave.	-

Species Name		Status <sup>1</sup>			Activity /
Potential Sites (based on range)	Federal	State	CNPS	Distribution, Habitat, and Occurrence Potential <sup>2</sup>	Bloom Period
Grusonia parishii Matted Cholla	_	-	2B.2	Occurs in the Hackberry, Clark, Castle, Little San Bernardino and Ivanpah Mountains, Landfair Valley and Joshua Tree National Park. A perennial stem succulent found on sandy, gravelly flats, generally in creosote bush/bur scrub and Joshua tree woodlands. 300-1,200m.  Occurs. Ten (10) scattered clumps observed along the alignment during surveys, about 3.6 miles southwest of Cima Rd.	May-Jun
<i>Menodora scabra</i> var. <i>scabra</i> Rough Menodora	-		2B.3	Occurs in the Castle, Mid Hills, and New York Mountain Ranges, and on Cerro Pinon. Found in rocky or sandy soils in Joshua tree woodland, Mojavean desert scrub and pinyon-juniper woodlands. 1,000-1,800m.  Does not occur. Based on known distributions, material of <i>Menodora scabra</i> within the Project boundaries would be expected to be attributable to var. <i>glabrescens</i> .	May-Jun

Species Name	Status <sup>1</sup>				Activity /
Potential Sites (based on range)	Federal	State	CNPS	Distribution, Habitat, and Occurrence Potential <sup>2</sup>	Bloom Period
Mentzelia puberula  Darlington's Blazing Star	_	-	2B.2	Widely distributed in the Eastern Mojave Desert. A perennial herb found in sandy crevices of cliffs or on rocky slopes in Mojavean and Sonoran desert scrub. 90-1,280m.  Unlikely. One historic (1980) collection from Old Dad Mountain. Suitable habitat observed in Jackass Canyon near Old Dad Mountain during surveys. Fruiting specimens of <i>Mentzelia</i> attributable to the same species group (otherwise indeterminable) were observed along the alignment just south of Jackass Canyon.	Mar-May
Mirabilis coccinea  Red Four O'clock	_		2B.3	Distributed throughout Fourth of July Canyon, Keystone Canyon and Bathtub Spring in New York Mountains. Occurs also in Castle Peak, Mid Hills, and Ivanpah Mountain Ranges. A perennial herb found on dry, rocky slopes and in washes in Joshua tree woodland and pinyon-juniper woodland. 1,300-1,800m.  Does not occur. Typically observed in mountainous Joshua tree woodland The project is located too distant from the Ivanpah/New York Mountains where habitat is present.	May-Jul

Species Name Potential Sites (based on range)	Status <sup>1</sup>			Distribution, Habitat, and Occurrence Potential <sup>2</sup>	Activity /
	Federal	State	CNPS	Distribution, Habitat, and Occurrence Potential	Bloom Period
Muilla coronata	_	_	4.2	Widespread in the Mojave Desert. A perennial bulbiferous herb found in chenopod scrub, Joshua tree woodland, Mojavean desert scrub, and pinyon-juniper woodland. 670-1,960m.	Mar-May
Crowned Muilla			- 4.2	<b>Unlikely.</b> Appropriate habitat is intermittent throughout within the Project. Collected along highway 15 at Dunn, two miles southeast of the proposed material yard on Afton Rd.	Ţ
Munroa squarrosa False Buffalo-Grass			2B.2	Occurs on toe slopes of desert ranges in the Eastern Mojave Desert. An annual grass found on open, silty or gravelly flats, and sandy, gravelly or rocky areas in Joshua tree woodland, and sometimes in pinyon-juniper woodland. 1,300-1,700m.  Does not occur. Suitable habitat may occur near Cima and near the California/Nevada border. However, the nearest collection is from seven miles north of the Project boundary in the Ivanpah Mountains.	Oct
Nemacaulis denudata var. gracilis Slender Cottonheads	-		2B.2	Occurs in coastal Southern California, Colorado Desert, and at scattered sites in the Eastern Mojave Desert. An annual herb in sandy habitats, including dunes and coastal strand. 10-500m.  Does not occur. Suitable habitat occurs in the Devil's Playground, but the nearest known occurrence is at Kelso, about 15 miles southeast of	Apr-May

Species Name		Status <sup>1</sup>		Distribution, Habitat, and Occurrence Potential <sup>2</sup>	Activity /
Potential Sites (based on range)	Federal	State	CNPS	Distribution, Habitat, and Occurrence Potential	Bloom Period
Opuntia curvispina Curved-Spine Beavertail	_	-	2B.2	Occurs near the California/Nevada state line between Nipton, CA and Searchlight, NV. Reported for the vicinity of Cima in Mojave National Preserve. A perennial stem succulent found in chaparral, Mojavean desert scrub and pinyon-juniper woodlands. 1,000-1,400m. Species is a taxonomically recognized tetraploid hybrid resulting from <i>Opuntia chlorotica</i> and <i>Opuntia phaecantha</i> .  Does not occur. Presumably known in California from only historic collections.	Apr-Jun
Pellaea truncata Spiny Cliff-Brake	-		2B.3	Occurs in the New York Mountains, Mid Hills Range and the Providence Mountains. A rhizomatous perennial occurring in crevices of granite or igneous rock in pinyon-juniper woodlands. 1,200-1,900m.  Does not occur. Suitable habitat not present.	Apr-Jun
Penstemon albomarginatus White-Margined Beardtongue			1B.1	Distributed mainly throughout the Lavic Lake volcanic field, Cady, Sleeping Beauty and Bullion Mountain Ranges. A perennial herb found in loose desert sand, generally on stabilized dunes with creosote bush scrub. 700-900m.  Likely. Collected numerous times, including along the alignment, in the vicinity of Pisgah.	Mar-May

Species Name	Status <sup>1</sup>				Activity /
Potential Sites (based on range)	Federal	State	CNPS	Distribution, Habitat, and Occurrence Potential	Bloom Period
Penstemon pseudospectabilis var. pseudospectabilis	_		2B.2	Occurs at scattered localities in the Eastern Mojave Desert. A perennial herb often found in sandy washes, and sometimes rocky areas in Mojavean and Sonoran desert scrub. 80-1,935m.	Jan-May
Desert Beardtongue			Uı vie	Unlikely. Collected in the 1998 and in 1980 in the vicinity of Old Dad Mountain, where suitable habitat still exists in the vicinity of Jackass Canyon.	·
Phacelia coerulea	-			Occurs in mountain ranges of the Eastern Mojave Desert, and some adjacent valley. An annual herb found in open, sandy or rocky areas, generally in creosote bush scrub, sometimes also pinyon-juniper woodlands. 1,400-2,000m.	Apr-May
Sky-Blue Phacelia				Occurs at scattered localities in the Eastern Mojave Desert. A perennial herb often found in sandy washes, and sometimes rocky areas in Mojavear and Sonoran desert scrub. 80-1,935m.  Unlikely. Collected in the 1998 and in 1980 in the vicinity of Old Dad Mountain, where suitable habitat still exists in the vicinity of Jackass Canyon.  Occurs in mountain ranges of the Eastern Mojave Desert, and some adjacent valley. An annual herb found in open, sandy or rocky areas, generally in creosote bush scrub, sometimes also pinyon-junipe woodlands. 1,400-2,000m.  Unlikely. Collected in creosote bush scrub one mile northwest of the project boundary along Nipton Rd (André 10231).  Occurs in the Eastern Mojave Desert. An annual herb found in sandy habitats within Joshua tree woodland. 1,000-1,200m.  4.2 Likely. Collected in 2011 along the alignment in creosote bush scrub, one mile west of Ivanpah Rd (André 22338). Suitable habitat is extensive in the	
Portulaca halimoides		Y		Occurs in the Eastern Mojave Desert. An annual herb found in sandy habitats within Joshua tree woodland. 1,000-1,200m.	
Desert portulaca	-		4.2	<b>Likely</b> . Collected in 2011 along the alignment in creosote bush scrub, one mile west of Ivanpah Rd. (André 22338). Suitable habitat is extensive in the eastern portion of the project.	Sep



Species Name		Status <sup>1</sup>		Distribution, Habitat, and Occurrence Potential <sup>2</sup>	Activity /
Potential Sites (based on range)	Federal	State	CNPS		Bloom Period
				An annual herb found in Mojavean desert scrub. 345-1,300m.	
Sibara deserti  Desert Winged-Rockcress	_	_	4.3	Unlikely. Collected within the wash adjacent to the proposed staging area on the north side of Rocky Ridge in 1993 (Hrusa 10662). Collected on a rocky canyon wall at Sheep Spring in the Marl Mountains in 1966, 0.4 miles south of the alignment (Hitchcock 24346).	Mar-Apr
Sphaeralcea rusbyi var. eremicola	-		1B.2	Occurs in Panamint, Clark, Ivanpah and Providence Mountain Ranges, Cima Dome in Mojave National Preserve, Lost Horse Valley in Joshua Tree National Park, and Mineral Hills near I-15. A perennial herb found in creosote bush scrub and Joshua tree woodlands. 1,000-1,500m.	Mar-Jun
Rusby's Desert-Mallow				<b>Likely</b> . Collected along the alignment at two locations south of Wildcat Butte and Cima Dome in 1998 (Sanders 21967 and 21963). This taxon is sometimes associated with roadside disturbances.	

Species Name		Status <sup>1</sup>		Distribution II bit of and Communication Production 12	Activity /
Potential Sites (based on range)	Federal	State	CNPS	Distribution, Habitat, and Occurrence Potential <sup>2</sup>	Bloom Period
Wislizenia refracta var. refracta Jackass-Clover	_	-	2B.2	Occurs between Barstow and Baker, Cima Cinder Cones, Joshua Tree National Park, and throughout the Twentynine Palms region. An annual herb found in sandy washes, along roadsides on alkaline flats, on dunes, and in creosote bush scrub. Occasionally found in wetlands. 90-1,160m.  Unlikely. Nearest recent collection is from just southwest of Midway on the north side of Hwy 15, about six miles southeast of the proposed staging yard on Afton Rd. Suitable habitat is present throughout the Project area.	Apr-Nov

Species Name Potential Sites (based on range)	Status <sup>1</sup>				Activity /
	Federal	State	CNPS	Distribution, Habitat, and Occurrence Potential <sup>2</sup>	Bloom Period
FISH					
Siphateles bicolor mohavensis Mohave Tui Chub	FE	SE FP		Historically, the Mohave tui chub occurred throughout the Mojave River drainage. A small population persisted in isolated ponds near the terminus of the Mojave River at Soda Springs Historically, within the Mojave River, the Mohave tui chub was associated with deep pools and sloughs of the river and was not found very far into small tributaries. Currently occupies habitats with water depth of four feet with some freshwater flow for a mineralized and alkaline environment, with some aquatic plants.	Year-round
				Does not occur. Historically introduced into Mojave River south of western laydown yard at I-15. Presumed extirpated due to competition and hydrology alteration. Laydown yard not year Mojave River. Not aquatic habitat present.	

Species Name		Status <sup>1</sup>		Distribution, Habitat, and Occurrence Potential <sup>2</sup>	Activity /
Potential Sites (based on range) Fed	Federal	State	CNPS	Distribution, Habitat, and Occurrence Potential	Bloom Period
REPTILES					
Actinemys marmorata  Northern Western Pond Turtle	_	SSC	_	Found in ponds, lakes, rivers, streams and irrigation ditches with abundant vegetation and logs, rocks and exposed banks for basking. In streams, prefers pools to shallower areas. Logs, rocks, cattail mats, and exposed banks are required for basking. May enter brackish water and even seawater. Usually found in woodland, forest and grasslands.	Feb-Nov
	_ SSC _		<b>Does not occur.</b> Records from Mojave River in Afton Canyon, approximately 2.5 miles south of western laydown yard at I-15. Laydown yard not year Mojave River. Suitable habitat not present along Project.		
Gopherus agassizii Desert tortoise	FT	ST		Throughout the Mojave Desert south along the Colorado river and along the east side of the Salton Basin. A desert species that needs firm ground to dig burrows, or rocks to shelter among. Found in arid sandy or gravelly locations along riverbanks, washes, sandy dunes, alluvial fans, canyon bottoms, desert oases, rocky hillsides, creosote flats and hillsides.	Mar-Oct
				Occurs. Numerous live tortoises and sign observed during focused surveys throughout the Project alignment.	

Species Name		Status <sup>1</sup>			Activity /
Potential Sites (based on range)	Federal	State	CNPS	Distribution, Habitat, and Occurrence Potential <sup>2</sup>	Bloom Period
Uma scoparia  Mohave Fringe-toed Lizard	_	SSC		Inhabits areas of fine windblown sand in the Mojave Desert from the southern end of Death Valley south to the Colorado River around Blythe, and into extreme western Arizona. Found in sparsely-vegetated arid areas with fine wind-blown sand, including dunes, flats with sandy hummocks formed around the bases of vegetation, washes, and the banks of rivers. Needs fine, loose sand for burrowing.  Occurs. Four individuals observed during surveys throughout the Devil's Playground. Historic records from near I-40.	Feb-Nov
BIRDS					
Athene cunicularia Burrowing Owl		SSC		Inhabits relatively flat and open areas such as grasslands, coastal dunes, and agricultural areas; requires the presence of burrows for nesting and roosting activities. An uncommon to locally common resident in California.  Likely. Historic records from south and central portions of alignment. Suitable habitat and burrows identified throughout the alignment.	Year-round Breeding: Mar-Sep

Species Name		Status <sup>1</sup>		Distribution Habitat and Occurrence Datasetics 2	Activity /
Potential Sites (based on range)	Federal	State	CNPS	Distribution, Habitat, and Occurrence Potential <sup>2</sup>	Bloom Period
Colaptes chrysoides Gilded Flicker	_	SE	-	Native to desert areas surrounding the Gulf of California, including southeast California, and both northern and southern Baja California. Its range largely coincides with the regional distribution of giant cacti throughout the US, but in California, they have been primarily found in the lower Colorado River valley in desert riparian, desert wash, and Joshua tree habitats. Nest site is cavity in giant cactus, tree, or post.	Year-round Breeding: May-July
				<b>Likely</b> . Known to nest in the Mojave National Preserve.	
Lanius ludovicianus Loggerhead Shrike (nesting)	-	SSC		Found throughout North America, a year-round resident that prefers open country with short vegetation: pastures with fence rows, old orchards, mowed roadsides, cemeteries, golf courses, agricultural fields, riparian areas, and open woodlands.	Year-round Breeding: Mar-Jul
				<b>Occurs</b> . Observed during surveys. Suitable habitat present throughout alignment.	
MAMMALS					
Antrozous pallidus Pallid Bat	-	SSC	_	Occurs throughout most of California. Occupies a wide variety of habitats, including grasslands, shrublands, woodlands, and forests from sea level up through mixed conifer forests. Most common in open, dry habitats with rocky areas for roosting.  Likely. Suitable habitat present along alignment on rocky mountains.	Year-round



Species Name	Status <sup>1</sup>			Distribution Helitate and Occurrence Between 12	Activity /
Potential Sites (based on range) Fede	Federal	State	CNPS	Distribution, Habitat, and Occurrence Potential <sup>2</sup>	Bloom Period
Ovis canadensis nelsoni Desert Bighorn Sheep	_	FP		In California, the desert bighorn sheep is found in the dry, desert mountains of southeastern California. Desert bighorn live throughout the intermountain west in a large number of desert mountain ranges in eastern California, much of Nevada, northwestern Arizona, New Mexico, southern Utah, southern Colorado, and Mexico.  Likely. Range includes N. Bristol Mtns and Kelso Peaks/Marl/Old Dad Mtns, which Project passes through, as well as other adjacent mountain ranges.	Year-round
Taxidea taxus American Badger	-	SSC		Found throughout the entirety of California. Occur primarily in drier open stages of most shrub, forest and herbaceous habitats with dry, friable soils. Burrows are dug daily in friable soil for cover during the summer, but frequently reuse old burrows.	Year-round Breeding: Mar-Apr
				<b>Likely</b> . Suitable habitat is present along alignment.	

Species Name	ecies Name Status <sup>1</sup>				Activity /		
Potential Sites (based on range)	Federal	State	CNPS	Distribution, Habitat, and Occurrence Potential <sup>2</sup>	Bloom Period		
¹Status	CNPS			<sup>2</sup> Occurrence Potential			
Federal FE: Federally Endangered	1A: Plants presu either rare or ext	med extirpated in Cal inct elsewhere	lifornia and	Special-status species with the potential to occur within the Survey Ardbased on SCE's Species Presence/Absence Determination flow-chart:			
FT: Federally Threatened	1B: Plants rare, t California and el	hreatened, or endang sewhere	ered in	Occurs: the species and/or positive sign was observed on-site during survey.	g site visit or field		
DL: Delisted	2A: Plants presucommon elsewho	med extirpated in Cal ere	lifornia, but	Absent: the species and/or positive sign was not observed on-site survey(s) during the appropriate blooming/activity period (and, for pla	te during focused ants, observed at a		
State		hreatened, or endang ore common elsewhe		reference population).  Likely: all site features indicate this species is very likely present and should expected. Criteria include:			
SE: State Endangered	,	hich more information					
ST: State Threatened SR: State Rare	- a review list	ed distribution - a wa		<ul> <li>Project site within geographic range;</li> <li>Suitable habitat present (e.g., soils, vegetation communities, elevation roost sites, leaf litter/debris, water, host plants, etc.); and</li> <li>Distance to historical record(s) less than 25 years old are less than 50 feet (plants/fish), 1,000 feet (riparian wildlife), 1 mile (birds/bats), miles (large mammals), or 3 miles (small mammals/herps).</li> </ul>			
CT: State Candidate Threatened SSC: California Species of Special Concern		reatened in California reatened / high degreeat)					
FP: Fully Protected WL: Watch List	occurrences three	threatened in Californatened / moderate deg		Unlikely: species could occur, but records of the species are not locall include:	lly known. Criteria		
DL: Delisted  Vegetation Communities: Ranks are based on a one to five scale, ranging from critically imperiled (S1) to	0.3: Not very thr 20% of occurren	immediacy of threat)  0.3: Not very threatened in California ( 20% of occurrences threatened / low de immediacy of threat or no current threa		<ul> <li>Project site within geographic range;</li> <li>Suitable habitat present (e.g., soils, vegetation commiroost sites, leaf litter/debris, water, host plants, etc.); a</li> <li>Distance to historical record(s) less than 25 years old a</li> </ul>	and		
demonstrably secure (S5). S1-S3 communities considered rare.  CBR: Considered But Rejected			)	feet (plants/fish), 1,000 feet (riparian wildlife), 1 mi miles (large mammals), or 3 miles (small mammals/he	nile (birds/bats), 2 aerps).		
				current geographic/elevation range, lacks habitat or suitable conditions, and/or reasonable certainty to assume absent based on historical records.			



# **Appendix D-3**

Segment 1 Botanical Resources Survey Report



# **BOTANICAL SURVEY REPORT**

# GALE TO PISGAH PROJECT

# SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

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Date: August 1, 2017

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#### 1.0 INTRODUCTION

Environmental Intelligence, LLC (EI) was retained by Southern California Edison (SCE) to conduct surveys for special-status plant species on the Gale to Pisgah Project (Proposed Project). The Proposed Project would require installation of new telecommunication lines to connect the Gale Substation to the Pisgah Substation. This report presents the findings of focused surveys for rare plants in suitable habitat within the Proposed Project area.

### 1.1 Project Location and Description

The Proposed Project is located in San Bernardino County, California, extending east-southeast from Gale Substation (approximately 1 mile ESE of Daggett and 9 miles ESE of Barstow) for approximately 29 miles to Pisgah Substation (Exhibit 1). The Proposed Project alignment passes through the following United States Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5-minute quadrangles: Minneola, Newberry Springs, Troy Lake, and Hector. Land surrounding the Proposed Project includes agricultural areas, off-highway vehicle recreation areas, and undisturbed desert scrub habitats. The Proposed Project alignment crosses lands owned by BLM and private landowners (Exhibit 1).

The Proposed Project would involve installation of telecommunication all-dielectric self-supporting (ADSS) cable line from Gale Substation to Pisgah Substation along an existing SCE distribution line right-of-way. The Gale to Pisgah fiber optic interconnection will support the SCE communication system for the addition of renewable energy generation. This communication system is part of the larger SCE system that provides safe and reliable electrical service consistent with the North American Electric Reliability Corporation, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, the California Independent System Operators, and SCE's planning design guidelines and criteria. The ADSS is necessary to ensure adequate communication facilities are in place for the Calcite Substation Project, Eldorado-Lugo-Mojave Project, and Lugo-Victorville 500kV Transmission Line Special Protection Scheme (SPS, also referred to herein as Remedial Action Scheme or "RAS") Project.

Overhead ADSS stringing includes all activities associated with the installation of cables onto cross arms on existing wood pole structures. This activity includes the installation of vibration dampeners and suspension and dead-end hardware assemblies. If the existing pole does not meet wind load or ground clearance requirements with the addition of the fiber cable, distribution line poles will be modified or interset poles will be installed.

Existing access roads will be used to the extent feasible for construction of the Proposed Project; where needed, these roads will be improved within the existing road prism. Existing access roads will be maintained to allow the use of construction equipment. Some road modifications to existing access roads may be required to allow safe use of heavy equipment. At the conclusion of Project construction, all roads utilized for construction purposes will be left in a condition similar to the condition that existed prior to the start of construction. Loose rock and slide material will be removed, if possible, from existing roads and used to construct road dikes, fill washouts, or flatten fill slopes. All washouts, ruts, and irregularities within the construction area will be filled or removed.

The Proposed Project Survey Area includes 488 existing distribution pole sites, two material laydown yards, and two existing substations (Exhibit 2).

#### 2.0 METHODS

# 2.1 Literature Review

Prior to the initiation of the field surveys described in this report, several sources of available data were used to identify known and potential biological resources within the Project region, including published literature, field guides, previous site surveys, and public data sets. The information presented in this analysis was obtained from the following sources:



• The California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB), maintained by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), quad-level species occurrence information (CDFW 2017);

- The California Native Plant Society's (CNPS) Online Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants of California (CNPS 2017);
- Consortium of California Herbaria (CCH 2017);
- U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Soil Survey Geographic (SSURGO) data (Natural Resources Conservation Service [NRCS] 2017);
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS 2017) county-level species occurrence information;
- USGS topographic maps;
- USFWS Critical Habitat designations;
- BRC Equals 3, Inc. 2016 Habitat Assessment: Calcite Substation Project (BRC 2016a); and
- BRC Equals 3, Inc. 2016 Botanical Report: Calcite Substation Project (BRC 2016b).

All plant species, as described by the CNDDB, within eight USGS 7.5-minute quadrangles and centered on the Proposed Project location (i.e., Nebo, Yermo, Daggett, Minneola, Newberry Springs, Troy Lake, Hector, and Sleeping Beauty Quadrangles) were selected as potential focal survey species (Exhibit 3). A list of the special-status plant species identified by the literature search is provided as Appendix A. Special-status plants include those with federal, state, or local designations or California Rare Plant Rank (CRPR). The botanical surveys were comprehensive and floristic in nature and were not restricted to, or focused only on, this list.

# 2.2 Regulated Species

The database search and literature review identified 10 special-status plant species occurring or having the potential to occur in the vicinity of the Proposed Project (Appendix A). Of these, none were federal and/or state-regulated species (i.e., Endangered or Threatened).

# 2.3 Taxonomy and Vegetation Classification

Plant taxonomy follows The Jepson Manual (Baldwin et al. 2012). Common plant names, where not available from Baldwin et al. 2012, are taken from Abrams (1923, 1944, 1951), Abrams and Ferris (1960), Beauchamp (1986), Munz (1974), CNPS (2017), or Simpson and Hasenstab (2009). Vegetation classification follows the system described in a Manual of California Vegetation, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition (Sawyer et al. 2009). Scientific names are mentioned once in the text and common names are used thereafter.

This vegetation classification system is the preferred system of the California Native Plant Society and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's Vegetation Classification and Mapping Program, and allows for direct comparisons with other classification systems (e.g., Holland 1986). For species unidentifiable in the field, biologists took reference specimens for later identification.

#### 2.4 Existing Vegetation

Eleven vegetation communities/land cover types, including three sensitive vegetation communities, one sensitive land cover type, and seven non-sensitive vegetation communities/land cover types were previously documented and mapped during habitat assessment studies (BRC 2016a; Exhibit 2). Desert saltbush (*Atriplex polycarpa*) scrub is dense along the middle portion of the Proposed Project alignment, mesquite thicket (*Prosopis glandulosa*) woodland is scattered across desert riparian areas within the alignment, and bush seepweed (*Suaeda moquinii*) scrub is present along the eastern portion of the alignment. Alkali playa is a sensitive land cover type that occurs in dry lake beds along the eastern portion of the alignment. Descriptions of the communities can be found in the Manual of California Vegetation, 2nd Edition (Sawyer et al. 2009). A description of the land cover types is provided below.



#### TABLE 1. VEGETATION COMMUNITY / LAND COVER TYPE AND RARITY

### Vegetation Community / Land Cover Type and Rarity<sup>1</sup>

#### **Sensitive Vegetation Communities**

Atriplex polycarpa (Allscale scrub) Shrubland Alliance - Desert Saltbush Scrub (36.340.00) G2 S2

Prosopis glandulosa (Mesquite thicket) Woodland Alliance (61.512.00) G5 S3

Suaeda moquinii (Bush seepweed scrub) Shrubland Alliance (36.200.00) G5 S3

# **Non-sensitive Vegetation Communities**

Atriplex canescens (Fourwing saltbush scrub) Shrubland Alliance (36.310.00) G5 S4

Atriplex confertifolia (Shadscale scrub) Shrubland Alliance (36.320.00) G5 S4

Larrea tridentata (Creosote bush scrub) Shrubland Alliance (33.010.00) G5 S5

Larrea tridentata-Ambrosia dumosa (Creosote bush-white bursage scrub) Shrubland Alliance (33.140.00) G5 S5

Tamarix ssp. (Tamarisk thicket) Shrubland Semi-Natural Alliance (63.810.00)

# **Land Cover Types**

Agriculture

Alkali Playa Community G4 S3

#### Developed

<sup>1</sup>Rarity and Global/State Ranks: One purpose of the vegetation classification is to assist in determining the level of rarity and imperilment of vegetation types. Ranking of alliances according to their degree of imperilment (as measured by rarity, trends, and threats) follows NatureServe's Heritage Methodology, in which all alliances are listed with a G (global) and S (state) rank. Alliances with State ranks of S1-S3 are considered to be highly imperiled.

# Agriculture

Agricultural lands are used primarily for production of food and fiber. Such areas include croplands, pastures, orchards, groves, vineyards, nurseries, ornamental horticultural areas, confined feeding operations, and other agricultural land.

# Alkali Playa Community

Alkali playa is a rare community of habitats that are intermittently flooded or saturated. Examples include dry lake beds and margins, hummocks, lagoon bars, old lake beds perched above current drainages, and seeps (Holland 1986).

### Developed

Developed lands include urban or built-up areas with much of the land covered by structures. Such areas include cities, transportation, power and communications facilities, mills, shopping centers, and other buildings that may, in some cases, be separate from urban areas. Urban or built-up land may contain a wide variety of native and non-native, ruderal and ornamental plant species.

# 2.5 Special-Status Plant Surveys

Timing of the surveys took into consideration documented phenology for the target species, reference populations, and weather data. The closest weather data center (Station #042257) was located approximately 0.5 miles north of the Proposed Project area at Daggett Airport, California. Weather data were obtained from the Western Regional Climate Center (WRCC) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) National Climate Data Center (NCDC). Thirty-Year Climate Normals for Daggett Airport averaged 3.13 inches of precipitation during October through June (WRCC 1981-2010). For the 2016-2017 hydrological year, total precipitation was 58 percent above average (4.95 inches) in Mojave Valley from October through June (NCDC 2017). Due to increased precipitation levels during the current hydrological year, plant species were expected to be robust and have a longer than usual blooming period.



Prior to onsite surveys, botanists visited reference populations for target special-status species to ensure that these species: i) emerged (if annuals), ii) showed phenological traits (e.g., fruits, flowers, etc.) necessary for identification, and/or iii) were readily identifiable with all botanists who may have less familiarity with a given species. A list of all reference population locations and results is provided below in Table 2.

Species	General Location	Date Visited	Status
Small-flowered androstephium (Androstephium breviflorum)	Ivanpah Dry Lake Playa, 2 miles SW Primm, NV	4/17/2017	Blooming, readily identifiable
Clokey's cryptantha (Cryptantha clokeyi)	Powerline Road, Lucerne Valley, CA	4/26/2017	Blooming, fruiting, readily identifiable
Mojave menodora (Menodora spinescens var. mohavensis)	North of Ord Mt. along Camp Rock Rd.	4/26/2017	Blooming, readily identifiable
Mojave monkeyflower (Mimulus mohavensis)	Ord Mountain Road/Daggett Wash, Barstow, CA	4/26/2017	None identified
White margined beardtongue (Penstemon albomarginatus)	Needles Fwy, Pisgah, CA	4/26/2017	None identified

TABLE 2: REFERENCE POPULATIONS SUMMARY TABLE

Following verification at these reference populations, pedestrian surveys for special-status plant species were conducted from April 25 to May 1 and May 30 to June 1, 2017 by qualified botanists Doug Gordon-Blackwood, Ron Clark, Kevin Thomas, Nicole Nesball, Ben Madden, Kristofer Robison and Renee Robison. This botanical survey was conducted following the CDFW Protocols for Surveying and Evaluating Impacts to Special-Status Native Plant Populations and Natural Communities (CDFW 2009) and the CNPS Botanical Survey Guidelines (CNPS 2001). The survey area was defined by a 20-foot buffer around the Proposed Project pole sites and on either side of the centerline for underground work (Exhibit 2). Surveys were conducted by walking transects over the survey areas to ensure thorough coverage, noting all observed plant taxa. Focused attention, including the use of denser transect lines, was given to areas with higher potential habitat for special-status plant species. Care was taken to thoroughly search all unique features, soils (Exhibit 4), and habitats encountered that could have a higher probability for occurrence of sensitive species. Within private property along the survey area where no access was available, surveyors used binoculars to visually assess the area for rare plants. Plants were counted individually whenever possible. When the population size, density, or other factors rendered a census impractical, counting plants in one or more representative square meter areas, and multiplying by the estimated area of the population was used to estimate the number of individuals. Photographs of special-status taxa and habitat conditions are included in Appendix C. The locations of all special-status species were mapped in the field using a Garmin recreational Global Positioning System (GPS) hand-held unit and on aerial photograph field maps.

#### 3.0 RESULTS

Early and late growing season botanical surveys were conducted within the Proposed Project survey area on multiple days. Performing multiple surveys over the course of the growing season is critical for the detection of special-status plants. Reference populations and regional rainfall amounts were monitored to ensure the scientific adequacy of these focused surveys, however there is always a potential for a false negative survey result as species may be present on-site but not be detectable, or populations may be limited in extent due to climate conditions. New occurrences were documented for special-status plant species during each survey visit. Survey dates and times are summarized below in Table 3.



Survey Date (2017) **Survey Hours** Biologist1 (Survey Type) RC, BM, KT, April 25 Early Growing Season 07:00-17:00 NN RC, BM, KT, 07:00-17:00 April 26 Early Growing Season NN RC, BM, KT, 07:00-17:00 April 27 Early Growing Season NN DGB, BM, 07:00-17:00 April 28 Early Growing Season KT, NN DGB, RC, May 1 Early Growing Season 07:00-17:00 KT, NN May 30 Late Growing Season 07:00-17:00 KR, RR 07:00-17:00 May 31 Late Growing Season KR, RR 07:00-17:00 KR, RR June 1 Late Growing Season

TABLE 3: SURVEY DATES AND TIME

<sup>1</sup> DGB – Doug Gordon Blackwood, RC – Ron Clark, BM – Ben Madden, KT – Kevin Thomas, NN-Nicole Nesball KR – Kristofer Robison, RR – Renee Robison

The botanical surveys resulted in the detection of 94 plant species, of which 11 are non-native (Appendix B). Two special-status plant species, Crucifixion thorn (*Castela emoryi*, CRPR 2B.2) and Utah vine milkweed (*Funastrum utahense*, CRPR 4.2), were incidentally observed outside the survey area. Descriptions of the observed special-status plant species are provided below.

### 3.1 Crucifixion Thorn (Castela emoryi, CRPR 2B.2)

Crucifixion thorn is a perennial shrub that typically blooms between June and July. This species is typically associated with gravelly soils in creosote bush scrub at elevations between 295 to 2495 feet. One individual was documented on Halloran sandy loam soil 100 feet outside the Proposed Project survey area north of U.S. Route 66 (Exhibit 5, Page 1). Associated plant species included creosote bush.

#### 3.2 Utah Vine Milkweed (Funastrum utahense, CRPR 4.2)

Utah vine milkweed is a perennial herb that typically blooms between April and June. This species is typically associated with creosote bush scrub at elevations between 490 to 4,365 feet. Twenty-five individuals were documented on desert sand-dune soil at one discrete location approximately 50 feet outside the survey area north of U.S. Route 66 and Interstate 40 (Exhibit 5, Page 2; Appendix C, Photo 4). Associated plant species included native creosote bush and white bursage, and non-native Saharan mustard (*Brassica tournefortii*).

# 3.3 White-Margined Beardtongue (Penstemon albomarginatus, CRPR 1B.1)

White-margined beardtongue is a perennial herb that typically blooms between March and May. This species is typically associated with desert sand, generally on stabilized dunes with creosote bush scrub at elevations between 2300 – 3000 feet. CNDDB records for this species (2005-2010) occur within 500 feet of the southern Project survey area near I-40 and Pisgah. The species was not detected during the reference site visit at record locations. While surveys were conducted during the appropriate blooming season, the lack of observations at the reference population suggests that there is a possibility that the species may be present but not detectable at the time of survey.

# 4.0 SUMMARY

EI conducted systematic searches for special-status plant species within the survey area. No special-status plant species were identified within the survey area. One rare plant species (White-Margined Beardtongue) was absent from reference population locations and may not have been visible during surveys. Nevertheless, based on the phenological characteristics of other species with similar blooming periods and observed during surveys and the identification of new and expanded special-status plant populations, the targeted plant species were expected to be evident and observable during this year's survey periods.

**ENVIRONMENTAL INTELLIGENCE** 

Travis Kegel – Project Manager

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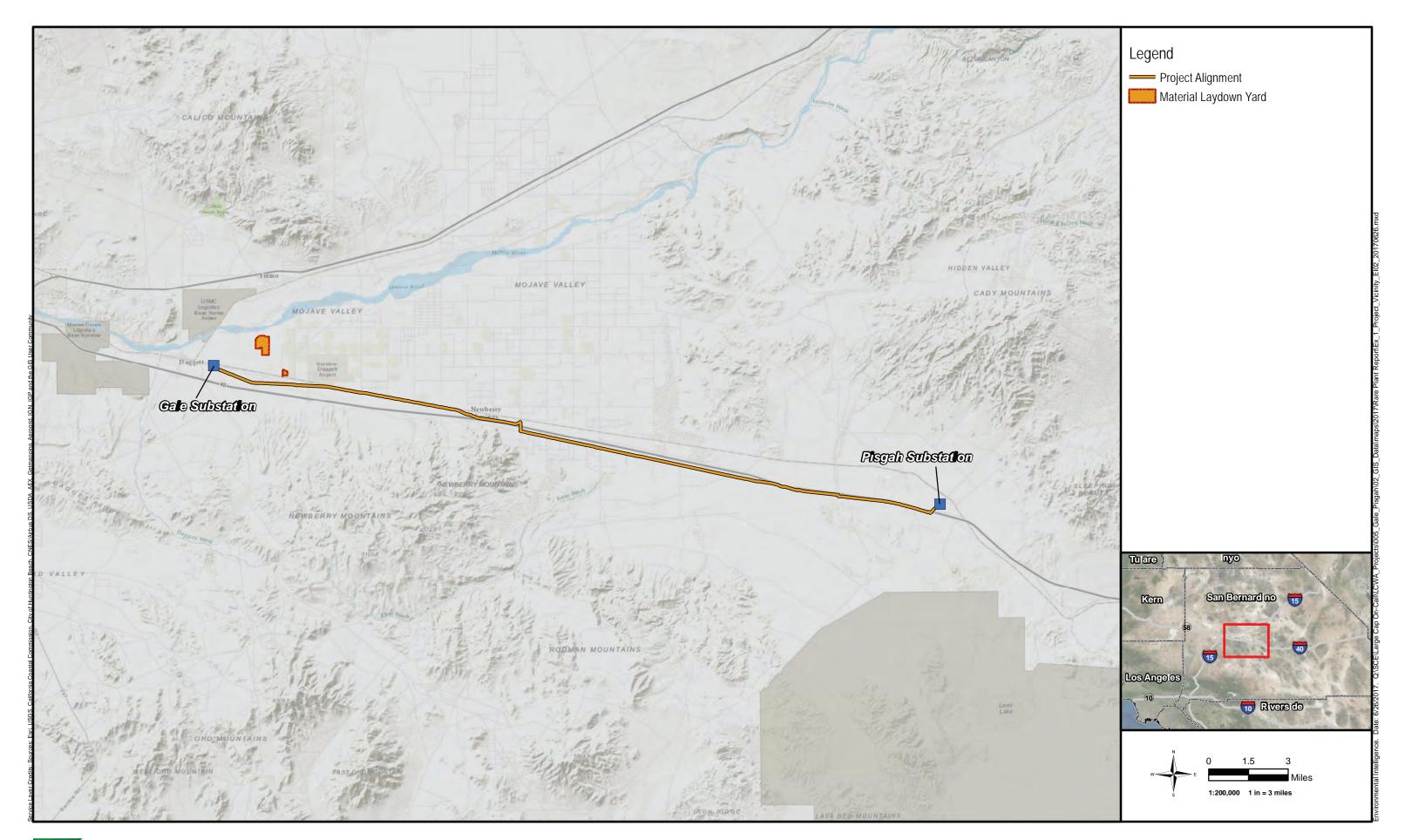
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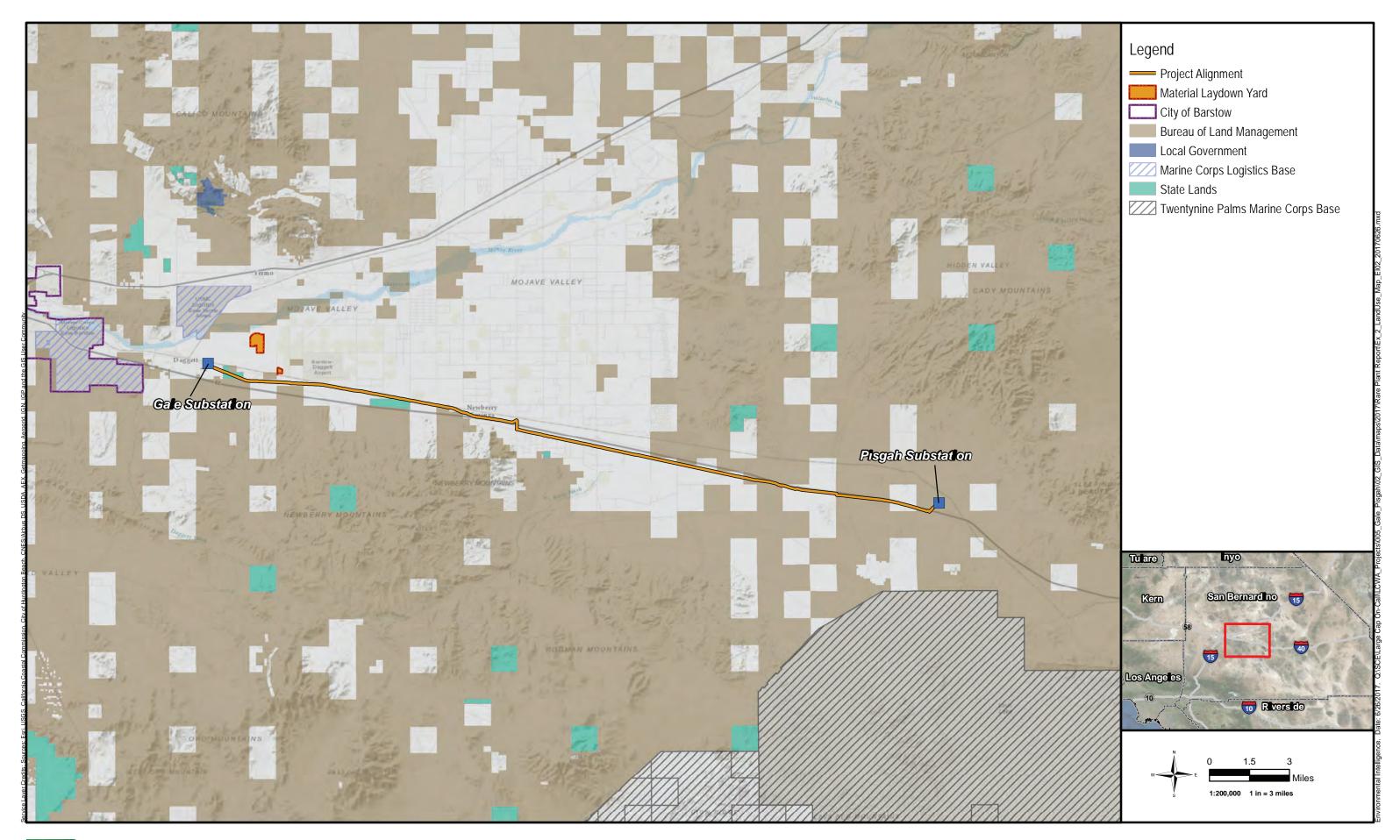
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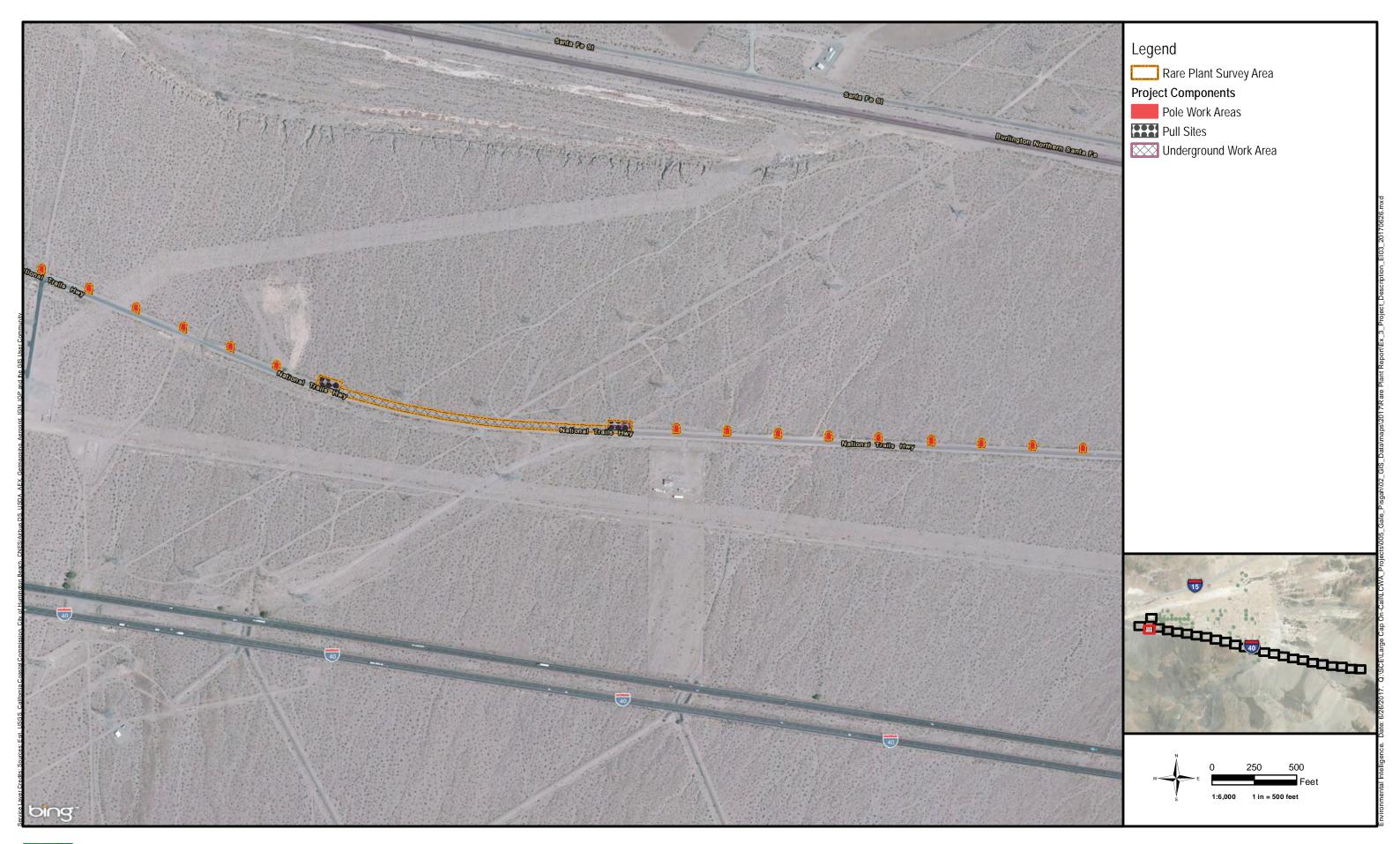
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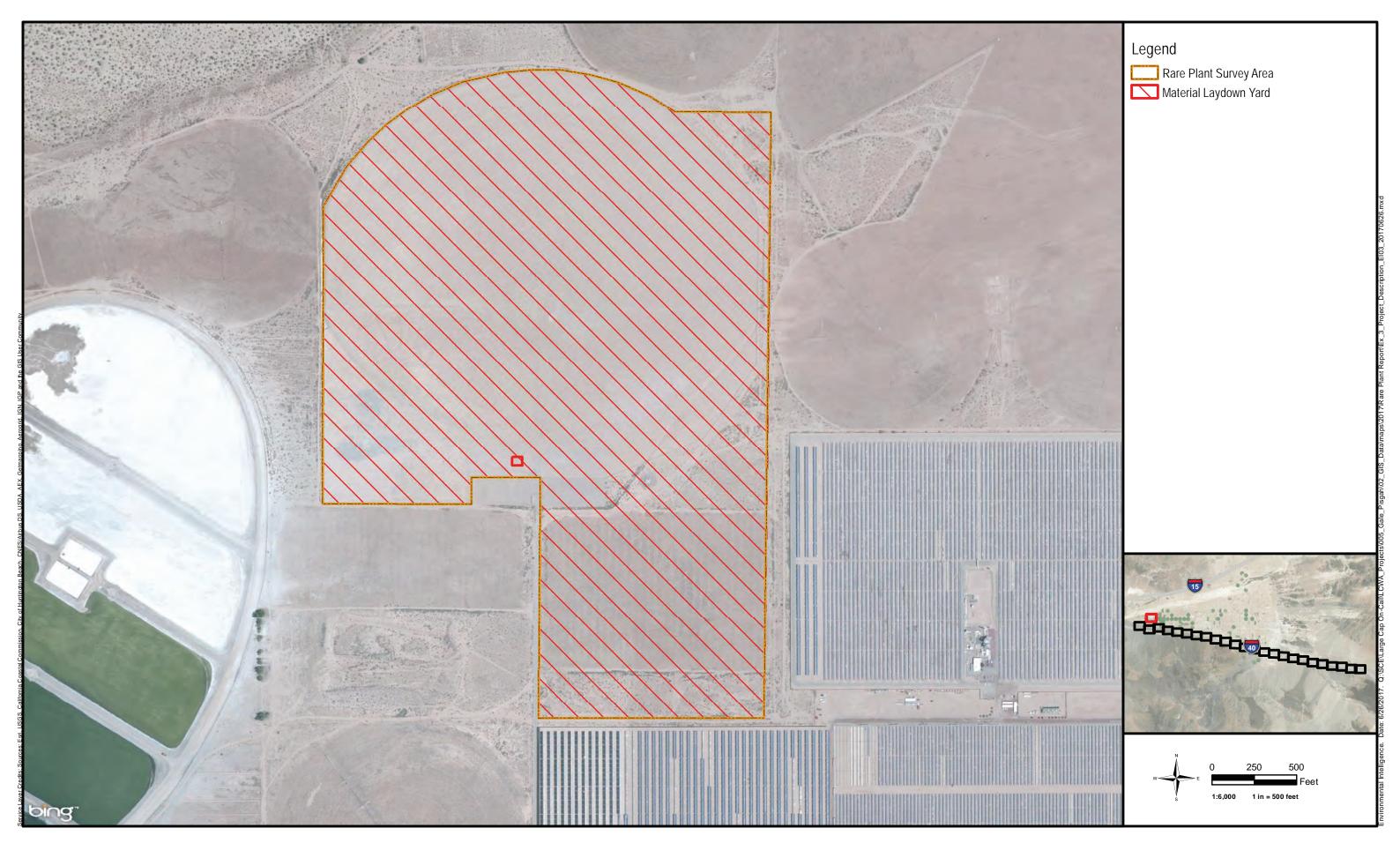
























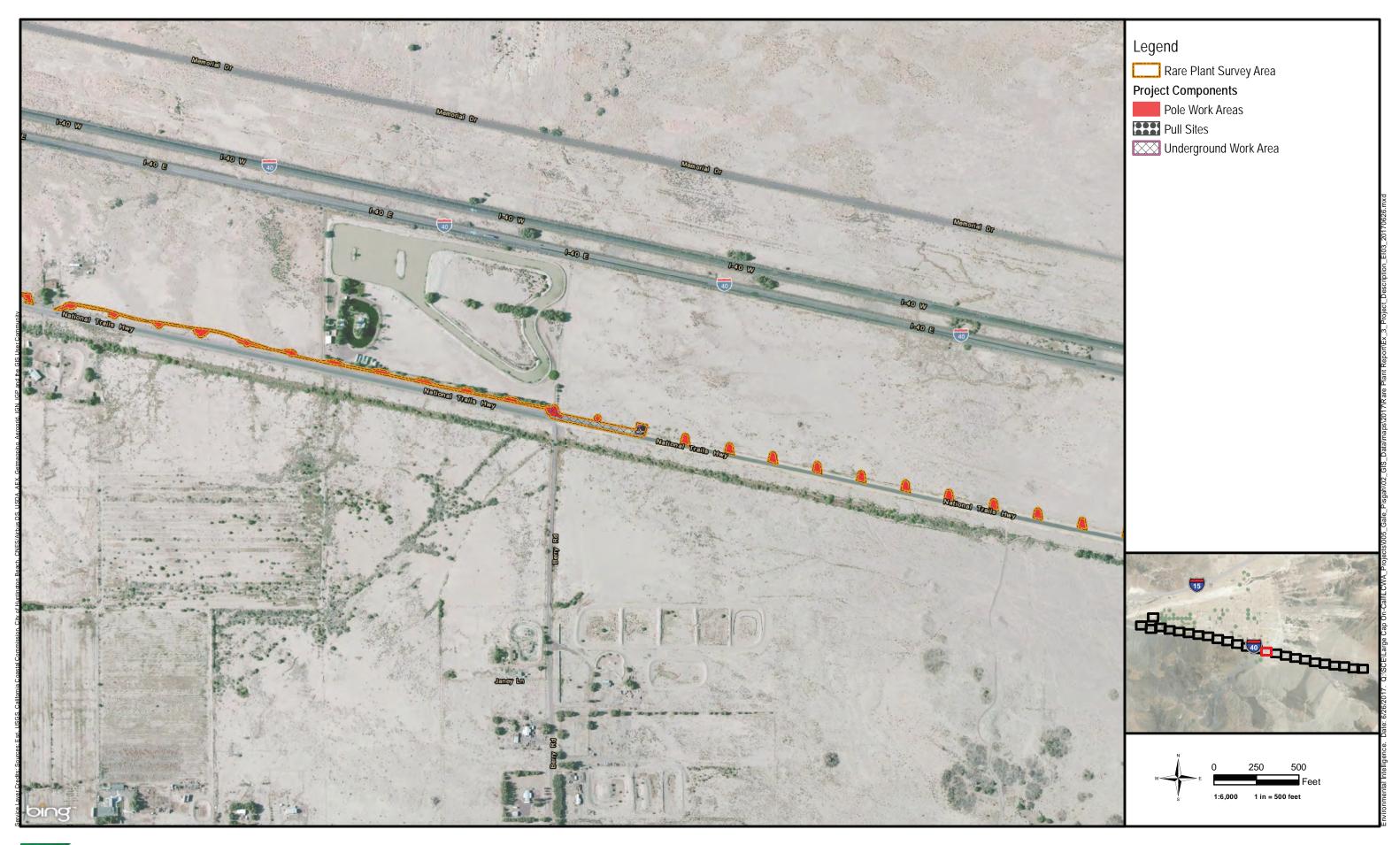












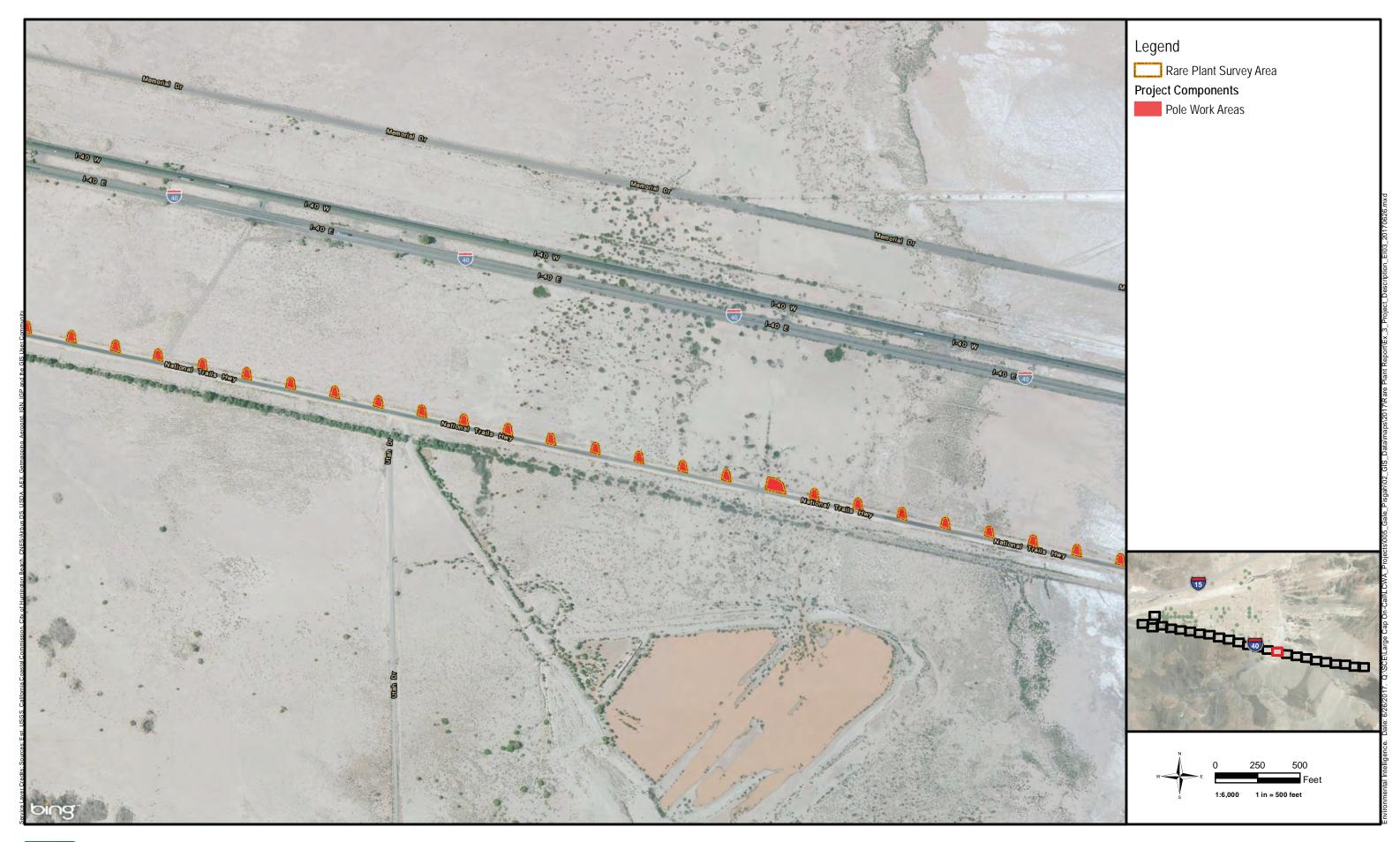




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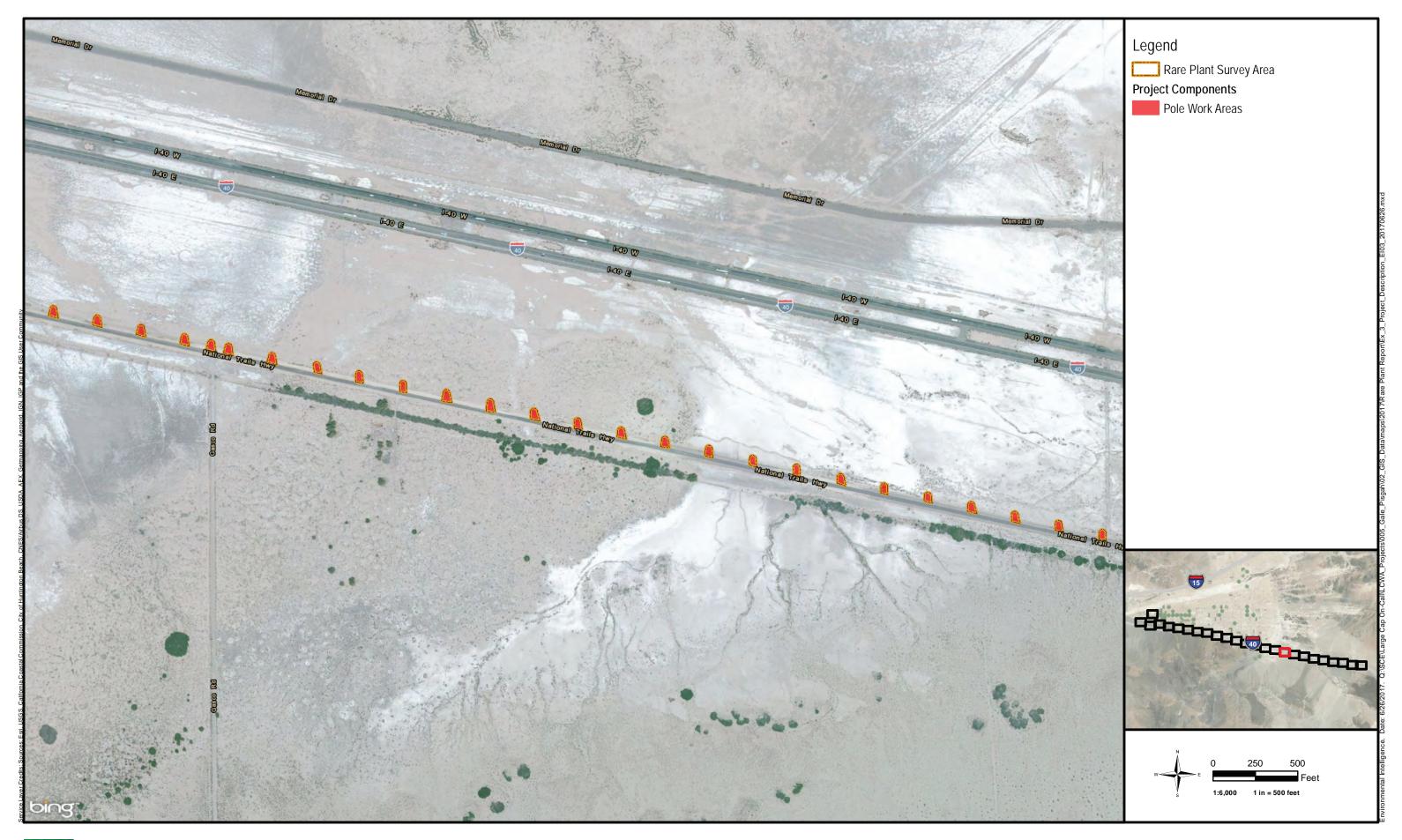
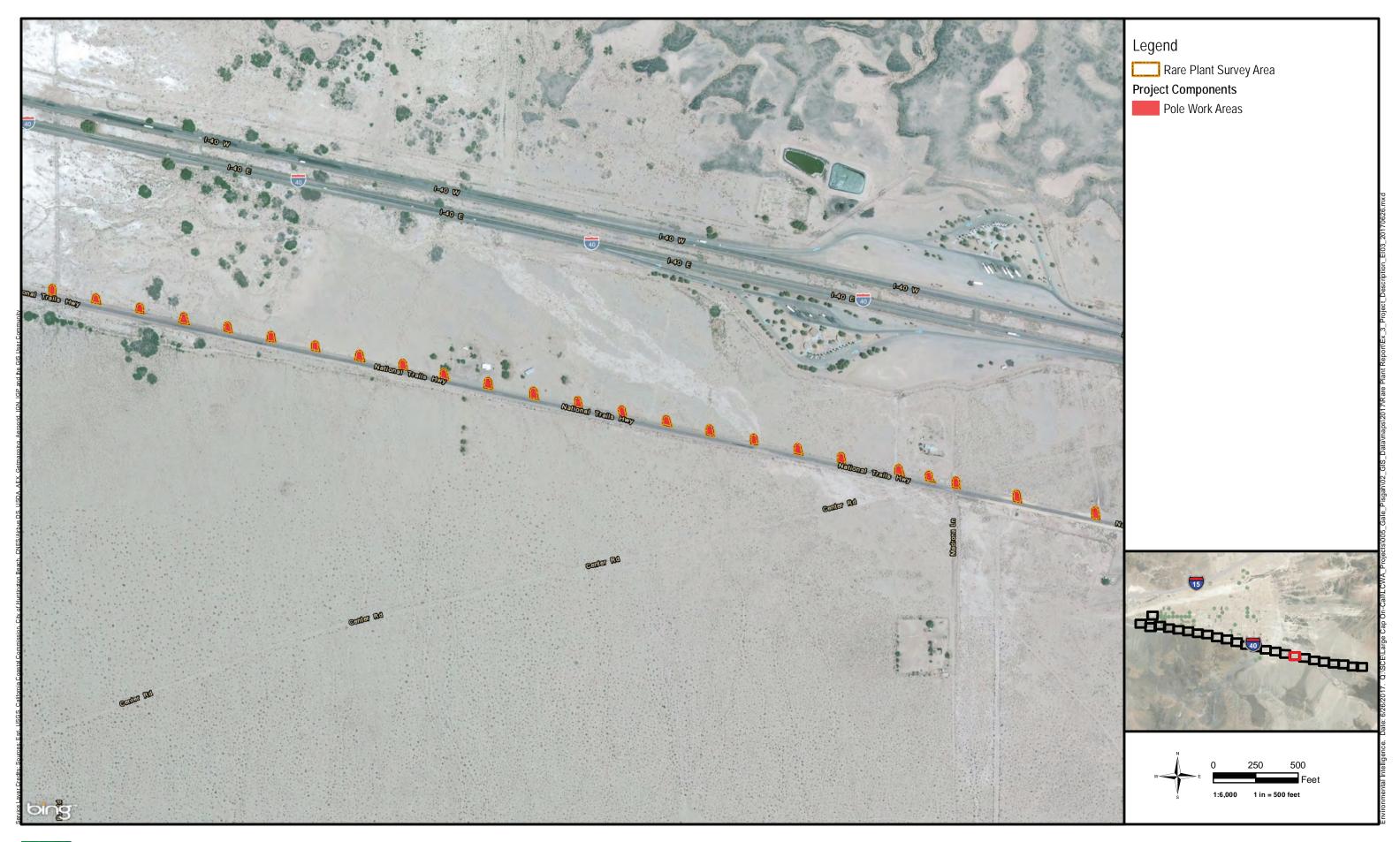
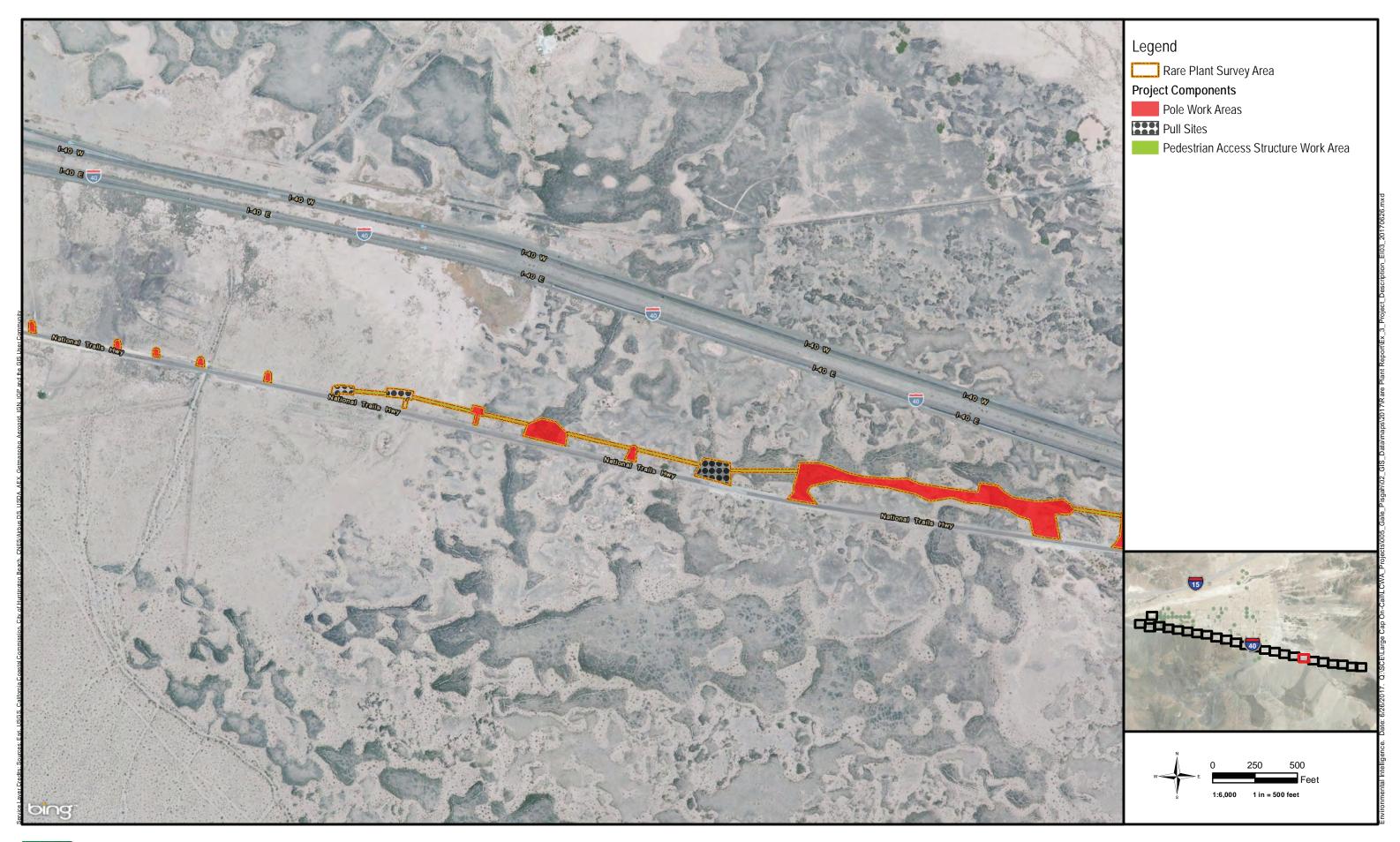
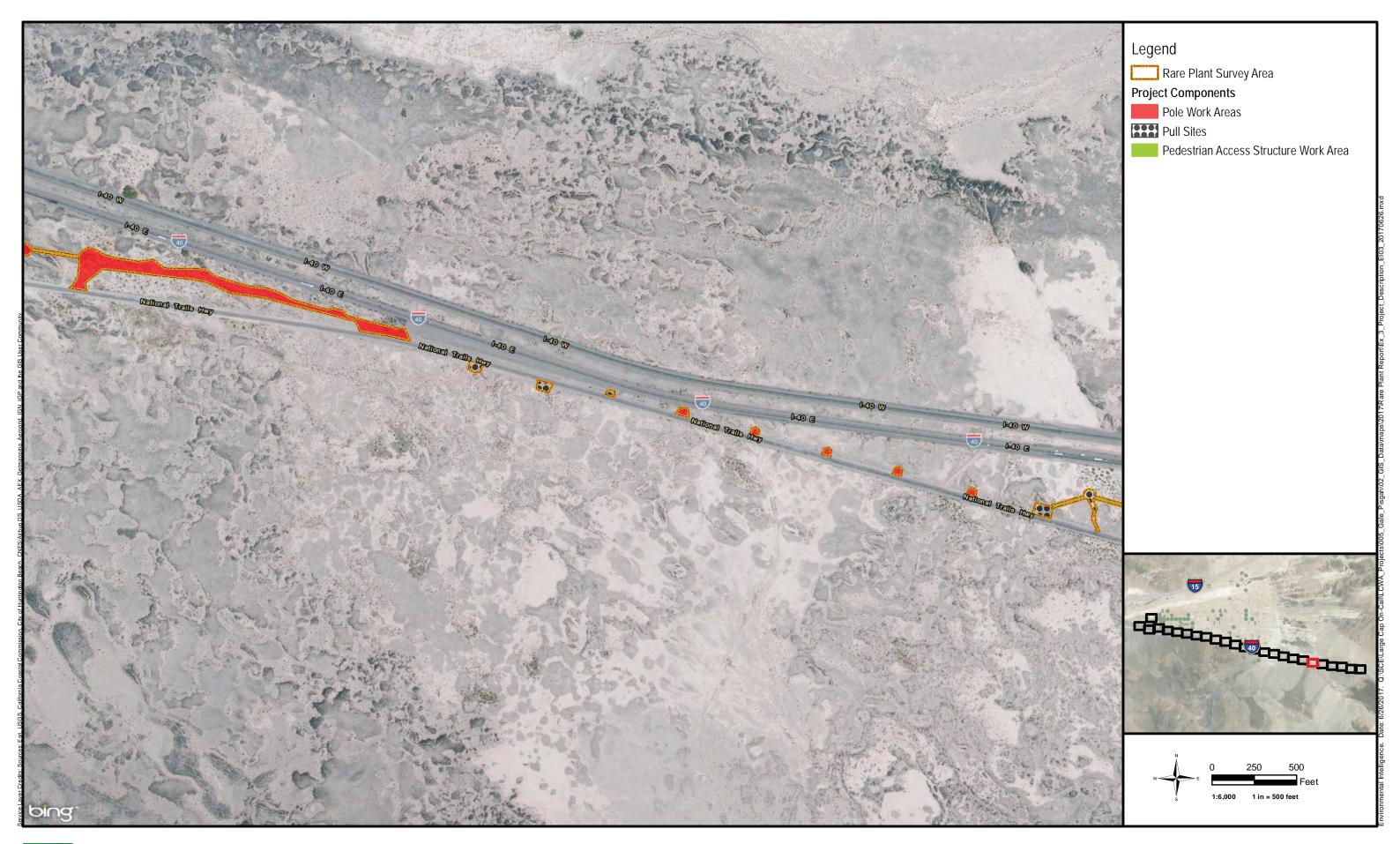




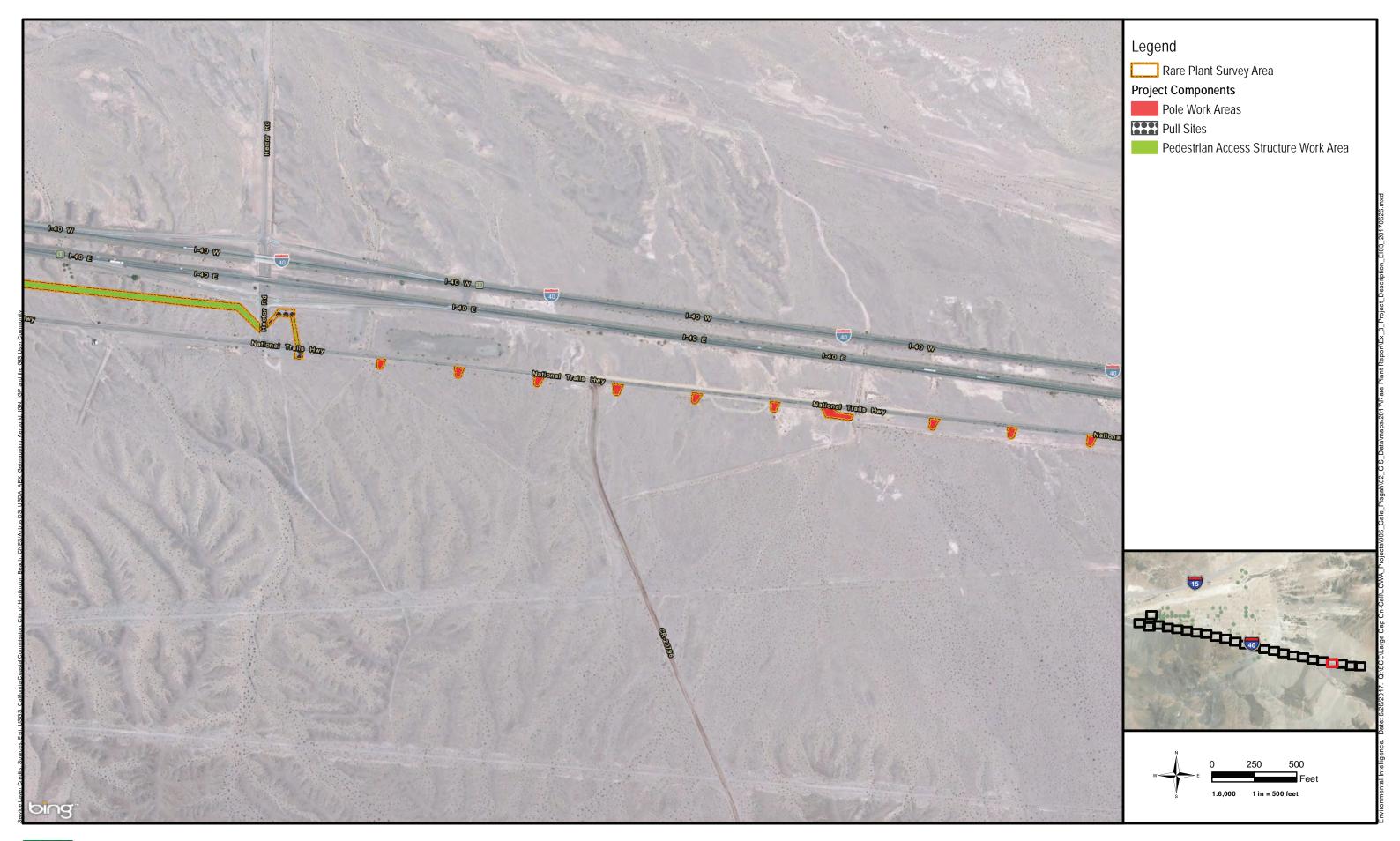
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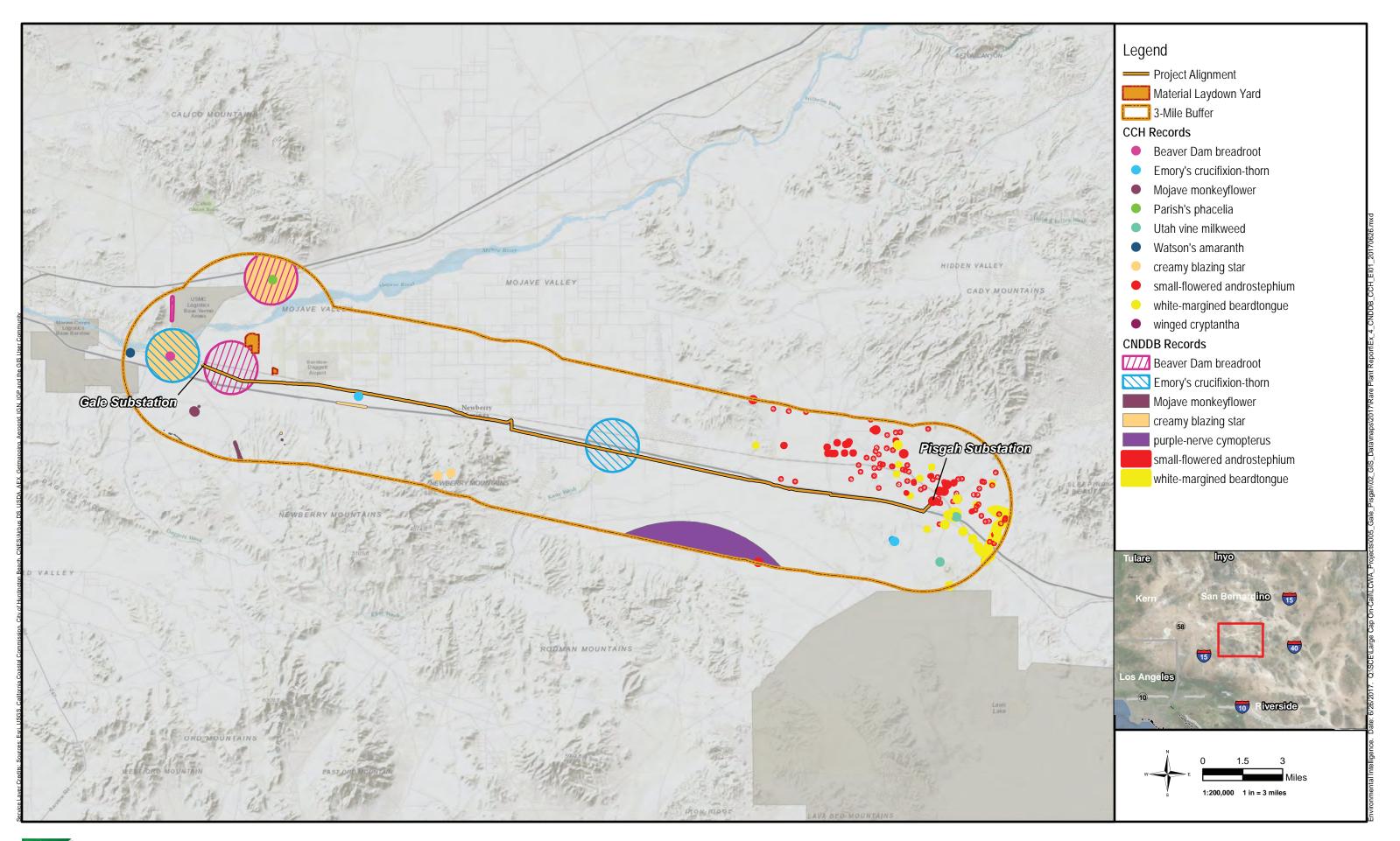


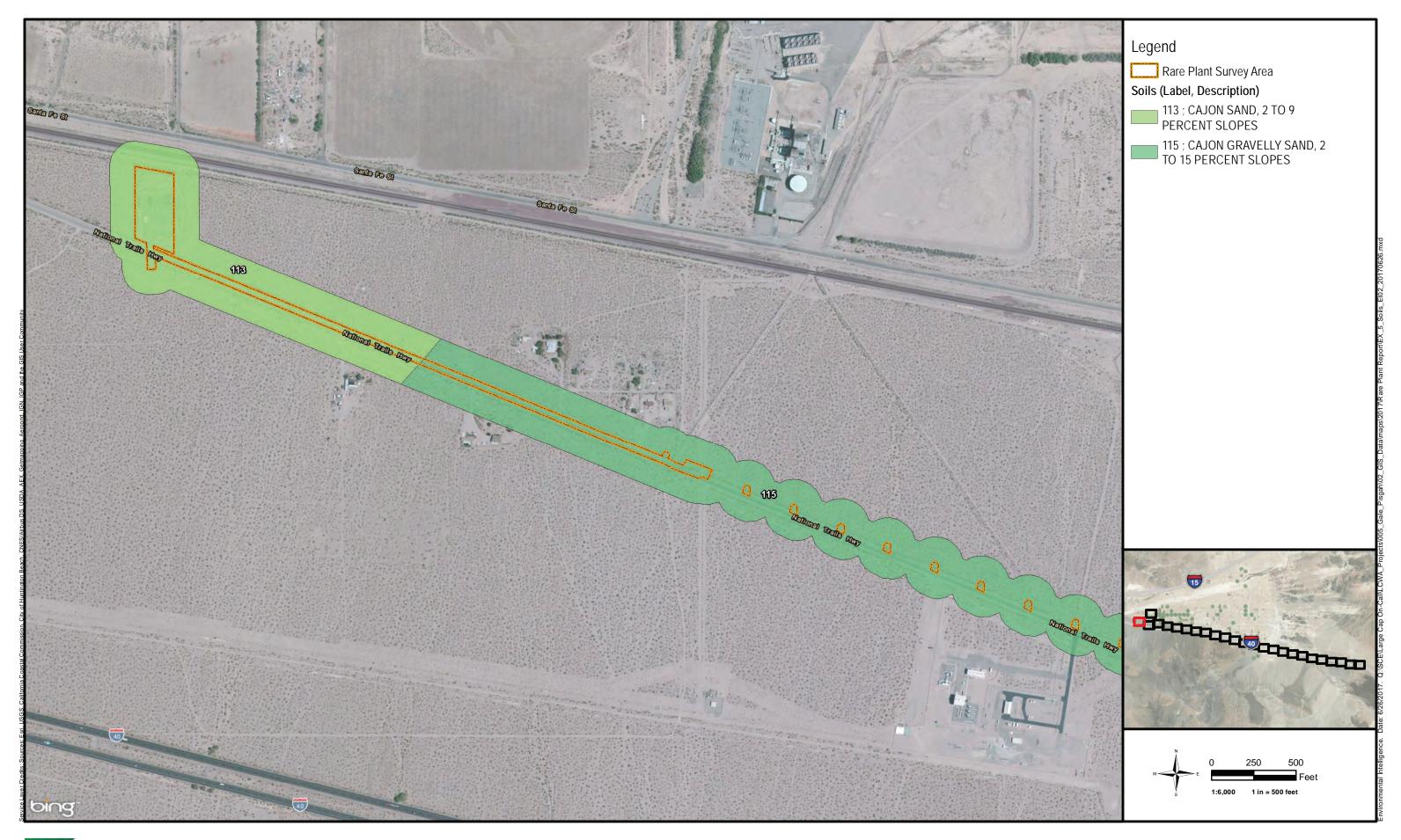


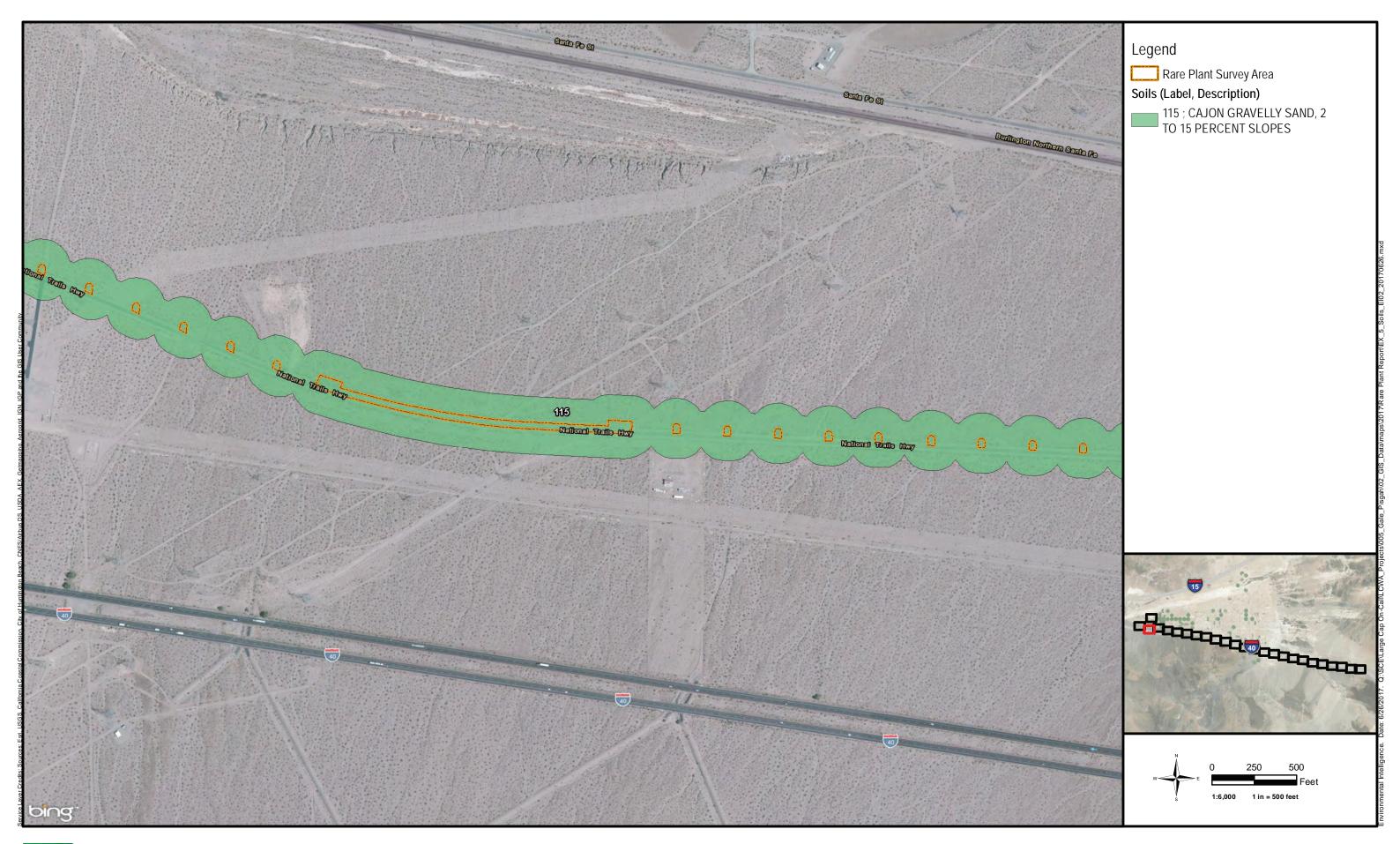














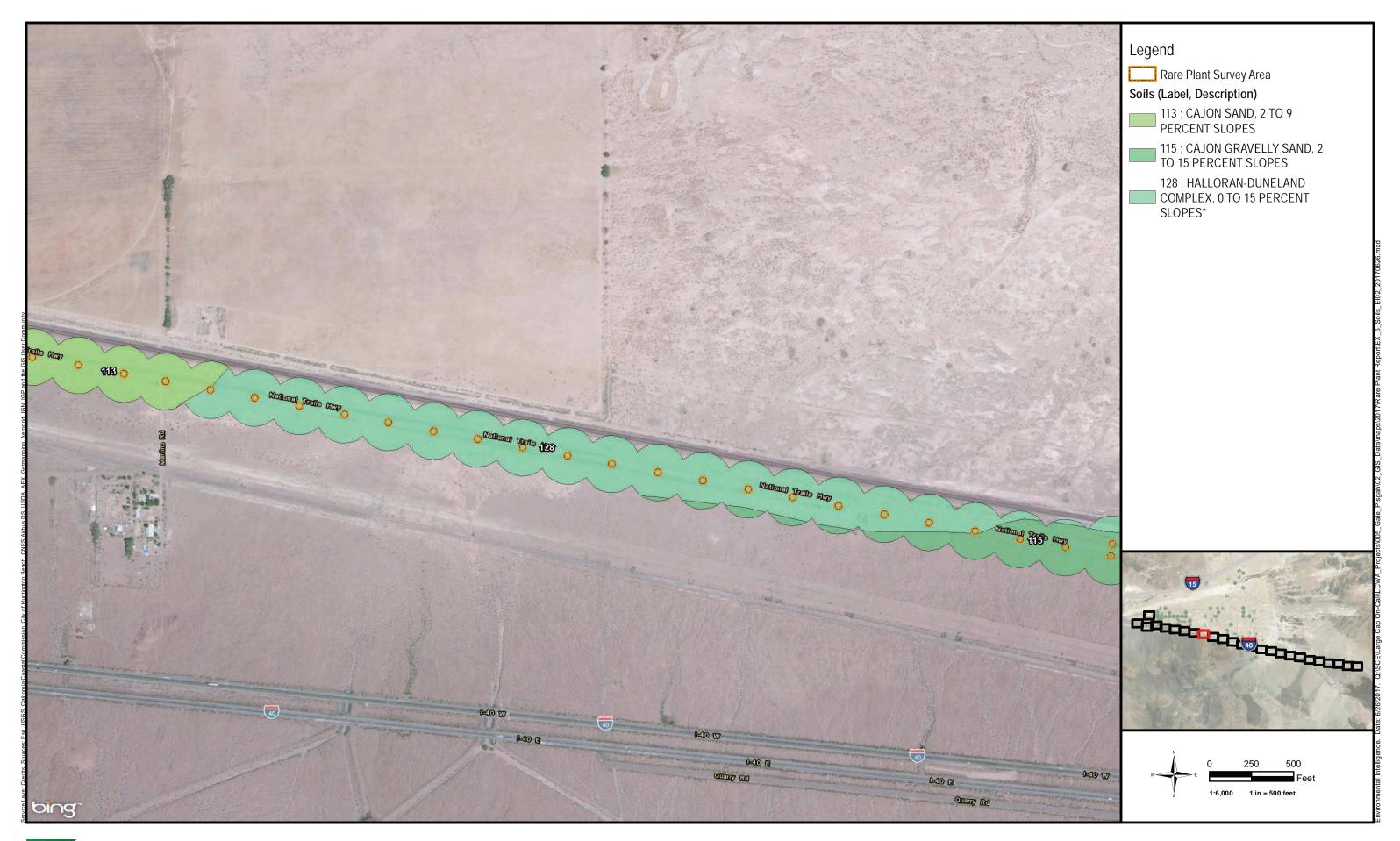
























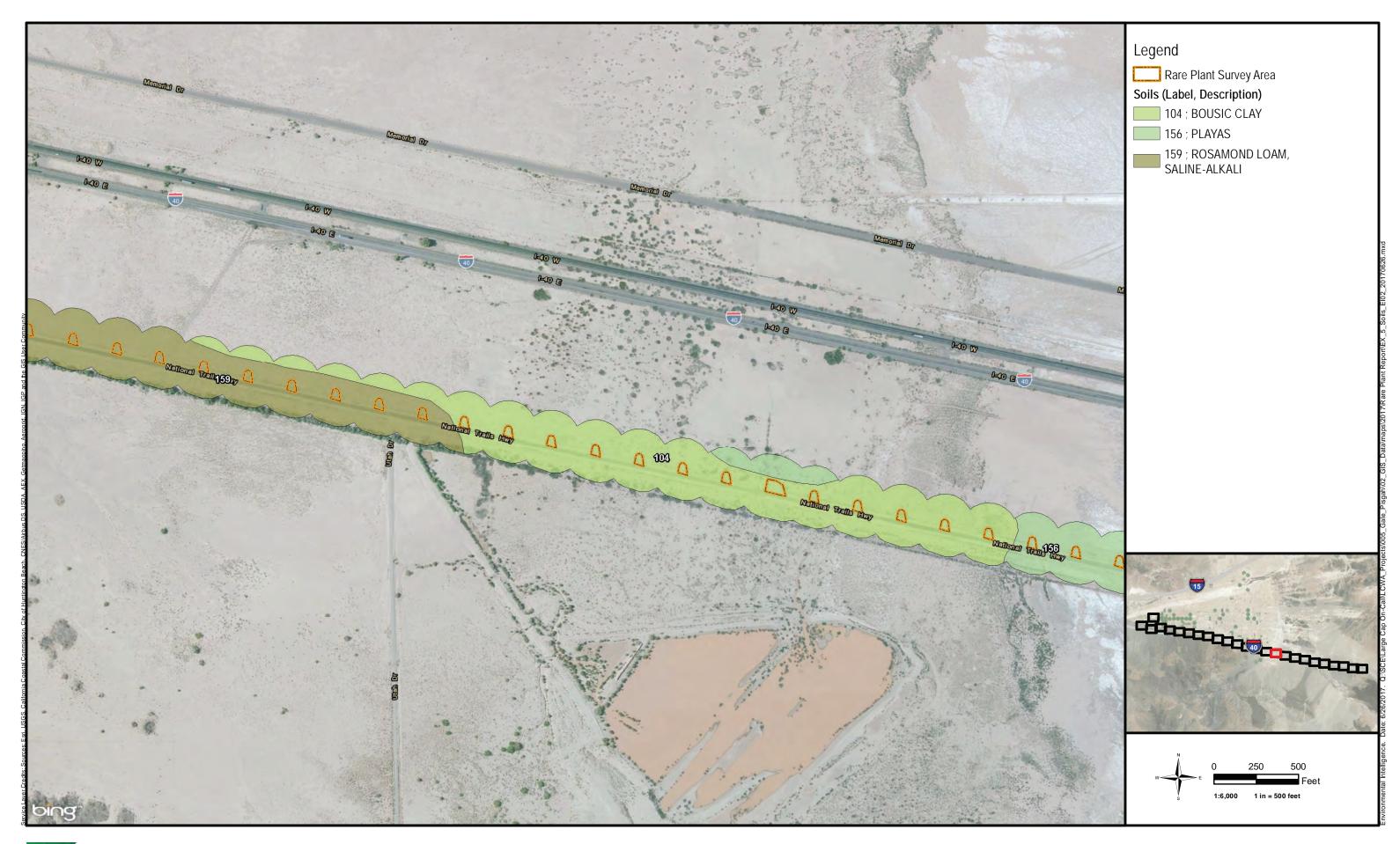
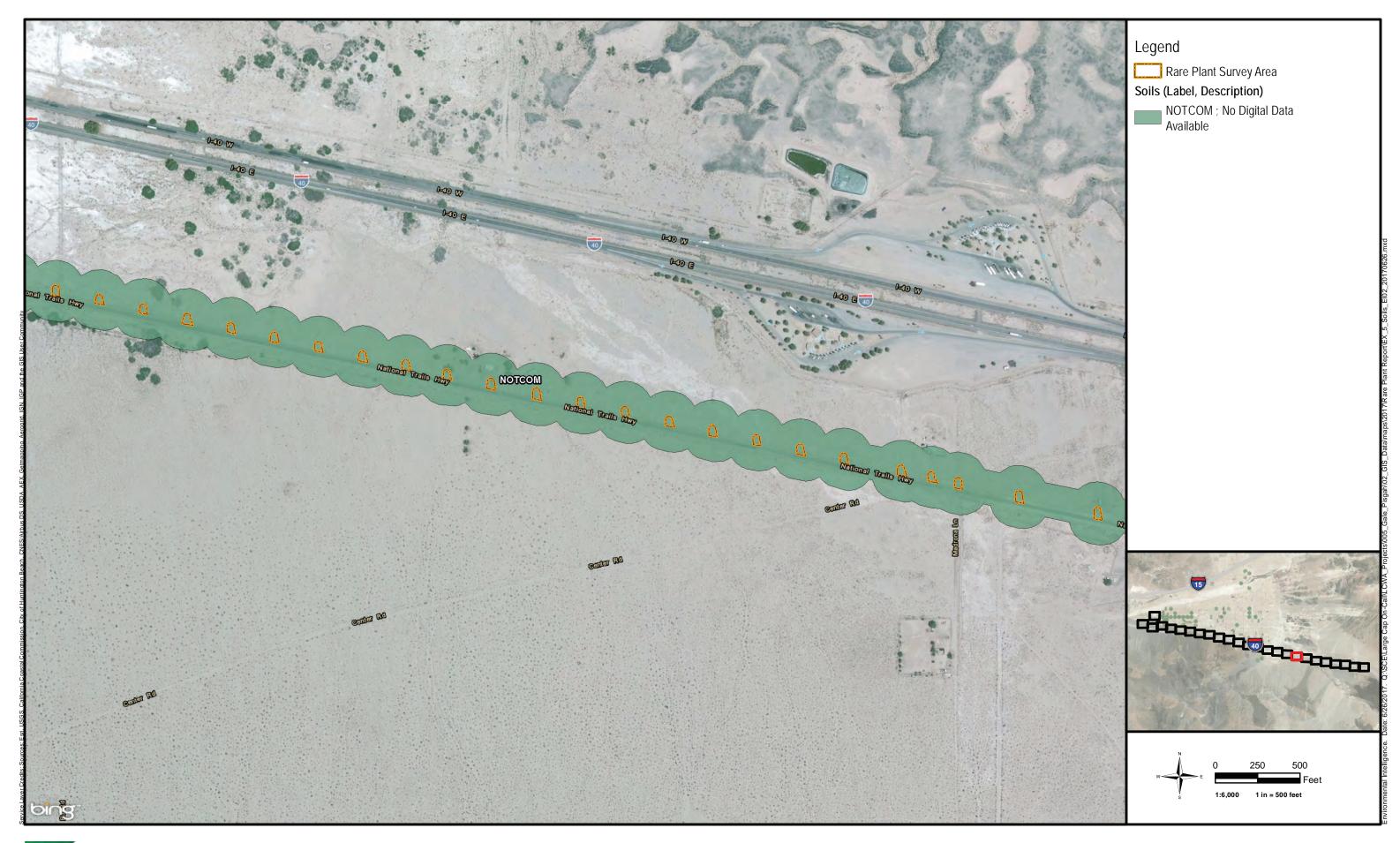
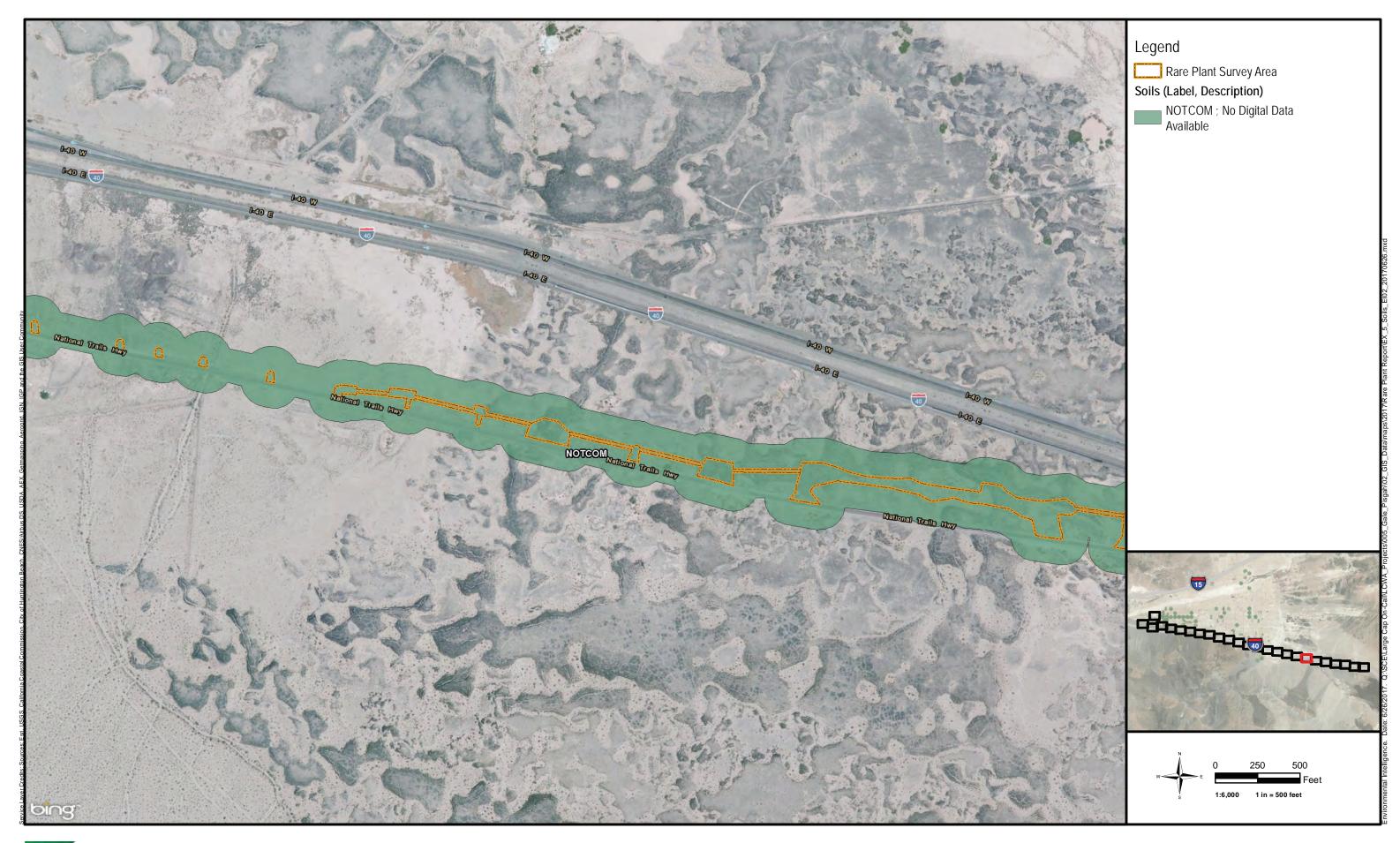


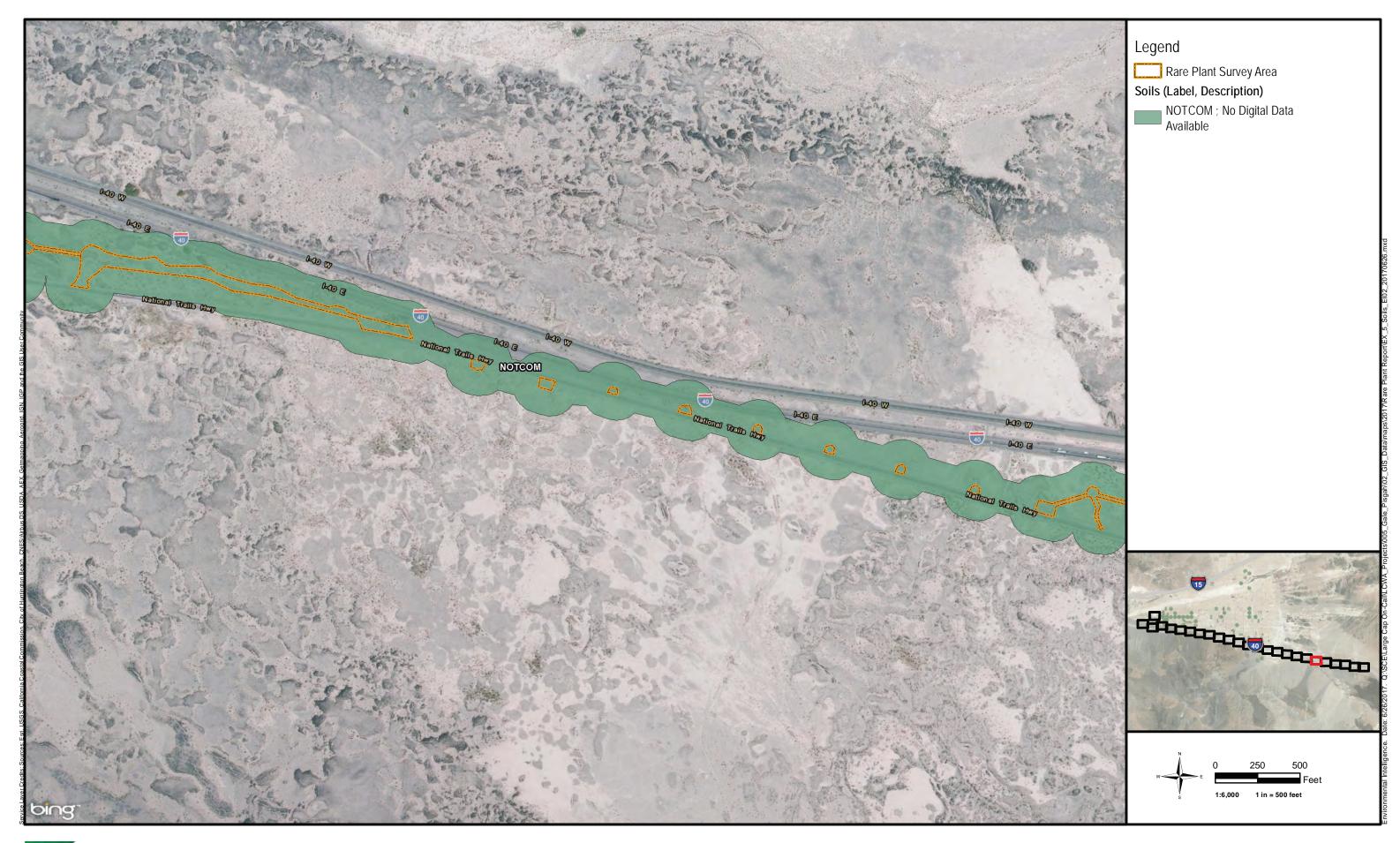


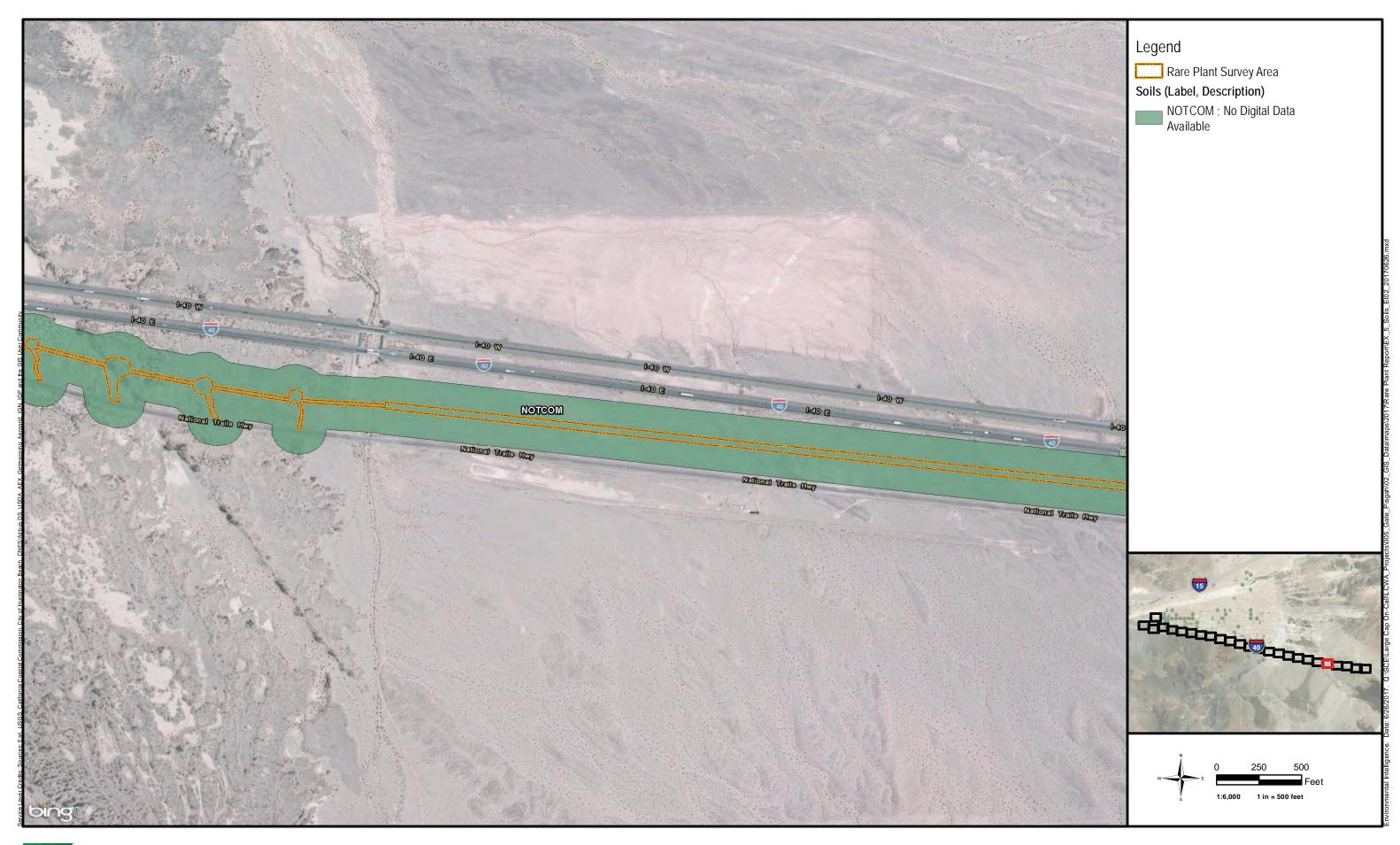


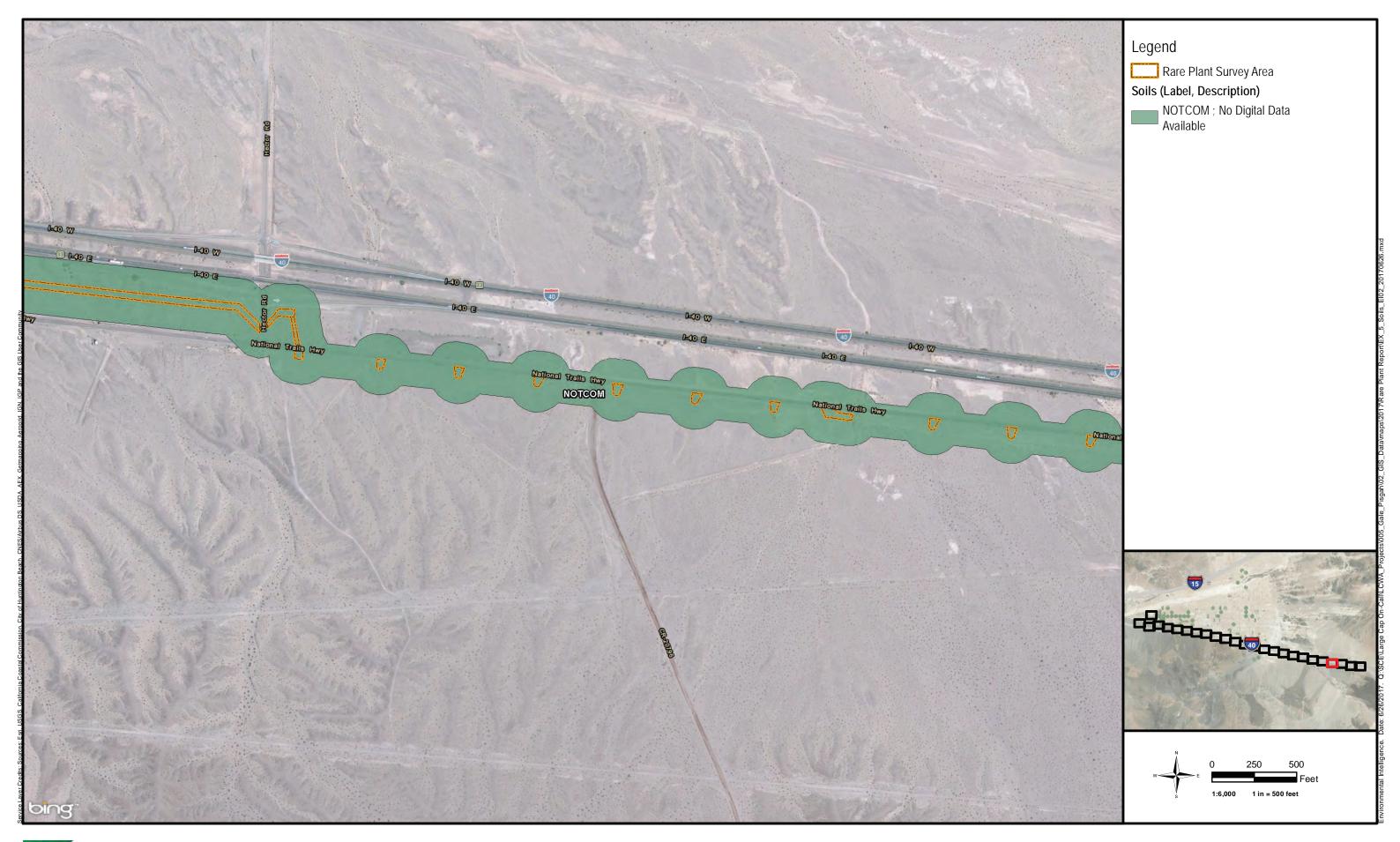
EXHIBIT 5. SOILS (NRCS 2013) PAGE 17 OF 25
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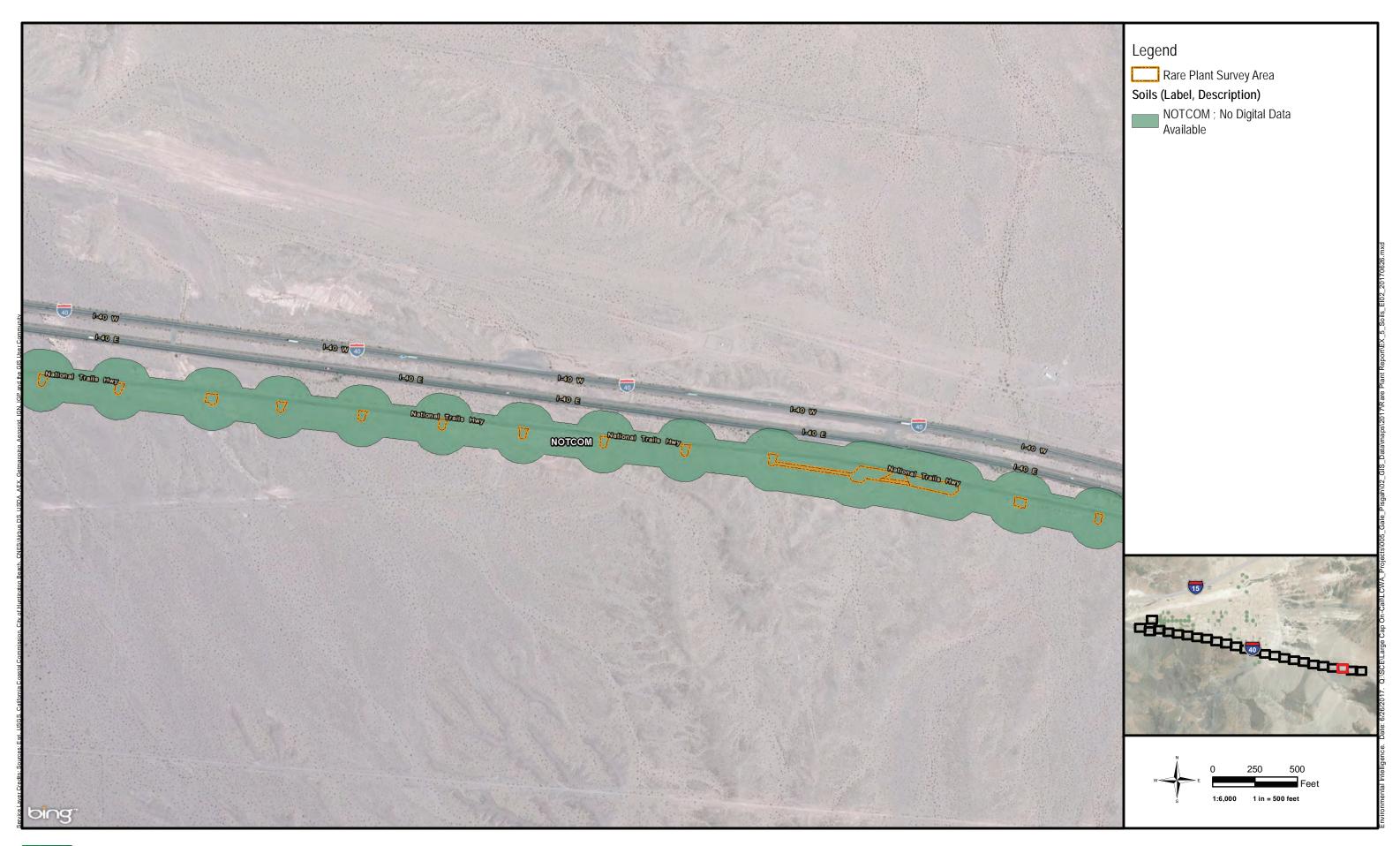




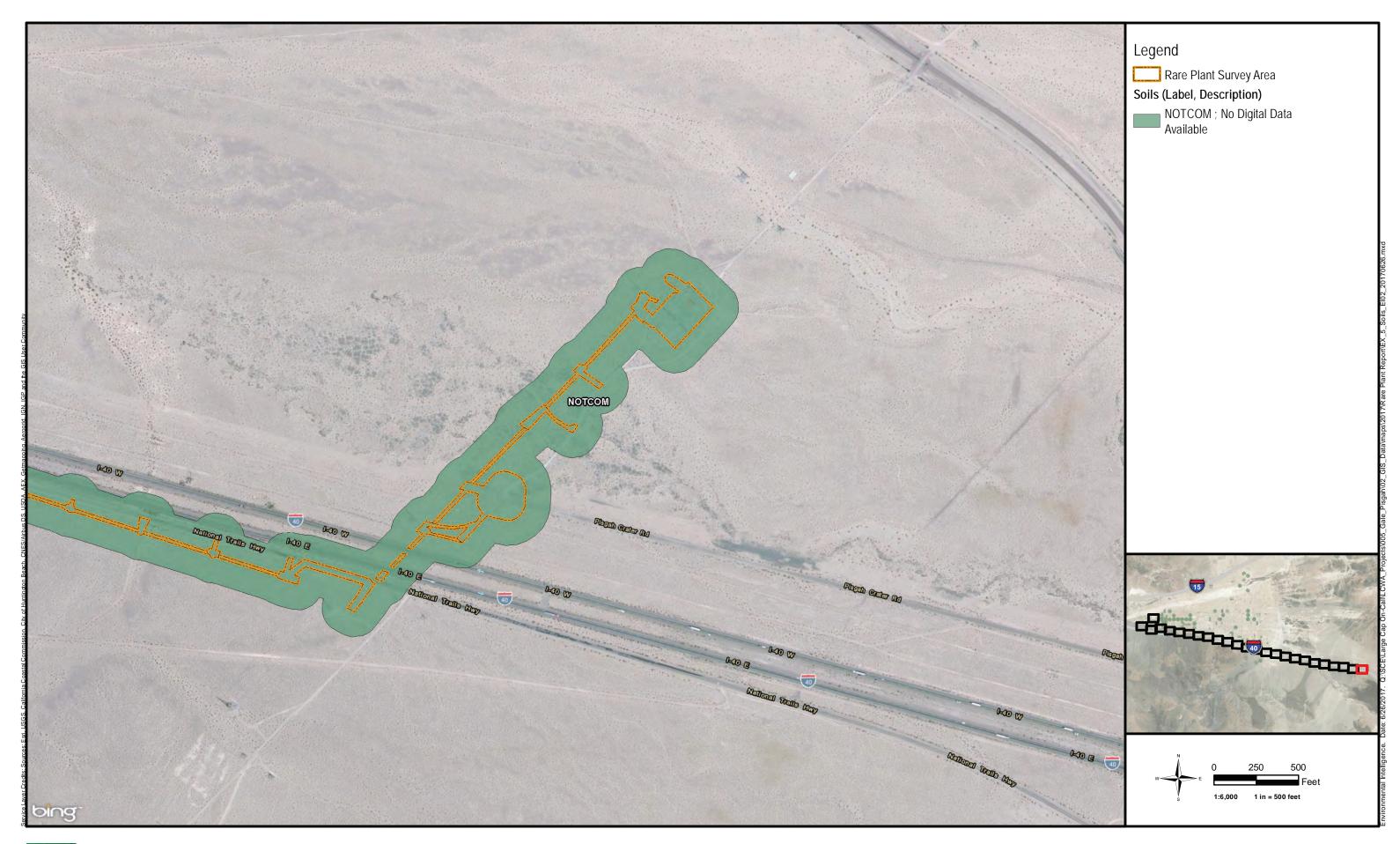




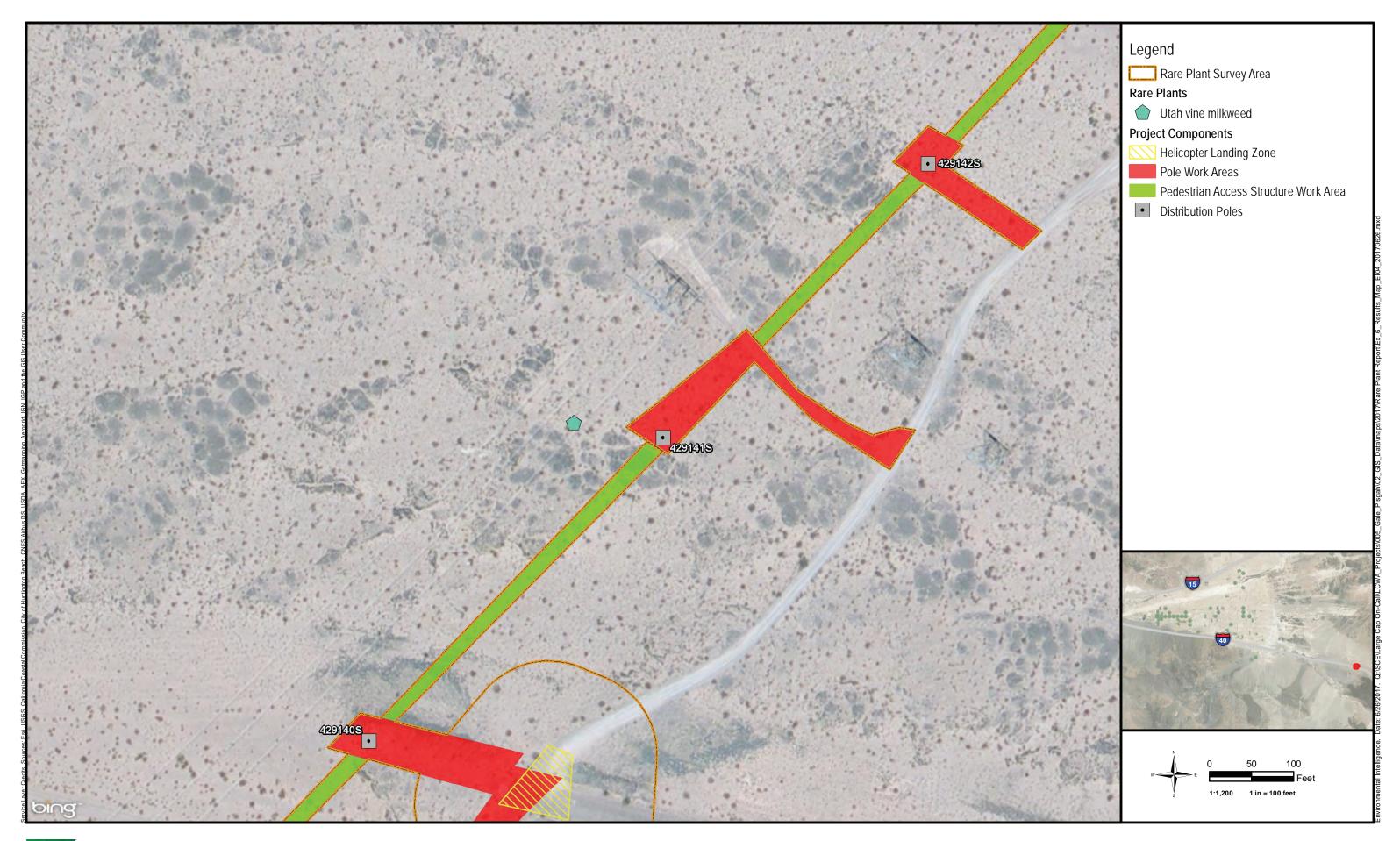












# APPENDIX A:

SPECIAL-STATUS PLANTS OCCURRING OR POTENTIALLY OCCURRING ON OR IN THE VICINITY (WITHIN 3 MILES) OF THE GALE TO PISGAH PROJECT



Species Name		Status <sup>1</sup>			Activity / Bloom Period
Species Name	Federal	State	CNPS	Distribution, Habitat, and Occurrence Potential <sup>2</sup>	
SENSITIVE VEGETATION COMMUNIT	TES / LAND C	OVER			
Alkali Playa Community	-	<b>S</b> 3	-	Alkali playa is a rare vegetation community type usually composed of low, grayish, microphyllous and succulent shrubs that reach a height of one meter (Holland 1986). Total cover is typically low and the understory is minimal. Characteristic plant species may include sea-blite/bush seepweed, pickleweed ( <i>Sarcocornia pacifica</i> ), alkali heath ( <i>Frankenia salina</i> ), and salt grass ( <i>Distichlis spicata</i> ).	-
			<b>Occurs.</b> Present in the dry lake bed near the middle portion of the Project alignment.		
Atriplex polycarpa (Allscale scrub) Shrubland Alliance – Desert Saltbush Scrub	_	S2	_	Atriplex polycarpa is dominant in the shrub canopy with Ambrosia dumosa, Ambrosia salsola, Atriplex canescens, Bromus rubens, Chamaesyce polycarpa, Cleome isomeris, Isocoma acradenia and Larrea tr identata. Emergent trees may be present at low cover, including Prosopis glandulosa. Atriplex polycarpa > 2% absolute cover in the shrub canopy; > 50% relative cover in the shrub canopy. Habitats include washes, playa lake beds and shores, dissected alluvial fans, rolling hills, terraces, and edges of large, low gradient washes. Soils may be carbonate rich, alkaline, sandy, or sandy clay loams.	Jul-Aug
			<b>Occurs.</b> Present in the middle portion of the Project alignment.		

Species Name	Status <sup>1</sup>			Distribution Helitat and Occurrence Batantial?	Activity /
Species Name	Federal	State	CNPS	Distribution, Habitat, and Occurrence Potential <sup>2</sup>	Bloom Period
Prosopis glandulos (Mesquite thicket) Woodland alliance	-	\$3		Prosopis glandulosa is dominant or co-dominant in the small tree canopy with Salix exigua, Salix lasiolepis and Sambucus nigra. Shrubs may include Allenrolfea occidentalis, Ambrosia dumosa, Atriplex canescens, Atriplex polycarpa, Bebbia juncea, Petalonyx thurberi, Pluchea sericea, Rhus ovata or Suaeda moquinii. Trees <10 m; canopy is open or continuous. Shrub and herbaceous layers are open to intermittent. Habitats include fringes of playa lakes, river terraces, stream banks, floodplains, rarely flooded margins of arroyos and washes, sand dunes. Elevation ranges from 75-1,100m.  Occurs. Scattered across desert riparian areas within the Project survey area.	May-Jun
Suaeda moquinii (Bush seepweed scrub) Shrubland Alliance	-	S3	_	Suaeda moquinii is dominant or co-dominant in the shrub and herbaceous layers with Allenrolfea occidentalis, Atriplex canescens, Atriplex polycarpa, Frankenia salina, Kochia californica, Sarcobatus vermiculatus and Sporobolus airoides. Shrubs < 1.5 m; canopy is open to continuous. Herbaceous layer is sparse to intermittent. Habitats include flat to gently sloping valley bottoms, playas, toe slopes adjacent to alluvial fans, and bajadas. Soils are deep; saline or alkaline. Elevation ranges from sea level-1,300m.  Occurs. Present along the eastern portion of the alignment near alkali playas.	Jun-Dec

Cussias Nama	Status <sup>1</sup>				Activity /
Species Name	Federal	State	CNPS	Distribution, Habitat, and Occurrence Potential <sup>2</sup>	Bloom Period
PLANTS					
Amaranthus watsonii				An annual herb that occurs in creosote bush scrub and wetland-riparian communities. Sea level – 960 meters.	
Watson's amaranth	-	4.3	<b>Unlikely.</b> Species preferred habitat is found on-site within creosote bush communities. Species recorded in CCH (1958) 2.5 miles west of Project alignment. Unlikely to occur due to age and distance of records.	Apr-Sep	
				A perennial herb that occurs in creosote bush scrub. $150 - 840$ meters.	
Androstephium breviflorum  Small-flowered androstephium		-	2B.2	<b>Absent.</b> Species preferred habitat is found on-site within creosote bush communities. Species recorded in CNDDB (2010) within 500 feet of Project alignment. Plant observed at reference site but absent within Project survey area during 2017 botanical surveys.	Mar-Apr
Castela emoryi Crucifixion thorn	-	-	2B.2	A shrub that occurs in creosote bush scrub. 90 – 760 meters.  Occurs. Species preferred habitat is found on-site within creosote bush communities. Species observed during 2017 botanical surveys in Halloran sandy loam soil 100 feet outside Project survey area and associated with creosote bush.	Jun-Jul

G : N		Status <sup>1</sup>			Activity / Bloom Period
Species Name	Federal	State	CNPS	Distribution, Habitat, and Occurrence Potential <sup>2</sup>	
Cryptantha clokeyi				An annual herb that occurs in creosote bush scrub. 890 – 1560 meters.	
Clokey's cryptantha	-	-	1B.2	<b>Absent.</b> Species preferred habitat is found on-site within creosote bush communities. Plant observed at reference site but absent within Project survey area during 2017 botanical surveys.	April
			4.3	An annual herb that occurs in creosote bush scrub and Joshua tree woodland. 19 – 1900 meters.	
Cryptantha holoptera Winged cryptantha	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	-		<b>Unlikely.</b> Species preferred habitat is found on-site within creosote bush communities. Species recorded in CCH (1995) 3 miles east of Project alignment. Unlikely to occur due to distance of historic records.	Mar-Apr
Cymopterus multinervatus			2B.2	A perennial herb that occurs in Joshua tree woodland and pinyon-juniper woodland communities. 670 – 1420 meters.	Mar-Apr
Purplenerve cymopterus	-	-		<b>Does not occur.</b> Species preferred habitat is not found on-site. Species recorded in CNDDB 1.9 miles south of Project alignment. Does not occur based on unknown date and inaccurate location of historic record.	
				A perennial herb that occurs in creosote bush scrub. 150 – 1330 meters.	
Funastrum utahense Utah vine milkweed	-	-	4.2	<b>Absent.</b> Species preferred habitat is found on-site within creosote bush communities. Plant observed on desert sand-dune soil 50 feet outside Project survey area, but absent within survey area. Associated with creosote bush, white bursage, and non-native Saharan mustard.	Apr-Jun



Species Name		Status <sup>1</sup>		Distribution, Habitat, and Occurrence Potential <sup>2</sup>	Activity / Bloom Period
Species Name	Federal	State	CNPS		
Mentzelia tridentata Creamy blazing star	-	-	1B.3	An annual herb that occurs in creosote bush scrub along rocky and sandy slopes. $580 - 1300$ meters. <b>Unlikely.</b> Species preferred habitat is found on-site within creosote bush communities. Species recorded in CCH (2010) 1.5 miles west of Project alignment. One CNDDB occurrence < 500 feet west of Project, but record indicates the location and date are inaccurate.	Mar-May
Mimulus mohavensis  Mojave monkeyflower	-	-	1B.2	An annual herb that occurs in creosote bush scrub and Joshua tree woodland communities. 620 – 1750 meters.  Unlikely. Species preferred habitat is found on-site within creosote bush communities. Species recorded in CNDDB (1998 and 2010) 1.3 and 2.0 miles south of Project alignment. Unlikely to occur due to distance of historic records.	Apr-Jun
Menodora spinescens var. mohavensis  Mojave menodora	-	-	1B.2	A perennial shrub that occurs in Mojavean desert scrub on Andesite gravel, rocky hillsides, and canyons. 760 – 1420 meters. <b>Absent.</b> Species preferred habitat is found on-site within shadscale scrub communities. Species recorded in CCH (2011) 5.8 miles south of Project alignment. Plant observed at reference site but absent within Project survey area during 2017 botanical surveys.	Apr-May

Species Name		Status <sup>1</sup>		Distribution, Habitat, and Occurrence Potential <sup>2</sup>	Activity / Bloom Period
Species Name	Federal	State	CNPS		
				A perennial herb that occurs in creosote bush scrub and Joshua tree woodland communities. 600 – 950 meters.	
Pediomelum castoreum  Beaver indian breadroot	-	1B.2	<b>Unlikely.</b> Species preferred habitat is found on-site within creosote bush communities. Species recorded in CNDDB (1943) and may have occurred within Project alignment, but location is inaccurate. Unlikely to occur based on age and inaccuracy of historic records.	Apr-May	
				A perennial herb that occurs in creosote bush scrub and dune habitat. $630 - 760$ meters.	
Penstemon albomarginatus White-margined beardtongue	-	-	1B.1	Unlikely. Species preferred habitat is found on-site within creosote bush communities. Species recorded in CNDDB (2008 and 2010) 2000 feet north of Project alignment. However, the species was not detected during reference site visit. Unlikely to occur due to distance of historic records.	Mar-May
Phacelia parishii Parish's phacelia	-	-	1B.1	An annual herb that occurs in creosote bush scrub, alkali sink, and playas. 560 – 1070 meters.  Unlikely. Species preferred habitat is found on-site within creosote bush communities. Species recorded in CCH (1992) 2 miles north of Project material laydown yard. Unlikely to occur due to distance of historic records.	Apr-May

C N	Status <sup>1</sup>				Activity /
Species Name	Federal	State	CNPS	Distribution, Habitat, and Occurrence Potential <sup>2</sup>	Bloom Period
				An annual herb that occurs in Joshua tree woodland and wetland-riparian communities.	
Plagiobothrys parishii Parish's popcornflower	-	-	1B.1	<b>Does not occur.</b> Species preferred habitat is not found on-site. Species recorded in CCH (2011) 4 miles south of Project alignment. Does not occur due to distance of historic record and species' preferred habitat is not found on-site.	Mar-Jun

Species Name	Status <sup>1</sup>				Activity /
Species Name	Federal	State	CNPS	Distribution, Habitat, and Occurrence Potential <sup>2</sup>	Bloom Period

### 1Status

### **Federal**

FE: Federally Endangered FT: Federally Threatened

DL: Delisted

#### State

SE: State Endangered

ST: State Threatened

SR: State Rare

CT: State Candidate Threatened

SSC: California Species of Special Concern

FP: Fully Protected

WL: Watch List

DL: Delisted

Vegetation Communities: Ranks are based on a one to five scale, ranging from critically imperiled (S1) to demonstrably secure (S5). S1-S3 communities considered rare.

#### CNPS

1A: Plants presumed extirpated in California and either rare or extinct elsewhere

1B: Plants rare, threatened, or endangered in California and elsewhere

2A: Plants presumed extirpated in California, but common elsewhere

2B: Plants rare, threatened, or endangered in California, but more common elsewhere

3: Plants about which more information is needed - a review list

4: Plants of limited distribution - a watch list

0.1: Seriously threatened in California (over 80% of occurrences threatened / high degree and immediacy of threat)

0.2: Moderately threatened in California (20-80% occurrences threatened / moderate degree and immediacy of threat)

0.3: Not very threatened in California (less than 20% of occurrences threatened / low degree and immediacy of threat or no current threats known)

CBR: Considered But Rejected

### <sup>2</sup>Occurrence Potential

Special-status species with the potential to occur within the Survey Area were evaluated based on SCE's Species Presence/Absence Determination flow-chart:

Occurs: the species and/or positive sign was observed on-site during site visit or field survey.

Absent: the species and/or positive sign was not observed on-site during focused survey(s) during the appropriate blooming/activity period (and, for plants, observed at a reference population).

Likely: all site features indicate this species is very likely present and should be expected. Criteria include:

- Project site within geographic range;
- Suitable habitat present (e.g., soils, vegetation communities, elevation, roost sites, leaf litter/debris, water, host plants, etc.); and
- Distance to historical record(s) less than 25 years old are less than 500 feet (plants/fish), 1,000 feet (riparian wildlife), 1 mile (birds/bats), 2 miles (large mammals), or 3 miles (small mammals/herps).

Unlikely: species could occur, but records of the species are not locally known. Criteria include:

- Project site within geographic range;
- Suitable habitat present (e.g., soils, vegetation communities, elevation, roost sites, leaf litter/debris, water, host plants, etc.); and
- Distance to historical record(s) less than 25 years old are more than 500 feet (plants/fish), 1,000 feet (riparian wildlife), 1 mile (birds/bats), 2 miles (large mammals), or 3 miles (small mammals/herps).

Does Not Occur: species would not occur because the Project site is outside known or current geographic/elevation range, lacks habitat or suitable conditions, and/or there is reasonable certainty to assume absent based on historical records.



# APPENDIX B:

FLORAL COMPENDIUM



SCIENTIFIC NAME (* introduced/non-native species)	COMMON NAME
AGAVACEAE – AGAVE FAMILY	
Hesperocallis undulata	Desert lily
AIZOACEAE – ICE PLANT FAMILY	
*Mesembryanthemum sp.	*Iceplant
APOCYNACEAE – DOGBANE FAMILY	
Asclepias erosa	Desert milkweed
Funastrum sp.	Milkweed
Funastrum utahense	Utah vine milkweed (CNPS 4.2)
ASTERACEAE – SUNFLOWER FAMILY	
Ambrosia dumosa	White bursage
Ambrosia salsola	Burrobush
Bebbia juncea	Sweetbush
Chaenactis carphoclinia	Pebble pincushion
Chaenactis fremontii	Fremont pincushion
Encelia frutescens	Button brittlebush
Encelia sp.	Common brittlebush
Geraeae canescens	Desert sunflower
Isocoma acradenia	Alkali goldenbush
Malacothrix californica	California dandelion
Malacothrix coulteri	Snake's head
Monoptilon bellidiforme	Small desert star
Perityle emoryi	Emory's rockdaisy
Porophyllum gracile	Slender poreleaf
Rafinesquia neomexicana	Desert chicory
Stephanomeria exigua	Small wirelettuce
Stephanomeria pauciflora	Desert straw
BORAGINACEAE – BORAGE FAMILY	
Amsinckia tessellata	Devil's lettuce
Cryptantha angustifolia	Narrow leaved forget-me-not
Cryptantha decipiens	Gravel cryptantha
Cryptantha micrantha	Purple root cryptantha
Nama demissum	Purplemat
Pectocarya platycarpa	Broadfruit combseed
Pectocarya recurvata	Curvenut combseed
Phacelia crenulata	Heliotrope phacelia
Phacelia sp.	Common phacelia
Tiquilia plicata	Fanleaf crinklemat
BRASSICACEAE – MUSTARD FAMILY	
*Brassica tournefortii	*Saharan mustard
Descurainia spp.	Tansy mustard
Lepidium densiflorum	Common pepperweed
*Sisymbrium irio	*London rocket



**CACTACEAE – CACTUS FAMILY** 

Cylindropuntia echinocarpa Wiggins' cholla
Cylindropuntia ramosissima Branched pencil cholla

**CARYOPHYLLACEAE – CARNATION FAMILY** 

Achyronychia cooperi Frost mat

CHENOPODIACEAE – GOOSEFOOT FAMILY

Atriplex canescens var. canescens

Atriplex elegans

Fourwing saltbush

Wheelscale

Atriplex elegans var. fasciculate Wheelscale saltbush

Atriplex hymenelytraDesert hollyAtriplex polycarpaAllscale saltbushAtriplex spiniferaMojave saltbush\*Salsola tragus\*Russian thistleStutzia covilleiCoville's orachSuaeda nigraBush seepweed

**CLEOMACEAE – BEEPLANT FAMILY** 

Cleomella obtusifolia Bluntleaf stinkweed

**EPHEDRACEAE – JOINTFIR FAMILY** 

Ephedra funerea Death valley ephedra

**EUPHORBIACEAE – SPURGE FAMILY** 

Euphorbia albomarginata Rattlesnake sandmat

FABACEAE – PEA FAMILY

Dalea mollissimaSoft prairie cloverProsopis glandulosa var. torreyanaWestern honey mesquiteProsopis pubescensScrewbean mequiteSenegalia greggiiDevil's clawSenna armataDesert senna

**GERANIACEAE – GERANIUM FAMILY** 

\*Erodium cicutarium Red-stemmed filaree

**KRAMERIACEAE – RHATANY FAMILY** 

Krameria erecta Littleleaf ratany

LAMIACEAE - MINT FAMILY

Salvia columbariae Chia sage

Scutellaria mexicana Mexican bladdersage

LOASACEAE - LOASA FAMILY

Mentzelia albicaulisWhite-stemmed blazingstarPetalonyx thurberi ssp. thurberiThurer's sandpaper plant

MALVACEAE – MALLOW FAMILY

Eremalche exilis White mallow
Eremalche rotundifolia Desert fivespot



Sphaeralcea ambigua Desert mallow

NYCTAGINACEAE - FOUR O'CLOCK FAMILY

Abronia villosa var. villosa Desert sand verbena Mirabilis laevis var. retrorsa Wishbone bush

ONAGRACEAE – EVENING PRIMROSE FAMILY

Chylismia claviformis Clavate fruited primrose

Chylismia claviformis ssp. claviformis Browneyes
Eremothera boothii Booth's suncup

PAPAVERACEAE – POPPY FAMILY

Eschscholzia glyptosperma Desert golden poppy
Eschscholzia minutiflora Pygmy poppy

PLANTAGINACEAE - PLANTAGO FAMILY

Plantago erectaCalifornia plantainPlantago ovataDesert plantain

POACEAE - GRASS FAMILY

\*Schismus barbatus \*Common mediterranean grass

Sporobolus airoidesAlkali sacatonStipa hymenoidesIndian rice grass

POLEMONIACEAE – PHLOX FAMILY

Langloisia setosissima Lilac sunbonnet

POLYGONACEAE - BUCKWHEAT FAMILY

Chorizanthe brevicornu var. brevicornuBrittle spineflowerChorizanthe rigidaDevil's spineflowerEriogonum deflexum var. deflexumFlat topped buckwheatEriogonum inflatumDesert trumpet

Eriogonum reniforme Kidney leaf buckwheat Eriogonum thomasii Thomas' buckwheat

RESEDACEAE – MIGNONETTE FAMILY

Oligomeris linifolia Leaved cambess

SIMAROUBACEAE – QUASSIA FAMILY

Castela emoryi Crucifixion thorn (CNPS 2B.2)

SOLANACEAE – NIGHTSHADE FAMILY

Lycium andersonii Water jacket

TAMARICACEAE – TAMARISK FAMILY



# **ZYGOPHYLLACEAE – CALTROP FAMILY**

Larrea tridentata South American creosote bush

## LEGEND:

Federal (USFWS) State (CDFW) FE Endangered SE Endangered ST Threatened FT Threatened FC Candidate SR Rare SC Candidate

## California Native Plant Society (CNPS) List Categories

List 1A Plants Presumed Extinct in California

List 1B Plants Rare, Threatened, or Endangered in California and Elsewhere

List 2 Plants Rare, Threatened, or Endangered in California but More Common Elsewhere

List 3 Plants about Which We Need More Information — A Review List

List 4 Plants of Limited Distribution - A Watch List

## California Native Plant Society (CNPS) Threat Rank Extensions

Seriously threatened in California (high degree/immediacy of threat) .2 Fairly threatened in California (moderate degree/immediacy of threat)

Not very threatened in California (low degree/immediacy of threat or no current threats known



# **APPENDIX C:**

SITE PHOTOGRAPHS





PHOTO 2: PHOTO OF CREOSOTE BUSH (*LARREA TRIDENTATA*) ALLIANCE WITHIN PROJECT SURVEY AREA.



Photo 4: Close-up photo of Utah Vine Milkweed (*Funastrum utahense*). Photo taken on April 26, 2017.

PHOTO 1:
PHOTO OF PROJECT
ALIGNMENT WITHIN SURVEY
AREA.



PHOTO 3:
PHOTO OF GENERAL MATERIAL
LAYDOWN YARD SITE
CONDITIONS. LOOKING SOUTH
NEAR NORTHWEST SURVEY
AREA BOUNDARY.





PHOTO OF ATRIPLEX SP. WITHIN

Рното 6:

PROJECT SURVEY AREA.

Рното 5: PHOTO OF CREOSOTE BUSH AND VOLCANIC SCREE WITHIN PROJECT SURVEY AREA.



**Рното 7**: PHOTO OF MATERIAL LAYDOWN YARD BORDER.

Botanical Survey Report August 2017

APPENDIX D:

DATA SHEETS





# RARE PLANT SURVEY FORM

	- Suite tokin
	g Botanistis) Revi Madden
PL	unt Data
Count unit: stem clump rosette Size determined area: Fstimated area: OR Fstimate: 251-500 501-1000 >1000  *a Vegetative: 0 1-5 6-25 26-50 51-100  *a Truiting: 0 1-5 6-25 26-50 51-100  Seedlings or Immature present? Yes No Unsure What is the condition of this rare plant occurrence? Is Please note the characteristic(s) considered:	Units: Acres ft m   OR % Cover: 0 1-5 6-25 26-50 51-100 % Flowering: 0 1-5 6-25 26-50 51-100 % Senescent: 0 1-5 6-25 26-50 51-100 Count time: 1 0 minutes   Market Poor Unsure
Conditions which might have prevented surveyors from   Grown G 105 (de Fra)  Voucher specimen obtained?   Yes XNo St  Permit Number(s):	NC I I
Slope/topographical position: Elevation range: 2000 F4, Aspect: Nohe/Flat  Hydrology: Lesert sand dur  Soils: Sand  Vegetation Alliance: Creosote Scr  Associated species: Larrea trider	ub Lata, Ambrosia dumosa
	Supplies
Brassica tournefortii	Rare Uncommon Common Abundant Rare Uncommon Rare: \$10 observations
Abundant: <a>100 observations Common: 50-100 observations</a>	

		D	isturbar	ice				
Occelopment: Browsing: Insert damage or disease: Competition: succession: Adjacent land managemen Other disturbance (please	describe) and spe	Some Some Some Some Cutic com	Most Most Most Most Most ments:	Trampling Drought Fire Drought/Ho	dro Cono	Trace Trace Trace Trace	Some Some Some	Most Most Most Most
lanagement Recommend	lations:							

Photo Log					
Photo Number	File Name	Teature Photographed (e.g., flower, juvenile, unknown, insect)	Location and Direction of Photo (e.g., center of colony looking North		
01					
0.2					
03					
()4					
05					
06					
07					
08					
09					
10					

Notes
1 mature Plant growing isside a knameria
difficult to spot Justs for seedlings
around

# OFFICE USE ONLY

Purpose	Date	Initials
Entered into Spreadsheet		
100° o Check		
10% Check		
Validation	Dushat De Jugani	

# **Appendix D-4**

Segment 2 Botanical Resources Survey Report



## **BOTANICAL SURVEY REPORT**

# LUGO-VICTORVILLE 500-KV TRANSMISSION LINE REMEDIAL ACTION SCHEME PROJECT

# BERNARDINO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

Prepared For: Biological Resources Group

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Date: July 12, 2017

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#### 1.0 INTRODUCTION

Environmental Intelligence, LLC (EI) was retained by Southern California Edison (SCE) to conduct surveys for special-status plant species on the Lugo-Victorville 500-Kv Transmission Line Remedial Action Scheme Project (Proposed Project). The Proposed Project would require installation of a new 84-mile telecommunication path consisting of Optical Ground Wire (OPGW) between Nipton Road in Clark County, Nevada and Interstate 40 near Ludlow, California. The Proposed Project survey area totals 431 acres at 12 guard pole locations, 72 helicopter landing zones, 27 pull sites, and two material laydown yards. The new telecommunication line will follow an existing SCE right-of-way (ROW) for approximately 84 miles along Powerline Road.

The purpose of these rare plant focused surveys is to support project planning and the Mojave National Preserve's review of SCE's Special Use Permit application. This report presents the findings of focused surveys for rare plants in suitable habitat within the Proposed Project area. Suitable habitat occurs along the proposed alignment, in San Bernardino County, California and Clark County, Nevada (Exhibit 1: *Project Location*).

#### 1.1 Project Location and Description

The Proposed Project is located within San Bernardino County, California, and Clark County, Nevada, and extends from Pisgah Substation near Interstate 40 to the California-Nevada border near Nipton Road (Exhibit 1). The Proposed Project is located within United States Geological Survey (USGS) Hector, Sleeping Beauty, Broadwell Lake, West of Broadwell Mesa, Broadwell Mesa, Soda Lake South, Cowhole Mountain, Old Dad Mountain, Indian Spring, Marl Mountains, Cima, Cima Dome, Joshua, Ivanpah, Nipton, and Crescent Peak 7.5-minute quadrangles; material laydown yards are located in Dunn and Baker 7.5-minute quadrangles.

The Proposed Project would involve installation of an 84-mile telecommunication path that extends from the California/Nevada border to Pisgah Substation and would follow an existing SCE distribution line ROW. The Project is required to reliably interconnect and integrate multiple renewable generation projects in the Southern Nevada / Eastern California area onto the electric grid. All work would occur within the existing SCE ROW and would involve bucket truck work at approximately 408 disturbed transmission tower locations, installation of guard poles at 14 locations, establishment of helicopter landing zones at 72 locations, pulling/tensioning activities at 27 locations, and mobilization activities at two material laydown yards (Exhibit 2: *Project Description*).

Land use along the Proposed Project alignment is primarily undisturbed desert scrub habitat. Topography consists of valleys, flats, alluvial fans, bajadas, rolling hills, and rocky slopes within the Proposed Project boundaries with elevations ranging from approximately 1,100 to 4,600 feet above mean sea level (amsl). The Project alignment crosses lands owned by BLM, private landowners, the State, and the National Park Service (Exhibit 3: *Land Use*).

#### 2.0 METHODS

#### 2.1 Literature Review

Prior to the initiation of the field surveys described in this report, several sources of available data were used to identify known and potential biological resources within the Proposed Project area and surrounding region, including published literature, field guides, previous site surveys, and public data sets. The information presented in this analysis was obtained from the following sources:

- Environmental Intelligence, LLC, 2016. Habitat and Resource Assessment: Lugo-Victorville 500-Kv Transmission Line Remedial Action Scheme Project (EI 2016).
- The California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB), maintained by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), quad-level species occurrence information (CDFW 2017);
- The California Native Plant Society's (CNPS) Online Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants of California (CNPS 2017);



- Consortium of California Herbaria (CCH 2017);
- U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Soil Survey Geographic (SSURGO) data (Natural Resources Conservation Service [NRCS] 2017);
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS 2017) county-level species occurrence information;
- USGS topographic maps; and
- USFWS Critical Habitat designations.

All plant species, as described by the CNDDB, within 3 miles and centered on the Proposed Project location (i.e., Hector, Sleeping Beauty, Broadwell Lake, West of Broadwell Mesa, Boradwell Mesa, Soda Lake South, Cowhole Mountain, Old Dad Mountain, Indian Spring, Marl Mountains, Cima, Cima Dome, Joshua, Ivanpah, Nipton, Crescent Peak, Dunn, and Baker Quadrangles) were selected as potential focal survey species (Exhibit 4: *Literature Review*). A list of the special-status plant species identified by the literature search is provided as Appendix A. Special-status plants include those with federal, state, or local designations or California Rare Plant Rank (CRPR). The botanical surveys were comprehensive and floristic in nature and were not restricted to, or focused only on this list.

#### 2.2 Regulated Species

The database search and literature review identified 7 special-status plant species occurring or having the potential to occur in the vicinity of the Proposed Project (Appendix A). Of these, none were Federal and/or State regulated species (i.e. Endangered or Threatened). Rare plant species likely to occur are highlighted below:

Species	Status	Blooming Period	Habitat
Small-flowered androstephium (Androstephium breviflorum)	CRPR 2B.2	March – April	Desert dunes and creosote bush scrub with sandy to rocky soil. 100 – 1,600 meters.
Emory's crucifixion-thorn (Castela emoryi)	CRPR 2B.2	June – July	Dry, gravelly washes, low-grade alluvial slopes, and playas in Mojavean and Sonoran creosote bush scrub. 30 – 1,350 meters.
Purple-nerve cymopterus (Cymopterus multinervatus)	CRPR 2B.2	March – April	Mountain ranges of Eastern Mojave Desert, and on the desert slope of the San Bernardino Mountains. Gravelly and sandy slopes in Joshua tree and pinyon-juniper woodland. 630 – 1,800 meters.
Utah vine milkweed (Cynachum utahense)	CRPR 4.2	March – October	Sandy or gravelly habitats of Mojavean desert scrub and Sonoran desert scrub. $100 - 1,435$ meters.
Matted cholla (Grusonia parishii)	CRPR 2B.2	May – June	Sandy, gravelly flats, generally in creosote bush/bur scrub and Joshua tree woodlands. 300 – 1,200 meters.
White-margined beartongue (Penstemon albomarginatus)	CRPR 1B.1	March – May	Loose desert sand, generally on stabilized dunes with creosote bush scrub. 700 – 900 meters.
Rusby's desert mallow (Sphaeralcea rusbyi var. eremicola)	CRPR 1B.2	March – June	Creosote bush scrub and Joshua tree woodlands. 1,000 – 1,500 meters.

TABLE 1. CALIFORNIA RARE PLANT RANK SPECIES

## 2.3 Taxonomy and Vegetation Classification

Plant taxonomy follows The Jepson Manual (Baldwin et al. 2012). Common plant names, where not available from Baldwin et al. 2012, are taken from Abrams (1923 and 1944), Abrams and Ferris (1951 and 1960), Beauchamp (1986), Munz (1974), CNPS (2017), or Simpson and Hasenstab (2009). Vegetation



classification follows the system described in a Manual of California Vegetation, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition (Sawyer et al. 2009). Scientific names are mentioned once in the text and common names are used thereafter.

This vegetation classification system is the preferred system of the California Native Plant Society and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's Vegetation Classification and Mapping Program and allows for direct comparisons with other classification systems (e.g. Holland 1986). For species unidentifiable in the field, biologists took reference specimens for later identification.

#### 2.4 Existing Vegetation

Seventeen (17) vegetation communities/land cover types, including 4 sensitive vegetation communities and 13 non-sensitive vegetation communities/land cover types were previously documented and mapped during habitat assessment studies (EI 2016) (Exhibit 2). Descriptions of the communities can be found in the Manual of California Vegetation, 2nd Edition (Sawyer et al. 2009). A description of the land cover types found within the rare plant survey areas is provided below in Table 1.

TABLE 2. VEGETATION COMMUNITY / LAND COVER TYPE AND LOCATION

Vegetation Community / Land Cover Type
Vegetation Communities
Chilopsis linearis (Desert willow woodland) Woodland Alliance (61.550.00) G4 / S3.2
Pleuraphis rigida (Big galleta shrub-steppe) Alliance (41.0303.00) G3 / S2.2
Psorothamnus spinosus (Smoke tree woodland) Woodland Alliance (61.570.00) G4 / S3.3
Yucca brevifolia (Joshua tree woodland) Woodland Alliance (33.170.00) G4 / S3.2
Non-sensitive Vegetation Communities
Acacia greggii (Catclaw acacia thorn scrub) Shrubland Alliance (33.040.00) G5 / S4
Ambrosia dumosa (White bursage scrub) Shrubland Alliance (33.060.00) G5 / S4
Ambrosia salsola (Cheesebush scrub) Shrubland Alliance (33.200.00) G5 / S4
Atriplex polycarpa (Allscale scrub) Shrubland Alliance (36.340.00) G5 / S4
Bromus (diandrus, hordeaceus) - Brachypodium distachyon (Annual brome grasslands) Semi-natural Stands
(42.026.00) Non-Native / Invasive
Bromus rubens – Schismus (arabicus, barbatus) (Red brome or Mediterranean grass grasslands) Semi-natural
Stands (42.024.00) Non-Native / Invasive
Encelia farinosa (Brittle bush scrub) Shrubland Alliance (33.030.00) G5 / S4
Larrea tridentata (Creosote bush scrub) Shrubland Alliance (33.010.00) G5 / S5
Larrea tridentata – Ambrosia dumosa (Creosote bush – white burr sage scrub) Shrubland Alliance (33.140.00)
G5 / S5
Salazaria Mexicana (Bladder sage scrub) Shrubland Alliance (33.310.00) G4 / S4
Yucca schidigera (Mojave yucca scrub) Alliance (33.070.00) G4 / S4
Land Cover Types
Barren – Not Developed
Developed

### Barren – Not Developed

Barren land is of limited ability to support life and in which less than one-third of the area has vegetation or other cover. Barren lands are characterized by bare rock, gravel, sand, silt, clay, or other earthen material. Such areas include dry salt flats, beaches, sandy areas, bare exposed rock, strip mines, quarries, gravel pits, and transitional areas.

#### Developed

Developed lands include urban or built-up areas with much of the land covered by structures. Such areas include cities, transportation, power and communications facilities, mills, shopping centers, and other



buildings that may, in some cases, be separate from urban areas. Urban or built-up land may contain a wide variety of native and non-native, ruderal and ornamental plant species.

#### 2.5 Special-Status Plant Surveys

Timing of the surveys took into consideration documented phenology for the target species, reference populations, and weather data. The closest weather data center (Station #042257) was located approximately 25 miles west of the Proposed Project area at Daggett Airport, California. Weather data were obtained from the Western Regional Climate Center (WRCC) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) National Climate Data Center (NCDC). Thirty-Year Climate Normals for Daggett Airport averaged 3.13 inches during October through June (WRCC 1981-2010). For the 2016-2017 hydrological year, total precipitation was 10 percent above average (3.44 inches) in Mojave Valley from October through June (NCDC 2017).

During onsite surveys, botanists visited reference populations for target special-status species to ensure that these species: i) emerged (if annuals), ii) showed phenological traits (e.g., fruits, flowers, etc.) necessary for identification, and/or iii) were readily identifiable with all botanists who may have less familiarity with a given species. A list of all reference population locations and results is provided below in Table 2.

Species	General Location	Date Visited	Status		
Small-flowered androstephium (Androstephium breviflorum)	Ivanpah Dry Lake Playa, 2 miles SW Primm, NV	4/17/2017	Blooming, readily identifiable		
Utah vine milkweed ( <i>Cynachum</i> utahense)	Railroad N side of I-40, Pisgah, CA	4/17/2017	Blooming, readily identifiable		
Clokey's cryptantha (Cryptantha clokeyi)	Powerline Road, Lucerne Valley, CA	4/26/2017	Blooming, fruiting, readily identifiable		
Mojave menodora (Menodora spinescens var. mohavensis)	North of Ord Mt. along Camp Rock Rd.	4/26/2017	Blooming, readily identifiable		
Mojave monkeyflower (Mimulus mohavensis)	Ord Mountain Road/Daggett Wash, Barstow, CA	4/26/2017	None identified		
White margined beardtongue (Penstemon albomarginatus)	Needles Fwy, Pisgah, CA	4/26/2017	None identified		
Rusby's desert-mallow (Sphaeralcea rusbyi var. eremicola)	Rainbow Spring, Mojave National Preserve, CA	4/17/2017	Blooming, readily identifiable		

TABLE 3: REFERENCE POPULATIONS SUMMARY TABLE

Following verification at these reference populations, pedestrian surveys for special status plant species were conducted on April 17 – 22 and June 12 – June 16, 2017 by qualified botanists Doug Gordon-Blackwood, Ron Clark, Kevin Thomas, Mitchell Provance, Scott Duff, Nicole Nesball and Luis Aguilar. This botanical survey was conducted following the CDFW Protocols for Surveying and Evaluating Impacts to Special Status Native Plant Populations and Natural Communities (CDFW 2009) and the CNPS Botanical Survey Guidelines (CNPS 2001). The survey area was defined by a 100-foot buffer around each of the Proposed Project disturbance areas (Exhibit 2). Surveys were conducted by walking transects over

the survey areas to ensure thorough coverage, noting all observed plant taxa. Focused attention, including the use of denser transect lines, was given to areas with higher potential habitat for special-status plant species. Care was taken to thoroughly search all unique features, soils, and habitats encountered that could have a higher probability for occurrence of sensitive species. Within private property along the survey area where no access was available, surveyors used binoculars to visually assess the area for rare plants. Plants were counted individually whenever possible. When the population size, density, or other factors rendered a census impractical, counting plants in one or more representative square meter areas, and multiplying by the estimated area of the population was used to estimate the number of individuals. Photographs of special status taxa and habitat conditions are included in Appendix C: Site Photographs. The locations of all special-status species were mapped in the field using a Garmin recreational Global Positioning System (GPS) handheld unit and on aerial photograph field maps.

#### 3.0 RESULTS

Early and late growing season botanical surveys were conducted within the Proposed Project survey area on multiple days. Performing multiple surveys over the course of the growing season is critical for the detection of special-status plants. New occurrences were documented for special-status plant species during each survey visit. Survey dates and times are summarized below in Table 3.

Date (2017)	Survey (Survey Type)	Survey Hours	Biologist*
April 17	Early Growing Season	07:00-17:00	DGB, RC, KT, NN
April 18	Early Growing Season	07:00-17:00	DGB, RC, KT, NN
April 19	Early Growing Season	07:00-17:00	DGB, RC, KT, NN
April 20	Early Growing Season	07:00-17:00	DGB, RC, KT, NN
April 21	Early Growing Season	07:00-17:00	DGB, RC, KT, NN
April 22	Early Growing Season	07:00-17:00	KT, NN
June 12	Late Growing Season	07:00-17:00	DGB, SD, MP, LA
June 13	Late Growing Season	07:00-17:00	DGB, SD, MP, LA
June 14	Late Growing Season	07:00-17:00	DGB, SD, MP, LA
June 15	Late Growing Season	07:00-17:00	DGB, SD, MP, LA
June 16	Late Growing Season	07:00-17:00	DGB, SD, MP, LA

TABLE 4: SURVEY DATES AND TIME

The botanical survey resulted in the detection of 254 plant species, of which 17 are non-native (Appendix B). Three (3) special status plant species, Crucifixion thorn (*Castela emoryi*, CRPR 2B.2), Matted cholla (*Grusonia parishii* CRPR 2B.2) and Purplenerve springparsley (*Cymopterus multinervatus* CRPR 2B.2), were observed within the survey area. Also, while not identified with a CRPR ranking, Mojave yucca (*Yucca schidigera*) clonal colonies which are protected by the DRECP were also documented within the survey area. Descriptions of the observed special-status plant species are provided below and their location within the alignment is provided in Exhibit 5: *Results*.



<sup>\*</sup> DGB – Doug Gordon Blackwood, RC – Ron Clark, KT – Kevin Thomas, NN - Nicole Nesball, SD – Scott Duff, LA – Luis Aguilar, MP – Mitch Provance

#### 3.1 Small-Flowered Androstephium (Androstephium breviflorum, CRPR 2B.2)

Small-flowered androstephium is a perennial herb that typically blooms between March and April. This species is typically associated with desert dunes and creosote bush scrub with sandy to rocky soil at elevations between 325 – 5200 feet. A CCH record for this species (2005) occurs 100 feet south of the survey area. The species was detected during the reference site visit at record location. Surveys were conducted during the appropriate blooming season and reference populations were observed; the lack of observations within the Project survey area suggest that the species is absent from the Project site.

#### 3.2 Crucifixion Thorn (Castela emoryi, CRPR 2B.2)

Crucifixion thorn is a shrub that typically blooms between June and July. This species is typically associated with creosote bush scrub at elevations between 295 to 2495 feet. Five (5) individuals were documented on gravely-wash soil within the Proposed Project survey area near Tower M88-T2, and seven (7) individuals were documented outside the survey area at 4 discrete locations (Exhibit 5, Pages 1-4) (Appendix C, Photo 5). Associated plant species included creosote (*Larrea tridentata*), *cheesebush* (*Ambrosia salsola*), *rayless enciela* (*Encelia frutescens*), and sweetbush (*Bebbia juncea*).

#### 3.3 Purplenerve Springparsley (Cymopterus multinervatus, CRPR 2B.2)

Purplenerve springparsley is a perennial herb that typically blooms between March and April. This species is typically associated with Joshua tree woodland and pinyon-juniper woodland at elevations between 2200 to 4660 feet. Ten (10) individuals were documented on sandy-decomposed limestone soil within the Proposed Project survey area near Tower M124-T3 (Exhibit 5, Page 6) (Appendix C, Photos 7-8). Associated plant species included Joshua tree (*Yucca brevifolia*), big galleta (*Hilaria rigida*), cholla (*Cylindropuntia sp.*), creosote, non-native brome grasses (*Bromus spp.*), and Mormon tea (*Ephedra sp*).

#### 3.4 Utah Vine Milkweed (Cynanchum utahense, CRPR 4.2)

Utah vine milkweed is a perennial herb that typically blooms between March and October. This species is typically associated with Mojavean and Sonoran desert scrub at elevations between 320 – 4,700 feet. CCH records for this species (2005-2009) occur within 300-600 feet of the southern Project survey area near Pisgah Substation. The species was detected during the reference site visit at record locations. Surveys were conducted during the appropriate blooming season and reference populations were observed; the lack of observations within the Project survey area suggest that the species is absent from the Project site

#### 3.5 Matted Cholla (Grusonia parishii, CRPR 2B.2)

Matted cholla is a shrub that typically blooms between May and June. This species is typically associated with creosote bush scrub and Joshua tree woodland at elevations between 2920 to 4985 feet. One (1) individual was documented on coarse sand within the Proposed Project survey area near Tower M127-T6 (Exhibit 5, Page 7). Associated plant species included Joshua tree, pencil cholla (*Opuntia ramosissima*), desert olive (*Menodora spinescens var. spinescens*), California buckwheat (Eriogonum fasciculatum), and Cooper's goldenbush (*Ericameria cooperi*).

#### 3.6 White-Margined Beardtongue (Penstemon albomarginatus, CRPR 1B.1)

White-margined beardtongue is a perennial herb that typically blooms between March and May. This species is typically associated with desert sand, generally on stabilized dunes with creosote bush scrub at elevations between 2300 – 3000 feet. CNDDB records for this species (2005-2010) occur within 500 feet of the southern Project survey area near I-40 and Pisgah. The species was not detected during the reference site visit at record locations. While surveys were conducted during the appropriate blooming season, the lack of observations at the reference population suggests that there is a possibility that the species may be present but not detectable at the time of survey.

#### 3.7 Rusby's Desert Mallow (Sphaeralcea rusbyi var. eremicola, 1B.2)

Rusby's deseret mallow is a perennial herb that typically blooms between March and June. This species is typically associated with creosote bush scrub and Joshua tree woodlands in disturbed areas at elevations



between 3280 – 4921 feet. CNDDB records for this species (1998) occur within the Project survey area along Powerline Road access route. The species was detected during the reference site visit at record location. Surveys were conducted during the appropriate blooming season and reference populations were observed; the lack of observations within the Project survey area suggest that the species is absent from the Project site

### 3.8 Mohave Yucca Rings (Yucca schidigera)

Mohave yucca is a tree that typically blooms between April and May. This species is typically associated with chaparral and creosote bush scrub at elevations between 50 to 7450 feet. The Mojave yucca can produce clonal colonies that originate from a single ancestor. Clonal colonies are rare and can be several thousand years old (Vasek 1980). Clones were documented on dry rocky slopes within the Proposed Project survey area near Towers M108-T2 and M131-T1 (Exhibit 5, Page 5 and 8) (Appendix C, Photo 4). Each of these yucca rings had a diameter greater than 3-meters.

#### 4.0 SUMMARY

El conducted systematic searches for special status plant species within the survey area. Three special status plant species (Crucifixion Thorn, Purplenerve Springparsley, and Matted Cholla) and a unique vegetation stand (Mojave yucca rings) were documented in the survey area. Additionally, one rare plant species (White-Margined Beardtongue) was absent from reference population locations and may not have been visible during surveys. Nevertheless, based on the phenological characteristics of other species with similar blooming periods and observed during surveys and the identification of new and expanded special-status plant populations, the targeted plant species were expected to be evident and observable during this year's survey periods.

#### ENVIRONMENTAL INTELLIGENCE

Travis Kegel – Project Manager

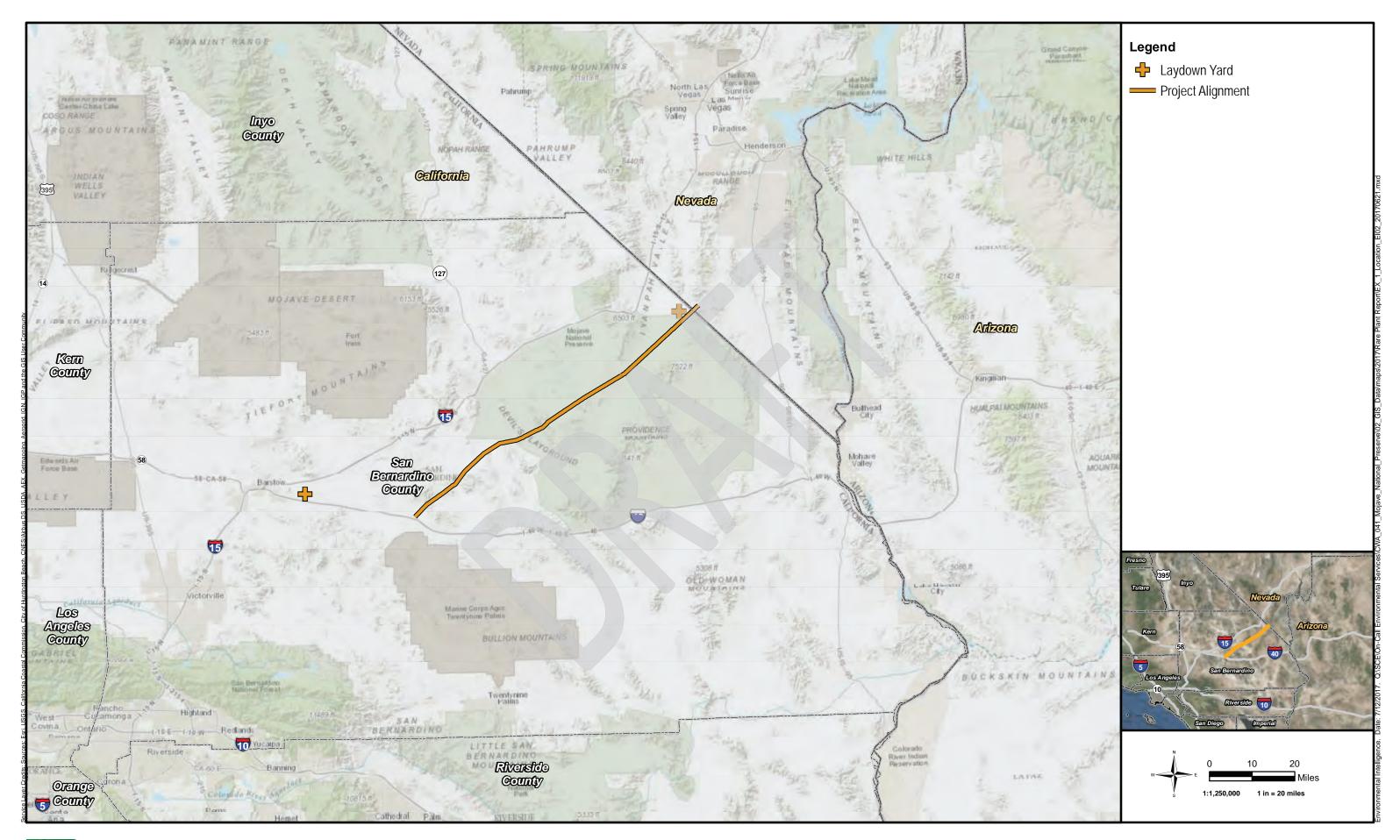


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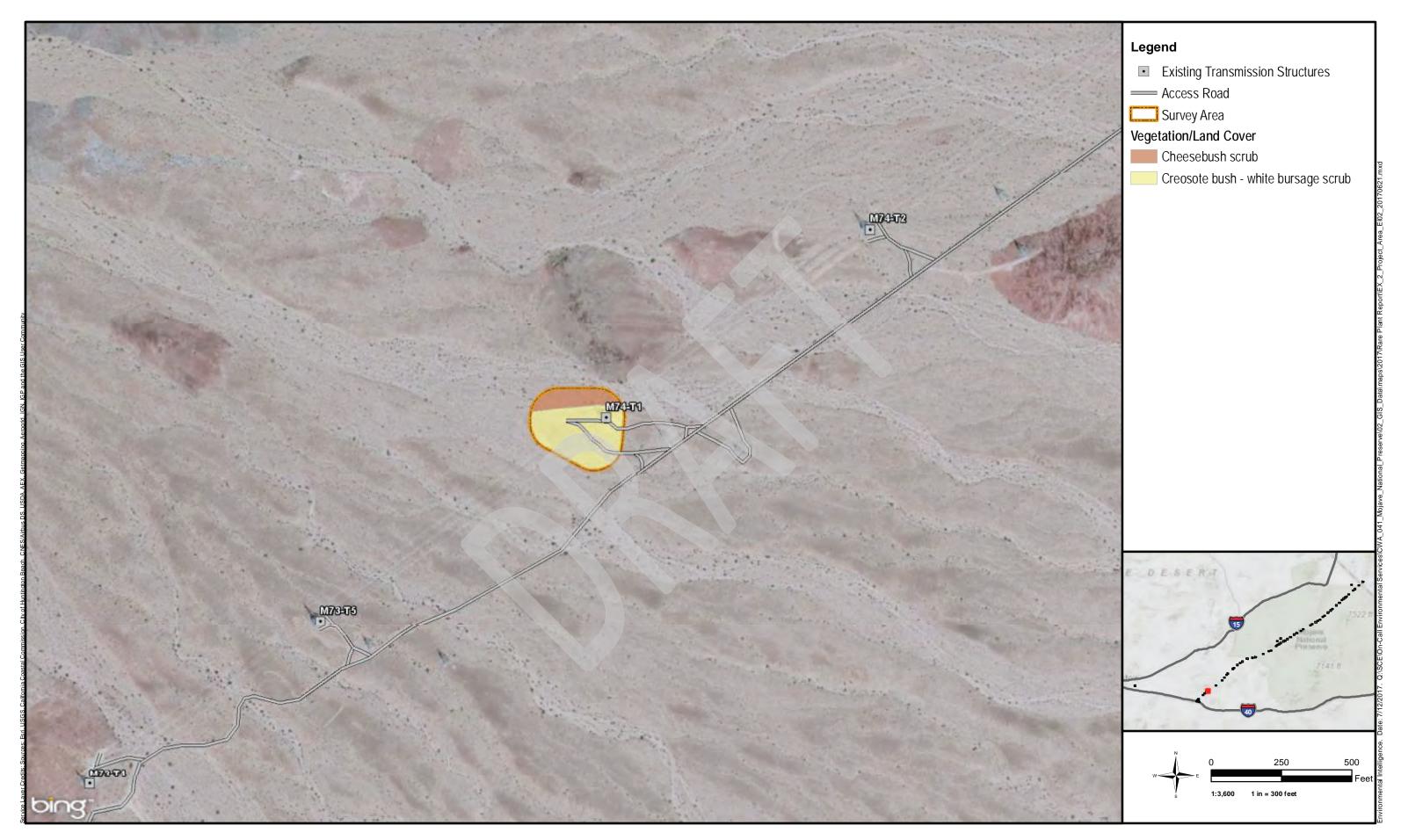














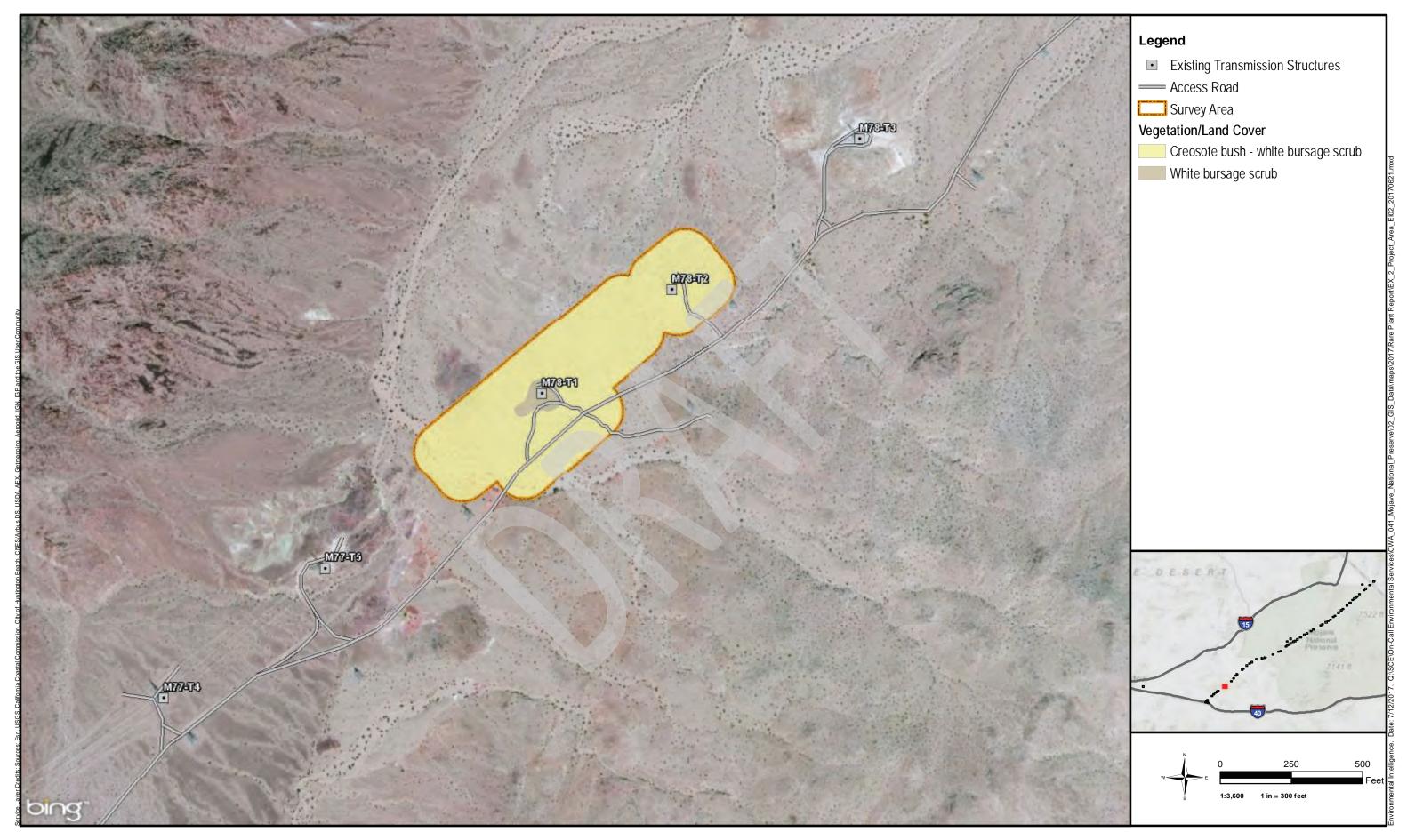






EXHIBIT 2. PROJECT AREA (PAGE 11 OF 62)
LVRAS PROJECT | SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY, CA AND CLARK COUNTY, NV







