

### Appendix B:

USFWS DESERT TORTOISE PRE-PROJECT SURVEY DATASHEETS



### Please submit a COLOR DESERT TORTOISE PRE-PROJECT SURVEY DATA SHEET

Date of surve Site descripti	on: Cleasote	Scrub	ologist(s): <u>Sus</u>	ion Seuille,	Ben Delancy,	(Nikaula Nec	rete, roult
County: Sur- coordinates, lat-long, and/or Circle one: 1	Bernard	MA Quest	voject name and sizi	e: general location)			·····
o Start-point: 11	3 neesel	memor Area size to	be surveyed:		ransect #:t	ransect length: _	
S End-point: \\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\	S 088738	5. 3850095	5	•	Statt little. VI.O	<u>vo</u> _an	n/om
In/End Temp: 79	of 1990						
Live T	ortoises						
etection	GPS loc	ation			· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	Approx MCL	Existing tag # (
umber	Easting N		Time	(in burrow, all of	ise location totoise beneath plane of ing, or not in burrow)	>160-mm? (Yes, No or Unknown)	color, if prese
					· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	<u> </u>	
Tortoise Sign (burro	ows, scats, carci	asses etc)			<u></u>		
Detection	GPS Ic	cation		of sign	Class, Descripti	on, and commer	nts
	Easting				210554 0	•	
201611/10-01-BD	, i	3848658	burrow	······································	<u> 1915mm x 1</u>   doss4 <sub>1</sub> os	75mm, unk Greige	Debli
197-1010-01-PF	इ इ इ ६ १ ४ प	3848653	burnxo	·	150 mm x i	<u>96 minijarok</u> Upakat 230	
16(141010-03- PF)	556211	3849018	Darra	<u> </u>	Book O as	olm. 1978 1 Speed 215	y didiyy
20 - 100 - 01 - PF	<u>७</u> ८५७ <i>७३॥</i>	3849018	burria	>		kin m jur Y	
<u> </u>		3849 <i>555</i>	follot		1 Pallet		
001,1016-01-80		3849477	parrou			OSPORT ARE O COM : UNIV	
					120554 A	ary, rodi 20	*
19-50 GOLD TO T- FC		7844409	YOU, Y 10		V03554.	<u> </u>	,
	<u> </u>	3849868	Carr.	1. A	i t	100 n in O	10 April 20 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10

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USFWS DESERT TORTOISE PRE-PROJECT SURVEY DATA SHEET Please submit a completed copy to the action agency and local USFWS office within 30-days of survey completion Date of survey: 2016-10-10 Survey biologist(s): Seville, Delancy, Negrete, Agures (year , month, day.) Site description: Processes Service Se (UTM coordinates, lat-long, and/or TRS, map deturn) Quad: Location: Circle one: 100% coverage or Sampling Area size to be surveyed: \_\_\_\_\_\_Transect #: \_\_\_\_\_Transect length: \_\_\_\_ \_am/pm End time: 16.35 GPS Start-point: 11 S (easting, northing, elevation in meters) Start time: 19.26 GPS End-point: WS 0557855 (easting, northing, elevation in meters) am/pm 355m95 Start/End Temp: 79°F / 99° F Live Tortoises Existing tag # and Approx MCL color, if present Tortoise location >160-mm? Detection **GPS** location (in burrow all of tortoise beneath plane of burrow opening, or not in burrow) Yes, No or Unknown) Time number Easting Northing Tortoise Sign (burrows, scats, carcasses, etc) Type of sign (burrows, scats, carcass, etc) Class, Description, and comments **GPS** location Detection Easting Northing number on Road Side **Vallet** 2016/010-09-55 0557095 3849826 140 minus 80 mm, unk Braths Classes, Capital 1504 Pambu 28419 785 201010-10-MM 0357037 POMMIZIYOMM JUNK DAPHY Wassi, aspici and Pam<u>w</u> 2016/1010-11-55 055 7882 585 523 100 mm x 100 mm, une De 612 2016-1010-10-00 055 7440 3850165

Page:_	of	

Please submit a completed copy to the action agency and local USFWS office within 30-days of survey completion

County: ITM coordinates, lan-long. Circle o	San Bernaci and or TRS, map datum) INB: 100% coverage o	Co Quad	ze to be surveye	d: 15 acr	ocation:South Pa entransoct#:N//	ct of Sadd   Transect length	:_N/A_
PS Start-point: 3	Monters)	116.33717	134.83190	2	Start timo:\O		(aβl/pm End time:
IPS End-point:	-	116.3376	2,34.8231	5	1	30	€iN/pm
	83° - 83	D					
	22 62					_	
Liv	ve Tortoises						
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1			10:45			7100mm	MIL
Tortoise Sign (bu	rrows, scals, care	asses, etc)					
Detection	GPSIG		Type of	sinn	Grand Barrellan	are the second	
number	Easting		(tuvows, scars,		Class, Description,	Transport of the same	
6011-01-5D		34.22185	carcass	/	23°F, 3	n Book	male 285mm
J	116.33767				33'F, 9	PER IN	orter mash
16:011-03-90	116.33776	34.83307	CARLASS	_	Cause of d	carled wash it	o'lo bleached.
					Damaged &	de 11	
Karal 0 40	1150560577	2853570	Carross		Dinge bengne	1	
101011-03-0	16.33767	34.82315	- Contract of the Contract of		Class: 3, 10	00mx150	omn entranc
161011-04-5			Burrow		aspect 180	2°, unk d	eoth
141011	-116:33717	34.83496	Burrow		C1035. 51		Entrance: 300m
1011-05-5D			LATECUTY.		WAY GEDTH	TO USDECT	- MTCAN 0: 500 m

Page: of 1

Site Cou	description: Denty: San Ben	CSCT+ LY	ey biologist(s): _S 1	size; general locatio	n) Tarred M7	ncey, Paul	Aores, Mikal Negrel
GPS	10 OH6 (100% covers	dor Sampling Area si EASTR 3852		d:	Transect #: T Start time:	ransect length:	pdalum) Jypm Jpm
and the second second second	. (6:	esling, narhing, slavaton in	meters)		-		
	Live Tortoises						
Detection number	Eastin	S location g Northing	Time	(in burrows all	oise location of tortoise beneath plane of ening, or not in burrow)	Approx MCL >160-mm? (Yes, No or Unknown)	Existing tag # and color, if present
20161011-05	PF 0560048	3862918	0915	in burn	ow at owne	inknain	
	<del> </del>				!		
				***			
Tor	toise Sign /huma	No. cooks					
Detection number		vs, scats, carcass	es, etc) Type o	feign	<u> </u>		
		Northing	(burraws, scals,	carcass, etc)	Clas	s, Description, a	nd comments
2016_10.11_0L_55		3852979	Pallet		2 pnotos		
Z0161011_02_BD		3852838	Panet	······································	l prioto		
20161011_03_MN		3852821	Carcass		2ft x 3p 4ft. scatter	notos - in a	plastren over 10
061011_04_PF	0950140	3852992	Burrow ! S	icat		Citions of Di	plastren over the has closed off b
16101205 PF (	)5600U8	3852918	Tortoise	manaanpuluuraa kuun qorq . Myshaa .	110 × 27	6 unkr	nown sex Isize
161011_06 PF 0	560048	3852918	Burrow				+ 280 40 m from road
							<i>J</i> , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,

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Site	description:	/(O/(  Surve	ey biologist(s): 5	i local USFWS	SURVEY DATA SHE Soffice within 30-day: VCINCY FICE!	s of survey comp	
GP:	> ⊏no-point:	9 Sampling Area siz 050060 3 056065	ze to be surveyed 2853667 3858663	Locat	ion: M71-T6	ansect length:	n/pm
	VEnd Temp: 8	2 F/J.2 popn	1 Clear	····			1
Detection number	GP5 Eastin	S location g Northing	Time	(in burrows als of	tise location toricise beneath plane of tang, or not in burnew)	Apprex MCL >160-mm? (Yes. No or Unknown)	Existing tag # and color, if present
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····							
	rtoise Sign (burro	ws, scats, carcass	es, etc)				
Detection number		ocation Northing	Type of (burrows, scals,	carcess, elc)	Clas	s, Description, a	and comments
20161011_07_mn 0161011_08_mn	1	3853664	Burrow/sca	t/ gragme	1		m Aspect 340
161011_09_BD		3853683 3853683	3rat Scat		(ompletely	•	bleached is
0161011_10_BD	0060660	5653667	Berow	/sca+	C1450×130m	m, Asprot 1	30,
N6 WILL PF	0560665	3%53663	3ca+		Campietel	y avisy	
				<u>.</u>			

Site des County: Circle or GPS Ste	cription: Desc	ct M72-T2  dino Ouad:  diamping Area size  QU 385  continuo elevation intre-	to be surveyed 3968	etra carrent location	Transect #	7 TRS 17	ap celum)
Li	ve Tortoises					Approx MCL	Existing tag # and color, if
Detection number	GPS loc Easting	I	Time		se location process beneath plans of process or not in burrow)	>160-mm? (Yes. No or Unknown)	present
	2.7.2.1						<u> </u>
Tortois	se Sign (burrows,	scats, carcasses	s, etc)				
etection umber	GPS loca Easting No	7.1	Type o	f sign carcass. etc)	Class	s, Description, a	nd comments
)							
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		Dat	e of supra	a completed cop	y to the action agency and	f local	USFWS office within 30-	days of survey	Completion
		Site	description	(ynar morin day)	_Survey biologist(s):	evil	IC, Delance, Flo	ircs, Neg	rex_
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- (				XIII/II/III/A	•	*		es lat-long and/or TR	S: map datum)
<b>-</b> ■			Start-point:	overage or Sampling A	Aree size to be surveyed:		Transect#:	Transect length	am/pm)
			End-point:	(assing northing as	restion in meters;		End time:		am/sin)
		100		(Jasting portugation	3854380		The second secon		
!	-	Clarvi	=nd Temp:	94'F, 1-21	oph, clear   9	3°F	3-4 mpn Clear		
			Live Tortois	es					
	Detectio number	n		GPS location				Approx MCL	Existing tag #
: :	- votub@l	Г 	E	asting Northing	Time	(in burro	Tortoise location w. all of tortoise beneath plane of ow opening, or not in burrow)	>160-mm? (Yes, No ar	and color, if present
								Unknown)	
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		12.5							
<u>:</u>		Tortoi	se Sign (burr	ows, scats, carca	asses, etc)			· <u>····</u>	
	Detection		-	Slocation			T		
-	number	_	Eastin		Type of sign (burrows, scats, carcass.	etc)	Class, De	escription, and	comments
20	16101121	m c	561284	3854299	Berran		CZ, 900%170	hm Asi	Pect 160
201	61011_13_81	00	561373			•			
	51011-14-8[	1					Dalas's casted	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
		1		3854356	Scat	<del></del>	Deteriorated		
204	5101 L15_BD	כסוו	61374	3854355	Berrow		C3 w/scat 376	7 30mz	Spect 40
2016	1011-16-59	05	51386	3854361	Burrow		CU 260m	m x 90mm	Aspect 170
20161	OILIZSB	050	61389	3854359	Carcass Fragn	nen†			and the second s
20161	011_18_PF	056	31382	3854352	Pallet		J		
:						- Application		***************************************	· ·

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Please sub-	SOLITS DESERT TORTOISE PARTY	Was within 20 days of

Plea	ase submit a compl	eted copy to the ac	tion agency and	local USFWS	office within 30-da	ys of survey comp	letion
(year , month, day,)	of survey: 10 · 12 .	2 <i>016</i> Survey	biologist(s): Se	rule, Delag	and, email, and phone num	Nogrete	
Site di	escription:						
(UTM coordinates, int-lon	y: San Bernara g. and/or TAS, map datum)	lineQuad:_	-	Location	on: <u>M74-74</u>	tonoth	
GPS Start-point:	one: (00% coverage)	r Sampling Area size	to be surveyed	·	Transect #:	Z	noppm End time:
GPS End-point	115 056400	16 385606	<u>c</u>		1034	(a)	}/pm
(easting, nonthing, elevation	115 006438	4 ORDGY	16 1				
StarvEnd Temp:	72F, 1-3m	ph, Clear,	1 1-3m	on Clean			
Li	ive Tortoises						Existing tag # and
Detection number	E .	ocation Northing	emiT	1 as a summariant of the	se location tortoise beneath plans of ing, or not in burrow)	Approx MCL. >160-mm? Yes, No or Unknown)	color, if present
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Tortoise Sign (bu	rrows, scats, carc	asses, etc)					
Detection number	GPS to		Type o	sign , carcass, etc)	Class, Description	on, and commen	its
20161012.06.51	0564318	3856330	Pallet		Ul Omm De	ptn	O · Aspect
			2 !	S billione	m m 2000	- Za 	Scat within wee
20161012.07.5V		3856330	Down !	scan inc	1		330 Aspect
20161012.08MN	0564244	35856369	Berrow		(3, 240m	m x 160mm	
20161012-09-BD	0564251	3856366	Burow		C3, 140	mm × 100m	40 Aspect
						14. <sup>1</sup>	1, 4 111
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GPS Start-point	: //3 OSC 3/	or Sampling Area siz	ze to be surveyed	<u>‡:</u>	Transect #:	Transect length:	
Paralling Holding Blown		リフ みがいちゃ	. 34		Orange State of LANCE	·	am/pm end time.
easting, northing, eleva	tion in meters)	562 3855	702		0917	2a	m/pm
Start/End Temp:	70'F 1-3 C	lear, 71:F	1-4 01				1.
	Live Tortoises						<u></u>
Detection							
number		location Northing	Time	(in burrow, all	toise location of tonoise beneath plans of paning, or not in burrow)	Approx MCL >160-mm? (Yes, No or Unknown)	Existing tag # ar color, it presen
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ortoise Sign (bu	rrows, scats, can	casses etc)					
	irrows, scats, care						
ortoise Sign (bu etection imber	GPS	casses, etc)	Type of (burrows, scats,	sign carcass, etc)	Class, Descriptio	n, and comment	s
etection	GPS	location	Type of (burrows, scats,	Sign carcass, etc)			s
etection imber	GPS   Easting	location Northing	(burrows, scats,	sign carcass, etc)	Class, Descriptio		S
etection imber	GPS   Easting	location Northing	(burrows, scats,	sign carcass, etc)			s
etection imber	GPS   Easting	location Northing	(burrows, scats,	sign carcass, etc)			S
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etection imber	GPS   Easting	location Northing	(burrows, scats,	Sign carcass, etc)	120mm De		S .
etection imber	GPS   Easting	location Northing	(burrows, scats,	Sign carcass, etc)	120mm De		S
etection imber	GPS   Easting	location Northing	(burrows, scats,	Sign carcass, etc)	120mm De		S
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USFWS DESERT TORTOISE PRE-PROJECT SURVEY DATA SHEET

Please submit a completed copy to the action agency and local USFWS office within 30-days of survey completion

County:	San Bereardy ind/or TRS, mapdatum)	cosale scab, 0	(project name and siz	e: general location; LOCA	tion: <u>M 73-2</u>	<u>,</u>	<u></u>
Circle or	ne: 000% coverage ha	Samulina Aron ciro				Transect length:	
PS Start-point: 15	MGC22 20 00	555112			Start time: 02:30	M21	am/pm End time:
	ACC 211-				8:29 4	<b>a</b> a	m/pm
		year 170	1-3 Clea	1			_
	a Tortoises	4.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1					
Detection	<u> </u>			Tea	pise location	Approx MCL	Existing tag # and
number Derection	GPS to Easting	1	Time	Lie burrour off r	of tertoise beneath plane of arring, or not in burrow!	>160-mm? Yes, No or Unknown)	color, if present
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Tortoise Sign (bu	rrows, scats, card	asses, etc)					
Detection number	GPS to	ocation Northing	Type o {burrows, scats		Class, Descriptio	n, end comment	s
61012 JI_NU	0562293	3855061	Pallet		GROMM DE	th	
61012 02 80	0562283	3855045	Pallet		330 mm S	Deptn	·······
101203_PF		3855013	Pallet		460 mm	Depth	
1018LOLPF	0562321	3854911	Parkt		550m	Deptn	
						······································	
					1		

Please submit a completed copy to the and local USFWS office within 30-days of survey completion

County:	San Bemard	ino Quad:	(project name and size	Loc	ation: /// / / - / /	/	
Circle One	3: 100% ******	Sampling Area size	to be surveyed:		Transect #:		·
ling northing playsting	5 750XX 14	3859407			Start time: [[]	1	_am/pm End time:
S End-point: sting, northing, elevation in	meters)				1428		ım/pm
art/End Temp;	16" F 1-4mp	b.Clear /90%	- GMON C	leen v		**	
	Tortoises		211/211			<del>-</del>	
Detection	GPS to	Cation		T	oise location	Approx MCL	Existing tag # and
number	Easting	1	Time	(in burrow, all a	Of tortoise beneath plane of ening, or not in burrow!	>160-mm? (Yes, No or Unknown)	color, if present
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Tortoise Sign (burn	ows, scats, carca	asses, etc)					
Detection	GPS to	ocation	Type of s		Class, Description,	and comments	
Detection number	GPS to Easting	Northing	(burrows, scats, ca	rcass, etc)			
Detection number	GPS to Easting	Northing 3859403	burrows, scats, ca	rcass, etc)	C3, Scot of	der than w	Cek 330mm
Detection number	GPS to Easting	Northing	burrow Pallet	rcass, etc)		der than w	
Detection number	GPS to Easting 0668715 0668780	Northing 3859403	burrows, scats, ca	rcass, etc)	C3, Scot of	certnan w	
Detection number 0161012, IQ SV 0161012, II_PF	GPS to Easting 0568715 0568780 0564243	3859403 3859403	burrow Pallet	Scat	23, Scat of 800mm Depty Womm De	der than wo	
Detection number 0161012_10_SV 0161012_11_PF 0161012_12_PF	GPS to Easting 0568715 0568780 0564243 0568703	3859403 3859403 3859364 3856366	Durrow Pallet Pallet	Scat	800mm Depty WOmm De 160mm x 90	certhan wo	cek 330mm
Detection number 0161012, 10, SV 0161012, 11, PF 0161012, 12, PF 0161012, 13, MN	GPS 10 Easting 0568715 0568780 0564243 0568703	2859403 3859403 3859364 3856366 3859357	Durrow Pallet Pallet Burrow	Scat	800mmDepty WOMM De 160mm x 90 130mmDept	certhan wo	cek 330mm
Detection number 0161012, IQ. SV 0161012, II_PF	GPS 10 Easting 0568780 0568780 0564243 0568703 0568709	2859403 3859403 3859364 3856366 3859357 3859344	Durrow Pallet Pallet Burrow Pallet	Scat	23, Scat of 800mmDepty MOmm De 160mm x 90 130mmDepty 100mm D	cler than wo	cek 330mm

Cont.

# Please submit a completed

(year, month, day.)	vi aurvey: 7016,	10,12 Surv	ev biologist(s): C	velle De	NS office within 30- ancy Vegral (name, small, and phone)	1. El	arnpiauori	
Site d	escription:		*a.m.(a). 75	ec 45 , 1,/21	(name, email, and phone r	rumber)		
(UTM coordinates, let-lon	y Sus Dema	dias o	(project name and si	ze: general locatio	on) cation: <u>M 7 <b>8</b>~ 7</u>	<del>,,</del>		
Circle	One: 100% Coversor	QUAC	, 1 <sub>4-4-4-4</sub>	Loc	ation: M 7 8-7	Z		
GPS Start-point:	HIS OSL	SRUL Zo-	ize to be surveyed	f	tation: M 7 8-7	_Transect length:		
GPS End-point:	on in meters)	0004 208	4407		Start time:	11:11	am/pm <b>End-time</b> :	
State III	on in meters)				and time!	141.2 R	m/pm	
Start/End Temp:		<u> </u>						
	ive Tortoises		4					
Detection	CDO							
number		focation Northing	(in burrow, ell of to		loise location of tortoise beneath plane of ening, or not in burious	Approx MCL >160-mm? (Yes, No or Unknown)	Existing tag # and color, if present	
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ortoise Sign (bu	irrows, scats, car	casses etcl						
etection								
umber	)	location Northing	Type of s	Type of sign				
			(burrows, scals, carcass, etc)		Class, Description	and comments		
161015-18- BE	0568585			sign arcass, eld	Class, Description		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
	0568585	385927 ¥	Pallet	volss, eld	150 mm C	epm		
161012. 19. PF	0568559		Pallet Barrow	arcass, etc)	150 mm C C2, 620mm	крт 1×360 3	20 Aspect	
161012. 19. PF	0568559	385927 ¥	Pallet Barrow	arcass, etc	150 mm C C2, 620mm	крт 1×360 3	,	
2161012_18_PF 2161012_18_PF 161012_20_BD 161012_21_PF	05685 <u>5</u> 9 05685 <u>6</u> 4	3859278 3859196	Pallet Burrow	arcass, etc	150 ma C C2, 620ma OS 290 > 10 Fragment	kpm 1×360 3 20mm 36	O Aspect	
161012.19.PF	0568559 0568534	385922 8 3859196 3859195	Brow ! Carcas	Shell	C2, 620mm C2, 620mm C2290 > 10 Fragment C1 Fresh t	eptn 1×360 3 20mm 36	O Aspect	
161012.19. PF 161012_20_BD 161012_21_PF 61012_22_BD	0568559 0568534 0568490	385922 x 3859196 3859195 3859193	Bryon: Carcass Burrow:	Smell	C2, 620mm C3, 620mm C5, 290 > 10 Fragment C1 Fresh t Scoot ass	xptn  1 × 360 3  1 × 3	O Aspect	
161012.12.PF 161012.20.BD	0568559 0568534 0568490 0568469	3859228 3859196 3859195 3859193 3859197	Brow ! Carcas	Smell Smell	C2, 620mm C2, 620mm C3, 290 x 10 Fragment C1 Fresh to Scoot ass	eptn 1×360 3 20mm 36	O Aspect	

	Ple	<u>U:</u> ese submit e comp	SFWS DESERT	TORTOISE PRE	-PROJECT S d local USFWS	office within 30-day.	ET s of survey comp	oletion
						CLANCEY Neg		the second secon
	Site d	escription:			ilze, general location)		<u> </u>	
		v: <u>San Berr</u>			Locati	on: M 7% T	at-long, and/or TRS; ma	p datum)
	GPS 5	one: 100% coverage Stert-point: 115	or Sampling Area siz	te to be surveyed		Transect #:Tr Start time:_	ansect length:a	m/pm
		End-point:	Sing, nonthing, elevation in a	Heleus)	<u> </u>	End time:	14:28 an	vpm
		(ear	StoF 1-41		/90'F, 5	mpH, dear		
		Live Tortoises						
Detect numb		i .	location Northing	Time	(in burrow; all of	se location consist beneath plant of ing, or not in burnow)	Approx MCL >160-mm? (Yes, No or Unknown)	Existing tag # and color, if present
20161012	24.5	1 568719	3859398	1319		ed with 10.54 Burnso	215 page	N/A
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· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	<del></del>							
<u> </u>								
		<u> </u>					<u></u>	<u>.                                    </u>
· ·	Tort	oise Sign (burrow	s, scats, carcass	es, etc)				
Detection number		GPS to	ocation Northing	Type o		Class	s, Description,	and comments
2016101	2,265	N 0568476	3859167	Burraw, S	cat track	C2. 330m	n × 200 ma	Aspect 240
20161012.	27.N	0568430	3859147	Carcas		Fragmer		
2016/012-2	%_PF	05684114	3859184	Pallet		610 mm De	Ψ' .	
	;	05684176	3859239	Burrow,	Scat, SACIIS	CZ GHQXI	10n over	mekold.
	!	06(2/C0)	3859409	Scort		sout from	n this y	γ
0161012.2	200	0501081				1		
0161012, <b>3</b> 0 0161012,31	:	0568713	3859439	scat		Seat olde	or than i	/n
016(012.34.	_60	Ì		Scat Scat	3300		er than v v than v	

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Start

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Date of sun Site descrip	vey: 2016, 16, 17	Survey bio	logist(s):	f/ (name	s, email, and phone hus	nber}	
		(p	roject name and size	e; general location)			
County: County: Special coordinates, lat-long, and/or Circle one:	or TRS; map dalum)	NO_Quad:	·	Location	1: WJ8-11		
S Start-point: 11 Sing, northing, elevation in m	100% coverage or Sa	mplino Area size to	be surveyed:	Tı	ansect #:	Transect length:	
S End-point	elers)	3859407		S	lart time: 11:11	<u> </u>	m/pm End time:
and in ming. elevation in m		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·				14:28 an	<b>@</b>
art/End Temp: 86	F, 1-4mpH	Idear / 90	F Smy	of olean			•
	Tortoises			ZA CALUI		······································	
Detection	GPS loca	tion	·			Approx MCL	Existing tag # ar
number	Easting N	I	Time	(in burzow: all of to)	Blocation tose beneath plane of p. or not in burrow)	>160-mm? (Yes, No or Unknown)	color, if presen
10/6/012 -41-80	0568644	3859476		In burro		245mm	NA
						Acceptance of the Control of the Con	
			·····		<del>,</del>		
) D							
<del></del>							
Tortoise Sign (bui	rrows, scats, carea	asses, etc)					
Detection number	GPS to	cation Northing		of sign	Class, Description	on, and comments	······································
2016/012-35.MN		3859214		withacks			
2016 1612_36_MA		3859222		w tracks	300 mm Depth		
20161012.37_M	0968628	3859199	Carca	S5	Fragment		
20161012.38.5			Bur			180 Aspect	270
20161012_31-81	08608671	3859455	ടവേ		a wished	en.	
	1				CI	nm annect	= = Uハ º
20161012-40-8	ļ	3859470	] _		C2 deptr	MUKAMANA 4	rackin but
1011-1010 -40-0	F 0668663	3859499	Burna	N	2(d) mm x 3	280mm, apple 1180mm, app	0120°
WIDIOID IN I		ł	[		1 [5 ] [2 ] [4 ] [4 ]	ያ ኒጂ[]ያጥኒየሌ / የደምፕ	יייני שודיי איידיי עון (

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USEWS DESERT TORTOISE PRE-PROJECT SURVEY DATA SHEET Please submit a completed copy to the action agency and local USFWS office within 30-days of survey completion Date of survey: 2016-10-12 Survey biologist(s): Seville, Delancy, Nearete, Floures (year , moreb, day.) Site description: Crosole scrub, major Desert wishes, multiple soil types, Location: M78-T1 County:San Remarding Quad: \_\_Transect #:\_\_\_\_Transect length: \_\_ Circle one: 100% coverage of Sampling Area size to be surveyed: \_\_\_am/pm E<del>nd time</del>; Start time: 11:11 GPS Start-point: 1/5 056 8814 38 59407 141:28 \_\_\_am/pm end time GPS End-point: (easting, northing, elevation in meters) Start/End Temp: 860 F, 1-4 mpH, Clear/90°F, SMPH, Clear Live Tortoises Existing tag # and Approx MCL color, if present Tortoise location >160-mm? Detection **GPS** location (in burrow: all of tortoise beneath plane of burrow opening, or not in burrow) res. No or Unknow Time number Easting Northing Tortoise Sign (burrows, scats, carcasses, etc) Class, Description, and comments Type of sign (burrows, scals, careass, etc) **GPS** location Detection Ca, aspectation unknepth Easting Northing number 3 20 mmx 200 mm Burrow 161012-44-PF0568734 3859648 C3, aspect 80° w/ old tracks 300 X 180 mm Burrow 0161012-45-800568696 385 9545 OFF access road C2, aspect 110° to Next Site abomm x 120mm Bumas 3862278 161012-46-5\$ 0572588

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ige	5	_of	<u>5</u>

Please submit a completed copy to the action agency and local USFWS office within 30-days of survey completion

Site desc	ription: <u>Creos</u>	ote somb	(project name and	size; general local	en)	/ Mel To	2
County:_	otlor TBS mandalumi	Quad:_		Lo	cation: M&I-TI	/ M&I-T3	
Circle	-	Sampling Area size	to be survey	ed:	Transect #:	Transect length	
S Start-point:	S 0572523	386233	1/115 057Z	749 386258	3 Start time: 08	1.	anopin che in
S End-point:	15 057240	7, 3867213	3/15 057	2816,3862	611 0850	/ 1000 _ a	ım/pm
art/End Temp:	62°F, 1-2 mp	n Clear 1	80'F 1m	on Clean	<b>V</b>		
		,					
Live	Tortoises	2		To	rtoise location	Approx MCL	Existing tag #
Detection	GPS loc		Time	(in burrows a	il of tomoise beneath plane of spening, or not incurrent	>160-mm? Yes, No or Unknown)	color, if pres
	*******	200000-1	0920	pin bur	row opening	200mm	N/A
0013_4_MN	05 12133	3862601	0120	200M	nx 150mm burrow		
				1			1
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ortoise Sign (but	rrows, scats, carca	isses, etc)		7 20 2	1		
Detection	GPS to Easting		Туре (бытомя, яси	of sign rs, carcess, etc)	Class, Description,	and comments	
04441012 1 00		3862304	Palle	4			
26161013_1.PF				4	CZ 220×110mm Aspect 180		ct 180
	u 0372475	3862342			This year		
20161013-3-P	E 0572482	3862717			11113 4001		
0161013. 5 M	0572810	3862702	Carcos	5			
0161013_6.PF	0572××U	3862766	Pallet		Next to ro	ad.	
0161013.7_MN	Signal Street	3862781	Berrau		CZ 280x	170mm As	eet 300
DEBUT T WIV	CAILBIL	- 10 - 10					

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Please submit a completed copy to the action agency and local USFWS office within 30-days of survey completion

(UTM coordinates, lat-long, a	06: 100% coverage of \$0579751 31 fineters) 0579642, 3	870219/1150	574944,5870 5580535,3	583 87084	Transect #: Start time:!(2!130 / 1315	Transect length:		
Liv	e Tortoises							
Detection number		ocation Northing	Time	Tortoise location (in burrow: all of tortoise burrow: plane of burrow opening, or not in burrow)		Approx MCL >160-mm? (Yes, No or Unknown)	Existing tag # and color, if present	
-								
Tortoise Sign (but Detection		casses, etc)	Type of a		Class, Description,	, and comments		
number 20161013_09. PF	0579612	3870011	Burrau	rcass, any	C4, 160 x 10	C4, 160 × 100 mm 115 Aspect		
IN MAL	0579604	3870072	Pallet					
0161013. 11.MN	0580141	3870738	Pallet					
0161013-12-PF	0580331	3870856	Burrow		C4 170x1	20ma 260 A	Aspect	
20161013_13_MN	0680335	3870704	Pallet					
20161013-14		3870688	Burrow		C4 80mm	× 90mm 2	270 Asprey	

Page: of\_

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County:	and/or TRS; map datum)	Quad;_	fproject name and		ocation: MQO-		
GPS Start-point:		Sampling Area size	The second secon	ed:	Transect #: Start time:134	_Transect length	am/pm End time:
GPS End-point:	n meters)				14 15		am/pm
Start/End Temp:				Oleny	The second second		
-	e Tortoises	PA / 42 F	1-2 11114	arm			
Detection number	GPSI	ocation Northing	Time	(in bumper.	ortoise location at of tonoise bonesh plane of opening, or not in burnow)	Approx MCL >160-mm? Tres, No or Unknown)	Existing tag # and color, if present
20161013.141.PF							
5				1			
Tortoise Sign (bur	rrows, scats, card	asses, etc)					
Detection number		ocation Northing	Type of sign (burrows, scats, carcass, etc)		Class, Description, and comments		
20161013.14LPF	0582576	387270G	Pallet	-			
05/03/15_MV		3872693	Pallet	-			
0161013_16_MN		3872703	Burra	u	C4, 180mm	1x 130mm	Aspect 200
			_				

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USFWS DESERT TORTOISE PRE-PROJECT SURVEY DATA SHEET Please submit a completed copy to the action agency and local USFWS office within 30-days of survey completion Date of survey: 10 -13 - 2016 Survey biologist(s): 8eville Delancy (name, amail, and phone number) Site description: Blow Sand w/ cressite Location: page 14, ME4-T6 than Pg 18 and size: general location) County: San Bernardino Quad: Transect length: \_ Circle one: 100% coverage or Sampling Area size to be surveyed: \_am/pm End time: Transect # 08:00 GPS Start-point: Start time: (easting, northing, elevation in meters) am/pm -16:00 GPS End-point: (easting, northing, elevation in meters) Start/End Temp: 710 = 880 E Live Tortoises Existing tag # and Approx MCL color, if present Tortoise location >160-mm? Detection Yes, No or Unknown) **GPS** location (in burrow, all of tortoise beneath plane of burrow opening, or not in burrow) Time number Easting Northing Tortoise Sign (burrows, scats, carcasses, etc) Class, Description, and comments Type of sign (burrows, scales, carcass, etc) GPS location Detection C.3. aspect 880° Easting Northing number C3. as pect 1500mm Deep DUTTOW 38670 51 0576201 20161013-01-BD 390mm x 110mm, unknown pur row 3866906 20161013-02-55 0576105 Pallet 3873882 20161013-03-55 0583968 Pallet c.3 aspect 250° 3873899 296103-04-80 0584029 220mm × 100 mm, unx depth Burrow 3873789 2016 1013-05-BO 0583995

Page: of\_

Please submit a completed copy to the action agency and local USFWS office within 30-days of survey completion

Start-Point: 115 OS85650, 3874696/US C596371, 3875/U8 1000 11100 arr  easting, northing, elevation inmeters)  Start-End Temp: 75 F, L-2 mph, Clear 78 F, 1-2, Clear  Live Tortoises  Detection GPS location Time Tortoise location arrange of the things seemed plane of the things seemed plane of the things are not in the things seemed plane of the things are not in the things	Existing tag # ar color, if presen
Detection GPS location Time Tortoise location Seprem MCL 160-mm? Tres. No or Unknown!  Tortoise Sign (burrows, scats, carcasses, etc)  Tortoise Sign (burrows, scats, carcasses, etc)  Type of sign Class, Description, and comments	Existing tag # ar color, if presen
Detection GPS location Time Totalise location Figure of the state of t	Existing tag # ar color, if presen
Tortoise Sign (burrows, scals, carcasses, etc)  Type of sign  Class, Description, and comments	
Type of sign Class, Description, and comments	
Type of sign Class, Description, and comments	
Type of sign Class, Description, and comments	
Type of sign Class, Description, and comments	-
Type of sign Class, Description, and comments	
Type of sign Class, Description, and comments	
Detection: (Durrows, scals, carcais, etc)	
number Easting Northing  161014_1_PF 6585720 3874761 Burrow CU, 100mm x 80mm	n 60 Aspe
016014_2_PF 0588413 3875170 Pallet	

**Scanned by CamScanner** 

Please submit a completed copy to the action agency and local USFWS office within 30-days of survey completion

County:	0568751,38 0569151,38	Quad:Quad:	92079 58	1: 7499 77516	Transect #: Start time: 1130	Transect length:		
	Tortoises					Approx MCL	Existing tag # and	
Detection	GPS lo Easting		Time	1	stoise location and fortuse tomash plane of opening, or not a burrow!	>160-mm? Yes. No or Unknown)	color, if present	
idilio.								
							-	
	-							
1	-							
Tortoise Sign (bur	rows, scats, carc	asses, etc)						
Detection	GPSK	cation	Type of	sign carcass, etc)	Class, Description, and comments			
number		Northing	Burrau		C4 190mm + 110mm, 200 Aspect			
20161014_03_PF		3876995	Burra		C4, 210mm	a Juomm,	210 Aspec	
20161014-04W		3876948	Burrou				FOAspect	
20161014.05.PF		3876872	Burra		e4, 180mm		445	
20161014-06-PE	0589102	3876798	Dorra		.,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,	V. A.		
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Please submit a completed copy to the action agency and local USFWS office within 30-days of survey completion

County:		Qua	flood plain	size: general loc	cation) ocation: M91%-	T2	
TM coordinates, lat-long, at Circle on	e: 100% coverage o	r Samolina Area	size to be surveys	ed:		_Transect length:	
PS Start-point:	0594249 3	87 7824	200		Start time: 144		am/pm End time:
PS End-point:	0594471 , 39	378005			1600		ım/pm
tart/End Temp:	OCE AL	nm = 10	E.E A I DIA	n			
tar/End Temp:	15 r, U-1,	Cour / 9	5 T O-1 U	Wr			
Live	Tortoises					Approx MCL	Existing tag # and
Detection number		Northing	Time	A MILITAR	pytoise location at at toroise barean plane of opening or not incurrent	>160-mm? Yes, No or Unknown)	color, if present
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			1				
Tortoise Sign (burn	rows, scals, carca	asses, etc)					
Detection number	GPS lo		Type of sign (burews, scars, carcass, etc)		Class, Description,	and comments	
			10.				

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Please submit a completed copy to the action agency and local USFWS office within 30-days of survey completion

Circle or SPS Start-point: 1		Sampling Area siz	e to be surveye	Loc	Transact #:		
SPS End-point: _/	() Distance		4 in		Start time:	09:00	am/pm End time:
Start/End Temp:	nmeters)	/0r	074		<u> </u>	1 <b>8:00</b> =	ım/pm
					74-		
	e Tortoises					······································	
Detection number	GPS to Easting		Time	(in burrow, all	toise location of tortoise beneath plane of sening, or not in burrow)	Approx MCL >160-mm? (Yes, No or Unknown)	Existing tag # an color, if present
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Tadaisa Sign /bu						<u></u>	L
Tortoise Sign (but							
number	GPS to	Northing	Type of the type of type of the type of type of the type of ty	sign carcass, etc)	Class, Description	, and commente	
1014-01-55	0661485	3925721	Pallet			The second secon	
1614-02-55		3925574					
017 02 -			_	<u></u>		····	
1444 800 000	İ	3925570	Pallet.	<del></del>	A 2 000-1	A	
	0658899	3923217	Burrow +	tracks	ez, aspect 340 mm x 130	760°	
			<b>~</b> 1 .				
1014-04-55		3933290	<b>Littlet</b>		<b></b>		<b></b>
1014-04-55 1014-05-55	0658884	3933290	ş •				
1014-04-55 1014-05-55 1014-06-815	0658884 658994	3923393	Pallet +	tracks			
1014-03-80 1014-04-55 1014-05-55 1014-06-81 1014-07-55	0659026	ļ	ş •		C3 , aspect 8	1000	

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County:	ription: <u>Crossofe</u>	Quad:		Location	on: <u>1947-74, 19</u>	147-TI P. 671	66	
Circle on	ecor res, map datum; ec: 100% coverage or Sa	molion Area Size to I	oa surveved		119112CCt 11	I tolloon land.		
		· · · · ·			Start time:		am/pm End time;	
S Start-point: ng, northing, elevation i S End-point:							n/pm	
ing, northing, elevation	In meters)							
rt/End Temp: _	···	·····						
Li	ve Tortoises							
etection number	GPS loc		Time	Un housenwe all of	ise location tortoise beneath plane of ting, or not in burrow)	Approx MCL >160-mm? (Yes, No or Unknown)	Existing tag # a color, if preser	
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							1	
						<u> </u>		
Tortoise Sign	(burrows, scats, car			Table.				
Detection		location Northing	(burrows, scals, carcass, etc)		Class, Description, and comments  C3. 45 pect 230°			
			<del>e3</del> Burrow	1	270 mm + 140	see allo		
20   6   10   4	09-55 01.58993				ca, aspect	870° 2 mm		
2016/014	10-55 0658967	39.23527	Burrow	<u> </u>	C-3, 46pea	±4 300°	······································	
201610#4-	11-5 0658242	3928621	Burnew	<u></u>	190mmx50	300°		
		3922645	Burnow		290 mmx 11	2mm		
2016/014-13	-80 0168243		}		C2, aspe			
20161014	13-590658154	3432662	Burrow		See America		·	
				,, <del>\</del>			······································	
		ž.	1		ì			
			<u> </u>				······································	

Please submit a completed copy to the action agency and local USFWS office within 30-days of survey completion Data of survey: 2016-10-15 Survey biologist(8): S. eville (year , month, day,) Site description: Legosote Delancy (name, email, and phone number) County: Sun Benderino Quad: (UTM coordinates, lai-long, and/or TRS; map datum) South, Wash Sandy Loom (project name and size, paneral location) Circle one: 100% coverage of Samolina Area size to be surveyed: Location: 147-1.0.46 > GPS Start-point: 11 9 065 7964 (easting, northing, elevation in meters) Transect #:\_\_\_\_Transect length: GPS End-point: 39222393 Start time: 05:30 115 @/pm End time: (easting, northing, elevation in meters) 065/7/0 3916975 17:30 Start/End Temp: 110 F am ond Live Tortoises Detection GPS location number Approx MCL Existing tag # and **Tortoise location** Easting Northing Time (in burrow: all of tortoise beneath plane of burrow) burrow opening, or not in burrow) >160-mm? color, if present Yes, No or (Inknown) Tortoise Sign (burrows, scats, carcasses, etc) Detection **GPS** location number Type of sign Class, Description, and comments Easting Northing (burrows, scats, carcess, etc) (2, aspect 1200 2016/015-01-80 0657895 Burnow + Scot 2922373 450mm x 200mm C2 , aspect 20\* 20161015-02-55 0657770 Rumpus tracks 3922310 208 mmus 110 mm 13. 95 Dect 200 20161015-03-80657755 Burnow 3922319 310mmx 170mm Ballet 3982 377 657791 20161015-04-55 c3, aspect 2800 2016/015-05-5 3988.312 Burnow 0657705 310mm x 135 mm Pallet 322236 0657727 20161015-06-80 Cz, aspect 235° 3922280 Burnus tracks 0657707 2016/015-07-55 320 mm x 180 mm Carcass Fromment 3122343 2016/015-08-55 0657698



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VII CIA (	end or TRS; mepdelum)	dung Qua	(project name and	size; general lo	(name, email, and phone cation) .ocation: MojaveTransect #:Start time: Of:	*****		
respond to thing alone	-4L3 /2:	A		Iransect#; Start time:_08:	th:			
asting, northing, elevation in meters: 0651710								
tart/End Temp:	31A-		1101 /2			<u> </u>	em/em	
	7.33	5.E			- Arren			
	ve Tortoises							
Detection number	GPS location Easting Northing		Time	in burrow.	ortoise location all of tortoise beneath plane of opening, or not in burrow)	Approx MCL >160-mm? [Yes, No or Unknown]	Existing tag # an	
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Tortoise Sign (hu	irrows, scats, care							
Detection					·		Ì	
number	GPS to	Northing	Type of sign (burrows, scats, carcass, etc)		Class, Description, a	and comments	<u> </u>	
					CJ. Aspe			
ILIAK no RO		3920376	Burcow		200mm K 145	00 m		
14015-09-BD	0655130	3919829	Pallet		Barrelo Cont	N. (1)	De and so	
		3919710	Carcass		Fomale, COD-UNK, Over lyr old Mo Scotts remaining. Statler Swan X 380 mm			
	0654924	0177710	1.		CZ, aspect 300° 120mmx47mm			
0161015-10-55			Burney		C2, 360° 239mx 110mm			
016/015-10-55 1461015-11-55 XGEOLS-12-80	M 88082	3919899	Burnow		CZ, 360°	<b>.</b>		
016/0/5-10-55 1/6/0/5-11-55 116/0/5-12-80	0655078	3919899		igments	C2, 360° 239mx110mm COD-UNK-Fred But not a Full car	ethon has occ cass, later sco	tured on coca	
016/015-10-55	0653450	3919799 3919940	Burrow	igments	C2, 360° 239mx 110mm C0 0-unk - fred	etion has occ cass, left sco	tured on coca ther around ab	

Page: 2 of 4

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## **USEWS DESERT TORTOISE PRE-PROJECT SURVEY DATA SHEET**

Please submit a completed copy to the action agency

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2016101708-55	0651081	3916825	Burrow		290mm x140	20°	
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3916225

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USFWS DESERT TORTOISE PRE-PROJECT SURVEY DATA SHEET

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161017-14-PF	0650986	3916154	Scat	.,.			
161017-15-55		3916141	Burrow Scot	5W	C3, aspect 2 C3, aspect 2		
161017-16-55		3916147	Burrow		180mm x 85m	<u>m</u>	
61017-17-5	0650860	3916073	Palld			<del></del>	.,

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23-53	0650960	3916106	16:04		barrow	~250mm	No. 1092043
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Tortoise Sign (bu	rrows, scats, carca	isses, etc)					
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2016/017-R-PF	0650861	39 6019	Scat				
20161017-19-PF	0650880	3915996	Burraut.	tracks	C2, aspect 2 380mmx 1201		
2016/017-20-80	0650885	3916020			C2, aspect 1 330mm x135n	490*	
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			Burrow	<del>-</del>	cl, aspect :		
00161017-20:65		3916160	Pallet		290mmx 120	mm	
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2016/017-25-PF	0650975	3916088	Pallet +	Scat			
2016/017-26. BD	0650973	3916096	Scat		······		- Annual Control of the Control of t

Fage: 3 of 17

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2016 1017-28-80	06 51069	3916181	1		cz. aspect 8	0.	
20161017-29-PF	MINS IMPLI		ŧ	tracks	CI, aspect 26		
		3916174	Dumow+	hacks tort	210mmx 130v	ww.	
20161017-31-80	0651086	3916192	Burrow		cl, aspect 26 200mm x951	O/2	
2016/017-32.5	0651134	3916273	Pallet				· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
2016/017-33-PF	0651024	3916174	Scat		and the same of th		<del></del>
20161017.34-80	0650960	3916091	Scat				
80161017-35-80	0650979	3916231	BATTON	Pallet			

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PHOTO 2: Desert tortoise in open.

PHOTO 1: Tagged desert tortoise – N92043.



PHOTO 3: Desert tortoise in open.



PHOTO 4: Desert tortoise in burrow.





PHOTO 5: Desert tortoise in burrow.

PHOTO 6: Burrow with desert tortoise tracks.



PHOTO 7: Burrow with desert tortoise scat.

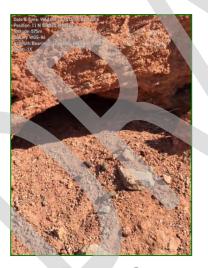


PHOTO 8: Juvenile desert tortoise carcass.





PHOTO 9: Desert tortoise carcass.

PHOTO 10: Desert tortoise carcass.



PHOTO 11: Desert tortoise carcass.

PHOTO 12: Burrow with desert tortoise eggshell remains.





FAUNAL COMPENDIUM



REPTILES
SCALED REPTILES (SNAKES)
Harmless Egg-laying Snakes

Mohave Patch-nosed Snake

SCALED REPTILES (LIZARDS)
Zebra-tailed, Earless, Fringe-toed, Spiny,

Tree, Side-blotched, and Horned Lizards

Southern Desert Horned Lizard Mohave Fringe-toed Lizard

TURTLES
Tortoises
Desert Tortoise

**BIRDS** 

**GALLINACEOUS BIRDS** 

**New World Quail** Gambel's Quail

PIGEONS AND DOVES
Pigeons and Doves
Mourning Dove

**CUCKOOS AND ALLIES Cuckoos, Roadrunners, and Anis** 

Greater Roadrunner

NIGHTJARS Nightjars

Lesser Nighthawk Common Poorwill

NEW WORLD VULTURES

New World Vultures Turkey Vulture

HAWKS, KITES, EAGLES, AND ALLIES

Hawks, Kites, Eagles, and Allies

Red-tailed Hawk

PUFFBIRDS, JACAMARS, TOUCANS, WOODPECKERS, AND ALLIES

**Woodpeckers and Allies** 

Gilded Flicker

PASSERINE BIRDS Tyrant Flycatchers

Say's Phoebe

**Shrikes** 

Loggerhead Shrike

**Crows and Jays**Common Raven

REPTILIA SQUAMATA

Colubridae

Salvadora hexalepis mojavensis

SQUAMATA Phrynosomatidae

Phrynosoma platyrhinos calidiarum

Uma scoparia

TESTUDINES Testudinidae Gopherus agassizii

AVES

GALLIFORMES
Odontophoridae
Callipepla gambelii

**COLUMBIFORMES** 

Columbidae Zenaida macroura

**CUCULIFORMES** 

Cuculidae

Geococcyx californianus

**CAPRIMULGIFORMES** 

Caprimulgidae

Chordeiles acutipennis Phalaenoptilus nuttallii

**CATHARTIFORMES** 

Cathartidae Cathartes aura

ACCIPITRIFORMES

Accipitridae
Buteo jamaicensis

**PICIFORMES** 

Picidae

Colaptes chrysoides

**PASSERIFORMES** 

**Tyrannidae** Sayornis saya

Laniidae

Lanius ludovicianus

Corvidae

Corvus 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



Appendix D-9
Biological Assessment for Desert Tortoise



# A BIOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT OF ANTICIPATED IMPACTS ON THE DESERT TORTOISE ASSOCIATED WITH THE LUGO-VICTORVILLE 500 KV TRANSMISSION LINE REMEDIAL ACTION SCHEME PROJECT

LOCATED IN SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA AND CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA

SUBMITTED IN SUPPORT OF A SECTION 7 CONSULTATION
BETWEEN THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
AND THE U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE AND SECTION 2081B OF THE FISH AND GAME CODE

Prepared For: Southern California Edison

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Prepared By: Environmental Intelligence

1590 South Coast Highway, Suite 17

Laguna Beach, CA 92651 Contact: Travis Kegel

traviskegel@enviro-intel.com

(949) 497-0931

Date: June 21, 2019

(Updated October 17, 2019)

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- D. PROGRAMMATIC BIOLOGICAL OPINION FOR BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES ADVERSELY AFFECTING 19 LISTED SPECIES AND CRITICAL HABITAT



#### **ACROYMNS**

**ACEC** Areas of Critical Environmental Concern

**ADSS** All-Dielectric Self-Supporting

amsl Above Mean See Level **APMs** 

**Applicant Proposed Measures** 

Biological Assessment BA

Bureau of Land Management BLM **BNSF** Burlington Northern Santa Fe

BO **Biological Opinion** 

California Department of Fish and Wildlife **CDFW** 

Code of Federal Regulations **CFR CFWO** Carlsbad Fish and Wildlife Office

CHU Critical Habitat Unit

Conservation and Management Action **CMA** California Natural Diversity Database CNDDB

DOD Department of Defense

Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan **DRECP** 

Desert Wildlife Management Areas **DWMAs** 

Environmental Intelligence EI **GIS** Geographic Information Systems

I-Interstate kV Kilovolt

**LADWP** Los Angeles Department of Water and Power

Lattice Steel Towers LST LUPA Land Use Plan Amendment MCL Maximum Carapace Length

Mechanical Electrical Equipment Room **MEER** 

Millimeters mm

Mojave National Preserve **MNP** 

Noxious and Invasive Weed Management Plan **NIWMP** 

**NMFS** National Marine Fisheries Service

NPS National Park Service

Optical Fiber Non-Conducting Riser **OFNR** 

Overhead Ground Wire **OHGW** Operations and Maintenance O&M **OPGW** Optical Ground Wire

Pa Probability that a Tortoise is Above-Ground

PBO Programmatic Biological Opinion **PCEs Primary Constituent Elements** 

Lugo-Victorville 500kV Transmission Line Remedial Action Scheme Project Project

**Project Applicant** Southern California Edison

Polyvinyl Chloride **PVC RMP** Raven Management Plan

**ROW** Right of Way

Southern California Edison **SCE** SLC **State Lands Commission** 

**SWPPP** Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan

**USFWS** U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

USGS U.S. Geological Survey



#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This Biological Assessment (BA) evaluates the direct and indirect biological effects of construction associated with Southern California Edison's (SCE; the Project Applicant) proposed Lugo-Victorville 500 kilovolt (kV) Transmission Line Remedial Action Scheme Project (Project) located in San Bernardino County, California and Clark County, Nevada. The purpose of this BA is to provide biological information and review the proposed action in sufficient detail to support a Section 7 (a)(2) Consultation between the Bureau of Land Management (BLM; the lead agency) and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and has been prepared according to the guidelines recommended by the Final Section 7 Consultation Handbook (USFWS & National Marine Fisheries Service [NMFS] 1998). Specifically, this assessment evaluates the Project's anticipated direct and indirect effects on the federally threatened desert tortoise (Gopherus agassizii) and provides USFWS with requisite information for determining if the Project's proposed action meets the requirements for inclusion into three Biological Opinions: 1) Biological Opinion for Activities in the California Desert Conservation Area (USFWS 2017), as approved under the direction of the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan (DRECP; BLM 2016); 2) Biological Opinion for the General Management Plan of the Mojave National Preserve (USFWS 2001); and 3) Programmatic Biological Opinion for Bureau of Land Management Activities Adversely Affecting 19 Listed Species and USFWS designated Critical Habitat (Critical Habitat; Nevada Fish and Wildlife Office 2013).

The Project includes two segments, Segment 1: Gale-Pisgah and Segment 2: Pisgah to Nipton. Segment 1 includes the installation of telecommunication all-dielectric self-supporting (ADSS) cable line from SCE's Gale Substation near Barstow, California to SCE's Pisgah Substation near Ludlow, California for approximately 29 miles within existing SCE right-of-way (ROW) along U.S. Route 66 and Interstate (I-) 40. The ADSS cable would be attached overhead to existing wood poles, and 1.3 miles would be placed in underground conduits. Segment 2 includes the removal of the existing overhead ground wire (OHGW) and replacement with Optical Ground Wire (OPGW) along approximately 84 miles within the existing SCE ROW starting at SCE's Pisgah Substation and ending at transmission tower M152-T2 within Clark County, Nevada (near Nipton Road/Joshua Tree Highway).

One federally listed wildlife species (the desert tortoise) has been detected during focused surveys. The Project crosses portions of the USFWS desert tortoise Western Mojave Recovery Unit, Eastern Mojave Recovery Unit, the Ord-Rodman Critical Habitat Unit (CHU), and the Ivanpah CHU. Direct loss of approximately 31.21 acres of occupied desert tortoise habitat, including 9.12 acres of critical habitat for desert tortoise will occur with the construction of the Project, Exhibit 2, Desert Tortoise Conservation Areas (Table ES-01, Summary of Impacts to Desert Tortoise). The Project impacts will be distributed across 29 locations and 113 miles of the Project alignment. Impacts average 1.076 acres for all locations with the maximum impact at one location totaling 3.81 acres. For the purposes of this discussion, both temporary and permanent impacts are considered permanent impacts to Critical Habitat due to the slow recovery of temporarily disturbed areas.

TABLE ES-01: SUMMARY OF IMPACTS TO DESERT TORTOISE

Recovery Unit	Impact to Areas Outside of Critical Habitat Units (acres)	Impact to Critical Habitat Units (acres)	Total Impacts (acres)
Eastern Mojave Recovery Unit	11.33	7.43	18.76
Western Mojave Recovery Unit	10.76	1.69	12.45
Total	22.09	9.12	31.21

Project associated impacts to Critical Habitat equates to approximately 1.69 acres (0.0007 percent) of the Ord-Rodman CHU, approximately 7.43 acres (0.001 percent) of the Ivanpah CHU. A total of approximately 9.12 acres (0.0001 percent) of the 6.4 million acres of total Critical Habitat for the Mojave population of the desert tortoise would be affected. Impacts from construction will occur within existing transmission alignments. Because of the relatively small collective impact to the CHUs in areas with an existing



transmission alignment, this impact will not likely appreciably diminish the value of the Primary Constituent Elements (PCE) essential to the species' conservation in the Western Mojave and Eastern Mojave Recovery Unit, or the Ord-Rodman and Ivanpah CHUs. The impact will not likely cause the local population of desert tortoise to become unviable or preclude movement, dispersal or gene flow within the population. Overall, these impacts will not likely result in significant adverse effects to the species throughout its range.

The Project includes conservation and avoidance/minimization measures consistent with the adopted measures to protect desert tortoises located in the Biological Opinion for Activities in the California Desert Conservation Area (USFWS 2017), as approved under the guidance of the DRECP Land Use Plan Amendment (BLM 2016), the Biological Opinion for the General Management Plan for the Mojave National Preserve (USFWS 2001), and the Programmatic Biological Opinion for Bureau of Land Management Activities Adversely Affecting 19 Listed Species and Critical Habitat (Nevada Fish and Wildlife Office 2013).

The three Biological Opinions include sections describing transmission/utility work occurring within the DRECP, Mojave National Preserve (MNP), and southern Nevada areas. These measures will be implemented during all phases of the Project. Since these measures have been approved by the USFWS for impacts to desert tortoise habitat within the DRECP, MNP, and southern Nevada area, the conservation measures are expected to be sufficient in protecting the desert tortoise and Critical Habitat within the Action Area. Conservation measures include environmental training, reduced speed limits, monitoring by qualified tortoise biologists, limiting the size and extent of the work area, fencing open trenches, and flagging all potentially active burrows for avoidance.

Due to the small impact acreage at each of the 29 specific locations, the impacts to individual tortoise home ranges will be minimal and include very little ground disturbance (the Project impacts approximately 31.21 acres of desert tortoise habitat spread across 113 miles of the Project alignment). Less than 4 acres shall be impacted at any given location with an average impact of 1.076 acres at 29 locations. In addition, potential tortoise mortality from vehicle and equipment strikes, entrapment, impacts to potentially occupied burrows, and other similar direct effects can be avoided through the proposed conservation measures. With the successful implementation of the various Project design features and avoidance, minimization, and mitigation measures described herein, this BA concludes that the Project may affect, but is unlikely to adversely affect, the Mojave population of tortoise. Additionally, the Project may affect, but is unlikely to adversely affect, critical habitat of the Mojave population of tortoise.



#### 1.0 INTRODUCTION

Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act requires any federal agency that seeks to undertake an action, such as issuing a permit or undertaking a project that may impact an endangered species, to conduct a Biological Assessment (BA) to identify the likely impact of its action on a federally threatened or endangered species. This BA evaluates the direct and indirect biological effects of construction associated with Southern California Edison's (SCE; the Project Applicant) proposed Lugo-Victorville 500 kilovolt (kV) Transmission Line Remedial Action Scheme Project (Project). The Project alignment is located within San Bernardino County, California, and Clark County, Nevada, and extends for over 113 miles from SCE's Gale Substation (one mile east of Daggett, California) to SCE's Pisgah Substation near Ludlow, California, and ends at transmission tower M152-T2 in Nevada near Nipton Road/Joshua Tree Highway.

SCE requires the Project to reliably interconnect and integrate multiple renewable generation projects in the Eastern California/Southern Nevada area onto the electrical grid. The primary function of the Project would be to prevent thermal overloading on the Lugo-Victorville 500 kV transmission line, by tripping generation in the event of loss of the Eldorado-Lugo 500 kV transmission line or both this line and the Lugo-Mohave 500 kV transmission line.

#### 1.1 Purpose of the Biological Assessment

The purpose of this BA is to provide biological information and to review the proposed action in sufficient detail to support a Section 7 Consultation between the Bureau of Land Management (BLM; the lead agency) and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and has been prepared according to the guidelines recommended by the Final Section 7 Consultation Handbook (USFWS & National Marine Fisheries Service [NMFS] 1998). This BA provides USFWS with requisite information for determining if the Project's proposed action meets the requirements for inclusion into three Biological Opinions: 1) Biological Opinion for Activities in the California Desert Conservation Area (USFWS 2017), as approved under the direction of the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan (DRECP; BLM 2016); 2) Biological Opinion for the General Management Plan of the Mojave National Preserve (USFWS 2001); and 3) Programmatic Biological Opinion for Bureau of Land Management Activities Adversely Affecting 19 Listed Species and Critical Habitat (Nevada Fish and Wildlife Office 2013).

This BA will assist the USFWS in determining if construction of the Project will adversely affect the federally listed desert tortoise or adversely modify its Critical Habitat. To assist the USFWS in making this determination, this assessment provides the following information:

- A description of proposed actions on the site, including grading, construction, and avoidance and minimization of impacts to native vegetation communities;
- A description of the Action Area in physical and general biological terms, with sufficient background ecological data in acknowledgement of the USFWS ecosystem approach to conservation of endangered and threatened species;
- A description of all federally listed species and designated Critical Habitat occurring or potentially occurring on the site or on nearby lands; and
- A detailed study of potential direct and indirect impacts of the proposed actions on federally listed plant and wildlife species.

#### 1.2 Species Considered

The Project has the potential to adversely affect one federally listed wildlife species, the desert tortoise (*Gopherus agassizii*). No federally threatened or endangered plant species will be adversely affected by the proposed actions. The Project is located within the Eastern and Western Mojave Recovery Units, and the Ord-Rodman and Ivanpah Critical Habitat Units (CHUs) for desert tortoise (Exhibit 2).



#### 2.0 CONSULTATIONS TO DATE

Early coordination and pre-construction consultation with USFWS, BLM, and U.S. National Park Service (NPS) was conducted during a series of site visits, meetings, and phone consultations including:

September 2001

The NPS received a Biological Opinion (BO) from the USFWS for the General Management Plan of the Mojave National Preserve (USFWS 2001). The opinion included reasonable and prudent measures to avoid and minimize impacts to the desert tortoise.

January 2013

The BLM Southern Nevada District Office received a Programmatic Biological Opinion (PBO) from the Nevada Fish and Wildlife Office (2013) for Activities in southern Nevada. Through this PBO, the BLM and USFWS implemented a process to exempt proposed actions anticipated to result in less than 20 acres of impacts to desert tortoise habitat or less than 5 acres of impacts to desert tortoise critical habitat. The PBO describes the process by which the BLM and USFWS will consult on proposed activities and analyzes whether implementation of these activities is likely to jeopardize the continued existence of the desert tortoise or result in the destruction or adverse modification of its critical habitat.

September 2016

SCE representatives met with Mojave National Preserve (MNP) representatives Danette Woo (Environmental Compliance & Special Park Uses) and Neal Darby (Wildlife biologist) at one of the proposed pulling/ tensioning sites. The SCE team provided an overview of the construction activities to occur, and the level of disturbance. The MNP raised several questions and concerns regarding desert tortoise. The MNP stated protocol surveys were necessary, as well as a habitat assessment. At that time, the MNP stated informal consultation and a Categorical Exclusion may be possible, depending upon the results of the surveys. Following the meeting (9/19/16), Neal Darby sent a separate email stating a BA is required.

October 2016

SCE representatives Jack Goldfarb (Herpetologist/Senior Biologist), Alejandro Ramirez (Government Lands), and Lori Charpentier (Environmental Project Manager), spoke to Lorenzo Encinas (BLM Barstow). Encinas expressed concern about desert tortoise within the Project area, and SCE discussed the BLM Nevada operations and maintenance (O&M) authorization and MNP's strategy to issue a Categorical Exclusion and complete informal consultation (no take permit). Encinas generally seemed agreeable to taking a similar approach to the MNP, dependent upon the survey information. SCE agreed upon completing a habitat assessment and surveying a 100-foot buffer around all work sites of new disturbance areas (i.e., helicopter landing zones, pulling tensioning sites) to support the BA.

September 2017

The BLM received a BO from the USFWS (2017) for Activities in the California Desert Conservation Area. Through this BO, the BLM and USFWS implemented a process to expedite the review of certain future activities (including transmission and distributions line) the BLM will implement or authorize under the guidance of the DRECP Land Use Plan Amendment (BLM 2016). The BO describes the process by which the BLM and USFWS will consult on future activities and analyzes whether implementation of these activities is likely to jeopardize the continued existence of the desert tortoise or result in the destruction or adverse modification of its critical habitat.



#### 3.0 DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED ACTION

The Proposed Action would 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 Project includes two segments: Segment 1 (Gale to Pisgah), which extends for approximately 29 miles between SCE's Gale Substation and SCE's Pisgah Substation and Segment 2 (Pisgah to Nipton), which continues from SCE's Pisgah Substation for 84 miles to transmission tower M152-T2. The Project is located within United States Geological Survey (USGS) Minneola, Yermo, Newberry Springs, Troy Lake, 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 topographic quadrangles; material laydown yards are located within the Minneola, Yermo and Nipton USGS 7.5-minute topographic quadrangles (Exhibit 1).

#### Segment 1: Gale to Pisgah

Segment 1 crosses approximately 29 miles of public and private lands within SCE's existing right-of-way (ROW). The Project will utilize existing structures on the Mineola 33 kV, Baroid 33 kV, Ludlow 12 kV, and Hector 12 kV distribution circuits. Approximately 5.7 miles of Segment 1 is located on Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands, one mile on Department of Defense (DOD) lands, and 22 miles on private lands, of which 0.85 mile is adjacent to or near State lands. Of the 29 miles, approximately 1.3 miles of cable would be placed underground in five separate lengths, of which 0.45 mile is located on BLM and 0.85 miles on private lands.

Segment 1 of the Project would involve installation of telecommunication all-dielectric self-supporting (ADSS) cable line<sup>1</sup> from SCE's Gale Substation to SCE's Pisgah Substation. The ADSS cable would be attached overhead to existing wood poles with 1.3 miles placed in underground conduits. Nine new manholes and one existing manhole would provide access to the underground conduit. The Project includes 510 existing distribution pole sites, one existing material laydown yard (Daggett Laydown Yard), and two existing substations (Exhibit 3). The distribution lines that the cable would be attached to are the Mineola 33kV, Baroid 33kV, Ludlow 12kV, and Hector 12kV. Segment 1 is located in San Bernardino County, California, on BLM, DOD, and private lands, a portion of which is adjacent to state lands.

#### Segment 2: Pisgah to Nipton

Segment 2 crosses approximately 84 miles of public and private lands within SCE's existing ROW. The Project will utilize existing structures on the Hector 12 kV distribution line and the Lugo-Victorville 500 kV transmission line, which is jointly owned and a major power transfer path between SCE and the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP). Approximately 26 miles of Segment 2 is located on BLM lands, 51 miles on NPS –MNP lands, and 7 miles on California State Lands Commission (SLC) and private lands.

Segment 2 of the Project includes installation of a new telecommunication path consisting of Optical Ground Wire (OPGW), Optical Fiber Non-Conducting Riser (OFNR) cable, and ADSS fiber optic cable. Specifically, the Project entails the removal of the existing OHGW and replacement with OPGW along approximately 84 miles within the existing SCE ROW between SCE's Pisgah Substation within San Bernardino County, California (near Ludlow, California) and transmission tower M152-T2 within Clark County, Nevada (near Nipton Road/Joshua Tree Highway). From Pisgah Substation, the ADSS/OFNR fiber

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>The ADSS cable is a type of optical fiber cable that is strong enough to support itself between structures without using conductive metals. It is an alternative to Optical Ground Wire (OPGW) and optical attached cable (OPAC) with a lower installation cost. The ADSS is necessary to ensure adequate communication facilities are available to support multiple projects.



optic cable will run underground to reach the existing Hector 12 kV distribution line, where it will attach to existing poles and travel for approximately 0.4 miles north to a new interset pole. From the new interset pole, the fiber optic will again run underground in new conduit to tower M68-T3, where it will transition to OPGW, and continue overhead as OPGW along the Lugo-Victorville 500 kV transmission line route until it ends at M152-T2 near Nipton Road (Joshua Tree Highway) in Clark County, Nevada. Additionally, from transmission tower M127-T6, the OPGW would run underground to connect to SCE's Cima Substation. The Project includes truck work at approximately 408 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 the Nipton Yard (Exhibit 3). To support OPGW installation, tower modifications would be required, which will include tower retrofitting at some of the existing towers identified for splicing locations as well as tower M141-T3.

#### 3.1 Action Area

The Action Area is defined as all areas to be impacted directly or indirectly by the Project, and not merely the immediate area involved in the Project (50 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] §402.02). The Action Area for the Project is composed of the following:

- Project Area, which is approximately 67.61 acres, includes all disturbance areas located along existing SCE ROW for Segments 1 and 2.
- Areas indirectly affected by the project, including access roads and an approximately 200-foot buffer off all Project Areas.

#### 3.2 Project Area

This section describes the components and methods typically used for constructing and installing telecommunication systems as it relates to this Project. The primary construction activities and areas of potential impact will be confined to existing access roads, spur roads, structure locations, and stringing sites. Temporary construction activities will also take place at pulling sites. Details on structures and line components described are based on final engineering; identification of field conditions; availability of labor, material, and equipment; and environmental and permitting requirements. Approximate locations of the project components are illustrated in Exhibit 3, *Project Components*.

#### 3.2.1 SEGMENT 1

#### 3.2.1.2 ADSS Installation on Poles

Overhead ADSS stringing will include all activities associated with the installation of cables onto cross arms on existing wood pole structures. Vibration dampeners and suspension and dead-end hardware assemblies will be installed. Light disturbance (primarily overland vehicle travel and equipment staging) will occur within an approximately 20-foot radius around each pole, depending upon topography and location. Poles for Segment 1 are adjacent to Route 66 and no impacts are anticipated during ADSS installation.

#### 3.2.1.3 Cable Pulling and Splicing

ADSS stringing includes all activities associated with the installation of cables onto the overhead wood pole structures. Although stringing fiber is typically accomplished from trucks and equipment parked on existing access roads and work areas, some pulling site locations may be required in previously undisturbed areas, and fiber optic cable may affect existing vegetation during installation. Typically, fiber optic cable pulling sites occur every 6,000 feet to 10,000 feet and at each line direction change on both flat and mountainous terrain. Fiber optic cable splices are required at the beginning and end of each cable pull. The dimensions of the area needed for stringing set-ups varies depending upon the terrain; however, a typical stringing set-up is 40 feet by 60 feet. Where necessary due to suitable space limitations, crews can work from within a substantially smaller area. SCE anticipates being able to complete most pulling and splicing from existing roads.



#### 3.2.1.4 ADSS Installation Crossing Dry Washes

A standard cable installation for crossing of a dry wash will include a four-person crew. The activities will include guard sites on the existing poles adjacent to either side of the dry wash; the installation of vibration dampeners, suspension, and dead-end hardware assemblies; stringing sheaves (rollers or travelers); and attachment of 3/8-inch nylon rope. At the wood pole adjacent to the dry wash, the rope is placed through the roller which is attached to the wood cable arm and down the pole, a crew person walks through the existing dry wash with the rope to the other adjacent pole across the wash and installs this rope through the roller on the pole. This rope will be connected to the existing rope which has been placed during the framing process. Crew members stage themselves at the selected points on either end of the "Pull" and communicate with each other via two-way radios to start pulling cable with the installed 3/8-inch rope which is installed on cable pulling equipment at the designated staged areas.

If there is an existing bridge spanning a dry wash where the cable proposed to be installed underground, the cable will instead be attached to the bridge over the wash and no ground disturbance will occur within the wash itself.

#### 3.2.1.5 ADSS Installation in Underground Systems

ADSS installation in new underground conduit and underground structures uses a high-density polyethylene smoothwall innerduct which provides protection and identification for the cable. The fiber optic cable will be installed in and throughout the length of the underground conduit structure (5-inch polyvinyl chloride [PVC]) and underground manhole structures (4-foot width by 4-foot length by 6-foot depth). Nine new manhole structures will be installed within the road shoulder of Route 66 to provide access to the underground cable. The cable will surface at the Pisgah Substation through an existing manhole. The trench for the underground conduit will be approximately 18 inches wide and 36 inches deep.

#### 3.2.1 SEGMENT 2

#### 3.2.1.2 Wood Pole Replacement or Installation

Distribution line poles will be replaced or interset poles will be installed if the pole does not meet wind load or ground clearance requirements with the addition of fiber cable. An approximate 30-foot by 40-foot work area is required for the work. A hole about 8 feet in depth will be drilled next to the existing pole, and a new pole will be erected. A conductor will be transferred from the existing pole to the new pole and the old pole will be cut or removed.

#### 3.2.1.3 ADSS Installation on Poles

Installation of overhead ADSS fiber optic cable typically required pulling sites that occur every 10,000 feet to 20,000 feet over flat or mountainous terrain. Fiber optic cable splices are required at the ends of each cable pull. Fiber optic cable pulling sites are selected, where possible, based on availability of pulling equipment and designated dead-end structures at the ends of each pull, geometry of the line as affected by points of inflection, terrain, and suitability of fiber optic cable stringing and splicing equipment set ups. The dimensions of the area needed for stringing set ups varies depending upon the terrain; however, a typical stringing set up is 40 feet by 60 feet. Where necessary due to space limitations, crews can work from within a smaller area.

#### 3.2.1.4 OPGW Installation on Towers

OPGW will be installed on the existing transmission lattice steel towers (LSTs). On the last tower at each end of a transmission line, the overhead fiber is spliced to another section of fiber cable that runs in underground conduit from the splice box into the communication room inside the adjacent substation. To support OPGW installation, tower modifications would be required, including tower retrofitting at M141-T3.



#### 3.2.1.5 Cable Pulling and Splicing

Stringing includes all activities associated with the installation of the OPGW conductor onto the existing LSTs, including the installation of suspension and dead-end hardware assemblies. The dimensions of the area needed for the stringing setups associated with conductor installation will vary depending on structure height and terrain, but should not extend beyond the limits of the ROW and approved temporary construction areas. Vegetation may be removed where necessary to safely access the site and position the stringing equipment. The puller, tensioner, and splicing setup locations require level areas to allow for maneuvering of the equipment. When possible, existing level areas and existing roads will be used to minimize the need for grading and cleanup. The preferred areas needed for pulling, tensioning, and splicing equipment set-up sites are:

- 200 by 150 feet for tensioning equipment;
- 200 by 150 feet for pulling equipment; and
- 100 by 100 feet for splicing equipment.

Pulling and splicing equipment must be located at a ratio of 3:1 from structures, meaning that if the structure is 100 feet tall, equipment can be no closer than 300 feet to the structure. A typical structure on Segment 2 will be 150 feet tall so the work area will have to accommodate equipment 450 feet away from the structure.

#### 3.2.1.6 OFNR Installation in Conduit

The OFNR cable will be installed between both ends of the tower structure splice box via riser conduit, manhole, and underground conduit. The 500 kV towers at both side of crossing will have a 5-inch riser conduit installed from the splice box to an underground manhole (4 feet by 4 feet by 6 feet) adjacent to the tower. Underground conduit will be installed to connect both tower end manholes. A trench, roughly 4 feet deep and 2 feet wide, will be dug from one tower structure to the other tower structure under the crossing area. Two 5-inch conduits will be placed inside the trench. A layer of slurry will be poured over the conduit for additional protection, and the excavated soils will be used to backfill the trench. Additional manholes will be installed if the underground path is longer than 1,000 feet or the underground path has angled section that will cause damage to fiber cable if directly pulled through. To install a precast manhole, a hole of approximately 5 feet by 5 feet by 6 feet will be excavated, the manhole will be lowered into place connected to the conduit, and then backfilled with excavated soil and compacted. A ground wire will be installed in the second conduit and connected to the structure's tower leg at both ends of crossing. An approximate 40 by 60 feet of work area will be required for pull and splice equipment, and a four-person crew will be required for the underground cable installation.

OFNR will be pulled from the substation Mechanical Electrical Equipment Room (MEER) through the substation trench/conduit and the last structure interface buried conduit and riser conduit to the splice box on the structure.

#### 3.3 Construction Yards and Helicopter Landing Zone Locations

The crews would use portions of the existing, developed Daggett Construction Yard (181 acres) and Gale and Pisgah Substations (1 and 1.6 acres, respectively) as construction storage areas for all material for the proposed fiber optic cable. Material would be placed inside the perimeter of the fenced substations in designated areas during construction. All construction debris would be placed in appropriate onsite containers and periodically disposed of in accordance with all applicable local jurisdiction regulations.

It is anticipated that helicopters would be able to take off and land at all construction yards to move materials and crew members to the multiple work sites along the ROW. Each yard will be used as a reporting location for workers, vehicle and equipment parking, and material storage. The yards will have offices for supervisory and administrative personnel. Maintenance of construction equipment will be conducted at these yards.



Construction yards will range between 1 and 181 acres, depending on land availability and intended use. Temporary electrical and telephone connections at the construction yards would be arranged with local electrical and communication service providers, if available. Water would be provided by local vendors. During the peak construction period, approximately 30 private commuting vehicles and the construction vehicles/equipment will be parked at the construction yards. Crews will load materials onto work trucks and drive to the current construction location. At the end of each day, crews will return to the yard in their work vehicles and depart in their private vehicles. Final location of helicopter staging areas for Segment 2 will be determined with the input from the helicopter contractor and affected private landowners and land management agencies.

During stringing activities, preliminary helicopter operations/staging will be at construction yards, and on previously disturbed areas adjacent to construction areas (including existing ROW and spur roads). At night and during non-working days the helicopter(s) would be based at Hesperia Airport, Barstow-Daggett (DAG) Airport, Baker Airport, and Jean Airport and staged at the construction yards (including the Daggett Construction Yard and Nipton Construction Yard). Helicopter fueling will occur at staging areas, local airports, or landing zones determined during final engineering. Fueling will use the helicopter contractor's fuel truck, and will be supervised by the helicopter fuel service provider.

#### 3.4 Additional Components

#### 3.4.1 ACCESS ROADS

Access to facilities would use surface streets and existing unimproved (dirt) and two-track roads to the greatest extent possible. In locations where access roads are not available, trucks would travel overland to reach the poles. Creation of new access routes is not anticipated for Segment 1 construction.

Most of the poles and underground areas in the Segment 1 are immediately adjacent to Route 66. Where the existing distribution line is offset from the highway, existing service access or overland travel would be utilized to reach each pole for the installation of hardware and ADSS cable. At the conclusion of construction, all roads used for construction purposes would be left in a condition similar to existing conditions prior to the start of construction.

Installation of OPGW on existing transmission line structures will require access to each structure site for construction crews, materials, and equipment. Existing access roads will be used to the extent feasible for construction of the project; where needed, these roads will be improved to allow the safe use of construction equipment. In locations where access roads are not available, trucks would travel overland to reach the poles.

At the end of project construction, all roads utilized for construction purposes would be left in a condition similar as the condition that existed prior to the start of construction. Loose rock and slide material would be removed, as 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 would be filled or removed.

#### 3.4.2 Substations

#### Cima 220/16 kV Substation

The existing Cima Substation is located on SCE-owned land approximately 15 miles south of Interstate (I-) 15, in the town of Cima, California. New telecommunication equipment will be installed in the existing communication room. No ground disturbance is required for this scope of work. SCE is not seeking authorization for this portion of the Project; it is for informational purposes only.

#### Pisgah 220 kV Substation

The existing Pisgah Substation is located on BLM land approximately 13 miles northwest of Ludlow, California. New telecommunication equipment will be installed in a new communication room. No ground disturbance is required for this scope of work. SCE is not seeking authorization for this portion of the Project; it is for informational purposes only.



#### 3.5 Desert Tortoise Conservation Measures

All conservation measures outlined in Section 7 of this document will be implemented within the Action Area. USFWS-approved Authorized Biologist(s) and Desert Tortoise Monitor(s) will be present during all proposed construction activities to oversee the effective implementation of conservation measures to protect the tortoise.

#### 3.6 Post Construction Activities

To the extent feasible, SCE will minimize temporary impacts and permanent loss to sensitive natural vegetation communities and special-status plants. Impacts will be minimized at construction sites by clearly demarcating work areas and flagging resources to be avoided. If unable to avoid impacts to sensitive natural vegetation communities and special-status plants, a revegetation plan would be prepared in coordination with the applicable agencies. The revegetation plan would describe, at a minimum, which vegetation restoration method (e.g., natural revegetation, planting, or reseeding with native seed stock in compliance with the Proposed Project's Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plans [SWPPPs]) would be implemented in the Project area. The revegetation plan would also include the plant species or habitats to be restored or revegetated, the replacement or restoration ratios (as appropriate), the restoration methods and techniques, and the monitoring periods and success criteria.

The following tables list the disturbance areas for the construction of the Project.

TABLE 1: DISTURBANCE TABLE TO DESERT TORTOISE HABITAT- SEGMENTS 1 AND 2

Project Feature	Estimated Acres Disturbed During Construction	Estimated Acres to be Restored	Estimated Acres Permanently Disturbed				
Segment 1							
BLM, State, and Private Lands							
Anchor	0.00	0.00	0.00				
ADSS Stringing Setup Area	0.57	0.57	0.00				
Structure Work Area	1.12	1.12	0.00				
Trench Installation	0.00	0.00	0.00				
Sub-total Estimated	1.69	1.69	0.00				
Total Estimated Segment 1	1.69	1.69	0.00				

Project Feature	Estimated Acres Disturbed During Construction	Estimated Acres to be Restored	Estimated Acres Permanently Disturbed					
Segment 2								
	BLM, State, and Private Lands							
Guard Pole	2.14	2.14	0.00					
OPGW Stringing Setup Area	12.70	12.70	0.00					
Trench Installation (Fiber)	0.52	0.00	0.52					
Helicopter Site	0.00	0.00	0.00					
General Disturbance Area	0.61	0.61	0.00					
Structure Work Area	0.14	0.14	0.00					
Sub-total Estimated	16.11	15.59	0.52					
	MNP							



Guard Pole	0.40	0.40	0.00
OPGW Pulling / Stringing / Tensioning	12.17	12.17	0.00
Helicopter Site	0.00	0.00	0.00
General Disturbance Areas	0.67	0.67	0.00
Operations and Maintenance	0.17	0.00	0.17
Sub-total Estimated	13.41	13.24	0.17
<b>Total Estimated Segment 2</b>	29.52	28.83	0.69
<b>Total Estimated Segments 1 and 2</b>	31.21	30.52	0.69





#### 4.0 BIOLOGICAL SETTING OF THE ACTION AREA

#### 4.1 Vegetation Communities / Land Cover Types and Flora

Twenty-six (26) vegetation communities/land cover types, including eight (8) sensitive vegetation communities and 18 non-sensitive vegetation communities/land cover types, were previously identified and mapped during separate habitat and resource assessment surveys (Exhibit 3, *Project Components*). A list of the vegetation communities and their California Natural Community Codes are presented in Table 2. Descriptions of the communities can be found in the Manual of California Vegetation, 2nd Edition (Sawyer et al. 2009).

TABLE 2: VEGETATION COMMUNITY / LAND COVER TYPE

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

### **Sensitive Vegetation Communities**

Chilopsis linearis - Psorothamnus spinosus (Desert willow – smoketree wash woodland) Woodland Alliance G4 / S3

Dicoria canescens – Abronia villosa – Panicum urvilleanum (Mojave-Sonoran desert dunes) Sparsely Vegetated Alliance G4 / S3.2

Ericameria paniculata (Black-stem rabbitbrush scrub) Shrubland Alliance G4 / S3

Pleuraphis rigida (Big galleta shrub-steppe) Herbaceous Alliance G3 / S2.2

Prosopis glandulosa - Prosopis velutina - Prosopis pubescens (Mesquite thickets) Shrubland Alliance G5 / S3

Rhus trilobata – Crataegus rivularis – Forestiera pubescens (Basket brush – river hawthorn – desert olive patches) Shrubland Alliance G4 / S3.2

Suaeda moquinii (Bush seepweed scrub) Shrubland Alliance G4 / S3

Yucca brevifolia (Joshua tree woodland) Woodland Alliance G4 / S3.2

#### **Non-sensitive Vegetation Communities**

Ambrosia dumosa (White bursage scrub) Shrubland Alliance G5 / S5

Ambrosia salsola - Bebbia juncea (Cheesebush - sweetbush scrub) Shrubland Alliance G4 / S4

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

Atriplex confertifolia (Shadescale scrub) Shrubland Alliance G5 / S4.2

Atriplex hymenelytra (Desert holly scrub) Shrubland Alliance G5 / S4

Atriplex polycarpa (Allscale scrub) Shrubland Alliance G4 / S4

Bromus (diandrus, hordeaceus) – Brachypodium distachyon (Annual brome grasslands) Semi-Natural Alliance Non-Native / Invasive

*Bromus rubens – Schismus (arabicus, barbatus)* (Red brome or Mediterranean grass grasslands) Herbaceous Semi-Natural Stands Non-Native / Invasive

Encelia farinosa (Brittle bush scrub) Shrubland Alliance G5 / S4

*Ephedra nevadensis - Lycium andersonii - Grayia spinosa* (Nevada joint fir - Anderson's boxthorn - spiny hop sage scrub) Shrubland Alliance G5 / S4

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

Larrea tridentata - Ambrosia dumosa (Creosote bush - white burr sage scrub) Shrubland Alliance G5 / S5

Prunus fasciculata - Salazaria mexicana (Desert almond - Mexican bladdersage) scrub G4 / S4

Senegalia greggii – Hyptis emoryi – Justicia californica (Catclaw acacia – desert lavender – chuparosa scrub) Shrubland Alliance G4 / S4

Tamarix spp. (Tamarisk thickets) Shrubland Semi-Natural Alliance Non-Native / Invasive

Yucca schidigera (Mojave yucca scrub) Shrubland Alliance G4 / S4

#### **Land Cover Types**

Barren – Not Developed

Developed



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Rankings follow CDFW's List of California Terrestrial Natural Communities (2018) and utilize NatureServe conservation status ranks. Under this system, status is assessed and documented at the global (G) and state/province (S) scales from critically imperiled (1) to demonstrable secure (5). A question mark denotes an inexact numeric rank. All vegetation types with a global or state rank of 3 or less is considered sensitive.

#### Barren-Not Developed

Barren/undeveloped lands include cleared areas devoid of vegetation (e.g., ROW/easement, private property, roadside margin).

#### <u>Developed</u>

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.

#### 4.2 Topography

For most of its alignment, Segment 1 is within an existing distribution line right of way adjacent existing transportation routes including Route 66, I-40, and train tracks. The area is characterized by open space public lands (BLM, DOD, and SLC), scattered residential development and commercial buildings, and utility corridors. Traffic on I-40 and trains on Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) Railway tracks, can be seen from the alignment, which is parallel to I-40 and the BNSF Railway along most of the alignment. Desert vegetation is sparse and trees are rare or completely absent. East of Newberry Springs, the alignment crosses Troy Lake, a dessert playa that is a sandy expanse with almost no vegetation. Further east, the alignment goes through a volcanic area where remains of dark dried lava can be observed from Route 66. The topography along the distribution line between the Gale and Pisgah Substations is mostly flat with gently, rolling hills ranging in elevation from approximately 1,800 to 2,100 feet above mean sea level (amsl).

Land use along Segment 2 is primarily undisturbed desert scrub habitat and sparsely-developed area characterized by scattered occupied and abandoned residences and commercial development, open space lands, and utility corridors. 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 amsl. The Segment 2 alignment crosses lands owned by BLM, DOD, NPS - MNP, SLC, and private landowners.



## 5.0 SPECIES AND CRITICAL HABITAT POTENTIALLY AFFECTED BY PROPOSED ACTION

The analysis of existing biological data included examination of publicly available Geographic Information Systems (GIS) databases. Primary among these is a federal species occurrence database maintained by the Carlsbad Fish and Wildlife Office (CFWO 2016) and the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB) maintained by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW 2016). Environmental Intelligence, LLC (EI) also mapped the relationship of the Action Area to existing Critical Habitat units (Exhibit 2, Desert Tortoise Conservation Areas).

No federally threatened or endangered plant species have the potential to occur along the Action Area. Searches for rare plants included records searches of USFWS and CNDDB data within the Minneola, Newberry Springs, Troy Lake, 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 USGS 7.5 minute quadrangles centered on the Action Area. The record searches also included the two material/laydown yards located in Minneola, Yermo and Nipton USGS quadrangles. Focused surveys for endangered plant species were not conducted based on the results of the literature search.

One federally listed wildlife species (the desert tortoise) has been detected within Segment 2 of the Action Area during focused surveys. The Project Action Area crosses portions of USFWS Recovery Units for desert tortoise. The Project crosses the Western Mojave and Eastern Mojave Recovery Units, and the Ord-Rodman and Ivanpah Critical Habitat Units.

#### 5.1 Desert Tortoise Life History

The desert tortoise is a long-lived, terrestrial land turtle with a domed carapace (upper shell), which is oblong with rounded sides due to the joining of the carapace to the plastron (lower shell). The front limbs are flattened and heavily scaled for digging, and the hind limbs are rounded and stumpy. The front and hind feet are about equal in size and the tail is of short length. The scutes are often yellowish in the middle and have grooved, parallel, concentric growth rings that form outward with age toward the scute margins. The plastron is typically yellowish, becoming brown around the scute margins. The head is relatively small and rounded in front with reddish-tan coloring, and the iris is greenish-yellow.

The desert tortoise occupies a variety of desert habitats from sea level to over 7,000 feet, most commonly on gently sloping terrain with sandy-gravel soils and herbaceous plants. Desert tortoises are herbivores and eat numerous plant species, showing preference for native forbs and avoiding introduced exotics such as mustards (*Brassica* spp.), filaree (*Erodium* spp.), and Arabian grass (*Schismus* spp.; Van Devender et al. 2002). Tortoises are most active in spring following emergence from hibernation. Females also lay eggs in the spring when food sources are most abundant. They retreat into their horizontal burrow to avoid surface temperature extremes and to escape from predators. Desert tortoises are known to utilize an average of seven (7) to 12 burrows at any given time. Multiple tortoises are also known to occasionally share a single burrow (Bulova 1994).

The home range of the desert tortoise varies between sex. A 2001 study in the Ivanpah CHU found that female tortoises home range was generally between 18 and 9 hectares (44.4-22.2 acres). Male desert tortoise home ranges were larger, averaging 46-24 hectares (113-59 acres). In the West Mojave Desert, home ranges for females were estimated at 40 acres while males were estimated at 111 acres (Harless et al. 2009). In wetter years these ranges were expanded in both sexes (Franks et al. 2011).

In the Western Mojave Recovery Unit, most rainfall occurs in fall and winter and produces winter annuals, which are the primary food source of tortoises. Above-ground activity occurs primarily (but not exclusively) in spring, associated with winter annual production. Thus, tortoises are adapted to a regime of winter rains and rare summer storms. Here, desert tortoises occur primarily in valleys, on alluvial fans, bajadas, and rolling hills. Desert tortoises in the Eastern Mojave Recovery Unit are generally found in creosote bush scrub communities of flats, valley bottoms, alluvial fans, and bajadas, but they occasionally use other



habitats such as rocky slopes and blackbrush scrub. Desert tortoises are often active in this recovery unit in late summer and early fall, in addition to spring, reflecting the fact that this region receives up to about 40 percent of its annual rainfall in summer and supports two distinct annual floras on which tortoises can feed. They typically eat summer and winter annuals, cacti, perennial grasses, and herbaceous perennials (USFWS 2011).

In the Colorado Desert Recovery Unit, desert tortoises are found in the valleys, on bajadas, desert pavements, rocky slopes, and in the broad, well-developed washes (especially to the south). Vegetation is relatively characterized by species-rich succulent scrub, creosote bush scrub, and blue paloverde-ironwood-smoke tree communities. Tortoises feed on both summer and winter annuals, because this region receives about one-third of its annual rainfall in summer and supports two distinct annual floras on which they can feed. The climate is somewhat warmer in the Colorado Desert Recovery Unit than in other recovery units, with very few freezing days per year (USFWS 2011).

#### 5.2 Desert Tortoise Listing Status/History

The Mojave population of the desert tortoise was listed as threatened by the CDFW on August 3, 1989 (CDFW 2019) and USFWS on April 2, 1990 (USFWS 1990). A desert tortoise recovery plan was prepared in 1994 (USFWS 1994a), which proposed the establishment of recovery units and Desert Wildlife Management Areas (DWMAs) to provide recovery strategies and actions for the long-term persistence of viable desert tortoise populations and the ecosystems upon which they depend. The recovery plan was revised in 2011 (USFWS 2011), which updated the recovery unit boundaries. Reasons for its protection include loss and degradation of habitat by development, off-road vehicles, military training maneuvers, mining, illegal dumping, livestock grazing, invasion of exotic grasses and forbs, predation by an increasing common raven (*Corvus corax*) population, illegal collecting (poaching), intentional killing and harassment by an increasing human population, and a serious and fatal upper respiratory disease. These factors, coupled with delayed sexual maturity (13 to 20 years of age), low reproductive rates, and high mortality early in life, make recovery of the species difficult.

Critical habitat for the desert tortoise was designated in 1994 (USFWS 1994b). Under the 1994 rule, and in the updated 2011 recovery plan, the Primary Constituent Elements (PCEs) essential to the conservation of the desert tortoise are those physical and biological habitat features that support nesting, foraging, sheltering, dispersal, and/or gene flow. The specific PCEs include:

- 1) Sufficient space to support viable populations within each of the six recovery units and provide for movements, dispersal, and gene flow;
- 2) Sufficient quantity and quality of forage species and the proper soil conditions to provide for growth of such species;
- 3) Suitable substrates for burrowing, nesting, and overwintering;
- 4) Burrows, caliche caves, and other shelter sites;
- 5) Sufficient vegetation for shelter from temperature extremes and predators; and
- 6) Habitat protected from disturbance and human-caused mortality.

The Critical Habitat boundaries are based on the Recovery Plan DWMAs. The designated Critical Habitat encompasses a large area in the Mojave and Colorado Deserts that contains both suitable habitat containing PCEs and also areas that may be unsuitable for the desert tortoise. The final rule designated 12 areas totaling 6.4 million acres, with California containing 4.8 million acres over eight CHUs. The Project is located within the Ord-Rodman and Ivanpah Valley CHUs. The Ord-Rodman CHU consists of 253,200 acres within the Western Mojave Recovery Unit and the Ivanpah Valley CHU consists of 632,400 acres within the Eastern Mojave Recovery Unit of the Recovery Plan.

#### **5.3** Desert Tortoise Conservation Areas

Desert tortoise conservation areas include desert tortoise habitat within Critical Habitat, DWMAs, Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC), Desert National Wildlife Refuge, NPS lands, and other conservation areas or easements managed for desert tortoises (USFWS 2011). The Project is located within



the Western Mojave and Eastern Mojave Recovery Units as described in the Revised Desert Tortoise Recovery Plan (USFWS 2011), and it passes through the Ord-Rodman CHU within the Western Mojave Recovery Unit and the Ivanpah Valley CHU within the Mojave National Preserve (Exhibit 2, *Desert Tortoise Conservation Areas*).

#### 5.4 Desert Tortoise Populations in the Action Area

#### 5.4.1 RECOVERY UNIT POPULATION ESTIMATES

Desert tortoise population densities in the region have been declining since at least 1980. The Mojave National Preserve includes the Goffs Permanent Study Plot (a one square mile plot in southeastern Mojave National Preserve), established in 1977 and sampled for tortoises through 2000 (Berry 2000). Population density estimates across all size classes declined from 440 tortoises per square mile (95 percent confidence interval: 370-522) in 1980 to 88 tortoises per square mile (95 percent confidence interval: 34-230) in 2000; sub-adult and adult size class declined from 195 tortoises per square mile (95 percent confidence interval: 162-234) in 1980 to 18 tortoises per square mile (95 percent confidence interval: 6-54) in 2000 (USFWS 2011). The 2011 Recovery Plan estimated adult/sub-adult densities (per square mile) based on research from 2007 (McLuckie et al. 2007). The Recovery Plan estimated 12.2 per square mile in the Western Mojave Recovery Unit and 12.9 per square mile in the Eastern Mojave Recovery Unit. Additionally, while not crossed by the Project, the Northern Colorado Recovery Unit, located 10-20 miles southeast of the Project, estimated adult/sub-adult densities were 12.2 per square mile (USFWS 2011).

#### 5.4.2 PROJECT SURVEYS

Desert tortoise focused USFWS protocol surveys were conducted by qualified biologists for Segment 1 on May 18-19 and May 22-24, 2017 and for Segment 2 on October 10-15, 17-22 & 24-26, 2016 and May 4-5 2019. The surveys were conducted in accordance with the 2010 Field Season Survey Protocol (USFWS 2010). Species observations, burrows, and sign were all recorded and classified using the 2010 Field Season Survey Protocol. Ten-meter belt transects were utilized to survey 100 percent of the proposed disturbance areas as well as a 200-foot buffer.

#### 5.4.2.1 Survey Results

No desert tortoises or sign were identified on Segment 1 during the 2017 protocol surveys and 13 live desert tortoises were observed on Segment 2 during the 2016 and 2019 protocol surveys (Table 3). The thirteen (13) live tortoises observed on Segment 2 included ten (10) adult/sub-adult tortoises with a maximum carapace length (MCL) greater than 160 mm and one (1) juvenile tortoise with a MCL less than or equal to 160 mm; two (2) tortoises were deep in burrows and unable to be measured (assumed to be adult/sub-adult for population calculations). Eleven (11) of the 13 live tortoises observed were associated with a burrow (in burrow or at entrance); two (2) tortoises were observed in the open, one of which was an adult with an identification tag (#N92043).

In addition to live tortoises, other signs observed on Segment 2 included 215 tortoise burrows, 28 burrows with tortoise tracks, 185 pallet burrows, seven (7) pallet burrows with tortoise tracks, 140 tortoise scat, 35 tortoise carcasses, and five (5) locations with tortoise eggshell fragments (Table 3; Exhibit 4, *Desert Tortoise Survey Results*).



TABLE 3. DESERT TORTOISE SIGN OBSERVED

	IBEE C. E			GN OBSER	122		
		Segi	ment 1				
Sign Type	Class <sup>1</sup>						Totala
	1	2	3	4	5	Unclassified	Totals
Live Desert Tortoises	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Burrows	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Burrows with Tracks	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pallet Burrows	N/A						0
Pallet Burrows with Tracks	N/A						0
Scat	N/A						0
Tracks not associated with burrow	N/A						0
Carcasses/Shell Remains	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Drinking Depressions with Tracks	N/A						0
Locations with Eggshell Fragments	N/A						0
Segment 2							
Sign Type	Class <sup>1</sup>						Totals
	1	2	3	4	5	Unclassified	Totals
Live Desert Tortoises	8	2	1	0	0	2	13
Burrows	11	53	97	1	53	0	215
Burrows with Tracks	5	21	2	0	0	0	28
Pallet Burrows	N/A						185
Pallet Burrows with Tracks	N/A						7
Scat	N/A						140
Tracks not associated with burrow	N/A						0
Carcasses/Shell Remains	0	1	3	1	30	0	35
Drinking Depressions with Tracks				N/A			0

## <sup>1</sup> Desert Tortoise Sign Classification (*sensu* USFWS 2010):

Live Desert Tortoises (Maximum Carapace Length)

Class 1 – Adult (≥215mm)

Class 2 – Sub-Adult (161-214mm)

Locations with Eggshell Fragments

Class 3 – Juvenile (101-160mm)

Class 4 – Very Young (61-100mm)

Class  $5 - \text{Hatchling} (\leq 60 \text{mm})$ 

Unclassified - Completely in burrow, unable to measure

#### Burrows

Class 1 – Currently active with tortoise or recent sign

Class 2 – Good condition (definitely tortoise), but no

evidence of recent use

Class 3 – Deteriorated condition (definitely tortoise)

Class 4 – Good condition (possibly tortoise)

Class 5 – Deteriorated condition (possibly tortoise)

#### Carcasses/Shell Remains

N/A

Class 1 – Fresh or putrid

Class 2-Not fresh or putrid, is of normal color, and scutes adhere to bone

Class 3 – Scutes peeling from the bone

Class 4 – Shell bone is falling apart and growth rings on scutes are peeling

Class 5 – Disarticulated and scattered

Unclassified - Class not recorded



5

#### 5.4.2.2 Survey Estimated Desert Tortoise Population Size and Density

The 2010 Field Season Survey Protocol provides an equation that accounts for the likelihood that not all tortoises on a particular site are above ground at the time of the performance of focused surveys. It also takes in account that desert tortoises are cryptic and thus may be overlooked. Other factors included in this equation include the amount of rainfall that was received in the area during the previous winter season. The equation to estimate the number of adult/sub-adult tortoises is as follows:

Estimated number of tortoises observed above ground 
$$\frac{\text{above ground}}{\text{Action Area }(N)} = \frac{\frac{\text{Number of tortoises observed}}{\text{above ground}}}{\frac{\text{Probability that a tortoise}}{\text{is above ground }[Pa]}} \left(\frac{\text{Size of the action area}}{\text{Size of the area surveyed}}\right)$$

The probability that a tortoise is above ground (Pa) is determined by the amount of rainfall that was recorded in the area during the preceding fall/winter months (October through March). If less than 40 mm (~1.57 inches) of rainfall was recorded during the preceding winter months, the Pa is assigned a value of 0.64 percent with a variance of 0.08 percent. If greater than 40 mm (~1.57 inches) of rainfall was recorded during the preceding winter months, the Pa is assigned a value of 0.80 percent with a variance of 0.05 percent (USFWS 2010).

#### Segment 1

Within the Segment 1 alignment, the proposed Action Areas are directly adjacent to Route 66, railroad lines, and I-40. Habitat fragmentation resulting from roads and railroad tracks can greatly inhibit desert tortoise movements (Edwards *et al.* 2004), which has likely depressed desert tortoise populations within Segment 1. Desert tortoise populations may be depressed in a zone of at least 0.25 miles from roadways (Boarman and Sazaki 2006), and the amount of tortoise sign is consistently lower near paved roads (Hoff and Marlow 2002). During 2017 focused surveys along Segment 1, no desert tortoise live individuals or sign were identified. As such, desert tortoise is presumed to be extirpated from the majority of the alignment.

#### Segment 2

Using the calculations provided in the 2010 Field Season Protocol (USFWS 2010), desert tortoise abundance and confidence interval as well as densities were estimated for Segment 2. Due to the difference in annual rainfall across the Project, the Action Area was split into two sections based on the Recovery Unit boundaries. Precipitation preceding the surveys was less than 40 mm in the Western Mojave Recovery Unit and above 40 mm in the Eastern Recovery Unit.

In the Western Mojave Recovery Unit, four (4) adult/sub-adult desert tortoises were observed (Exhibit 4). Precipitation for the previous winter months (and summer months) was less than 40 mm ( $\sim$ 1.57 inches), so the Pa was assigned a value of 0.64 percent with a variance of 0.08 percent. The estimated number of adult/sub-adult tortoises within the Action Area contained within the Western Mojave Recovery Unit is 8.9 (95 percent confidence interval is 2.7 – 28.8). The population density is approximately 20.6 adult/sub-adult tortoises per square mile.

In the Eastern Mojave Recovery Unit, eight (8) adult/sub-adult desert tortoises were observed, all within the Ivanpah CHU (Exhibit 2). Precipitation for the previous winter months (and summer months) was greater than 40 mm (~1.57 inches), so the Pa was assigned a value of 0.80 with a variance of 0.05. The estimated number of adult/sub-adult tortoises within the Action Area contained within the Eastern Mojave Recovery Unit is 14.5 (95 percent confidence interval is 6.1 – 34.6) tortoises. The population density is approximately 17.5 adult/sub-adult tortoises per square mile.



#### 6.0 POTENTIAL EFFECTS OF THE PROPOSED ACTION

Two categories of impacts, direct and indirect, are considered here. Direct impacts are those caused by the proposed action that occur at the same time and place as the action. Thus, direct impacts are the primary effects of the proposed action. Direct impacts from proposed construction, operation, and maintenance may result from surface disturbance at pulling and splicing locations, and at other construction site locations including staging areas. Indirect impacts are those impacts caused by the proposed action but which occur later in time or are farther removed in distance. Indirect impacts are considered secondary effects and may include urban development and other impacts related to changes in the pattern of land use, human population density or growth rate, and related impacts on air, water, and other natural systems, including ecosystems. The duration of direct and indirect effects may be temporary and short-term or extended and long-term. The impacts discussed in this chapter include surface-disturbing effects and construction activities associated with the Project. Proposed mitigation measures were designed to reduce Project impacts and include avoidance and minimization activities during pre-construction, construction, and post-construction periods discussed in Section 7. With implementation of these conservation measures, the Project may affect, but is unlikely to adversely affect the desert tortoise.

#### **6.1** Direct Effects

Direct effects are those that are caused by the Project and occur at the same time and place. The direct effects of the Proposed Action are the removal or disturbance of approximately 31.21 acres of desert tortoise habitat with construction of all project components. Actual construction impacts to desert tortoise habitat is expected to be less than 31.21 acres as specific work areas are refined during final engineering and construction. Potential direct effects to the desert tortoise could include:

- Tortoises could be harmed during clearing and grubbing of vegetation and trenching activities.
- Tortoises could become entrapped within open trenches and pipes.
- Tortoises could be disturbed (e.g., by noise and vibration) or even killed by vehicles or heavy equipment, whether on the Project site or from vehicles straying from existing roads or designated areas into adjacent habitat. The potential for the most severe impacts is along paved roads where vehicle frequency and speed is greatest, though tortoises on dirt roads could also be affected.
- Materials and equipment left behind following construction and maintenance activities that could
  entrap or entangle tortoises, or provide shelter for tortoises and, when materials and equipment are
  removed, could result in displacement or injury of the tortoise.
- Tortoises could become crushed or entombed in their burrows during construction.
- Tortoises could be collected or vandalized by Project personnel.
- Tortoises could be injured or killed by visitors' pets.

Direct impact to tortoise will be minimized to the greatest extent possible. Direct disturbance to tortoises may cause mortality, reduced plant food availability and vegetation shelter, lowered reproductive success, abandonment of nesting areas, and increased stress. Direct effects will be minimized to the greatest extent possible through the implementation of Conservation Measures as discussed in Section 7 (Conservation Measures) of this BA. Potential tortoise mortality from vehicle and equipment strikes, entrapment, impacts to potentially occupied burrows, and other similar direct effects can be avoided through proposed Conservation Measures such as environmental training, reduced speed limits, monitoring by qualified tortoise biologists, limiting the size and extent of the work area, fencing open trenches, and flagging all potentially active burrows for avoidance. Temporary removal of forage plants and vegetation cover/shelter within the 31.21 acres potentially disturbed is expected to be less than significant as the Project will only disturb vegetation within small areas scattered along the ROW. Each proposed disturbance area will only be a small portion of the home range of each tortoise.

Based on the population density estimates provided in Section 5.4, approximately 23 desert tortoises should occur within the Action Area along Segment 2 only; no desert tortoises are expected to occur along Segment



1. Female tortoise's home range vary and are generally between 18 and 9 hectares (44.4-22.2 acres) and male tortoise's home range are typically significantly larger. Impacts to each tortoise's home range will be diminished due to the linear nature and minimal disturbance of the Project; the impacts are spread across the alignment at 29 distinct locations and have an average temporary impact of approximately 1-acre. The maximum impact at a single location is approximately 3.81 acres. Due to the small impact acreage at specific locations, the adverse impacts to each tortoise and its home range may be avoided through implementation of conservation and avoidance/minimization measures.

#### **6.2** Indirect Effects

Indirect effects are those that are caused by, or result from, the Project, but occur later in time and are reasonably certain to occur. Indirect effects can be both spatial and/or temporal in nature. In contrast to direct effects, indirect effects are more subtle, and may affect populations and habitat quality over an extended period of time, long after construction activities have been completed. Indirect effects are of particular concern for long-lived species such as the desert tortoise because project-related effects may not become evident in individuals or populations until years later.

Potential indirect effect may include:

- An increase of weedy plants, especially non-native grasses, in the action area could lead to increase fire frequency in desert habitat leading to habitat degradation and desert tortoise mortality.
- Raven activity in the action area could increase due to the creation of raven subsidies with human presence thereby leading to increased desert tortoise predation.
- Indirect effects could also occur from increased noise, lighting, and dust in areas outside the direct effects area.

Through the implementation of the avoidance, minimization and mitigation measures discussed in Section 7 of this BA, adverse indirect effects shall be avoided by the Project.

## **6.3** Effects to Mojave Desert Tortoise Critical Habitat

Temporary loss of approximately 9.12 acres of critical habitat for desert tortoise will occur with the construction of the SCE components of the Project (Table 4). Temporary impacts will be restored following Project completion, but for the purposes of this discussion both temporary and permanent impacts are considered an impact to critical habitat due to the slow recovery of temporarily disturbed areas.

Recovery Unit	Impact to Areas Outside of Critical Habitat Units	Impact to Critical Habitat Units	Total
Eastern Mojave Recovery Unit	11.33	7.43	18.76
Western Mojave Recovery Unit	10.76	1.69	12.45
Total	22.09	9.12	31.21

TABLE 4. DIRECT IMPACT TO CONSERVATION AREAS

Project associated impacts to Critical Habitat equates to approximately 1.69 acres (0.0007 percent) of the Ord-Rodman CHU, approximately 7.43 acres (0.001 percent) of the Ivanpah CHU, and approximately 9.12 acres (0.0001 percent) of the 6.4 million acres of total Critical Habitat that has been designated for the Mojave population of the desert tortoise that is included in all CHUs. Impacts from construction will occur in the existing transmission alignment ROW. Because of the relatively small impact to the CHUs in areas with an existing transmission alignment, this impact will not likely appreciably diminish the value of the PCEs essential to the species' conservation in Western Mojave or Eastern Mojave Recovery Unit, and the Ord-Rodman or Ivanpah CHUs. The impact will not likely cause the local population of desert tortoise to become unviable or preclude movement, dispersal, or gene flow within the population. Overall, these impacts will not likely result in significant adverse effects to the species throughout its range.



#### 7.0 CONSERVATION MEASURES

All conservation measures outlined below will be implemented within the Action Area. These measures were adopted from the measures to protect desert tortoises in the Biological Opinion for Activities in the California Desert Conservation Area (USFWS 2017) as approved under the guidance of the DRECP Land Use Plan Amendment (BLM 2016), and are consistent with the Biological Opinion for the General Management Plan of the Mojave National Preserve (USFWS 2001) and the Programmatic Biological Opinion for Bureau of Land Management Activities Adversely Affecting 19 Listed Species and Critical Habitat (Nevada Fish and Wildlife Office 2013). Conservation measures may also be updated based on the forthcoming PBO for the MNP expected in mid-2019. Additional detail of the implementation for the described measures has been provided by SCE. These measures will be implemented during all phases of the Project. Since these measures meet or exceed the measures approved by the USFWS for impacts to desert tortoise habitat within the BOs, the conservation measures outlined below are expected to be sufficient in protecting the desert tortoise and its Critical Habitat within the Action Area.

## 7.1 Land Use Plan Amendment (LUPA) Measures

#### 7.1.1 LUPA-BIO-5

All activities, as determined appropriate on an activity-by-activity basis, will implement a worker education program that meets the approval of the BLM. The program will be carried out during all phases of the project (site mobilization, ground disturbance, grading, construction, operation, closure/decommissioning or project abandonment, and restoration/reclamation activities). The worker education program will provide interpretation for non-English speaking workers, and provide the same instruction for new workers prior to their working on site. As appropriate based on the activity, the program will contain information about:

- Site-specific biological and nonbiological resources.
- Information on the legal protection for protected resources and penalties for violation of federal
  and state laws and administrative sanctions for failure to comply with Land Use Plan Amendment
  (LUPA) Conservation and Management Action (CMA) requirements intended to protect sitespecific biological and nonbiological resources.
- The required LUPA and project-specific measures for avoiding and minimizing effects during all project phases, including but not limited to resource setbacks, trash, speed limits, etc.
- Reporting requirements and measures to follow if protected resources are encountered, including potential work stoppage and requirements for notification of the designated biologist.
- Measures that personnel can take to promote the conservation of biological and nonbiological resources.

# 7.1.2 LUPA-BIO-IFS-9

Vehicular traffic will not exceed 15 miles per hour within the areas not cleared by protocol level surveys where desert tortoise may be impacted.

## 7.1.3 LUPA-TRANS-BIO-1

Where feasible and appropriate for resource protection, site transmission activities along roads or other previously disturbed areas will minimize new surface disturbance, reduce perching opportunities for the Common Raven, and minimize collision risks for birds and bats.

## 7.2 Applicant Proposed Measures

The following applicant proposed measures (APMs) are designed to avoid and minimize impacts to the desert tortoise. The measures are consistent with the DRECP LUPA and would apply to all construction activities in areas with the potential to support desert tortoise.



### 7.2.1 COMPENSATION FOR IMPACTS TO DESERT TORTOISE CRITICAL HABITAT

Compensation for temporary and permanent impacts to desert tortoise habitat disturbance is proposed at the following ratios:

- A 5-to-1 ratio for impacts to desert tortoise critical habitat.
- A 1-to-1 ratio for impacts to desert tortoise habitat, excluding critical habitat.

No compensatory mitigation is required for disturbed areas (i.e., totally denuded, mostly denuded with scattered shrub-like vegetation, roadside shoulders, active agricultural, residential, and urban) that provide no habitat value to the species. Although much of the desert tortoise habitat disturbance resulting from Project activities would be temporary, compensatory mitigation would be provided at a permanent ratio due to the slow recovery time of habitats in desert ecosystems. No mitigation would occur for impacts to developed land within the Project area.

#### 7.2.2 REVEGETATION PLAN

To the extent feasible, SCE would minimize temporary impacts and permanent loss to sensitive natural vegetation communities and special-status plants. Impacts would be minimized at construction sites by clearly demarcating work areas and flagging resources to be avoided. If unable to avoid impacts to sensitive natural vegetation communities and special-status plants, a revegetation plan would be prepared in coordination with the applicable agencies. The revegetation plan would describe, at a minimum, which vegetation restoration method (e.g., natural revegetation, planting, or reseeding with native seed stock in compliance with the Project's SWPPPs) would be implemented in the Project area. The revegetation plan would also include the plant species or habitats to be restored or revegetated, the replacement or restoration ratios (as appropriate), the restoration methods and techniques, and the monitoring periods and success criteria.

### 7.2.3 NOXIOUS AND INVASIVE WEED MANAGEMENT PLAN

Prior to construction, SCE would prepare a Noxious and Invasive Weed Management Plan (NIWMP) that is intended to minimize the spread of noxious and invasive weeds during construction. The NIWMP would include, but would not be limited to, ensuring that construction (earth-moving or ground-disturbing) vehicles arrive to work sites clean and weed-free prior to entering the ROW in cross-country areas, ensuring straw wattles used to contain storm water runoff are weed-free, and documenting the extent of noxious weeds within the construction areas prior to construction. Noxious weeds are defined as species rated as High on the California Invasive Plant Inventory Database, published by the California Invasive Plant Council. Construction within urban/developed areas and intensive agricultural areas would be exempt from the NIWMP requirements.

#### 7.2.4 PRE-ACTIVITY SURVEYS

No more than seven (7) days prior to the onset of ground-disturbing activities, an agency-approved biologist (with experience monitoring and handling desert tortoise) would conduct a pre-activity survey in all work areas within potential desert tortoise habitat, plus an approximately 300-foot buffer. All desert tortoise burrows within the pre-activity survey area (including desert tortoise pallet burrows) would be prominently flagged at that time so that they may be avoided during work activities. Proposed actions would avoid disturbing desert tortoise burrows to the extent possible. However, burrows would be excavated if they would be impacted by construction activities. If a potential tortoise burrow must be excavated, the biologist would proceed according to the Desert Tortoise Council's Guidelines for Handling Desert Tortoise during Construction Projects.

#### 7.2.5 MONITORING

The approved tortoise biologist would be available on site to monitor any work areas for desert tortoise, as needed. The approved tortoise biologist would be responsible for performing surveys prior to Project activities in suitable desert tortoise habitat. The approved tortoise biologist would have the authority to halt



all non-emergency actions (as soon as safely possible) that may result in harm to desert tortoise, and would assist in the overall implementation of APMs for the tortoise.

#### 7.2.6 DESERT TORTOISE IN WORK AREA

In the event that a desert tortoise is encountered in the work area, all work would cease and the approved biologist would be contacted. Work would not commence until the animal has voluntarily moved to a safe distance away from the work area. Desert tortoises may be moved by an agency-approved biologist, if necessary, to move them out of harm's way. Encounters with desert tortoise would be reported to an approved biologist. Encounters with desert tortoise would be documented and provided to the CDFW, BLM, and USFWS. In the event that a dead or injured desert tortoise is observed, the approved biologist would be responsible for notifying SCE's herpetologist and reporting the incident to the CDFW, BLM, and USFWS.

#### 7.2.7 UNDER VEHICLE CHECKS

Desert tortoises commonly seek shade during the hottest times of the day. Employees working within the geographic range of this species would be required to check under their equipment or vehicles before they are moved. If desert tortoises are encountered, the vehicle is not to be moved until the animals have voluntarily moved to a safe distance away from the parked vehicle. Desert tortoises may be moved by the approved biologist, if necessary, to move them out of harm's way.

#### 7.2.8 HANDLING DESERT TORTOISE

Only an agency-approved biologist may move or handle desert tortoises. When a desert tortoise is moved, the approved biologist would be responsible for taking appropriate measures to ensure that the animal is not exposed to harmful temperature extremes. The approved biologist would follow the appropriate protocols outlined in the Desert Tortoise Council's Guidelines for Handling Desert Tortoises During Construction Projects when handling desert tortoises or excavating their burrows.

#### 7.2.9 EXCAVATION OF DESERT TORTOISE BURROWS

Should it prove necessary to excavate a desert tortoise from its burrow to move it out of harm's way, excavation would be done using hand tools, either by or under the direct supervision of an approved biologist. Excavation of desert tortoise burrows would occur no more than seven (7) days before the onset of construction or O&M activities. All desert tortoises removed from burrows would be placed in an unoccupied burrow that is approximately the same size as the one from which it was removed. If an existing burrow is unavailable, the approved biologist would construct or direct the construction of a burrow of similar shape, size, depth, and orientation as the original burrow. To ensure their safety, desert tortoises moved during inactive periods would be monitored for at least two (2) days after placement in the new burrows or until the end of the construction activity.

If desert tortoises need to be moved at a time of day when ambient temperatures could harm them (i.e., at temperatures lower than 40 degrees Fahrenheit (<sup>o</sup>F) or higher than 90<sup>o</sup>F), they would be held overnight in a clean cardboard box. These desert tortoises would be kept in the care of the approved biologist under appropriate controlled temperatures and released the following day when temperatures are favorable. All cardboard boxes would be appropriately discarded after one (1) use.

### 7.2.10 DISPOSAL OF TRASH

Trash and food items would be contained in closed containers and removed daily to reduce attractiveness to opportunistic predators, such as common ravens (*Corvus corax*), coyotes (*Canis latrans*), and feral dogs (*Canis lupus familiaris*).

#### 7.2.11 Pets Prohibited

Employees would not bring pets to the Project area.



## 7.2.12 VEHICLE TRAVEL

Motor vehicles would be limited to maintained roads and designated routes. If additional routes are needed, they would be surveyed by the approved biologist.

#### 7.2.13 RAVEN MANAGEMENT

SCE would implement a Raven Management Plan (RMP) to minimize avian predation of desert tortoise for the Project. The purpose of the RMP is to utilize methods that deter raven depredation of juvenile desert tortoises, and other wildlife species. The RMP is not intended to eliminate or control raven populations, but would target offending ravens that have been found to prey upon desert tortoises. The RMP would incorporate an adaptive management strategy for immediate implementation following construction of the Project. The RMP would be evaluated after three years of implementation, or as needed, if avian predation becomes apparent. The following activities may be implemented as part of the RMP: 1) Common raven nest/power line monitoring, 2) Funding of offending raven control via contract with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and 3) Alternative control strategies developed in coordination with USFWS (e.g., eggoiling, laser deterrents, etc.). Mutual and timely cooperation between SCE and the BLM, USFWS, and CDFW is central to effective implementation of the RMP.



### 8.0 CONCLUSION

The Project impacts approximately 31.21 acres of desert tortoise habitat spread across 113 miles of the Project alignment. Less than 4-acres shall be impacted at any given location with an average impact of approximately 1-acre at 29 locations. Due to the small impact acreage at specific locations, the Project may avoid adverse effect to the desert tortoise through implementation of conservation and avoidance/minimization measures, consistent with the adopted measures to protect desert tortoises located in the Biological Opinion for Activities in the California Desert Conservation Area (USFWS 2017) as approved under the guidance of the DRECP Land Use Plan Amendment (BLM 2016), the Biological Opinion for the General Management Plan for the Mojave National Preserve (USFWS 2001), and the Programmatic Biological Opinion for Bureau of Land Management Activities Adversely Affecting 19 Listed Species and Critical Habitat (Nevada Fish and Wildlife Office 2013). With the successful implementation of the various Project design features and avoidance, minimization, and mitigation measures described herein, this BA concludes that the Project may affect, but is unlikely to adversely affect, the Mojave population of tortoise. Additionally, the Project may affect, but is unlikely to adversely affect, critical habitat of the Mojave population of tortoise.



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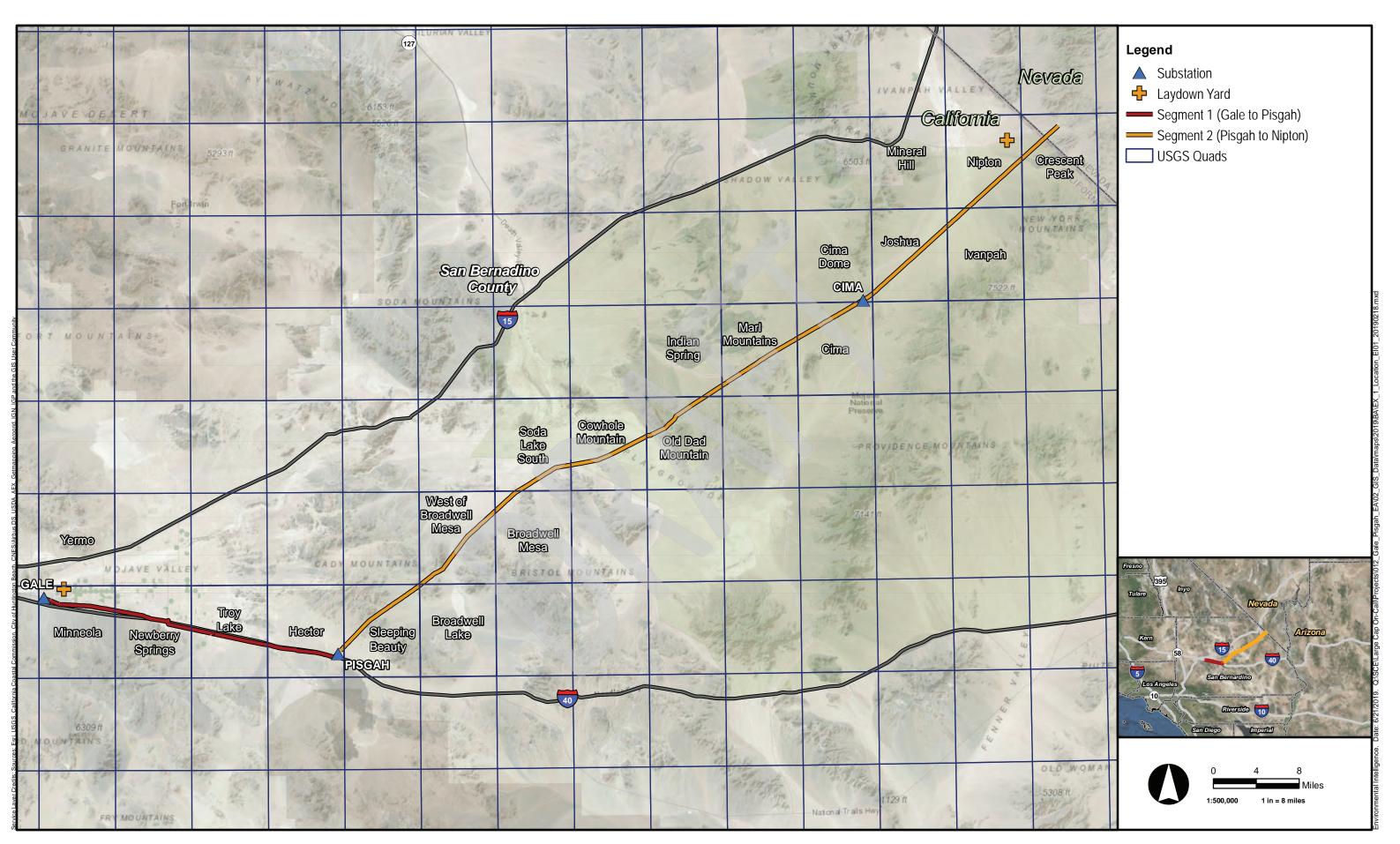
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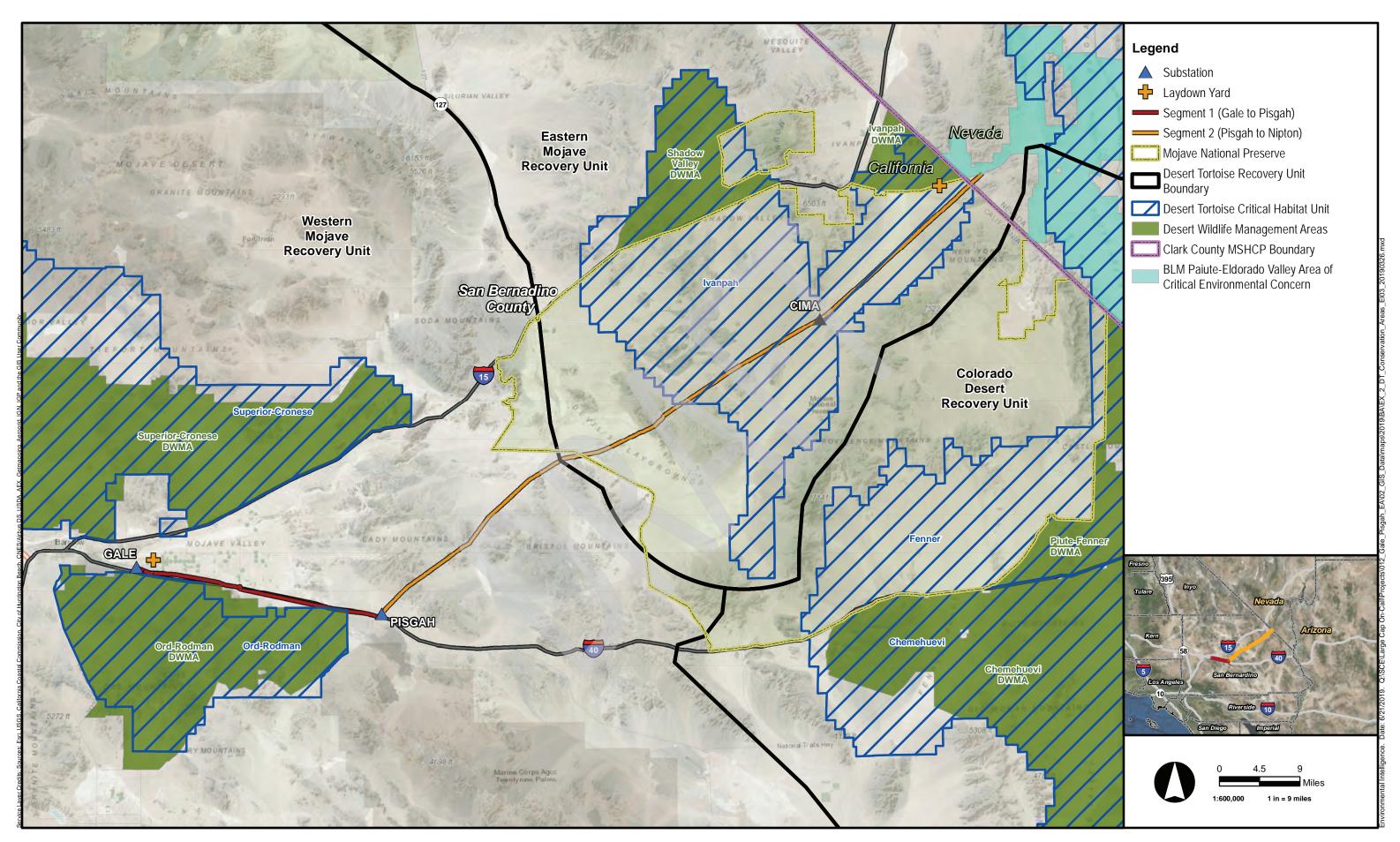
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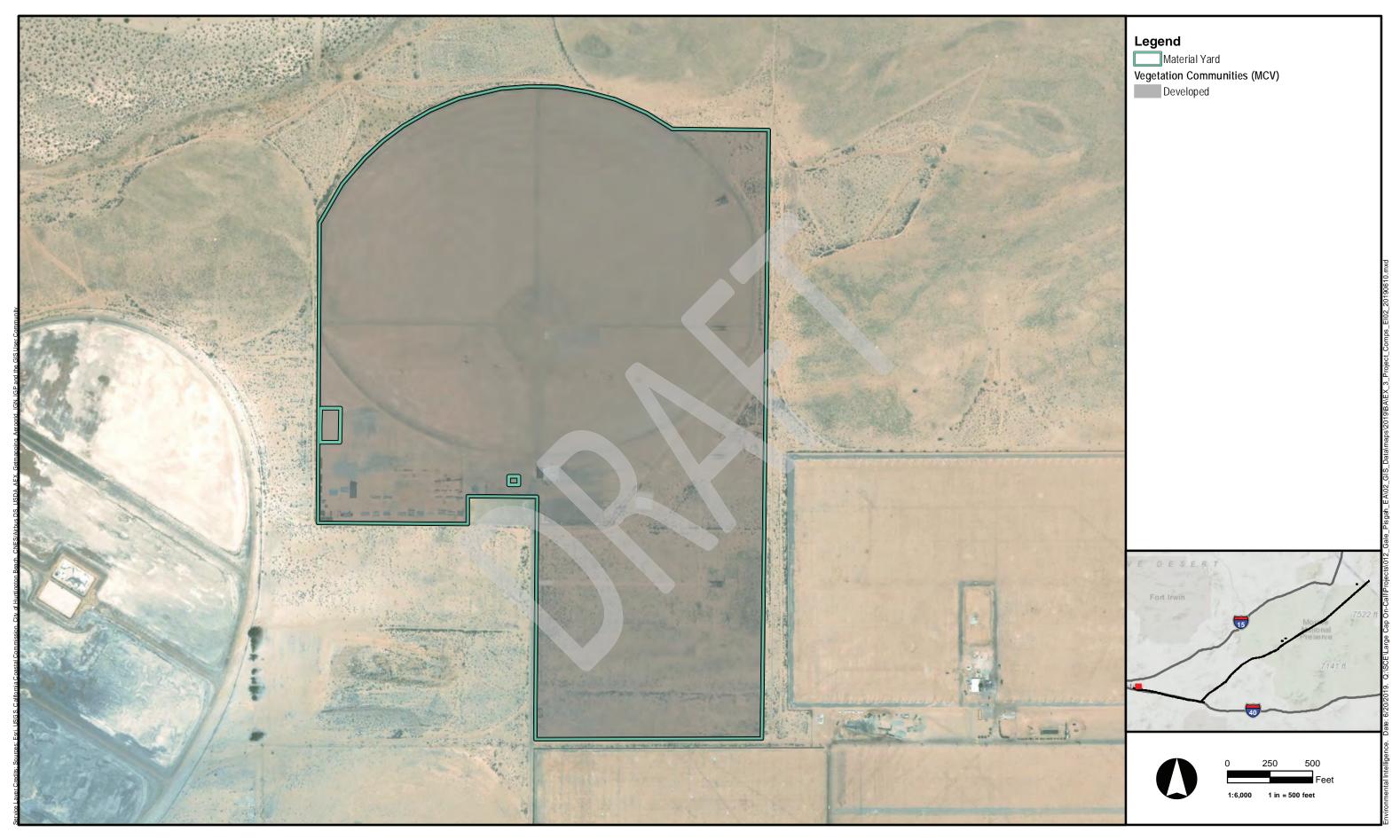




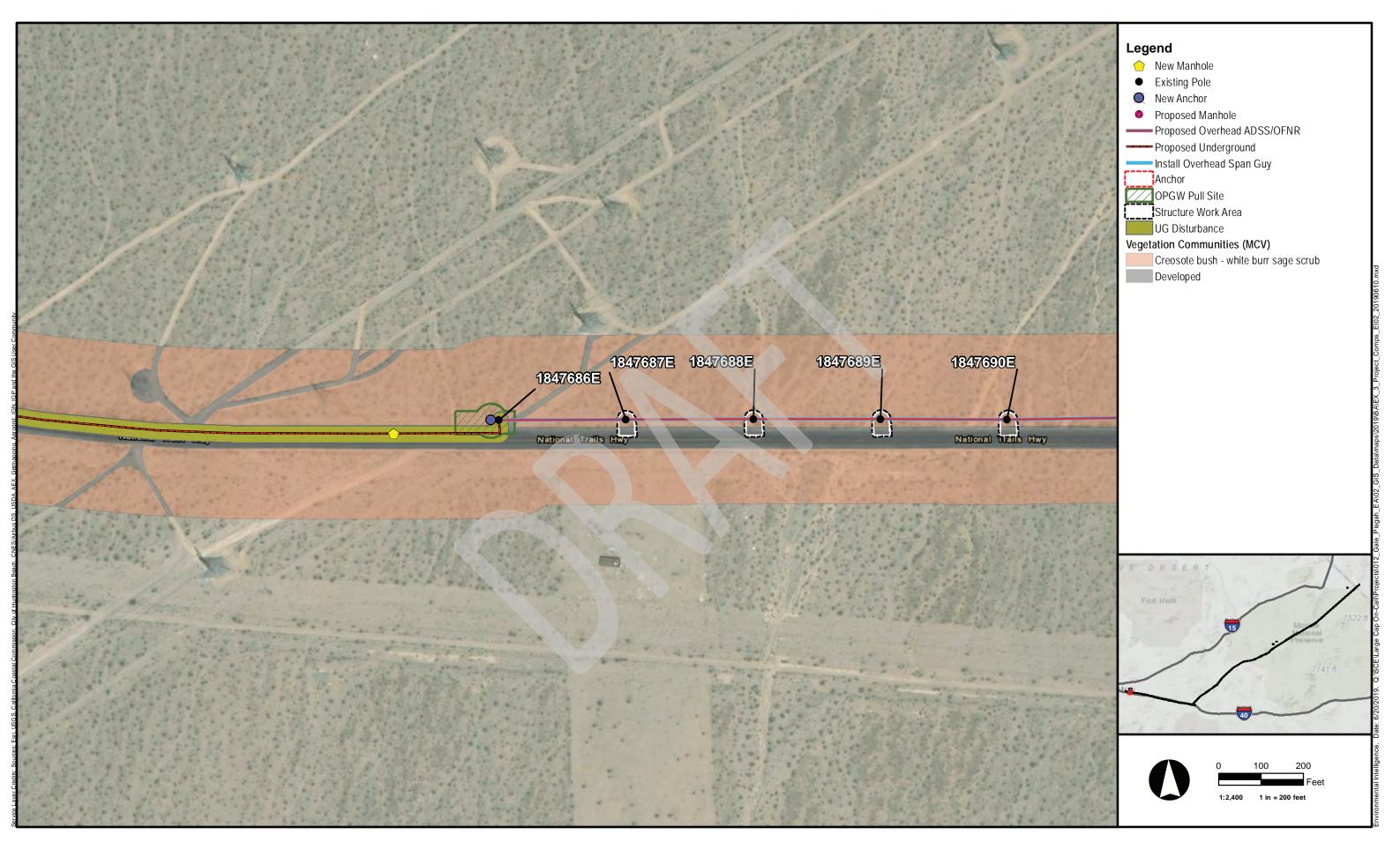






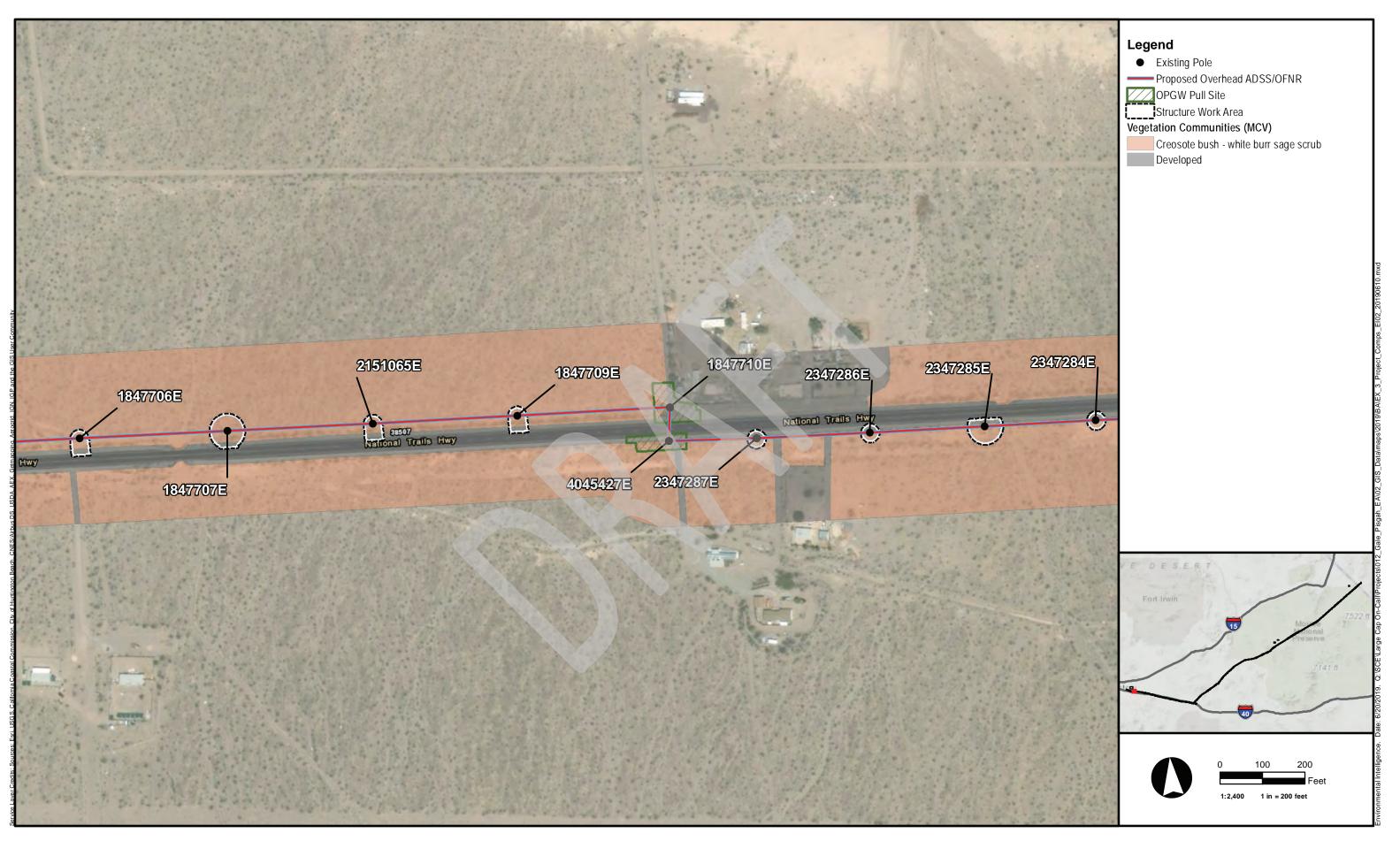


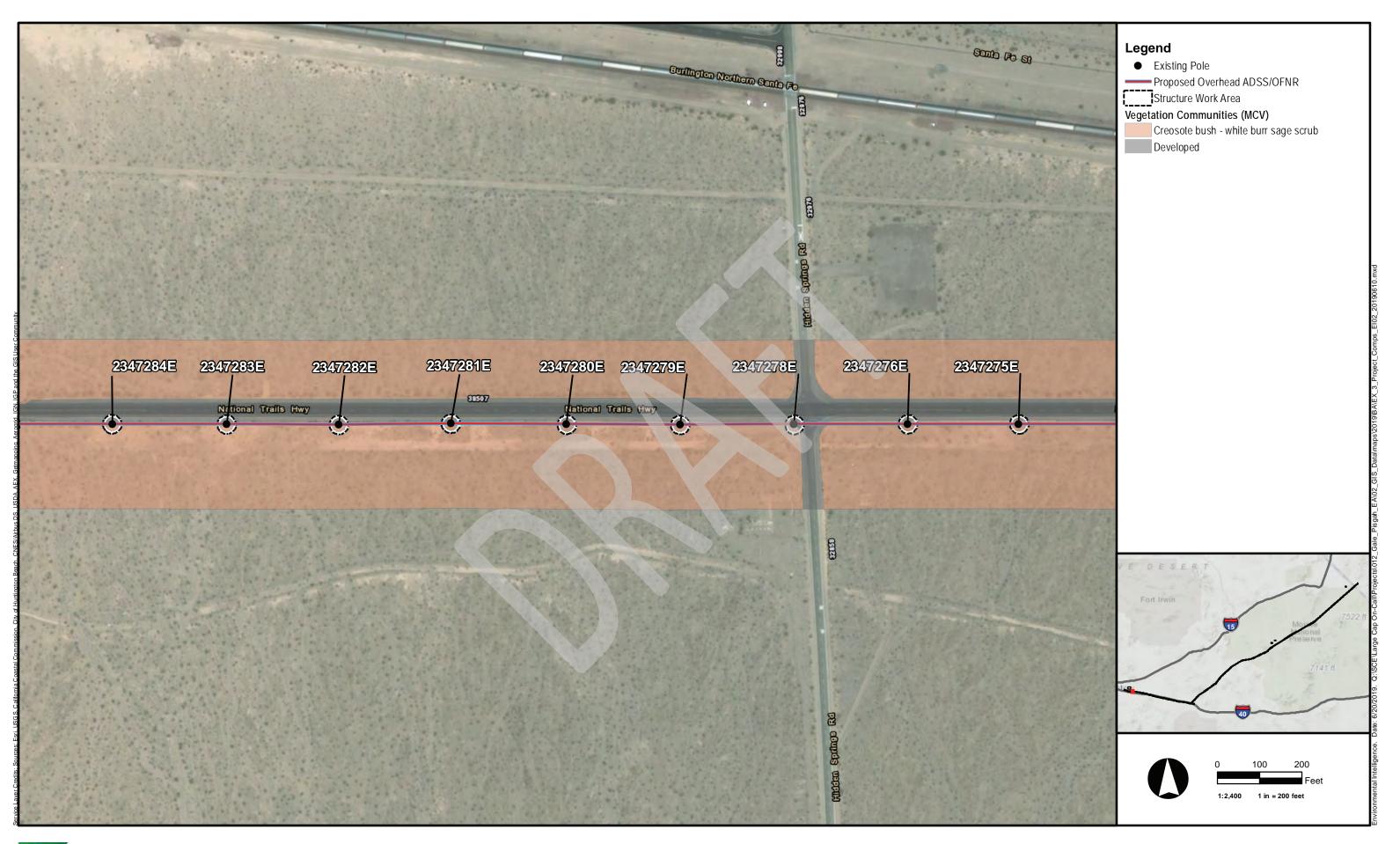


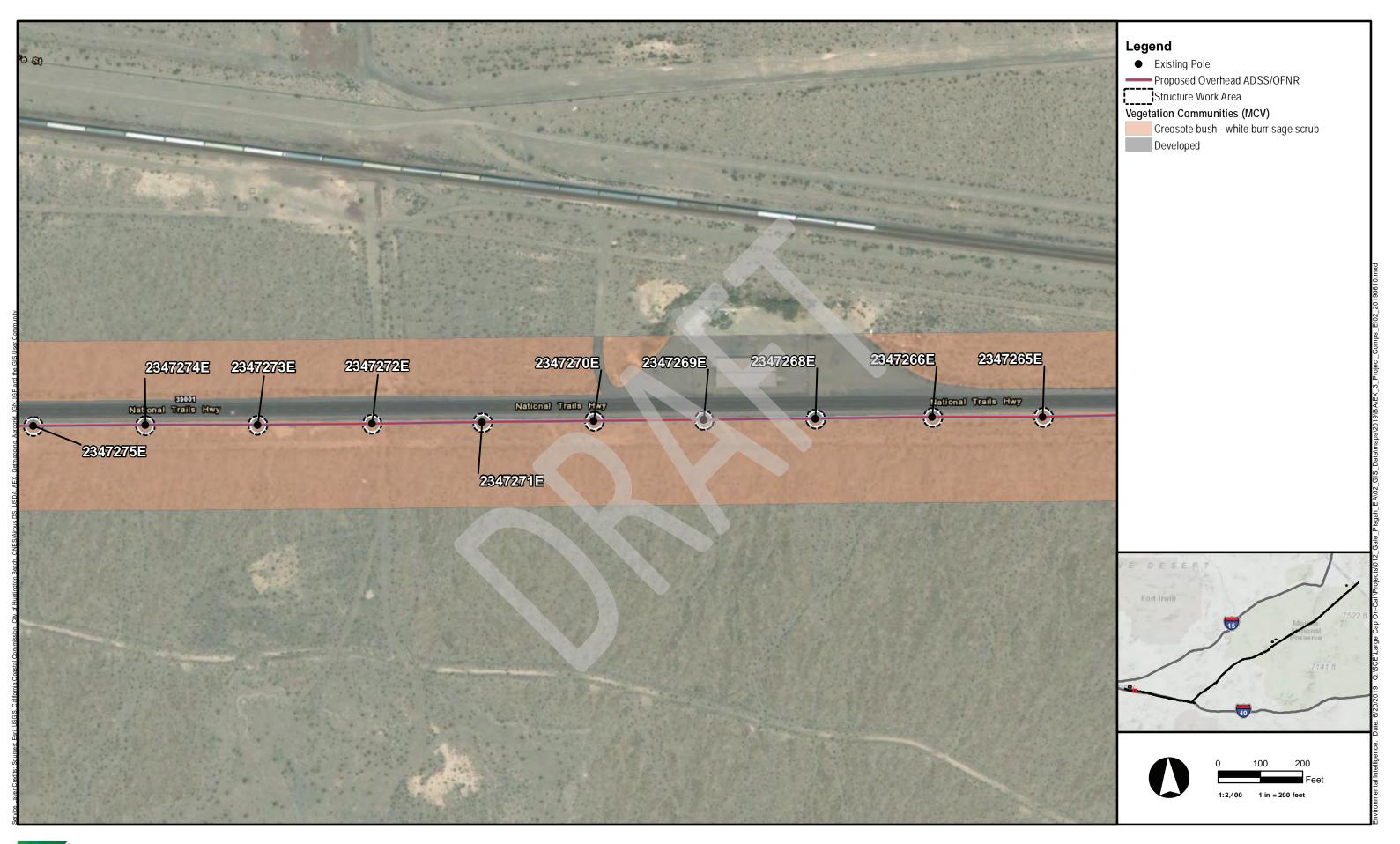


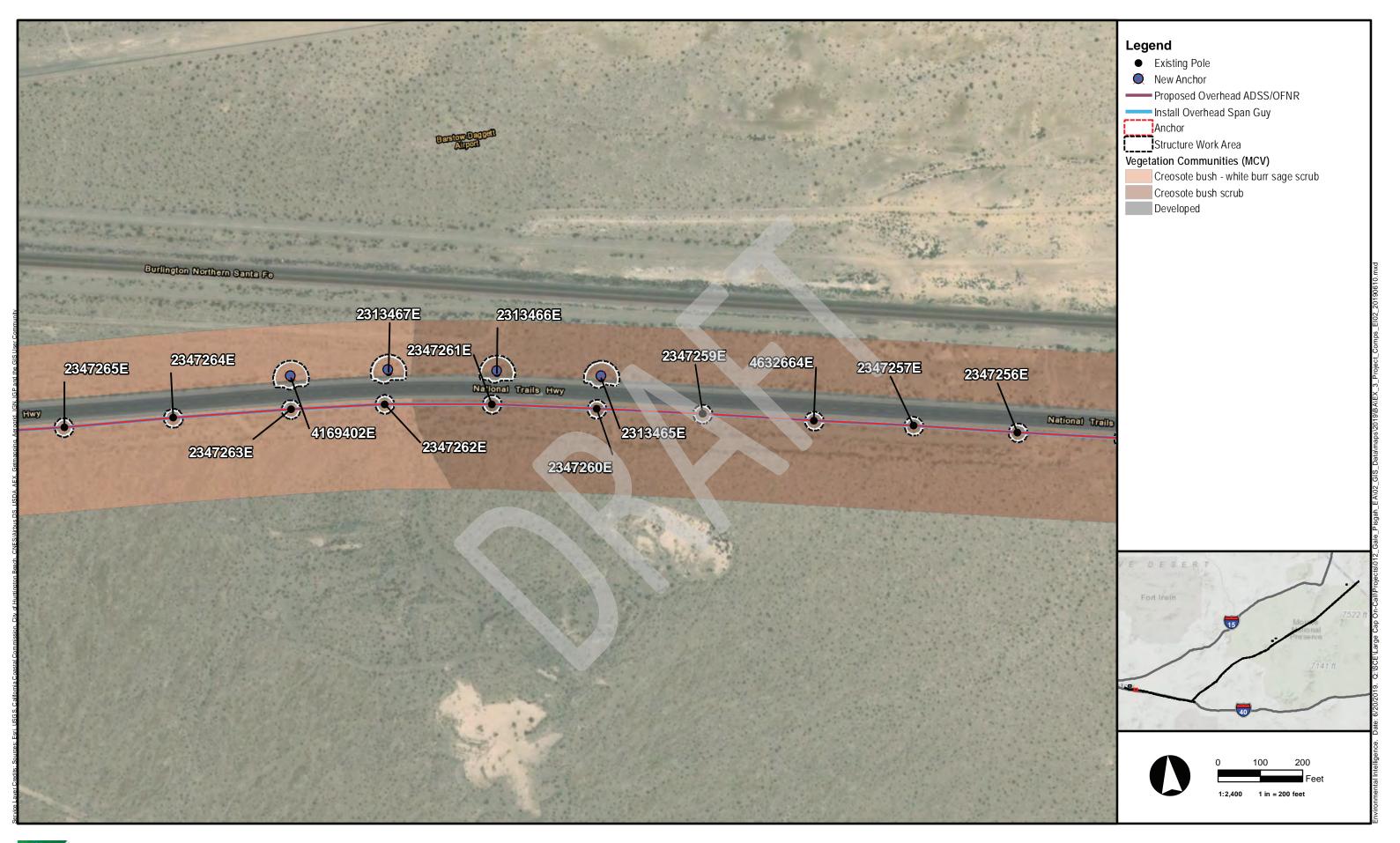










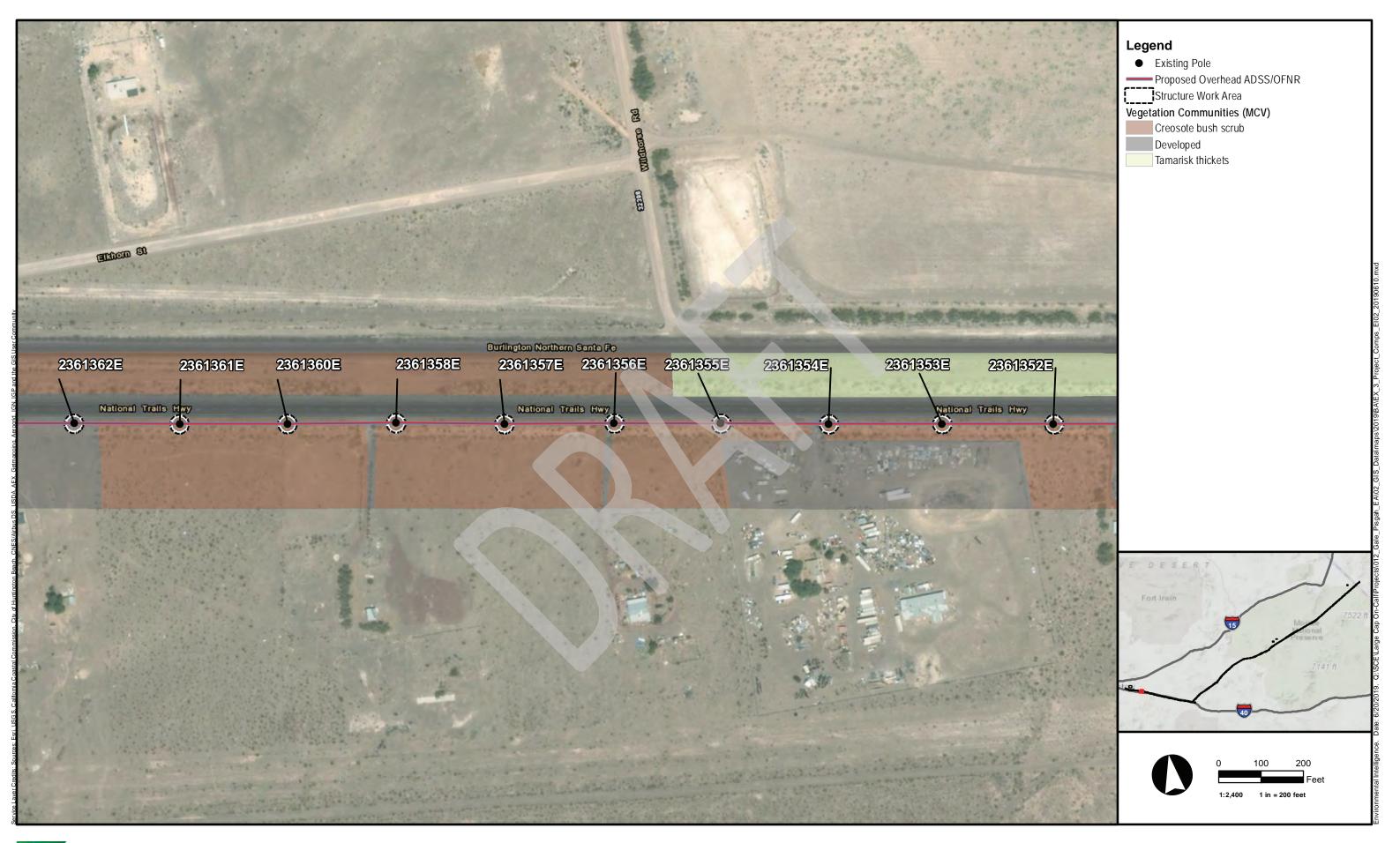


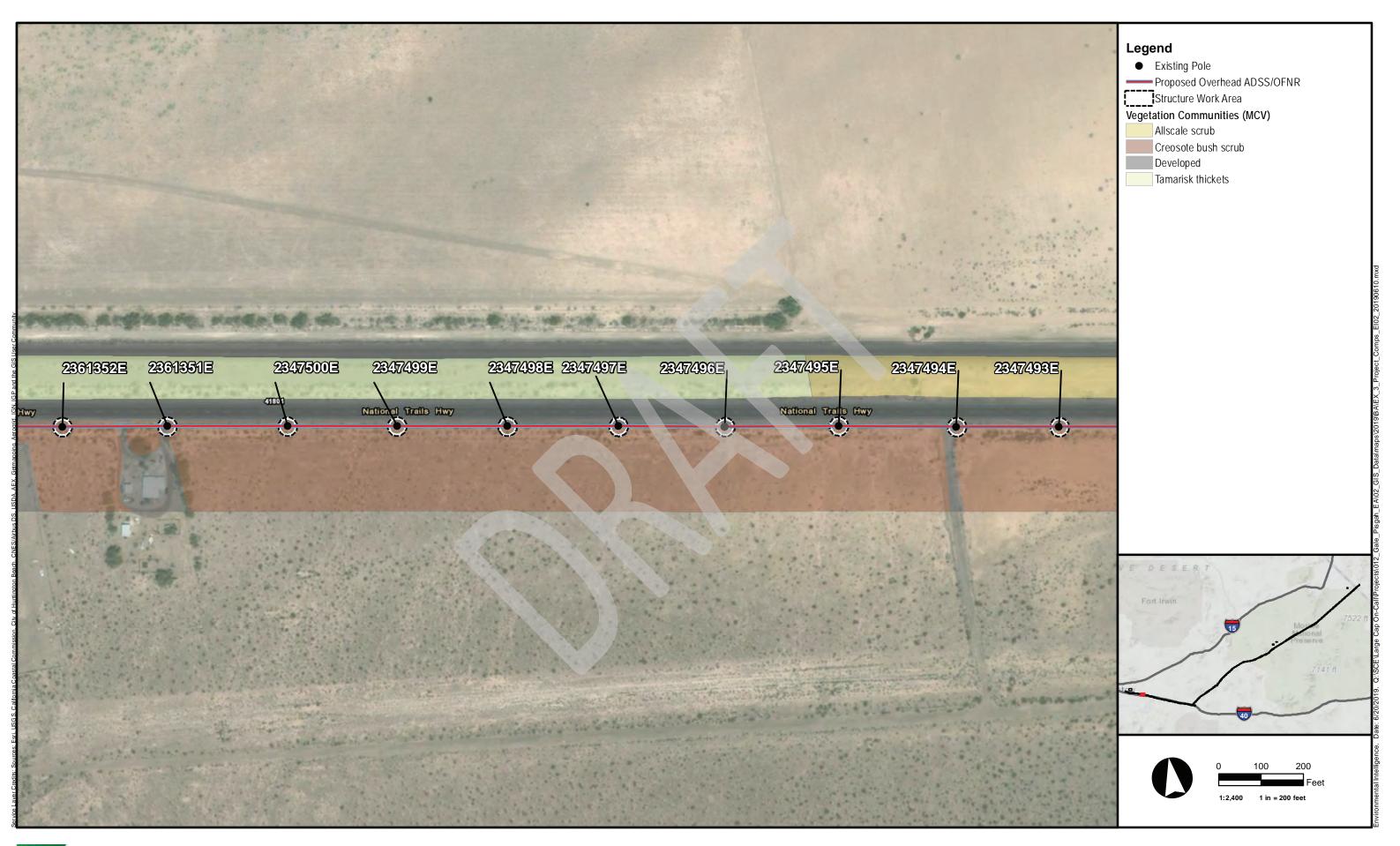


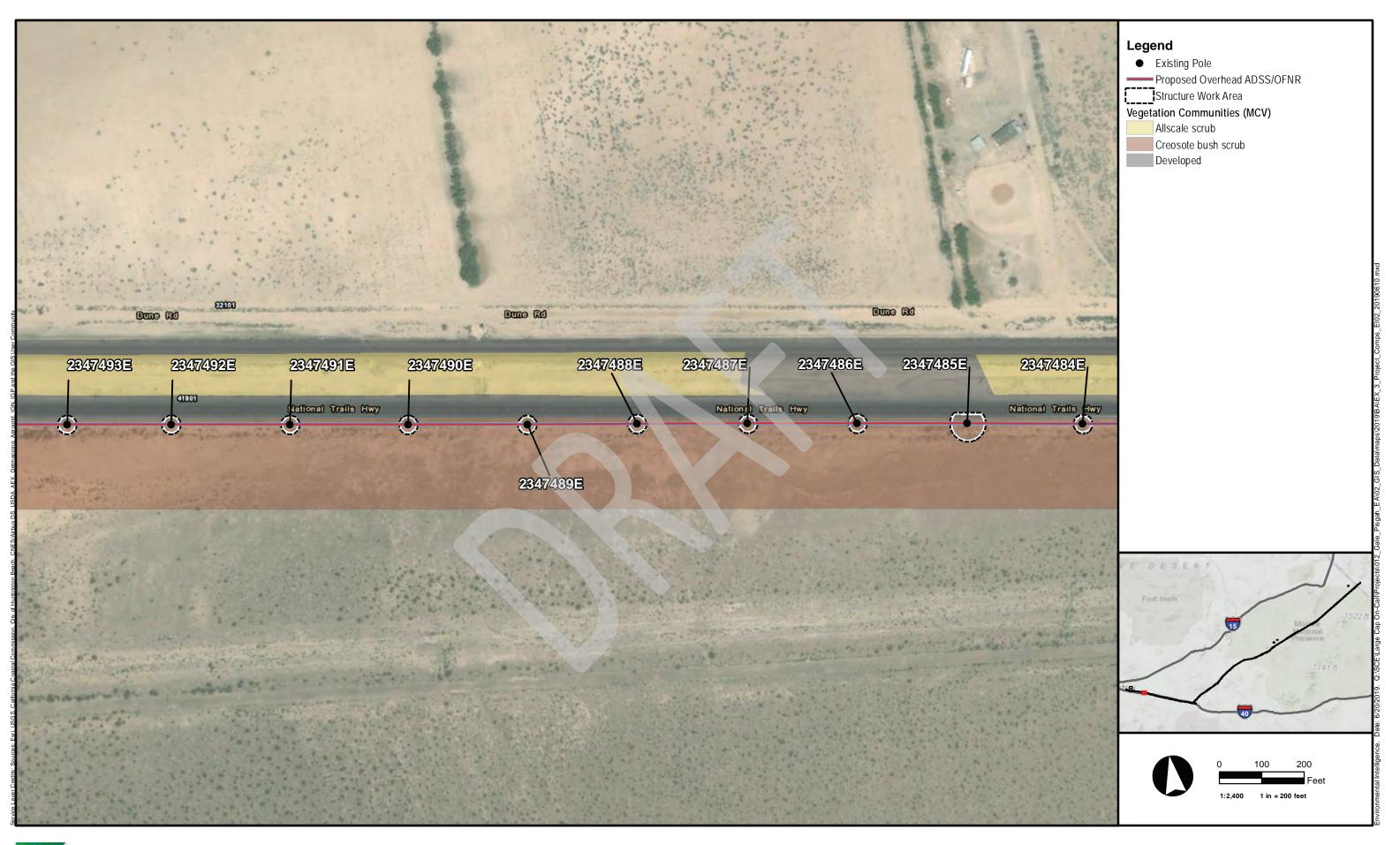












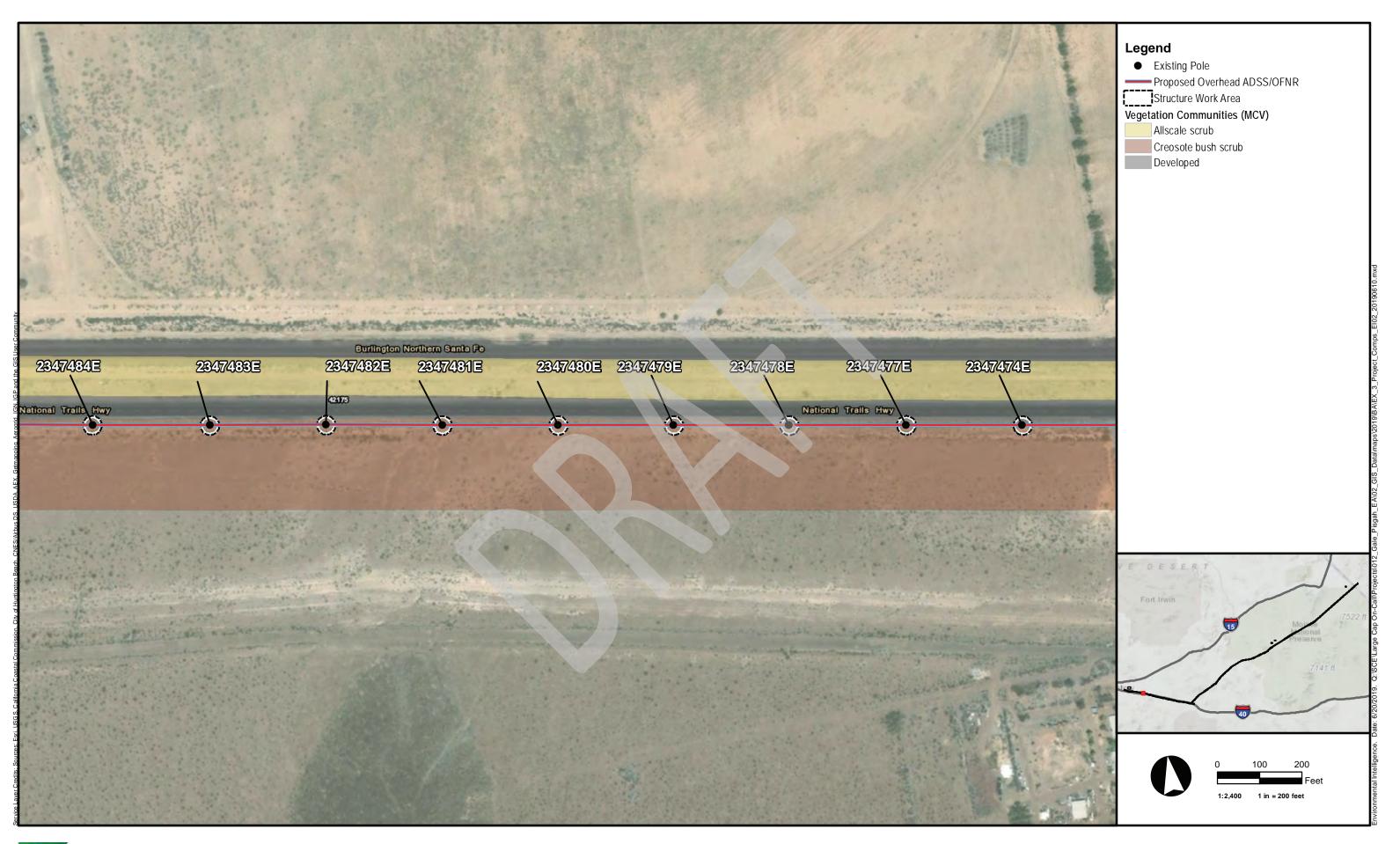




EXHIBIT 3. PROJECT COMPONENTS (PAGE 21 OF 260)



