Appendix E-1

Visual Resources

Summary of Key Observation Point Analysis

APPENDIX E–1
OCOTILLO WIND ENERGY FACILITY EIS/EIR: VISUAL RESOURCES – SUMMARY OF KEY OBSERVATION POINT ANALYSES

ALTERNATIVE 1 - PROPOSED PROJECT										
VIEWPOINT		BLM - EXISTING VISUAL SETTING					BLM - VISUAL CONTRAST ANALYSIS		IMPACT SIGNIFICANCE	
Key Observation Point (KOP)	Description	Scenic Quality Classification	Viewer Sensitivity	VRM Class			Level of Change (See Appendix VR-3 Contrast Rating Worksheets)	VRM Consistency	Before Mitigation / After Mitigation	Mitigation
				Status	Rating	Management Objective				
KOP 1 **Eastbound I-8** **Figures 4.18-2A / 2B**	View to the north-northeast, from eastbound Interstate 8, at the I-8 split at the base of Mountain Springs Grade.	**Class C** This view encompasses a portion of the Yuha Desert in close proximity to major infrastructure corridors including Interstate 8 and the existing SWPL transmission line (not apparent in the view presented as Figure 4.18-2A). The flat desert landscape supports an irregular to consistent distribution of short grasses and shrubs of subdued color. Although there are distant mountain ranges and areas of localized erosion that create land variation of visual interest, the overall scenic quality of the desert basin landscape is somewhat compromised by the prominence of the steel-lattice structures with their industrial character (from various viewpoints), and the existing development associated with the community of Ocotillo.	**High** Note: These lands are within the California Desert Conservation Area and are within the viewsheds of Interstate 8, the community of Ocotillo, and Anza-Borrego Desert State Park)	**Interim**	**III**	To partially retain the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be [no greater than] moderate. Management activities may attract attention but should not dominate the view of the casual observer. Changes should repeat the basic elements found in the predominant natural features of the characteristic landscape.	**Moderate to High** The Proposed Project would result in the introduction of visually prominent built structures into a landscape generally lacking similar built features of industrial or technological character. Although the SWPL line is visible in the project area and will be joined in parallel by the Sunrise Powerlink Transmission Line, the lines will not appear as prominent as the Proposed Project turbines. Also, the turbines would cause partial view blockage of the background Coyote Mountains and Yuha Desert basin floor. The resulting structural form and line contrast would be strong and the color and texture contrast would be moderate.	**Not Consistent** The moderate-to-high level of change would not meet the VRM Class III objective of a moderate (or lower) degree of visual change. The new wind turbines with their prominent vertical structural forms and vertical (tower) to diagonal (blades) lines would not repeat the basic elements of the existing natural features in the landscape (simple, flat horizontal [basin floor] to horizontal and angular [Coyote Mountains] landform). Also, the proposed structures would be prominent to dominant features in the landscape, which would be accentuated by the skylining that would occur where structures protrude above the horizon.	**BEFORE:** **Significant (Class I)** **AFTER:** **Same**	**None Proposed**
KOP 2 **Westbound I-8** **Figures 4.18-3A / 3B**	View to the northwest, from westbound Interstate 8, west of the I-8 split at the base of Mountain Springs Grade.	**Class C** This view encompasses the far western portion of the Yuha Desert, west of Ocotillo and the existing SWPL transmission line, and extending to the San Diego/Imperial County line. This area includes a foreground to middleground flat desert landscape that supports a sparse distribution of short grasses and shrubs of subdued color. Although the rugged and visually interesting landforms of the adjacent Jacumba Mountains and Volcanic hills to the west and Coyote Mountains to the north provide backdrops of visual interest, the desert basin landscape is relatively non-descript and common to much of the Yuha Desert.	**High** Note: These lands are within the California Desert Conservation Area and are within the viewsheds of Interstate 8, the community of Ocotillo, and Anza-Borrego Desert State Park)	**Interim**	**III**	To partially retain the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be [no greater than] moderate. Management activities may attract attention but should not dominate the view of the casual observer. Changes should repeat the basic elements found in the predominant natural features of the characteristic landscape.	**High** The Proposed Project would result in the introduction of visually prominent built structures into a landscape generally lacking similar built features of industrial or technological character. Although the SWPL line is visible in the project area and will be joined in parallel by the Sunrise Powerlink Transmission Line, the lines will not appear as prominent as the Proposed Project turbines. Also, the turbines would cause partial view blockage of the background Vulcan Hills and Coyote Mountains and Yuha Desert basin floor. The resulting structural form and line contrast would be strong. The color contrast would be moderate to strong, and texture contrast would be moderate.	**Not Consistent** The high level of change would not meet the VRM Class III objective of a moderate (or lower) degree of visual change. The new wind turbines with their prominent vertical structural forms and vertical (tower) to diagonal (blades) lines would not repeat the basic elements of the existing natural features in the landscape (simple, flat horizontal [basin floor] to horizontal and angular [Vulcan Hills and Coyote Mountains] landforms). Also, the proposed structures would be prominent to dominant features in the landscape, which would be accentuated by the skylining that would occur where structures protrude above the horizon.	**BEFORE:** **Significant (Class I)** **AFTER:** **Same**	**None Proposed**

ALTERNATIVE 1 - PROPOSED PROJECT (continued)										
VIEWPOINT		BLM - EXISTING VISUAL SETTING					BLM - VISUAL CONTRAST ANALYSIS		IMPACT SIGNIFICANCE	
Key Observation Point (KOP)	Description	Scenic Quality Classification	Viewer Sensitivity	VRM Class			Level of Change (See Appendix VR-3 Contrast Rating Worksheets)	VRM Consistency	Before Mitigation / After Mitigation	Mitigation
				Status	Rating	Management Objective				
KOP 3 **Ocotillo Community Park** **Figures 4.18-4A / 4B**	View to the north from Ocotillo Community Park off of S2, and northwest of the Community of Ocotillo.	**Class C** This view encompasses a portion of the Yuha Desert, north of the community of Ocotillo. The flat desert landscape supports an irregular to consistent distribution of short grasses and shrubs of subdued color. Although the rugged forms of the Coyote Mountains in the background and areas of localized erosion create land variation of visual interest, the overall scenic quality of the desert basin landscape is somewhat compromised by the presence of the steel-lattice structures with their industrial character (though only faintly visible in this view).	**High** Note: These lands are within the California Desert Conservation Area and are within the viewsheds of Interstate 8, the community of Ocotillo, S2, ABDSP, Jacumba Wilderness and Coyote Mountains Wilderness.	**Interim**	**III**	To partially retain the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be [no greater than] moderate. Management activities may attract attention but should not dominate the view of the casual observer. Changes should repeat the basic elements found in the predominant natural features of the characteristic landscape.	**High** The Proposed Project would result in the introduction of visually prominent built structures into a landscape generally lacking similar built features of industrial or technological character. Although the SWPL line is visible in the project area and will be joined in parallel by the Sunrise Powerlink Transmission Line, the lines will not appear as prominent as the Proposed Project turbines. Also, the turbines would cause partial view blockage of the background Coyote Mountains and Yuha Desert basin floor. The resulting structural form, line and color contrasts would be strong and the texture contrast would be moderate.	**Not Consistent** The high level of change would not meet the VRM Class III objective of a moderate (or lower) degree of visual change. The new wind turbines with their prominent vertical structural forms and vertical (tower) to diagonal (blades) lines would not repeat the basic elements of the existing natural features in the landscape (simple, flat horizontal [basin floor] to horizontal and angular [Coyote Mountains] landform). Also, the proposed structures would be prominent to dominant features in the landscape, which would be accentuated by the skylining that would occur where structures protrude above the horizon.	**BEFORE:** **Significant (Class I)** **AFTER:** **Same**	**None Proposed**
KOP 4 **Southbound County Road S2** **Figures 4.18-5A / 5B**	View to the south-southeast, from southbound S2, approximately 1.2 miles southeast of the San Diego/Imperial County line.	**Class C** This view encompasses the far western portion of the Yuha Desert, west of Ocotillo and the existing SWPL transmission line, and extending to the San Diego/Imperial County line. This area includes a foreground to middleground flat desert landscape that supports a sparse distribution of short grasses and shrubs of subdued color. Although the rugged and visually interesting landforms of the adjacent Jacumba Mountains and Wilderness to the south provide a backdrop of visual interest, the desert basin landscape is relatively non-descript and common to much of the Yuha Desert.	**High** Note: These lands are within the California Desert Conservation Area and are within the viewsheds of Interstate 8, the community of Ocotillo, and Anza-Borrego Desert State Park)	**Interim**	**III**	To partially retain the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be [no greater than] moderate. Management activities may attract attention but should not dominate the view of the casual observer. Changes should repeat the basic elements found in the predominant natural features of the characteristic landscape.	**High** The Proposed Project would result in the introduction of visually prominent built structures into a landscape generally lacking similar built features of industrial or technological character. Although the SWPL line is visible in the project area and will be joined in parallel by the Sunrise Powerlink Transmission Line, the lines will not appear as prominent as the Proposed Project turbines. Also, the turbines would cause substantial view blockage of the background Jacumba Mountains and Yuha Desert basin floor. The resulting structural form and line contrast would be strong. The color contrast would be moderate to strong, and texture contrast would be moderate.	**Not Consistent** The high level of change would not meet the VRM Class III objective of a moderate (or lower) degree of visual change. The new wind turbines with their prominent vertical structural forms and vertical (tower) to diagonal (blades) lines would not repeat the basic elements of the existing natural features in the landscape (simple, flat horizontal [basin floor] to horizontal and angular [Jacumba Mountains] landform). Also, the proposed structures would be prominent to dominant features in the landscape, which would be accentuated by the skylining that would occur where structures protrude above the horizon.	**BEFORE:** **Significant (Class I)** **AFTER:** **Same**	**None Proposed**

ALTERNATIVE 1 - PROPOSED PROJECT (continued)										
VIEWPOINT		BLM - EXISTING VISUAL SETTING					BLM - VISUAL CONTRAST ANALYSIS		IMPACT SIGNIFICANCE	
Key Observation Point (KOP)	Description	Scenic Quality Classification	Viewer Sensitivity	VRM Class			Level of Change (See Appendix VR-3 Contrast Rating Worksheets)	VRM Consistency	Before Mitigation / After Mitigation	Mitigation
				Status	Rating	Management Objective				
KOP 5 **Anza-Borrego Desert State Park** **Mortero Palms Access** **Figures 4.18-6A / 6B**	View to the east from the access road to the Mortero Palms and Dos Cabezas Primitive Camping Area. This viewpoint is approximately 1.0 mile west of the project boundary.	**Class B** This view encompasses the western portion of the Yuha Desert, located at the foot of the Jacumba Mountains and west of the community of Ocotillo. The flat desert landscape supports an irregular to consistent distribution of short grasses and shrubs of subdued color, but punctuated by the distinctive vertical forms of ocotillo. The existing SWPL transmission line structures and community of Ocotillo are only faintly visible and relatively indistinct to the casual observer. This far western portion of the Yuha Desert, which is backdropped by the rugged and visually interesting landforms of the adjacent Coyote Mountains to the north and Jacumba Mountains to the south, imparts a greater sense of remoteness relative to basin areas further to the east. This remoteness also contributes to the areas popularity with backcountry enthusiasts traveling to the nearby Mortero Palms and Dos Cabezas Primitive Camping Area, the Jacumba Mountains, and Carrizo Gorge.	**High** Note: These lands are within the California Desert Conservation Area and are within the viewsheds of Interstate 8, the community of Ocotillo, S2, ABDSP, Jacumba Wilderness and Coyote Mountains Wilderness.	**Interim**	**III**	To partially retain the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be [no greater than] moderate. Management activities may attract attention but should not dominate the view of the casual observer. Changes should repeat the basic elements found in the predominant natural features of the characteristic landscape.	**High** The Proposed Project would result in the introduction of visually prominent built structures into a landscape generally lacking similar built features of industrial or technological character. Although the SWPL line is faintly visible in the project area and will be joined in parallel by the Sunrise Powerlink Transmission Line, the lines will not appear as prominent as the Proposed Project turbines. Also, the turbines would cause partial view blockage of the background Coyote Mountains to the north and the Jacumba Mountains to the south. Substantial view blockage of the Yuha Desert basin floor would also occur. The resulting structural form and line contrast would be strong, the color contrast would be moderate-to-strong, and texture contrast would be moderate.	**Not Consistent** The high level of change would not meet the VRM Class II objective of a low degree of visual change. The new wind turbines with their prominent vertical structural forms and vertical (tower) to diagonal (blades) lines would not repeat the basic elements of the existing natural features in the landscape (simple, flat horizontal [basin floor] to horizontal and angular [Coyote Mountains] landform). Also, the proposed structures would be prominent to dominant features in the landscape, which would be accentuated by the skylining that would occur where structures protrude above the horizon, thus, attracting the attention of the casual observer.	**BEFORE:** **Significant (Class I)** **AFTER:** **Same**	**None Proposed**
KOP 6 **Anza-Borrego Desert State Park** **Red Hill** **Figures 4.18-7A / 7B**	View to the east-southeast from the crest of Red Hill in Anza-Borrego Desert State Park, approximately 2.1 miles northwest of the northwest corner of the project boundary.	**Class B** This view offers panoramic vista views and an overlook of the Yuha Desert basin that also encompasses the surrounding and visually interesting rugged Jacumba Mountains, Volcanic Hills, and Coyote Mountains, with the Sierra Cucapa Range in Mexico in the distant background. This area includes foreground to middleground rolling to angular hills, transitioning to a flat basin floor with sparse and low-growing shrubs of subdued color. The community of Ocotillo and the existing SWPL transmission line structures are only faintly visible and relatively indistinct to the casual observer. As a result, the landscape is primarily natural in appearance. This far western portion of the Yuha Desert imparts a greater sense of remoteness relative to basin areas further to the east, and the elevated perspective over the Yuha Desert adds additional visual interest. Also, this area is popular with backcountry enthusiasts traveling to the Volcanic Hills, Jacumba Mountains, and Carrizo Gorge area of ABDSP.	**High** Note: These lands are within the California Desert Conservation Area and are within the viewsheds of Interstate 8, the community of Ocotillo, S2, ABDSP, Jacumba Wilderness and Coyote Mountains Wilderness.	**Interim**	**III**	To partially retain the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be [no greater than] moderate. Management activities may attract attention but should not dominate the view of the casual observer. Changes should repeat the basic elements found in the predominant natural features of the characteristic landscape.	**High** The Proposed Project would result in the introduction of visually prominent built structures into a landscape generally lacking similar built features of industrial or technological character. Although the SWPL line is faintly visible in the project area and will be joined in parallel by the Sunrise Powerlink Transmission Line, the lines will not appear as prominent as the Proposed Project turbines. Also, the turbines would cause partial view blockage of the background Jacumba Mountains and substantial view blockage of the western portion of the Yuha Desert basin floor. The resulting structural form and line contrast would be strong, the color contrast would be moderate-to-strong, and the texture contrast would be moderate.	**Not Consistent** The high level of change would not meet the VRM Class II objective of a low degree of visual change. The new wind turbines with their prominent vertical structural forms and vertical (tower) to diagonal (blades) lines would not repeat the basic elements of the existing natural features in the landscape (simple, flat horizontal [basin floor] to rolling irregular [Volcanic Hills], and horizontal and angular [Coyote Mountains] landforms). Also, the proposed structures would be prominent to dominant features in the landscape, thus, attracting the attention of the casual observer.	**BEFORE:** **Significant (Class I)** **AFTER:** **Same**	**None Proposed**

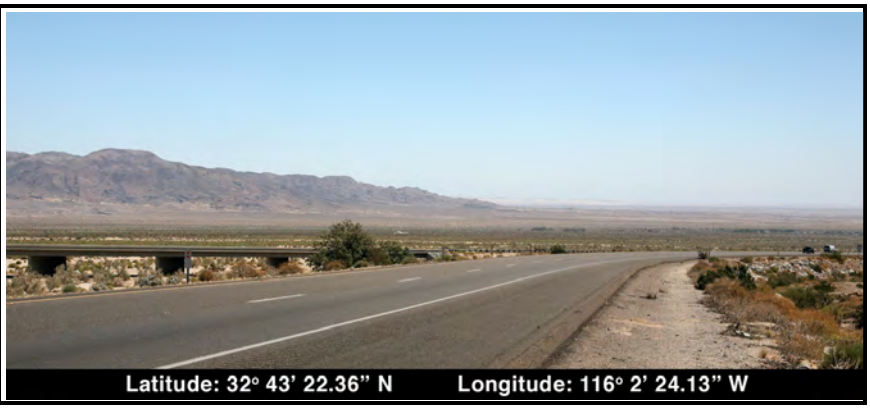
VIEWPOINT		BLM - EXISTING VISUAL SETTING					BLM - VISUAL CONTRAST ANALYSIS		IMPACT SIGNIFICANCE	
Key Observation Point (KOP)	Description	Scenic Quality Classification	Viewer Sensitivity	VRM Class			Level of Change (See Appendix VR-3 Contrast Rating Worksheets)	VRM Consistency	Before Mitigation / After Mitigation	Mitigation
				Status	Rating	Management Objective				
ALTERNATIVE 2 – 137 TURBINES										
KOP 6 **Anza-Borrego Desert State Park** **Red Hill** **Figures 4.18-7A / 7B**	View to the east-southeast from the crest of Red Hill in Anza-Borrego Desert State Park, approximately 2.1 miles northwest of the northwest corner of the project boundary.	**Class B** This view offers panoramic vista views and an overlook of the Yuha Desert basin that also encompasses the surrounding and visually interesting rugged Jacumba Mountains, Volcanic Hills, and Coyote Mountains, with the Sierra Cucapa Range in Mexico in the distant background. This area includes foreground to middleground rolling to angular hills, transitioning to a flat basin floor with sparse and low-growing shrubs of subdued color. The community of Ocotillo and the existing SWPL transmission line structures are only faintly visible and relatively indistinct to the casual observer. As a result, the landscape is primarily natural in appearance. This far western portion of the Yuha Desert imparts a greater sense of remoteness relative to basin areas further to the east, and the elevated perspective over the Yuha Desert adds additional visual interest. Also, this area is popular with backcountry enthusiasts traveling to the Volcanic Hills, Jacumba Mountains, and Carrizo Gorge area of ABDSP.	**High** Note: These lands are within the California Desert Conservation Area and are within the viewsheds of Interstate 8, the community of Ocotillo, S2, ABDSP, Jacumba Wilderness and Coyote Mountains Wilderness.	**Interim**	**III**	To partially retain the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be [no greater than] moderate. Management activities may attract attention but should not dominate the view of the casual observer. Changes should repeat the basic elements found in the predominant natural features of the characteristic landscape.	**High** Alternative 2 would result in the introduction of visually prominent built structures into a landscape generally lacking similar built features of industrial or technological character. Although the SWPL line is faintly visible in the project area and will be joined in parallel by the Sunrise Powerlink Transmission Line, the lines will not appear as prominent as the OWEF turbines of Alternative 2. Also, the turbines would cause partial view blockage of the background Jacumba Mountains to the south and substantial view blockage of the western portion of the Yuha Desert basin floor. The resulting structural form and line contrast would be strong, the color contrast would be moderate-to-strong, and the texture contrast would be moderate.	**Not Consistent** The high level of change would not meet the VRM Class II objective of a low degree of visual change. The new wind turbines with their prominent vertical structural forms and vertical (tower) to diagonal (blades) lines would not repeat the basic elements of the existing natural features in the landscape (simple, flat horizontal [basin floor] to rolling irregular [Volcanic Hills], and horizontal and angular [Coyote Mountains] landforms). Also, the proposed structures would be prominent to dominant features in the landscape, thus, attracting the attention of the casual observer.	**BEFORE:** **Significant (Class I)** **AFTER:** **Same**	**None Proposed**
ALTERNATIVE 3 – 105 TURBINES										
KOP 7 **County Road S2 in the Community of Ocotillo** **Figures 4.18-8A / 8B**	View to the northeast from S2 in the community of Ocotillo.	**Class C** This view encompasses a portion of the Yuha Desert, north of the community of Ocotillo. This area includes a foreground to middleground, flat desert landscape that supports a grass- and shrub-covered desert basin landform of subdued color. The basin floor is crossed by faintly visible utility towers with noticeable industrial character, which are soon to be paired up with the recently approved Sunrise Powerlink 500-kV transmission line. Although the rugged landforms of the Coyote Mountains to the north provide a partial backdrop of visual interest, the desert basin landscape is relatively non-descript and common to much of the Yuha Desert, and the overall scenic quality of the landscape is somewhat compromised by the presence of the steel-lattice utility structures with their industrial character.	**High** Note: These lands are within the California Desert Conservation Area and are within the viewsheds of Interstate 8, the community of Ocotillo, S2, Jacumba Wilderness and Coyote Mountains Wilderness.	**Interim**	**III**	To partially retain the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be [no greater than] moderate. Management activities may attract attention but should not dominate the view of the casual observer. Changes should repeat the basic elements found in the predominant natural features of the characteristic landscape.	**Moderate to High** Alternative 3 would result in the introduction of visually prominent built structures into a landscape generally lacking similar built features of industrial or technological character. Although the SWPL line is visible in the project area and will be joined in parallel by the Sunrise Powerlink Transmission Line, the lines will not appear as prominent as the Alternative 3 turbines. Also, the turbines would cause partial view blockage of the background Coyote Mountains and Yuha Desert basin floor. The resulting structural form, line, and color contrasts would be strong and the texture contrast would be moderate.	**Not Consistent** The high level of change would not meet the VRM Class III objective of a moderate (or lower) degree of visual change. The new wind turbines with their prominent vertical structural forms and vertical (tower) to diagonal (blades) lines would not repeat the basic elements of the existing natural features in the landscape (simple, flat horizontal [basin floor] to horizontal and angular [Coyote Mountains] landform). Also, the proposed structures would be prominent to dominant features in the landscape, which would be accentuated by the skylining that would occur where structures protrude above the horizon.	**BEFORE:** **Significant (Class I)** **AFTER:** **Same**	**None Proposed**

ALTERNATIVE 3 – 105 TURBINES (continued)										
VIEWPOINT		BLM - EXISTING VISUAL SETTING					BLM - VISUAL CONTRAST ANALYSIS		IMPACT SIGNIFICANCE	
Key Observation Point (KOP)	Description	Scenic Quality Classification	Viewer Sensitivity	VRM Class			Level of Change (See Appendix VR-3 Contrast Rating Worksheets)	VRM Consistency	Before Mitigation / After Mitigation	Mitigation
				Status	Rating	Management Objective				
KOP 8 **SR 98 (Yuha Cutoff) Southeast of Ocotillo** **Figures 4.18-9A / 9B**	View to the southwest from SR 98 at Mesquite Road, southeast of the community of Ocotillo.	**Class C** This view encompasses a portion of the Yuha Desert, south of the community of Ocotillo. This area includes a foreground to middleground, flat desert landscape that supports a grass- and shrub-covered desert basin landform of subdued color, punctuated by the linear, vertical forms of a wood pole utility line in close proximity to SR98. Also visible are several rural residences that are scattered throughout the landscape north and south of SR98. Although the rugged and visually interesting landforms of the Jacumba Mountains to the south and west provide a backdrop of visual interest, the desert basin landscape is relatively non-descript and common to much of the Yuha Desert.	**High** Note: These lands are within the California Desert Conservation Area and are within the viewsheds of Interstate 8, the community of Ocotillo, S2, Jacumba Wilderness and Coyote Mountains Wilderness.	**Interim**	**III**	To partially retain the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be [no greater than] moderate. Management activities may attract attention but should not dominate the view of the casual observer. Changes should repeat the basic elements found in the predominant natural features of the characteristic landscape.	**High** Alternative 3 would result in the introduction of visually prominent built structures into a landscape generally lacking similar built features of industrial or technological character. Although the landscape is punctuated by the occasional rural residence and a wood-pole utility line, these features do not appear as prominent as the OWEF Alternative 3 turbines would appear. Also, the turbines would cause partial view blockage of the background Jacumba Mountains. The resulting structural form, line, and color contrast would be strong and the texture contrast would be moderate.	**Not Consistent** The high level of change would not meet the VRM Class III objective of a moderate (or lower) degree of visual change. The new wind turbines with their prominent vertical structural forms and vertical (tower) to diagonal (blades) lines would not repeat the basic elements of the existing natural features in the landscape (simple, flat horizontal [basin floor] to horizontal and angular [Jacumba Mountains] landform). Also, the proposed structures would be prominent to dominant features in the landscape, which would be accentuated by the skylining that would occur where structures protrude above the horizon.	**BEFORE:** **Significant (Class I)** **AFTER:** **Same**	**None Proposed**

Visual Contrast Rating Data Sheet

Ocotillo Wind Energy Facility EIS/EIR

KEY OBSERVATION POINT DESCRIPTION

Key Observation Point **1**	 Latitude: 32° 43' 22.36" N Longitude: 116° 2' 24.13" W
Location Eastbound Interstate 8, at the I-8 split at the base of Mountain Springs Grade, viewing to the north-northeast.	
VRM Class **III**	
Analyst Michael Clayton	
Date May 22, 2010	

CHARACTERISTIC LANDSCAPE DESCRIPTION

	LANDFORM / WATER	VEGETATION	STRUCTURES
Form	Flat, horizontal	Patchy to continuous at distance	Linear and geometric
Line	Horizontal (basin floor) to diagonal and irregular (Coyote Mountains)	Irregular to distinct horizontal as defined by the basin floor	Vertical, horizontal, and curvilinear for I-8 and road supports
Color	Light to dark tans	Grasses: tans to pale yellow; Shrubs: muted greens, tans, and reddish hues	Gray
Texture	Smooth to granular	Matte	Smooth to granular

PROPOSED ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION

	LANDFORM / WATER	VEGETATION	STRUCTURES
Form	Same	Same	Linear and geometric
Line	Same	Irregular to distinct horizontal as defined by the basin floor and access roads	Prominent vertical for supports and horizontal, vertical and diagonal for blades
Color	Same	Same	White to light gray
Texture	Same	Same	Smooth

DEGREE OF CONTRAST

	LANDFORM / WATER				VEGETATION				STRUCTURES			
	NONE	WEAK	MODERATE	STRONG	NONE	WEAK	MODERATE	STRONG	NONE	WEAK	MODERATE	STRONG
Form	✔				✔							✔
Line	✔					✔						✔
Color	✔				✔						✔	
Texture	✔				✔						✔	

LEVEL OF CHANGE & VRM CLASS CONSISTENCY

Term: ☐ **Short** ☒ **Long** | **Level of Change:** ☐ **Very Low** ☐ **Low** ☒ **Moderate** ☒ **High**

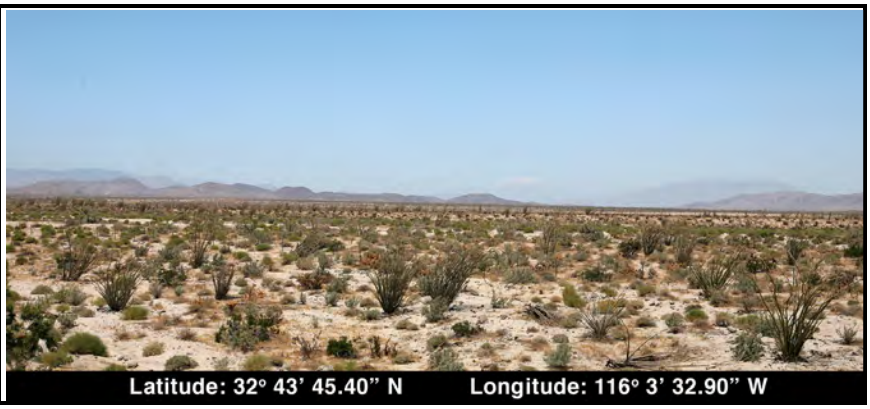
Does the Project Design Meet VRM Objectives? ☐ **Yes** ☒ **No**

Michael Clayton & Associates

Visual Contrast Rating Data Sheet

Ocotillo Wind Energy Facility EIS/EIR

KEY OBSERVATION POINT DESCRIPTION

Key Observation Point 2	
Location Westbound Interstate 8, west of the I-8 split at the base of Mountain Springs Grade, viewing to the northwest.	
VRM Class III	
Analyst Michael Clayton	
Date May 22, 2010	

Latitude: 32° 43' 45.40" N Longitude: 116° 3' 32.90" W

CHARACTERISTIC LANDSCAPE DESCRIPTION

	LANDFORM / WATER	VEGETATION	STRUCTURES
Form	Flat, horizontal	Patchy and irregular to continuous at distance	None apparent
Line	Horizontal (basin floor) to diagonal and irregular (Vulcan Hills & Coyote Mtns.)	Irregular to distinct horizontal as defined by the basin floor	None apparent
Color	Light to dark tans	Grasses: tans to pale yellow; Shrubs: greens, tans, and reddish hues	None apparent
Texture	Smooth to granular	Matte	None apparent

PROPOSED ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION

	LANDFORM / WATER	VEGETATION	STRUCTURES
Form	Same	Same	Linear and geometric
Line	Same	Irregular to distinct horizontal as defined by the basin floor and access roads	Prominent vertical for supports and horizontal, vertical and diagonal for blades
Color	Same	Same	White to light gray
Texture	Same	Same	Smooth

DEGREE OF CONTRAST

	LANDFORM / WATER				VEGETATION				STRUCTURES			
	NONE	WEAK	MODERATE	STRONG	NONE	WEAK	MODERATE	STRONG	NONE	WEAK	MODERATE	STRONG
Form	✔				✔							✔
Line	✔					✔						✔
Color	✔				✔						✔	✔
Texture	✔				✔						✔	

LEVEL OF CHANGE & VRM CLASS CONSISTENCY

Term: ☐ Short ☒ Long | **Level of Change:** ☐ Very Low ☐ Low ☐ Moderate ☒ High

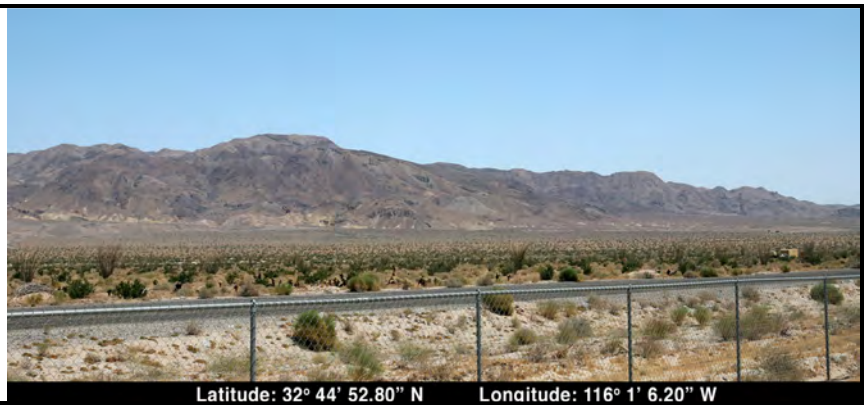
Does the Project Design Meet VRM Objectives? ☐ Yes ☒ No

Michael Clayton & Associates

Visual Contrast Rating Data Sheet

Ocotillo Wind Energy Facility EIS/EIR

KEY OBSERVATION POINT DESCRIPTION

Key Observation Point **3**	 Latitude: 32° 44' 52.80" N Longitude: 116° 1' 6.20" W
Location Ocotillo Community Park, viewing to the north.	
VRM Class **III**	
Analyst Michael Clayton	
Date May 22, 2010	

CHARACTERISTIC LANDSCAPE DESCRIPTION

	LANDFORM / WATER	VEGETATION	STRUCTURES
Form	Flat, horizontal to angular	Patchy to continuous at distance	Linear and geometric though indistinct
Line	Horizontal (basin floor) to diagonal and irregular (Coyote Mountains)	Irregular to distinct horizontal as defined by the basin floor	Faintly vertical
Color	Light to dark tans	Grasses: tans to pale yellow; Shrubs: muted greens, tans, and reddish hues	Gray
Texture	Smooth to granular	Matte	Smooth

PROPOSED ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION

	LANDFORM / WATER	VEGETATION	STRUCTURES
Form	Same	Same	Linear and geometric
Line	Same	Irregular to distinct horizontal as defined by the basin floor and access roads	Prominent vertical for supports and horizontal, vertical and diagonal for blades
Color	Same	Same	White to light gray
Texture	Same	Same	Smooth

DEGREE OF CONTRAST

	LANDFORM / WATER				VEGETATION				STRUCTURES			
	NONE	WEAK	MODERATE	STRONG	NONE	WEAK	MODERATE	STRONG	NONE	WEAK	MODERATE	STRONG
Form	✔				✔							✔
Line	✔					✔						✔
Color	✔				✔							✔
Texture	✔				✔						✔	

LEVEL OF CHANGE & VRM CLASS CONSISTENCY

Term: ☐ **Short** ☒ **Long** | **Level of Change:** ☐ **Very Low** ☐ **Low** ☐ **Moderate** ☒ **High**

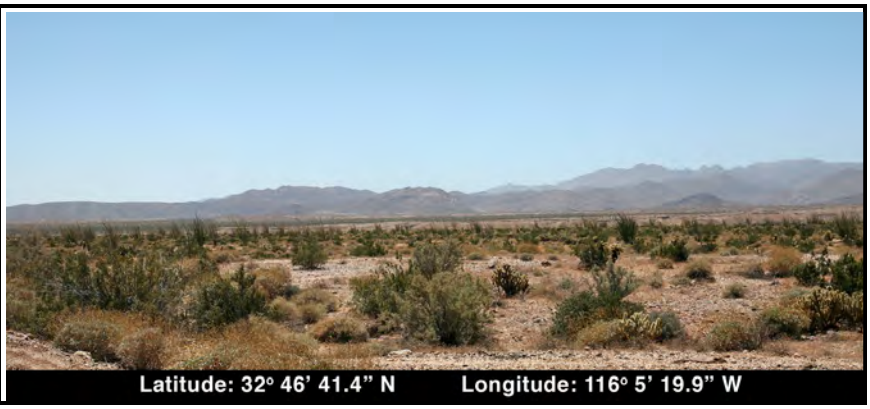
Does the Project Design Meet VRM Objectives? ☐ **Yes** ☒ **No**

Michael Clayton & Associates

Visual Contrast Rating Data Sheet

Ocotillo Wind Energy Facility EIS/EIR

KEY OBSERVATION POINT DESCRIPTION

Key Observation Point **4**	 Latitude: 32° 46' 41.4" N Longitude: 116° 5' 19.9" W
Location Southbound County Road S2, near the northwest corner of the project area, viewing to the south-southeast.	
VRM Class **III**	
Analyst Michael Clayton	
Date May 22, 2010	

CHARACTERISTIC LANDSCAPE DESCRIPTION

	LANDFORM / WATER	VEGETATION	STRUCTURES
Form	Flat, horizontal	Patchy and irregular to continuous	None apparent
Line	Horizontal (basin floor) to diagonal and irregular (Jacumba Mountains)	Irregular to distinct horizontal as defined by the basin floor	None apparent
Color	Light to dark tans to bluish hues at distance	Grasses: tans to pale yellow; Shrubs: greens, tans, and reddish hues	None apparent
Texture	Smooth to granular	Matte	None apparent

PROPOSED ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION

	LANDFORM / WATER	VEGETATION	STRUCTURES
Form	Same	Same	Linear and geometric
Line	Same	Irregular to distinct horizontal as defined by the basin floor and access roads	Prominent vertical for supports and horizontal, vertical and diagonal for blades
Color	Same	Same	White to light gray
Texture	Same	Same	Smooth

DEGREE OF CONTRAST

	LANDFORM / WATER				VEGETATION				STRUCTURES			
	NONE	WEAK	MODERATE	STRONG	NONE	WEAK	MODERATE	STRONG	NONE	WEAK	MODERATE	STRONG
Form	✔				✔							✔
Line	✔					✔						✔
Color	✔				✔						✔	✔
Texture	✔				✔						✔	

LEVEL OF CHANGE & VRM CLASS CONSISTENCY

Term: ☐ **Short** ☒ **Long** | **Level of Change:** ☐ **Very Low** ☐ **Low** ☐ **Moderate** ☒ **High**

Does the Project Design Meet VRM Objectives? ☐ **Yes** ☒ **No**

Michael Clayton & Associates

Visual Contrast Rating Data Sheet

Ocotillo Wind Energy Facility EIS/EIR

KEY OBSERVATION POINT DESCRIPTION

Key Observation Point **5**	
Location Access road to Mortero Palms and Dos Cabezas Primitive Camping Area in Anza-Borrego Desert State Park	
VRM Class **II**	
Analyst Michael Clayton	
Date August 27, 2011	

CHARACTERISTIC LANDSCAPE DESCRIPTION

	LANDFORM / WATER	VEGETATION	STRUCTURES
Form	Flat, horizontal	Patchy and irregular to continuous at distance	Linear and geometric though indistinct
Line	Horizontal (basin floor) to diagonal and irregular (Coyote Mountains)	Irregular to distinct horizontal as defined by the basin floor and vertical for ocotillo	Faintly vertical
Color	Light to dark tans	Grasses: tans to pale yellow; Shrubs: greens, tans, and reddish hues	Gray
Texture	Smooth to granular	Matte	Smooth

PROPOSED ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION

	LANDFORM / WATER	VEGETATION	STRUCTURES
Form	Same	Same	Linear and geometric
Line	Same	Irregular to distinct horizontal as defined by the basin floor and access roads	Prominent vertical for supports and horizontal, vertical and diagonal for blades
Color	Same	Same	White to light gray
Texture	Same	Same	Smooth

DEGREE OF CONTRAST

	LANDFORM / WATER				VEGETATION				STRUCTURES			
	NONE	WEAK	MODERATE	STRONG	NONE	WEAK	MODERATE	STRONG	NONE	WEAK	MODERATE	STRONG
Form	✔				✔							✔
Line	✔					✔						✔
Color	✔				✔						✔	✔
Texture	✔				✔						✔	

LEVEL OF CHANGE & VRM CLASS CONSISTENCY

Term: ☐ **Short** ☒ **Long** | **Level of Change:** ☐ **Very Low** ☐ **Low** ☐ **Moderate** ☒ **High**

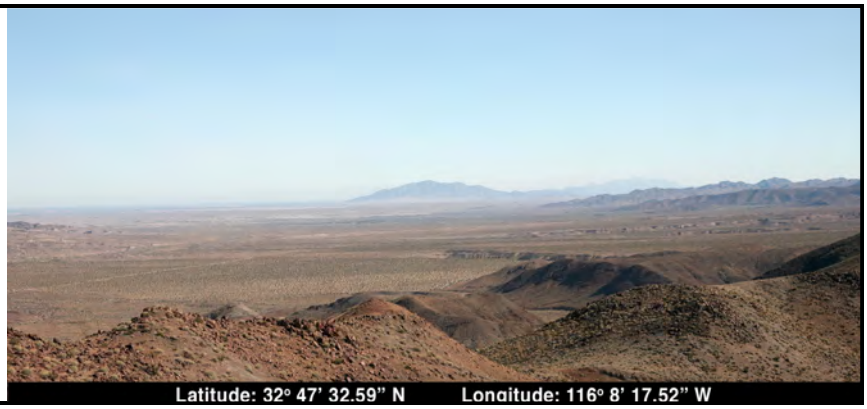
Does the Project Design Meet VRM Objectives? ☐ **Yes** ☒ **No**

Michael Clayton & Associates

Visual Contrast Rating Data Sheet

Ocotillo Wind Energy Facility EIS/EIR

KEY OBSERVATION POINT DESCRIPTION

Key Observation Point 6	
Location Red Hill in the Volcanic Hills region of Anza-Borrego Desert State Park	
VRM Class II	
Analyst Michael Clayton	
Date August 27, 2011	

CHARACTERISTIC LANDSCAPE DESCRIPTION

	LANDFORM / WATER	VEGETATION	STRUCTURES
Form	Rolling and irregular to flat horizontal	Patchy and irregular to continuous at distance	Indistinct
Line	Rolling to diagonal and irregular (hills and mountains), horizontal (basin floor)	Irregular (foreground) to subtle horizontal as defined by the basin floor	Indistinct
Color	Light to dark tans and reddish hues	Grasses: tans to pale yellow; Shrubs: muted greens, tans	Indistinct
Texture	Smooth to granular	Matte	Indistinct

PROPOSED ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION

	LANDFORM / WATER	VEGETATION	STRUCTURES
Form	Same	Same	Linear and geometric
Line	Same	Irregular (hills/mtns.) to subtle/distinct horizontal (basin floor/access roads)	Prominent vertical for supports and horizontal, vertical and diagonal for blades
Color	Same	Same	White to light gray
Texture	Same	Same	Smooth

DEGREE OF CONTRAST

	LANDFORM / WATER				VEGETATION				STRUCTURES			
	NONE	WEAK	MODERATE	STRONG	NONE	WEAK	MODERATE	STRONG	NONE	WEAK	MODERATE	STRONG
Form	✔				✔							✔
Line	✔					✔						✔
Color	✔				✔						✔	✔
Texture	✔				✔						✔	

LEVEL OF CHANGE & VRM CLASS CONSISTENCY

Term: ☐ Short ☒ Long | **Level of Change:** ☐ Very Low ☐ Low ☐ Moderate ☒ High

Does the Project Design Meet VRM Objectives? ☐ Yes ☒ No

Michael Clayton & Associates

Visual Contrast Rating Data Sheet

Ocotillo Wind Energy Facility EIS/EIR

KEY OBSERVATION POINT DESCRIPTION

Key Observation Point **7**	 Latitude: 32° 44' 50.04" N Longitude: 115° 59' 46.65" W
Location S2 in the community of Ocotillo, viewing toward the northeast portion of Site 1.	
VRM Class **III**	
Analyst Michael Clayton	
Date June 6, 2011	

CHARACTERISTIC LANDSCAPE DESCRIPTION

	LANDFORM / WATER	VEGETATION	STRUCTURES
Form	Flat, horizontal to angular	Patchy to continuous at distance	Linear and geometric though indistinct
Line	Horizontal (basin floor) to diagonal and irregular (Coyote Mountains)	Irregular to distinct horizontal as defined by the basin floor	Faintly vertical
Color	Light to dark tans	Grasses: tans to pale yellow; Shrubs: muted greens, tans, and reddish hues	Gray
Texture	Smooth to granular	Matte	Smooth

PROPOSED ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION

	LANDFORM / WATER	VEGETATION	STRUCTURES
Form	Same	Same	Linear and geometric
Line	Same	Irregular to distinct horizontal as defined by the basin floor and access roads	Prominent vertical for supports and horizontal, vertical and diagonal for blades
Color	Same	Same	White to light gray
Texture	Same	Same	Smooth

DEGREE OF CONTRAST

	LANDFORM / WATER				VEGETATION				STRUCTURES			
	NONE	WEAK	MODERATE	STRONG	NONE	WEAK	MODERATE	STRONG	NONE	WEAK	MODERATE	STRONG
Form	✔				✔							✔
Line	✔					✔						✔
Color	✔				✔							✔
Texture	✔				✔						✔	

LEVEL OF CHANGE & VRM CLASS CONSISTENCY

Term: ☐ **Short** ☒ **Long** | **Level of Change:** ☐ **Very Low** ☐ **Low** ☐ **Moderate** ☒ **High**

Does the Project Design Meet VRM Objectives? ☐ **Yes** ☒ **No**

Michael Clayton & Associates

Visual Contrast Rating Data Sheet

Ocotillo Wind Energy Facility EIS/EIR

KEY OBSERVATION POINT DESCRIPTION

Key Observation Point 8	
Location SR98 at Mesquite Road, near Nomirage, southeast of Ocotillo, and viewing to the southwest.	
VRM Class III	
Analyst Michael Clayton	
Date June 6, 2011	

Latitude: 32° 43' 21.7" N Longitude: 115° 58' 7.2" W

CHARACTERISTIC LANDSCAPE DESCRIPTION

	LANDFORM / WATER	VEGETATION	STRUCTURES
Form	Flat, horizontal to angular	Patchy to continuous at distance	Linear and geometric though indistinct
Line	Horizontal (basin floor) to diagonal and irregular (Coyote Mountains)	Irregular to distinct horizontal as defined by the basin floor	Faintly vertical
Color	Light to dark tans	Grasses: tans to pale yellow; Shrubs: muted greens, tans, and reddish hues	Gray
Texture	Smooth to granular	Matte	Smooth

PROPOSED ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION

	LANDFORM / WATER	VEGETATION	STRUCTURES
Form	Same	Same	Linear and geometric
Line	Same	Irregular to distinct horizontal as defined by the basin floor and access roads	Prominent vertical for supports and horizontal, vertical and diagonal for blades
Color	Same	Same	White to light gray
Texture	Same	Same	Smooth

DEGREE OF CONTRAST

	LANDFORM / WATER				VEGETATION				STRUCTURES			
	NONE	WEAK	MODERATE	STRONG	NONE	WEAK	MODERATE	STRONG	NONE	WEAK	MODERATE	STRONG
Form	✔				✔							✔
Line	✔					✔						✔
Color	✔				✔							✔
Texture	✔				✔						✔	

LEVEL OF CHANGE & VRM CLASS CONSISTENCY

Term: ☐ Short ☒ Long | **Level of Change:** ☐ Very Low ☐ Low ☐ Moderate ☒ High

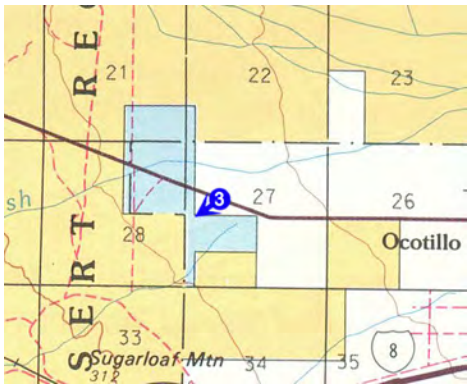
Does the Project Design Meet VRM Objectives? ☐ Yes ☒ No

Michael Clayton & Associates

United States Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management

Yuha Desert / West Mesa
Scenic Quality Field Inventory

Date	8/12/06
District	California Desert
Field Office	El Centro
Scenic Quality Rating Unit	**01**
Viewpoint	**3 : County Road S2**
Evaluator(s)	Michael Clayton



See Viewpoint 3 Image

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER

	LANDFORM / WATER	VEGETATION	STRUCTURES
Form	Flat basin floor, backdropped by the rugged, angular Jacumba Mountains.	Irregular distribution of low growing grasses and shrubs transition to an indistinct and more uniform distribution at distance.	Linear and complex for the transmission line towers.
Line	Horizontal for basin floor.	Irregular for individual foreground shrubs and clumps of grass. Horizontal for more distant vegetation defined by basin floor	Vertical, horizontal, and diagonal for lattice structures, curvilinear for the conductors.
Color	Gray to light-tan soils in the foreground.	Tan grasses with tan to brown and pale green shrubs.	Gray.
Texture	Soils appear smooth to granular.	Medium grain to matte.	Smooth.

Narrative: SQRU 01 encompasses a portion of the Yuha Desert that generally follows existing transmission line and transportation corridors from the U.S.-Mexico border north to Plaster City and then west to just west of Ocotillo. See Maps 1 and 2 for the complete boundaries of SQRU 01. Viewpoint 3 is representative of views within the western portion of SQRU 01 in closer proximity to the Jacumba Mountains. This view encompasses a foreground to middleground flat desert landscape with irregular to consistent distributions of grass and low-growing shrubs of subdued color. Utility infrastructure is prominent with complex structural forms and industrial character. Though the Jacumba Mountains in the background provide a backdrop of visual interest (not part of this unit), SQRU 01 is primarily influenced by the flat basin landform and the prominent utility infrastructure.

Score

	High	Medium	Low	Explanation or Rationale
a. Landform			2	Yuha Basin floor
b. Vegetation			2	
c. Water			0	
d. Color		2		
e. Adjacent Scenery		3		Jacumba Mountains
f. Scarcity			2	Extensive basin floor though closer proximity to mountains
g. Cultural Modifications	0		-4	Prominent utility infrastructure
TOTALS	0	5	2	**7**

SCENIC QUALITY CLASSIFICATION

- ☐ A 19 or more
- ☐ B 12 - 18
- ☒ C 11 or less

United States Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management

Yuha Desert / West Mesa
Scenic Quality Field Inventory

Date	8/14/06
District	California Desert
Field Office	El Centro
Scenic Quality Rating Unit	**04**
Viewpoint	**6 : Jacumba Wild. - North**
Evaluator(s)	Michael Clayton

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER

	LANDFORM / WATER	VEGETATION	STRUCTURES
Form	Flat basin floor, backdropped by the angular and irregular forms of the Jacumba Wilderness (not part of the unit).	Sparse and irregular distribution of low growing grasses and shrubs transitions to a more uniform distribution at distance.	None
Line	Horizontal for the basin floor.	Irregular for individual foreground shrubs and clumps of grass.	None
Color	Light tan soils.	Tan to brown grasses with tanish-gray to muted green shrubs.	None.
Texture	Soils in the immediate foreground appear smooth to granular.	Medium grain to matte.	None

Narrative: SQRU 04 encompasses a small portion of the Yuha Desert that is located in close proximity to the Jacumba Wilderness. See Maps 1 and 2 for the complete boundaries of SQRU 04. Viewpoint 6 is representative of the views within SQRU 04, encompassing a foreground to middleground flat desert landscape with sparse grass and low-growing shrubs of subdued color, backdropped by the rugged and visually interesting landforms of the adjacent Jacumba Wilderness (not part of this unit).

Score

	High	Medium	Low	Explanation or Rationale
a. Landform			1	Yuha Basin floor
b. Vegetation			1	
c. Water			0	
d. Color		2		
e. Adjacent Scenery	4			Jacumba Wilderness
f. Scarcity		3		Close proximity to mountains with no intrusion by built features
g. Cultural Modifications			0	None Visible
TOTALS	4	5	2	**11**

SCENIC QUALITY CLASSIFICATION

- ☐ A 19 or more
- ☐ B 12 - 18
- ☒ C 11 or less

United States Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management

Yuha Desert / West Mesa
Scenic Quality Field Inventory

Date 11/8/06		 See Viewpoint 7 Image
District California Desert		
Field Office El Centro		
Scenic Quality Rating Unit **05**		
Viewpoint **7 : SR 98, Yuha Desert**		
Evaluator(s) Michael Clayton		

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER

	LANDFORM / WATER	VEGETATION	STRUCTURES
Form	Flat basin floor, backdropped by the angular and irregular forms of the Coyote Mountains (not part of the unit).	Sparse and irregular distribution of low growing grasses and shrubs transitions to a more uniform distribution at distance.	Linear and complex for communication tower.
Line	Horizontal for the basin floor.	Irregular for individual foreground shrubs and clumps of grass.	Vertical and diagonal for tower components.
Color	Light tan soils.	Tan to brown grasses with tanish-gray to muted green shrubs.	Gray.
Texture	Soils in the immediate foreground appear smooth to granular.	Medium grain to matte.	Smooth

Narrative: SQRU 05 encompasses a small portion of the Yuha Desert in the vicinity of Coyote Wells that is bordered by I-8 on the north and SR 98 on the south. See the VRM Map for the complete boundaries of SQRU 05. Viewpoint 7 is representative of the views within SQRU 05, encompassing a foreground to middleground flat desert landscape with sparse grass and low-growing shrubs of subdued color, bisected by an existing rail line and punctuated by vertical communication towers. The unit is backdropped by the Coyote Mountains (not part of this unit) and vertical forms of the SWPL transmission line on the horizon (also not part of this unit).

Score

	High	Medium	Low	Explanation or Rationale
a. Landform			1	Yuha Basin floor
b. Vegetation			1	
c. Water			0	
d. Color		2		
e. Adjacent Scenery			1	Basin floor, transportation corridor
f. Scarcity			1	Extensive basin floor
g. Cultural Modifications			-1	Communication towers, rail line
TOTALS	0	2	3	**5**

SCENIC QUALITY CLASSIFICATION

- ☐ A 19 or more
- ☐ B 12 - 18
- ☒ C 11 or less

United States Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management

Yuha Desert / West Mesa
Scenic Quality Field Inventory

Date 8/14/06		 See Viewpoint 9 Image
District California Desert		
Field Office El Centro		
Scenic Quality Rating Unit **07**		
Viewpoint **9 : County Road S2**		
Evaluator(s) Michael Clayton		

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER

	LANDFORM / WATER	VEGETATION	STRUCTURES
Form	Flat basin floor, backdropped by the horizontal to angular form of the Coyote Mountains (not part of the unit).	Irregular distribution of low growing grasses and shrubs transitions to a more uniform distribution at distance.	None
Line	Horizontal for the basin floor.	Irregular for individual foreground shrubs and clumps of grass. Horizontal as demarcated by basin floor.	None
Color	Light tan soils with tan to gray rocks	Tan to brown grasses with tan to gray and muted green for shrubs.	None.
Texture	Soils in the immediate foreground appear smooth to granular.	Medium grain to matte.	None

Narrative: SQRU 07 encompasses the western portion of the Yuha Desert west of Ocotillo and extending to the San Diego/Imperial County line. See Map 2 for the complete boundaries of SQRU 07. Viewpoint 9 is representative of views within SQRU 07, encompassing a foreground to middleground flat desert landscape with grass and low-growing shrubs of subdued color. Though the rugged and visually interesting landforms of the adjacent Coyote Mountains provide a backdrop of visual interest, they are not part of this unit.

Score

	High	Medium	Low	Explanation or Rationale
a. Landform			1	Yuha desert floor
b. Vegetation			1	
c. Water			0	
d. Color			1	
e. Adjacent Scenery		3		Coyote Mountains
f. Scarcity		3		Close proximity to mountains with no intrusion by built features
g. Cultural Modifications			0	None Visible
TOTALS	0	6	3	**9**

SCENIC QUALITY CLASSIFICATION

- ☐ A 19 or more
- ☐ B 12 - 18
- ☒ C 11 or less

United States Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management

Anza-Borrego – Western Yuha Desert
Scenic Quality Field Inventory

Date 8/27/11	
District California Desert	
Field Office El Centro	
Scenic Quality Rating Unit **ABDSP**	
Viewpoint **5 : Mortero Palms Access**	
Evaluator(s) Michael Clayton	

ABDSP - Mortero Palms Latitude: 32° 44' 3.07" N Longitude: 116° 7' 13.10" W

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER

	LANDFORM / WATER	VEGETATION	STRUCTURES
Form	Flat basin floor, backdropped by the angular and irregular forms of the Coyote Mountains (north) and Jacumba Mountains (south).	Sparse and irregular distribution of low growing grasses and shrubs punctuated by distinctive vertical forms of ocotillo.	Faint vertical forms of transmission structures.
Line	Horizontal for the basin floor.	Irregular for individual foreground shrubs and clumps of grass.	Faint vertical.
Color	Light tan soils.	Tan to brown grasses with tanish-gray to muted green shrubs.	Light gray to indistinct.
Texture	Soils in the immediate foreground appear smooth to granular.	Medium grain to matte.	Matte to indistinct.

Narrative: The ABDSP unit encompasses the western portion of the Yuha Desert that is located at the foot of the Jacumba Mountains. Viewpoint 5 is representative of the basin floor views within the ABDSP unit, encompassing a foreground to middleground flat desert landscape with sparse grass and low-growing shrubs of subdued color, punctuated by the distinctive vertical forms of ocotillo. This far western portion of the Yuha Desert, which is backdropped by the rugged and visually interesting landforms of the adjacent Coyote Mountains and Jacumba Mountains, imparts a greater sense of remoteness.

Score

	High	Medium	Low	Explanation or Rationale
a. Landform		2		Flat Basin floor to rolling foothills
b. Vegetation		2		Greater vegetative complexity
c. Water			0	
d. Color		2		
e. Adjacent Scenery	4			Coyote and Jacumba Mountains
f. Scarcity		3		Close proximity to mountains, greater remoteness
g. Cultural Modifications			-1	Very faint transmission towers
TOTALS	4	9	-1	**12**

SCENIC QUALITY CLASSIFICATION

- ☐ A 19 or more
- ☒ B 12 - 18
- ☐ C 11 or less

United States Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management

Anza-Borrego – Western Yuha Desert
Scenic Quality Field Inventory

Date 8/27/11	
District California Desert	
Field Office El Centro	
Scenic Quality Rating Unit **ABDSP**	
Viewpoint **6 : Red Hill**	
Evaluator(s) Michael Clayton	

ABDSP - Red Hill Latitude: 32° 47' 32.59" N Longitude: 116° 8' 17.52" W

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER

	LANDFORM / WATER	VEGETATION	STRUCTURES
Form	Rolling to angular foothills transitioning to flat basin floor, backdropped by the rugged and irregular forms of the Jacumba and Coyote Mountains.	Very sparse and irregular distribution of low growing grasses and shrubs transitions to a more uniform distribution at distance.	Faint structural forms of the community of Ocotillo at distance (approximately nine miles).
Line	Curvilinear to irregular for hills, horizontal for the basin floor.	Irregular for individual foreground shrubs and clumps of grass to linear demarcations at distance.	Indistinct
Color	Light tan to reddish soils and rocks.	Tan to brown grasses with tanish-gray to muted green shrubs.	Indistinct.
Texture	Granular to matte foreground soils and rocks to smooth soil appearance at distance.	Medium grain to matte.	Indistinct.

Narrative: The ABDSP unit encompasses the western portion of the Yuha Desert and Volcanic Hills located at the foot of the Jacumba Mountains. Viewpoint 6 is representative of the elevated hill-top views within the ABDSP unit, encompassing a foreground to middleground landscape of rolling to angular hills, transitioning to a flat basin floor with sparse grass and low-growing shrubs of subdued color. This far western portion of the Yuha Desert, which is backdropped by and immediately adjacent to the rugged and visually interesting Coyote Mountains and Jacumba Mountains, imparts a greater sense of remoteness. The elevated perspective over the Yuha Desert adds additional visual interest.

Score

	High	Medium	Low	Explanation or Rationale
a. Landform		3		Volcanic Hills and Yuha Desert
b. Vegetation			1	
c. Water			0	
d. Color		2		Tan to reddish soils and rocks
e. Adjacent Scenery	4			Volcanic Hills and Jacumba Mountains
f. Scarcity	4			Elevated perspective
g. Cultural Modifications			0	Indistinct
TOTALS	8	5	1	**14**

SCENIC QUALITY CLASSIFICATION

- ☐ A 19 or more
- ☒ B 12 - 18
- ☐ C 11 or less

United States Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management

Visual Resource Management (VRM) Classification

Date August 27, 2011		**Evaluator(s)** Michael Clayton
District California Desert		**Field Office** El Centro
Scenic Quality Rating Unit (SQRU) ABDSP	**Viewpoint** 5: Mortero Palms Access	**VRM Class** **III**

		Visual Sensitivity Levels						
		High			**Medium**			**Low**
Special Areas		I	I	I	I	I	I	I
Scenic Quality	A	II	II	II	II	II	II	II
	B	**II**	III	III* IV*	III	IV	IV	IV
	C		IV	IV	IV	IV	IV	IV
		f/m	**b**	**s/s**	**f/m**	**b**	**s/s**	**s/s**
		Distance Zones						

* Note: If adjacent area is Class III or lower, assign Class III, if higher assign Class IV

Basis for Determining Visual Resource Inventory Classes

Class I. Class I is assigned to all special areas where the current management situations require maintaining a natural environment essentially unaltered by man.

Classes II, III, and IV. These classes are assigned based on combinations of scenic quality, sensitivity levels, and distance zones as shown in the matrix above.

United States Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management

Visual Resource Management (VRM) Classification

Date August 27, 2011		**Evaluator(s)** Michael Clayton
District California Desert		**Field Office** El Centro
Scenic Quality Rating Unit (SQRU) ABDSP	**Viewpoint** 6: Red Hill	**VRM Class** **III**

		Visual Sensitivity Levels						
		High			**Medium**			**Low**
Special Areas		I	I	I	I	I	I	I
Scenic Quality	A	II	II	II	II	II	II	II
	B	**II**	III	III* IV*	III	IV	IV	IV
	C		IV	IV	IV	IV	IV	IV
		f/m	**b**	**s/s**	**f/m**	**b**	**s/s**	**s/s**
		Distance Zones						

* Note: If adjacent area is Class III or lower, assign Class III, if higher assign Class IV

Basis for Determining Visual Resource Inventory Classes

Class I. Class I is assigned to all special areas where the current management situations require maintaining a natural environment essentially unaltered by man.

Classes II, III, and IV. These classes are assigned based on combinations of scenic quality, sensitivity levels, and distance zones as shown in the matrix above.

United States Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management

Visual Resource Management (VRM) Classification

Date August 12, 2006		**Evaluator(s)** Michael Clayton
District California Desert		**Field Office** El Centro
Scenic Quality Rating Unit (SQRU) 01	**Viewpoint** 2 : Plaster City West	**VRM Class** **III**

		Visual Sensitivity Levels						
		High			**Medium**			**Low**
Special Areas		I	I	I	I	I	I	I
Scenic Quality	A	II	II	II	II	II	II	II
	B	II	III	III* IV*	III	IV	IV	IV
	C	**III**	IV	IV	IV	IV	IV	IV
		f/m	**b**	**s/s**	**f/m**	**b**	**s/s**	**s/s**
		Distance Zones						

* Note: If adjacent area is Class III or lower, assign Class III, if higher assign Class IV

Basis for Determining Visual Resource Inventory Classes

Class I. Class I is assigned to all special areas where the current management situations require maintaining a natural environment essentially unaltered by man.

Classes II, III, and IV. These classes are assigned based on combinations of scenic quality, sensitivity levels, and distance zones as shown in the matrix above.

United States Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management

Visual Resource Management (VRM) Classification

Date August 12, 2006		**Evaluator(s)** Michael Clayton
District California Desert		**Field Office** El Centro
Scenic Quality Rating Unit (SQRU) 01	**Viewpoint** 3 : County Road S2	**VRM Class** **III**

		Visual Sensitivity Levels						
		High			**Medium**			**Low**
Special Areas		I	I	I	I	I	I	I
Scenic Quality	A	II	II	II	II	II	II	II
	B	II	III	III* IV*	III	IV	IV	IV
	C	**III**	IV	IV	IV	IV	IV	IV
		f/m	**b**	**s/s**	**f/m**	**b**	**s/s**	**s/s**
		Distance Zones						

* Note: If adjacent area is Class III or lower, assign Class III, if higher assign Class IV

Basis for Determining Visual Resource Inventory Classes

Class I. Class I is assigned to all special areas where the current management situations require maintaining a natural environment essentially unaltered by man.

Classes II, III, and IV. These classes are assigned based on combinations of scenic quality, sensitivity levels, and distance zones as shown in the matrix above.

United States Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management

Visual Resource Management (VRM) Classification

Date August 14, 2006		**Evaluator(s)** Michael Clayton
District California Desert		**Field Office** El Centro
Scenic Quality Rating Unit (SQRU) 04	**Viewpoint** 6: Jacumba Wilderness-North	**VRM Class** **III**

		Visual Sensitivity Levels						
		High			**Medium**			**Low**
Special Areas		I	I	I	I	I	I	I
Scenic Quality	A	II	II	II	II	II	II	II
	B	II	III	III* IV*	III	IV	IV	IV
	C	**III**	IV	IV	IV	IV	IV	IV
		f/m	**b**	**s/s**	**f/m**	**b**	**s/s**	**s/s**
		Distance Zones						

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United States Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management

Visual Resource Management (VRM) Classification

Date August 14, 2006		**Evaluator(s)** Michael Clayton
District California Desert		**Field Office** El Centro
Scenic Quality Rating Unit (SQRU) 07	**Viewpoint** 9: County Road S2	**VRM Class** **III**

		Visual Sensitivity Levels						
		High			**Medium**			**Low**
Special Areas		I	I	I	I	I	I	I
Scenic Quality	A	II	II	II	II	II	II	II
	B	II	III	III* IV*	III	IV	IV	IV
	C	**III**	IV	IV	IV	IV	IV	IV
		f/m	**b**	**s/s**	**f/m**	**b**	**s/s**	**s/s**
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