

# **APPENDIX J**

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## **VRM Contrast Rating Summary**

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**United States Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management  
Scenic Quality Field Inventory**

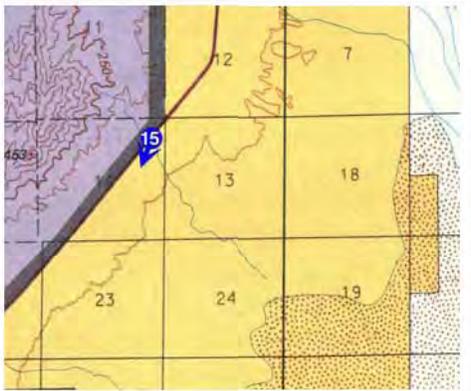
|  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| <b>Date</b><br>8/19/05                       |  |  |
| <b>District</b><br>California Desert         |  |   |
| <b>Field Office</b><br>Palm Springs          |  |   |
| <b>Scenic Quality Rating Unit</b><br>10      |  |   |
| <b>Viewpoint</b><br>14 : Eagle Mountain Road |  |   |
| <b>Evaluator(s)</b><br>Michael Clayton       |  |   |

| LANDSCAPE CHARACTER |  |  |            |
|---------------------|--|--|------------|
|                     | LANDFORM / WATER   | VEGETATION   | STRUCTURES |
| <b>Form</b>         | Predominantly flat valley floor. More distant Coxcomb Mountains (not part of the unit) provide a backdrop that adds visual interest. | The irregular clumps of low shrubs and grass transition to an indistinct and more uniform distribution at distance with a smooth appearance. | None       |
| <b>Line</b>         | Horizontal for the valley floor. Irregular to angular for intermediate ridge.  | Irregular defined by individuals and clumps in the immediate foreground and terrain variations beyond.                                       | None       |
| <b>Color</b>        | Light-tan to gray foreground soils with some reddish tone rocks; dark-brown rock and soil on intermediate ridge.                     | Yellowish-tan grasses and light- to dark-green shrubs with some gray shrub branches.   | None       |
| <b>Texture</b>      | Soils appear granular to coarse.   | Smooth to medium grain and uneven and random in the immediate foreground. Smooth with a more even distribution at distance.                  | None       |

**Narrative:** The western portion of SQRU 10 encompasses the northwestern portion of Chuckwalla Valley north of Desert Center and I-10. Although the Coxcomb Mountains and a portion of Joshua Tree Wilderness provide a backdrop of visual interest, these features are beyond the Unit 10 boundary at a distance of approximately eight miles. Unit 10 is flat and relatively non-descript with low growing grasses and shrubs. The western portion of the Unit 10 landscape is not substantially influenced by built cultural features (structures) though there is some utility and road infrastructure within the unit.

| Score                     |          |          |          |                            | <b>SCENIC QUALITY CLASSIFICATION</b><br><br><input type="checkbox"/> A 19 or more<br><input type="checkbox"/> B 12 - 18<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C 11 or less |
|---------------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------------------------|---|
|                           | High     | Medium   | Low      | Explanation or Rationale   |   |
| a. Landform               |          |          | 1        | Flat valley floor          |   |
| b. Vegetation             |          | 2        |          |                            |   |
| c. Water                  |          |          | 0        |                            |   |
| d. Color                  |          | 3        |          |                            |   |
| e. Adjacent Scenery       |          | 2        |          | Coxcomb Mountains backdrop |   |
| f. Scarcity               |          |          | 1        |                            |   |
| g. Cultural Modifications |          |          | 0        | None noticeable            |   |
| <b>TOTALS</b>             | <b>0</b> | <b>7</b> | <b>2</b> | <b>9</b>                   |   |

**United States Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management  
Scenic Quality Field Inventory**

|  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| <b>Date</b><br>8/19/05                         |  |  |
| <b>District</b><br>California Desert           |  |   |
| <b>Field Office</b><br>Palm Springs            |  |   |
| <b>Scenic Quality Rating Unit</b><br><b>10</b> |  |   |
| <b>Viewpoint</b><br><b>15 : Rice Road</b>      |  |   |
| <b>Evaluator(s)</b><br>Michael Clayton         |  |   |

| <b>LANDSCAPE CHARACTER</b> |   |  |  |
|----------------------------|---|--|--|
|                            | <b>LANDFORM / WATER</b>   | <b>VEGETATION</b>  | <b>STRUCTURES</b>  |
| <b>Form</b>                | Predominantly flat valley floor. More distant Chuckwalla Mountains (not part of the unit) provide a backdrop that adds visual interest. | The irregular clumps of low shrubs and grass.                | Linear (utility poles and road). Road side utility infrastructure is prominent when viewing down the road. |
| <b>Line</b>                | Horizontal for the valley floor.  | Irregular defined by individuals and clumps.                 | Vertical   |
| <b>Color</b>               | Light-tan to gray soils and rocks.  | Muted yellowish-tan grasses and light- to dark-green shrubs. | Gray to white (road) to dark brown (utility poles)   |
| <b>Texture</b>             | Soils appear granular to coarse.  | Smooth to medium grain to matte. Smooth at greater distance. | Smooth to granular   |

**Narrative:** The central portion of SQRU 10 encompasses the central portion of Chuckwalla Valley east of Rice Road and north of I-10. Although the Chuckwalla Mountains provide a backdrop of visual interest, these features are beyond the Unit 10 boundary at a distance of approximately eleven miles. Unit 10 is flat and relatively non-descript with low growing grasses and shrubs. The majority of the central portion of the Unit 10 landscape is not substantially influenced by built cultural features (structures) though there is some utility and road infrastructure within the unit as illustrated from this viewpoint.

| <b>Score</b>                     |             |               |            |                                  | <b>SCENIC QUALITY CLASSIFICATION</b> |
|----------------------------------|-------------|---------------|------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
|                                  | <b>High</b> | <b>Medium</b> | <b>Low</b> | <b>Explanation or Rationale</b>  |                                      |
| <b>a. Landform</b>               |             |               | 1          | Flat valley floor                |                                      |
| <b>b. Vegetation</b>             |             | 2             |            |                                  |                                      |
| <b>c. Water</b>                  |             |               | 0          |                                  |                                      |
| <b>d. Color</b>                  |             | 2             |            |                                  |                                      |
| <b>e. Adjacent Scenery</b>       |             | 2             |            | Coxcomb Mountains backdrop       |                                      |
| <b>f. Scarcity</b>               |             |               | 1          |                                  |                                      |
| <b>g. Cultural Modifications</b> |             |               | -2         | Rice Road and roadside utilities |                                      |
| <b>TOTALS</b>                    | 0           | 6             | 0          | <b>6</b>                         |                                      |

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

## United States Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management Scenic Quality Field Inventory

|  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| <b>Date</b><br>8/23/05                         |  |  |
| <b>District</b><br>California Desert           |  |   |
| <b>Field Office</b><br>Palm Springs            |  |   |
| <b>Scenic Quality Rating Unit</b><br>10        |  |   |
| <b>Viewpoint</b><br>16 : Palen Dry Lake Access |  |   |
| <b>Evaluator(s)</b><br>Michael Clayton         |  |   |

| <b>LANDSCAPE CHARACTER</b> |  |   |   |
|----------------------------|--|---|---|
|                            | <b>LANDFORM / WATER</b>  | <b>VEGETATION</b>   | <b>STRUCTURES</b>   |
| <b>Form</b>                | Predominantly flat valley floor. More distant Palen Mountains (not part of the unit) provide a backdrop that adds visual interest. | Consistent distribution of low growing grasses interspersed with occasional individual shrubs.            | None (though strip of bladed road is prominent when viewing in-line with the road). |
| <b>Line</b>                | Horizontal for the valley floor. Curvilinear for the access road (not pictured).   | Irregular for individual shrubs. Horizontal to curvilinear as demarcated by valley floor and bladed road. | None (though curvilinear for the bladed 4WD track).                                 |
| <b>Color</b>               | Light-tan soils.   | Tan to pale- and golden-yellow grasses with muted greens for the shrubs.                                  | None.   |
| <b>Texture</b>             | Soils appear smooth to granular  | Smooth to medium grain to matte.  | None  |

**Narrative:** The eastern portion of SQRU 10 encompasses the eastern portion of Chuckwalla Valley north of I-10 in the vicinity of Palen and Ford Dry Lakes. Although the Palen Mountains and the Palen McCoy Wilderness provide a backdrop of visual interest, these features are beyond the Unit 10 boundary. Unit 10 is flat and relatively non-descript with low growing grasses and few shrubs. Unlike Unit 12 immediately to the south, the majority of the eastern portion of the Unit 10 landscape is not substantially influenced by built cultural features (structures) though 4-wheel drive access roads within the unit are noticeable when traveling one.

| <b>Score</b>                     |      |        |     |                               | <b>SCENIC QUALITY CLASSIFICATION</b>  |
|----------------------------------|------|--------|-----|-------------------------------|---|
|                                  | High | Medium | Low | Explanation or Rationale      |   |
| <b>a. Landform</b>               |      |        | 1   | Flat valley floor             | <input type="checkbox"/> A 19 or more<br><input type="checkbox"/> B 12 - 18<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C 11 or less |
| <b>b. Vegetation</b>             |      |        | 1   | Relatively uniform vegetation |   |
| <b>c. Water</b>                  |      |        | 0   |                               |   |
| <b>d. Color</b>                  |      |        | 1   | Monotone                      |   |
| <b>e. Adjacent Scenery</b>       |      | 3      |     | Palen Mountains               |   |
| <b>f. Scarcity</b>               |      |        | 1   |                               |   |
| <b>g. Cultural Modifications</b> |      |        | 0   | Access road is noticeable     |   |
| <b>TOTALS</b>                    | 0    | 3      | 4   | <b>7</b>                      |   |

**United States Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management  
Visual Resource Management (VRM) Classification**

|  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|
| <b>Date</b><br>October 13, 2005                |  | <b>Evaluator(s)</b><br>Michael Clayton |  |
| <b>District</b><br>California Desert           |  | <b>Field Office</b><br>Palm Springs    |  |
| <b>Scenic Quality Rating Unit (SQRU)</b><br>10 | <b>Viewpoint</b><br>14 : Eagle Mountain Road | <b>VRM Class</b><br>III                |  |

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

\* 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**

|  |                                    |  |  |
|--|------------------------------------|--|--|
| <b>Date</b><br>October 13, 2005                |                                    | <b>Evaluator(s)</b><br>Michael Clayton |  |
| <b>District</b><br>California Desert           |                                    | <b>Field Office</b><br>Palm Springs    |  |
| <b>Scenic Quality Rating Unit (SQRU)</b><br>10 | <b>Viewpoint</b><br>15 : Rice Road | <b>VRM Class</b><br>III                |  |

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

\* 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**

|  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|
| <b>Date</b><br>October 13, 2005                |  | <b>Evaluator(s)</b><br>Michael Clayton |  |
| <b>District</b><br>California Desert           |  | <b>Field Office</b><br>Palm Springs    |  |
| <b>Scenic Quality Rating Unit (SQRU)</b><br>10 | <b>Viewpoint</b><br>16 : Palen Dry Lake Access | <b>VRM Class</b><br>III                |  |

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

\* 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.

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**United States Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management  
Scenic Quality Field Inventory**

|  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| <b>Date</b><br>8/23/05                         |  |  |
| <b>District</b><br>California Desert           |  |   |
| <b>Field Office</b><br>Palm Springs            |  |   |
| <b>Scenic Quality Rating Unit</b><br>12        |  |   |
| <b>Viewpoint</b><br>18 : Chuckwalla Valley Rd. |  |   |
| <b>Evaluator(s)</b><br>Michael Clayton         |  |   |

| <b>LANDSCAPE CHARACTER</b> |  |  |  |
|----------------------------|--|--|--|
|                            | <b>LANDFORM / WATER</b>                            | <b>VEGETATION</b>  | <b>STRUCTURES</b>  |
| <b>Form</b>                | Flat valley floor.                                 | Irregular distribution of low growing grasses and shrubs. Coverage appearing more consistent at distance.          | Linear and complex for transmission line towers and h-frame structures. Linear for I-10 (in distance). |
| <b>Line</b>                | Horizontal for the valley floor.                   | Irregular for individual shrubs. Horizontal as defined by the valley floor. Diagonal as demarcated by access road. | Vertical, horizontal, and diagonal for lattice and h-frame structures, horizontal for I-10.            |
| <b>Color</b>               | Light-tan soils.                                   | Tan to pale-yellow grasses with tanish-gray to green shrubs.   | Gray to brown.   |
| <b>Texture</b>             | Soils in the immediate foreground appear granular. | Medium grain to matte.   | Smooth   |

**Narrative:** SQRU 12 encompasses the central-eastern portion of Chuckwalla Valley in the vicinity of the exiting transmission lines on both the north and south side of I-10. The landform of the valley floor is flat and non-descript with grass and low-growing shrubs of subdued color. Though distant mountain ranges (McCoy Mountains to the north and Chuckwalla Mountains to the south) provide limited backdrops of visual interest (not part of this unit), SQRU 12 is primarily influenced by the dominant presence of existing utility infrastructure and Interstate 10.

| <b>Score</b>              |          |          |           |  | <b>SCENIC QUALITY CLASSIFICATION</b>  |
|---------------------------|----------|----------|-----------|--|---|
|                           | High     | Medium   | Low       | Explanation or Rationale               |   |
| a. Landform               |          |          | 1         | Chuckwalla Valley Floor                |   |
| b. Vegetation             |          |          | 1         |  |   |
| c. Water                  |          |          | 0         |  |   |
| d. Color                  |          | 2        |           |  |   |
| e. Adjacent Scenery       |          | 2        |           | Distant McCoy and Chuckwalla Mountains |   |
| f. Scarcity               |          |          | 1         |  |   |
| g. Cultural Modifications |          |          | -4        | Transmission Lines and I-10            |   |
| <b>TOTALS</b>             | <b>0</b> | <b>4</b> | <b>-1</b> | <b>3</b>                               | <input type="checkbox"/> A 19 or more<br><input type="checkbox"/> B 12 - 18<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C 11 or less |

**United States Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management  
Scenic Quality Field Inventory**

|  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| <b>Date</b><br>8/23/05                         |  |  |
| <b>District</b><br>California Desert           |  |  |
| <b>Field Office</b><br>Palm Springs            |  |  |
| <b>Scenic Quality Rating Unit</b><br>12        |  |  |
| <b>Viewpoint</b><br>19 : Mule Mtns. Access Rd. |  |  |
| <b>Evaluator(s)</b><br>Michael Clayton         |  |  |

| <b>LANDSCAPE CHARACTER</b> |  |   |  |
|----------------------------|--|---|--|
|                            | <b>LANDFORM / WATER</b>                            | <b>VEGETATION</b>   | <b>STRUCTURES</b>  |
| <b>Form</b>                | Flat mesa and valley floor.                        | Irregular distribution of low growing grasses and shrubs. Coverage appearing more consistent at distance. | Linear and complex for transmission line towers.           |
| <b>Line</b>                | Horizontal for the mesa/valley floor.              | Irregular for individual shrubs. Horizontal as defined by the mesa/valley floor.                          | Vertical, horizontal, and diagonal for lattice structures. |
| <b>Color</b>               | Light-tan soils.                                   | Tan to pale-yellow grasses with tanish-gray to green shrubs.  | Gray.  |
| <b>Texture</b>             | Soils in the immediate foreground appear granular. | Medium grain to matte.  | Smooth   |

**Narrative:** Viewpoint 19 is located on Palo Verde Mesa at the eastern end of SQRU 12. Viewing to the west toward Chuckwalla Valley, the landform is flat with relatively non-descript vegetation of subtle hues of yellow and green. Though distant mountain ranges (McCoy Mountains to the north, Chuckwalla Mountains to the southwest, Mule Mountains to the south) provide backdrops of visual interest (not part of this unit), SQRU 12 is primarily influenced by the dominant presence of existing utility infrastructure.

| <b>Score</b>                     |             |               |            |   | <b>SCENIC QUALITY CLASSIFICATION</b>  |
|----------------------------------|-------------|---------------|------------|---|---|
|                                  | <b>High</b> | <b>Medium</b> | <b>Low</b> | <b>Explanation or Rationale</b>           |   |
| <b>a. Landform</b>               |             |               | 1          | Palo Verde Mesa / Chuckwalla Valley Floor |   |
| <b>b. Vegetation</b>             |             |               | 1          |   |   |
| <b>c. Water</b>                  |             |               | 0          |   |   |
| <b>d. Color</b>                  |             | 2             |            |   |   |
| <b>e. Adjacent Scenery</b>       |             | 3             |            | McCoy, Chuckwalla, and Mule Mountains     |   |
| <b>f. Scarcity</b>               |             |               | 1          |   |   |
| <b>g. Cultural Modifications</b> |             |               | -3         | Transmission Line                         |   |
| <b>TOTALS</b>                    | 0           | 5             | 0          | <b>5</b>                                  | <input type="checkbox"/> A 19 or more<br><input type="checkbox"/> B 12 - 18<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C 11 or less |

**United States Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management  
Visual Resource Management (VRM) Classification**

|  |   |  |  |
|--|---|--|--|
| <b>Date</b><br>October 13, 2005                |   | <b>Evaluator(s)</b><br>Michael Clayton |  |
| <b>District</b><br>California Desert           |   | <b>Field Office</b><br>Palm Springs    |  |
| <b>Scenic Quality Rating Unit (SQRU)</b><br>12 | <b>Viewpoint</b><br>18 : Chuckwalla Valley Road | <b>VRM Class</b><br>III                |  |

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

\* 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**

|  |   |  |  |
|--|---|--|--|
| <b>Date</b><br>October 13, 2005                |   | <b>Evaluator(s)</b><br>Michael Clayton |  |
| <b>District</b><br>California Desert           |   | <b>Field Office</b><br>Palm Springs    |  |
| <b>Scenic Quality Rating Unit (SQRU)</b><br>12 | <b>Viewpoint</b><br>19 : Mule Mtns. Access Road | <b>VRM Class</b><br>III                |  |

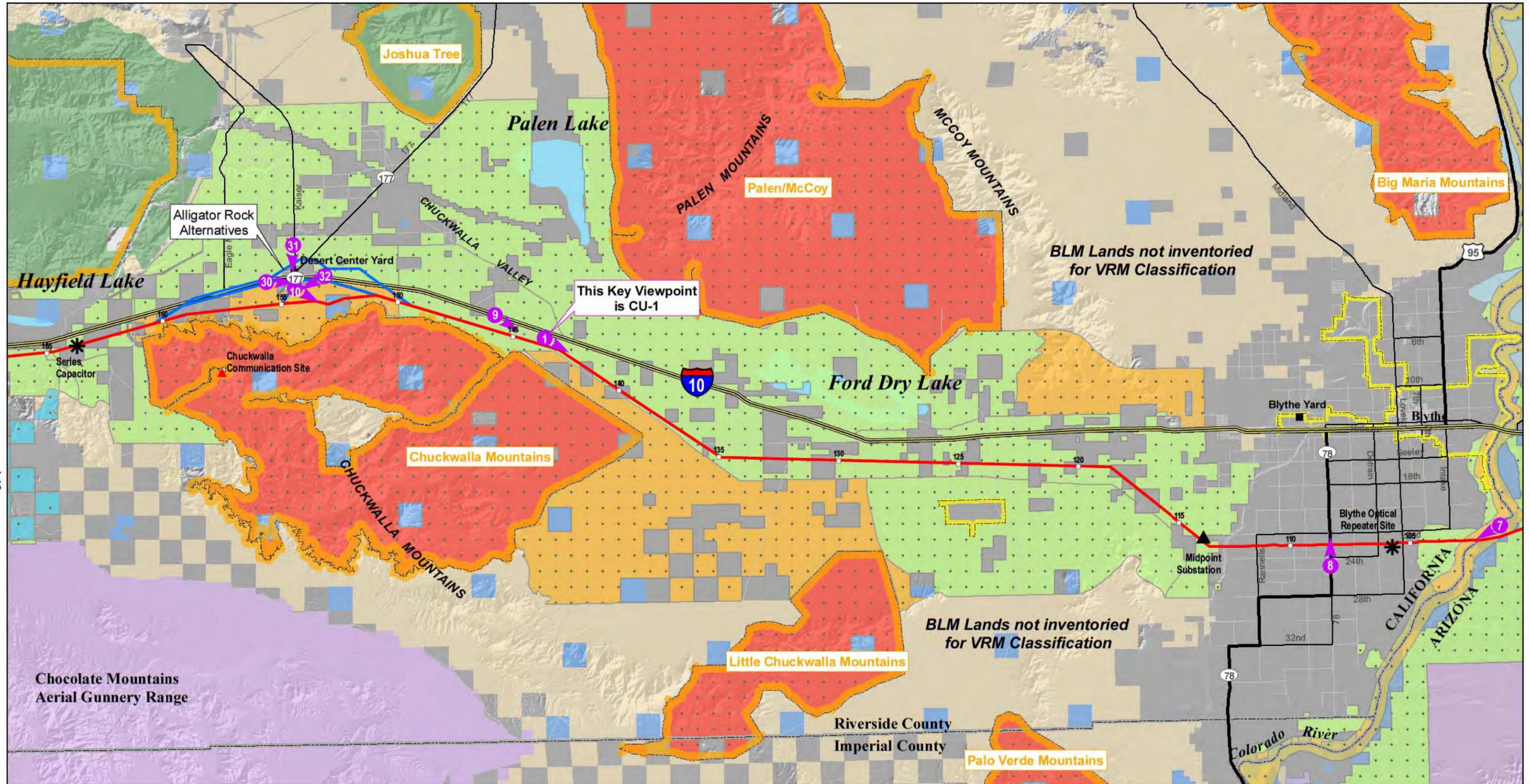
|                       |     | Visual Sensitivity Levels |      |     |        |    |     |     |
|-----------------------|-----|---------------------------|------|-----|--------|----|-----|-----|
|                       |     | High                      |      |     | Medium |    |     | Low |
| <b>Special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

\* 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.



J-13

PREPARED BY  
**Aspen**  
Environmental Group

- Proposed Project
- Mileposts
- Alternative Routes



**OWNERSHIP/JURISDICTIONS (unincorporated areas)**

- |                       |                    |                     |
|-----------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| BLM                   | Wilderness Areas   | Substations         |
| Indian Lands          | Incorporated Areas | Series Capacitor    |
| Military              |                    | Construction Yard   |
| National Park Service |                    | Communications Site |
| State                 |                    |                     |
| Private               |                    |                     |

**VRM Classes**

- Class I
- Class II
- Class III
- Class IV
- Key Viewpoint Location and View Direction

**Devers-Palo Verde No. 2  
Transmission Line Project**

Figure D.3-1C  
**Visual Resources  
Colorado River to Desert Center**

**UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT**

**VISUAL CONTRAST RATING WORKSHEET**

|                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| Date               | 08/08/2009  |
| District           | Palm Springs  |
| Resource Area      |   |
| Activity (program) | Solar arrays, power blocks<br>transmission lines, roads |

**SECTION A. PROJECT INFORMATION**

|                          |                           |             |                                      |      |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|-------------|--------------------------------------|------|
| 1. Project Name          | Palen Solar Power Project | 4. Location | 5. Location<br><br>See Figure 5.15-2 |      |
| 2. Key Observation Point | KOP#1                     | Township    |                                      | 5 S  |
| 3. VRM Class             | Class III                 | Range       |                                      | 17 E |
|                          |                           | Section     | Multiple                             |      |

**SECTION B. CHARACTERISTIC LANDSCAPE DESCRIPTION**

| 1. LAND/WATER |   | 2. VEGETATION   |  | 3. STRUCTURES |  |
|---------------|---|---|--|---------------|--|
| FORM          | Flat valley floor, rounded sand dunes, steep-sided and pyramidal mountain backdrops | Irregular organic mosaics of shrubs and complex irregular patterns of woodland scrub trees and shrubs |  | NA            |  |
| LINE          | Complex horizontal, inclined, angular mix of valley and mountains                   | Horizontal, curvilinear, inclined angular   |  | NA            |  |
| COLOR         | Light tans to dark, reddish browns  | Light golds and tans to reddish browns and light sage greens  |  | NA            |  |
| TEXTURE       | Moderate valley and fine sand dune and lakebed patterns, coarse mountain mosaics    | Fine to moderate shrub patterns, moderate scrub shrubs  |  | NA            |  |

**SECTION C. PROPOSED ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION**

| 1. LAND/WATER |   | 2. VEGETATION |  | 3. STRUCTURES   |  |
|---------------|---|---------------|--|---|--|
| FORM          | Graded planar, horizontal                     | Removed       |  | Planar solar arrays, cubed structures and rectangular t-lines |  |
| LINE          | Graded horizontal                             | Removed       |  | Horizontal solar arrays and vertical structures and t-lines   |  |
| COLOR         | Light tans to dark, reddish browns and blacks | Removed       |  | Blue to grey solar arrays, light tan structures and t-lines   |  |
| TEXTURE       | Smooth surfaces                               | Removed       |  | Smooth arrays, and structures                                 |  |

**SECTION D. CONTRAST RATING**     SHORT TERM     LONG TERM

|                              |                            |          |      |      |                       |          |      |      |                       |          |      |      |   |   |                  |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|----------|------|------|-----------------------|----------|------|------|-----------------------|----------|------|------|---|---|------------------|
| <b>1. DEGREE OF CONTRAST</b> | <b>FEATURES</b>            |          |      |      |                       |          |      |      |                       |          |      |      | 2. Does project design meet visual resource management objectives? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No<br>(Explain on reverse side) |   |                  |
|                              | <b>LAND/WATER BODY (1)</b> |          |      |      | <b>VEGETATION (2)</b> |          |      |      | <b>STRUCTURES (3)</b> |          |      |      |   | 3. Additional mitigating measures recommended<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No    (Explain on reverse side) |                  |
|                              | Strong                     | Moderate | Weak | None | Strong                | Moderate | Weak | None | Strong                | Moderate | Weak | None |   |   |                  |
|                              |                            |          |      |      |                       |          |      |      |                       |          |      |      |   |   |                  |
|                              |                            |          |      |      |                       |          |      |      |                       |          |      |      |   |   |                  |
|                              |                            |          |      |      |                       |          |      |      |                       |          |      |      |   |   |                  |
| <b>ELEMENTS</b>              | Form                       | x        |      |      |                       |          |      |      |                       | x        |      |      |   | Evaluator's Names<br>Merilyn Paulson  | Date<br>08/12/09 |
|                              | Line                       |          | x    |      |                       |          |      |      |                       |          | x    |      |   |   |                  |
|                              | Color                      |          |      | x    |                       |          |      |      |                       | x        |      |      |   |   |                  |
|                              | Texture                    |          |      | x    |                       |          |      |      |                       | x        |      |      |   |   |                  |

**UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT**

**VISUAL CONTRAST RATING WORKSHEET**

|                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| Date               | 08/08/2009  |
| District           | Palm Springs  |
| Resource Area      |   |
| Activity (program) | Solar arrays, power blocks<br>transmission lines, roads |

**SECTION A. PROJECT INFORMATION**

|                          |                           |             |                                      |      |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|-------------|--------------------------------------|------|
| 1. Project Name          | Palen Solar Power Project | 4. Location | 5. Location<br><br>See Figure 5.15-2 |      |
| 2. Key Observation Point | KOP#2                     | Township    |                                      | 5 S  |
| 3. VRM Class             | Class II, III             | Range       |                                      | 17 E |
|                          |                           | Section     | Multiple                             |      |

**SECTION B. CHARACTERISTIC LANDSCAPE DESCRIPTION**

|         | 1. LAND/WATER   | 2. VEGETATION   | 3. STRUCTURES                          |
|---------|---|---|--|
| FORM    | Flat valley floor, rounded sand dunes, steep-sided and pyramidal mountain backdrops | Irregular organic mosaics of shrubs and complex irregular patterns of woodland scrub trees and shrubs | Scattered cubes and rectangular blocks |
| LINE    | Complex horizontal, inclined, angular mix of valley and mountains                   | Horizontal, curvilinear, inclined angular   | Horizontal and vertical                |
| COLOR   | Light tans to dark, reddish browns  | Light golds and tans to reddish browns and light sage greens  | Whites and light tans                  |
| TEXTURE | Moderate valley and fine sand dune and lakebed patterns, coarse mountain mosaics    | Fine to moderate shrub patterns, moderate scrub shrubs  | Fine, smooth                           |

**SECTION C. PROPOSED ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION**

|         | 1. LAND/WATER                                 | 2. VEGETATION | 3. STRUCTURES   |
|---------|---|---------------|---|
| FORM    | Graded planar, horizontal                     | Removed       | Planar solar arrays, cubed structures and rectangular t-lines |
| LINE    | Graded horizontal                             | Removed       | Horizontal solar arrays and vertical structures and t-lines   |
| COLOR   | Light tans to dark, reddish browns and blacks | Removed       | Blue to grey solar arrays, light tan structures and t-lines   |
| TEXTURE | Smooth surfaces                               | Removed       | Smooth arrays, and structures                                 |

**SECTION D. CONTRAST RATING**     SHORT TERM     LONG TERM

|                       |                     |          |      |      |                |          |      |      |                |          |      |      |   |                                      |
|-----------------------|---------------------|----------|------|------|----------------|----------|------|------|----------------|----------|------|------|---|--------------------------------------|
| 1. DEGREE OF CONTRAST | FEATURES            |          |      |      |                |          |      |      |                |          |      |      | 2. Does project design meet visual resource management objectives? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No<br>(Explain on reverse side) |                                      |
|                       | LAND/WATER BODY (1) |          |      |      | VEGETATION (2) |          |      |      | STRUCTURES (3) |          |      |      |   |                                      |
|                       | Strong              | Moderate | Weak | None | Strong         | Moderate | Weak | None | Strong         | Moderate | Weak | None | 3. Additional mitigating measures recommended<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No (Explain on reverse side)                      |                                      |
| ELEMENTS              | Form                | x        |      |      |                | x        |      |      | x              |          |      |      |   | Evaluator's Names<br>Merilyn Paulson |
|                       | Line                |          | x    |      |                | x        |      |      |                | x        |      |      |   |                                      |
|                       | Color               |          |      | x    |                | x        |      |      | x              |          |      |      |   |                                      |
|                       | Texture             |          |      | x    |                | x        |      |      |                | x        |      |      |   |                                      |

**UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT**

**VISUAL CONTRAST RATING WORKSHEET**

|                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| Date               | 08/08/2009  |
| District           | Palm Springs  |
| Resource Area      |   |
| Activity (program) | Solar arrays, power blocks<br>transmission lines, roads |

**SECTION A. PROJECT INFORMATION**

|                          |                           |             |                                      |      |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|-------------|--------------------------------------|------|
| 1. Project Name          | Palen Solar Power Project | 4. Location | 5. Location<br><br>See Figure 5.15-2 |      |
| 2. Key Observation Point | KOP#3                     | Township    |                                      | 5 S  |
| 3. VRM Class             | Class II, III             | Range       |                                      | 17 E |
|                          |                           | Section     | Multiple                             |      |

**SECTION B. CHARACTERISTIC LANDSCAPE DESCRIPTION**

|         | 1. LAND/WATER   | 2. VEGETATION   | 3. STRUCTURES                          |
|---------|---|---|--|
| FORM    | Flat valley floor, rounded sand dunes, steep-sided and pyramidal mountain backdrops | Irregular organic mosaics of shrubs and complex irregular patterns of woodland scrub trees and shrubs | Scattered cubes and rectangular blocks |
| LINE    | Complex horizontal, inclined, angular mix of valley and mountains                   | Horizontal, curvilinear, inclined angular   | Horizontal and vertical                |
| COLOR   | Light tans to dark, reddish browns  | Light golds and tans to reddish browns and light sage greens  | Whites and light tans                  |
| TEXTURE | Moderate valley and fine sand dune and lakebed patterns, course mountain mosaics    | Fine to moderate shrub patterns, moderate scrub shrubs  | Fine, smooth                           |

**SECTION C. PROPOSED ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION**

|         | 1. LAND/WATER                                 | 2. VEGETATION | 3. STRUCTURES   |
|---------|---|---------------|---|
| FORM    | Graded planar, horizontal                     | Removed       | Planar solar arrays, cubed structures and rectangular t-lines |
| LINE    | Graded horizontal                             | Removed       | Horizontal solar arrays and vertical structures and t-lines   |
| COLOR   | Light tans to dark, reddish browns and blacks | Removed       | Blue to grey solar arrays, light tan structures and t-lines   |
| TEXTURE | Smooth surfaces                               | Removed       | Smooth arrays, and structures                                 |

**SECTION D. CONTRAST RATING**     SHORT TERM     LONG TERM

|          |                    |                     |          |      |      |                |          |      |      |                |          |      |      |   |                                      |
|----------|--------------------|---------------------|----------|------|------|----------------|----------|------|------|----------------|----------|------|------|---|--------------------------------------|
| 1.       | DEGREE OF CONTRAST | FEATURES            |          |      |      |                |          |      |      |                |          |      |      | 2. Does project design meet visual resource management objectives? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No<br>(Explain on reverse side) |                                      |
|          |                    | LAND/WATER BODY (1) |          |      |      | VEGETATION (2) |          |      |      | STRUCTURES (3) |          |      |      |   |                                      |
|          |                    | Strong              | Moderate | Weak | None | Strong         | Moderate | Weak | None | Strong         | Moderate | Weak | None | 3. Additional mitigating measures recommended<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No (Explain on reverse side)                      |                                      |
| ELEMENTS | Form               | x                   |          |      |      | x              |          |      |      | x              |          |      |      |   | Evaluator's Names<br>Merilyn Paulson |
|          | Line               |                     | x        |      |      |                | x        |      |      |                | x        |      |      |   |                                      |
|          | Color              |                     |          | x    |      |                | x        |      |      |                | x        |      |      |   |                                      |
|          | Texture            |                     |          | x    |      |                | x        |      |      |                | x        |      |      |   |                                      |

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**VISUAL CONTRAST RATING WORKSHEET**

|                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| Date               | 08/08/2009  |
| District           | Palm Springs  |
| Resource Area      |   |
| Activity (program) | Solar arrays, power blocks<br>transmission lines, roads |

**SECTION A. PROJECT INFORMATION**

|                          |                           |             |                                      |      |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|-------------|--------------------------------------|------|
| 1. Project Name          | Palen Solar Power Project | 4. Location | 5. Location<br><br>See Figure 5.15-2 |      |
| 2. Key Observation Point | KOP#4                     | Township    |                                      | 5 S  |
| 3. VRM Class             | Class II, III             | Range       |                                      | 17 E |
|                          |                           | Section     | Multiple                             |      |

**SECTION B. CHARACTERISTIC LANDSCAPE DESCRIPTION**

|         | 1. LAND/WATER   | 2. VEGETATION   | 3. STRUCTURES                          |
|---------|---|---|--|
| FORM    | Flat valley floor, rounded sand dunes, steep-sided and pyramidal mountain backdrops | Irregular organic mosaics of shrubs and complex irregular patterns of woodland scrub trees and shrubs | Scattered cubes and rectangular blocks |
| LINE    | Complex horizontal, inclined, angular mix of valley and mountains                   | Horizontal, curvilinear, inclined angular   | Horizontal and vertical                |
| COLOR   | Light tans to dark, reddish browns  | Light golds and tans to reddish browns and light sage greens  | Whites and light tans                  |
| TEXTURE | Moderate valley and fine sand dune and lakebed patterns, coarse mountain mosaics    | Fine to moderate shrub patterns, moderate scrub shrubs  | Fine, smooth                           |

**SECTION C. PROPOSED ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION**

|         | 1. LAND/WATER                                 | 2. VEGETATION | 3. STRUCTURES   |
|---------|---|---------------|---|
| FORM    | Graded planar, horizontal                     | Removed       | Planar solar arrays, cubed structures and rectangular t-lines |
| LINE    | Graded horizontal                             | Removed       | Horizontal solar arrays and vertical structures and t-lines   |
| COLOR   | Light tans to dark, reddish browns and blacks | Removed       | Blue to grey solar arrays, light tan structures and t-lines   |
| TEXTURE | Smooth surfaces                               | Removed       | Smooth arrays, and structures                                 |

**SECTION D. CONTRAST RATING**     SHORT TERM     LONG TERM

|                       |                     |          |      |      |                |          |      |      |                |          |      |      |   |                                      |
|-----------------------|---------------------|----------|------|------|----------------|----------|------|------|----------------|----------|------|------|---|--------------------------------------|
| 1. DEGREE OF CONTRAST | FEATURES            |          |      |      |                |          |      |      |                |          |      |      | 2. Does project design meet visual resource management objectives? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No<br>(Explain on reverse side) |                                      |
|                       | LAND/WATER BODY (1) |          |      |      | VEGETATION (2) |          |      |      | STRUCTURES (3) |          |      |      |   |                                      |
|                       | Strong              | Moderate | Weak | None | Strong         | Moderate | Weak | None | Strong         | Moderate | Weak | None | 3. Additional mitigating measures recommended<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No (Explain on reverse side)                      |                                      |
| ELEMENTS              | Form                | x        |      |      |                | x        |      |      | x              |          |      |      |   | Evaluator's Names<br>Merilyn Paulson |
|                       | Line                |          | x    |      |                | x        |      |      |                | x        |      |      |   |                                      |
|                       | Color               |          |      | x    |                | x        |      |      | x              |          |      |      |   |                                      |
|                       | Texture             |          |      | x    |                | x        |      |      |                | x        |      |      |   |                                      |

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|                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| Date               | 08/08/2009  |
| District           | Palm Springs  |
| Resource Area      |   |
| Activity (program) | Solar arrays, power blocks<br>transmission lines, roads |

**SECTION A. PROJECT INFORMATION**

|                          |                           |             |                                      |      |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|-------------|--------------------------------------|------|
| 1. Project Name          | Palen Solar Power Project | 4. Location | 5. Location<br><br>See Figure 5.15-2 |      |
| 2. Key Observation Point | KOP#5                     | Township    |                                      | 5 S  |
| 3. VRM Class             | Class II, III             | Range       |                                      | 17 E |
|                          |                           | Section     | Multiple                             |      |

**SECTION B. CHARACTERISTIC LANDSCAPE DESCRIPTION**

|         | 1. LAND/WATER   | 2. VEGETATION   | 3. STRUCTURES   |
|---------|---|---|---|
| FORM    | Flat valley floor, rounded sand dunes, steep-sided and pyramidal mountain backdrops | Irregular organic mosaics of shrubs and complex irregular patterns of woodland scrub trees and shrubs | Strong planar highway, scattered cubes and rectangular blocks |
| LINE    | Complex horizontal, inclined, angular mix of valley and mountains                   | Horizontal, curvilinear, inclined angular   | Horizontal and vertical                                       |
| COLOR   | Light tans to dark, reddish browns  | Light golds and tans to reddish browns and light sage greens  | Dark grays, whites and light tans                             |
| TEXTURE | Moderate valley and fine sand dune and lakebed patterns, course mountain mosaics    | Fine to moderate shrub patterns, moderate scrub shrubs  | Fine, smooth  |

**SECTION C. PROPOSED ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION**

|         | 1. LAND/WATER                                 | 2. VEGETATION | 3. STRUCTURES   |
|---------|---|---------------|---|
| FORM    | Graded planar, horizontal                     | Removed       | Planar solar arrays, cubed structures and rectangular t-lines |
| LINE    | Graded horizontal                             | Removed       | Horizontal solar arrays and vertical structures and t-lines   |
| COLOR   | Light tans to dark, reddish browns and blacks | Removed       | Blue to grey solar arrays, light tan structures and t-lines   |
| TEXTURE | Smooth surfaces                               | Removed       | Smooth arrays, and structures                                 |

**SECTION D. CONTRAST RATING**     SHORT TERM     LONG TERM

|                       |                     |          |      |      |                |          |      |      |                |          |      |      |   |                                      |
|-----------------------|---------------------|----------|------|------|----------------|----------|------|------|----------------|----------|------|------|---|--------------------------------------|
| 1. DEGREE OF CONTRAST | FEATURES            |          |      |      |                |          |      |      |                |          |      |      | 2. Does project design meet visual resource management objectives? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No<br>(Explain on reverse side) |                                      |
|                       | LAND/WATER BODY (1) |          |      |      | VEGETATION (2) |          |      |      | STRUCTURES (3) |          |      |      |   |                                      |
|                       | Strong              | Moderate | Weak | None | Strong         | Moderate | Weak | None | Strong         | Moderate | Weak | None | 3. Additional mitigating measures recommended<br><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No (Explain on reverse side)                      |                                      |
| ELEMENTS              | Form                |          |      | X    |                |          |      | X    |                | X        |      |      |   | Evaluator's Names<br>Merilyn Paulson |
|                       | Line                |          |      | X    |                |          |      | X    |                |          | X    |      |   |                                      |
|                       | Color               |          |      | X    |                |          |      | X    |                | X        |      |      |   |                                      |
|                       | Texture             |          |      | X    |                |          |      | X    |                |          | X    |      |   |                                      |

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BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT**

**VISUAL CONTRAST RATING WORKSHEET**

|                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| Date               | 08/08/2009  |
| District           | Palm Springs  |
| Resource Area      |   |
| Activity (program) | Solar arrays, power blocks<br>transmission lines, roads |

**SECTION A. PROJECT INFORMATION**

|                          |                           |             |                                      |      |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|-------------|--------------------------------------|------|
| 1. Project Name          | Palen Solar Power Project | 4. Location | 5. Location<br><br>See Figure 5.15-2 |      |
| 2. Key Observation Point | KOP#6                     | Township    |                                      | 5 S  |
| 3. VRM Class             | Class II, III             | Range       |                                      | 17 E |
|                          |                           | Section     | Multiple                             |      |

**SECTION B. CHARACTERISTIC LANDSCAPE DESCRIPTION**

|         | 1. LAND/WATER   | 2. VEGETATION   | 3. STRUCTURES   |
|---------|---|---|---|
| FORM    | Flat valley floor, rounded sand dunes, steep-sided and pyramidal mountain backdrops | Irregular organic mosaics of shrubs and complex irregular patterns of woodland scrub trees and shrubs | Strong planar roadway, scattered cubes and rectangular blocks |
| LINE    | Complex horizontal, inclined, angular mix of valley and mountains                   | Horizontal, curvilinear, inclined angular   | Horizontal and vertical                                       |
| COLOR   | Light tans to dark, reddish browns  | Light golds and tans to reddish browns and light sage greens  | Whites and light and medium tans                              |
| TEXTURE | Moderate valley and fine sand dune and lakebed patterns, course mountain mosaics    | Fine to moderate shrub patterns, moderate scrub shrubs  | Fine, smooth  |

**SECTION C. PROPOSED ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION**

|         | 1. LAND/WATER                                 | 2. VEGETATION | 3. STRUCTURES   |
|---------|---|---------------|---|
| FORM    | Graded planar, horizontal                     | Removed       | Planar solar arrays, cubed structures and rectangular t-lines |
| LINE    | Graded horizontal                             | Removed       | Horizontal solar arrays and vertical structures and t-lines   |
| COLOR   | Light tans to dark, reddish browns and blacks | Removed       | Blue to grey solar arrays, light tan structures and t-lines   |
| TEXTURE | Smooth surfaces                               | Removed       | Smooth arrays, and structures                                 |

**SECTION D. CONTRAST RATING**     SHORT TERM     LONG TERM

|          |                    |                     |          |      |      |                |          |      |      |                |          |                                      |                  |   |
|----------|--------------------|---------------------|----------|------|------|----------------|----------|------|------|----------------|----------|--------------------------------------|------------------|---|
| 1.       | DEGREE OF CONTRAST | FEATURES            |          |      |      |                |          |      |      |                |          |                                      |                  | 2. Does project design meet visual resource management objectives? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No<br>(Explain on reverse side) |
|          |                    | LAND/WATER BODY (1) |          |      |      | VEGETATION (2) |          |      |      | STRUCTURES (3) |          |                                      |                  |   |
|          |                    | Strong              | Moderate | Weak | None | Strong         | Moderate | Weak | None | Strong         | Moderate | Weak                                 | None             | 3. Additional mitigating measures recommended<br><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No (Explain on reverse side)                      |
| ELEMENTS | Form               |                     |          |      | X    |                |          |      | X    |                | X        |                                      |                  |   |
|          | Line               |                     |          |      | X    |                |          |      | X    |                |          | X                                    |                  |   |
|          | Color              |                     |          |      | X    |                |          |      | X    |                | X        |                                      |                  |   |
|          | Texture            |                     |          |      | X    |                |          |      | X    |                |          | X                                    |                  |   |
|          |                    |                     |          |      |      |                |          |      |      |                |          | Evaluator's Names<br>Merilyn Paulson | Date<br>08/12/09 |   |

**UNITED STATES  
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**VISUAL CONTRAST RATING WORKSHEET**

|                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| Date               | 08/08/2009  |
| District           | Palm Springs  |
| Resource Area      |   |
| Activity (program) | Solar arrays, power blocks<br>transmission lines, roads |

**SECTION A. PROJECT INFORMATION**

|                          |                           |             |                                      |      |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|-------------|--------------------------------------|------|
| 1. Project Name          | Palen Solar Power Project | 4. Location | 5. Location<br><br>See Figure 5.15-2 |      |
| 2. Key Observation Point | KOP#7                     | Township    |                                      | 5 S  |
| 3. VRM Class             | Class II, III             | Range       |                                      | 17 E |
|                          |                           | Section     | Multiple                             |      |

**SECTION B. CHARACTERISTIC LANDSCAPE DESCRIPTION**

|         | 1. LAND/WATER   | 2. VEGETATION   | 3. STRUCTURES  |
|---------|---|---|--|
| FORM    | Flat valley floor, rounded sand dunes, steep-sided and pyramidal mountain backdrops | Irregular organic mosaics of shrubs and complex irregular patterns of woodland scrub trees and shrubs | Strong planar roadways, scattered cubes and rectangular blocks |
| LINE    | Complex horizontal, inclined, angular mix of valley and mountains                   | Horizontal, curvilinear, inclined angular   | Horizontal and vertical  |
| COLOR   | Light tans to dark, reddish browns  | Light golds and tans to reddish browns and light sage greens  | Whites and light and medium tans                               |
| TEXTURE | Moderate valley and fine sand dune and lakebed patterns, course mountain mosaics    | Fine to moderate shrub patterns, moderate scrub shrubs  | Fine, smooth   |

**SECTION C. PROPOSED ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION**

|         | 1. LAND/WATER                                 | 2. VEGETATION | 3. STRUCTURES   |
|---------|---|---------------|---|
| FORM    | Graded planar, horizontal                     | Removed       | Planar solar arrays, cubed structures and rectangular t-lines |
| LINE    | Graded horizontal                             | Removed       | Horizontal solar arrays and vertical structures and t-lines   |
| COLOR   | Light tans to dark, reddish browns and blacks | Removed       | Blue to grey solar arrays, light tan structures and t-lines   |
| TEXTURE | Smooth surfaces                               | Removed       | Smooth arrays, and structures                                 |

**SECTION D. CONTRAST RATING**     SHORT TERM     LONG TERM

|          |                    |                     |          |      |      |                |          |      |      |                |          |                                      |                  |   |
|----------|--------------------|---------------------|----------|------|------|----------------|----------|------|------|----------------|----------|--------------------------------------|------------------|---|
| 1.       | DEGREE OF CONTRAST | FEATURES            |          |      |      |                |          |      |      |                |          |                                      |                  | 2. Does project design meet visual resource management objectives? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No<br>(Explain on reverse side) |
|          |                    | LAND/WATER BODY (1) |          |      |      | VEGETATION (2) |          |      |      | STRUCTURES (3) |          |                                      |                  |   |
|          |                    | Strong              | Moderate | Weak | None | Strong         | Moderate | Weak | None | Strong         | Moderate | Weak                                 | None             | 3. Additional mitigating measures recommended<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No (Explain on reverse side)                      |
| ELEMENTS | Form               |                     | x        |      |      |                | x        |      |      | x              |          |                                      |                  |   |
|          | Line               |                     | x        |      |      |                | x        |      |      |                | x        |                                      |                  |   |
|          | Color              | x                   |          |      |      |                | x        |      |      | x              |          |                                      |                  |   |
|          | Texture            |                     | x        |      |      |                | x        |      |      |                | x        |                                      |                  |   |
|          |                    |                     |          |      |      |                |          |      |      |                |          | Evaluator's Names<br>Merilyn Paulson | Date<br>08/12/09 |   |

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**VISUAL CONTRAST RATING WORKSHEET**

|                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| Date               | 08/08/2009  |
| District           | Palm Springs  |
| Resource Area      |   |
| Activity (program) | Solar arrays, power blocks<br>transmission lines, roads |

**SECTION A. PROJECT INFORMATION**

|                          |                           |             |                                      |      |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|-------------|--------------------------------------|------|
| 1. Project Name          | Palen Solar Power Project | 4. Location | 5. Location<br><br>See Figure 5.15-2 |      |
| 2. Key Observation Point | KOP#8                     | Township    |                                      | 5 S  |
| 3. VRM Class             | Class II, III             | Range       |                                      | 17 E |
|                          |                           | Section     | Multiple                             |      |

**SECTION B. CHARACTERISTIC LANDSCAPE DESCRIPTION**

|         | 1. LAND/WATER   | 2. VEGETATION   | 3. STRUCTURES   |
|---------|---|---|---|
| FORM    | Flat valley floor, rounded sand dunes, steep-sided and pyramidal mountain backdrops | Irregular organic mosaics of shrubs and complex irregular patterns of woodland scrub trees and shrubs | Strong planar highway, scattered cubes and rectangular blocks |
| LINE    | Complex horizontal, inclined, angular mix of valley and mountains                   | Horizontal, curvilinear, inclined angular   | Horizontal and vertical                                       |
| COLOR   | Light tans to dark, reddish browns  | Light golds and tans to reddish browns and light sage greens  | Dark grays, whites and light tans                             |
| TEXTURE | Moderate valley and fine sand dune and lakebed patterns, course mountain mosaics    | Fine to moderate shrub patterns, moderate scrub shrubs  | Fine, smooth  |

**SECTION C. PROPOSED ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION**

|         | 1. LAND/WATER                                 | 2. VEGETATION | 3. STRUCTURES   |
|---------|---|---------------|---|
| FORM    | Graded planar, horizontal                     | Removed       | Planar solar arrays, cubed structures and rectangular t-lines |
| LINE    | Graded horizontal                             | Removed       | Horizontal solar arrays and vertical structures and t-lines   |
| COLOR   | Light tans to dark, reddish browns and blacks | Removed       | Blue to gray solar arrays, light tan structures and t-lines   |
| TEXTURE | Smooth surfaces                               | Removed       | Smooth arrays, and structures                                 |

**SECTION D. CONTRAST RATING**     SHORT TERM     LONG TERM

|          |                    |                     |          |      |      |                |          |      |      |                |          |      |      |   |                                      |
|----------|--------------------|---------------------|----------|------|------|----------------|----------|------|------|----------------|----------|------|------|---|--------------------------------------|
| 1.       | DEGREE OF CONTRAST | FEATURES            |          |      |      |                |          |      |      |                |          |      |      | 2. Does project design meet visual resource management objectives? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No<br>(Explain on reverse side) |                                      |
|          |                    | LAND/WATER BODY (1) |          |      |      | VEGETATION (2) |          |      |      | STRUCTURES (3) |          |      |      |   |                                      |
|          |                    | Strong              | Moderate | Weak | None | Strong         | Moderate | Weak | None | Strong         | Moderate | Weak | None | 3. Additional mitigating measures recommended<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No (Explain on reverse side)                      |                                      |
| ELEMENTS | Form               |                     |          |      |      | x              |          |      |      | x              |          |      |      |   | Evaluator's Names<br>Merilyn Paulson |
|          | Line               |                     | x        |      |      | x              |          |      |      | x              |          |      |      | Date<br>08/12/09  |                                      |
|          | Color              | x                   | x        |      |      | x              |          |      |      | x              |          |      |      |   |                                      |
|          | Texture            |                     | x        |      |      | x              |          |      |      | x              |          |      |      |   |                                      |

**UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT**

**VISUAL CONTRAST RATING WORKSHEET**

|                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| Date               | 08/08/2009  |
| District           | Palm Springs  |
| Resource Area      |   |
| Activity (program) | Solar arrays, power blocks<br>transmission lines, roads |

**SECTION A. PROJECT INFORMATION**

|  |  |                                      |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Project Name<br>Palen Solar Power Project | 4. Location<br>Township <u>5 S</u><br>Range <u>17 E</u><br>Section <u>Multiple</u> | 5. Location<br><br>See Figure 5.15-2 |
| 2. Key Observation Point<br>KOP#9            |  |                                      |
| 3. VRM Class<br>Class II, III                |  |                                      |

**SECTION B. CHARACTERISTIC LANDSCAPE DESCRIPTION**

|         | 1. LAND/WATER   | 2. VEGETATION   | 3. STRUCTURES   |
|---------|---|---|---|
| FORM    | Flat valley floor, rounded sand dunes, steep-sided and pyramidal mountain backdrops | Irregular organic mosaics of shrubs and complex irregular patterns of woodland scrub trees and shrubs | Strong planar highway, scattered cubes and rectangular blocks |
| LINE    | Complex horizontal, inclined, angular mix of valley and mountains                   | Horizontal, curvilinear, inclined angular   | Horizontal and vertical                                       |
| COLOR   | Light tans to dark, reddish browns  | Light golds and tans to reddish browns and light sage greens  | Dark grays, whites and light tans                             |
| TEXTURE | Moderate valley and fine sand dune and lakebed patterns, coarse mountain mosaics    | Fine to moderate shrub patterns, moderate scrub shrubs  | Fine, smooth  |

**SECTION C. PROPOSED ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION**

|         | 1. LAND/WATER                                 | 2. VEGETATION | 3. STRUCTURES   |
|---------|---|---------------|---|
| FORM    | Graded planar, horizontal                     | Removed       | Planar solar arrays, cubed structures and rectangular t-lines |
| LINE    | Graded horizontal                             | Removed       | Horizontal solar arrays and vertical structures and t-lines   |
| COLOR   | Light tans to dark, reddish browns and blacks | Removed       | Blue to gray solar arrays, light tan structures and t-lines   |
| TEXTURE | Smooth surfaces                               | Removed       | Smooth arrays, and structures                                 |

**SECTION D. CONTRAST RATING**     SHORT TERM     LONG TERM

|                       |                     |          |      |      |                |          |      |      |                |          |      |      |   |                                      |
|-----------------------|---------------------|----------|------|------|----------------|----------|------|------|----------------|----------|------|------|---|--------------------------------------|
| 1. DEGREE OF CONTRAST | FEATURES            |          |      |      |                |          |      |      |                |          |      |      | 2. Does project design meet visual resource management objectives? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No<br>(Explain on reverse side) |                                      |
|                       | LAND/WATER BODY (1) |          |      |      | VEGETATION (2) |          |      |      | STRUCTURES (3) |          |      |      |   |                                      |
|                       | Strong              | Moderate | Weak | None | Strong         | Moderate | Weak | None | Strong         | Moderate | Weak | None | 3. Additional mitigating measures recommended<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No (Explain on reverse side)                      |                                      |
| ELEMENTS              | Form                | x        |      |      | x              |          |      |      | x              |          |      |      |   | Evaluator's Names<br>Merilyn Paulson |
|                       | Line                |          | x    |      | x              |          |      |      | x              |          |      |      | Date<br>08/12/09  |                                      |
|                       | Color               |          | x    |      | x              |          |      |      | x              |          |      |      |   |                                      |
|                       | Texture             |          | x    |      | x              |          |      |      | x              |          |      |      |   |                                      |

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
**VISUAL CONTRAST RATING WORKSHEET**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 District/ Field Office: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Resource Area: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Activity (program): \_\_\_\_\_

**SECTION A. PROJECT INFORMATION**

|  |                               |                    |
|--|-------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Project Name: Palen Solar Power Project | 4. Location<br>Township _____ | 5. Location Sketch |
| 2. Key Observation Point: KOP 10           | Range _____                   |                    |
| 3. VRM Class: III                          | Section _____                 |                    |

**SECTION B. CHARACTERISTIC LANDSCAPE DESCRIPTION**

|          | 1. LAND/WATER  | 2. VEGETATION   | 3. STRUCTURES       |
|----------|--|---|---------------------|
| FORM     | Flat desert floor, pyramidal mountainous backdrop  | Low growing grasses coincident with form of valley; scrub trees and shrubs in foreground create small, irregular, round forms | Few to none visible |
| LINE     | Straight flat lines on valley floor, gently curved concave lines along valley edges                                | Irregular edges in foreground, background lines are straight and dull at edge of Palen dry lake                               | Few to none visible |
| COLOR    | Light tans to dark, reddish and greenish browns  | Light gold, tan, and sage greens  | Light grey          |
| TEX-TURE | Smooth texture in background zone, scattered patchwork/mosaic and granular texture in foreground/midleground zones | Same as land/water  | Few to none visible |

**SECTION C. PROPOSED ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION**

|          | 1. LAND/WATER                | 2. VEGETATION                  | 3. STRUCTURES  |
|----------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|
| FORM     | Graded planar and horizontal | Cleared/grubbed                | Flat solar arrays, rectilinear/boxy power black structures |
| LINE     | Graded horizontal            | Cleared/grubbed, sharper edges | Straight, horizontal to oblique, sharp                     |
| COLOR    | Light tan                    | Cleared/grubbed                | Blue to grey   |
| TEX-TURE | Smooth surfaces              | Cleared/grubbed                | smooth   |

**SECTION D. CONTRAST RATING**     SHORT TERM     LONG TERM

| 1. DEGREE OF CONTRAST |         | FEATURES            |          |      |      |                |          |      |      |                |          |      |      | 2. Does project design meet visual resource management objectives? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No<br>(Explain on reverses side) |   |
|-----------------------|---------|---------------------|----------|------|------|----------------|----------|------|------|----------------|----------|------|------|---|---|
|                       |         | LAND/WATER BODY (1) |          |      |      | VEGETATION (2) |          |      |      | STRUCTURES (3) |          |      |      |   |   |
|                       |         | STRONG              | MODERATE | WEAK | NONE | STRONG         | MODERATE | WEAK | NONE | STRONG         | MODERATE | WEAK | NONE |   |   |
| ELEMENTS              | FORM    |                     |          | X    |      |                |          |      | X    | X              |          |      |      |   | 3. Additional mitigating measures recommended <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No (Explain on reverses side) |
|                       | LINE    |                     |          | X    |      | X              |          |      |      | X              |          |      |      |   |   |
|                       | COLOR   |                     |          | X    |      | X              |          |      |      | X              |          |      |      |   |   |
|                       | TEXTURE |                     |          | X    |      |                |          | X    |      | X              |          |      |      |   |   |
|                       |         |                     |          |      |      |                |          |      |      |                |          |      |      |   | Evaluator's Names _____ Date _____  |

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SECTION D. (Continued)

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Comments from item 2.

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Additional Mitigating Measures (See item 3)