

APPENDIX E

Visual Impact Analysis
By Webber & Webber Mining Consultants, Inc., December 2004

WHITEWATER ROCK & SUPPLY CO.

**SUPER CREEK QUARRY
(RP 137R1)**

VISUAL IMPACT ANALYSIS

Prepared for:

WHITEWATER ROCK & SUPPLY CO.
58645 Old Highway 60
Whitewater, California 92282

Prepared by:

WEBBER & WEBBER MINING CONSULTANTS, INC.
101 East Redlands Boulevard
Suite 240
Redlands, California 92373

December 2004

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.	PROJECT DESCRIPTION.....	1
	Vicinity Map	2
	Visual Analysis Methodology	3
	Selection of Key Observation Points.....	5
2.	VISUAL IMPACT ANALYSIS	9
	Key Observation Point No. 1.....	9
	Key Observation Point No. 2.....	14
	Key Observation Point No. 3.....	18
3.	SUMMARY	22
	Recommended Mitigation Measures.....	22
4.	REFERENCES	23

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1.	Key Observation Point (KOP) Locations	6
Figure 2.	KOP No. 1 – Panorama View.....	12
Figure 3.	KOP No. 1 – Visual Simulation.....	13
Figure 4.	KOP No. 2 – Panorama View.....	16
Figure 5.	KOP No. 2 – Visual Simulation.....	17
Figure 6.	KOP No. 3 – Panorama View.....	20
Figure 7.	KOP No. 3 – Visual Simulation.....	21

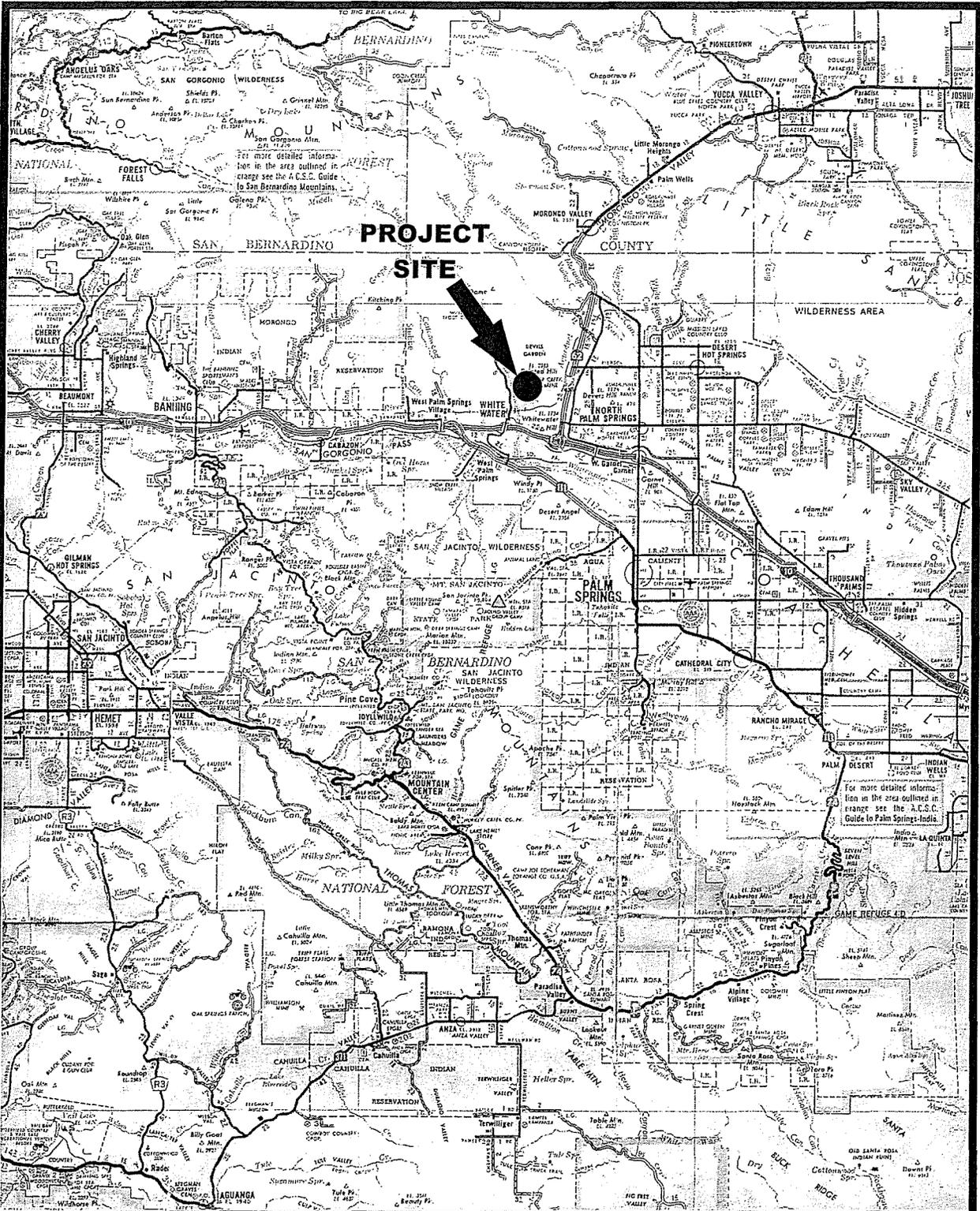
PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Whitewater Rock & Supply Company Super Creek Mine Project is an existing mine site located in central Riverside County, approximately 12 miles northwest of the City of Palm Springs (see Vicinity Map). Whitewater Rock & Supply Company is a leading stone and building supply company that operates the Super Creek Quarry as well as an existing retail yard on Old Highway 60 in Whitewater, California.

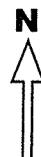
This Visual Impact Analysis was prepared as a result of the proposed expansion of the existing Super Creek Quarry operations. The approved quarry site includes 46.1 acres and Whitewater Rock & Supply Co. has applied for an additional 12.3 acres to be added to the project area. Approximately 29.3 acres is currently disturbed by ongoing mining activities. The additional 12.3 acres will allow two small hilltops just west of the approved mine area to be mined down to near the approved level of the existing quarry. The top 120 feet of the two small peaks are proposed to be mined, resulting in a relatively flat project area surface. Currently, these two hilltops form the western boundary of the approved project area. Also to be included within the 12.3 acres is a waste rock placement area. This waste rock placement area is situated within a ravine adjacent to the two peaks to be mined.

The Super Creek Quarry mine site provides a "Palm Springs Gold" decorative rock product to the Whitewater Rock & Supply Company retail yard located 3 miles south of the mine site. The Super Creek Quarry is situated on land managed by the Bureau of Land Management in the southeastern reaches of the San Bernardino Mountains, north of Whitewater, California. More specifically, the mine site is located in Section 36, Township 2 South, Range 3 East, S.B.B.M.

The Super Creek Quarry is relatively isolated in the foothills within an elevation range of approximately 2,200 feet to 2,400 feet above mean sea level. The site is immediately surrounded by steep, rugged mountainous ridges and valleys. The Whitewater River is approximately ½-mile east of the site and several wind energy generators are south and east of the site. Vacant open space comprises the remainder of the immediate vicinity around the project site. The nearest residential development is approximately 1 mile to the southwest, along Whitewater Canyon Road within the Whitewater River drainage area.



VICINITY MAP
WHITEWATER ROCK & SUPPLY – SUPER CREEK QUARRY



Scale: 1 Inch = 6.3 Miles

Figure 1

The project site is located in the lower elevations of the southeastern reaches of the San Bernardino Mountain Range. The regional topography is in a youthful stage of development characterized by rugged terrain with very steep slopes exceeding 1:1 (horizontal:vertical) and high stream gradients. Underlying the site is a Precambrian igneous and metamorphic rock complex composed of migmatic gneiss, flaser gneiss, and piemontite-bearing gneiss intruded by pegmatite dikes. Very sparse vegetation covers the rugged slopes in the region, allowing the grey, green and brown shades of the natural minerals to dominate the local coloring. The exposed surface of the mine site contrasts with the surrounding region as the vegetation is removed and the brownish/red/gold decorative rock is exposed.

Due to the relative isolation, the Super Creek Quarry area is only visible from certain viewpoints in the region. From these viewpoints, the overall view of the landscape consists primarily of flat tones of grey, green, and brown. Visually, diverse tan to brown forms are presented by the foothills with large dark grey forms comprising the larger mountain range to the north. Depending on the viewing angle, there is also a thin, light tan plane of the lower alluvial fan that lies at the base of the local foothills that contrasts moderately in color, form and texture. Greater coverage of vegetation in the lower alluvial areas provides a coarser texture and injection of green coloring from the common creosote scrub community.

Many manmade features are near to the site to the south and east in the form of wind energy turbines, Interstate 10, power lines as well as some structures. Situated within a region that naturally provides the resource of clean renewable energy, several wind farms cover a large proportion of the sparsely populated area. These wind farms comprise thousands of wind turbines that convert the wind into electricity and are clearly the dominant manmade visual feature in the vicinity.

Visual Analysis Methodology

Analyzing aesthetic resources and determining visual aspects are inherently subjective and highly open to interpretation by an individual viewer. Conventional guidelines should be used when available to provide consistency and objectivity when reviewing the potential visual impacts of a project. The Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Visual Resource Management system was used as a guideline for preparation of this report to determine Visual Resource Inventory as well as Visual Resource Contrast Ratings of the proposed

project. Applying these guidelines, the overall visual impact of the proposed 12.3 acre expansion to the existing Super Creek Quarry Mine project was analyzed.

This visual analysis incorporates review of the basic features of the landscape (land/water surface, vegetation and structures) and examined the four basic elements of each feature. The elements analyzed include the following:

- FORM: The dimensional shape and/or dimensional mass of an object or group of objects that appear unified in relation to the landscape.
- LINE: The path, real or imagined, that the eye follows when perceiving abrupt differences in form, color, or texture or when objects are aligned in a one-dimensional sequence, usually evident as the edge of shapes or masses in the landscape.
- COLOR: The property of reflecting light of a particular intensity and wavelength (or mixture of wavelengths) to which the eye is sensitive. This is a major visual property of surfaces.
- TEXTURE: The aggregation of small forms or color mixtures into a continuous surface pattern; the aggregated parts are enough that they do not appear as discrete objects in the composition of the landscape.

The existing landscape characterization was then compared with the characterization of the proposed project. The contrasts between the existing site and the features and elements of the proposed project were rated in accordance with the Visual Resource Contrast Rating system (BLM Handbook H-8431-1). The degree of contrast rating criteria utilized the following definitions:

- STRONG: The element contrast demands attention, will not be overlooked, and is dominant in the landscape.
- MODERATE: The element contrast begins to attract attention, and begins to dominate the characteristic landscape.
- WEAK: The element contrast can be seen, but does not attract attention.
- NONE: The element contrast is not visible or perceived.

Subsequent to development of contrast ratings between the existing landscape and the proposed development, mitigation measures were developed and reviewed to further reduce the visual impact of the operation from the selected KOPs. These processes were utilized in coordination with the BLM Visual Resource Management system Handbooks H-

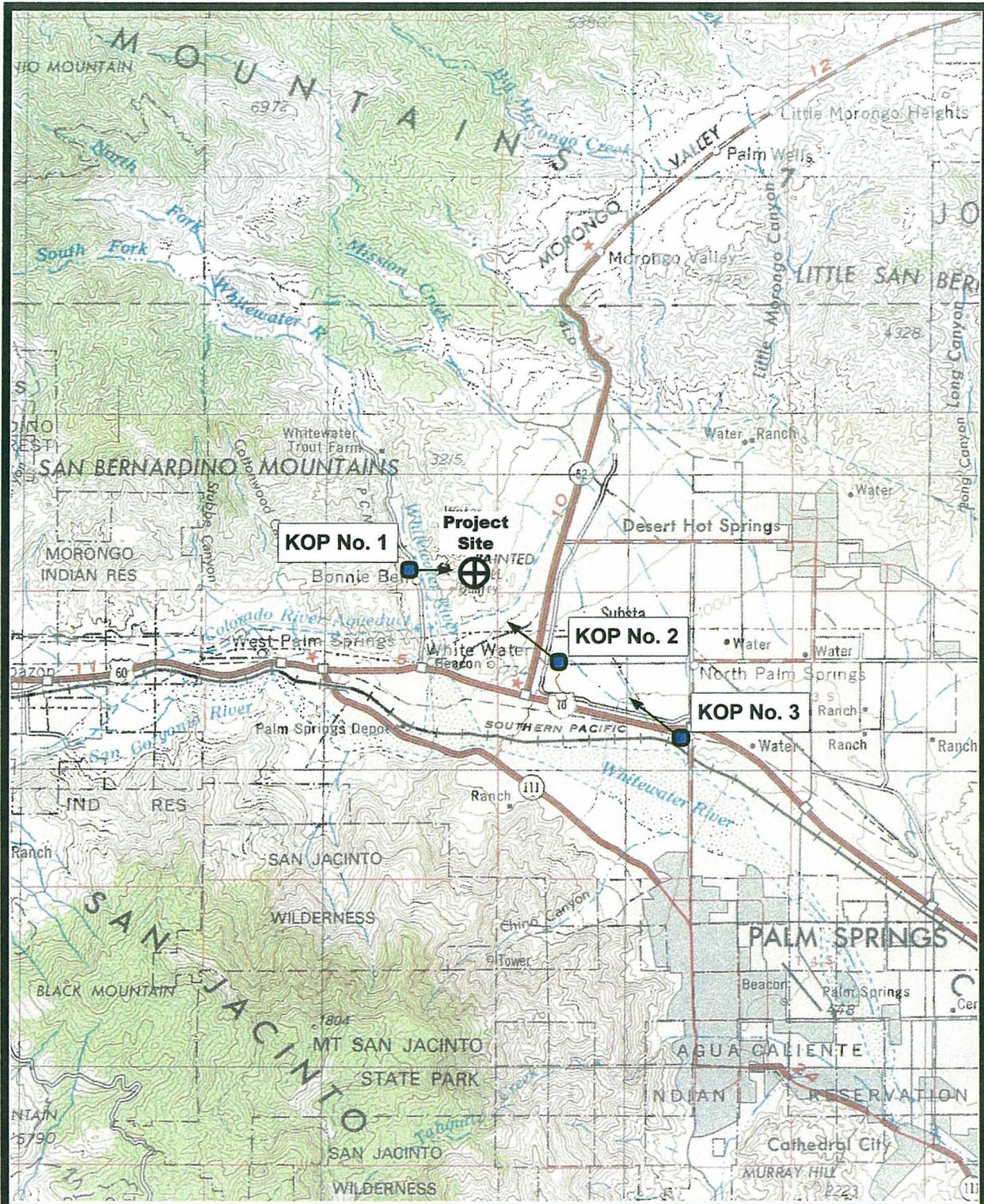
8410-1 and H-8431-1. Several site visits to the site and region, panoramic photographs from various positions along nearby streets and highways, as well as review of other existing features in the area were some of the tools utilized in producing this analysis. Additionally, visual simulations were created to provide accurate presentations of the alterations that will occur to the overall landscape.

For this study, it was assumed that the proposed operations were completed and the two peaks to be mined have been removed as proposed. If the proposal is approved, interim operations (the years it will take to completely mine the peaks) will not affect the landscape to a degree greater than when completed. It is estimated that the proposed expansion area will be completely mined within 25 years from approval. The waste rock placement area is proposed in a ravine just northeast of the two peaks and will not be noticeable from any viewpoints analyzed. No structures, additional equipment, or other features are proposed for the proposed expansion area. Therefore, only the alterations to topography/color required visual analysis. Revegetation activities will occur on the proposed expansion area as approved in the existing Plan of Operations / Reclamation Plan. Revegetation will reduce overall visual impacts of the project site, however, due to the timing of successful revegetation (may not be finalized until some years after mining is complete), revegetation of the site was not considered in this analysis. These assumptions should provide an adequate representation of the major impacts of the proposed project throughout most of its life.

Selection of Key Observation Points

Significant travel along streets and highways surrounding the proposed project site provided sufficient visual information from which to select Key Observation Points. In order to best evaluate the potential visual impacts of the proposed Super Creek Quarry expansion project and determine adequate mitigation measures, three Key Observation Points (KOP) were finally selected (see Figure 1). Key Observation Points were selected primarily based on the probability of the general public or commercial establishment's ability to see the expansion operations. Other factors considered when selecting the KOPs were: angle of observation, number of viewers, length of time the project is in view, relative project size, and light conditions.

Visual information gathered eliminated the selection of a Key Observation Point from the distant west, north or south of the project. Primarily, vacant wilderness lands consisting of



Whitewater Rock & Supply Co. – RP 137R1

VISUAL IMPACT ANALYSIS

KEY OBSERVATION POINT LOCATIONS



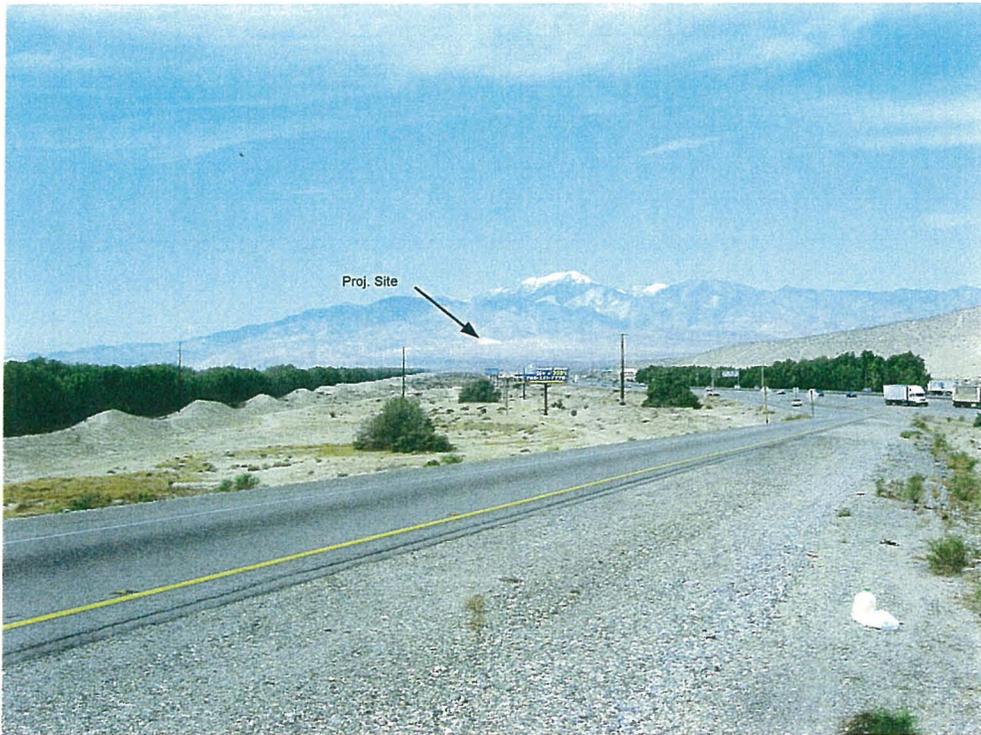
Map Source: USGS Santa Ana & San Bernardino Quadrangles (Scale: 1 Inch = 3.1 Miles)

Figure 1

rugged, mountainous features are situated north of the project. The Whitewater Trout Farm is approximately 3 miles to the north-northwest, but views of the project site are prevented by natural topography. The configuration of the local mountain features also eliminate direct views of the site from the west. Interstate 10 runs west-east approximately 2 miles south of the project site, but due to natural topography screening and the amount of time that the project area may be within a traveler's viewshed, this portion of the Interstate was considered a relatively ineffectual KOP.

Positions easterly of the project site provide fairly clear views of the existing mining operation, and as a result, may provide views of the proposed operations. As the majority of the lands easterly of the project site are sparsely populated, Interstate 10 was chosen as the most likely viewpoint by the greatest number of individuals. The existing quarry site is more or less visible as far as the eye can see from a traveler on Interstate 10 easterly of the site, however, due to elevation changes and subtle bends in the interstate, the quarry shifts in and out of the general viewshed. At distances greater than approximately five miles to the east, the project site may be visible, but can only be potentially resolved as a mine site to a keen, knowledgeable viewer. The greater relative size of the San Bernardino Mountains behind the Super Creek Quarry area dominates the viewshed from the east. Additionally, natural occurring erosional escarpments in the San Bernardino Mountains literally dwarf the similar-appearing exposed rock created by the Super Creek Quarry mining operation. See Photograph 1, taken from the Date Palm Drive offramp from Interstate 10, which illustrates this occurrence.

The three selected Key Observation Points include: the area known as "Bonnie Bell" on Whitewater Canyon Road west of the proposed operation, the junction of Highway 62 and Dillon Road east of the site, and the Indian Avenue offramp from Interstate 10 further to the east. Particular focus was applied to the nearest observation area called "Bonnie Bell," which is a small rural residential enclave nestled in Whitewater Canyon. Only the very northern portion of Bonnie Bell may be affected by the proposal as the majority of the area is screened by an existing hill (see Photograph 2). The other two KOP locations were deemed most representative of areas that may be impacted visually by the proposal.



Photograph 1 – View Towards Project from 12 Miles East of Site
(Date Palm Drive Offramp from Interstate 10)



Photograph 2 – View Towards Project from 1 Mile Southwest of Site
(Central Portion of Bonnie Bell Area)

VISUAL IMPACT ANALYSIS

The following presents contrast ratings for the features/facilities of the proposed operation compared with the existing site. For this proposed project, only the relative viewshed looking easterly and westerly was analyzed and will therefore provide approximations of actual views depending on the time of day and associated lighting conditions. The analysis provides the opportunity to identify and focus on mitigation for specific potential impacts. The final visual impact ratings as described in the above section come from an established rating system and therefore provide a balanced and consistent methodology for measuring the visual impacts of the proposed project.

KEY OBSERVATION POINT NO. 1

EXISTING SITE: Key Observation Point No. 1 is located approximately 1 mile west of the proposed mine expansion area, down within the Whitewater River Basin. KOP No. 1 is situated on Whitewater Canyon Road, just north of the area known as "Bonnie Bell." Bonnie Bell is an area that contains several existing residential units with established vegetation and moderate sized trees within Whitewater Canyon. Roughly the southern half of the Bonnie Bell residential area cannot see the two existing small peaks proposed for mining due to topographical screening. As a traveler progresses north towards the KOP No. 1 location, the two peaks slowly enter the viewshed to the east. The existing Super Creek Quarry operations are situated behind the two existing small peaks and cannot be seen. From this area, the view towards the proposed project is looking up gradient and is comprised of the Whitewater River Basin and eastern canyon walls (See Figure 2 – KOP No. 1 Panorama).

The overall view of the eastern landscape from KOP No. 1 consists of a gently-sloping river basin that leads to the base of the San Bernardino Mountain range foothills that form the eastern boundary of Whitewater Canyon. The river basin area presents a slightly tilting form that contrasts slightly from the irregular, inconsistently-lighted form created by the ridges and peaks of the foothills. The river basin is populated with relatively abundant vegetation including a creosote scrub community interspersed with light colored boulders of

varying size. Additionally, the top of a flourishing grove of trees nearer to the base of the foothills is visible from this viewpoint.

The foothills rise steeply approximately 600-800 feet above the Whitewater River Basin and are covered with sparse vegetation. Vegetation within the river floor area produces a medium to coarse texture comprised of light-tan to bright green coloring. A subtle, irregular line of demarcation distinguishes the river basin from the foothills and forms a transition for coloring and texture. The foothills are generally consistent lighter shades of tan to brown with a finer texture. The area immediately surrounding the two peaks of the proposed mining expansion area is slightly nearer in distance and more rugged (steep) than the other nearby foothills. Additionally, the proposed project area is noticeably more reddish in color due to mineralogy and the presence of less natural vegetation.

From KOP No. 1 (viewing from the east side of Whitewater Canyon Road), no man made features are visible. North and south of this location, the two-lane roadway winds through the river basin area along the base of the foothills forming the western boundary of the canyon. Westerly of Whitewater Canyon Road is a utility line that provides services to the Whitewater Trout Farm approximately 3 miles to the north. No other man made features are readily apparent visually from KOP No. 1.

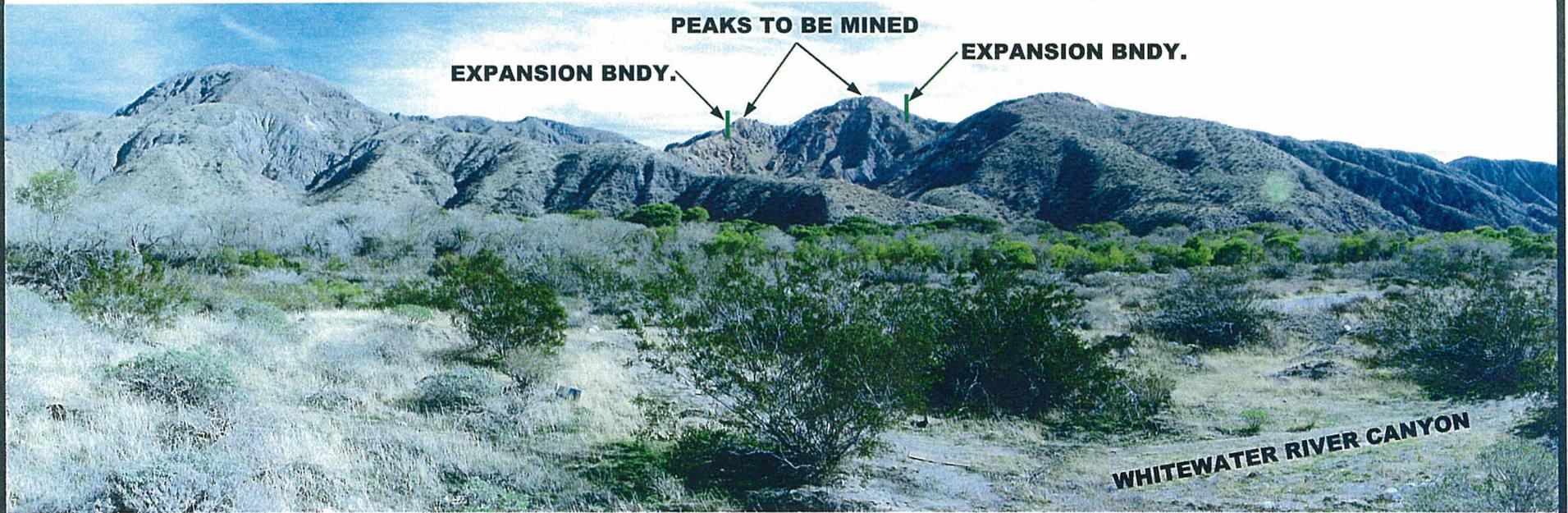
PROPOSED PROJECT SITE: From KOP No. 1, the proposed project site (visualized after mining expansion operations are completed) will alter a localized portion of the overall landscape. The overall form and basic textures of the landscape will not be altered due to proposed operations. The top horizontal "edge" of the form created by the foothills will be "flattened" as the two peaks are mined down, producing a correspondingly slight alteration to the bottom "edge" of the skyline. Basically, a portion of the visual interface between the foothill ridge line and atmosphere will be altered (See Figure 3 – KOP No. 1 Visual Simulation). As can be seen in the KOP No. 1 Panoramic Photograph, the overall foothill profile is relatively gently sloping from this viewpoint, excepting the two noticeable rounded prominent peaks. The sharper peaks in the middle will be reduced vertically, resulting in a slightly increased prominence of the other rounded peaks. The lower portion of the viewshed comprising the Whitewater River Basin area will remain completely unaltered due to the proposed operations.

KOP NO. 1 CONTRAST VALUES:

FORM:	Moderate
LINE:	Weak
COLOR:	None
TEXTURE:	None

CONCLUSION: The overall visual contrast from KOP No. 1 compared to the view of the present day landscape will be weak to moderate. Due to the lack of any additional visual features presented by the proposed project, no intrusive distractions will be added to the landscape. The reduction in height of two of the smaller, steeper peaks will be noticeable but will occur gradually and will not be a noticeable distraction. The impacts to the existing overall landscape view will affect only a small portion of the overall view. Therefore, the proposed project will be visible but will not attract attention.

12



VIEW TOWARDS EAST

(1 Mile West of Proposed Site)

——— Disturbance Limit

Whitewater Rock & Supply Company
VISUAL IMPACT ANALYSIS
Key Observation Point No. 1 – Panorama View

Key Observation Point No. 1 – Visual Simulation



View From KOP No. 1 – Before Mining (2004)
(View Towards East - 1 Mile West of Project Site)



View From KOP No. 1 – After Mining (2029)
(View Towards East - 1 Mile West of Project Site)

KEY OBSERVATION POINT NO. 2

EXISTING SITE: Key Observation Point No. 2 is located approximately 2 ½-miles southeast of the proposed project site at the intersection of Highway 62 and Dillon Road. The present-day view has largely been created through many decades of human development. As a result, the overall landscape presently includes several prominent man made features: Highway 62, vegetation within the highway divider, signs, utility poles, private residences, and wind energy turbines. The most powerful visual attraction is created by the wind energy turbines, which are conspicuously painted white. The overall view from KOP No. 2 is comprised of extreme irregularities in form, line, texture and color aspects (See Figure 4 – KOP No. 2 Panoramic Photograph).

The natural landscape from KOP No. 2 consists of low rolling hills in the foreground leading to moderately high intermediate foothills with the large mountain range just visible as darker strip above the foothills in the distance. The existing project site is completely void of structures, but is comprised of an active quarry with associated exposed rock faces/material. The active Super Creek Quarry site is visible along the interface of land and sky, but probably wouldn't be recognized as a mine site by the typical traveler on Highway 62. Extraction activities have removed all vegetation and overburden material thereby revealing the native reddish-gold decorative rock ore body and slightly altering the profile of the foothills. The scale of existing mine disturbance is small set within the overall landscape. No man made structures are visible at the project site and only the localized discoloration of extraction activity disturbance is visible.

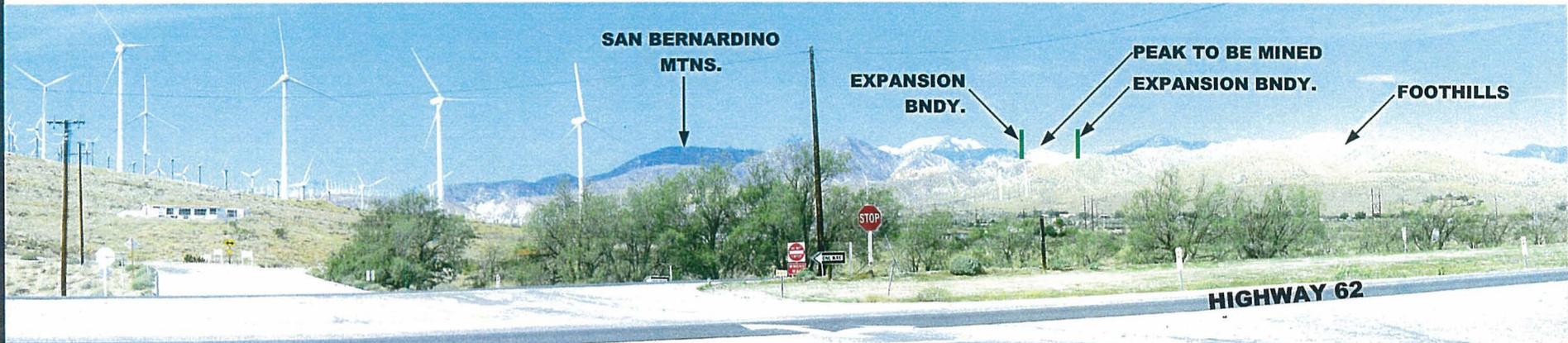
PROPOSED PROJECT SITE: From KOP No. 2, the proposed project site (visualized after mining expansion operations are completed) will alter the overall landscape compared with the present-day view. The proposal includes removing two small hilltops, one of which is within the viewshed of KOP No. 2 (the other hilltop is not as tall and behind a natural ridge). The irregular natural lines created by the edges of the hills and mountains will be slightly affected by the proposal. Again, the scale of the project site set within the overall landscape is insignificant, and so will the project site's impact to the visible features. A viewer's eye will still be drawn primarily to the wind energy turbines as well as other man made features in the foreground of the landscape. The changes to the landscape due to proposed operations will actually lessen the overall visual impact of the project site compared to present-day conditions. The small form of the exposed decorative rock material comprising the contrast with the surrounding native foothills will decrease in size

after mining. This will result in an overall smoother transition between the project disturbance and the natural ridgeline. A very thin layer of the darker mountain range in the distance will become visible as the hilltop that is presently in the foreground has been mined as proposed. See KOP No. 2 Visual Simulation Photographs for a representation of impacts to the present visual resources.

KOP NO. 2 CONTRAST VALUES:

FORM:	Weak
LINE:	Weak
COLOR:	None
TEXTURE:	None

CONCLUSION: The overall visual contrast rating compared to the view of the present day landscape will be weak from KOP No. 2. The contrast provided by the proposal will actually decrease after completion of mining compared to the present day contrast ratings. Therefore, the proposed project may be noticed but will not attract attention from the overall characteristic landscape.



VIEW TOWARDS WEST

(2 1/2 Miles East of Proposed Site)

— Disturbance Limit

Whitewater Rock & Supply Company

VISUAL IMPACT ANALYSIS

Key Observation Point No. 2 – Panorama View

Key Observation Point No. 2 – Visual Simulation



KOP No. 2 – Before Mining (2004)
(View Towards Northeast - 2 1/2 Miles Southeast of Project Site)



KOP No. 2 – After Mining (2029)
(View Towards Northeast - 2 1/2 Miles Southeast of Project Site)

KEY OBSERVATION POINT NO. 3

EXISTING SITE: Key Observation Point No. 3 is located approximately 6 miles east of the project site near the eastbound Indian Avenue offramp, just south of Interstate 10. Even though this location is approximately 150 feet south of Interstate 10, it is intended to provide an approximation of the distance and scale of the visible project as seen from Interstate 10. This location provides a prominent view of the natural landscape that includes the broad, flat basin of Western Coachella Valley, the foothills in which the project is located, and the San Bernardino Mountain range in the background (See Figure 6 – KOP No. 3 Panorama). As with the view from KOP No. 2, many man made features are readily apparent and draw attention within the Interstate 10 corridor and flat foreground portions of the viewshed. All resolvable man made features are horizontally grouped together near the foreground-middleground portion of the landscape and include: wind energy turbines, interstate highway signs, general vehicle traffic and some structures.

The overall view of the landscape from KOP No. 3 consists of light-tan colored, flat foreground, the Interstate 10 corridor in the foreground-middleground, and the Whitewater area foothills/San Bernardino Mountain range in the background. The foreground consists of a horizontal tan-brown form with a medium green-colored, coarse texture created by sparse creosote scrub vegetation. The Interstate 10 corridor comprises the middle portion (vertically) of the view from KOP No. 3 and is very irregular in form with short vertical white and brown lines (wind energy turbines and utility poles) projecting into the basic horizontal corridor area. Additionally, this portion of the landscape is dynamic as traffic along the interstate is in constant motion with various-colored/sized vehicles passing through the view. Above this the Whitewater foothills are light-tan colored with a fine texture that blends into the dark-grey, fine-textured San Bernardino Mountains. During winter months, the San Bernardino Mountains are generally covered with snow creating irregular white forms at the interface with the skyline.

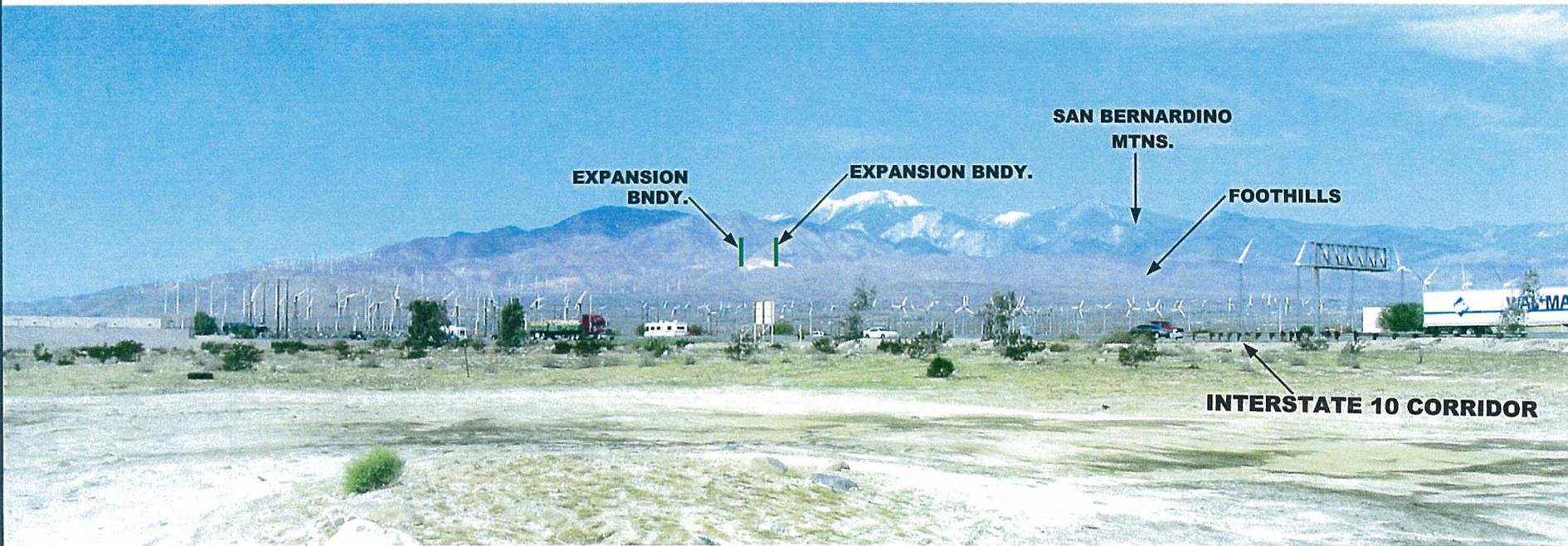
The existing project site is situated within the background portion of the landscape, just above (visually) the Interstate 10 corridor. The exposed rock surfaces of the active mine site clearly contrast with the surrounding region and is visible as a small, lighter colored form set against the slightly darker tan colored foothills. From KOP No. 3, the project site consumes less dimensional mass visually than the other KOPs, due to the increased distance. As a result, the impacts to the overall landscape will be less significant due to proposed expansion operations.

PROPOSED PROJECT SITE: From KOP No. 3, the proposed project site (visualized after mining expansion operations are completed) will alter a very small portion of the overall landscape. The view of the proposed project site from KOP No. 3 is similar to the view from KOP No. 2, and much of the discussion of KOP No. 2 will apply. Both KOPs contain similar man made features in the foreground to middle-foreground (wind energy turbines, highway, utility poles, etc.) with foothills/mountains further in the distance. However, a more commanding view of the primary project impact area (foothills/mountains) exists from KOP No. 3 due to the increased distance from the project site. As with KOP No. 2, only one of the proposed hilltops to be mined is visible due to natural topographic features. From KOP No. 3, the extent and scale of the proposed modifications to the landscape will produce less overall impact than from KOP No. 2. The viewable hilltop will be mined down, altering the angular edge of the immediate ridgeline to a flatter, horizontal edge. This will allow more of the darker mountain range behind the foothills to be seen just adjacent and above the proposed site. Therefore, the size of the mine site discoloration area will be reduced compared with current conditions and the geometry will be altered to decrease visual attraction compared with existing project operations. See Figure 7 - KOP No. 3 Visual Simulation for a specific representation of impacts to the present visual resources.

KOP NO. 3 CONTRAST VALUES:

FORM:	Weak
LINE:	None
COLOR:	None
TEXTURE:	None

CONCLUSION: The overall visual contrast rating compared to the view of the present day landscape will be very weak from KOP No. 3. The contrast provided by the proposal when completed will actually decrease compared to present day contrast provided by the existing project site. Therefore, the proposed project may be noticed but will not attract attention within the overall characteristic landscape.



VIEW TOWARDS WEST-NORTHWEST

(6 Miles East of Proposed Site)

————— Disturbance Limit

Whitewater Rock & Supply Company

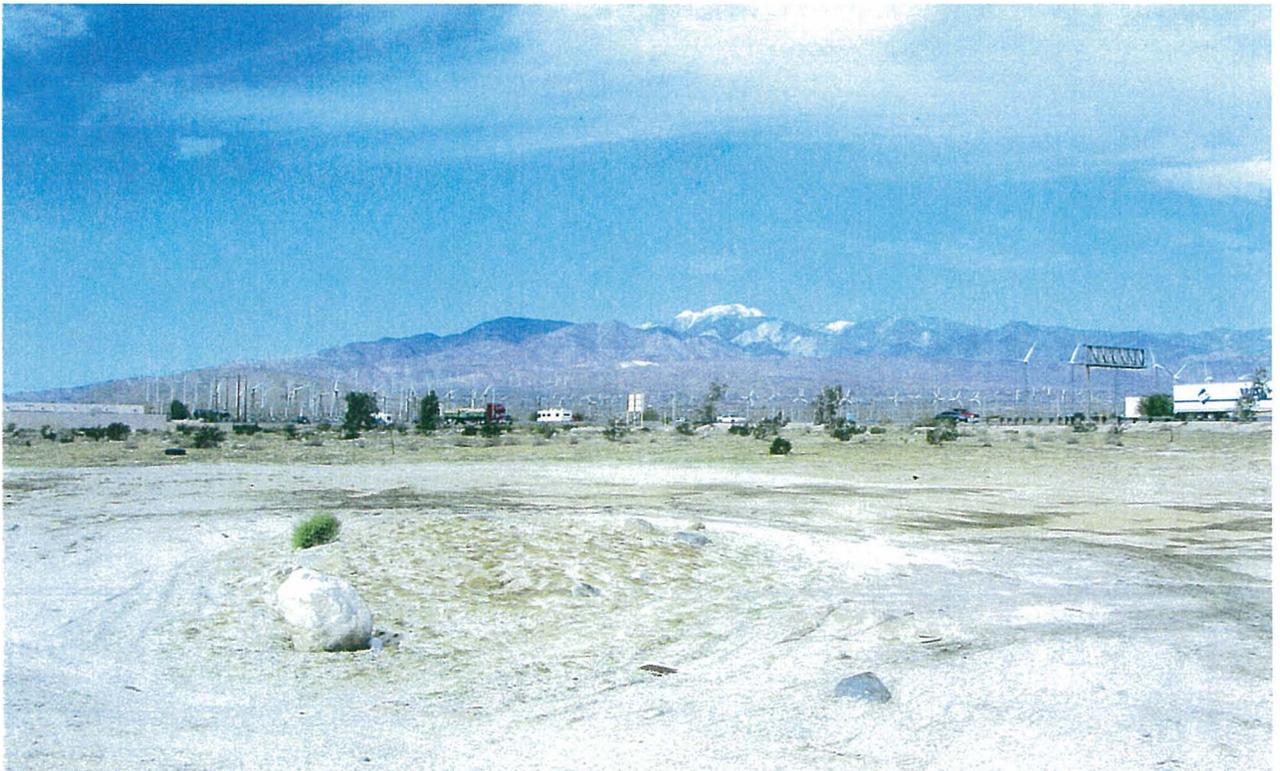
VISUAL IMPACT ANALYSIS

Key Observation Point No. 3 – Panorama View

Key Observation Point No. 3 – Visual Simulation



KOP No. 3 – Before Mining (2004)
(View Towards West - 6 Miles East of Project Site)



KOP No. 3 – After Mining (2029)
(View Towards West - 6 Miles East of Project Site)

SUMMARY

Overall, the proposed project site operations will slightly alter the typical landscape view from some locations within the immediate region. The project site cannot be viewed from the west along Interstate 10, north (Whitewater Trout Farm area), directly south along Interstate 10, or from the northeast along Highway 62. Visual impacts to the greatest number of possible viewers (east of the site along Interstate 10) will be very weak, and most likely not noticeable to the majority of travelers. The greatest impact will be to travelers along Whitewater Canyon Road just north of the community of Bonnie Bell. The impacts will consist of the altering of the current ridgeline via removal of two small hilltops. This will occur gradually over the 25-year proposed operating life of the project. The majority of residents within the Bonnie Bell area will not be affected as just the northernmost residents will have a partial view of the proposed operations.

RECOMMENDED MITIGATION MEASURES

Analysis used compiling this report has shown the proposed project to introduce weak contrast rating values compared to the existing, disturbed project site. Overall, the resulting contrast of project operations would not change the existing character of the landscape to a point of significant scenic value reduction. However, certain measures can be taken to reduce these contrast ratings even further, and include the following:

- Limit the use of mining equipment/structures/large stockpiles within or near the proposed mining expansion area.
- Round the tops of the decorative rock extraction area slopes to decrease the contrasting edges of the disturbance.
- Mine the hilltops in a manner that will minimize any rolldown of material down the western slope, immediately west of the hilltop locations.
- Minimize the size of active excavation areas until required for decorative rock extraction activities.
- Begin revegetation as soon as practical on any cutslopes that will not be further disturbed by project activities.
- Maintain a neat and orderly project site throughout the proposed life.