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## Estelle Mountain A

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The Estelle Mountain (A) study area is located on Bureau of Land Management land, approximately 4 miles south of Lake Mathews.

### Existing Conditions

#### *General Site Conditions*

The study area is located on an undeveloped slope near Elsinore Mountain. The elevation of the study area is approximately 2,220 feet above sea level. The soils present consist of Temescal rocky loam, based on the USDA soil survey. Land use in the vicinity consists of open space to the north, south, west, and east, and a dirt access road to the west. The study area is subject to minimal disturbance associated with use of the adjacent access road.

#### *Vegetation*

The vegetation in the study area consists of an herbaceous meadow with scattered stands of non-native grasses. The plant species observed include tarweed (*Deinandra paniculata*), red brome (*Bromus rubens*), blue dick (*Dichelostemma capitatum*), slender wild oat (*Avena barbata*), morning glory (*Calystegia occidentalis*), and black mustard (*Brassica nigra*).

#### *Wildlife*

Wildlife activity was low during the survey. Wildlife species observed includes horned lark (*Eremophila alpestris*), rock wren (*Salpinctes obsoletus*), and Anna's hummingbird (*Calypte anna*). Species expected to occur are those commonly found in open, hilly, rocky habitats such as western rattlesnake (*Crotalus viridis*), deer mouse (*Peromyscus maniculatus*), and mourning dove (*Zenaida macroura*).

### Sensitive Biological Resources

#### *Sensitive Species*

##### *Federally and State Listed Species*

The study area contains suitable habitat for Quino checkerspot butterfly (*Euphydryas editha quino*), a federally listed endangered species, and Stephens' kangaroo rat (*Dipodomys stephensi*), a federally listed endangered and State-listed threatened species. Neither species were observed within the study area. Focused surveys are necessary to determine the occupancy status of both species onsite.

##### CSC

The study area contains suitable habitat for northern red-diamond rattlesnake (*Crotalus ruber ruber*), and northwestern San Diego pocket mouse (*Chaetodipus fallax fallax*), both CSC. Neither species were observed within the study area. Regardless, CSC are not protected by any State or federal laws or policies.

The study area also contains suitable habitat for California horned lark (*Eremophila alpestris actia*), a CSC. The horned lark observed during the survey was not identified to sub-species. Even though CSC are not protected by any State or federal laws or policies, all sub-species of horned lark are protected under the MBTA and CDFG Code.

***Other Sensitive Species***

No suitable habitat for sensitive species not specifically protected under any other policy occurs on the study area.

***Nesting Birds***

No nests or nesting activities were observed during the survey; however, the vegetation adjacent to the study area contains suitable nesting habitat for ground-nesting avian species, such as horned lark.

***California Desert Native Plant Act***

No plant species protected under the CDNPA were observed within the study area and no impacts associated with the development of the study area are anticipated to occur.

***Jurisdictional Waters***

No drainage features, wetlands, vernal pools, or suitable habitat for sensitive fairy shrimp species occur on or in the vicinity of the study area. No waters or wetlands potentially under the jurisdiction of the State or the United States will be impacted by the development of the study area.

***Wildlife Corridors and Movement***

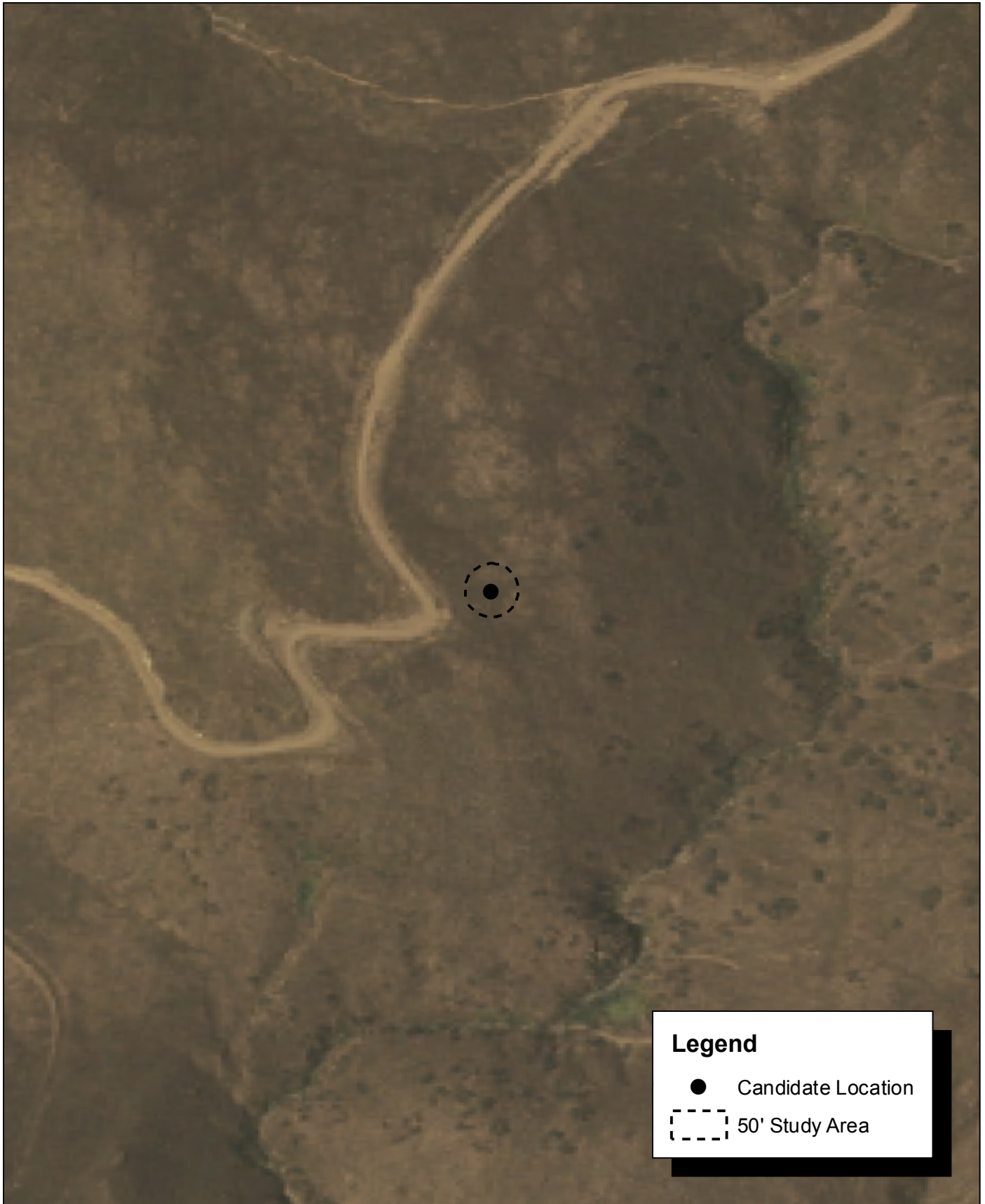
Given the limited size and minimal disturbance associated with the development of the study area, no impacts to any wildlife corridors or wildlife movement patterns are anticipated.

***Critical Habitat***

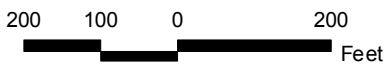
The study area is located within Critical Habitat for Quino checkerspot butterfly, as designated by the USFWS, and because suitable habitat exists, focused surveys are required.

***Applicable HCP or Land Use Management Plan***

The study area is located on federal land managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and is subject to the South Coast Regional Management Plan (SCRMP). Approval by the BLM must be obtained prior to construction.



Source: Riverside County NAIP, 2005



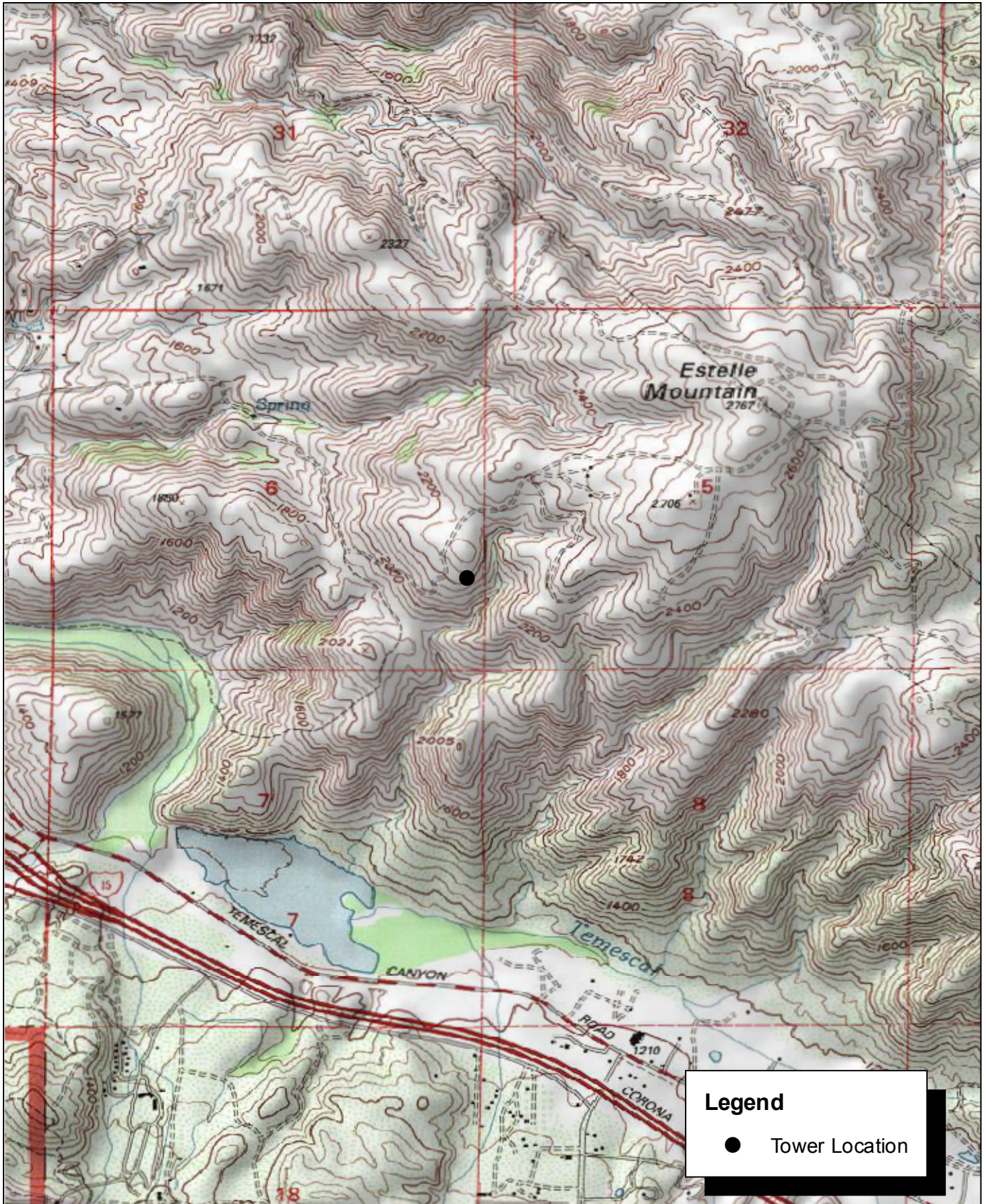
Michael Brandman Associates

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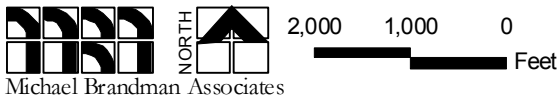
## Estelle Mountain A Communication Site Locality Vicinity Map

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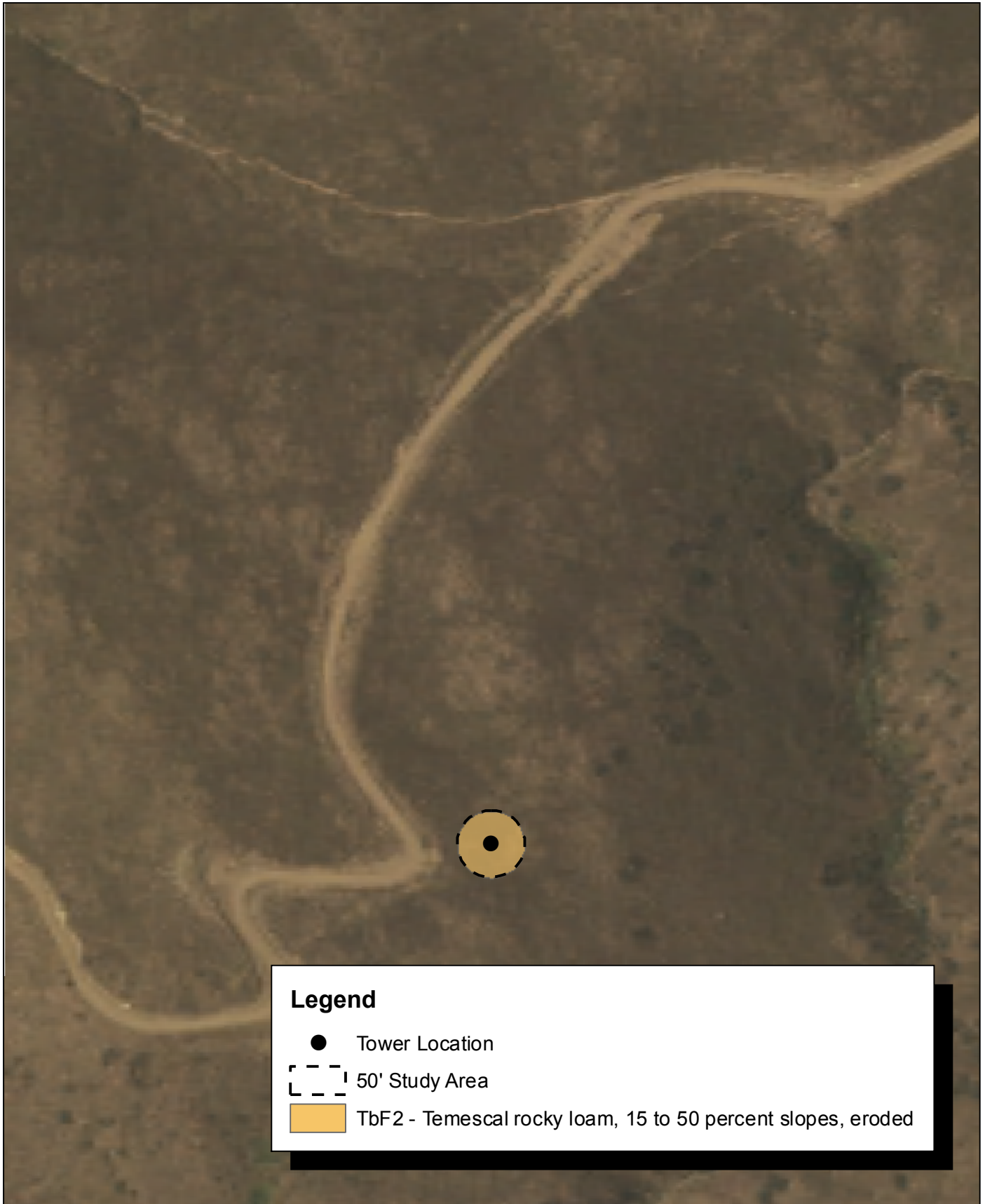


Source: USGS Lake Mathews 7.5' Topographic Map.



## Estelle Mountain A Communication Site Local Vicinity Topographic Map

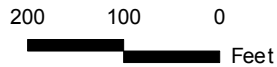




Source: Riverside County NAIP, 2005



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## Estelle Mountain B Communication Site USDA Soils Map

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Photograph 1: View toward Estelle Mountain A candidate location, facing north.



Photograph 2: View toward Estelle Mountain A candidate location, facing northeast.



Photograph 3: View toward Estelle Mountain A candidate location, facing southeast.



Photograph 4: View toward Estelle Mountain A candidate location, facing south.

Source: Michael Brandman Associates, 2008.



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Estelle Mountain (A) Candidate Photographs 1 to 4  
PSEC Project



Photograph 5: View from Estelle Mountain A candidate location, facing south.



Photograph 6: View from Estelle Mountain A candidate location, facing west.



Photograph 7: View from Estelle Mountain A candidate location, facing north.



Photograph 8: View from Estelle Mountain A candidate location, facing east.

Source: Michael Brandman Associates, 2008.



Michael Brandman Associates

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Estelle Mountain (A) Candidate Photographs 5 to 8  
PSEC Project



**Estelle Mtn A**



**Western Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP)**

APN	Cell	Cell Group	Acres	Area Plan	Sub Unit
391040005	Not A Part	Independent	157.89	Elsinore	Not a Part
391040005	3351	Independent	0.6	Elsinore	SU1 - Estelle Mtn/Indian Cyn

**HABITAT ASSESSMENTS**

Habitat assessment shall be required and should address at a minimum potential habitat for the following species:

APN	Amphibia Species	Burrowing Owl	Criteria Area Species	Mammalian Species	Narrow Endemic Plant Species	Special Linkage Area
391040005	NO	YES	YES	NO	YES	NO

**Burrowing Owl**

Burrowing owl.

**Criteria Area Species**

1) Thread-leaved brodiaea, Davidson's saltscale, Parish's brittlescale, Smooth Tarplant, Round-leaved filaree, Coulter's goldfields, Little Mousetail

**Narrow Endemic Plant Species**

1) Munz's onion, San Diego ambrosia, Slender-Horned Spineflower, Many-stemmed dudleya, Spreading navarretia, California Orcutt grass, San Miguel savory, Hammitt's clay-cress, Wright's trichocoronis.

If potential habitat for these species is determined to be located on the property, focused surveys may be required during the appropriate season.

**Background**

The final MSHCP was approved by the County Board of Supervisors on June 17, 2003. The federal and state permits were issued on June 22, 2004 and implementation of the MSHCP began on June 23, 2004.

For more information concerning the MSHCP, contact your local city or the County of Riverside for the unincorporated areas. Additionally, the Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority (RCA), which oversees all the cities and County implementation of the MSHCP, can be reached at:

Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority  
 4080 Lemon Street, 12th Floor  
 Riverside, CA 92502-1604

Phone: 951-955-9700  
 Fax: 951-955-8873

[www.wrc-rca.org](http://www.wrc-rca.org)

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