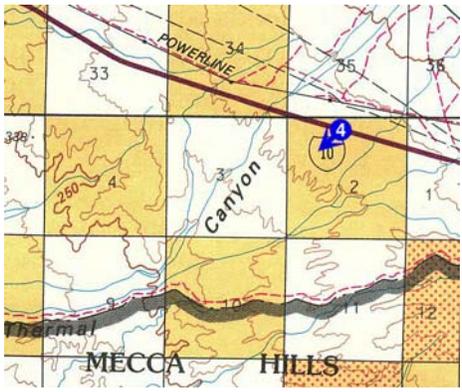


**United States Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management
Scenic Quality Field Inventory**

Date 8/23/05		
District California Desert		
Field Office Palm Springs		
Scenic Quality Rating Unit 03		
Viewpoint 4 : Eastbound I-10		
Evaluator(s) Michael Clayton		

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER			
	LANDFORM / WATER	VEGETATION	STRUCTURES
Form	Undulating drainages and uneven slopes in the vicinity of Thermal Canyon, backdropped by the Mecca Hills (not part of Unit 03).	Irregular distribution of low growing grasses and shrubs.	None, with the exception of I-10, which forms the northern boundary of this unit.
Line	Horizontal to diagonal for the foreground canyon area.	Irregular for individual shrubs.	None (though horizontal for I-10).
Color	Light-tan soils.	Tan to pale-yellow grasses with tanish-gray to green shrubs.	None.
Texture	Soils in the immediate foreground appear granular.	Medium grain to matte.	None

Narrative: SQRU 03 includes the sloping alluvial fans and incised, rugged canyon area located between I-10 on the north and the Mecca Hills Wilderness to the south. The topographic variation of the landscape appears deceptively limited when viewed from I-10, with much of the landscape screened by berms and undulating ridges immediately adjacent to the south side of I-10. Vegetation is relatively sparse with low growing grasses and shrubs. Colors are predominantly muted tans and greens. What is most noticeable about the view from I-10 is the backdrop of adjacent scenery comprised of the checkerboard patterns of Coachella Valley below and the steeply rising Santa Rosa Mountains beyond.

Score					SCENIC QUALITY CLASSIFICATION
	High	Medium	Low	Explanation or Rationale	
a. Landform		2		Incised drainages, Thermal Canyon	
b. Vegetation			1		
c. Water			0		
d. Color		2			
e. Adjacent Scenery		3		Coachella Valley, Santa Rosa Mountains	
f. Scarcity		2			
g. Cultural Modifications			0	None	
TOTALS	0	9	1	10	<input type="checkbox"/> A 19 or more <input type="checkbox"/> B 12 - 18 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C 11 or less