

4.14 Population and Housing

This section describes socioeconomic conditions in the area of the IC Project Alignment, as well as the potential impacts that could result from construction and operation of the IC Project and its Alternatives.

4.14.1 Environmental Setting

The IC Project Alignment traverses unincorporated areas of Inyo, Kern, and San Bernardino counties and the City of Barstow; the IC Project Alignment does not cross any Reservation lands. The IC Project Alignment is located near the following: City of Bishop, West Bishop Census-Designated Place (CDP), Lone Pine CDP, Big Pine CDP, Independence CDP, Wilkerson CDP, Olancho CDP, Pearsonville CDP, Inyokern CDP, Baker CDP, Bishop Reservation, Big Pine Reservation, Lone Pine Reservation, and Fort Independence Reservation. Figureset 4.14-1 illustrates the location of these areas with respect to the IC Project Alignment.

Population and housing data are presented in the following sections for these areas. Historical race and ethnicity, population, and housing data presented below were obtained from U.S. Census Bureau decadal censuses. Population projections were obtained from the California Department of Finance.

4.14.1.1 Race and Ethnicity

The racial and ethnic composition of the population of Inyo, Kern, and San Bernardino counties, the City of Barstow, and areas near the IC Project Alignment in 2010 is shown in Table 4.14-1. The majority of the population in Inyo, Kern, and San Bernardino counties as a whole, and all non-Reservation locations along the IC Project Alignment, identify as white and non-Hispanic. The four Reservations in the vicinity of the IC Project Alignment have a majority of non-Hispanic people, as well as a majority of people who self-identify as American Indian and Alaska Native.

4.14.1.2 Population Profile

Population data from the 2000 and 2010 decadal Censuses are presented in Table 4.14-1. With the exception of the West Bishop CDP and Pearsonville CDP, all areas experienced no change or an increase in population. The population of Inyo County is projected to increase in 2020, 2030, and 2040, with the population in 2040 estimated to reach 19,360. The population of Kern County is also projected to increase over this timeframe, with the population in 2040 estimated to reach 1,213,558. The population of San Bernardino County is projected to increase in 2020, 2030, and 2040, with the population in 2040 estimated to reach 2,730,966.

4.14.1.3 Housing Profile

Data on the number of housing units and rental vacancy rates for each of the locations is presented in Table 4.14-1 below. As shown in the table, vacant rental units are available across the length of the IC Project Alignment. Short-term lodging along the IC Project Alignment is available at hotels and motels in Bishop, Ridgecrest, Barstow, as well as in the Big Pine and Lone Pine areas.

Table 4.14-1: Population and Housing

	Inyo County	Kern County	San Bernardino County	City of Barstow	City of Bishop	West Bishop CDP	Lone Pine CDP	Big Pine CDP	Independence CDP
Race/Ethnicity (% of population)									
White	74.1	61.6	56.7	52.3	73.9	91	65.6	67.9	73.7
Black or African American	0.6	6.0	8.9	14.6	0.6	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.9
American Indian and Alaska Native	11.4	1.5	1.1	2.1	2.3	1.1	10.1	24.9	14.6
Asian	1.3	3.4	6.3	3.2	1.6	1.7	0.8	0.7	1.2
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0.1	0.1	0.3	1.2	0	0	0	0.1	0.1
Some Other Race	9.0	23.2	21.6	18.7	18.6	2.8	18.5	3	4.2
Two or More Races	3.5	4.1	5.0	7.8	2.9	3	4.7	3.2	5.2
Hispanic or Latino	19.4	38.4	49.2	42.8	30.9	10	34.1	10.4	13.9
Not Hispanic or Latino	80.6	61.6	50.8	85.0	69.1	90	65.9	89.6	86.1
Population, 2000	17,945	661,645	1,709,518	22,569	3,575	2,807	1,655	1,350	574
Population, 2010	18,546	839,631	2,035,210	22,639	3,879	2,607	2,035	1,756	669
Pop. Below Poverty Level, 2016 (%)	10.8	23.1	19.1	36.7	13.5	2.6	13.8	10.1	14.1
Housing, Total	9,478	284,367	699,637	9,555	1,926	1,29	1,004	871	389
Housing, Occupied	8,049	254,610	611,618	8,085	1,748	1,133	831	764	301
Housing, Vacant	1,429	29,757	88,019	1,470	178	96	173	107	88
Rental Vacancy Rate (%)	5.8	8.7	8.7	20.8	5.8	4.2	7.1	6.3	6.1

	Wilkerson CDP	Olancha CDP	Pearsonville CDP	Inyokern CDP	Baker CDP	Bishop Reservation AIAN	Big Pine Reservation AIAN	Lone Pine Reservation AIAN	Fort Independence AIAN
Race/Ethnicity (% of population)									
White	93.1	69.3	94.1	84.6	41.1	20.9	13.4	21.7	31.2
Black or African American	0	0	0	1.3	0.1	0.3	0	0	0
American Indian and Alaska Native	2.3	2.1	0	2.2	0.7	69.9	82.4	75.5	54.8
Asian	0.9	4.2	0	2.3	1.4	0.4	0.2	0	0
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0.2	0	0	0.2	1.9	0.1	0	0	0
Some Other Race	0.9	19.8	5.9	4.5	51.7	3.8	2.6	0.9	2.2
Two or More Races	2.7	4.7	0	5.0	3.1	4.6	1.4	1.9	11.8
Hispanic or Latino	9.4	24.5	5.9	10.6	68.3	16.9	8.6	7.1	9.7
Not Hispanic or Latino	90.6	75.5	94.1	89.4	31.7	83.1	91.4	92.9	90.3
Population, 2000	562	134	27	984	--	1,441	462	212	86
Population, 2010	563	192	17	1,099	735	1,588	499	212	93
Pop. Below Poverty Level, 2016 (%)	1.1	0	0	13.8	23.2	19.3	26.7	23.2	16.0
Housing, Total	265	97	16	537	303	602	202	102	49
Housing, Occupied	244	78	9	484	215	556	186	92	47
Housing, Vacant	21	19	7	53	88	46	16	10	2
Rental Vacancy Rate (%)	4.3	2.9	0	5.7	20.8	7.6	7.3	0	0

Source: US Census Bureau

4.14.2 Regulatory Setting

Federal, state, and local regulations were reviewed for applicability to the IC Project.

4.14.2.1 Federal

There are no applicable regulations for population and housing that apply to the IC Project.

4.14.2.2 State

There are no applicable regulations for population and housing that apply to the IC Project.

4.14.2.3 Local

The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) has sole and exclusive state jurisdiction over the siting and design of the IC Project. Pursuant to CPUC General Order 131-D (GO 131-D), Section XIV.B, “Local jurisdictions acting pursuant to local authority are preempted from regulating electric power line projects, distribution lines, substations, or electric facilities constructed by public utilities subject to the CPUC’s jurisdiction. However, in locating such projects, the public utilities shall consult with local agencies regarding land use matters.” Consequently, public utilities are directed to consider local regulations and consult with local agencies, but the counties’ and cities’ regulations are not applicable as the counties and cities do not have jurisdiction over the IC Project. However, there are no applicable regulations for population and housing that apply to the IC Project.

4.14.3 Significance Criteria

The significance criteria for assessing the impacts to population and housing are derived from the CEQA Environmental Checklist. According to the CEQA Checklist, a project causes a potentially significant impact if it would:

- Induce substantial population growth in the area, either directly (e.g., by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (e.g., through the extension of new roads or other infrastructure)
- Displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere
- Displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere

4.14.4 Impact Analysis

4.14.4.1 Would the project induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?

4.14.4.1.1 Construction

No Impact. The IC Project would not induce, either directly or indirectly, substantial population growth in the area. SCE expects to utilize up to approximately 200 workers per day. The labor demands of the IC Project would be met by existing SCE employees or by hiring specialty electrical transmission contractors. Given the small number of positions required for construction of the IC Project and the short term of the construction period in any given location, no population growth would be induced by the IC Project.

The IC Project would not indirectly induce an increase in population. The IC Project is designed to remediate GO 95 clearance discrepancies; it would not provide new or upgraded electrical service to the area. In addition, the IC Project does not include any new infrastructure such as publicly accessible roads that could induce population growth. Therefore, no impacts would occur under this criterion as a result of the IC Project.

4.14.4.1.2 Operations

No Impact. As presented in Chapter 3, SCE is currently performing operation and maintenance (O&M) activities, including inspections, along the subtransmission lines that would be rebuilt and reconducted under the IC Project. No material changes in O&M activities or the locations of these activities are anticipated with implementation of the IC Project, and therefore no impacts would be realized under this criterion during operations and maintenance.

4.14.4.2 Would the project displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?

4.14.4.2.1 Construction

No Impact. The IC Project would not displace any existing housing. The existing subtransmission lines that would be rebuilt are located on existing SCE-owned property, in existing rights-of-way (ROWs), on lands where SCE has easement rights, or immediately adjacent to ROWs or existing easements. No housing would be displaced, and thus it would not be necessary to construct replacement housing elsewhere.

4.14.4.2.2 Operations

No Impact. As presented in Chapter 3, SCE is currently performing operation and maintenance (O&M) activities, including inspections, along the subtransmission lines that would be rebuilt and reconducted under the IC Project. No material changes in O&M activities or the locations of these activities are anticipated with implementation of the IC Project, and therefore no impacts would be realized under this criterion during operations and maintenance.

4.14.4.3 Would the project displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?

4.14.4.3.1 Construction

No Impact. Portions of the IC Project are located adjacent to residential areas; however, no housing would be displaced, and therefore no people would be displaced during construction of the IC Project. Thus, there would be no impacts under this criterion.

4.14.4.3.2 Operations

No Impact. As presented in Chapter 3, SCE is currently performing operation and maintenance (O&M) activities, including inspections, along the subtransmission lines that would be rebuilt and reconducted under the IC Project. No material changes in O&M activities or the locations of these activities are anticipated with implementation of the IC Project, and therefore no impacts would be realized under this criterion during operations and maintenance.

4.14.5 Applicant Proposed Measures

Because no impacts to population and housing would occur as a result of the IC Project, no avoidance or minimization measures are proposed.

4.14.6 Alternatives

Alternatives to the IC Project are addressed in Section 5.2, Description of Project Alternatives and Impact Analysis.

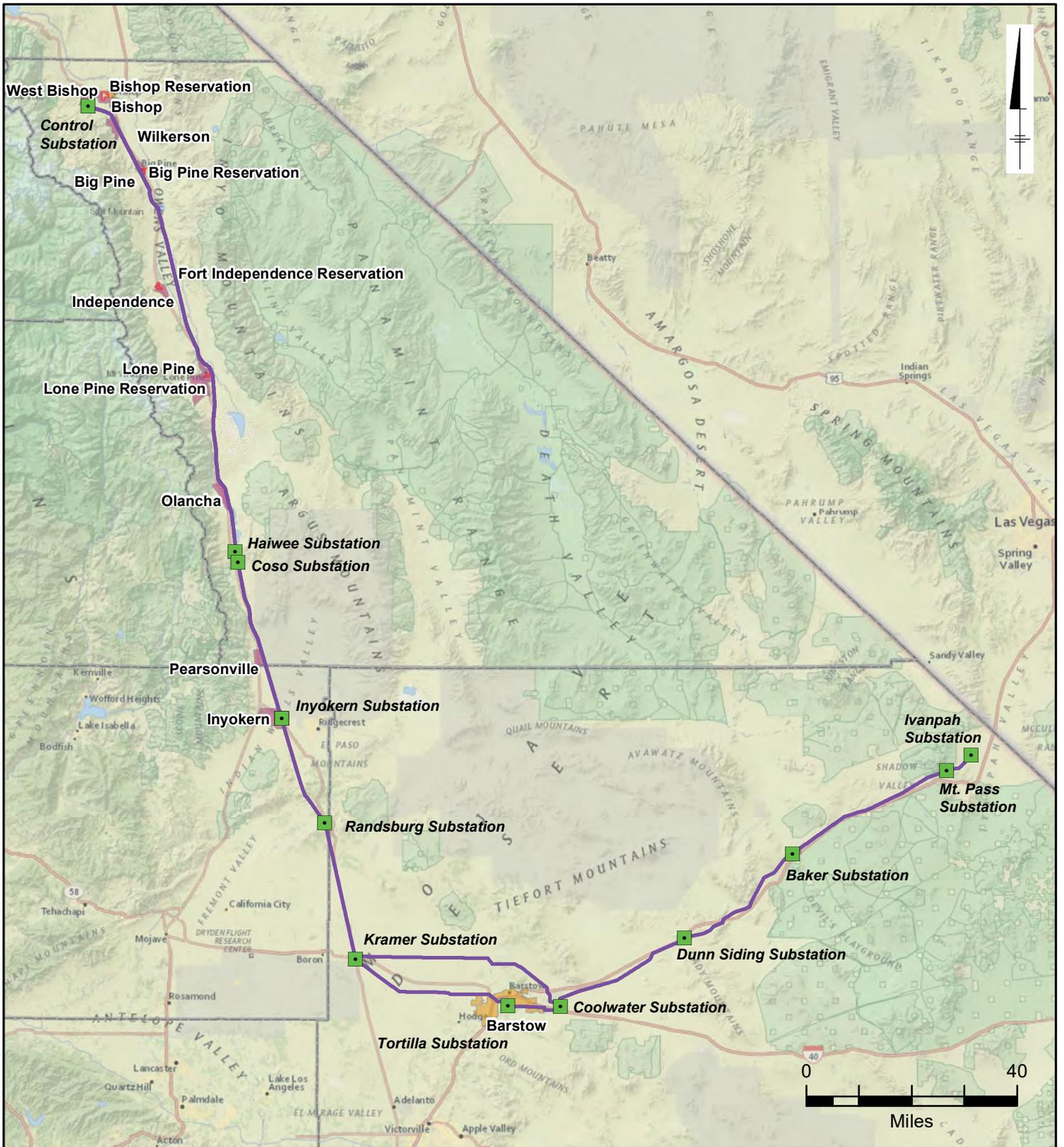
4.14.7 References

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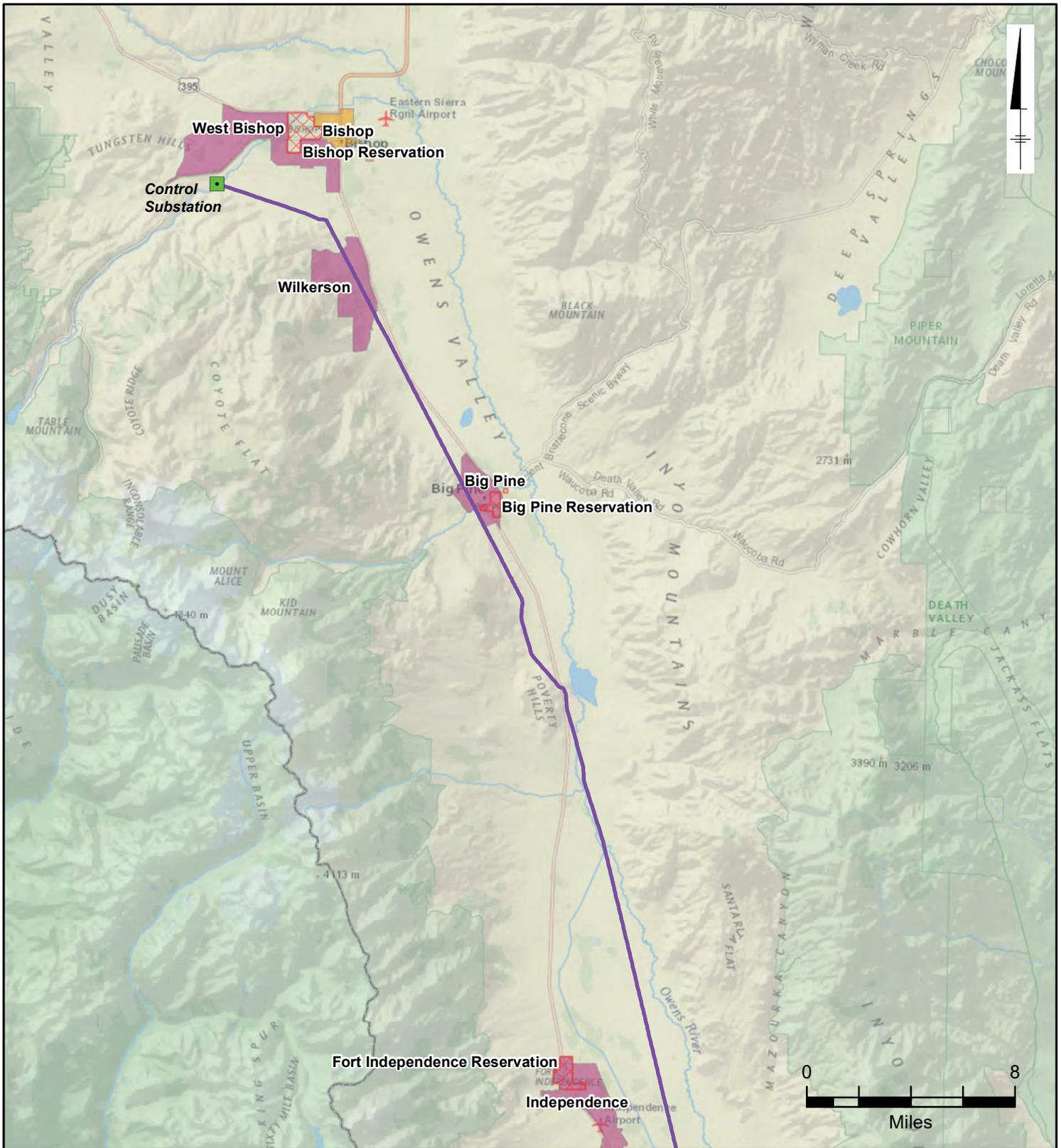
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CITIES, RESERVATIONS, AND CENSUS-DESIGNATED PLACES



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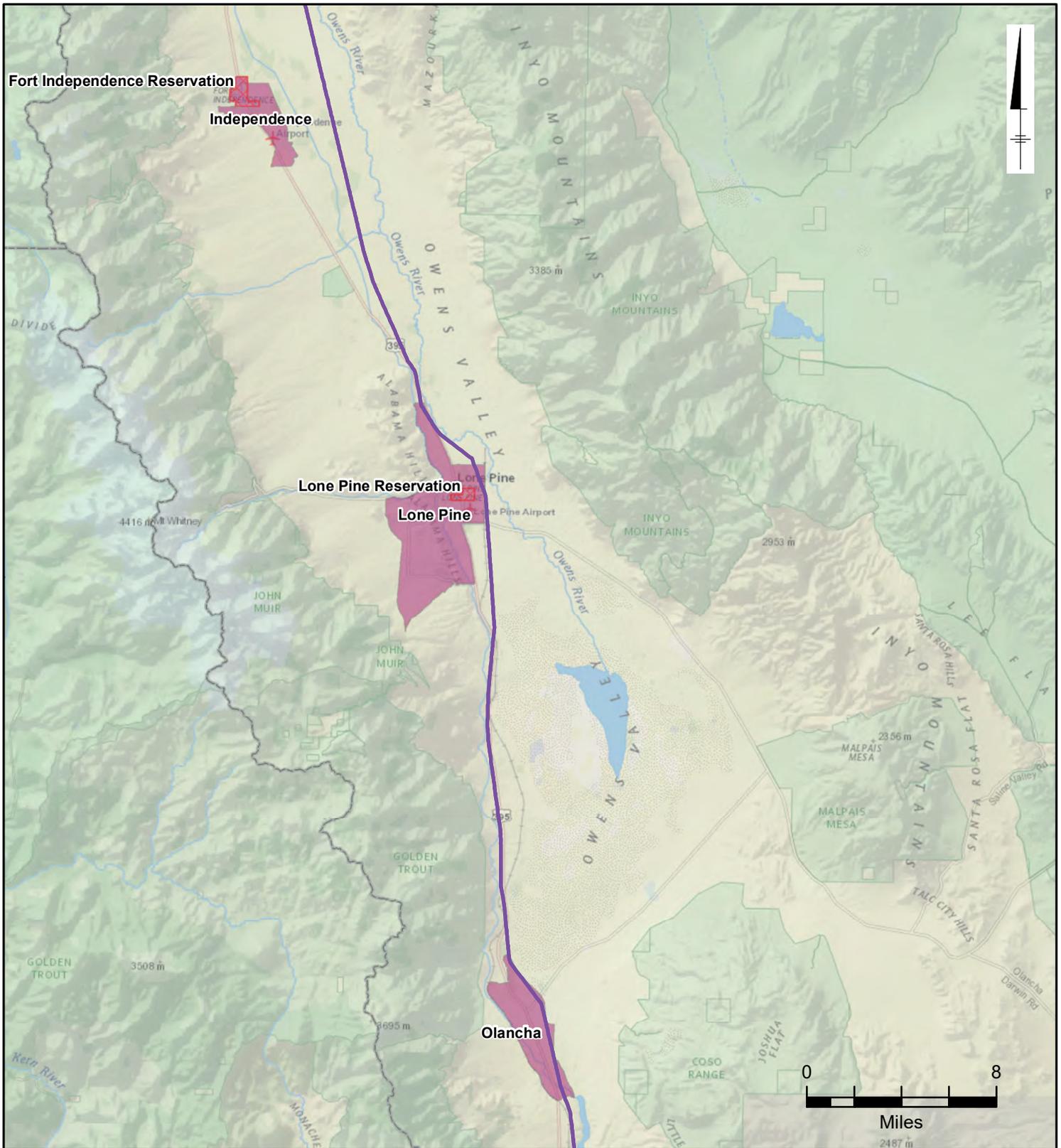
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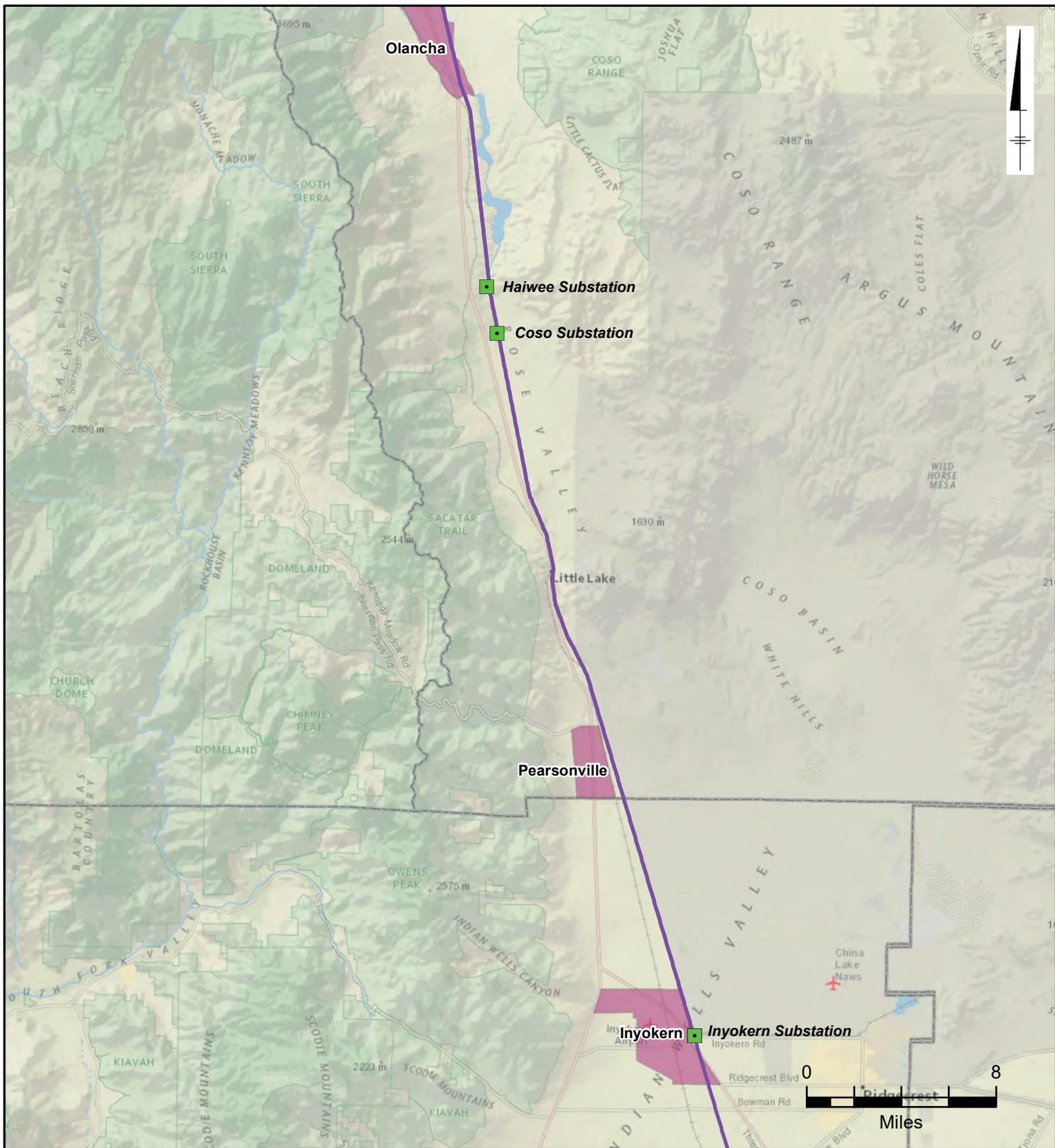
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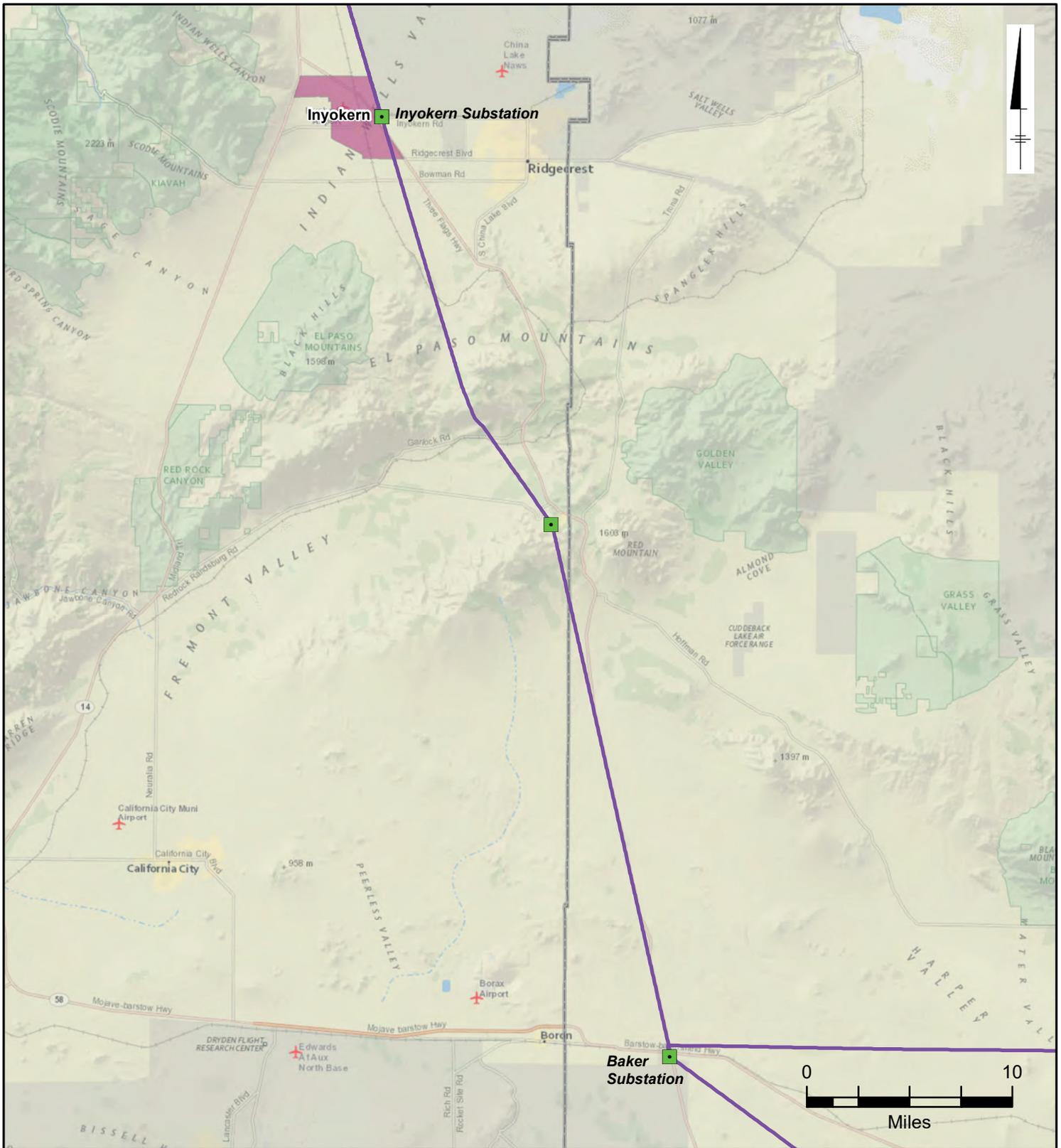
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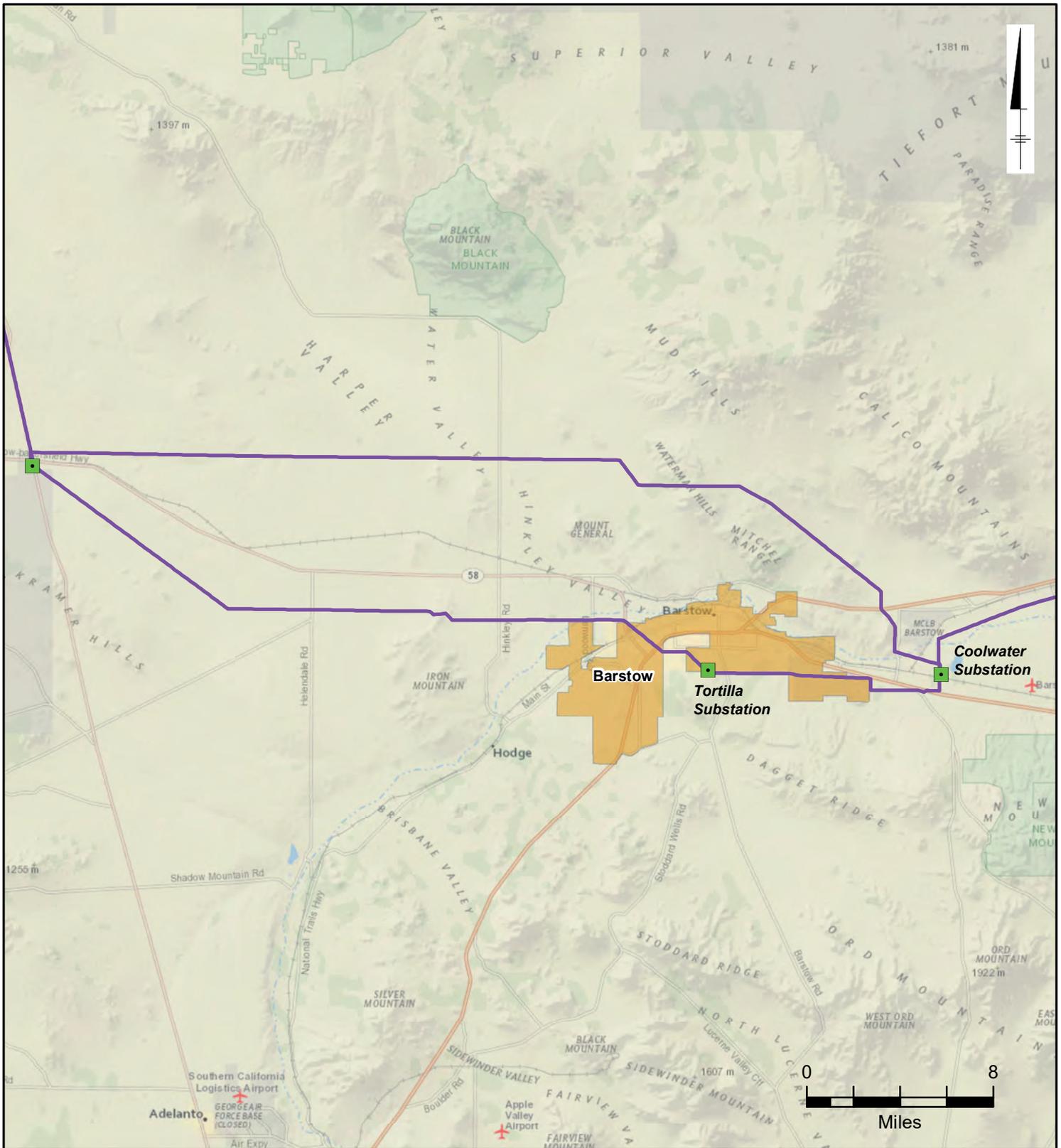
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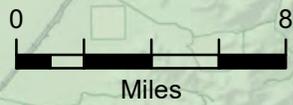
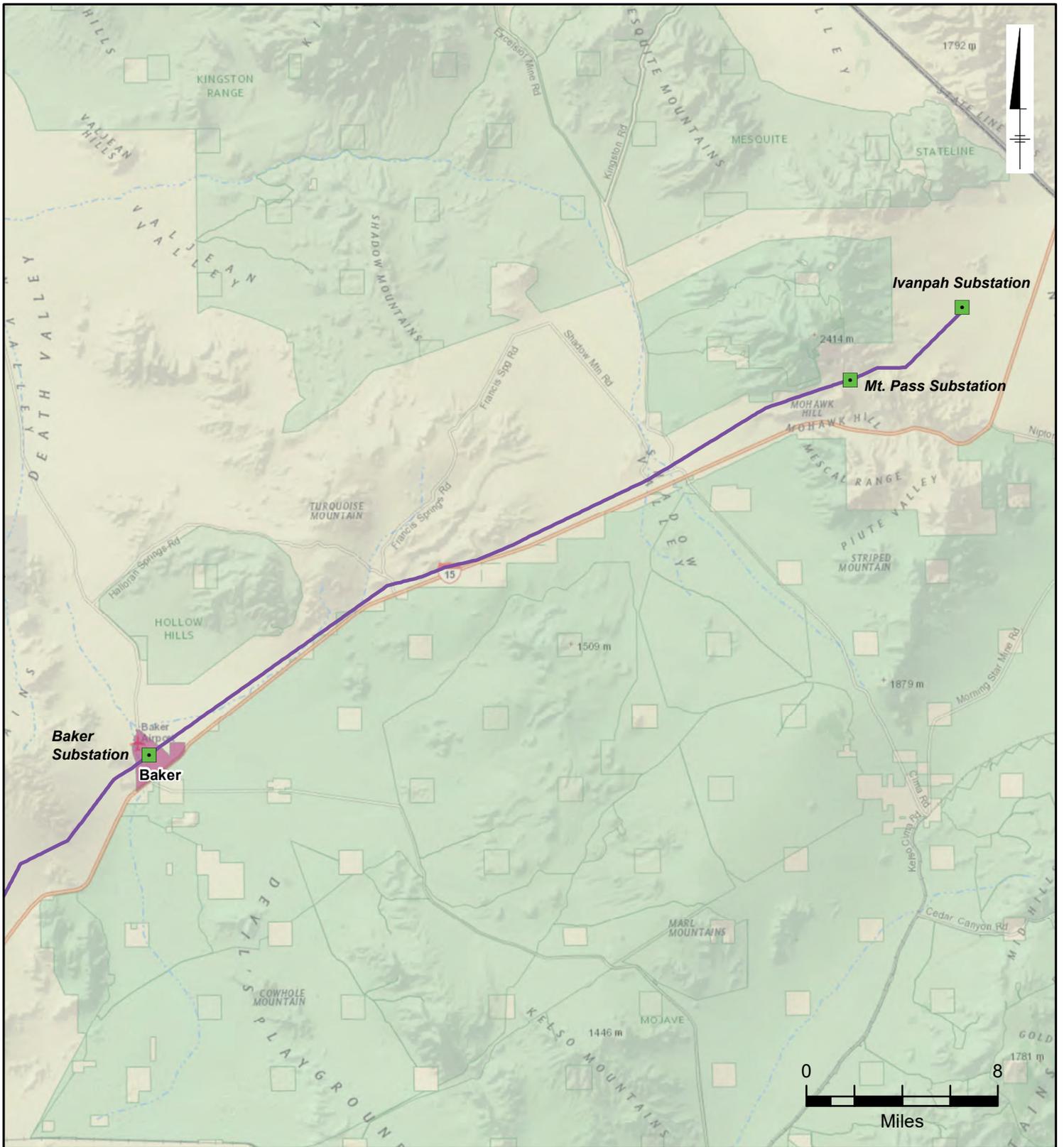
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