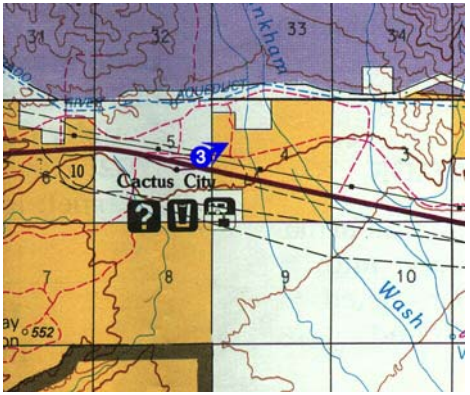



**United States Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management
Scenic Quality Field Inventory**

Date 8/23/05		
District California Desert		
Field Office Palm Springs		
Scenic Quality Rating Unit 02		
Viewpoint 3 : Cactus City Rest Stop		
Evaluator(s) Michael Clayton		

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER

	LANDFORM / WATER	VEGETATION	STRUCTURES
Form	Level alluvial fan.	Irregular distribution of low growing grasses and shrubs. Coverage appearing more consistent at distance.	Dominant, vertical and complex lattice structures. Vertical fence posts.
Line	Horizontal for the alluvial fan.	Irregular for individual shrubs. Horizontal as defined by the alluvial fan.	Vertical, horizontal and diagonal for the lattice structures. Vertical for fence posts.
Color	Gray to light-tan soils and gravel.	Tan to pale-yellow grasses with tanish-gray to green shrubs.	Gray.
Texture	Soils in the immediate foreground appear granular.	Medium grain to matte.	Smooth

Narrative: SQRU 02 includes the alluvial fans and level terrain south of the BLM access road and north of I-10 between Dillon Road to the west and Chiriaco Summit to the east. Within this unit are transmission line and pipeline rights of way as well as mineral extraction operations. Viewpoint 3, at the Cactus City Rest Stop on westbound I-10, is representative of the views along I-10 where the existing transmission line structures with their complex, industrial character parallel I-10 and dominate the foreground landscape. Although the Cottonwood Mountains are a prominent feature in the landscape, they are not part of SQRU 2. Also noticeable in the foreground is the fence that borders the I-10 right of way. Vegetation consists of low-growing shrubs and grasses. Landscape colors range from light tans and greens to brown to muted blues and lavenders with increasing distance. Compared to Unit 01 to the west, the eastern end of the Unit 02 landscape is heavily influenced by existing energy infrastructure and less influenced by the close proximity of the Cottonwood Mountains.

Score					SCENIC QUALITY CLASSIFICATION <input type="checkbox"/> A 19 or more <input type="checkbox"/> B 12 - 18 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C 11 or less
	High	Medium	Low	Explanation or Rationale	
a. Landform			1	Level alluvial fan	
b. Vegetation		2			
c. Water			0		
d. Color		2			
e. Adjacent Scenery		3		Cottonwood Mountains	
f. Scarcity		2		Close proximity to mountains	
g. Cultural Modifications			-4	Dominant transmission lines	
TOTALS	0	9	-3	6	