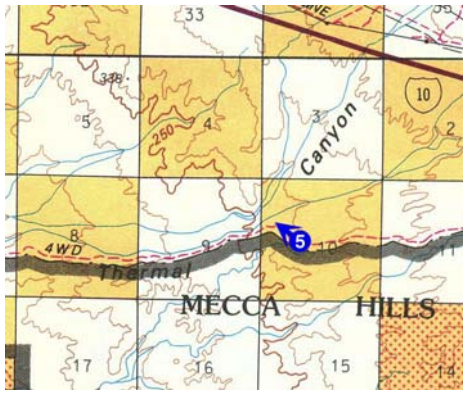



**United States Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management  
Scenic Quality Field Inventory**

<b>Date</b> 8/23/05		
<b>District</b> California Desert		
<b>Field Office</b> Palm Springs		
<b>Scenic Quality Rating Unit</b> <b>03</b>		
<b>Viewpoint</b> <b>5 : Thermal Canyon</b>		
<b>Evaluator(s)</b> Michael Clayton		

<b>LANDSCAPE CHARACTER</b>			
	<b>LANDFORM / WATER</b>	<b>VEGETATION</b>	<b>STRUCTURES</b>
<b>Form</b>	Rugged, steeply rising slopes with flat canyon bottom that widens and narrows with varying erosional patterns.	Irregular distribution of low growing grasses and shrubs interspersed with the occasional ocotillo.	Linear wood pole utility line with conductors.
<b>Line</b>	Angular ridgelines with diagonal slopes. Horizontal Canyon floor.	Irregular for individual shrubs. Vertical for ocotillo.	Vertical wood pole and horizontal conductors
<b>Color</b>	Gray to light-tan rocks and soils. Tan to brown slopes. Bluish hues at greater distance.	Tan to pale-yellow grasses with tanish-gray to green shrubs with pale green ocotillo.	Dark brown wood poles.
<b>Texture</b>	Soils in the immediate foreground appear coarse to granular. Slopes and ridges appear smooth to matte.	Smooth to medium grain to matte.	Gray to dark conductors depending on lighting.

**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. From Viewpoint 5, the considerable topographic variation is apparent and contributes to the visual variety found within this unit. Vertical groupings of ocotillo also add visual interest and contrasts with the more common low growing shrubs and grasses. Landscape colors can be quite changeable as shadows play across rugged slopes and narrow canyons. Varying erosional patterns in drainage bottom sands also contribute to visual variety. With much of the landscape screened by berms and undulating ridges immediately adjacent to the south side of I-10. While an existing wood pole utility line is present within the canyon, its simple form and compatible color (dark weathered wood brown) do not detract substantially from the overall quality of the landscape.

<b>Score</b>					<b>SCENIC QUALITY CLASSIFICATION</b>
	<b>High</b>	<b>Medium</b>	<b>Low</b>	<b>Explanation or Rationale</b>	
<b>a. Landform</b>	4			Rugged Thermal Canyon	
<b>b. Vegetation</b>		3		Ocotillo	
<b>c. Water</b>			0		
<b>d. Color</b>		3			
<b>e. Adjacent Scenery</b>	4			Mecca Hills Wilderness	
<b>f. Scarcity</b>	4			Visual variety within Thermal Canyon	
<b>g. Cultural Modifications</b>			-1	Wood pole utility line	
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>-1</b>	<b>17</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> A 19 or more <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> B 12 - 18 <input type="checkbox"/> C 11 or less