TULE WIND PROJECT

VISUAL RESOURCES REPORT

DRAFT

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Introduction

The visual resource analysis describes the environmental setting and analyzes the impact of the proposed project on the visual environment. Impacts of aesthetic changes associated with wind energy projects are highly subjective and can be one of the greatest sources of objection to wind energy development projects. As such, the impact of the proposed project on the existing environment has been examined through the characterization of the affected environment and the systematic evaluation of the impacts of the project within that environment. While perception of the proposed facilities within the aesthetic environment is largely based on an individual's visual experience, this visual resource evaluation was based on subjective guidance developed to establish, evaluate, and recommend mitigation measures for the proposed project.

Applicable Laws, Policies, Regulations, and Plans

The following section outlines all Federal, state, and local laws, policies, and regulations which apply to the study area and were considered in the development of this visual resources analysis.

Federal

The Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA) requires BLM to protect the quality of scenic values on public lands (43 U.S.C. 1701). BLM has developed an analytical process that identifies, sets, and meets objectives for maintaining scenic values and visual quality. The VRM system functions in two ways. First, BLM conducts an inventory that evaluates visual resources on all lands under its jurisdiction (inventory/evaluation). Once inventoried and analyzed, lands are given relative visual ratings (visual resource management classifications). Class designations are derived from an analysis of scenic quality (rated by landform, vegetation, water, color, influence of adjacent scenery, scarcity, and cultural modification), a determination of viewer sensitivity levels (sensitivity to changes in the landscape), and distance zones (relative proximity of views of the proposed project; visual quality of a landscape, as well as user reaction, may be magnified or diminished by the visibility of the landscape in terms of distance). Management classes describe the different degrees of modification allowed to the basic elements of the landscape (form, line, color, texture).

In accordance with the BLM Land Use Planning Handbook (H-1601-1), the BLM is required to designate VRM Classes for all areas of BLM land, based on an inventory of visual resources and management considerations for other land uses. The original VRM inventory in the existing Management Framework Plan for Eastern San Diego County was completed in 1981 by BLM staff. Weaknesses were identified in the original inventory necessitating the completion of a new inventory based on new information and cultural modifications to the landscape. The new inventory was updated as part of the current land use planning effort. The BLM Handbook on Visual Resource Management (BLM VRM Manual 8410) was consulted during the preparation of the Eastern San Diego County PRMP/FEIS. Specifically, the Handbook guidance regarding scenic quality (e.g., visual appeal), sensitivity level (e.g., measure of public concern), and distance zones (e.g., visibility from travel routes or observation points) were carefully considered and utilized.

BLM VRM Goals and Objectives

VRM-01 -The Resource Management Plan/Record of Decision assigns VRM Classes ranging from Class I to IV to all BLM lands in the planning area. All future projects and actions must adhere to the objectives of the applicable VRM Classes:

- **Class I.** To preserve the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be very low and must not attract attention.

- **Class II.** To retain the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be low.
- **Class III.** To partially retain the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be moderate.
- **Class IV.** To provide for management activities that require major modification of the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape can be high. The study area for the proposed Tule Wind Project is located on Class IV land.

State

According to Appendix G of the State California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines, visual quality and aesthetics impacts are considered potentially significant if the project would:

- • Have a substantial adverse impact on a scenic vista;
- Substantially damage scenic resources, including but not limited to trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway;
- Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings; and/or
- Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area.

Local

Polices, regulations, and ordinances that have been developed by the County of San Diego and Town of Boulevard are referenced below.

County of San Diego

The San Diego County Light Pollution Code [(Title 5, Div.9, Sections 59.101-59.113 of the County Code of Regulatory Ordinances) as added by Ordinance No 6900, effective January 18, 1985, and amended July 17, 1986 by Ordinance No. 7155 and April 20, 2005 by Ordinance No. 9716.

The Light Pollution Code (LPC), also known as the Dark Sky Ordinance, was adopted "to minimize light pollution for the enjoyment and use of property and the night environment by the citizens of San Diego County and to protect the Palomar and Mount Laguna observatories from the effects of light pollution that have a detrimental effect on astronomical research by restricting the permitted use of outdoor light fixtures on private property" (Sec. 59.101). Parties involved in the development of LPC included representatives from the San Diego County Department of Planning and Land Use, the Department of Public Works, as well as members of the lighting industry, community planning and sponsor groups, representatives from both of San Diego County's observatories, and San Diego Gas and Electric Company (SDG&E). The LPC regulates applicants for any permit required by the County for work involving outdoor light fixtures, unless exempt. Exempt fixtures include certain ones existing prior to January 18, 1985, those producing light via fossil fuels, those on or connected with facilities and land owned or operated by the federal government or the State of California, holiday decorations, and U.S. or California illumination. Special provisions are made for airports in keeping with FAA's lighting requirements and the nearby correctional institution (Sec. 59.108). The Code was established to limit harmful effects of outdoor lighting on the Palomar and Mount Laguna Observatories. The LPC designates all areas within a 15-mile radius of each observatory as Zone A, with all other areas of the County designated

as Zone B. Zone A has more stringent lighting restrictions, including limits on decorative lighting, so that night skies are dark enough for clear viewing through the telescopes at the observatories.

San Diego County General Plan, Conservation Element (Part X), Chapter 7 Astronomical Dark Sky [http://www.ceres.ca.gov/planning/counties/San_Diego/plans.html]. The San Diego County General Plan Conservation Element's Chapter on Astronomical Dark Sky discusses the importance of maintaining dark skies in the County. This chapter makes several findings pertaining to suitable observatory site criteria. It also sets out several policy and action programs designed to limit light pollution and ensure the protection of dark skies, including minimizing the impacts of development on the useful life of the observatories, assisting in the regulation of dark sky conservation, amending ordinances to control potentially significant adverse effects to Palomar and Mount Laguna Observatories, and designing future roadways and development in a way suitable for the protection of dark skies near the observatories.

San Diego County Zoning Ordinance, Performance Standards [Section 6320, 6322 and 6324, http://www.co.san-diego.ca.us/dplu/zoning/index.html]. Section 6320 of the Zoning Ordinance has performance standards for glare for all commercial and industrial uses in residential, commercial and identified industrial zones. All commercial and industrial uses subject to these standards shall be operated in a manner that does not produce glare, which is readily detectable without instruments by the average person beyond the stated zones in this section. Section 6322 controls excessive or unnecessary outdoor light emissions which produce unwanted illumination of adjacent properties by restricting outdoor lighting usage. Section 6324 establishes limitations upon lighting permitted in required yards by Section 4835; of particular importance is the limitation upon light trespass (not to exceed a value of 0.2 footcandles measured 5 feet onto the adjacent property).

Visual Policies and Plans

San Diego County Dark Skies Ordinance

The County of San Diego Light Pollution Code Division 9) applies to the proposed project and is intended to restrict the permitted use of outdoor light fixtures emitting undesirable light into the night sky that have a detrimental effect on astronomical research. The project would require Class II lighting for outdoor lighting used for but not limited to illumination for walkways, roadways, equipment yards, parking lots and outdoor security. Table 3.2-1 presents the Class II Lamp Source and Shielding Requirements for the San Diego County Division 9 Light Pollution Code.

Table 1. Class II Lamp Source and Shielding Requirements

Lamp Type	Zone A	Zone B
Low Pressure Sodium	Fully Shielded	Fully Shielded
Others above 4050[1] Lumens	Prohibited	Prohibited
Others 4050[1] Lumens & Below	Prohibited	Allowed[2]

Source: http://www.co.san-diego.ca.us/dplu/docs/LightPollutionCode.pdf

[1]Examples of lamp types of 4550 Lumens & Below (The acceptability of a particular light is decided by its lumen output, notwattage; check manufacturer's specifications):

200 Watt Standard Incandescent and less
150 Watt Tungsten-Halogen (quartz) and less
75 Watt Mercury Vapor and less
50 Watt High pressure Sodium and less
40 Watt Fluorescent and less

[2] Lights shall be shielded where feasible and focused to minimize spill light into the night sky or adjacent properties Maximum of 8100 total lumens per acre or per parcel if under 1 acre.

Zone A means the circular area, fifteen (15) miles in radius centered on the Palomar Observatory and the circular area 15 miles in radius centered on the center of the Mount Laguna Observatory.

Zone B means all areas within the territorial limits of the unincorporated portion of the County of San Diego and not included in the area defined as Zone A.

Fully shielded means outdoor light fixtures shielded or constructed so that light rays emitted by the fixture are projected below the horizontal plane passing through the lowest point on the fixture from which light is emitted.

Luminous tube lighting means gas-filled glass tubing, which when subjected to high voltage, become luminescent in a color characteristic of the particular gas used, e.g. neon, argon, etc. (Amended by Ord. No. 8553 (N.S.).

San Diego County Resource Protection Ordinance No. 9716

The Resource Protection Ordinance (RPO) protects sensitive lands and prevents their degradation and loss. This ordinance also preserves the ability of property owners to make reasonable use of their land subject to the conditions of the RPO to increase the preservation and protection of the County's unique topography, natural beauty, diversity, and natural resources. A slope analysis completed for the project site indicates the County portion of the site is relatively flat and contains no steep slope lands.

San Diego General Plan Update Goals and Policies

The County of San Diego has developed goals and policies for conservation and open space and has specifically addressed visual resources in the General Plan. Recognizing the unique natural and built environment in San Diego County, the General Plan identifies three distinctive scenic regions, scenic corridors composed of the land adjacent to scenic highway corridors, and astronomical dark skies including criteria for maintaining dark sky conditions in the county vital to the operation of Palomar and Mount Laguna Observatories. The following goals have been developed for the County General Plan:

Conservation and Open Space Element

Goal COS-11 - Preservation of Scenic Resources pertains to the preservation of scenic resources, including vistas of important natural and unique features, where visual impacts of development are minimized.

Policies

COS-11.1 - Resource Connections requires the protection of scenic highways, corridors, regionally significant scenic vistas, and natural features, including prominent ridgelines, dominant landforms, reservoirs, and scenic landscapes.

COS-11.2 - Resource Connections promotes the connection of regionally significant natural features, designated historic landmarks, and points of regional historic, visual, and cultural interest via designated scenic corridors, such as scenic highways and regional trails.

COS-11.3 - Development Siting and Design requires development within visually sensitive areas to minimize visual impacts and to preserve unique or special visual features, particularly in rural areas, through the following:

- Creative site planning
- Integration of natural features into the project
- Appropriate scale, materials, and design to complement the surrounding natural landscape
- Minimal disturbance of topography

- Clustering of development so as to preserve a balance of open space vistas, natural features, and community character.
- Creation of contiguous open space networks

COS-11.4 - Collaboration with Agencies and Jurisdictions requires coordination with adjacent federal and State agencies and local jurisdictions to protect scenic resources and corridors that extend beyond the County's land use authority, but are important to the welfare of County residents.

COS-11.5 - Collaboration with Private and Public Agencies requires coordination with the California Public Utilities Commission, power companies, and other public agencies to avoid siting energy generation, transmission facilities, and other public improvements in locations that impact visually sensitive areas, whenever feasible. Require the design of public improvements within visually sensitive areas to blend into the landscape.

COS-11.6 - Billboards prohibits new billboards and other forms of large-scale advertising and signage within scenic corridors. Encourage the removal of existing billboards and other forms of large-scale advertising and signage along State and County scenic highway corridors.

COS-11.7 - Underground Utilities require new development to place utilities underground and encourage "undergrounding" in existing development to maintain viewsheds, reduce hazards associated with hanging lines and utility poles, and to keep pace with current and future technologies.

The concept of "undergrounding" in the initial phases of a project not only increases the aesthetic value of the surrounding viewshed, but can also reduce costs in the long run since less infrastructure is exposed to the elements.

Goal COS-12 - Preservation of Ridgelines and Hillsides requires that ridgelines and steep hillsides that are preserved for their character and scenic value.

Policies

COS-12.1 - Hillside and Ridgeline Development Density protects undeveloped ridgelines and steep hillsides by maintaining semi-rural or rural designations on these areas.

COS-12.2 - Development Location on Ridges requires development to preserve the physical features by being located down and away from ridgelines so that structures are not silhouetted against the sky.

GOAL COS-13 - Dark Skies requires that preserved dark skies that contribute to rural character and are necessary for the local observatories.

Policies

COS-13.1 - Restrict Light and Glare restricts outdoor light and glare from development projects in Semi-Rural and Rural Lands and designated rural communities to retain the quality of night skies by minimizing light pollution.

COS-13.2 - Palomar and Mount Laguna minimizes, to the maximum extent feasible, the impact of development on the dark skies surrounding Palomar and Mount Laguna observatories to maintain dark skies which are vital to these two world-class observatories by restricting exterior light sources within the impact areas of the observatories.

Mountain Empire Subregional Plan Boulevard (Draft)

Goal LU3.1 - requires the protection as a Dark Sky Community through preservation of the dark skies in Boulevard to support the continued operation of the San Diego Astronomy Association and Tierra Del sol observatories and to continue to attract stargazer, photographers, scientists, and researchers from around the world.

Policies

Policy LU 3.1.1 - encourages development to preserve dark skies with reduced lighting and increased shielding requirements.

Policy LU 3.1.2 - encourages increased resources or methods for enforcement for the preservation of dark skies.

Methodology

General Approach

This visual resource analysis follows the BLM Visual Resource Management (VRM) system as an objective methodology to assess the aesthetic conditions of the landscape, characterize the current viewing environment, and evaluate the potential impacts of the proposed project on the environment. The analysis includes an evaluation of existing visual conditions and an impact analysis that considers viewer sensitivity and visual contrast. Where BLM VRM visual guidelines do not apply (e.g., non-BLM administered lands), an inventory of aesthetic conditions was conducted using BLM visual resource inventory guidelines and County guidelines, to determine public sensitivity toward the introduction of the proposed facilities.

BLM VRM Approach

BLM VRM guidelines were developed and implemented to be in keeping with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, which requires Federal agencies to "assure for all Americans…aesthetically pleasing surroundings." Additionally, NEPA requires agencies to "utilize a systematic, interdisciplinary approach which would ensure the integrated use of…environmental design in the planning and decision-making process."

BLM VRM guidelines were used, where appropriate, in the analysis of the affected environment. BLM is required to designate VRM classes for all areas of BLM land, based on three key elements: 1. scenic quality, 2. visual sensitivity, and 3. distance zones.

Scenic Quality

A scenic quality evaluation was used to determine the natural landscape based on the degree of distinctiveness, which takes into consideration such factors as landform, vegetation, color, water, adjacent scenery, scarcity, and cultural modification. Scenic quality is determined by rating the distinctiveness and diversity of interest of a particular natural landscape in the context of form, line, color, and texture.

Table 2: Scenic Quality Class Ratings

Scenic Quality Class Rating	Definition
Class A - Unique	Landscapes are represented by unique lands of outstanding or distinctive diversity or interest, including high-relief mountains, escarpments, highly dissected canyons, monumental landforms, and scenic riverways.
Class B – Above Average	Landscapes are lands of above average diversity of interest and consist of rolling, vegetated hills and valleys, mesas, buttes, and unique landforms that define the environment.
Class C - Common	Landscapes are primarily common and of minimal diversity, such as high desert plateaus and desert plains areas with few distinguishing features.

Source: BLM Manual H-8410-1. Visual Resource Inventory. 1986

Viewer Sensitivity

A sensitivity analysis was used as a baseline to evaluate sensitive viewing for the study area. Given the public concern for visual quality and preservation of aesthetic resources, views from highly visible and prominent locations are considered highly sensitive.

Viewer sensitivity levels range from:

High Sensitivity

- Landforms that form community backdrops or are prominent at a regional scale;
- Areas with congressional or state designations or areas that could be perceived by the public as having the same type of designations and protections (e.g., scenic roads);
- Areas that serve as recreational destinations for a variety of user groups and are used by out of area visitors on a regular basis.

Moderate Sensitivity

- Areas that receive moderate to low levels of recreational use, or high levels of use that are primarily higher speed, motorized vehicles, or are used nearly exclusively by local residents. These would include well-used campgrounds, and hiking trails.

Low Sensitivity

- Areas that receive little if any recreational use, and are mostly used by local residents;
- Lands that are isolated, small parcels that have no legal public access, or are not recognizable by the majority of the public as being public land;
- Areas of public land that is so fragmented by inholdings or convoluted ownership boundaries, that the public land is not recognizable.

Distance Zones

To study the impacts of the proposed project on the visual environment, distance zones were delineated and factored into the visual analysis. Distance zones were developed by the BLM based on perception thresholds, the scale and nature of objects being viewed, and the viewing environment. Both natural and human-made elements become less obvious and less detailed at greater distances and perception of texture and color also becomes less noticeable with increased distance.

The BLM Manual 8410-1, Visual Resource Inventory, defines distance zones as:

Foreground/Middleground

- 0 to 5 miles

Background

- 6 to 15 miles

Seldom Seen

- Beyond 15 miles

Affected Environment

The affected environment section provides a detailed inventory of the existing visual landscape and experience.

Regional Setting

The proposed wind energy facilities associated with the Tule Wind Project traverse BLM, Tribal land, State land, and privately-owned land parcels under the jurisdiction of the County of San Diego. The project area is in the expansive deserts east of southern California's highly urbanized coastal area. The visual study area is located entirely within the Basin and Range physiographic province in the Salton Trough which is characterized by desert basins, jagged mountain ranges, and wide valleys bounded by alluvial slopes, or bajadas. Views from travel routes tend to be of broad, sweeping desert, bordered by north-south trending rugged terrain in semi-arid landscape.

Other nearby, Federally-administered land includes the Cleveland National Forest to the northwest, and the Anza Borrego National Forest to the east; both are more than 10 miles from the project site. The project area also neighbors the Manzanita, Ewiiaapaayp, La Posta, and Campo Indian Reservations, and lies within the McCain Valley Resource Conservation Area and Land Cooperative in the In-Ko-Pah Mountains.

Within the regional setting, the visual resources study area was defined by viewpoints from which the proposed facilities would be seen. The viewshed is extensive given the openness of the landscape, the height of the proposed structures, and the availability of viewpoints from travel routes, recreational areas, and the nearby community of Boulevard, CA, however areas to the east on reservation land are not open to public access.

Project Setting

The project area is located in the eastern portion of San Diego County and lies in McCain Valley in the In-Ko-Pah Mountains. It is north of Interstate 8 (I-8) and the community of Boulevard. The topography of the area is gently-to-steeply sloping with an elevation ranging between 3,600 and 5,600 feet above mean sea level (asl). The project area is accessible via I-8, State Route 94 (SR-94)/Ribbonwood Road, Old Highway 80, and McCain Valley Road. Access into the landscape is limited due to varying topography characterized by fault-block terrain and boulder-strewn landscape. The main project site access points are from Ribbonwood Road and McCain Valley Road. The majority of land in the study area is administered by the BLM and has been classified as VRM Class IV landscape. BLM has defined the objectives for development on Class IV landscape as having "to provide for management activities which require major modifications of the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape can be high. These management activities may dominate the view and be the major focus of viewer attention. However, every attempt should be made to minimize the impact of these activities through careful location, minimal disturbance, and repeating the basic elements."

Development within the region includes sporadic sprawling ranchland, and large lot residential, mostly concentrated in the town of Boulevard. Existing wind turbines are located approximately 5 miles to the southwest of the project area on the Campo Indian Reservation. Additionally, two BLM primitive campgrounds (Lark Canyon and Cottonwood) are located within the project area and are accessible via McCain Valley Road.

Vegetation within the study area is typical of the region. The project area contains four major vegetation communities: interior live oak woodland, southern mixed chaparral, disturbed southern mixed chaparral, and big sagebrush scrub.

No visible flowing water features are located within the project area, though ephemeral drainages may be present seasonally or during precipitation. Tule Creek is the primary drainage feature in the project vicinity and drains the central portion of McCain Valley, towards the southeast.

The preservation of dark sky conditions and the continued operation of the San Diego Astronomy Association and Tierra Del Sol Observatories is a priority for the town of Boulevard and is included as a goal in the County of San Diego General Plan. Dark skies are a valuable asset to the town of Boulevard and are a protected resource within the area. Efforts to reduce development, provide community education and outreach, and encourage the proper use of lighting and light shielding is also included in the County of San Diego General Plan.

The community of Boulevard also values the rural character and scenic views available from travel routes within the region. Specifically, Old Highway 80 has been designated by the State of California as an historic route and portions of I-8 has been designated by San Diego County as a scenic route outside of the visual study area.

Project Components

The following describes the proposed project facilities, and impacts of the construction and operation of these facilities is further explained in the impact analysis portion of this visual resource analysis.

The proposed wind turbine equipment will be located on a series of north-to-south and northwest-to-southeast ridges. Currently, the layout includes a total of 134 potential wind turbine locations. There are 97 turbines located on BLM land 17 on Tribal lands, 13 on private parcels (Hamann Properties) , and 7 on State lands.

A typical turbine will be a maximum of 492-feet tall (measured from the ground to turbine blade tip) and will have three blades, oriented upwind. Turbines are mounted on a concrete pad, and are grouped in strings, connected by an underground or overhead electrical cable system. Each turbine will have a turbine rotor and nacelle mounted on top of its tubular tower.

To minimize visual impacts, all of the turbine components will be painted or finished using low-reflectivity, neutral white colors in compliance with FAA regulations. Per FAA, approximately one third to one half of the turbine structures will be lit with synchronized red flashing lights.

The project's electrical system will consist of an underground and overhead collector system, which will collect electricity generated from each wind turbine, increase the voltage through a pad-mounted transformer and deliver it to the project collector substation. Portions of the electrical collector system will be located aboveground.

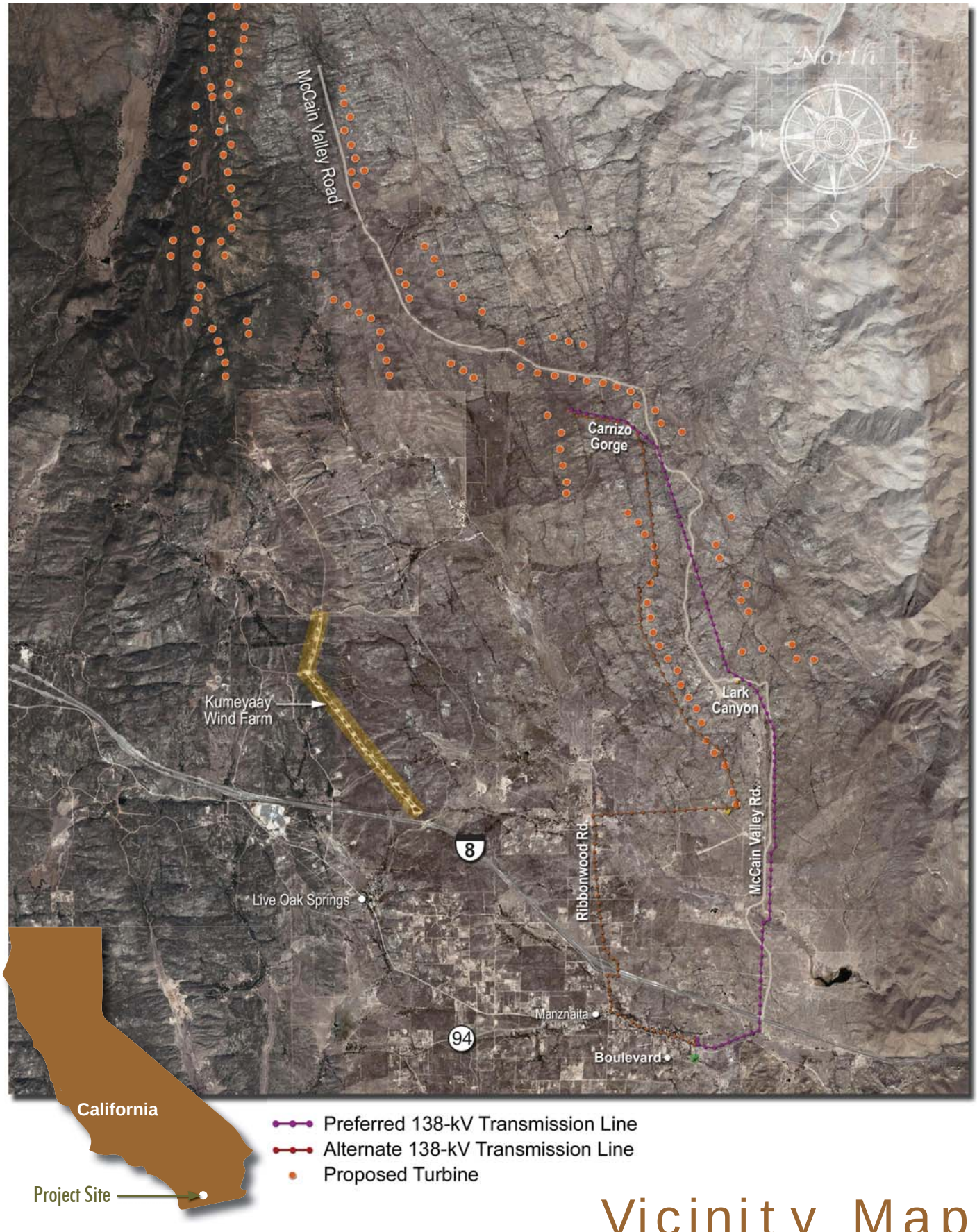
From the project collector substation, an overhead 138 kV transmission line will run south interconnecting to the proposedSDG&E Boulevard Substation. Typical 138 kV transmission line poles will be constructed of steel rather than wood due to the potential for wildfires in this area. A total of 126 75-foot transmission line poles are proposed.

The proposed collector substation will be surrounded by a 1-acre graveled, fenced area with transformer and switching equipment, and an area to park utility vehicles, totaling 5 acres. In all cases the facilities will conform to applicable SDG&E design standards.

The operations and maintenance facility for the project will include a pre-engineered metal building to house operational services and critical spare parts and will be located next to the collector substation. The building will be approximately 5,000 square feet in size and will be surrounded by a 4-acre cleared area, totaling 5 acres. A temporary 10-acre parking lot will be located near Rough Acres Ranch and 19 2-acre equipment laydown areas are to be located throughout project area to store materials and equipment.

Temporary access roads for the purposes of construction will be built or improved to a width of up to 36-feet to allow large cranes to move between turbines. These roads will be restored to the standard 16 to 20 foot width once the turbines have been installed.

Figure 1: Vicinity Map



Vicinity Map

Environmental Setting/Key Observation Points

KOP 1 - I-8 at Ribbonwood Road

Location: The interchange at I-8 provides access to Ribbonwood Road which traverses north and south. This interchange also provides access to SR-94 and Old Highway 80 to the south.

Environmental Setting: At this viewpoint, both I-8 and Ribbonwood Road corridors are dominant in the viewshed. To the north, common desert landscape is visible and is bisected by a paved roadway which traverses north and on rolling terrain. This roadway also provides access to several residences located on large lots with views of the proposed project area. This KOP is located outside of BLM land.

Overall Scenic Quality Rating: Class C - Common

KOP 2 - Ribbonwood Road north of I-8

Location: Along the Ribbonwood Road alignment, north of I-8, there are some low density private residences and ranches. In this rural area, Ribbonwood Road provides access to expansive ranch lands and residences and a parcel of Campo land.

Environmental Setting: This area is located north of I-8 on Ribbonwood Road, views oriented to the northeast show the alternative power lines that would serve the project site. This area is characterized largely by open swaths of desert landscape typical of the area as well as some residences located on large lots. This KOP is located outside of BLM land.

Overall Scenic Quality Rating: Class B – Above Average

KOP 3 - I-8 at McCain Valley Road

Location: There is no interchange located at McCain Valley Road and I-8; however, McCain Valley Road is accessible heading north off of Old Highway 80. In this area, McCain Valley Road is paved and flanked by existing monopole transmission lines that parallel the road to the north and south.

Environmental Setting: The Interstate-8 highway is a dominant feature in this area; however, when the viewer is oriented to the north, the area is characterized by sprawling desert landscapes, with rolling hills and ridgelines present. Several exposed soil trails and private two-track roads are evident throughout the landscape. Low-lying desert scrub brush is prevalent throughout the area. This KOP is located outside of BLM land.

Overall Scenic Quality Rating: Class C - Common

KOP 4 - McCain Valley Road at Rough Acres Ranch

Location: This point is located approximately two miles north of the intersection of I-8 and McCain Valley Road. Rough Acres Ranch is signed and located to the west, from McCain Valley Road, development on Rough Acres Ranch is visible. At this point McCain Valley Road becomes unpaved.

Environmental Setting: This area is characterized by some ranch development and represents the beginning of the area of primitive, recreational land (e.g., unpaved roadway, large open vistas) where low-lying desert scrub vegetation and rocky outcroppings and ridgelines also start to define the landscape. This KOP is located outside of BLM land.

Overall Scenic Quality Rating: Class C - Common

KOP 5 - McCain Valley Road at Lark Canyon OHV Area

Location: The Lark Canyon OHV area is located approximately four miles north of the intersection of McCain Valley Road with I-8.

Environmental Setting: This area is characterized by exposed soil trails, rolling hills, and open views from atop the ridgelines in the area. Vegetation is sparse in this area due to a high volume of OHV use. This KOP is located on BLM land.

Overall Scenic Quality Rating: Class C – Common

KOP 6 - McCain Valley Road at Carrizo Gorge Scenic Lookout

Location: Located approximately three miles from Lark Canyon OHV area at the entrance to Carrizo Gorge.

Environmental Setting: From this vantage point, views are obstructed by hills and ridgelines and exposed soil roadways and trails are present. Vegetation is sporadic in this area. From the Carrizo Gorge look out, located less than one-half mile east of McCain Valley Road, a panoramic view of the ravine is visible. This KOP is located on BLM land.

Overall Scenic Quality Rating: Class B – Above Average

KOP 7 – Cottonwood Campground

Location: Cottonwood campground is located off of McCain Valley Road in the McCain Valley Resource Conservation Area.

Environmental Setting: TThe Cottonwood campground has 25 campsites and is accessible by passenger vehicle and horse. Several trailheads, which provide access to overlooks and scenic views are located near the campground. The Cottonwood campground is characterized by large oak trees and undulating topography typical of the region. This KOP is located on BLM land.

Overall Scenic Quality Rating: Class B – Above Average

KOP 8 - McCain Valley Road at northern terminus

Location: The drivable portion of McCain Valley Road ends at a point about six miles north of Carrizo Gorge.

Environmental Setting: This area is characterized by a southerly view of McCain Valley Road. The exposed soil road meanders through the landscape flanked by ridgelines to the east and west and varying densities of desert scrub vegetation. Views to the north reveal bajadas with rocky foothills and smooth, ridgelines. This KOP is located on BLM land.

Overall Scenic Quality Rating: Class B – Above Average

KOP 9 - Old Highway 80 and Boulevard Substation

Location: This area is located along the Old Highway 80, a well traveled arterial road south of I-8 near Jewel Valley Road.

Environmental Setting: This area is characterized largely by residential development with some retail development. Additionally, SDG&E operates the Boulevard Substation and several corridors of monopole wood transmission lines that run parallel to Old Highway 80, leading to the Boulevard Substation. Views in this area are of common desert landscape with some human-made development evident. Direct views of the project site are largely obstructed by topography, vegetation, distance, and development.

Overall Scenic Quality Rating: Class C – Common

Environmental Impact of the Proposed Project

The following presents potential impacts on visual resources during each phase of the project.

Approach to Impact Assessment

The BLM's visual contrast rating system and the identification of Key Observation Points (KOPs) and critical viewpoints within the study area were used to determine the potential visual impacts of the proposed facilities on the existing environment. KOPs were identified within the visual resource study area along commonly traveled routes, likely observation points, and near residential and recreational areas. The BLM visual contrast rating system was applied to assess both public and privately-owned land in order to provide a thorough examination of visual contrast and visual impacts using the established system of analysis given the importance of aesthetics in the region.

On lands not administered by the BLM such as County or privately-owned land, the visual impact analysis, which closely followed BLM VRM guidelines, was used to determine the potential degree of impact to existing views. This analysis was performed during field reconnaissance and was documented using visual contrast rating worksheets to provide a consistent evaluation of visual impacts to sensitive viewers.

Table 3: Degree of Visual Impact Defined

Rating	General Definition	Definition Specific to Visual Resources	Examples
Major	Impacts that potentially would cause significant change or stress to an environmental resource or use, or severe adverse or exceptional beneficial effects.	Impacts resulting from construction disturbances and the long-term presence of new facilities that would substantially alter the scenic value of the landscape and would dominate views from sensitive viewpoints.	• Structures that significantly impeded and obstruct scenic views. • Construction that would irrevocably damage scenic quality. • Facilities that would be seen in the foreground and middleground distance zones in previously undisturbed, highly scenic landscapes.
Moderate	Impacts that potentially would cause some change or stress (ranging between major change and minor change) to an environmental resource or use, or readily apparent effects to scenic quality.	Impacts that would diminish the scenic quality of the landscape and would easily be noticeable from sensitive viewpoints.	• Vertical utility structures that may detract from existing scenic quality. • Facilities would be visible in the foreground to middleground distance zones from sensitive viewpoints. • Facilities parallel to highly scenic landscapes that have not been previously disturbed.
Minor	Impacts that potentially are detectable but slight.	Impacts that diminish the scenic quality of the landscape to a minimal degree and are potentially noticeable when viewed from moderately sensitive viewpoints.	• Facilities would be visible in middleground or background distance zones from moderate sensitivity viewpoints, or parallel to existing facilities in previously disturbed landscape, or landscapes of common scenic quality.
Negligible	Impacts that potentially cause an insignificant or indiscernible change or stress to an environmental resource or use, impacts range from immeasurable and undetectable to low levels of detection.	Impacts that would not diminish the scenic quality of the landscape.	• Temporarily displacing vegetation while maintenance and/or construction occurs. • Facilities would be visible in the background distance zone, where new facilities parallel existing facilities or traverse previously disturbed landscape in landscapes of common to minimal scenic quality.
None	No discernable or measureable impacts would result.	No discernable or measureable visual contrast.	• No project activity would take place.

Source: BLM Manual 8431: Visual Contrast Rating (BLM 1986b); HDR Engineering, Inc.

BLM VRM Visual Contrast Rating

Visual contrasts are produced through a range of direct and indirect actions or activities. The BLM administers lands that have valuable aesthetic or scenic qualities; these landscapes are also used for multiple activities that have potential to disturb the surface of the landscape and impact scenic values. Activities, such as recreation, mining, timber harvest, livestock grazing, road development, wind power, and others, may also interact or synergize in complex ways, these interactions among other impacting activities may be contemporaneous or they may represent more incremental and cumulative changes occurring over longer, possibly historic periods of time.

The basic design elements of form, line, color, and texture were used to determine visual contrast created by the project. Visual simulations were rendered from selected KOPs which were determined to be critical views in areas of visual sensitivity. The KOPs were selected with guidance from BLM and County visual resource professionals.

Visual contrast rating worksheets were proven during field reconnaissance and provided a measure of the degree of contrast that would potentially occur from the introduction of the proposed facilities into the existing landscape.

Visual contrast ranges from none to strong and is defined as:

Table 4: Degree of Visual Contrast Defined

Visual Contrast Rating	Definition
None	The element contrast is not visible or perceived.
Weak	The element contrast can be seen but does not attract attention
Moderate	The element contrast begins to attract attention and begins to dominate the characteristic landscape
Strong	The element contras demands attention, will not be overlooked, and is dominant in the landscape

Source: BLM Manual 8431: Visual Contrast Rating (BLM 1986b)

Visual Impact Assessment

Short-Term

Construction Impacts

The visual impacts resulting from the construction of the proposed facilities are considered short-term and would include the implementation of mitigation measures (e.g., dust abatement, phased construction) intended to minimize impacts to the aesthetic environment. During construction, the presence of large trucks, cranes, mount towers, wind turbine components (i.e., nacelle, rotor, tower, and blades), and other large-scale construction equipment will be present on the project site. Construction of the turbine foundation, ancillary structures, trenching to bury electrical distribution lines, grading, surfacing, clearing, leveling, stock piling, and staging/parking areas are considered a short-term, or construction-related, impact to visual resources.

Access roads connecting each turbine and collector transmission lines may need to be constructed (in areas where no roads presently exist) or improved upon (in areas where existing roads are present). During construction, access roads will be approximately 36-feet wide to accommodate construction equipment; however, access roads will be reduced to between 16 and 20-feet when construction is completed. New roads will create a linear, exposed soil route that follows the surface contour of the landscape. Active construction including site preparation, excavation, turbine installation, and other visible activities are short-term in duration and will only occur during the construction phase of project implementation.

Site Decommissioning

After a minimum period of 30 years, the Tule Wind Project may be decommissioned. Visual impacts associated with the decommissioning of the wind energy facilities will be similar to the short-term impacts created by construction. Decommissioning will likely be phased and restoration of the landscape to pre-project conditions will include re-contouring the land, grading, stabilizing slopes, and re-seeding and revegetation.

Long-Term

Operation and Maintenance Impacts

Given the height of the wind turbines, their placement on ridgelines, and the rural nature of the project site, the turbines may be highly visible from certain viewpoints. Perception of the wind turbines ranges from visually incongruent or "industrial" in nature, to visually interesting or intriguing given their appearance within the region. Views of the wind turbines cannot be avoided or completely concealed because of their size and exposed location. However, the distance from viewers, angle of observation, atmospheric conditions, and existing topography of the landscape contributes to the reduced visibility of the wind turbines particularly from the most highly sensitive viewpoints (e.g., I-8, residences on Ribbonwood Road, town of Boulevard, etc.). The visual impact map identifies the areas from which the most wind turbines would be visible.

Additionally, daily and seasonal lighting conditions can affect the prominence of the wind turbines, and atmospheric conditions (e.g., light blue to overcast skies) combined with the turbine color (e.g., white, non-reflective surface) and their location along ridgelines reduces visibility of the structures with distance. The most evident views will be at elevations similar to or lower than the structures, while from higher views the structures will be less visible.

Transmission line facilities will be used to connect the project collector substation to the existing Boulevard

Substation. This 138kV transmission line corridor will be constructed of corten steel, self-weathering monopoles with non-reflective cable power lines. Self-weathering poles tend to blend into the landscapes that are characterized predominantly by earth tones ranging from tan to dark greens and browns. As is the case with other, similar transmission line corridors in the region, the self-weathering and non-reflective power lines and poles tend to blend into the landscape at middleground and background distances.

Shadow effects from the turbines occur only temporarily depending on season, tilt, orientation of nacelle, atmospheric conditions, location of observer, and location of sun.

Ancillary structures (i.e., operations and maintenance facility, fencing, substations, collector lines, and access roads) will be designed in keeping with applicable regulations and design standards and all reasonable efforts for the public to be involved and informed about visual site design will occur in keeping with local ordinance.

Visual simulations from critical views, selected with guidance from BLM and County visual resource professionals, were rendered using modeling software (i.e., Google Sketch-Up) which places 3-dimensional computer designed facilities within a digital model providing a conceptual image of approximately what the facilities will look like within the existing environment.

In keeping with the San Diego County Dark Skies Ordinance, Class II lamp source and shielding requirements will be used to illuminate walkways, roadways, equipment yards, parking lots and outdoor security. Fully shielded low pressure sodium lighting will be used on outdoor fixtures to reduce or eliminate detrimental lighting impacts to nearby Astronomical Observatories which are located approximately 5 to 8 miles from the project site. Conscious efforts will be made to protect the current dark sky conditions from light pollution.

Currently, portions of Old Historic Route 80, SR 94 and I-8 have been designated by the San Diego County as scenic highway corridor within the Mountain Empire Subregion General Plan, this designation serves as a placeholder indicating that these routes should be further considered for state designation. Given this designation, proposed changes to the viewing conditions along the corridors will be in keeping with County regulations and the County's goal to establish a network of scenic highway corridors within which scenic, historical, and recreational resources are protected and enhanced.

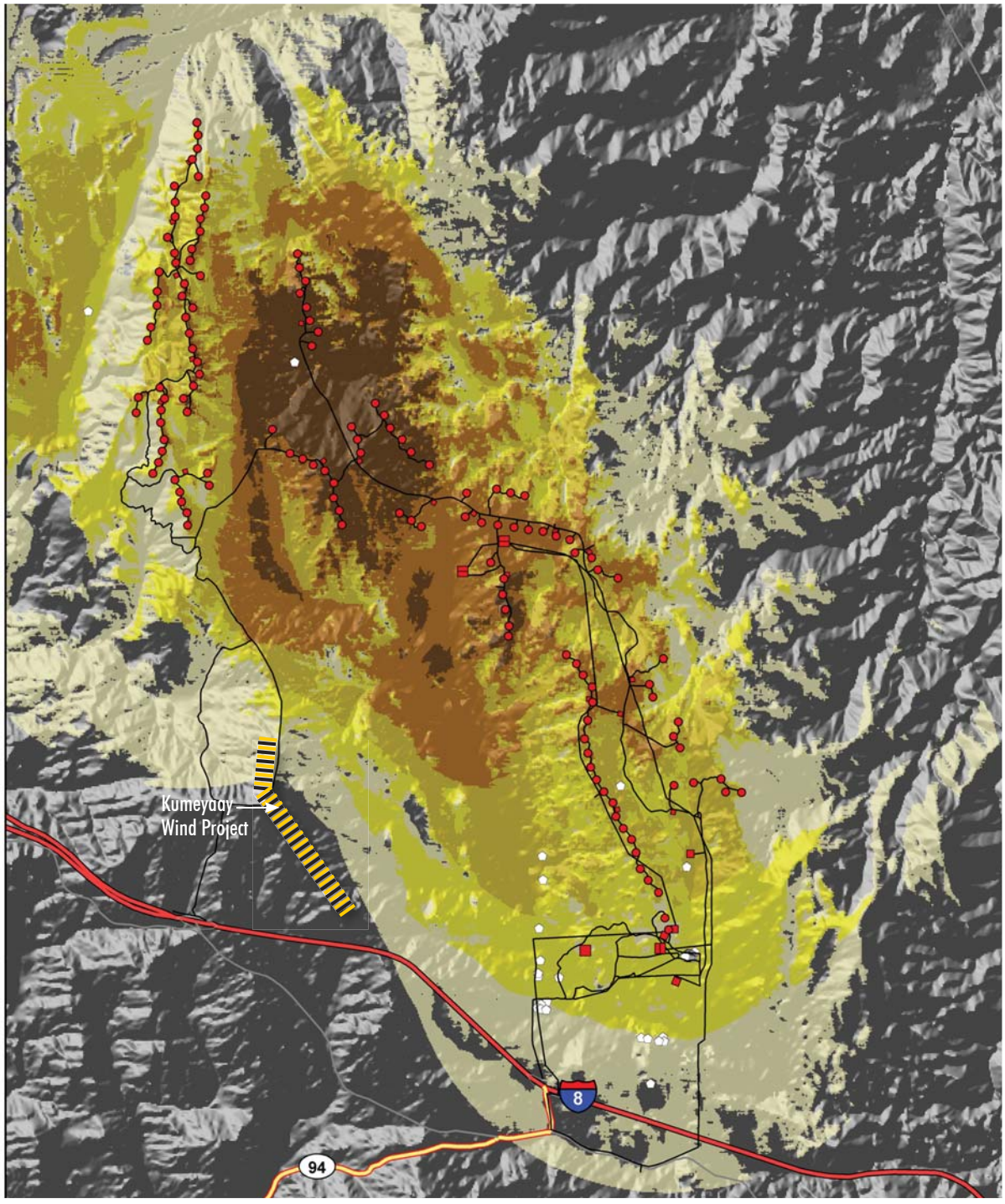
Key Observation Points

Impacts from the proposed project on the following KOPs or critical views were determined through a visual contrast evaluation which includes an analysis of scenic quality, viewer sensitivity, and distance zones. Additionally, the number of potentially visible wind turbines was determined through the use of a digital elevation model (DEM) of the earth's surface. The DEM model does not take into consideration vegetation overgrowth or human-made modifications, thus, the number of wind turbines visible could likely be less in built conditions than DEM conclusions (Figure 2).

KOP 1 - I-8 at Ribbonwood Road

Visual Contrast: From the interchange at I-8 and Ribbonwood Road, the proposed transmission line corridor would run parallel to the roadway to the north and south and head east about two miles north of this point. I-8 is currently identified in the draft General Plan as a scenic route; however, there is currently a wood monopole 12kV powerline to the west of the roadway; therefore, the addition of larger, steel monopole power line poles in the linear corridor would create a pattern or sequential effect which becomes more readily discernable in the landscape. The proposed transmission line corridor would present the most visual impact from this vantage point. Approximately 100 to 118 of the proposed wind turbines would be visible from this vantage point within the middleground and background distance zones (1 to 5 miles). At

Figure 2: Vicinity Map



TULE WIND VISUAL IMPACTS
Viewshed Impacts from Tower Locations

Number of Towers Visible
- 0 Towers Visible
- 1 - 25 Towers Visible
- 26 - 50 Towers Visible
- 51 - 75 Towers Visible
- 76 - 100 Towers Visible
- 100 - 118 Towers Visible
- Tower Location
- Sensitive Visual Recept
- Kumeyaay Wind Project

Visual Impact Map

this distance, visual contrast created by the introduction of wind turbines and ancillary facilities into the environment would be minimal given distance, topography, and atmospheric conditions.

Overall Visual Impact Rating: Minor

KOP 2 - Ribbonwood Road north of I-8

Visual Contrast: Approximately 8 to 12 wind turbines would be visible from this vantage point from views predominantly oriented to the east and north. Distance and topography would slightly obstruct dominant views of the wind turbines; however, typical viewers within this area are considered highly sensitive because they experience views from their residences, thus increasing the visual impact of the wind facilities from this vantage point. The alternative power line route would be visible from this vantage point as well as portions of the proposed access road. These linear facilities would be located in the foreground and middleground distance zones.

Overall Visual Impact Rating: Moderate

KOP 3 - I-8 at McCain Valley Road

Visual Contrast: In this area, McCain Valley Road is paved and lined on the east side with an existing wood monopole transmission line. The placement of the proposed wind turbines become more dominant in the landscape within this area as approximately 51 to 75 wind turbines would be evident in the foreground, middleground and background. However, the landscape in this area is considered typical of the region and has been designated as VRM Class IV by the BLM where major modification of the existing landscape may occur. Additionally, the majority of viewers would be traveling (by vehicle) on the I-8 in which direct views of the proposed wind turbines would be temporary. The majority of viewers from this KOP would be considered low sensitivity. The addition of the proposed 138kV steel monopole will likely run less than 2 miles parallel to the existing transmission line and will not be significantly higher than the existing structures. The introduction of the proposed transmission line will not impede present viewing conditions.

Overall Visual Impact Rating: Minor

KOP 4 - McCain Valley Road at Rough Acres Ranch

Visual Contrast: The visibility of approximately 51 to 75 of the proposed wind turbines in this area would be apparent; however, the landscape is considered typical of the region and viewers from this area are considered low sensitivity (e.g., travelers en route, employees of the ranch), thus lessening the likelihood that the wind turbines would impede the viewing experience from this vantage point. The ancillary wind energy production facilities would be located (e.g., the parking area, batch plant, and laydown area) in this area. Given that this area currently supports ranch operations and there is an existing transmission line corridor present, additional wind turbine facilities will likely not dominate the landscape, nor will they impede present viewing conditions.

Overall Visual Impact Rating: Minor

KOP 5 - McCain Valley Road at Lark Canyon OHV Area and Campground

Visual Contrast: Views of approximately 51 to 75 the proposed wind turbines would be evident from higher vantage points in this area; however, the predominant viewer would likely be traveling by motorized vehicle at speeds that would prohibit longer than momentary views of the proposed wind turbines. Views from the Lark Canyon campground would reveal some of the proposed wind turbines, however, the campground is located within stands of large oak trees and topographic obstruction would somewhat impede views of the proposed wind turbines.

Overall Visual Impact Rating: Minor

KOP 6 - McCain Valley Road at Carrizo Gorge

Visual Contrast: Views of Carrizo Gorge are oriented away from the proposed wind turbines, thus, the introduction of the structures in the landscape will not impede scenic views of the gorge. However, views to the south, and west will reveal several strings of the wind turbines creating a dominant visual feature in the landscape. Approximately 76 to 100 wind turbines would be visible from this vantage point. Additionally, from this vantage the existing Campo Wind turbines are evident in the background. A visual simulation was rendered at this point, to show the visual effects of the wind turbines from McCain Valley Road and Carrizo Gorge. Viewers in this area are considered moderate sensitivity because they are likely interested in scenic views to the north and east.

Overall Visual Impact Rating: Moderate

KOP 7 - Cottonwood Campground

Visual Contrast: The Cottonwood campground is accessible only by passenger vehicle and does not allow OHV use. This campground is also located within a stand of large oak trees. Views of the proposed turbines would be evident in the middleground and background. Approximately 51 to 75 wind turbines could be visible from this area. Viewer sensitivity is considered moderate to high given that the primary viewers would be people accessing and using the campgrounds.

Overall Visual Impact Rating: Moderate

KOP 8 - McCain Valley Road at northern terminus

Visual Contrast: The only human-made modification currently in this area is McCain Valley Road and when views are oriented to the southwest, the existing string of Campo wind turbines is evident. Also, given the natural conditions of the landscape, the introduction of the proposed project wind turbine strings will be noticeable, bordering on dominant in the landscape. Approximately 76 to 100 wind turbines would be visible from this area. Viewers in this area would be considered moderate to high sensitivity because they would be accessing the area to experience the natural environment.

Overall Visual Impact Rating: Moderate

KOP 9 - Old Highway 80 and Existing Boulevard Substation

Visual Contrast: Existing views in this area reveal monopole transmission lines feeding into the Boulevard Substation, thus the introduction of additional transmission lines will not likely impede views significantly more than present conditions. Old Highway 80 has been designated by San Diego County as an historic route requiring repairs and improvements to be in keeping with the original concrete slab construction of the road. The proposed transmission lines would not conflict with the historic route designation requirements. Approximately 10 to 20 wind turbines would be visible from this point. Old Highway 80 provides access to the town of Boulevard and viewers would be considered low sensitivity because they would be en route with views obstructed by development and vegetation.

Overall Visual Impact Rating: Minor

The visual simulations are limited to a 100 degree view, which is slightly narrower than the average vision span of 120 degrees. When considering additional factors such as peripheral vision, angle of view, lighting, topography and location of viewer, more turbines may be visible than the visual simulations illustrate. Below is a listing of the wind turbines that are visible in the visual simulations from each of the key observation points:

Visual Simulation Figure Number	Number of Wind Turbines Visible in the Visual Simulation	Turbines Visible
Figure 3 – Boulevard	4	R-11, R-12, G-18, G-19
Figure 4 – Boulevard Substation Tie-In (Alternative 2)	0	
Figure 5 – Boulevard Substation Tie-In (Alternative 3)	0	
Figure 6 – McCain Valley Road 1	0	
Figure 7 – McCain Valley Road 2	3	R-13, R-8, R-9
Figure 8 – Lark Canyon OHV	2	R-10, R-11
Figure 9 – Carrizo Gorge	5	F-1, F-2, F-3, F-4, F-6
Figure 10 – Ribbonwood Road	8	R-11, R-12, G-12, G-13, G-14, G-15, G-16, G-17
Figure 11 – Old Highway 80	0	

Mitigation Measures

To the extent possible, the project layout will be integrated with the surrounding landscape through the use of non-reflective paints, positioning of turbines and collector lines and road corridors in linear routes that follow the natural contours of the landscape with minimal side hill cuts. Restoration efforts will be made in areas that support temporary construction. Additionally, the orientation of the wind turbine strings are planned to be placed on natural forms in a complementary pattern as opposed to the existing Campo Wind turbines that are placed in distinct, straight lines.

Turbine and transmission towers will be tubular rather than lattice design to eliminate bird perching and nesting opportunities provided by the lattice structure.

Figure 3

A view oriented north toward McCain Valley from just south of I-8 near the town of Boulevard.

Boulevard

Note: The visual simulation presented above is intended to represent the conceptual visual conditions that would occur after the proposed wind turbines and transmission lines are introduced into the environment and is not a representation of current actual conditions.

Figure 4

A view on Old Highway 80 where the proposed transmission lines connect with the Boulevard Substation.

Alt 2
Boulevard Substation Tie-in

Note: The visual simulation presented above is intended to represent the conceptual visual conditions that would occur after the proposed wind turbines and transmission lines are introduced into the environment and is not a representation of current actual conditions.

Figure 5

A view on Old Highway 80 where the proposed transmission lines connect with the Boulevard Substation.

Alt 3
Boulevard Substation Tie-in

Note: The visual simulation presented above is intended to represent the conceptual visual conditions that would occur after the proposed wind turbines and transmission lines are introduced into the environment and is not a representation of current actual conditions.

Figure 6

A view looking north on McCain Valley Road from I-8.

McCain Valley Road 1

Note: The visual simulation presented above is intended to represent the conceptual visual conditions that would occur after the proposed wind turbines and transmission lines are introduced into the environment and is not a representation of current actual conditions.

Figure 7

A view looking north on McCain Valley Road with Rough Acres Ranch to the west.

McCain Valley Road 2

Note: The visual simulation presented above is intended to represent the conceptual visual conditions that would occur after the proposed wind turbines and transmission lines are introduced into the environment and is not a representation of current actual conditions.

Figure 8

A view looking west from the OHV staging area at Lark Canyon.

Note: The visual simulation presented above is intended to represent the conceptual visual conditions that would occur after the proposed wind turbines and transmission lines are introduced into the environment and is not a representation of current actual conditions.

Figure 9

A view looking southwest from McCain Valley Road at the entrance to the Carrizo Gorge Scenic Area. The existing Kumeyaay Wind Turbines are evident in the background.

Carrizo Gorge

Note: The visual simulation presented above is intended to represent the conceptual visual conditions that would occur after the proposed wind turbines and transmission lines are introduced into the environment and is not a representation of current actual conditions.

Figure 10

This view is facing northeast along Ribbonwood Road. Views from this vantage reveal several wind turbines as well as the alternative transmission line. There are several residences located in this area with views affected by the proposed project facilities.

Ribbonwood Road

Note: The visual simulation presented above is intended to represent the conceptual visual conditions that would occur after the proposed wind turbines and transmission lines are introduced into the environment and is not a representation of current actual conditions.

Figure 11

This view is facing east on Old Highway 80 near the intersection of Ribbonwood Road. From this area, the transmission line corridor connecting to the Boulevard Substation is visible.

Old Highway 80

Note: The visual simulation presented above is intended to represent the conceptual visual conditions that would occur after the proposed wind turbines and transmission lines are introduced into the environment and is not a representation of current actual conditions.

List of References

BLM Land Use Handbook (H-1601-1)
BLM Visual Contrast Rating (H-8431-1)
BLM Visual Resource Management Manual (H-8410-1)
Eastern San Diego County PRMP/EIS
Mountain Empire Subregional Plan
San Diego County Light Pollution Code
San Diego County General Plan
San Diego County Zoning Ordinance
San Diego County Resource Protection Ordinance No. 9716

List of Agencies and Persons Consulted

Patrick Brown, San Diego County
John Dalton, BLM
Gregory Miller, BLM
Gregory Thomsen, BLM

KOP1 I-8 at Ribbonwood Road

Form 8400–1
(September 1985)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

SCENIC QUALITY FIELD INVENTORY

Date 1/4/10
District El Centro
Resource Area McCain Valley
Scenic quality rating unit
Class C

1. Evaluators (names)
Pamela Cecere / Kristine Thoshan

2. LANDSCAPE CHARACTER (Feature)

	a. LANDFORM/WATER	b. VEGETATION	c. STRUCTURE (General)
FORM	[redacted], Rolling hills,	dense vegetation	Paved Road, powerline corridor
LINE	hills create horizon line	clear edge	Paved Road, linear + vertical - meandering Road powerline corridor
COLOR	Dull Earthtones	Browns, tans	Asphalt and bare earth shoulder
TEXTURE	Coarse, undulating texture	coarse, low to medium brush,	uneven pavement

3. Narrative

This KOP is located at the I-8 and Ribbonwood Rd intersection on County land. Ribbonwood Rd provides access to residences to the North.

4. SCORE (Circle Appropriate Level)*

	HIGH	MEDIUM	LOW	EXPLANATION OR RATIONALE
a. Landform	5	3 (2)	1	
b. Vegetation	5	3 (2)	1	
c. Water	5	3	(0)	
d. Color	5	3 (2)	1	
e. Adjacent Scenery	5	3 (2)	0	
f. Scarcity	5+	3 (2)	1	
g. Cultural Modification	2	0 (-3)	-4	
TOTALS		+ +	= 7	

SCENIC QUALITY CLASSIFICATION

- ☐ A 19 or more
- ☐ B – 12–18
- ☒ C – 11 or less

(Instructions on reverse)

KOP 1

Form 8400-4
(September 1985)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

VISUAL CONTRAST RATING WORKSHEET

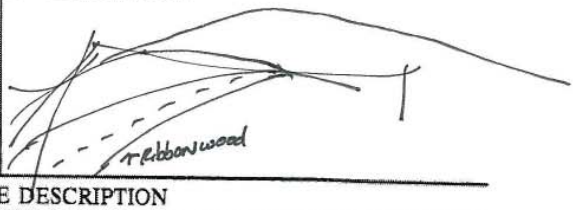
Date 1/4/10
District El Centro
Resource Area Mc Cain Valley
Activity (program) Wind

SECTION A. PROJECT INFORMATION

1. Project Name: TULE WIND PROJECT
2. Key Observation Point: KOP 1
3. VRM Class:

4. Location
Township
Range
Section

5. Location Sketch



SECTION B. CHARACTERISTIC LANDSCAPE DESCRIPTION

	1. LAND/WATER	2. VEGETATION	3. STRUCTURES
FORM	Rolling hills	DENSE, COARSE	Powerline - vertical + linear + Roadway - horizontal
LINE	Hills create horizon line	CLEAR edge near road Diffuse edge in middleground	VERTICAL + LINEAR MEANDERING ROAD
COLOR	Dull EARTHTONES	BROWNS AND TANS	ASPHALT AND BARE EARTH SHOULDER
TEXTURE	COARSE, UNDULATING TEXTURE	COARSE,	UNEVEN PAVEMENT

SECTION C. PROPOSED ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION

	1. LAND/WATER	2. VEGETATION	3. STRUCTURES
FORM	UNCHANGED	UNCHANGED	Monopole Powerlines, Access Rd, wind turbines VERTICAL, HORIZONTAL
LINE	LINEAR/BARE EARTH	UNCHANGED EXCEPT WHERE CLEARED	VERTICAL, ROTATING HORIZONTAL
COLOR	Unchanged	~~UNCHANGED~~ ~~APART FROM~~ cleared vegetation/Bare Earth	~~BARE EARTH~~ ~~ACCESS~~ ~~ROAD~~, NON-Reflective White
TEXTURE	Unchanged	UNCHANGED	ASYMETRICAL

SECTION D. CONTRAST RATING ☐ SHORT TERM ☒ LONG TERM

1. DEGREE OF CONTRAST	FEATURES: LAND/WATER BODY (1)				VEGETATION (2)				STRUCTURES (3)			
	Strong	Moderate	Weak	None	Strong	Moderate	Weak	None	Strong	Moderate	Weak	None
ELEMENTS: Form												
Line												
Color												
Texture												

2. Does project design meet visual resource management objectives? ☐ Yes ☐ No (Explain on reverse side)

3. Additional mitigating measures recommended ☐ Yes ☒ No (Explain on reverse side)

THIS LOCATION IS OUTSIDE OF BLM LAND

Evaluator's Names: P. GECERE / K. TOOSMAN
Date: 1/4/10

KOP 2 ~~[illegible]~~ Ribbonwood Rd N of I-8

Form 8400—1
(September 1985)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

SCENIC QUALITY FIELD INVENTORY

Date 1/4/10
District El Centro
Resource Area McCain Valley
Scenic quality rating unit
Class C

1. Evaluators (names)
Pamela Cegere / Kristine Tossman

2. LANDSCAPE CHARACTER (Feature)

	a. LANDFORM/WATER	b. VEGETATION	c. STRUCTURE (General)
FORM	Rolling hills w/ high relief mtn in background	Dense vegetation ranges from low to medium ground cover	~~[illegible]~~ unpaved road
LINE	Strong horizon lines formed by top of mtns, lower middle ground has rolling hills and bare basin	diffuse edge	Accessed formed by cleared vegetation
COLOR	Tans + light browns	Greens + dark browns	Bare earth
TEXTURE	Coarse, undulating	coarse, patchy	Jassed/horizontal bare earth Road flat

3. Narrative

This KOP is located on Ribbonwood Road ~~[illegible]~~ providing access existing residences. This view is along the alternative access road facing Rough Acres Ranch to the east.

This location is not on BLM Land

4. SCORE (Circle Appropriate Level)*

	HIGH	MEDIUM	LOW	EXPLANATION OR RATIONALE
a. Landform	5	(3)	1	
b. Vegetation	5	3 (2)	1	
c. Water	5	3	(0)	
d. Color	5	3 (2)	1	
e. Adjacent Scenery	5	(3)	0	
f. Scarcity	5+	3 (2)	1	
g. Cultural Modification	2	0 (-1)	-4	
TOTALS		+ +	= 11	

SCENIC QUALITY CLASSIFICATION

☐ A 19 or more
☐ B – 12–18
☒ C – 11 or less

(Instructions on reverse)

KOP2 Ribbonwood N of I-8

Form 8400-4
(September 1985)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

VISUAL CONTRAST RATING WORKSHEET

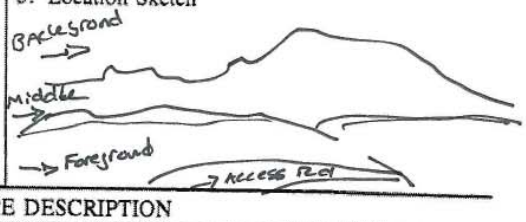
Date 1/4/10
District El Centro
Resource Area Mc Cain Valley
Activity (program) Wind

SECTION A. PROJECT INFORMATION

1. Project Name: Tule Wind Project
2. Key Observation Point: KOP #2
3. VRM Class:

4. Location
Township
Range
Section

5. Location Sketch



SECTION B. CHARACTERISTIC LANDSCAPE DESCRIPTION

	1. LAND/WATER	2. VEGETATION	3. STRUCTURES
FORM	Rolling hills in Middleground Flat in Foreground	Dense, patchy	Bare Earth Road
LINE	Strong horizon Line in Background	diffuse Edge	Meandering/horizontal
COLOR	Sand colored	Medium/dark green	
TEXTURE	Coarse, undulating,	tangled, coarse	Soft, meandering

SECTION C. PROPOSED ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION

	1. LAND/WATER	2. VEGETATION	3. STRUCTURES
FORM	UNCHANGED	UNCHANGED	Access Road (widened existing rd) Meandering/horizontal
LINE	UNCHANGED	UNCHANGED	Meandering, horizontal
COLOR	UNCHANGED	UNCHANGED	Bare Earth
TEXTURE	UNCHANGED	UNCHANGED	Flat, soft

SECTION D. CONTRAST RATING ☐ SHORT TERM ☐ LONG TERM

DEGREE OF CONTRAST	FEATURES: LAND/WATER BODY (1)				VEGETATION (2)				STRUCTURES (3)			
	Strong	Moderate	Weak	None	Strong	Moderate	Weak	None	Strong	Moderate	Weak	None
ELEMENTS: Form			✓				✓				✓	
Line			✓				✓			✓		
Color			✓				✓				✓	
Texture			✓				✓				✓	

2. Does project design meet visual resource management objectives? ☐ Yes ☐ No (Explain on reverse side)

3. Additional mitigating measures recommended ☐ Yes ☑ No (Explain on reverse side)

THIS AREA IS NOT LOCATED ON BLM land

Evaluator's Names: P. Cecere / K. Moosman
Date: 1/4/10

KOP 3 I-8 & McCain Valley Rd

Form 8400–1
(September 1985)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

SCENIC QUALITY FIELD INVENTORY

Date 1/4/10
District El Centro
Resource Area McCain Valley
Scenic quality rating unit Class B

1. Evaluators (names)
Pamela Cecere / Kristine Woodyard

2. LANDSCAPE CHARACTER (Feature)

	a. LANDFORM/WATER	b. VEGETATION	c. STRUCTURE (General)
FORM	Rolling / undulating	patchy	Band w/in landscape
LINE	Horizontal	diffuse	Road - linear + disappears into middleground
COLOR	patchy browns + greens	Lighter to dark browns + greens	Bands of asphalt
TEXTURE	undulating	patchy	Linear

3. Narrative

This KOP is a view from I-8 overpass north along McCain Valley Rd. Landscape in this area is characterized by rolling hills, medium to dense ground cover, existing power lines and fencing. Views are obstructed by hills in the middle/background.

Views to the west reveal the existing wind turbine string which runs N/W perpendicular to I-8.

4. SCORE (Circle Appropriate Level)*

	HIGH	MEDIUM	LOW	EXPLANATION OR RATIONALE
a. Landform	5	3 (4)	1	
b. Vegetation	5	3 (2)	1	
c. Water	5	3	(0)	
d. Color	5	3 (2)	1	
e. Adjacent Scenery	5	3 (2)	0	
f. Scarcity	5+	3 (2)	1	
g. Cultural Modification	2	0 (-2)	-4	
TOTALS		+ +	= 10	

SCENIC QUALITY CLASSIFICATION

- ☐ A 19 or more
- ☐ B – 12–18
- ☒ C – 11 or less

(Instructions on reverse)

KOP 5 I-8 & McCain Valley Rd

Form 8400-4
(September 1985)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

VISUAL CONTRAST RATING WORKSHEET

Date 1/4/10
District El Centro
Resource Area McCain Valley
Activity (program) Wind

SECTION A. PROJECT INFORMATION

1. Project Name: Tule Wind Project
2. Key Observation Point:
3. VRM Class:
4. Location
Township
Range
Section
5. Location Sketch

SECTION B. CHARACTERISTIC LANDSCAPE DESCRIPTION

	1. LAND/WATER	2. VEGETATION	3. STRUCTURES
FORM	Rolling/undulating	Patchy + saddle curved	Band w/landscape
LINE	Horizontal	Diffuse	Band w/ clear edges distinct
COLOR	Patchy darkgreens + light browns	Light browns where no vegetation exists	Asphalt line
TEXTURE	Coarse + undulating	Patchy	Flat distinct

SECTION C. PROPOSED ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION

	1. LAND/WATER	2. VEGETATION	3. STRUCTURES
FORM	Rolling/undulating	Patchy + curved	Monopole + rotating blades vertical + linear
LINE	Horizontal	~~clear~~ clear line / Band	Vertical
COLOR	Patchy darkgreens - light browns	Light browns where veg. is cleared	Non-reflective white - corten steel
TEXTURE	Coarse + undulating	Patchy	Vertical - sequential

SECTION D. CONTRAST RATING ☐ SHORT TERM ☑ LONG TERM

1. DEGREE OF CONTRAST

ELEMENTS	FEATURES: LAND/WATER BODY (1) Strong	Moderate	Weak	None	VEGETATION (2) Strong	Moderate	Weak	None	STRUCTURES (3) Strong	Moderate	Weak	None
Form			/				/			/		
Line			/				/			/		
Color		/				/					/	
Texture			/				/				/	

2. Does project design meet visual resource management objectives? ☐ Yes ☐ No (Explain on reverse side)

3. Additional mitigating measures recommended ☐ Yes ☐ No (Explain on reverse side)
KOP is taken from non-BLM land toward BLM land

Evaluator's Names: P. Cecerre
Date: 1/4/10

KOP 4 McCain Valley Rd @ Rough Acres

Form 8400—1
(September 1985)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

SCENIC QUALITY FIELD INVENTORY

Date 1/4/10
District El Centro
Resource Area Mc Cain Valley
Scenic quality rating unit Class B

1. Evaluators (names)
P. Cecere / K. Moosman

2. LANDSCAPE CHARACTER (Feature)

	a. LANDFORM/WATER	b. VEGETATION	c. STRUCTURE (General)
FORM	FLAT / 2-dimensional	SPARSE TO DENSE	UNPAVED Rd, RANCH LAND + Bldgs
LINE	Horizon line is curved	LINE CREATED BY LACK OF VEGETATION / CLEARED AREAS	ROADWAY - Horizontal + VERTICLE - fencing/powerlines
COLOR	BROWNS	BROWNS + GREENS	BROWNS / TANS
TEXTURE	FLAT	SOFT	FLAT / MONOTONOUS

3. Narrative

THIS KOP is located NEAR the ENTRANCE TO Rough Acres RANCH - IN this AREA HUMAN-MADE MODIFICATION IS VERY EVIDENT. ROADS AND STRUCTURES DOMINATE THE FORESROUND PANORAMIC VIEWS ARE EVIDENT FROM HILL TOPS OR CRESTS IN ROADWAY.

THIS LAND is OUTSIDE OF BLM AREA / ON PRIVATE LAND

4. SCORE (Circle Appropriate Level)*

	HIGH	MEDIUM	LOW	EXPLANATION OR RATIONALE
a. Landform	5	3 (2)	1	
b. Vegetation	5	3 (2)	1	
c. Water	5	3	(0)	
d. Color	5	3 (2)	1	
e. Adjacent Scenery	5	(3)	0	
f. Scarcity	5+	3 (2)	1	
g. Cultural Modification	2	0	(-3) -4	
TOTALS		+ +	= 11	

SCENIC QUALITY CLASSIFICATION

- ☐ A 19 or more
- ☐ B – 12–18
- ☒ C – 11 or less

(Instructions on reverse)

KOP 4 McCain Valley Rd & Rough Acres

Form 8400-4
(September 1985)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

VISUAL CONTRAST RATING WORKSHEET

Date 1/4/10
District El Centro
Resource Area Mc Cain Valley
Activity (program) Wind

SECTION A. PROJECT INFORMATION

1. Project Name: Tule Wind Project
2. Key Observation Point:
3. VRM Class:
4. Location
   Township:
   Range:
   Section:
5. Location Sketch

SECTION B. CHARACTERISTIC LANDSCAPE DESCRIPTION

	1. LAND/WATER	2. VEGETATION	3. STRUCTURES
FORM	Flat to Rolling	Sparse where cleared Dense in the Middleground	Roads + Ranch Bldgs
LINE	Horizontal + weak	undulating	Linear / Bands
COLOR	Light Browns + Dark Greens	Light Browns where cleared	Light Browns/exposed Soil
TEXTURE	Coarse	patchy in Foreground	Smooth

SECTION C. PROPOSED ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION

	1. LAND/WATER	2. VEGETATION	3. STRUCTURES
FORM	Flat/Rolling	Forms created by clearings	Verticle w/ rotating blades / accessed
LINE	Verticle + Horizontal	Regular lines created by edges	Verticle
COLOR	Light Browns + greens	Light Browns	Non-Reflective White
TEXTURE	Smooth	Smooth + patchy	Asymetrical

SECTION D. CONTRAST RATING ☐ SHORT TERM ☑ LONG TERM

DEGREE OF CONTRAST	FEATURES: LAND/WATER BODY (1)				VEGETATION (2)				STRUCTURES (3)			
	Strong	Moderate	Weak	None	Strong	Moderate	Weak	None	Strong	Moderate	Weak	None
ELEMENTS: Form			/				/			/		
Line			/				/			/		
Color			/				/				/	
Texture			/				/				/	

2. Does project design meet visual resource management objectives? ☐ Yes ☐ No (Explain on reverse side)

3. Additional mitigating measures recommended ☐ Yes ☑ No (Explain on reverse side)

This area is not on BLM land

Evaluator's Names: P. Cecere / K. Moosman
Date:

KOP 5 McCain Valley Rd + Lark Canyon

Form 8400–1
(September 1985)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

SCENIC QUALITY FIELD INVENTORY

Date 1/4/10
District El Centro
Resource Area Mc Cain Valley
Scenic quality rating unit
Class B C

1. Evaluators (names)
P. Cecere / K. Moosman

2. LANDSCAPE CHARACTER (Feature)

	a. LANDFORM/WATER	b. VEGETATION	c. STRUCTURE (General)
FORM	Rocky hills,	interspersed w/in rocks	unpaved roads
LINE	Linear/flat w/ angled/rock horizon line formed by hills	woven between bare rocks	Linear / ~~curving~~
COLOR	Bold Browns/tans	greens/greys	exposed soil
TEXTURE	Flat + angular	patchy/sparse	smooth/flat

3. Narrative

The area of Lark Canyon is dominated by human-made 2-track OHV trails which meander throughout and dominate the foreground landscape. Background views are largely obstructed by large rock strewn hills and shrubs/trees. Human modification is very evident from this KOP.

4. SCORE (Circle Appropriate Level)*

	HIGH	MEDIUM	LOW	EXPLANATION OR RATIONALE
a. Landform	5	(3)	1	
b. Vegetation	5	3	(2) 1	
c. Water	5	3	(0)	
d. Color	5	~~3~~ (2)	1	
e. Adjacent Scenery	5	3	(2) 0	
f. Scarcity	5+	3	(2) 1	
g. Cultural Modification	2	0	(-3) -4	
TOTALS		+ +	= 11	

SCENIC QUALITY CLASSIFICATION

☐ A 19 or more
☑ B – 12–18
☒ C – 11 or less

(Instructions on reverse)

KOP5 McCain Valley Rd + Lark Canyon

Form 8400-4
(September 1985)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

VISUAL CONTRAST RATING WORKSHEET

Date 1/4/10
District El Centro
Resource Area Mc Cain Valley
Activity (program) [redacted] Wind

SECTION A. PROJECT INFORMATION

1. Project Name: TULE WIND PROJECT
2. Key Observation Point:
3. VRM Class:
4. Location
Township:
Range:
Section:
5. Location Sketch

SECTION B. CHARACTERISTIC LANDSCAPE DESCRIPTION

	1. LAND/WATER	2. VEGETATION	3. STRUCTURES
FORM	Rocky/Angular	Coarse/Patchy	Unpaved Road/OHV staging Linear/Flat
LINE	Angular/Horizontal	Ragged/Coarse	Horizontal
COLOR	Distinctive Earthtones	Dark Browns/Rusty	Browns/Sandy
TEXTURE	Rugged/Sporatic	Ragged/Tangled	Flat/Smooth

SECTION C. PROPOSED ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION

	1. LAND/WATER	2. VEGETATION	3. STRUCTURES
FORM	Rocky Angular	Coarse	Monopole vertical w/ Rotating blades
LINE	Angular/vertical/Horizontal	Ragged	Vertical + Rotating/in motion
COLOR	Earthtones - light Browns	Browns/Rust	Non-Reflective white
TEXTURE	Rugged	Ragged/Tangled	Asymetrical

SECTION D. CONTRAST RATING ☐ SHORT TERM ☑ LONG TERM

1. DEGREE OF CONTRAST

ELEMENTS	FEATURES: LAND/WATER BODY (1) Strong	Moderate	Weak	None	VEGETATION (2) Strong	Moderate	Weak	None	STRUCTURES (3) Strong	Moderate	Weak	None
Form		/	Light				/		/			
Line			Light				/		/			
Color		/	Light				/			/		
Texture		/					/			/		

2. Does project design meet visual resource management objectives? ☑ Yes ☐ No (Explain on reverse side)

3. Additional mitigating measures recommended ☐ Yes ☑ No (Explain on reverse side)

Evaluator's Names: P. Cecere, K. Hoffman
Date:

KOP6 McCain Valley Rd @ Carrizo Gorge

Form 8400—1
(September 1985)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

SCENIC QUALITY FIELD INVENTORY

Date 7/1/10
District EL CENTRO
Resource Area McCain Valley
Scenic quality rating unit
Class B

1. Evaluators (names)
PAMELA CECERE / KRISTINE TOOSTIAN

2. LANDSCAPE CHARACTER (Feature)

	a. LANDFORM/WATER	b. VEGETATION	c. STRUCTURE (General)
FORM	Rocky RIDGELINES, UNDULATING hills	DENSE GROUND COVER	UNPAVED ROAD
LINE	UNDULATING, SOFT	COARSE	LINEAR
COLOR	DISTINCTIVE EARTHTONES - BROWNS + GREENS	GREENS, GREYS	BARE EARTH
TEXTURE	COARSE + Rolling	COARSE	SMOOTH/FLAT

3. Narrative

KOP is oriented to the southwest from Carrizo Gorge toward the existing Wind Turbine string in the Seldom Seen Zone. Landscape in this area is largely undeveloped and rural w/ undulating/rock strewn Hills

4. SCORE (Circle Appropriate Level)*

	HIGH	MEDIUM	LOW	EXPLANATION OR RATIONALE
a. Landform	5	(3)	1	
b. Vegetation	5	(3)	1	
c. Water	5	3	(0)	
d. Color	5	(3)	1	
e. Adjacent Scenery	5	(3)	0	
f. Scarcity	5+	3 (2)	1	
g. Cultural Modification	2	0 (-1)	-4	
TOTALS		+ +	= 13	

SCENIC QUALITY CLASSIFICATION

- ☐ A 19 or more
- ☒ B – 12–18
- ☐ C – 11 or less

(Instructions on reverse)

KOP6 McCain Valley Rd & Carrizo Gorge

Form 8400-4
(September 1985)

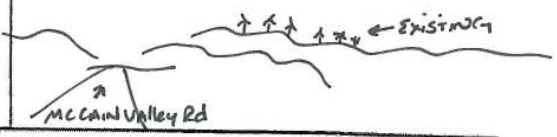
UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

VISUAL CONTRAST RATING WORKSHEET

Date 1/4/10
District El Centro
Resource Area McCain Valley
Activity (program) Wind

SECTION A. PROJECT INFORMATION

1. Project Name: Tule Wind Project
2. Key Observation Point:
3. VRM Class:
4. Location
Township:
Range:
Section:
5. Location Sketch



SECTION B. CHARACTERISTIC LANDSCAPE DESCRIPTION

	1. LAND/WATER	2. VEGETATION	3. STRUCTURES
FORM	Rocky, undulating hills Ridgelines	Dense ground cover in middle ground	Unpaved road Linear form
LINE	Ridgelines	Coarse	Linear, & undulating
COLOR	Greens + tans	Greens/Greys	Bare earth
TEXTURE	Rocky,	Patchy, interspersed in foreground	Smooth - diffuse edge

SECTION C. PROPOSED ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION

	1. LAND/WATER	2. VEGETATION	3. STRUCTURES
FORM	Unchanged	Unchanged	Monopole wind turbines + Access Rds. Vertical + horizontal
LINE	Unchanged	Unchanged	Vertical + Horizontal
COLOR	Unchanged	Unchanged	Non-Reflective White Bare Earth Access Rd
TEXTURE	Unchanged	Unchanged	Vertical, Asymetrical Pattern - Sequential

SECTION D. CONTRAST RATING ☐ SHORT TERM ☑ LONG TERM

1. DEGREE OF CONTRAST

ELEMENTS	FEATURES: LAND/WATER BODY (1) Strong	Moderate	Weak	None	VEGETATION (2) Strong	Moderate	Weak	None	STRUCTURES (3) Strong	Moderate	Weak	None
Form			/				/			/		
Line			/				/			/		
Color			/				/				/	
Texture			/				/			/		

2. Does project design meet visual resource management objectives? ☑ Yes ☐ No (Explain on reverse side)

3. Additional mitigating measures recommended ☐ Yes ☑ No (Explain on reverse side)

Evaluator's Names: P. Cecere / K. Moosman
Date: 1/4/10

KOP 7 Cottonwood Campground

Form 5400–1
(September 1985)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

SCENIC QUALITY FIELD INVENTORY

Date 1/4/10
District El Centro
Resource Area Mc Cain Valley
Scenic quality rating unit
Class C

1. Evaluators (names)
P. CECERE / K. MOSSMAN

2. LANDSCAPE CHARACTER (Feature)

	a. LANDFORM/WATER	b. VEGETATION	c. STRUCTURE (General)
FORM	DOSSE, UNDULATING hills	DENSE	UNPAVED ROAD
LINE	distinct horizon line created by MTNS	diffuse line, edge of ROAD is distinct	horizontal
COLOR	EARTHTONES	greens, Browns	BARE EARTH
TEXTURE	COARSE	coarse, tangled	flat, smooth

3. Narrative

This KOP is located near Cottonwood Campground w/ views South along Mc Cain Valley Road. In this area, the landscape is Relatively hilly and densely vegetated, little evidence of human-made features aside from the road + camp facilities

4. SCORE (Circle Appropriate Level)*

	HIGH	MEDIUM	LOW	EXPLANATION OR RATIONALE
a. Landform	5	3 (2)	1	
b. Vegetation	5	3 (2)	1	
c. Water	5	3	(0)	
d. Color	5	3 (2)	1	
e. Adjacent Scenery	5	3 (2)	0	
f. Scarcity	5+	3 (2)	1	
g. Cultural Modification	2	0 (-1)	-4	
TOTALS		+ +	= 10	

SCENIC QUALITY CLASSIFICATION

☐ A 19 or more
☐ B – 12–18
☒ C – 11 or less

(Instructions on reverse)

KOP 7 Cottonwood Campground

Form 8400-4
(September 1985)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

VISUAL CONTRAST RATING WORKSHEET

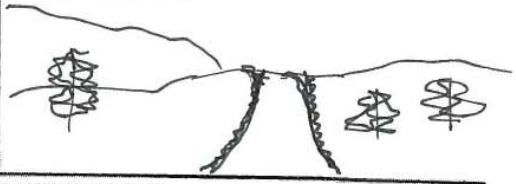
Date 1/4/10
District El Centro
Resource Area Mc Cain Valley
Activity (program) Wind

SECTION A. PROJECT INFORMATION

1. Project Name: TULE WIND PROJECT
2. Key Observation Point: KOP #7
3. VRM Class:

4. Location
Township
Range
Section

5. Location Sketch



SECTION B. CHARACTERISTIC LANDSCAPE DESCRIPTION

	1. LAND/WATER	2. VEGETATION	3. STRUCTURES
FORM	Rolling	COARSE, DENSE	BARE EARTH ROAD
LINE	MTNS FORM HORIZON LINE	~~Trees~~/SHRUBS (tall) CREATE VERTICLE ELEMENT IN LANDSCAPE	LINEAR
COLOR	Browns/tans	Dark greens	BARE EARTH
TEXTURE	Rolling, undulating	COARSE, DENSE	SMOOTH

SECTION C. PROPOSED ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION

	1. LAND/WATER	2. VEGETATION	3. STRUCTURES
FORM	unchanged	unchanged	MONOPOLE, TURBINE VERTICLE w/ROTATING BLADES
LINE	unchanged	unchanged	VERTICLE, ROTATING
COLOR	unchaged	unchanged	NON-REFLECTIVE white
TEXTURE	unchanged	unchanged	VERTICLE/ASYMETRICAL

SECTION D. CONTRAST RATING ☐ SHORT TERM ☒ LONG TERM

1. DEGREE OF CONTRAST	FEATURES: LAND/WATER BODY (1)				VEGETATION (2)				STRUCTURES (3)			
	Strong	Moderate	Weak	None	Strong	Moderate	Weak	None	Strong	Moderate	Weak	None
ELEMENTS: Form			✓				✓			✓		
Line			✓				✓			✓		
Color			✓				✓				✓	
Texture			✓				✓			✓		

2. Does project design meet visual resource management objectives? ☒ Yes ☐ No (Explain on reverse side)

3. Additional mitigating measures recommended ☐ Yes ☒ No (Explain on reverse side)

Evaluator's Names: P. Cerrer / K. Moosman
Date: 1/4/10

KOP 8 McCain Valley Rd @ northern terminus

Form 8400–1
(September 1985)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

SCENIC QUALITY FIELD INVENTORY

Date 1/4/10
District El Centro
Resource Area Mc Cain Valley
Scenic quality rating unit Class B

1. Evaluators (names)
Pamela Cecere / Kristine Hoosman

2. LANDSCAPE CHARACTER (Feature)

	a. LANDFORM/WATER	b. VEGETATION	c. STRUCTURE (General)
FORM	Undulating hills, Rocky + vegetated	desert scrub and medium sized shrub/trees	unpaved road
LINE	Formed by hills against the sky line	creates jagged edging brush obstructs some viewing	Roadway creates linear dissection
COLOR	Distinct Browns, pale greens	pale greens, browns drab	sharp contrast of roadway w/in natural environment.
TEXTURE	Very coarse - Rocky	coarse - heavily vegetated	smooth + meandering in to the distance

3. Narrative

This KOP reveals views from the northern end of McCain Valley Rd Views from this point are from a higher elevation and reveal a nearly panoramic view from south to west. Landscape in this area is more rocky - boulder strewn w/ thick vegetation. The most dominant visual feature is the unpaved road that meanders to the south and is the only cultural modification in the foreground / middleground.

4. SCORE (Circle Appropriate Level)*

	HIGH	MEDIUM	LOW	EXPLANATION OR RATIONALE
a. Landform	5	(3)	1	
b. Vegetation	5	(3)	1	
c. Water	5	3	(0)	
d. Color	5	(3)	1	
e. Adjacent Scenery	5	(3)	0	
f. Scarcity	5+	3 (2)	1	
g. Cultural Modification	2	0 (-2)	-4	
TOTALS		+ +	= 12	

SCENIC QUALITY CLASSIFICATION

- ☐ A 19 or more
- ☒ B – 12–18
- ☐ C – 11 or less

(Instructions on reverse)

KOPR McCain Valley Rd @ Northern terminus

Form 8400-4
(September 1985)

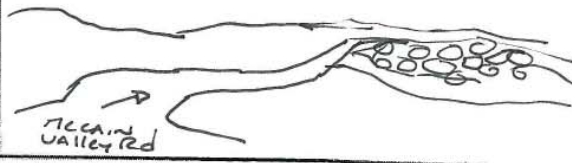
UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

VISUAL CONTRAST RATING WORKSHEET

Date 1/4/10
District El Centro
Resource Area Mc Cain Valley
Activity (program) [redacted] Wind

SECTION A. PROJECT INFORMATION

1. Project Name: Tule Wind Project
2. Key Observation Point:
3. VRM Class:
4. Location
   Township:
   Range:
   Section:
5. Location Sketch



SECTION B. CHARACTERISTIC LANDSCAPE DESCRIPTION

	1. LAND/WATER	2. VEGETATION	3. STRUCTURES
FORM	Rugged, Rolling VAST PANORAMIC VIEWS	COARSE, DENSE	LINEAR, MEANDERING
LINE	LITTLE DEFINITION OF LINE No EDGES	JAGGED, ASYMETRICAL TANGLES OF BRANCHES	LINEAR, CURVING BAND
COLOR	Dull, SOFT EARTHTONES	DARK CONTRASTING	CONTRASTING NATURAL LANDSCAPE (EXPOSED SOIL)
TEXTURE	Rolling, curving	TANGLED, COARSE	LINEAR + CURVING

SECTION C. PROPOSED ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION

	1. LAND/WATER	2. VEGETATION	3. STRUCTURES
FORM	RUGGED, Rolling	COARSE	WIND TURBINE STRUCTURES MONOPOLES w/ BLADES - ROTATING
LINE	little definition	LINEAR, CREATED BY CLEARINGS/ACCESS RDS	VERTICLE + ROTATING
COLOR	Dull, SOFT EARTHTONES	DARK CONTRASTING	NON-REFLECTIVE WHITE
TEXTURE	Rolling	COARSE	PATTERNS - ASYMETRICAL

SECTION D. CONTRAST RATING ☐ SHORT TERM ☐ LONG TERM

1. DEGREE OF CONTRAST

ELEMENTS	FEATURES: LAND/WATER BODY (1) Strong	Moderate	Weak	None	VEGETATION (2) Strong	Moderate	Weak	None	STRUCTURES (3) Strong	Moderate	Weak	None
Form			/				/			/		
Line			/				/			/		
Color			/				/				/	
Texture			/				/			/		

2. Does project design meet visual resource management objectives? ☑ Yes ☐ No (Explain on reverse side)

3. Additional mitigating measures recommended ☐ Yes ☐ No (Explain on reverse side)

Evaluator's Names: P. CECERE
Date:

KOP 9 Old Hwy 80 + Blvd Substation

Form 8400—1
(September 1985)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

SCENIC QUALITY FIELD INVENTORY

Date 1/4/10
District El Centro
Resource Area Mc Cain Valley
Scenic quality rating unit
Class B C

1. Evaluators *(names)*

PAMELA CECERE

2. LANDSCAPE CHARACTER *(Feature)*

	a. LANDFORM/WATER	b. VEGETATION	c. STRUCTURE *(General)*
FORM	FLAT	LARGE (10+ FEET) TREES + MEDIUM SHRUBERY (6 to 8ft)	PAVED ROAD + MONOPOLE TRANSMISSION LINE
LINE	STRAIGHT/ANGULAR	BANDED ALONG WHERE ROAD SHOULDER ENDS	CREATED BY PAVED ROAD
COLOR	EARTH TONES, BARE SOIL	BROWNS, GREENS	ASPHALT + SOIL SHOULDER
TEXTURE	SMOOTH TO COARSE	CREATES COARSE	LINEAR/STRAIGHT

3. Narrative

This KOP is located on Old Hwy 80 with views facing East toward the Existing Boulevard Substation. This area is largely undeveloped to the North and existing powerlines are located on the South side of the road. Large shrubs, trees and vegetation obstruct distance views of residences in this area.

This location is not on BLM Land.

Vegetation dominates the viewshed in this area.

4. SCORE *(Circle Appropriate Level)**

	HIGH	MEDIUM	LOW	EXPLANATION OR RATIONALE
a. Landform	5	3 (2)	1	
b. Vegetation	5	(3)	1	
c. Water	5	3	(0)	
d. Color	5	3 (2)	1	
e. Adjacent Scenery	5	3 (1)	0	
f. Scarcity	5+	3 (2)	1	
g. Cultural Modification	2	0 (-2)	-4	
TOTALS		+ +	= 8	

SCENIC QUALITY CLASSIFICATION

- ☐ A 19 or more
- ☐ B – 12–18
- ☒ C – 11 or less

(Instructions on reverse)

KOP 9 Old Hwy 80 + Blvd Sub

Form 8400-4
(September 1985)

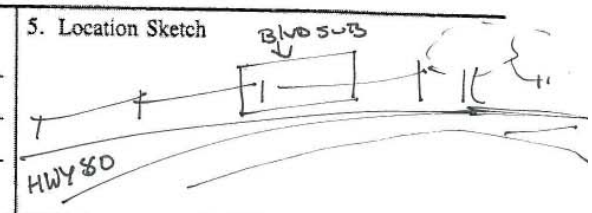
UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

VISUAL CONTRAST RATING WORKSHEET

Date 1/4/10
District El Centro
Resource Area Mc Cain Valley
Activity (program) Wind

SECTION A. PROJECT INFORMATION

1. Project Name: Tule Wind Project
2. Key Observation Point:
3. VRM Class:
4. Location
Township:
Range:
Section:
5. Location Sketch



SECTION B. CHARACTERISTIC LANDSCAPE DESCRIPTION

	1. LAND/WATER	2. VEGETATION	3. STRUCTURES
FORM	Flat to rolling	Varying from grassy to large trees/shrubs	Monopole - vertical Linear roadway
LINE	Horizontal	Weak, diagonal	Linear + vertical
COLOR	Dark greens + browns	Varying from browns to dark greens	Paved + wood monopole road
TEXTURE	Coarse + smooth	Smooth to coarse + patchy	Linear + pattern/sequential

SECTION C. PROPOSED ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION

	1. LAND/WATER	2. VEGETATION	3. STRUCTURES
FORM	Flat to rolling	Varying from grassy to large trees/shrubs	Powerline + substation vertical - linear
LINE	Horizontal	Weak/diagonal	Vertical + Linear straight
COLOR	Dark greens + browns	Dark greens/light browns	Paved + wood/brown
TEXTURE	Coarse ~~intermediate~~ Smooth ~~intermediate~~	Smooth to coarse	Linear straight + sequential vertical

SECTION D. CONTRAST RATING ☐ SHORT TERM ☐ LONG TERM

1. DEGREE OF CONTRAST	FEATURES: LAND/WATER BODY (1)				VEGETATION (2)				STRUCTURES (3)			
	Strong	Moderate	Weak	None	Strong	Moderate	Weak	None	Strong	Moderate	Weak	None
ELEMENTS: Form			/			/				/		
Line			/				/			/		
Color			/			/				/	/	
Texture			/				/			/		

2. Does project design meet visual resource management objectives? ☐ Yes ☐ No (Explain on reverse side)

3. Additional mitigating measures recommended ☐ Yes ☐ No (Explain on reverse side)

This landscape is outside of BLM land

Evaluator's Names: P. Cecere, K. Hostian
Date:


IBERDROLA
RENEWABLES
HDR