

Scenic Report

LAZER BROADCASTING RADIO MONOPOLE PISGAH PEAK ROAD SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY

Submitted to:

County of San Bernardino
Land Use Services Department
385 North Arrowhead Avenue
San Bernardino, CA 92415-0182

Prepared by:

LILBURN
CORPORATION

1905 Business Center Drive
San Bernardino, CA 92408

September 2012

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 PROJECT BACKGROUND/DESCRIPTION

The Project Site is located west of Pisgah Peak Road approximately 1.5 miles north of its intersection with Wildwood Canyon within an unincorporated portion of San Bernardino County and in the Oak Glen Planning area. The Project Site is located adjacent to the Wildwood Canyon State Park, and is approximately 1.5 miles south of the San Bernardino National Forest (SBNF) and is approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile south of an existing broadcast tower (KRBQ). The Project Site is designated as Rural Living (RL-20, 20 acre minimum lot size) and within the Fire Safety Review Area One (FS-1) Overlay District.

The Proposed Project is a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) Application submitted by Lazer Broadcasting to construct an unmanned radio broadcast facility to include a 43-foot monopole with attached antenna, a one-story, 10-foot by 10-foot by 9-foot high equipment shed, and a 10-foot by 20-foot parking space on an approximate 38.12-acre vacant parcel (APN: 0325-011-19) (see Figure 2). At the site of the equipment shed, the existing slope would be cut back to allow the equipment shed to be recessed into the hillside. The back and sides of the equipment shed would be engineered to retain earth between four to seven feet.

The Project also includes undergrounding of approximately 6,700 feet of electrical and telecommunication lines from a location near the existing KQRB Tower, located northeast of the Project Site, to the proposed equipment shed to be located on the Project Site. Undergrounding of the electrical and telecommunication lines would continue from the equipment shed to the monopole for a distance of approximately 680 feet. Access to the Project Site is from Pisgah Peak Road and the Project would not require any grading along Pisgah Peak Road. The Project also includes vegetation removal and the application includes a variance to reduce the fuel modification area from 100 feet to 30 feet. Proposed fuel modifications would include removal of all vegetation within a ten-foot radius of the equipment shed, followed by vegetation thinning within a 30-foot radius of the equipment shed, per San Bernardino County Fire Department requirements. Vegetation removal and thinning would be coordinated with a County-approved biologist.

The Proposed Project also includes a six-foot high wrought iron fence around the equipment shed, and either a five-foot high wrought iron fence or a five-foot high, three-strand wire fence around the monopole.

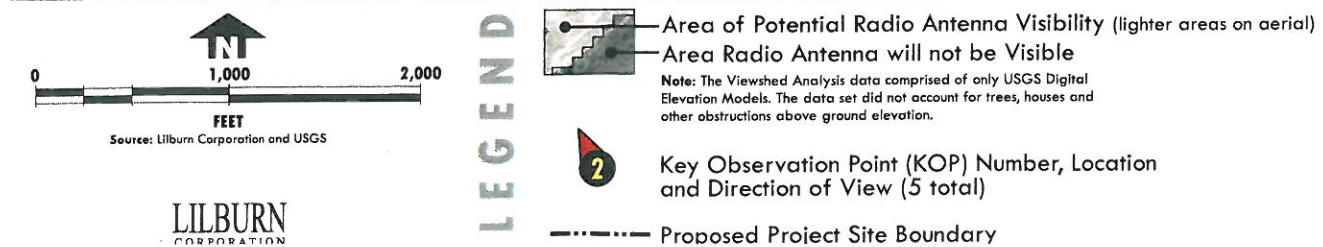
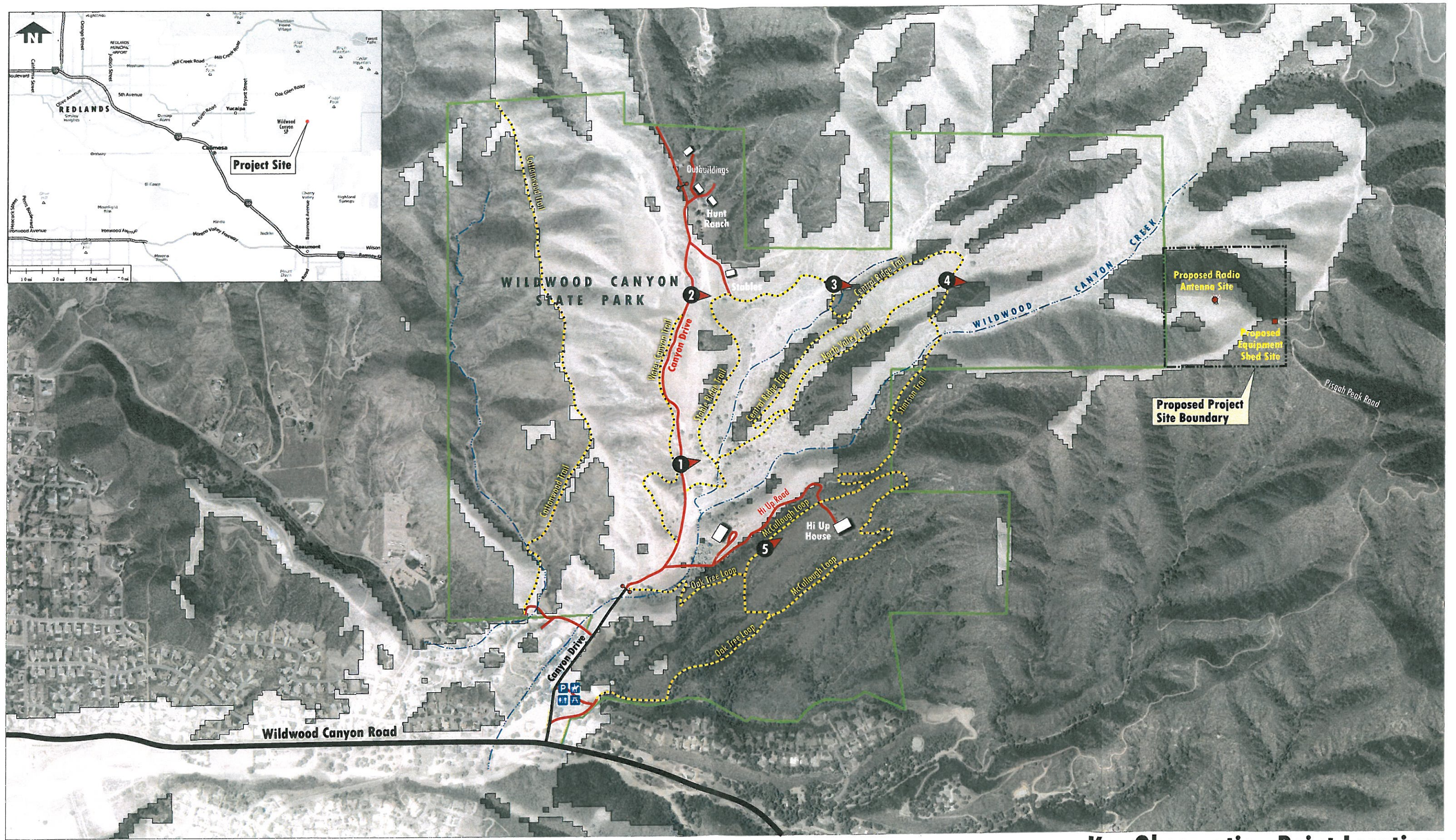
1.2 PROJECT DESIGN FEATURES

Certain visual impacts will be inevitable with any radio broadcasting project. In accordance with the U.S. Forest Service Scenery Management System applied herein, reducing or minimizing negative impacts can be achieved in a number of ways as listed below. A well-sited and designed project will have incorporated some of the impact reduction techniques into the original application. If there appear to be significant visual impacts resulting from the project, additional mitigation approaches can be used. Design features that have been incorporated into the Proposed Project include the following:

- *Appropriate Siting:* This design feature involves avoiding a site that appears very prominent throughout a region. Selecting a site that can comfortably accommodate the project without visually overwhelming sensitive scenic resources on or near the site and the region as a whole is important. The site lies within the San Bernardino Mountains and was selected based on engineering requirements and including an objective to minimize visual impacts to the scenic landscape as a whole.
- *Downsizing:* Reducing the scale of the Project (height of Project) has helped to fit the Project more comfortably into its surroundings. The Project was reduced from a 140-foot lattice tower to a 43-foot monopole.
- *Redesign:* The previous Project design, a lattice tower; appearing utilitarian and industrial in design, was redesigned as a monopole to allow for repeated design elements within the Park (i.e., existing electrical/telephone poles) and provide more opportunity for blending in with the natural setting. In addition the equipment shed was repositioned lower on the slope and at an angle to decrease visibility.
- *Infrastructure Design:* The Project includes undergrounding electrical and telecommunication lines.
- *Color:* White or metallic paint can appear industrial and introduce glare into an area. The Proposed Project includes a wooden pole that would either be a neutral color that blends with surrounding tones or a non-metallic, weathered gray color. The 6-foot high wrought iron fence would also be finished with a non-metallic, neutral color to blend with the surrounding tones.
- *Minimizing Vegetation Removal:* Existing vegetation should be retained to the greatest extent possible. Clear cuts generally have negative visual impacts. The Proposed Project includes a variance to reduce the fuel modification area from 100 feet to 30 feet. Proposed fuel modifications would include removal of all vegetation within a ten-foot radius of the equipment shed, followed by vegetation thinning within a 30-foot radius of the equipment shed, per San Bernardino County Fire Department requirements. Vegetation removal and thinning would be coordinated with a County-approved biologist.

The Proposed Project includes a neutral pole to blend with surrounding tones or allowing weathering to a non-glare finish and fencing to be finished with a non-metallic, neutral paint color that would blend with surrounding tones. The pole is not required by the Federal Aviation Administration and Federal Communication Commission to be lit for air navigation safety.

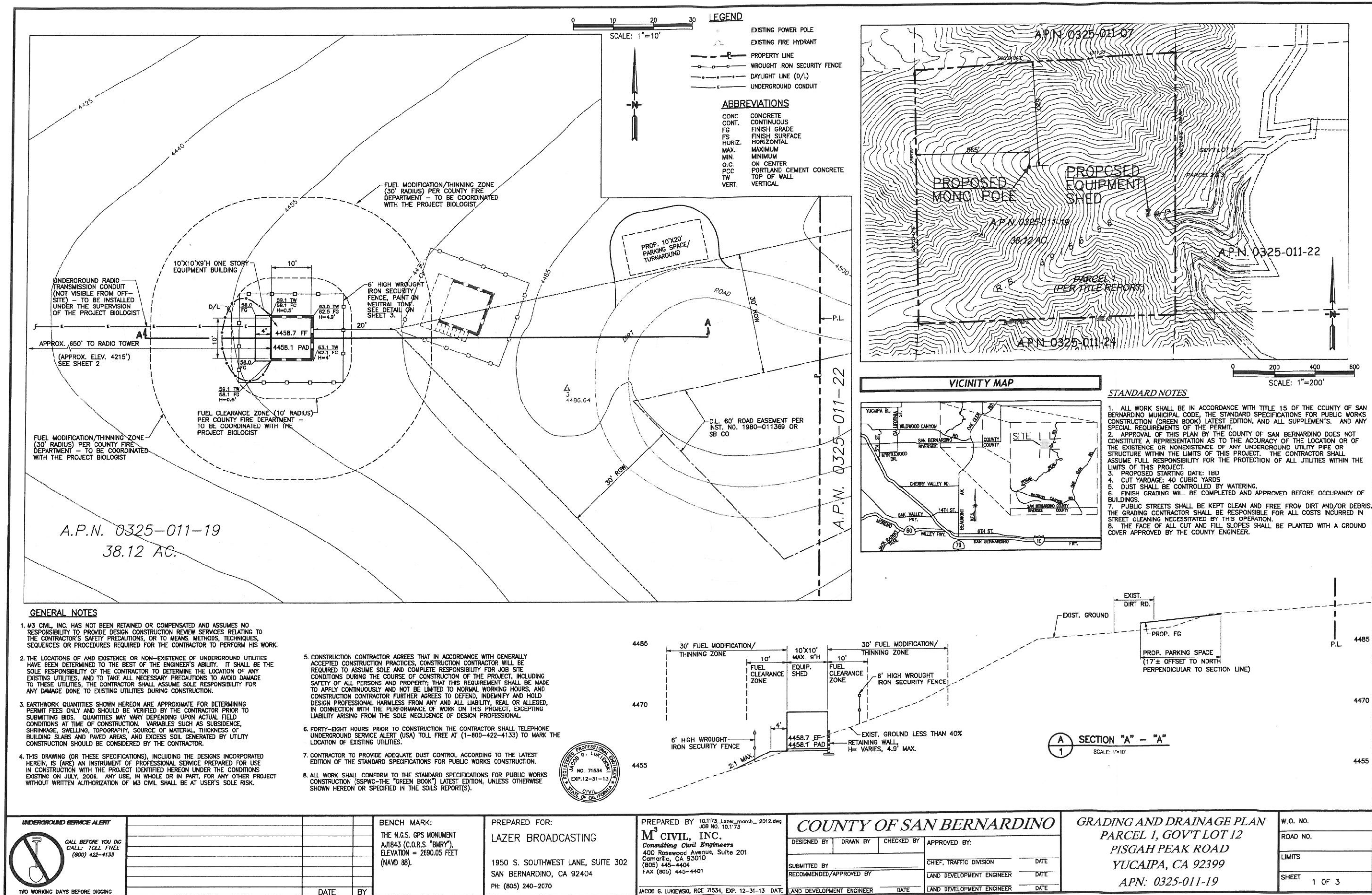
The proposed antenna would be attached to the side of the monopole in a due south or due west direction and would begin approximately midway up the pole (about 21.5 feet above the ground) to within one-foot below the top of the pole. The antenna would extend approximately 4.5 feet out from the side of the pole and would have an overall length of 21 feet. The antenna would be composed of four bent dipoles (elements) and be made of copper. Figure 3 illustrates the detail of the antenna.

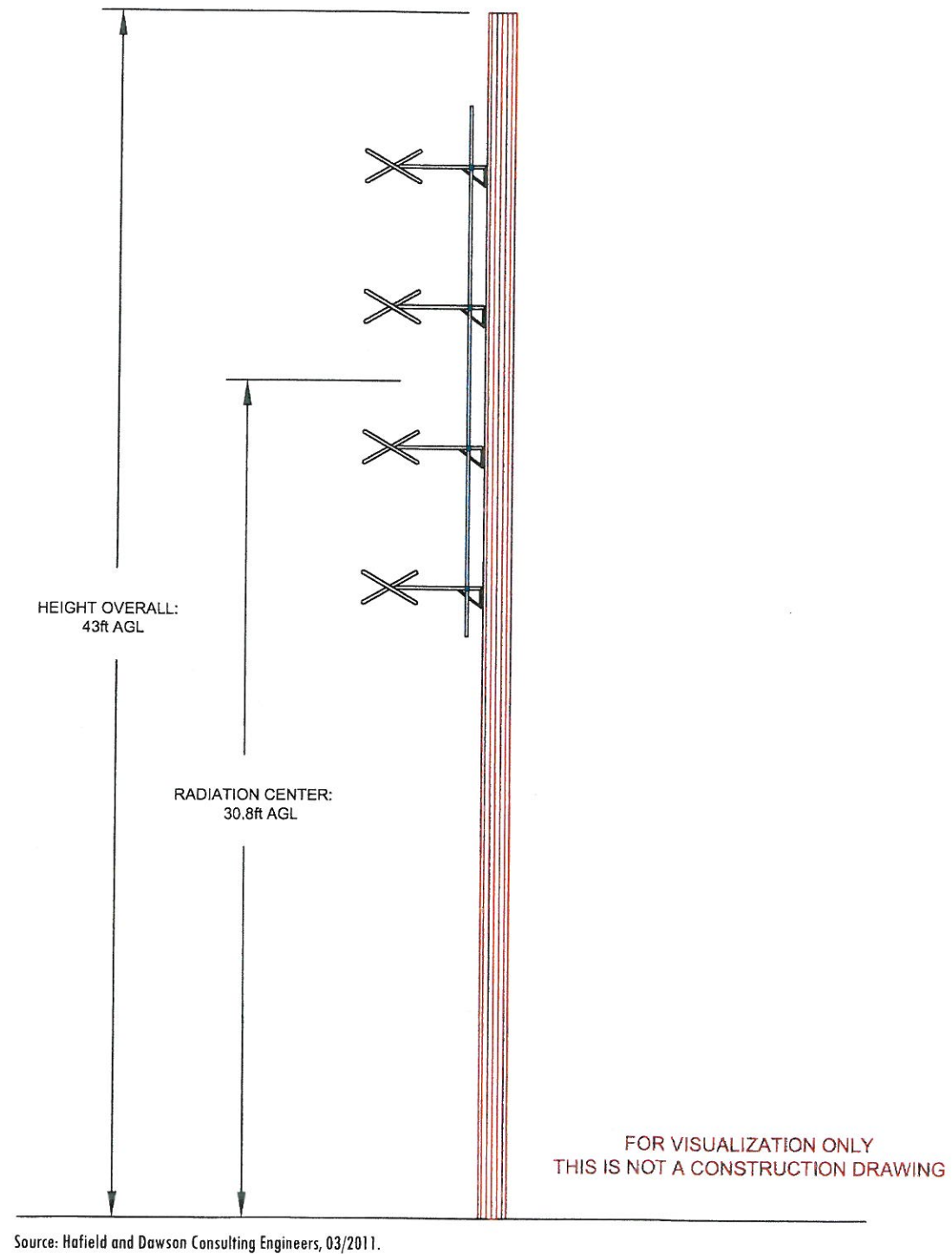


Key Observation Point Locations April 2012 Proposed Project

Lazer Broadcasting - Pisgah Peak Road
County of San Bernardino, California

Figure 1





Radio Broadcast Antenna Detail April 2012 Proposed Project

Lazer Broadcasting - Pisgah Peak Road
County of San Bernardino, California

Figure 3

1.3 IMPACT ANALYSIS METHODOLOGY

The County of San Bernardino Land Use Services Department has determined that the U.S. Forest Service Scenery Management System should be applied for evaluation of the Proposed Project's potential scenic or visual impacts even though the Project Site is not located within the National Forest. The terminology and impact assessment guidance used herein is as recommended by the U.S. Forest Service.

The County of San Bernardino does not have adopted guidelines for conducting visual resource impact assessments. Instead, they rely on the thresholds of significance established in the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and act as a CEQA Lead Agency in reviewing a project's potential impacts to the environment. The CEQA-defined aesthetic issues of concern are:

1. **Would the proposed Project or its alternatives cause substantial, adverse effects on a scenic vista?** This is typically interpreted as - would the project features interfere with a scenic vista by screening the vista from view or blocking access to a previously available public viewing position, or more broadly, would the project result in adverse effects on the visual resources within the view?
2. **Would the proposed Project or its alternatives cause substantial damage to scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings, within a state scenic highway?** The specific resources are first determined to be within view of a designated scenic highway, and then a determination is made as to whether the project blocks the views.
3. **Would the proposed Project or its alternatives cause a substantial degradation of existing visual character or quality of a site and its surroundings?** The issue here is a project's conflict with the character of lands within critical public views or a change to surrounding landscape features.
4. **Would the proposed Project or alternatives result in a new source of substantial light or glare that would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?** Specific aspects of the project that may include light or materials that could result in glare are reviewed and then a determination is made as to whether the change is significant.

A technical approach to Aesthetics and Visual Resource Impact Assessment was developed by Lawrence Headley & Associates (LH&A, 1988) to conform to the documentation requirements of both NEPA and CEQA. LH&A's approach adds a fifth threshold to the CEQA list, which is:

5. **Would the proposed Project or Alternatives result in impacts not consistent with regulations established to protect Aesthetic/Visual Resources?** Whether or not a visual impact is significant partly depends on whether it is consistent with regulations supporting planning policies and objectives applicable to the protection of visual resources.

Most federal agencies have established their own NEPA regulations and guidance which are tailored to the specific mission and activities of each agency. There are three best known and most widely used; these are: 1) U.S. Bureau of Land Management's Visual Resource Management System (1978); 2) U.S. Federal Highway Administration's Visual Impact Assessment Methodology (1981); and 3) U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service Scenery Management System (1974, 1995). The U.S. Forest Service and BLM approaches are very similar and both were developed for establishing visual management objectives or classes for lands under their jurisdiction. The FHWA methodology differs in that it focuses on the design of highway projects that occur on lands subject to various jurisdictions by identifying and mitigating adverse visual effects, however thresholds of significance are not defined.

Under both CEQA and NEPA methodologies, the resources being evaluated for potential impacts are views, viewsheds, or vistas. In urban planning, for example, viewsheds tend to be areas of particular scenic or historic value that are deemed worthy of preservation against development or other change. Viewsheds are often spaces that are readily visible from public areas such as from public roadways, public parks or high-rise buildings (www.wikipedia.org).

It should be noted that federal regulations conforming to the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) are not binding on a project that requires environmental review only under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The Proposed Project has been defined as a project under CEQA and therefore the CEQA checklist thresholds of significance are the subject of a visual resources assessment for the County to fulfill its role as Lead Agency.

1.4 PREVIOUS ANALYSIS

Methodologies that have been previously applied to evaluate the Proposed Project's visual impacts to nearby properties, scenic highways and vistas include each of the three federal agency methodologies listed above, inclusive of this report. The conclusions of each of the three different methodologies that were applied to evaluating the Proposed Project's visual impacts were that with the implementation of mitigation measures, no changes or no changes of significance would occur. The conclusions of these federally-based methodologies may be considered by the County when providing answers to the four CEQA questions as listed above.

1.5 SCENERY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

This Scenic Report inventories and analyzes the Proposed Project using the United States Forest Service Scenery Management System. The Scenery Management System (SMS), developed in 1974 and updated in 1995, presents a systematic approach for determining the relative value and importance of scenery and analyzing scenery as a manageable resource. Appendix A, at the end of this document, includes the SMS viewpoint inventory and analysis summary of the five viewpoints that were selected based on the Park's trail system where the majority of hikers would be located, within the context of achieving overall scenic resource goals and objectives of the U.S. Forest Service. The SMS process is documented in Agricultural Handbook 701-Landscape Aesthetics, by the United States Department of Agriculture and is described in Appendix B of this document.

1.6 AESTHETIC MANAGEMENT STANDARDS

The San Bernardino National Forest Land Management Plan (LMP) was revised in 2005 under the 1982 Planning Rule, and the SMS was incorporated into the revision. The revised plan defines a number of Plan Standards. The two standards related to scenic resources are Aesthetic Management Standards (Part 3 Design Criteria for the Southern California National Forests; page 6). These standards are:

- Design management activities to meet the Scenic Integrity Objectives (SIO) shown on the Scenic Integrity Objectives Map (S9) (see Figure 4); and

- Scenic Integrity Objectives will be met with the following exceptions:

Minor adjustments, not to exceed a drop of one SIO level, are allowable with the Forest Supervisor's approval. Temporary drops of more than one SIO level may be made during and immediately following project implementation providing they do not exceed three years in duration (S10).

1.7 SCENIC INTEGRITY OBJECTIVES

Scenic Integrity refers to the alteration of the landscape created by human activities. Integrity is stated in degrees of change from the existing landscape character (see Section 2.2 *Existing Landscape Character and Condition*). Scenic Integrity Objectives are prescribed in the LMP. The Proposed Project area does not occur within the National Forest however scattered areas of National Forest occur approximately ½-mile north, approximately ¼-mile southwest, approximately ½-mile south, and approximately ¾-miles east of the Project Site.

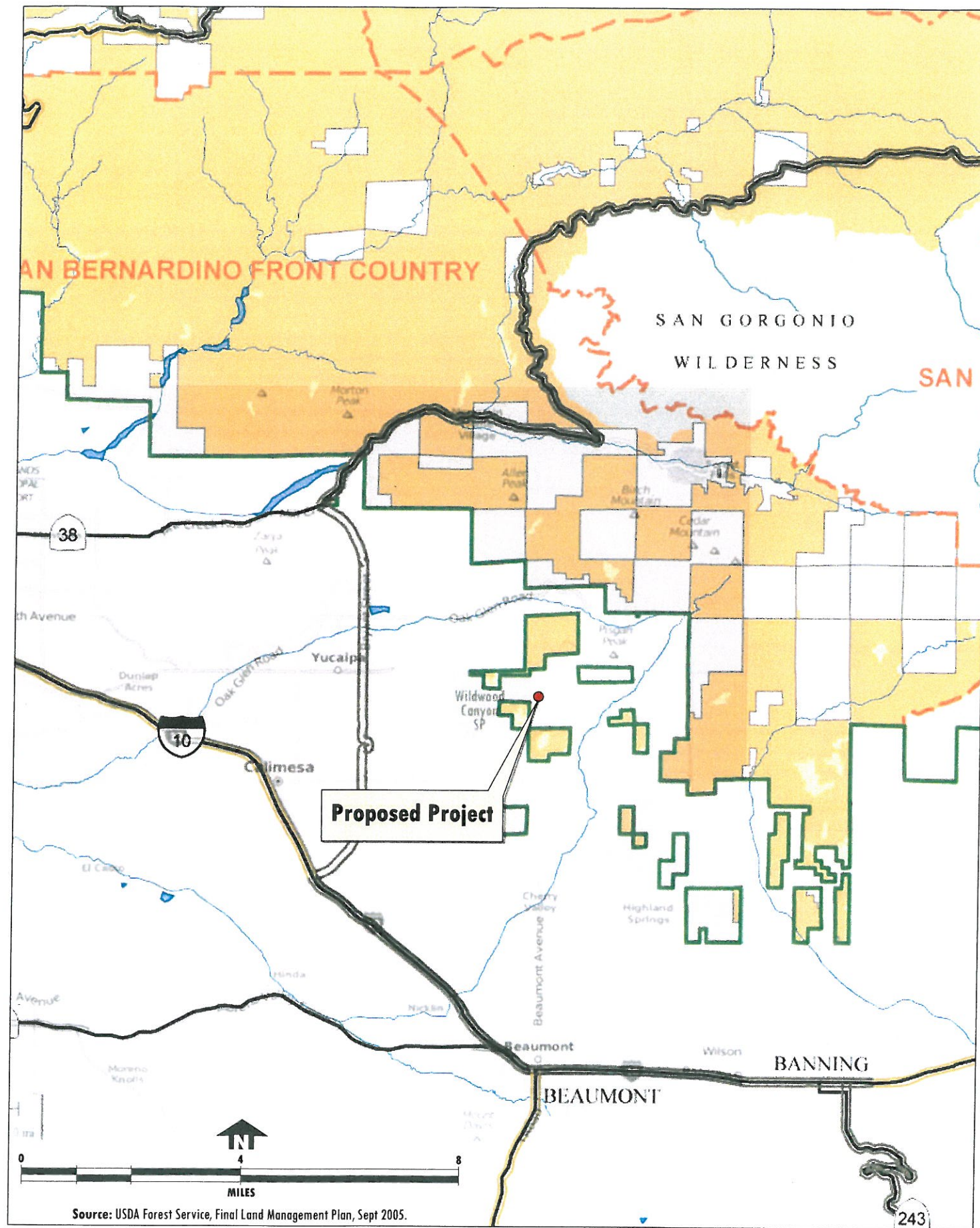
The SIO for these areas are shown on Figure 4 and include designations of High with areas of Moderate for the area north, Moderate with areas of High to the southwest, High with areas of Moderate for the area south, and Moderate for the area east of the Project Site. Since certain National Forest lands that are near the Project Site are designated as High and since the Project Site is adjacent to a State Park, the Project Site will be considered as having a High SIO for the purposes of this scenic inventory.

2.0 AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

2.1 PROJECT SITE

The Project Site is located within the foothills of the San Bernardino Mountains west of Pisgah Peak Road, and northwest of Wildwood Canyon and Oak Glen roads in an unincorporated area of San Bernardino County. The Project Site is located approximately 1.5 miles south of the San Bernardino National Forest and over one mile northwest of Oak Glen Road; a County of San Bernardino designated Scenic Route.

The site is at an approximate elevation of 4,450 feet, and has an on-site topography consisting of two east-west trending ridgelines that descend from a north-south ridge along the eastern boundary of the site. The site is predominately covered in mixed chaparral and consists of



Scenic Integrity Objectives

Lazer Broadcasting - Pisgah Peak Road
County of San Bernardino, California

Figure 4

moderate to steep slopes. Access to the site is provided by Pisgah Peak Road, a 12-foot wide, unpaved private road.

Surrounding land uses include vacant land to the north, east, south and west, the Wildwood Canyon State Park and portions of the City of Yucaipa to the west, and San Bernardino National Forest land to the north and south.

In 2010, to mark the location of the Project Site and to demonstrate to viewers the scale of the Proposed Project, a 43-foot high telephone pole was placed at the Project Site by the Applicant. Prior to installation of the pole, the Applicant graded access from Pisgah Peak Road onto the pole location on private property. The graded access is not visible from within the Park because it occurs on a crest. The existing graded access would continue to be used during construction and operation of the Proposed Project. No additional grading would be required. The current telephone pole, or a similar replacement would serve as the monopole for the broadcasting tower upon approval of the Proposed Project. Currently, the telephone pole (hereinafter referred to as monopole) appears weathered and darkened from the elements.

2.2 WILDWOOD CANYON STATE PARK

Wildwood Canyon State Park (Park) is located west and adjacent to the Project Site in east Yucaipa. The State Park consists of 900 acres of land and provides trails for hikers, mountain bikers and equestrian users. As noted on its website (<http://wildwoodcanyonstatepark.com>), the Park is home to wild animals, ancient oaks, wide open wildlands, and facilities including horse corals and arenas, picnic area, and meeting area.

Portions of the Proposed Project would be visible along portions of trails within the Park. The primary viewshed for hikers and equestrian users within the Park is northeast toward Pisgah Peak, as a majority of the marked trails trend in this direction. Existing utility poles and wires are located along a Park trail and are visible from the gated entrance to the Park. These poles affect this viewshed as shown in Photograph 1 below. Rolling hills, valleys and steep slopes occur throughout the Park with marked and unmarked trails trending generally southwest to northeast.

Residential structures located outside of the Park are visible along ridgelines from within the Park. Recreational areas for Park users include: a horse staging area, corals, and meeting area with picnic tables, port-a-potty, and an event/meeting building. Portions of the Park include above-ground electrical utility poles and overhead wires that are visible at the Park entrance, along trails, and near the horse corals.

From trails within the Park located approximately one mile west of the Project Site, the monopole is barely visible, and is difficult to find. However, from eastern trails (i.e. North Valley and Stintson trails) within the Park the monopole is visible due to the contrast created by the darkened weathered wood and linear lines of the pole which stand out in contrast to the lighter vegetation along the hills.



Photograph 1: View from trailhead at Wildwood Canyon State Park looking northeast along Canyon Drive.

2.3 NEARBY RESIDENTIAL AREAS

During a field visit conducted on August 18, 2011, the nearby residential neighborhoods were visited. A neighborhood determined to be nearest to the Project Site, was reviewed for potential visual impacts from the Proposed Project. The visit included a windshield survey along Oakview Road, Oak Grove Road and Peak Road.

From these roadways and the vantage point of a vehicle, the Project Site was not visible. It is possible that the monopole and/or the 10-foot by 10-foot equipment shed may be visible from the backyards or second stories of residents with views of the Project Site; however without access to those properties, the exact visual impact is unknown. Based on the views observed from the neighborhood, the height of the monopole, its location along a western-facing slope, and its distance below the ridgeline, it was determined that significant visual impacts to these residential areas would be unlikely.

2.4 OAK GLEN AND WILDWOOD CANYON ROADS

The project site is located approximately one-mile northwest of Oak Glen Road, a County of San Bernardino designated Scenic Route. During the August 2011 field visit, the monopole was also not visible along Wildwood Canyon Road or Oak Glen Road.

Since the Project Site is not visible from public roadways, and would not impact views along either Oak Glen Road or a County-designed Scenic Route, this Visual Impact Assessment does not include views from these roads.

This Scenic Report focuses on potential visual impacts of the Proposed Project as viewed from users within the Park and as evaluated with the five terrain model based project simulations. Viewpoints for the simulations were selected by the County and based on locations providing representative vistas of the hillside areas of the Project Site and from within Wildwood Canyon State Park.

3.0 VISUAL ANALYSIS

3.1 SCENIC INTEGRITY

The existing scenic landscape character of the Project Site consists of foothills, slopes, ridges, and canyons with coastal sage scrub, chaparral and nonnative grassland vegetation. Vegetation tends to be denser within gullies, and more open on slopes and along ridges.

Scenic integrity levels as defined by the SMS range from High to Low for the areas within the Park, with High occurring in open space areas, and Low occurring along service roads. Disturbances within the areas determined to have a Low scenic integrity level are evident due to the presence of above-ground utility poles, lines, and scattered urban debris. Grading and vegetation removal is present along recreational trails. The Project Site's current state exhibits the contrast of dark vegetation against non-vegetated soil that was disturbed during prior field work associated with the monopole demonstration installation. Photographs located on the left or top of the page for Figures 5a – 8b, show the existing viewshed of the Project Site. The contrast between the natural landforms and the linear lines of the monopole and non-vegetated ground is the extent of the landscape alteration.

The frame of reference for measuring achievement of scenic integrity levels, as defined in Chapter 2 Scenic Integrity of the United States Forest Service's *Landscape Aesthetics Handbook for Scenery Management*, is the valued attributes of the existing landscape character being viewed. In nature or natural appearing character this is limited to natural or natural appearing vegetative patterns and features, water, rock and landforms. Direct human alterations may be included if they have become accepted over time as positive landscape character attributes.

The scenic integrity levels are:

VERY HIGH (Unaltered)...preservation

Very High scenic integrity refers to landscapes where the valued landscape character is intact with only minute if any deviations. The existing landscape character and sense of place is expressed at the highest possible level.

HIGH (Appears Unaltered)...retention

High scenic integrity refers to landscapes where the valued landscape character appears intact. Deviations may be present but must repeat the form, line, color, texture, and pattern common to the landscape character so completely and at such scale that they are not evident.

MODERATE (Slightly Altered)...Partial retention

Moderate scenic integrity refers to landscapes where the valued landscape character appears slightly altered. Noticeable deviations must remain visually subordinate to the landscape character being viewed.

LOW (Moderately Altered)...modification

Low scenic integrity refers to landscapes where the valued landscape character appears moderately altered. Deviations begin to dominate the valued landscape character being viewed by they borrow valued attributes such as size, shape edge effect and pattern of natural openings, vegetative type changes or architectural styles outside the landscape being viewed. They should not only appear as valued character outside the landscape being viewed by compatible or complimentary to the character within.

VERY LOW (Heavily Altered) maximum modification

Very Low scenic integrity refers to landscapes where the valued landscape character appears heavily altered. Deviations may strongly dominate the valued landscape character. They may not borrow from valued attributes such as size, shape, edge effect and pattern of natural openings, vegetative type changes or architectural styles within or outside the landscape being viewed. However deviations must be shaped and blended with the natural terrain (landforms) so the elements such as unnatural edges, roads, landings and structures do not dominate the compositions.

Unacceptably low scenic integrity refers to landscapes where the valued landscape character being viewed appears extremely altered. Deviations are extremely dominant and borrow little if any form, line, color, texture, pattern or scale from the landscape character. Landscapes at this level of integrity need rehabilitation. This level should only be used to inventory existing integrity.

In general, a specific integrity level can be achieved by decreasing the visual contrast of the deviations being viewed. The approach applicable to areas with existing High and Moderate scenic integrity, such as the Project Site, include repeating form, line, color, texture, pattern and scale common to the valued landscape character. If repetition is accurate and well designed, the deviation may blend so well the change is not evident (High). It may only borrow well enough to be noticeable but visually subordinate (Moderate). Utility structures are generally geometric, forceful and large. Careful placement and design, including simpler forms, would blend better with the setting.

Table 1 provides a summary of these integrity level descriptions. The first line, labeled "dominance," indicates which element has the strongest visual weight (stands out visually over

Using a DEM, various 3D programs were used to create accurate digital models of the terrain from a particular point along the angle of view. The Proposed Project's site plan was used to insert the exact locations for the monopole, proposed equipment shed, other project infrastructure, areas of fuel modification, and roads into the model. Images of the monopole and equipment shed were created on the DEM using Microstation and Sketchup and merged with a photograph using a digital photo editing program. The color, brightness, shadows, and sharpness of the Proposed Project are then adjusted to appear consistent with the photograph. Depending on lighting conditions, the monopole may appear white or black if silhouetted against the sky.

Figure 1 shows the location of the five viewpoints. From the visitor's entrance of the Wildwood Canyon Park, continuing northeast to a locked gate marks the beginning of the Water Canyon Trail. This north-south trending trail is centrally located within the Park and is west of Cottonwood Trail, the easternmost marked trail within the Park. Along Water Canyon Trail two viewpoints were selected (refer to Figure 1). Viewpoint-1 is located about midway along the trail. From Viewpoint-1, the Project Site is visible (see Figure 4). However the monopole is difficult to find among all the ridgelines along the eastern edge of the Park. Ground scraping and vegetation removal that occurred during the placement of the monopole, created a linear path that is visible between the top and toe of the ridgeline. This distinct linear mark allows travelers at four of the five viewpoints to easily locate the Project Site.

Viewpoint 1 – Canyon Drive/Water Canyon Trail (Figures 5a and 5b)

Views from Viewpoint 1 as they relate to travel ways and use areas (looking east from Canyon Drive) within the Park and southwest of the Project Site are considered Concern Level 2 due to the less intense use of this travel way and visual appearance along the route (i.e., utility poles, etc.). This travel way is located over one-mile from the Project Site and has a Middleground (0.5 to 4 miles) distance zone.

The Project Site is located approximately one-mile northeast and near the ridgeline of the scenic backdrop as viewed looking northeast from Canyon Drive/Water Canyon Trail within the Wildwood Canyon State Park. The viewshed is described as open. The existing scenic integrity for the area is considered Moderate due to the existing area that appears barren of vegetation on the saddle of the slope. Figures 5a and 5b show the faint line of the non-vegetated area created during past field work. As shown in Figures 5a and 5b, the non-vegetated area and monopole are visible and do not appear to change with the Proposed Project. However, next to the ridgeline at the site of the proposed equipment shed, a slight modification is noted between the marked boundaries. Modifications appear in the form of additional areas of disturbed ground which creates a contrast between vegetated and non-vegetated areas. The scenic integrity of the view would remain Moderate since previous field/geologic work created an altered or Moderate scenic integrity for the area. The Proposed Project, while incrementally adding to the disturbances within the Project area, would not substantially decrease the scenic integrity.

Viewpoint 2 – Canyon Drive/Water Canyon Trail (Figures 6a and 6b)

Views from Viewpoint 2, looking east from Canyon Drive from within the Park, provide a more direct view of the Project Site and occur within a more likely visited area due to its close



View looking northeast from Canyon Drive (KOP 1) towards the Proposed Project Site.



View with the Proposed Project in place. Both the antenna and equipment shed will be visible.

NOTE: Antenna fencing is shown as 5' high 3-strand wire.

NOTES:

1. The Visual Simulation includes all aspects of the Proposed Project as outlined in Site Plan dated April 19, 2012.



View looking northeast from Canyon Drive (KOP 1) towards the Proposed Project Site.



View with the Proposed Project in place. Both the antenna and equipment shed will be visible.

NOTE: Antenna fencing is shown as 5' high wrought iron.

NOTES:

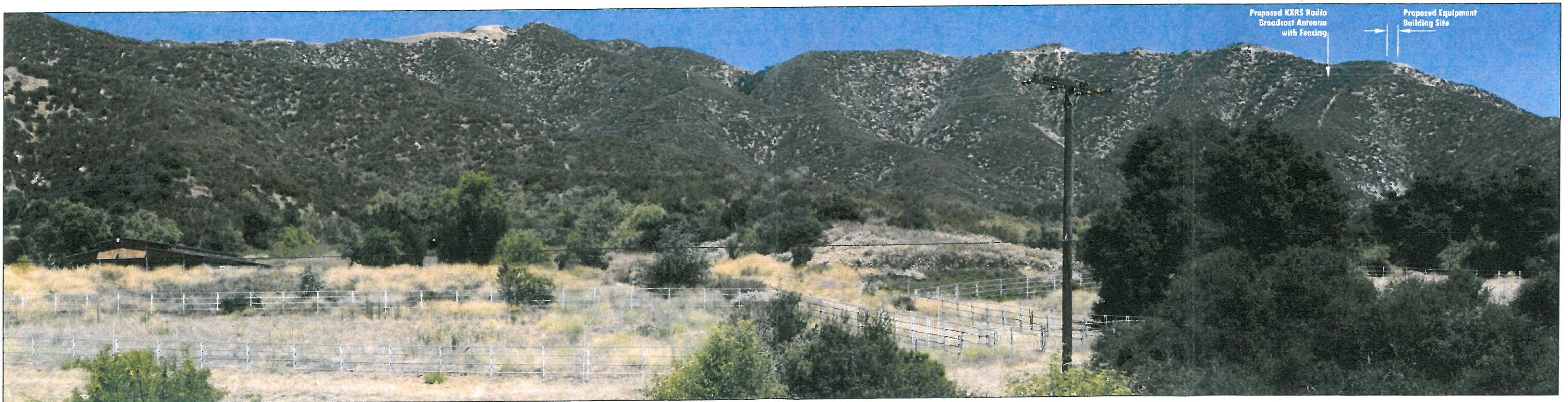
1. The Visual Simulation includes all aspects of the Proposed Project as outlined in Site Plan dated April 19, 2012.

Viewpoint 1
April 2012 Proposed Project

Lazer Broadcasting - Pisgah Peak Road
County of San Bernardino, California



View looking northeast from Canyon Drive (KOP 2) towards the Proposed Project Site.



View with the Proposed Project in place. Both the antenna and equipment shed will be visible.

NOTE: Antenna fencing is shown as 5' high 3-strand wire.

NOTES:

1. The Visual Simulation includes all aspects of the Proposed Project as outlined in Site Plan dated April 19, 2012.

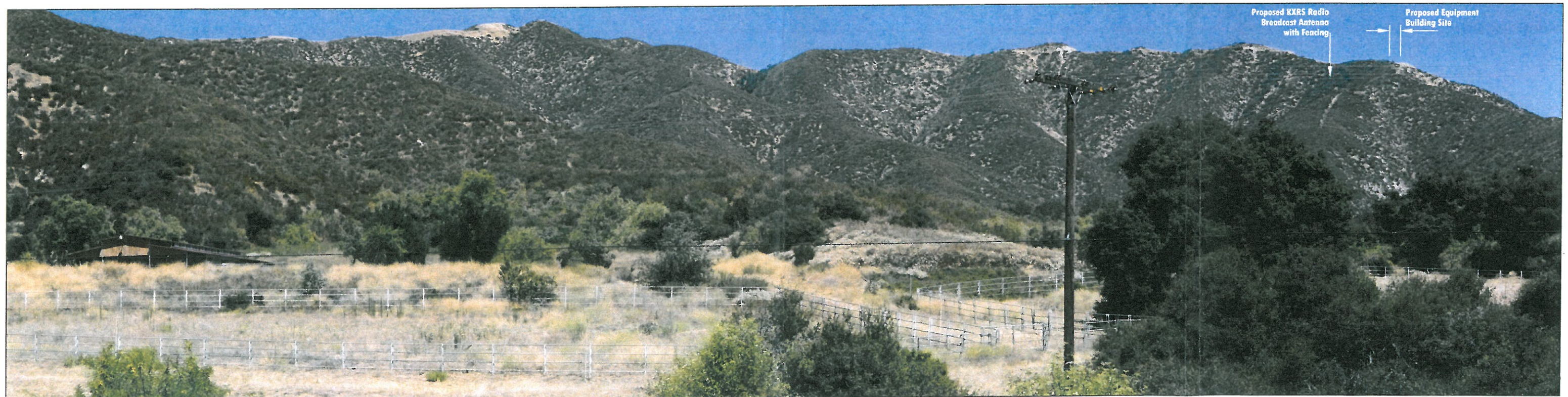
Viewpoint 2

April 2012 Proposed Project

Lazer Broadcasting - Pisgah Peak Road
County of San Bernardino, California



View looking northeast from Canyon Drive (KOP 2) towards the Proposed Project Site.



View with the Proposed Project in place. Both the antenna and equipment shed will be visible.

NOTE: Antenna fencing is shown as 5' high wrought iron.

NOTES:

1. The Visual Simulation includes all aspects of the Proposed Project as outlined in Site Plan dated April 19, 2012.

Key Observation Point 2 April 2012 Proposed Project

Lazer Broadcasting - Pisgah Peak Road
County of San Bernardino, California

proximity to the Park's horse stables and corals. Manmade structures including a barn, corals, and utility poles and above-ground lines provide for a more urban setting as compared to the rest of the Park. For this reason the travel ways and use areas are considered Concern Level 2 with a Middleground (0.5 to 4 miles) distance zone.

The Project Site is located approximately one-mile east of Viewpoint 2. The Project Site is visible just above the foreground vegetation. The existing scenic integrity is considered Low due to the altered landscape created by the existing utility pole with above-ground wires, horse corals, barn and other metal fencing within the foreground. Figures 6a and 6b show a distinct line (disturbed area created during past field work) running along one of the saddles within the foothills. As shown in Figures 6a and 6b, the non-vegetated area and monopole are visible and do not appear to change for the Proposed Project. However, next to the ridgeline at the site of the proposed equipment shed, a slight modification is noted between the marked boundaries. Modifications appear in the form of additional areas of disturbed ground which creates a contrast between vegetated and non-vegetated areas, and the visual appearance of a faint structure or square form. The proposed fuel modification is not visually significant and blends with other natural areas void of vegetation along the ridgeline.

Given the closer distance and presence of the existing equestrian activities within the foreground, the scenic integrity for the area would not substantially decrease and would remain Low under the Proposed Project.

Viewpoint 3 – Stable Ridge Trail (Figures 7a and 7b)

Views from Viewpoint 3 from the Stable Ridge Trail are considered Concern Level 1 since it is a remote hiking trail located near the northeastern portion of the Park, and users of this trail are expecting a high level of natural scenery. Distance zones for this travel way is Middleground (0.5 to 4 miles).

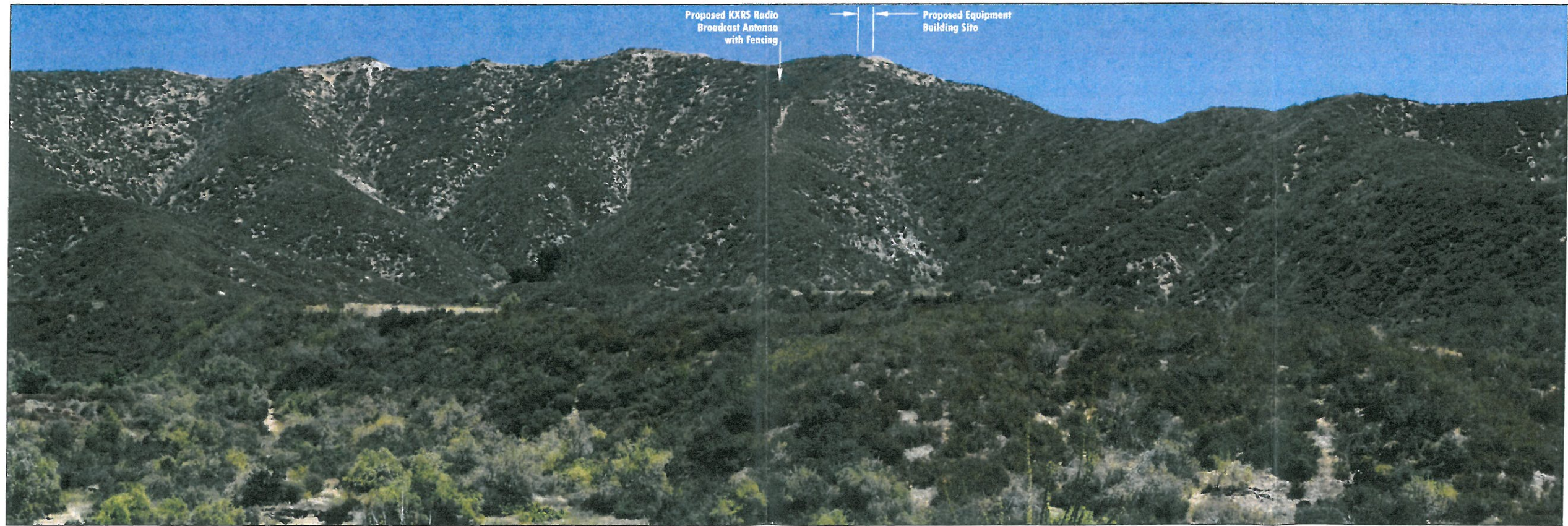
The Project site is located below the ridgeline of the scenic backdrop as viewed from approximately 4,200 feet west and along Stable Ridge Trail. Figure 7a and 7b illustrates the vantage point from Viewpoint-3, which is located along Stable Ridge Trail (see Figure 1). From Viewpoint-3 the Project Site appears most visible in relation to marked trails within the Park. The soil disturbance that occurred during the placement of the monopole is distinct as is the darkened, weathered pole.

The viewshed is described as open with low-lying scrub intermittently mixed with non-vegetated soil. The existing scenic integrity for the area is considered Low due to the altered landscape along the saddle within the Project area. As shown in Figures 7a and 7b, the exposed slope areas along the foothill backdrop appear uniform, and allow for the proposed equipment shed, fuel modification and parking space to blend. The equipment shed appears grey and blends with other areas that appear non-vegetated along the ridgeline north of the project site.

Due to the presence of past geologic/field work activities, the scenic integrity for the area would not substantially decrease and would remain Moderate under the Proposed Project.



View looking east from Stable Ridge Trail (KOP 3) towards the Proposed Project Site.



View with the Proposed Project in place. Both the antenna and equipment shed will be visible.

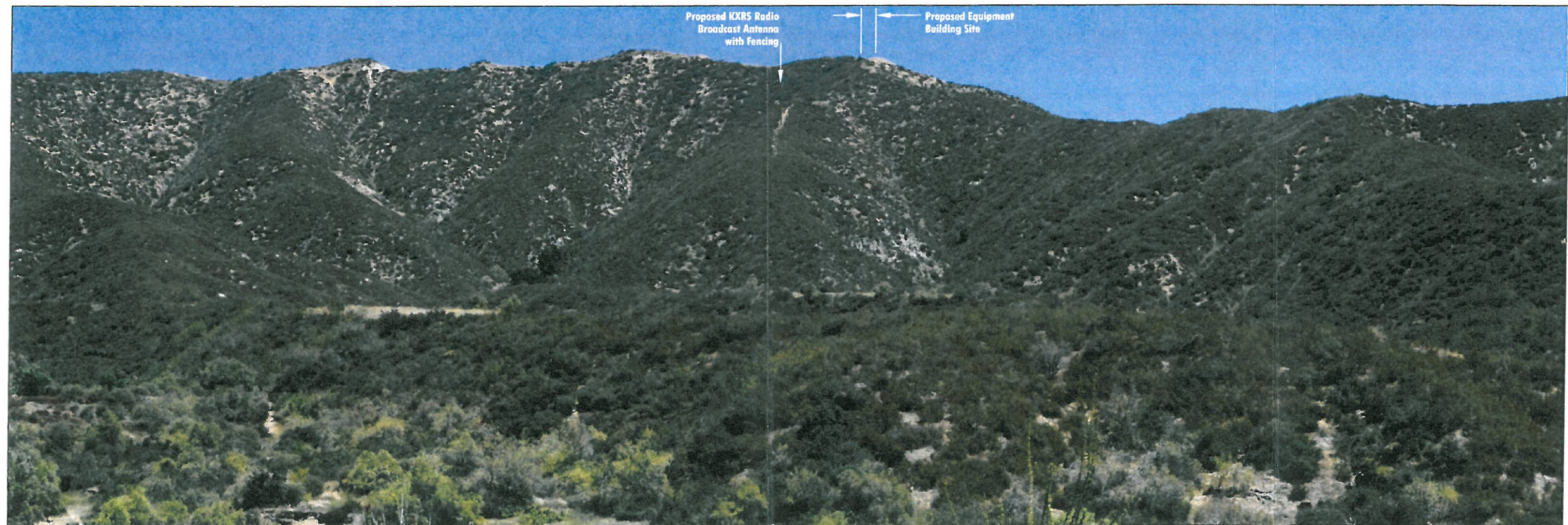
NOTE: Antenna fencing is shown as 5' high 3-strand wire.

NOTES:

1. The Visual Simulation includes all aspects of the Proposed Project as outlined in Site Plan dated April 19, 2012.



View looking east from Stable Ridge Trail (KOP 3) towards the Proposed Project Site.



View with the Proposed Project in place. Both the antenna and equipment shed will be visible.

NOTE: Antenna fencing is shown as 5' high wrought iron.

NOTES:

1. The Visual Simulation includes all aspects of the Proposed Project as outlined in Site Plan dated April 19, 2012.

Viewpoint 4 – Intersection of Stintson Trail and North Valley Trail (Figures 8a and 8b)

Near the intersection of Central Ridge Trail, North Valley Trail and the Stetson Trail, the Project Site is visible in the background as viewed from Viewpoint-4 (see Figure 8a). From this Viewpoint, the soil disturbance area appears shortened as compared to the view from Viewpoint-3. Vegetation in the foreground and middle ground is mature and dominates the view from Viewpoint-4.

Viewpoint 4 is located approximately 3,000 feet west of the Project Site at the intersection of Stintson Trail and North Valley Trail within the Wildwood Canyon State Park. The viewshed within the area is described as open with mature trees and scrub occupying the foreground and the Project Site and foothills occurring in the background. The Project Site and foothills are viewed below the tree line. The viewpoint selected occurs in an opening where two trails intersect. The existing scenic integrity for the area is considered Moderate as views of past geotechnical/field work was performed at the Project Site.

The Project Site is located on the third saddle from the left as viewed looking east toward the ridgeline. The Proposed Project would include the construction of an antenna near the top of the existing monopole and either a 5-foot high, three-strand wire fence or a 5-foot high wrought iron fence around the pole. The Project also includes the construction of an equipment shed and parking space. As shown in figures 8a and 8b, the equipment shed would be visible just below the ridgeline, but would not create a substantial contrast based on other sparse areas that occur along the ridgeline. Therefore, the scenic integrity both existing and with the Proposed Project would be considered Moderate as a slightly altered landscape would be visible in the middleground from this particular viewpoint.

Viewpoint 5 – McCullough Loop (Figure 9)

Viewpoint 5 was selected because it represents a view of the project vicinity from the identified trails and use areas from within the Wildwood Canyon State Park. Views from Viewpoint 5 to the Project Site however are completely screened due to surrounding topography; this represents several areas within the Park from which the Project Site would not be visible. The portion of the trail where the photograph was taken occurs approximately one-mile from the Project Site and has a Middleground (0.5- to 4 miles) distance zone and is considered Concern Level 1.

The existing scenic integrity for the area, Moderate due to existing structure impacts, would remain unchanged by the Proposed Project.

4.2 CONCLUSIONS

The LMP, Part 2 (2005) outlines the desired Landscape Character for the Proposed Project as follows:

San Bernardino Front Country Place – is maintained as a natural appearing 'first impression' landscape that functions as a scenic backdrop and forest portal with high quality, natural-appearing landscape vistas providing managed recreation opportunities.



View looking east from Stintson Trail (KOP 4) towards the Proposed Project Site.



View with the Proposed Project in place. Both the antenna and equipment shed will be visible.
NOTE: Antenna fencing is shown as 5' high 3-strand wire.

NOTES:
 1. The Visual Simulation includes all aspects of the Proposed Project as outlined in Site Plan dated April 19, 2012.

Viewpoint 4 - April 2012 Proposed Project

Lazer Broadcasting - Pisgah Peak Road
 County of San Bernardino, California

Figure 8a



View looking east from Stintson Trail (KOP 4) towards the Proposed Project Site.



View with the Proposed Project in place. Both the antenna and equipment shed will be visible.
NOTE: Antenna fencing is shown as 5' high wrought iron.

NOTES:

1. The Visual Simulation includes all aspects of the Proposed Project as outlined in Site Plan dated April 19, 2012.

Viewpoint 4 - April 2012 Proposed Project

Lazer Broadcasting - Pisgah Peak Road
 County of San Bernardino, California



View looking northeast from McCullough Loop (KOP 5) towards the Proposed Project Site. Neither the antenna or equipment shed will be visible due to foreground ridgelines.

NOTES:

1. The Visual Simulation includes all aspects of the Proposed Project as outlined in Site Plan dated April 19, 2012.

Viewpoint 5
April 2012 Proposed Project

Lazer Broadcasting - Pisgah Peak Road
County of San Bernardino, California

The LMP’s Aesthetic Management Standards are:

- Design management activities to meet the Scenic Integrity Objectives (SIO) shown on the Scenic Integrity Objectives Map (S9) (see Figure 4).
- Scenic Integrity Objectives will be met with the following exceptions:

Minor adjustments, not to exceed a drop of one SIO level, are allowable with the Forest Supervisor’s approval. Temporary drops of more than one SIO level may be made during and immediately following project implementation providing they do not exceed three years in duration (S10).

Table 3 identifies the potential for change in the Scenic Integrity of the existing landscape character related to the Proposed Project.

Table 3
Comparison of Change in Scenic Integrity Levels
Between Existing Conditions and Proposed Project

Viewpoint		Visibility ¹	Scenic Integrity Objective	Scenic Integrity Level	
				Existing	Proposed Project
1	Canyon Drive/Water Canyon Trail	Mg	High	Moderate	Moderate
2	Canyon Drive/Water Canyon Trail	Mg	High	Low	Low
3	Stable Ridge Trail	Mg	High	Moderate	Moderate
4	Intersection of North Valley Trail and Stintson Trail	Mg	High	Moderate	Moderate
5	McCullough Loop Trail	Mg	High	Moderate	Moderate

1 – Visibility: Mg = Middleground

The Proposed Project would not result in a decrease to the Moderate and Low scenic integrity from views within the Wildwood Canyon State Park along Canyon Drive and other interior trails. After implementation of proposed recommendations provided in Section 4.0 of this report, the weather-darkened pole would be replaced with a neutral tone pole that would blend with surrounding colors and hues, and the exposed earth would be revegetated to visibly reduce the contrast along the ridgeline. The scenic integrity would continue to be considered Moderate/Low as signs of an altered landscape would be visible in the middleground from the selected viewpoints.

The overall scenic integrity from the four (4) viewpoints within the Wildwood Canyon State Park would not change and would remain at Moderate/Low levels for all views meeting the LMP’s Aesthetic Management Standards S9 standard above.

Viewers from Viewpoint 5 within the Wildwood Canyon State Park along McCullough Loop would not be able to see the Proposed Project due to intervening ridges and the scenic integrity would remain unchanged.

The impact of the Proposed Project on views of the scenic landscape as depicted in the five viewpoints and project simulations are considered less than significant because very little if any of the landscape visibility is impacted. The scenic integrity from these viewpoints does not measurably change based on the methodology employed herein. The existing Scenic Integrity at the entrance to the Wildwood Canyon Park and trailhead is currently influenced by the existing utility poles and utility lines. Although the Proposed Project may subjectively exhibit some adverse effect on trail users; it is concluded that trail users entering the Park would experience greater adverse effect from the existing utility poles and utility lines (see Photo 1) because of the number of poles and their heights. Therefore, although the Proposed Project may have adverse effects, they are determined to be less than significant under CEQA because of the scenic integrity of the existing environment (both distant views and from adjacent trails) and the limited duration of views.

5.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

The monopole, antenna and shed shall be painted olive green to blend with the surrounding vegetation. In addition to this first layer of treatment, a second layer of paint shall be worked in a random pattern in colors of deep olive, light sage and light brown to further mimic a vegetative pattern or camouflage effect. The random pattern shall be applied in a stippling or sponging in manner to avoid sharp lines.

The Project Proponent shall revegetate the portion of the ridge in which the monopole currently occupies. During placement of the monopole vegetation was removed. The scraped area, which appears in the form of a line down the slope, and any other areas that may be disturbed during site development shall be revegetated at the direction of a County-approved biologist prior to issuance of occupancy permits.

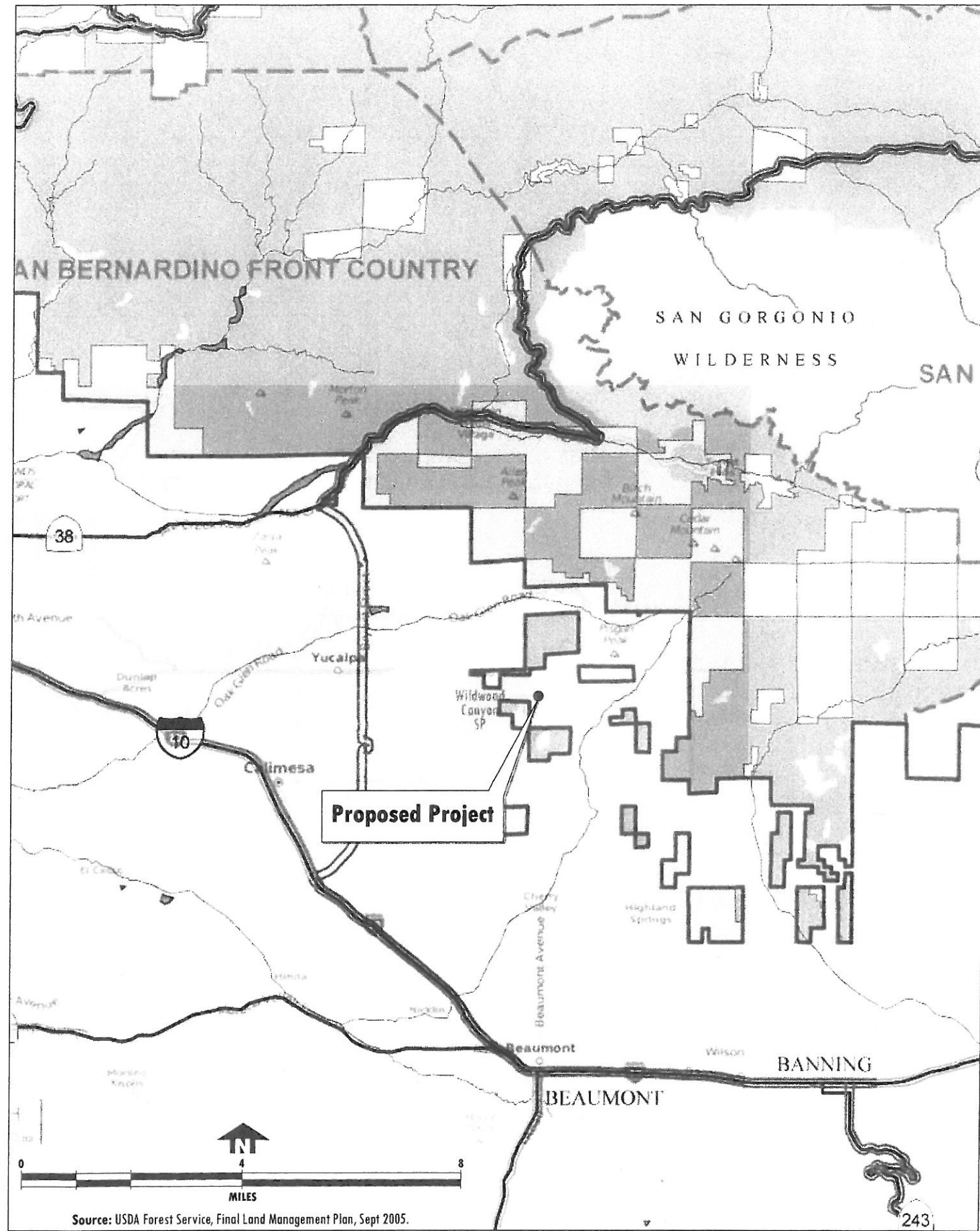
6.0 REFERENCES

USDA Forest Service. 2005. San Bernardino National Forest Land Management Plan (LMP).

USDA Forest Service. 2005. Land Management Plan, Part 2 San Bernardino National Forest Strategy.

USDA Forest Service. 1995. Landscape Aesthetics; A Handbook for Scenery Management. Washington D.C.

APPENDIX A
VIEWPOINT INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS
SUMMARY



Scenic Integrity Objectives

Lazer Broadcasting - Pisgah Peak Road
County of San Bernardino, California

LILBURN
CORPORATION

- Adjacent Forest Land
- Non-Forest System Land
- Scenic Integrity Objectives**
- Very High
- High
- Moderate

Figure 4

Lazer Broadcasting
Viewpoint 1 – Canyon Drive/Water Canyon
Trail
July 2012

Scenic Assessment Ratings:

Landscape Visibility	
Type of Travel Way or Use Area	Secondary roadway & Hiking trail
Concern Levels 1, 2 or 3	2
Distance Zone (Proposed Project Site approx.. one-mile northeast)	Middleground (Mg)
Landscape Visibility	Mg2

Scenic Integrity (see table below)	
Dominance: Landscape Character vs. Deviation	Moderate
Degree of Deviation from the Landscape Character	Moderate
Intactness of Landscape Character	Moderate
Total Scenic Integrity	Moderate

Scenic Attractiveness	
Variety, Unity, Vividness, Mystery, Intactness, Coherence, Harmony, Uniqueness, Patterns, and Balance	
Scenic Attractiveness Class	B

Landscape Character Description
Foreground (300 feet- 1/2 mile) Unpaved roadway/trail, utility poles, low growing scrubs/bushes and scattered trees
Middleground (1/2 mile-4 miles) Scrub landscape with hills and scattered exposed earth
Background (4 miles to horizon) N.A.

IMPACT ANALYSIS FROM VIEWPOINT

Proposed Action Alternative Potential Magnitude of Change (after 3 years)	
Scenic Integrity (see table below)	
Dominance: Landscape Character vs. Deviation	Moderate
Degree of Deviation from the Landscape Character	Moderate
Intactness of Landscape Character	Moderate
Total Scenic Integrity	Moderate

Comments:

The Project Site is located approx. one-mile northeast and just below the ridgeline of the scenic backdrop as viewed from the Canyon Drive within the Wildwood Canyon State Park. The viewshed is not obscured by any vegetation, trees or structures. The existing scenic integrity for the area (Moderate) would remain Moderate upon approval of the Lazer Broadcasting monopole since previous geotechnical/field work created an exposed area resulting in an altered landscape character for the area.

	HIERARCHY OF CONCERN LEVELS		
	High	Interest in Scenery Moderate	Low
Primary Travelway/Use Area High Use	1	2	2
Primary Travelway/Use Area Moderate Use	1	2	2
Primary Travelway/Use Area Low Use	1	2	3
Secondary Travelway/Use Area High Use	1	2	2
Secondary Travelway/Use Area Moderate Use	1	2	3
Secondary Travelway/Use Area Low Use	1	2	3

Scenic Integrity Summary						
Criteria for Scenic Integrity of the L.C. Image/Sense of Place	(VII) Very High	(II) High	(M) Moderate	(L) Low	(VI.) Very Low	(U.) Unacceptably Low
Dominance, Landscape Character vs. Deviation	Landscape Character	Landscape Character	Landscape Character	Deviation	Deviation	Deviation
Degree of Deviation from the Landscape Character	None	Not Evident	Evident but not dominant	Dominant	Very Dominant	Extremely Dominant
Intactness of the Landscape Character	Landscape Character Fully Expressed	Landscape Character Largely Expressed	Slightly Altered and Character Expression Moderate	Altered and Low Expression of Character	Heavily Altered and Very Low Expression of Character	Extremely Altered

Lazer Broadcasting
Viewpoint 2 – Canyon Drive/Water Canyon Trail
July 2012

Scenic Assessment Ratings:

Landscape Visibility	
Type of Travel way or Use Area	Secondary Roadway & Hiking Trail
Concern Levels 1, 2 or 3	2
Distance Zone (Project Site approx. 6 miles southeast)	Middleground (Mg)
Landscape Visibility	Mg2

Scenic Integrity (see table below)	
Dominance: Landscape Character vs. Deviation	Low
Degree of Deviation from the Landscape Character	Low
Intactness of Landscape Character	Low
Total Scenic Integrity	Low

Scenic Attractiveness	Variety, Unity, Vividness, Mystery, Intactness, Coherence, Harmony, Uniqueness, Patterns, and Balance
Scenic Attractiveness Class	B

Landscape Character Description
Foreground (300 feet to ½ mile) Metal pipe fencing, utility pole and above-ground wires, mature trees.
Middleground (1/2 mile to 4 miles) Shrubs, scattered areas of bare earth, and foothills.
Background (4 miles to horizon) N.A. - Distant ridgeline obscures view to distant areas and horizon.

IMPACT ANALYSIS FROM VIEWPOINT

Proposed Action Alternative Potential Magnitude of Change (after 3 years)	
Scenic Integrity (see table below)	
Dominance: Landscape Character vs. Deviation	Low
Degree of Deviation from the Landscape Character	Low
Intactness of Landscape Character	Low
Total Scenic Integrity	Low

Comments:

The Project Site is located approximately one-mile east and near the ridgeline as viewed from this portion of Canyon Drive/Water Canyon Trail. The Project Site is visible and is not screened by foreground vegetation. The existing scenic integrity is considered Low due to the dominant deviation and altered landscape of the existing equestrian area, urban use, and visible area of bare earth at the Project Site. Given the presence of these equestrian activities, and existing void of vegetation along a foothill saddle at the Project Site, the scenic integrity for the area would not change and would remain Low upon implementation of the Proposed Project.

	HIERARCHY OF CONCERN LEVELS Interest in Scenery		
	High	Moderate	Low
Primary Travelway/Use Area High Use	1	2	2
Primary Travelway/Use Area Moderate Use	1	2	2
Primary Travelway/Use Area Low Use	1	2	3
Secondary Travelway/Use Area High Use	1	2	2
Secondary Travelway/Use Area Moderate Use	1	2	3
Secondary Travelway/Use Area Low Use	1	2	3

Scenic Integrity Summary						
Criteria for Scenic Integrity of the L.C. Image/Sense of Place	(VII) Very High	(II) High	(M) Moderate	(I.) Low	(VI.) Very Low	(U.) Unacceptably Low
Dominance Landscape Character vs. Deviation	Landscape Character	Landscape Character	Landscape Character	Deviation	Deviation	Deviation
Degree of Deviation From the Landscape Character	None	Not Evident	Evident but not dominant	Dominant	Very Dominant	Extremely Dominant
Intactness of the Landscape Character	Landscape Character Fully Expressed	Landscape Character Largely Expressed	Slightly Altered and Character Expression Moderate	Altered and Low Expression of Character	Heavily Altered and Very Low Expression of Character	Extremely Altered

Lazer Broadcasting
Viewpoint 3 – Stable Ridge Trail
July 2012

Scenic Assessment Ratings:

Landscape Visibility	
Type of Travel Way or Use Area	Hiking/Equestrian Trail
Concern Levels 1, 2 or 3	1
Distance Zone (Project Site approx. 4 to 5 miles south)	Middleground (Mg)
Landscape Visibility	Mg1

Scenic Integrity (see table below)	
Dominance: Landscape Character vs. Deviation	Moderate
Degree of Deviation from the Landscape Character	Moderate
Intactness of Landscape Character	Moderate
Total Scenic Integrity	Moderate

Scenic Attractiveness (existing landscape character) Variety, Unity, Vividness, Mystery, Intactness, Coherence, Harmony, Uniqueness, Patterns, and Balance	
Scenic Attractiveness Class	B

Landscape Character Description	
Foreground (300 feet to 1/2 mile) Shrubs, foothills	
Middleground (1/2 mile to 4 miles) Inland foothill vegetation, foothills and ridgeline.	
Background (4 miles to horizon) N.A. - Ridgeline obscures view to distant areas and horizon.	

IMPACT ANALYSIS FROM VIEWPOINT

Proposed Action Alternative Potential Magnitude of Change (after 3 years)	
Scenic Integrity (see table below)	
Dominance: Landscape Character vs. Deviation	Moderate
Degree of Deviation from the Landscape Character	Moderate
Intactness of Landscape Character	Moderate
Total Scenic Integrity	Moderate

Comments:

The project area is located below the ridgeline of the scenic backdrop as viewed from Stable Ridge Trail approximately 4,200 feet west of the Project Site. The viewshed is not obscured by any vegetation, trees or structures. The existing scenic integrity for the area (Moderate) would remain Moderate if the Proposed Project is approved since previous geotechnical field work created the dominant area that is void of vegetation and created an altered or Moderate scenic integrity for the area.

HIERARCHY OF CONCERN LEVELS						
	High	Interest in Scenery Moderate	Low			
Primary Travelway/Use Area High Use	1	2	2			
Primary Travelway/Use Area Moderate Use	1	2	2			
Primary Travelway/Use Area Low Use	1	2	3			
Secondary Travelway/Use Area High Use	1	2	2			
Secondary Travelway/Use Area Moderate Use	1	2	3			
Secondary Travelway/Use Area Low Use	1	2	3			
Scenic Integrity Summary						
Criteria for Scenic Integrity of the L.C. Image/Sense of Place	(VII) Very High	(II) High	(M) Moderate	(I, I) Low	(VI, I) Very Low	(III) Unacceptably Low
Dominance: Landscape Character vs. Deviation	Landscape Character	Landscape Character	Landscape Character	Deviation	Deviation	Deviation
Degree of Deviation From the Landscape Character	None	Not Evident	Evident but not dominant	Dominant	Very Dominant	Extremely Dominant
Integrity of the Landscape Character	Landscape Character Fully Expressed	Landscape Character Largely Expressed	Slightly Altered and Character Expression Moderate	Altered and Low Expression of Character	Heavily Altered and Very Low Expression of Character	Extremely Altered

Lazer Broadcasting
Viewpoint 4 – Intersection of North Valley & Stintson Trails
July 2012

Scenic Assessment Ratings:

Landscape Visibility	
Type of Travel Way or Use Area	Hiking/Equestrian trail
Concern Levels 1, 2 or 3	1
Distance Zone (Project Site approx. 1.5 miles north)	Middleground (Mg)
Landscape Visibility	Mg1

Scenic Integrity (see table below)	
Dominance: Landscape Character vs. Deviation	Moderate
Degree of Deviation from the Landscape Character	Moderate
Intactness of Landscape Character	Moderate
Total Scenic Integrity	Moderate

Scenic Attractiveness	
Variety, Unity, Vividness, Mystery, Intactness, Coherence, Harmony, Uniqueness, Patterns, and Balance	
Scenic Attractiveness Class	B

Landscape Character Description
Foreground (300 feet - 1/2 mile) Grasses, trees at different stages of development, and shrubs looking toward the Project Site.
Middleground (1/2 mile to 4 miles) Tree/shrub covered foothills. Project Site is visible and marked from past field work. Ridgeline has random pattern of areas void of vegetation.
Background (4 miles to horizon) Ridgeline obscures view to distant areas and horizon.

IMPACT ANALYSIS FROM VIEWPOINT

Proposed Action Alternative Potential Magnitude of Change (after 20 years)	
Scenic Integrity (see table below)	
Dominance: Landscape Character vs. Deviation	Moderate
Degree of Deviation from the Landscape Character	Moderate
Intactness of Landscape Character	Moderate
Total Scenic Integrity	Moderate

Comments:

The project area is located in the middle of a saddle within the middle ground foothills and at the ridgeline as viewed from the intersection of North Valley Trail and Stintson Trail. The viewshed in the future could be obscured by trees. The viewpoint selected is in an opening along the trail. The existing scenic integrity for the area is considered Moderate as views of an area void of vegetation mark the location of the Project Site. However from this viewpoint the scrap along the saddle appears shorter in length due to elevation and distance to the Project Site from this viewpoint. The Proposed Project would construct an equipment shed and parking space near the ridgeline and remove vegetation to allow for fuel modification. The equipment shed, thinned vegetation, parking space would not be a dominant feature along the ridgeline given the areas of bare earth and rock to the east or left of the Project Site as viewed from this viewpoint. Therefore the scenic integrity would be considered Moderate and the Proposed Project would be consistent with the existing Scenic Integrity of Moderate.

	HIERARCHY OF CONCERN LEVELS			
	High	Interest in Scenery Moderate	Low	
Primary Travelway/Use Area High Use	1	2	2	
Primary Travelway/Use Area Moderate Use	1	2	2	
Primary Travelway/Use Area Low Use	1	2	3	
Secondary Travelway/Use Area High Use	1	2	2	
Secondary Travelway/Use Area Moderate Use	1	2	3	
Secondary Travelway/Use Area Low Use	1	2	3	

Scenic Integrity Summary						
Criteria for Scenic Integrity of the L.C.	(VII) Very High	(II) High	(M) Moderate	(L) Low	(VI) Very Low	(I) Unacceptably Low
Dominance Landscape Character vs. Deviation	Landscape Character	Landscape Character	Landscape Character	Deviation	Deviation	Deviation
Degree of Deviation From the Landscape Character	None	Not Evident	Evident but not dominant	Dominant	Very Dominant	Extremely Dominant
Intactness of the Landscape Character	Landscape Character Fully Expressed	Landscape Character Largely Expressed	Slightly Altered and Character Expression Moderate	Altered and Low Expression of Character	Heavily Altered and Very Low Expression of Character	Extremely Altered

Scenic Assessment Ratings:

Landscape Visibility	
Type of Travel Way or Use Area	Hiking/Equestrian Trail Area
Concern Levels 1, 2 or 3	1
Distance Zone (Project Site approx. 1 mile northwest)	Middleground (Mg)
Landscape Visibility	Mg1

Scenic Integrity (see table below)	
Dominance: Landscape Character vs. Deviation	Moderate
Degree of Deviation from the Landscape Character	Moderate
Intactness of Landscape Character	Moderate
Total Scenic Integrity	Moderate

Scenic Attractiveness	
Variety, Unity, Vividness, Mystery, Intactness, Coherence, Harmony, Uniqueness, Patterns, and Balance	
Scenic Attractiveness Class	B

Landscape Character Description	
Foreground (300 feet - 1/2 mile)	Grasses, foothill shrub-covered hills and residential structure.
Middleground (1/2 mile to 4 miles)	Mountain shrub-covered foothills and ridgeline
Background (4 miles to horizon)	Horizon not visible

IMPACT ANALYSIS FROM VIEWPOINT

Proposed Action Alternative Potential Magnitude of Change (after 3 years)	
Scenic Integrity (see table below)	
Dominance: Landscape Character vs. Deviation	Moderate
Degree of Deviation from the Landscape Character	Moderate
Intactness of Landscape Character	Moderate
Total Scenic Integrity	Moderate

Comments:

The Project Area is blocked from the view of trail users on all portions of McCullough Loop due to foothills. The existing scenic integrity for the area (Moderate) would remain unchanged if the Proposed Project is approved.

	HIERARCHY OF CONCERN LEVELS Interest in Scenery		
	High	Moderate	Low
Primary Travelway/Use Area High Use	1	2	2
Primary Travelway/Use Area Moderate Use	1	2	2
Primary Travelway/Use Area Low Use	1	2	3
Secondary Travelway/Use Area High Use	1	2	2
Secondary Travelway/Use Area Moderate Use	1	2	3
Secondary Travelway/Use Area Low Use	1	2	3

Scenic Integrity Summary						
Criteria for Scenic Integrity of the L.C. Image/Sense of Place	(VII) Very High	(II) High	(M) Moderate	(I.) Low	(VI.) Very Low	(U.) Unacceptably Low
Dominance Landscape Character vs. Deviation	Landscape Character	Landscape Character	Landscape Character	Deviation	Deviation	Deviation
Degree of Deviation From the Landscape Character	None	Not Evident	Evident but not dominant	Dominant	Very Dominant	Extremely Dominant
Intactness of the Landscape Character	Landscape Character Fully Expressed	Landscape Character Largely Expressed	Slightly Altered and Character Expression Moderate	Altered and Low Expression of Character	Heavily Altered and Very Low Expression of Character	Extremely Altered

APPENDIX B
METHODOLOGY

Visual Inventory Study Methods

Scenery Management System

The purpose of the visual resources inventory was to identify and document landscape scenery and views of the proposed project area. The Project Site is located west of Pisgah Peak Road approximately 1.5 miles north of its intersection with Wildwood Canyon within an unincorporated portion of San Bernardino County and in the Oak Glen Planning area. The Project Site lies outside of the boundaries of the SBNF San Bernardino Front Country Place, and the Wildwood Canyon State Park. The visual resources inventory consisted of a detailed evaluation of the proposed project area. The inventory is consistent with the principles of the Scenery Management System established by the U.S. Forest Service (1995).

The Scenery Management System measures the degree of scenic integrity, or human-caused deviation in the landscape. Research has shown that high-quality scenery related to natural appearing forests improves the viewer's physiological well-being.

The inventory was conducted in June 2011. Studies included field observations and meeting with San Bernardino County Staff to review key issues, management strategies and inventory requirements. Data was collected through field work, existing mapped data, and aerial photography interpretation. In addition, extensive ground reconnaissance was conducted in support of these efforts.

Scenery Impact Assessment Methods

Impacts on visual resources were assessed by determining the potential for change to the views of landscape scenery. This section describes criteria, methods, and models used to assess visual impacts of the Proposed Project. Key components of the assessment include Landscape Character goals, Scenic Integrity Objectives and predictions of potential effects on scenery for each alternative evaluated. The existing Landscape Character serves as a baseline from which to judge deviation in a landscape.

Existing and Desired Landscape Character

An existing landscape character description was determined for the Project Area. This was developed by describing distinct elements in the landscape that create an unique visual and cultural image. It consists of a combination of physical, biological, climatic and cultural attributes that make the area identifiable. It serves as a baseline for determining existing scenic integrity.

The desired landscape character for the project area was identified from the “Place” descriptions within the 2005 San Bernardino National Forest Land Management Plan (LMP). It expresses the most optimal combination of socially-valued scenery attributes that can be sustained in the specified Place. This inventory’s primary focus was on the effect of the project proposal on the desired Landscape Character and Scenic Integrity Objectives as established in the LMP.

Scenic Integrity

Dominance indicates which element has the strongest visual weight within the Landscape Character and assesses the amount of divergence from it. Scenic Integrity is a measure of the degree of deviation or visual contrast in the landscape. It refers to the amount of perceptible change that would occur (with reference to form, line, color, and/or texture) as a result of the Proposed Action. Two major components that contribute to the degree of deviation include the addition of structural elements in the landscape and removal of vegetation. Intactness of the landscape also helps evaluate the impacts to scenery.

Visual contrast includes potential vegetation contrast that would result from the clearing of vegetation for road, structures and utilities. Vegetation contrast was determined through an evaluation of the proposed fuel treatment area. Existing scenic integrity is determined by evaluating the landscape based upon deviation or alterations of the existing Landscape Character.

Scenic Integrity Objectives

Scenic Integrity Objectives are prescribed by forest land management plans. They determine the overall importance of scenic resources and set minimum acceptable levels of natural landscape character. Levels of scenic integrity are described below:

- Very High—unaltered
- High—appears unaltered
- Moderate—slightly altered
- Low—moderately altered
- Very Low—heavily altered

Scenic Classes

Scenic Classes are used to compare the value of scenery to the value of other resources, and are derived from combining the visibility mapping and the scenic attractiveness mapping. A suitability map is created that is used by land managers in forest planning. Scenic Classes 1 through 7 identify a public value that can be tied to the landscape. The higher the Scenic Class, the more important it is to maintain the highest scenic value.

Scenic Attractiveness

Scenic attractiveness measures the scenic importance of a landscape based on human perceptions of the intrinsic beauty of landform, water, vegetation patterns and cultural features. Higher scenic attractiveness occurs in landscapes with a greater degree of naturalness, diversity of features and uniqueness. The relative scenic value of lands within a particular Landscape Character are classified as; class A- distinctive, class B- typical, and class C- indistinctive.

Landscape Visibility

Landscape visibility is a function of many interconnected considerations such as the context of viewers, the duration of view, the number of viewers and the degree of discernable detail. Landscape visibility is determined using three elements:

- Travelways and Use Areas

- Concern Levels

- Distance Zones

As part of this inventory, travelways and use areas were identified within the proximity of the project area, and their concern levels and distance zones documented.

Most landscape viewing occurs from travelways and use areas. Travelways are defined as liner concentrations of public-viewing, including freeways, highways, roads, railroads, trails, commercial flight paths, rivers, canals, and other waterways. Use Areas are locations that receive concentrated public-viewing use. They include vista points, trailheads, campgrounds, swim beaches, parks, ski resorts, and other recreation sites.

Concern levels are a measure of the degree of relative importance the public places on a landscape being viewed from a particular travelway or use area. Concern level is a function of both the number of visitors as well as their intent. Three (3) concern levels are used:

Level 1 is the most important. Users have a high level of concern for scenery. It is associated with major highways, areas of concentration such as recreation facilities, special designations such as scenic byways or national recreation/historic trails and cultural sites. These can be roads, trails or waterways.

Level 2 areas are areas of lesser importance such as state highways, county roads, secondary trails, scenic overlooks, summer home tracts etc.

Level 3 refers to low use areas and low volume roads, trails, waterways or recreation facilities.

Distance zones are measured from key viewpoints. As distance between the viewer and the landscape increases, the level of visible landscape detail decreases. The zones are divided into three general categories:

Foreground - 300 feet to ½ mile

Middleground - ½ to 4 miles

Background - 4 miles to horizon

Foreground distance zones have a high level of detail, yet commonly allow more opportunities for screening. Middleground designations usually reveal deviations in the landscape related to form, line, color and/or texture, but have less discernable detail overall. Background designations usually increase scenic value as the terrain allows people to have longer views.

Viewsheds

Visibility to and from developed areas and travel routes was determined by the edge conditions bordering individual areas. Edge conditions are described as screened, partially screened or open conditions. For example, a screened edge condition refers to a situation where views of the project area are blocked by topography, vegetation, and/or development. Partial screening occurs where there are dispersed patterns of vegetation and development. Open edge conditions do not have anything blocking views of the project area, hence they lack screening.

Impact Assessment

In general, significant visual impacts in High Scenic Integrity landscape settings are the result of high to moderate visibility (foreground and middleground views) from sensitive viewing areas.

Significant visual impacts can be any, or a combination of the following:

- Dominance of deviation over landscape character

- Deviations from landscape character are evident but not dominant

- The intactness of the landscape character becomes altered, resulting in a change scenic integrity

Potentially significant impacts in High Scenic Integrity areas occur when the project would be noticeable in moderate visibility location. A moderate visibility location is characterized by partially screened or intermittent foreground views toward the project area or as noticeable from open views, but at a greater distance (1.0 mile, middleground view) from the project area.

Where views are located in conditions that do not attract attention or are seldom seen, impacts are visually non-significant. These include areas where the views are generally beyond 1.0 mile or screened by vegetation in a middleground setting.

Mitigation

Initial impact levels were determined based on the description of the Proposed Project. Selective mitigation was considered to reduce visual impacts. The effectiveness of mitigation techniques in conjunction with the Landscape Character and visibility can be best determined at the project design stage. Selective mitigation that would reduce visual impacts includes measures presented in section 4.0 *Mitigation*.