Appendix D-3

Segment 1 Botanical Resources Survey Report



BOTANICAL SURVEY REPORT

GALE TO PISGAH PROJECT

SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

Prepared For: Biological Resources Group

Southern California Edison 2244 Walnut Grove Avenue Rosemead, CA 91770 Contact: Lori Charpentier

Prepared By: Environmental Intelligence

1590 South Coast Highway, Suite 17

Laguna Beach, CA 92651 Contact: Travis Kegel

Date: August 1, 2017

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.0 INTI	RODUCTION]		
1.1	Project Location and Description	1		
2.0 MET	THODS	1		
2.1	Literature Review			
2.2	Regulated Species	2		
2.3	Taxonomy and Vegetation Classification			
2.4	Existing Vegetation	2		
2.5	Special-Status Plant Surveys	3		
3.0 RES	ULTS	4		
3.1	Crucifixion Thorn (Castela emoryi, CRPR 2B.2)	5		
3.2	Utah Vine Milkweed (Funastrum utahense, CRPR 4.2)	5		
3.3	White-Margined Beardtongue (Penstemon albomarginatus, CRPR 1B.1)	5		
4.0 SUM	MARY	6		
5.0 REFERENCES				

TABLES

Table 1. Vegetation Community / Land Cover Type and Rarity				
Table 3: Survey Dates and Time				
EXHIBITS				
EXHIBIT 1: PROJECT VICINITY	9			
EXHIBIT 2: LAND USE	10			
EXHIBIT 3: PROJECT DESCRIPTION	11			
EXHIBIT 4: LITERATURE REVIEW	36			
EXHIBIT 5: SOILS SURVEY	37			
EXHIBIT 6: RARE PLANT SURVEY RESULTS	62			

APPENDICES

- A. POTENTIAL FOR OCCURRENCE
- B. FLORAL COMPENDIUM
- C. SITE PHOTOGRAPHS
- D. DATA SHEETS

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Environmental Intelligence, LLC (EI) was retained by Southern California Edison (SCE) to conduct surveys for special-status plant species on the Gale to Pisgah Project (Proposed Project). The Proposed Project would require installation of new telecommunication lines to connect the Gale Substation to the Pisgah Substation. This report presents the findings of focused surveys for rare plants in suitable habitat within the Proposed Project area.

1.1 Project Location and Description

The Proposed Project is located in San Bernardino County, California, extending east-southeast from Gale Substation (approximately 1 mile ESE of Daggett and 9 miles ESE of Barstow) for approximately 29 miles to Pisgah Substation (Exhibit 1). The Proposed Project alignment passes through the following United States Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5-minute quadrangles: Minneola, Newberry Springs, Troy Lake, and Hector. Land surrounding the Proposed Project includes agricultural areas, off-highway vehicle recreation areas, and undisturbed desert scrub habitats. The Proposed Project alignment crosses lands owned by BLM and private landowners (Exhibit 1).

The Proposed Project would involve installation of telecommunication all-dielectric self-supporting (ADSS) cable line from Gale Substation to Pisgah Substation along an existing SCE distribution line right-of-way. The Gale to Pisgah fiber optic interconnection will support the SCE communication system for the addition of renewable energy generation. This communication system is part of the larger SCE system that provides safe and reliable electrical service consistent with the North American Electric Reliability Corporation, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, the California Independent System Operators, and SCE's planning design guidelines and criteria. The ADSS is necessary to ensure adequate communication facilities are in place for the Calcite Substation Project, Eldorado-Lugo-Mojave Project, and Lugo-Victorville 500kV Transmission Line Special Protection Scheme (SPS, also referred to herein as Remedial Action Scheme or "RAS") Project.

Overhead ADSS stringing includes all activities associated with the installation of cables onto cross arms on existing wood pole structures. This activity includes the installation of vibration dampeners and suspension and dead-end hardware assemblies. If the existing pole does not meet wind load or ground clearance requirements with the addition of the fiber cable, distribution line poles will be modified or interset poles will be installed.

Existing access roads will be used to the extent feasible for construction of the Proposed Project; where needed, these roads will be improved within the existing road prism. Existing access roads will be maintained to allow the use of construction equipment. Some road modifications to existing access roads may be required to allow safe use of heavy equipment. At the conclusion of Project construction, all roads utilized for construction purposes will be left in a condition similar to the condition that existed prior to the start of construction. Loose rock and slide material will be removed, if possible, from existing roads and used to construct road dikes, fill washouts, or flatten fill slopes. All washouts, ruts, and irregularities within the construction area will be filled or removed.

The Proposed Project Survey Area includes 488 existing distribution pole sites, two material laydown yards, and two existing substations (Exhibit 2).

2.0 METHODS

2.1 Literature Review

Prior to the initiation of the field surveys described in this report, several sources of available data were used to identify known and potential biological resources within the Project region, including published literature, field guides, previous site surveys, and public data sets. The information presented in this analysis was obtained from the following sources:



• The California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB), maintained by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), quad-level species occurrence information (CDFW 2017);

- The California Native Plant Society's (CNPS) Online Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants of California (CNPS 2017);
- Consortium of California Herbaria (CCH 2017);
- U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Soil Survey Geographic (SSURGO) data (Natural Resources Conservation Service [NRCS] 2017);
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS 2017) county-level species occurrence information;
- USGS topographic maps;
- USFWS Critical Habitat designations;
- BRC Equals 3, Inc. 2016 Habitat Assessment: Calcite Substation Project (BRC 2016a); and
- BRC Equals 3, Inc. 2016 Botanical Report: Calcite Substation Project (BRC 2016b).

All plant species, as described by the CNDDB, within eight USGS 7.5-minute quadrangles and centered on the Proposed Project location (i.e., Nebo, Yermo, Daggett, Minneola, Newberry Springs, Troy Lake, Hector, and Sleeping Beauty Quadrangles) were selected as potential focal survey species (Exhibit 3). A list of the special-status plant species identified by the literature search is provided as Appendix A. Special-status plants include those with federal, state, or local designations or California Rare Plant Rank (CRPR). The botanical surveys were comprehensive and floristic in nature and were not restricted to, or focused only on, this list.

2.2 Regulated Species

The database search and literature review identified 10 special-status plant species occurring or having the potential to occur in the vicinity of the Proposed Project (Appendix A). Of these, none were federal and/or state-regulated species (i.e., Endangered or Threatened).

2.3 Taxonomy and Vegetation Classification

Plant taxonomy follows The Jepson Manual (Baldwin et al. 2012). Common plant names, where not available from Baldwin et al. 2012, are taken from Abrams (1923, 1944, 1951), Abrams and Ferris (1960), Beauchamp (1986), Munz (1974), CNPS (2017), or Simpson and Hasenstab (2009). Vegetation classification follows the system described in a Manual of California Vegetation, 2nd Edition (Sawyer et al. 2009). Scientific names are mentioned once in the text and common names are used thereafter.

This vegetation classification system is the preferred system of the California Native Plant Society and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's Vegetation Classification and Mapping Program, and allows for direct comparisons with other classification systems (e.g., Holland 1986). For species unidentifiable in the field, biologists took reference specimens for later identification.

2.4 Existing Vegetation

Eleven vegetation communities/land cover types, including three sensitive vegetation communities, one sensitive land cover type, and seven non-sensitive vegetation communities/land cover types were previously documented and mapped during habitat assessment studies (BRC 2016a; Exhibit 2). Desert saltbush (*Atriplex polycarpa*) scrub is dense along the middle portion of the Proposed Project alignment, mesquite thicket (*Prosopis glandulosa*) woodland is scattered across desert riparian areas within the alignment, and bush seepweed (*Suaeda moquinii*) scrub is present along the eastern portion of the alignment. Alkali playa is a sensitive land cover type that occurs in dry lake beds along the eastern portion of the alignment. Descriptions of the communities can be found in the Manual of California Vegetation, 2nd Edition (Sawyer et al. 2009). A description of the land cover types is provided below.



TABLE 1. VEGETATION COMMUNITY / LAND COVER TYPE AND RARITY

Vegetation Community / Land Cover Type and Rarity¹

Sensitive Vegetation Communities

Atriplex polycarpa (Allscale scrub) Shrubland Alliance – Desert Saltbush Scrub (36.340.00) G2 S2

Prosopis glandulosa (Mesquite thicket) Woodland Alliance (61.512.00) G5 S3

Suaeda moquinii (Bush seepweed scrub) Shrubland Alliance (36.200.00) G5 S3

Non-sensitive Vegetation Communities

Atriplex canescens (Fourwing saltbush scrub) Shrubland Alliance (36.310.00) G5 S4

Atriplex confertifolia (Shadscale scrub) Shrubland Alliance (36.320.00) G5 S4

Larrea tridentata (Creosote bush scrub) Shrubland Alliance (33.010.00) G5 S5

Larrea tridentata-Ambrosia dumosa (Creosote bush-white bursage scrub) Shrubland Alliance (33.140.00) G5 S5

Tamarix ssp. (Tamarisk thicket) Shrubland Semi-Natural Alliance (63.810.00)

Land Cover Types

Agriculture

Alkali Playa Community G4 S3

Developed

¹Rarity and Global/State Ranks: One purpose of the vegetation classification is to assist in determining the level of rarity and imperilment of vegetation types. Ranking of alliances according to their degree of imperilment (as measured by rarity, trends, and threats) follows NatureServe's Heritage Methodology, in which all alliances are listed with a G (global) and S (state) rank. Alliances with State ranks of S1-S3 are considered to be highly imperiled.

Agriculture

Agricultural lands are used primarily for production of food and fiber. Such areas include croplands, pastures, orchards, groves, vineyards, nurseries, ornamental horticultural areas, confined feeding operations, and other agricultural land.

Alkali Playa Community

Alkali playa is a rare community of habitats that are intermittently flooded or saturated. Examples include dry lake beds and margins, hummocks, lagoon bars, old lake beds perched above current drainages, and seeps (Holland 1986).

Developed

Developed lands include urban or built-up areas with much of the land covered by structures. Such areas include cities, transportation, power and communications facilities, mills, shopping centers, and other buildings that may, in some cases, be separate from urban areas. Urban or built-up land may contain a wide variety of native and non-native, ruderal and ornamental plant species.

2.5 Special-Status Plant Surveys

Timing of the surveys took into consideration documented phenology for the target species, reference populations, and weather data. The closest weather data center (Station #042257) was located approximately 0.5 miles north of the Proposed Project area at Daggett Airport, California. Weather data were obtained from the Western Regional Climate Center (WRCC) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) National Climate Data Center (NCDC). Thirty-Year Climate Normals for Daggett Airport averaged 3.13 inches of precipitation during October through June (WRCC 1981-2010). For the 2016-2017 hydrological year, total precipitation was 58 percent above average (4.95 inches) in Mojave Valley from October through June (NCDC 2017). Due to increased precipitation levels during the current hydrological year, plant species were expected to be robust and have a longer than usual blooming period.



Prior to onsite surveys, botanists visited reference populations for target special-status species to ensure that these species: i) emerged (if annuals), ii) showed phenological traits (e.g., fruits, flowers, etc.) necessary for identification, and/or iii) were readily identifiable with all botanists who may have less familiarity with a given species. A list of all reference population locations and results is provided below in Table 2.

Species	General Location	Date Visited	Status
Small-flowered androstephium (Androstephium breviflorum)	Ivanpah Dry Lake Playa, 2 miles SW Primm, NV	4/17/2017	Blooming, readily identifiable
Clokey's cryptantha (Cryptantha clokeyi)	Powerline Road, Lucerne Valley, CA	4/26/2017	Blooming, fruiting, readily identifiable
Mojave menodora (Menodora spinescens var. mohavensis)	North of Ord Mt. along Camp Rock Rd.	4/26/2017	Blooming, readily identifiable
Mojave monkeyflower (Mimulus mohavensis)	Ord Mountain Road/Daggett Wash, Barstow, CA	4/26/2017	None identified
White margined beardtongue (Penstemon albomarginatus)	Needles Fwy, Pisgah, CA	4/26/2017	None identified

TABLE 2: REFERENCE POPULATIONS SUMMARY TABLE

Following verification at these reference populations, pedestrian surveys for special-status plant species were conducted from April 25 to May 1 and May 30 to June 1, 2017 by qualified botanists Doug Gordon-Blackwood, Ron Clark, Kevin Thomas, Nicole Nesball, Ben Madden, Kristofer Robison and Renee Robison. This botanical survey was conducted following the CDFW Protocols for Surveying and Evaluating Impacts to Special-Status Native Plant Populations and Natural Communities (CDFW 2009) and the CNPS Botanical Survey Guidelines (CNPS 2001). The survey area was defined by a 20-foot buffer around the Proposed Project pole sites and on either side of the centerline for underground work (Exhibit 2). Surveys were conducted by walking transects over the survey areas to ensure thorough coverage, noting all observed plant taxa. Focused attention, including the use of denser transect lines, was given to areas with higher potential habitat for special-status plant species. Care was taken to thoroughly search all unique features, soils (Exhibit 4), and habitats encountered that could have a higher probability for occurrence of sensitive species. Within private property along the survey area where no access was available, surveyors used binoculars to visually assess the area for rare plants. Plants were counted individually whenever possible. When the population size, density, or other factors rendered a census impractical, counting plants in one or more representative square meter areas, and multiplying by the estimated area of the population was used to estimate the number of individuals. Photographs of special-status taxa and habitat conditions are included in Appendix C. The locations of all special-status species were mapped in the field using a Garmin recreational Global Positioning System (GPS) hand-held unit and on aerial photograph field maps.

3.0 RESULTS

Early and late growing season botanical surveys were conducted within the Proposed Project survey area on multiple days. Performing multiple surveys over the course of the growing season is critical for the detection of special-status plants. Reference populations and regional rainfall amounts were monitored to ensure the scientific adequacy of these focused surveys, however there is always a potential for a false negative survey result as species may be present on-site but not be detectable, or populations may be limited in extent due to climate conditions. New occurrences were documented for special-status plant species during each survey visit. Survey dates and times are summarized below in Table 3.



Survey Date (2017) **Survey Hours** Biologist1 (Survey Type) RC, BM, KT, April 25 Early Growing Season 07:00-17:00 NN RC, BM, KT, 07:00-17:00 April 26 Early Growing Season NN RC, BM, KT, 07:00-17:00 April 27 Early Growing Season NN DGB, BM, 07:00-17:00 April 28 Early Growing Season KT, NN DGB, RC, May 1 Early Growing Season 07:00-17:00 KT, NN May 30 Late Growing Season 07:00-17:00 KR, RR 07:00-17:00 May 31 Late Growing Season KR, RR 07:00-17:00 KR, RR June 1 Late Growing Season

TABLE 3: SURVEY DATES AND TIME

¹ DGB – Doug Gordon Blackwood, RC – Ron Clark, BM – Ben Madden, KT – Kevin Thomas, NN-Nicole Nesball KR – Kristofer Robison, RR – Renee Robison

The botanical surveys resulted in the detection of 94 plant species, of which 11 are non-native (Appendix B). Two special-status plant species, Crucifixion thorn (*Castela emoryi*, CRPR 2B.2) and Utah vine milkweed (*Funastrum utahense*, CRPR 4.2), were incidentally observed outside the survey area. Descriptions of the observed special-status plant species are provided below.

3.1 Crucifixion Thorn (Castela emoryi, CRPR 2B.2)

Crucifixion thorn is a perennial shrub that typically blooms between June and July. This species is typically associated with gravelly soils in creosote bush scrub at elevations between 295 to 2495 feet. One individual was documented on Halloran sandy loam soil 100 feet outside the Proposed Project survey area north of U.S. Route 66 (Exhibit 5, Page 1). Associated plant species included creosote bush.

3.2 Utah Vine Milkweed (Funastrum utahense, CRPR 4.2)

Utah vine milkweed is a perennial herb that typically blooms between April and June. This species is typically associated with creosote bush scrub at elevations between 490 to 4,365 feet. Twenty-five individuals were documented on desert sand-dune soil at one discrete location approximately 50 feet outside the survey area north of U.S. Route 66 and Interstate 40 (Exhibit 5, Page 2; Appendix C, Photo 4). Associated plant species included native creosote bush and white bursage, and non-native Saharan mustard (*Brassica tournefortii*).

3.3 White-Margined Beardtongue (Penstemon albomarginatus, CRPR 1B.1)

White-margined beardtongue is a perennial herb that typically blooms between March and May. This species is typically associated with desert sand, generally on stabilized dunes with creosote bush scrub at elevations between 2300 – 3000 feet. CNDDB records for this species (2005-2010) occur within 500 feet of the southern Project survey area near I-40 and Pisgah. The species was not detected during the reference site visit at record locations. While surveys were conducted during the appropriate blooming season, the lack of observations at the reference population suggests that there is a possibility that the species may be present but not detectable at the time of survey.

4.0 SUMMARY

EI conducted systematic searches for special-status plant species within the survey area. No special-status plant species were identified within the survey area. One rare plant species (White-Margined Beardtongue) was absent from reference population locations and may not have been visible during surveys. Nevertheless, based on the phenological characteristics of other species with similar blooming periods and observed during surveys and the identification of new and expanded special-status plant populations, the targeted plant species were expected to be evident and observable during this year's survey periods.

ENVIRONMENTAL INTELLIGENCE

Travis Kegel – Project Manager

5.0 REFERENCES

Abrams, L. 1940. Illustrated flora of the Pacific states: Washington, Oregon, and California. Vol. I. Ophioglossaceae to Aristolochiaceae: ferns to birthworts. Stanford University Press, Stanford, CA.

- Abrams, L. 1944. Illustrated flora of the Pacific states: Washington, Oregon, and California. Vol. II. Polygonaceae to Krameriaceae: buckwheats to kramerias. Stanford University Press, Stanford, CA.
- Abrams, L. 1951. Illustrated flora of the Pacific states: Washington, Oregon, and California. Vol. III. Geraniaceae to Scrophulariaceae: geraniums to figworts. Stanford University Press, Stanford, CA.
- Abrams, L., and R. S. Ferris. 1960. Illustrated flora of the Pacific states: Washington, Oregon, and California. Vol. IV. Bignoniaceae to Compositae: bignonias to sunflowers. Stanford University Press, Stanford, CA.
- Baldwin, BG, DH Goldman, DJ Keil, R Patterson, TJ Rosatti, and DH Wilken (eds.) 2012. The Jepson Manual: Vascular Plants of California, 2nd Edition, Thoroughly Revised and Expanded. University of California Press: Los Angeles, CA.
- Beauchamp, R.M. 1986. A Flora of San Diego. Sweetwater Press: National City, CA.
- BRC Equals 3, Inc. (BRC). 2016a. Habitat Assessment: Calcite Substation Project San Bernardino County, California. Prepared for Southern California Edison, June 3, 2016.
- BRC. 2016b. Botanical Report. Calcite Substation Project, San Bernardino County, California. Prepared for Southern California Edison, July 2016.
- California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW). 2017. California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB). State of California, The Natural Resources Agency, Department of Fish and Game, Biogeographic Data Branch, Sacramento, CA. Available Online. http://www.dfg.ca.gov/biogeodata/cnddb/. Accessed June 2017.
- California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW). 2009. Protocols for Surveying and Evaluating Impacts to Special Status Native Plant Populations and Natural Communities. Available Online. https://nrm.dfg.ca.gov/FileHandler.ashx?DocumentID=18959. Accessed June 2017.
- California Native Plant Society (CNPS). 2001. CNPS Botanical Survey Guidelines. Unpublished report. Available online at: http://www.cnps.org/cnps/rareplants/pdf/cnps_survey_guidelines.pdf. Accessed June 2017.
- California Native Plant Society (CNPS). 2017. Online Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants in California. Seventh Edition. Available Online. http://vegetation.cnps.org/. Accessed June 2017.
- Consortium of California Herbaria (CCH). 2017. Data provided by the participants of the Consortium of California Herbaria. Available Online. ucjeps.berkeley.edu/consortium/. Accessed June 2017.
- Holland, R. 1986. Preliminary list of terrestrial natural communities of California. Department of Fish and Game, Sacramento, CA
- Munz, P.A. 1974. A Flora of Southern California. University of California Press: Berkley, CA.
- National Climatic Data Center (NCDC). 2017. Global Summary of the Month Station Details. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Available Online. https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/cdo-web/datasets/GSOM/stations/GHCND:US1CATL0016/detail. Accessed June 2017.
- Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). 2017. Web Soil Survey. Available Online. http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/WebSoilSurvey.aspx. Accessed June 2017.
- Sawyer, J. O., T. Keeler- Wolf, and J. M. Evens. 2009. A manual of California vegetation, 2nd edition. California Native Plant Society: Sacramento, CA.

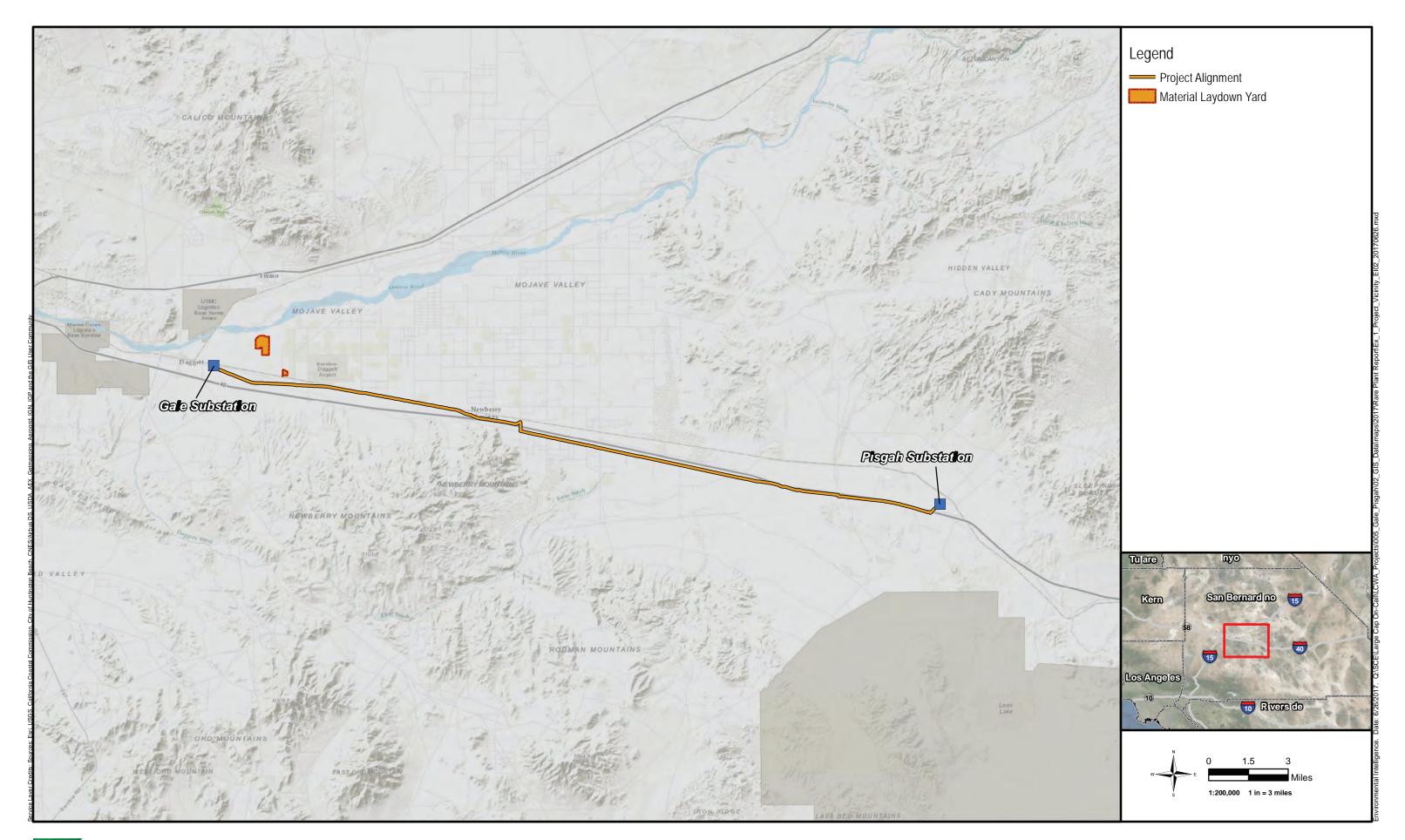


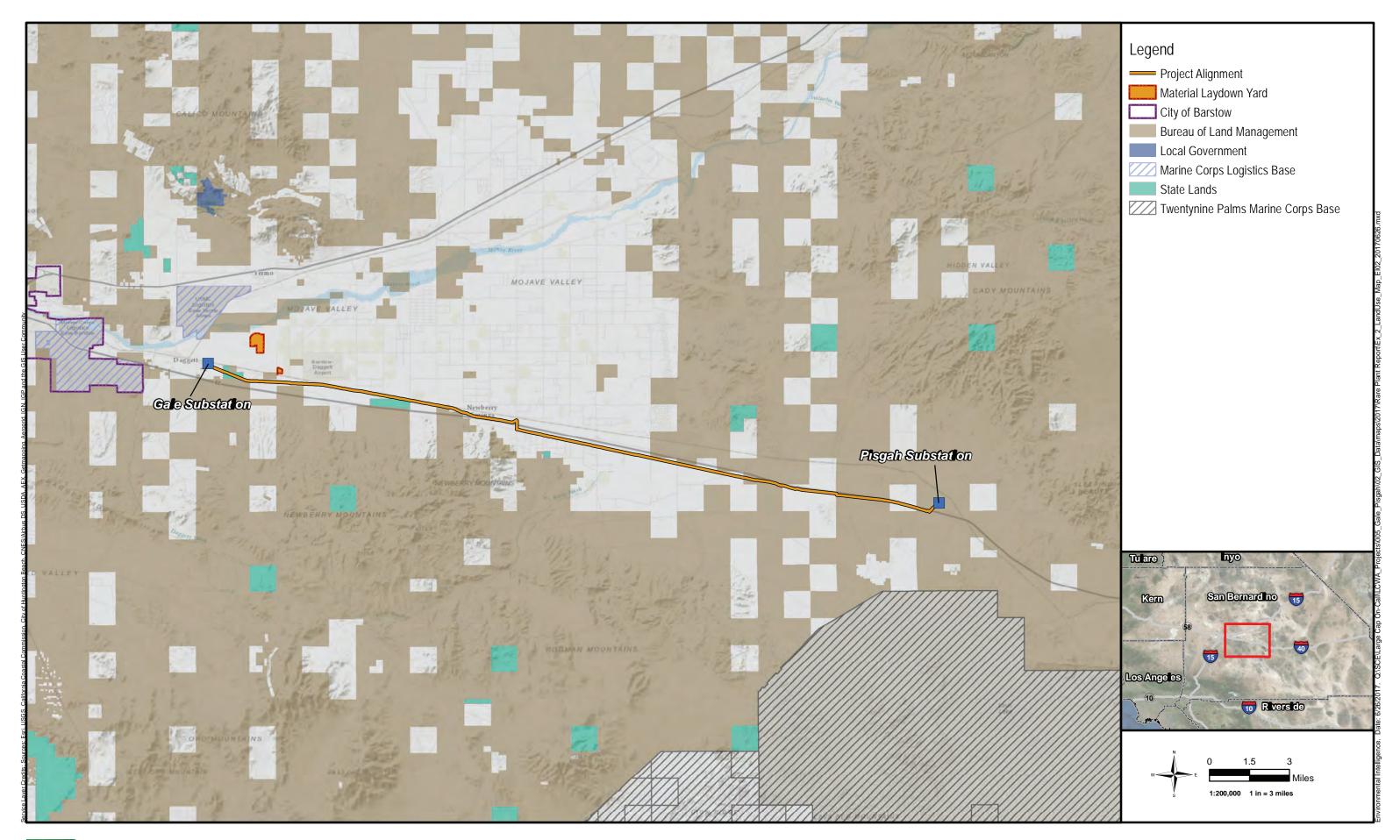
Simpson, M. G. and H. E. Hasenstab. 2009. Cryptantha of Southern California. Crossosoma 35: 1-59.

- United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). 1996. Guidelines for conducting and reporting botanical inventories for federally listed, proposed, and candidate plants. Sacramento, CA. 2 pp.
- United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). 2017. Threatened and Endangered Species Occurrence Data. Available Online.

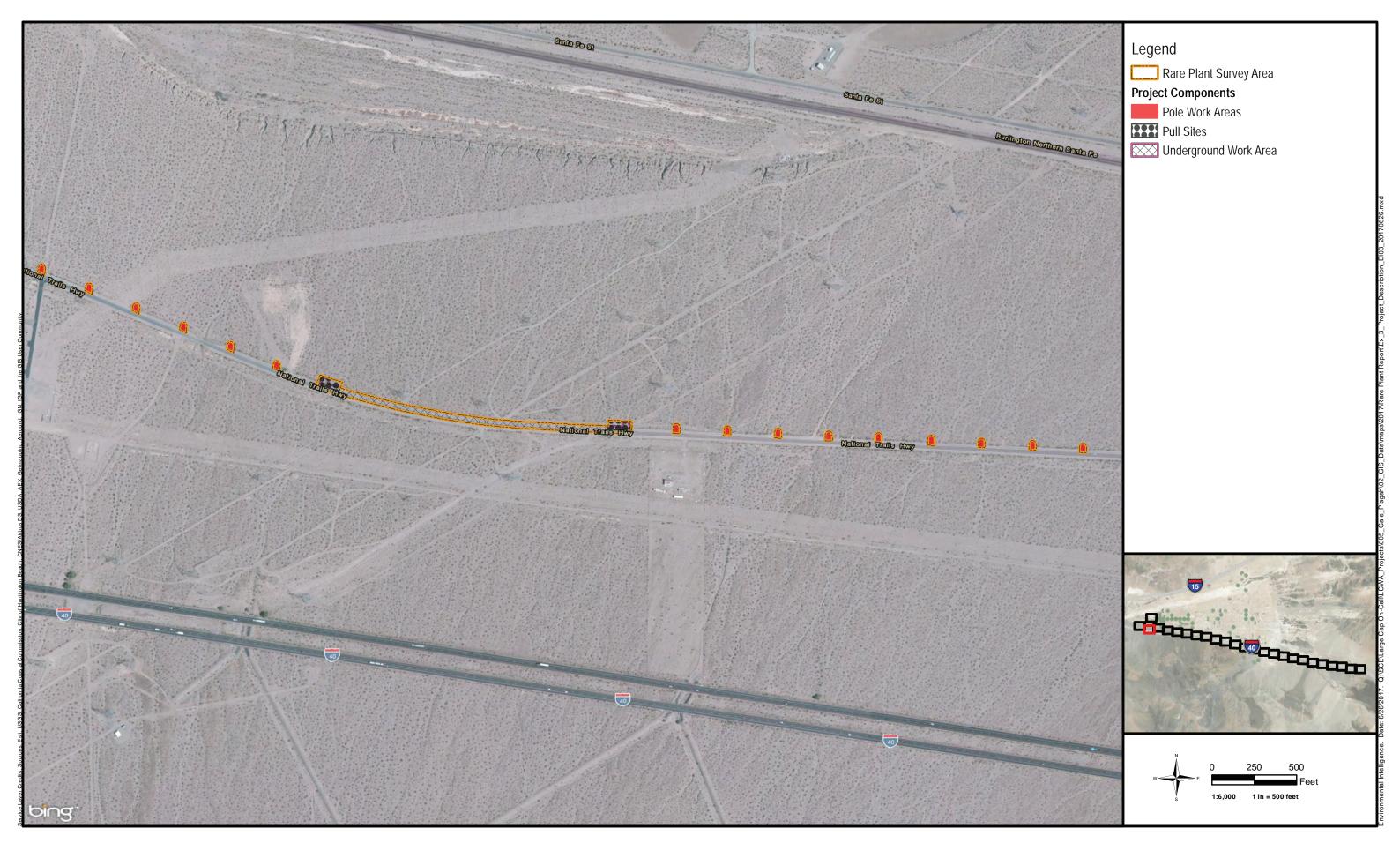
Western Regional Climate Center (WRCC). 2017. Porterville California NCDC 1981-2010 Monthly Normals. Available Online. http://www.wrcc.dri.edu/cgi-bin/cliMAIN.pl?caport+sca. Accessed May 2017.

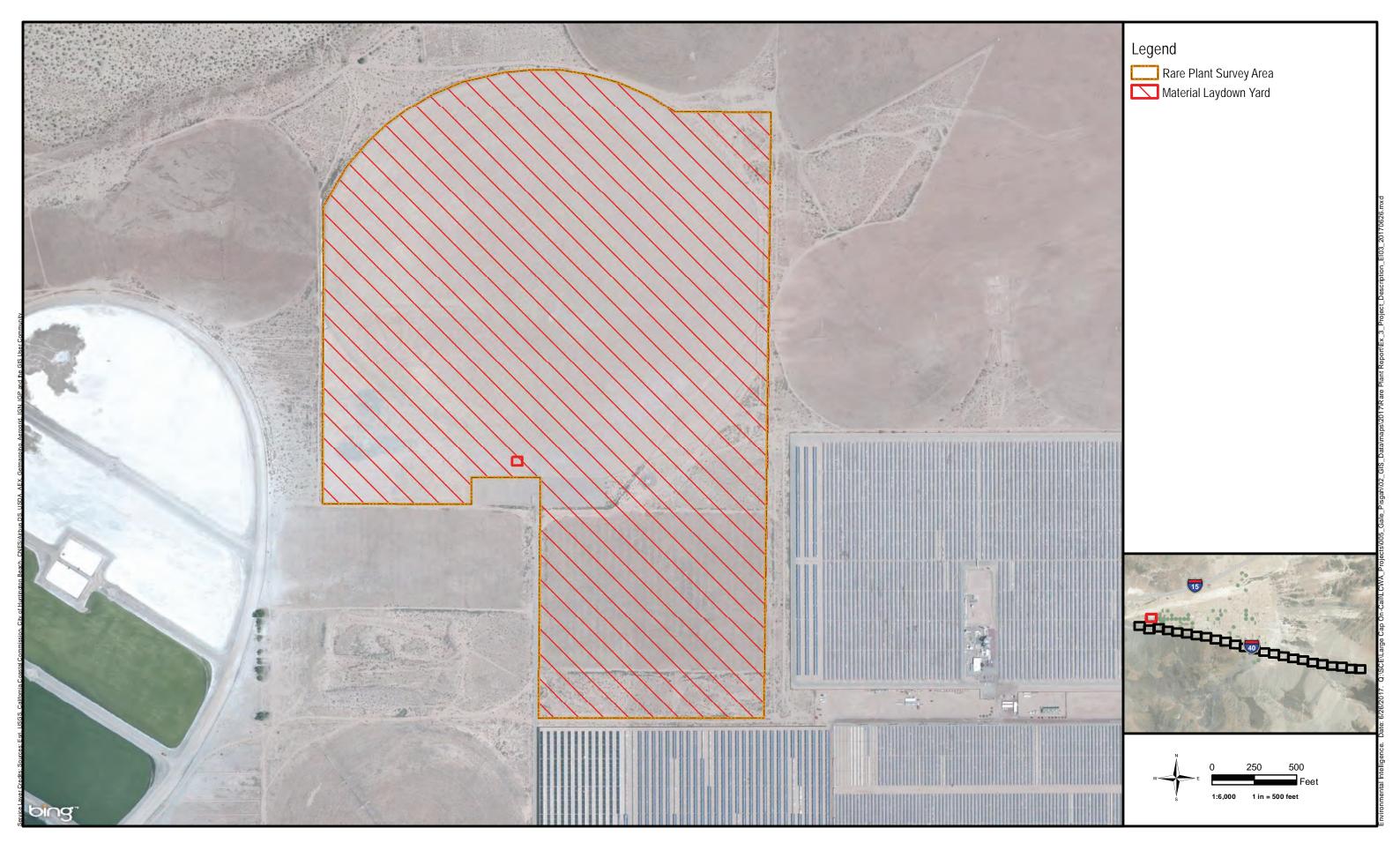






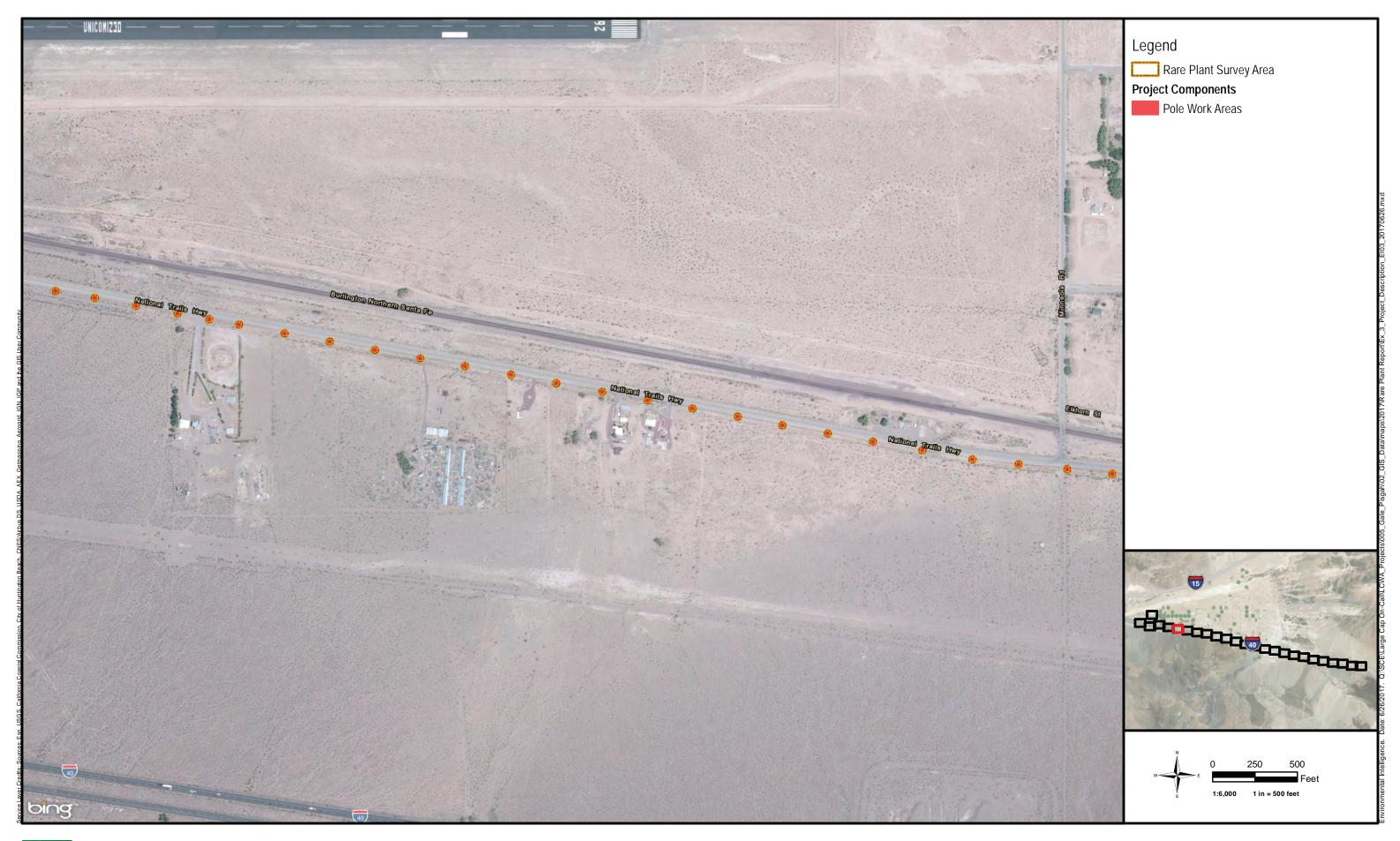


















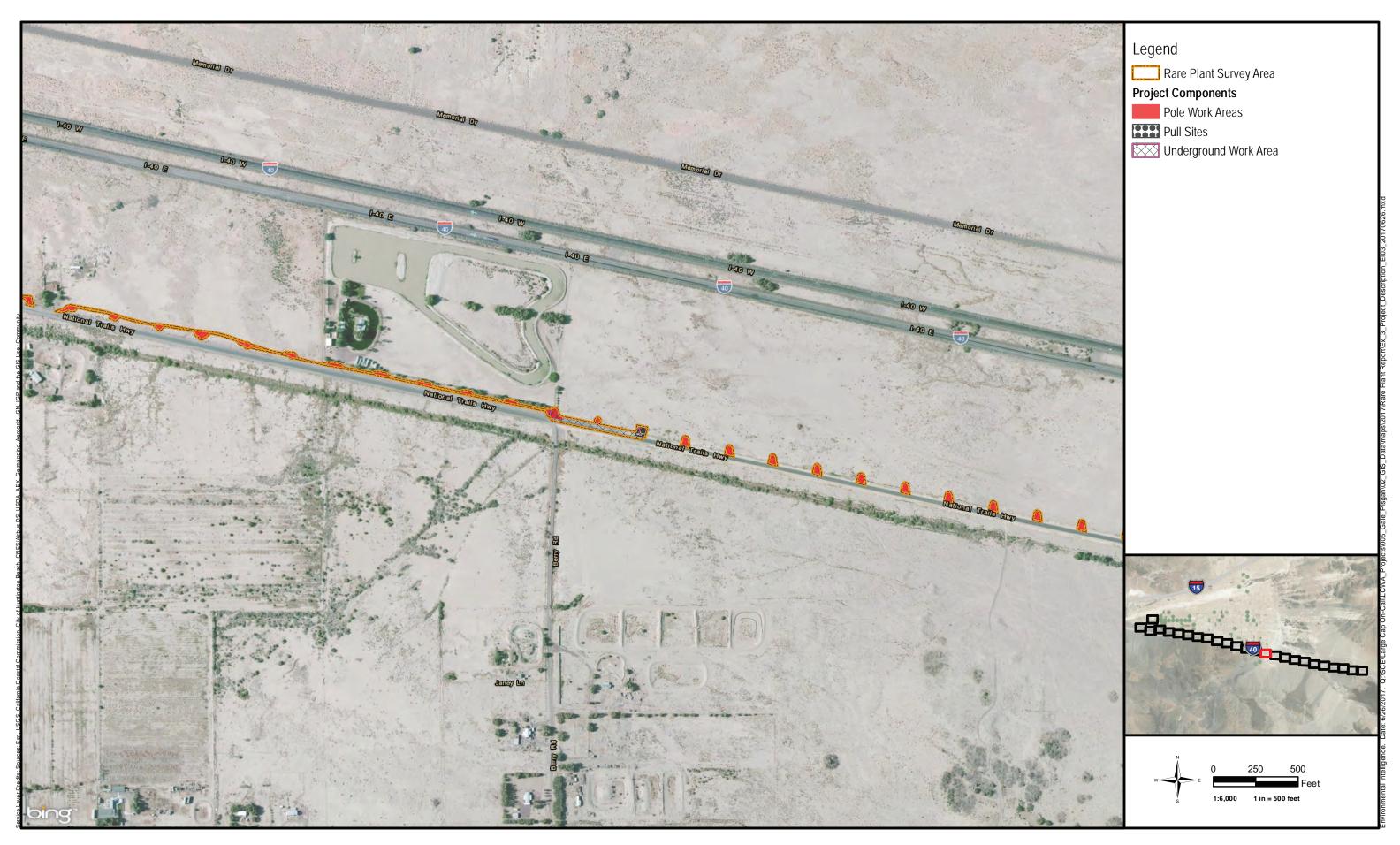












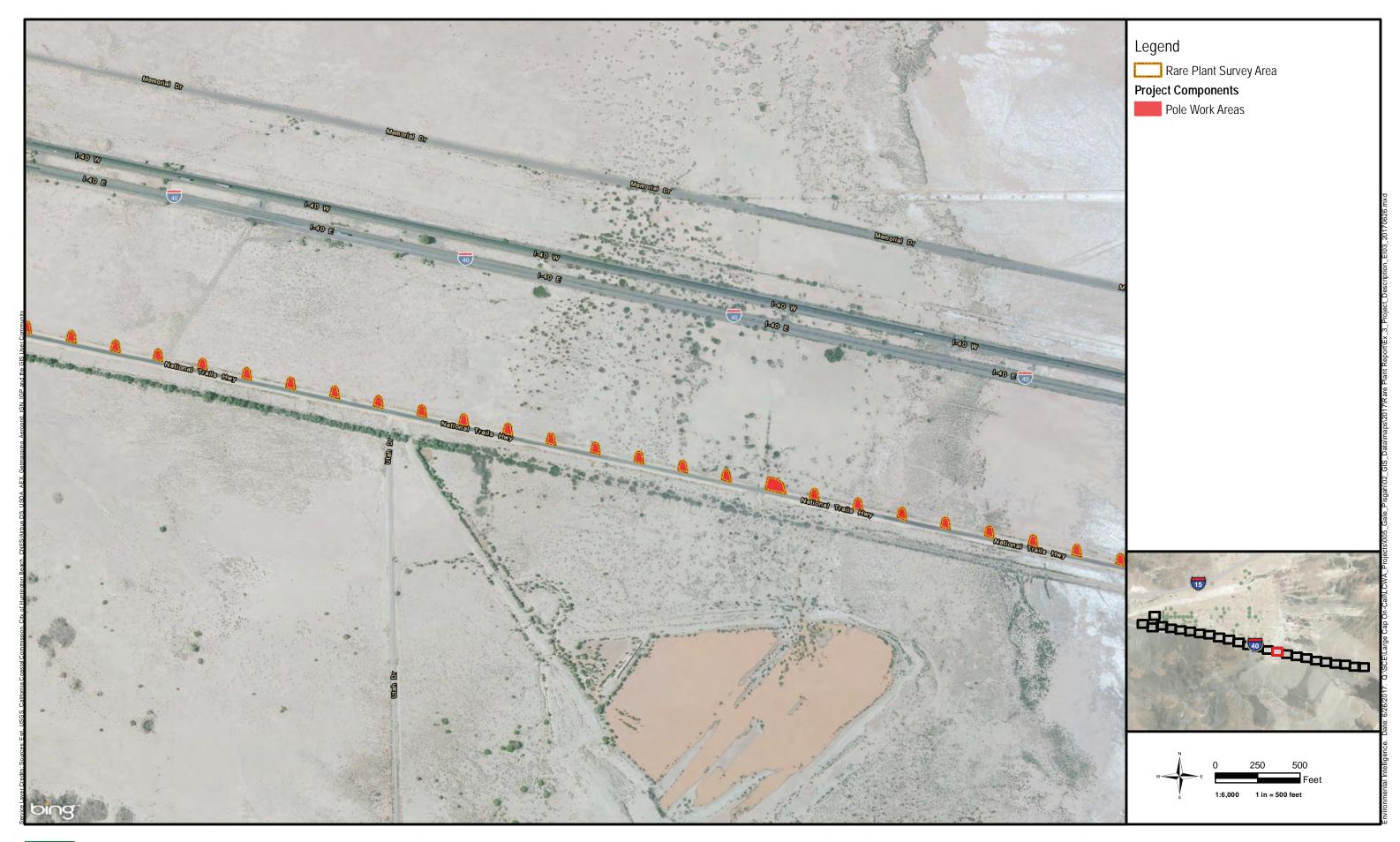




EXHIBIT 3. PROJECT DESCRIPTION PAGE 16 OF 25
GALE TO PISGAH PROJECT | SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY, CA

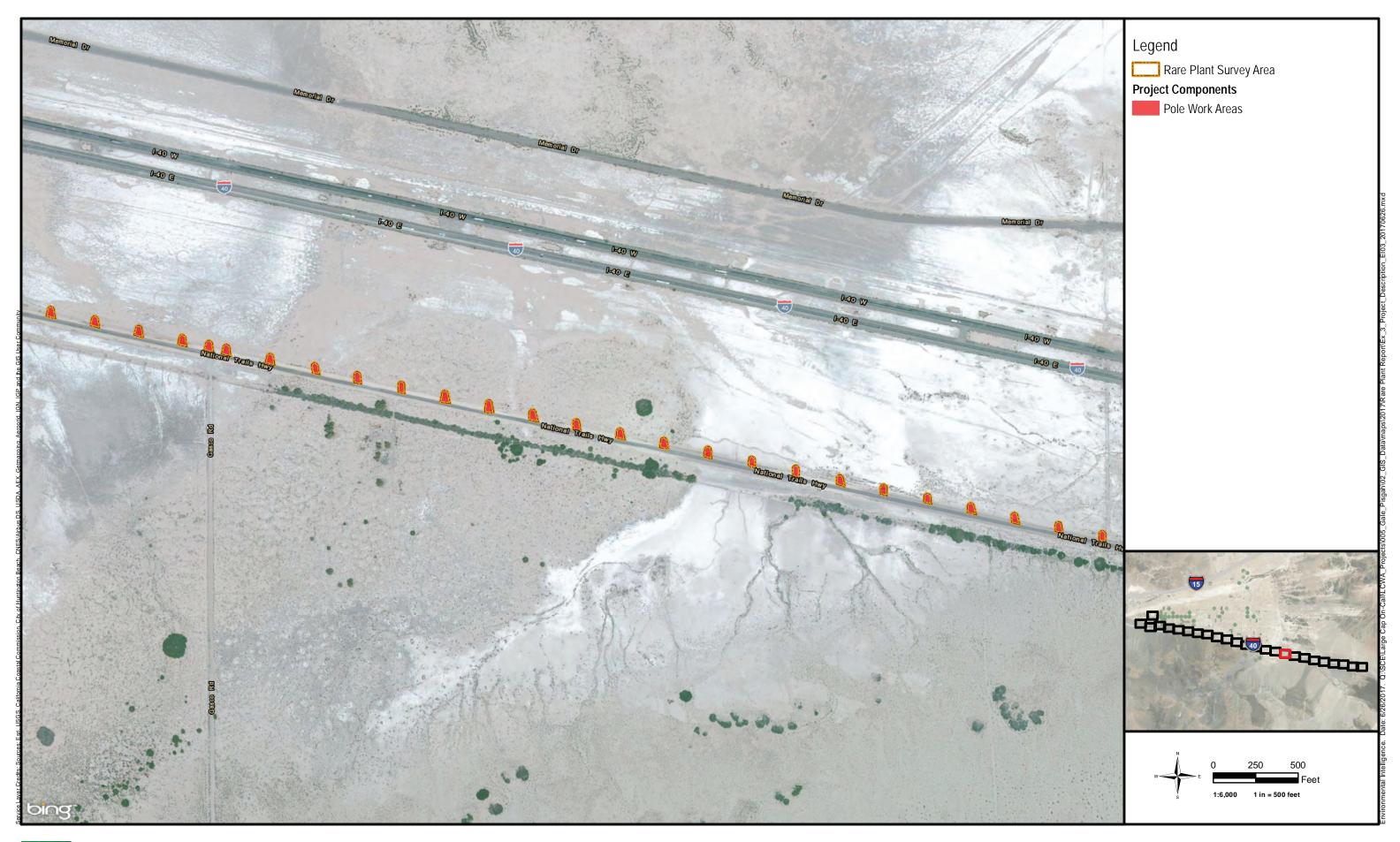




EXHIBIT 3. PROJECT DESCRIPTION PAGE 17 OF 25
GALE TO PISGAH PROJECT | SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY, CA

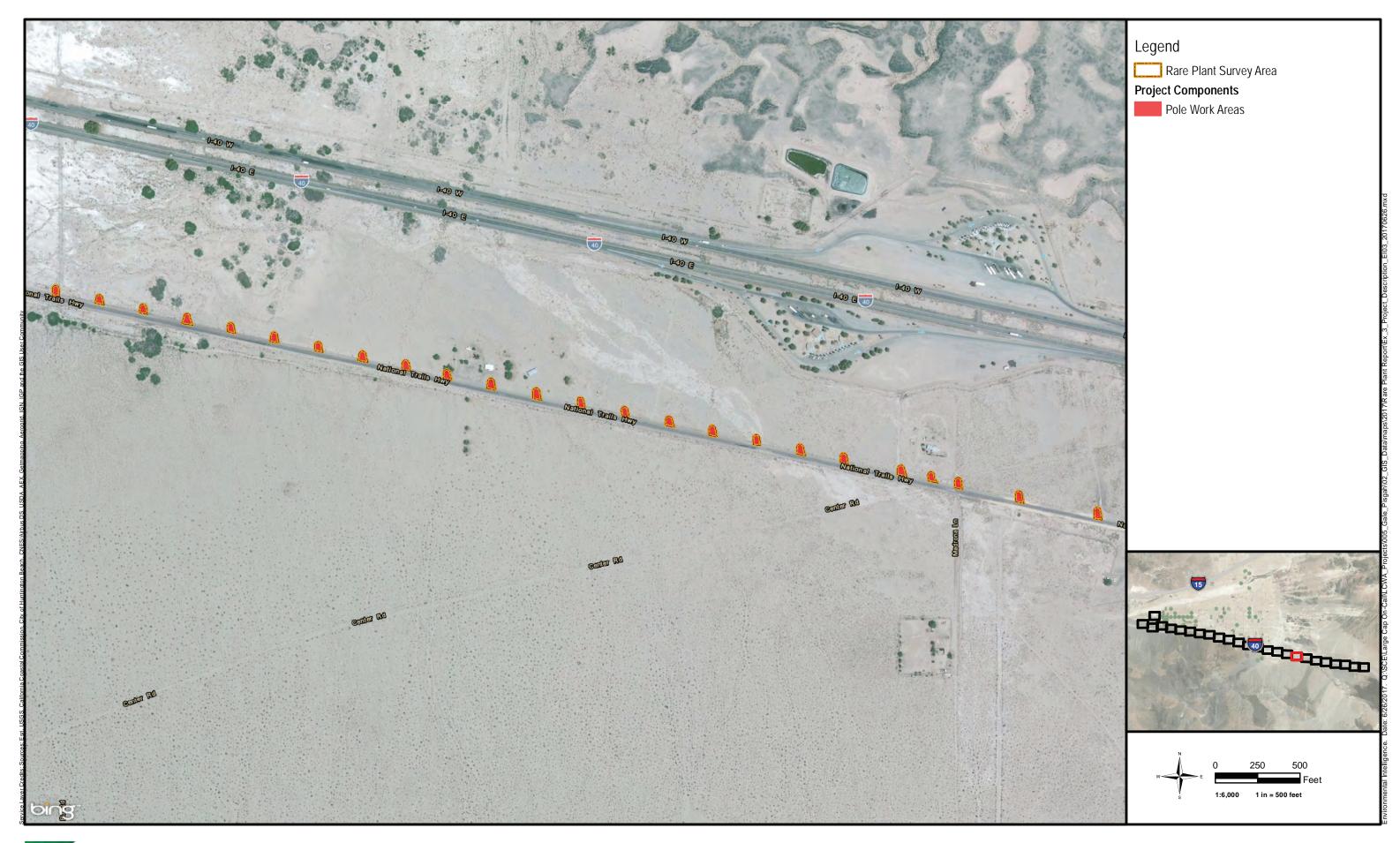
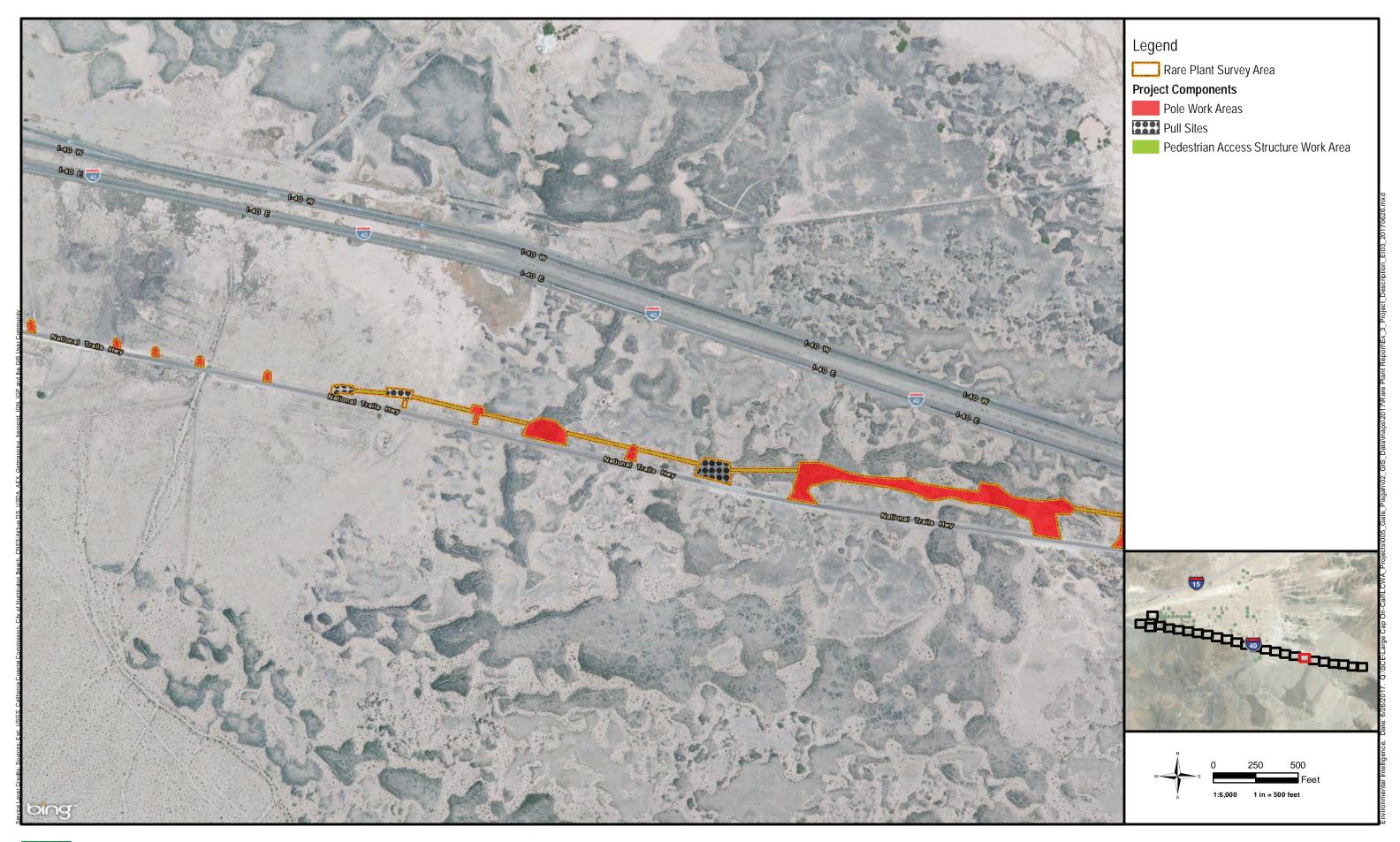
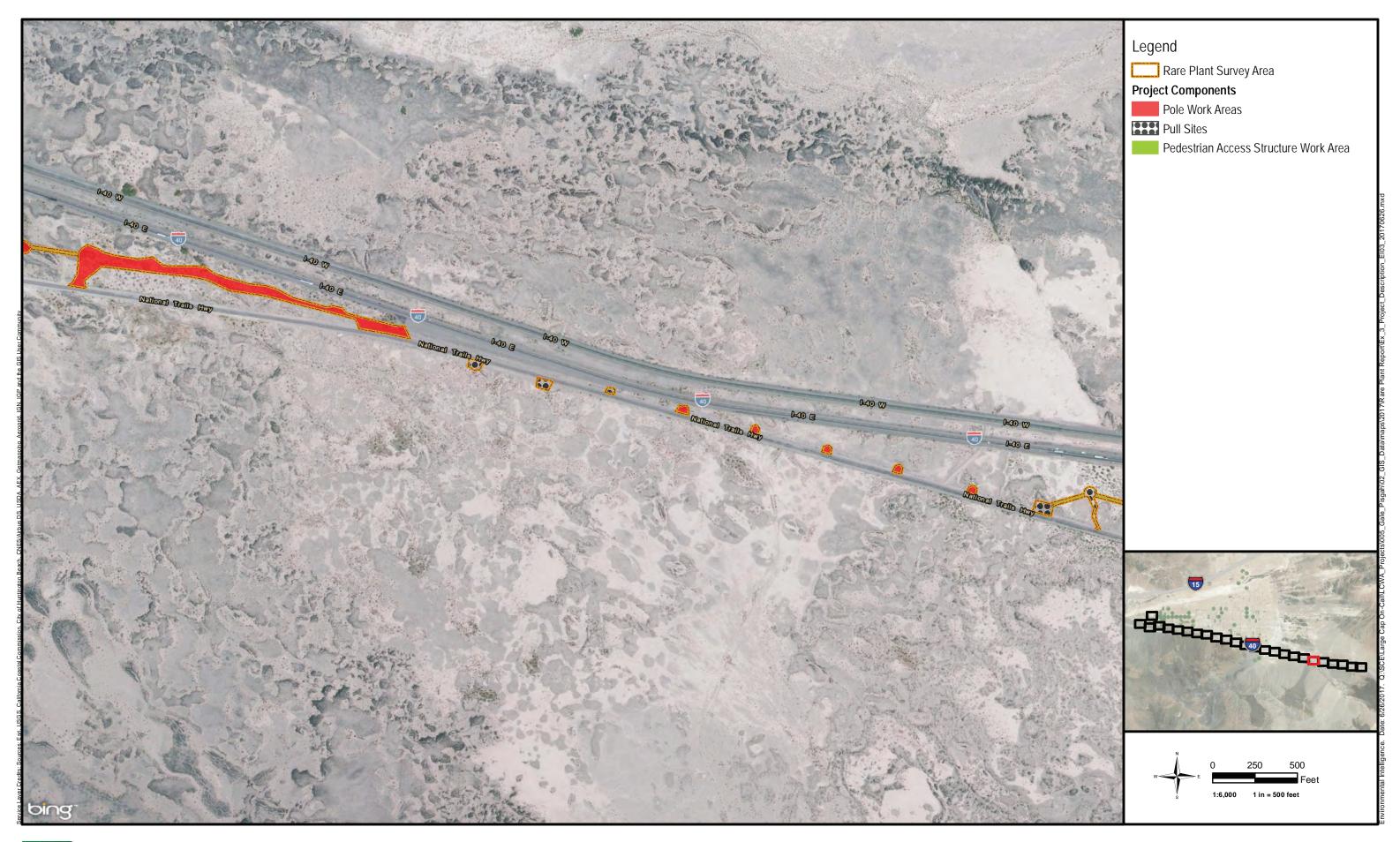


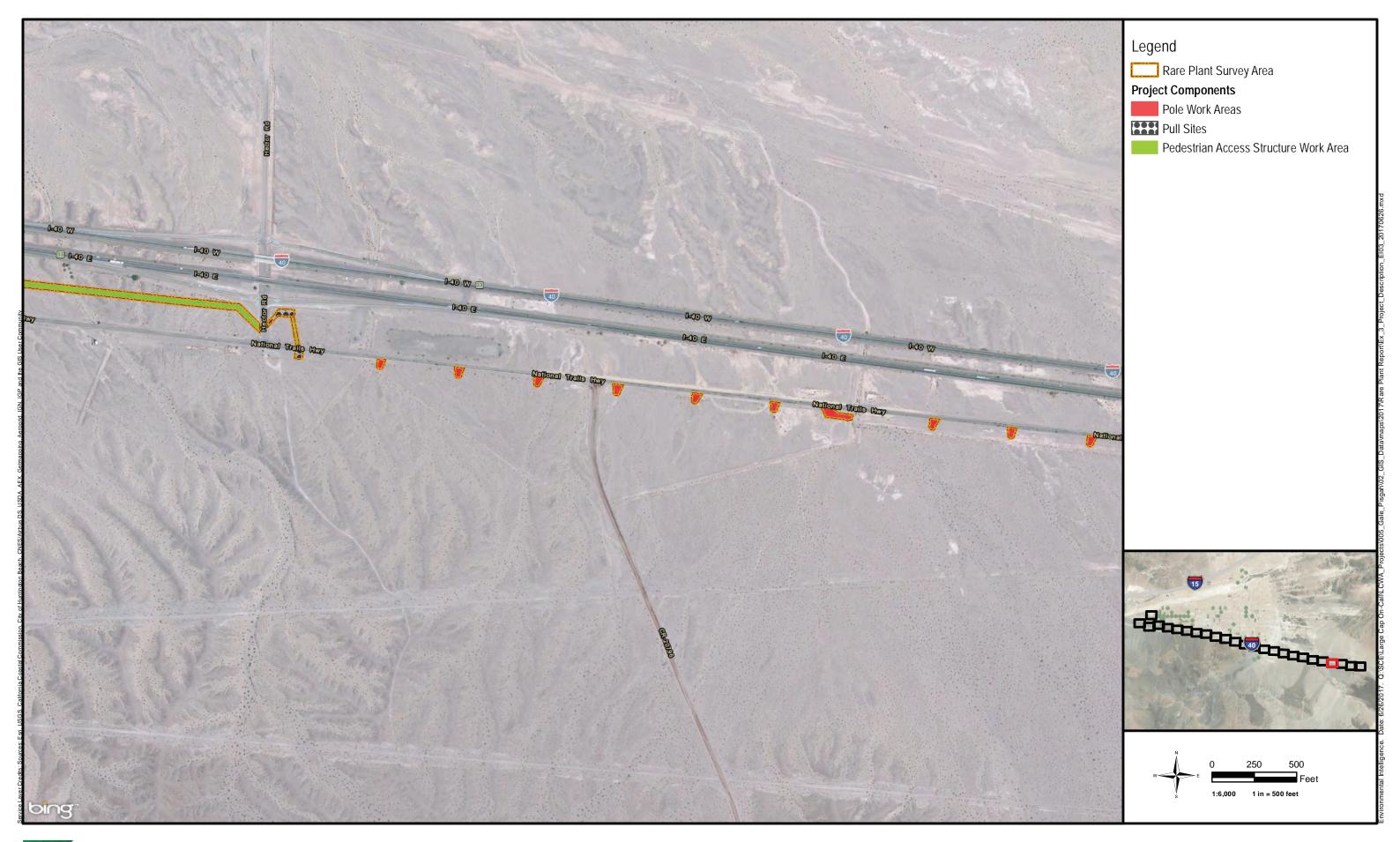


EXHIBIT 3. PROJECT DESCRIPTION PAGE 18 OF 25
GALE TO PISGAH PROJECT | SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY, CA



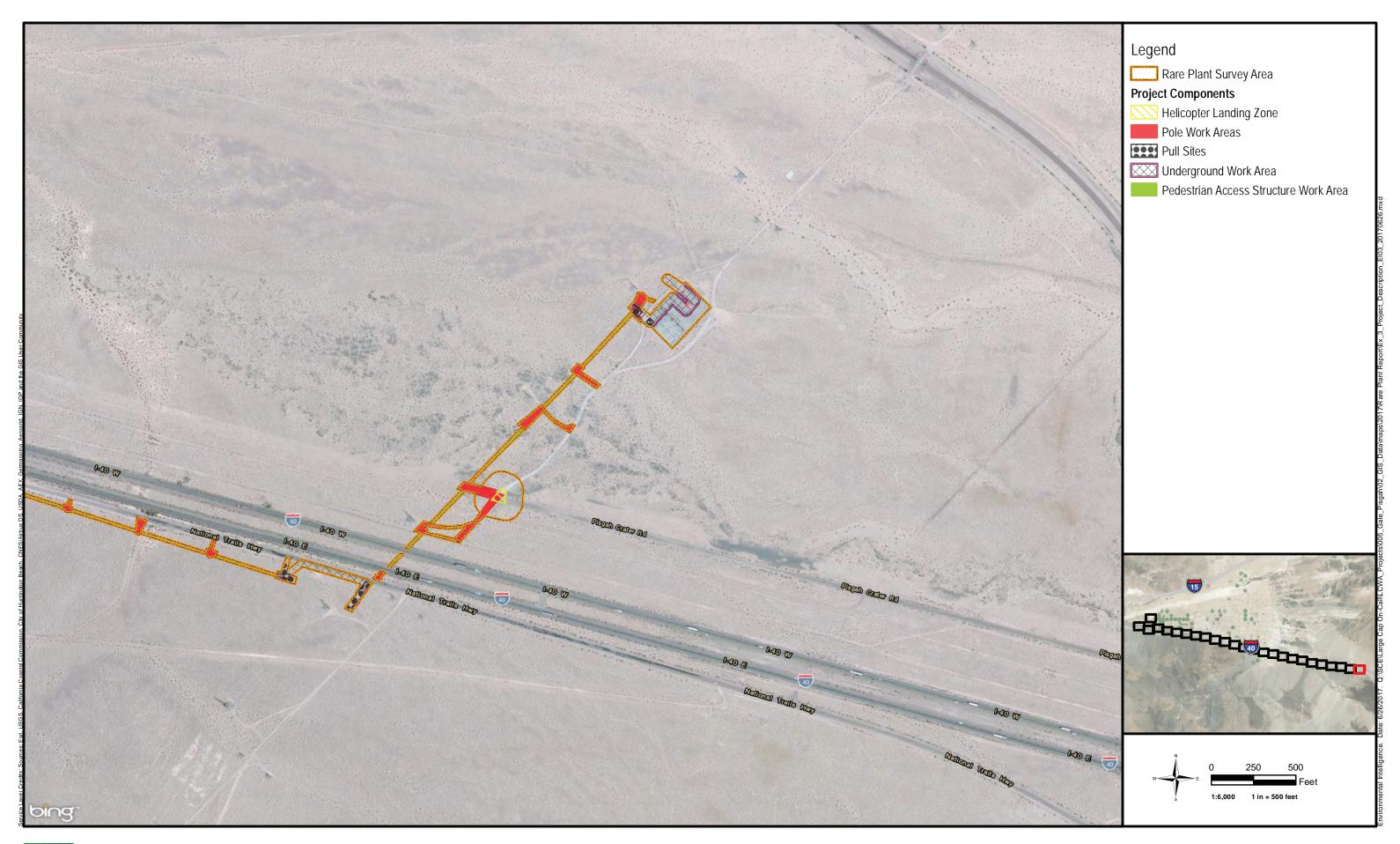


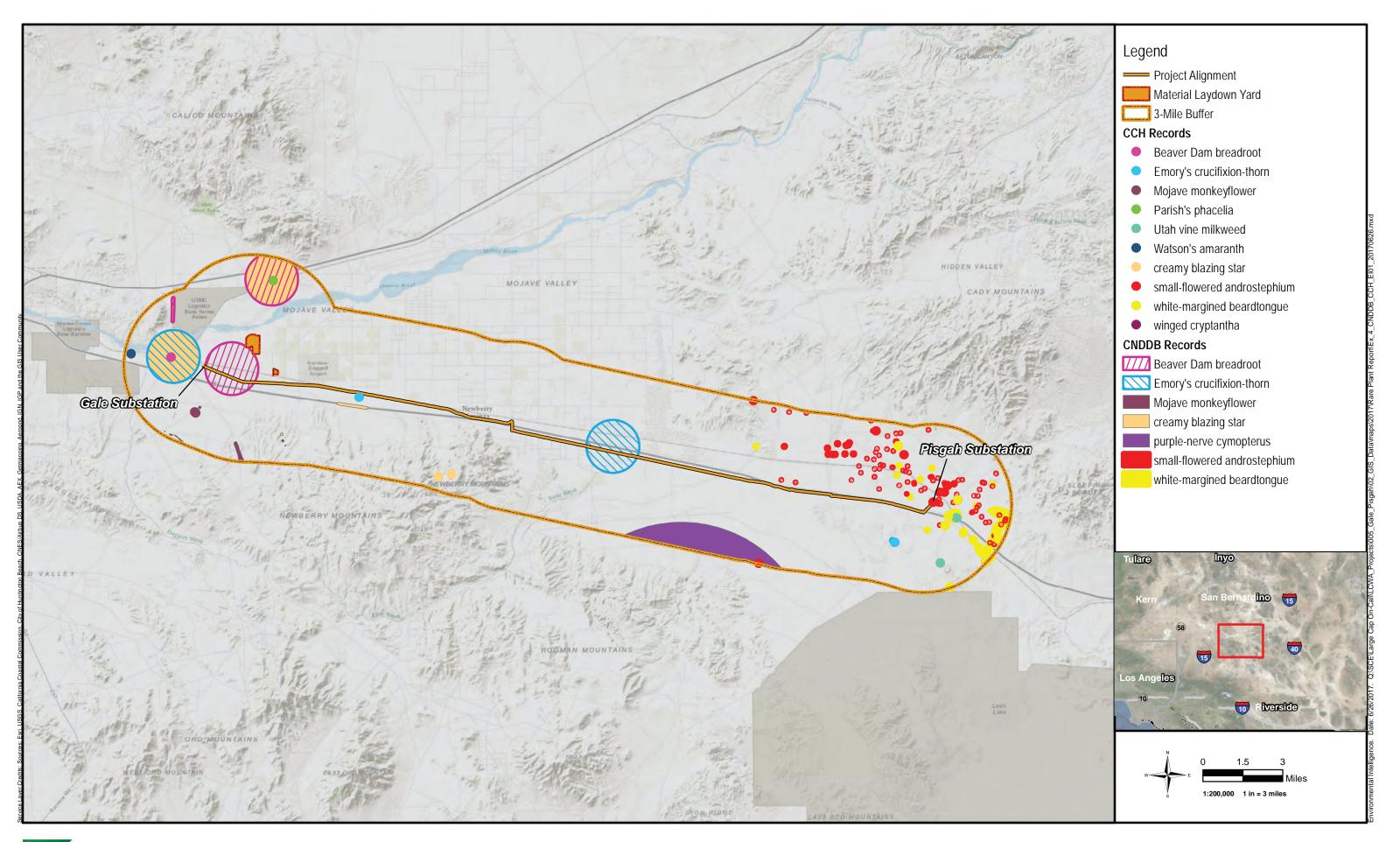


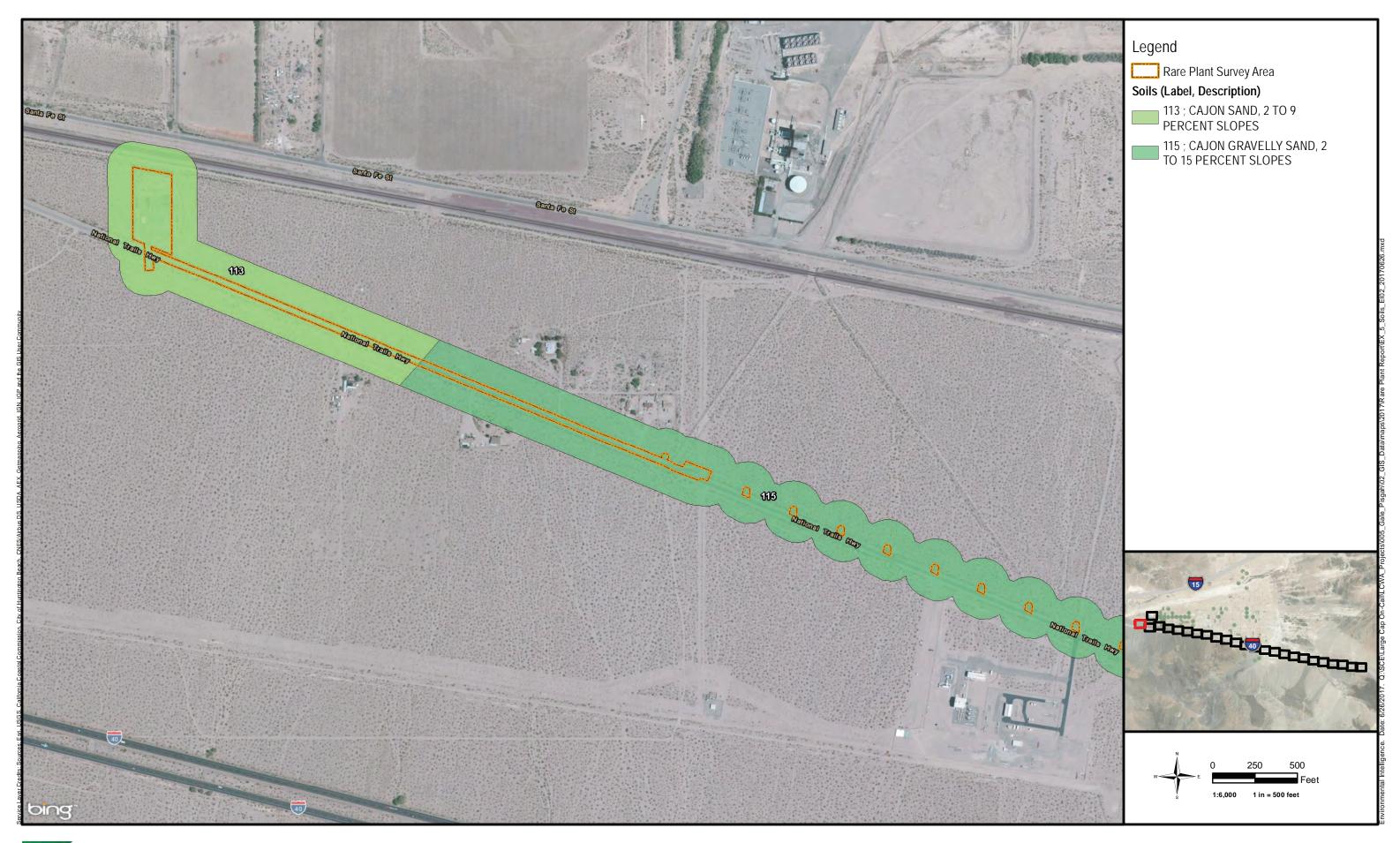


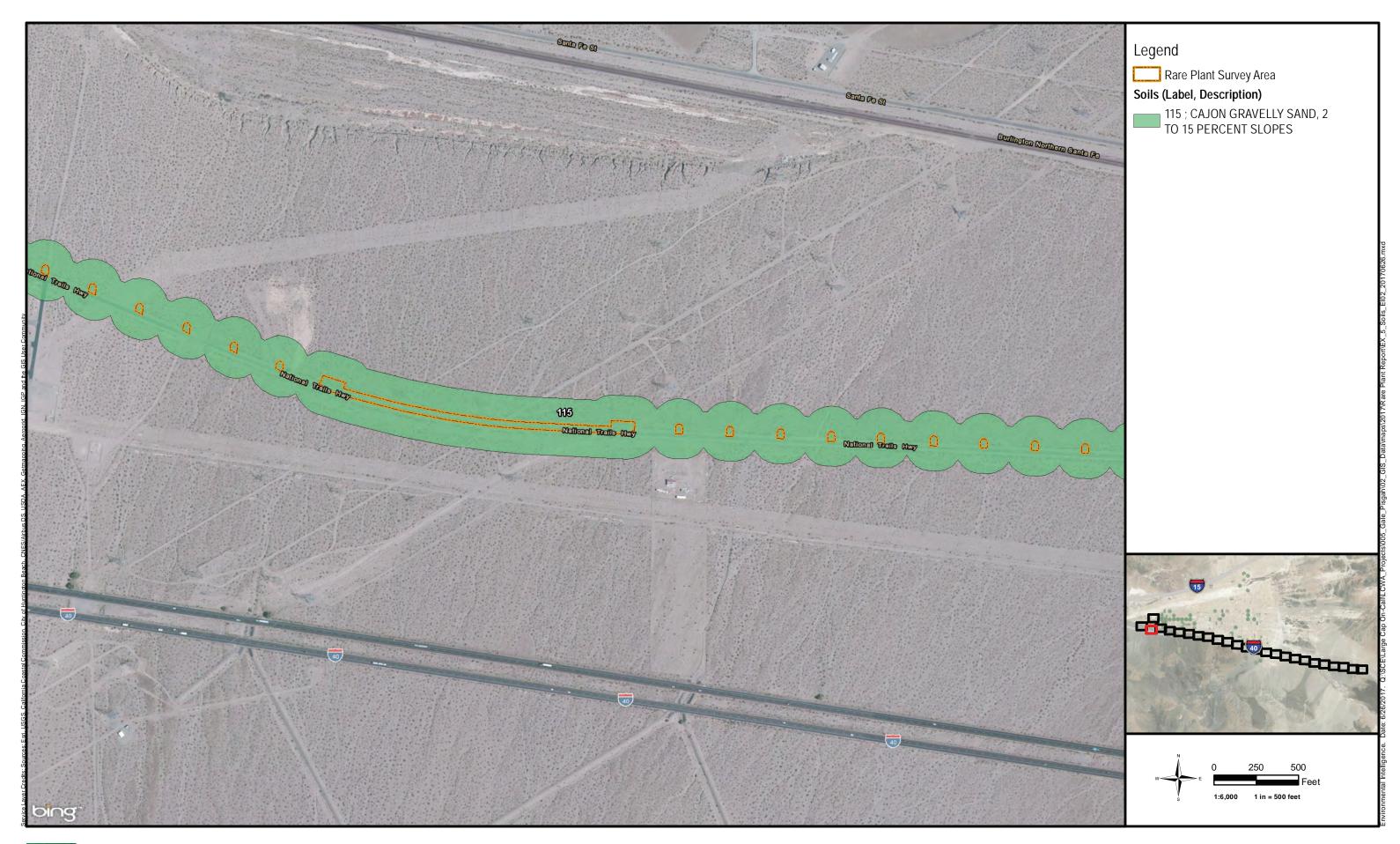














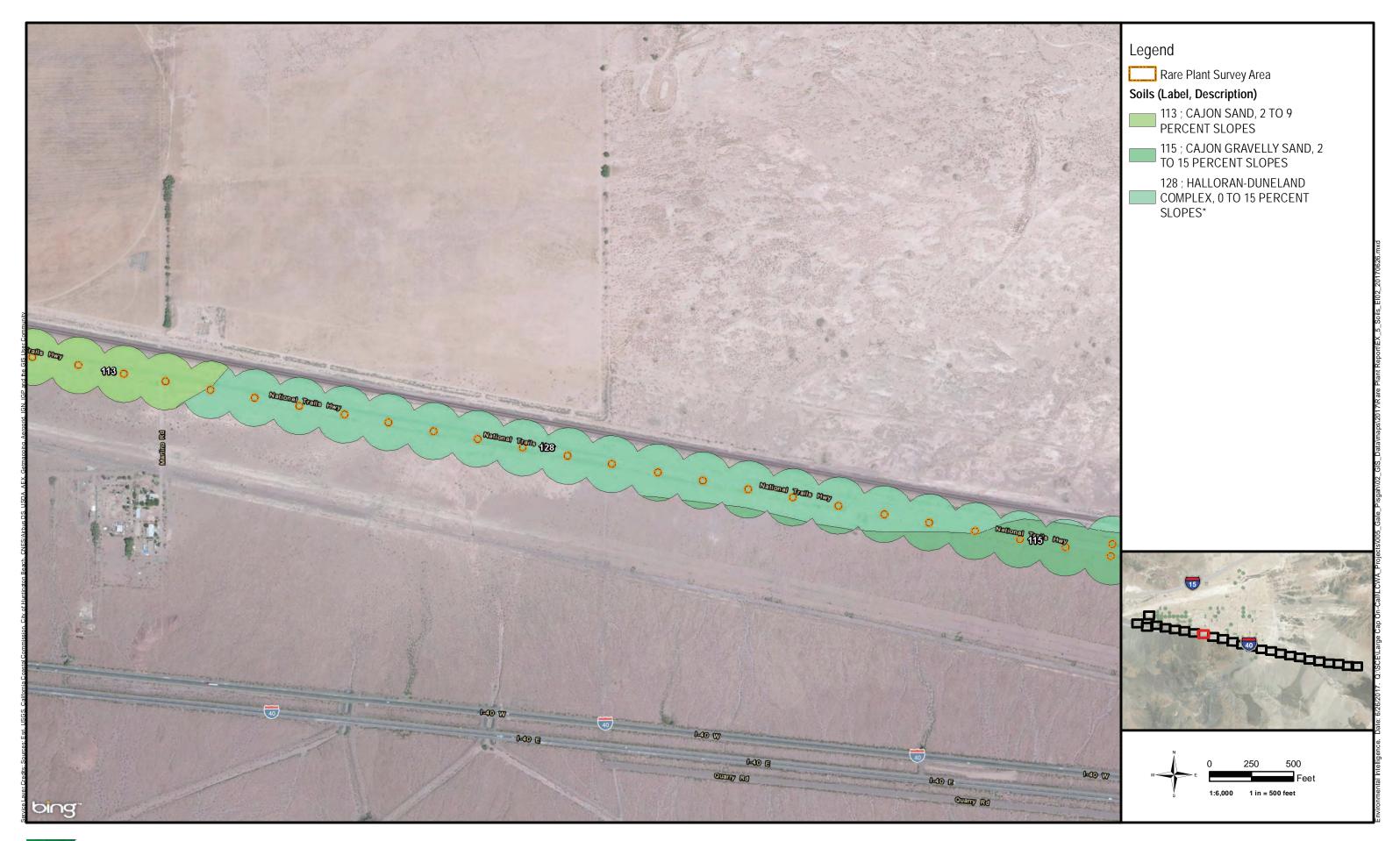
























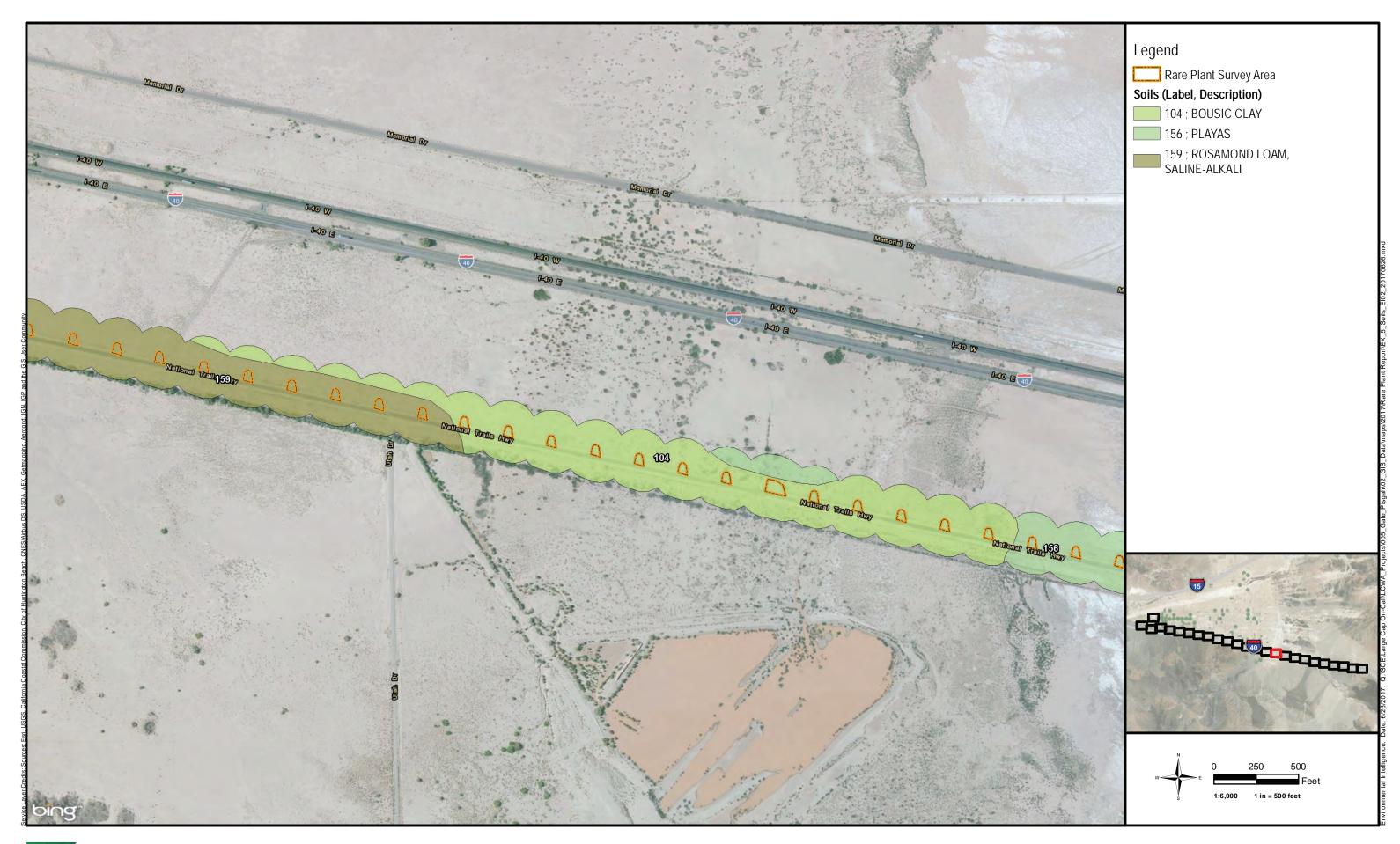
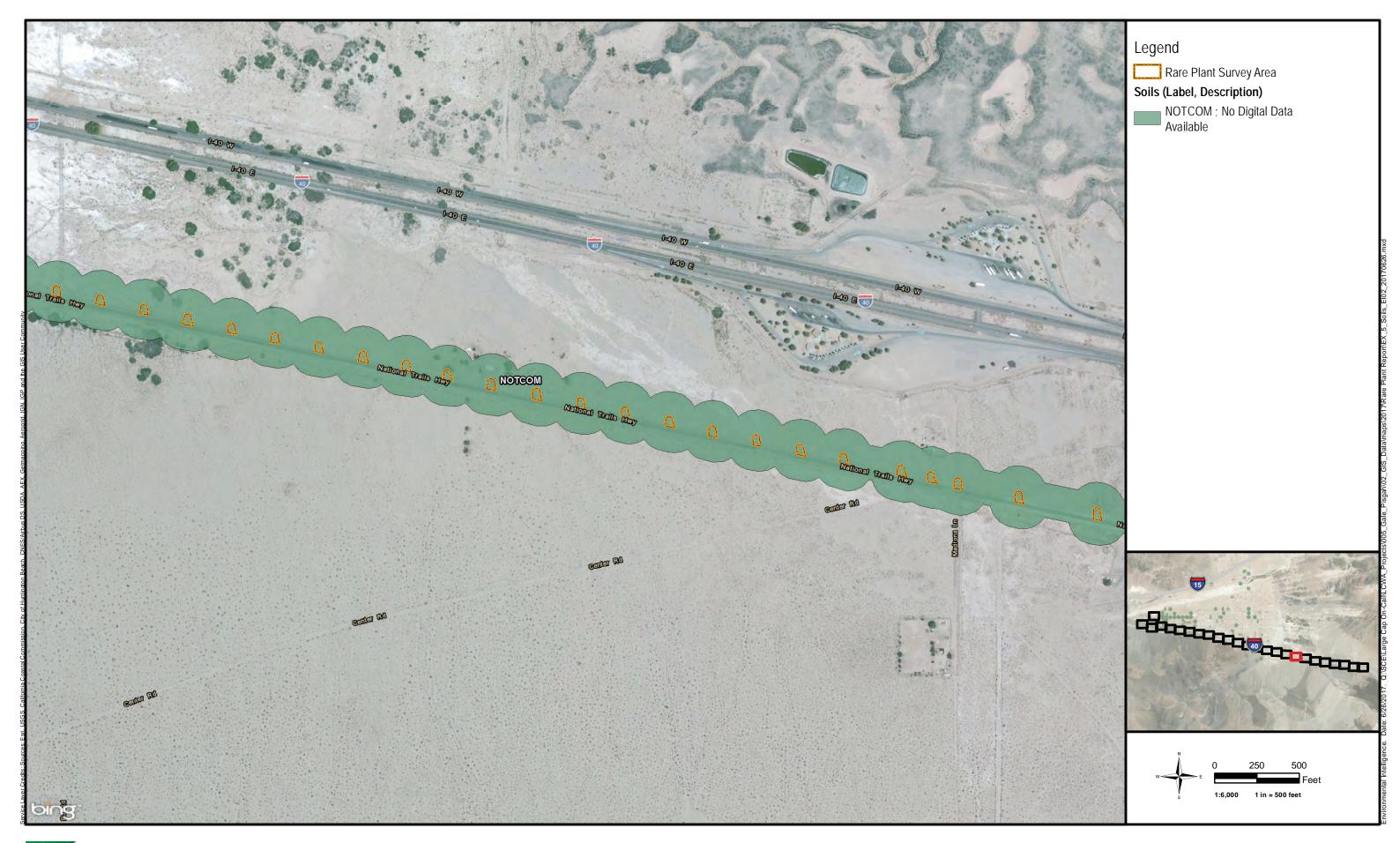
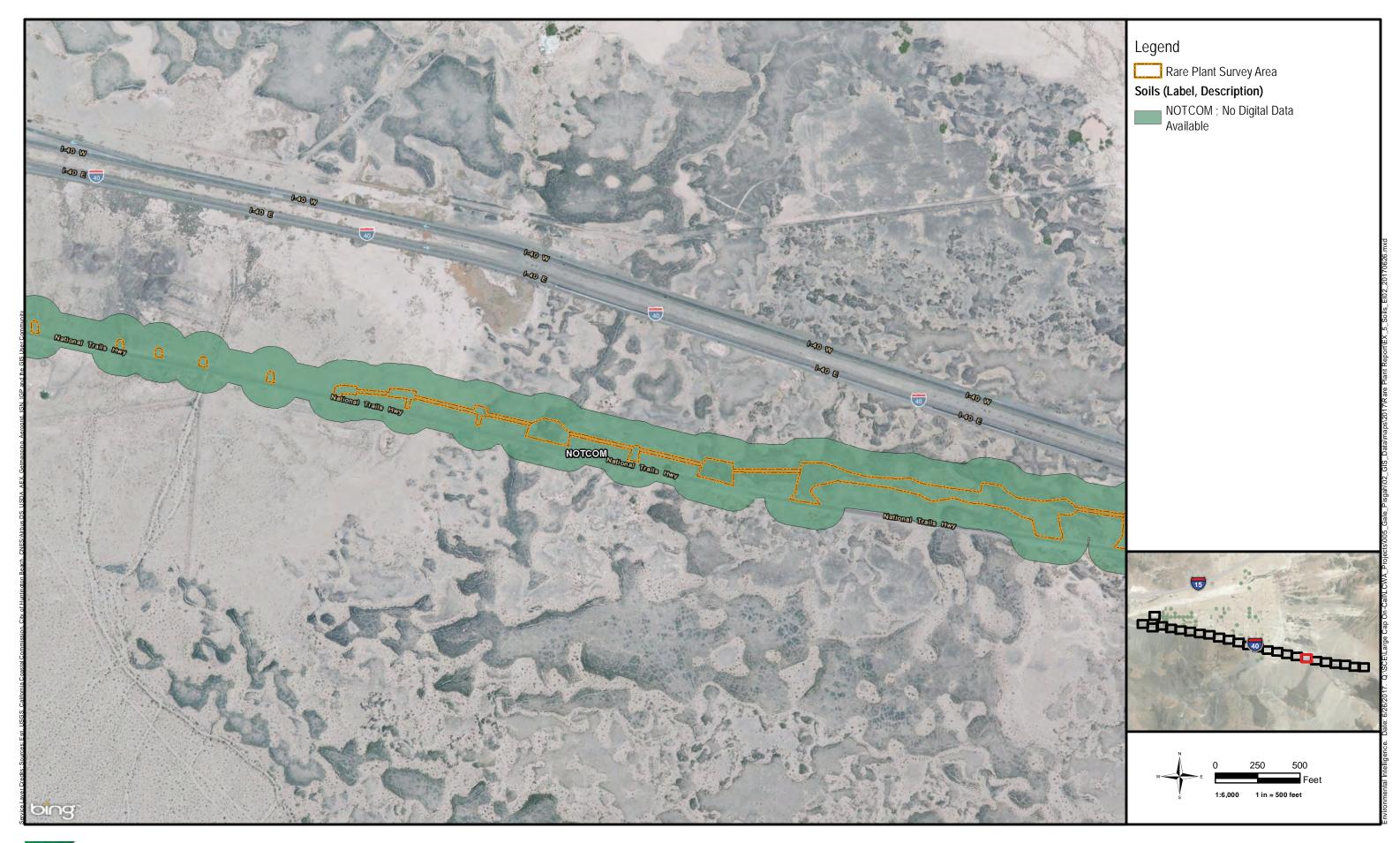


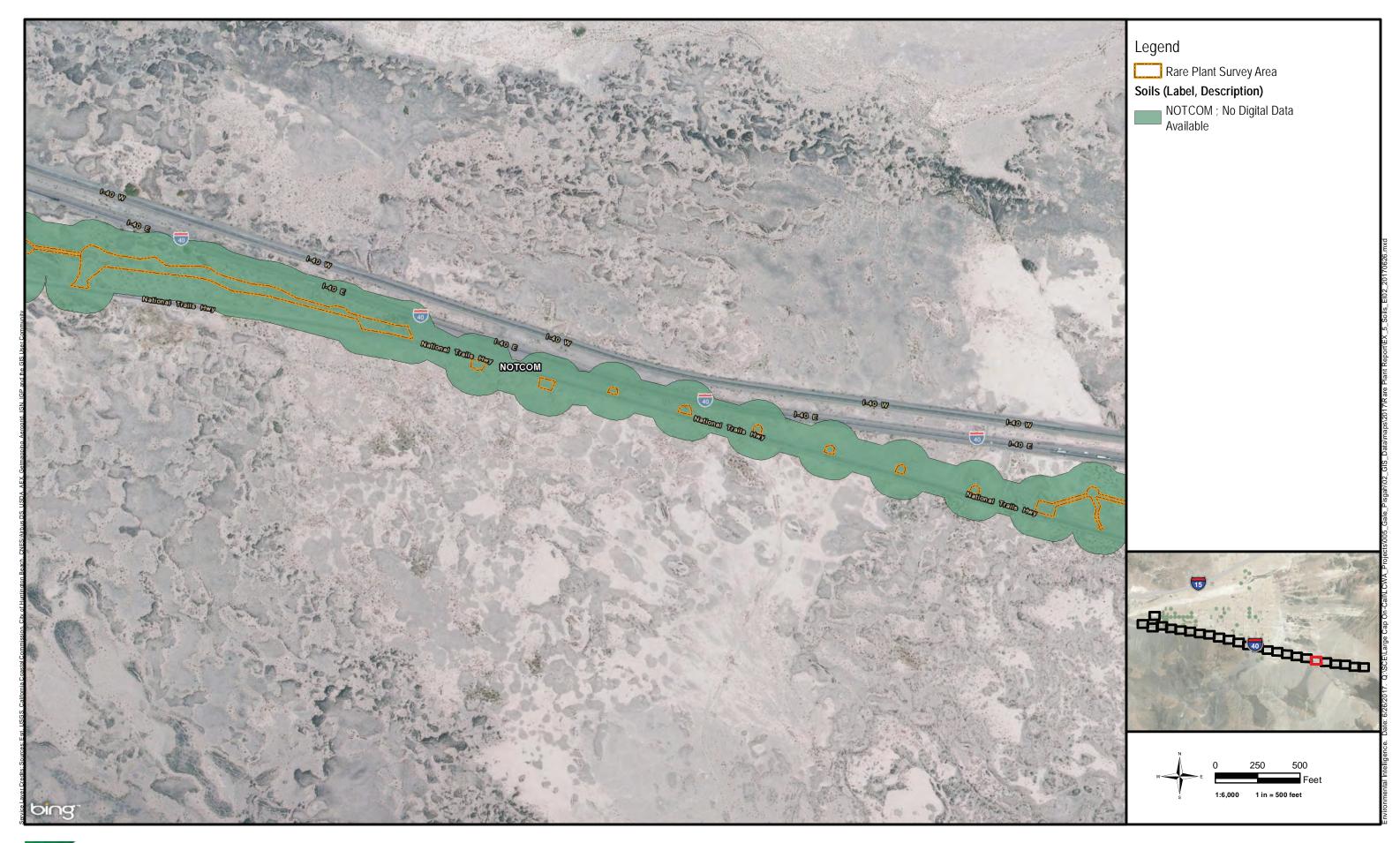


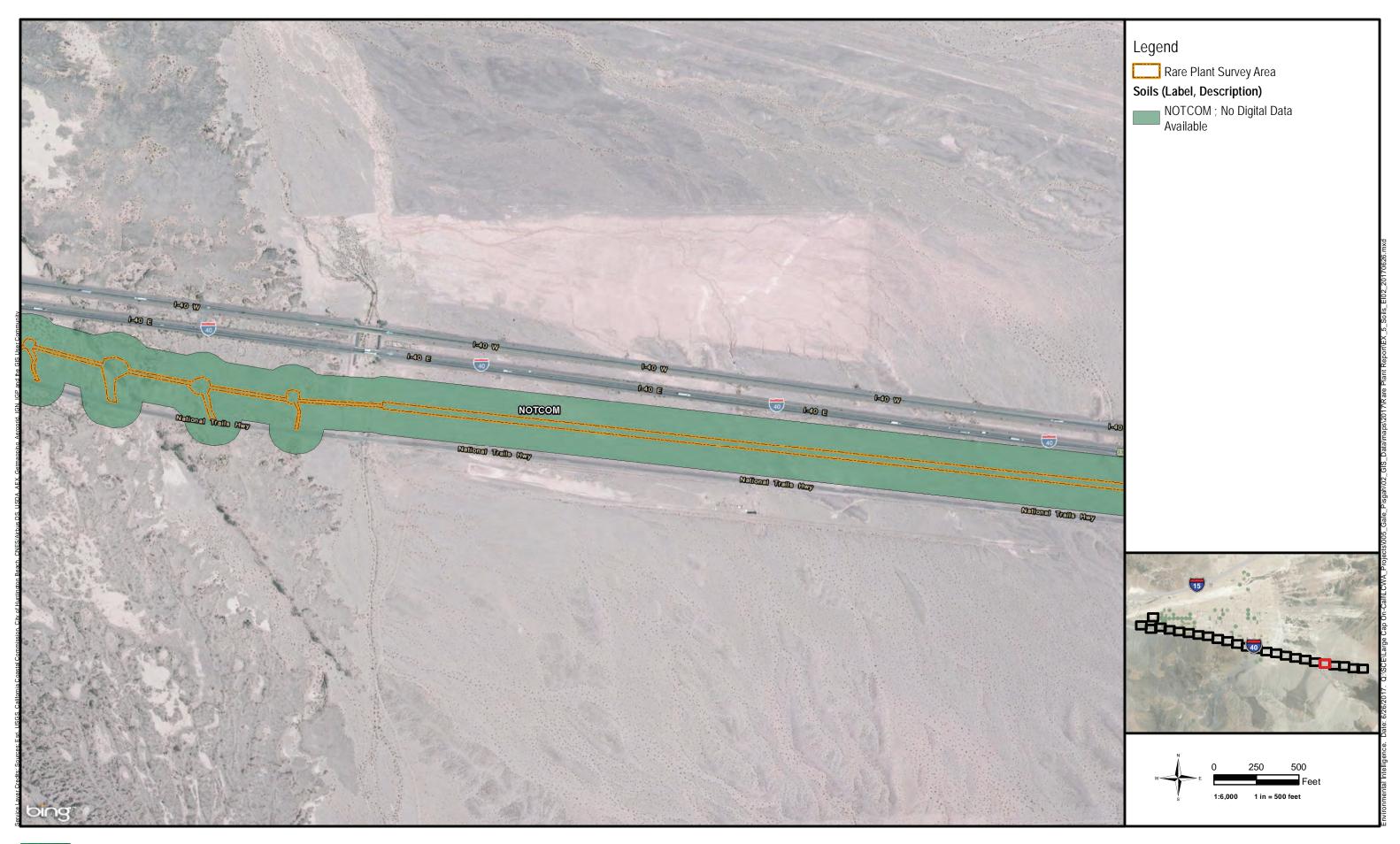


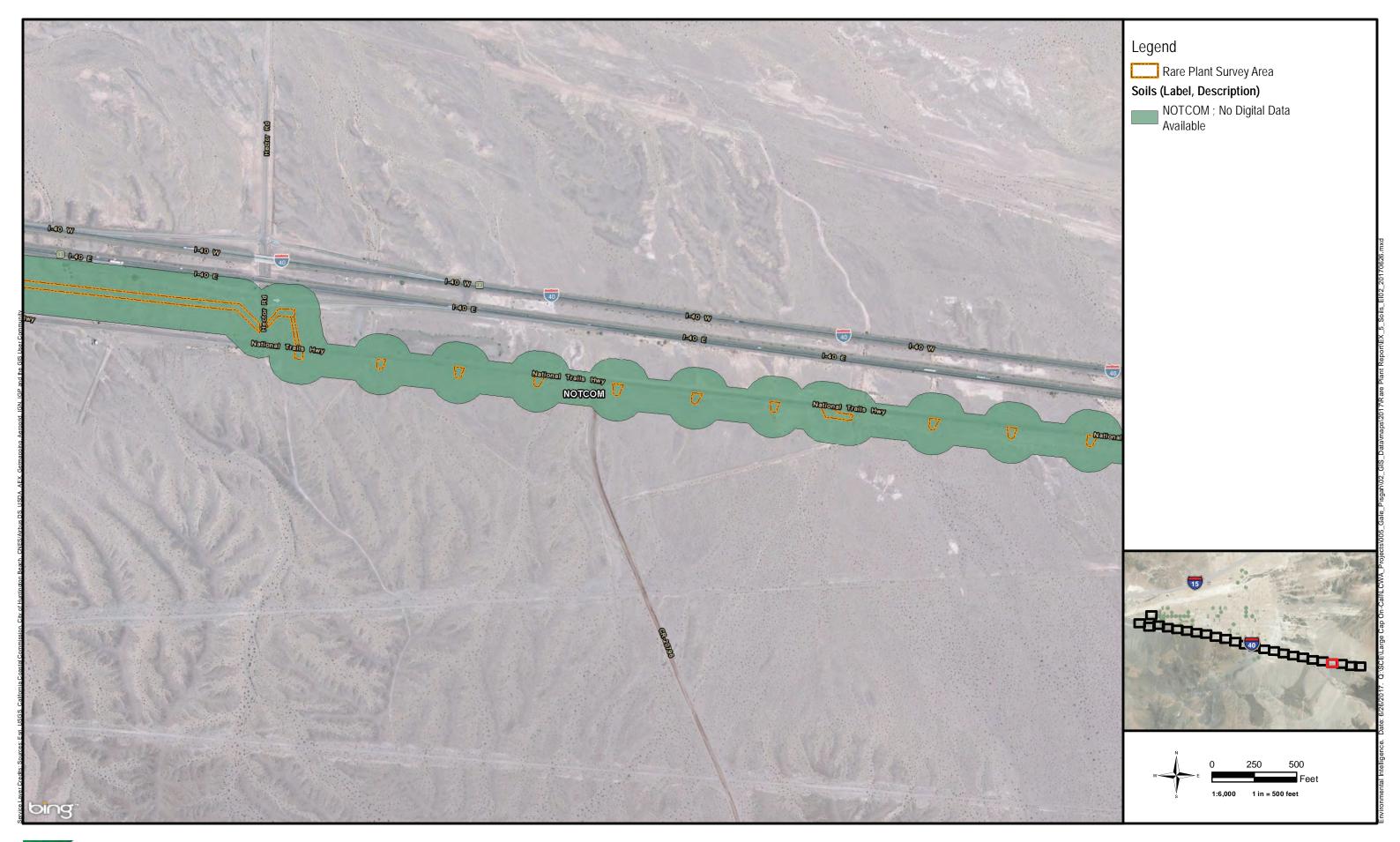
EXHIBIT 5. SOILS (NRCS 2013) PAGE 17 OF 25
GALE TO PISGAH PROJECT | SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY, CA

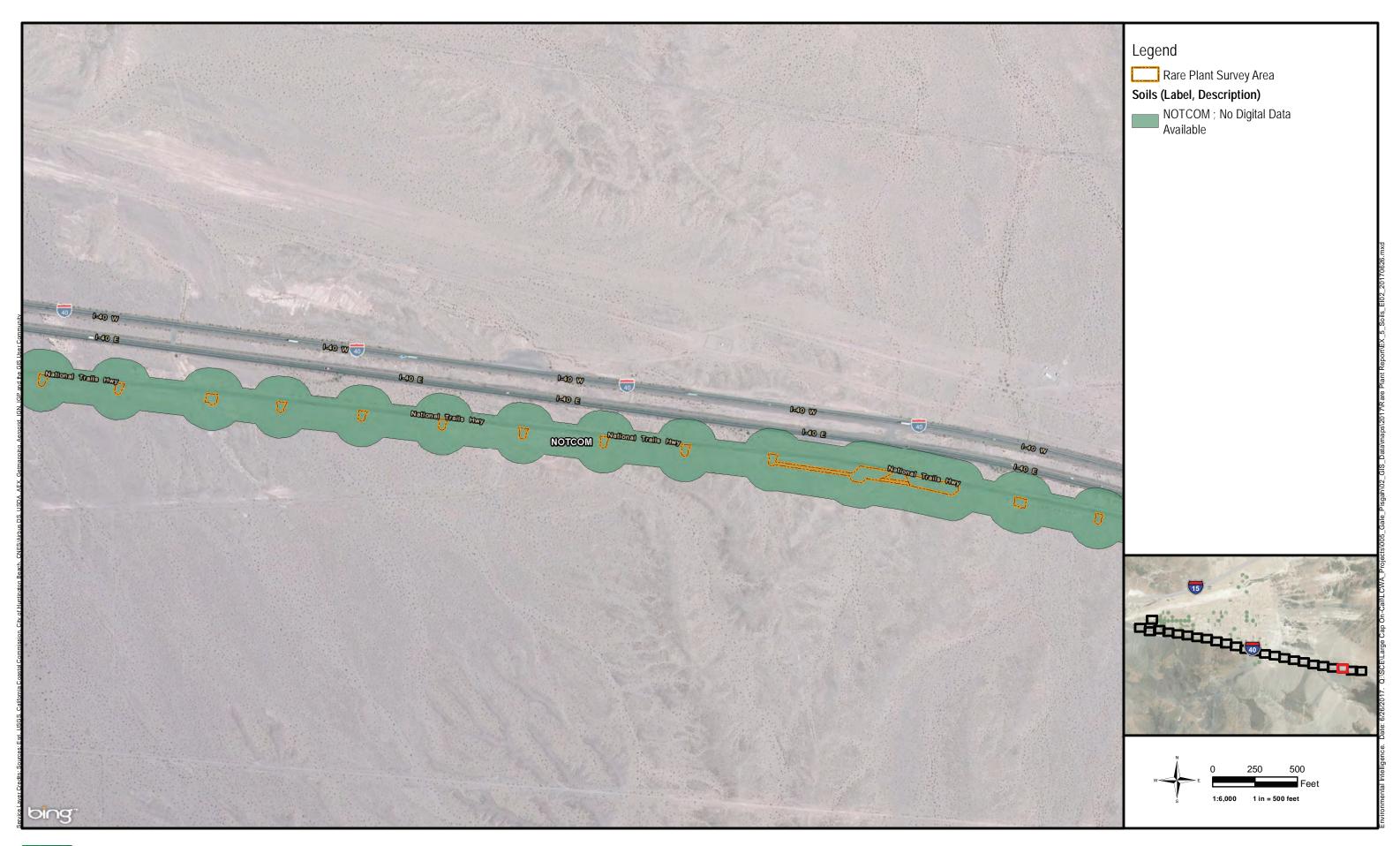


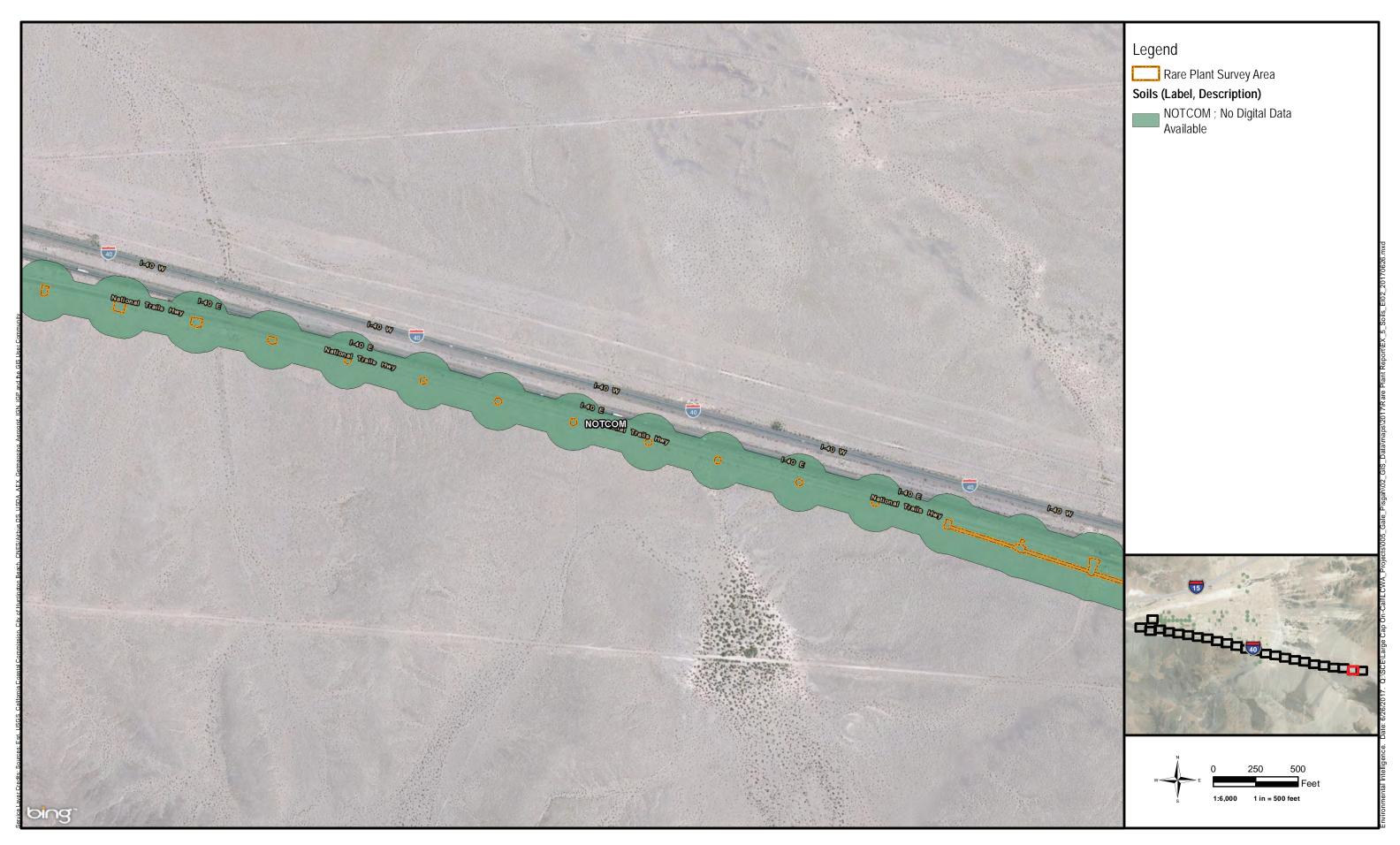


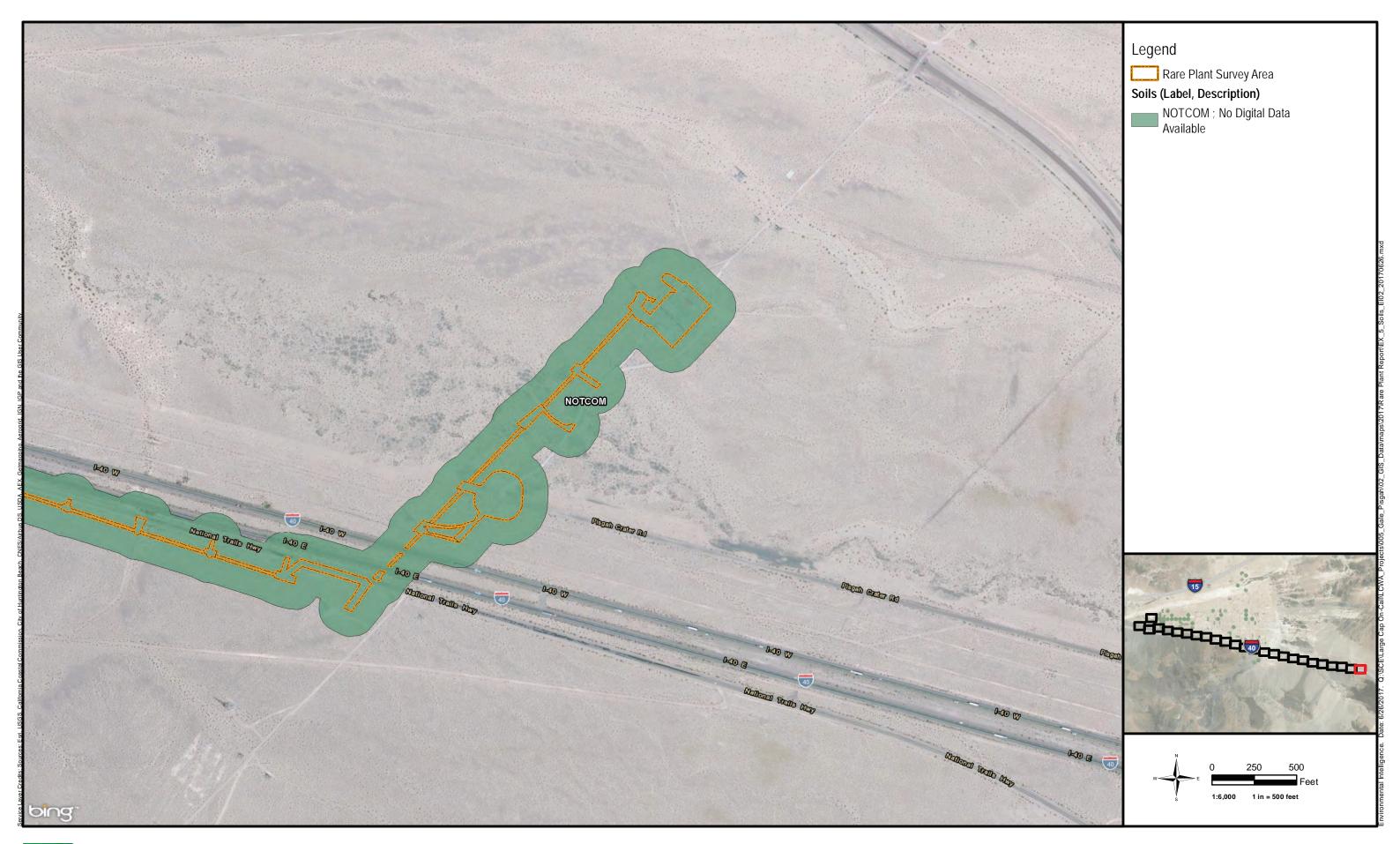




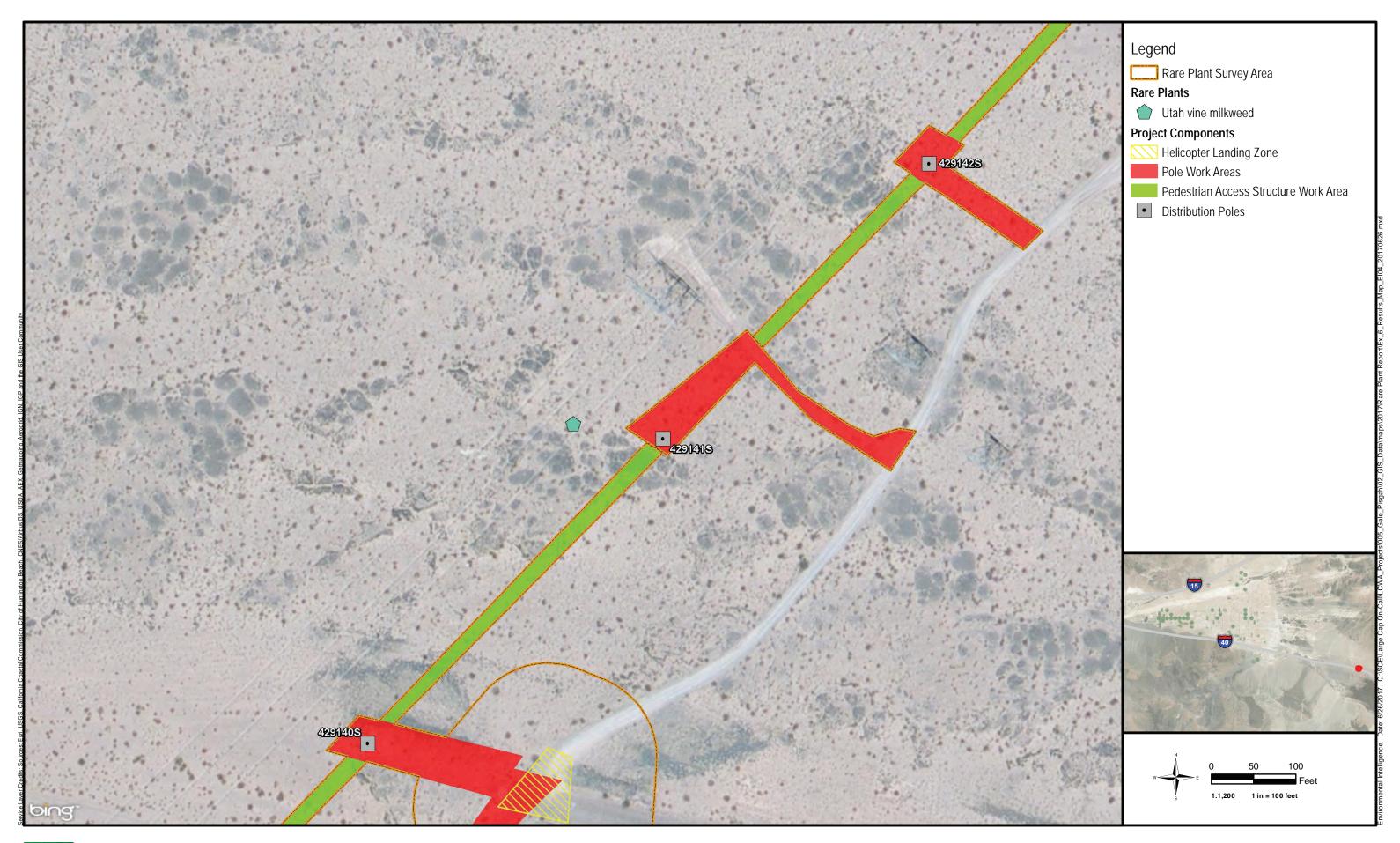












APPENDIX A:

SPECIAL-STATUS PLANTS OCCURRING OR POTENTIALLY OCCURRING ON OR IN THE VICINITY (WITHIN 3 MILES) OF THE GALE TO PISGAH PROJECT



Species Name	Status ¹				Activity /
	Federal	State	CNPS	Distribution, Habitat, and Occurrence Potential ²	Bloom Period
SENSITIVE VEGETATION COMMUNIT	TES / LAND C	OVER			
Alkali Playa Community	- S3	-	Alkali playa is a rare vegetation community type usually composed of low, grayish, microphyllous and succulent shrubs that reach a height of one meter (Holland 1986). Total cover is typically low and the understory is minimal. Characteristic plant species may include sea-blite/bush seepweed, pickleweed (Sarcocornia pacifica), alkali heath (Frankenia salina), and salt grass (Distichlis spicata).	-	
			Occurs. Present in the dry lake bed near the middle portion of the Project alignment.		
Atriplex polycarpa (Allscale scrub) Shrubland Alliance – Desert Saltbush Scrub	-	S2	_	Atriplex polycarpa is dominant in the shrub canopy with Ambrosia dumosa, Ambrosia salsola, Atriplex canescens, Bromus rubens, Chamaesyce polycarpa, Cleome isomeris, Isocoma acradenia and Larrea tr identata. Emergent trees may be present at low cover, including Prosopis glandulosa. Atriplex polycarpa > 2% absolute cover in the shrub canopy; > 50% relative cover in the shrub canopy. Habitats include washes, playa lake beds and shores, dissected alluvial fans, rolling hills, terraces, and edges of large, low gradient washes. Soils may be carbonate rich, alkaline, sandy, or sandy clay loams.	Jul-Aug
				Occurs. Present in the middle portion of the Project alignment.	

Species Name	Status ¹			Distribution Helitat and Occurrence Betanticl ²	Activity /
	Federal	State	CNPS	Distribution, Habitat, and Occurrence Potential ²	Bloom Period
Prosopis glandulos (Mesquite thicket) Woodland alliance	-	\$3		Prosopis glandulosa is dominant or co-dominant in the small tree canopy with Salix exigua, Salix lasiolepis and Sambucus nigra. Shrubs may include Allenrolfea occidentalis, Ambrosia dumosa, Atriplex canescens, Atriplex polycarpa, Bebbia juncea, Petalonyx thurberi, Pluchea sericea, Rhus ovata or Suaeda moquinii. Trees <10 m; canopy is open or continuous. Shrub and herbaceous layers are open to intermittent. Habitats include fringes of playa lakes, river terraces, stream banks, floodplains, rarely flooded margins of arroyos and washes, sand dunes. Elevation ranges from 75-1,100m. Occurs. Scattered across desert riparian areas within the Project survey area.	May-Jun
Suaeda moquinii (Bush seepweed scrub) Shrubland Alliance	-	S3	_	Suaeda moquinii is dominant or co-dominant in the shrub and herbaceous layers with Allenrolfea occidentalis, Atriplex canescens, Atriplex polycarpa, Frankenia salina, Kochia californica, Sarcobatus vermiculatus and Sporobolus airoides. Shrubs < 1.5 m; canopy is open to continuous. Herbaceous layer is sparse to intermittent. Habitats include flat to gently sloping valley bottoms, playas, toe slopes adjacent to alluvial fans, and bajadas. Soils are deep; saline or alkaline. Elevation ranges from sea level-1,300m. Occurs. Present along the eastern portion of the alignment near alkali playas.	Jun-Dec

Species Name	Status ¹				Activity /
	Federal	State	CNPS	Distribution, Habitat, and Occurrence Potential ²	Bloom Period
PLANTS					
Amaranthus watsonii Watson's amaranth	-		4.3	An annual herb that occurs in creosote bush scrub and wetland-riparian communities. Sea level – 960 meters.	
		-		Unlikely. Species preferred habitat is found on-site within creosote bush communities. Species recorded in CCH (1958) 2.5 miles west of Project alignment. Unlikely to occur due to age and distance of records.	Apr-Sep
Androstephium breviflorum Small-flowered androstephium			2B.2	A perennial herb that occurs in creosote bush scrub. $150 - 840$ meters.	
		-		Absent. Species preferred habitat is found on-site within creosote bush communities. Species recorded in CNDDB (2010) within 500 feet of Project alignment. Plant observed at reference site but absent within Project survey area during 2017 botanical surveys.	Mar-Apr
Castela emoryi Crucifixion thorn	-	-	2B.2	A shrub that occurs in creosote bush scrub. 90 – 760 meters. Occurs. Species preferred habitat is found on-site within creosote bush communities. Species observed during 2017 botanical surveys in Halloran sandy loam soil 100 feet outside Project survey area and associated with creosote bush.	Jun-Jul

Species Name		Status ¹		Distribution, Habitat, and Occurrence Potential ²	Activity / Bloom Period
	Federal	State	CNPS		
Cryptantha clokeyi Clokey's cryptantha			1B.2	An annual herb that occurs in creosote bush scrub. 890 – 1560 meters.	
	-	-		Absent. Species preferred habitat is found on-site within creosote bush communities. Plant observed at reference site but absent within Project survey area during 2017 botanical surveys.	April
Cryptantha holoptera Winged cryptantha		-	4.3	An annual herb that occurs in creosote bush scrub and Joshua tree woodland. 19 – 1900 meters.	Mar-Apr
	-			Unlikely. Species preferred habitat is found on-site within creosote bush communities. Species recorded in CCH (1995) 3 miles east of Project alignment. Unlikely to occur due to distance of historic records.	
Cymopterus multinervatus Purplenerve cymopterus	-		2B.2	A perennial herb that occurs in Joshua tree woodland and pinyon-juniper woodland communities. 670 – 1420 meters.	Mar-Apr
		-		Does not occur. Species preferred habitat is not found on-site. Species recorded in CNDDB 1.9 miles south of Project alignment. Does not occur based on unknown date and inaccurate location of historic record.	
Funastrum utahense Utah vine milkweed	-	-	4.2	A perennial herb that occurs in creosote bush scrub. 150 – 1330 meters.	Apr-Jun
				Absent. Species preferred habitat is found on-site within creosote bush communities. Plant observed on desert sand-dune soil 50 feet outside Project survey area, but absent within survey area. Associated with creosote bush, white bursage, and non-native Saharan mustard.	



Species Name	Status ¹			Distribution, Habitat, and Occurrence Potential ²	Activity /	
Species Name	Federal	State	CNPS	Distribution, Habitat, and Occurrence Potential	Bloom Period	
Mentzelia tridentata Creamy blazing star	-	-	1B.3	An annual herb that occurs in creosote bush scrub along rocky and sandy slopes. $580 - 1300$ meters. Unlikely. Species preferred habitat is found on-site within creosote bush communities. Species recorded in CCH (2010) 1.5 miles west of Project alignment. One CNDDB occurrence < 500 feet west of Project, but record indicates the location and date are inaccurate.	Mar-May	
Mimulus mohavensis Mojave monkeyflower	-	-	1B.2	An annual herb that occurs in creosote bush scrub and Joshua tree woodland communities. 620 – 1750 meters. Unlikely. Species preferred habitat is found on-site within creosote bush communities. Species recorded in CNDDB (1998 and 2010) 1.3 and 2.0 miles south of Project alignment. Unlikely to occur due to distance of historic records.	Apr-Jun	
Menodora spinescens var. mohavensis Mojave menodora	-	-	1B.2	A perennial shrub that occurs in Mojavean desert scrub on Andesite gravel, rocky hillsides, and canyons. 760 – 1420 meters. Absent. Species preferred habitat is found on-site within shadscale scrub communities. Species recorded in CCH (2011) 5.8 miles south of Project alignment. Plant observed at reference site but absent within Project survey area during 2017 botanical surveys.	Apr-May	

Species Name		Status ¹		Distribution, Habitat, and Occurrence Potential ²	Activity /
Species Name	Federal	State CNPS		Distribution, Habitat, and Occurrence Potential	Bloom Period
				A perennial herb that occurs in creosote bush scrub and Joshua tree woodland communities. 600 – 950 meters.	
Pediomelum castoreum Beaver indian breadroot	-	-	1B.2	Unlikely. Species preferred habitat is found on-site within creosote bush communities. Species recorded in CNDDB (1943) and may have occurred within Project alignment, but location is inaccurate. Unlikely to occur based on age and inaccuracy of historic records.	Apr-May
				A perennial herb that occurs in creosote bush scrub and dune habitat. $630 - 760$ meters.	
Penstemon albomarginatus White-margined beardtongue	-	-	1B.1	Unlikely. Species preferred habitat is found on-site within creosote bush communities. Species recorded in CNDDB (2008 and 2010) 2000 feet north of Project alignment. However, the species was not detected during reference site visit. Unlikely to occur due to distance of historic records.	Mar-May
Phacelia parishii Parish's phacelia	-	-	1B.1	An annual herb that occurs in creosote bush scrub, alkali sink, and playas. 560 – 1070 meters. Unlikely. Species preferred habitat is found on-site within creosote bush communities. Species recorded in CCH (1992) 2 miles north of Project material laydown yard. Unlikely to occur due to distance of historic records.	Apr-May

C N	Status ¹				Activity /
Species Name Federal		State	CNPS	Distribution, Habitat, and Occurrence Potential ²	Bloom Period
				An annual herb that occurs in Joshua tree woodland and wetland-riparian communities.	
Plagiobothrys parishii Parish's popcornflower	-	-	1B.1	Does not occur. Species preferred habitat is not found on-site. Species recorded in CCH (2011) 4 miles south of Project alignment. Does not occur due to distance of historic record and species' preferred habitat is not found on-site.	Mar-Jun

Species Name		Status ¹		Distribution, Habitat, and Occurrence Potential ²	Activity /
Species Name	Federal	State	CNPS	Distribution, Habitat, and Occurrence Potential	Bloom Period

1Status

Federal

FE: Federally Endangered FT: Federally Threatened

DL: Delisted

State

SE: State Endangered

ST: State Threatened

SR: State Rare

CT: State Candidate Threatened

SSC: California Species of Special Concern

FP: Fully Protected

WL: Watch List

DL: Delisted

Vegetation Communities: Ranks are based on a one to five scale, ranging from critically imperiled (S1) to demonstrably secure (S5). S1-S3 communities considered rare.

CNPS

1A: Plants presumed extirpated in California and either rare or extinct elsewhere

1B: Plants rare, threatened, or endangered in California and elsewhere

2A: Plants presumed extirpated in California, but common elsewhere

2B: Plants rare, threatened, or endangered in California, but more common elsewhere

3: Plants about which more information is needed - a review list

4: Plants of limited distribution - a watch list

0.1: Seriously threatened in California (over 80% of occurrences threatened / high degree and immediacy of threat)

0.2: Moderately threatened in California (20-80% occurrences threatened / moderate degree and immediacy of threat)

0.3: Not very threatened in California (less than 20% of occurrences threatened / low degree and immediacy of threat or no current threats known)

CBR: Considered But Rejected

²Occurrence Potential

Special-status species with the potential to occur within the Survey Area were evaluated based on SCE's Species Presence/Absence Determination flow-chart:

Occurs: the species and/or positive sign was observed on-site during site visit or field survey.

Absent: the species and/or positive sign was not observed on-site during focused survey(s) during the appropriate blooming/activity period (and, for plants, observed at a reference population).

Likely: all site features indicate this species is very likely present and should be expected. Criteria include:

- Project site within geographic range;
- Suitable habitat present (e.g., soils, vegetation communities, elevation, roost sites, leaf litter/debris, water, host plants, etc.); and
- Distance to historical record(s) less than 25 years old are less than 500 feet (plants/fish), 1,000 feet (riparian wildlife), 1 mile (birds/bats), 2 miles (large mammals), or 3 miles (small mammals/herps).

Unlikely: species could occur, but records of the species are not locally known. Criteria include:

- Project site within geographic range;
- Suitable habitat present (e.g., soils, vegetation communities, elevation, roost sites, leaf litter/debris, water, host plants, etc.); and
- Distance to historical record(s) less than 25 years old are more than 500 feet (plants/fish), 1,000 feet (riparian wildlife), 1 mile (birds/bats), 2 miles (large mammals), or 3 miles (small mammals/herps).

Does Not Occur: species would not occur because the Project site is outside known or current geographic/elevation range, lacks habitat or suitable conditions, and/or there is reasonable certainty to assume absent based on historical records.



APPENDIX B:

FLORAL COMPENDIUM



SCIENTIFIC NAME (* introduced/non-native species)	COMMON NAME		
AGAVACEAE – AGAVE FAMILY			
Hesperocallis undulata	Desert lily		
AIZOACEAE – ICE PLANT FAMILY			
*Mesembryanthemum sp.	*Iceplant		
APOCYNACEAE – DOGBANE FAMILY			
Asclepias erosa	Desert milkweed		
Funastrum sp.	Milkweed		
Funastrum utahense	Utah vine milkweed (CNPS 4.2)		
ASTERACEAE – SUNFLOWER FAMILY			
Ambrosia dumosa	White bursage		
Ambrosia salsola	Burrobush		
Bebbia juncea	Sweetbush		
Chaenactis carphoclinia	Pebble pincushion		
Chaenactis fremontii	Fremont pincushion		
Encelia frutescens	Button brittlebush		
Encelia sp.	Common brittlebush		
Geraeae canescens	Desert sunflower		
Isocoma acradenia	Alkali goldenbush		
Malacothrix californica	California dandelion		
Malacothrix coulteri	Snake's head		
Monoptilon bellidiforme	Small desert star		
Perityle emoryi	Emory's rockdaisy		
Porophyllum gracile	Slender poreleaf		
Rafinesquia neomexicana	Desert chicory		
Stephanomeria exigua	Small wirelettuce		
Stephanomeria pauciflora	Desert straw		
BORAGINACEAE – BORAGE FAMILY			
Amsinckia tessellata	Devil's lettuce		
Cryptantha angustifolia	Narrow leaved forget-me-not		
Cryptantha decipiens	Gravel cryptantha		
Cryptantha micrantha	Purple root cryptantha		
Nama demissum	Purplemat		
Pectocarya platycarpa	Broadfruit combseed		
Pectocarya recurvata	Curvenut combseed		
Phacelia crenulata	Heliotrope phacelia		
Phacelia sp.	Common phacelia		
Tiquilia plicata	Fanleaf crinklemat		
BRASSICACEAE – MUSTARD FAMILY			
*Brassica tournefortii	*Saharan mustard		
Descurainia spp.	Tansy mustard		
Lepidium densiflorum	Common pepperweed		
*Sisymbrium irio	*London rocket		



CACTACEAE – CACTUS FAMILY

Cylindropuntia echinocarpa Wiggins' cholla
Cylindropuntia ramosissima Branched pencil cholla

CARYOPHYLLACEAE – CARNATION FAMILY

Achyronychia cooperi Frost mat

CHENOPODIACEAE – GOOSEFOOT FAMILY

Atriplex canescens var. canescens

Atriplex elegans

Fourwing saltbush

Wheelscale

Atriplex elegans var. fasciculate Wheelscale saltbush

Atriplex hymenelytraDesert hollyAtriplex polycarpaAllscale saltbushAtriplex spiniferaMojave saltbush*Salsola tragus*Russian thistleStutzia covilleiCoville's orachSuaeda nigraBush seepweed

CLEOMACEAE - BEEPLANT FAMILY

Cleomella obtusifolia Bluntleaf stinkweed

EPHEDRACEAE – JOINTFIR FAMILY

Ephedra funerea Death valley ephedra

EUPHORBIACEAE – SPURGE FAMILY

Euphorbia albomarginata Rattlesnake sandmat

FABACEAE – PEA FAMILY

Dalea mollissimaSoft prairie cloverProsopis glandulosa var. torreyanaWestern honey mesquiteProsopis pubescensScrewbean mequiteSenegalia greggiiDevil's clawSenna armataDesert senna

GERANIACEAE – GERANIUM FAMILY

*Erodium cicutarium Red-stemmed filaree

KRAMERIACEAE – RHATANY FAMILY

Krameria erecta Littleleaf ratany

LAMIACEAE - MINT FAMILY

Salvia columbariae Chia sage

Scutellaria mexicana Mexican bladdersage

LOASACEAE - LOASA FAMILY

Mentzelia albicaulisWhite-stemmed blazingstarPetalonyx thurberi ssp. thurberiThurer's sandpaper plant

MALVACEAE – MALLOW FAMILY

Eremalche exilisWhite mallowEremalche rotundifoliaDesert fivespot



Sphaeralcea ambigua Desert mallow

NYCTAGINACEAE - FOUR O'CLOCK FAMILY

Abronia villosa var. villosa Desert sand verbena Mirabilis laevis var. retrorsa Wishbone bush

ONAGRACEAE – EVENING PRIMROSE FAMILY

Chylismia claviformis Clavate fruited primrose

Chylismia claviformis ssp. claviformis Browneyes
Eremothera boothii Booth's suncup

PAPAVERACEAE – POPPY FAMILY

Eschscholzia glyptosperma Desert golden poppy
Eschscholzia minutiflora Pygmy poppy

PLANTAGINACEAE - PLANTAGO FAMILY

Plantago erectaCalifornia plantainPlantago ovataDesert plantain

POACEAE - GRASS FAMILY

*Schismus barbatus *Common mediterranean grass

Sporobolus airoidesAlkali sacatonStipa hymenoidesIndian rice grass

POLEMONIACEAE – PHLOX FAMILY

Langloisia setosissima Lilac sunbonnet

POLYGONACEAE - BUCKWHEAT FAMILY

Chorizanthe brevicornu var. brevicornuBrittle spineflowerChorizanthe rigidaDevil's spineflowerEriogonum deflexum var. deflexumFlat topped buckwheat

Eriogonum inflatum Desert trumpet

Eriogonum reniformeKidney leaf buckwheatEriogonum thomasiiThomas' buckwheat

RESEDACEAE – MIGNONETTE FAMILY

Oligomeris linifolia Leaved cambess

SIMAROUBACEAE – QUASSIA FAMILY

Castela emoryi Crucifixion thorn (CNPS 2B.2)

SOLANACEAE – NIGHTSHADE FAMILY

Lycium andersonii Water jacket

TAMARICACEAE – TAMARISK FAMILY



ZYGOPHYLLACEAE – CALTROP FAMILY

Larrea tridentata South American creosote bush

LEGEND:

Federal (USFWS) State (CDFW) FE Endangered SE Endangered ST Threatened FT Threatened FC Candidate SR Rare SC Candidate

California Native Plant Society (CNPS) List Categories

List 1A Plants Presumed Extinct in California

List 1B Plants Rare, Threatened, or Endangered in California and Elsewhere

List 2 Plants Rare, Threatened, or Endangered in California but More Common Elsewhere

List 3 Plants about Which We Need More Information — A Review List

List 4 Plants of Limited Distribution - A Watch List

California Native Plant Society (CNPS) Threat Rank Extensions

Seriously threatened in California (high degree/immediacy of threat) .2 Fairly threatened in California (moderate degree/immediacy of threat)

Not very threatened in California (low degree/immediacy of threat or no current threats known



APPENDIX C:

SITE PHOTOGRAPHS





PHOTO 2: PHOTO OF CREOSOTE BUSH (*LARREA TRIDENTATA*) ALLIANCE WITHIN PROJECT SURVEY AREA.



PHOTO 4: CLOSE-UP PHOTO OF UTAH VINE MILKWEED (*FUNASTRUM UTAHENSE*). PHOTO TAKEN ON APRIL 26, 2017.

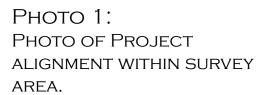




PHOTO 3:
PHOTO OF GENERAL MATERIAL
LAYDOWN YARD SITE
CONDITIONS. LOOKING SOUTH
NEAR NORTHWEST SURVEY
AREA BOUNDARY.

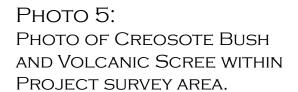




Рното 6:

PHOTO OF ATRIPLEX SP. WITHIN

PROJECT SURVEY AREA.





Рното 7: PHOTO OF MATERIAL LAYDOWN YARD BORDER.



APPENDIX D:

DATA SHEETS





RARE PLANT SURVEY FORM

Date: APGI 26 Site Name: PSQO h SUBSTACTION UID: Lead Botanist: Ron Clark Supporting Botanist(s) Ben Maden Farget Species: Fund Strum Uta hense Reference Population Name: Aone Target observed at reference? Yes No Unsure Target species present on Site? XYes No Area Covered: 50 Units: Acres ft m GPS Accuracy: Units: Feet or Meters Coordinate System: Lat/Long QTM Other: Datum: NAD27 NAD83 WGS84 Y Coordinate (Latitude): 11 N 555 957 X Coordinate (Longitude): 38 450 00
Count unit: stem clump rosette Size determined by: Census Sample Visual Estimate Plant count:
OR F-stimate: 251-500 501-1000 >1000 OR % Cover: 0 1-5 6-25 26-50 51-100 % Vegetative: 0 1-5 6-25 26-50 51-100 % Flowering: 0 1-5 6-25 26-50 51-100 % Fruiting: 0 1-5 6-25 26-50 51-100 % Senescent: 0 1-5 6-25 26-50 51-100 Seedlings or Immature present? Yes: No Unsure What is the condition of this rare plant occurrence? Excellent Average Poor Unsure Please note the characteristic(s) considered:
Conditions which might have prevented surveyors from locating target species? Mature Plant Growing institute Remensional Plant Voucher specimen obtained? Yes XNo Stored where? Permit Number(s):
Slope/topographical position: Elevation range: 2000 Ft. Aspect: Nohe/flat Hydrology: Lesert sand dune Soils: Sand Vegetation Alliance: Creosote Scrub Vegetation Alliance: Larrea triden tata, Ambrosia dumosa
Invasive Species
Rare Uncommon Common Abundant
Abundant: ≥100 observations Common: 50-100 observations Uncommon: 10-50 observations Rare: ≤10 observations

		D	isturba	nce				
Development: Browsing: Insect damage or disease: Competition: succession: Adjacent land management Other disturbance (please of	leserabe) and sp	Come certic com	Most Most Most Most Most Most Iments:	Trampling Drought Fire Drought/Hs	dro Xono	Trace Trace Trace Trace	Some Some Some	Most Most Most Most
Management Recommenda	tions:							

Photo Log					
Photo Number	File Name	Teature Photographed (e.g., flower, juvenile, unknown, insect)	Location and Direction of Photo (e.g., center of colony looking North		
01					
0.2					
03					
04					
05					
06					
07					
08					
09					
10					

Notes Notes On One is Side of Lymphesia
a halter blant of olding in ide a planting
difficult to spot Juts Jot seedlings
around

OFFICE USE ONLY

Purpose	Date	Initials
Entered into Spreadsheet		
100% Check		
10" n Check		
Validation	DataNest 18c1 '01steril	